Trust in political institutions and support for authoritarianism in Latin American students: Does civic knowledge make a difference?

Daniel Miranda, Juan Carlos Castillo, Catalina Miranda & José Daniel Conejeros.

Abril, 2020

Document with tables.

Country	Year	School	Students	Woman (%)	Age (mean)
Chile	2009	177	5173	0.51	14.18
Chile	2016	178	5081	0.49	14.17
Colombia	2009	196	6200	0.54	14.38
Colombia	2016	150	5609	0.52	14.59
Dominican Republic	2009	145	4569	0.55	14.86
Dominican Republic	2016	141	3937	0.51	14.19
Mexico	2009	215	6565	0.52	14.08
Mexico	2016	213	5526	0.50	14.03
Guatemala	2009	145	3998	0.49	15.52
Paraguay	2009	149	3391	0.52	14.82
Peru	2016	206	5166	0.48	14.03

How much do you trust each of the following groups, institutions or sources of information?								
Variable	Levels	ICCS09 Code	ICCS16 Code					
National Government	1. Completely	IS2P27A	IS3G26A					
Local Government	2. Quite a lot	IS2P27B	IS3G26B					
Courts of justice	3. A little	IS2P27C	IS3G26C					
The police	4. Not at all	IS2P27D	IS3G26D					
Political parties		IS2P27E	IS3G26E					
National Parliament		IS2P27F	IS3G26F					
Media (television, newspapers, radio)		IS2P27G	IS3G26G					
The Armed Forces		IS2P27H	IS3G26I					
Schools		IS2P27I	IS3G26J					
The United Nations		IS2P27J	IS3G26K					

IS2P27K

 $\rm IS3G26L$

IS3G26H

People in general

Social media (Twitter, blogs, YouTube)

Authoritarian government practices: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the government and its leaders/their power?

Variables	Levels	ICCS09	ICCS16
a. It is better for government leaders to make decisions without consulting anybody	1. Strongly disagree	LS2P02A	LS3G01A
b. People in government must enforce their			
authority even if it means violating the	2. Disagree	LS2P02B	LS3G01B
rights of some citizens			
c. People in government lose part of their authority when they admit their mistakes	3. Agree	LS2P02C	LS3G01C
d. People whose opinions are different than			
those of the government must be	4. Strongly agree	LS2P02D	LS3G01D
considered its enemies			
e. The most important opinion of a country		LS2P02E	LS3G01E
should be that of the president		L521 02L	ESSCOIL
f. It is fair that the government does not			
comply with the law when it thinks it		LS2P02F	LS3G01F
is not necessary			
g. Concentration of power in one person guarantees order		LS2P03A	LS3G02A
h. The government should close		I CODOOD	I CaCoaD
communication media that are critical		LS2P03B	LS3G02B
i. If the president does not agree with		LS2P03C	LS3G02C
Congress, he/she should dissolve it		L52P05C	L53G02C
Justify the Dictatorship: How much do	you agree or disagr	ee with the foll	lowing statements
about the government and its their pov	ver?		
a. Dictatorships are justified when they	1. Strongly disagree 2. Disagree	LS2P03D	LS3G02D

a. Dictatorships are justified when they	1. Strongly disagree	LS2P03D	LS3G02D
bring order and safety.	2. Disagree	L521 05D	L53G02D
b. Dictatorships are justified when they	3. Agree	LS2P03E	LS3G02E
bring economic benefits	4. Strongly agree	L321 03E	LSSG02E

Country	ICCS 2009	$ICCS\ 2016$	Diff.
Chile	483 (3.5)	482 (3.1)	-1 (5.6)
Colombia	462 (2.9)	482(3.4)	$20~(5.5)$ \blacktriangle
Dominican Republic	380(2.4)	381 (3.0)	1(5.0)
Mexico	452 (2.8)	467(2.5)	$15 (4.9) \blacktriangle$
Guatemala	435 (3.8)	-	-
Paraguay	424 (3.4)	-	-
Peru	-	438 (3.5)	-

Notes: Statistically significant differences (p < 0.05) $\blacktriangle \blacktriangledown$

