Supplemental Material

Inequality belief systems: what they look like, how to study them, and why they matter

In this file we report additional analyses for the paper "Inequality belief systems: what they look like, how to study them, and why they matter". We report a list of tables and figures at the beginning of the file, and we plot them in order at the end of this summary.

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- **Descriptives:** The master table shows the label and the survey question of each attitude reported in the analyses. Table 2 and Table 3 show the descriptives of these items in US and NL respectively. High values always indicate endorsement of each attitude.
- **Standardized EGA Plot:** To facilitate the direct comparison of the 4 belief systems, we report a standardized plot. In Figure 1, the layout of the networks is kept constant across the US and NL networks.
- **Cronbach's alpha:** Table 4 reports the reliability of the indexes 1, 2 and 3, adopted in the regression models of Section 4.4 (Table 2: Linear regression models on support for redistribution - US; Table 3: Linear regression models on support for redistribution - NL). Indexes 1 and Indexes 2 are reliable across countries. Indexes 3 display low alphas instead. This is not surprising, as this indexes feature the node b_merit. As described in the article, this node produce several changes between belief system of the NL and US population. Therefore, these low scores underline that full sample analysis might be misleading if not taking into account the structural heterogeneity of survey samples. We decided to work with these variables, despite their low reliability, as indexes were computed only to reduce data to fit the regression models of Section 4.4, which needed to account for the content of people's belief systems.
- **Robustness of EGA:** To detect the robustness of EGA results we adopt parametric bootstrap technique. For each network shown in the article, we reseample with replacement 2000 bootstrapped samples. Then, we re-estimate EGA on each of the 2000 bootstrapped samples. This allow us to compare the results of the EGA fitted on the original sample with the average results of obtained in the bootstrapped samples. Moreover, we are also able to estimate the stability of the community detection algorithm, by examining the extent to which each empirically derived dimension is exactly recovered from the replicate bootstrap samples. In the article we estimated six network structures: one for each CCA cluster (two in US, two in NL) and one for each country. For each of these six network we report two figures. First, we compare the network structures retrieved in the original samples with the average structures obtained by aggregating the results of the bootstrapped samples. Effectively, this results in a figure comparing the original networks shown in the article and the average network obtained in the bootstrapped samples. Moreover, we report a plot showing how often the membership of each variable is replicating across bootstraps. Regarding this plot, item scores greater than 0.70 reflect sufficient stability (Christensen & Golino, 2021). Results are shown in Figures 2 to Figures 13. Overall, the sample and bootstrapped EGAs are always similar, and community detection results are robust and overcome the bootstrap robustness tests. The only exceptions to these patterns are the nodes ib_people, and ib_weafam in the US2 network, and the node b_merit in the US1 and US2 networks. These nodes change their community membership across bootstrapped samples. However, the results regarding the number of communities of US1 EGA is highly stable. Indeed, 1946 of the 2000

bootstrapped samples displayed 3 clusters; only 1 bootstrapped sample displayed 2 clusters, and only 53 samples produced 4 communities. Moreover, the edges of the sample and bootstrapped networks do not differ meaningfully. This entails that the instability of this network is due to the community membership of some of its node, and not to its edges. Since our analyses of the four belief system mainly focused on the latter, and utilized nodes' community membership as a descriptive tool, we are not concerned with this kind of instability. Instability at the community membership level would be a concern only for the full sample networks. Indeed, these communities dictated the formation of the indexes for the regressions of Section 4.4. However, these results are remarkably stable (item stability always higher than .74 in NL, and higher than .96 in US).

Tables and Figures

Table 1: Master table

Label	Question
p_income	To what extent to do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Differences in income in the United States are too large
p_wealth	Differences in wealth in the United States are too large
p_poor	Children in poor families do not have the same opportunities for getting ahead as children in rich families
p_black	Black children do not have the same opportunities for getting ahead as white children
b_merit	To what extent to do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Society is fair when hard-working people earn more than others
b_diversity	Racial diversity makes America stronger
b_equality	For society to be fair, differences in people's standard of living should be small
ib_weafam	This question is about factors that may be important for achieving economic success. How important would you say is coming from a wealthy family
ib_edupar	Having highly educated parents
ib_edu	Having a good education
ib_work	Hard work
ib_people	Knowing the right people
ib_race	Race or skin color
ib_migra	Legal or immigration status
ib_relig	Religion
ib_sex	Being born a man or woman
att_redist	It is the responsibility of the government to reduce the differences in income between people with high incomes and those with low incomes

Table 2: Descriptives of attitudes in US

Statistic	N	Mean	St. Dev.	Min	Max
p_income	2,501	5.740	1.401	1	7
p_wealth	2,501	5.897	1.417	1	7
p_poor	2,501	5.979	1.361	1	7
p_black	2,501	5.329	1.703	1	7
b_merit	2,501	4.908	1.408	1	7
b_diversity	2,501	5.748	1.454	1	7
b_equality	2,501	4.891	1.579	1	7
ib_weafam	2,501	3.512	0.980	1	5
ib_edupar	2,501	3.413	0.932	1	5
ib_edu	2,501	4.052	0.789	1	5
ib_work	2,501	4.040	0.962	1	5
ib_people	2,501	3.859	0.925	1	5
ib_race	2,501	2.910	1.182	1	5
ib_migra	2,501	3.569	1.073	1	5
ib_relig	2,501	2.004	1.031	1	5
ib_sex	2,501	2.720	1.166	1	5
att_redist	2,501	4.961	1.844	1	7

Table 3: Descriptives of attitudes in NL

Statistic	N	Mean	St. Dev.	Min	Max
p_income	1,618	5.012	1.420	1	7
p_wealth	1,618	5.182	1.414	1	7
p_poor	1,618	5.231	1.355	1	7
p_black	1,618	4.630	1.511	1	7
b_merit	1,618	3.391	1.605	1	7
b_diversity	1,618	3.704	1.580	1	7
b_equality	1,618	4.379	1.498	1	7
ib_weafam	1,618	2.867	0.867	1	5
ib_edupar	1,618	3.179	0.762	1	5
ib_edu	1,618	3.691	0.714	1	5
ib_work	1,618	3.706	0.789	1	5
ib_people	1,618	3.485	0.778	1	5
ib_race	1,618	2.499	0.956	1	5
ib_migra	1,618	2.606	0.923	1	5
ib_relig	1,618	1.844	0.761	1	5
ib_sex	1,618	2.205	0.892	1	5
att_redist	1,618	5.039	1.474	1	7

Table 4: Descriptives of sociodemographic variables in US

Variable	Stats / Values	Freqs (% of Valid)	Valid
gender	1. Female	1268 (50.7%)	2501
[factor]	2. Male	1212 (48.5%)	(100.0%)
	3. Other	21 (0.8%)	
age	1. 18-27	515 (20.6%)	2501
[factor]	2. 28-37	557 (22.3%)	(100.0%)
	3. 38-47	416 (16.6%)	
	4. 48-57	337 (13.5%)	
	5. 58+	676 (27.0%)	
origin	1. Native-born	2313 (92.5%)	2501
[factor]	2. Foreign-born	188 (7.5%)	(100.0%)
race	1. Other	690 (27.6%)	2501
[factor]	2. White	1811 (72.4%)	(100.0%)
education	1. High school or less	278 (11.1%)	2501
[factor]	2. Some college	496 (19.8%)	(100.0%)
	3. College or more	1727 (69.1%)	
work_status	1. Not employed	883 (35.3%)	2501
[factor]	2. Employed	1618 (64.7%)	(100.0%)
household_income	1. Low	333 (13.3%)	2501
[factor]	2. Medium	1345 (53.8%)	(100.0%)
	3. High	823 (32.9%)	
marital_status	1. Not married	1328 (53.1%)	2501
[factor]	2. Married	1173 (46.9%)	(100.0%)
politics	Mean (sd) : 3.9 (2.9)	11 distinct values	2501
[haven_labelled, vctrs_vctr, double]	min < med < max:		(100.0%)
	0 < 4 < 10		
	IQR (CV) : 5 (0.8)		
religion	1. Catholic	503 (20.1%)	2501
[factor]	2. Protestant	580 (23.2%)	(100.0%)
	3. Other	485 (19.4%)	
	4. None or not declared	933 (37.3%)	

