Football and Anti-migration Sentiment: Evidence from the FIFA World Cup

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Abstract

Natives are often misinformed about immigrants' characteristics, underestimating the positive potential labor market impacts of their presence and overestimating the cultural differences between both. We investigate if the over-performance of high-migrant football national teams is able to affect migrant perception. Comparing respondents interviewed shortly before with others interviewed shortly after a match, we show that victories in qualifying matches for high-stakes international competitions are associated with significantly more positive feelings toward non-E.U. migrants for women. Using a triple difference methodology, we show that high-migrant over-performers experienced a significant increase in positive feelings towards non-E.U. migrants post 2018 FIFA world cup. In both cases, we do not observe any increase in proxies for national pride or views of E.U. migrants.

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When things were going well [...], they were calling me Lukaku the Belgian striker. When they weren't going well, I was the Belgian striker of Congolese descent.

Romelu Lukaku

1   Introduction

In several developed nations, natives tend to be misinformed about the number and characteristics of immigrants, generally overestimating the cultural, economic, and religious distance between both (Alesina et al. [2018]). This misinformation may lead agents to have non-optimal policy preferences. Alesina et al. [2018] suggests that narratives are the most effective way to counteract this negative priming effect. On that aspect, sports can be a powerful tool for shaping narratives, in the words of the New York Times: "When it comes to good stories, sport has it all."

The idea that narratives may affect the perception of immigrants is supported by anecdotes, such as the aforementioned by Belgium association football (henceforth, "football") striker Romelu Lukaku. The rather curious aspect about Lukaku's quote is that it is not unique to him: Different players from different sports have produced similar versions of the same quote [1]. What unites them, however, is the idea that an immigrant can gain acceptance through professional success.

Focusing on football, this study analyzes the impacts of high-immigrant national teams' success in major international competitions on perceptions about migration. We find evidence confirming anecdotes that success for high-immigrant national teams leads to a more favorable view of non-EU migrants. For our main specification, we match four waves of Eurobarometer surveys that have supplemental questions about migration with Euro and World Cup qualifying matches, from 2015 to 2019. Following Depetris-Chauvin et al. [2020] we exploit plausibly exogenous differences in the timing of the interviews relative to the timing of the matches, by comparing self-reported attitudes towards migrants between

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[1]https://www.theplayerstribune.com/articles/romelu-lukaku-ive-got-some-things-to-say

individuals interviewed in the days immediately precedent to a victory of their national team in the same country to the attitudes of those interviewed in the days immediately after that same match.

Theoretically, a match of a high-migration national team may impact attitudes towards migrants in different ways: A victory may highlight the value and contribution of migrants to the host nation along with positive successful narratives. Positive exposure to out-group celebrities has already been shown to have impacts on attitudes towards migration in a sports context (Marble et al. [2021]). National team matches may also increase the saliency of migrants in a certain country, especially if migrants are over-represented on the national team leading natives to have even more negative views of migration. The negative priming effect of making people think about immigration has already been documented in other contexts (Alesina et al. [2018]). Furthermore, National team matches (particularly victories) may also increase nationalism which in turn can be associated with an anti-migration sentiment (Ko and Choi [2022], Escandell and Ceobanu [2010], Lindstam et al. [2021]). Hence, a priori, the causal impacts of national teams' football matches on migrant perception are unknown.

Our results show that individuals interviewed immediately after a national team victory display a more favorable view of non-EU migrants. This effect is driven mainly by females, who report considerably less viewership of club soccer. Females interviewed a week after a high-migrant national team victory display a statistically significant 0.066 more favorable view of non-EU migrants in our index. This corresponds to 2.2 % of the mean. The effect, while small in magnitude for one match, adds up, if we consider that teams play 10 matches for a World Cup qualifying round and the national teams qualified for the second round had at least three victories. Consistent with the causal interpretation of our results, victories of non-diverse national teams have no impact on migration perception outcomes.

To better understand the duration of effects along with the consequences of more impactful national teams' performances we perform a triple difference analysis using the final stage of the 2018 FIFA World Cup. Comparing performances of high-achievers, high-

migration national teams before and after the competition we show that these nations experience a temporary positive shock in positive view of non-EU migrants four months after the competition. Natives are also more likely to indicate that immigrants contribute to their nation and less likely to have policy preferences favoring fighting illegal migration. These effects are not detectable after 12 months, consistent with the idea that these shocks are temporary (Bursztyn and Yang [2022]).

Our results contribute to the literature that studies the impacts of information and narratives on the perception of migrants (Alesina et al. [2018], Grigorieff et al. [2020], Haaland et al. [2023], Bursztyn and Yang [2022], Djourelova [2023]). Our set of findings is particularly connected to Alesina et al. [2018] by suggesting that non-statistical treatments are efficient in affecting opinions about migrations and to Bursztyn and Yang [2022] by showing that treatment effects are not permanent.

This study is organized as follows: Section 2 discusses the context of our study, section 3 discusses the datasets used to perform our empirical analysis, section 4 discusses the methodology, section 4 discusses the methodology and section 6 concludes.

