

Effects of artistic protest action on public support, Follow-up-study, Oct. 2022 (#108614)

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1) Have any data been collected for this study already?

No, no data have been collected for this study yet.

2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?

The main question is whether, in the reception of media coverage about protest actions, negative effects of disruptive protest actions are mitigated if such disruptive protest actions are art actions (vs. non-artistic protest action). A negative effect is defined as increased perception of protest as a) extreme and b) immoral, decreased c) identification and d) emotional connection with the protestors, and decreased e) support for the protestors and f) support for their cause.

H1: The negative effects are smaller for artistic protest action compared to equally disruptive non-artistic protest action.

H2: The smaller negative effects of artistic protest actions (vs. non-artistic protest action) on b)–f) are mediated by perception of protest as a) extreme.

H3a: The smaller negative effects of artistic protest actions (vs. non-artistic protest action) on a)–f) are moderated by the individual classification that the protest format is, in fact, artistic.

H3b: The smaller negative effects of artistic protest actions (vs. non-artistic protest action) on b)–f) via a) are moderated by the individual classification that the protest format is, in fact, artistic.

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.

For the key DVs we follow Feinberg et al. (2020) and participants answer to the questions a): "How extreme do you find the protestors' behavior?"; b) "How immoral do you find the protestors' behavior?"; c) "How much do you identify with the protestors?"; d) "How sympathetic do you find the protestors?"; e) "How much do you support the protestors?"; f) "How much do you support the protestors' cause?" on a scale from 1 (not at all) to 6 (very much).

The individual classification of the protest format as "artistic" is measured with the question "Personally, I think that the protestors performed an art action." on a scale from 1 (not at all) to 6 (very much).

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?

Participants will be randomly assigned to one of two experimental groups – between-subjects-factor "protest condition" (2 levels): medium disruptive protest action (street blocking by activists) vs. medium disruptive artistic protest action (street blocking by performance artists)

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.

H1 is investigated using a MANOVA with protest condition (IV) and a) perceptions of protest as extreme and b) immoral, c) identification and d) emotional connection with protestors, and e) support of protestors and their f) cause (DV).

H2 is investigated using mediation analyses (bootstrap, 10.000 resamples) with protest condition (IV), a) perceptions of protest as extreme (Mediator), and b) perception of immoral protestors, c) identification and d) emotional connection with protestors, and e) support of protestors and their f) cause (DV).

H3a is investigated in regression analyses with protest condition (IV), a) perceptions of protest as extreme (Moderator) and b) immoral, c) identification and d) emotional connection with protestors, and e) support of protestors and their f) cause (DV).

H3b is investigated by adding the individual classification of the protest format as "artistic" as a moderator to the a-path of the H2-model (moderated mediation).

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.

Participants are excluded if a) consent to data processing at the beginning or end of the survey is denied, b) article-reading-time < 20 seconds, c) LOI < 240 seconds, d) > 10 minutes without progress, e) failed attention checks (3).

7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.

The sample will be collected by a commercial online-access-panel; the questionnaire is programmed by ourselves and hosted by soscisurvey.de. A power analysis ($1-\beta = 0.95$) was performed for H1: MANOVA with 2 groups, 6 response variables, assuming a small effect ($f^2(V)=0.02$), resulting in a required sample size of $N=1050$. To be able to react to quality fails in the panel, we add 15% and aim at a maximum of $N\approx 1.200$ ($n\approx 600$ per group). Participants will be inhabitants and eligible to vote in Germany, quota according to the Federal Statistical Office of Germany (Microcensus 2021): gender female: 49.8 %, male: 50.2 %; age (18-20: 17.2 %, 30-39: 17.0 %, 40-49: 15.6 %, 50-59: 20.4 %, 60-69: 17.1 %, 70-80: 12.7 %).

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)

In addition to the single-item measures in line with Feinberg et al. (2020) and a prior study (AsPredicted #86729), we will collect further items to measure perception of protest as a) extreme (The protesters were violent./The protesters were peaceful./The protesters were responsible for a conflict./The protesters were troublemakers./The protesters have disrupted everyday life.), b) immoral (The protesters' behavior was justified./I agree with the form of the protest./The form of the protest was justified./Morally speaking, the protesters are in the right and the police is in the wrong.), c) identification (I feel similar to the protesters./My beliefs are close to the beliefs of the protesters., d) emotional connection with the protestors (I feel an emotional connection to the protesters./I feel compassion for the protesters.), as well as e) support for the protesters and f) their cause (I would understand if a government were to suppress the movement./I would be willing to participate in an action in the future if the group would organize an action in my area./I would be willing to join this group as a member./I would be willing to speak up to defend members of the group./I would be willing to speak up to defend actions of the group.). We will examine these items in exploratory and confirmatory factor and reliability analyses. If high-quality constructs are identified, we will rerun our analyses with these.

As control variables we will explore the role of demographics (age, gender, education), political interest and ideology, environmental attitudes, and attitudes towards arts and culture in general as well as its political and societal significance. We also survey emotional reactions to the protests for exploratory purposes.