

Motivation

- Ethnic discord and strife have historically been prevalent in numerous regions across the globe.
- When there is less ethnic strife, a nation can utilize its human, natural, social, and capital resources more efficiently, driving economic growth and development.

Research Question

- Can information, empathy and emotional signals propagated by a documentary video enhance social cohesion between two ethnic groups in a diverse and conflict-prone society?

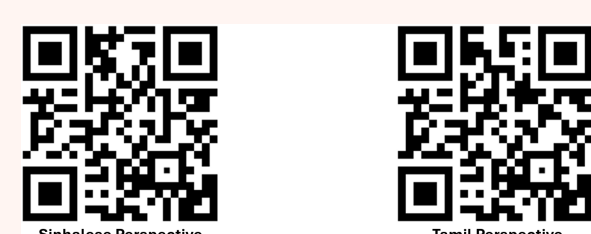
Our Specific Contributions

- Ethnic cohesion in contexts where **close contact** between different ethnic groups is **lacking** using documentary videos, lab-in-the-field experiments.
- Our intervention is **not limited only towards the major ethnic group**.
- Spillover effects** of our intervention on **untreated family members** living in households that received the treatment.



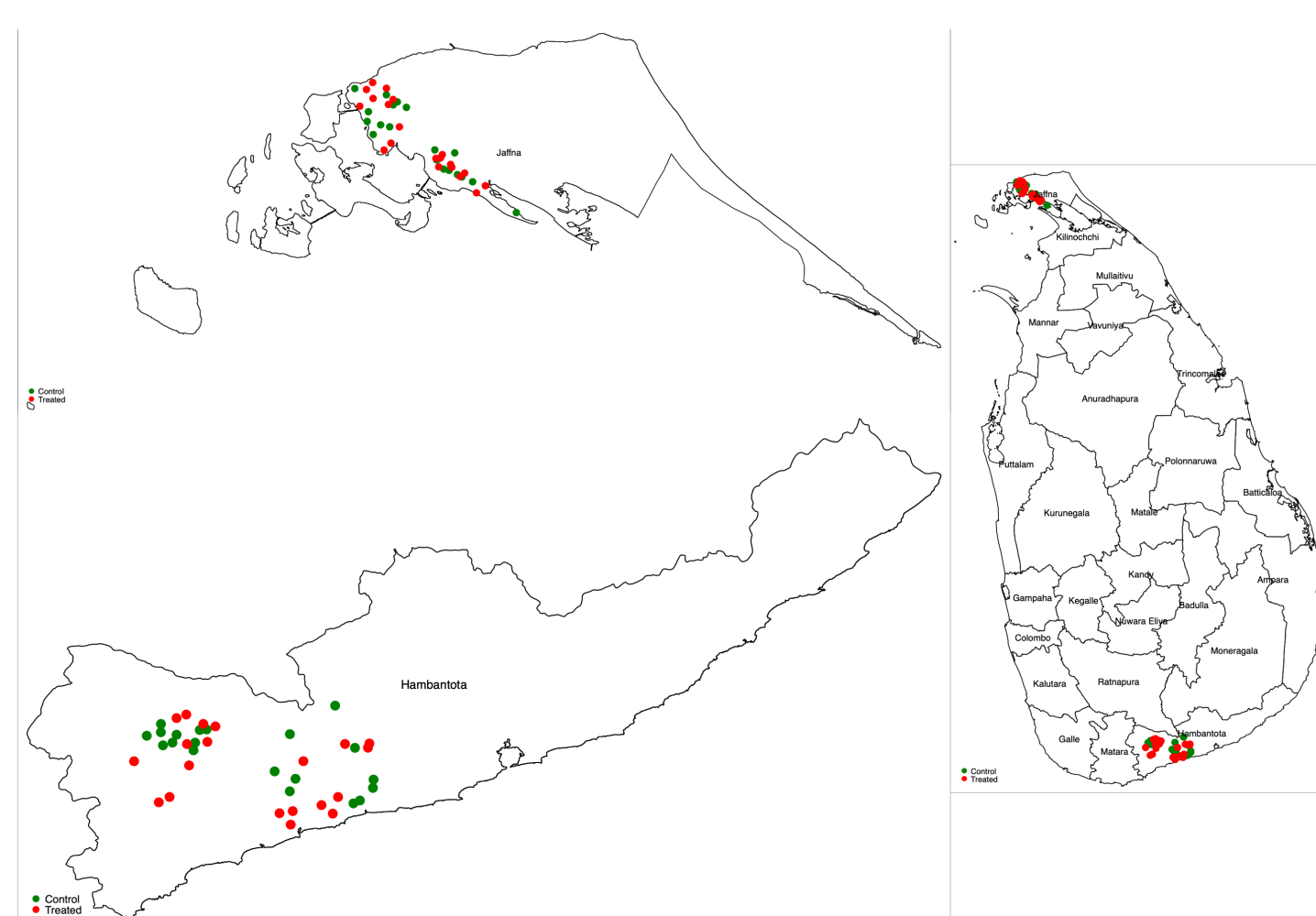
The Intervention

- We collaborated with Department of Economics, Journalism and Sociology at University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- Produced 2 documentary videos (one from the Tamil perspective and the other from the Sinhalese perspective).
