

# Rebuilding the Tower of Babel?

## The Influence of Language Policy on Political Trust

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2018-12-15

# Towel of Babel



# Rebuilding the Towel? For What?



# Going Beyond Existing Research

Shared Object

- Official Language

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## Limits

- Only minorities
- Only state-building phase
- Proxy of culture

# Going Beyond Existing Research

## Shared Object

- Official Language

## Limits

- Only minorities
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## Goal

1. Full population
2. Established environment
3. Beyond culture

# Culture Communication-Based Theory

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# Culture Communication-Based Theory

- Listening:
  - Mainstreamized ↑
  - Hypotheses:
    - Being **more** familiar with the political institutions
    - Align **more** with the government



- Speaking:
  - Activism ↑
  - Hypotheses:
    - **More** interests and internal efficacy in politics
    - **Less** external efficacy
    - **More** negative impression of the governmental officials.

- Speaking:
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- Relative (  $Speaking_i - \bar{Speaking}$  )
  - Suitability ↑
  - Hypotheses:
    - **Better** self-evaluation
    - **Less** enthusiasm in changing it
    - **More** political trust

# Research Design

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# Research Design

- Source:
  - Chinese General Social Survey 2010--15

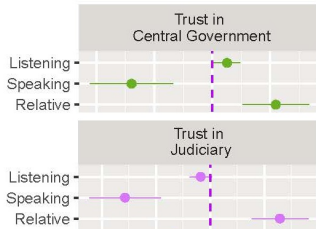
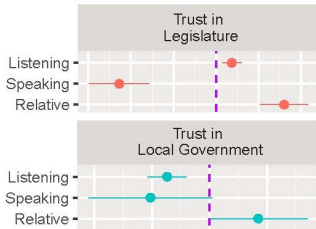
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# Research Design

- Source:
  - Chinese General Social Survey 2010--15
- DV:
  - Mainstream attitudes (5)
  - Activism (6)
  - Self-evaluation (1)
  - **Political Trust**
    - National legislature, central government, local government, judiciary

- IV:
  - Listening, speaking and relative proficiencies (  $\delta_{si} = s_i - \bar{s}_i$  )
  - Demographic and socioeconomic controls (13)
  - Fixed effect (province, wave), post-stratification weights.

# Results



# Conclusion

1. Communication-based theory: A general understanding

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# Conclusion

1. Communication-based theory: A general understanding
2. New insight into public opinion

# Thank you!

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<https://sammo3182.github.io/>

[sammo3182](#)

# Appendix

# New Case: Mainland China

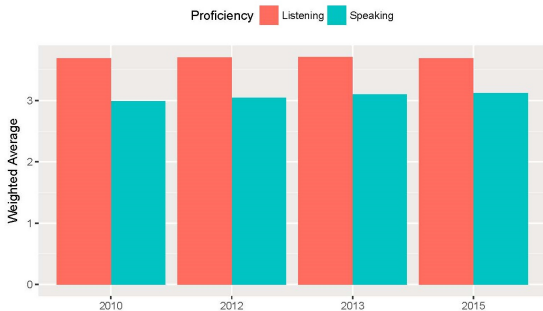
*Ethnicity*



*Language*

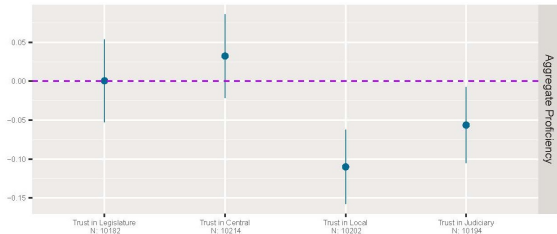


# Reliability of Self-Report Official Language Proficiency



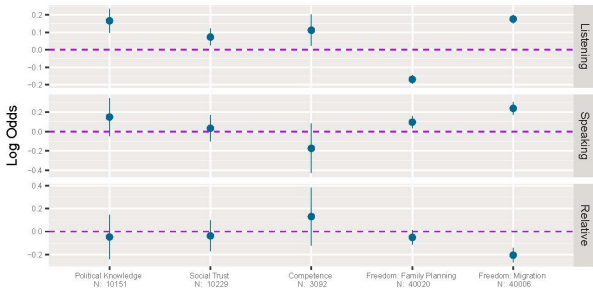
# Results

## Culture-based theory + aggregated measurement



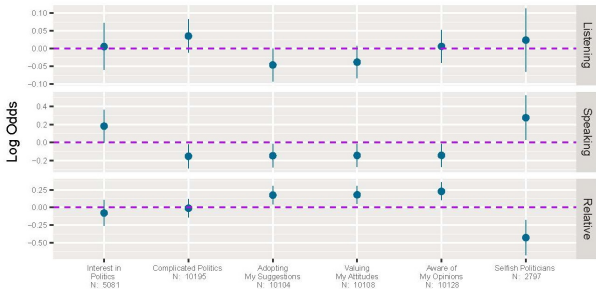
# Results

Culture Communicate-based theory + aggregate decomposed measurement: Listening



# Results

Communicate-based theory + decomposed measurement:  
Speaking





# Results

Communicate-based theory + decomposed measurement:  
Relative

