

Geopolitical context of scientific recognition: the role of “friendly” and “unfriendly” countries in citing Russian articles

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работа в рамках проекта «Международные отношения как фактор признания научных результатов», реализуемого по гранту Российского научного фонда в соответствии с Соглашением № 25-28-01490 от 26.12.2024 г.)



WORLD • ISRAEL

Israeli researchers and universities face unprecedented wave of boycotts

Nearly one thousand scientists have signed a petition calling on CERN, the world's leading particle physics laboratory, to reconsider its cooperation with Israel.

By Luc Bronner (Jerusalem, correspondent)

Published on September 29, 2025, at 5:42 pm (Paris), updated on September 30, 2025, at 3:13 pm · 4 min read · [Lire en français](#)

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Royal Society statement on academic boycotts

The Royal Society supports global collaboration and participation in science. Without the free exchange of ideas and opinions across the world.

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NEWS | 14 March 2022

Ukrainian researchers pressure journals to boycott Russian authors

Most publications are still considering manuscripts irrespective of nationality – but Russia plans to remove a requirement for scientists to publish in foreign titles.

[Home](#) > [Journal of Hematopathology](#) > [Article](#)

Academic boycotts of Russian science: where does the *Journal of Hematopathology* stand?

Editorial | Published: 24 May 2022

Volume 15, page 49, (2022) [Cite this article](#)

NEWS | ASIA/PACIFIC

Western nations cut ties with Russian science as some projects try to remain neutral

After Ukraine science diplomacy veterans say collaborations with Russia s

8 MAR 2022 - 3:45 PM ET - BY RICHARD STONE

Top AI conference reverses ban from US-sanctioned entities after Chinese boycott

By Eduardo Baptista

March 27, 2026 9:58 AM GMT+3 - Updated March 27, 2026

Universities around the world cut ties with Israeli academia over Gaza war

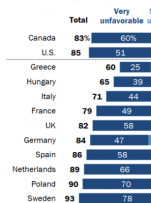
Educational bodies from Europe to South America are boycotting Israeli institutions, though Universities UK said it did not support the action

Majorities of adults in 18 of the countries surveyed have an unfavorable view of Russia. And in many of these countries, the predominant attitude toward Russia is *very* unfavorable: 78% in Sweden, 70% in Poland, 66% in the Netherlands and 65% in Australia describe their view this way.

Of the publics surveyed, Indonesians are the most positive toward Russia: 64% have a favorable view. Opinions in India are also positive, on balance (49% favorable vs. 21% unfavorable), though many Indians (31%) do not express an opinion. In no other country surveyed are opinions about Russia more positive than negative.

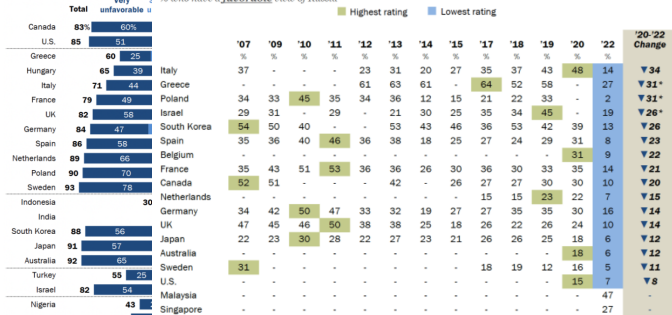
Negative views of Russia prevail across most countries surveyed

% who have a ... opinion of Russia



Sharp decline in favorable views of Russia

% who have a *favorable* view of Russia



*In Greece, Israel and Poland, change is measured from 2019.

Note: Statistically significant changes over time in bold. Prior to 2020, U.S. and Australia surveys were conducted by phone. See [topline](#) for results.

Source: Spring 2022 Global Attitudes Survey Q5f.

"International Attitudes Toward the U.S., NATO and Russia in a Time of Crisis"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.
Source: Spring 2022 Global Attitudes Survey.
*NATO Viewed Favorably Across 13 Member Nations"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Research Question

Does scientists' attitudes toward a particular country (beyond its scientific reputation) influence their recognition of that country's scientific results?

