

Title: A Propensity Model Evaluation of the Impact of Title VI on Slavic and Mid-Eastern LCTLs
Author: William Rivers, Richard D. Brecht, Ewa M. Golonka, University of Maryland Center for Advanced Study of Language

We provide evidence that the impact of Title VI on the LCTLs, in particular Slavic and Mid-Eastern Languages (our sample for this study) can be attributed to treatment as well as selection. The strong claim would be treatment alone, but our data set, in particular in Slavic, is not robust enough to sustain this. We matched Title VI National Resource Center recipient institutions to non-recipients in the two world areas from 1997-2003 on roughly 50 institutional variables, including enrollment characteristics, Carnegie classification, *US News and World Report* rankings (academic reputation), overall SAT/ACT scores, and language program characteristics, among others. Our outcome measures were enrollments and scholarly activity in mid-east and Slavic languages (citations, refereed articles and monographs, awards from relevant learned societies, and dissertations). In sum, we show a nuanced, careful, and data-driven evaluation of the positive impact of Title VI on key legislated goals (building capacity in the LCTLs and sustaining the research base in the LCTLs), at least for languages supported in the two areas we examined. We believe this is the first application of the propensity method to program evaluation in international education.