

Unequal Modernities, Unequal Measures of Trust

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Presentation Outline

*Comprehensive overview of research examining
credibility construction in asymmetric conflicts*

Research Agenda

- Introduction to credibility construction in asymmetric conflicts
- Methodology of mixed-methods concurrent triangulation design
- Quantitative analysis of macro-structural indicators (2000-2021)
- Qualitative thematic coding of interpretive memos
- Discussion of credibility warrants and audience trust dynamics
- Conclusions and implications for media ethics and conflict reporting

Research Context & Background

- **Problem Domain:** How metrics and narratives shape credibility in protracted conflicts
- **Current State:** Conflicts narrated through metrics circulating in media, diplomacy, and expert communities (Zelizer, 2010)
- **Current State:** Information always already politicized in asymmetric conflict contexts (Frosh, 2011)
- **Current State:** Competing warrants of truth: technocratic metrics versus lived experiences (Boltanski, 1999)
- **Research Gap:** Limited understanding of how macro-structural asymmetries specifically shape credibility construction
- **Research Challenge:** Integrating quantitative indicators with qualitative experiences to understand trust dynamics

Motivation & Research Objectives

1

Core Motivation

Address how macro-structural asymmetries between Israel and Palestine shape credibility construction in conflict reporting and policy discourse

2

Key Questions

How do quantitative indicators and qualitative experiences interact to produce or undermine trust across different audiences?

3

Expected Impact

Provide empirical grounding for understanding trust dynamics in asymmetric conflict contexts and inform media ethics

4

Broader Relevance

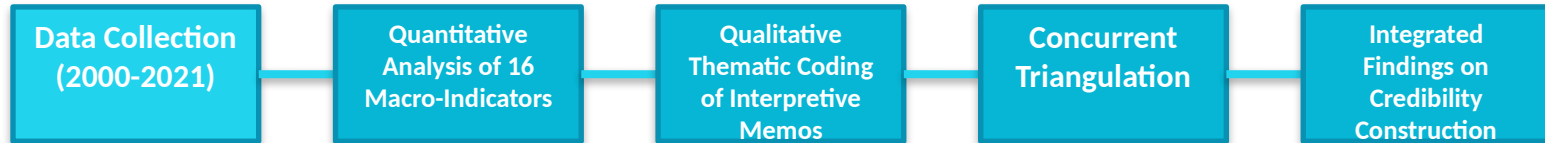
Demonstrate how measurement and witnessing intersect in digital media environments during protracted conflicts

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Research Methodology

*Mixed-methods concurrent triangulation design
integrating quantitative and qualitative approaches*

Research Design Framework



Methodological Details - Part 1

- **Mixed-Methods Design:** Concurrent triangulation integrating quantitative and qualitative strands
- **Quantitative Component:** Analysis of 16 development, health, and defense indicators (2000-2021)
- **Qualitative Component:** Thematic coding of interpretive memos from conflict reporting and policy discourse
- **Data Sources:** International databases (World Bank, WHO, SIPRI) and media/policy documents
- **Time Frame:** Longitudinal analysis covering 21 years of conflict dynamics
- **Statistical Approach:** Correlation analysis with significance testing ($p < 0.05$)

