



Is Ignorance Bliss?: Media Exposure on Civil Trust

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Current Status and Motivation

Social Media Prevalence

4.9 Billion Users Worldwide

Global Social Network Penetration Rate Reaches 59.4%

Higher Internet Usage due to COVID

Empirical Study on this Trigger

Trust in Government

Social Media Exposure

Data & Methodology

ESS Social Survey

During 2016-2020 Within 13 Countries

World Bank Macro-Data

Double Selection Method

Geographic Distribution & Dimension

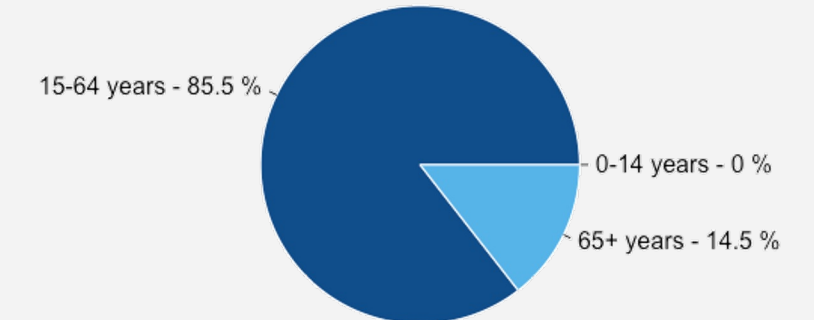
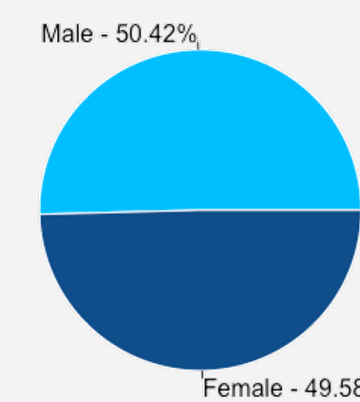
Observations distribution, by country

Population distribution, by country

Demographics

Distribution of gender overall

Distribution of age overall



Variables



Outcome: Trust in Government, Trust in Stability of the Nation's Economy



Treatment: Time Spent on Internet/Watching News on Television, Access to Social Media

