Supplementary Appendix for "Problems of Model Specification and Improper Data Extrapolation"

David Cingranelli and Mikhail Filippov, Binghamton University, SUNY

Appendix for the Rebuttal of "*The Changing Standard of Accountability and the Positive Relationship between Human Rights Treaty Ratification and Compliance*" by Christopher J. Fariss (forthcoming, BJPS)

Figure 1A. Annual means of Latent Human Rights Treaty Variable, by two levels of Democracy (Polity IV). Data are from Fariss (forthcoming, BJPS): https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/TI77ZP;

As posted on May 9, 2015
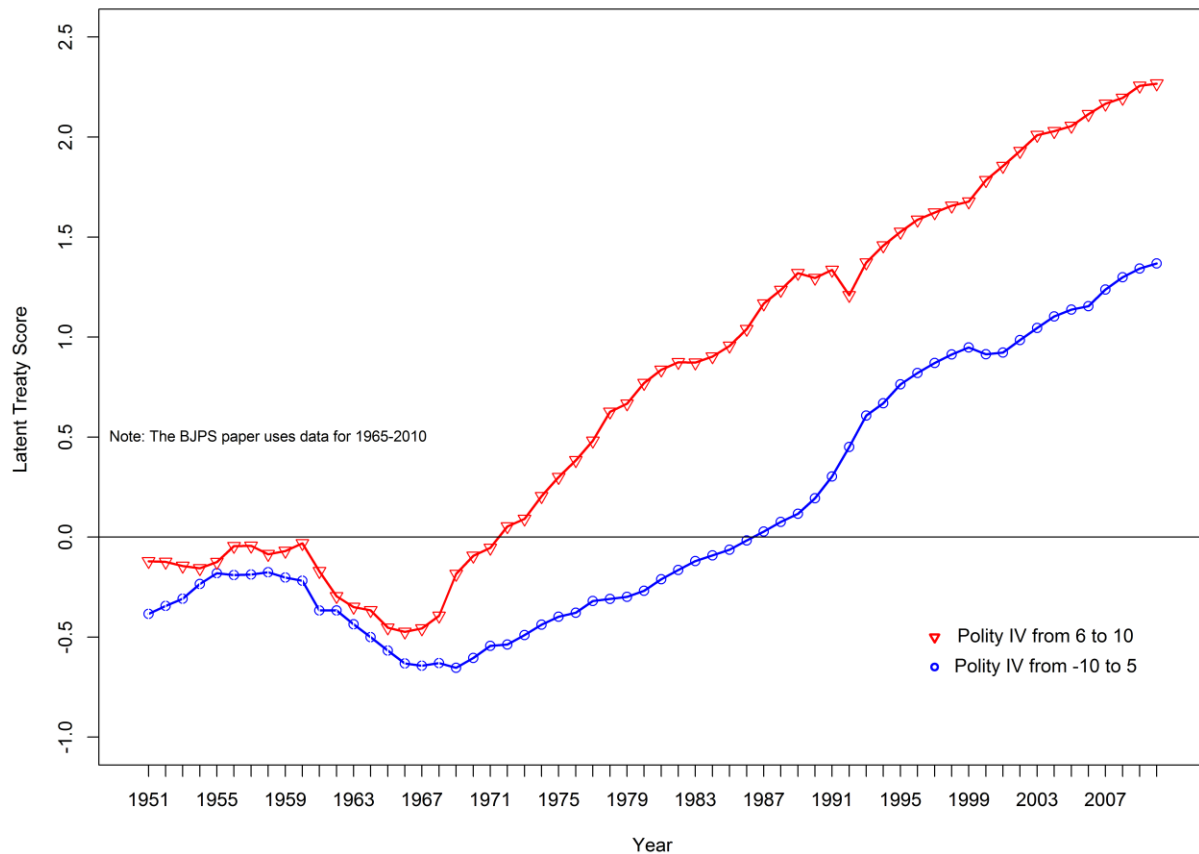
Note: We do not agree that the findings show that ratification of human rights treaties improves human rights performance. The findings supporting this conclusion are the artifact of the positive time-trend for democracy, in parallel with the growth in the number of human rights treaty ratifications.

Figure 2A. Annual means of "Corrected" Human Rights Scores created by Dynamic IRM, by two levels of Democracy (Polity IV). Data are from Fariss (forthcoming, BJPS): https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/TI77ZP;

As posted on May 9, 2015
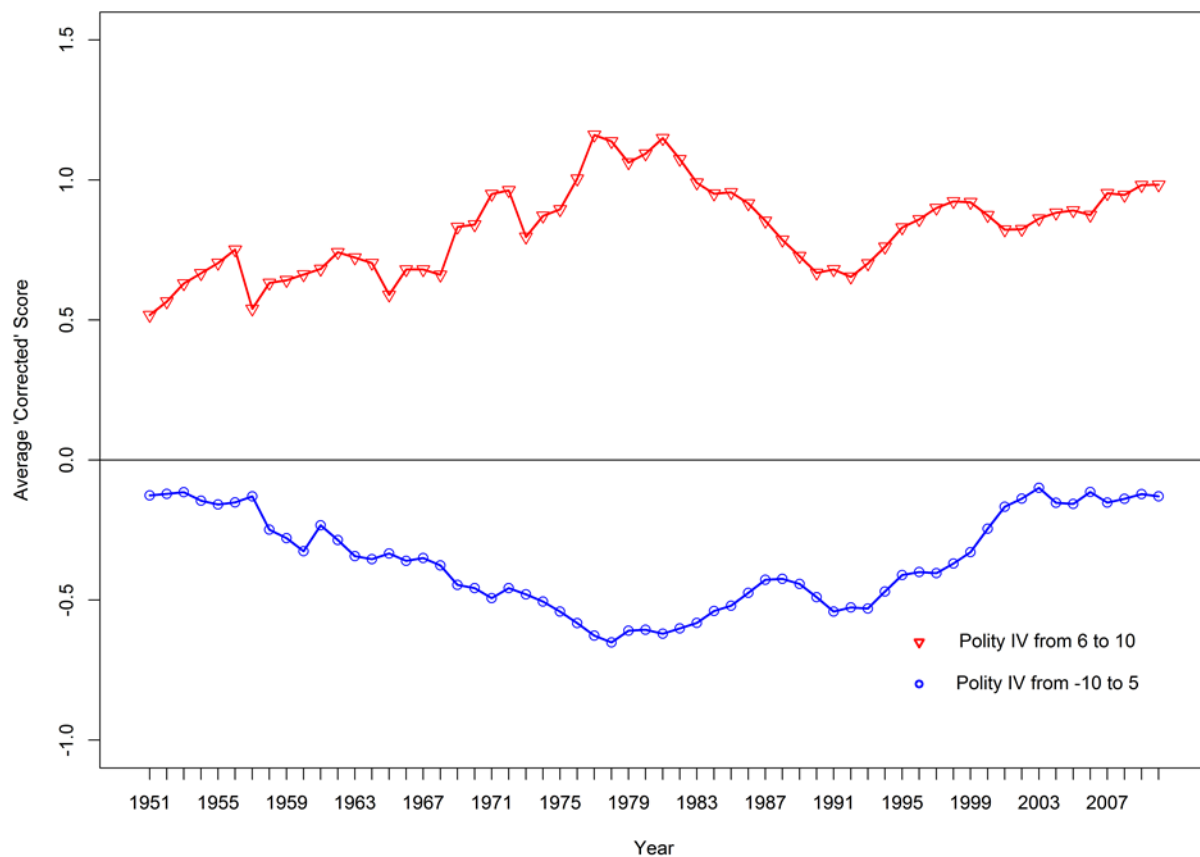
Note: Figure 2A groups the *Corrected Scores* by the level of democracy. Notice that for democracies (Polity IV ≥ 6), the *Corrected Scores* recorded decline since 1980. Performance of non-democracies was up and down with a little overall improvement. Thus, if the average *Corrected Scores* are increasing over time, this is because the proportion of democracies in the sample goes up, almost doubling between 1965 and 2010 (from 30% to 58%).