Table 5: Descriptives of sociodemographic variables in NL

Variable	Stats / Values	Freqs (% of Valid)	Valid
gender	1. Female	842 (52.0%)	1618
[factor]	2. Male	776 (48.0%)	(100.0%)
	3. Other	0 (0.0%)	
age	1. 18-27	120 (7.4%)	1618
[factor]	2. 28-37	159 (9.8%)	(100.0%)
	3. 38-47	158 (9.8%)	
	4. 48-57	273 (16.9%)	
	5. 58+	908 (56.1%)	
origin	1. Native-born	1478 (91.3%)	1618
[factor]	2. Foreign-born	140 (8.7%)	(100.0%)
race	1. Other	188 (11.6%)	1618
[factor]	2. White	1430 (88.4%)	(100.0%)
education	1. High school or less	438 (27.1%)	1618
[factor]	2. Some college	175 (10.8%)	(100.0%)
	3. College or more	1005 (62.1%)	
work_status	1. Not employed	913 (56.4%)	1618
[factor]	2. Employed	705 (43.6%)	(100.0%)
household_income	1. Low	514 (31.8%)	1618
[factor]	2. Medium	1026 (63.4%)	(100.0%)
	3. High	78 (4.8%)	
marital_status	1. Not married	726 (44.9%)	1618
[factor]	2. Married	892 (55.1%)	(100.0%)
politics	Mean (sd) : 5.2 (2.1)	11 distinct values	1618
[haven_labelled, vctrs_vctr, double]	min < med < max:		(100.0%)
	0 < 5 < 10		
	IQR (CV) : 3 (0.4)		
religion	1. Catholic	191 (11.8%)	1618
[factor]	2. Protestant	211 (13.0%)	(100.0%)
	3. Other	36 (2.2%)	
	4. None or not declared	1180 (72.9%)	

Table 6: Reliability of indexes

Index	Alpha_US	Alpha_NL
Index 1	0.858	0.760
Index 2	0.738	0.738
Index 3	0.457	0.512

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##                       Predictors     Estimates          CI      p     Estimates
## 1                     (Intercept)          2.96 2.76 - 3.15 <0.001          0.59
## 2                             cca          1.41 1.29 - 1.54 <0.001
## 3                         index_1                                           1.19
## 4                         index_2                                          -0.02
## 5                         index_3                                           0.05
## 6                      genderMale                                           0.07
## 7                        age28-37                                          -0.15
## 8                        age38-47                                          -0.02
## 9                        age48-57                                           0.01
## 10                         age58+                                           0.01
## 11            originForeign-born                                          -0.15
## 12                     raceWhite                                          -0.09
## 13         educationSome college                                          -0.44
## 14     educationCollege or more                                           -0.29
## 15           work_statusEmployed                                          -0.16
## 16        household_incomeMedium                                           0.06
## 17          household_incomeHigh                                          -0.56
## 18         marital_statusMarried                                          -0.06
## 19                       politics                                          -0.11
## 20            religionProtestant                                          -0.01
## 21                 religionOther                                          -0.15
## 22 religionNone or not declared                                           -0.06
## 23                  Observations          1618                              1618
## 24              R2 / R2 adjusted 0.230 / 0.229                 0.486 / 0.480
## 25                           AIC      5429.999                          4812.367
##                CI      p     Estimates           CI      p
## 1   -0.01 - 1.19  0.056         -0.06  -0.62 - 0.51  0.848
## 2                              0.87    0.76 - 0.97 <0.001
## 3    1.11 - 1.27 <0.001          1.09    1.01 - 1.16 <0.001
## 4   -0.10 - 0.06  0.567         -0.12 -0.19 - -0.04  0.002
## 5   -0.05 - 0.16  0.318         -0.01  -0.11 - 0.09  0.796
## 6   -0.04 - 0.19  0.207          0.04  -0.07 - 0.14  0.472
## 7   -0.42 - 0.12  0.273         -0.08  -0.33 - 0.17  0.530
## 8   -0.30 - 0.26  0.898         -0.01  -0.27 - 0.24  0.921
## 9   -0.24 - 0.27  0.914          0.03  -0.20 - 0.27  0.780
## 10  -0.23 - 0.25  0.956          0.02  -0.20 - 0.24  0.865
## 11  -0.36 - 0.07  0.181         -0.11  -0.31 - 0.09  0.264
## 12  -0.28 - 0.11  0.396         -0.10  -0.28 - 0.09  0.306
## 13 -0.63 - -0.25 <0.001         -0.38 -0.55 - -0.20 <0.001
## 14 -0.42 - -0.16 <0.001         -0.25 -0.37 - -0.13 <0.001
## 15 -0.29 - -0.02  0.025         -0.12  -0.25 - 0.01  0.060
## 16  -0.07 - 0.19  0.392          0.06  -0.06 - 0.18  0.347
## 17 -0.84 - -0.28 <0.001         -0.43 -0.69 - -0.18  0.001
## 18  -0.18 - 0.06  0.310         -0.07  -0.18 - 0.04  0.185
## 19 -0.14 - -0.09 <0.001         -0.08 -0.11 - -0.05 <0.001
```