Hypotheses

- ▶ **H₁**: The number of article citations from unfriendly countries will fall after 2022 in the social sciences.
- ▶ **H₂**: The number of article citations from unfriendly countries will rise after 2022 in the social sciences.
- ▶ **H₃**: The share of article citations from unfriendly countries will fall after 2022 in the social sciences.
- ▶ **H₄**: The share of article citations from unfriendly countries will rise after 2022 in the social sciences.
- ▶ **H₅**: The number of article citations from unfriendly countries will fall after 2022 in the medical sciences.
- ▶ **H₆**: The share of article citations from unfriendly countries will fall after 2022 in the medical sciences.
- ▶ **H₇**: The number of article citations from unfriendly countries will fall after 2022 in the climatic sciences.
- ▶ **H₈**: The share of article citations from unfriendly countries will fall after 2022 in the climatic sciences.

Data

- ▶ Publications by Russian authors in 8 scientific fields, 2015-2019, Source: Scopus
- ▶ Citation data (not just the number of citations, but who cited them), 2015-2025, Source: Scopus
- ▶ List of unfriendly (March 5, 2022, last updated August 3, 2023) and neutral/friendly countries (September 21, 2022), approved by the Russian government

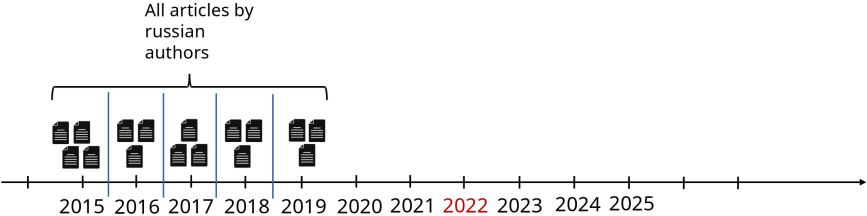
Descriptive statistics - 1

Scientific Field	Number of publications	
	Russian	Citing
Atmospheric Research	2904	29534
Oceanology	3148	25382
Pollution	3094	35863
Cardiology	4777	91866
Oncology	3538	67543
Pharmacology	2814	37387
Political Science	4255	11612
Economics	5422	26488

Descriptive statistics - 2

Scientific Field	Citations (2020–2021)	Citations (2022–2023)
Atmospheric Research	12336	10669
Oceanology	10858	10066
Pollution	13714	12150
Cardiology	36381	31800
Oncology	23898	21073
Pharmacology	13261	12029
Political Science	4897	3832
Economics	10504	8626

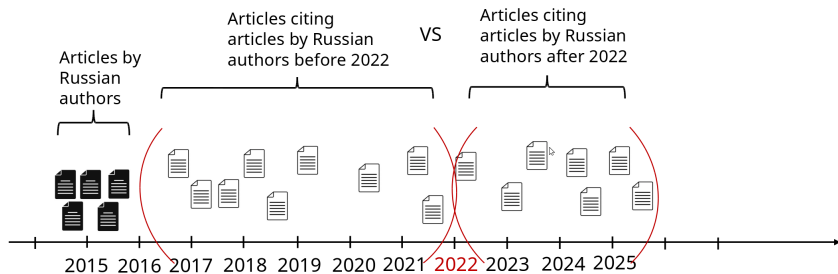
Cited Russian articles



What can we do to evaluate the effect? - 1



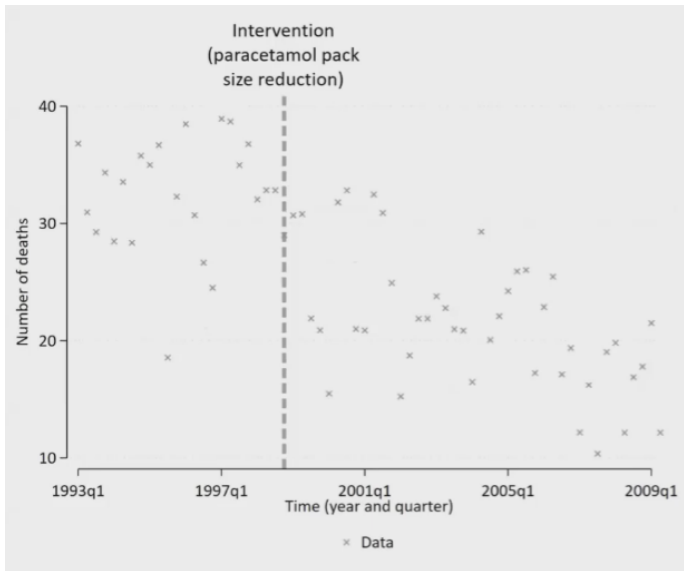
What can we do to evaluate the effect? - 2



