Foreign Aid as an Influence on Foreign Public Opinion

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FOREIGN AID AS AN INFLUENCE ON FOREIGN PUBLIC OPINION

CIERRA M. L. POWELL
SOFT POWER

FOREIGN AID MAY BUILD UP A RESOURCE OF SOFT POWER.
2015 UNITED STATES ODA PER CAPITA

- Most common measure of foreign aid
- U.S. is the number one donor country/ historical context

VANDERBILT’S LAPOP SURVEY

- Surveys of public opinion in the Americas for over 30 years
- National surveys; reports on individual attitudes
QUESTIONS FOR ANALYSIS

Model and Trustworthiness

• Sector of country
• Household income
• Receive economic assistance
• Salary sufficiency
LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

- Argentina
- Bolivia
- Brasil
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Jamaica
- Mexico
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Uruguay
- Venezuela
FINDINGS LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

% U.S. as Model in Relation to 2015 Total ODA Disbursement/Population

y = 0.0185x + 0.3181
p=0.01

% U.S. Trustworthiness in Relation to 2015 Total ODA Disbursement/Population

y = 0.023x + 0.4056,
p=0.06
FINDINGS FOR ECUADOR

Trustworthiness in Relation to Household Income

\[ y = 0.0001x + 0.4086 \]

Binned scatter plot

% for US as a Model in Relation to Whether a Household Receives Economic Assistance from Abroad

P-value for difference in proportions = .11
LIMITATIONS

- Political controls
- Elite rhetoric
- Aggregate level study
- Not a study across time
CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

Foreign aid is one factor associated with Variation in positive views of donor countries
¡GRACIAS!

THANK YOU!
ADDITIONAL FINDINGS: ECUADOR (TRUST)

Some Trustworthiness for the U.S. in Relation to Whether the Respondent Receives Economic Assistance

![Graph showing trustworthiness for the U.S. in relation to whether a household receives economic assistance.]

Trustworthiness in Relation to Salary Sufficiency

![Graph showing trustworthiness in relation to salary sufficiency.]

- **Salary Sufficiency**
  - Good Enough
  - Not Good Enough

Whether a household receives economic assistance from abroad (remittances): no, yes

Share naming US as Model: 0, 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8, 0.9, 1

Share identifying U.S. Trustworthiness: 0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8, 1.0
ADDITIONAL FINDINGS: ECUADOR (TRUST)

Trustworthiness in Relation to Household Income

\[ y = 0.0001x + 0.4086 \]

Binned scatter plot
ADDITIONAL FINDINGS: ECUADOR (MODEL)

% for U.S. as Model in Relation to Salary Sufficiency

% for U.S. as Model in Relation to Sector the Respondent Lives
ADDITIONAL FINDINGS: ECUADOR (MODEL)

% for US as a Model in Relation to Whether a Household Receives Economic Assistance from Abroad
P-value for difference in proportions = 0.11

% for U.S. as Model in Relation to Household Income

\[ y = -0.0126x + 43.076 \]

Binned scatter plot
ADDITIONAL FINDINGS: MODEL (URB/RUR)
ADDITIONAL FINDINGS: TRUST (URB/RUR)

Country Comparison: Trustworthiness (Urban) in relation to 2015 U.S. ODA Disbursement/Population

Country Comparison: % U.S. Trustworthiness (Rural) in relation to 2015 U.S. ODA Disbursement/Population

y = 0.0232x + 0.3873, p=0.02

y = 0.0284x + 0.376, p=0.02

2016 % U.S. Trustworthy Urban Population

2016 % U.S. Trustworthy Rural Population

2015 U.S. ODA (millions)/Population (millions)

2015 U.S. ODA (millions)/Population (millions)
Country Comparison: % U.S. Trustworthiness (w/ Haiti) in relation to 2015 Total ODA Disbursement/Population

Country Comparison: % U.S. as Model (w/ Haiti) in relation to 2015 Total ODA Disbursement/Population
ADDITIONAL FINDINGS HAITI TRUST (URB/RUR)
ADDITIONAL FINDINGS HAITI MODEL (URB/RUR)

Country Comparison: % U.S. as Model: Rural (w/Haiti) in Relation to 2015 Total U.S. ODA Disbursement/Population

2015 Total U.S. ODA Disbursement (millions)/Population (millions)

Country Comparison: % U.S. as Model: Urban (w/Haiti) in Relation to 2015 Total U.S. ODA Disbursement/Population

2015 Total U.S. ODA Disbursement (millions)/Population (millions)