TRIP Snap Poll XIII

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Teaching, Research & International Policy (TRIP) Project
Global Research Institute (GRI)
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Methodology: We attempted to contact all international relations (IR) scholars in the U.S. We define IR scholars as individuals who are employed at a college or university in a political science department or professional school and who teach or conduct research on issues that cross international borders. Of the 4,614 scholars across the U.S. that we contacted, 982 responded to at least one question. The resulting response rate is approximately 21.28 percent. The poll was open from April 27 to May 4 of 2020. Our sample is roughly similar to the broader International Relations scholar population in terms of gender, academic rank and university type. Our sample includes a higher percentage of tenured and tenure track faculty than the overall scholar population.

Introduction

By Emily B. Jackson, Eric Parajon, Susan Peterson, Ryan Powers, and Michael J. Tierney

We are pleased to share the results of the 13th Teaching, Research and International Policy (TRIP) Snap Poll, fielded with the support of the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Our polls provide real-time data in the wake of significant policy proposals, during international crises, and on emerging foreign policy debates. In this poll, we asked questions on the 2020 Presidential Election, the United States response to COVID-19, and the foreign policy implications of the pandemic.

How TRIP Snap Polls work
TRIP Snap Polls survey all IR scholars in the United States. To be included in our sample, individuals must be employed at a U.S. college or university in a political science department or professional school and teach or conduct research on issues that cross international borders. To date we have identified 4,614 individuals who fit these criteria. 982 individuals responded to at least one question in the survey. All

questions were optional, so the number of responses to each question varies. Below we display information on the demographic representativeness of our respondents. We then present topline results.

Sample vs. Population Comparison

Gender

	Respondents		Population	
Gender	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Female	208	29.2	1466	30.7
Male	505	70.8	3309	69.3
Chi-squared test results: X-squared== 0.614 , p-value=0.4333				

Academic Rank

	Respondents		Population	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Adjunct	15	2.01	333	6.58
Assistant Professor	173	23.2	953	18.8
Associate Professor	214	28.6	1194	23.6
Full Professor	260	34.8	1636	32.3
Emeritus	31	4.15	311	6.14
Instructor	29	3.88	327	6.46
Visiting Instructor/Assistant Professor	13	1.74	179	3.54
Other	12	1.61	129	2.55
Chi-squared test results: X-squared=58.054 , p-value=0.00				

University type

	Respondents		Population	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
National Liberal Arts College	103	14.4	687	14.5
National Research University	421	58.9	2678	56.5
Regional Liberal Arts College	27	3.78	184	3.88
Regional Research University	164	22.9	1190	25.1
Chi-squared test results: X-squared=1.819 , p-value=0.6108				

COVID-19 Pandemic

Question 1: In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and the global economic downturn, should the United States increase, decrease, or maintain the current level of spending on the following forms of assistance to developing countries?

	Question	Increase	Maintain	Decrease	I don't know
1	Economic assistance	62.60	30.90	5.20	1.40
2	Health aid	87.90	9.70	1.90	0.50
3	Military assistance	5.00	36.30	56.90	1.80
4	Refugee assistance	77.20	17.40	4.10	1.30

Question 2: Do you believe that the COVID-19 pandemic will fundamentally alter the distribution of power in world politics?

	Response	n	Percentage
1	Yes	300	31.70
2	No	511	54.00
3	I don't know	135	14.30

Question 3: Five years from now, will barriers to international economic exchange be higher or lower than they are today?

	Response	n	Percentage
1	Higher	396	41.70
2	About the same	300	31.60
3	Lower	135	14.20
4	I don't know	118	12.40

Question 4: Please rate the effectiveness of international cooperation in response to these global challenges.

	Question	Very effective	Somewhat effective	Not very effective	Not effective at all
1	2008 global finanical crisis	16.50	59.80	21.10	2.70
2	2013-2016 Ebola epidemic	41.40	51.00	6.90	0.80
3	Climate change	1.10	20.00	56.20	22.80
4	COVID-19 pandemic	2.00	32.60	51.20	14.10
5	Transnational terrorism	12.70	68.80	16.50	2.00

Question 5: As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, will the United States spend more or less on the military in 2021 compared to today?

	Response	n	Percentage
1	Significantly more	19	2.00
2	Slightly more	106	11.20
3	About the same	485	51.30
4	Slightly less	232	24.60
5	Significantly less	31	3.30
6	I don't know	72	7.60

Question 6: How capable are international health institutions of managing the spread of pandemic disease?