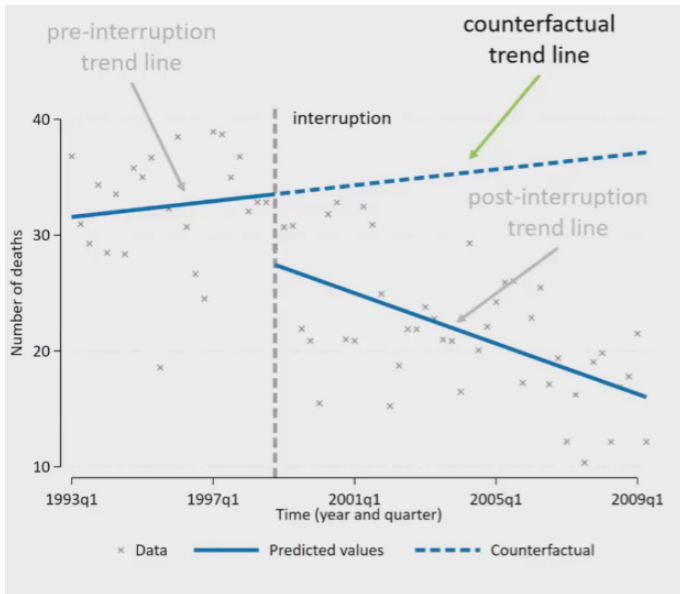
Interrupted Time Series - 1

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 * \text{time} + \beta_2 * \text{treatment} + \beta_3 * \text{time_since_treatment}$$

