The Roots of Political Interests

How Gender Still Shapes Childhood Socialization

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Context: A Gender Gap in Political Interest?

How do people conceptualize political interest?

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- But they do not associate politics with health care or education
- Politics refers to both agency & communion

Why Does this Matter?

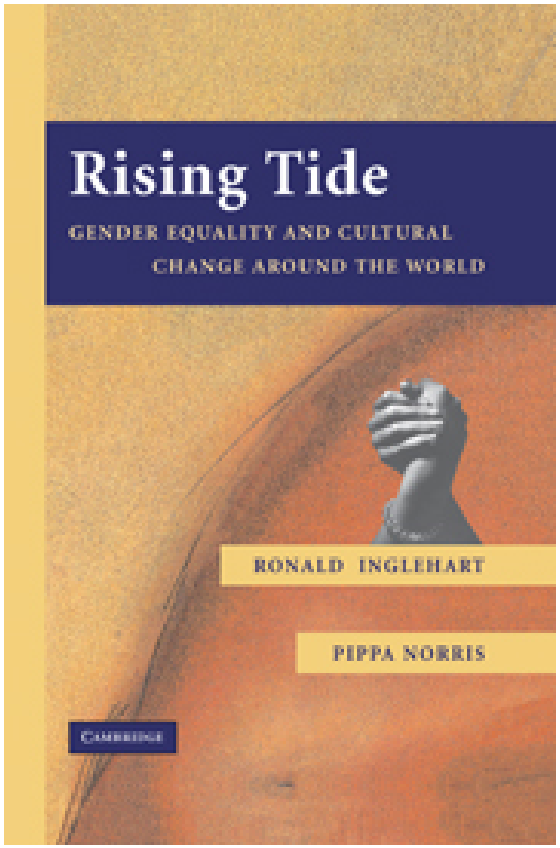
Table 1. Men's and women's interest in politics and political issues

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Cohort	Interest	Education	NHS	Foreign policy	Partisan politics	Law and order
18–24	–0.294***		0.372***	–0.423***	–0.300**	–0.306**
25–34	–0.522***		0.284***	–0.413***	–0.370***	
35–44	–0.480***	0.407***	0.403***	–0.387***	–0.364***	
45–54	–0.400***			–0.373***		
55–64	–0.321***		0.182*	–0.305***	–0.174**	
65+	–0.273**			–0.329**		
All	–0.391***	0.147***	0.243***	–0.359***	–0.240***	–0.075*

*** p = >.001; ** p = >.01; * p = >.05. Weighted data: *N for each age cohort*: 18–24 year olds – 236; 25–34 year olds – 500; 35–44 year olds – 433; 45–54 year olds – 341; 55–64 year olds – 1003; 65 and over – 367; All – 2,887.

Figure 1: Political interests by gender (Campbell and Winters 2008)

Sources of the Gender Gap in Self-Reported Political Interest



Structural factors (Inglehart and Norris 2003)

Politics & Gender, 4 (2008), 535–561. Printed in the U.S.A.

The Gender Gap in Self-Perceived Understanding of Politics in Canada and the United States

Elisabeth Gidengil
McGill University
Janine Giles
University of Calgary
Melanee Thomas
McGill University

Despite the gains women have made since the advent of second-wave feminism, women remain less confident than men of their ability to understand politics. This gender gap has remained unchanged for decades, yet it has attracted surprisingly little scholarly attention in recent years. This article uses data from the 2000 American and 2004 Canadian election studies to assess whether differences in women's and men's socioeconomic resources help to explain the gender gap. We also examine whether there are differences in the ways that socioeconomic resources affect women's and men's self-perceived ability to understand politics. We focus particular attention on the effects of parenthood on women's confidence in their understanding of politics. Finally, we consider the role of feminism and gender role conceptions.

Life-cycle events (Gidengil, Giles, and Thomas 2008)

The Origins of Political Attitudes and Behaviours: An Analysis Using Twins

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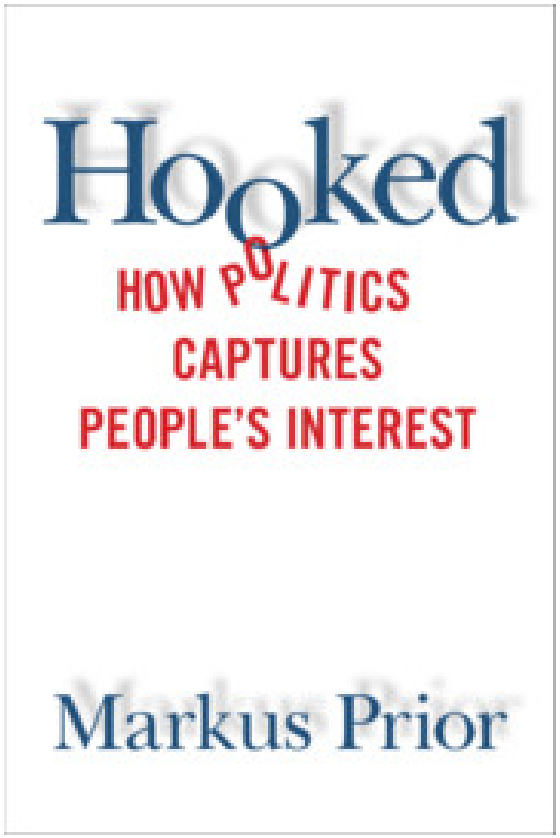
PHILIP A. VERNON *University of Western Ontario*

1. Introduction

In what must surely rank as one of the strangest episodes in the entire history of science, two generations of our immediate forebears in the social sciences managed to virtually ignore the "Darwinian" theory of biological evolution and to exclude from their purview any sustained consideration of the role of biological factors in the shaping of human behaviour. (Corning, 1971: 321)

The curious practice Corning describes above has continued through a third generation of political scientists and sociologists and is now reaching into a fourth. Although bio-evolutionary perspectives are now mainstream in psychology and the paradigm is beginning to have a major impact in the emerging fields of behavioural economics and neuroeconomics, most political scientists and sociologists are still "missing the revolution" (Barkow, 2006). Some change is on the horizon in those disciplines, but the general picture there is one of splendid isolation from the concepts, methods and findings of evolutionary biology and behavioural genetics.[1]

Genetics (Bell, Schermer, and Vernon 2009)



Prior (2019)

Homemade citizens: The development of political interest during adolescence and young adulthood

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Abstract Despite being among the most important indicators of political participation, relatively little is known about the origins and the development of political interest over the lifespan. The formative years between childhood and adulthood are generally considered a crucial phase in which future electors form and strengthen political habits. The aim of this research is to better understand this important stage by examining the way in which parental socialization and life-cycle events affect the formation and growth of political interest during adolescence and young adulthood. While parental influences are expected to take place during childhood and persist over-time, life-cycle events are considered to influence development in early adulthood for those adolescents who did not grow up in a highly politicized environment. We assess these assumptions by applying latent growth curve modeling and using the German Socio-Economic Panel, which spans from 1984 to 2007. Our findings confirm strong parental socialization effects on interest levels during teenage years. While life-cycle events are not found to strongly affect the development of political interest during the formative years, the transition to adulthood is indeed a more critical period for those individuals who did not acquire high levels of interest from their family.
Acta Politica (2013) **48,** 92–116. doi:10.1057/ap.2012.23;
published online 19 October 2012

Keywords: political interest; young adulthood; parental socialization; life-cycle events; latent growth curve analysis; panel data

Neundorf, Smets, and Garcia-Albacete (2013)

A more robust explanation for the Canadian context: socialization

Parents' Role in Political Interest Transmission

- Significant relationship between parents' political interest and their children's political interest

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- Causal link between parents' and children's political interest
- Main causal mechanism: parent–child political discussions

Gender Differences in Transmission of Self-Reported Political Interest

- Transmission works better for parent–child pairs of the same gender

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- Mother–daughter correlations particularly strong

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- Mother–daughter correlations particularly strong
- Mothers and fathers talk as much about politics with sons and daughters

Social Learning Theory

- **Social learning theory**: Children learn by observing their parents, modelling their behaviour, attitudes, habits & values after them

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- Social learning is easier when the role model shares the child's gender (observer–model similarity)
- Works through social pressure
- Research questions: *What are the differences in political interests between men and women, how do they get reproduced over time, and why?*

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- ***Hypothesis 3***: *Children's political interests are more affected by political discussions with their same-gender peers than other-gender peers.*

Data and Methods

Children Political Interest Survey (CPIS): Data collected among 698 students aged 8–18 from 7 elementary & secondary schools + 1 school board's Student Senate between August 2022 & January 2023

- Schools include various urban areas of Quebec & Ontario

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- 15-minute bilingual Qualtrics online survey questionnaire filled during classroom time
- Multilevel regressions, classroom fixed effects, controls for SES & personality traits

Measuring children's interest in different political topics: how?

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  - Law and crime (i.e., police funding, sentences for violent crimes)
  - Education (i.e., university tuition, funding of public and private schools)
  - Partisan politics (i.e., federal elections, political parties)

Results

Table 1: Interest in Topic by Gender, CPIS

	Politics (general)	Health care	International affairs	Law and crime	Education	Partisan politics
Without Controls						
(Intercept)	4.579***	4.041***	5.724***	4.956***	4.219***	4.007***
	(0.184)	(0.167)	(0.180)	(0.173)	(0.206)	(0.171)
Gender (1 = girl)	-0.434*	0.128	-0.980***	0.488*	-0.103	-0.854***
	(0.207)	(0.197)	(0.229)	(0.231)	(0.223)	(0.232)
SD (Intercept Class)	0.651	0.542	0.473	0.377	0.771	0.344
SD (Observations)	2.499	2.397	2.802	2.837	2.701	2.855
Num.Obs.	617	623	620	619	623	620
R2 Marg.	0.007	0.001	0.029	0.007	0.000	0.022
With Controls						
(Intercept)	1.413	1.138	4.458***	2.838*	0.218	4.246**
	(1.337)	(1.187)	(1.315)	(1.254)	(1.436)	(1.309)
Gender (1 = girl)	-0.432*	0.128	-0.973***	0.492*	-0.122	-0.809***
	(0.212)	(0.201)	(0.232)	(0.237)	(0.229)	(0.236)
SD (Intercept Class)	0.598	0.470	0.442	0.318	0.665	0.408
SD (Observations)	2.476	2.375	2.738	2.811	2.680	2.792
Num.Obs.	579	584	581	581	584	581
R2 Marg.	0.031	0.022	0.070	0.024	0.030	0.045

$+$ p $<$ 0.1, * p $<$ 0.05, ** p $<$ 0.01, *** p $<$ 0.001

Method: Multilevel linear regression

Fixed Effects: Classroom

Controls: Socio-economic variables

- For each of the following topics, which parent do you discuss most often with?
  - Health care
    - My mother
    - My father
    - Don't know/Prefer not to answer
  - International affairs
  - Law and crime
  - Education
  - Partisan politics

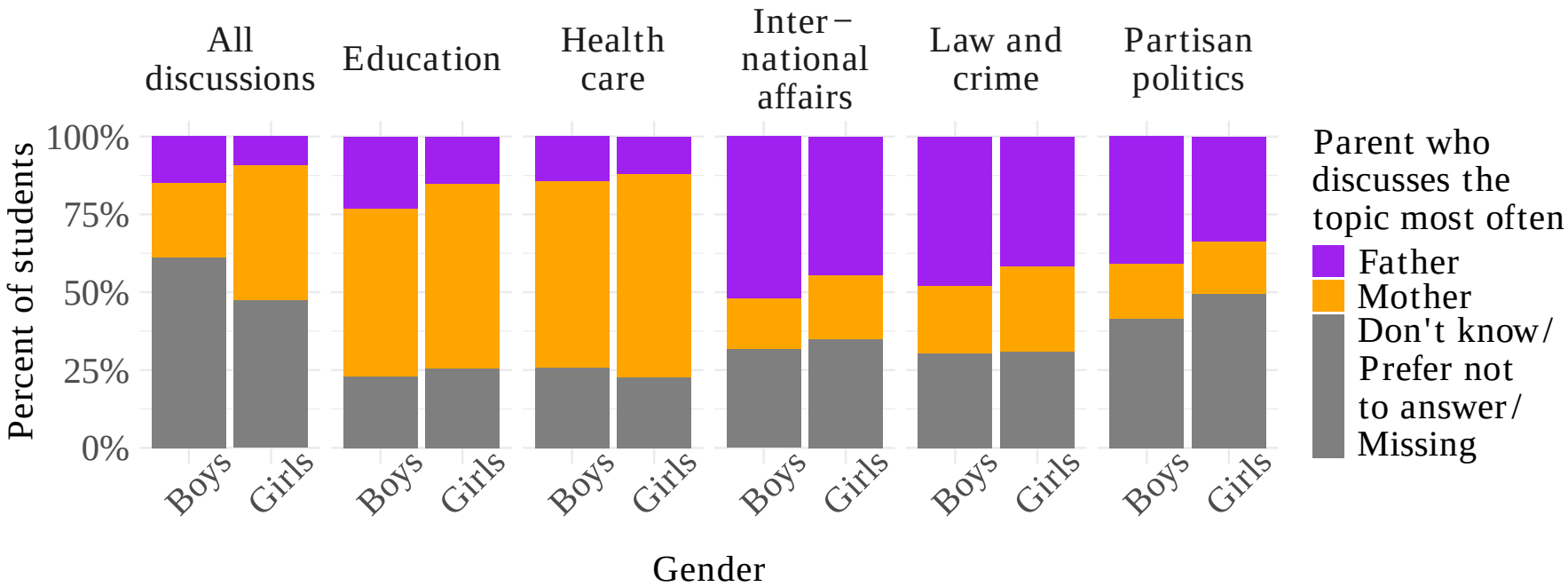

Figure 2: Topic Most Often Discussed with Parents by Child Gender, 2022 CPIS data

- Among these five topics, which one do you discuss most often with your mother(s)?
  - Health care
  - International affairs
  - Law and crime
  - Education
  - Partisan politics
  - Don't know/Prefer not to answer
- Among these five topics, which one do you discuss most often with your father(s)?

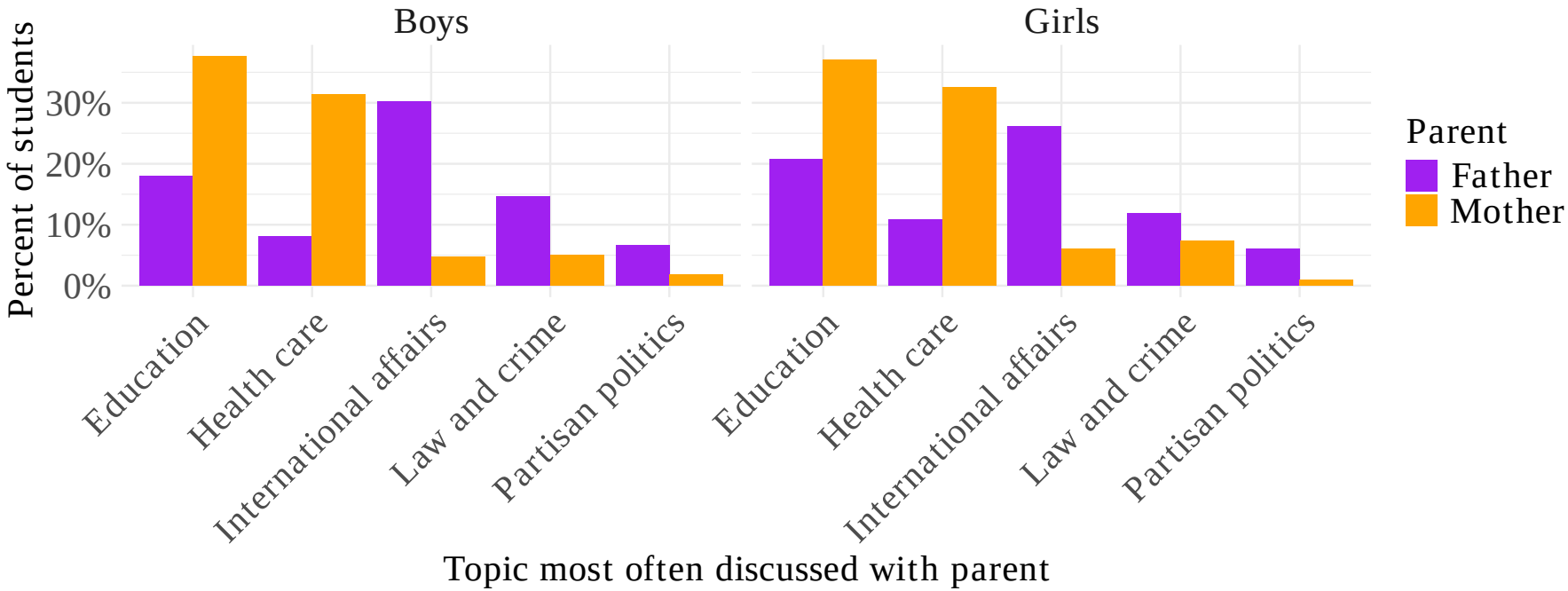

Figure 3: Topic Most Often Discussed by Mothers and Fathers, 2022 CPIS

Table 2: Interest in Topic by Gender of Parent who Discusses that Topic the Most (With Interactions)

	All	Health care	International affairs	Law and crime	Education	Partisan politics
Boys						
(Intercept)	8.760	10.988	-3.757	10.621	31.363*	37.670+
	(8.739)	(15.860)	(16.316)	(16.266)	(14.909)	(19.217)
Mother discusses topic more than father	-0.651***	-0.388	-0.380	-0.345	0.232	-0.088
	(0.161)	(0.399)	(0.397)	(0.390)	(0.388)	(0.487)
SD (Intercept Class)	0.757	0.657	0.829	0.385	0.394	0.001
SD (Observations)	2.642	2.339	2.413	2.629	2.694	2.977
Num.Obs.	1107	233	220	222	246	186
R2 Marg.	0.021	0.029	0.067	0.015	0.041	0.049
Girls						
(Intercept)	12.388+	10.465	25.279+	11.236	17.735	44.466*
	(7.185)	(11.106)	(13.521)	(13.799)	(11.679)	(19.529)
Mother discusses topic more than father	-0.232	0.194	-0.009	-0.019	-0.383	-0.123
	(0.176)	(0.450)	(0.431)	(0.416)	(0.449)	(0.481)
SD (Intercept Class)	0.657	0.604	0.001	0.656	0.679	0.170
SD (Observations)	2.684	2.380	2.739	2.787	2.595	2.716
Num.Obs.	992	226	192	203	221	150
R2 Marg.	0.017	0.035	0.020	0.029	0.054	0.038

+ $p < 0.1$, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

Method: Multilevel linear regression

Fixed Effects: Classroom

Table 3: Interest in Topic Most Often Discussed with Socialization Agents

	All	Health care	International affairs	Law and crime	Education	Partisan politics
Boys						
(Intercept)	6.011	-17.012	-15.964	31.164	33.365	8.199
	(12.054)	(24.194)	(17.744)	(20.788)	(22.838)	(23.231)
Topic most discussed with mother?	-0.279	0.997+	-0.243	0.021	-0.729	0.401
	(0.288)	(0.558)	(0.815)	(1.338)	(0.600)	(1.612)
Topic most discussed with father?	0.768**	1.431	0.310	1.291*	-0.420	2.111+
	(0.292)	(1.313)	(0.458)	(0.607)	(0.764)	(1.057)
Topic most discussed with female friends?	0.664*	-0.433	-0.647	2.471**	1.797**	1.122
	(0.298)	(0.766)	(0.489)	(0.857)	(0.606)	(2.141)
Topic most discussed with male friends?	0.594+	-2.723*	0.857+	0.167	-0.085	2.240
	(0.315)	(1.209)	(0.481)	(0.670)	(0.778)	(1.468)
Topic most discussed by teacher?	0.326	1.481	1.133*	-0.284	-0.443	-0.003
	(0.298)	(0.967)	(0.471)	(1.201)	(0.660)	(1.359)
Topic most discussed by social media influencer?	0.703*	0.864	0.115	0.316	0.618	-1.216
	(0.295)	(0.667)	(0.456)	(0.712)	(1.161)	(2.173)
SD (Intercept Class)	0.940	1.185	0.000	1.057	0.182	0.951
SD (Observations)	2.369	2.266	1.993	2.100	2.665	2.472
Num.Obs.	458	90	92	92	92	92

Table 4: Interest in Topic Most Often Discussed with Socialization Agents

	All	Health care	International affairs	Law and crime	Education	Partisan politics
Girls						
(Intercept)	-26.389+	-9.169	-38.483	3.836	-23.826	-1.653
	(15.858)	(23.812)	(31.457)	(27.142)	(26.186)	(28.375)
Topic most discussed with mother?	0.729*	0.259	1.667	1.769+	1.798**	
	(0.318)	(0.555)	(1.689)	(0.958)	(0.623)	
Topic most discussed with father?	0.454	0.226	-0.130	1.935*	0.564	-0.059
	(0.311)	(0.822)	(0.713)	(0.721)	(0.711)	(1.010)
Topic most discussed with female friends?	0.468	-0.060	0.852	-0.401	0.656	2.236
	(0.320)	(0.637)	(0.856)	(0.762)	(0.611)	(2.535)
Topic most discussed with male friends?	0.647*	-0.788	-0.177	-0.228	0.213	3.291**
	(0.307)	(0.833)	(0.760)	(0.607)	(0.756)	(1.112)
Topic most discussed by teacher?	0.085	-0.902	-0.070	-0.763	0.233	2.856***
	(0.308)	(1.193)	(0.785)	(0.751)	(0.602)	(0.775)
Topic most discussed by social media influencer?	0.812**	1.418*	-0.444	1.494*	-1.910+	1.737
	(0.309)	(0.648)	(0.703)	(0.672)	(0.977)	(1.525)
SD (Intercept Class)	1.069	0.000	0.442	0.001	0.872	0.720
SD (Observations)	2.372	2.186	2.607	2.328	2.259	2.170
Num.Obs.	387	78	77	76	78	78