- Two videos focus on: (a). a brief background picture of the Tamil and Sinhalese cultures, traditions, cuisines, and historical values, (b). the livelihoods of people from both ethnicities and the hardships that they have been experiencing due to various hurdles such as war and displacements, (c) to understand their desired future endeavors.



Research Design

We evaluate the effectiveness of these documentary movies by employing a cluster randomized control trial in the districts of Jaffna and Hambantota in Sri Lanka.



Building Inferences

Intent-To-Treat (ITT) Effect

$$Y_{ijc} = \alpha + \beta_1 Treated_{ijc} + \zeta Y_{0ijc} + \Gamma X_{ijc} + v_c + \epsilon_{ijc} \quad (1)$$

Where Y_{ijc} is the outcome (Collaboration, Compassion, Prejudice and Trust)

Estimation of Spillover Effects

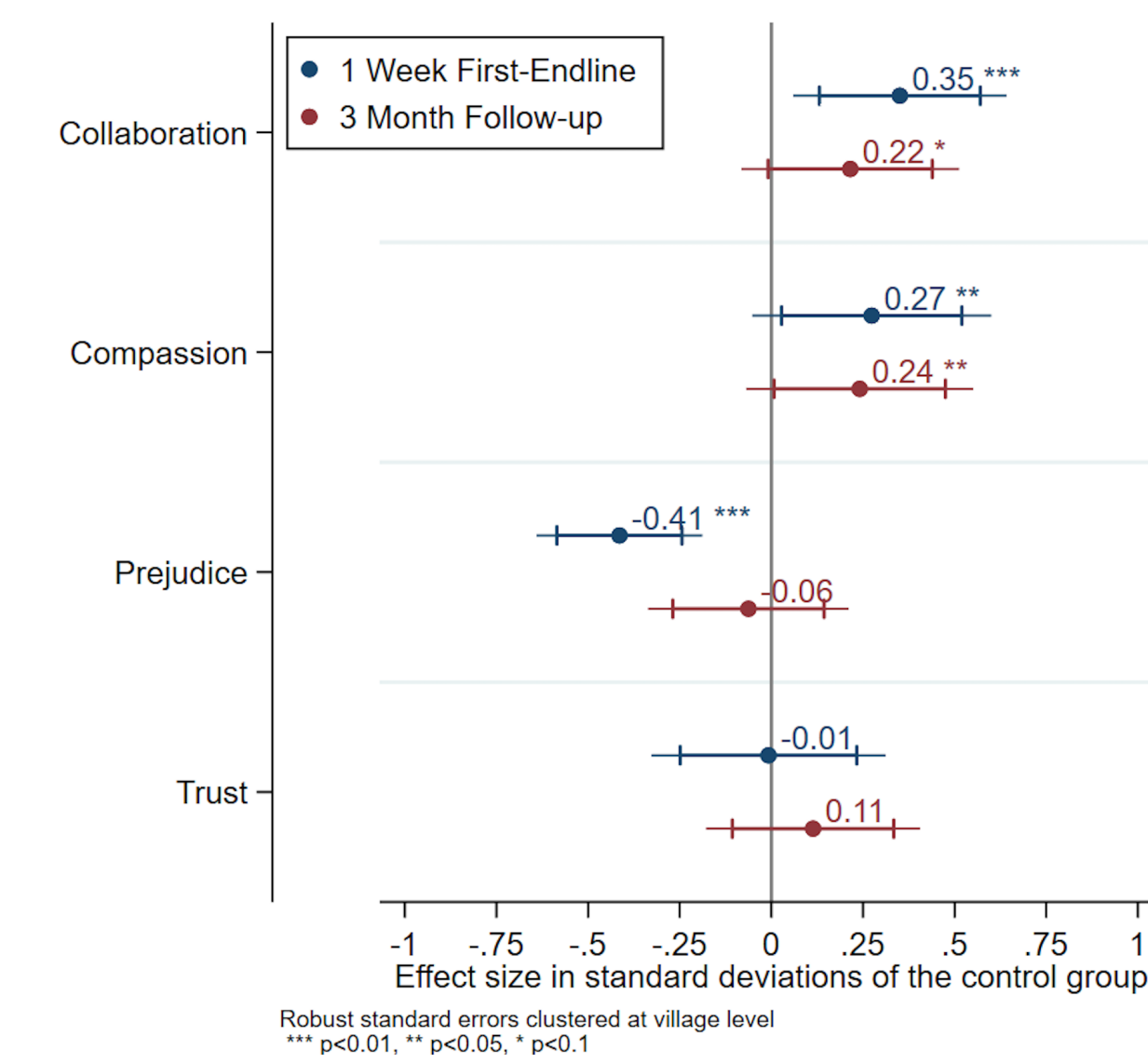
$$Y_{ijc} = \alpha + \beta_1 Spillover_{ijc} + \zeta Y_{0ijc} + \Theta X_{ijc} + v_c + \epsilon_{ijc} \quad (2)$$

