INTERNATIONAL NORM DISPUTES

THE LINK BETWEEN CONTESTATION AND NORM ROBUSTNESS

Codebook

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Project

This data set contains the codebook, data, and code from our project "International Norm Disputes" (founded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), grant number: ZI 1547/1-1; DE 1176/7-1). This project was an in-depth comparative study about when and why international norms decline when they are contested. It is based on extensive qualitative content analysis of meeting records in international organizations and statements by state representatives in newspapers in four contemporary case studies (the torture prohibition, the responsibility to protect, the duty to prosecute institutionalized in the International Criminal Court, and the moratorium on commercial whaling), along with two historical case studies (privateering and the transatlantic slave trade). The results have been published in: Zimmermann, Lisbeth; Nicole Deitelhoff; Max Lesch; Antonio Arcudi and Anton Peez. 2023. *International Norm Disputes: The Link between Contestation and Norm Robustness*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Data Collection Process

For each of the contemporary case studies, we collected data on statements by state representatives from meeting minutes in international organization and newspaper articles to analyze contestation trends and discursive indicators for norm robustness. The data collection process was adapted to the specific characteristics of each case study and is detailed in each chapter of our book (Zimmermann et al. 2023).

Method

We coded each statement for the two categories of contestation (validity and applicatory) along pre-determined sub-categories and codes derived from coding samples and secondary literature (see detailed coding schemes for each case below). We allowed for double coding of (sub-)categories and codes. For the analysis, we only assessed whether statements included any code for the categories of validity and/or applicatory contestation (binary coding). We calculated the ratio of statements (ration of states in the whaling case) that contested the norm in a given year. We coded the same material for negative reaction to norm violations and norm affirmations (binary coding). A case officer conducted and supervised the coding process. The material was coded in two rounds. To ensure reliability, the whole team coded samples of the material of each case together and discussed specific coding problems on a case-by-case basis. The analysis was conducted via MAXQDA.

Figures

All figures are reproducible via the R project; script, and datasets saved on Harvard Dataverse: https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/6VHFZK.

Citation

If you use this data, please cite as follows:
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Chapter 2: International Torture Prohibition

DOCNR | Document Number

International organization documents are numbered according to the official document numbers. Newspaper articles are numbered according to the name of the newspaper and the date (e.g., NewYorkTimes_20220927). A "Newspaper Library" (NP_Library) provides the titles of each article.

TYPE | Document Type

International body in which the statement was made or whether it was reported in a newspaper.

UNGA = United Nations General Assembly
UNSC = United Nations Security Council
CAT = Committee Against Torture
HRC = Human Rights Committee
NP = Newspaper

CRY_SPEAKER | Country Speaker

Name of the country that made the coded statement in the respective document. Country names are listed according the official names used in the documents.

ISO3C | ISO 3116 Alpha 3 Country Code

Three letter country codes according to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) (no country codes are assigned to regional organizations).

YEAR | Year of Statement

APP_CON | Applicatory Contestation

Statements that challenge the application of the international torture prohibition.

0 = applicatory contestation did not occur
1 = applicatory contestation occurred

VAL_CON | Validity Contestation

Statements that challenge the core claims of the international torture prohibition.

0 = validity contestation did not occur
1 = validity contestation occurred

NEG_REA | Negative Reactions to Norm Violations

Statements that criticize, condemn, raise concern about torture in general and/or in specific countries.

0 = negative reaction to norm violations did not occur
1 = negative reaction to norm violations occurred

NEG_REA_USA | Negative Reactions to Norm Violations by the USA

Statements that criticize, condemn, raise concern about torture in/by the United States of America.

0 = negative reaction to norm violations by the United States did not occur
1 = negative reaction to norm violations by the United States occurred

NEG_REA_ISR | Negative Reactions to Norm Violations by Israel

Statements that criticize, condemn, raise concern about torture in/by Israel.

