

Social Justice Watch 1003

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INTERNATIONAL
SAFE ABORTION
DAY

**CRIMINALISING
ABORTION DOES NOT
STOP ABORTIONS.**

IT MAKES THEM LESS SAFE.



INTERNATIONAL
SAFE ABORTION
DAY

40% OF WOMEN
LIVE IN COUNTRIES WITH
HIGHLY **RESTRICTIVE**
ABORTION LAWS.



INTERNATIONAL
SAFE ABORTION
DAY

IT IS **NOT ONLY**
CISGENDER WOMEN &
GIRLS WHO NEED ABORTIONS.



International Safe Abortion Day - 28 Sept [source](#)

The thing is, it's **patriarchy** that says men are stupid and monolithic and unchanging and incapable. It's patriarchy that says men have animalistic instincts and just can't stop themselves from harassing and assaulting. It's patriarchy that says men can only be attracted by certain qualities, can only have particular kinds of responses, can only experience the world in narrow ways.

Feminism holds that men are capable of more – are more than that.



<https://www.facebook.com/LeftWingLadies/posts/1233741347008985>



aroace-avenue

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To every person who used to identify as ace or aro but doesn't anymore,

I love you! Your time in and contributions to the ace/aro community are still worthwhile. Your honesty isn't affirming the stereotype that all ace/aro people are just repressed. You aren't 'betraying' ace/aro communities. You've come to a better and more comfortable understanding of yourself and that deserves nothing but celebration. I hope that the ace/aro identity and space helped you understand who you are better.

I love you and I'm proud of you!

Sincerely,

An always confused aroace

<https://www.facebook.com/transarmy/photos/a.101087104719810/198092761685>



Mark Ruffalo @MarkRuffalo

▼

Just to show another dimension of Donald's deep cruelty is that interrupting someone with a **stutter** is the worst thing you could do. He knew exactly what he was doing and Joe held his own against it.

#BidenWonTheDebate

SHIT
YOU SHOULD CARE ABOUT



Nathan Heller @nathanheller



Because Biden has spoken publicly about trying to manage his **stutter**, I feel comfortable noting, as another person with a **stutter**: there is no greater nightmare than this. None. If he makes it to the end of this standing, he has steel in his bones.

SHIT
YOU SHOULD CARE ABOUT



Sophia Bush

@SophiaBush

One bright spot from that debate was remembering that [@JoeBiden](#) worked his entire life to overcome a **stutter**. Still does. He leads, and sets an example simply by being, for so many folks in this country. Kids and adults alike. It requires an elegant courage to do so in public ❤️

SHIT
YOU SHOULD CARE ABOUT

<https://www.facebook.com/shityoushouldcareabout/posts/761474881361471>



Posted in r/prochoice by u/antilindzfam



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消息精选

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telegra.ph/Americans-prioritize-being-a-world-leader-in-scientific-achievements-more-than-other-global-publics-09-29

Telegraph

Americans prioritize being a world leader in scientific achievements more than other global publics

Americans place high priority on being a world leader in scientific achievement and see positive returns from government investments in scientific research, according to a Pew Research Center survey of 20 publics conducted between October 2019 and March 2020....

telegra.ph/Science-and-Scientists-Held-in-High-Esteem-Across-Global-Publics-09-29

Telegraph

Science and Scientists Held in High Esteem Across Global Publics

This report examines cross-national perceptions of science and its place in society along with attitudes on a number of science-related issues. Data in this report come from a survey conducted across 20 publics from October 2019 to March 2020 across Europe...

<https://youtu.be/KIf5ELaOjOk>

YouTube

Revealed: Trump campaign strategy to deter millions of Black Americans from voting in 2016

Trump's election campaign wanted to deter millions of Black Americans from voting in 2016. The 'Deterrence' project can be revealed after Channel 4 News obtained the database used by Trump's digital campaign team.

(Subscribe: https://bit.ly/C4_News_Subscribe)...

Nancy Pelosi: 28 years ago, we traveled to Tiananmen Square to honor the courage & sacrifice of the students, workers & ordinary citizens who stood for the dignity & human rights that all people deserve. To this day, we remain committed to sharing their story with the world. [#Tiananmen30 source](#)

The Children in the Shadows: New York City's Homeless Students [link source](#)
Nytimes

The Children in the Shadows: New York City's Homeless Students
More than 100,000 city public school students lack permanent housing, caught in bureaucratic limbo that often seems like a trap. This is what their lives are like.

[telegra.ph/Anti-fascists-linked-to-zero-murders-in-the-US-in-25-years-10-01](#) |
[source](#)

Telegraph
Anti-fascists linked to zero murders in the US in 25 years
Donald Trump has made warnings about the threat of antifa and “far-left fascism” a central part of his re-election campaign. But in reality leftwing attacks have left far fewer people dead than violence by rightwing extremists, new research indicates, and...

[telegra.ph/Belgian-milestone-A-first-trans-minister-and-nobody-cares-10-02](#) |
[source](#)

Telegraph
Belgian milestone: A first trans minister and nobody cares
By Katrin Hugendubel 10/1/20, 8:21 PM CET Updated 10/2/20, 3:07 PM CET

<https://electricliterature.com/7-books-in-translation-about-queer-life-in-taiwan-and-china>

Electric Literature

7 Translated Books About Queer Life in Taiwan and China - Electric Literature
K-Ming Chang recommends Chinese literature about queerness as possibility and transformation

www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-51967295

BBC News

'I thought he would tear chunks out of my skin'
A third of men carrying out rough sex acts such as biting and choking do not ask for consent, a survey finds.

