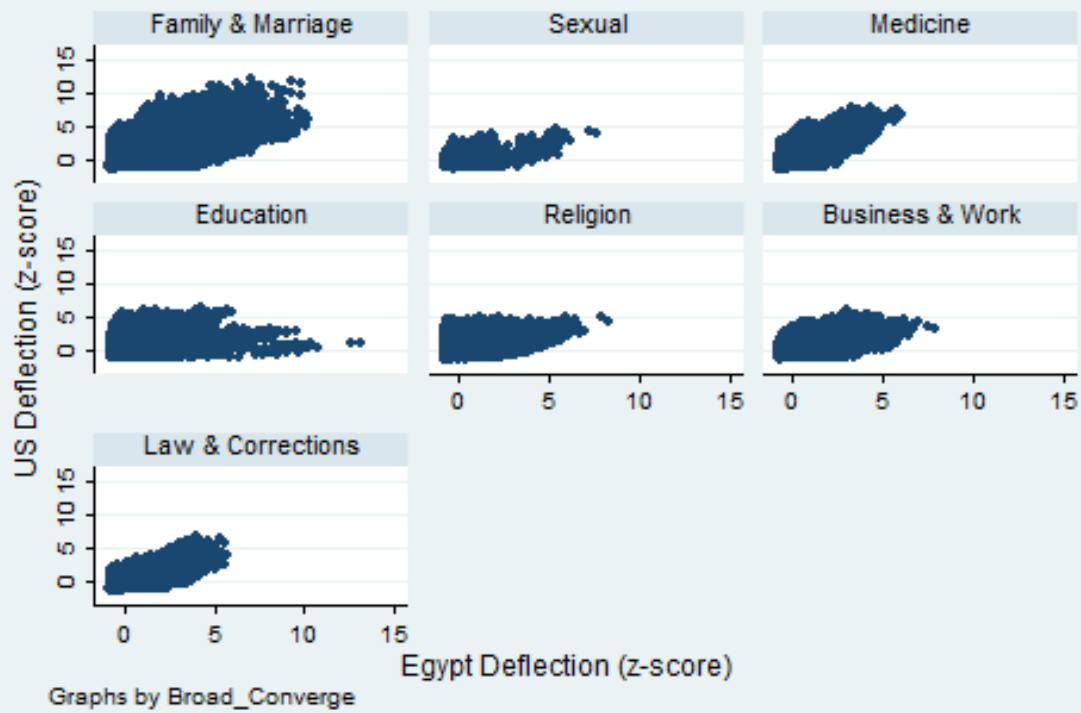


Improbable Events: A Cross-Cultural Examination of Deflection Across Institutions in the US and Egypt

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Mackinnon and Heise (2010:7) locate social institutions at the “intersection of cultural structure and social structure,” arguing that they develop out of the routinization of interpersonal activities. We expect, then, that social institutions should constitute a critical site for investigating cross-cultural differences in routine interactions. We examined roughly thirteen million interpersonal events simulated from recently-estimated equations describing impression change dynamics in the United States and Egypt. These constitute all possible events that can be constructed from the overlapping corpus of identity and behavior ratings available in the newly-collected (2015-2016) data from both cultures. We present preliminary analyses describing the relationship between the predicted deflection scores produced by interpersonal events across various social institutions in each of the two cultures. To account for the different scale of deflection predictions based on the two sets of impression change equations containing different numbers of terms, we examine deflections that are standardized (using z-scores) within each culture. We coded these events for institutional consistency between the two actors using both the classical institutional categories and the new empirically grounded institution codes found in MacKinnon and Heise (2010). Preliminary examinations of the joint distributions of deflection scores for the two cultures reveal considerable differences in the relative degree of deflection produced by interpersonal events in the two cultures across the various institutions. While interpersonal behaviors within the institutions of Law & Corrections, Medicine, and Family produce patterns of deflections that are highly related in the U.S. and Egypt, more dramatic inconsistencies in the predicted degree of deflection seem to characterize events in the Academic/Education, Religious, Sexual, Business and Work, and Political institutions.

New Insitutional Codings



Original Institution Codings

