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Presentations

Developing a Respondent Centered Informed Consent: Charting a Pathway for Successful Research among Populations in Peril

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Research within conflict zones, low security areas, and among migrants moving through such zones is critical if, public opinion is to be measured, social conditions are to be evaluated and mitigation strategies for those caught up in these chronic states of emergency are to be implemented. Yet researchers face two main barriers to conducting their work, which often lays the foundation for aid programming. One barrier is finding ways to work with affected populations in a manner that is considered, and experienced as, safe for the research team and the participant population alike. The second barrier is one that is unanticipated: the bureaucratic and regulatory ethical framework that governs research activities and seeks to ensure that human research participants are treated humanely with justice, beneficence, and a concern for persons. Too often regulatory bottlenecks prevent granting approval for this kind of work and Institutional Ethical Review Committees err on the side of caution and prevent research activities from proceeding. Here we describe an approach that has received international agency approval and is proving effective with local research populations. In addition this approach builds capacity through convening and supporting local ethical review committees in order to be able to advance projects that takes the pillars of ethical conduct seriously and allows research to progress.

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Public Opinion and Leadership

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November 4th
(11/4/2021) — 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Ingrid Bachmann

Session Chair

Leadership traits in time of crisis: A study on the Malaysian prime minister facing the pandemic

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Leadership has received due attention in the literature as crises become more rampant in recent years. Most world leaders were caught off guard during the pandemic, forcing them to shut down the business and social activities to reduce infection. This study focuses on how a Malaysian leader, Muhyiddin Yassin, who became Prime Minister in March 2020, immediately declared a nationwide emergency and launched several drastic actions to combat COVID-19. He introduced the Movement Control Order (MCO) and other allied activities, thus evoking a mixed response from the public on those unprecedented measures. Trusting the decision made by the prime minister galvanized compliance from the public to stay at home, maintain social distance, wearing of masks to reduce the number of infections. The present study explores public perception towards the leadership traits of the Prime Minister in managing the severe public health crisis. It also examines how the personal characteristics of the Prime Minister affect the public's trust in addressing the problem effectively. We conducted a nationwide face-to-face survey in July involving 800 respondents who gave their answers to the 13 attributes provided to them. The study analysed the four dimensions of the traits. The prime minister's speeches, delivered during the second and third wave of the pandemic, were also examined to gain insight into his traits.

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A Global Snapshot of Opinion Leaders' Views: Why It Matters and How These Insights Can Influence International Development

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The voices of global opinion leaders and decision makers loom large in, what is currently, a complicated international development landscape that is experiencing dramatic challenges and conflicting priorities.

Ensuring a deep and nuanced understanding of the perceptions of these key constituencies - from assessing levels of trust, to helping to mitigate misinformation, to measuring the gap between the views of opinion leaders in rich countries and the views of those in poor countries - will allow for strategic and targeted engagement and communication that can help to build stronger support for foreign assistance and development work.

In order to create this unique global snapshot of influencers' views, The World Bank Group is currently fielding surveys in 2021, in more than forty borrowing countries and fifteen OECD countries (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, and the US), with representatives from government, media, academia, private sector and civil society. These surveys measure attitudes toward the most relevant issues this year including: COVID-19, vaccinations, climate change, human capital, trust in media/journalism, trust in prominent organizations and institutions, international cooperation, and Official Development Assistance. Surveys in developing countries are fielded using mixed methodologies including online, post, courier. In OECD countries, the survey was fielded electronically to hundreds of leaders/influencers who agreed to be part of a panel. Survey results will be public to ensure that decision makers across the globe have access to this global public good.

Survey results will provide insights that allow the World Bank Group (and other development institutions, bi-laterals, civil society organizations, governments) to better build financial and political support for development by: Targeting and sharpening messaging, broadening outreach beyond their inner circles, identifying new and persuasive messengers/ambassadors, and fighting back against misinformation, in particular, related to COVID-19 vaccinations.

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Polarization, social unrest and democratic legitimacy in the Andean Region

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Citizen support for democracy has been declining across the world. In the Andean countries of Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia and Peru data from different comparative sources show a particularly sharp decline in most indicators of democratic support over the last decade. These four countries have also seen two other distinctive features during the last few years: first, massive social protests in which profoundly dissatisfied citizens have taken to the streets to protest not only against the government but against the political system in more general terms; and second, sharply contested national elections, in which drastically opposed political alternatives have translated into highly polarized societies. This research paper explores whether there is a relationship between these three variables, hypothesizing that the combination of decline in support for democracy and political polarization is largely responsible for the emergence of social protests. Most recent data from both the World Values Survey and the Latin American Public Opinion Project databanks are employed in the comparative statistical analyses in which the paper's discussion is based on.

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