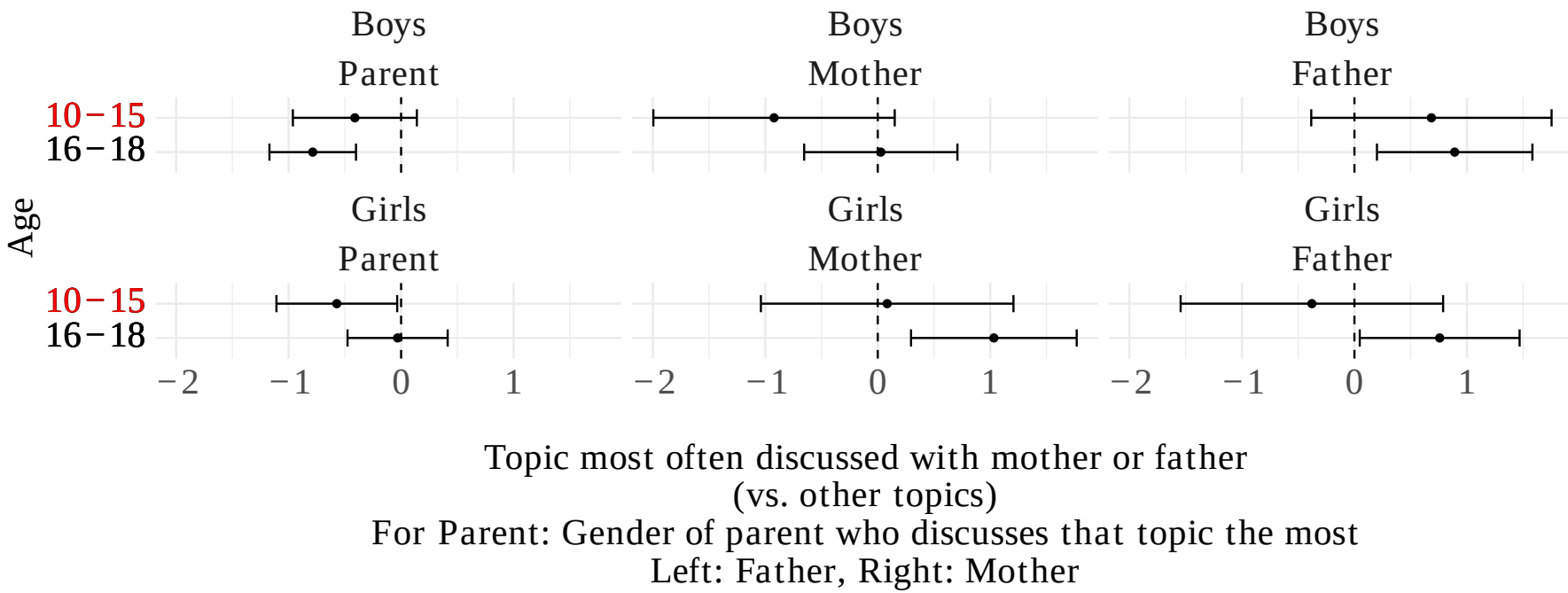

Figure 4: Interest in Topics by Gender, Age and Discussion with Parents, 2022 CPIS

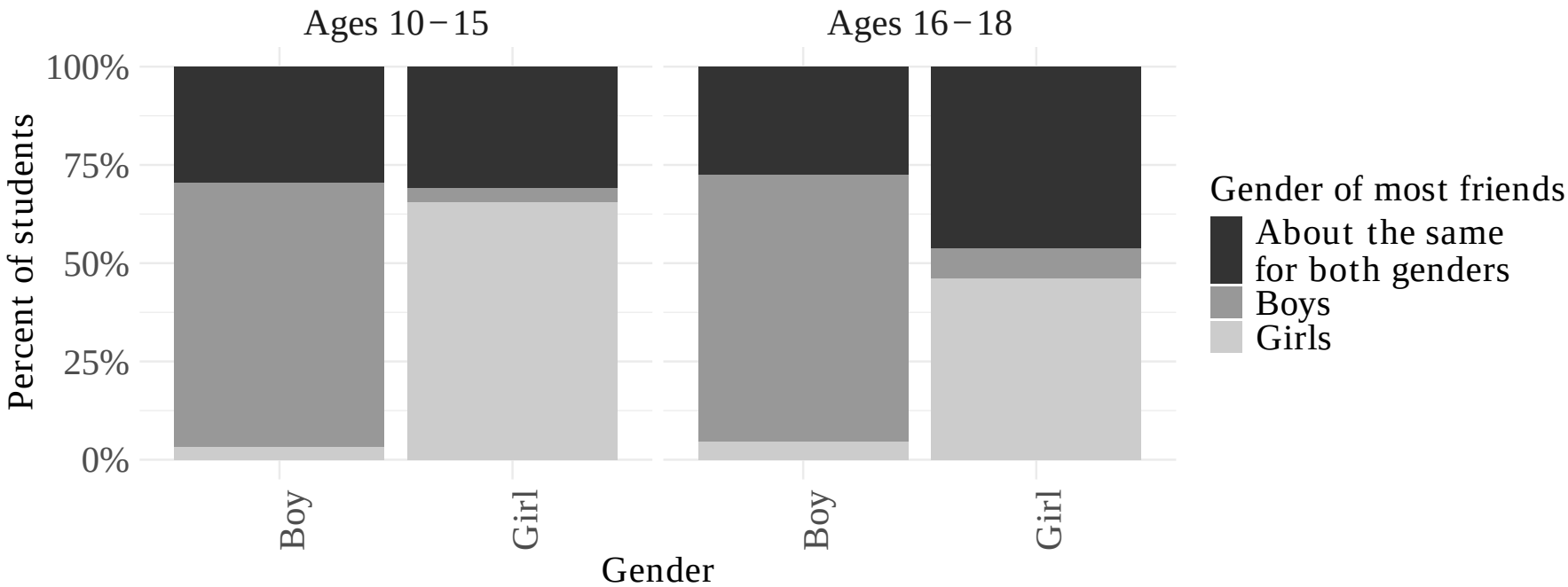

Figure 5: Children's Friends by Gender and Age Group, 2022 CPIS

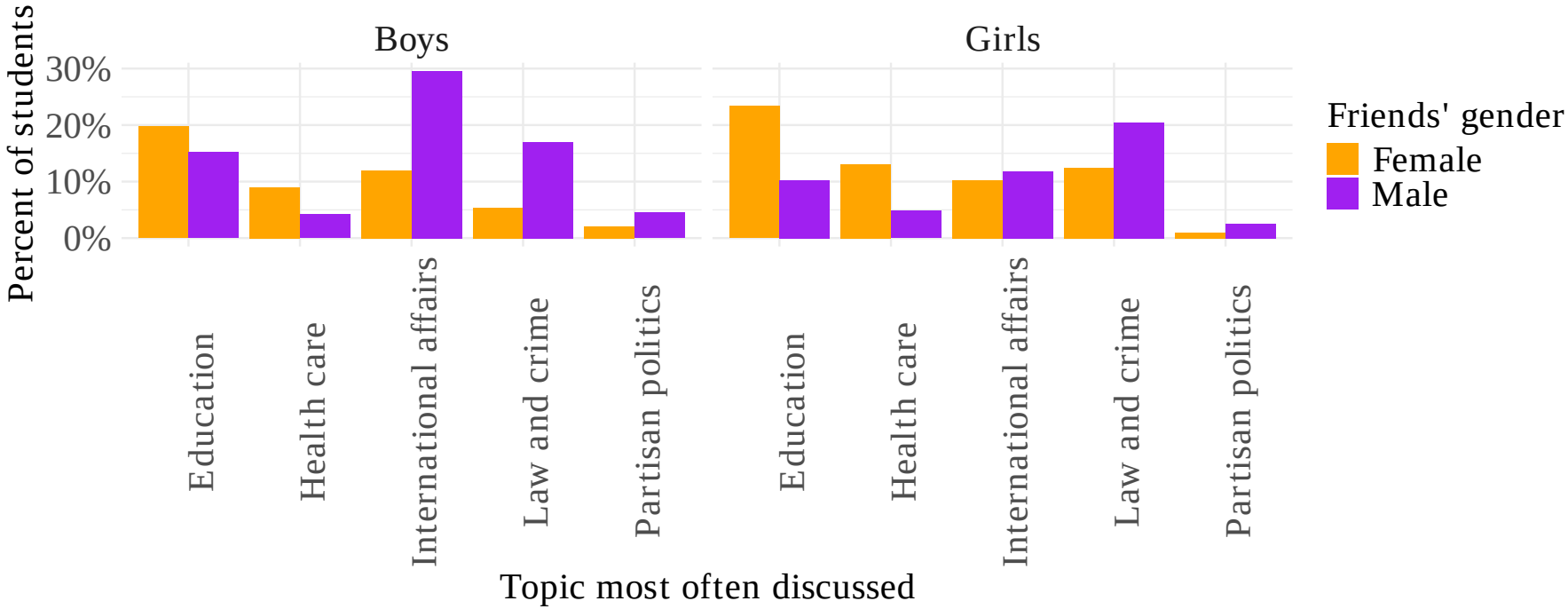

Figure 6: Interest in Topic Most Often Discussed with Friends by Child Gender and Friends' Gender, 2022 CPIS

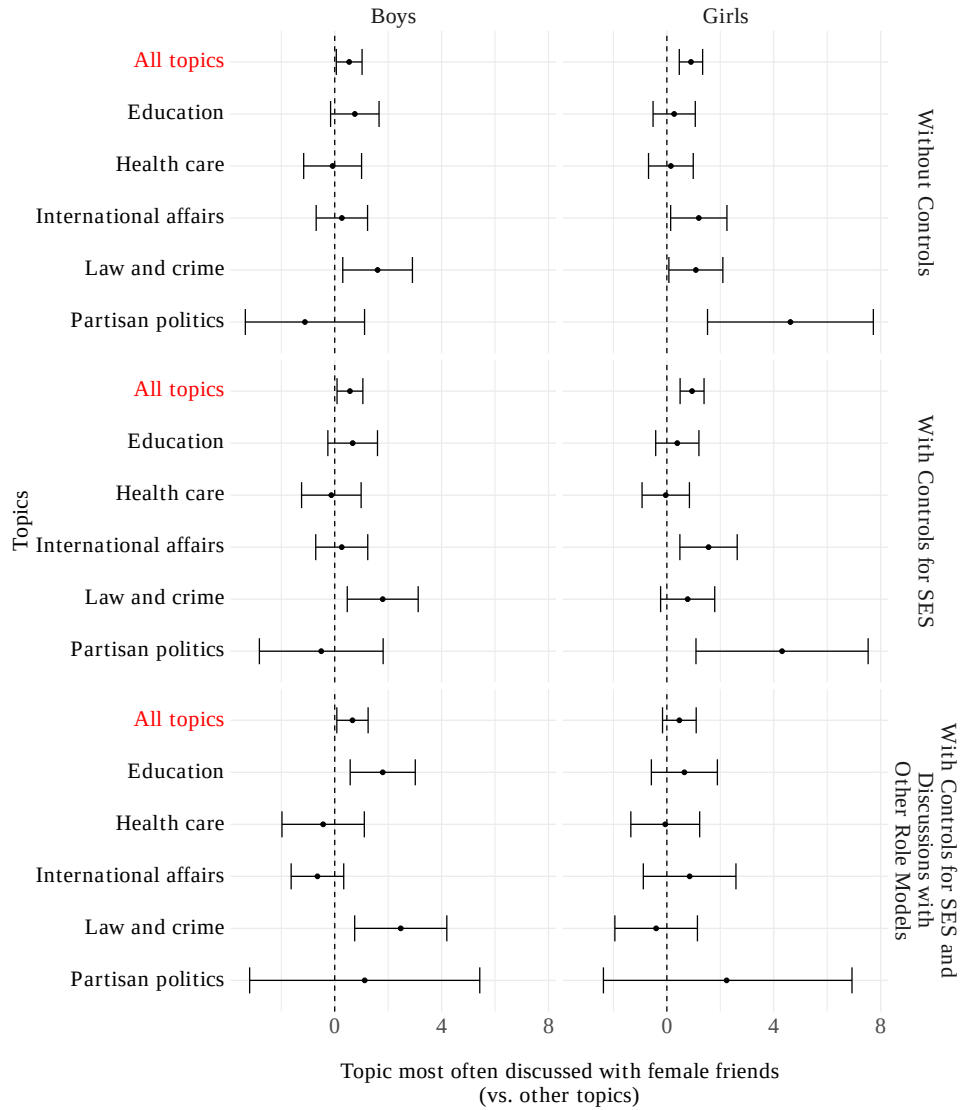

Figure 7: Interest in Topic Most Often Discussed with One's Female Friends, 2022 CPIS

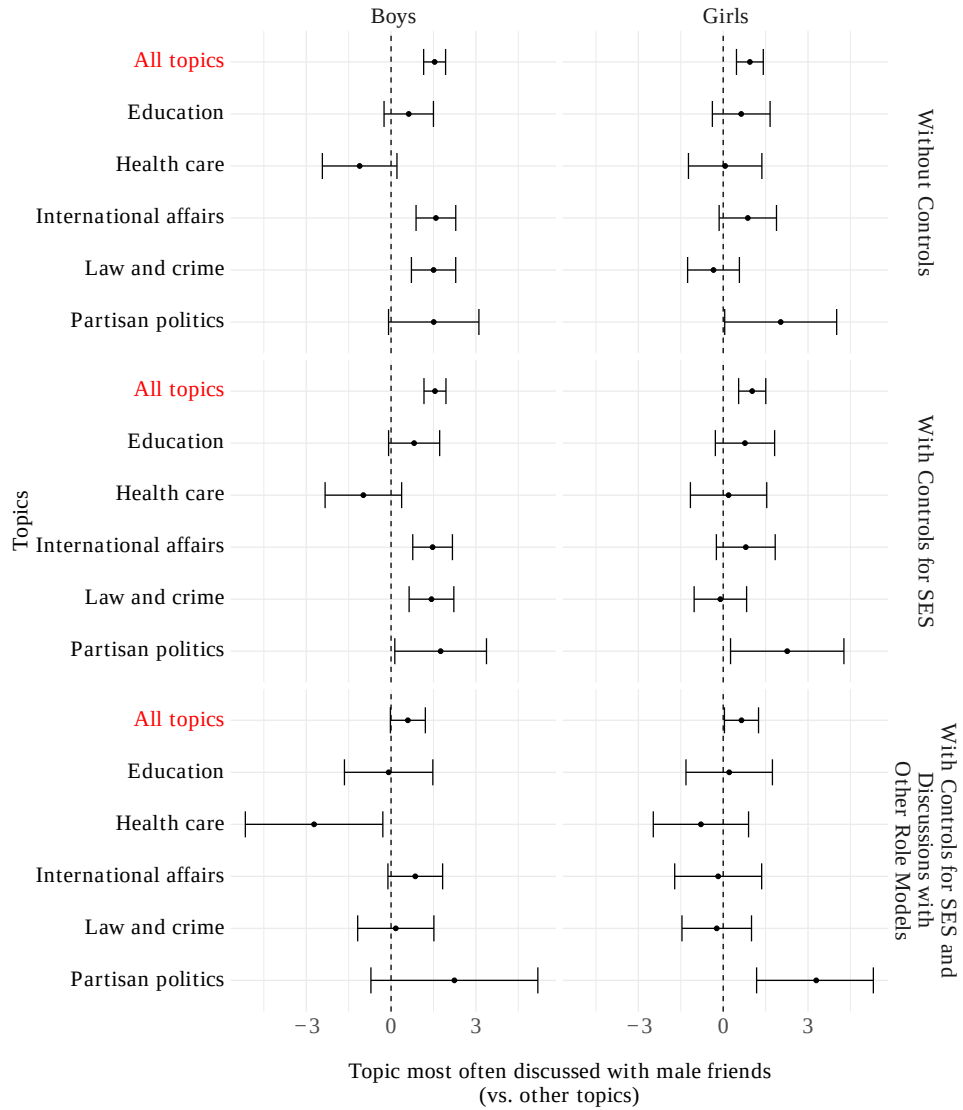

Figure 8: Interest in Topic Most Often Discussed with One's Male Friends, 2022 CPIS

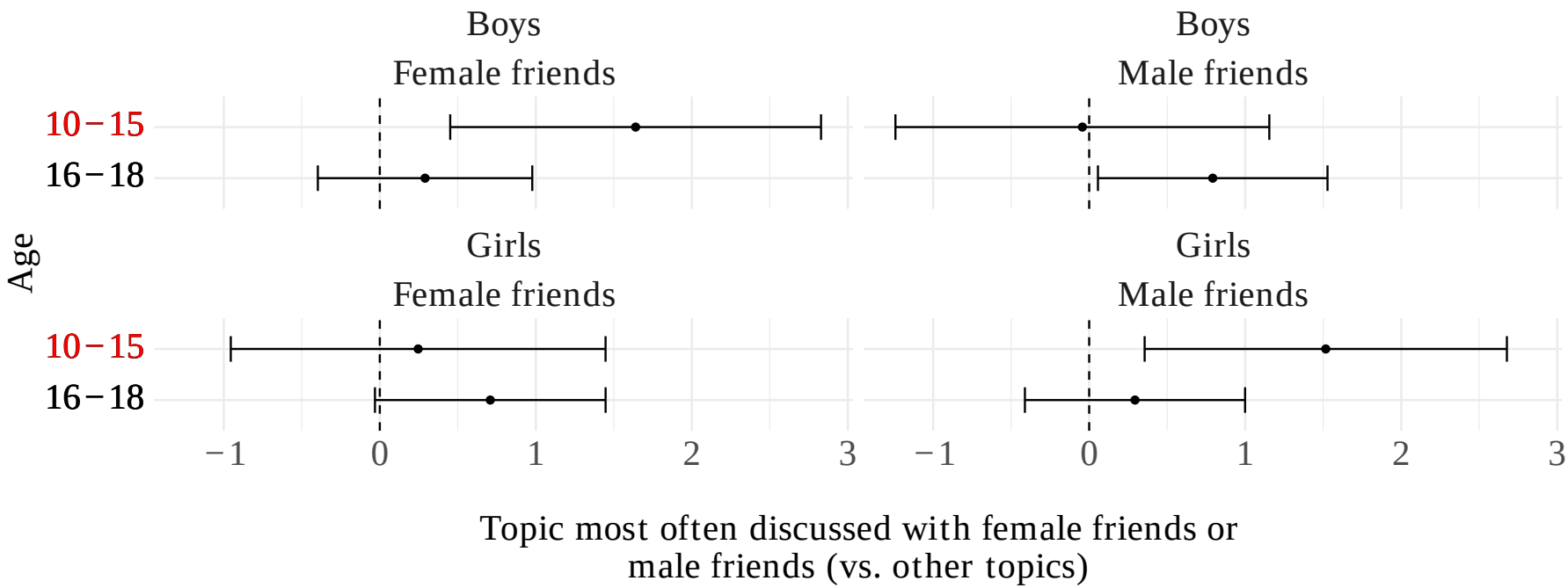

Figure 9: Interest in Topics by Gender, Age and Discussion with Peers, 2022 CPIS

Conclusion

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- Parent–child studies needed

THANKS!

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Appendix

Hypotheses

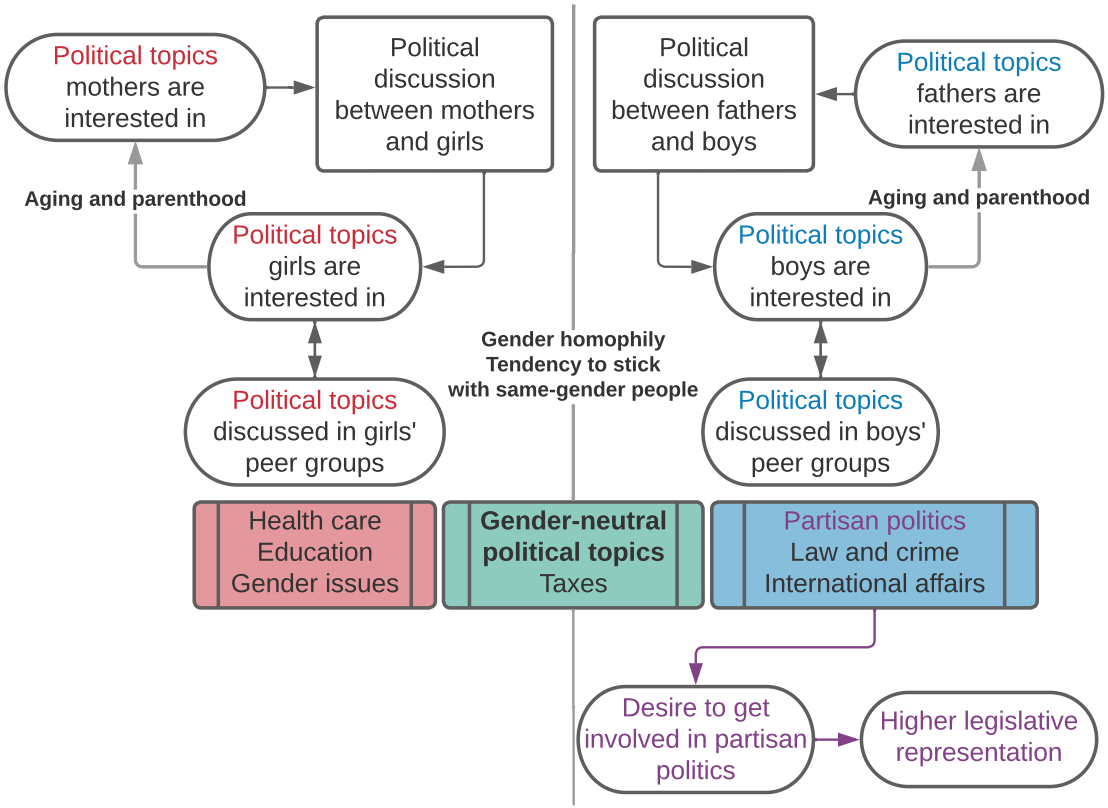

Figure 10: Theoretical Framework

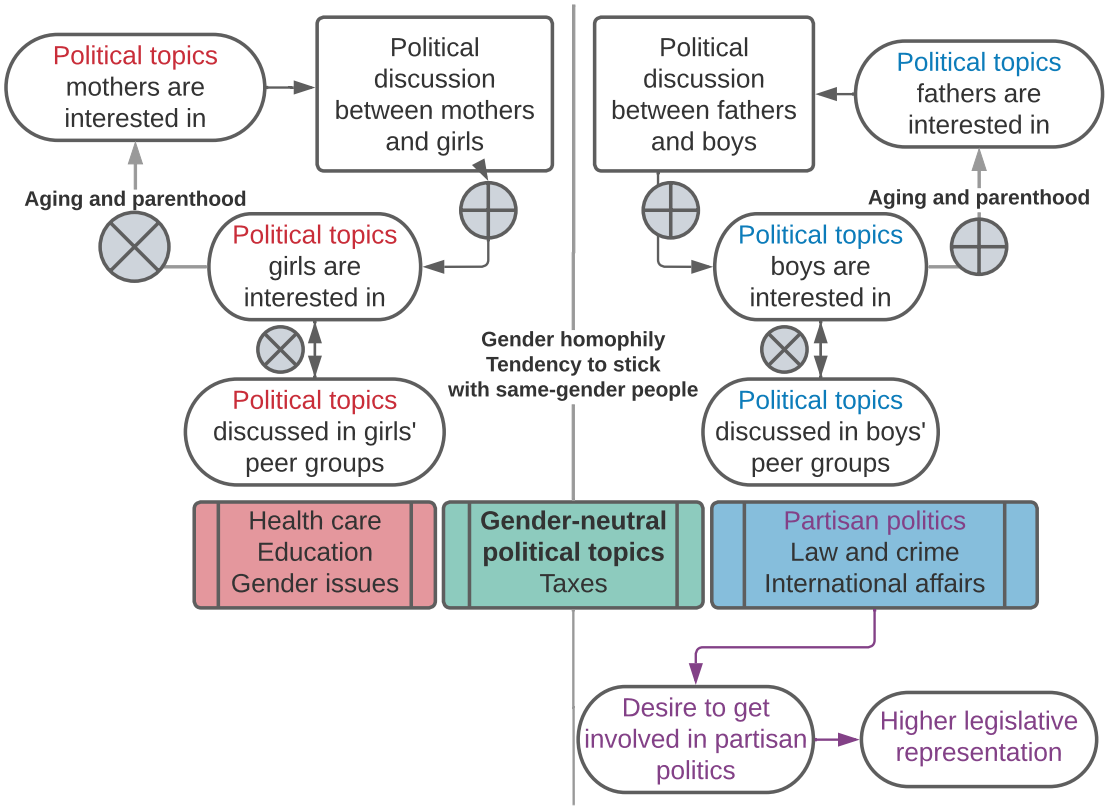

Figure 11: Theoretical Framework Reassessed

Data

CPIS

Table 5: Descriptive statistics, CPIS data

ID	Type[1]	Lang.	Prov.	Age[2]	Students in body	Students in sample	Class-rooms	Tea che
1	Private	French	Quebec	12–17	450	133	5	2
2	Public	French	Quebec	12–17	690	196	10	2
3	Private	French	Quebec	12–17	670	78	3	1
4	Private	French	Quebec	12–17	900	253	12	3
5[4]	Private	English	Ontario	14–18	—	5	3	2
6	Public	French	Quebec	5–12	—	14	1	1
7	Private	English	Ontario	5–14	—	4	3	1
8[5]	Public	English	Ontario	14–18	15	15	1	1
					Total	**698**	**38**	**1**

[1]Three public bodies from different school boards.
[2]Age groups of schools, not selected classrooms.
[3]Some teachers taught multiple classes; all students surveyed.
[4]Mixed on-site/online school.
[5]School board-level body.

