Readme file

Replication material

"Effects of Popular Legitimacy on International Organizations: An Elite Survey Experiment"

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***Abstract*:** Whether or not popular legitimacy matters for international organizations (IOs) is a topic of extensive assumption but little rigorous research. A key obstacle has been the methodological difficulties of establishing legitimacy's effect using observational data. This article offers the first experimental study of the effects of popular legitimacy on IOs. Theoretically, we propose that popular legitimacy affects IOs through the mechanism of government responsiveness to public opinion. Empirically, we test this expectation by presenting elected politicians in Sweden with a scenario of proposed reforms to the World Health Organization (WHO) and randomized information about the organization's degree of popular legitimacy. The results show that higher levels of popular legitimacy made politicians more willing to confer additional authority and resources on the IO. The effects were particularly large among politicians with positive pre-treatment attitudes toward the WHO and leftist ideological orientations. These findings suggest that popular legitimacy matters by affecting national decision-makers' willingness to empower IOs.

Keywords: legitimacy; international organizations; responsiveness; elite survey experiment

The replication material in this zip folder includes:

- Dataset: EffectsofLegitimacy_data.dta
- Stata do-file Dofile_EffectsofLegitimacy.do
- Log-file: EffectsofLegitimacy_replication_log.smcl
- Codebook: Codebook_EffectsofLegitimacy.pdf

Notes

- The analysis is based on STATA 18.0 SE on Mac.
- Details on the current working directory need to be adapted (see do-file).