<https://www.axios.com/black-lives-matter-transgender-lives-police-cc9ea9b6-f2f9-4fb3-9c52-a06148ae3279.html>

Axios

Poll: 70% of LGBTQ youth overwhelmingly distrust police
Many rallied for "Black Trans Lives Matter" in cities across the U.S. this summer.

<https://madeinchinajournal.com/2019/10/25/preventative-policing-as-community-detention-in-northwest-china/>

Made in China Journal

Preventative Policing as Community Detention in Northwest China
A preventative policing system in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region has detained as many as 1.5 million Turkic Muslims deemed 'pre-terrorists' or 'extremists'. This essay shows how a counterinsurgency mode of militarism that emerged in the United States...

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Americans prioritize being a world leader in scientific achievements more than other global publics

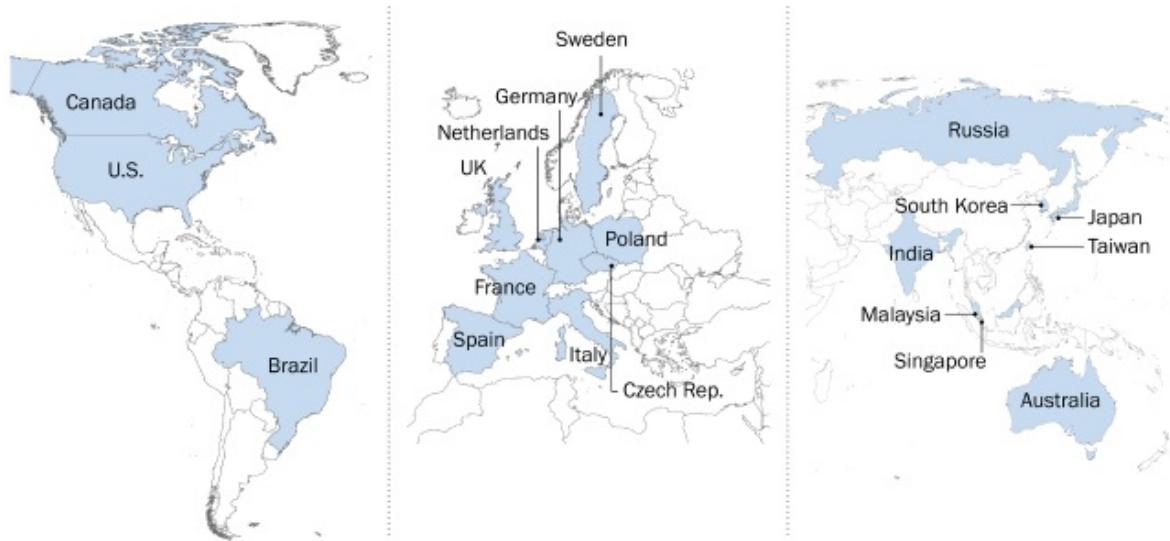
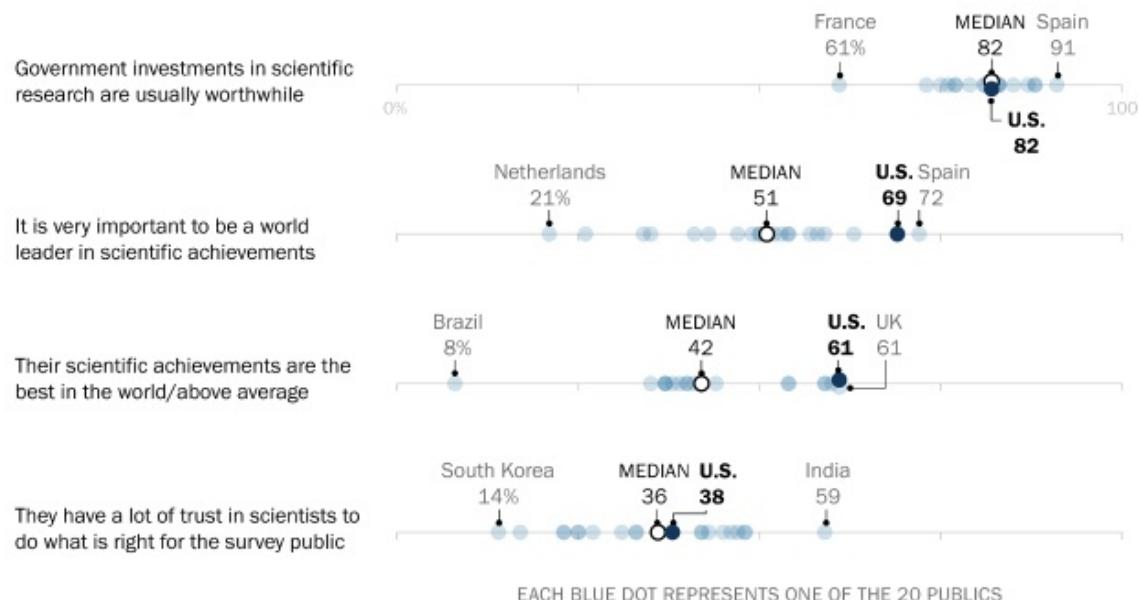
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Americans place high priority on being a world leader in scientific achievement and see positive returns from government investments in scientific research, according to a Pew Research Center survey of 20 publics conducted between October 2019 and March 2020.

The survey of adults in 20 countries or other publics with sizable or growing investments in scientific and technological development finds nearly seven-in-ten Americans (69%) think it is *very important* for the United States to be a world leader in scientific achievements. The U.S. stands out, along with Spain, for the high share of its citizens to hold this view. In many other publics, half or fewer place high importance on being a world leader in science.

Nearly seven-in-ten Americans prioritize being a world leader in science

% who say ...



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: International Science Survey 2019-2020, Q2d, Q4a, Q7, Q9a.