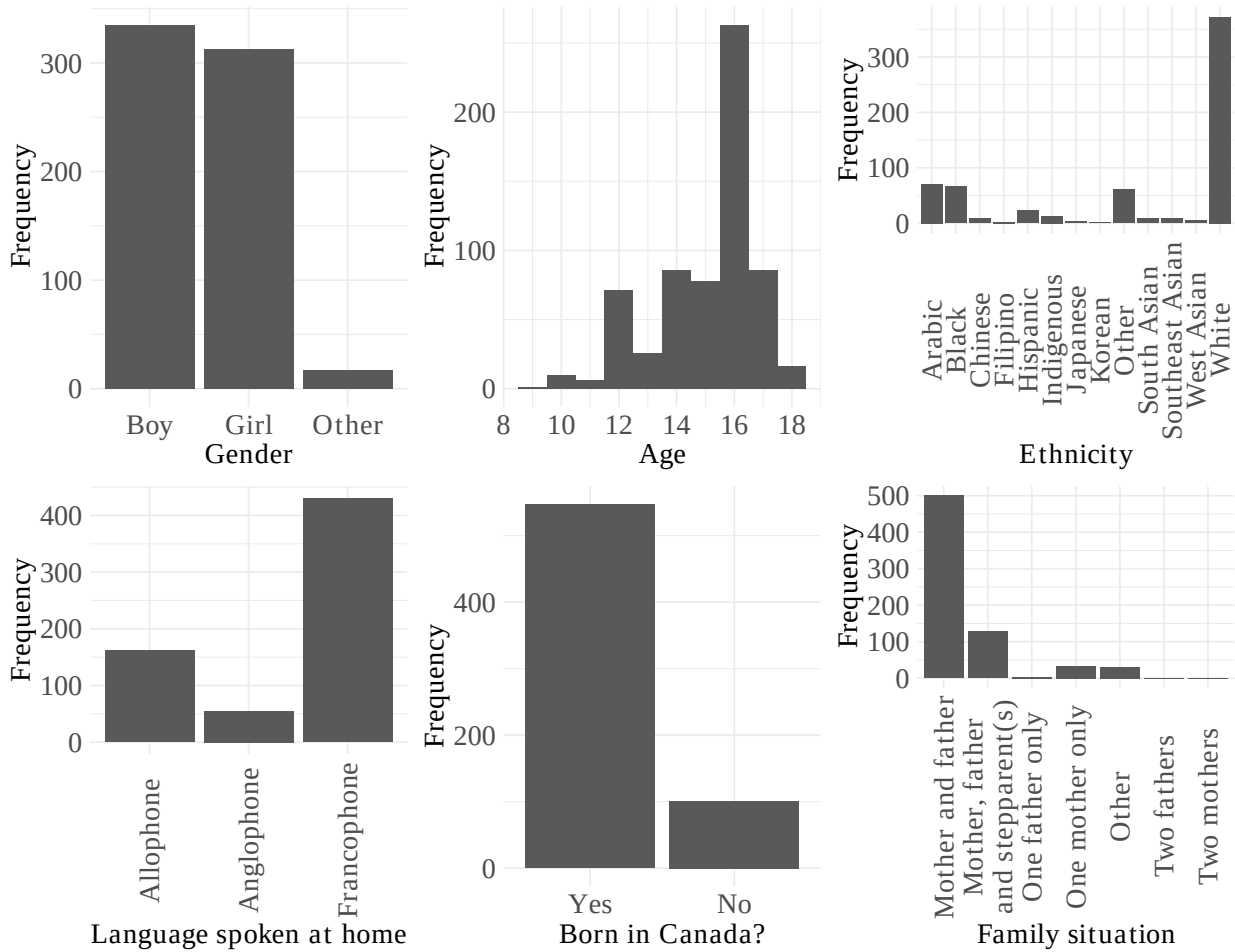

Figure 12: CPIS Descriptive Statistics — General

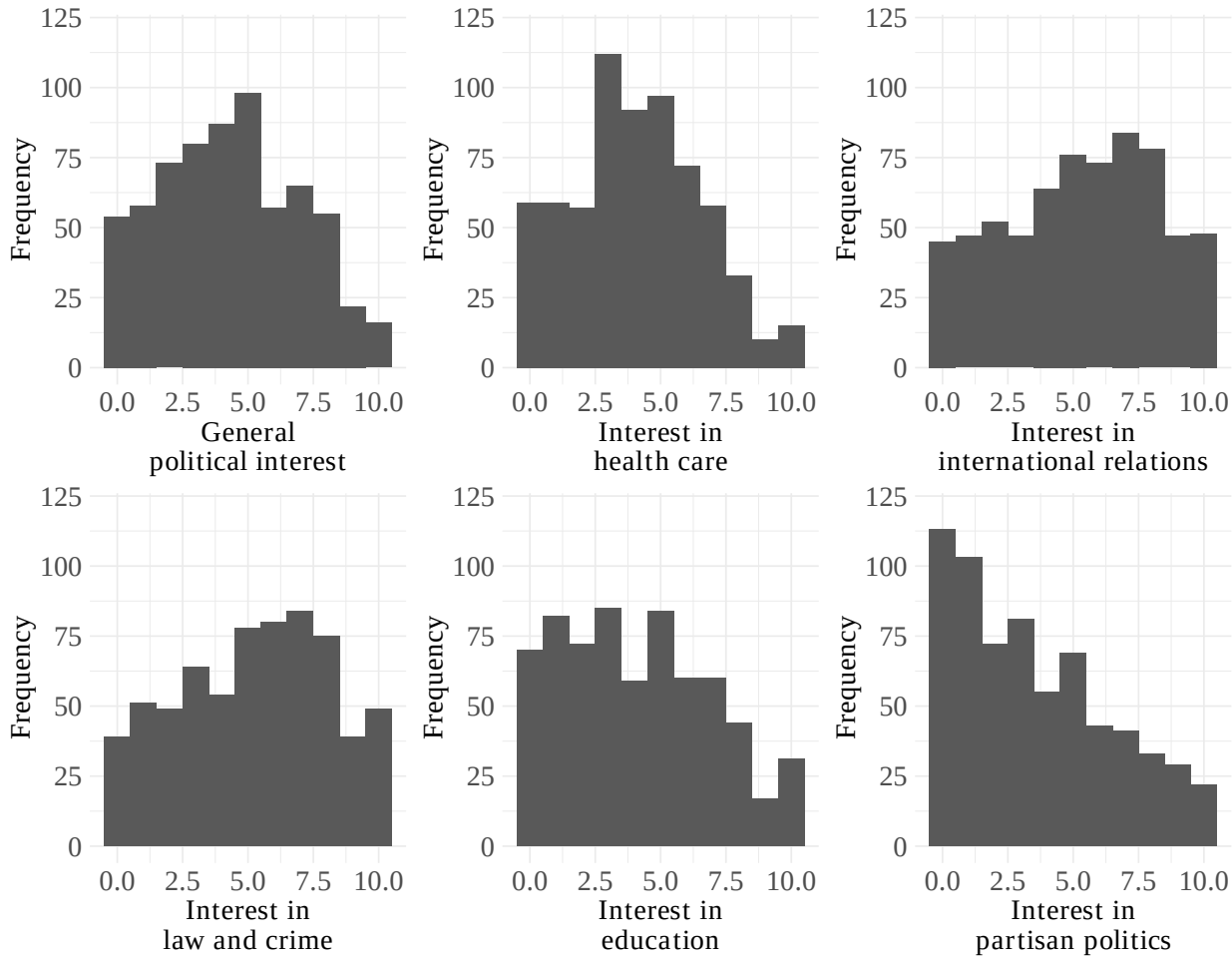

Figure 13: CPIS Descriptive Statistics — Political Interest

Table 6: Interest in Topic by Gender, CPIS

	Politics (general)	Health care	International affairs	Law and crime	Education	Partisan politics
Without Controls						
(Intercept)	4.579***	4.041***	5.724***	4.956***	4.219***	4.007***
	(0.184)	(0.167)	(0.180)	(0.173)	(0.206)	(0.171)
Gender (1 = girl)	-0.434*	0.128	-0.980***	0.488*	-0.103	-0.854***
	(0.207)	(0.197)	(0.229)	(0.231)	(0.223)	(0.232)
SD (Intercept Class)	0.651	0.542	0.473	0.377	0.771	0.344
SD (Observations)	2.499	2.397	2.802	2.837	2.701	2.855
Num.Obs.	617	623	620	619	623	620
R2 Marg.	0.007	0.001	0.029	0.007	0.000	0.022
With Controls						
(Intercept)	1.413	1.138	4.458***	2.838*	0.218	4.246**
	(1.337)	(1.187)	(1.315)	(1.254)	(1.436)	(1.309)
Gender (1 = girl)	-0.432*	0.128	-0.973***	0.492*	-0.122	-0.809***
	(0.212)	(0.201)	(0.232)	(0.237)	(0.229)	(0.236)
SD (Intercept Class)	0.598	0.470	0.442	0.318	0.665	0.408
SD (Observations)	2.476	2.375	2.738	2.811	2.680	2.792
Num.Obs.	579	584	581	581	584	581
R2 Marg.	0.031	0.022	0.070	0.024	0.030	0.045

$+$ p $<$ 0.1, * p $<$ 0.05, ** p $<$ 0.01, *** p $<$ 0.001

Method: Multilevel linear regression

Fixed Effects: Classroom

Controls: Socio-economic variables

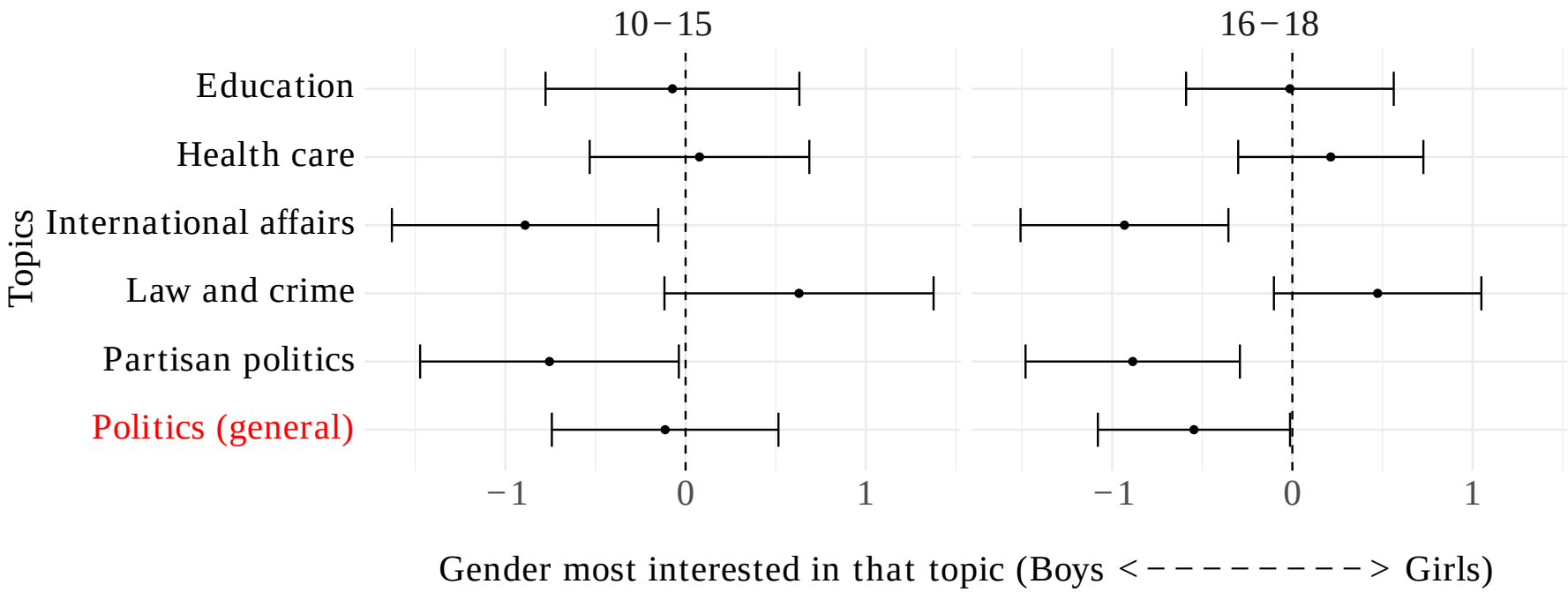

Figure 14: Gender Differences in Interest for Specific Political Topics by Age Group Among Canadian Children, 2022 CPIS

Notes: No controls are added.