Estimation of Experimental Outcomes

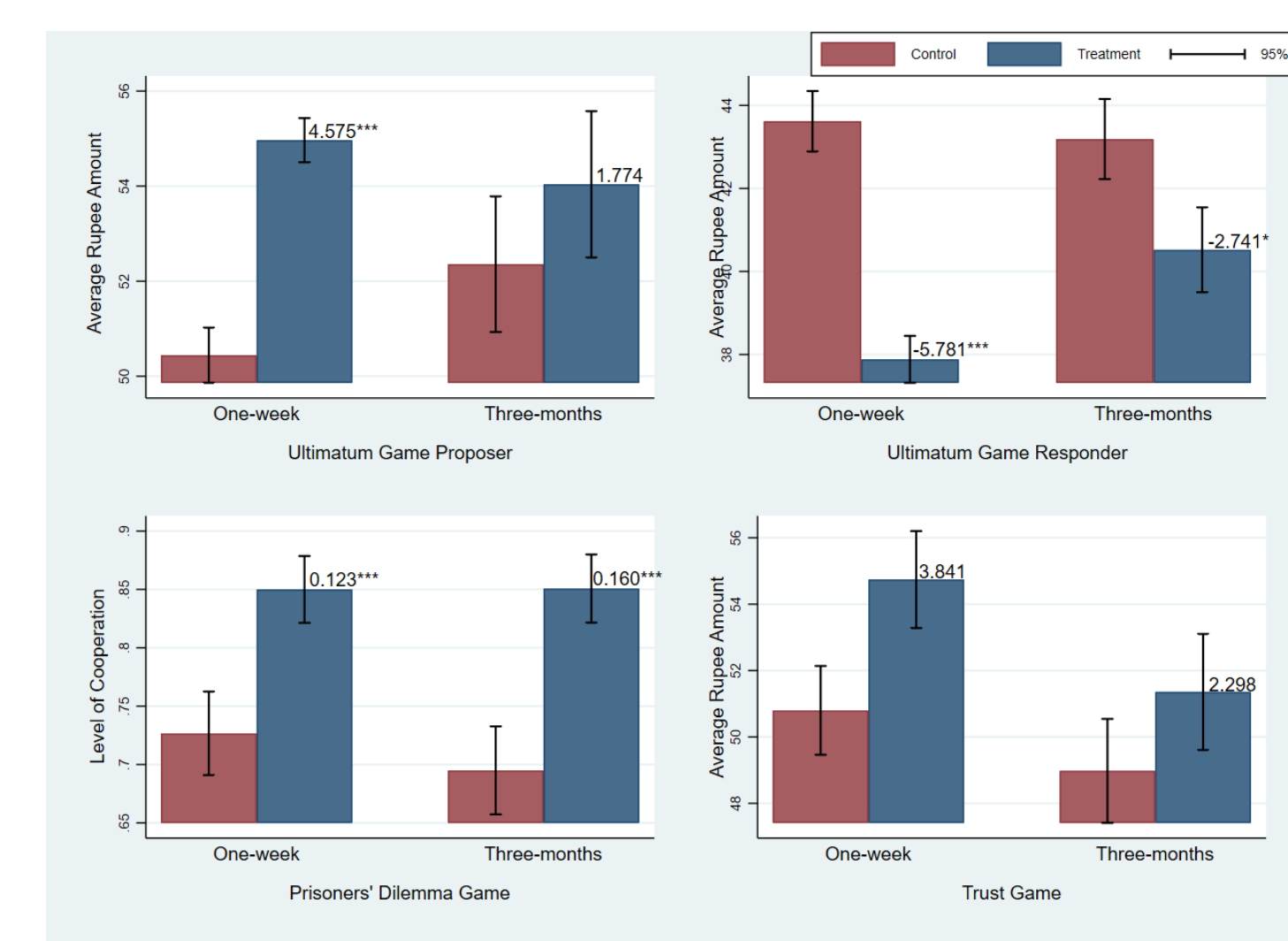
$$Y_{ijc} = \alpha + \beta_1 Treated_{ijc} + \Theta X_{ijc} + v_c + \epsilon_{ijc} \quad (3)$$

