

Heidland, Tobias; Wichardt, Philipp C

Article — Published Version

Conflicting identities: cosmopolitan or anxious? Appreciating concerns of host country population improves attitudes towards immigrants

Social Forces

Provided in Cooperation with:

Kiel Institute for the World Economy – Leibniz Center for Research on Global Economic Challenges

Suggested Citation: Heidland, Tobias; Wichardt, Philipp C (2024) : Conflicting identities: cosmopolitan or anxious? Appreciating concerns of host country population improves attitudes towards immigrants, Social Forces, ISSN 1534-7605, Oxford University Press (OUP), Oxford, pp. 1-20, <https://doi.org/10.1093/sf/soae108>

This Version is available at:

<https://hdl.handle.net/10419/301392>

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Online Appendix

“Conflicting Identities: Cosmopolitan or
Anxious? Appreciating Concerns of Host
Country Population Improves Attitudes
Towards Immigrants”

by

Tobias Heidland and Philipp C. Wichardt

published in *Social Forces*

Appendix A

Further Information on the Questionnaire

The questionnaire was conducted partly with people from the streets in Kiel and Rostock, who were willing to participate in a scientific study, and with students from the University of Rostock, who were invited to participate at the end of different lectures. In both cases participation was voluntary.

Participants were informed about the general topic of the questionnaire but not about specific questions. Upon accepting the invitation, participants received a questionnaire (on streets: plus pen and writing pad). Responses on the street were gathered in a box, to preserve anonymity. Questionnaires in lectures were gathered collectively for the same reason and subjects were asked not to talk to each other during the process (with two research assistants being present to ensure that the request was followed).

Questions about the purpose of the study, which arose especially for participants in the streets, were answered only after the questionnaire was finalized and placed in the box (students: after collection of all questionnaires).

The study did not go through any ethics board for approval as participation was voluntary, could be ended any time and all potential questions would be answered ex post.

Appendix B: Further Statistical Analyses

Table A1: Balance of covariates across treatments (p-values).

	Treatment		
	T(is Christian)	T(Perspective-Taking)	T(is German)
<i>Covariate</i>			
Female	0.47	0.22	0.69
Age	0.49	0.88	0.51
Close relationship to foreigner	0.60	0.98	0.82
Sociable	0.73	0.45	0.75
General risk attitude	0.26	0.86	0.31

Notes: Sample comparisons are conducted using a two-sided t-test with H0 of no difference in means. The reported numbers are p-values. There are thus no statistically significant differences in covariates across treatments.

Table A2: Alternative version of Table 3 excluding the location fixed effect

	(1) likable	(2) empathy	(3) would trust	(4) would talk to	(5) would meet for coffee	(6) would in- vite home	(7) expect fast integra- tion
<i>Treatments</i>							
Perspective-Taking	0.363** (0.172)	0.355** (0.169)	-0.017 (0.173)	0.011 (0.181)	0.025 (0.173)	-0.205 (0.176)	0.326* (0.172)
Is Christian	0.082 (0.144)	0.019 (0.138)	0.254* (0.141)	0.019 (0.148)	-0.174 (0.141)	-0.008 (0.142)	0.216 (0.171)
Is German	0.148 (0.177)	0.004 (0.172)	-0.248 (0.174)	-0.358** (0.177)	-0.355** (0.167)	-0.202 (0.177)	
Observations	654	661	657	661	661	620	447

Notes: Estimates from an ordered logit model with the reported regressors. Heteroskedasticity-robust standard errors in parentheses. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1. The baseline vignette is a Muslim refugee from Syria who does not provide the statement acknowledging German concerns. The question about fast integration was not included for in the “is German” treatment. The sample size in column 6 is smaller due to a printing issue on the first day of field work. This is not driving any results. Differences in observations result from some subjects not answering all questions.

Table A3: Treatment effects for Syrian refugee excluding the “German” treatment.