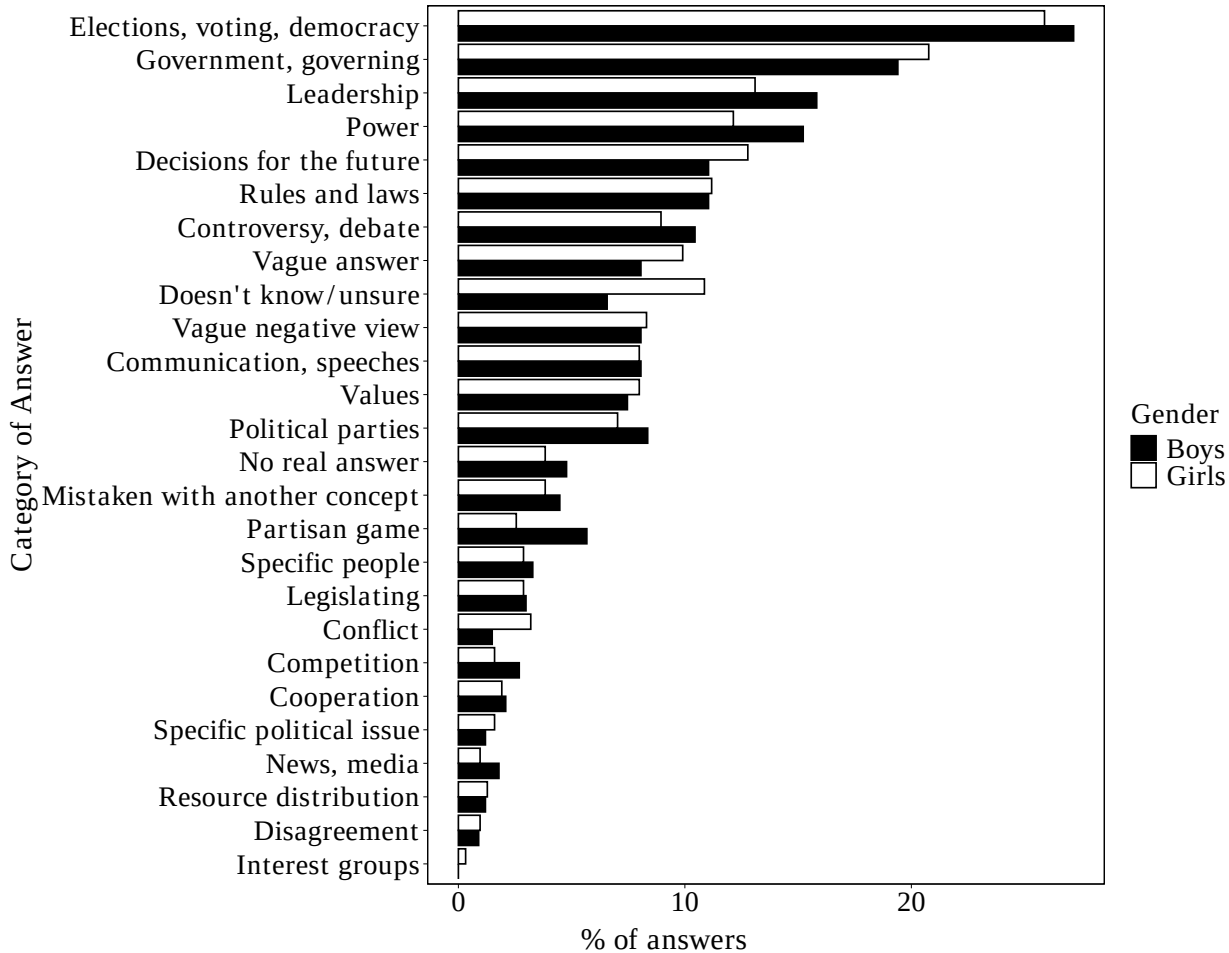

Figure 15: Unprompted Definitions of Politics by Students, 2022 CPIS

Datagotchi PES

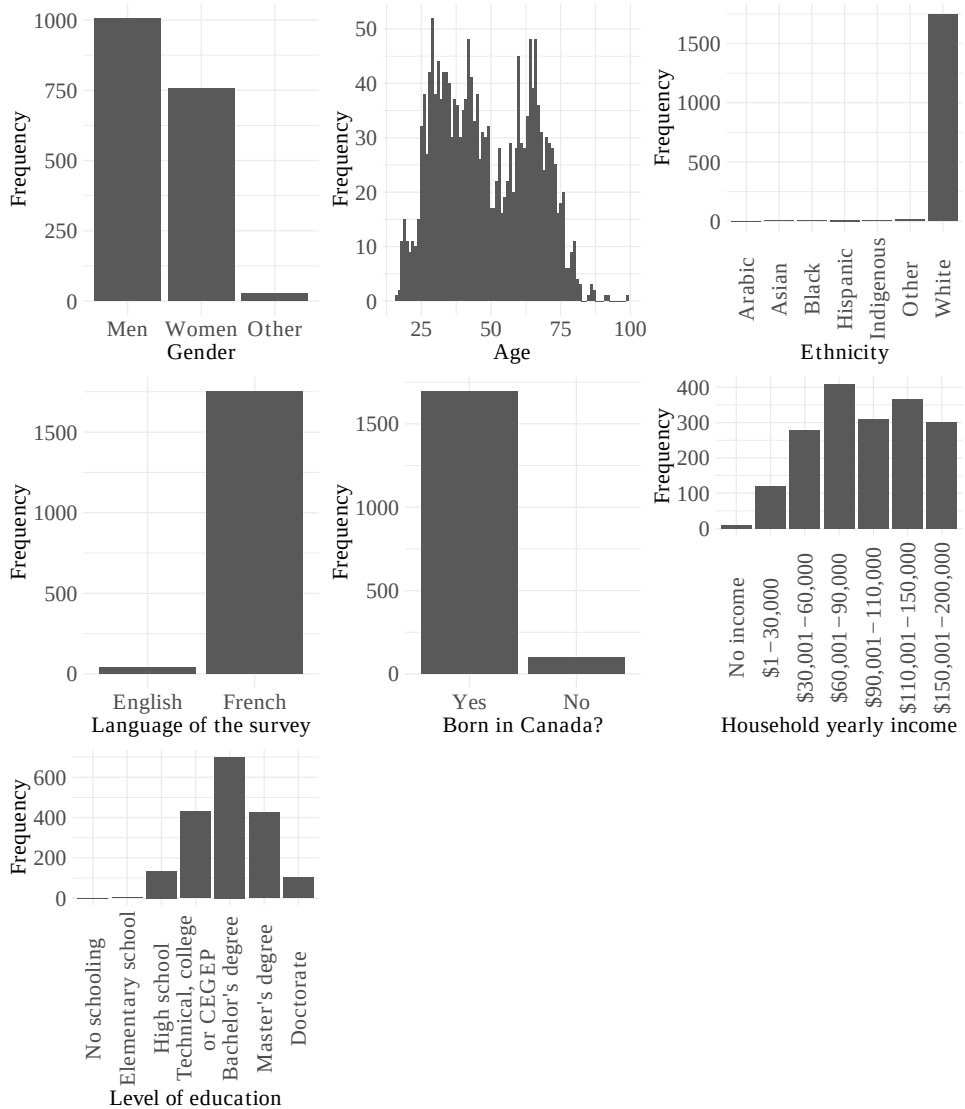

Figure 16: Datagotchi PES Descriptive Statistics — General

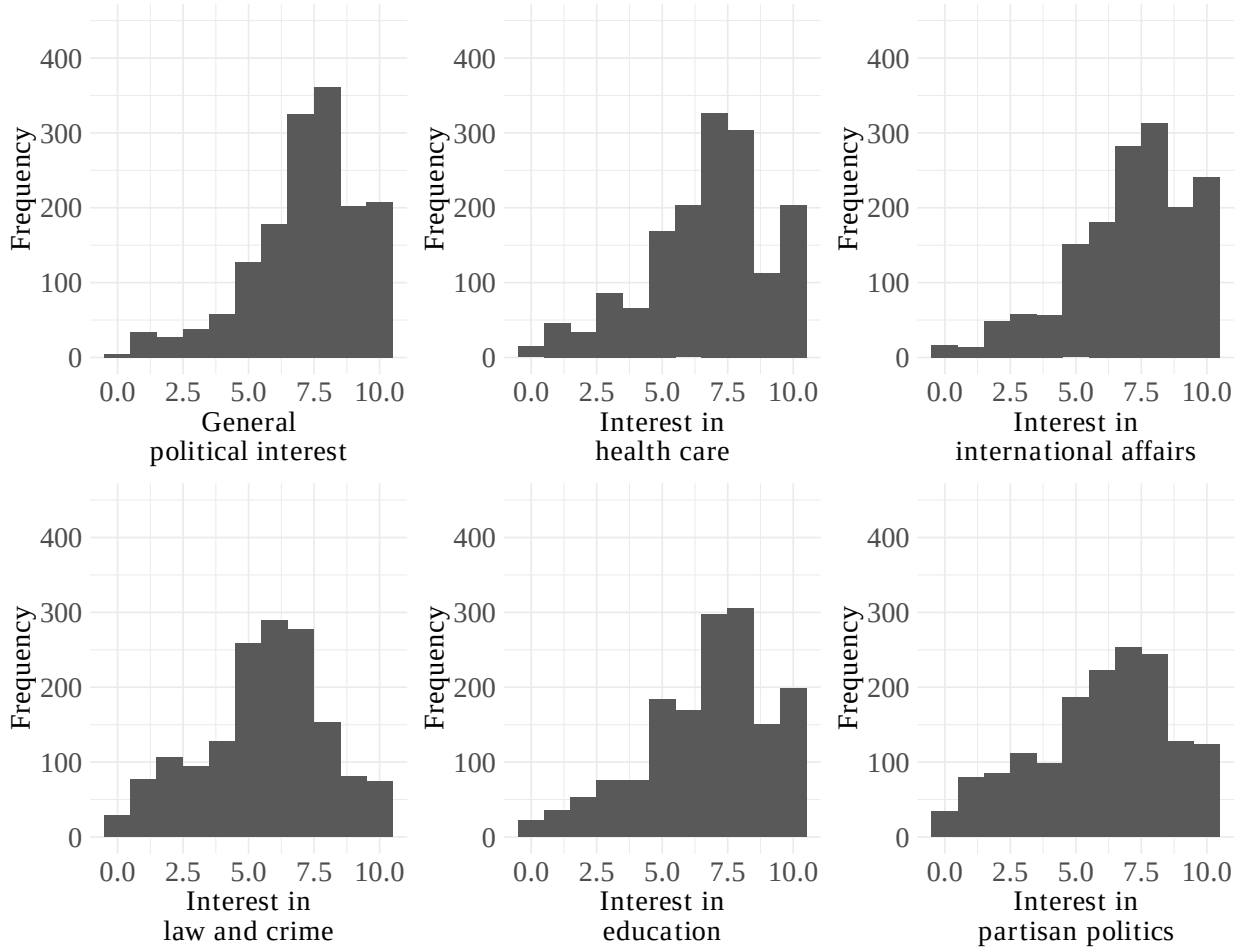

Figure 17: Datagotchi PES Descriptive Statistics — Political Interest

Table 7: Interest in Topic by Gender, Datagotchi PES

	Politics (general)	Health care	International affairs	Law and crime	Education	Partisan politics
Without Controls						
(Intercept)	7.724***	6.449***	7.453***	5.421***	6.586***	6.334***
	(0.064)	(0.075)	(0.071)	(0.079)	(0.075)	(0.084)
Gender (1 = women)	-0.877***	0.690***	-0.592***	0.104	0.517***	-0.645***
	(0.097)	(0.116)	(0.109)	(0.121)	(0.116)	(0.128)
Num.Obs.	1575	1575	1575	1575	1575	1575
R2	0.049	0.022	0.018	0.000	0.013	0.016
R2 Adj.	0.048	0.022	0.018	0.000	0.012	0.015
Log.Lik.	-3254.524	-3523.301	-3437.633	-3591.294	-3524.218	-3687.310
With Controls						
(Intercept)	7.438***	4.079***	5.903***	6.100***	3.987***	4.653***
	(0.615)	(0.596)	(0.610)	(0.763)	(0.615)	(0.696)
Gender (1 = women)	-0.872***	0.838***	-0.331**	0.168	0.759***	-0.662***
	(0.098)	(0.116)	(0.119)	(0.122)	(0.120)	(0.136)
Num.Obs.	1575	1575	1575	1575	1575	1575
R2	0.067	0.121	0.044	0.016	0.119	0.034
R2 Adj.	0.062	0.116	0.039	0.010	0.114	0.029
Log.Lik.	-3239.313	-39068.770	-39105.751	-3579.255	-39119.704	-39313.305

+ $p < 0.1$, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

Without controls: Ordinary least squares (OLS) regressions

With controls: OLS for Politics (general) and Law and Crime; Weighted least squares (WLS) for other regressions

Controls: Socio-economic variables

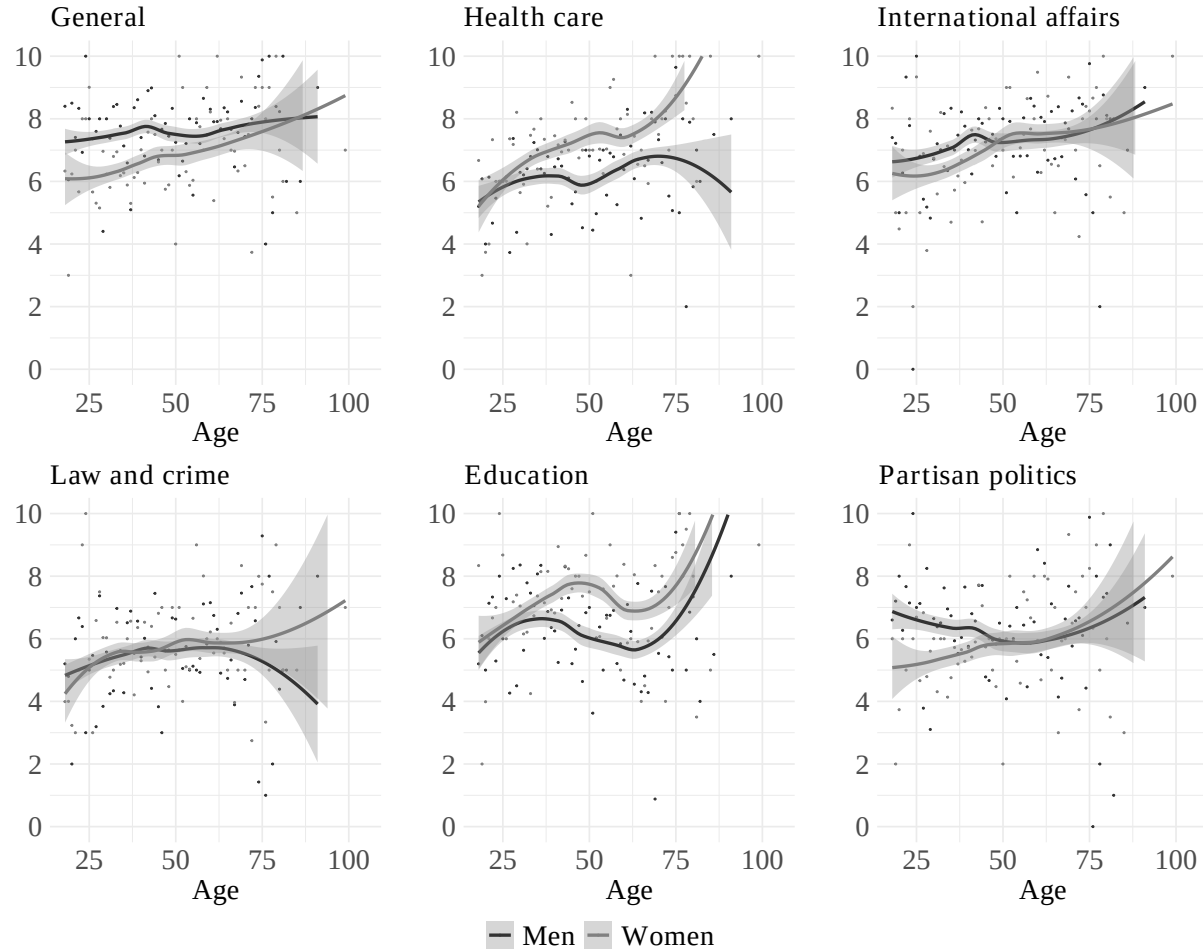

Figure 18: Self-Reported Level of Interest in Various Topics by Age Among Canadian Adults, 2022 Datagotchi PES

Notes: On the *y* axis, 0 = no interest at all, and 10 = a great deal of interest. Dots represent average interest by age and gender. 95% confidence intervals represented by shaded areas. Datagotchi PES weights are applied.

CES, WVS and GSS

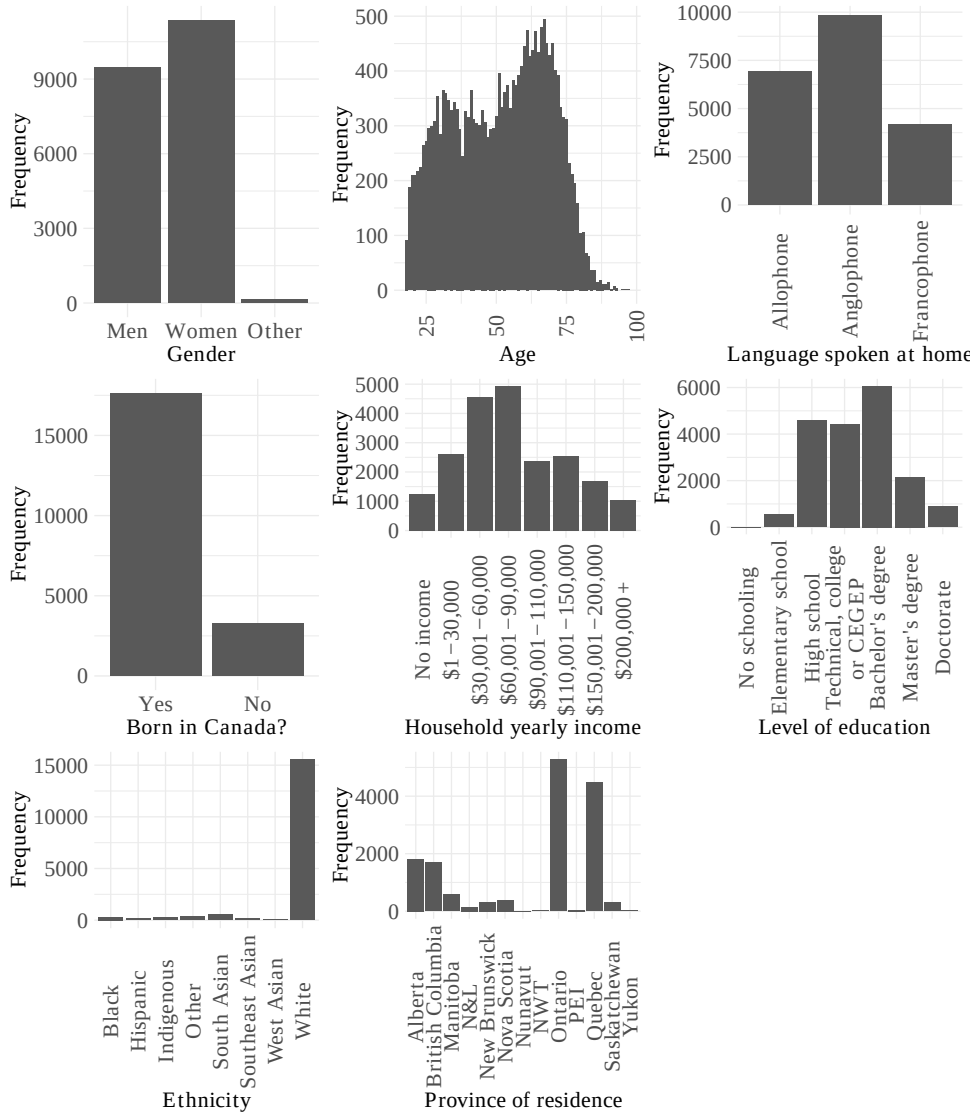

Figure 19: 2021 CES Descriptive Statistics - General

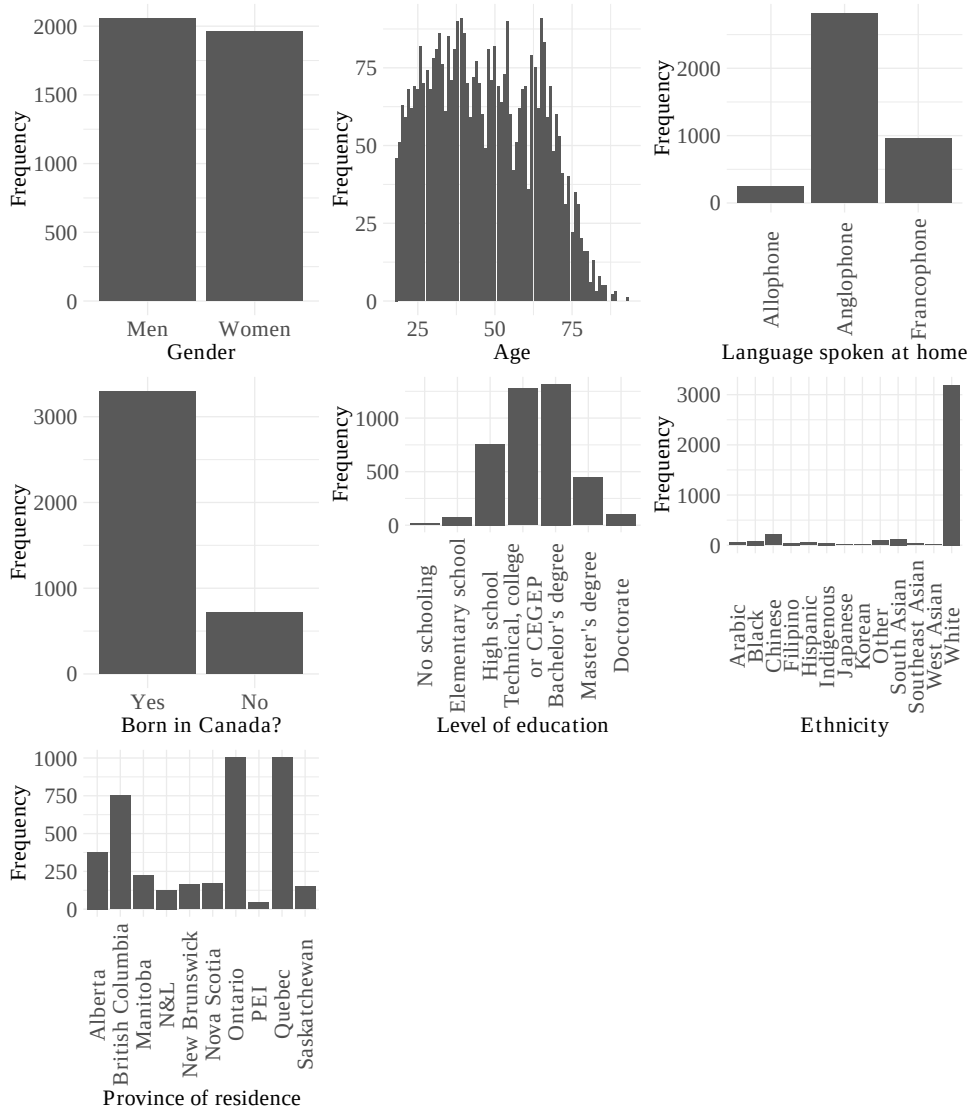

Figure 20: 2020 WVS Descriptive Statistics — General

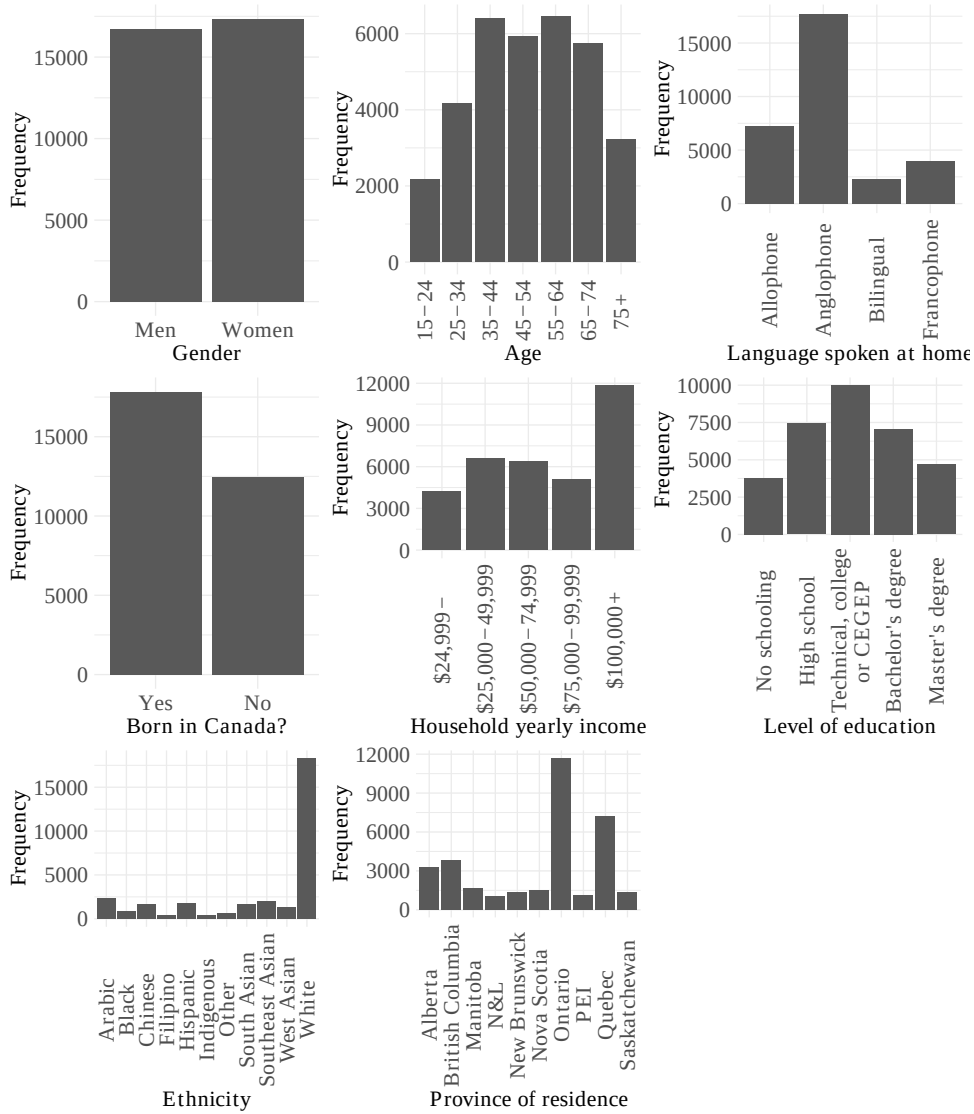

Figure 21: 2020 GSS Descriptive Statistics (Cycle 35 - Social Identity) — General