```
## 20  -0.22 - 0.20  0.896          0.01  -0.18 - 0.21  0.887
## 21  -0.56 - 0.25  0.454         -0.07  -0.45 - 0.30  0.701
## 22  -0.23 - 0.10  0.455         -0.02  -0.17 - 0.14  0.811
## 23                               1618
## 24                       0.559 / 0.553
## 25                           4567.551
```

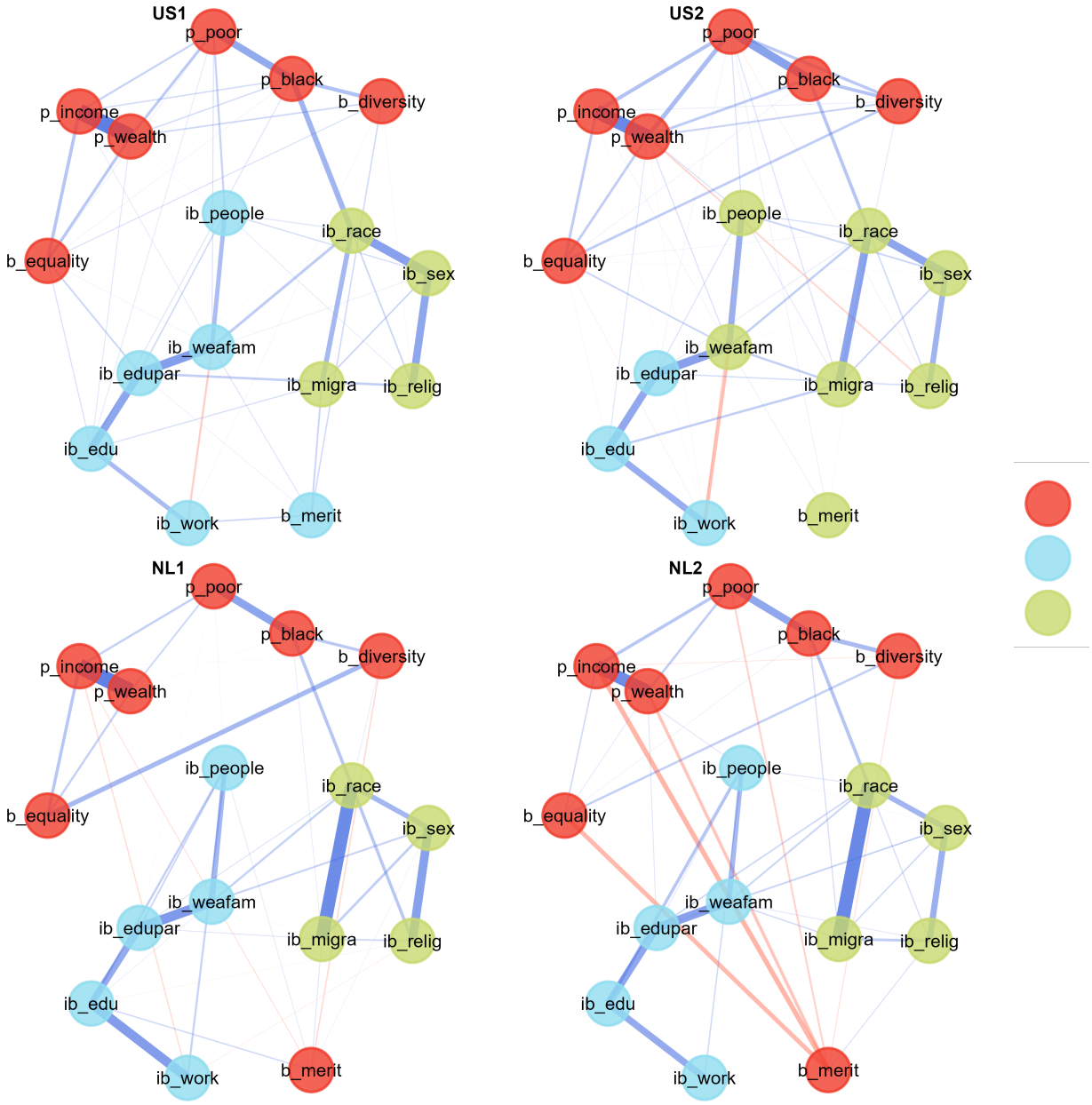

Figure 1: Standardized EGA Plot

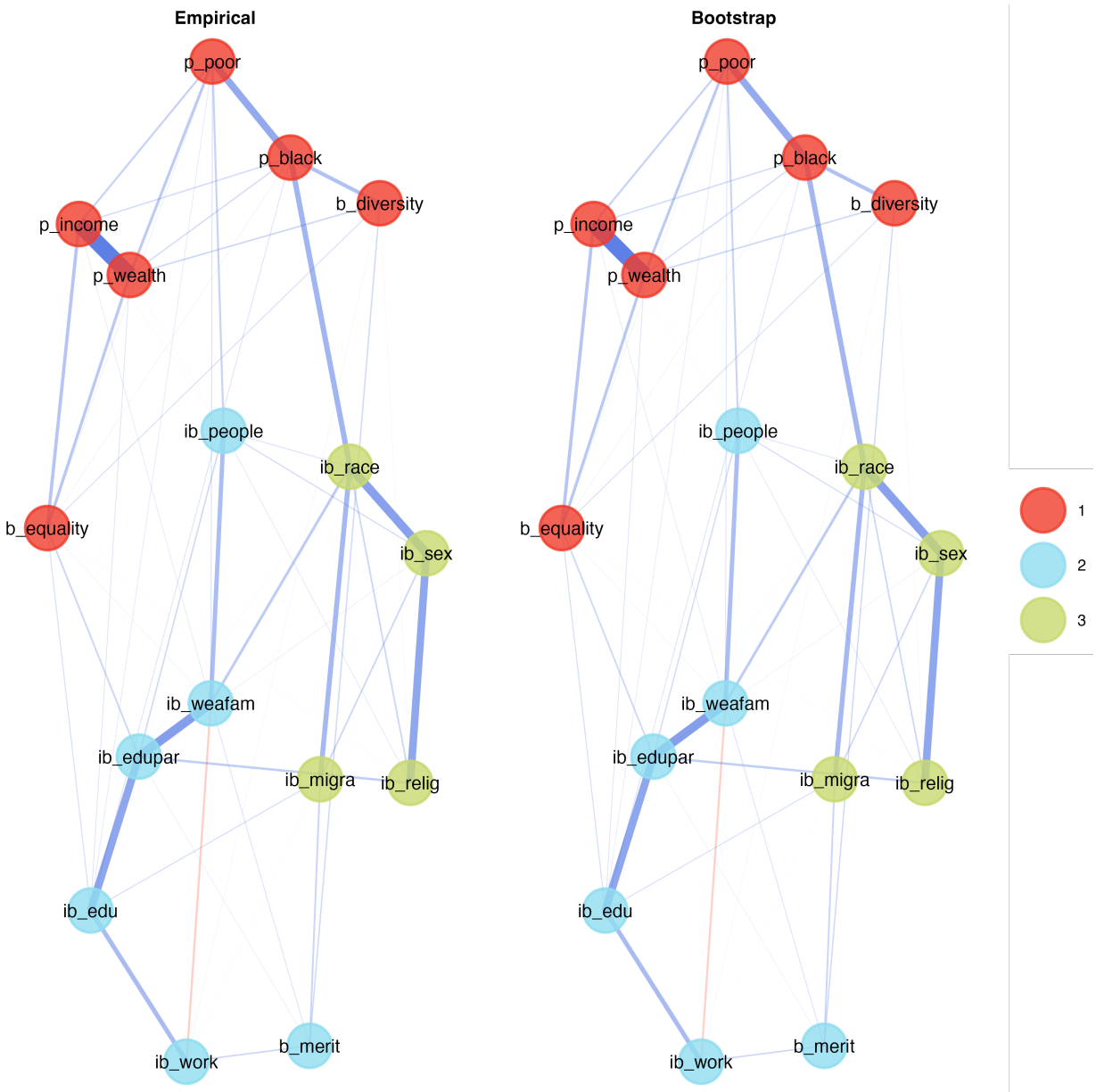

Figure 2: Comparison US1 with bootstrapped US1