"Science and Scientists Held in High Esteem Across Global Publics"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

To learn how people around the world see the place of science in society, we surveyed 20 publics across Europe, Russia, the Americas and the Asia-Pacific region from October 2019 to March 2020. The surveys were conducted by face-to-face interviews in Russia, Poland, the Czech Republic, India and Brazil. In all

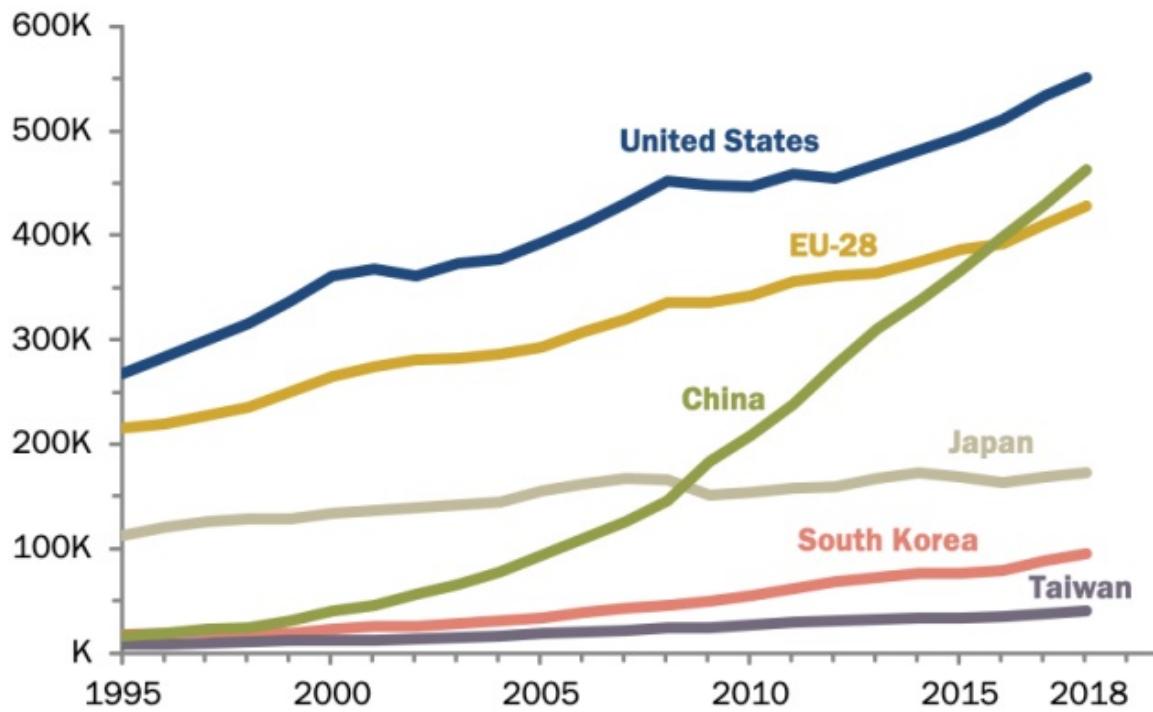
other places, the surveys were conducted by telephone. All surveys were conducted with representative samples of adults ages 18 and older in each survey public. Here is the full survey report.

Here are the questions used for this report, along with responses, and its methodology.

The U.S. has a rich history of scientific innovation and leadership, and a majority of Americans view the country's current scientific achievements in a positive light: 61% say the country's achievements in science are above average or the best in the world. Americans are more likely than people in most other publics surveyed to rate their scientific prowess highly. That compares with a 20-public median of 42% saying their scientific achievements are above average or the best in the world. Still, there are several places where comparable shares of people to the U.S. rate their scientific achievements as above average or better, including the United Kingdom (61%), India (60%), Australia (59%) and Japan (59%).

Rising global competition over R&D investment

Gross domestic spending on research and development, in millions of constant 2010 U.S. dollars adjusted for purchasing power parity



Note: China refers to the People's Republic of China and Taiwan refers to Chinese Taipei.

Source: OECD (2020), Gross domestic spending on R&D.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

The new international survey in publics across Europe, the Asia-Pacific region, and in the U.S., Canada, Brazil and Russia comes as the global landscape for scientific research and innovation has shifted. In the past, the U.S. has had the largest share of spending globally on research and development. Sweden, Germany and Japan have also made sizable investments in research and development over time. But recent years have seen increased investments by Taiwan, South Korea and mainland China.

China is expected to equal or exceed the U.S. in global research and development investments in the coming years, according to data collected by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Americans' support for investment in scientific research, while high, is similar to levels seen in many other places. A large majority of U.S. adults (82%) say government investments in scientific research are usually worthwhile over time – the same share as the 20-public median – while just 15% of U.S. adults say such spending is not worth the investment.

Americans hold scientists as a group in high regard. About three-quarters of U.S. adults (77%) have at least some trust in scientists to do what's right for the country, including 38% who have *a lot* of trust. Trust in scientists is widely held across the global publics surveyed, and views in the U.S. are very similar to the median opinion on this question.

Americans' level of trust in scientists varies by partisan identification and political ideology, however. Two-thirds of liberal Democrats (67%, including those who lean to the party) have *a lot* of trust in scientists to do what is right for the country. By contrast, just 17% of conservative Republicans, including those who lean to the GOP, say the same (though a majority have at least *some* trust in them). Left-right ideological divides over trust in scientists are particularly strong in the U.S., but there also are significant divides in other places, including Canada, Australia, the UK, Germany and Italy.

Republicans and Democrats are aligned over the value of being a world leader in science and the state of U.S. scientific achievements. Nearly identical majorities of Republicans and Democrats, including those who lean to each party, say it is very important for the U.S. to be a world leader in scientific achievements (71% and 70%, respectively). Comparable majorities of both groups also view the country's scientific achievements as above average or the best in the world.