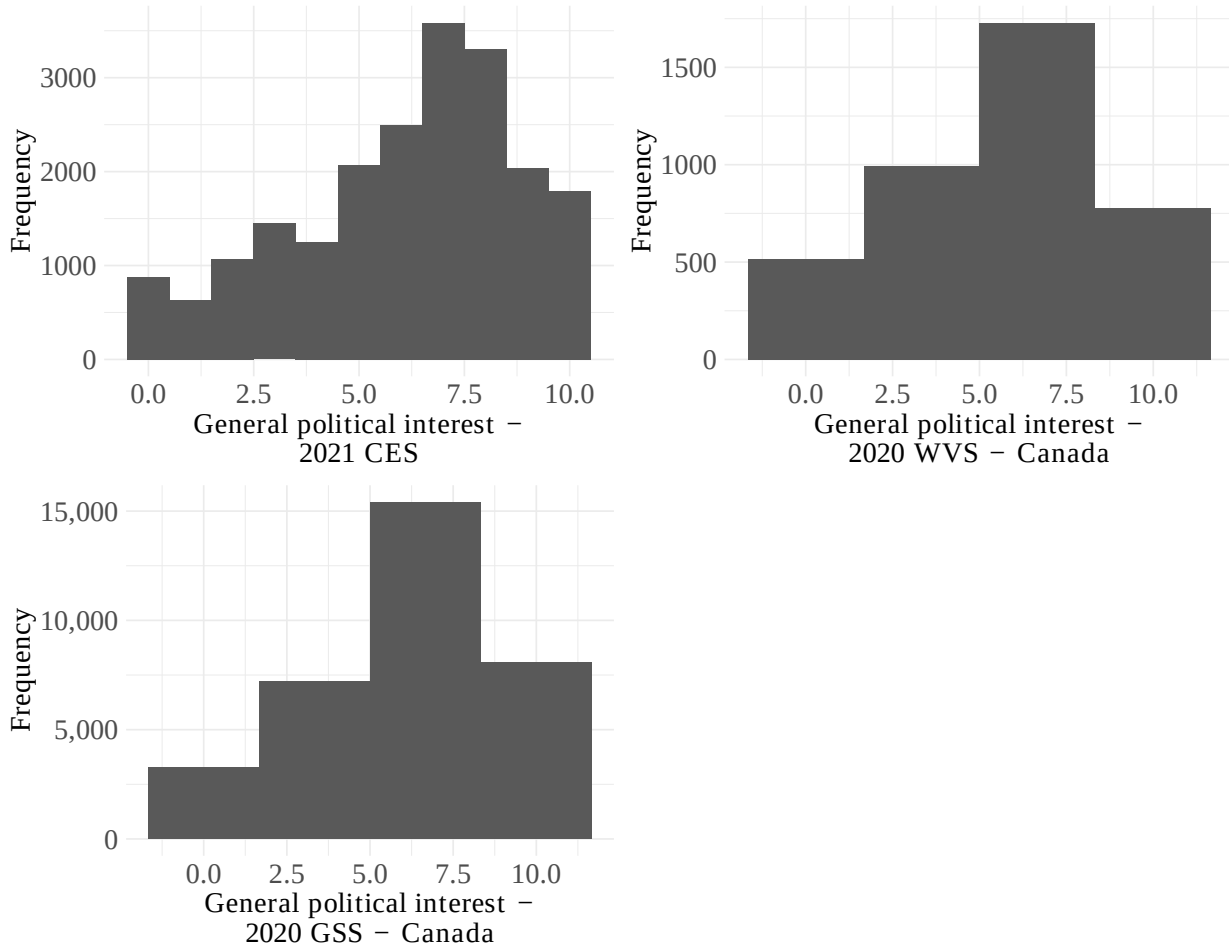

Figure 22: CES, WVS and GSS Descriptive Statistics — Political Interest

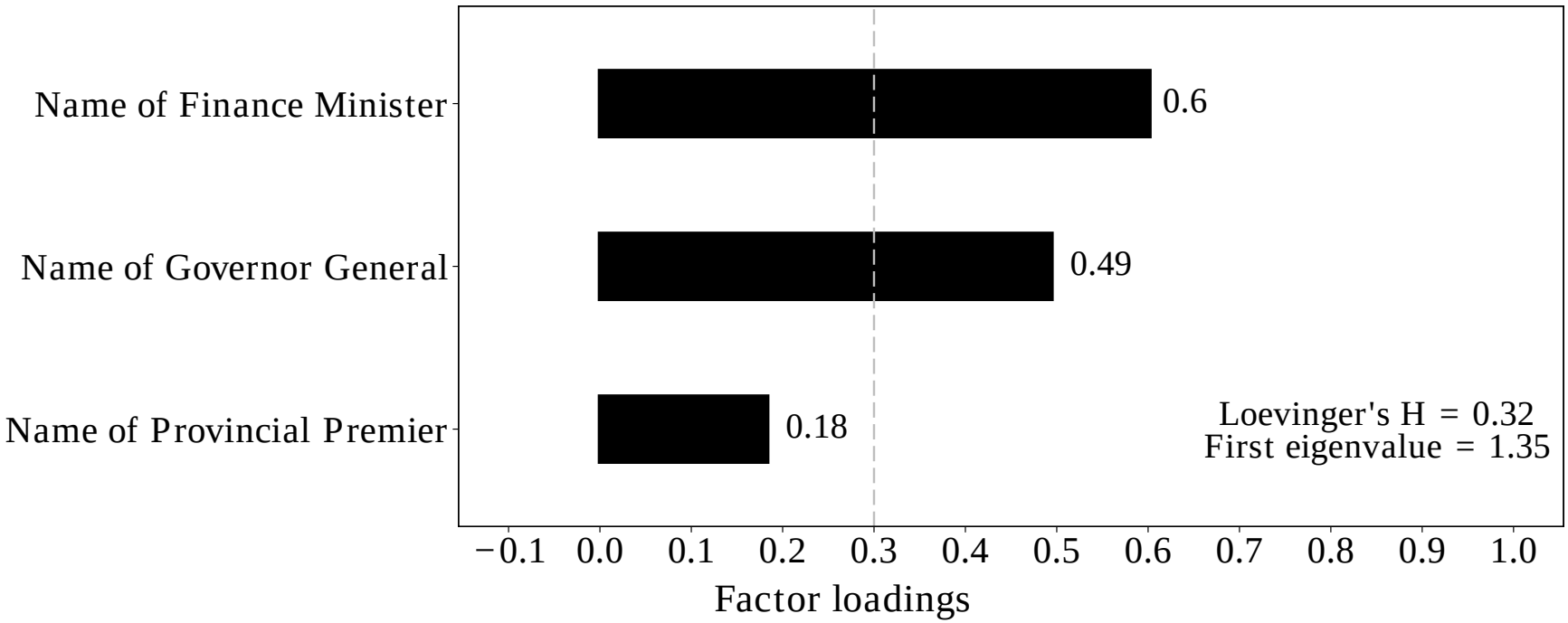

Figure 23: CES Factor Analysis: Knowledge of Political Figures' Names Scale

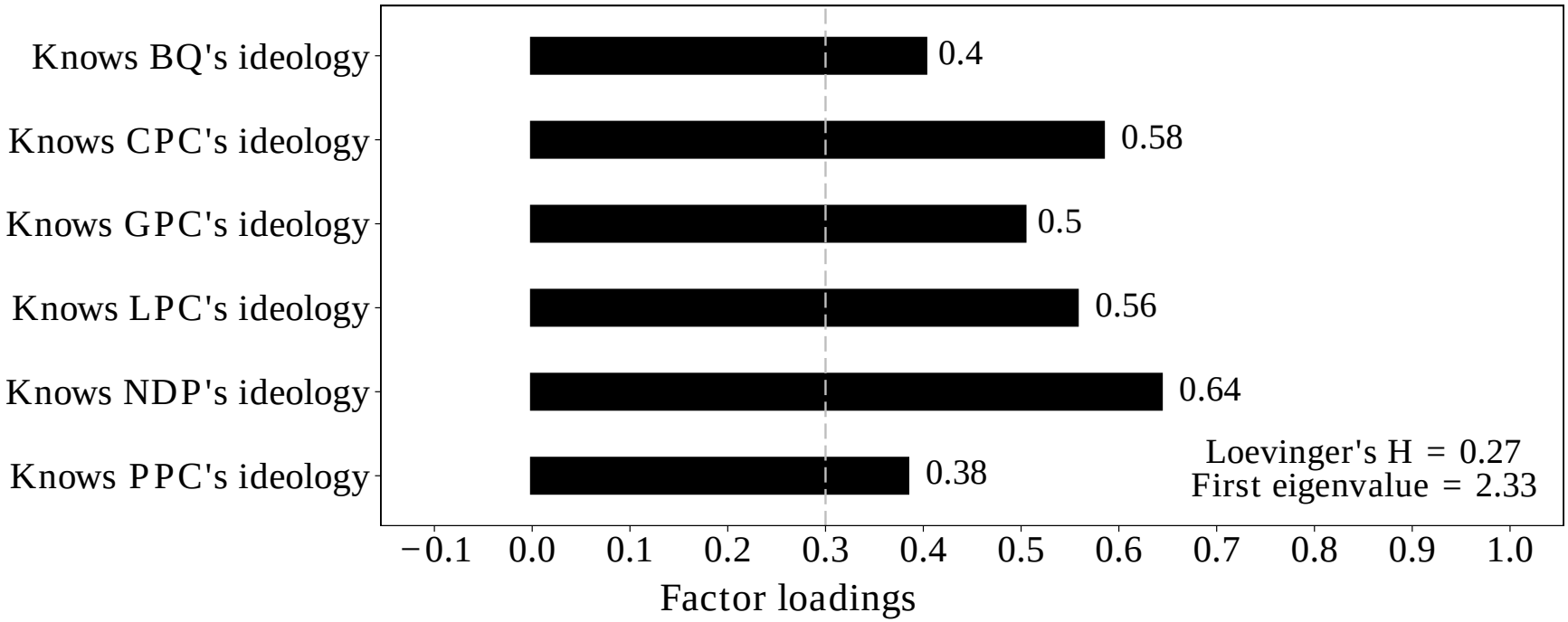

Figure 24: CES Factor Analysis: Knowledge of Party Positions Scale

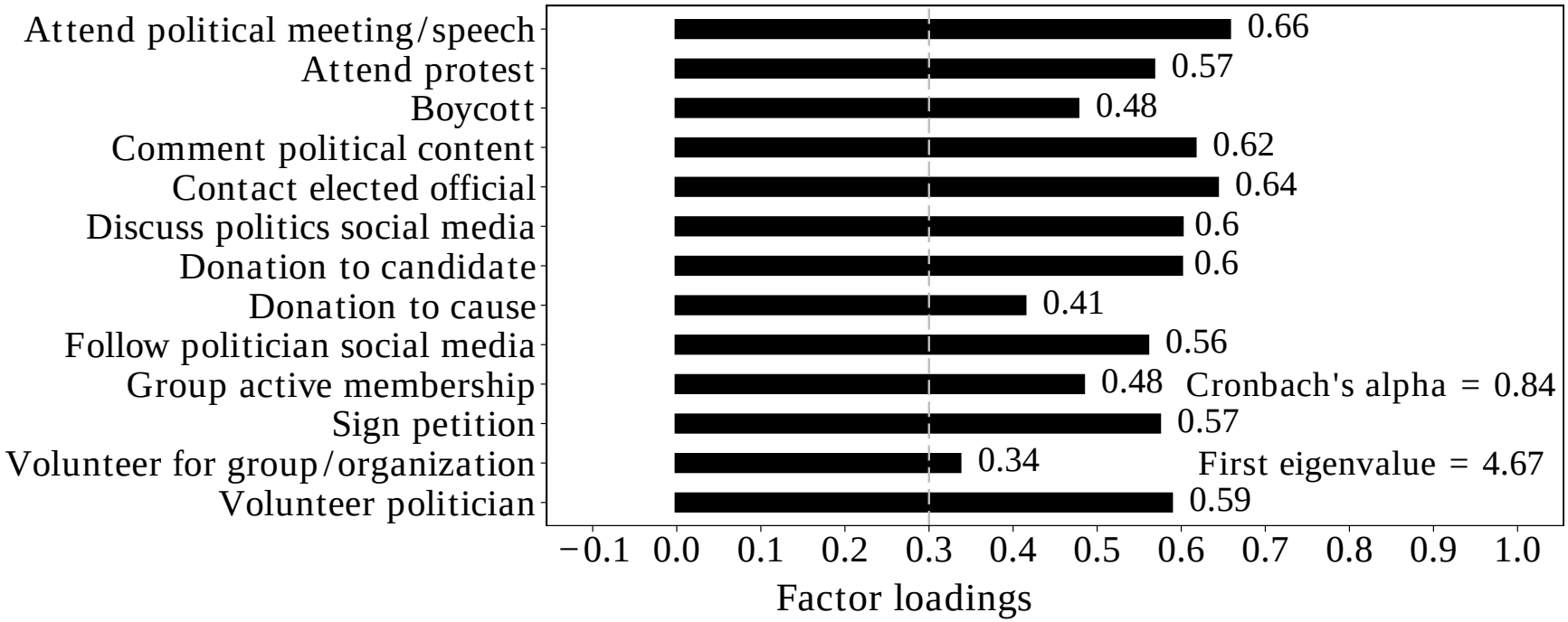

Figure 25: CES Factor Analysis: Political Participation Scale

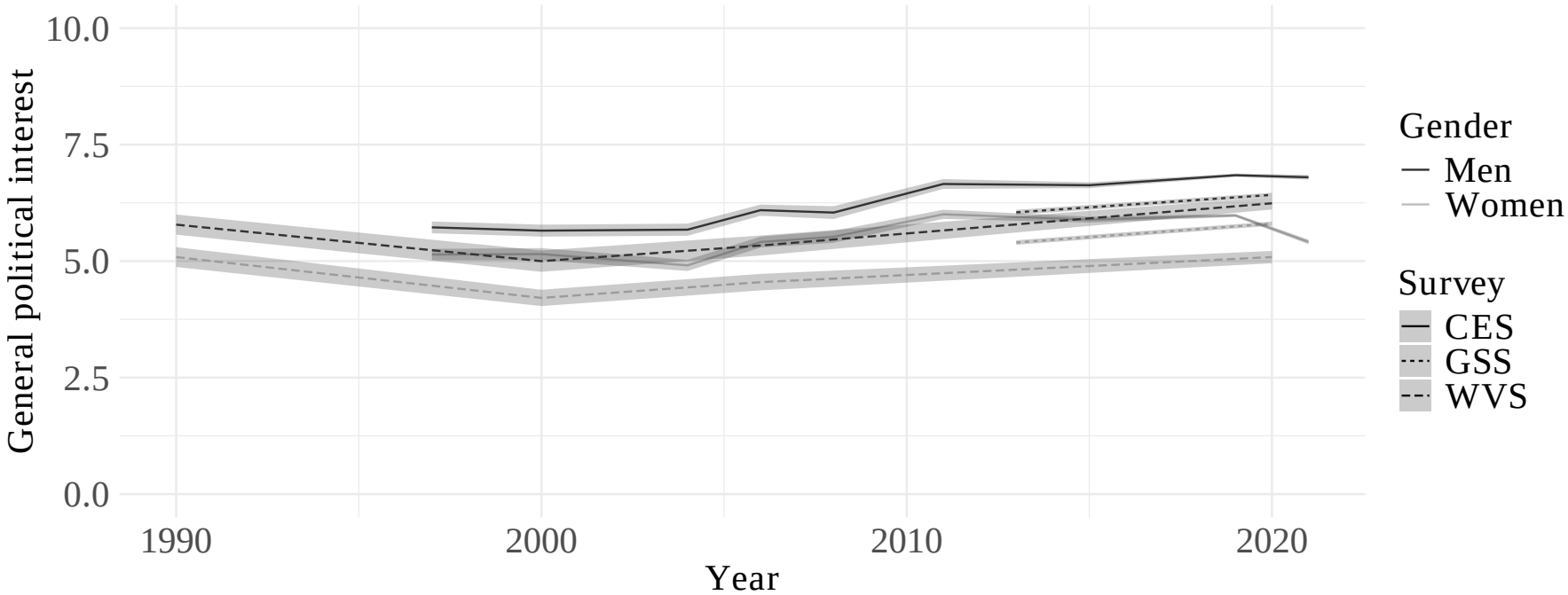

Figure 26: General Political Interest by Year and Gender Among Canadian Adults, CES, WVS (Canada) and GSS

Notes: On the *y* axis, 0 = no interest at all, and 10 = a great deal of interest. 95% confidence intervals represented by shaded areas. CES, WVS and GSS weights are applied.

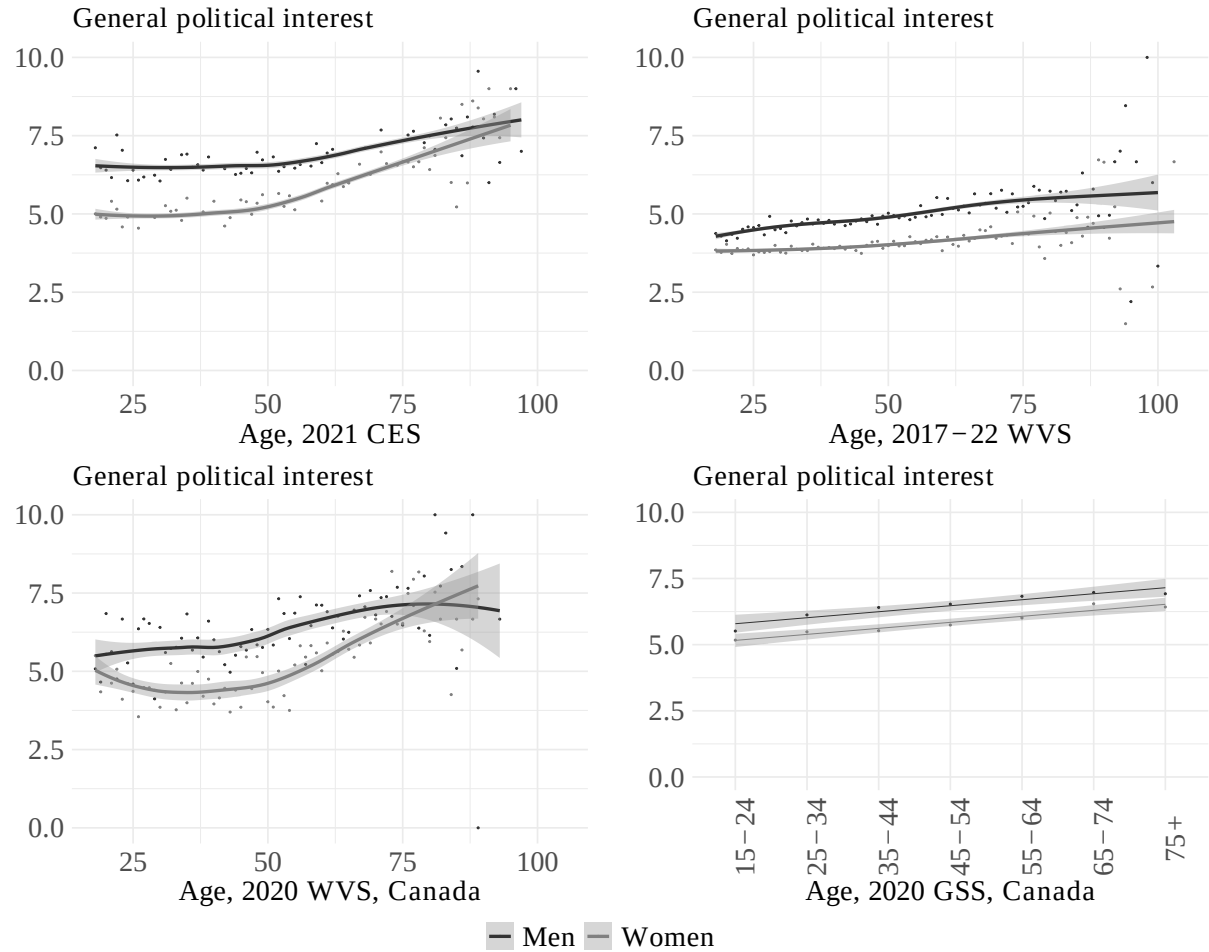

Figure 27: Self-Reported Level of General Political Interest by Age Among Canadian Adults, 2021 CES, WVS Wave 7 and 2020 Canadian GSS
Notes: On the *y* axis, 0 = no interest at all, and 10 = a great deal of interest. Dots represent average interest by age and gender. 95% confidence intervals represented by shaded areas. CES, WVS and GSS weights are applied. For the GSS, respondents' specific age is not available; age groups are used instead.

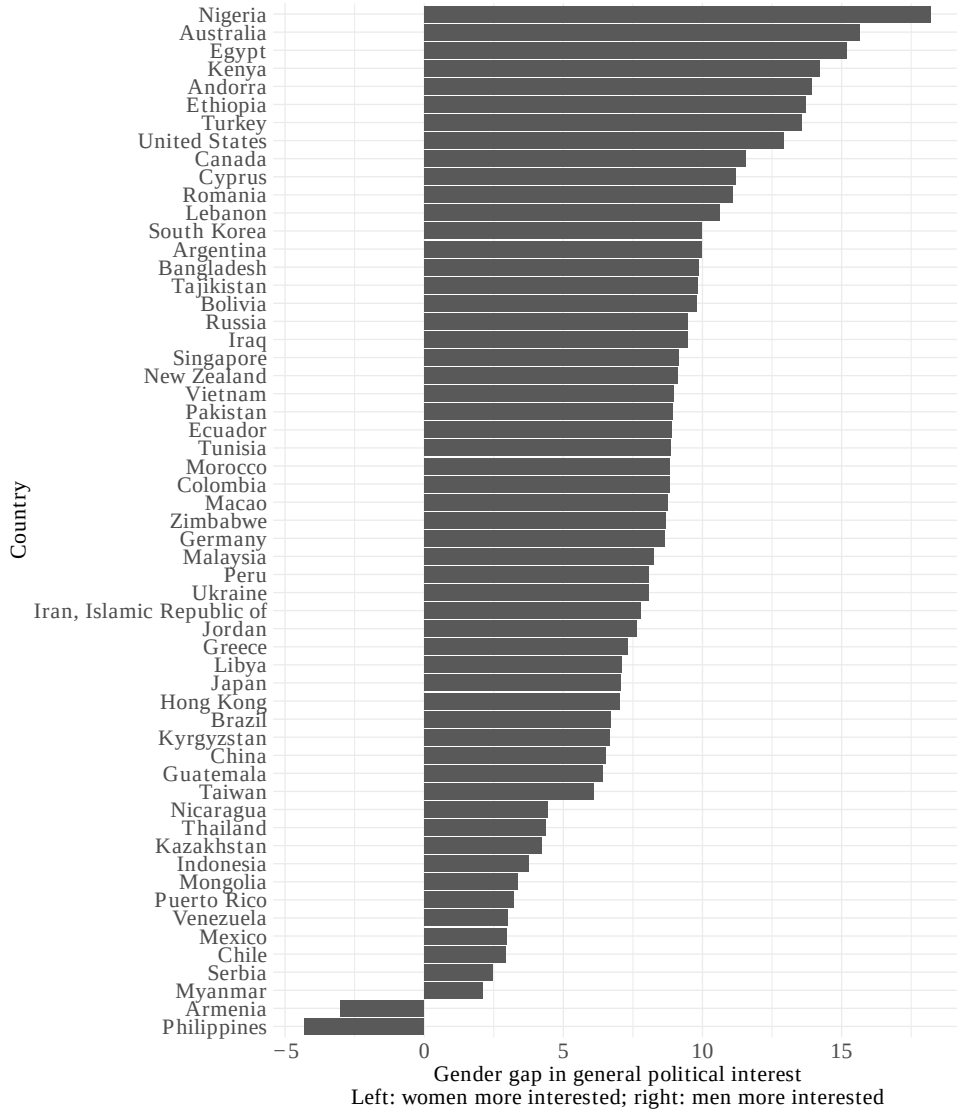

Figure 28: Self-Reported Level of General Political Interest by Country, WVS Wave 7

Notes: On the y axis, 0 = no gender difference in interest at all, positive values (up to +10) = women more interested, negative values (down to -10) = men more interested. WVS weights are applied.