2 Context

2.1 International Competitions

The FIFA World Cup is an international soccer competition played by the men's national teams associated with the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). The tournament is held every four years since Uruguay hosted the inaugural tournament in 1930. The tournament has two phases: The qualifying phase, where national teams compete within their continents for qualification spots to the final phase, and the final phase. Since the 1990's the final phase of the tournament takes place with 32 teams competing for the title in a host nation during a period of about a month. The final phase of the tournament draws significant interest in several countries with the viewership of the 2018 World Cup being estimated to be

3.57 billion (half of the global population) with the final alone being watched by an estimated 1.12 billion.

The final phase of the 2018 World Cup was held in Russia, with the participation of 14 European national teams. Similar to previous editions, the tournament was highly competitive, with arguably no clear favorite prior to its kick-off [2]. Table 7 displays probabilities of winning the competition for all participant nations and is consistent with the previous argument as even the favorite nations to win the competition had less than a 20 % chance of doing so.

3   Data

Eurobarometer is a survey created by the European Commission to monitor attitudes on subjects of political or social nature in the European Union. Interviews are conducted face-to-face with the universe being the population of the European Union Member States, resident in any of the 28 Member States and aged 15 years and over. The survey records demographic information such as age, gender, education, and marital status along with political alignment, and policy preferences. Intermittently, Eurobarometer extensively addresses special topics such as technology, health, or migration.

We start our study by identifying all waves of the Eurobarometer survey in which the additional module has a section on migration. These waves took place from 2014 to 2019 and their collection dates can be seen in Table 8. Then, for our main specification, we identify the waves in which the collection period overlaps with World Cup qualifying matches or with a European Championship Qualifying Round. We focus on these competitions because they are considered the most high-stakes tournaments in European national-level football. These leave us with four different waves of Eurobarometer for this specification: 82.3, 86.2, 91.5, and 92.3. For both 91.5 and 92.3, we have two match date windows that overlap with the survey collection period. However, for Eurobarometer 91.5 100 % of the sample collection

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[2]The fact that World Cups final phases are extremely competitive is not unique to the World Cup, Ben-Naim et al. [2006] argues that football is the most random and competitive popular sport.

was conducted after the first match (i.e., only the + 7 days window overlap with the survey) while for Eurobarometer 92.3, 96 % of the interviews are conducted after the first match, hence in both cases, we associate the later match of the period to that survey.

For our triple differences approach we use Eurobarometer 87.3, 88.3, 89.1, 90.3 from May 2017, November 2017, March 2018, and November 2018, respectively. While the first three surveys take place prior to the 2018 FIFA World Cup survey 90.3 took place after the World Cup. Only two questions are common and have no changes in wording across all waves in our study: (1) "Feeling towards immigration from outside the EU" and (2) "Feeling towards immigration from EU Members" where respondents are asked to rate their feeling on a scale from (1) to (4) with these values being labeled as follows: (1) very positive and (4) very negative. We adapt this question by including "Doesn't know" as (3) in the scale while increasing one unit for each negative view. In later later waves, 3 additional questions were asked (3) "Immigrants Contribute a lot. Agree or Disagree?", (4) "Important issue Country: Immigration", (5) "Fight illegal Immigration: No additional measures". Since our main specification also uses waves where these questions were not asked, we focus on the initial two questions (although we use these later on our alternative specification).

For our main analysis, we proceed to create individual dummies for each country and survey. In total, we have 28 nations and 112 country-survey indicators (not all nations play during every wave). We then define what a high-migrant national team. To do so, we compile the call-up list of all European nations qualified for the final phase of the 2018 Fifa World Cup. Using Wikipedia, we are able to obtain the birthplace of all players in these national teams [3]. We define a certain nation to be a high migrant nation if the number of foreign-born players or second-generations born in these national teams is greater than 25 %. According to this definition Portugal, France, Belgium, Netherlands, and England are considered high-diversity national teams. [4].

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[3] Given the level of fame achieved by players who reach national teams, Wikipedia articles tend to have a very detailed biography of these players reporting not only birthplace but also familiar/ethnic background as well as other characteristics

[4] In case the squad has not qualified for the final stage we used the most recent called-up prior to the final stage

We consider treated countries who overachieve in the 2018 World Cup and who had ethnically diverse national teams. We consider a European nation as an overachiever if a country reached a stage of the final competition for which the probability of doing so was lower than 50 % (according to Zeileis et al. [2018]) prior to the tournament. According to that definition, England, France, Croatia, Sweeden, and Belgium are overachievers.

4   Methodology

4.1   Qualifying Rounds Analysis

Our first empirical strategy to estimate the impact of national team performance on individual attitudes during qualifying rounds of competitions can be summarized by the following equation:

$$y_{i,c,m,d} = \alpha + \beta Post_m + \phi' X_i + \theta_{c,m} + \gamma' \lambda_d + \varepsilon_{i,c,m,d} \tag{1}$$

Where y is one of the self-reported attitudinal outcome variables described previously. Post is the main regressor of interest, and takes value 1 if the respondent was interviewed seven (or fourteen) days after a victory of their national team, and 0 otherwise. The variable X_i is a vector of baseline individual controls and λ_d is a set of dummies for different days of the week.