And while there is broad agreement that the U.S. should be a leader in science, Americans see room for improvement when it comes to the current state of science, technology, engineering and mathematics education in the country. About half (52%) say STEM education at the college and university level is above average or better; nearly as many (46%) say it is average or below average. Ratings are particularly low for STEM education at the primary and secondary school level: Just 31% of Americans rate instruction at this level as above average or the best in the world. Republicans and Democrats are generally aligned in their assessments of STEM education in the country.

Note: Here are the questions used for this report, along with responses, and its

methodology.

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Anti-fascists linked to zero murders in the US in 25 years

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Donald Trump has made warnings about the threat of antifa and “far-left fascism” a central part of his re-election campaign. But in reality leftwing attacks have left far fewer people dead than violence by rightwing extremists, new research indicates, and antifa activists have not been linked to a single murder in decades.

A new database of nearly 900 politically motivated attacks and plots in the United States since 1994 includes just one attack staged by an anti-fascist that led to fatalities. In that case, the single person killed was the perpetrator.

Over the same time period, American white supremacists and other rightwing extremists have carried out attacks that left at least 329 victims dead, according to the database.

More broadly, the database lists 21 victims killed in leftwing attacks since 2010 , and 117 victims of rightwing attacks in that same period – nearly six times as much. Attacks inspired by the Islamic State and similar jihadist groups, in contrast, killed 95 people since 2010, slightly fewer than rightwing extremists, according to the data set. More than half of these victims died in a a single attack on a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, in 2016.

‘Leftwing violence has not been a major terrorism threat’

The database was assembled by researchers at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a centrist thinktank, and reviewed by the Guardian.

Its launch comes as Trump administration officials have echoed the president’s warnings of a violent “leftwing” revolution. “Groups of outside radicals and agitators are exploiting the situation to pursue their own separate, violent and extremist agenda,” the attorney general, William Barr, said amid nationwide protests following the death of George Floyd. A new justice department taskforce on violent anti-government extremists listed “antifa” as a major threat, while making no mention of white supremacy.

Defining which violent incidents constitute politically motivated acts of terrorism, and trying to sort political violence into leftwing and rightwing categories, is inherently messy and debatable work. This is particularly true in the US, where highly publicized mass shootings are common, and some have no clear political motivation at all.

Stated political motives for violent attacks often overlap with other potential factors, including life crises, anger issues, a history of violent behavior and, in some cases, serious mental health conditions.

While researchers sometimes disagree on how to categorize the ideology of specific attacks, multiple databases that track extremist violence, including data maintained by the Anti-Defamation League, and from journalists at the Center for Investigative Reporting, have found the same trend: It’s violent rightwing attacks, not “far-left” violence, that presents the greater deadly threat to Americans today.

“Leftwing violence has not been a major terrorism threat,” said Seth Jones, a counter-terrorism expert who led the creation of CSIS’s dataset. .

Categorizing ‘leftwing’ extremist attacks

Most of the deadly extremist attacks the CSIS researchers categorized as “leftwing” were killings of police officers by black men, many of them US military veterans, who described acting out of anger or retribution for police killings of black Americans.

These shooting attacks include the murder of two police officers in New York City in 2014, after Michael Brown and Eric Garner's killings; and the murders of five officers in Dallas, Texas, and three officers in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 2016.

Some of the gunmen who killed police had connections to black nationalist groups, which extremism researchers at CSIS and elsewhere said they typically categorize as leftwing, largely because in the 1960s, influential black nationalist groups like the Black Panther party were anti-capitalist and considered part of the New Left.

Making that categorization is less straightforward today, some researchers acknowledge, since some prominent black nationalist organizations express homophobic, misogynistic and antisemitic views, values that set them in opposition to the current American left.

Mark Pitcavage, a senior fellow at the ADL's Center on Extremism, noted that Gavin Eugene Long, who staged an attack on police in Baton Rouge, had ties to black nationalism and was also part of an offshoot of the sovereign citizens movement, an anti-government ideology that is typically categorized as rightwing.

In several of the high-profile leftwing attacks included in the CSIS list the only fatality was the perpetrator. A mass shooting attack on a group of congressional Republicans during a baseball practice outside of Washington DC, in 2017 left the Republican congressman Steve Scalise seriously injured, and three other people shot.

The gunman, James Hodgkinson, 66, was the only one killed in the attack. Hodgkinson had deliberately targeted Republicans and had expressed disgust with Trump.

Many of the other leftwing attacks or plots in the CSIS database, including by anarchists, environmental groups and others, resulted in no deaths at all. Often, leftwing plots, particularly by animal rights activists, have targeted businesses or buildings, "and their primary weapons have been incendiaries designed to create fires or destroy infrastructure – not kill people," said Jones, the researcher who led the creation of the data set.

The one deadly anti-fascist attack listed in the database occurred in July 2019,

when Willem von Spronsen, a 69-year-old white man, was shot dead by police outside an Ice detention center in Tacoma, Washington. Authorities said von Spronsen had been throwing molotov cocktails, setting flares, that he set a car on fire and that he had a rifle. Local activists told media outlets they believed he had been trying to destroy buses parked outside the facility that were used to transport people who were being deported.

Von Spronsen, who had previously been arrested at a protest outside the detention center, was involved in a contentious divorce, and both a friend and his ex-wife had described him as suicidal. In a letter he wrote to friends before his death, Von Spronsen called detention centers “concentration camps” and said he wanted to take action against evil, BuzzFeed News reported. “I am antifa,” he reportedly wrote.

No one was harmed in the attack except Von Spronsen, according to media reports.

Researchers who monitor extremist groups at the Anti-Defamation League and the Global Project Against Hate and Extremism said they, too, were not aware of a single murder linked to an American anti-fascist in the last 20 to 25 years.

