

# From Witness to World: How Global Protest Solidarity Constructs Credibility in the Israel–Palestine War

Selena Martinez, Marcus Baptiste

Academy of Studies, Emerald Isle; University of the West Indies, Antillia

# 01

## Presentation Outline

*A comprehensive overview of the research journey*

# Research Agenda

- ★ **Introduction and Research Context:** Setting the stage for credibility construction in polarized environments
- ★ **Methodology and Data Collection:** Mixed-methods approach with Global Protest Tracker dataset
- ★ **Results and Analysis:** Quantitative patterns and qualitative insights from 26 protest events
- ★ **Discussion and Conclusion:** Interpretation of findings and implications for protest studies

# Research Context & Background

- ★ **Problem Domain:** Global protest activity surrounding Israel-Palestine war (2017-2024) as communication arenas
- ★ **Current State:** Demonstrations articulate claims about civilian harm, human rights violations, and ceasefire demands
- ★ **Research Gap:** Limited understanding of how protesters establish epistemic trust and moral authority in polarized contexts
- ★ **Challenge:** Mainstream narratives are contested, institutional responses vary, and media systems refract protest messages

# Motivation & Research Objectives

1

## Core Research Question

How do protesters establish epistemic trust and moral authority when mainstream narratives are polarized?

2

## Primary Objective

Analyze credibility construction mechanisms in global protest solidarity movements

3

## Expected Impact

Provide methodological development for analyzing complex protest phenomena despite sample limitations

# Related Work & Literature Review

## Previous Approaches

- ★ Tufekci (2017): Historical narratives shape public understanding of conflict
- ★ Livingstone (2009): Media systems refract protest messages through national interests
- ★ Wardle & Derakhshan (2017): Counter-speech framed around security concerns

## Limitations & Our Contribution

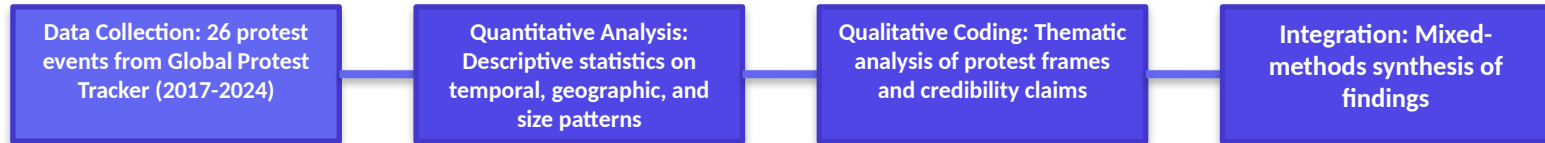
- ★ Existing methods often separate quantitative and qualitative dimensions
- ★ Limited focus on credibility construction mechanisms in protest solidarity
- ★ Our work integrates mixed-methods to examine both patterns and depth
- ★ We prioritize qualitative insight while acknowledging sample limitations

# 02

## Research Design

*Exploratory mixed-methods approach combining quantitative and qualitative analysis*

# Methodology Framework



# Detailed Methodology - Part 1

- ★ **Dataset:** Global Protest Tracker events referencing Israel, Palestine, or Gaza
- ★ **Sample Size:** 26 protest events (acknowledged limitation for statistical generalization)
- ★ **Time Frame:** 2017-2024, capturing recent escalations in conflict
- ★ **Coding Scheme:** Protest stance, size, government response, and framing elements
- ★ **Integration Approach:** Quantitative patterns inform qualitative depth analysis

