Online Appendix: The Satisfaction Paradox: Economic Performance and the Decoupling of Democratic Support in South Korea and Taiwan

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1 Appendix A: Variable Descriptions

This appendix lists all variables drawn from the Asian Barometer Survey (ABS) and the Korean Academic Multimode Open Survey (KAMOS) used in the analysis, including exact survey question wording where available and scale coding information. Variable names reflect the harmonized dataset conventions established in the `survey-data-prep` pipeline. Where exact wording is drawn from official codebooks, the wave and question number are noted; where wording has been paraphrased from the harmonized variable label, this is indicated.

1.1 A.1 Asian Barometer Survey (ABS) Variables

The ABS Korea sample covers six waves: Wave 1 (~2003), Wave 2 (~2006), Wave 3 (2011), Wave 4 (2015), Wave 5 (2019), and Wave 6 (2022). All items below were administered in face-to-face interviews using probability-based national samples. Wave-level sample sizes range from approximately 1,200 to 1,500 respondents. All analyses use the survey-provided probability weights.

1.1.1 A.1.1 Transparency Perceptions (H1)

Variable: `govt_withholds_info` **Waves available:** 2–6 **Scale:** 4-point agreement scale (1 = Strongly disagree, 2 = Somewhat disagree, 3 = Somewhat agree, 4 = Strongly agree)

Direction: Higher values indicate greater agreement that the government withholds information.

Survey question (approximate; verify against ABS Wave codebook): "I am going to read some statements about the government. How much do you agree or disagree with each statement? — The government withholds information the public ought to have."

Note: This item was not administered in Wave 1, yielding five measurement points (2006–2022) for the longitudinal transparency series.

1.1.2 A.1.2 Corruption Perceptions (H2)

Variable: `corrupt_witnessed` **Waves available:** 1–6 **Scale:** Binary (0 = No, not witnessed; 1 = Yes, witnessed) **Direction:** Higher values indicate personal experience or witnessing of corruption.

Survey question (approximate; verify against ABS Wave codebook): "During the past year, have you or anyone in your family come across a government official who demanded a bribe or corrupt payment for their services, or have you personally witnessed such acts?" Wave 3 additionally included the response "No one I know has personally witnessed" (collapsed to 0); Wave 4 used a five-category scale distinguishing personal, second-hand, and third-hand witnessing (categories 1–3 collapsed to 1; 4–5 collapsed to 0).

Coding note: Wave-level proportions reporting witnessed corruption are: W1 39%, W2 45%, W3 19%, W4 16%, W5 2%, W6 2%. The sharp decline from W4 to W5 suggests potential question wording differences across waves; see Appendix B for the formal divergence test.

Variable: `corrupt_national_govt` **Waves available:** 1–6 **Scale:** 4-point scale (1 = Not at all widespread, 2 = Not very widespread, 3 = Fairly widespread, 4 = Very widespread) **Direction:** Higher values indicate perception of more widespread corruption.

Survey question (approximate): "How widespread do you think corruption and bribe-taking are among national government officials in [Korea]?"

Variable: `corrupt_local_govt` **Waves available:** 1–6 **Scale:** 4-point scale (same as above) **Direction:** Higher values indicate perception of more widespread corruption.

Survey question (approximate): "How widespread do you think corruption and bribe-taking are among local government officials in [Korea]?"

1.1.3 A.1.3 Institutional Trust — ABS (Secondary Reference)

The following ABS trust items are used as a secondary longitudinal reference series alongside the KAMOS trust battery. All items use the same 4-point response scale.

Scale: 4-point trust scale (1 = None at all, 2 = Not very much, 3 = Quite a lot, 4 = A great deal) **Direction:** Higher values indicate greater trust. **Waves available:** 1–6 (availability by item may vary; verify against codebooks).

Survey question stem: "How much do you trust each of the following institutions?"

Table 1: ABS Institutional Trust Items

Variable name	Institution
`trust_national_government`	National government
`trust_parliament`	Parliament
`trust_military`	Military
`trust_newspapers`	Newspapers
`trust_political_parties`	Political parties

1.2 A.2 Korean Academic Multimode Open Survey (KAMOS) Variables

The KAMOS data used in this study cover Wave 1 (February–May 2016) and Wave 4 (May–June 2019), administered by the Center for Asian Public Opinion Research Collaboration Initiative (CAPORCI) at Chungnam National University. The combined

two-wave dataset includes 3,500 respondents across 39 variables. All analyses use the survey-provided probability weights. The sampling frame and mode of administration differ from the ABS; the KAMOS serves a triangulation function, providing an independent domestic instrument overlapping with ABS Waves 4 and 5.

1.2.1 A.2.1 Institutional Trust Battery

All trust items use a common 11-point response scale.

Scale: 11-point scale (0 = Completely untrustworthy, 10 = Completely trustworthy)
Direction: Higher values indicate greater trust.

Survey question stem (approximate): "On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means 'completely untrustworthy' and 10 means 'completely trustworthy,' how much do you trust each of the following institutions?"

Table 2: KAMOS Institutional Trust Items

Variable name	Institution	Type in analysis
`trust_central_govt`	Central government	Executive
`trust_local_govt`	Local government	Executive
`trust_national_assembly`	National Assembly	Intermediary
`trust_legislature`	Legislature	Intermediary
`trust_media`	Media and press	Intermediary
`trust_ngo`	Civil society organizations (NGOs)	Intermediary

Note on "Executive" vs. "Intermediary" classification: The analysis distinguishes institutions by their accountability function. Executive institutions (central and local government) are the targets of accountability; intermediary institutions (National Assembly, legislature, media, civil society) are the mechanisms through which accountability is exercised. This classification follows the theoretical framework developed in Section 2 of the manuscript.