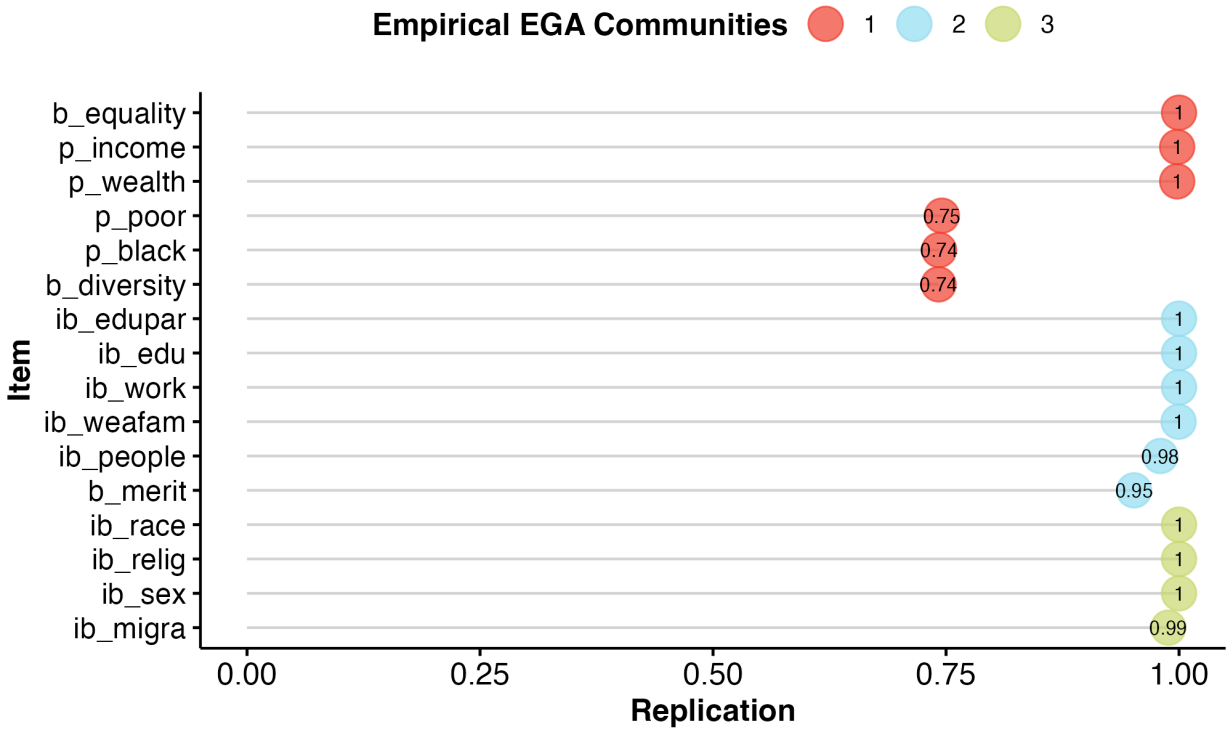

Figure 3: Item stability US1

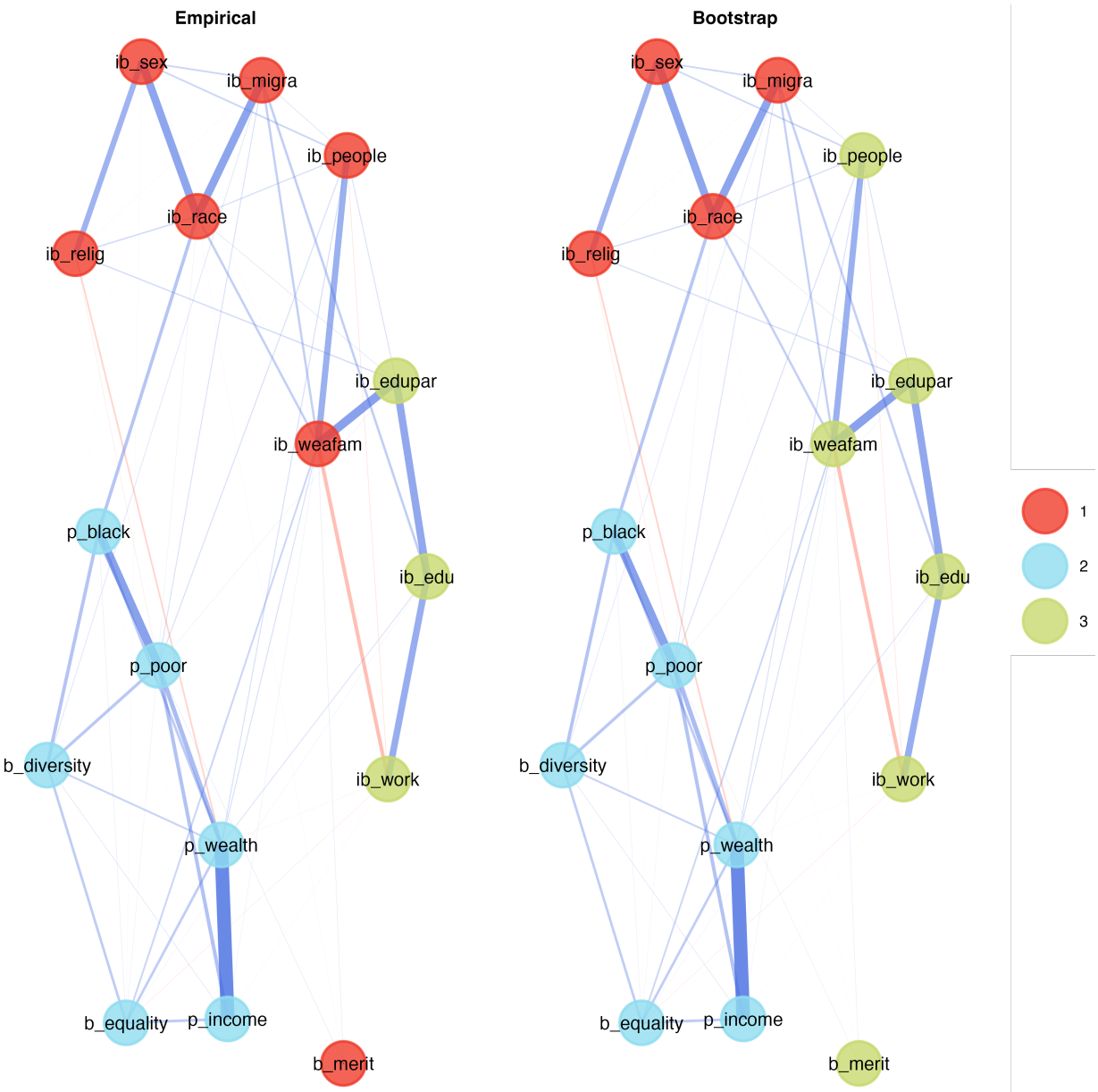

Figure 4: Comparison US2 with bootstrapped US2

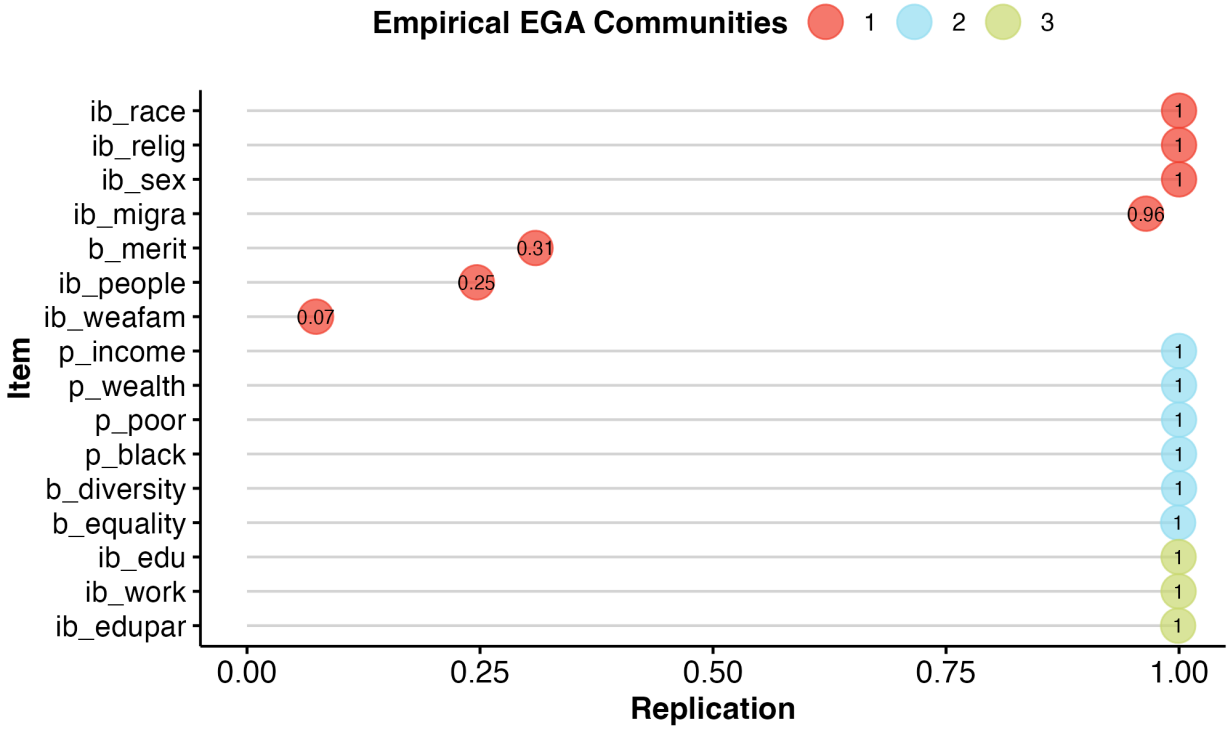

Figure 5: Item stability US2