Methodological Details - Part 2

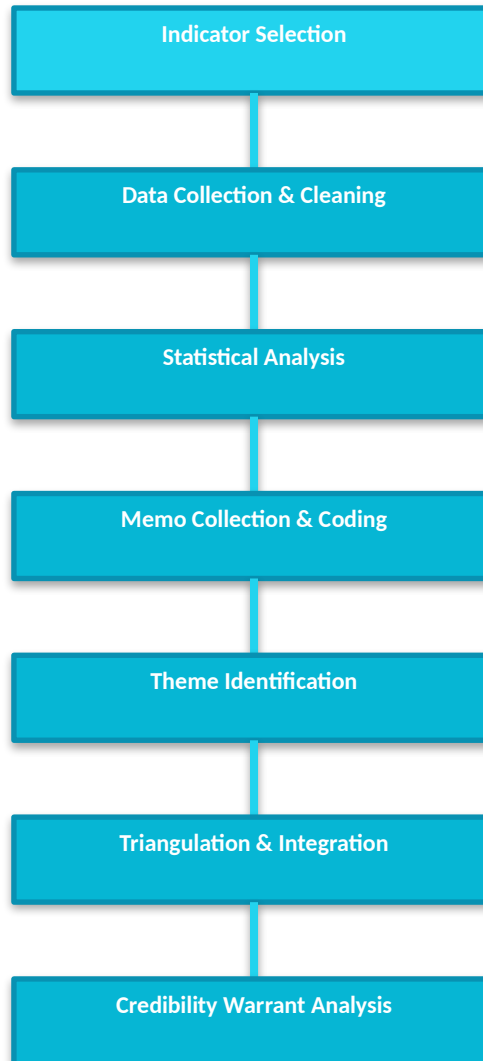
Constraints & Assumptions

- Analysis limited to data from 2000 to 2021
- Focus on Israel-Palestine context may limit generalizability
- Reliance on available macro-indicators from international sources
- Interpretive memos subject to researcher positionality
- Geopolitical frameworks create inherent complexity in data interpretation

Validation & Quality Assurance

- Triangulation across multiple data sources and methods
- Statistical robustness checks including confidence intervals
- Peer debriefing and intercoder reliability for qualitative analysis
