Diplomatic protests convey a government’s displeasure with the policies of another. Yet public support for their own government’s policies can be prompted by the actions of others, and thus such protests have the potential to raise domestic support for the policy within the targeted country. Rally-round-the-flag effects have been found in wars, crises, and sanctions, and we assess the existence of such an effect for diplomatic protests by foreign governments. Using survey experiments, we assess the impact of foreign protests on public support for the governments and its policies in Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. We find that who lodges the protest, whether it is an adversary or supporter, is more important than the protest itself. We argue that there is a dilemma of diplomatic protests – lodging complaints about the behavior of other governments can increase public support for those very policies in the country that is the target.

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PIPC Online Speaker Series

“Diplomatic Protests and Patriotism in Japan, South Korea and Taiwan”
Koji Kagotani – Osaka University of Economics

September 9th - 6pm (PST)
September 10th - 10am (Japan)
September 10th - 11am (Australia, Canberra)
September 10th - 9am (Singapore)

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