



GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT  
GÖTTINGEN



# **A Cross-National Evaluation of the Sources of Anti-Trafficking Enforcement and Migrant Vulnerability to Trafficking**

Maria Ravlik

Georg August University Goettingen

e-mail: [mravlik@gwdg.de](mailto:mravlik@gwdg.de)

# The slavery of our times

This new form of conquest deprives people of their freedom and violates every person's guaranteed basic human rights.

Today's slavery is different from the days of old, when people were publicly bought and sold for forced labor. Human trafficking means controlling a person through force, fraud or coercion – physical or psychological – to exploit the person for forced labor, sexual exploitation, or both.

“Whatever the exact number is it seems almost certain that the modern global slave trade is larger in absolute terms than the Atlantic slave trade in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries was.”

- *Foreign Affairs*

# Focus

- Quantitative research is rare in this field
- Mixed and contradictory conclusions
- Migrants are particularly vulnerable to trafficking
- Thin theoretical models

Examination of factors that explain anti-trafficking enforcement across the globe

Examination of countries characteristics with high migration flows into countries where anti-trafficking policy is underdeveloped

# Theoretical framework

Victim Precipitation Theory (Broderick 2005)

*Human Development hypothesis:* More highly developed countries will have higher anti-trafficking enforcement and lower migrant vulnerability

Social Modernization Theory (Inglehart and Norris 2003; Inglehart and Welzel 2005; Welzel Forthcoming)

*Culture hypothesis:* Less traditional countries will have higher anti-trafficking enforcement and lower migrant vulnerability

# Theoretical framework

Institutional Theory (Scott, 2004)

*Political Institutions hypothesis:* Countries with a stronger tradition of rule of law and democracy will have higher anti-trafficking enforcement and lower migrant vulnerability

Constructivist Theory of International Relations (Finnemore, 1996)

*Global Influences hypothesis:* Countries with stronger ties to the global community will have higher anti-trafficking enforcement and lower migrant vulnerability