Figure 2A also demonstrates that the *Corrected Scores*, which incorporate the assumption about a change in the standards of accountability, still show little improvement in human rights practices. Once average *Corrected Scores* are disaggregated based on the level of democracy, they provide no clear evidence that that there have been "real improvements to the level of respect for human rights". Any improvements in the worldwide average level of respect for human rights is due almost entirely to the increase in the proportion of democratic states worldwide, especially since the end of the cold war.

Farris calculates two new measures of human rights, "*Corrected*" human rights scores and "*Uncorrected*" human rights scores. *Corrected* Scores assume changing standards of accountability in the records of human rights violations and the *Uncorrected* Scores based on conventional assumptions of IRM. The difference between the results obtained from OLS models for the period **1965-2010** using *Corrected* and *Uncorrected* Scores serves as his primary evidence that the changing standards are a real problem (see Figures 3-12 in the paper).

.

Farris's scores are available for observations since 1949, but in the paper he excluded observations prior to 1965. We re-estimated all the models presented in the paper for the period **1981-2010** (the range of the CIRI data) using the Fariss's dataset. The re-estimated regressions produced statistically insignificant differences between the coefficients obtained for the *Corrected* and *Uncorrected Scores* (see Figures 3A-12A below).

Data are from Fariss (forthcoming, BJPS):
https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/TI77ZP;

As posted on May 9, 2015

As in the paper, re-estimated coefficient from the linear models using the dependent latent physical integrity variables from the constant standard model (the Uncorrected Scores) and the dynamic standard model (Corrected Scores) respectively. The author tried 10 different measures of Treaty Ratification as the main independent variables. In total, there are 80 pairs of the model specifications. However, for the period 1981-2010, only for 2 out 80 total pairs there are statistically significant differences for the coefficients obtained for the Corrected and Uncorrected Scores.

Figure 3A Difference Between Linear Model Coefficients for Latent Human Rights Treaty Variable