# Methodological Constraints & Assumptions

1

## Sample Limitations

26 events limit statistical generalization but enable qualitative depth

2

## Data Biases

Global Protest Tracker may reflect reporting biases in event selection

3

## Analytical Priority

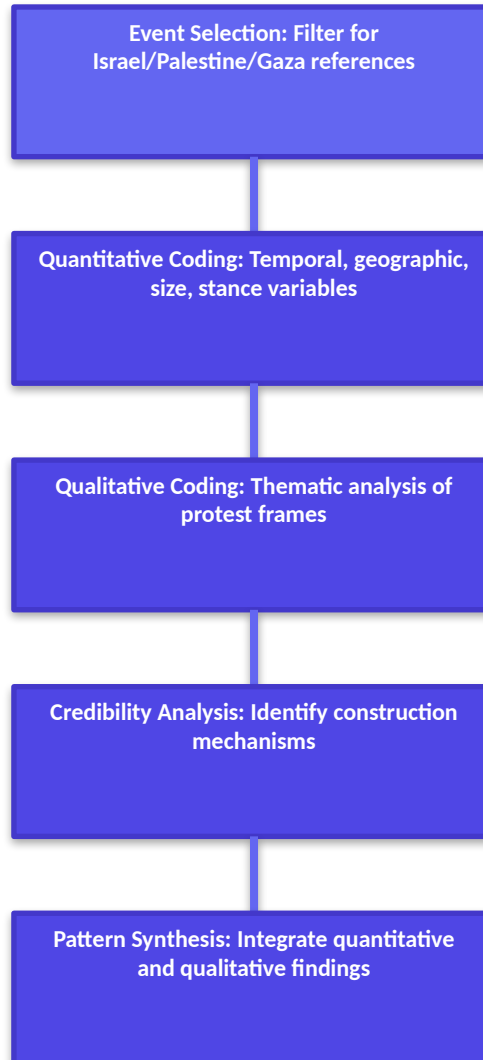
Qualitative insight prioritized over broad statistical generalization

4

## Complexity Acknowledged

Method accounts for competing narratives and geopolitical alignments

# Analytical Process



# Experimental Setup & Data Characteristics

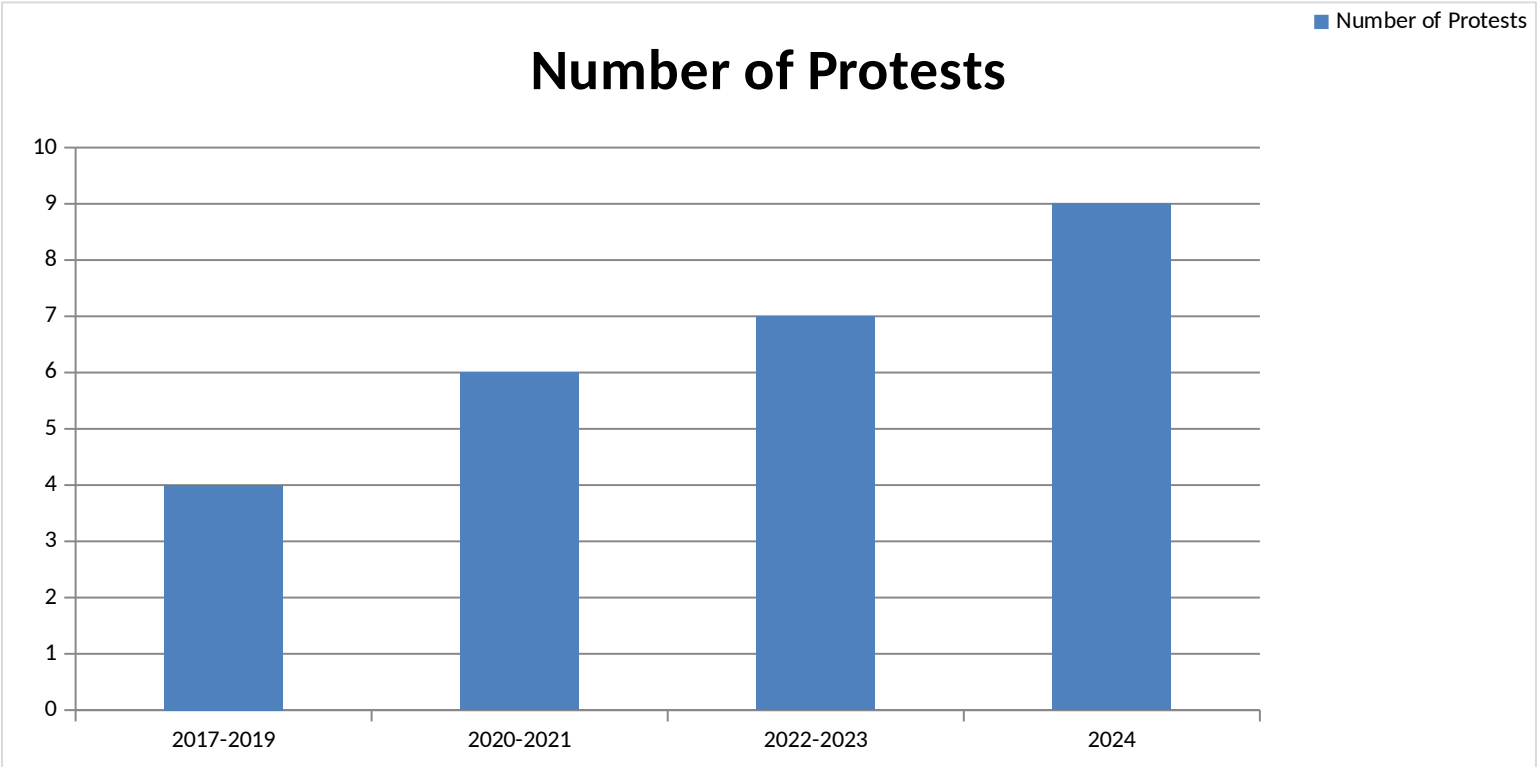
Data Aspect	Specification	Notes
Source	Global Protest Tracker	Standardized protest event database
Time Period	2017-2024	Captures recent conflict escalations
Event Count	26 protests	Sample size limitation acknowledged
Geographic Scope	Global	MENA and Non-MENA regions included
Analysis Type	Mixed-methods	Quantitative + qualitative integration