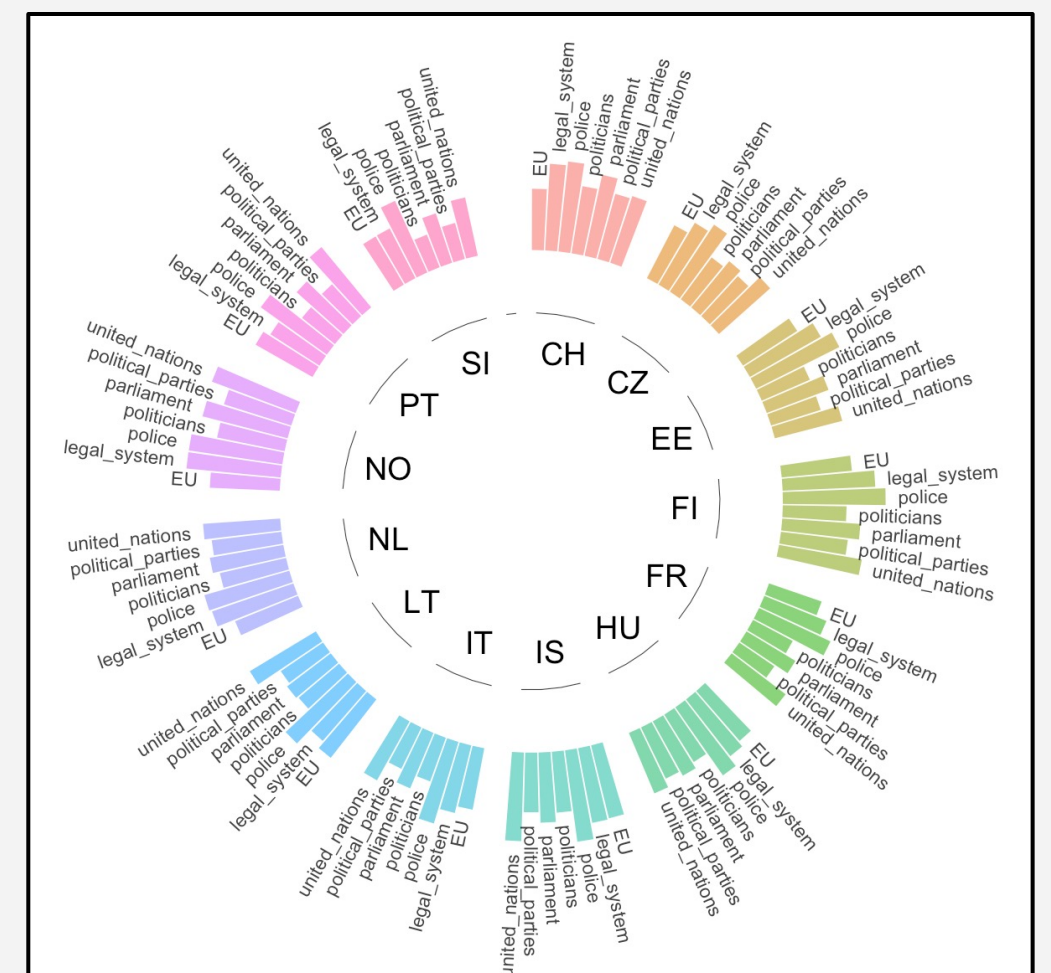
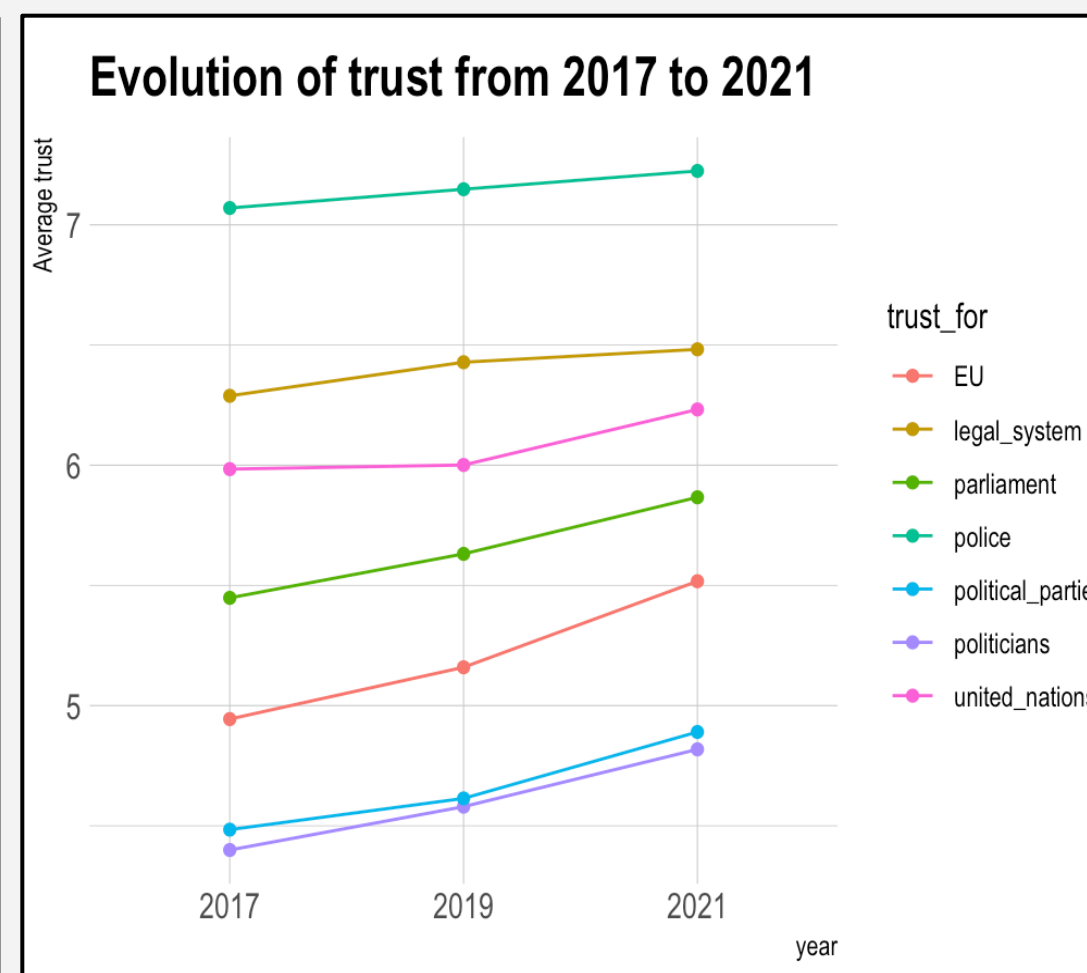
