

# Paper Topic

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## Question

Explain political trust and demand for democracy in China with a national survey.

## Paths

Two different approaches driven from modernization theory:

1. Economic growth → income inequality → trust in Gov./demand for democracy
2. Economic growth → critical thinking ability → trust in Gov./demand for democracy

## Analysis

Data: Data in this study comes from two sources: provincial level economic growth data is collected from China Compendium of Statistics (1950-2009), Individual level data is from the 2006 China General Social Survey (CGSS). CGSS is a annual/biannual survey of China's urban and rural households and it started at 2003. In 2006, the survey was conducted between September and November, 10151 households in 28 provinces (out of 31) were interviewed. Response rate in the 2006 survey was about 51.10% and the missing value rate was about 3.41%.

## Method

SEM and Mediation Analysis

DV :

With respect to political trust, CGSS asks respondents to rate the credibility of government official announcements based on the following question setting:

To what degree do you trust government reports/announcements on: housing; stock market; employment situation for college graduates; corruption; income inequality; domestic security; deaths in mining industry; deaths in earthquake

The second DV is demand for democracy

Do you agree or disagree with the following argument: as long as economy is good, there is no need for political reform and democracy

IV: two sets

- one: subjective econ condition evaluations; not-so-good inequality evaluation
- critical thinking ability