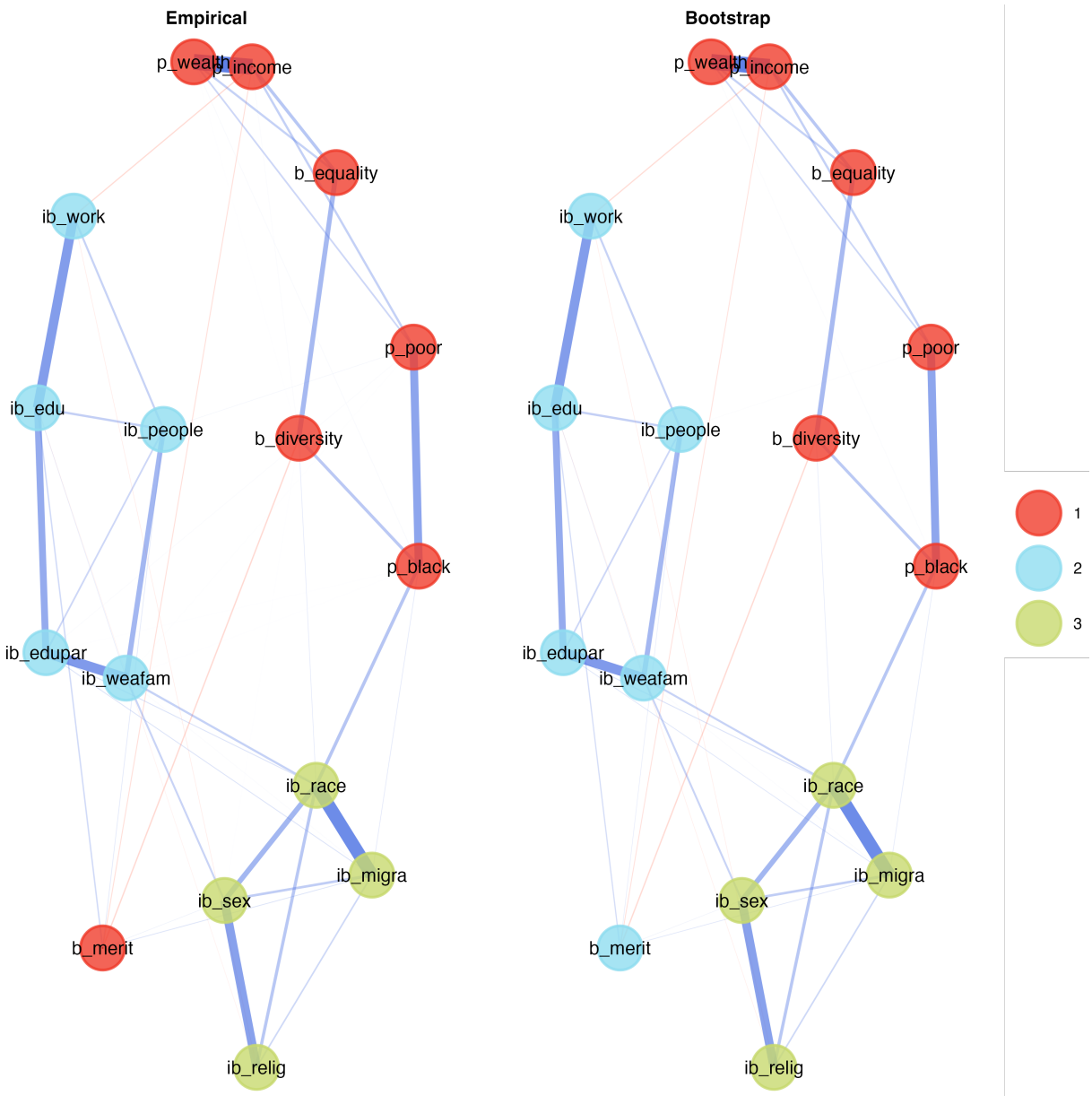

Figure 6: Comparison NL1 with bootstrapped NL1

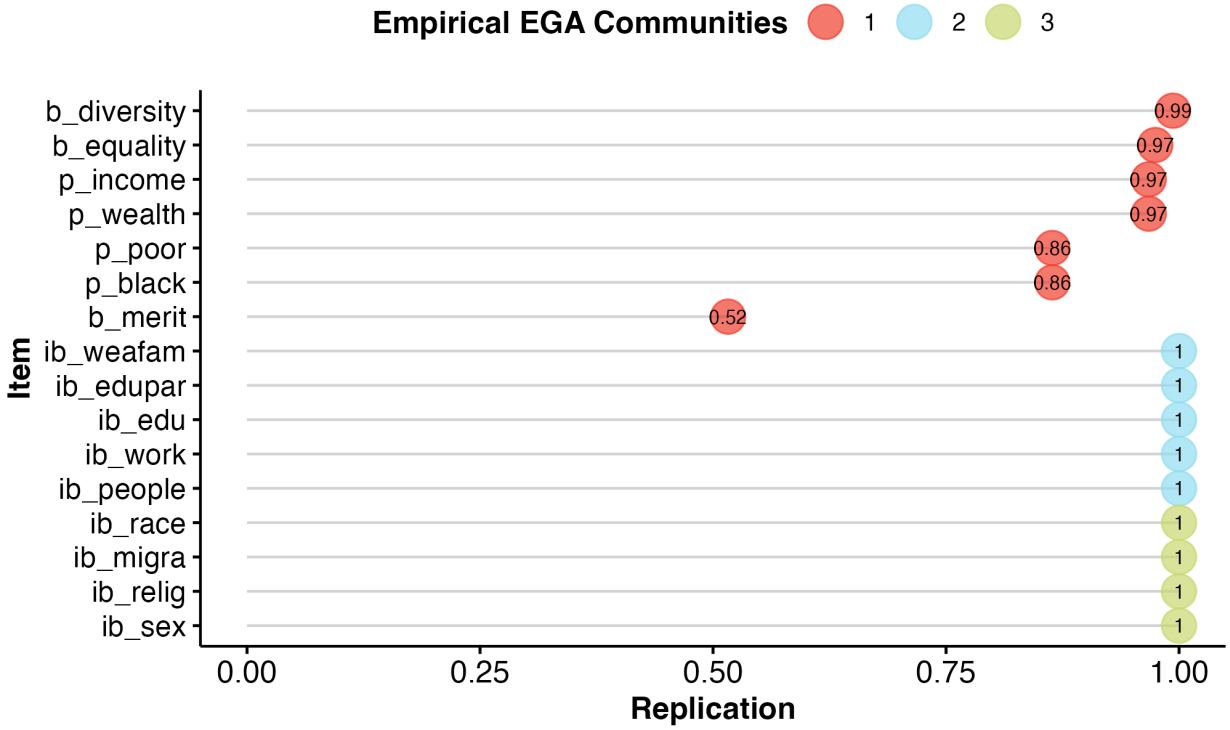

Figure 7: Item stability US1

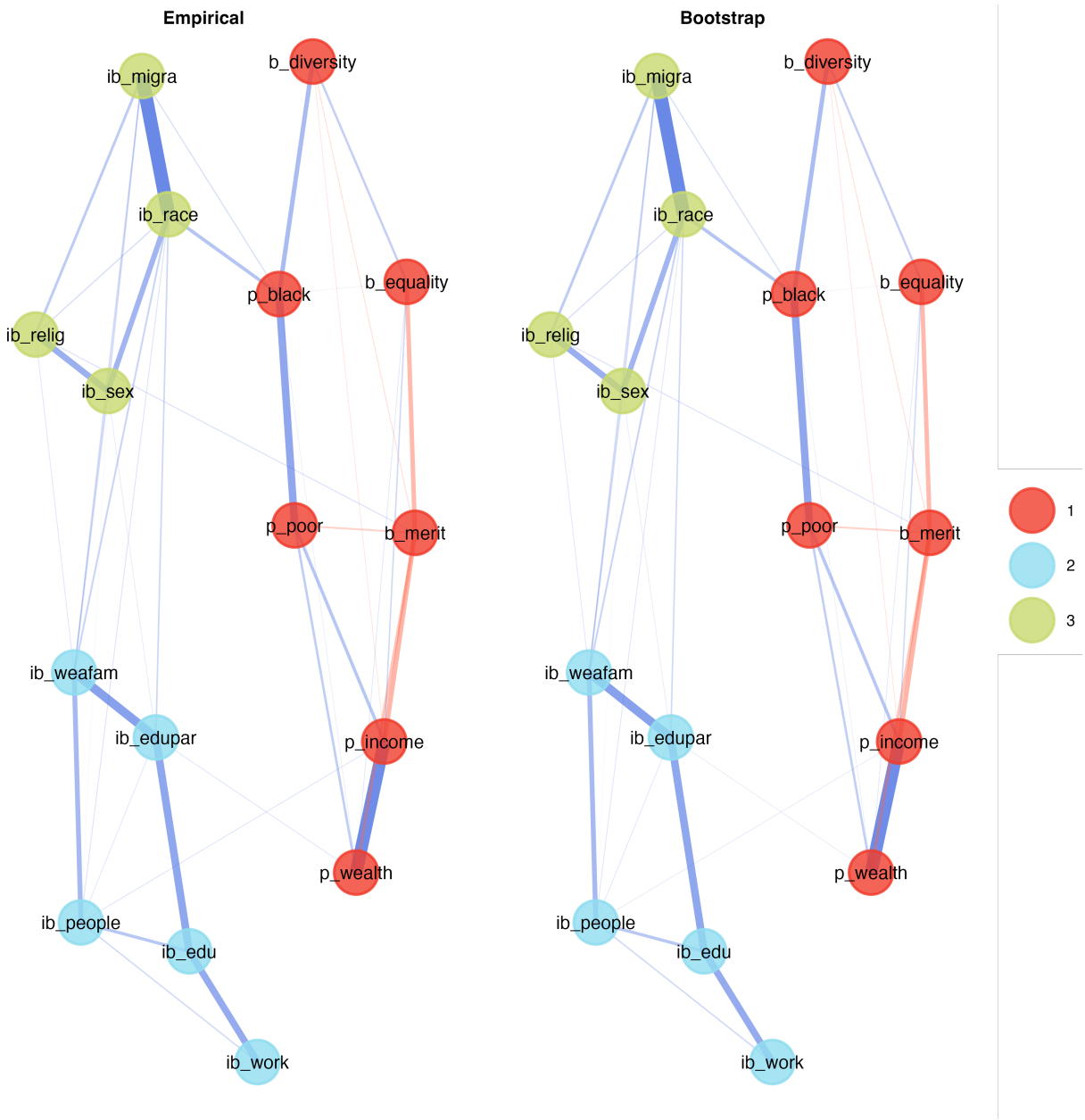

Figure 8: Comparison NL2 with bootstrapped NL1

