

Who still trusts the government?

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Recap

RQ: How is **TRUST** in the political system shaped by political interest and other socio-economic factors?

Data: Model

- European Social Survey (ESS) 2018
- Model:

$$\begin{array}{lcl} \text{Trust} & = & \text{Socioeconomic Indicators} \\ \\ \text{trust in parliament} + & & \alpha + \\ \text{trust in politicians} + & = & \beta_1 \times \text{political interest} + \\ \text{trust in political parties} & & \beta_2 \times \text{income} + \\ & & \beta_3 \times \text{LR spectrum} + \\ & & \beta_4 \times \text{age} \text{ (}^2\text{?) } \end{array}$$

Data: Questions

CARD 9 Using this card, please tell me on a score of 0-10 how much you personally trust each of the institutions I read out. 0 means you do not trust an institution at all, and 10 means you have complete trust. Firstly... **READ OUT...**

		No trust at all										Complete (Refu- (Don't trust sal) know)		
B6	...[country]'s parliament?	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	77	88
B7	...the legal system?	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	77	88
B8	...the police?	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	77	88
B9	...politicians?	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	77	88
B10	...political parties?	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	77	88
B11	...the European Parliament?	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	77	88
B12	...the United Nations?	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	77	88

Data: Questions

F3 And in what year were you/ was he/she born? (Refusal = 7777; Don't know = 8888) => **age**

B26 **CARD 10** In politics people sometimes talk of “left” and “right”.
Using this card, where would you place yourself on this scale,
where 0 means the left and 10 means the right? => **LR spectrum**

Left										Right	(Refusal)	(Don't know)
00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	77	88

Data: Questions

B1 How interested would you say you are in politics – are you... **READ OUT...**

very interested,	1
quite interested,	2
hardly interested,	3
or, not at all interested?	4
(Refusal)	7
(Don't know)	8

=> political interest

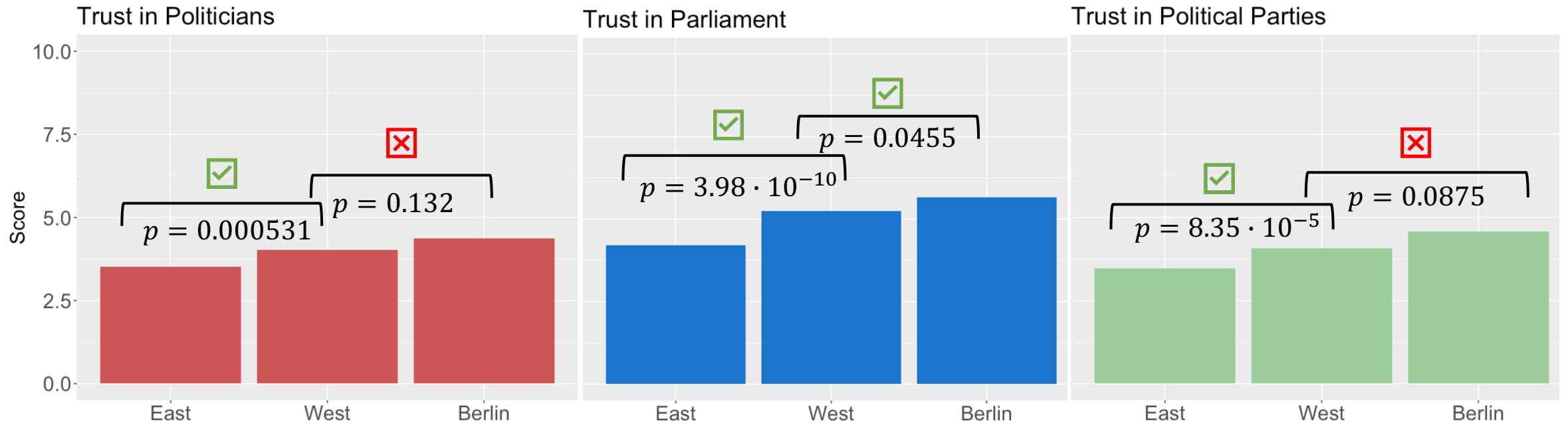
F41 CARD 44 Using this card, please tell me which letter describes your household's total income, after tax and compulsory deductions, from all sources? If you don't know the exact figure, please give an estimate. Use the part of the card that you know best: weekly, monthly or annual income⁸⁹.