Lastly, $\theta_{c,m}$ represents country-match fixed effects. Since each match is associated with one survey wave and vice-versa this is equivalent to a country-survey fixed effects. Crucial to our strategy, the presence of country-match fixed effects implies that, when estimating equation (1), we compare respondents interviewed before a victory of their national team with all other respondents of the same country after that same match [5]. We cluster our standard errors at the country-match level.

Our identification strategy relies on the quasi-random nature of the date of matches

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[5]It would be interesting to differentiate between a match and a victory, unfortunately only two matches of high-migrants national teams do not end up in wins

relative to the timing of the Eurobarometer interviews. In other words, our identifying assumption is that national teams' matches are not systematically correlated with the implementation of the survey. This assumption is unlikely to be violated as argued by Depetris-Chauvin et al. [2020] and Eifert et al. [2010], since the logistics involved in the implementation of these surveys require several months of preparation and are not related to the occurrence of sports events.

To test the validity of our strategy by conducting a balance test for several different respondent characteristics that may potentially be correlated with the outcomes of interest in the timing of the interview. These include gender, education, age, marital status, and residence location. Results for these tests for the sample of high-migrant national teams are reported in Figure 1. We find no significant difference in outcomes between respondents interviewed before to those interviewed after victories, suggesting that our identifying assumption is not being violated. To increase the precision of our estimates and correct for small imbalances, we control for these variables in our main model, nonetheless, our main results are also robust to the exclusion of these variables.

4.2 FIFA World Cup Final Stage Analysis

To better understand the impacts of national teams' performances on migration sentiment, we estimate the impacts of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Final Stage on migration sentiment. Doing so allows us to deepen our analysis in two different ways: First, we explore an event of a larger magnitude with the potential to generate larger variations in immigrant perception. Second, given the potential magnitude of the effects, it also allows us to evaluate the duration of any potential impact. For this analysis, we estimate the following model with the triple difference:

$$y_{ict} = \alpha + \beta Post_t \times OverAchieve_c \times HighImmig_c + \gamma_1 OverAchieve_c \times Post_t$$
$$+ \gamma_2 HighImmig_c \times Post_t + \gamma_3 OverAchieve_c \times HighImmig_c$$
$$\gamma_4 HighImmig_c + \gamma_5 Post_t + \gamma_6 OverAchieve_c + \phi' X_i + \varepsilon_{ict} \quad (2)$$

Where i, c, and t denote respectively individuals, countries, and time periods (4 periods), y_{ict} is an individual-level variable measuring attitudes towards immigration, $Post_t$ is an indicator for time periods after the 2018 World Cup, $OverAchiever_c$ indicates countries that over-performed in the Final Stage of the 2018 FIFA World Cup and $HighImmig_c$ national teams with a high share of migrants.

The effect of interest is identified by the triple interaction between $Post_t$, $OverAchieve_c$, and $HighImmig_c$, controlling for the two-way interactions of these variables and for a vector of individual-level characteristics of respondents, X_i.

The coefficient of interest in Equation 4 is β which, subject to a common trend assumption, identifies the difference-in-differences effect of being a respondent in a country with a high-immigrant team over-performing in the World Cup on attitudes towards immigration, relative to the period before the World Cup.

The identifying assumption here is that the relative outcome of high-migrant teams and low-migrant teams among overperforming nations trends in the same way as the relative outcome of high-migrant teams and low-migrant teams in the non-overperforming nations in the absence of treatment. We evaluate the validity of these assumptions in the next section.

5 Results & Discussion

5.1 Qualifying Rounds Analysis

Table 6 displays the results for the model described in equation (1) for nations with high-migrant national teams. We use the feeling toward migrants outside of the E.U. as the

outcome variable. Since a value equal to one imply a "very positive" and a value of five imply a "very negative", negative coefficients are associated with a more positive view of non-E.U. migrants. We estimate that a national team victory is associated with a 0.025 points increase in positive view of non-E.U migrants for our one-week bandwidth and 0.022 for the two-week bandwidth, albeit these results are statistically non-significant.

Next, we split our sample by gender. This sample division is particularly important given the huge asymmetries in the consumption of football across both genders. For example, for the U.K. in 2022 nearly 40 % of all males declared to be interested in the domestic professional football league, while only slightly more than 13 % of women declare the same interest (of the European Communities [2022]) [6]. This heterogeneity in terms of consumer behavior may impact genders in different ways. First, if one believes that women do not consume any type of football competition, including international ones, one would expect a larger effect for males. However, it is also possible that since males tend to watch more domestic league football they are already subject to the effects of the exposure to migrant players [7]. If this is the case, and women tend to watch disproportionately more international football compared to domestic football leagues, one would expect a stronger effect for women. This channel has some empirical evidence: on a different survey 45 % of women indicated that they intended to watch the final stage of the 2022 FIFA World Cup, a number considerably larger than the share that typically reports interest in domestic football. [8].