# Design

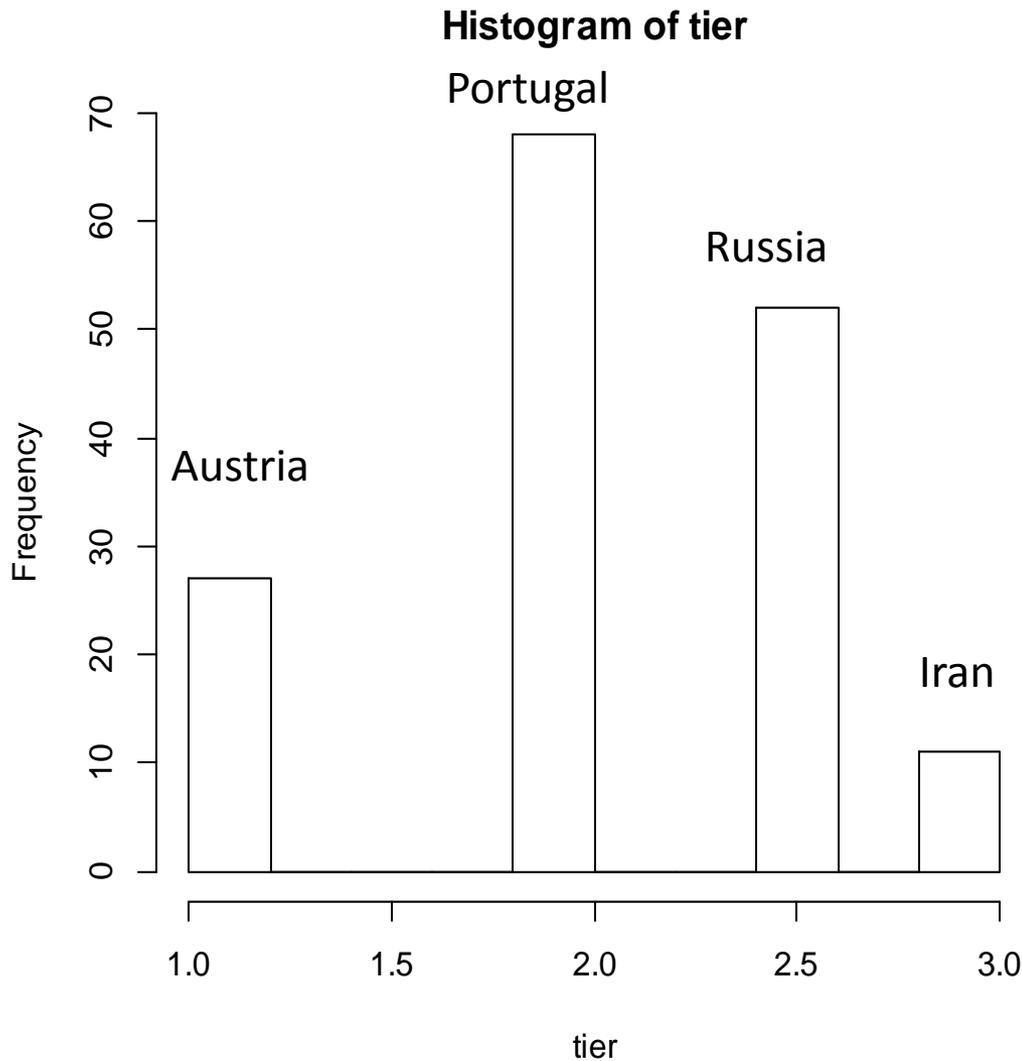
*2 analytic strategies*

explain the variation  
across 162 countries  
in anti-trafficking  
enforcement in 2000s

examine high  
migration flows in  
2010 across 1667  
cases

DV #1: Tier ranking of the  
country

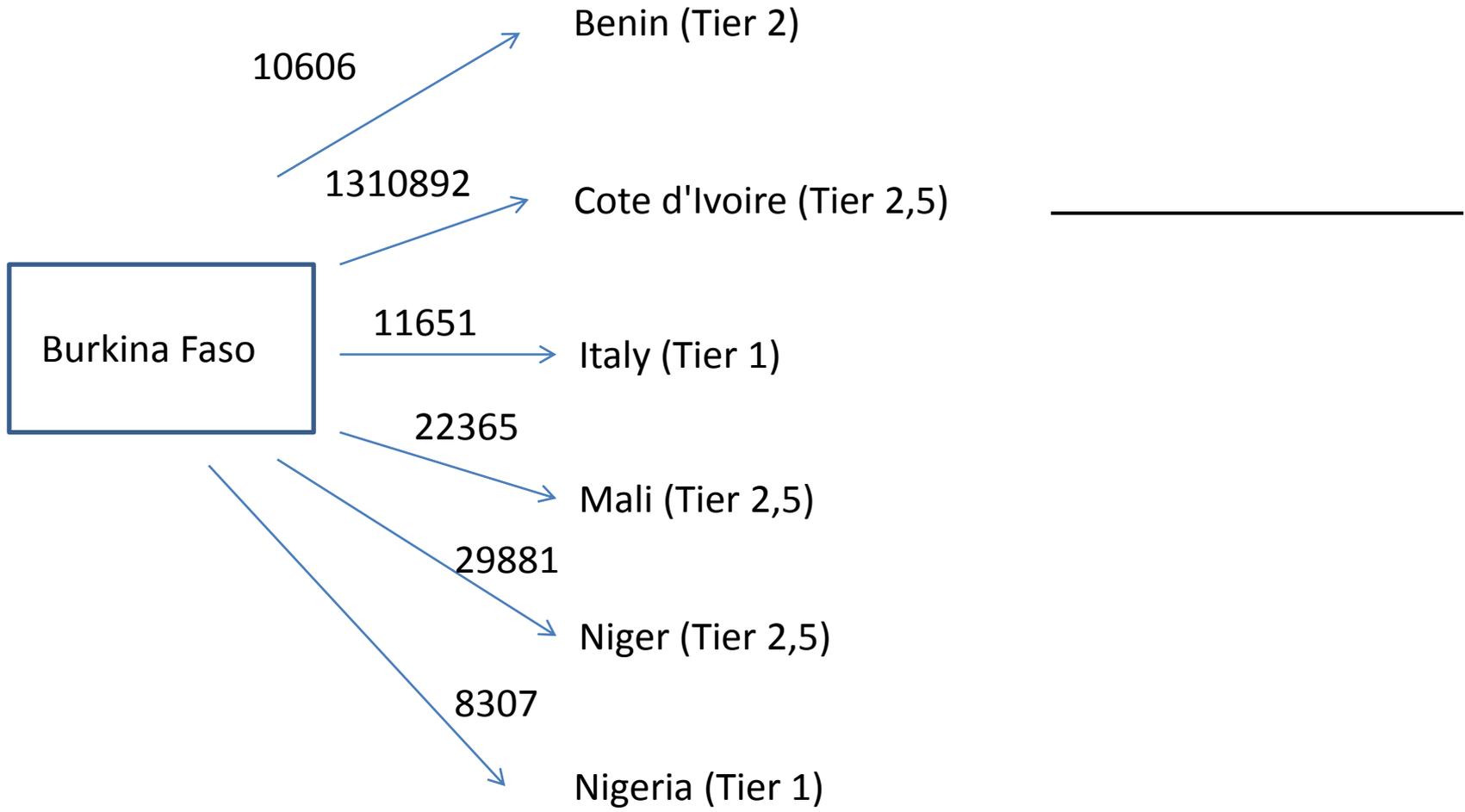
DV #2: migrant  
vulnerability across  
sending countries



