

Zeppelin University

Department of Politics, Administration & International Relations

Bachelor Thesis

The Influence of the Perceived Economic and Cultural Threat
on Attitudes Towards Immigration
- a Cross-Country Analysis of Experimental Evidence in Europe

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Course of study:	PAIR
Semester:	Spring 2017
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Date of delivery:	03.05.2017

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Abstract

This paper utilizes the seventh round of the European Social Survey to analyze the influence of sociotropic threats on the individual attitudes towards immigration in European countries. Basing the study on the current state of research that both the perceived cultural as well as economic threat influence attitudes towards immigration, it uses the ESS immigration survey experiment to specifically test and compare the influence of each. By running multivariate regression models across the participating European countries, this paper can find support for the hypothesis that both sociotropic threats have a significant influence on the corresponding tendencies to prefer (i) professionals over unskilled as well as (ii) Europeans over non-Europeans. The economic threat, however, has a far greater influence than the cultural although great cross-country variations are visible. Moreover, the calculated cultural distances to the countries of origin did not have any effect on the trends mentioned above.