Table 6 also displays results for genders. We see that national team victory is associated with a significant 0.069 points increase in positive view of non-E.U migrants for our one-week bandwidth and a significant 0.066 for the two-week bandwidth for females. The magnitude of the effect is small, as one would expect for one single match, around 2.2 % of the mean. Nonetheless, it is important to mention that teams play more than one match during the competition. For example, in the final stage of the competition nations play at least three matches, assuming linearity, three victories would lead to a 6.6 % increase in

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[6]This gap was likely even larger for previous years when most of the matches in our sample take place.

[7]With the exception of Athletic Bilbao, virtually all football clubs in Europe's top 5 leagues have foreign-born players

[8]https://www.ipsos.com/en-us/news-polls/2022-fifa-world-cup-global-advisor

positive views on the index. For males observe a more negative view in the index, albeit this result is non-significant.

Figure displays the same results and contrasts them with the impacts of victories of low-migrant national teams. For these low-migrant national teams, we do not observe any significant differences between respondents interviewed before or after matches, and point estimates are close to zero. First, given the high number of victories of high-migrant national teams, these results suggest that there are no spillovers of victories of these teams to low-migrant national teams. Second, this increases the confidence that our estimates capture the causal effect of a high-migrant national team victory on immigrant perception, as observing a larger effect of a victory of low-migrant national teams on immigrant perception would be unreasonable.

In table , we evaluate the impacts of victories on the feeling toward European Union immigrants. Lower values indicate a more positive view of migrants while higher values a more negative view. It is possible, and perhaps even likely, that affects high-migrant national teams' victory spillover to views of E.U. migrants. Nonetheless, it is unlikely for the magnitude of this effect to be greater than the one of the effects on the opinions of non-E.U. migrants. For our full sample, we find the victories increase the index by a non-significant 0.003 points. Given the magnitude of the standard errors, we are confident in stating that these effects are economically non-significant. Interpretation is less clear when we analyze of female sub-sample. While estimates are again non-significant point estimates are considerably larger than the effect for the full sample. With larger standard errors it is impossible to conclude that these effects are zero in practice. Either way, point estimates for the effects of victories on E.U. migration view are half of the magnitude of those for effects of victories on non-E.U. migration, suggesting that, if anything, these effects are of second order.

Lastly, we evaluate the impact of victories on different self-reported aspects of country-level attitudes. Another possible consequence of the success of national teams at the international level is that this would increase national pride. Since there are no questions

about pride, we can not test this proposition directly, but we evaluate the impact of said results on measures associated with national pride. First, we evaluate the impact of high-migrant national teams' victories on the national-level satisfaction of respondents. Second, we evaluate the impact of victories on the national attachment of respondents. Results for this analysis can be seen in table 6. Respondents, independent of gender, do not seem to report more satisfaction with the current situation of the country (columns 1 - 3) or more attachment to the country (columns 4 - 6).

5.2   FIFA World Cup Final Stage Analysis

Estimates for the model described on 4 can be found in table 6. Columns 1 - 3 report feelings towards non-E.U. migrants while columns 4 - 6 report results for feelings towards E.U. migrants. As mentioned previously, low values for this index mean a more positive view of migration. Our results indicate that high-migrant national teams that conditionally over-perform on the final stage of the tournament saw a decrease in the index of -0.495 points on our baseline specification and -0.466 on the specification with covariates, both significant statistically at least 10 %. The magnitude of this decrease in the negative migrant view is also economically meaningful: More than 10% of the mean. Furthermore, it is possible that this effect is even larger right after the tournament, given that the survey post-tournament only took place three months after the competition. For E.U. migrants we also observe a decrease in negative views, albeit non-significant and of considerable magnitude (0.158). Looking at the coefficient between the interaction of post and overperforming we also conclude that we do not find any evidence that supports the theory that simply overperforming increases negative views of migration through the national pride channel.

As previously mentioned, the validity of this analysis relies on the assumption the trend between high and low migrant overachievers is parallel to the one between high and low non-overachievers. We investigate the validity of these assumptions in table 6. In the first two columns, we estimate a model with a linear time trend. Our results for this analysis indicate that the period post-final World Cup stage sees a significant decrease in

negative views of non-E.U. migrants (-0.590). The time trend, is non-significant, although just barely, indicating that there is no time trend in the pre-treatment period. Its magnitude is also small (around 1/10 of the coefficient of interest) and in the opposite direction of our main effect. Adding individual controls doesn't change the magnitude of the time trend coefficient, although it makes it significant at 10 %. Either way, our coefficient of interest still maintains the same magnitude. Hence, we conclude that even if a small time trend may exist, it is unlikely to explain our results, and its magnitude is considerably small when compared to our estimate.

6   Conclusion

This study analyzes the impact of national high-migrant national team victories on anti-migrant sentiment. We use two different specification to show that victories of high-migrants national teams are associated with decrease in negative views of migration in the case of the final stage of the 2018 FIFA World Cup, and for groups that traditionally do not consume club soccer in the case of qualifying rounds. Our results are robust to a series of of different specifications. We do not find any evidence that these victories increases national pride.

