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**Calamities, Common Interests, Shared Identity: What Shapes Altruism and Reciprocity?**

(joint with Cevat Giray Aksoy, Mathias Dolls, Ruben Durante, and Lisa Windsteiger)

**Abstract:**

We conduct a large-scale survey experiment in nine European countries to study how priming a major crisis (COVID-19), common economic interests, and a shared identity influence altruism, reciprocity and trust attitudes of EU citizens. We find that priming the COVID-19 pandemic increases altruism and reciprocity towards compatriots, citizens of other EU countries, and non-EU citizens. Priming common European values also boost altruism and reciprocity but only towards compatriots and fellow Europeans. Priming common economic interests has no tangible impact on attitudes. Trust in others is not affected by any treatment. Our results are consistent with the parochial altruism hypothesis, which asserts that because altruism arises out of inter-group conflict, humans show a tendency to favor members of their own groups.