

More Harm than Good?: The Differential Effects of Economic Sanctions on Women's Rights

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IPES Presentation

October 23, 2021

Economic Sanctions and Women's Rights

Indicator (source)	Women's Rights Indicator, Defined	Findings
POLITICAL (Cingranelli and Richards, CIRI Human Rights Data Project 2010)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Existence of laws enshrining internationally recognized rights such as right to vote, hold political office, join political parties, petition government officials.Effectiveness in enforcing said laws.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Small effect, <i>decrease</i> in political rights in poorest countries (Drury and Peksen 2014).

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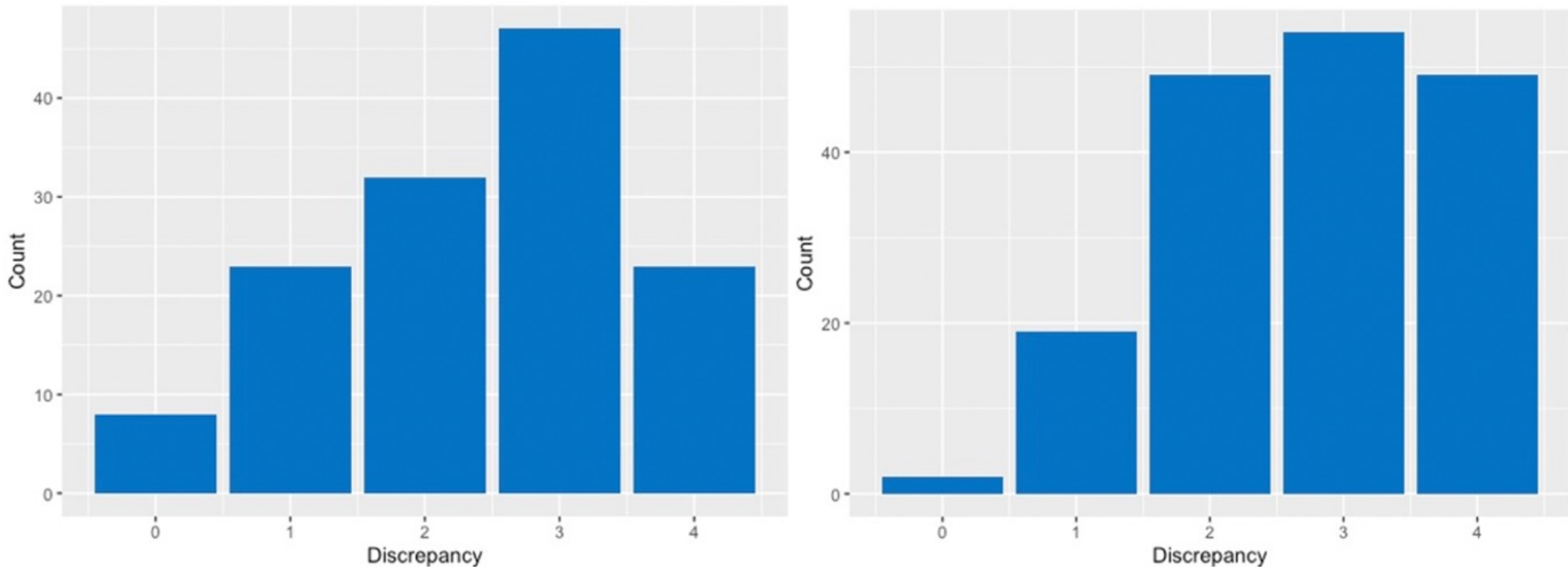
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HEALTH (US Census Data)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life expectancy and its gender gap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN sanctions and US sanctions <i>reduce</i> life expectancy for both men and women. However, women are more affected by sanctions (women's life expectancy <i>decreases</i> more than that of men). (Gutmann et al 2021).

Problem: Construct Validity of Dependent Variables

Figure 1: Discrepancy between National Law and Practice Concerning Women
2007 **2015**



0=Laws are a) consonant with CEDAW and b) enforced (high government priority)

1=Laws are a) consonant with CEDAW and b) mostly enforced (government proactively challenges harmful norms)

2=Laws are a) consonant with CEDAW and b) somewhat enforced (government may or may not challenge harmful norms)

3= Laws are a) somewhat consonant with CEDAW and b) occasionally enforced (low government priority)

4= Laws are a) generally not consonant with CEDAW b) not enforced by government

Source: WomanStats Multivariate Scale #2

Research Question

What is the impact of economic sanctions on various aspects of women's rights in the targeted country?

Societal Rights: Legal Rights

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- H2: The presence of sanctions in a given year will correspond with **NO CHANGE** in women's inclusion in the following year.

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- H3: The presence of sanctions in a given year will correspond with a **DECREASE** in women's security in the following year.