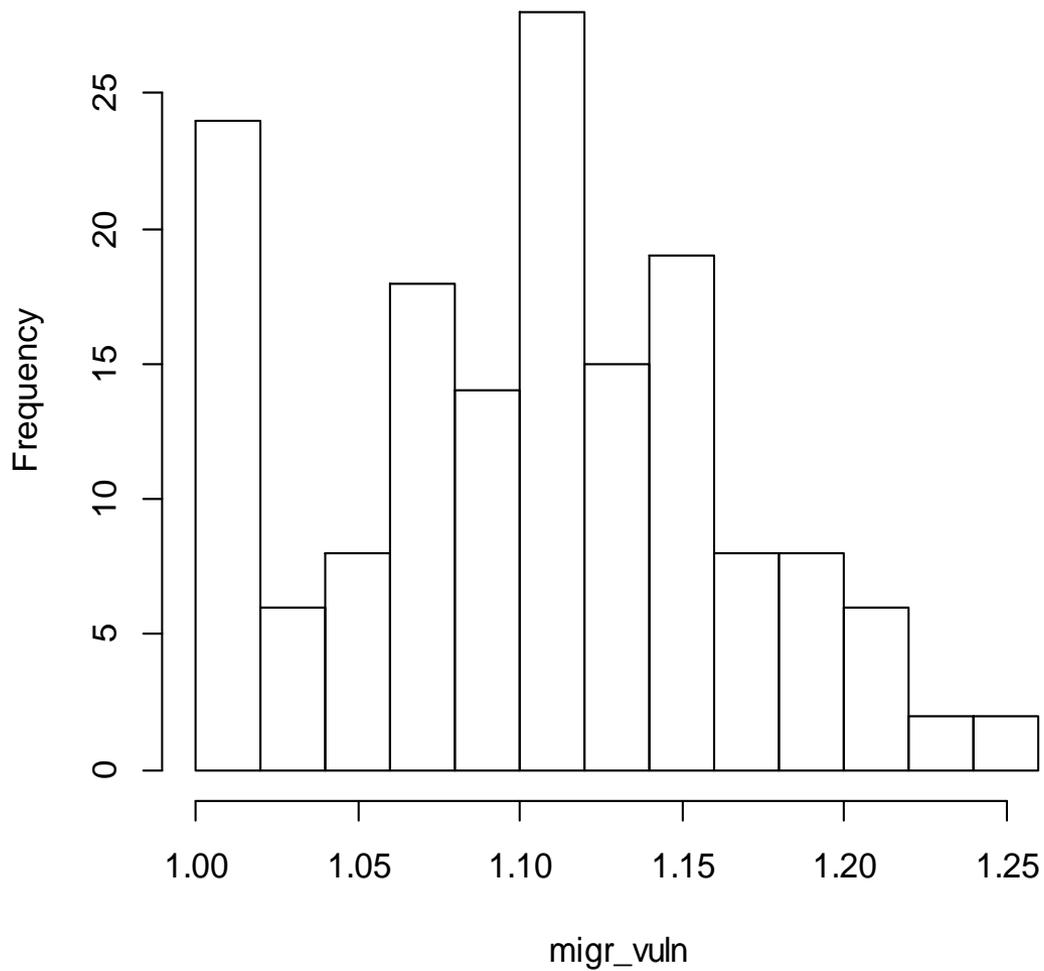
DV #1: Tier ranking of the country - each country is placed onto one of three tiers based on the extent of their governments' efforts to comply with the "minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking"