Re-Estimation for the period 1981-2010

The thick lines represent +-1 the standard error of the coefficient. The thin lines represent +-2 the standard error of the coefficient. **All differences are not statistically different from 0.**
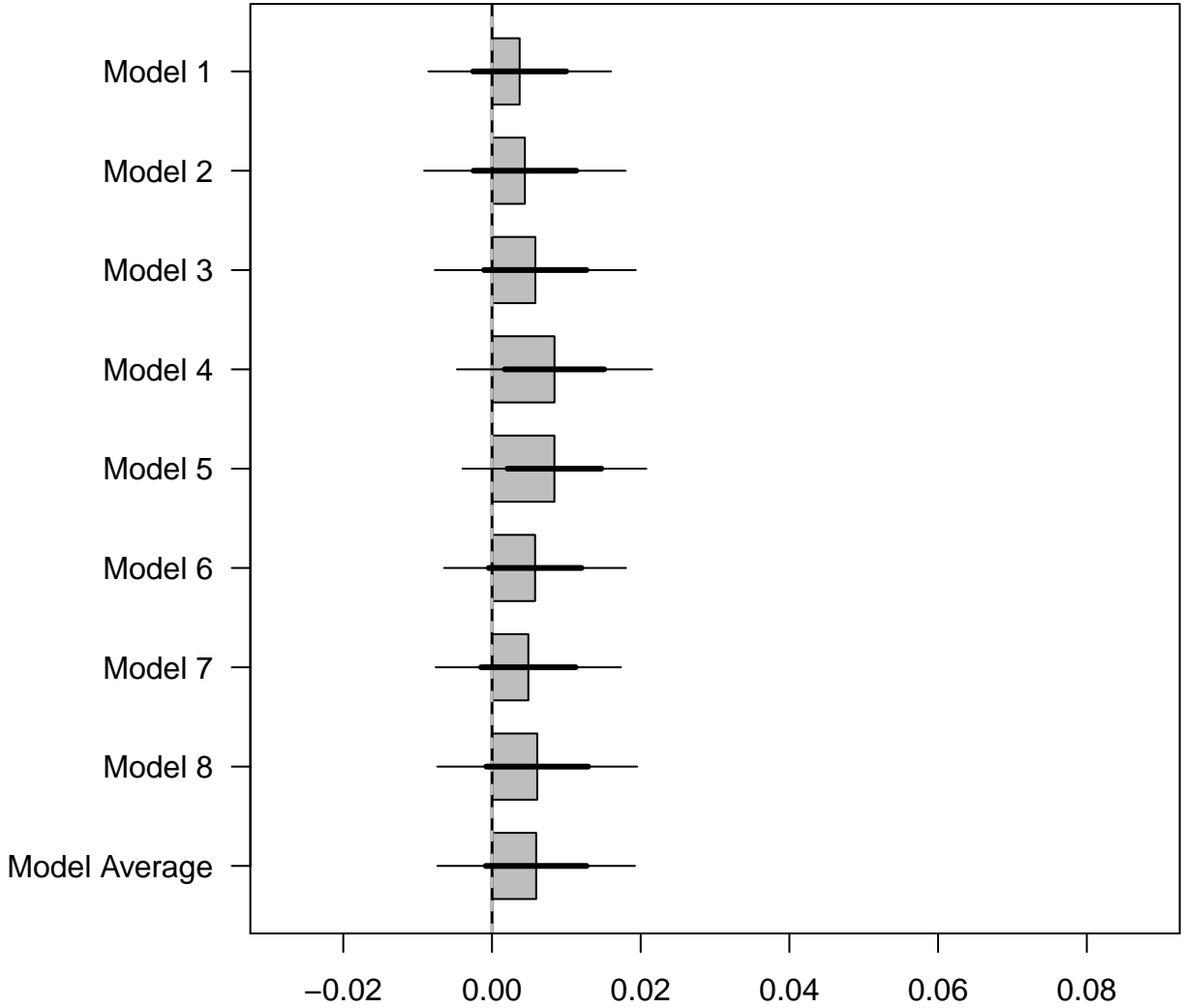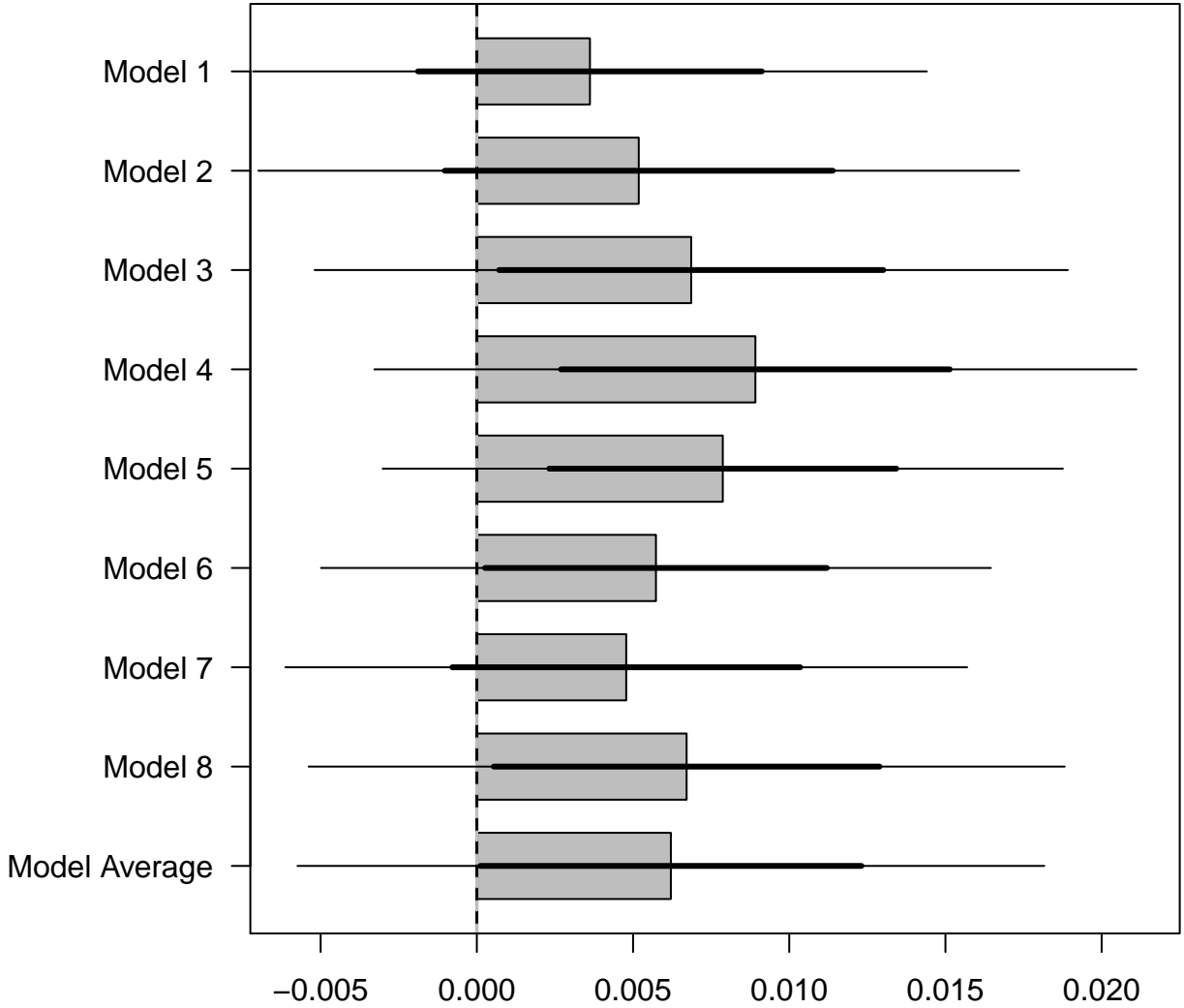
Figure 4A Difference Between Linear Model Coefficients for

Total Number of Ratified Treaties
(CAT, CCPR, CESCR, CERD, CEDAW, CRC)

Re-Estimation for the period 1981-2010

The thick lines represent +-1 the standard error of the coefficient. The thin lines represent +-2 the standard error of the coefficient.
All differences are not statistically different from 0.