Heidi Beirich, a co-founder of the Global Project Against Hate and Extremism, said some leftwing groups were known for more radical and violent tactics in the 1960s, adding: “It’s just not the case today.”

Mark Pitcavage said he knew of only one killing, 27 years ago, that might potentially be classified as connected to anti-fascist activism: the shooting of a racist skinhead, Eric Banks, by an anti-racist skinhead, John Bair, in Portland, Oregon, in 1993.

‘A false equivalence’

Given the discrepancies between the deadly toll of leftwing and rightwing violence, American law enforcement agencies have long faced criticism for failing to take the threat of white supremacist violence seriously, while at the same time overstating the risks posed by leftwing protesters. After a violent rally in California in 2016, law enforcement officers worked with neo-Nazis to build criminal cases against anti-fascist protesters, while not recommending charges against neo-Nazis for stabbing the anti-fascists.

Antifa activists have been the targets of domestic terror attacks by white supremacists, including in a terror plot early this year, in which law enforcement officials alleged that members of the neo-Nazi group the Base had planned to murder a married couple in Georgia they believed were anti-fascist organizers.

“Antifa is not going around murdering people like rightwing extremists are. It’s a false equivalence,” said Beirich.

“I’ve at times been critical of antifa for getting into fights with Nazis at rallies and that kind of violence, but I can’t think of one case in which an antifa person was accused of murder,” she added.

The new CSIS database only includes attacks through early May 2020, and does not yet list incidents connected with the massive national protests against police violence after Minneapolis police killed George Floyd, including the killings of two California law enforcement officers by a man authorities say was linked to the rightwing “boogaloo” movement.



A member of the far-right militia Boogaloo Bois in Charlotte, North Carolina, on 29 May. Photograph: Logan Cyrus/AFP/Getty Images

Today, Jones said, “the most significant domestic terrorism threat comes from white supremacists, anti-government militias and a handful of individuals associated with the ‘boogaloo’ movement that are attempting to create a civil war in the United States.”

Daily interpersonal violence and state violence pose a much greater threat to Americans than any kind of extremist terror attack. More than 100,000 people have been killed in gun homicides in the United States in the past decade, according to estimates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. US police officers shoot nearly 1,000 Americans to death each year. Black Americans are more than twice as likely to be shot by the police as white

Americans, according to analysis by the Washington Post and the Guardian.

But the president's rhetoric about "antifa" violence has dangerous consequences, not just for anti-fascists, but for any Americans who decide to protest, some activists said.

Yvette Felarca, a California-based organizer and anti-fascist activist, said she saw Trump's claims about antifa violence, particularly during the George Floyd protests, as a message to his "hardcore" supporters that it was appropriate to attack people who came out to protest.

"It's his way of saying to his supporters: 'Yeah, go after them. Beat them or kill them to the point where they go back home and stay home afraid,'" Felarca said.

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Belgian milestone: A first trans minister and nobody cares

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By Katrin Hugendubel

10/1/20, 8:21 PM CET

Updated 10/2/20, 3:07 PM CET



Petra De Sutter, Belgium's new deputy prime minister | Philippe Buissin/European Union

Petra De Sutter, Belgium's new deputy prime minister | Philippe Buissin/European Union

Katrin Hugendubel is advocacy director at ILGA-Europe.

The appointment of Petra De Sutter as Belgium's deputy prime minister — the first out transgender minister in Europe — is a milestone.

But what is perhaps even more meaningful is that it's a milestone that went almost unremarked upon in today's headlines.

De Sutter has always been open about her trans identity and has never sought to hide that fact in her political career. Still, it was always clear that she is so much more than that identity.

As a doctor and gynecology professor, she has been a champion of women's rights, gender equality and sexual reproductive rights. In every political position she's held — whether in the Belgian senate, the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe or the European Parliament — she has been a strong advocate for LGBTQ rights.

But it's her competency in so many other areas and her impressive professional track record that, combined with her advocacy, have defined her career and earned her the respect of her peers.

That the media coverage of her nomination as deputy prime minister focused on her work rather than on her trans identity is a reflection not just of her impressive political career but also of the progressive nature of Belgian politics today. It is not hard to imagine that the headlines would have looked very different in another country — even another European country.

And yet, while the non-event of De Sutter's appointment is a good thing, it still sends a powerful positive signal to trans people across the world.

De Sutter may never have made trans rights the focus of her work, but she has never shied away from being a role model. But more importantly for trans people, the fact that she is accepted at a national level, and that she is treated fairly and respectfully in the media, is a hopeful sign at a time when trans identities are being disavowed and legislated against in a growing number of European countries.

In Romania, the Constitutional Court this week discussed legislation to delete discussions of gender and gender identity completely from any educational

curricula. Similar legislation has already been introduced in Bulgaria. Poland’s “Family Charter,” signed by President Andrzej Duda, will ban lessons on LGBTQ issues in schools. And in the U.K., rights advocates have warned that confusing new educational guidelines risk being interpreted to mean that schools should not use materials discussing gender identity and the possibility of being transgender.

Earlier this year, at the start of the coronavirus lockdowns, Hungary introduced legislation to effectively ban gender recognition, while in Russia legislative moves are underway to do the same.

As a worrying number of governments are actively trying to deny LGBTQ and trans people their place in society, it is heartening to see Belgium’s political system embracing a member of the LGBTQ community as an equal.

De Sutter did not attain her powerful position in the new Belgian government because she is a trans woman who brings expertise on specific issues related to LGBTQ rights and trans rights. She was appointed because of her competence as a politician and experienced policymaker.

That’s a validation of her identity both as a politician and as a trans woman — and it’s a rebuke to the attacks against trans identities happening in other parts of Europe.