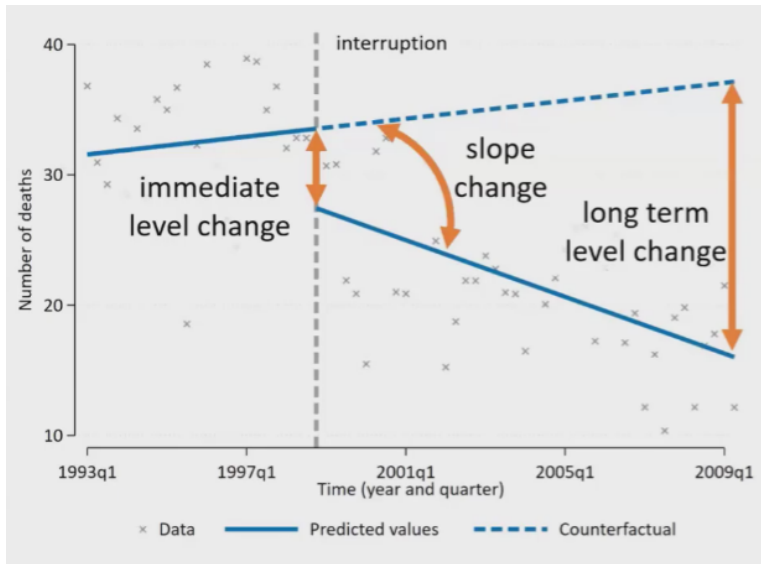
Interrupted Time Series - 2



Interrupted Time Series - 3



Interrupted Time Series - 4



Some types of estimation effect

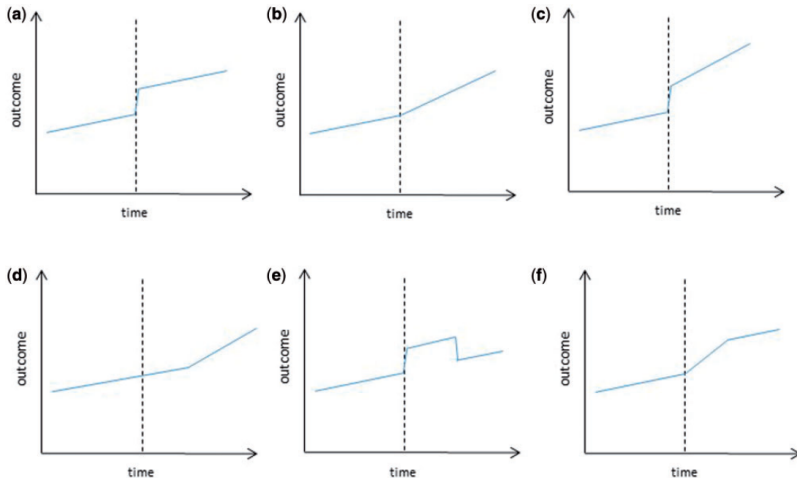
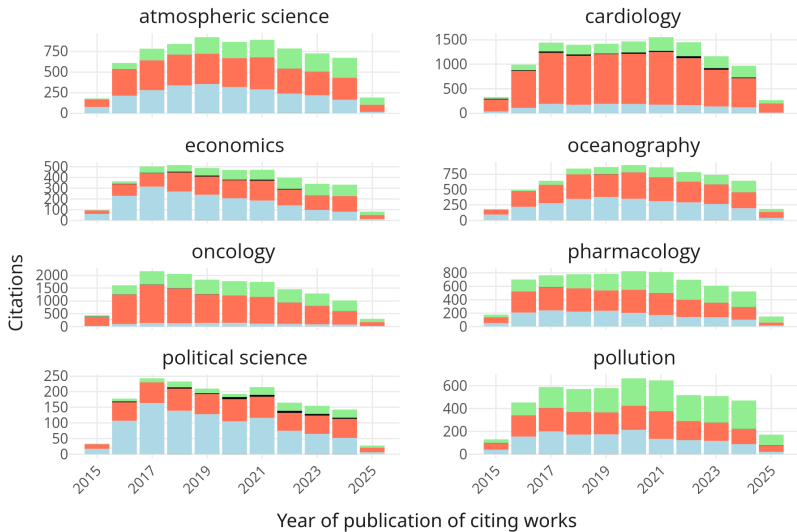


Figure 2 Examples of impact models used in ITS

(a) Level change; (b) Slope change; (c) Level and slope change; (d) Slope change following a lag; (e) Temporary level change; (f) Temporary slope change leading to a level change.

(Bernal et al., 2017)