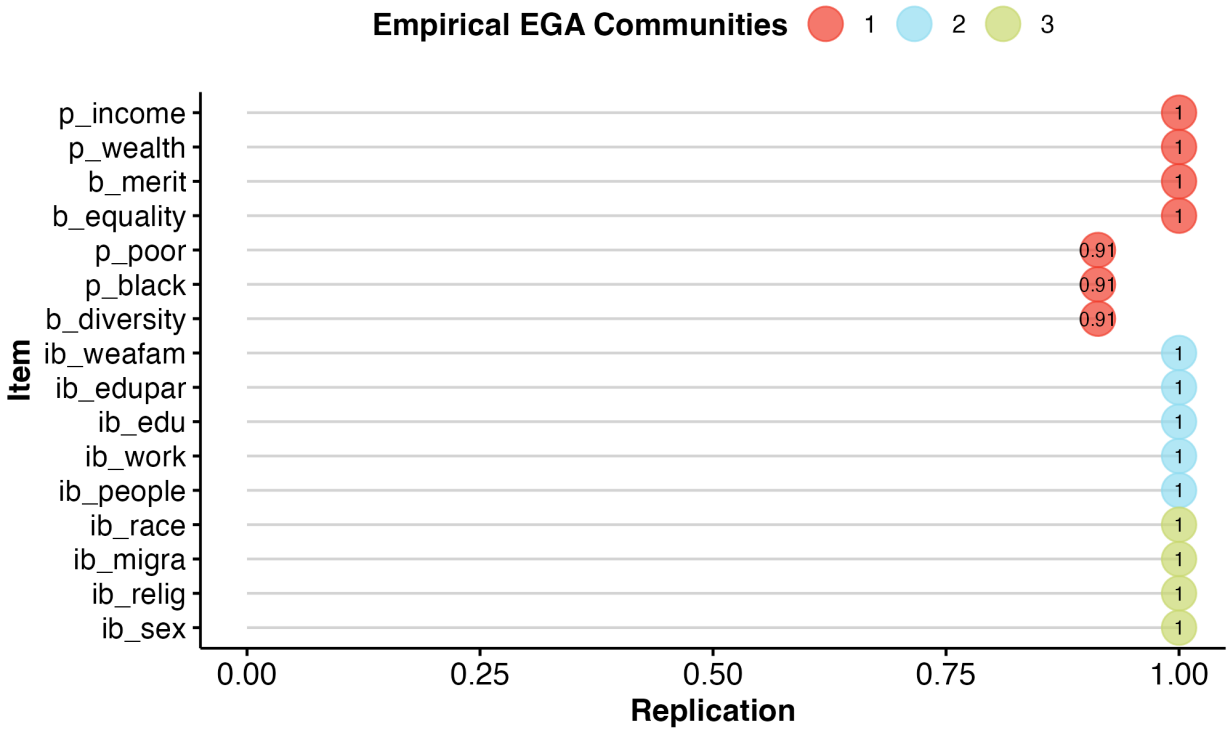

Figure 9: Item stability NL2

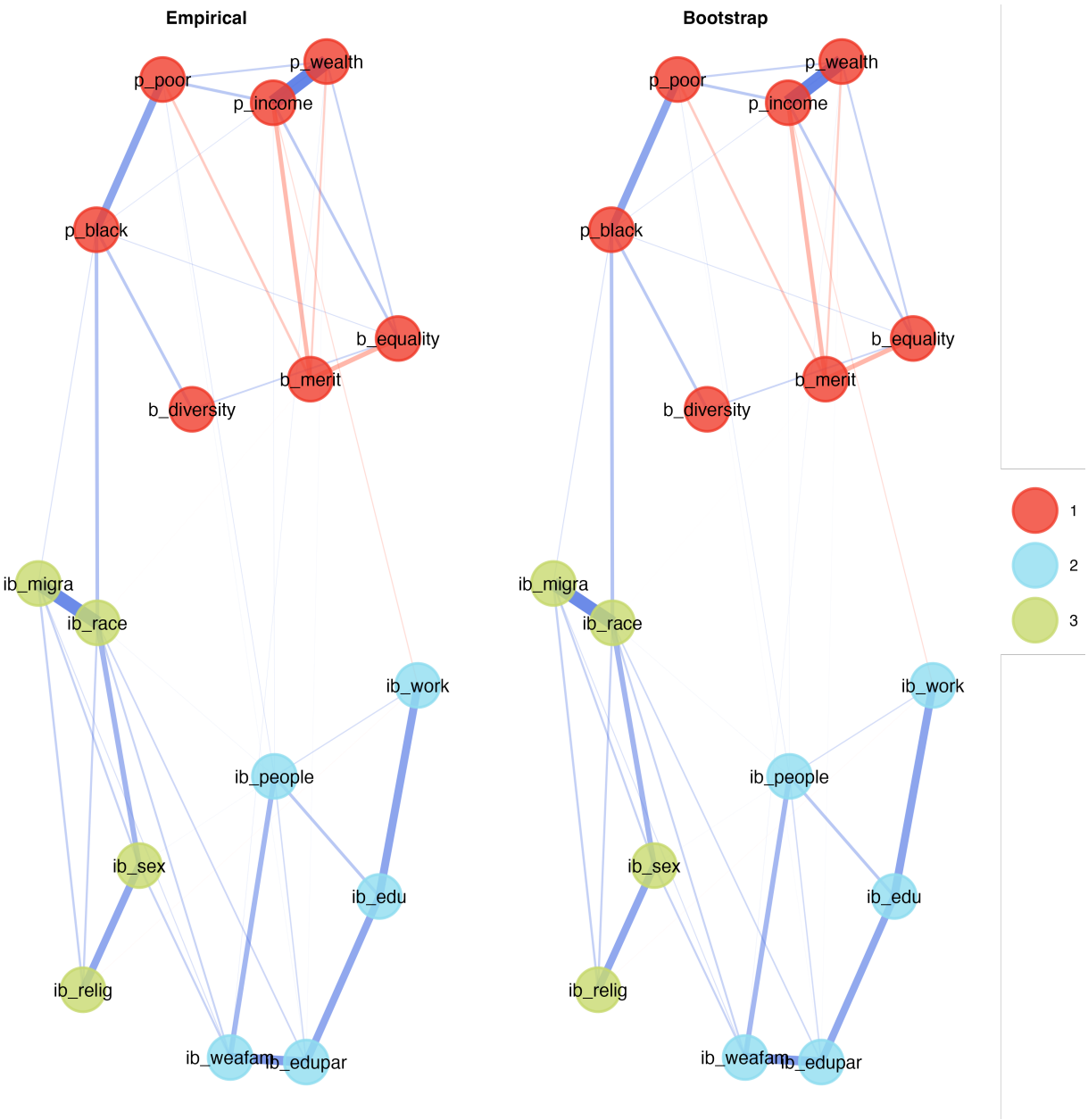

Figure 10: Comparison EGA in the full NL sample with bootstrapped results

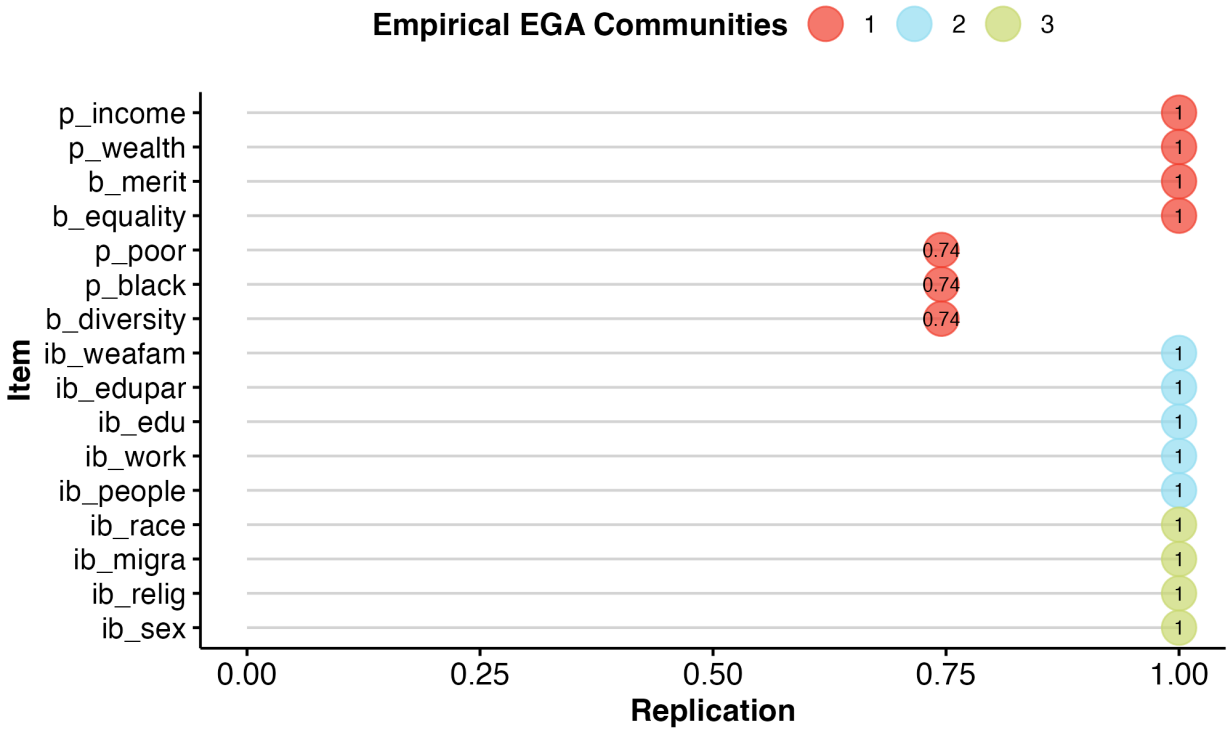