The thick lines represent +-1 the standard error of the coefficient. The thin lines
represent +-2 the standard error of the coefficient. **All differences are not statistically
different from 0.**

Figure 5A   Difference Between Linear Model Coefficients for
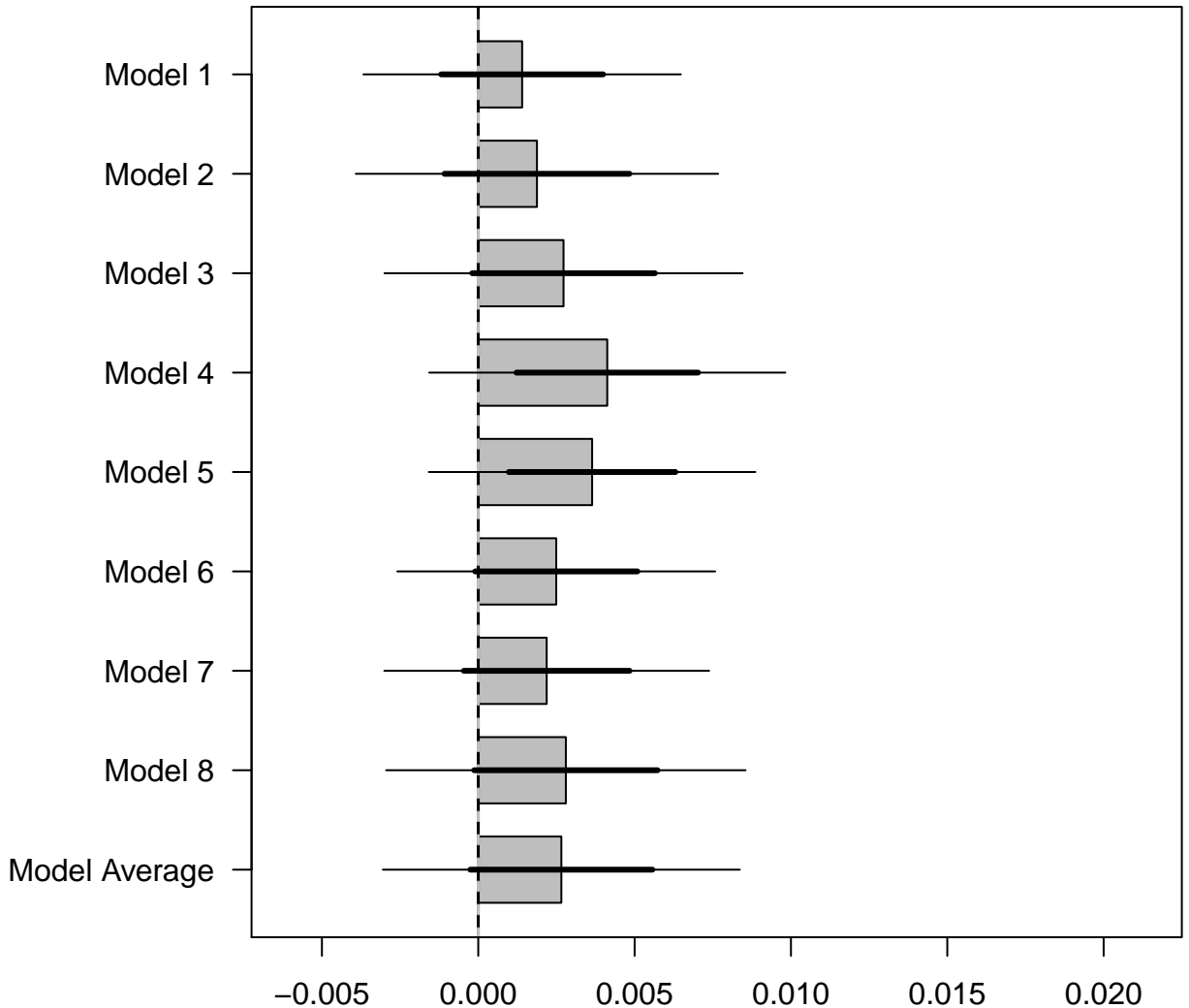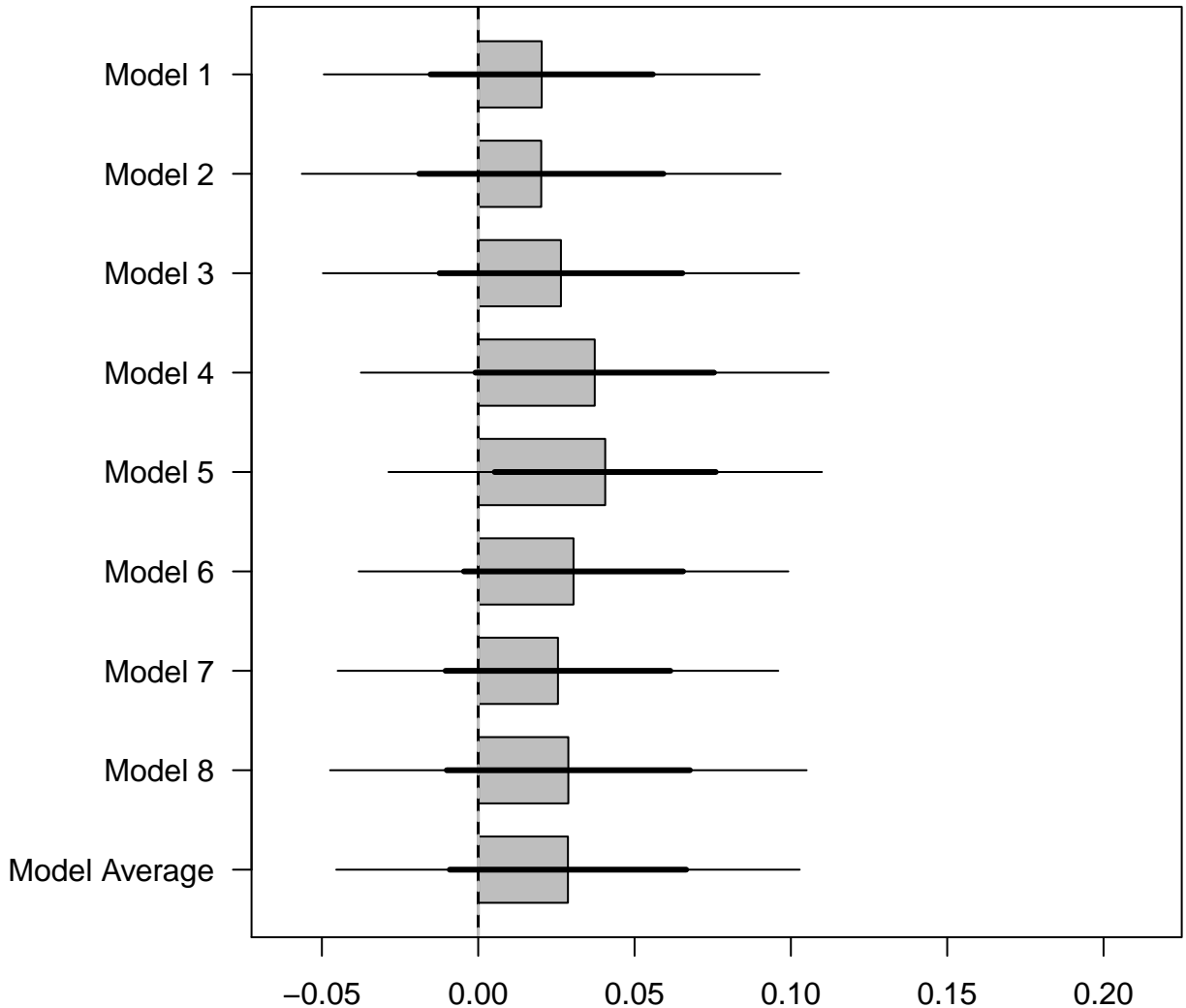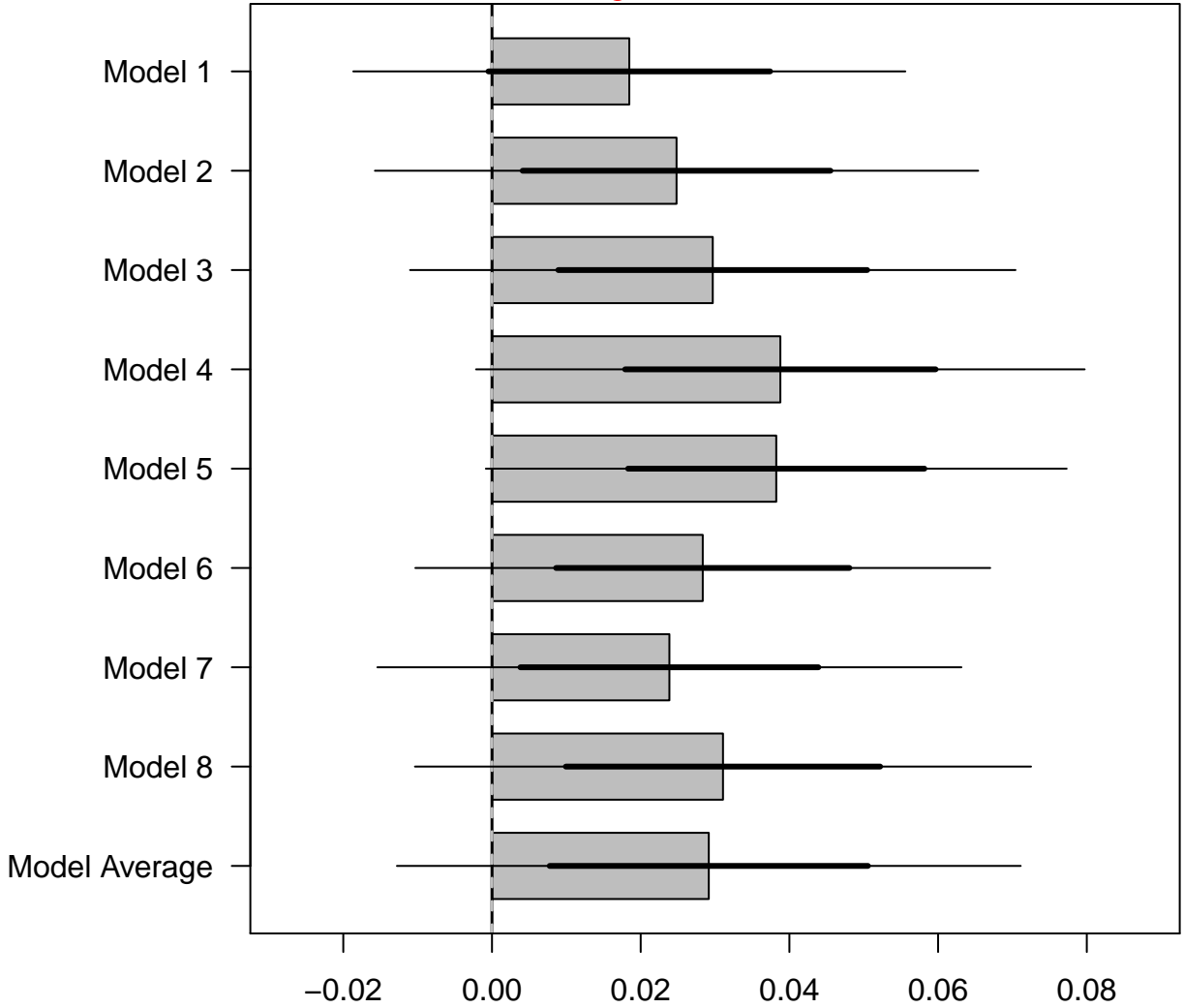**Total Number of Ratified Treaties**

