FACULTY OF ARTS

Adelaide Summer Research Scholarship 2019-2020

What Drives Anti-Refugee Sentiment in Australia?

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What drives anti-refugee sentiment Australia? This project is a new direction for my work that builds on, but also goes beyond, Dr Stefanovic's previous research on far right parties (Stefanovic and Evans 2019; Stefanovic 2008) and his research on refugees (Metivier, Stefanovic, and Loizides 2018; Stefanovic and Loizides 2017; Stefanovic and Loizides 2015; Stefanovic, Loizides, and Parsons 2014; Stefanovic and Loizides 2011). While there is a vast literature on predictors of anti-immigrant sentiment, the research on the anti-refugee sentiment still remains comparatively undeveloped. Our current study (Stefanovic, Tan, and Chastelain 2019) analyses the 2016 PEW Research data set to identify the drivers of anti-refugee opinion in Canada, Germany, Greece, Poland, Sweden, and the UK. (https://www.pewglobal.org/2016/07/11/europeans-fear-wave-of-refugees-will-mean-more-terrorism-fewer-jobs/)

During the summer of 2019-20, Dr Stefanovic plans to advance this line of research by systematically reviewing main recent studies on anti-refugee sentiment in Australia and by testing whether the statistical models based on the six already studied countries also explain the 2016 anti-refugee sentiment in Australia. The Research Assistant's (RA) contribution to this project would be in working on an integrated literature review on anti-refugee and anti-immigrant sentiments in Australia and in conducting a preliminary data analysis of the 2016 PEW Research data set on anti-refugee opinion in Australia. Data analysis and preliminary findings have strong potential to lead to a co-authored publication with the student RA. Moreover, this work would also enable Dt Stefanovic to formulate better hypotheses and design a better original study of anti-refugee, far right populist sentiment in Australia, thereby strengthening his 2021 ARC Discovery Grant application.

The student will gain the following research skills and experience;

- Publication in high-quality journal

- Co-publication with student

- Collating background information for a competitive grant application

- The student RA will practice the use of at least one major quantitative analysis software packages (SPSS).

- This position will provide substantial training to the student RA in advanced quantitative analysis methods, and the ability to write technically correct and clear data analysis reports.

- In the long term, this kind of training will directly benefit a student considering a research analyst position in the public or private sectors or pursuing graduate studies in social sciences.