	(1) likable	(2) empathy	(3) would trust	(4) would talk to	(5) would meet for coffee	(6) would invite home	(7) expect fast integration
Treatment(Perspective-taking)	0.365** (0.173)	0.351** (0.167)	-0.017 (0.169)	0.012 (0.178)	0.022 (0.168)	-0.202 (0.174)	0.326* (0.172)
Treatment(is Christian)	0.182 (0.173)	0.010 (0.166)	0.263 (0.170)	0.113 (0.179)	-0.089 (0.168)	0.073 (0.173)	0.216 (0.171)
Observations	450	456	454	457	456	417	447

Notes: Estimates from an ordered logit model with the reported regressors. Heteroskedasticity-robust standard errors in parentheses. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1. Please note that the question about fast integration was not included for in the “is German” treatment.

Table A4: Treatment effects for Syrian refugee including the “German” treatment with covariates.

	(1) likable	(2) empathy	(3) would trust	(4) would talk to	(5) would meet for coffee	(6) would invite home	(7) expect fast integration
<i>Treatments</i>							
Perspective-taking	0.302* (0.175)	0.339* (0.173)	-0.019 (0.180)	-0.040 (0.191)	0.022 (0.181)	-0.236 (0.183)	0.314* (0.178)
Is Christian	0.084 (0.147)	0.045 (0.142)	0.260* (0.147)	0.097 (0.157)	-0.145 (0.147)	-0.046 (0.152)	0.198 (0.177)
Is German	0.173 (0.182)	0.027 (0.176)	-0.174 (0.182)	-0.357* (0.189)	-0.257 (0.174)	-0.121 (0.183)	
<i>Individual Char.</i>							
Risk Attitude	0.101** (0.044)	0.085* (0.047)	0.140*** (0.042)	0.062 (0.041)	0.105*** (0.039)	0.146*** (0.041)	0.036 (0.048)
Sociable	0.219*** (0.077)	0.261*** (0.081)	0.124 (0.083)	0.396*** (0.086)	0.226*** (0.080)	0.106 (0.076)	0.146 (0.091)
Close to foreigner	0.263* (0.156)	0.156 (0.148)	0.302* (0.155)	0.518*** (0.163)	0.430*** (0.154)	0.558*** (0.158)	0.145 (0.182)
Female	-0.020 (0.155)	0.292** (0.146)	-0.356** (0.153)	-0.051 (0.160)	-0.275* (0.153)	-0.356** (0.150)	-0.215 (0.184)
Age	-0.040 (0.031)	0.049* (0.027)	-0.012 (0.030)	0.057** (0.027)	0.116*** (0.029)	0.091*** (0.030)	0.031 (0.037)
Age squared	0.000 (0.000)	-0.000 (0.000)	0.000 (0.000)	-0.001** (0.000)	-0.001*** (0.000)	-0.001*** (0.000)	-0.000 (0.000)
<i>Context</i>							
Data from Kiel	0.146 (0.242)	-0.207 (0.216)	0.684*** (0.223)	0.293 (0.228)	0.204 (0.217)	0.364 (0.254)	0.307 (0.260)
Data at Uni	-0.527** (0.254)	-0.310 (0.236)	-0.140 (0.260)	0.007 (0.266)	-0.048 (0.241)	-0.130 (0.257)	-0.106 (0.318)
Observations	628	633	630	633	633	593	429

Notes: Estimates from an ordered logit model with the reported regressors. Heteroskedasticity-robust standard errors in parentheses. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1. Please note that the question about fast integration was not included for in the "is German" treatment. The base outcome for context is data gathered on the street in Rostock.

Appendix C: Summary of results

Result 1 (General Treatment Effects) *Results from an ordered logit model show that, without adding controls, treatments have the following average effects on reported answers relative to the reference person being described as faithful Syrian Muslim:*

- *The reference person being open to concerns has a significant positive effect on reported levels of liking, empathy (both $p < .05$) and expectation of fast integration ($p < .1$).*
- *The reference person being Christian has a significant positive effect on the reported level of trust ($p < .1$).*
- *The reference person being German, has a significant negative effect on reported willingness to talk to or meet him (both $p < .05$).*