The thick lines represent +-1 the standard error of the coefficient. The thin lines represent +-2
the standard error of the coefficient. **All differences are not statistically different from 0.**

Figure 6A Difference Between Linear Model Coefficients for
Proportion of Total Number of Ratified Treaties

The thick lines represent +-1 the standard error of the coefficient. The thin lines represent +-2 the standard error of the coefficient.
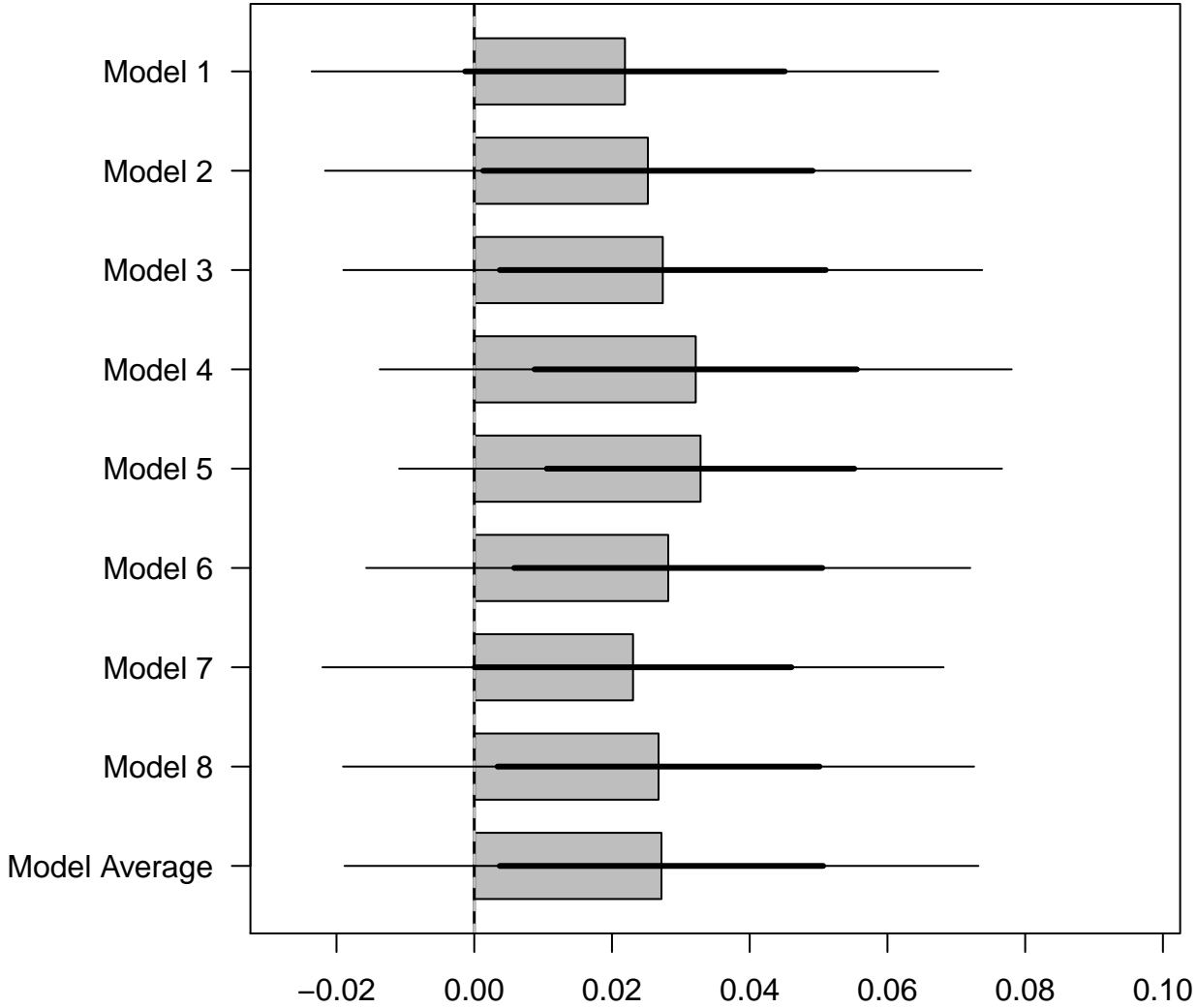**All differences are not statistically different from 0.**

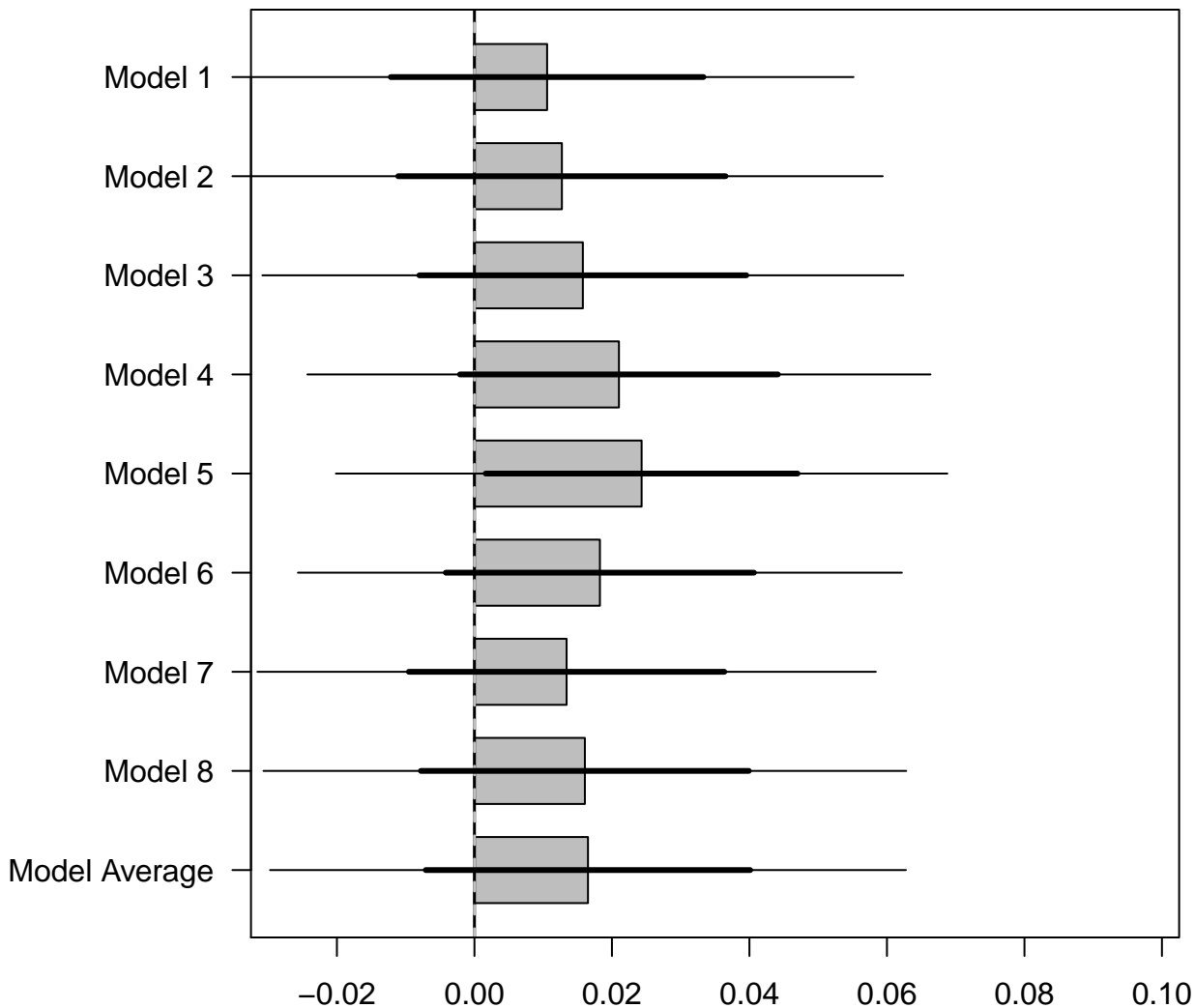## Figure 7A Difference Between Linear Model Coefficients for Convention Against Torture

The thick lines represent +-1 the standard error of the coefficient. The thin
lines represent +-2 the standard error of the coefficient.
All differences are not statistically different from 0.

