



PAVING THE ROAD TO PEACE AND PROSPERITY?

PASCAL ABB, PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE FRANKFURT
(PRIF)

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPACT ON CONFLICT DYNAMICS



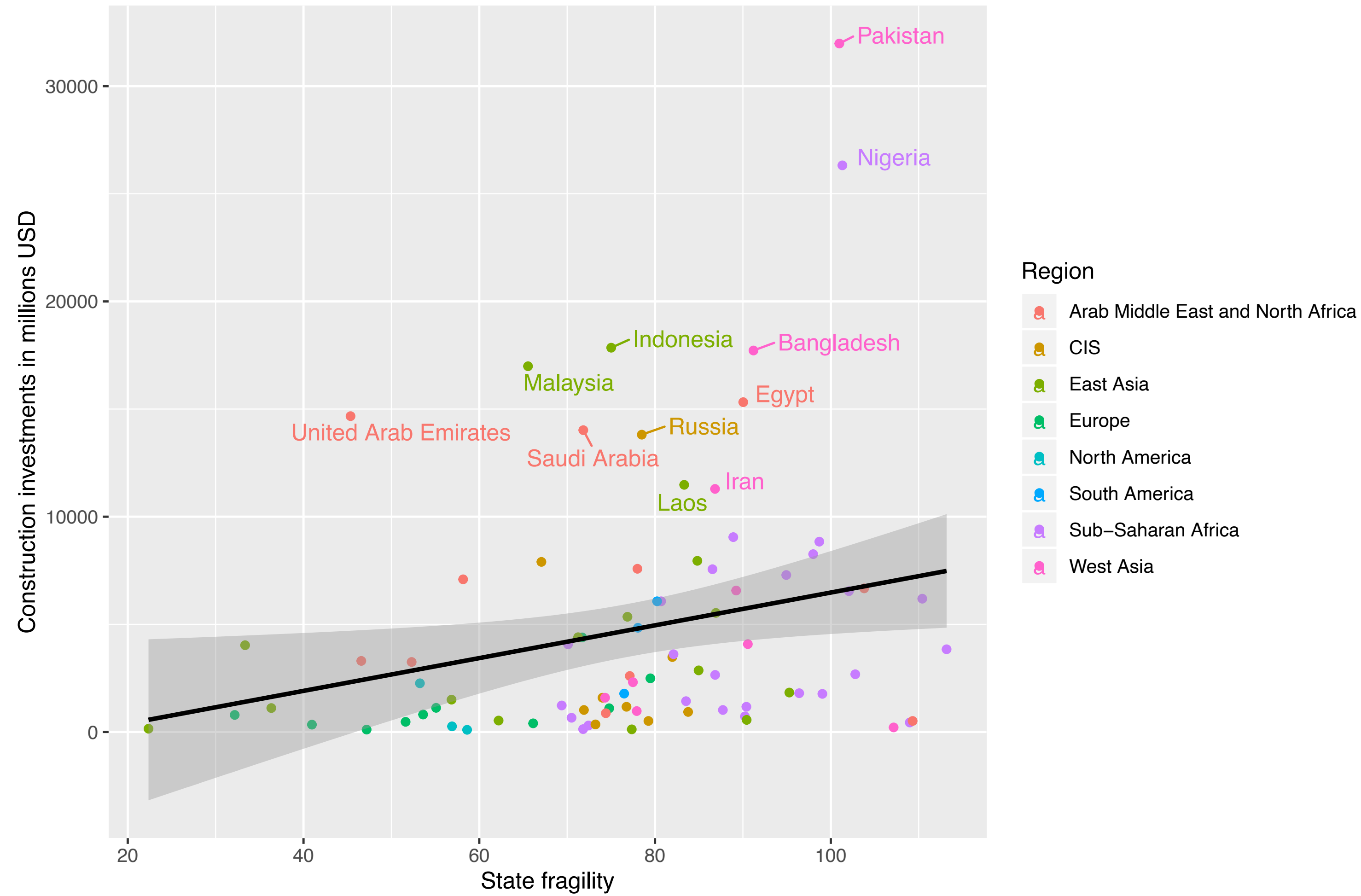
- Main focus on the BRI and its transformative impact has been on geopolitics and whether it delineates a China-dominated space
- Conflict environments are treated as external risks to BRI investments, not something that is actively reshaped by these projects
- Positive developmental effect of the BRI is often advertised, but need to also consider its flipside – overall influence on peace and conflict issues is unclear
- Assessing the BRI's impact also offers a chance to broaden our understanding of infrastructure in general, and perhaps to come up with universally applicable mitigation measures

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPACT ON CONFLICT DYNAMICS



Positive	Negative
Jumpstarting economic activity, alleviating poverty and inequality	Corruption, misappropriation and waste of public funds
Statebuilding and strengthening national cohesion	Differential provision that only benefits selected areas or groups
Enabling better governance, services and control of contested territory	Environmental degradation and development-induced displacement
Symbolizing modernity and creating expectations of progress	Facilitation of repressive methods, securitization and militarization
	Transnational conflicts over financing and resource access

PEACE AND PROSPERITY THROUGH THE 'BELT AND ROAD'?



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- BRI investments heavily concentrated in fragile states, inherent in its overall strategy of serving underdeveloped areas, obtaining local resources and often strategic concerns
- Conflict risk mitigation likely to become a crucial issue, question of how to achieve this – militarized protection regimes, or greater openness for local input?
- Related issues: contestation of noninterference principle, diffusion of Chinese conflict management approaches, competition between different initiatives and the political influence that comes with it
- Objectives for future research: untangling transformativity of infrastructure, better understanding local agency and reactions, making practical suggestions on improving conflict sensitivity



THANK YOU

Contact: abb@hsfk.de