Result 2 (Effects on Attitudes) *Regarding expressed attitudes, we find:*

- *The reference person being open has a robust positive effect on reported levels of liking ($p < .01$) and willingness to trust ($p < .05$). Both effects are stronger for more risk-averse people, though ($p < .01$).*
- *Women are more empathetic and less trusting (both $p < .05$).*
- *Self-perception as sociable has a positive impact on reported levels of liking ($p < .05$) and empathy ($p < .01$).*
- *All attitudes show a positive correlation with stated willingness to take risks.*

Result 3 (Determinants of Willingness to Interact) *Regarding reported willingness to talk to, meet or invite someone similar to the reference person, we find:*

- *Having close relations to a foreigner has a strong positive impact on all three categories of interaction (all $p < .01$).*
- *Being more sociable has a positive effect on willingness to talk to or meet ($p < .01$). There is no effect for invite home, though.*
- *Being more willing to take risks has a positive effect on willingness to meet and invite home (both $p < .01$).*

Result 4 (Gender and Age Effects) *Regarding personal characteristics, we find:*

- *Women are more empathetic ($p < .05$), but less trusting ($p < .05$), and less willing to meet ($p < .1$) or extend an invitation to ($p < .05$) someone similar to the reference person.*
- *Older people are more trusting ($p < .1$) and more willing to interact with someone similar to the reference person ($p < .01$ for meet and invite; $p < .05$ for talk to).*

Result 5 (Effect of Actually Expressing Concerns) *In the second experiment, we find:*

- *Expressing concerns regarding immigrants decreases perceived levels of being cosmopolitan and increases associations with right-wing parties.*

Appendix D: Relationships between risk attitudes, political orientation, and concerns about migration

The nationally representative German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP) allows studying the relationship between risk attitude and left/right-orientation or worries about immigration; the population can be considered at least roughly similar to the one from which our respondents were recruited. Based on the SOEP data, Figures A1 to A3 below display the results of a local polynomial smooth to explore whether there is a positive or negative linear or non-linear relationship between these variables. The table notes provide regression coefficients for a linear regression if run on the same underlying data. (The question on self-reported risk attitudes was included in the SOEP in 2013. The questions about worries are available for 2014 and 2016, thus providing dates that fall before and after our survey and the large inflow of refugees in 2015.)

As can be seen, outside extreme circumstances, risk attitudes do not change quickly, so we have reason to assume that the value for 2013 corresponds to the risk attitude of people in the following years for which the other variables are available. Moreover, from looking at the graphs, it is apparent that there is no systematic relationship between these variables. Also, comparing Figures A2 and A3, it appears that the large inflow of the year 2015 has not changed the relationship between risk attitude and worries about migration in the German population.

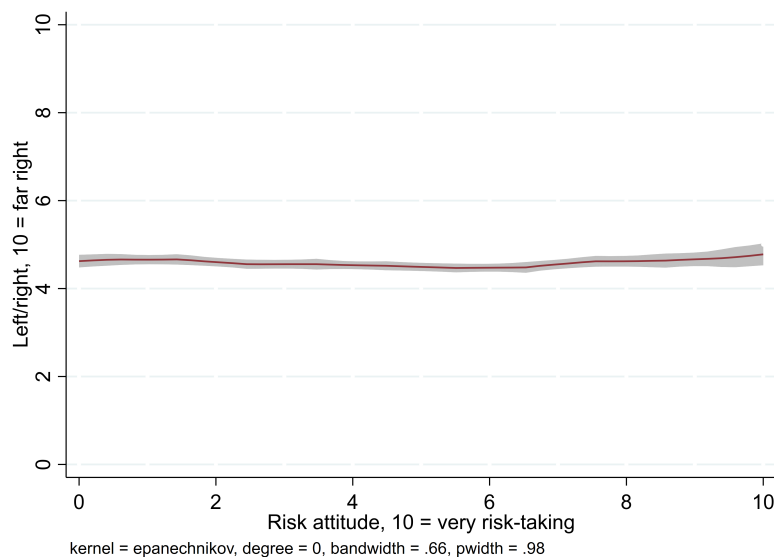


Figure A1: Relationship between left/right orientation and risk attitude in SOEP)

The figure shows the relationship between self-reported left-right orientation and self-reported risk attitude in the German Socioeconomic panel for the year 2014, the datapoint closest to our survey. The line is a local polynomial smooth with parameters determined automatically for optimal fit. The shaded area is the 95 percent confidence interval. $n=3020$. A linear regression on these data yields $\beta = 0.0039$ for a p-value of 0.70.

