# How terrorist attacks distort public debates:

# A comparative study of right-wing and Islamist extremism

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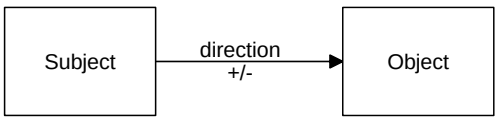
Teresa Völker

## Description data set

The analysis draws on the data set "Terrorism Debate Data" (TDD_short.csv). The data is based on a relational form of quantitative content analyses of media coverage in national quality newspapers. The articles are coded manually using the core sentence analysis. The unit of analysis here is a 'core sentence' as the smallest sense unit of any grammatical sentence. Four types of core sentences are to be collected: The relations between actors (so-called actor-actor sentences or actor-group sentences), actors and issues (so-called actor-issue sentences) and actors and protest events including political violence (so-called actor-event sentences). All types of sentences correspond to the following schematic structure: subject / positive or negative relation / object.




For further information on the coding procedure and method see Appendix of the paper "How terrorist attacks distort public debates: A comparative study of right-wing and Islamist extremism".

## Description of files and datasets

The following section describes the variables of the data set and R scripts that are included in this replication dataverse.

- **TDD_short.csv: Terrorism Debate Data**
  - Article level variables
    - date: date of the article
    - task_uuid & document_uuid: newspaper article id
    - headline: newspaper headline
  - Sentence level variables
    - cs_type_id & core sentence string

| cs_type_id | cs_type_string | description |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Akteur-Themen-Satz | Actor-issue sentence |
| 2 | Akteur-Akteur-Satz | Actor-actor sentence |
| 3 | Akteur-Zielgruppe-Satz | Actor-group sentence |
| 4 | Akteur-Ereignis-Satz | Actor-event sentence |

- context_id, context_string, context_string_eng: the three variables refer to the context event (id, string and English translation). The context event refers to the event such as a terrorist attack that trigger the communication activities of other actors and can be considered as the general context of the article.
- case
- ideology
- period
- subject1_id, subject1_string, subject1_eng: the three variables refer to the subject actor type (e.g. party) (id, string and English translation).
- subject_2_string: refers to the name of the subject actor organization (e.g. CDU)
- subject3_string: refers to the name of the individual subject actor
- object1_id, object1_string, object1_eng: the three variables refer to the object actor type (e.g. party) (id, string and English translation).
- object_2_string: refers to the name of the object actor organization (e.g. CDU)
- objekt3_string: refers to the name of the individual object actor.
- terrorist, terrorist_o: the two variables capture whether terrorist are mentioned as subject actor (terrorist) or object actor (terrorist_o).
- issue_string, issue_string_eng: the two variables refer to the issue reference (string and English translation).
- subissue_group_id, subissue_group, subissue_group_eng: the three variables refer to the issue group (id, string and English translation).
- subissue_id, subissue_string: the three variables refer to the sub-issues (id, string and English translation).
- quality_id, quality_string: quality_id and quality_string represent the direction of the relationship between the subject and the objects on the core-sentence level using a scale from -1 to +1 with three intermediary positions. -1 indicates a critique or rejection of the actor or issue and +1 an affirmative evaluation. The intermediary positions were used to code 'potential' or ambivalent positions. If, for example, an actor states that in the future she might be for a certain position, we coded +0.5. In other words, it is mainly used for probabilities. Whenever there is an ambiguous relation – that is no direction at all – we coded 0.
- quality_new, quality_issues: quality_new and quality_issues represent the recoded direction of the relationship between the subject and the objects based on different conditions. quality_issues includes the correct positions on the issue-level. quality_new includes the correct positions on the issue group level.
- level_id, level_string: This variable captures the level of regulation or policies chosen by the speaker, both explicitly and implicitly, for addressing or resolving an issue or conflict.