	Response	n	Percentage
1	Very capable	19	2.00
2	Capable	371	39.40
3	Neither capable nor incapable	310	32.90
4	Incapable	218	23.10
5	Very incapable	24	2.50

Question 7: Should the United States:

	Response	n	Percentage
1	Increase financial support to the World Health Organization relative to the amount provided before COVID-19	616	65.40
2	Maintain financial support to the World Health Organization at the amount provided before COVID-19	273	29.00
3	Decrease financial support to the World Health Organization relative to the amount provided before COVID-19	38	4.00
4	Eliminate financial support to the World Health Organization	15	1.60

Question 8: How would you rate the United States' role in coordinating the international response to the current COVID-19 pandemic?

	Response	n	Percentage
1	Very effective	7	0.70
2	Somewhat effective	24	2.50
3	Not very effective	155	16.40
4	Not effective at all	759	80.30

Question 9: How would you rate the World Health Organization's effectiveness in addressing the current COVID-19 pandemic?

	Response	n	Percentage
1	Very effective	31	3.30
2	Somewhat effective	563	59.70
3	Not very effective	302	32.00
4	Not effective at all	47	5.00

Question 10: Will the US response to the COVID-19 pandemic make it more or less likely that the US is seen by foreign leaders in each of the following ways?

	Question	Much more likely	More likely	Neither more nor less likely	Less likely	Much less likely
1	As a state that honors its international commitments	0.40	0.90	16.30	39.70	42.80
2	As a state that is widely respected in the international system	0.40	1.10	9.70	41.40	47.30
3	As a state that is willing to help provide global public goods	0.40	1.50	7.50	36.90	53.70
4	As a state with leading science, technology, and medicine sectors	1.90	9.30	35.10	36.50	17.10
5	As a state with unmatched material power and capabilities	1.20	3.50	27.00	43.20	25.00

Question 11: Will the US response to the COVID-19 pandemic make it more or less likely that the US is seen by foreign publics in each of the following ways?

	Question	Much more likely	More likely	Neither more nor less likely	Less likely	Much less likely
1	As a state that honors its international commitments	0.40	0.40	13.90	37.90	47.30
2	As a state that is widely respected in the international system	0.40	1.00	7.00	39.10	52.60
3	As a state that is willing to help provide global public goods	0.50	0.90	6.00	34.40	58.20
4	As a state with leading science, technology, and medicine sectors	1.70	7.50	27.40	38.40	25.00
5	As a state with unmatched material power and capabilities	1.20	2.70	20.60	41.40	34.10

Question 12: In your opinion, is the current COVID-19 crisis likely to increase or decrease the occurrence of domestic political violence around the world over the next 12 months?

	Response	n	Percentage
1	Increase	589	62.50
2	Stay the same	197	20.90
3	Decrease	84	8.90
4	I don't know	73	7.70

Question 13: Do you plan to change the focus of your research in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?

	Response	n	Percentage
1	Definitely	33	3.50
2	Perhaps	253	26.80
3	Probably not	418	44.30
4	Definitely not	183	19.40
5	No because my research already focuses on related issues.	56	5.90

2020 Election

Question 14: Which presidential candidate would you trust most to handle a major international crisis?

	Response	n	Percentage
1	Joe Biden	899	93.70
2	Donald Trump	40	4.20
3	I would trust both about equally	20	2.10

Question 15: Which presidential candidate do you think would most effectively manage the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic?

	Response	n	Percentage
1	Joe Biden	893	93.10
2	Donald Trump	39	4.10
3	I would trust both about equally	27	2.80

Question 16: If the 2020 presidential election were held today, for whom would you vote?

	Response	n	Percentage
1	Joe Biden	863	90.00
2	Donald Trump	47	4.90
3	Neither/I would not vote	49	5.10

Question 17: Which presidential candidate's foreign policy views most closely reflect your own?

	Response	n	Percentage
1	Joe Biden	822	93.20
2	Donald Trump	60	6.80

Question 18: Do you agree or disagree that the following presidential candidates would exercise good judgement as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States?

	Candidate	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
1	Donald Trump	1.90	3.10	2.70	9.00	83.30
2	Joe Biden	41.60	46.20	5.00	4.70	2.40

Question 19: Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?

	Response	n	Percentage
1	Democrat	621	66.40
2	Republican	35	3.70
3	Independent	225	24.10
4	Other	54	5.80