



# COVID-19 associated discrimination in Germany:

## Realistic and symbolic threats

**The Center for Economic and Social Research; USC**

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# Background

Increasing experiences of discrimination, especially, but not solely, towards individuals of Chinese or Asian origin (*COVID-19 Associated Discrimination CAD*)

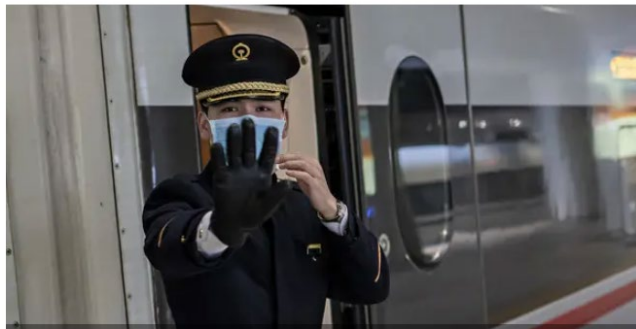
The New York Times

Coronavirus Outbreak > **LIVE** Latest Updates Maps and Cases Vaccine Tracker A Dose of Optimism Answers to Your Questions

## *Spit On, Yelled At, Attacked: Chinese-Americans Fear for Their Safety*

As bigots blame them for the coronavirus and President Trump labels it the “Chinese virus,” many Chinese-Americans say they are terrified of what could come next.

## Chinese people respond to coronavirus discrimination: ‘We are not a virus!’



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## Stop the coronavirus stigma now

The pandemic is fuelling deplorable racism and discrimination, especially against Asian people. Education and research will also pay the price.

# Background

- Not only an US-thing, but also in other countries, like Germany
- However, not much data to quantify the problem



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# Research question and theoretical framework

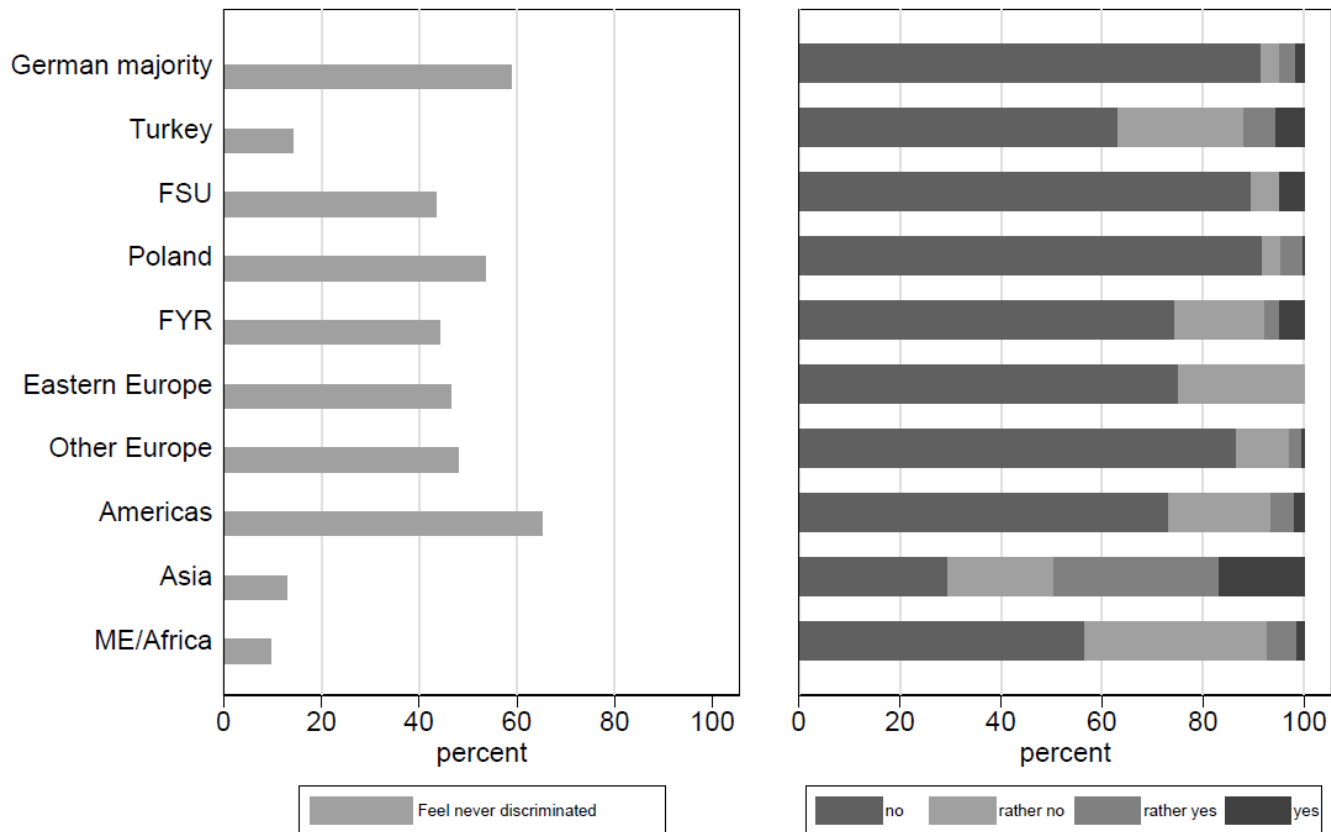
## ■ Research questions:

- Increase of CAD against Asians and other minorities in Germany?
- To what extent possible discriminatory tendencies can be explained by the extent of threat COVID-19 poses to individuals' health?

■ **Integrated or intergroup threat theory** (Stephan and Stephan 2000): COVID-19 as realistic and symbolic threat, likely to translate into the prejudice against outgroups, which are particularly associated with the spread of the virus

# COVID-19 associated discrimination in Germany: Data and descriptive evidence of CAD

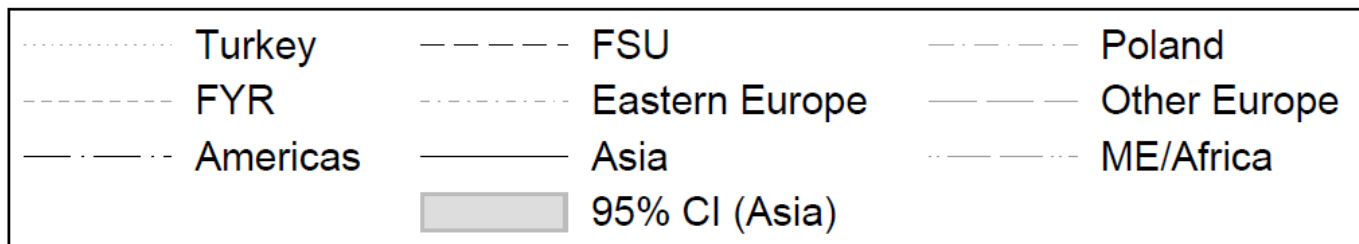
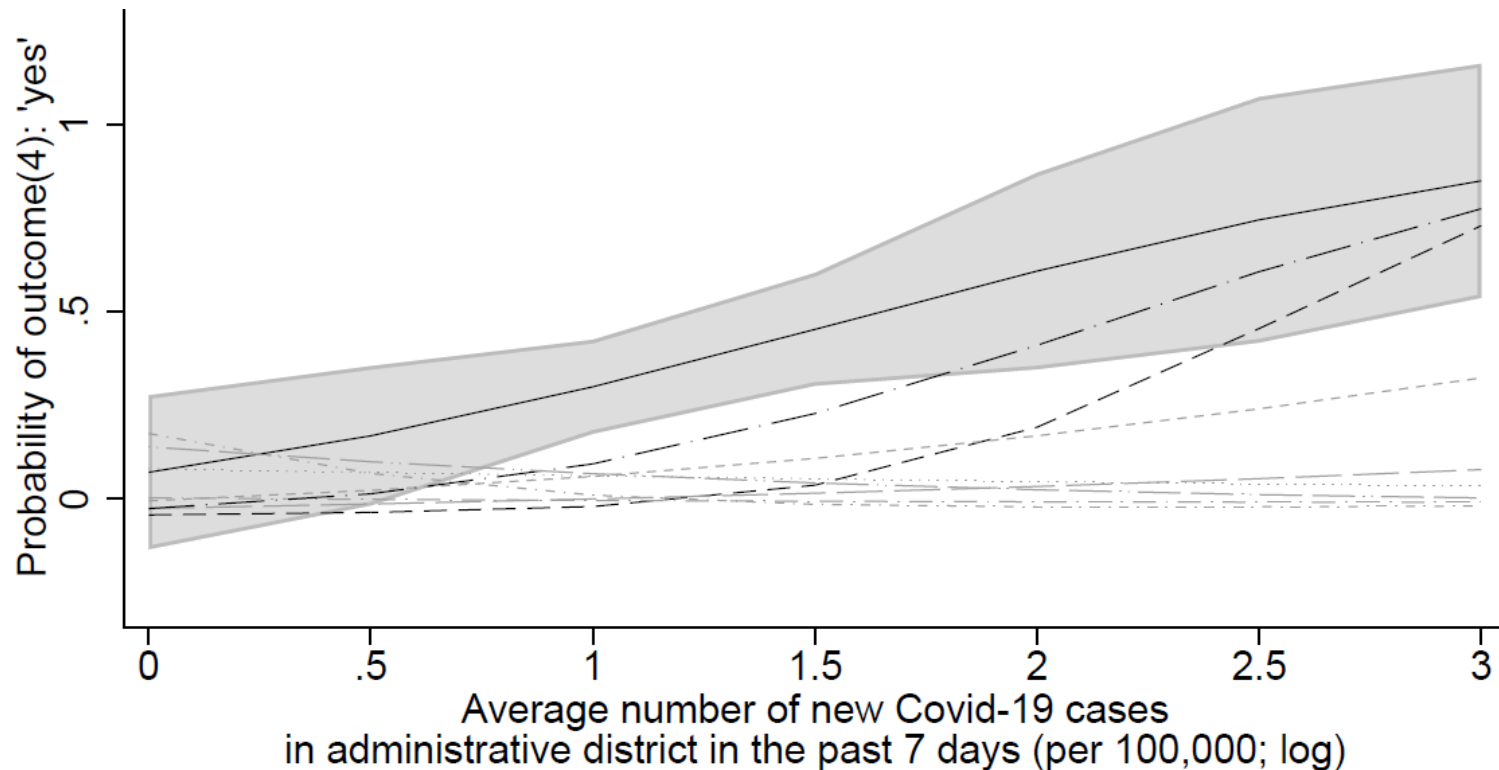
- CILS4COVID (COVID-19 add-on survey within CILS4EU-DE survey)
- Young adults born between 1994-1996, aged 24-26 (N=3472 / 3016)
- ‘Since the beginning of the Corona-pandemic, do you feel increasingly discriminated against or treated unfairly due to your ethnic background?’ The answer categories: ‘yes’, ‘rather yes’, ‘rather no’, ‘no’ and ‘I feel never discriminated against’