J	01
R	02
C	03
M	04
F	05
S	06
K	07
P	08
D	09
H	10
(Refusal)	77
(Don't know)	88

=> income

Trust varies between East and West Germany and Berlin

Are levels of trust in East and West Germany and Berlin significantly different? ($\alpha = 0.05$)



→ Combine West Germany and Berlin into one crate

Cronbach's alpha

- Test for consistency between trust variables

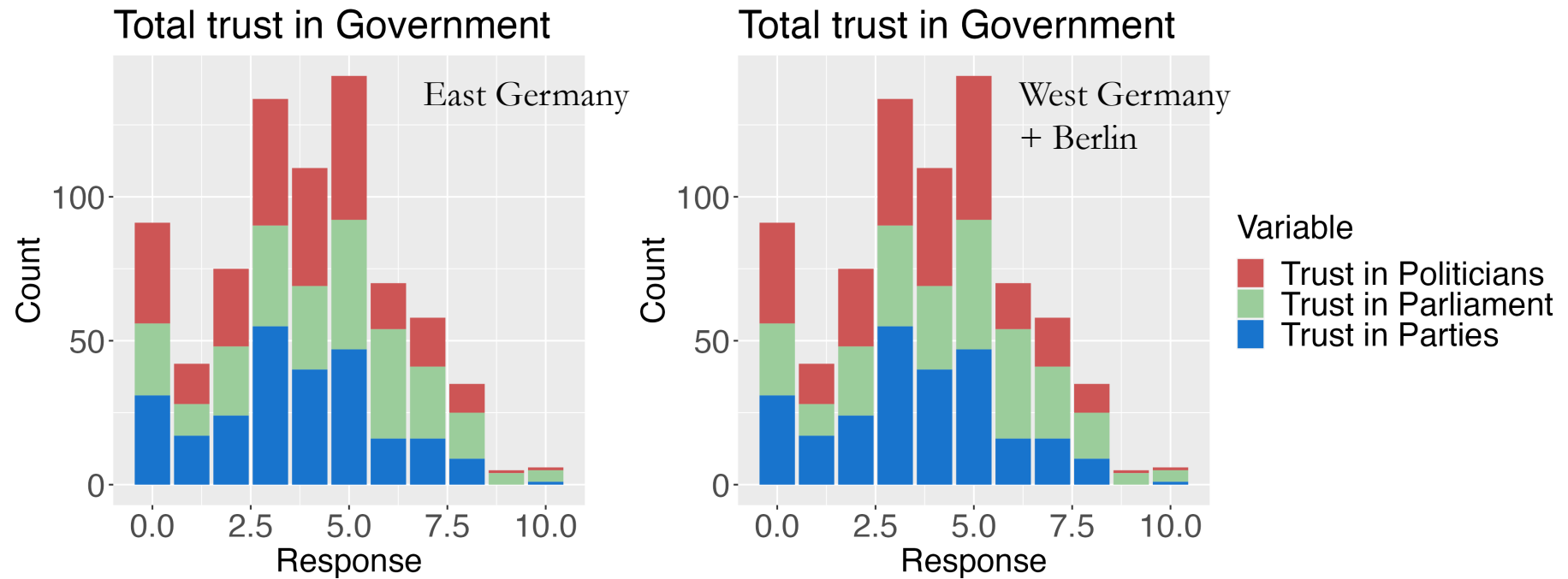
	Germany	East	Berlin + West
α	0.888	0.898	0.884

- $\alpha > 0.8$: Trust variables can be combined by taking average

Average trust

$= (\text{trust politicians} + \text{trust parliament} + \text{trust parties})/3$