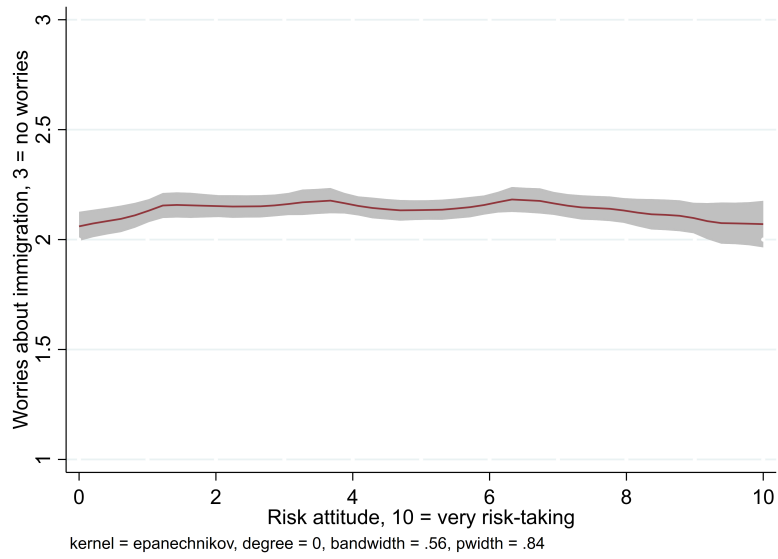


Figure A2: Relationship between left/right orientation and risk attitude in SOEP)

The figure shows the relationship between self-reported worries about immigration and self-reported risk attitude in the German Socioeconomic panel for the year 2014, the datapoint closest to our survey. The line is a local polynomial smooth with parameters determined automatically for optimal fit. The shaded area is the 95 percent confidence interval. $n=3418$. A linear regression on these data yields $\beta = 0.00213$ for a p-value of 0.63.

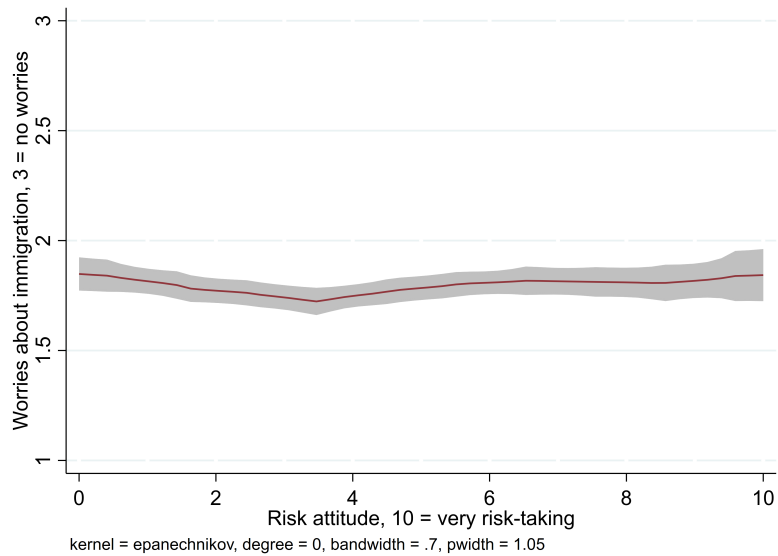


Figure A3: Relationship between left/right orientation and risk attitude in SOEP)

The figure shows the relationship between self-reported worries about immigration and self-reported risk attitude in the German Socioeconomic panel for the year 2016, the datapoint closest to our survey. The line is a local polynomial smooth with parameters determined automatically for optimal fit. The shaded area is the 95 percent confidence interval. $n=2352$. A linear regression on these data yields $\beta = 0.00099$ for a p-value of 0.86.