# COVID-19 associated discrimination in Germany: Multivariate results

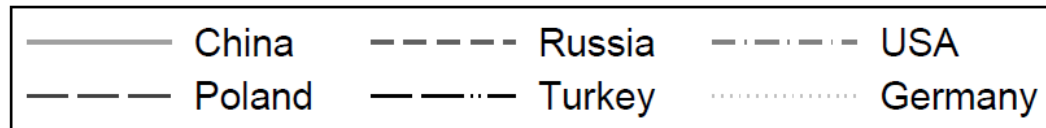
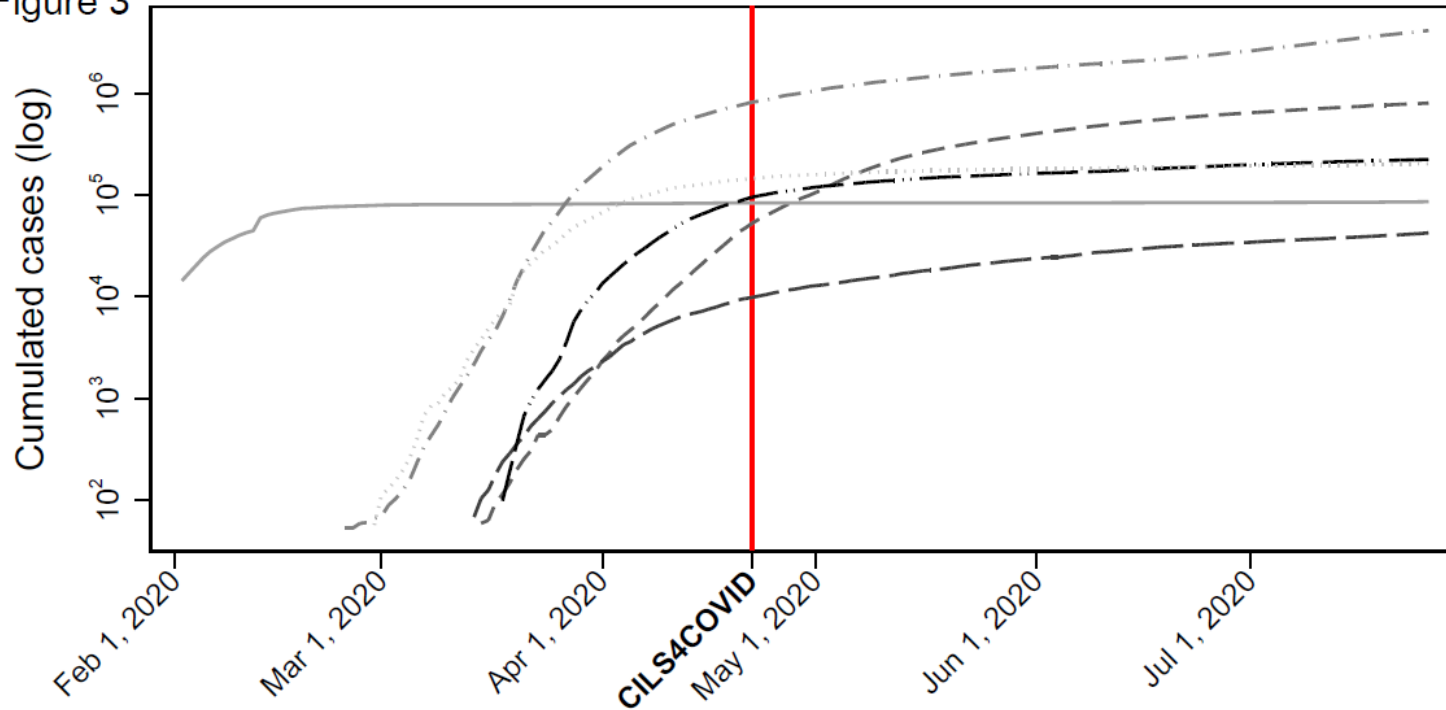
	Selection	Outcome
■ Ordered probit model with Heckman selection correction	<b>Country of origin (Ref.: Germany)</b>	
■ Control variables:	Turkey	1.05 <sup>***</sup> (0.18)
■ Selection equation: origin, parental ISEI, respondent's education, gender, partnership status, children, current socio-economic status	FSU	0.39 <sup>**</sup> (0.15)
■ Outcome equation: origin, epidemiological week, average number of new COVID-19 cases during the last seven days per 100,000 inhabitants of the administrative district	Poland	0.11 (0.14)
	FYR	0.20 (0.24)
	Eastern Europe	0.23 (0.19)
	Other Europe	0.26 <sup>+</sup> (0.13)
	Americas	-0.27 (0.27)
	Asia	1.35 <sup>***</sup> (0.26)
	ME/Afr.	1.49 <sup>***</sup> (0.16)
		0.48 (0.31)
		0.01 (0.28)
		-0.08 (0.25)
		0.49 <sup>+</sup> (0.28)
		0.28 (0.36)
		0.04 (0.21)
		0.60 <sup>+</sup> (0.34)
		1.31 <sup>**</sup> (0.42)
		0.49 (0.35)

# COVID-19 associated discrimination in Germany: The extent of the Covid-19 threat and CAD



# COVID-19 associated discrimination in Germany: Heterogeneity in CAD

Figure 3



Source: EU Open Data Portal;  
<https://data.europa.eu/euodp/en/data/dataset/covid-19-coronavirus-data>  
 Note: Country-specific number of cases reported when n > 50



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# Conclusion

- Like in other countries, individuals of Asian descent particularly affected by CAD
- Depends on the dynamic of the pandemic in the residential area
  - But only for those with a strong increase in case numbers (Americas; FSU)
  - Or those who were early affected (Asia/China)
- Possibly evidence for both realistic and symbolic threats

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# Thank you!

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