# 03

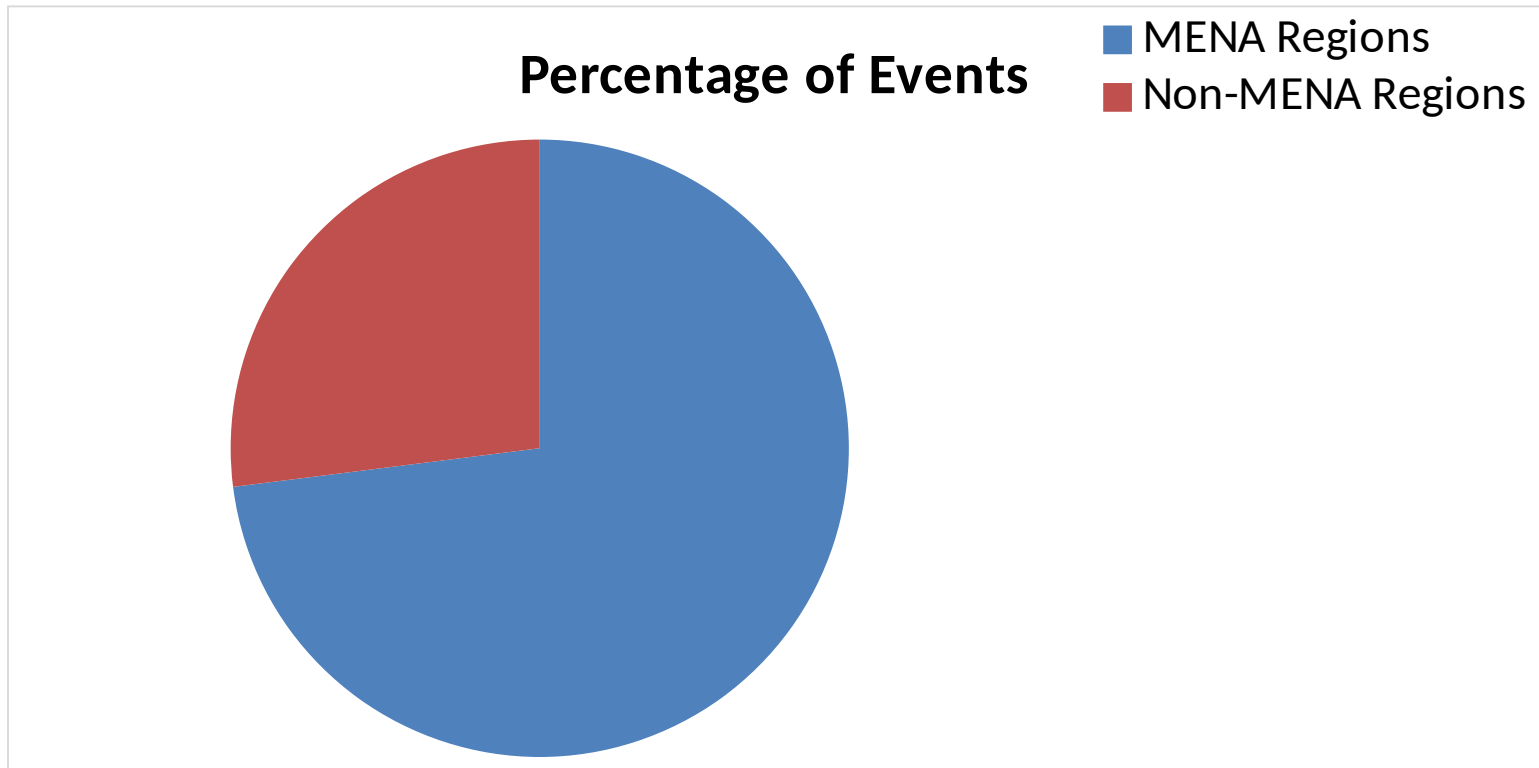
## Key Findings

*Quantitative patterns and qualitative insights from protest analysis*

# Temporal Distribution of Protests (2017-2024)



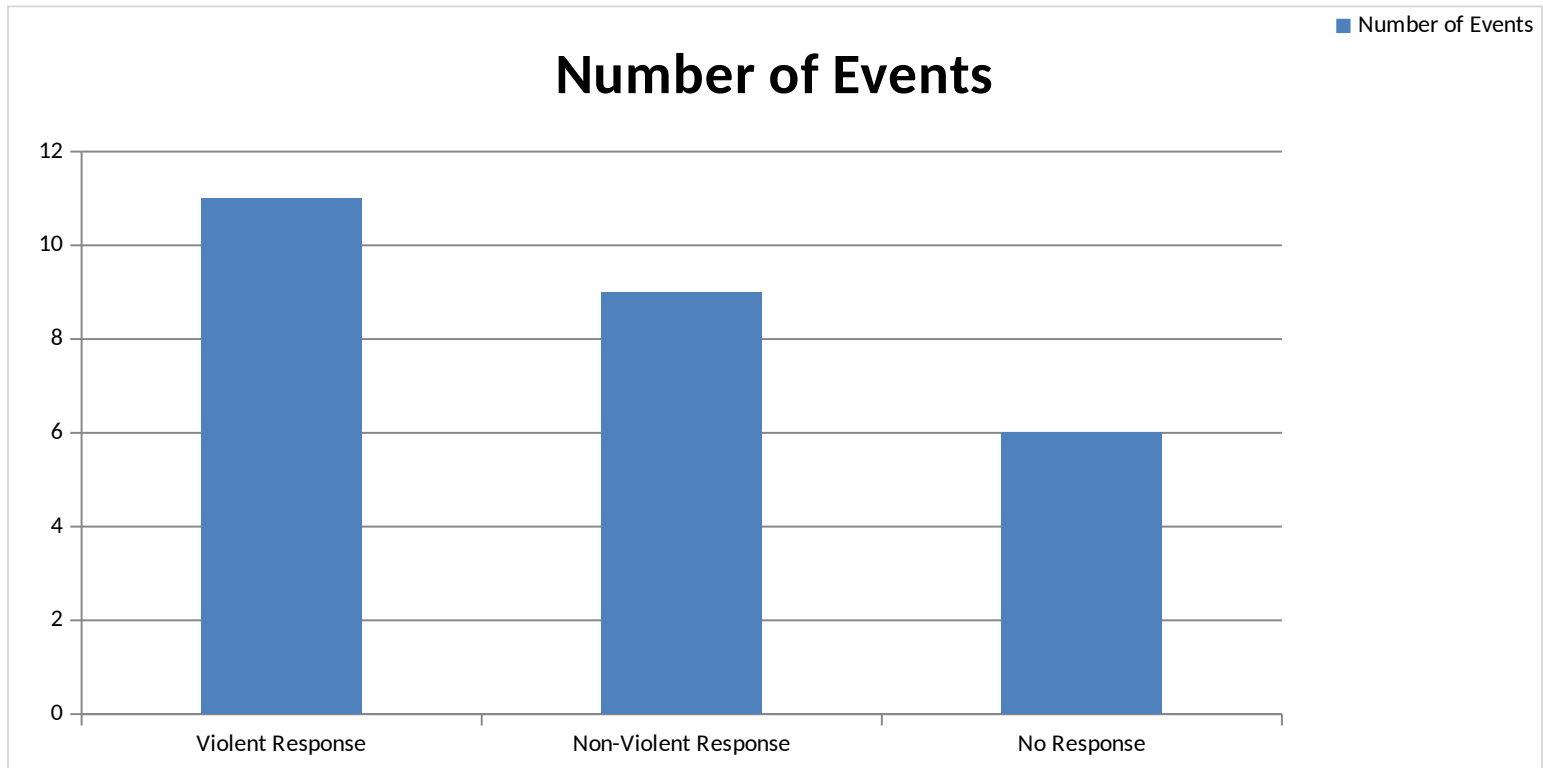
# Geographic Distribution Patterns



# Protest Stance and Size Characteristics

Characteristic	Finding	Percentage
Dominant Stance	Pro-Palestinian solidarity	84.6%
Pro-Israeli stance	Limited representation	15.4%
Large Protests	10,000+ participants	38.5%
Medium Protests	1,000-9,999 participants	42.3%
Small Protests	<1,000 participants	19.2%

# Government Response Patterns



# Credibility Construction Mechanisms

1

## Witness Testimony

First-hand accounts from conflict zones circulated through protest networks

2

## Statistical Evidence

Casualty figures and human rights data integrated into protest messaging

3

## Embodied Practices

Physical presence, symbolic actions, and collective performance

4

## Visibility Amplification

Larger protests with violent responses achieve heightened media attention

# Qualitative Analysis Insights

- ★ Credibility emerges through co-occurrence of multiple evidence types
- ★ Witness testimony provides emotional resonance and authenticity