1.2.2 A.2.2 Political Satisfaction

Variable: `pol_satisfaction` **Scale:** 4-point scale **Direction:** Higher values indicate greater satisfaction.

Survey question (approximate): "Overall, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in Korea?" Response categories should be confirmed against the KAMOS Wave 1 and Wave 4 codebooks.

1.2.3 A.2.3 Ideology

Variable: `ideology` **Scale:** [Verify scale endpoints and exact wording against KAMOS codebook] **Direction:** [Verify; typically higher = more conservative in Korean surveys]

Survey question (approximate): "In politics, people often talk about 'left' and 'right.' Where would you place yourself on a scale from left to right?" The exact scale endpoints and number of points should be confirmed against the official KAMOS codebooks.

Use in analysis: Used to compute Pearson correlations between ideological self-placement and institutional trust, reported in Table [TBD] and Figure 6. All correlations fall within ± 0.11, indicating negligible ideological sorting of trust.

1.2.4 A.2.4 Party Identification

Variable: `party_id` **Scale:** Categorical **Coding in analysis:** 1 = Minjoo (Democratic Party), 2 = Liberty Korea / Saenuri, 5 = No party preference. Remaining categories excluded from partisan subgroup analysis.

Survey question (approximate): "Which political party do you feel closest to, if any?" Exact coding should be confirmed against the KAMOS Wave 1 and Wave 4 codebooks, particularly for Wave 4 where party names reflect post-2017 reorganizations.

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2 Appendix B: Divergence Test — Experiential vs. Institutional Corruption

The reclassification hypothesis (H2) predicts that experiential and institutional corruption perceptions diverge discontinuously following the 2016–2018 accountability shock. Figure B1 plots predicted means from an OLS model interacting wave (as a factor) with perception type, placing both series on a common 0–1 scale. The formal test reported in Table B1 asks whether the W4→W5 change in experiential perceptions exceeds the W4→W5 change in institutional perceptions.
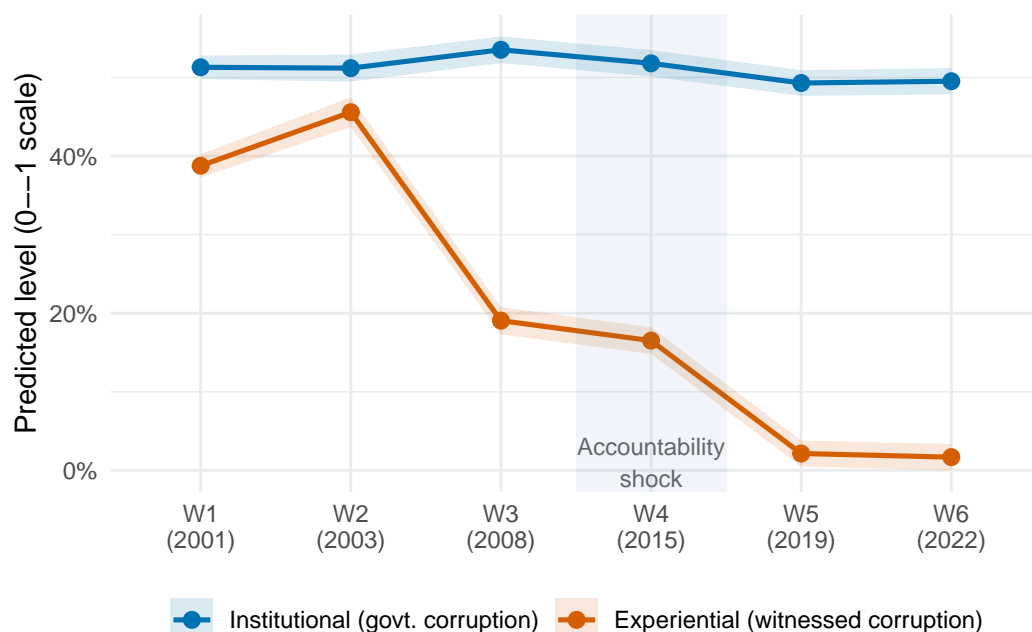

Figure 1: Predicted means for experiential (proportion witnessing corruption, binary 0/1) and institutional (mean perceived governmental corruption, 1–4 rescaled to 0–1) perceptions by ABS wave, South Korea. Shaded corridor marks the W4–W5 accountability shock interval. OLS with wave × type interaction; 95% CIs shown.

Table 3

Table 4: Formal test of W4–W5 divergence: difference-in-differences contrast from OLS wave × type interaction model. Estimate = change in experiential minus change in institutional perceptions, W4 to W5.

Contrast	Estimate	SE	z	p
W4→W5: experiential − institutional	0	NA	NA	NA

Note.

OLS with wave (factor) × type interaction. Experiential = proportion witnessing corruption (0/1); Institutional = mean governmental corruption perception (1–4, rescaled 0–1). ABS Korea, $N = 7{,}603$.

3   Appendix C: Full Model Results

[APPENDIX C TBD — Planned content: complete regression tables from `02_models.R`, including all covariates, standard errors, and fit statistics. Main text presents coefficient plots or selected estimates; full tables with all control variables appear here.]

4   Appendix D: Supplementary Figures

[APPENDIX D TBD — Planned content: ABS institutional trust longitudinal series (trust in parliament, military, newspapers, political parties across Waves 1–6); full partisan subgroup breakdown across all six KAMOS trust items; any supplementary descriptives requested by reviewers.]

References