 $^{() \} Standard \ errors \ appear \ in \ parentheses.$

^		•
L	J	

	C	hile	Colo	ombia	Dominican Republic		Mexico		Peru	Guatemala	Paraguay
	2009	2016	2009	2016	2009	2016	2009	2016	2016	2009	2009
National Government	0.65	0.50 ▼	0.62	0.55 ▼	0.74	0.78 ▼	0.58	0.57	0.49	0.45	0.66
Local Government	0.63	0.53 ▼	0.60	0.56	0.70	0.70	0.55	0.57	0.55	0.55	0.66
Courts of justice	0.56	0.50 ▼	0.50	0.48	0.63	0.63	0.49	0.61 ▲	0.46	0.48	0.49
The police	0.71	0.64 ▼	0.55	0.49	0.56	0.56	0.43	0.49	0.50	0.33	0.45
Political parties	0.34	0.33	0.35	0.28 ▼	0.51	0.50	0.35	0.37	0.33	0.26	0.32
National Parliament	0.54	0.42 ▼	0.49	0.46	0.67	0.73 ▲	0.54	0.56	0.42	0.49	0.59
Media	0.74	0.62 ▼	0.72	0.69	0.76	0.78	0.57	0.56	0.62	0.70	0.74
The Armed Forces	0.81	0.74	0.80	0.78	0.68	0.74	0.62	0.71 ▲	0.64	0.63	0.61
Schools	0.80	0.71	0.87	0.85	0.88	0.91	0.72	0.73	0.78	0.88	0.88
The United Nations	0.65	0.60	0.62	0.63	0.68	0.73	0.66	0.71	0.67	0.66	0.70
People in general	0.52	0.48 ▼	0.49	0.43 ▼	0.61	0.62	0.47	0.52	0.47	0.47	0.57
Social media		0.54		0.49		0.61		0.48	0.45		
Average Country	0.63	0.55 ▼	0.60	0.56 ▼	0.68	0.69 ≈	0.54	0.57 ▲	0.53	0.54	0.61

Note: Statistically significant differences (p < 0.05) $\blacktriangle \blacktriangledown$

	C	hile	Colo	ombia		inican oublic	Me	exico	Peru	Guatemala	Paraguay
	2009	2016	2009	2016	2009	2016	2009	2016	2016	2009	2009
It is better for government leaders to make decisions without consulting anybody	0.16	0.14	0.12	0.13	0.34	0.31	0.24	0.26	0.20	0.18	0.21
People in government must enforce their authority even if it means violating the rights of some citizens	0.25	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.42	0.37	0.26	0.30	0.31	0.25	0.24
People in government lose part of their authority when they admit their mistakes	0.43	0.35	0.46	0.46	0.60	0.64	0.48	0.53	0.52	0.51	0.48
People whose opinions are different than those of the government must be considered its enemies	0.16	0.15	0.11	0.12	0.31	0.29	0.21	0.25	0.18	0.14	0.17
The most important opinion of a country should be that of the president	0.55	0.38 ▼	0.50	0.50	0.62	0.69	0.45	0.41	0.56	0.48	0.57
It is fair that the government does not comply with the law when it thinks it is not necessary	0.30	0.21 ▼	0.24	0.21	0.43	0.38	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	0.29
Concentration of power in one person guarantees order	0.52	0.44 ▼	0.51	0.54	0.68	0.74	0.56	0.56	0.63	0.60	0.58
The government should close communication media that are critical	0.21	0.22	0.16	0.37	0.36	0.26	0.32	0.71	0.29	0.18	0.18
If the president does not agree with Congress, he/she should dissolve it.	0.32	0.35	0.29	0.31	0.46	0.49	0.37	0.39	0.43	0.45	0.41
Dictatorships are justified when they bring order and safety.	0.65	0.57 ▼	0.74	0.73	0.70	0.73	0.69	0.67	0.77	0.78	0.69
Dictatorships are justified when they bring economic benefits	0.64	0.52 ▼	0.70	0.68	0.66	0.70	0.66	0.66	0.72	0.75	0.65
Average Country	0.38	0.32 ▼	0.37	$0.37 \approx$	0.51	$0.52 \approx$	0.41	$0.42 \approx$	0.45	0.42	0.41

