

How does elite framing of refugees affect support for restrictive refugee policies among Christian and Muslim Americans?

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First, I coded 339 statements collected by NPR Congressional Reactions to Trump’s “Refugee Ban”

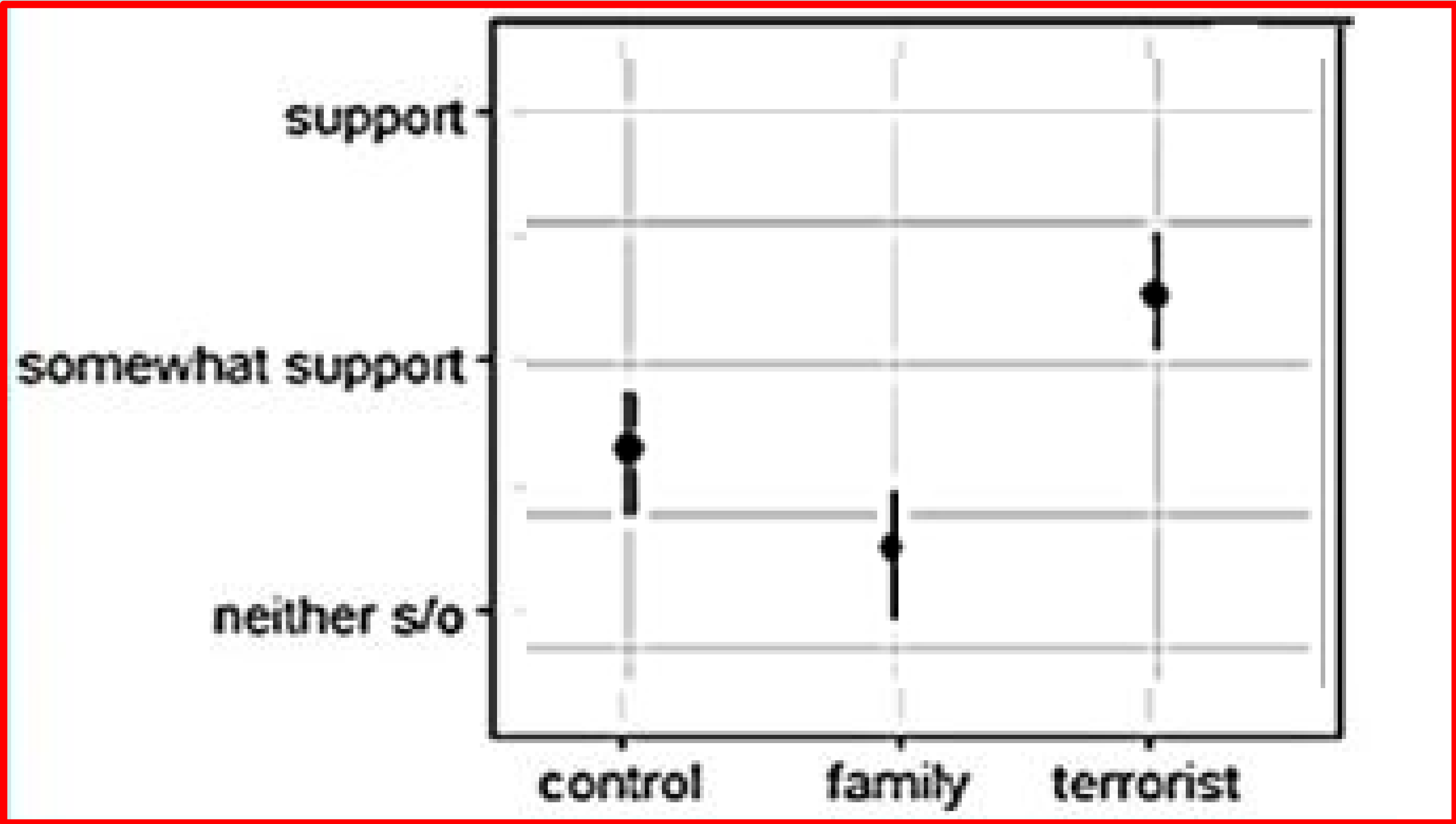
Pro-Ban Frames	Anti-Ban Frames
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “terrorists posing as refugees” “radical Islamic terror” “would-be terrorists” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “people fleeing for their lives” “innocent families” “kids and mothers”

I expected that threatening frames would increase support for the ban and sympathetic frames and explicit religious cues would decrease support. I designed an experiment to test these hypotheses...