De Sutter’s gender identity may be missing from the headlines in Belgium. But that absence is sending a powerful message.

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Science and Scientists Held in High Esteem Across Global Publics

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This report examines cross-national perceptions of science and its place in society along with attitudes on a number of science-related issues.

Data in this report come from a survey conducted across 20 publics from October 2019 to March 2020 across Europe, Russia, the Americas and the Asia-Pacific region. The surveys were conducted by face-to-face interviews in Russia, Poland, the Czech Republic, India and Brazil. In all other places, the surveys were conducted by telephone. All surveys were conducted with representative samples of adults ages 18 and older in each survey public.

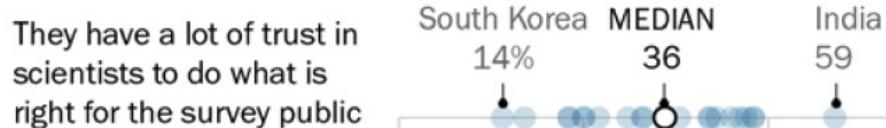
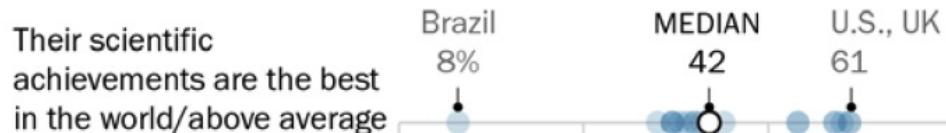
Here are the questions used for the report, along with responses, and the survey methodology.

As publics around the world look to scientists and the research and development process to bring new treatments and preventive strategies for the novel

coronavirus, a new international survey finds scientists and their research are widely viewed in a positive light across global publics, and large majorities believe government investments in scientific research yield benefits for society.

Most value government investment in scientific research, being a world leader in science

% who say ...



EACH BLUE DOT REPRESENTS ONE OF THE 20 PUBLICS

Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: International Science Survey 2019-2020. Q2d, Q4a, Q7, Q9a.

“Science and Scientists Held in High Esteem Across Global Publics”

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Still, the wide-ranging survey, conducted before the COVID-19 outbreak reached pandemic proportions, reveals ambivalence about certain scientific developments – in areas such as artificial intelligence and genetically modified foods – often exists alongside high trust for scientists generally and positive

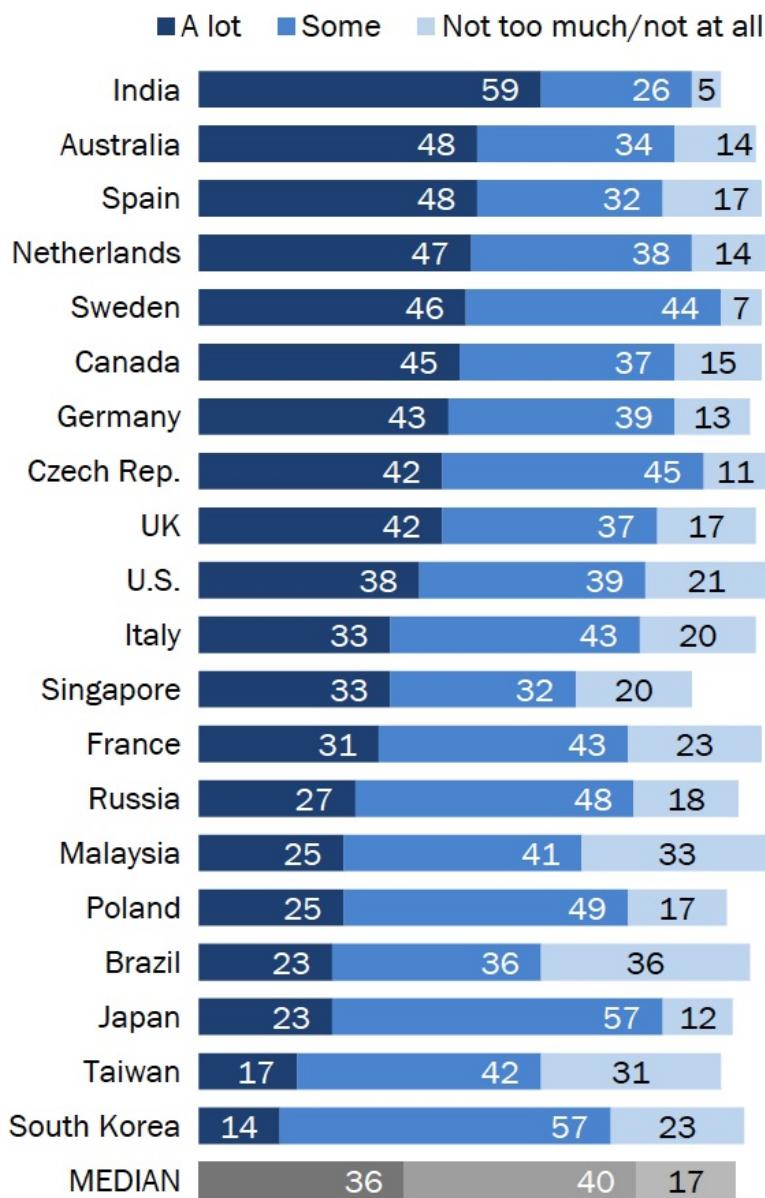
views in other areas such as space exploration.

Public concerns around climate change and environmental degradation remain widespread. In most publics, majorities view climate change as a very serious problem, say their government is not doing enough to address it and point to a host of environmental concerns at home, including air and water quality and pollution.

With renewed attention to the importance of public acceptance of vaccines, the new survey finds majorities in most publics tend to view childhood vaccines, such as those for measles, mumps and rubella, as relatively safe and effective. Yet sizable minorities across global publics hold doubts about this keystone tool of modern medicine.