    While this study already presents some interesting new findings we plan to conduct additional analysis in several different areas. First, we plan to further investigate the heterogeneity the effect of qualifying matches by looking at other groups who also tend to report low levels of consumption of club soccer, such as older respondents. . We also plan to examine heterogeneity based on player performance, for example analyzing matches where migrant player scores.

    In terms of outcomes, we also plan to expand the set of outcomes in our analysis by including other variables in the survey that are related to migrant feeling. While the questions currently used in this study are the ones that most directly capture feelings toward migration, other variables can also be used as proxies, especially for the final stage analysis [9]

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[9]the survey also asks questions about contribution of migrants, and important policy issues in which respondents can list migration.

. Furthermore, we also plan to not limit ourselves to Eurobarometer potentially using twitter data to also capture sentiment towards migration.

Tables

Table 1: Impact of national team victory on non-E.U. migration sentiment

| | Two Week Bandwidth | | | One Week Bandwidth | | |
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
All	-0.025			-0.022		
	(0.035)			(0.034)		
Male		0.017			0.021	
		(0.063)			(0.066)	
Female			-0.069*			-0.066*
			(0.033)			(0.032)
Mean	3.112	3.106	3.118		3.123	3.140
N	11466	5364	6102	10369	4874	5495

Standard errors clustered at survey-country level in parentheses. Migration sentiment measured as question: "Feeling towards immigration of countries outside of the European Union" present in Eurobarometer 82.3, 84.3, 91.5, 92.3. REsults reported for the sample of high-migrant national teams. Specification includes indicators for country-survey, weekday and individual controls . * $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$

Table 2: Impact of national team victory on E.U. migration sentiment

	Two Week Bandwidth			One Week Bandwidth		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
All	0.021			0.020		
	(0.025)			(0.027)		
Male		0.042			0.046	
		(0.045)			(0.047)	
Female			-0.003			-0.007
			(0.035)			(0.036)
Mean	2.647	2.578	2.708	2.662	2.587	2.728
N	11574	5409	6165	10005	4698	5307

Standard errors clustered at survey-country level in parentheses. Migration sentiment measured as question: "Feeling towards immigration of countries outside of the European Union". Results reported for the sample of high-migrant national teams with wins. Specification includes indicators for country-survey, weekday and individual controls. Groups of controls follow the definitions used on the balance table * $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$

Table 3: Impact of national team victory on migration sentiment

	Country Direction			Country Attachment		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
All	-0.020			-0.009		
	(0.014)			(0.025)		
Male		-0.021			0.016	
		(0.020)			(0.023)	
Female			-0.020			-0.033
			(0.014)			(0.036)
Mean	0.338	0.363	0.315	1.595	1.610	1.581
N	10392	4874	5518	10619	4965	5654

Standard errors clustered at survey-country level in parentheses. Country sentiment measured by indicator with the following sentence: "Things are going in the right direction in the Country". Country attachment measured by discrete ranging from 1 to 4 where 1 is very attached and 4 is not attached at all. Results reported for the sample of high-migrant national teams with wins. Specification includes indicators for country-survey, weekday and individual controls. Results reported for the sample of 7 days prior/after matches. * $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$

Table 4: Robustness Checks

	Two Week Bandwidth				One Week Bandwidth			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Female	-0.092**	-0.083*	-0.076*	-0.069*	-0.092**	-0.072	-0.067*	-0.064*
	0.039	0.042	0.036	0.033	0.042	0.043	0.038	0.034
Survey-Country D.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Weekday D.	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Demography Cont.	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Region D.	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Mean	3.112	3.112	3.112	3.112	3.131	3.131	3.131	3.131
N	7586	6148	6102	6102	6670	5292	5249	5249

Standard errors clustered at survey-country level in parentheses. Migration sentiment measured as question: "Feeling towards immigration of countries outside of the European Union". Results reported for the sample of high-migrant national teams with wins. Specification includes indicators for country-survey, weekday and individual controls. Groups of controls follow the definitions used on the balance table * $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$

Table 5: Impact of national team overperdormance on migration sentiment

	Non-E.U. Migrant			E.U. Migrants		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
H. Migrant	-0.535***	-0.538***	-0.459***	-0.133	-0.132	-0.068
	(0.138)	(0.130)	(0.096)	(0.101)	(0.096)	(0.046)
Post	0.013	0.064	0.061	0.078	0.093	0.096
	(0.138)	(0.139)	(0.156)	(0.099)	(0.101)	(0.117)
H. Migrant*Post	0.132	0.116	0.108	0.084	0.073	0.073
	(0.185)	(0.175)	(0.132)	(0.128)	(0.127)	(0.134)
Overperformer	-0.411***	-0.355***	-0.139	0.033	0.070	0.247***
	(0.096)	(0.097)	(0.148)	(0.065)	(0.067)	(0.029)
High-migrant*Overperformer	0.615***	0.565***	0.485***	0.250**	0.213**	0.148**
	(0.186)	(0.182)	(0.159)	(0.109)	(0.106)	(0.064)
Post*Overperformer	0.252*	0.252*	0.235	-0.046	-0.047	-0.042
	(0.138)	(0.139)	(0.187)	(0.099)	(0.101)	(0.046)
H. Migrant*Post*Overperformer	-0.495*	-0.474*	-0.466**	-0.176	-0.158	-0.158
	(0.260)	(0.255)	(0.229)	(0.145)	(0.144)	(0.151)
WC Part.			-0.271			-0.223***
			(0.172)			(0.074)
WC Part.*Post			0.020			-0.009
			(0.229)			(0.115)
Individual Controls	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
WC Dummy	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Mean	3.432	3.432	3.432	2.593	2.593	2.593
N	108133	108013	108013	108393	108272	108272