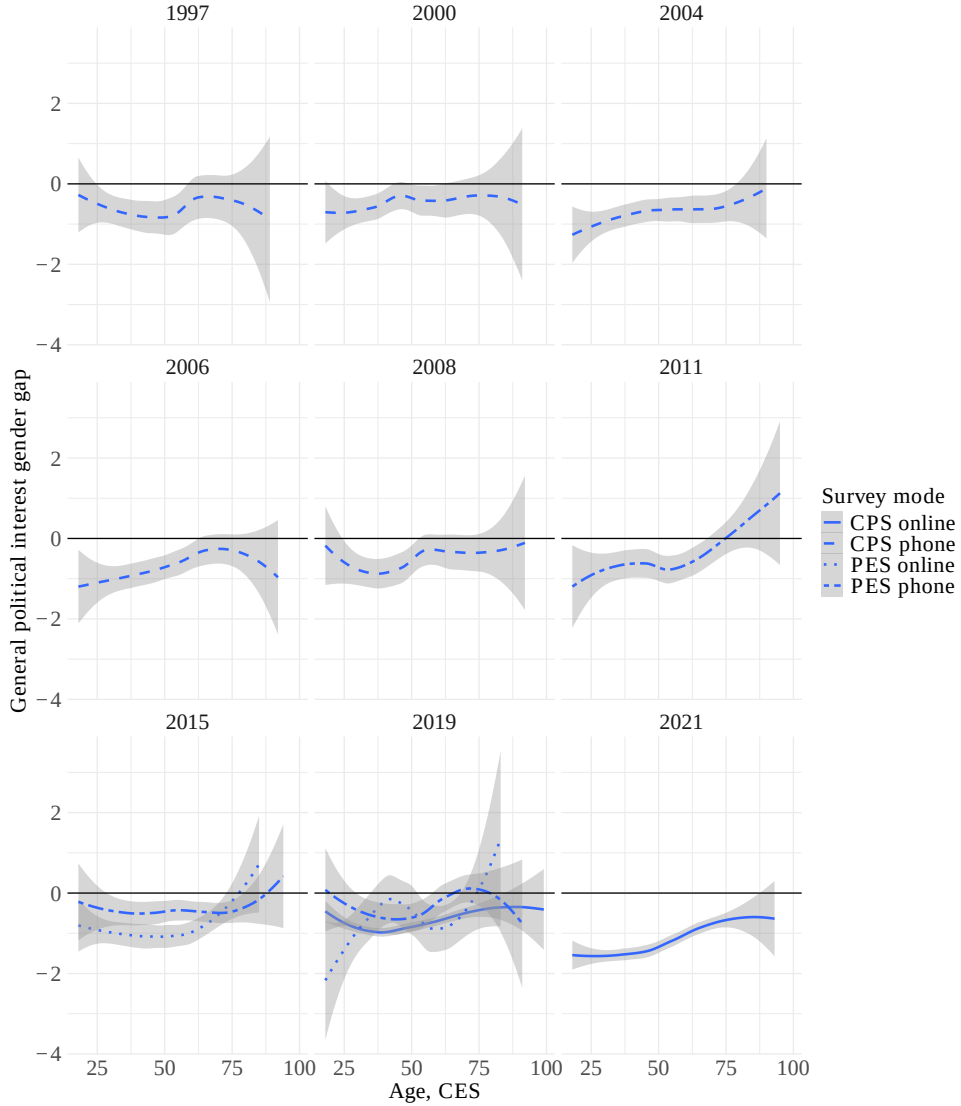

Figure 29: General Political Interest by Year and Gender Among Canadian Adults, CES

Notes: On the *y* axis, 0 = no gender difference in interest at all, positive values (up to +10) = women more interested, negative values (down to -10) = men more interested. CES weights are applied.

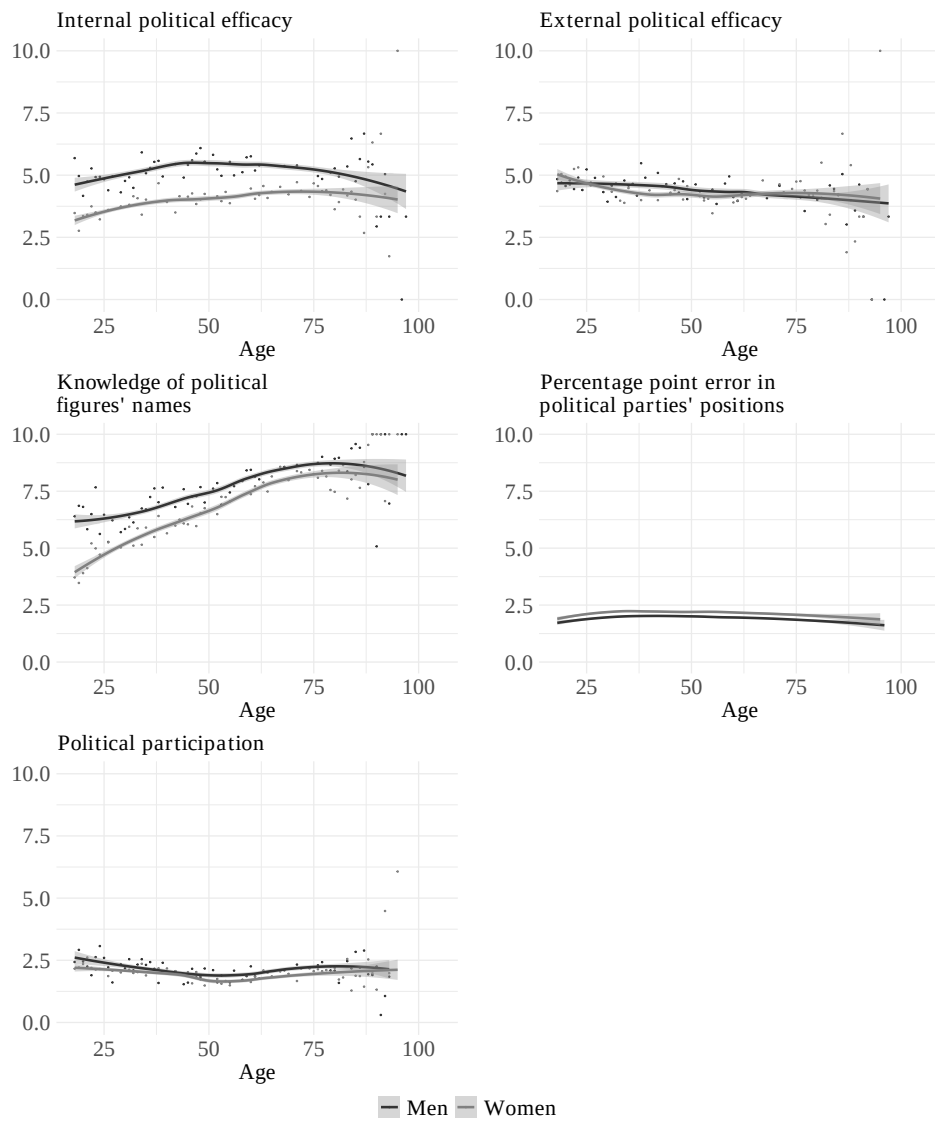

Figure 30: Level of Political Engagement Across Several Measures Among Canadian Adults, 2021 CES

Notes: On the *y* axis, 0 = no engagement at all, and 10 = a great deal of engagement. For percentage point error in political parties' positions, the percentage point error is instead reported. Dots represent average

Questionnaire

- How interested are you in politics generally? Set the slider to a number from 0 to 10, where 0 means no interest at all, and 10 means a great deal of interest.
  - (0–10 slider)
  - Don't know/Prefer not to answer

- If you were to open a news website and see the following articles how interested would you be in reading each article? Set the slider to a number from 0 to 10, where 0 means "Not at all interested, I would not read it," and 10 means "Very interested, I would most likely read it."
  - Health care (i.e., pandemic restrictions, working conditions of nurses)
  - International affairs (i.e., diplomatic disputes between Canada and China, Ukrainian war)
  - Law and crime (i.e., police funding, sentences for violent crimes)
  - Education (i.e., university tuition, funding of public and private schools)
  - Partisan politics (i.e., federal elections, political parties)

- What is the gender of most of your friends?
  - Girls
  - Boys
  - About the same for both genders
  - Don't know/Prefer not to answer
- Among these five topics, which one do you discuss most often with your male friends?
  - Health care
  - International affairs
  - Law and crime
  - Education
  - Partisan politics
  - Don't know/Prefer not to answer
- Among these five topics, which one do you discuss most often with your female friends?

For each of these pairs of characteristics, indicate where you fall on a scale between both extremes.

```
+ 20.1 Not at all independent - Very independent
    - (1--5 slider)
    - Don't know/Prefer not to answer

+ 20.2 Very passive - Very active
    - (1--5 slider)
    - Don't know/Prefer not to answer

+ 20.3 Not at all competitive - Very competitive
    - (1--5 slider)
    - Don't know/Prefer not to answer

+ 20.4 Can make decisions easily - Have difficulty making d
    - (1--5 slider)
    - Don't know/Prefer not to answer
```

+ 20.5 Give up very easily - Never give up easily
    - (1--5 slider)
    - Don't know/Prefer not to answer

+ 20.6 Not at all self-confident - Very self confident
    - (1--5 slider)
    - Don't know/Prefer not to answer

+ 20.7 Feel very inferior - Feel very superior
    - (1--5 slider)
    - Don't know/Prefer not to answer

+ 20.8 Go to pieces under pressure - Stand up well under pr
    - (1--5 slider)
    - Don't know/Prefer not to answer

+ 20.9 Not at all emotional - Very emotional
    - (1--5 slider)
    - Don't know/Prefer not to answer

+ 20.10 Not at all able to devote self to others - Able to
    - (1--5 slider)
    - Don't know/Prefer not to answer

+ 20.11 Very rough - Very gentle
    - (1--5 slider)
    - Don't know/Prefer not to answer

+ 20.12 Not at all helpful to others - Very helpful to othe
    - (1--5 slider)
    - Don't know/Prefer not to answer

+ 20.13 Not at all kind - Very kind
    - (1--5 slider)
    - Don't know/Prefer not to answer

+ 20.14 Not at all aware of feelings of others - Very aware
    - (1--5 slider)
    - Don't know/Prefer not to answer

+ 20.15 Not at all understanding of others - Very understan
    - (1--5 slider)
    - Don't know/Prefer not to answer

+ 20.16 Very cold in relations with others - Very warm in r
    - (1--5 slider)
    - Don't know/Prefer not to answer

How Political is Each Topic?

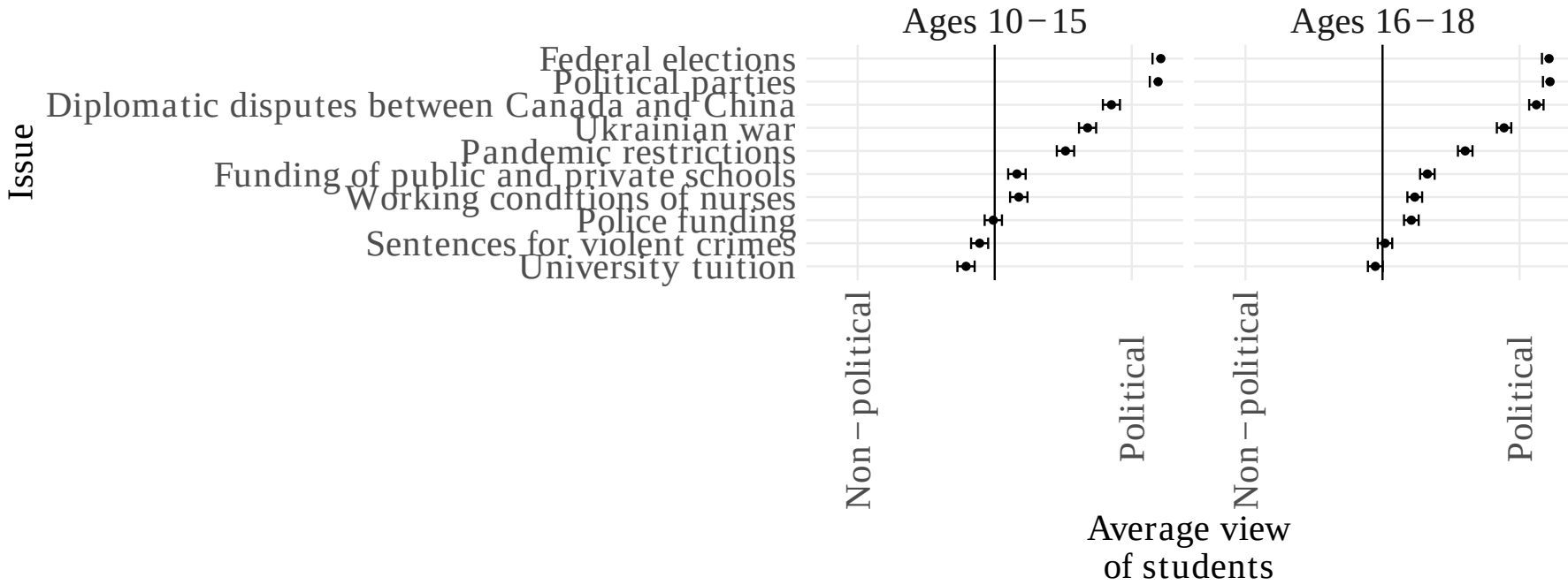

Figure 31: Views of Topics as Political or Non-Political By Canadian Students By Age Group, 2022 CPIS

Appendix Tables and Figures

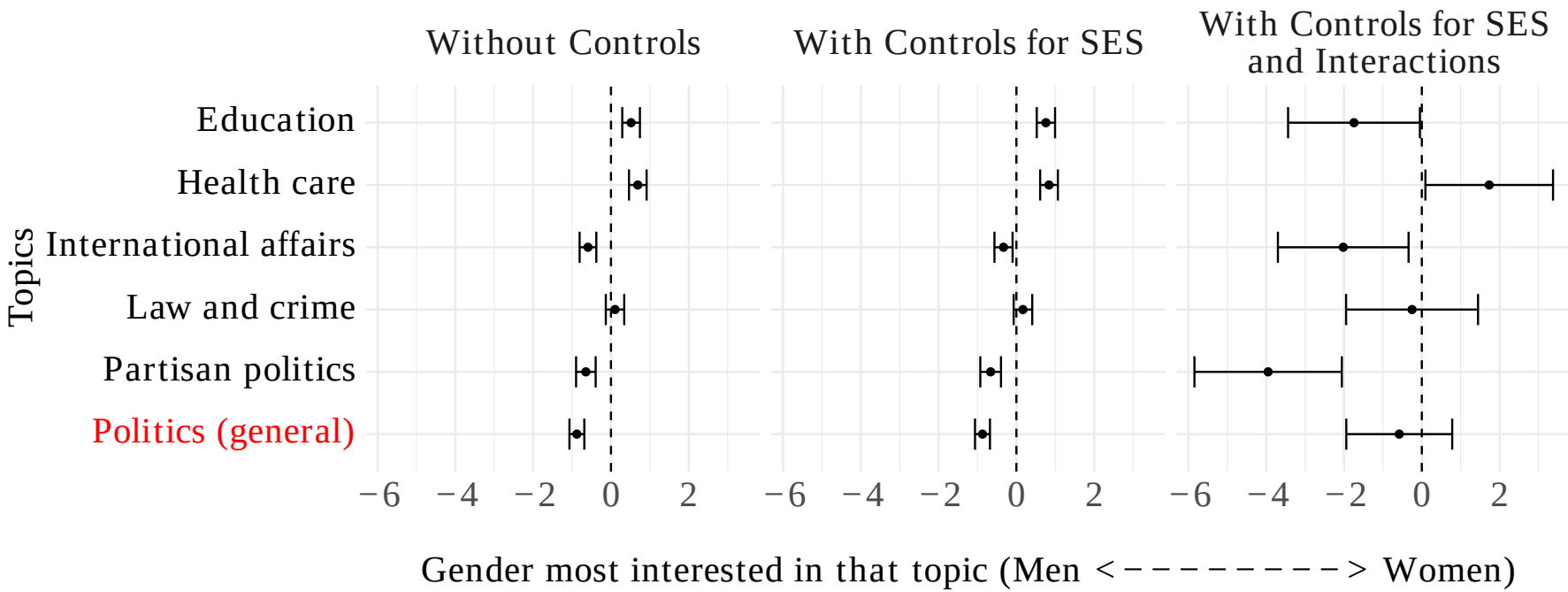

Figure 32: Gender Differences in Interest for Specific Political Topics Among Canadian Adults, 2023 Datagotchi PES

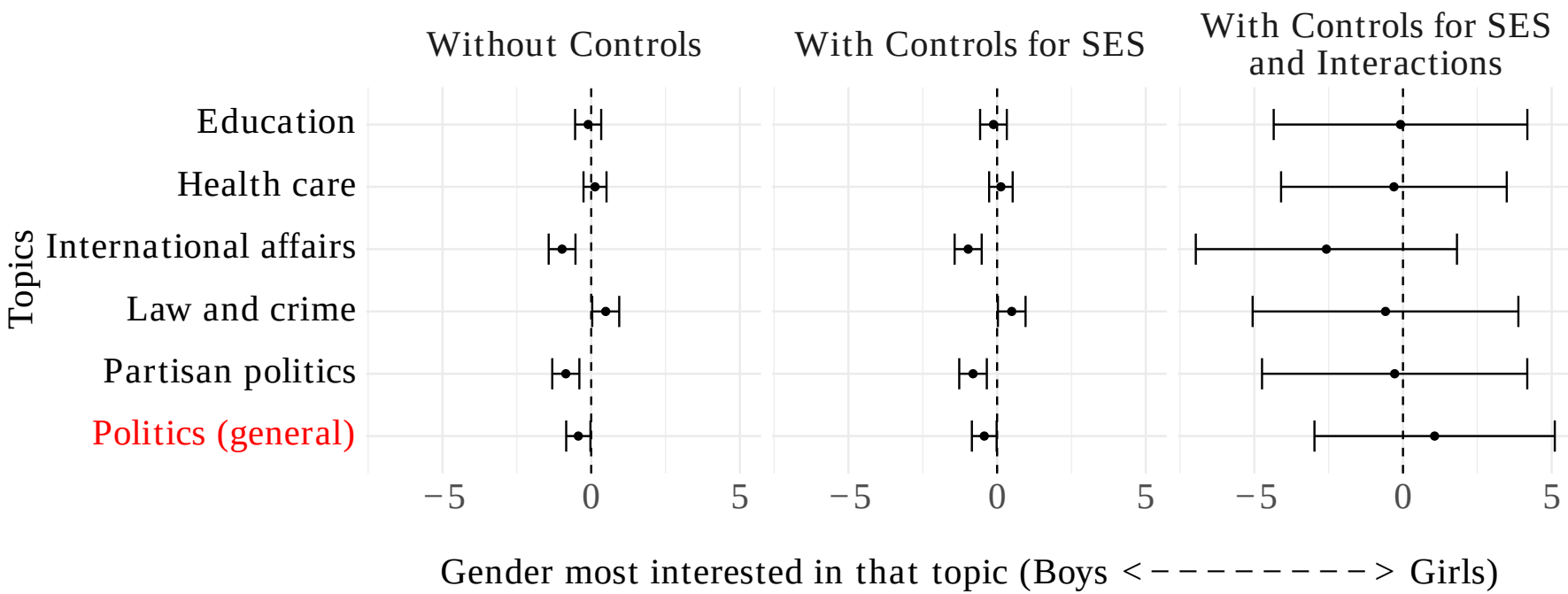

Figure 33: Gender Differences in Interest for Specific Political Topics Among Canadian Children, 2022 CPIS

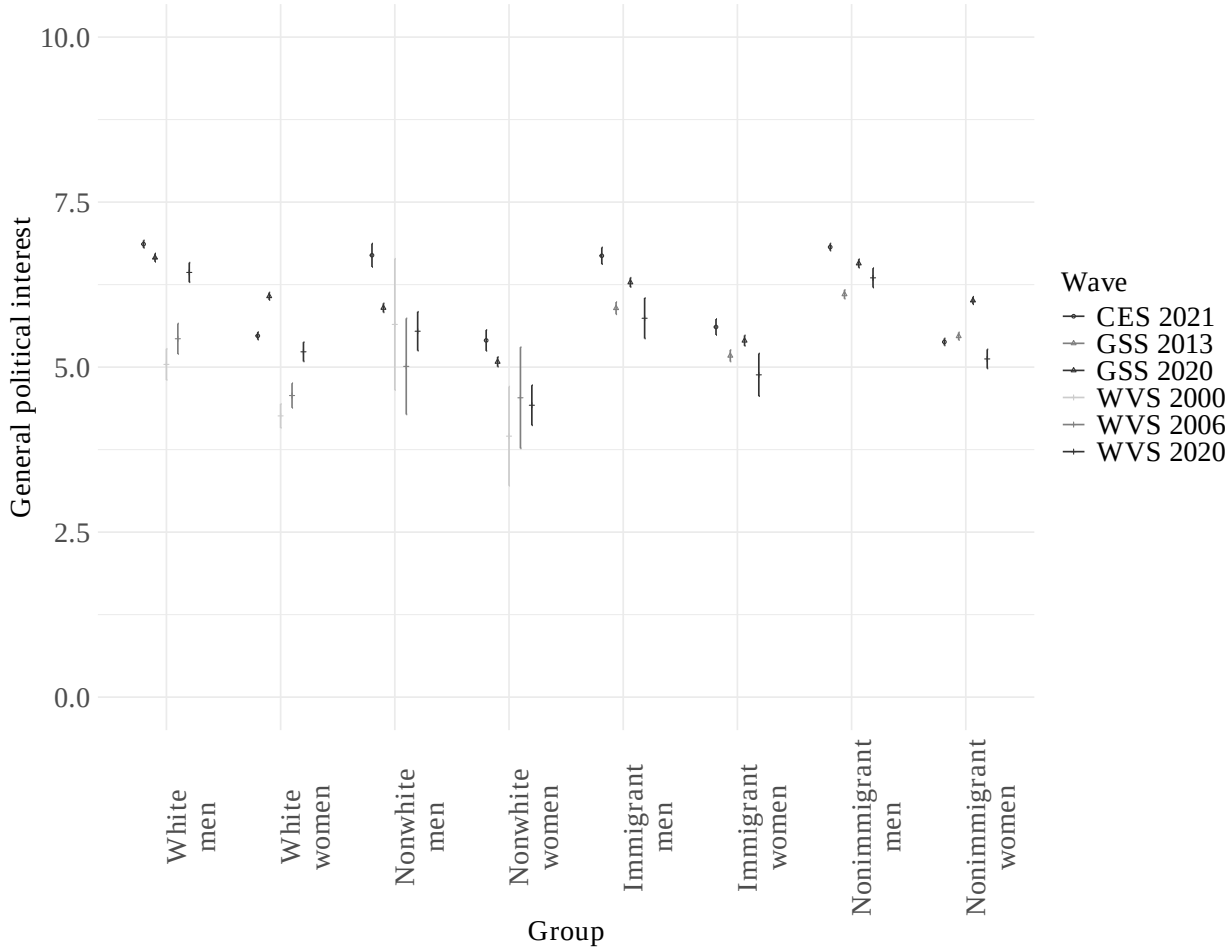

Figure 34: General Political Interest by Year, Gender, Ethnicity and Immigrant Status Among Canadian Adults, CES, WVS (Canada) and GSS

Notes: On the y axis, 0 = no interest at all, and 10 = a great deal of interest. 95% confidence intervals shown. CES, WVS and GSS weights are applied. Not all surveys included here asked questions about both ethnicity and immigrant status.