where Y_{ijc} is the lab-in-the-field experimental outcome (Ultimatum, Prisoner's Dilemma and Trust)

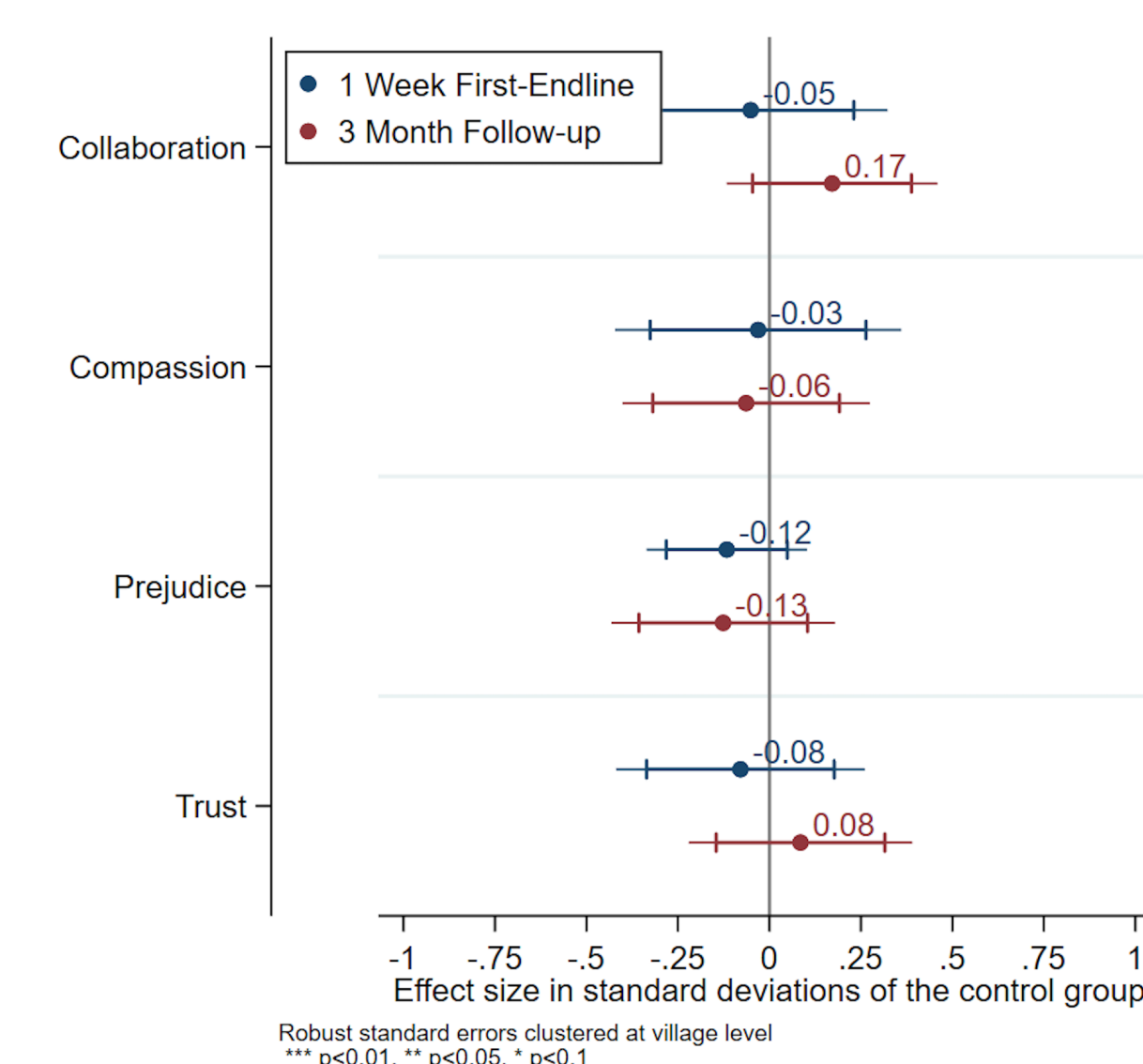
Self-reported Survey Outcomes - Treated Individuals