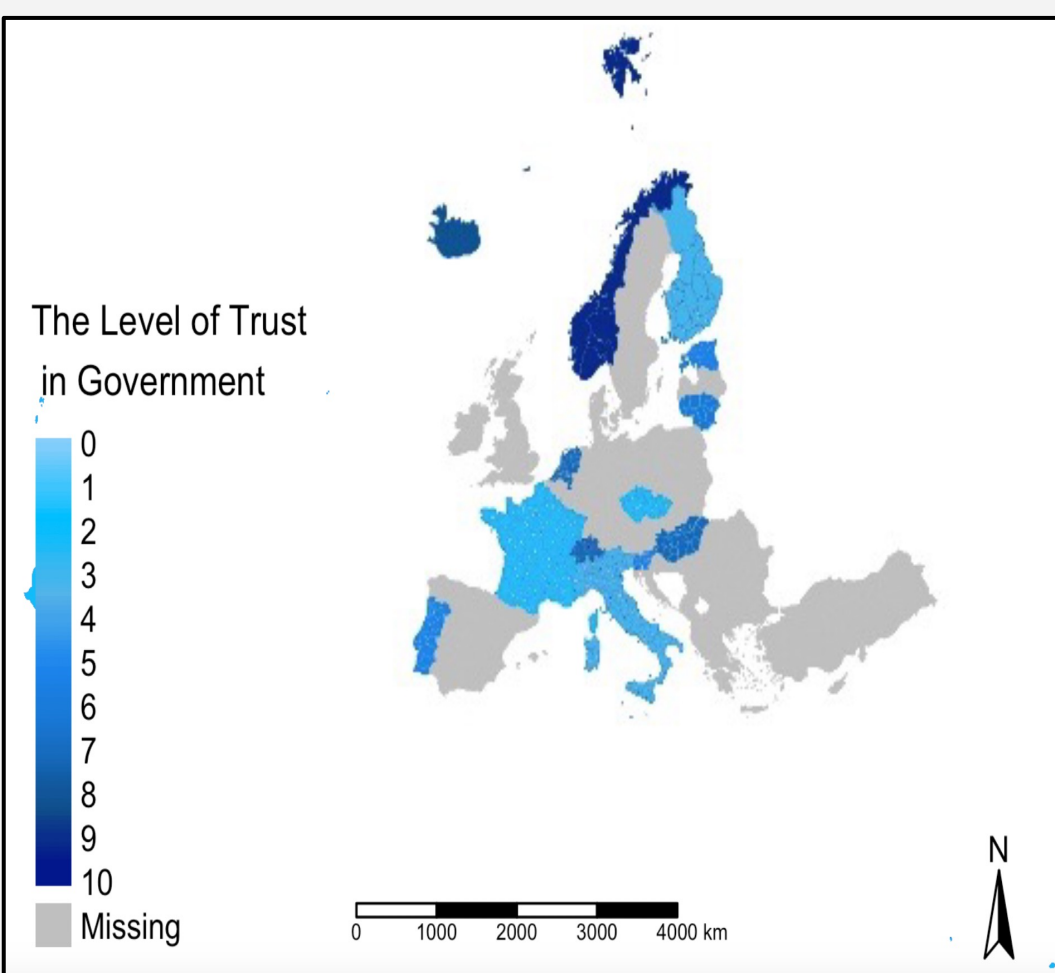
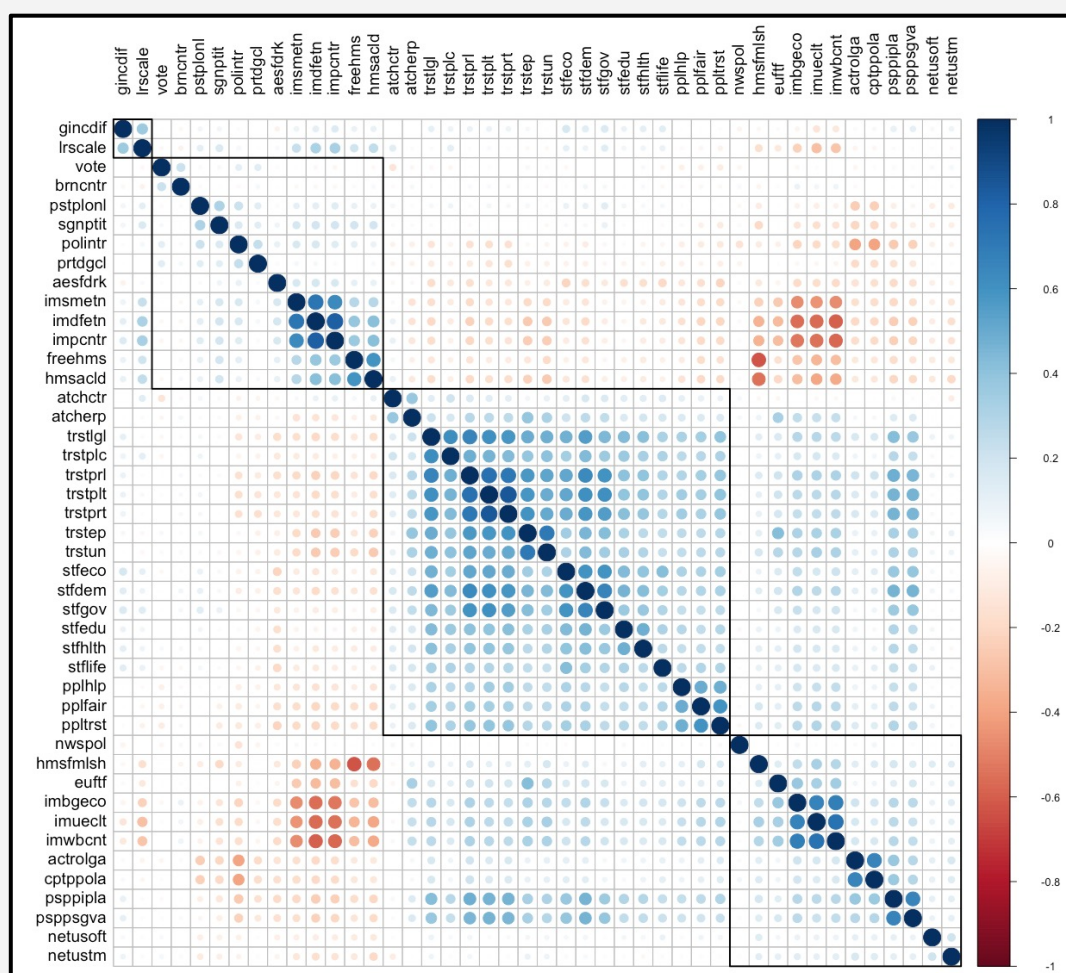