Table 8: Interest in Topic by Gender and Age Group, CPIS

	Politics (general)	Health care	International affairs	Law and crime	Education	Partisan politics
Ages 10–15						
(Intercept)	3.990***	3.638***	5.356***	4.519***	3.569***	3.854***
	(0.294)	(0.232)	(0.310)	(0.293)	(0.257)	(0.321)
Gender (1 = girl)	-0.113	0.077	-0.891*	0.630+	-0.073	-0.755*
	(0.319)	(0.309)	(0.375)	(0.379)	(0.357)	(0.364)
SD (Intercept Class)	0.703	0.205	0.561	0.392	0.000	0.707
SD (Observations)	2.527	2.467	2.965	3.022	2.847	2.860
Num.Obs.	256	256	253	256	254	251
R2 Marg.	0.000	0.000	0.021	0.011	0.000	0.016
Ages 16–18						
(Intercept)	4.997***	4.365***	5.903***	5.291***	4.621***	4.097***
	(0.184)	(0.202)	(0.209)	(0.208)	(0.247)	(0.202)
Gender (1 = girl)	-0.546*	0.213	-0.932**	0.473	-0.013	-0.886**
	(0.271)	(0.261)	(0.293)	(0.293)	(0.293)	(0.302)
SD (Intercept Class)	0.174	0.458	0.318	0.321	0.674	0.000
SD (Observations)	2.484	2.354	2.682	2.659	2.621	2.815
Num.Obs.	345	349	349	345	351	351
R2 Marg.	0.012	0.002	0.029	0.008	0.000	0.024

+ $p < 0.1$, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

Method: Multilevel linear regression

Fixed Effects: Classroom

Controls: None

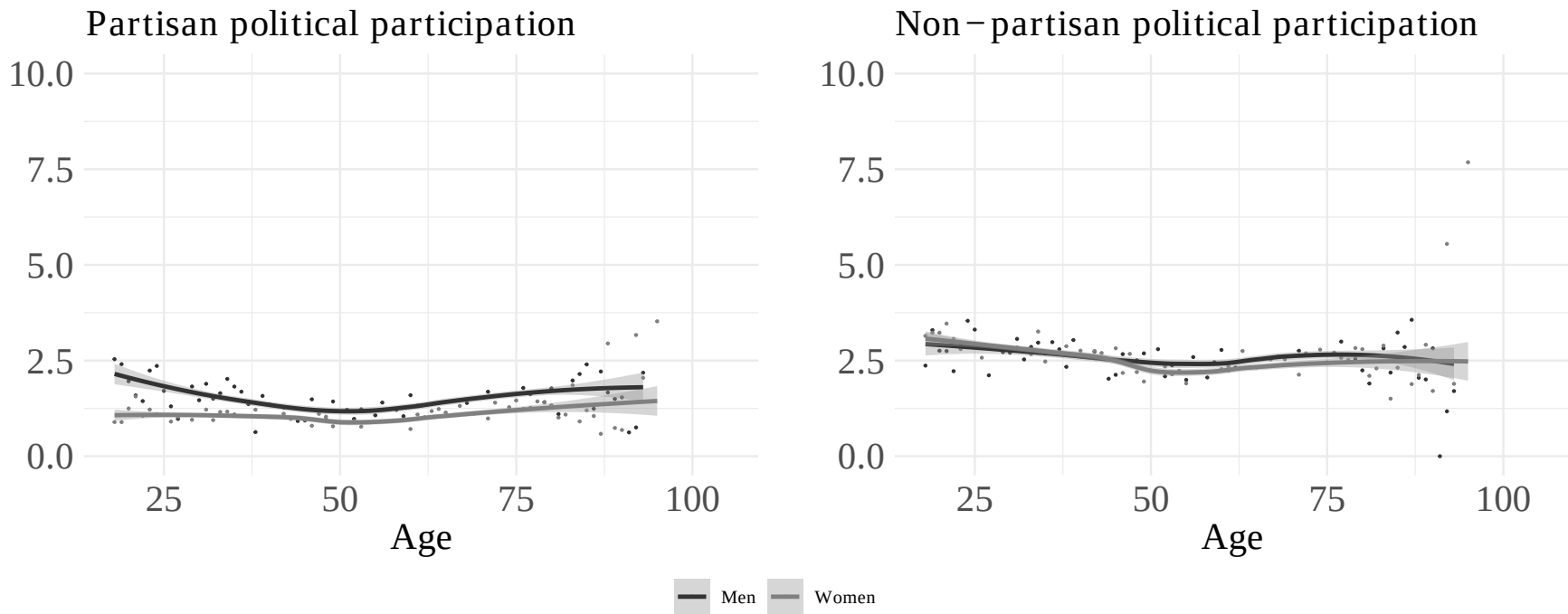

Figure 35: Gender Differences in Partisan and Non-Partisan Political Participation by Age Among Canadian Adults, 2021 CES

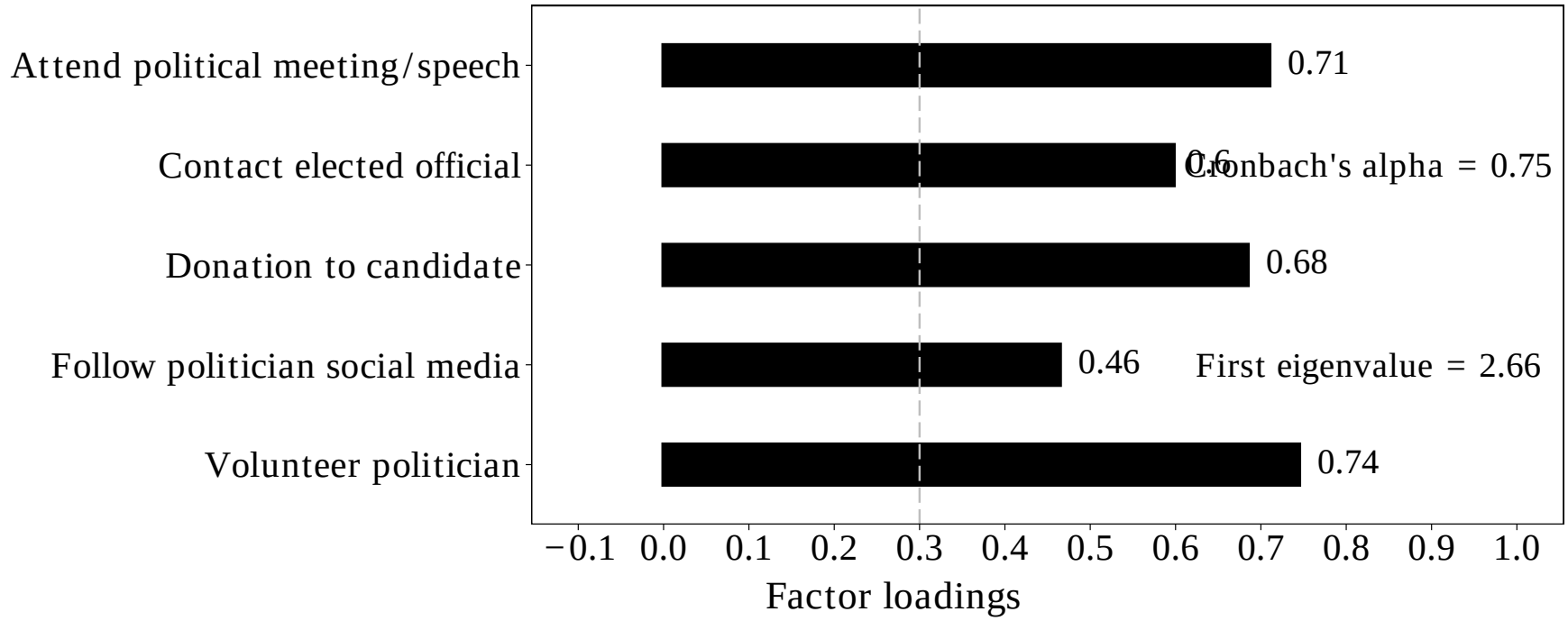

Figure 36: CES Factor Analysis: Partisan Political Participation Scale

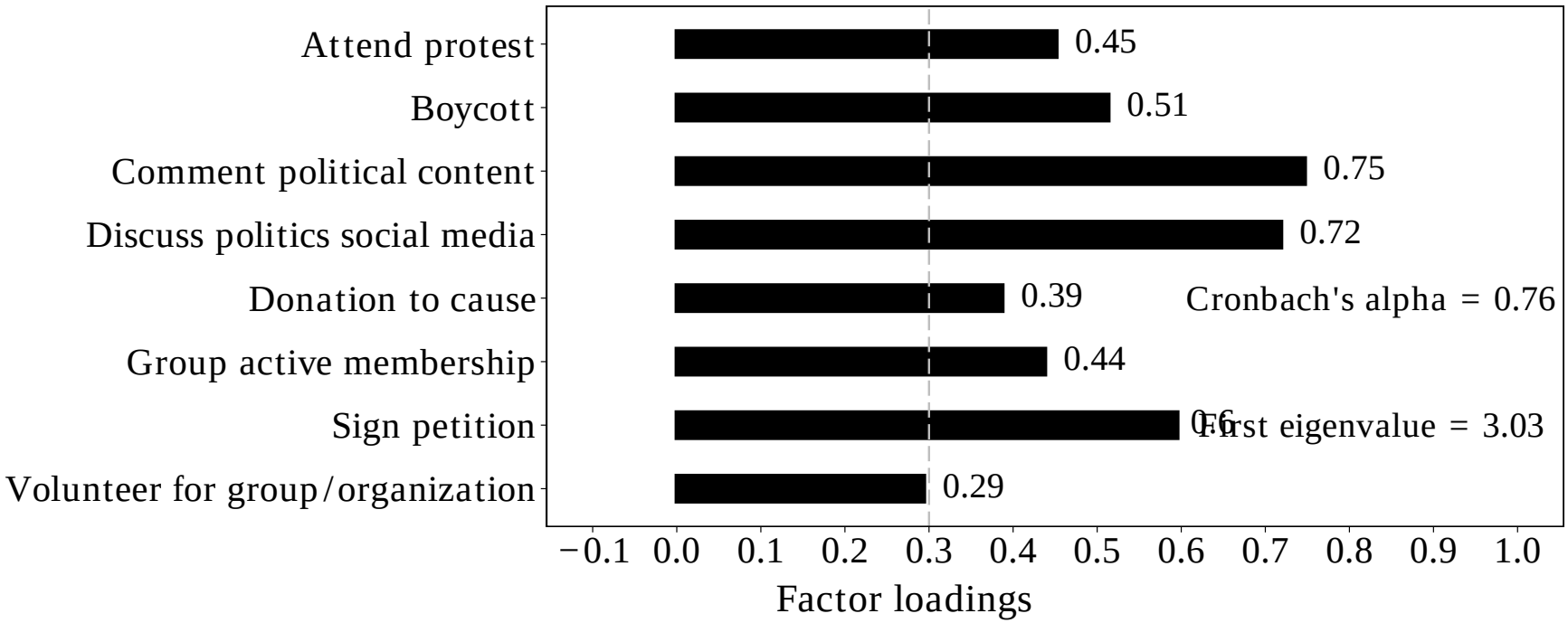

Figure 37: CES Factor Analysis: Non-Partisan Political Participation Scale

Table 9: Interest in Topic by Gender of Parent who Discusses that Topic the Most (With Interactions)

	All	Health care	International affairs	Law and crime	Education	Partisan politics
(Intercept)	10.996+	11.686	12.494	9.940	25.076**	34.623*
	(5.676)	(9.225)	(10.829)	(10.495)	(9.527)	(14.211)
Mother discusses topic more than father	-0.468***	-0.136	-0.203	-0.166	0.027	-0.083
	(0.119)	(0.298)	(0.294)	(0.282)	(0.289)	(0.342)
Gender (1 = girl)	-0.042	-0.018	-2.360	0.650	-0.956	0.677
	(1.251)	(2.334)	(2.717)	(2.767)	(2.517)	(3.326)
Gender (1 = girl):Age	0.008	0.020	0.102	-0.021	0.067	-0.081
	(0.080)	(0.149)	(0.173)	(0.177)	(0.160)	(0.211)
Gender (1 = girl):Ethnicity (1 = white)	-0.645*	-0.401	-0.704	-0.132	-0.465	-0.707
	(0.251)	(0.466)	(0.537)	(0.547)	(0.516)	(0.658)
SD (Intercept Class)	0.625	0.467	0.524	0.408	0.540	0.437
SD (Observations)	2.683	2.381	2.583	2.716	2.648	2.816
Num.Obs.2099	459	412	425	467	336	
R2 Marg.0.021	0.032	0.082	0.016	0.038	0.066	

+ $p < 0.1$, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

Method: Multilevel linear regression

Fixed Effects: Classroom

Hidden Controls: Socio-economic variables

Table 10: Interest in Topic Most Often Discussed with Socialization Agents (With Interactions)

	All	Health care	International affairs	Law and crime	Education	Partisan politics
(Intercept)	-8.948	-13.867	-22.750	23.058	13.852	3.026
	(9.130)	(17.013)	(15.928)	(17.299)	(16.960)	(17.625)
Gender (1 = girl)	-2.307	-6.406	-2.449	5.453	-7.929	0.980
	(2.141)	(4.395)	(4.348)	(4.541)	(5.051)	(4.501)
Topic most discussed with mother?	-0.277	0.911+	-0.261	-0.038	-0.577	0.314
	(0.296)	(0.525)	(0.907)	(1.372)	(0.566)	(1.518)
Topic most discussed with father?	0.769*	1.387	0.327	1.087+	-0.251	2.047*
	(0.299)	(1.215)	(0.514)	(0.640)	(0.711)	(0.988)
Topic most discussed with female friends?	0.665*	-0.084	-0.617	2.385**	1.704**	1.591
	(0.305)	(0.726)	(0.555)	(0.902)	(0.575)	(2.010)
Topic most discussed with male friends?	0.595+	-3.032**	0.849	0.344	-0.134	2.537+
	(0.322)	(1.148)	(0.537)	(0.707)	(0.734)	(1.361)
Topic most discussed by teacher?	0.327	1.326	1.167*	-0.585	-0.434	0.157
	(0.306)	(0.917)	(0.533)	(1.283)	(0.618)	(1.261)
Topic most discussed by social media influencer?	0.704*	1.064+	0.112	0.451	0.576	-1.475
	(0.302)	(0.638)	(0.513)	(0.734)	(1.100)	(1.995)
SD (Intercept Class)	0.840	0.733	0.000	0.705	0.501	0.682
SD (Observations)	2.428	2.262	2.278	2.318	2.502	2.376
Num.Obs.845	168	169	168	170	170	

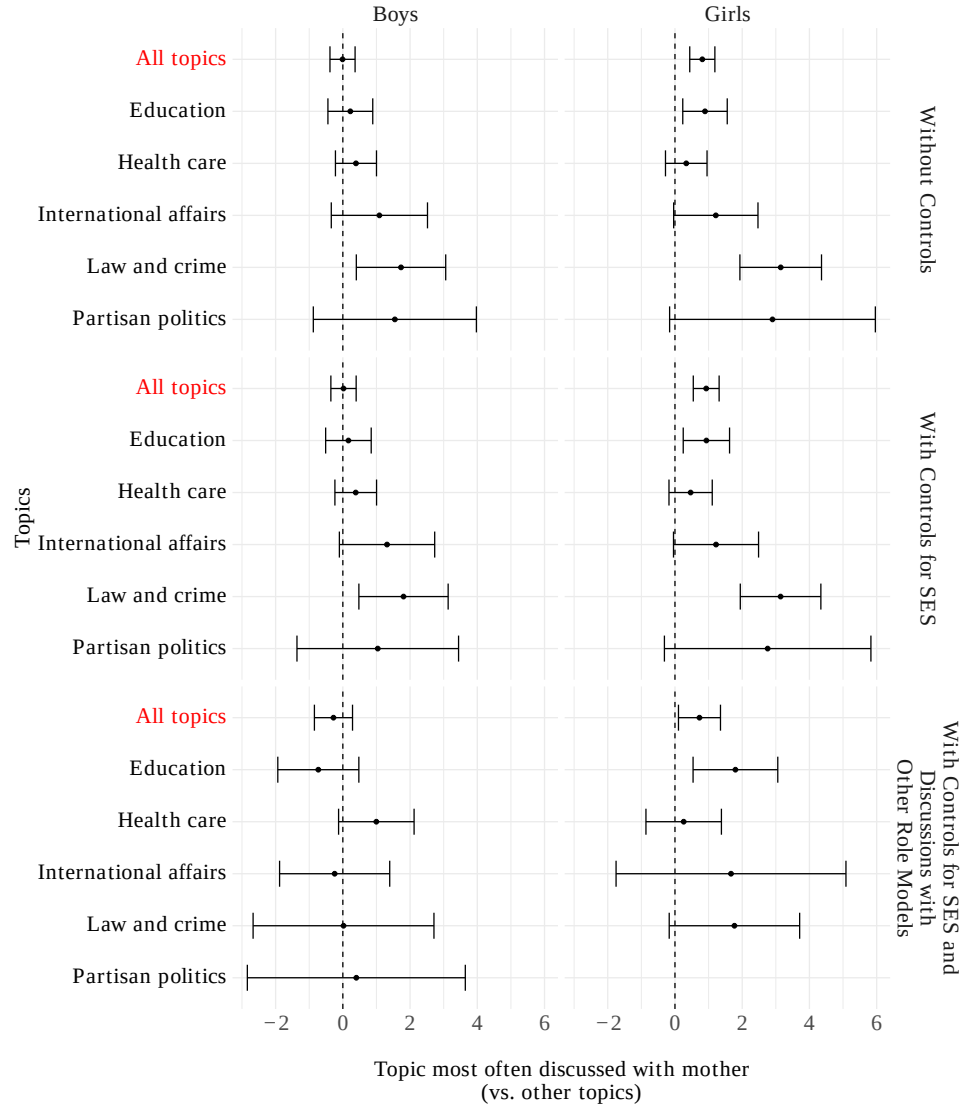

Figure 38: Interest in Topic Most Often Discussed with One's Mother

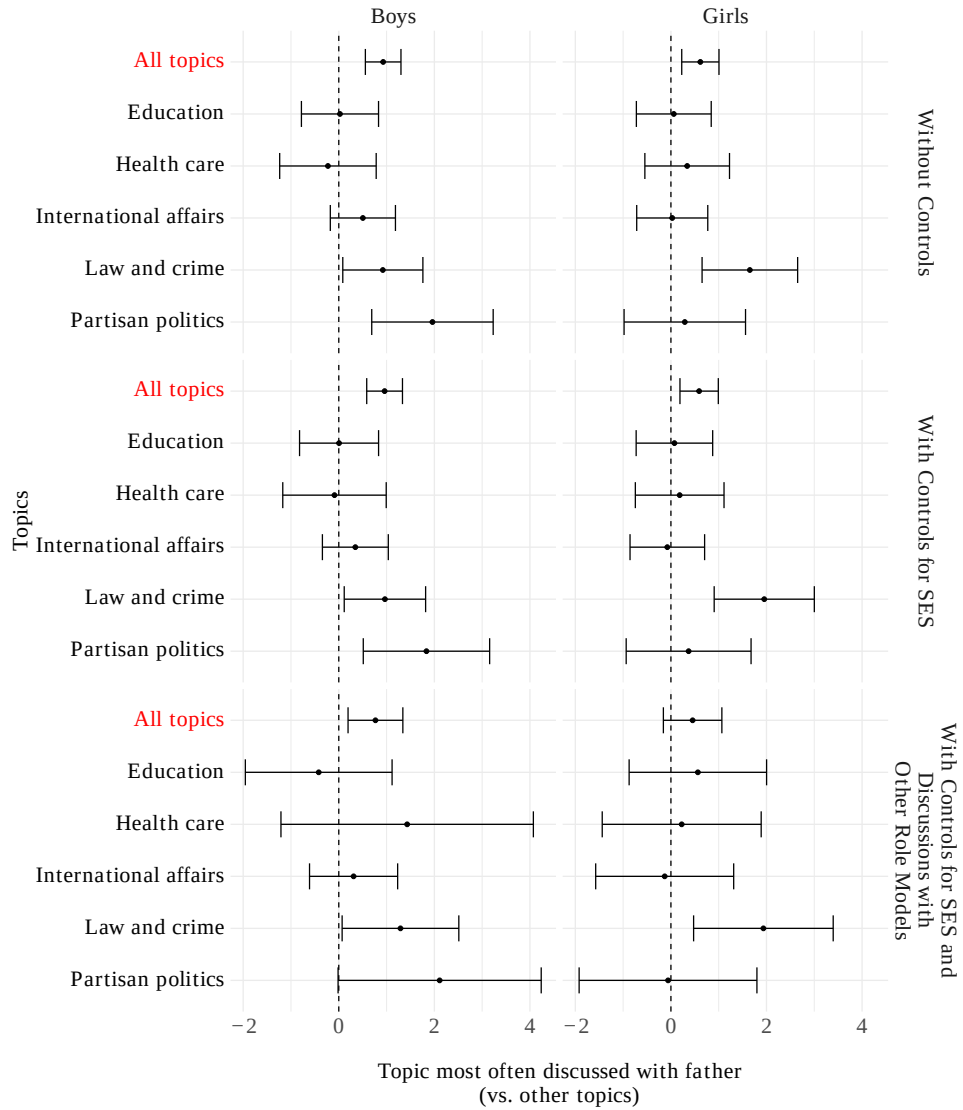

Figure 39: Interest in Topic Most Often Discussed with One's Father, 2022 CPIS

Table 11: Interest in Topic by Gender of Parent who Discusses that Topic the Most

	All	Health care	International affairs	Law and crime	Education	Partisan politics
Boys						
(Intercept)	5.289***	4.631***	6.333***	5.504***	4.260***	4.601***
	(0.180)	(0.379)	(0.251)	(0.222)	(0.340)	(0.286)
Mother discusses topic more than father	-0.665***	-0.411	-0.332	-0.242	0.286	-0.182
	(0.161)	(0.401)	(0.401)	(0.381)	(0.379)	(0.480)
SD (Intercept Class)	0.763	0.705	0.820	0.349	0.649	0.582
SD (Observations)	2.671	2.361	2.483	2.638	2.694	2.973
Num.Obs.	1138	241	225	228	252	192
R2 Marg.	0.014	0.004	0.003	0.002	0.002	0.001
Girls						
(Intercept)	4.749***	4.138***	5.057***	5.652***	4.602***	3.449***
	(0.174)	(0.424)	(0.240)	(0.265)	(0.423)	(0.279)
Mother discusses topic more than father	-0.254	0.158	-0.118	0.047	-0.434	0.110
	(0.173)	(0.442)	(0.415)	(0.397)	(0.445)	(0.475)
SD (Intercept Class)	0.645	0.665	0.345	0.492	0.849	0.360
SD (Observations)	2.703	2.376	2.687	2.777	2.599	2.748
Num.Obs.	1032	237	199	212	228	156
R2 Marg.	0.002	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.004	0.000