- Transparent reporting of all p-values and effect sizes
- Supplementary materials provide full methodological details

Analytical Process



Experimental Setup

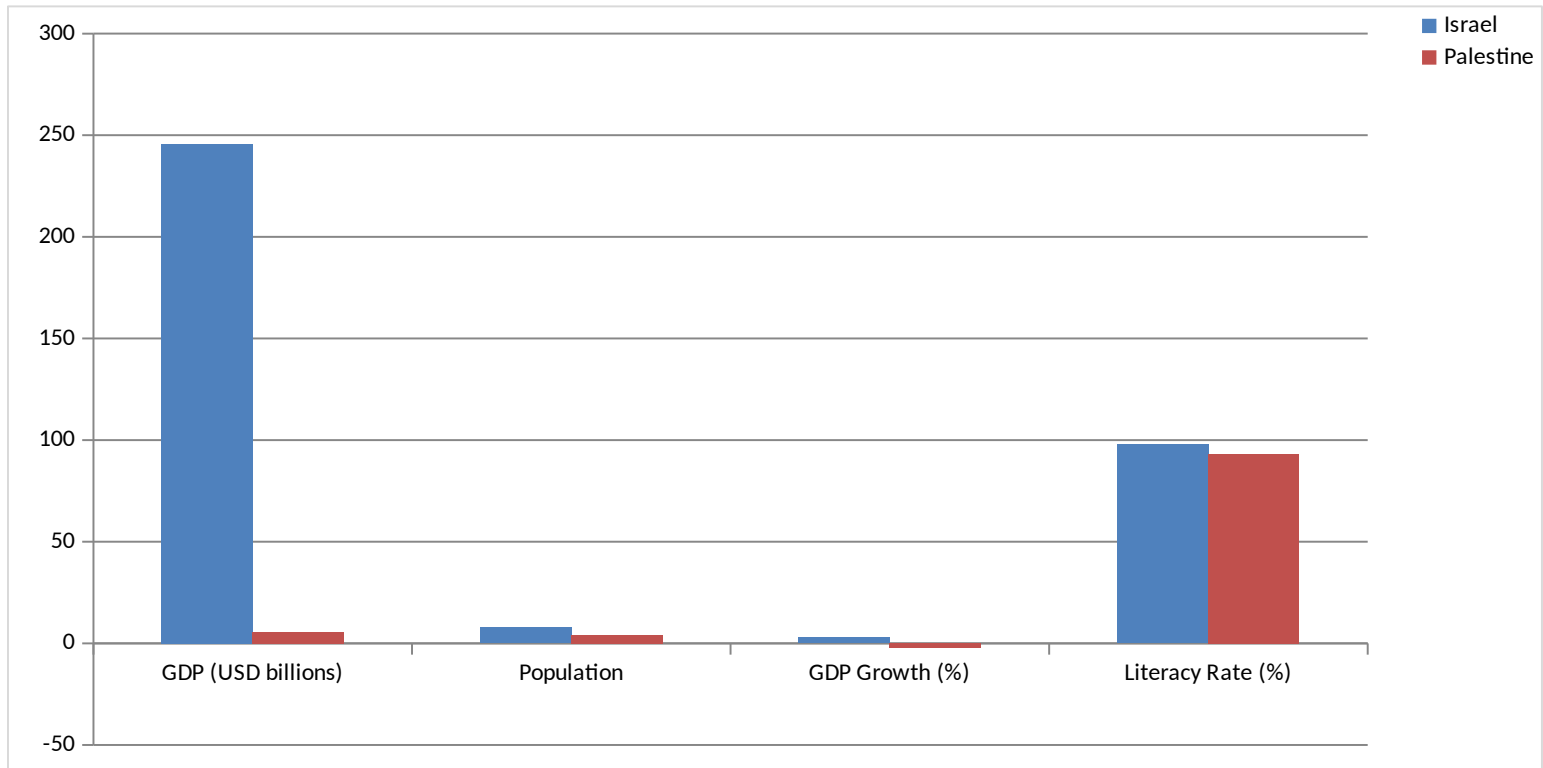
Component	Data Sources	Time Period	Key Indicators
Economic Analysis	World Bank, IMF	2000-2021	GDP, Population, Growth, Literacy
Health Analysis	WHO, National Statistics	2000-2021	Fertility, Infant Mortality, Maternal Mortality
Defense Analysis	SIPRI, Military Reports	2000-2021	Active Military, Reserve Military, IT Output
Qualitative Analysis	Media Reports, Policy Documents	2000-2021	Interpretive Memos, Discourse Analysis