Figure 8A   Difference Between Linear Model Coefficients for
**Convention on the Elimination of all
Forms of Discrimination against Women**

The thick lines represent +-1 the standard error of the coefficient. The thin
lines represent +-2 the standard error of the coefficient.
All differences are not statistically different from 0.

Figure 9A   Difference Between Linear Model Coefficients for
Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

The thick lines represent +-1 the standard error of the coefficient. The thin lines represent +-2 the standard error of the coefficient.
All differences are not statistically different from 0.

Figure 10A Difference Between Linear Model Coefficients for
Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Re-Estimation for the period 1981-2010

The thick lines represent +-1 the standard error of the coefficient. The thin lines represent +-2 the standard error of the coefficient.
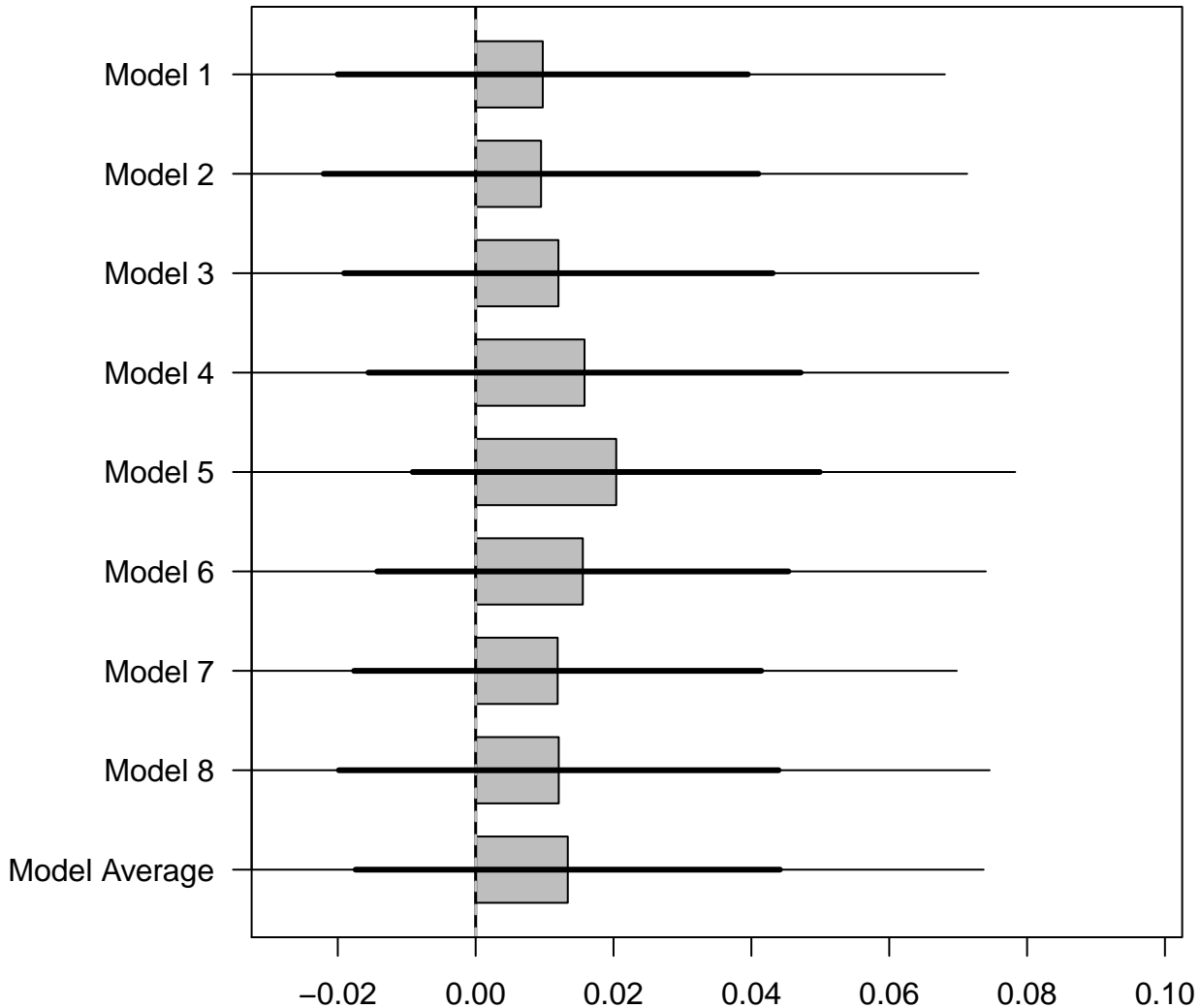**Six out of 8 differences are not statistically different from 0.**