Appendix E: Additional Questionnaire Study

In the an additional questionnaire study, we presented a male German citizen – Stefan K., aged 35 and living in Hamburg with his wife and two children. He was described as expressing opinions on three current political topics: equal opportunities for women in leading positions (positive), strong punishment of tax evasion (positive), the situation of refugees from Syria (empathetic).²¹ The only experimental variation is whether or not he also expresses concerns regarding “*over-foreignization*”, costs, and violence associated with the refugee inflow.

Description of German (Translation): Mentioning worries

Stefan K. (35) is married and lives with his wife and two children in Hamburg. He works as a bank clerk at the savings bank. In his free-time he spends a lot of time with his family and likes to travel to foreign countries.

When asked about several current political debates, Michael K. underscored the importance of equal opportunities for women in leadership positions. Furthermore, he supports tough punishment for tax evasion and containment policy against tax havens. Regarding the inflow of refugees, he reported his worries about the situation of people in Syria. However, he also mentioned substantial worries of “*over-foreignization*” due to the large immigration of refugees (*literally "Zuwanderung von Flüchtlingen"*) to Germany, the associated cost and increasing crime.

Notes: This vignette did not feature a photo.

Following this information, subjects had to indicate how cosmopolitan and how EU friendly they would judge Stefan K. to be (6-point Likert scale) and which political party they would assume him to vote for based on the information provided. At the end, we also asked about the subject’s age, gender, nationality, close non-German friends, willingness to take risks (10 point scale following the GSOEP) and degree of worries in 7 different domains (including crime, immigration, and xenophobia).

The data of the supplementary study were collected among students of the University of Rostock at the end of a lecture on April 27, 2016. Again, the two different versions of the questionnaire were distributed randomly.

Summary Statistics and Treatment Differences

For the second questionnaire, we obtained 118 responses (45.8% women; mean age 21.26 years); see Table A5 for detailed summary statistics.

Most importantly for the present discussion, describing Stefan K. as expressing the same concerns as the refugee decreases participants’ assessment of him being cosmopolitan from 4.64 to 4.23 on a 6-point scale ($p \leq .01$; Wilcoxon rank sum test). Moreover, regarding the expected vote of Stefan K at the next election, expressing concerns significantly increases the perception of him being a supporter of the AfD, Germany’s new anti-immigrant right-wing party that managed to finish third in the 2017 federal election (see Tables A6 and A7).

Table A5: Summary statistics for second questionnaire.

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
Treatment	118	0.483	0.502	0	1
Openness	118	4.441	0.948	1	6
EU	118	3.085	0.902	2	5
Age	118	21.263	2.772	18	32
Female	118	0.458	0.500	0	1
German	118	0.983	0.130	0	1
Close foreigner	118	0.610	0.490	0	1
Risk attitude	117	6.000	1.805	2	9
Worries: econ	118	2.195	0.559	1	3
Worries: self	118	2.034	0.640	1	3
Worries climate	118	1.720	0.738	1	3
Worries: crime	118	2.110	0.760	1	3
Worries: cohesion	118	1.805	0.731	1	3
Worries: immigration	118	2.110	0.701	1	3
Worries: xenophobia	118	1.466	0.595	1	3

Table A6: Party association. Absolute numbers by treatment.

	Treatment	
	T(no concerns)	T(concerns)
Center left (SPD)	21 (34.4)	16 (28.1)
Center right (CDU)	15 (24.6)	15 (26.3)
Left wing (Linke)	14 (23.0)	4 (7.0)
Right wing (AfD)	2 (3.3)	14 (24.6)
Greens (Grüne)	5 (8.2)	4 (7.0)
Liberals (FDP)	1 (1.6)	2 (3.5)
Others	0 (0.0)	2 (3.5)
Total	61	57

Notes: Assesses association with political parties; absolute numbers (percentages in parentheses).

Table A7: Change in assessed party association through treatment.

Outcome	CDU	Linke	AfD	Grüne	FDP
Treatment (concerns)	0.272 (0.493)	-1.175* (0.647)	2.219*** (0.826)	0.049 (0.748)	0.965 (1.279)

Notes: Estimates from multinomial logit with different outcomes reported vertically in the order of frequency. Base outcome of the dependent variable SPD (most common option). No mentioning of other parties. The base outcome of the independent variable is the treatment in which no concerns are uttered.