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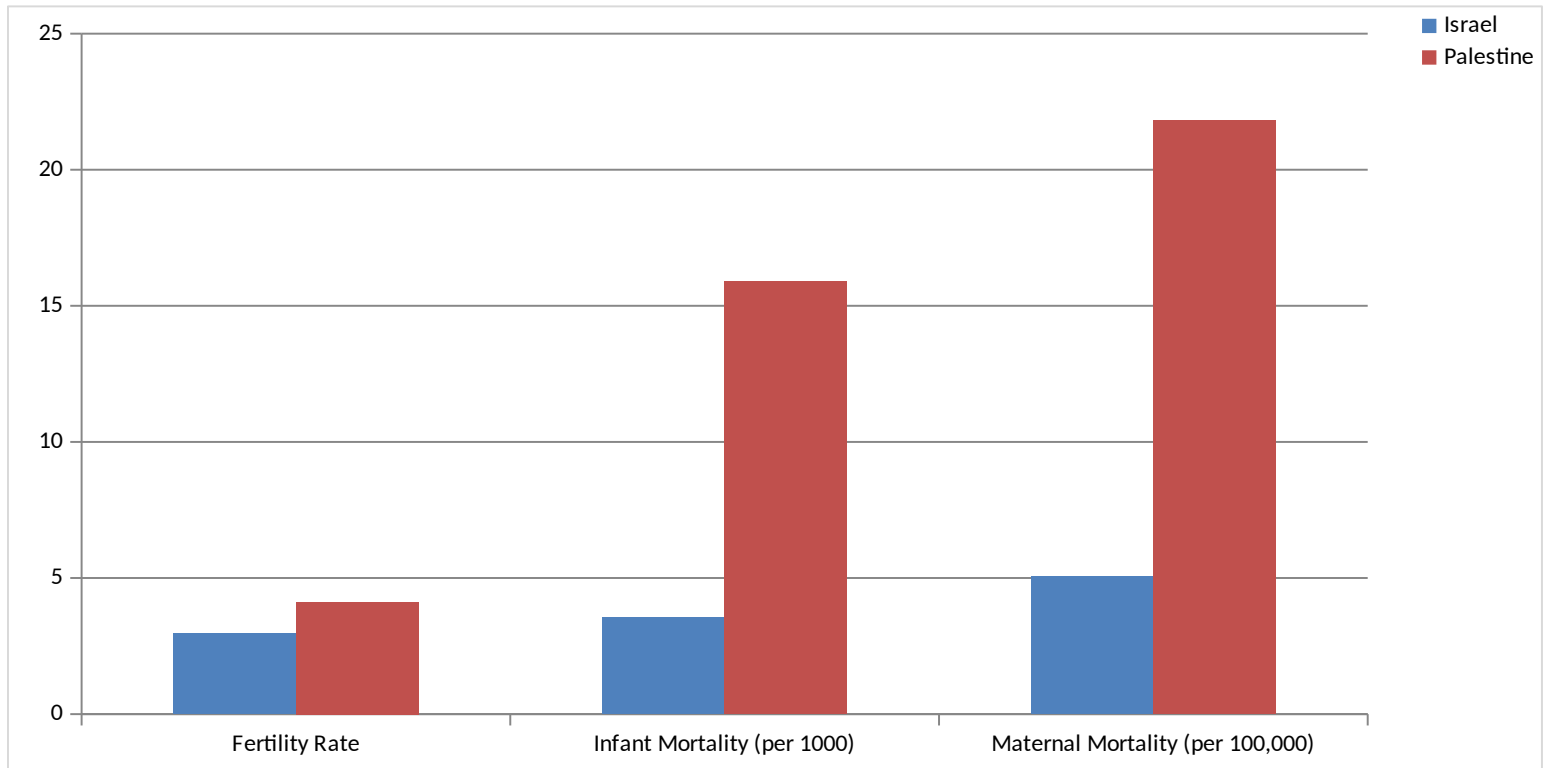
Key Findings