Figure 11: Item stability in the full NL sample

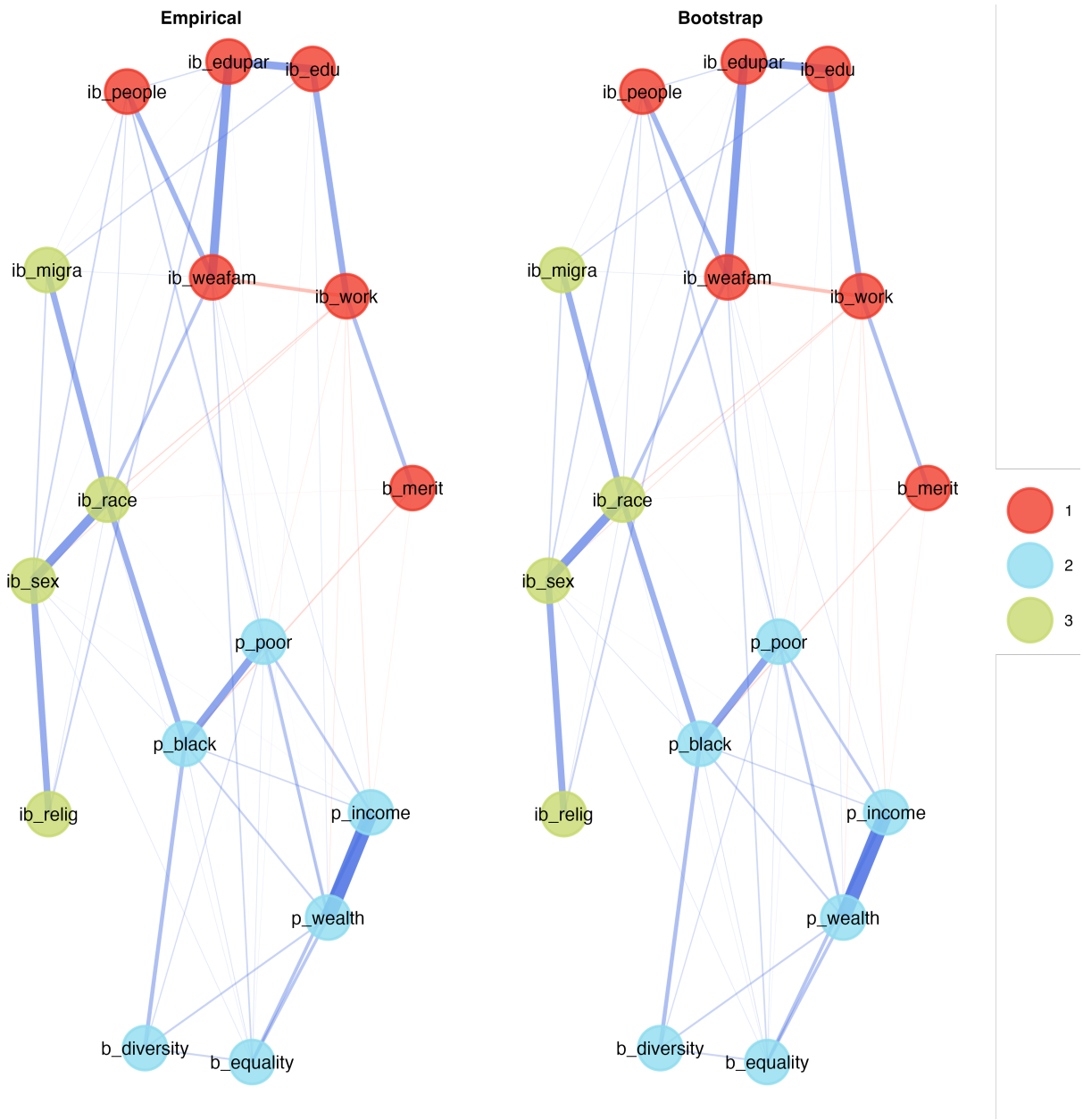

Figure 12: Comparison EGA in the full US sample with bootstrapped results

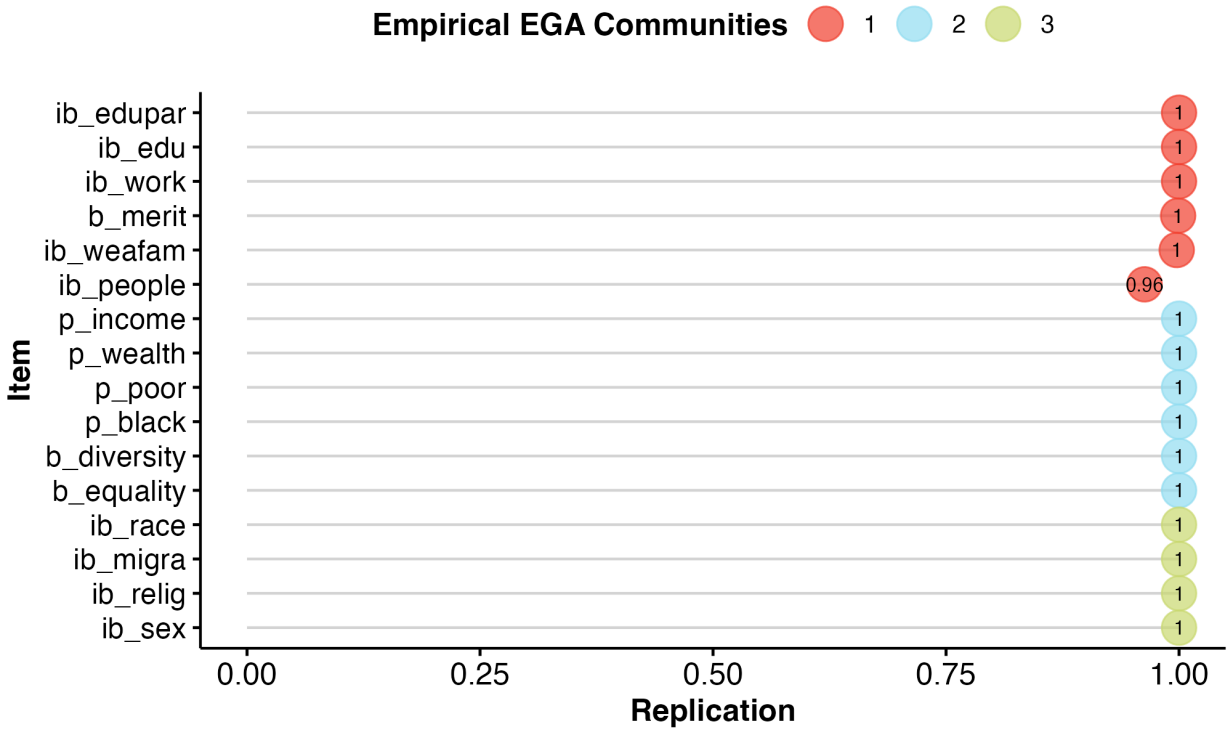

Figure 13: Item stability in the full US sample