Standard errors clustered at survey-country level in parentheses. Migration sentiment measured as question: "Feeling towards immigration of countries (outside) of the European Union". * p < 0.10, ** p < 0.05, *** p < 0.01

Table 6: Impact of national team overperdormance on migration sentiment

	Linear Time Trend		Semi-Parametric	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
H. Migrant*Overperformer*1{t = 4}	-0.590**	-0.566**	-0.453*	-0.433*
	(0.232)	(0.235)	(0.231)	(0.236)
Overperformer	-0.201	-0.139	-0.237	-0.187
	(0.151)	(0.148)	(0.152)	(0.150)
H. Migrant	-0.458***	-0.459***	-0.438***	-0.429***
	(0.097)	(0.096)	(0.103)	(0.105)
High-migrant*Overperformer	0.432**	0.382**	0.504***	0.452**
	(0.173)	(0.170)	(0.166)	(0.170)
H. Migrant*1{t = 4}	0.124	0.108	0.105	0.078
	(0.132)	(0.132)	(0.136)	(0.139)
Overperformer*1{t = 4}	0.239	0.235	0.275	0.283
	(0.193)	(0.187)	(0.194)	(0.189)
H. Migrant*Overperformer*t	0.052	0.051*		
	(0.031)	(0.028)		
H. Migrant*Overperformer*1{t = 3}			0.170**	0.162**
			(0.081)	(0.074)
H. Migrant*Overperformer*1{t = 2}			-0.078***	-0.071**
			(0.027)	(0.027)
Overperformer*1{t = 3}			0.012	0.032
			(0.021)	(0.022)
Overperformer*1{t = 2}			0.096***	0.111***
			(0.021)	(0.021)
H. Migrant*1{t = 3}			-0.084	-0.099*
			(0.056)	(0.052)
H. Migrant*1{t = 2}			0.033	0.017
			(0.026)	(0.024)
Individual Controls	No	Yes	No	Yes
WC Dummy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mean	2.593	2.593	3.432	3.432
N	108133	108013	108133	108013

Standard errors clustered at survey-country level in parentheses. Migration sentiment measured
as question: "Feeling towards immigration of countries (outside) of the European Union". * p <