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 - GDP (logged)
 - Governance capacity (Absolute Political Extraction measure from Relative Political Capacity dataset)
 - Regime type (Polity V score)
 - Trade openness (total imports+exports/GDP)
 - Multilateral sanctions (number of sanctioners imposing sanctions on the target country in a given year)
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 - Site of conflict (UCDP/PRIO dataset)
- Methods: OLS regression with country-year fixed effects

TABLE 4: SOCIETAL RIGHTS (1-YEAR LAG)

Dependent variable:

	Legal Rights (1)	Inclusion (2)	Political Inclusion (3)	Combined Harm (4)	Indirect Harm (5)	Direct Harm (6)
Sanctions	-0.063*** (0.010)	0.023 (0.019)	0.039*** (0.013)	0.099*** (0.012)	0.109*** (0.012)	-0.022*** (0.007)
Conflicts	-0.064*** (0.016)	0.003 (0.031)	-0.095*** (0.021)	0.052*** (0.019)	0.058*** (0.019)	-0.048*** (0.009)
GDP (log)	0.045*** (0.010)	-0.078*** (0.020)	-0.018 (0.013)	0.025** (0.012)	0.021* (0.012)	0.055*** (0.012)
Trade Openness	0.0002 (0.0002)	-0.001*** (0.0004)	0.001*** (0.0003)	0.001*** (0.0002)	0.002*** (0.0002)	0.0001 (0.0001)
Polity	0.034*** (0.001)	0.008*** (0.002)	-0.013*** (0.001)	-0.014*** (0.001)	-0.014*** (0.001)	-0.001 (0.001)
APE	0.436*** (0.050)	0.581*** (0.099)	0.182*** (0.067)	-0.726*** (0.061)	-0.758*** (0.062)	0.091** (0.044)
No. of Sanctioners	-0.001*** (0.0001)	0.0004 (0.0003)	-0.002*** (0.0002)	-0.001*** (0.0002)	-0.001*** (0.0002)	0.00005 (0.0001)
Observations	6,565	5,647	6,428	6,570	6,570	1,468
R ²	0.207	0.018	0.040	0.067	0.072	0.054
Adjusted R ²	0.180	-0.016	0.007	0.035	0.040	-0.067
F Statistic	236.483*** (df = 7; 6347)	13.970*** (df = 7; 5457)	37.354*** (df = 7; 6210)	65.497*** (df = 7; 6351)	70.315*** (df = 7; 6351)	10.661*** (df = 7; 1300)

Note:

* p < 0.10 ** p < 0.05 *** p < 0.01

Results: Societal Rights

As predicted:

- Decrease in legal rights, decrease in security (indicated by increase in combined harm and indirect harm)
- Null results for overall inclusion in society; Increase in political inclusion.

Inclusion results:

5-year lag

- Overall inclusion decreases
- Political Inclusion increases
- What drives these conflicting results?

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>	
	Inclusion (1)	Pol. Inclusion (2)
Sanctions	-0.041** (0.019)	0.033*** (0.012)
Conflict	0.036 (0.030)	-0.095*** (0.020)
log(GDP)	-0.032 (0.020)	0.003 (0.013)
Trade Open.	-0.002*** (0.0004)	0.001*** (0.0003)
Polity	0.005** (0.002)	-0.014*** (0.001)
APE	0.249** (0.103)	0.059 (0.067)
No. of Sanctioners	0.001*** (0.0003)	-0.002*** (0.0002)
Observations	5,161	5,988
R ²	0.012	0.048
Adjusted R ²	-0.024	0.013
F Statistic	8.866*** (df = 7; 4975)	41.713*** (df = 7; 5773)

Note:

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** p < 0.05
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 - People who are currently employed or actively looking for work divided by all working age population
 - Wage Worker
 - Workers who have formal contracts and whose pays are not based on units sold or some other similar arrangement.

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 - Those who are actively seeking jobs and are unable to get them
- **Educational Inclusion:** Decrease. Girls are pulled out of school due to economic pressure and/or lack of funding due to sanctions

Results: Economic Inclusion (5-year lag)

TABLE 7 ECONOMIC INCLUSION INDICATORS (5-YEAR LAG)

Dependent variable:

	Labor Force Participation Female (1)	Labor Force Participation Male (2)	Vulnerable Employment Female (3)	Vulnerable Employment Male (4)	Unemployment Female (5)	Unemployment Male (6)	Wage Worker Female (7)	Wage Worker Male (8)
Sanctions	-0.186*** (0.070)	-0.312*** (0.109)	0.536*** (0.180)	0.641*** (0.166)	0.004 (0.141)	0.204 (0.125)	-0.600*** (0.180)	-0.561*** (0.166)
Conflict	-0.096 (0.092)	-0.139 (0.143)	-0.196 (0.234)	0.388* (0.216)	0.173 (0.183)	0.271* (0.163)	0.311 (0.234)	-0.364* (0.216)
GDP (log)	-0.805*** (0.091)	-0.657*** (0.141)	-1.339*** (0.233)	-2.219*** (0.215)	-1.363*** (0.182)	-1.211*** (0.162)	1.144*** (0.232)	1.988*** (0.214)
Trade Openness	0.001 (0.001)	0.006*** (0.002)	-0.016*** (0.004)	-0.020*** (0.003)	0.001 (0.003)	-0.0002 (0.002)	0.013*** (0.004)	0.017*** (0.003)
Polity	-0.050*** (0.009)	-0.065*** (0.014)	-0.118*** (0.024)	-0.120*** (0.022)	0.085*** (0.018)	0.027 (0.016)	0.141*** (0.024)	0.132*** (0.022)
APE	-0.667 (0.409)	0.676 (0.636)	-4.266*** (1.038)	-8.401*** (0.958)	2.599*** (0.811)	2.170*** (0.724)	4.863*** (1.037)	9.673*** (0.957)
No. of Sanctioners	-0.001 (0.001)	0.003** (0.001)	0.003 (0.002)	0.006*** (0.002)	0.004*** (0.002)	0.001 (0.001)	-0.001 (0.002)	-0.004** (0.002)
Observations	3,385	3,385	3,272	3,272	3,272	3,272	3,272	3,272
R ²	0.039	0.021	0.033	0.087	0.031	0.023	0.034	0.086
Adjusted R ²	-0.016	-0.035	-0.023	0.033	-0.026	-0.035	-0.023	0.032
F Statistic	18.672*** (df = 7; 3200)	9.813*** (df = 7; 3200)	15.282*** (df = 7; 3089)	41.855*** (df = 7; 3089)	14.000*** (df = 7; 3089)	10.281*** (df = 7; 3089)	15.471*** (df = 7; 3089)	41.385*** (df = 7; 3089)

Note:

* p < 0.05
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Health Rights: **Life Expectancy**

- Life expectancy at birth: The number of years a newborn would live if the mortality patterns in existence at the time of birth prevailed throughout the infant's life.

Health Rights: Life Expectancy

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- H4: Presence of sanctions in a given year will correspond with a **DECREASE** in the life expectancy in the following year. Furthermore, this decrease will be greater for women than for men.

Health Rights:

Maternal Mortality & Adolescent Fertility

- Maternal mortality ratio (maternal deaths per 100,000 live births)
- Adolescent fertility rate (number of births per 1,000 women ages 15-19)

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- Maternal mortality ratio (maternal deaths per 100,000 live births)
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- Access to health clinics, medical professionals, pre- and post-natal care, contraceptives, sexual and reproductive health education.

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- Maternal mortality ratio (maternal deaths per 100,000 live births)
- Adolescent fertility rate (number of births per 1,000 women ages 15-19)
- Access to health clinics, medical professionals, pre- and post-natal care, contraceptives, sexual and reproductive health education.
- H5: Presence of sanctions in a given year will correspond with an **INCREASE** in the maternal mortality ratio and in the adolescent fertility rate in the following year.

TABLE 9 HEALTH RIGHTS (1-YEAR LAG)

Dependent variable:

	Life Expectancy at Birth Female	Life Expectancy at Birth Male	Maternal Mortality Ratio	Adolescent Fertility Rate
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Sanctions	-0.366*** (0.089)	-0.174** (0.085)	10.291** (4.268)	1.128** (0.482)
Conflicts	-0.115 (0.147)	-0.388*** (0.141)	46.403*** (5.798)	1.550* (0.798)
GDP (log)	0.651*** (0.090)	0.621*** (0.087)	-11.271* (5.845)	4.298*** (0.490)
Trade Openness	0.004** (0.002)	0.009*** (0.002)	0.056 (0.080)	0.127*** (0.010)
Polity	0.137*** (0.009)	0.099*** (0.008)	-2.797*** (0.680)	0.107** (0.048)
APE	19.275*** (0.466)	17.869*** (0.446)	-387.098*** (27.082)	-23.840*** (2.524)
No. of Sanctioners	0.001 (0.001)	0.003** (0.001)	0.139*** (0.044)	-0.020*** (0.006)
Observations	6,598	6,598	2,643	6,598
R ²	0.249	0.229	0.135	0.057
Adjusted R ²	0.224	0.202	0.073	0.025
F Statistic	302.763*** (df = 7; 6378)	270.368*** (df = 7; 6378)	54.928*** (df = 7; 2465)	55.567*** (df = 7; 6378)

*Note:** p < 0.1
** p < 0.05
*** p < 0.01

Results:

Health Rights

As predicted:

- Decrease in LE at birth for both females and males. Larger decrease for females
- Decrease in MMR and adolescent fertility

Conclusion

- No one standard measure for women's rights
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 - Political inclusion increases; economic inclusion decreases as women are forced into undesirable jobs.

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 - Multiple societal rights and health rights
 - Some societal rights improve at the cost of health rights
- Inclusion puzzle: Political/Economic/Educational
 - Political inclusion increases; economic inclusion decreases as women are forced into undesirable jobs
- Women's experiences differ from that of men
 - Women's health outcomes are worse
- Sanctions are not benign form of statecraft; particularly for vulnerable populations
 - Exacerbate gender inequality and poor health outcomes