Quantitative disparities and qualitative credibility warrants in asymmetric conflict context

Economic Disparities (2000-2021)



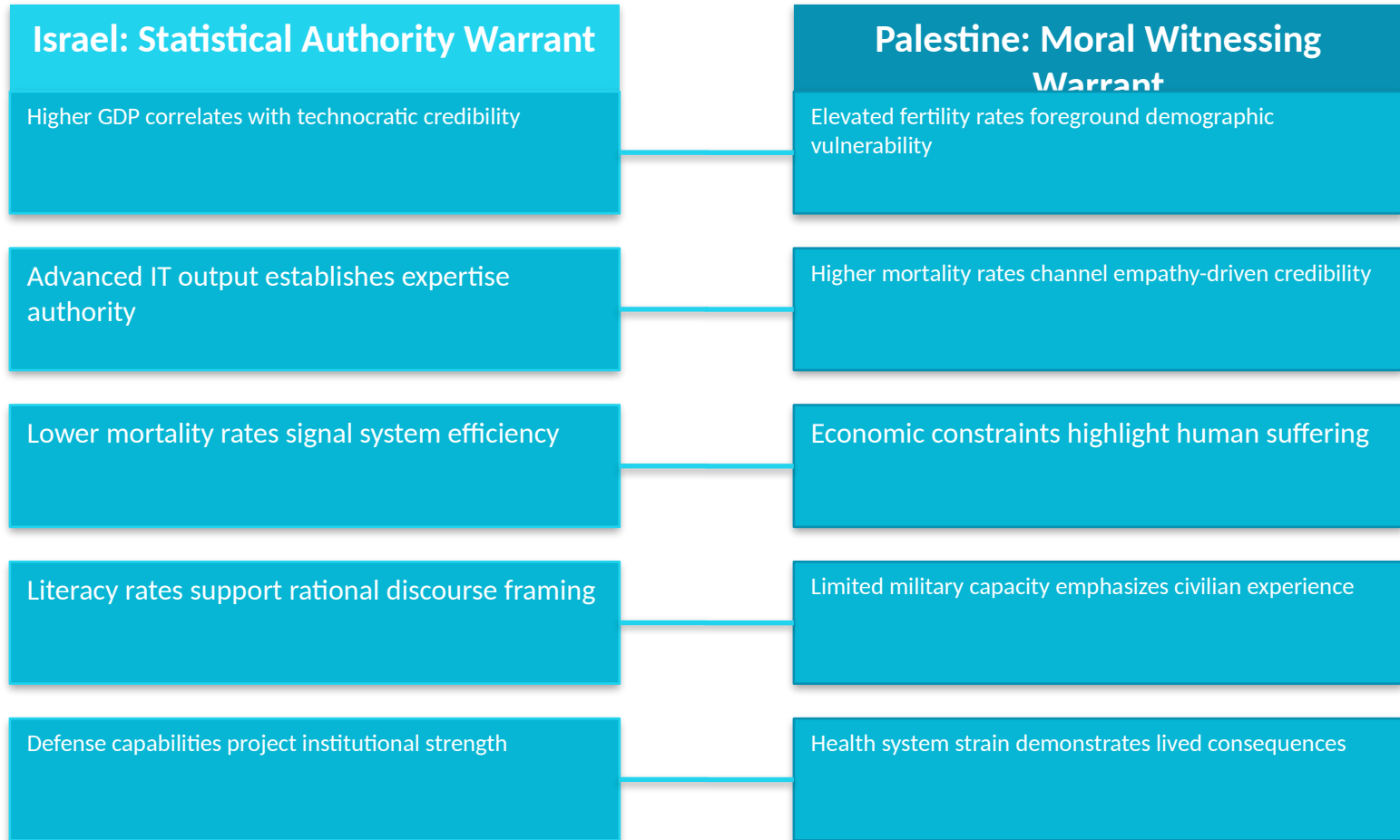
Health Indicators Comparison



Defense and Technology Indicators

Indicator	Israel Mean (2000-2021)	Palestine Mean (2000-2021)	Disparity Ratio
Active Military Personnel	170,300	Limited data	Not comparable
Reserve Military Personnel	465,000	Limited data	Not comparable
IT Output/Exports	High	Limited	Significant asymmetry
Defense Spending (% GDP)	5.6%	Varies by period	Structural difference

Credibility Warrants Analysis



Key Contributions Summary

1

Dueling Credibility Warrants

Reveals credibility emerges through competing warrants: statistical authority versus moral witnessing

2

Structural Correlation

Demonstrates how macro-structural disparities correlate with distinct credibility warrants (technocratic vs empathy-driven)

3

Methodological Integration

Successfully integrates quantitative analysis of 16 indicators with qualitative thematic coding

4

Empirical Grounding

Provides empirical evidence for understanding trust dynamics in asymmetric conflict contexts

Limitations & Future Directions

Current Limitations

- Analysis limited to 2000-2021 time frame
- Israel-Palestine focus may limit generalizability
- Reliance on available macro-indicators
- Interpretive coding subject to researcher positionality
- Geopolitical complexity creates measurement challenges

Future Research Directions

- Extend analysis to other asymmetric conflicts (e.g., Ukraine-Russia, Kashmir)
- Longitudinal study of credibility construction changes over time
- Include more granular local-level indicators
- Expand qualitative analysis to social media discourse
- Develop predictive models for credibility warrant emergence

Conclusions

- Macro-structural asymmetries enable distinct credibility warrants through association with different evidence forms
- Statistical authority and moral witnessing function as complementary yet competing forms of evidence
- Israel's higher economic/technological indicators correlate with presumptions of technocratic credibility
- Palestine's demographic and health indicators foreground human vulnerability and empathy-driven credibility
- The research provides framework for analyzing trust dynamics in other asymmetric conflict contexts

Thank You for Your Attention

For questions: research@polynesiainsciences.edu

Project Archive: github.com/unequal-trust-study