0 = negative reaction to norm violations by Israel did not occur

1 = negative reaction to norm violations by Israel occurred

NORM_AFF | Affirmations of the International Torture Prohibition

Statements that generally affirm, support, endorse the international torture prohibition

0 = affirmations did not occur

1 = affirmations occurred

NORM_AFF_ABS | Affirmations of the Absoluteness of the International Torture Prohibition

Statements that specifically affirm, support, endorse the absoluteness and/or non-derogability of international torture prohibition

0 = affirmations of absoluteness did not occur

1 = affirmations of absoluteness occurred

Detailed coding schemes for contestation of the international torture prohibition

Categories	Dimensions	Themes	Description
Validity contestation	Categorical exceptions	Territories	Statements that demand exceptions from the non-derogable prohibition of torture.
		Groups of persons	
		Special circumstances	
	Norm conflicts	Sovereignty	Statements that prioritize another norm over the prohibition of torture.
		Safety of the state / population	
	Rejection	Abolish prohibition	Statements that outright reject the torture prohibition and/or human rights.
		Permissive norm of torture	
Applicatory contestation	Fairness	Impartiality	Statements that criticize the one-sided treatment or double standards with regard to certain states.
		Hypocrisy	
	Norm application	Definition of torture	Statements that questions whether the practices in question actually took place or amount to torture and/or ill-treatment.
		Trivialization	
		Denial	
	Institutional implementation	Competence	Statements that challenge the activities of international institutions in specific cases.
		Procedures	

Chapter 3: Responsibility to Protect

DOCNR | Document Number

International organization documents are numbered according to the official document numbers of the United Nations. Statements in the Informal International Dialogue on R2P are numbered by year, forum, and date (e.g., 2010_IID_USA). Newspaper articles are numbered according to the name of the newspaper and the date (e.g., NewYorkTimes_20220927). A "Newspaper Library" (NP_Library) provides the titles of each article.

TYPE | Document Type

International body in which the statement was made or whether it was reported in a newspaper.

UNGA = United Nations General Assembly
UNSC = United Nations Security Council
IID = Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P
NP = Newspaper

CRY_SPEAKER | Country Speaker

Name of the country that made the coded statement in the respective document. Country names are listed according the official names used in the documents.
Regional organizations are listed as follows:

R_AU = African Union
R_EU = European Union
R_OIC = Organization of Islamic Countries

ISO3C | ISO 3116 Alpha 3 Country Code

Three letter country codes according to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) (no country codes are assigned to regional organizations).

YEAR | Year of Statement

APP_CON | Applicatory Contestation

Statements that challenge the application of the responsibility to protect.

0 = applicatory contestation did not occur
1 = applicatory contestation occurred

VAL_CON | Validity Contestation

Statements that challenge the core claims of the responsibility to protect.

0 = validity contestation did not occur
1 = validity contestation occurred

NEG_REA_INTL | Negative Reactions to Inaction by the International Community

Statements that criticize, condemn, raise concern about inaction of the international community.

0 = negative reaction to international inaction did not occur
1 = negative reaction to international inaction occurred

NEG_REA_ATR | Negative Reactions to Atrocities

Statements that criticize, condemn, raise concern about atrocities

0 = negative reaction to atrocities did not occur

1 = negative reaction to atrocities occurred

AFF_STATE | Affirmations of the National Responsibility to Protect

Statements that generally affirm, support, endorse the national responsibility to protect

0 = affirmations of national responsibility did not occur

1 = affirmations of national responsibility occurred

AFF_INTL | Affirmations of the International Responsibility to Protect

Statements that specifically affirm, support, endorse the international responsibility to protect

0 = affirmations of international responsibility did not occur

1 = affirmations of international responsibility absoluteness occurred

Detailed coding schemes for contestation of the responsibility to protect

Categories	Dimensions	Themes	Description
Validity contestation	Categorical exceptions	Use of force Coercive measures	Statements that generally reject the military or coercive dimension of the responsibility to protect.
	Norm conflicts	Sovereignty Violation of int'l law	Statements that prioritize another norm over the responsibility to protect.
	Rejection	Colonialism Imperialism Abuse as a tool of power	Statements that outright reject the responsibility to protect.
Applicatory contestation	Fairness	Impartiality	Statements that criticize the one-sided treatment of certain states.
		Hypocrisy Selectivity	Statements that criticize double standards in the use of the norm with regards to certain states.
	Norm application	Politicization Situation Security Council Mandates	Statements that questions whether the responsibility to protect is appropriately applied to specific situation and by competent actors.
	Applied measures	Use of force Sanction Coercion Regime change Unilateralism	Statements that challenge the measures applied under the responsibility to protect in specific cases.

Chapter 4: Commercial Whaling Moratorium

CRY | Country

Name of the country that made at least one contestatory statement in the International Whaling Commission in a given year. Country names are listed according the official names used in the documents.

