Far-right protests and their effect on internal migration (Pre-Analysis – Plan)

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1 Research Question

How do far-right protests affect location choices?

2 Experimental Design

We conduct a discrete choice experiment. The experiment consists of two parts. In both of them, each survey participant is presented with seven randomly selected scenarios in which they have to decide between two hypothetical cities with at least 100,000 inhabitants. In the first part, all people are asked to indicate which of the cities they prefer as place of residence. In the second part, we randomly divide people in four subgroups and ask about their expectations in one of the following four dimensions:

- Personal security
- Likelihood of finding people with similar interests and views
- Medium-run economic development
- Quality of parks and green spaces

We characterize cities by six different attributes: cultural offerings; social diversity; number of far-right protests; climate activism, leisure offers for kids and families; quality of local infrastructure. All attributes can vary between three levels (low, medium, high). The profile of each city is randomly drawn among the 729 possible profiles. We make sure that the two cities between which a participant has to decide are not identical.

Participants have to be German citizens and between 18 and 44 years. We impose regional quotes (East/West) according to the population size of the respective regions. We also make sure that the distribution of gender is nearly balanced. With regard to the age distribution, we define that 2/3 of the participants are between 18 and 29 years, while the remaining 1/3 of the participants are between 30 and 44 years. The sample size will be 3000 individuals.

3 Predictions

We expect that people are less likely to choose a place if the number of far-right protests increases. We also expect negative effects on three dimensions that influence location choices (personal security, likelihood of finding people with similar interests and views, medium-run economic development). We do not expect an effect on the fourth dimension (quality of parks and green spaces).