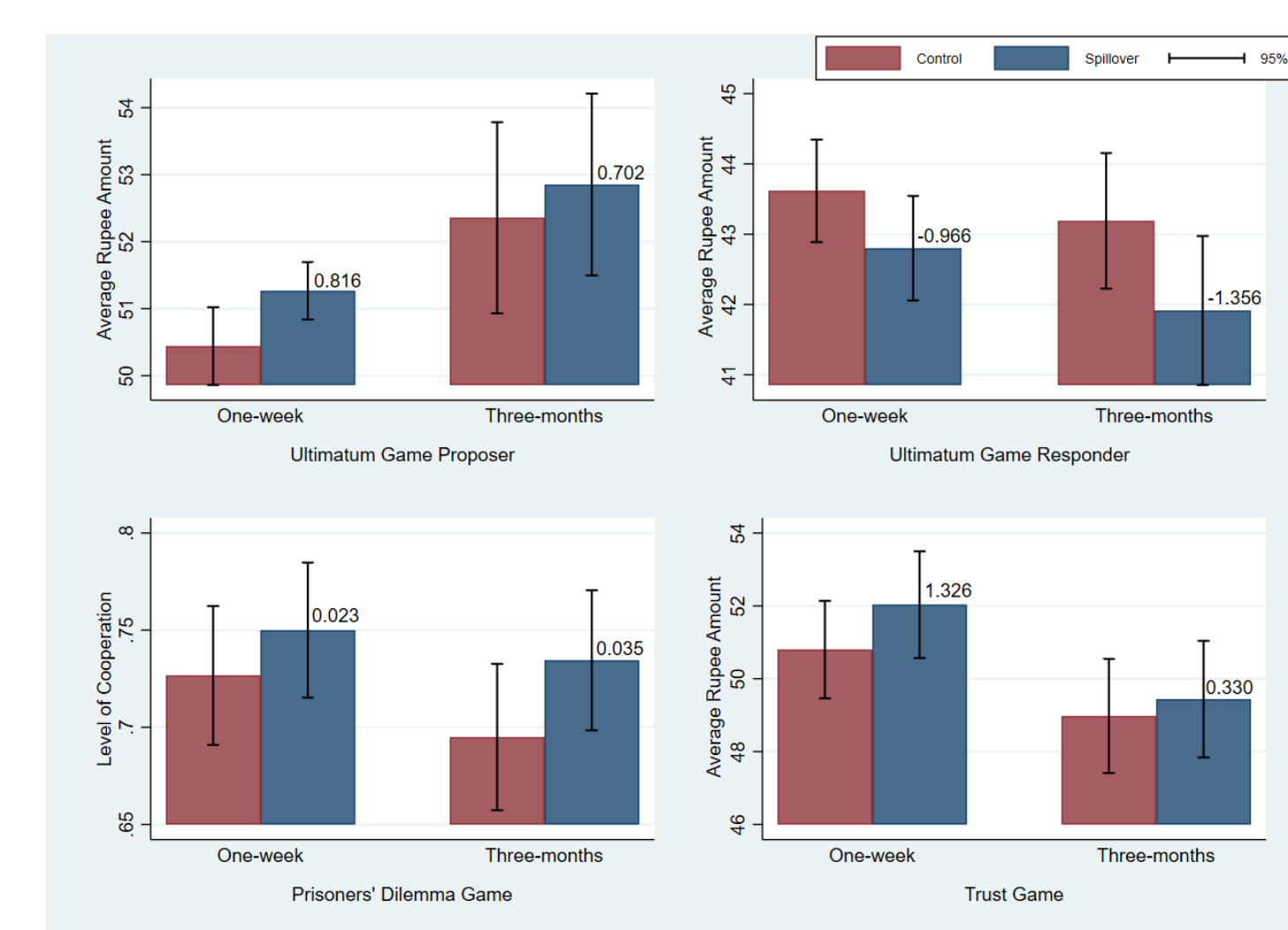
Experimental Games Outcomes - Treated Individuals



Self-reported Survey Outcomes - Spillover Individuals



Experimental Games Outcomes - Spillover Individuals



Potential Mechanisms