- **Voelker_JEPP_main-analysis.rmd**: the main.Rmd file that creates all tables and figures found in the manuscript and the Appendix. Specifically, this script loads:
    - Figure 2: Visibility of terrorist attacks in German public debates
    - Appendix Figure B1. Development public visibility terrorist attacks two weeks after the attacks (examples)
    - Appendix: Figure B2. Resonance actor types after Islamist and right-wing attacks
    - Figure 3: Public visibility of extremists versus victims
    - Table 2: Resonance: share of political parties as subject and object in political debates after terrorist attacks, percentages
    - Figure 4: Resonance of central sub-issues, share of statements
    - Table B9. Resonance sub-issues after Islamist and right-wing attacks
    - Appendix Table B12. Political level for regulation
    - Table 3: Legitimacy shift of actors and issues
    - Table B13. Legitimacy shift of actors and issues (change of average position in statements from one week before to 1 week after attacks)
    - Figure C3. Legitimacy shift of issues (change of average position from one week before to 1 weeks after each attack
    - Network analysis data preparation

- **Voelker_JEPP_validation-analysis.rmd**: the validation analysis that creates all tables and figures found in the Appendix in Annex C: validation results.
    - Figure B2. Resonance actor types after Islamist and right-wing attacks
    - Figure C1: Validation results: Public visibility of extremists versus victims
    - Table C2: Validation results: Resonance: share of political parties as subject and object in political debates after terrorist attacks, percentages
    - Figure C2. Validation results: Resonance of central sub-issues, share of statements
    - Table C3: Validation results: Legitimacy shift of actors and issues
    - Figure C3. Legitimacy shift of issues (change of average position from one week before to 1 weeks after each attack

## Note

sessionInfo()

R version 4.3.0 (2023-04-21 ucrt)
Platform: x86_64-w64-mingw32/x64 (64-bit)
Running under: Windows 10 x64 (build 19045)

Matrix products: default

locale:
[1] LC_COLLATE=English_United States.1252 LC_CTYPE=C LC_MONETARY=English_United States.1252 LC_NUMERIC=C LC_TIME=English_United States.1252
system code page: 65001

time zone: Europe/Berlin
tzcode source: internal

attached base packages:
[1] stats graphics grDevices datasets utils methods base

other attached packages:
[1] ggrepel_0.9.3 stringi_1.7.12 readtext_0.90 viridis_0.6.4 viridisLite_0.4.2 ghibli_0.3.3 kableExtra_1.3.4 reshape2_1.4.4 writexl_1.4.2 lubridate_1.9.2 forcats_1.0.0
[12] stringr_1.5.0 dplyr_1.1.2 purrr_1.0.2 readr_2.1.4 tidyr_1.3.0 tibble_3.2.1 ggplot2_3.4.3 tidyverse_2.0.0 plyr_1.8.8

loaded via a namespace (and not attached):
[1] gtable_0.3.4 xfun_0.40 bslib_0.5.1 tzdb_0.4.0 vctrs_0.6.3 tools_4.3.0 generics_0.1.3 parallel_4.3.0 fansi_1.0.4 highr_0.10
[11] pkgconfig_2.0.3 data.table_1.14.8 RColorBrewer_1.1-3 webshot_0.5.5 lifecycle_1.0.3 compiler_4.3.0 farver_2.1.1 munsell_0.5.0 htmltools_0.5.6 sass_0.4.7
[21] yaml_2.3.7 crayon_1.5.2 pillar_1.9.0 jquerylib_0.1.4 cachem_1.0.8 tidyselect_1.2.0 rvest_1.0.3 digest_0.6.33 labeling_0.4.3 fastmap_1.1.1
[31] grid_4.3.0 colorspace_2.1-0 cli_3.6.1 magrittr_2.0.3 utf8_1.2.3 withr_2.5.0 scales_1.2.1 bit64_4.0.5 timechange_0.2.0 rmarkdown_2.24
[41] httr_1.4.7 bit_4.0.5 gridExtra_2.3 hms_1.1.3 evaluate_0.21 haven_2.5.3 knitr_1.43 rlang_1.1.1 Rcpp_1.0.11 glue_1.6.2
[51] xml2_1.3.5 renv_0.16.0 vroom_1.6.3 svglite_2.1.1 rstudioapi_0.15.0 jsonlite_1.8.7 R6_2.5.1 systemfonts_1.0.4 prismatic_1.1.1