

"Humankind first, my country second!"

Does Identification With All Humanity explain attitudes on global health resource allocation principles during COVID-19? Evidence from England and Germany

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Attitudes on the global distribution of vaccines, tests and ventilators during the COVID-19 pandemic can be predicted by citizens'...

Data collected in summer 2021

Underlying justice principles
 Equality
 Merit
 Entitlement
 Need

Background

- COVID-19 pandemic
- Urgent global need for health care resources (masks, vaccines, tests, hygiene equipment, ...)
- Extreme global shortages

Allocation of scarce resources

- Widely studied in philosophy, (medical) ethics and public health sciences for centuries
- Both international solidarity and large-scale "vaccine nationalism" observed in practice

How does the public think?

Previous evidence

First study with same samples

- On average, our participants favoured an equitable global distribution of resources, rather than buying out or hoarding them.
- Preferences were similar across resources, but substantially resource-specific.

Research question

- Who prefers which global resource distribution principles?

Samples

- Representative adult samples from England and Germany recruited by Respondi/Bilendi
- N = 2692 (n_{Germany} = 1364, n_{England} = 1328)
- Online questionnaire study in summer 2021

Measures

Attitudes on global resource distribution principles
 ✓ Global Resource Distrib. Principles Scale (GRDP) (newly developed, inspired by Fischer et al., 2017)

Global Human Identification
 ✓ Identification With All Humanity Scale (IWAH) (McFarland et al., 2012; Reese et al., 2015)

General within-society justice beliefs
 ✓ Basic Social Justice Orientation Scale (BSJO) (Hille et al., 2018)

General global justice beliefs
 ✓ Justice beliefs about global inequality (JBGI) (Reese et al., 2014)
 ✓ Behav. intentions toward glob. inequality (BIGI) (Reese et al., 2012, 2014)

Analytical strategy

- Scan QR code for illustrations!
- Structural equation modelling (SEM)
- Three-step procedure for hypothesis testing
 - Estimation of separate SEM for each family of predictors (only results of binary models with regression paths for one facet shown)
 - Comparison to model in which regressions of interest are restricted to 0
 - One-sided significance tests for regression coefficients of interest

References

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Reese, G., Proch, J. & Finn, C. (2015). Identification with all humanity: The role of self-definition and self-investment. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 45(4), 428-440.

...Identification With All Humanity (IWAH)

Outcomes	Global Self-Definition (~"All humanity is my family")		Global Self-Investment (~"I care for all humanity")		Principles
	Germany	England	Germany	England	
Globally distributing resources during COVID-19, prioritise countries...					
according to population size	.47***	.29***	.52***	.31***	Equality
developing resources	-.17***	-.11***	-.21***	-.20***	Merit
producing resources	-.17***	-.08*	-.21***	-.19***	
paying more	-.15***	-.08*	-.21***	-.18***	Entitlement
with worse health care systems	.31***	.29***	.36***	.35***	Need
with higher infection rates	.31***	.26***	.34***	.34***	
with higher death rates	.31***	.25***	.36***	.33***	

Table 1: Standardised regression coefficients of preferences for global COVID-19 resource distribution principles (GRDP) on the two facets of Identification With All Humanity (IWAH), estimated in separate models for each facet, and their (one-sided) p values, corrected with the Benjamini-Hochberg method (0 *** 0.001 ** 0.01 * 0.05 . 0.1). Bold-faced effects are significant and maintain their direction when all IWAH facets are used as predictors simultaneously.

...beliefs on societal justice in "normal" times

	Equality (~"Equal wealth distribution!")		Merit (~"Reward hard work!")		Entitlement (~"Nobility first!")		Need (~"Care for those in need!")	
	Germany	England	Germany	England	Germany	England	Germany	England
according to population size	.46***	.45***	-.31*	-.18 n.t.	-.32***	-.22***	.50 n.t.	.41 n.t.
developing resources	-.18***	-.12***	.30*	.34 n.t.	.29 n.t.	.35 n.t.	-.21***	-.09*
producing resources	-.17***	-.12***	.29*	.33 n.t.	.28 n.t.	.34 n.t.	-.22***	-.09*
paying more	-.27***	-.14***	.33 n.t.	.38 n.t.	.40***	.41***	-.38***	-.19***
with worse health care systems	.33 n.t.	.38 n.t.	-.22*	-.20 n.t.	-.20***	-.23***	.36***	.47***
with higher infection rates	.27 n.t.	.36 n.t.	-.13.	-.16 n.t.	-.13**	-.21***	.32***	.47***
with higher death rates	.26 n.t.	.36 n.t.	-.13.	-.18 n.t.	-.13**	-.23***	.33***	.45***

Table 2: Standardised regression coefficients of preferences for global COVID-19 resource distribution principles (GRDP) on the four attitudes on within-society justice measured by the Basic Social Justice Orientation Scale (BSJO), estimated in separate models for each facet, and their (one-sided) p values, corrected with the Benjamini-Hochberg method (0 *** 0.001 ** 0.01 * 0.05 . 0.1; n.t.: not tested). Bold-faced effects are significant and maintain their direction when all BSJO facets are used as predictors simultaneously.

...beliefs on global justice in "normal" times

	just (recoded) (~"Global inequality is just.")		unjust (~"Global inequality is unjust.")		intentions (~"I would sacrifice for global justice.")
	Germany	England	Germany	England	
according to population size	.49***	.30***	.55***	.45***	.58***
developing resources	-.39***	-.40***	-.29***	-.29***	-.27***
producing resources	-.39***	-.40***	-.31***	-.27***	-.27***
paying more	-.50***	-.44***	-.42***	-.26***	-.30***
with worse health care systems	.36***	.40***	.45***	.49***	.44***
with higher infection rates	.29***	.38***	.37***	.45***	.38***
with higher death rates	.28***	.41***	.36***	.47***	.37***

Table 3: Standardised regression coefficients of preferences for global COVID-19 resource distribution principles (GRDP) on the three facets of attitudes on global justice measured by the Measure of justice beliefs about global inequality (JBGI) and the Measure of behavioral intentions toward global inequality (BIGI), estimated in separate models for each facet, and their (one-sided) p values, corrected with the Benjamini-Hochberg method (0 *** 0.001 ** 0.01 * 0.05 . 0.1; n.t.: not tested).