+ $p < 0.1$, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

Method: Multilevel linear regression

Table 12: Interest in Topic Most Often Discussed with One's Mother

	All	Health care	International affairs	Law and crime	Education	Partisan politics
Boys						
(Intercept)	4.810***	4.059***	5.981***	5.091***	4.372***	4.139***
	(0.154)	(0.241)	(0.211)	(0.173)	(0.261)	(0.199)
Topic most discussed with mother?	-0.009	0.391	1.087	1.731*	0.223	1.548
	(0.190)	(0.310)	(0.726)	(0.675)	(0.338)	(1.231)
SD (Intercept Class)	0.693	0.757	0.642	0.149	0.614	0.388
SD (Observations)	2.767	2.398	2.690	2.689	2.717	2.948
Num.Obs.	1320	262	265	265	264	264
R2 Marg.	0.000	0.006	0.008	0.024	0.002	0.006
Girls						
(Intercept)	4.215***	4.014***	4.735***	5.160***	3.802***	3.099***
	(0.139)	(0.221)	(0.215)	(0.189)	(0.273)	(0.168)
Topic most discussed with mother?	0.813***	0.336	1.215+	3.145***	0.893**	2.901+
	(0.191)	(0.314)	(0.636)	(0.616)	(0.336)	(1.553)
SD (Intercept Class)	0.605	0.586	0.704	0.284	0.915	0.000
SD (Observations)	2.721	2.384	2.597	2.749	2.524	2.674
Num.Obs.	1277	258	255	254	255	255
R2 Marg.	0.013	0.004	0.014	0.093	0.027	0.014

+ $p < 0.1$, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

Method: Multilevel linear regression

Fixed Effects: Classroom

Controls: None

Table 13: Interest in Topic Most Often Discussed with One's Father

	All	Health care	International affairs	Law and crime	Education	Partisan politics
Boys						
(Intercept)	4.678***	4.294***	5.883***	5.078***	4.488***	4.056***
	(0.150)	(0.212)	(0.228)	(0.185)	(0.230)	(0.219)
Topic most discussed with father?	0.929***	-0.227	0.504	0.922*	0.025	1.960**
	(0.190)	(0.512)	(0.346)	(0.425)	(0.409)	(0.645)
SD (Intercept Class)	0.659	0.722	0.379	0.000	0.613	0.568
SD (Observations)	2.704	2.376	2.672	2.652	2.698	2.841
Num.Obs.	1262	250	254	253	253	252
R2 Marg.	0.018	0.001	0.008	0.018	0.000	0.035
Girls						
(Intercept)	4.188***	4.109***	4.796***	5.124***	4.030***	3.137***
	(0.161)	(0.216)	(0.248)	(0.203)	(0.266)	(0.206)
Topic most discussed with father?	0.616**	0.341	0.028	1.652**	0.060	0.291
	(0.199)	(0.449)	(0.377)	(0.507)	(0.397)	(0.644)
SD (Intercept Class)	0.753	0.733	0.634	0.177	0.959	0.502
SD (Observations)	2.690	2.335	2.660	2.790	2.536	2.650
Num.Obs.	1154	233	230	230	231	230
R2 Marg.	0.008	0.002	0.000	0.044	0.000	0.001

$+$ $p < 0.1$, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

Method: Multilevel linear regression

Fixed Effects: Classroom

Controls: None

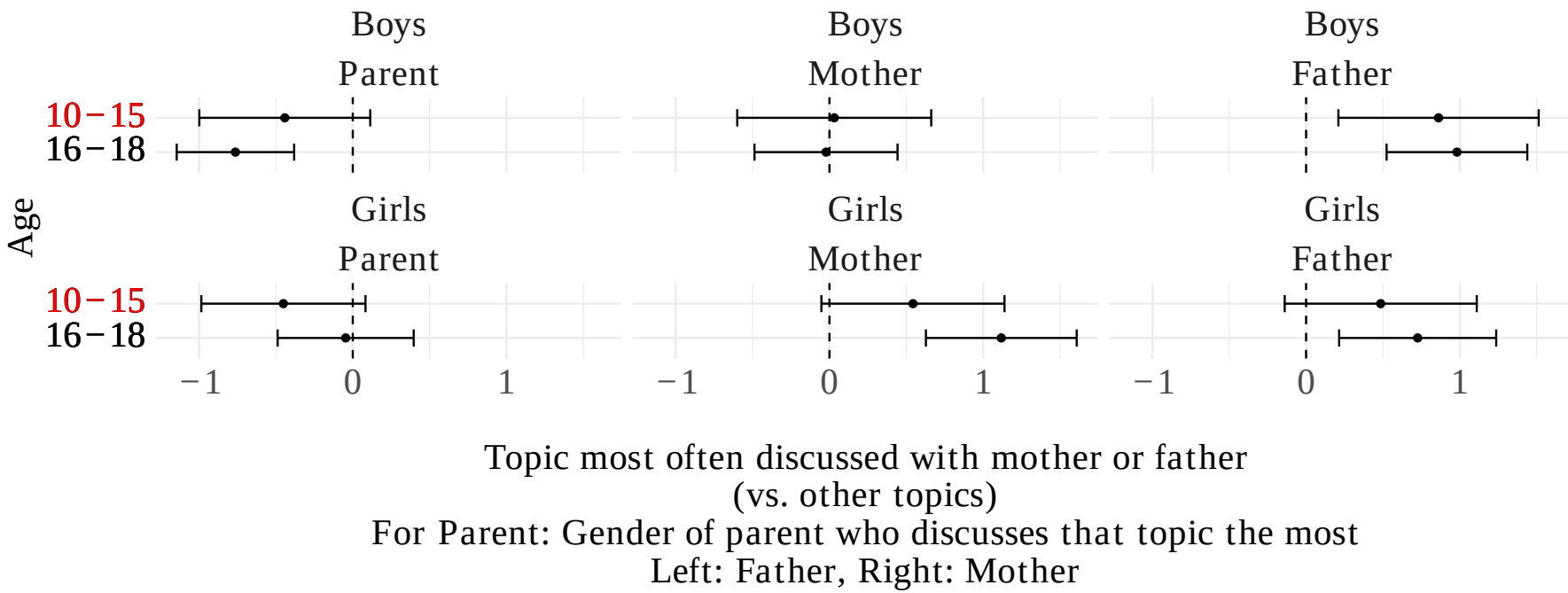

Figure 40: Interest in Topics by Gender, Age and Discussion with Parents, 2022 CPIS

Table 14: Interest in Topic Most Often Discussed with one's Female Friends

	All	Health care	International affairs	Law and crime	Education	Partisan politics
Boys						
(Intercept)	4.929***	4.474***	6.297***	5.068***	4.459***	4.576***
	(0.163)	(0.273)	(0.242)	(0.250)	(0.316)	(0.250)
Topic most discussed with female friends?	0.541*	-0.078	0.267	1.605*	0.752	-1.114
	(0.245)	(0.547)	(0.486)	(0.659)	(0.458)	(1.127)
SD (Intercept Class)	0.643	0.745	0.034	0.625	0.638	0.400
SD (Observations)	2.750	2.568	2.630	2.564	2.756	2.896
Num.Obs.	783	155	157	157	157	157
R2 Marg.	0.006	0.000	0.002	0.036	0.017	0.006
Girls						
(Intercept)	4.370***	4.246***	4.687***	5.477***	4.249***	3.376***
	(0.155)	(0.268)	(0.238)	(0.251)	(0.296)	(0.201)
Topic most discussed with female friends?	0.902***	0.151	1.195*	1.085*	0.274	4.624**
	(0.223)	(0.423)	(0.533)	(0.511)	(0.400)	(1.570)
SD (Intercept Class)	0.647	1.010	0.567	0.478	0.946	0.000
SD (Observations)	2.687	2.214	2.616	2.788	2.506	2.698
Num.Obs.	914	183	182	181	184	184
R2 Marg.	0.017	0.001	0.027	0.024	0.002	0.045

$+$ p $<$ 0.1, * p $<$ 0.05, ** p $<$ 0.01, *** p $<$ 0.001

Method: Multilevel linear regression

Fixed Effects: Classroom

Table 15: Interest in Topic Most Often Discussed with One's Male Friends

	All	Health care	International affairs	Law and crime	Education	Partisan politics
Boys						
(Intercept)	4.615***	4.432***	5.474***	5.023***	4.449***	4.175***
	(0.155)	(0.232)	(0.239)	(0.197)	(0.230)	(0.239)
Topic most discussed with male friends?	1.541***	-1.111+	1.586***	1.503***	0.626	1.509+
	(0.198)	(0.669)	(0.356)	(0.397)	(0.443)	(0.810)
SD (Intercept Class)	0.680	0.860	0.301	0.000	0.528	0.685
SD (Observations)	2.701	2.365	2.673	2.604	2.743	2.900
Num.Obs.	1158	230	233	232	232	231
R2 Marg.	0.047	0.011	0.079	0.058	0.008	0.014
Girls						
(Intercept)	4.516***	4.387***	5.133***	5.876***	4.313***	3.592***
	(0.167)	(0.211)	(0.298)	(0.293)	(0.289)	(0.231)
Topic most discussed with male friends?	0.944***	0.070	0.871+	-0.343	0.638	2.033*
	(0.242)	(0.656)	(0.512)	(0.462)	(0.515)	(1.000)
SD (Intercept Class)	0.691	0.410	0.858	0.000	0.961	0.000
SD (Observations)	2.646	2.297	2.595	2.768	2.444	2.751
Num.Obs.	753	153	149	149	152	150
R2 Marg.	0.019	0.000	0.019	0.004	0.010	0.027

+ $p < 0.1$, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

Method: Multilevel linear regression

Fixed Effects: Classroom

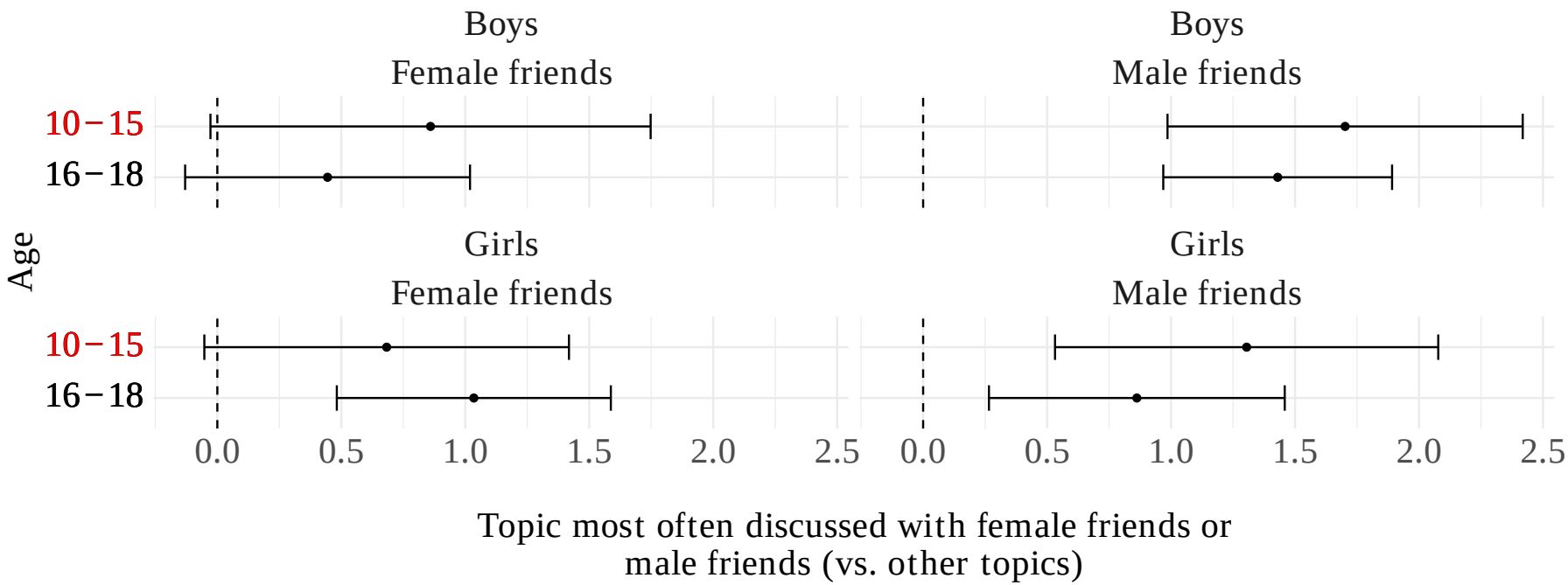

Figure 41: Interest in Topics by Gender, Age and Discussion with Peers, 2022 CPIS

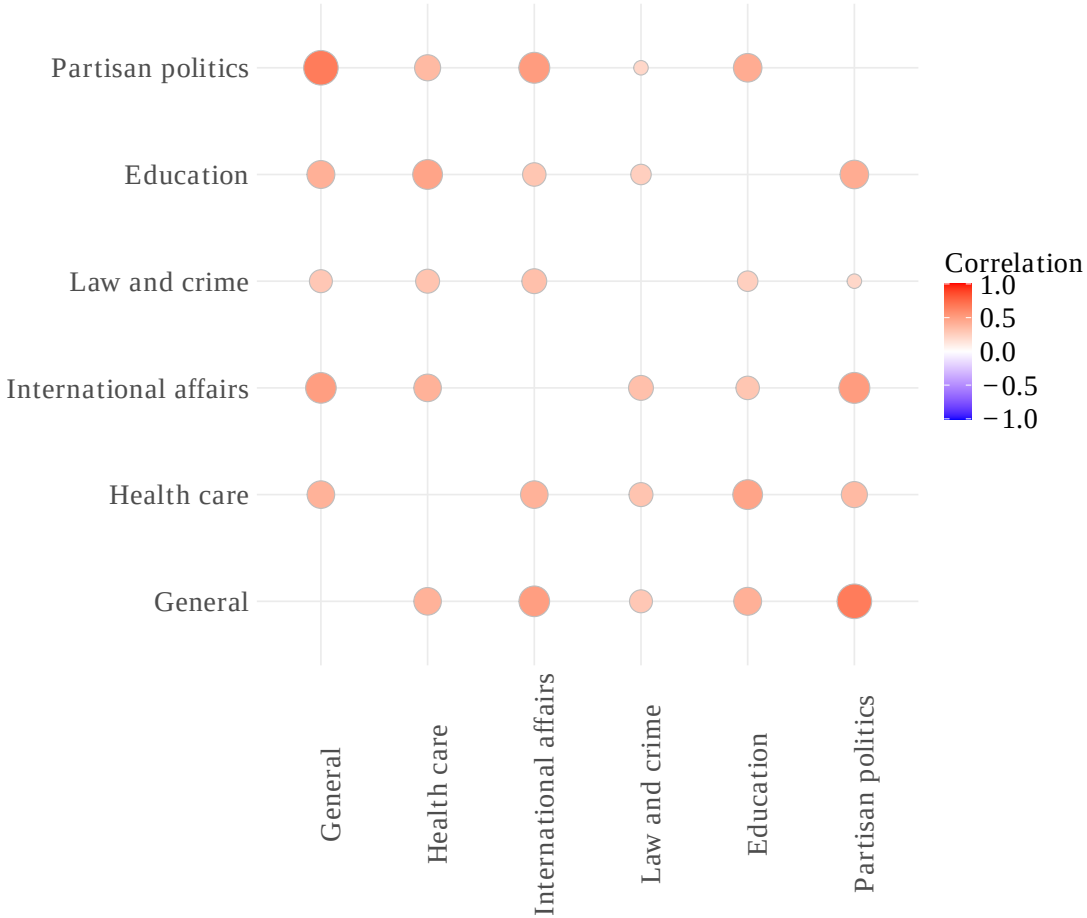

Figure 42: Correlation Matrix for Interest in Topics, 2022 CPIS

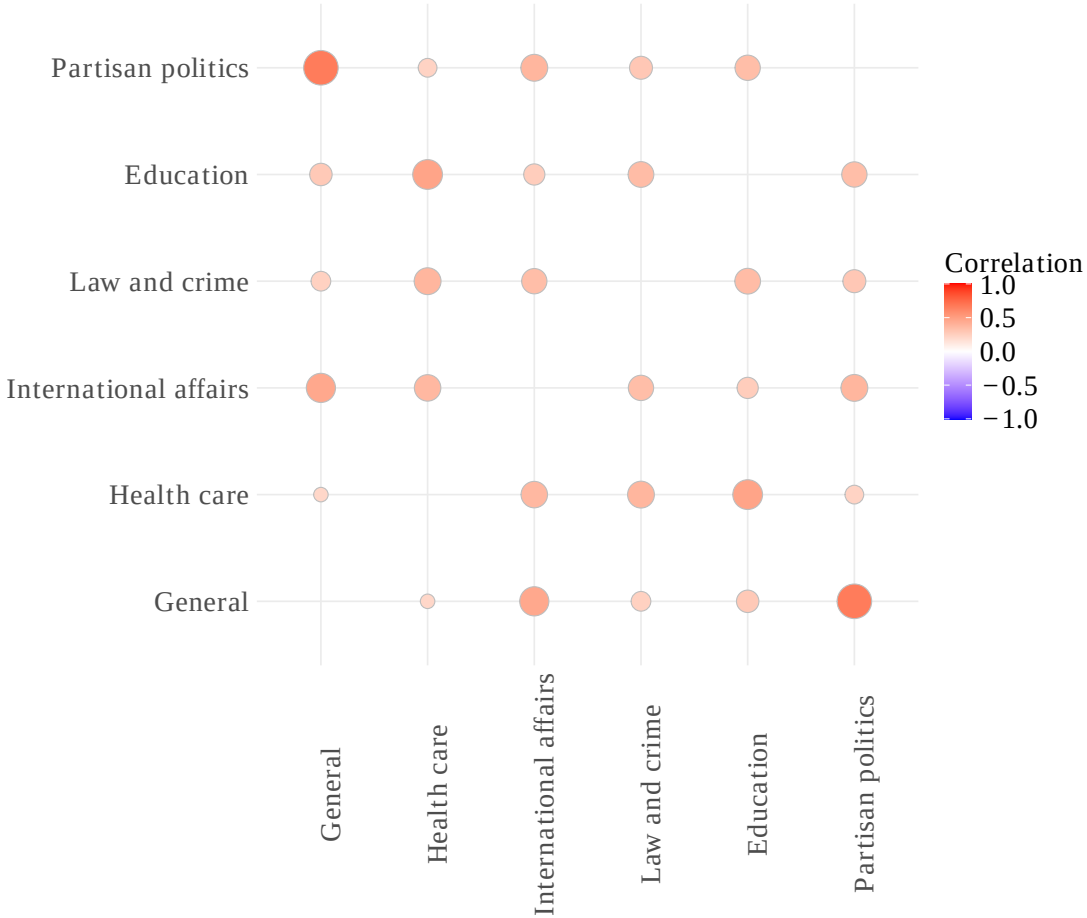

Figure 43: Correlation Matrix for Interest in Topics, 2023 Datagotchi PES

Table 16: Interest in Topic by Gender Congruence of Influencer who Discusses that Topic

	All	Health care	International affairs	Law and crime	Education	Partisan politics
Same-Gender Influencers						
(Intercept)	4.429***	4.101***	5.335***	4.981***	4.460***	3.832***
	(0.153)	(0.203)	(0.235)	(0.189)	(0.219)	(0.217)
Topic most discussed with influencer?	1.331***	0.780*	0.939**	1.507***	0.038	1.551+
	(0.165)	(0.319)	(0.298)	(0.359)	(0.487)	(0.881)
SD (Intercept Class)	0.747	0.757	0.739	0.450	0.836	0.801
SD (Observations)	2.704	2.369	2.654	2.705	2.668	2.831
Num.Obs.	1678	336	338	335	335	334
R2 Marg.	0.035	0.017	0.027	0.050	0.000	0.009
Other-Gender Influencers						
(Intercept)	4.107***	3.795***	5.146***	5.349***	3.828***	3.167***
	(0.201)	(0.240)	(0.346)	(0.354)	(0.328)	(0.277)
Topic most discussed with influencer?	1.136***	0.569	-0.217	1.241*	0.932	0.583
	(0.283)	(0.580)	(0.523)	(0.542)	(0.817)	(1.464)
SD (Intercept Class)	0.858	0.150	0.725	1.073	1.023	0.000
SD (Observations)	2.688	2.299	2.611	2.522	2.650	2.876
Num.Obs.	560	112	112	111	113	112
R2 Marg.	0.025	0.009	0.002	0.042	0.011	0.001

+ $p < 0.1$, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

Method: Multilevel linear regression

Fixed Effects: Classroom

Definitions

Politics

- Contested concept for a long time (Gallie 1956)
- "The concept is extremely broad and comprises any kind of leadership in action" (Weber (1919), p. 1)

  Politics, in its broadest sense, is the activity through which people make, preserve and amend the general rules under which they live. Politics is inextricably linked to the phenomena of conflict and cooperation. On the one hand, the existence of rival opinions, different wants, competing needs, and opposing interests guarantees disagreement about the rules under which people live. On the other hand, people recognize that, in order to influence these rules or ensure their enforcement, they must work with others (Heywood (2019), p. 34).

Other definitions (Conover, Searing, and Crewe 2002; Fitzgerald 2013; Heywood 2019; Lane 1962; Sapiro 2013; Walsh 2004):

- The art of government
- Public affairs in general
- The non-violent resolution of disputes
- Power and the distribution of resources
- Conflictual discussion of controversial topics

Agency & Communion

Campbell and Winters (2008) shows that men's higher self-reported political interest derives from the fact that they are more *agentic*, i.e., focused on self-assertion [or competition], while women are more *communal*, i.e., focused on cooperation. Since the concept of *politics* is typically seen as more adversarial, it appeals more to agentic types — mostly men — who then develop higher political efficacy and overall self-reported political interest, a finding also shared by Schneider et al. (2016).

Kuhn (2004): compassion & cooperation vs. contest & competition

Miscellaneous

Positionality & Motivations for the Study

1. At first, I wanted to study women's legislative under-representation in various contexts

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2. Need to go back in time and look at childhood socialization

1. At first, I wanted to study women's legislative under-representation in various contexts
2. Need to go back in time and look at childhood socialization
3. Gap in the literature: how can we explain the transmission of interests in different political topics?

Studies about Gender Gaps in Interest

Studies about Gender Gaps in Interest

Table 17: Gender differences in political interest among teenagers and young adults

Study	Gender gap	Country	Respondents' ages
Koskimaa & Rapeli (2015)	+2	Finland	16–18
Dostie-Goulet (2009)	+2	Canada	14–16
Janmaat et al. (2022)	+5	UK	16
Cicognani et al. (2012)	+11	Belgium	15–19
Lawless & Fox (2013)	+11	United States	18–25
Burns et al. (2001)	+15	United States	18
Muxel (2002)	+15	France	18–25
Fraile & Sanchez-Vitores (2020)	+20	UK	15
Janmaat et al. (2022)	+22	UK	30
Hyman (1959)	+27	Germany	15–24
Fraile & Sanchez-Vitores (2020)	+30	UK	25

Bell, Edward, Julie Aitken Schermer, and Philip A Vernon. 2009. "The Origins of Political Attitudes and Behaviours: An Analysis