ISO3C | ISO 3116 Alpha 3 Country Code

Three letter country codes according to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

YEAR | Year of IWC Meeting

APP_CON | Applicatory Contestation

State challenged the application of the commercial whaling moratorium in a given year.

0 = applicatory contestation did not occur
1 = applicatory contestation occurred

VAL_CON | Validity Contestation

State challenged the core claims of the commercial whaling moratorium in a given year.

0 = validity contestation did not occur
1 = validity contestation occurred

Detailed coding schemes for contestation of the international whaling moratorium

Categories	Dimensions	Themes	Description
Validity contestation	Norm conflicts	Sovereignty / self-determination	Statements that prioritize another norm over the whaling moratorium.
		Food security	
		Cultural identity	
		Sustainability	
	Rejection	Colonialism Negative consequences	Statements that reject the commercial whaling moratorium, because of profound asymmetries in the global system, inherent flaws and unintended consequences
Applicatory contestation	Fairness	Impartiality	Statements that criticize the one-sided treatment of certain states.
		Hypocrisy	Statements that criticize double standards in the use of the norm with regards to certain states.
	Exemptions	Scientific whaling Aboriginal subsistence whaling Small-type whaling	Statements that question existing rules for exemption or call for the creation of new exemptions with regard to aboriginal subsistence whaling, scientific whaling, and small-type whaling.

Chapter 5: Duty to Prosecute and ICC

DOCNR | Document Number

International organization documents are numbered according to the official document numbers of the United Nations. Documents in the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) are numbered ASP#/GenDeba for each session of the ASP. Newspaper articles are numbered according to the name of the newspaper and the date (e.g., NewYorkTimes_20220927). A "Newspaper Library" (NP_Library) provides the titles of each article.

TYPE | Document Type

International body in/by which the statement was made or newspapers.

UNGA = United Nations General Assembly
UNSC = United Nations Security Council
ICC = International Criminal Court
ASP = Assembly of States Parties to the ICC
AU = African Union
NP = Newspaper

CRY_SPEAKER | Country Speaker

Name of the country that made the coded statement in the respective document. Country names are listed according the official names used in the documents. Regional organizations are listed by name.

ISO3C | ISO 3116 Alpha 3 Country Code

Three letter country codes according to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) (no country codes are assigned to regional organizations).

REGION | United Nations Region

Region codes for the CRY_SPEAKER are assigned following the United Nations regions (Africa, Asia, Europe, Americas, and Oceania).

YEAR | Year of Statement

APP_CON | Applicatory Contestation of the Duty to Prosecute

Statements that challenge the application of the duty to prosecute.

0 = applicatory contestation did not occur
1 = applicatory contestation occurred

VAL_CON | Validity Contestation of the Duty to Prosecute

Statements that challenge the core claims of the duty to prosecute.

0 = validity contestation did not occur
1 = validity contestation occurred

NEG_REA | Negative Reactions to Violations of the Duty to Prosecute

Statements that criticize, condemn, raise concern about non-cooperation with the ICC or the non-implementation of the duty to prosecute/the Rome Statute.

0 = negative reactions to norm violations did not occur
1 = negative reaction to norm violations occurred

NORM_AFF | Affirmations of the Duty to Prosecute and the ICC

Statements that generally affirm the duty to prosecute and/or support the ICC.

0 = affirmations did not occur

1 = affirmations occurred

Detailed coding schemes for contestation of the duty to prosecute

Categories	Dimensions	Themes	Description
Validity contestation	Categorical exceptions	Certain groups Heads of state	Statements that demand exceptions from the duty to persecute
	Norm conflicts	Sovereignty Peace National jurisdiction	Statements that prioritize another norm over the duty to prosecute
	Rejection	Colonialism Imperialism	Statements that outright reject the duty to prosecute and/or the ICC
Applicatory contestation	Fairness	Impartiality	Statements that criticize the unfair treatment of certain states
		Hypocrisy	Statements that criticize double standards in the use of the norm with regards to certain states
	Performance of the ICC	Selectivity Politicization Complementarity Procedures	Statement that question the ICC's activities in its application and implementation of the duty to prosecute

Chapter 7: Transatlantic Slave Trade

The chapter uses the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Estimates from the Slave Voyages project (https://www.slavevoyages.org/). These are estimates of the number of embarked enslaved Africans shipped to the Americas by flag and individual year. The exact query is available at http://www.slavevoyages.org/estimates/T05UKDW1. Please refer to the Slave Voyages project and to the chapter for further information.