Combined trust variable

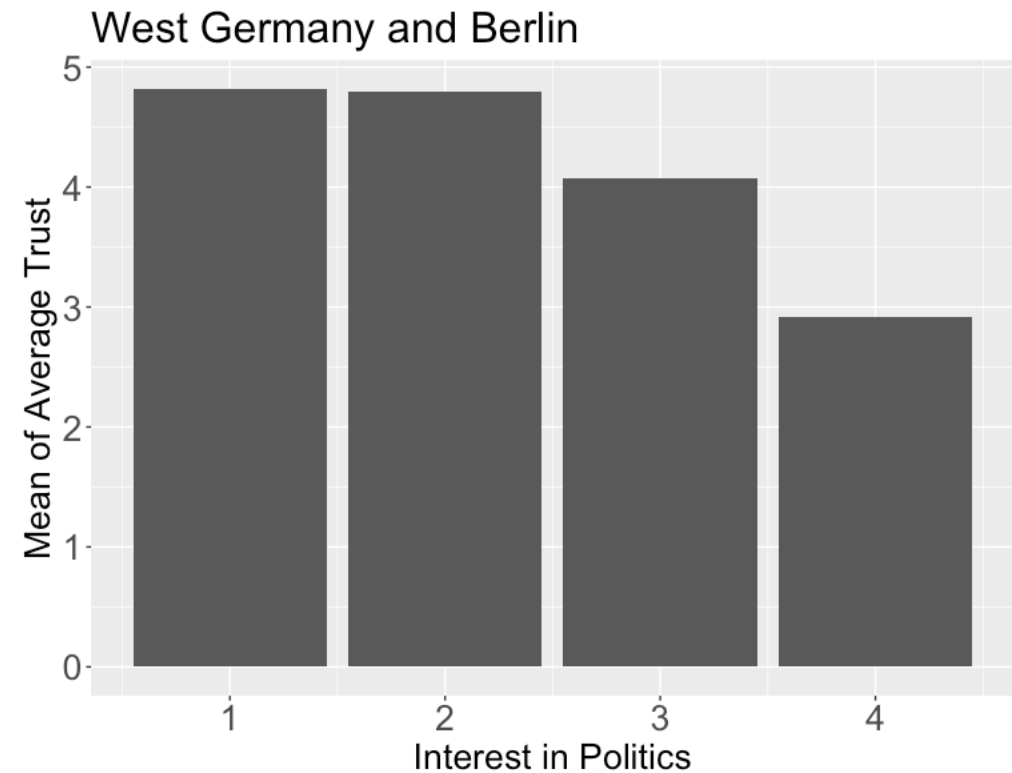
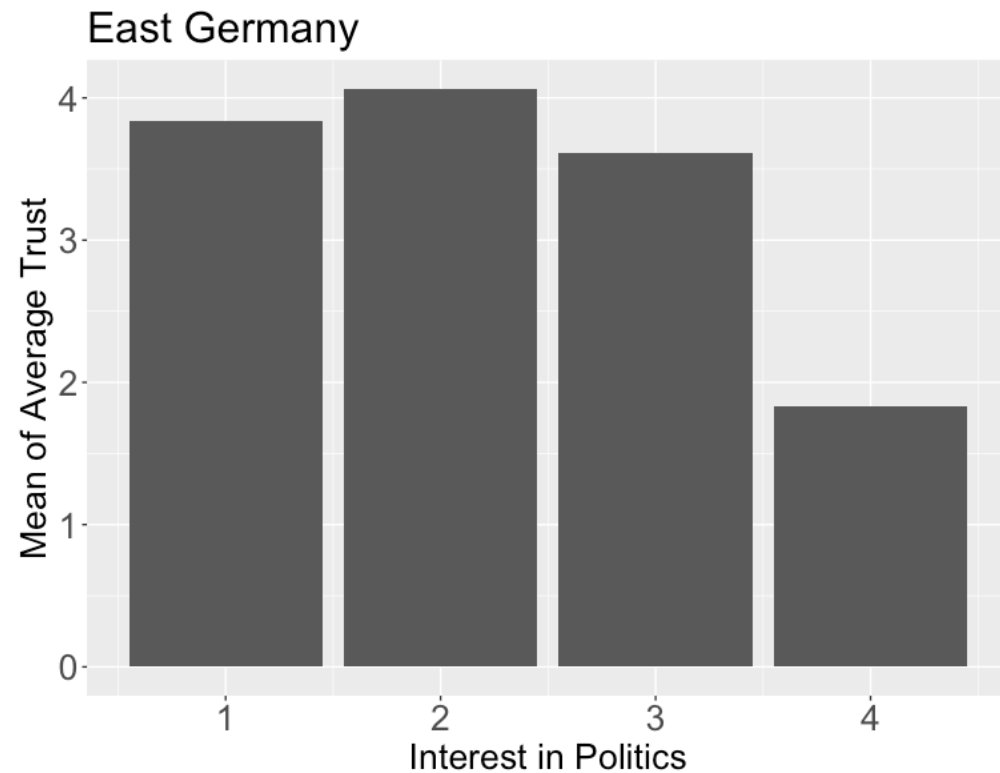


Mean East= 3.84

Mean West = 4.61

Mean of Germany = 4.48

Total trust vs interest in politics



Trust correlates positively with interest in politics!

Interest in politics: 1 – very high, 4 – very low
Trust: 1 – very low, 10 – very high

Linear Regression

trust_regression_model(East_DE)

	Estimate	Std. Error	t-Value	Pr(> t)
Intercept	14.403	2.623	5.490	9.81e-08
hinctnta	0.0885	0.158	0.561	0.575
polintr	-0.683	0.537	-1.271	0.205
lrscale	-0.364	0.194	-1.870	0.0626
agea	-0.00885	0.0262	-0.338	0.736

Adjusted r-squared: 0.006358

Higher income,
Lower political interest,
Leftward orientation, and
Lower age

trust_regression_model(West_Berlin_DE)

	Estimate	Std. Error	t-Value	Pr(> t)
Intercept	16.969	0.969	17.515	<2e-16
hinctnta	0.287	0.0627	4.580	5.13e-06
polintr	-1.309	0.224	-5.832	7e-09
lrscale	-0.117	0.0885	-1.320	0.187
agea	-0.036	0.00951	-3.621	3.06e-04

Adjusted r-squared: 0.0569

All lead to higher total trust

Conclusion

- Trust does correlate positively with interest in politics
- The correlation is even stronger if other socioeconomic indicators are factored in as well
- There is a significant difference in total trust in the political system between East- and West Germany

Possible improvements

- Household income does not represent individual income, also not completely quantitative scale
- Instead of LR spectrum use ordinal party affiliation