- 1 - fully comply with the required standards
- 2 - countries making consistent efforts
- 2,5 - watch listed
- 3 - countries with no efforts to combat human trafficking

DV #2: migrant vulnerability across sending countries - the average tier score of all receiving countries for sending countries with high migrant streams to those receiving countries



**Histogram of migr\_vuln**



DV #2: migrant vulnerability across sending countries - the average tier score of all receiving countries for sending countries with high migrant streams to those receiving countries

## Possible IVs:

### *Human Development:*

- HDI – Human Development Index
- HSI – Human Security Index
- HPI – Human Poverty Index
- Gini Index
- Economic Globalization

### *Political Institutions:*

- Political Globalization
- Civil Liberties and Political Rights
- Democracy Index
- Rule of Law Index

### *Culture:*

- Inequity in Family Law/Practice between Men and Women
- Discrepancy Between National Law and Practice Concerning Women
- GII - Gender Inequality Index
- Social Globalization
- % of protestants
- Number of Vulnerable Streams

# Preliminary Expectations

- 1) More highly developed countries will have higher anti-trafficking enforcement and lower migrant vulnerability;
- 2) Less traditional countries will have higher anti-trafficking enforcement and lower migrant vulnerability;
- 3) Countries with a stronger tradition of rule of law and democracy will have higher anti-trafficking enforcement and lower migrant vulnerability; and
- 4) Countries with stronger ties to the global community will have higher anti-trafficking enforcement and lower migrant vulnerability.

# Preliminary models

**Model Fitting Information**

Model	-2 Log Likelihood	Chi-Square	df	Sig.
Intercept Only	384,771			
Final	268,249	116,523	7	,000

Link function: Logit.

**Pseudo R-Square**

Cox and Snell	,522
Nagelkerke	,572
McFadden	,303

Link function: Logit.

**Parameter Estimates**

		Estimate	Std. Error	Wald	df	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
							Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Threshold	[tier = 1,0]	-3,688	1,251	8,687	1	,003	-6,140	-1,235
	[tier = 2,0]	-,014	1,195	,000	1	,990	-2,357	2,328
	[tier = 2,5]	3,024	1,224	6,105	1	,013	,625	5,422
Location	pr_cl	3,755	,942	15,901	1	,000	1,909	5,601
	polit_glob	-,031	,011	7,822	1	,005	-,052	-,009
	rule	-,318	,256	1,545	1	,214	-,820	,183
	[inequity=0]	-2,564	,964	7,070	1	,008	-4,455	-,674
	[inequity=1]	-1,270	,700	3,291	1	,070	-2,642	,102
	[inequity=2]	,225	,641	,123	1	,726	-1,032	1,481
	[inequity=3]	-,382	,618	,382	1	,536	-1,593	,829
	[inequity=4]	0 <sup>a</sup>	.	.	0	.	.	.

Link function: Logit.

a. This parameter is set to zero because it is redundant.

# Preliminary models

Independent variables	Dependent variables
	<b><i>Migrant vulnerability across sending countries</i></b>
Human Development Index	<b>-0.09*** (-3.5)</b>
Civil Liberties and Political Rights	<b>0.05*** (3.3)</b>
Number of vulnerable streams	<b>0.01*** (5,3)</b>
HDI * CL and PR	<b>0.25** (2,8)</b>
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0,45

**Thank you for attention!**

# Definitions

In a protocol supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, trafficking has been defined as:

"...the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto, <https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNTOC/Publications/TOC%20Convention/TOCebook-e.pdf>