Figure 11A Difference Between Linear Model Coefficients for
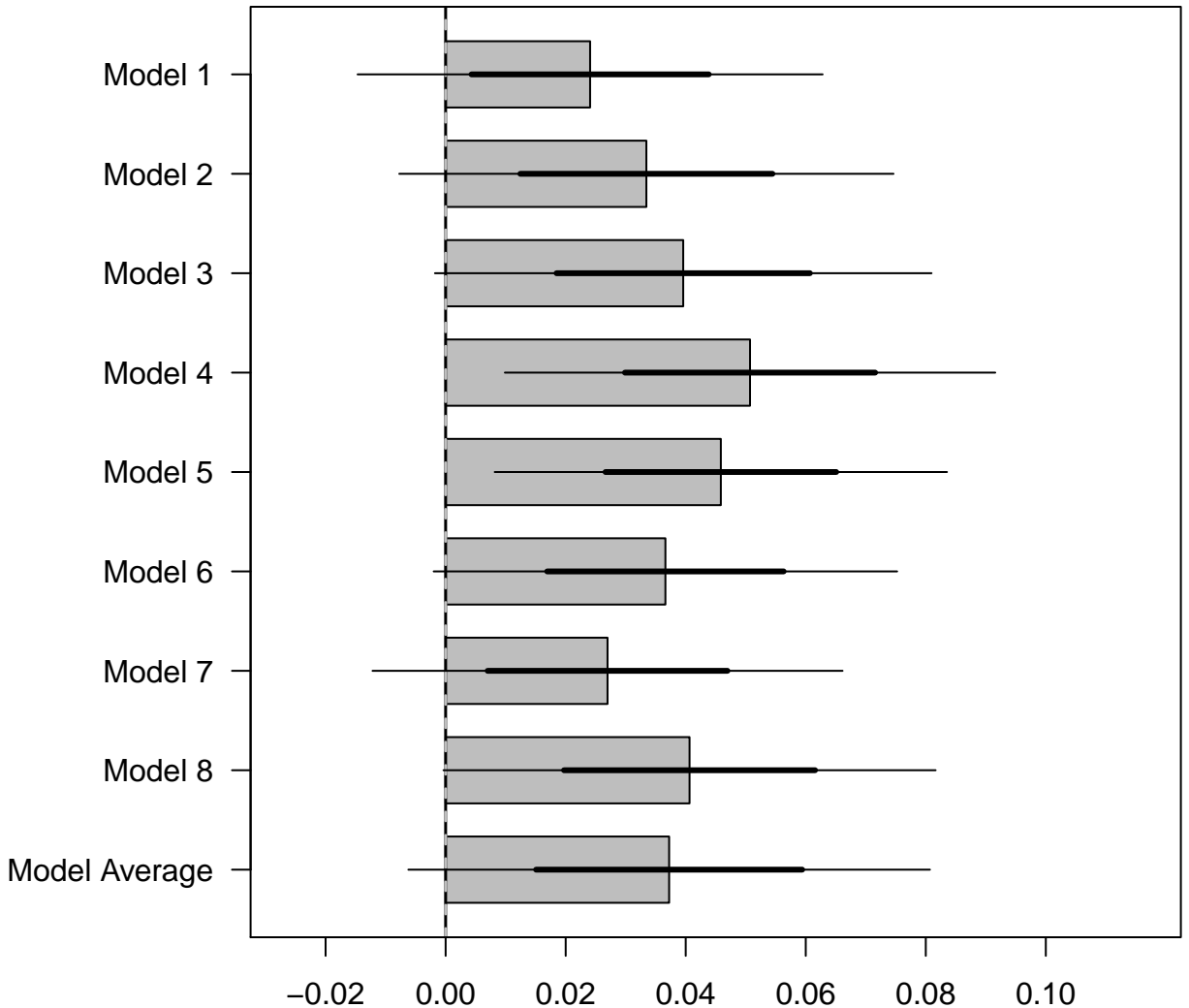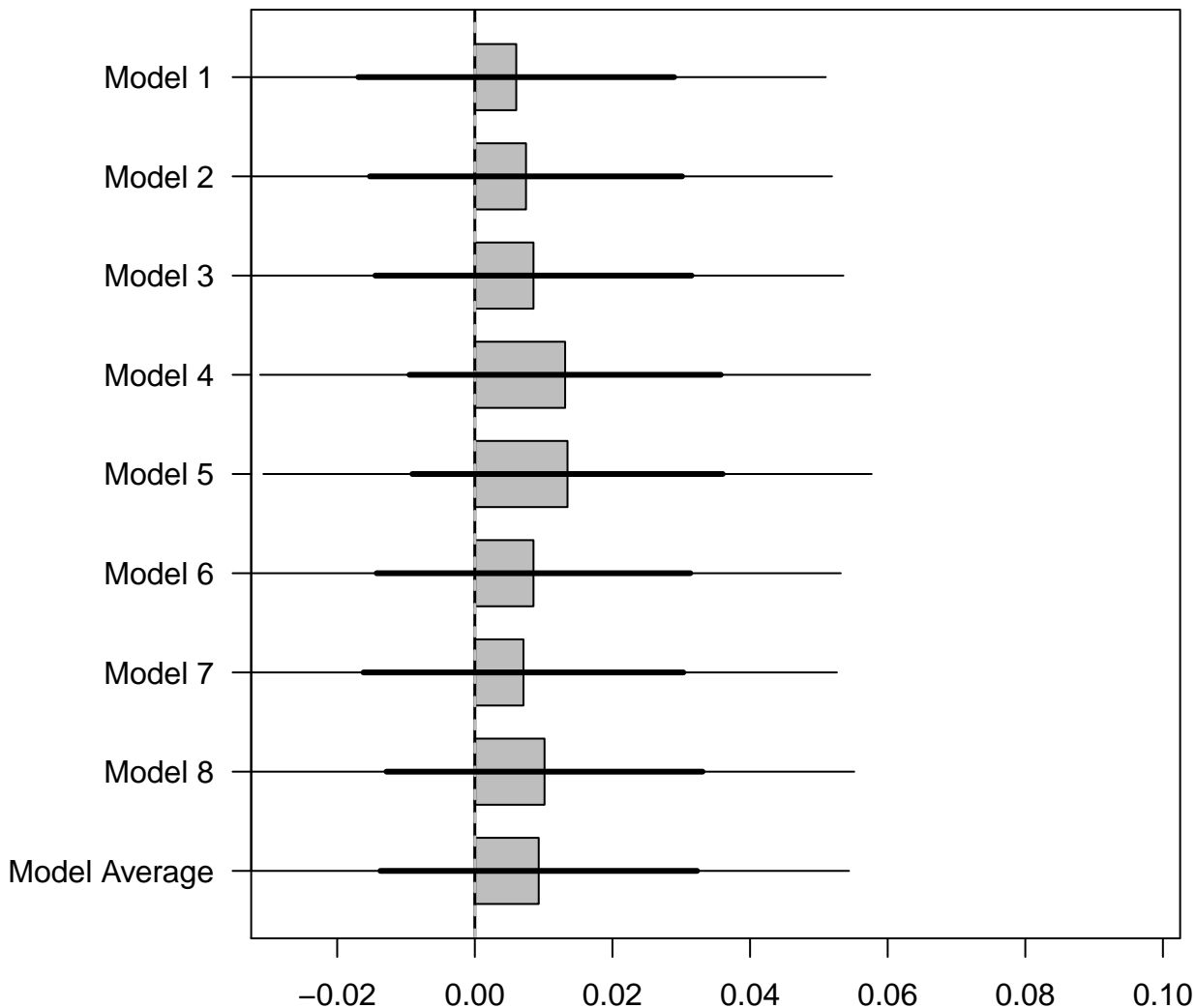
Convention on the Rights of the Child

Figure 12A Difference Between Linear Model Coefficients for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Re-Estimation for the period 1981-2010

The thick lines represent +-1 the standard error of the coefficient. The thin lines represent +-2 the standard error of the coefficient.
All differences are not statistically different from 0.