Covariates: Media Use & Social Trust, Politics, Subjective Well-Being, Social Exclusion, Religion, Perceived Discrimination, National & Ethnic Identity, Human Values



Control: Population, GDP, Inflation, (Tax) Revenue, Expense, Health Expenditure, Education, (Un)employment, Gini index, HDI, Crime & Democracy Index, Real Interest Rate

Visualization



Visualizing Variable Relationships

- Correlation Matrix Reveals Interplay of Factors
- Strong Trend Towards Politically Like Leaned Values

Trust Level Comparison at Country-Level

- High-Level Trust: Norway, Ireland, Estonia, Iceland
- Mid-Level Trust: France, Italy, Greece, Czech, Hungary, Portugal, Slovenia, Switzerland
- Low-Level Trust: Lithuania

Annual Evolution of Trust

- High-Average Trust: Police
- Mid-Average Trust: Legal System, Parliament, EU, UN
- Low-Average Trust: Politicians, Politician Parties

Trust Level Around 13 Countries

- No Major Differences between Countries
- Trust at Higher Levels: Legal System, Police and United Nations
- The Lowest Levels Concern Political Institutions (Parliament, Politicians and Political Parties)

Results

Limitations

1. Different Scale Interpretation
2. Subjective & Personal Bias
3. Culture Background, Individual Values, Prior Experiences
4. Selection Bias

Future Suggestions

1. Diversify Data Source
2. Extend Temporal Scope
3. Long-Term Data Collection
4. Mixed-Method Approaches

Reference

1. ESS Social Survey 2016-2020
2. World Bank Open Macro Database
3. Statista and World Bank, European Union: Age Distribution of Inhabitants, 2011 -2021