Figures

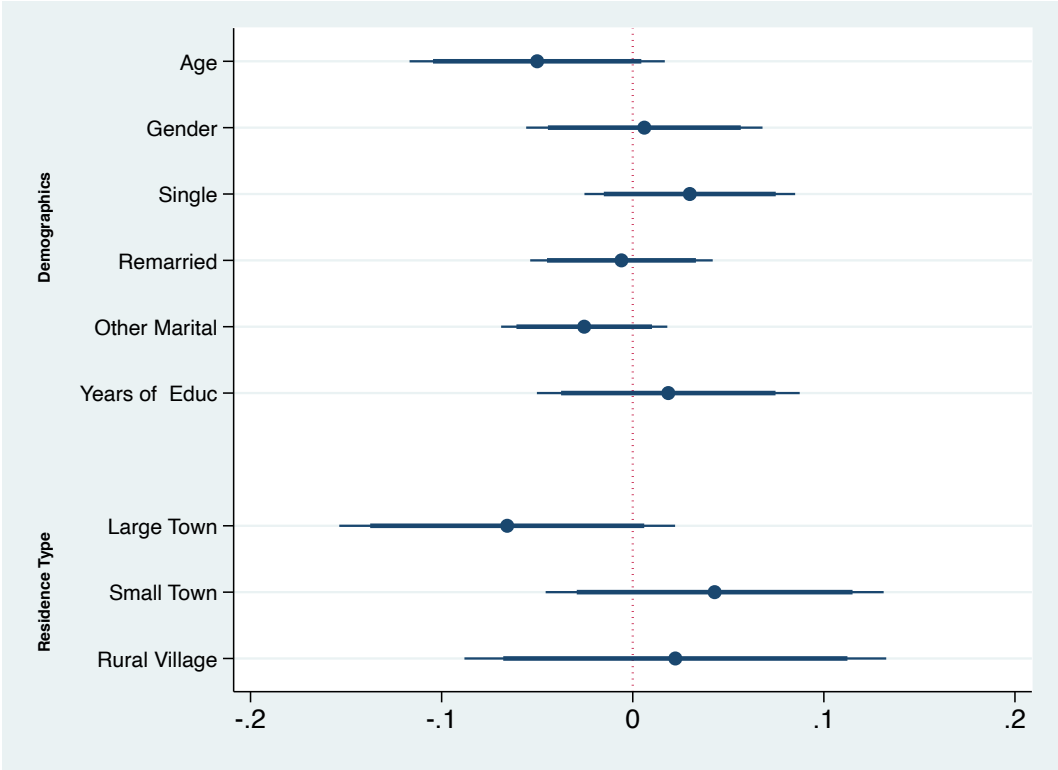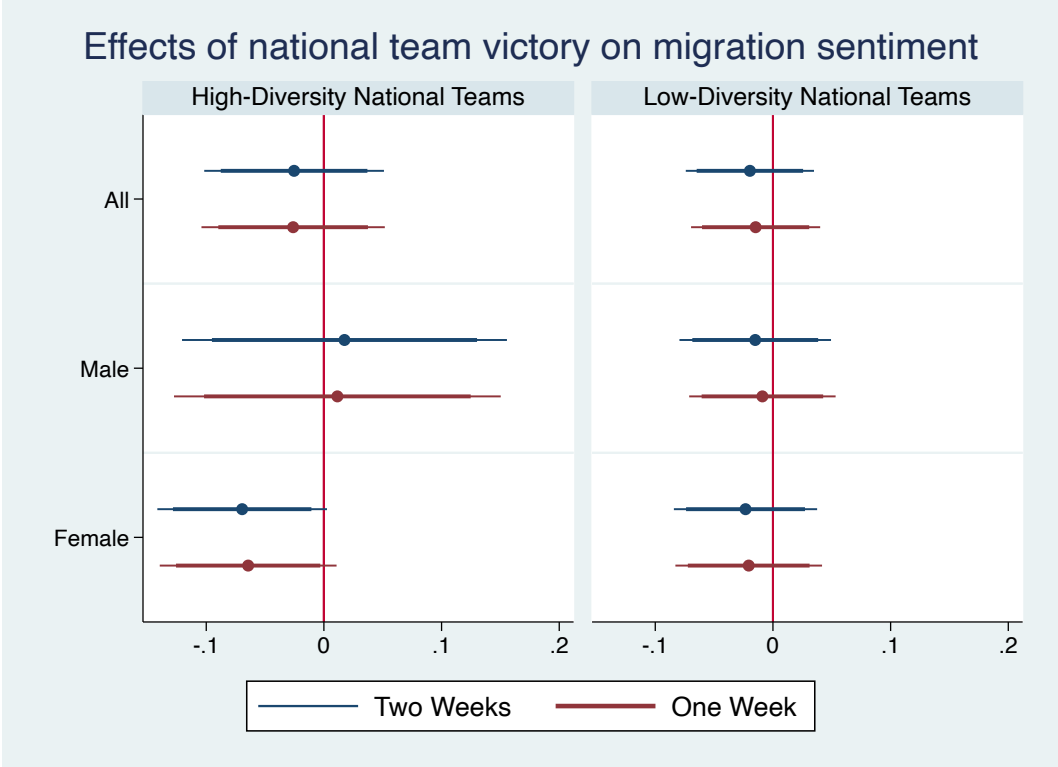Figure 1: Covariates balance tests across respondents

Figure 2: Impacts of national teams' victories on attitudes towards non-E.U. immigration
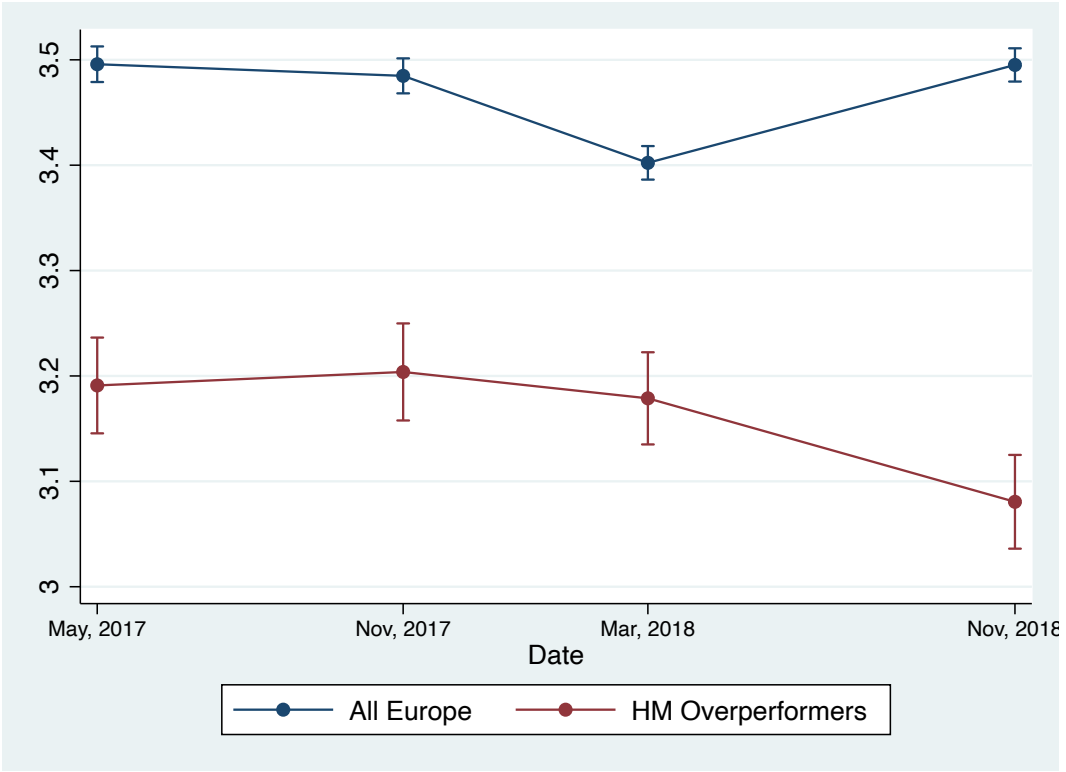
Figure 3: Impacts WC over-achievement on attitudes towards immigration