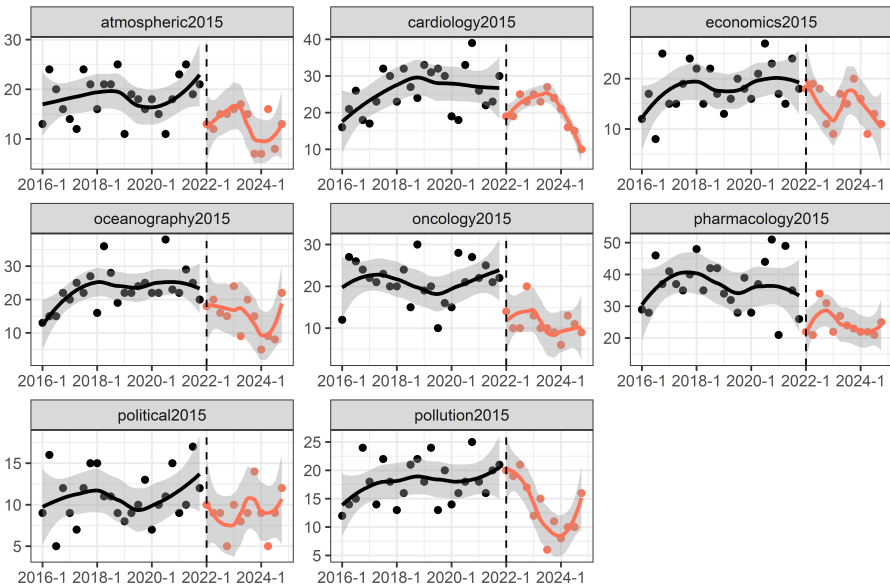
Citation Dynamic



Friendly/Neutral No data Unfriendly Russia

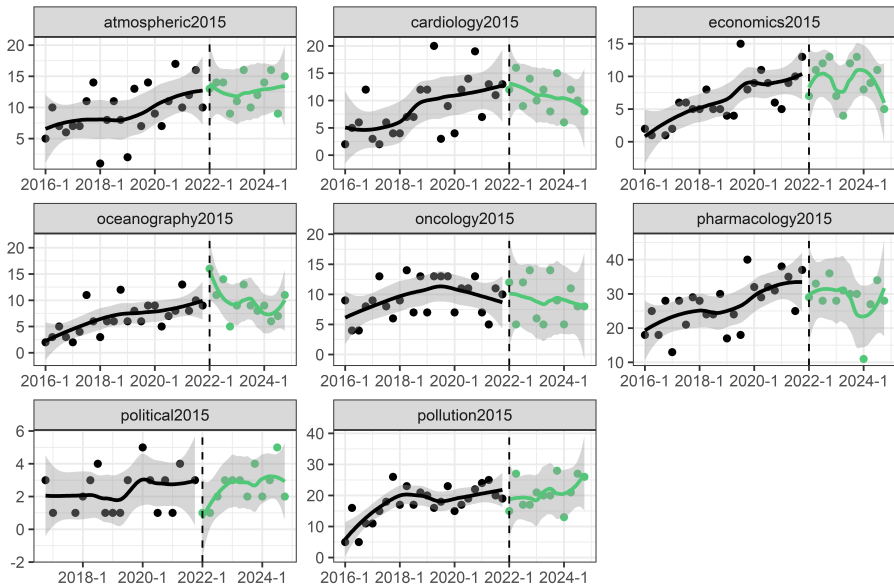
Results - 2

Citation counts from "unfriendly" countries, for the cohort of Russian articles from 2015



Results - 3

Citation counts from "neutral/friendly" countries, for the cohort of Russian articles from 2015



Limitations

Key limitations:

- ▶ Fuzzy Treatment (citing articles are published with a delay)
- ▶ Articles become outdated over time and receive fewer citations.
- ▶ Russian authors may "pretend" to be non-russians in foreign journals.
- ▶ ITS does not allow constructing a convincing counterfactual outcome for citations due to the nonlinear nature of the data.

Conclusion

Key points:

- ▶ The difference in citation shares before and after the treatment is very small (and effect is not significant).
- ▶ But! Some disciplines show not the significance of treatment, but the significance of time after treatment. In other words, the treatment leads to very little change in citation over time.
- ▶ However, when examining absolute values, the gap between before and after treatment appears significant. (This cannot yet be interpreted, however, because counterfactual trends are overestimated.)

Discussion

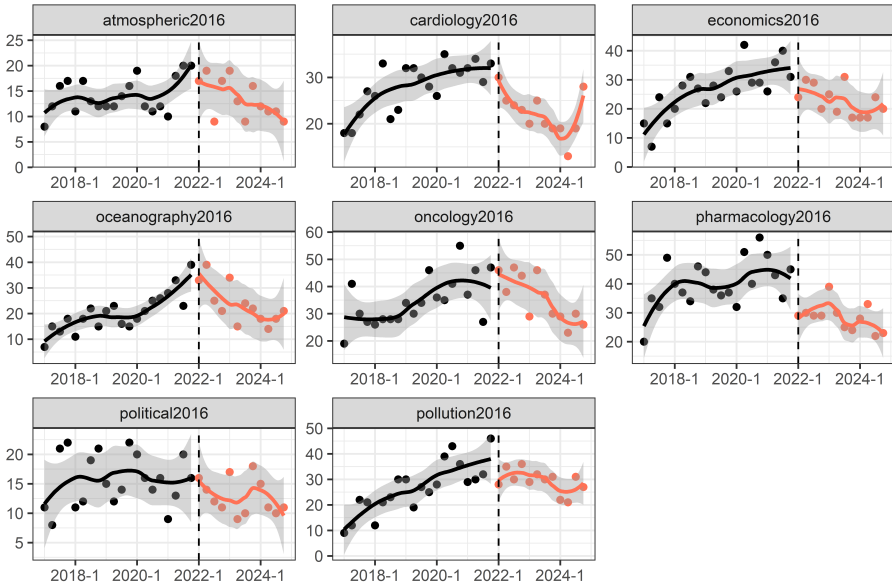
Questions:

- ▶ How to estimate the effect when the data distribution is nonlinear? Create a synthetic control from a group of similar countries?
- ▶ Perhaps in this case other causal methods can be used?

Thank you for your attention!

Additional analysis - 1

Citation counts from "unfriendly" countries, for the cohort of Russian articles from 2016



Additional analysis - 2

Citation counts from "neutral/friendly" countries, for the cohort of Russian articles from 2016