Majorities have at least some trust in scientists to do what is right

% who say they have ___ trust in scientists to do what is right for (survey public)



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: International Science Survey 2019-2020, Q2d.

"Science and Scientists Held in High Esteem Across Global Publics"

The international survey, fielded in publics across Europe, the Asia-Pacific region, and in the United States, Canada, Brazil and Russia finds broad agreement about the value of scientific research. A median of 82% consider government investment in scientific research worthwhile, and majorities across places view it as important to be a leader in scientific achievements.

The Center survey sheds light on how publics see the place of science in society amid the changing global landscape for scientific research and innovation. The U.S. had the largest share of global spending on research and development in the past, but recent years have seen greater investments by Taiwan, South Korea and mainland China. China is expected to equal or exceed the U.S. in global R&D investments in the coming years, according to data collected by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Scientists as a group are highly regarded, compared with other prominent groups and institutions in society. In all publics, majorities have at least some trust in scientists to do what is right. A median of 36% have “a lot” of trust in scientists, the same share who say this about the military, and much higher than the shares who say this about business leaders, the national government and the news media.

Still, an appreciation for practical experience, more so than expertise, in general, runs deep across publics. A median of 66% say it’s better to rely on people with practical experience to solve pressing problems, while a median of 28% say it’s better to rely on people who are considered experts about the problems, even if they don’t have much practical experience.

The publics’ assessments of their own achievements in science do not always measure up to their aspirations: A median of 42% say their scientific achievements are above average or the best in the world. However, the shares holding this view ranges from 8% in Brazil to 61% each in the U.S. and United Kingdom.

And in many places, the public sees room for improvement when it comes to education at the university or primary and secondary school levels in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). A median of 42% rate university STEM education in their survey public as above average or the best in the world, and a smaller median of 30% give high marks to their science,

technology, engineering and math education at the primary and secondary school level.

These are among the chief findings from the survey conducted among 20 publics with sizable or growing investments in scientific and technological development from across Europe (the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom), the Asia-Pacific region (Australia, India, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan) as well as Russia, the United States, Canada and Brazil.

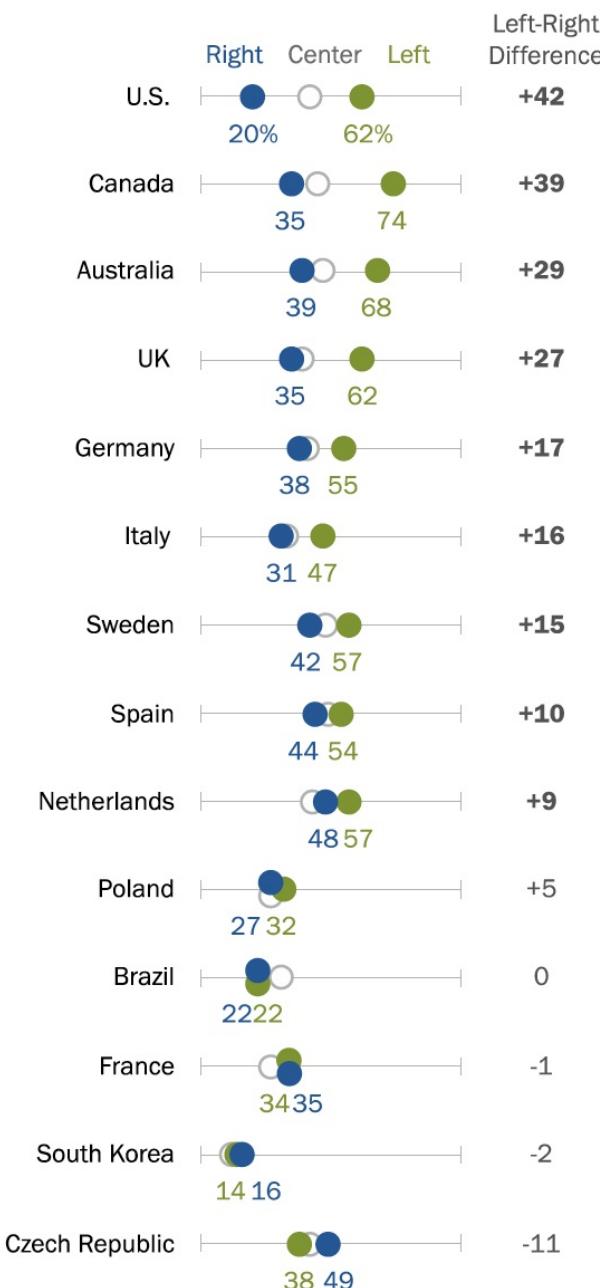
Public trust in scientists is often higher for those on the left than the right of the political spectrum

While there is generally a positive tilt toward public trust in scientists, trust often varies with ideology. In general, those on the left express more trust in scientists than those on the right.

Such differences are especially pronounced in the U.S., where fully 62% of those on the left have a lot of trust in scientists, compared with two-in-ten of those on the right. (The gap is similar factoring in party identification; 67% of liberal Democrats in the U.S. say they have a lot of trust in scientists, compared with 17% of conservative Republicans.)

Those on the political right often less trusting of scientists than those on left

% who trust scientists **a lot** to do what is right for
(survey public)



Note: Statistically significant differences in bold. Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: International Science Survey 2019-2020, Q2d.

“Science and Scientists Held in High Esteem Across Global Publics”

Left-right divides are also present in a number of other places. In Canada, for instance, 74% of those who place themselves on the left say they have a lot of trust in scientists to do what is right, compared with 35% of Canadians with right-leaning political views.