- ★ Statistical evidence offers factual grounding and legitimacy
- ★ Embodied practices create physical presence and collective identity
- ★ Visibility from government responses paradoxically amplifies credibility claims

# 04

## Analysis & Implications

*Interpreting findings within broader theoretical and practical contexts*

# Key Contributions Summary

1

## Exploratory Analysis

Mixed-methods examination of credibility construction in protest solidarity

2

## Mechanism Identification

Credibility emerges through witness testimony, statistics, and embodied practices

3

## Visibility Pattern

Larger protests with violent government responses achieve amplified credibility

4

## Landscape Mapping

Pro-Palestinian solidarity predominates in sampled protest events

# Limitations & Methodological Challenges

- ★ **Sample Size:** 26 events limit statistical generalization to broader protest universe
- ★ **Data Biases:** Global Protest Tracker may underreport certain regions or event types
- ★ **Coding Complexity:** Political stances and credibility claims require nuanced interpretation
- ★ **Causal Mechanisms:** Isolating specific factors in complex protest environments remains challenging
- ★ **Temporal Scope:** 2017-2024 captures recent period but may miss longer-term patterns

# Future Research Directions

- ✪ Expand sample size for broader statistical generalization across regions and time periods
- ✪ Investigate media system refraction of protest messages across different national contexts
- ✪ Examine digital platform dynamics in amplifying or suppressing protest credibility claims
- ✪ Compare credibility construction mechanisms across different conflict contexts
- ✪ Develop more nuanced coding schemes for protest framing and credibility indicators

# Conclusions

- ★ Credibility in protest solidarity is constructed through multiple, co-occurring evidence types
- ★ Visibility from government responses can paradoxically amplify protest credibility claims
- ★ Pro-Palestinian solidarity predominates in the sampled global protest landscape
- ★ Mixed-methods approaches provide valuable insights despite sample size limitations
- ★ Future research should expand datasets and examine media/platform dynamics

# Thank You for Your Attention

For questions: [smartinez@academy.edu](mailto:smartinez@academy.edu) | [mbaptiste@uwi.edu](mailto:mbaptiste@uwi.edu)

Project Archive: [protestcredibilitystudy.org](http://protestcredibilitystudy.org)