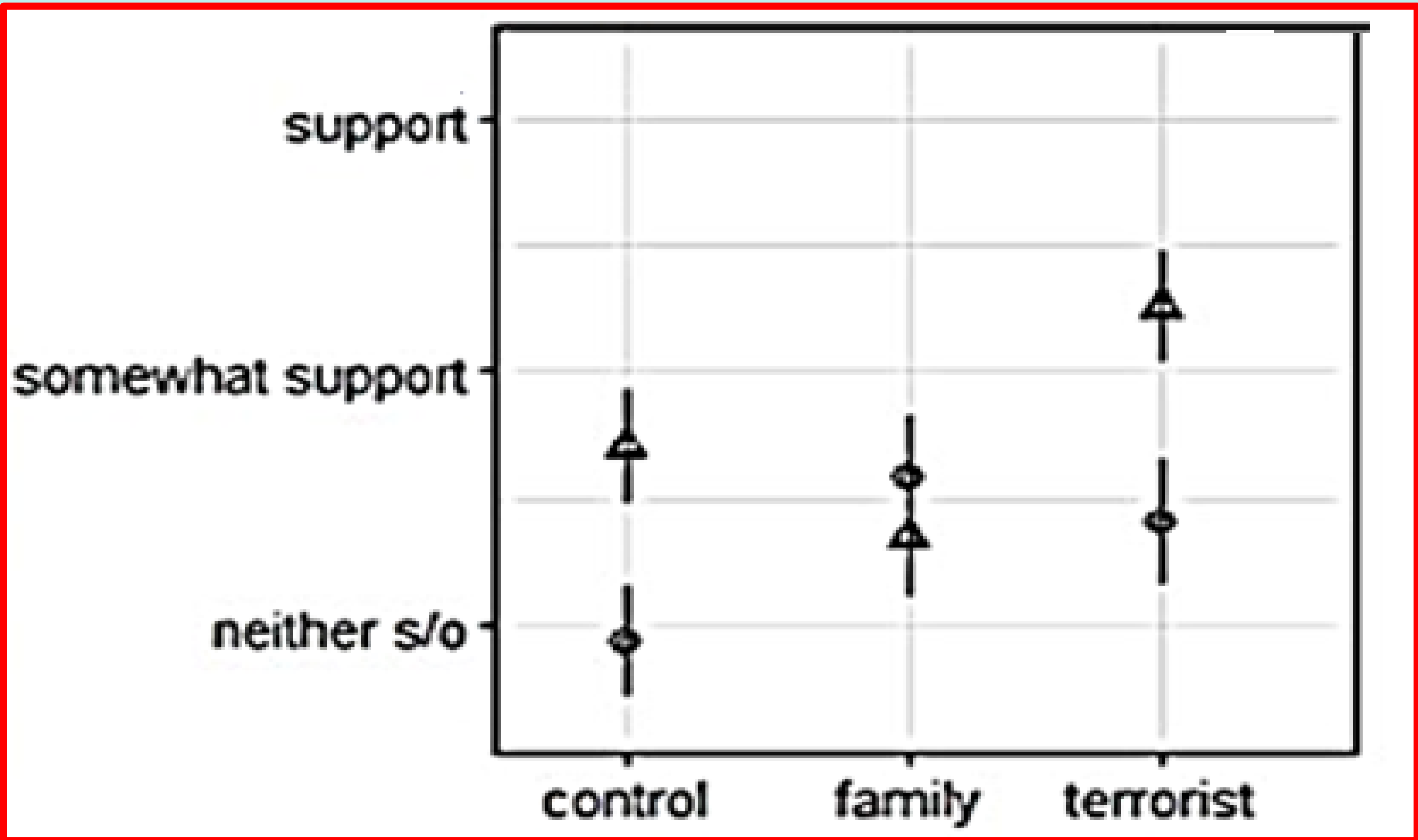
	Control	“terrorist” frame	“families” frame
Not described as Muslim	"reduce the number of future refugees "	".... refugees , including potential terrorists...."	".... refugees , including families fleeing violence"
Described as Muslim	".... Muslim refugees ..."	"..... Muslim refugees , including potential terrorists"	"..... Muslim refugeesincluding families fleeing violence"

Next, I administered my experiment to a sample (via Prime Panels/Cloud Research) of 219 Muslim and 264 Christian Americans

Key Result #1: Relative to control, Terrorist Frame marginally **increases support** for the ban; Family Frame has no impact



Key Result #2: Muslim Frame significantly **increases support** for ban when used alone or paired with Terrorist Frame but **not** when paired with Family Frame



Key Result #3: These effects are symmetric across the Muslim & Christian respondents. Both groups are equally likely to **support** restrictive refugee polices but **resist** explicit religious cues!