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Appendix A

Linear trend model estimated following Olden and Møen [2022] and Roth [2022]:

$$y_{ict} = \alpha + \beta Post_t \times OverAchieve_c \times HighImmig_c+$$
$$\theta \times t \times OverAchieve_c \times HighImmig_c + \gamma_1 OverAchieve_c \times Post_t$$
$$+ \gamma_2 HighImmig_c \times Post_t + \gamma_3 OverAchieve_c \times HighImmig_c+$$
$$\gamma_4 HighImmig_c + \gamma_5 Post_t + \gamma_6 OverAchieve_c + \phi' X_i + \varepsilon_{ict} \quad (3)$$

where the time trend coefficient is θ. Furthermore the semi-parametric specification:

$$y_{ict} = \alpha + \beta_s \times \sum_{s \neq 1} \times 1\{t = s\} \times OverAchieve_c \times HighImmig_c + \gamma_s \times \sum_{s \neq 1} 1\{t = s\} \times OverAchieve_c$$
$$+ \rho_2 \times \sum_{s \neq 1} \times 1\{t = s\} \times HighImmig_c + \gamma_5 HighImmig_c$$
$$+ \gamma_6 OverAchieve_c + \psi_t + \phi' X_i + \varepsilon_{ict} \quad (4)$$

Table 7: Probabilities of winning the Final Stage of the 2018 FIFA World Cup, based on Zeileis et al. [2018]

Team	Round of 16	Quarterfinal	Semifinal	Final	Win
Brazil	89,9	61,2	42	26,6	16,3
Germany	89,1	60,4	41,6	26,1	15,8
Spain	85,9	60,4	37,4	21,9	12,6
France	87	56,5	36,3	21,3	12,3
Argentina	78,7	48,6	28,7	15,7	8,3
Belgium	81,7	53,6	27,5	14,8	7,4
England	75,6	46,4	22	10,8	4,9
Portugal	66,3	38,1	18,3	8,3	3,5
Uruguay	68,1	32,1	14,8	6,4	2,6
Croatia	58,7	29,2	14,2	6,3	2,6
Colombia	64,6	30,9	13	5,7	2,2
Russia	64,2	28,9	12,8	5,3	2,1
Poland	57,9	25,8	10,1	4,1	1,5
Denmark	46,7	18,9	7,6	2,8	0,9
Mexico	45,2	17,4	7,4	2,7	0,9
Switzerland	45,4	17,3	7,3	2,7	0,9
Sweden	44,5	16,1	5,9	2	0,6
Egypt	39,3	14,2	5,7	2	0,6
Serbia	39	14,6	5,4	1,8	0,6
Peru	31,7	12	4,5	1,5	0,4
Nigeria	41,2	15,3	5	1,7	0,5
Iceland	30,9	11,5	4,3	1,4	0,4
Japan	36,3	12,7	3,9	1,2	0,3
Australia	25,2	9,8	3	0,9	0,2
Morocco	27,3	8,8	2,8	0,8	0,2
Costa Rica	22,6	8,4	2,5	0,7	0,2
South Korea	26,8	8,1	2,8	0,8	0,2
Iran	26,5	8,1	2,7	0,8	0,2
Tunisia	23,5	8,6	2,3	0,6	0,1
Saudi Arabia	19,2	6,6	1,6	0,4	0,1
Panama	23,2	6,2	1,7	0,4	0,1

Table 8: Dates of different Eurobarometer Waves

Survey	Collection Start	Collection End
Eurobarometer 82.3	Sunday, 9th November 2014	Monday, 17th November 2014
Eurobarometer 84.3	Sunday, 8th November 2015	Tuesday, 17th November 2015
Eurobarometer 85.2	.	.
Eurobarometer 86.2	Thursday, 3rd November 2016	Monday, 14th November 2016
Eurobarometer 87.3	Sunday, 21th May 2017	Monday, 29th May 2017
Eurobarometer 88.3	Monday, 6th November 2017	Tuesday, 14th November 2017
Eurobarometer 89.1	Tuesday, 13th March 2018	Tuesday, 27th March 2018
Eurobarometer 90.3	Saturday, 8th November 2018	Saturday, 22nd November 2018
Eurobarometer 91.5	Friday, 7th June 2019	Tuesday, 25th June 2019