Note: Statistically significant differences $(p < 0.05) \blacktriangle \nabla$

	Authoritarian is m	Authoritarianism	Authoritarianism	Trust	Trust
(Intercept)	75.87***	-178.68***	-180.92***	63.10***	0.07
	(0.32)	(23.00)	(23.01)	(0.26)	(27.35)
Civic Knowledge	-0.08***	-0.08***	-0.07^{***}	-0.03***	-0.03***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Trust in civic institutions	0.17***	0.17***	0.26***		
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.02)		
Highest parental educational level		0.03	0.03		0.03
		(0.03)	(0.03)		(0.03)
Home Literacy		-0.19***	-0.19^{***}		-0.31***
		(0.04)	(0.04)		(0.04)
Girl		-1.16***	-1.16^{***}		-1.04***
		(0.08)	(0.08)		(0.09)
Political discussion		-0.02^{***}	-0.02***		0.12***
		(0.00)	(0.00)		(0.00)
2016		0.13***	0.13***		0.03*
		(0.01)	(0.01)		(0.01)
Interaction					
Trust::Civic Knowledge			-0.00***		
			(0.00)		
\mathbb{R}^2	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.05	0.07
$Adj. R^2$	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.05	0.07
Num. obs.	51794	50281	50281	51954	50420
RMSE	97.78	97.69	97.67	117.01	116.37

^{***} p < 0.001, ** p < 0.01, * p < 0.05. Standard errors appear in parentheses.

Table 6: Regression Models: Support Authoritarianism and Civic Knowledge in Latin América

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3
(Intercept)	85.49***	85.93***	85.44***
	(0.21)	(0.30)	(0.34)
Civic knowledge	-0.08***	-0.08***	-0.08***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Parent's education		-0.06*	0.05
		(0.03)	(0.03)
Books at home		-0.28***	-0.23***
		(0.04)	(0.04)
Girl (vs boy)		-1.37^{***}	-1.32***
		(0.08)	(0.08)
Political discussion		0.00	-0.00
		(0.00)	(0.00)
$2016(vs\ 2009)$			1.04^{***}
			(0.08)
Colombia			0.79^{***}
			(0.17)
Dominican Republic			-0.42
			(0.25)
Guatemala			0.10
			(0.32)
Mexico			0.55^{***}
			(0.15)
Paraguay			-0.50
			(0.39)
Peru			0.06
			(0.21)
\mathbb{R}^2	0.36	0.36	0.36
$Adj. R^2$	0.36	0.36	0.36
Num. obs.	54769	52148	52148
RMSE	99.05	99.25	99.04

^{***}p < 0.001, **p < 0.01, *p < 0.05

Table 7: Regression Models: Institutional Trust and Civic Knowledge in Latin América

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5
(Intercept)	63.10***	42.89***	13.74***	11.94***	13.20***
	(0.26)	(0.51)	(1.25)	(1.28)	(1.29)
Civic knowledge	-0.03***	-0.01***	0.05***	0.04***	0.04***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Support authoritarianism		0.23***	0.81***	0.75***	0.72***
		(0.01)	(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.02)
Knowledge x authoritarianims			-0.00***	-0.00***	-0.00***
			(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Parent's education				0.02	-0.02
				(0.03)	(0.03)
Books at home				-0.31***	-0.27***
				(0.04)	(0.04)
Girl (vs boys)				-0.67^{***}	-0.73***
				(0.09)	(0.09)
Political discussion				0.11***	0.11***
				(0.00)	(0.00)
2016 (vs 2009)					0.06
					(0.10)
Colombia					-0.32
					(0.19)
Dominican Repuiblic					2.61***
					(0.29)
Guatemala					-3.47***
					(0.37)
Mexico					-0.19
					(0.18)
Paraguay					-0.25
					(0.46)
Peru					-2.51***
					(0.24)
\mathbb{R}^2	0.05	0.09	0.10	0.11	0.12
$Adj. R^2$	0.05	0.09	0.10	0.11	0.12
Num. obs.	51954	51794	51794	50281	50281
RMSE	117.01	114.45	113.75	113.41	112.94

^{***}p < 0.001, **p < 0.01, *p < 0.05