In the UK, there's a 27 percentage point difference between the shares of those on the left and right who have a lot of trust in scientists. Germany (by 17 points), Sweden (15 points) and Spain (10 points) are among the other places where those on the left are more trusting of scientists than those on the right.

Consistent with this ideological pattern, those with favorable views of right-wing populist parties in Europe tend to express lower levels of trust in scientists than those with unfavorable views of these parties.

However, differences by political ideology do not strongly extend to other views of scientists or experts. For instance, there are generally modest or no left-right differences in views of whether scientists tend to make judgments based solely on the facts or are just as likely to be biased as other people. And in most places, there's general agreement across the political spectrum that, when it comes to solving pressing problems, it is better to rely on people with practical experience than on people with expertise. A median of two-thirds say it is better to rely on people with practical experience, while a median of 28% say it is better to rely on people with expertise, even if they don't have practical experience.

Amid rising concern about global climate change, most see at least some impact from climate change where they live and say their government is doing too little to address it

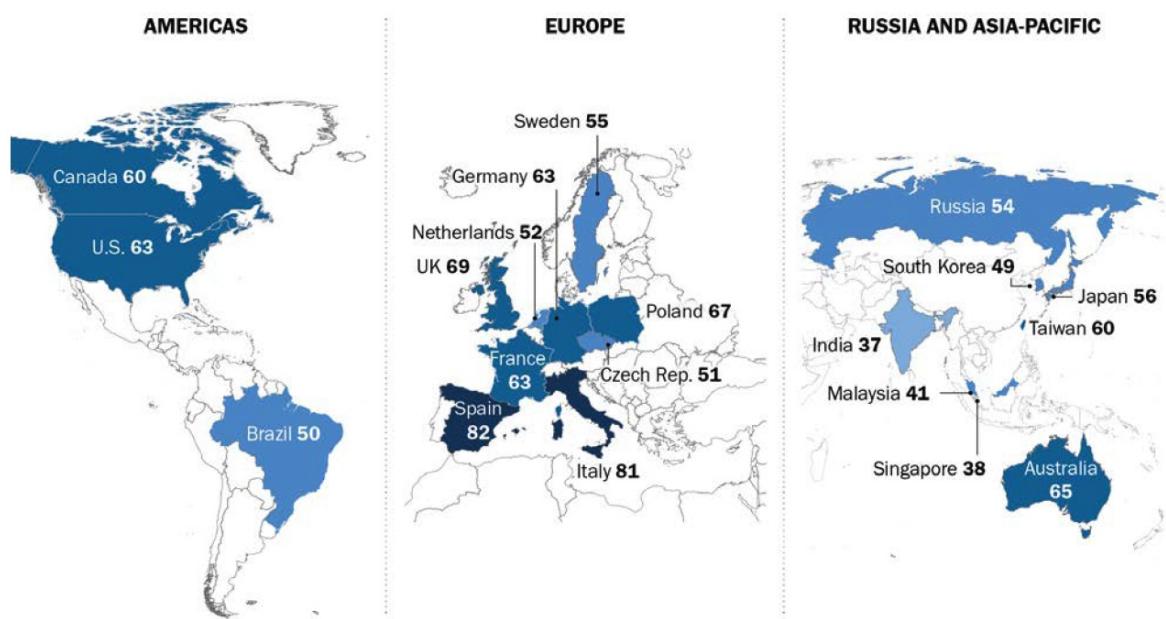
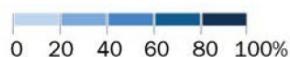
International concern about climate change has increased over the past several years, with growing shares viewing climate change as a major threat. In addition, large majorities in the current survey express worry over climate change and describe it as a serious problem.

A median of seven-in-ten across the set of 20 publics say climate change is having at least some effect on their local community. And in some places – Italy, Spain and Brazil – about half or more see a *great deal* of impact from climate change in their community. Government action on climate change is widely seen as lacking: Majorities across most of surveyed publics believe their government

is doing too little to address climate change (20-public median of 58%).

In most publics surveyed, half or more say there is a need for more government action on climate

% who say their government is doing too little to reduce the effects of global climate change



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: International Science Survey 2019-2020, Q30.

"Science and Scientists Held in High Esteem Across Global Publics"

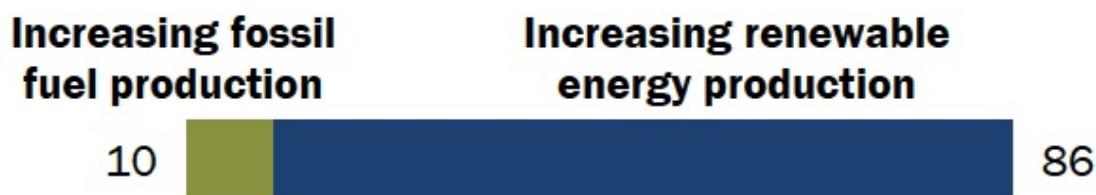
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Most prioritize environmental protection, increasing renewable energy

Median % who say ____ should be given priority



Median % who say ____ should be the more important priority for addressing (survey public's) energy supply



Note: Percentages are medians based on 20 publics. Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: International Science Survey 2019-2020, Q25, Q27.

“Science and Scientists Held in High Esteem Across Global Publics”

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Across the 20 publics surveyed, environmental concerns extend beyond the issue of climate change: Large majorities rate a host of environmental issues as big problems, including air and water pollution, overburdened landfills, deforestation and the loss of plant and animal species. In general terms, environmental concerns trump economic considerations: When asked to choose, a median of 71% said environmental protection should be the greater priority even if it caused slower economic growth and loss of jobs; a much smaller

median of 25% said creating jobs should be the priority (the survey was conducted before the coronavirus pandemic and resultant economic strains took hold in many of these publics).

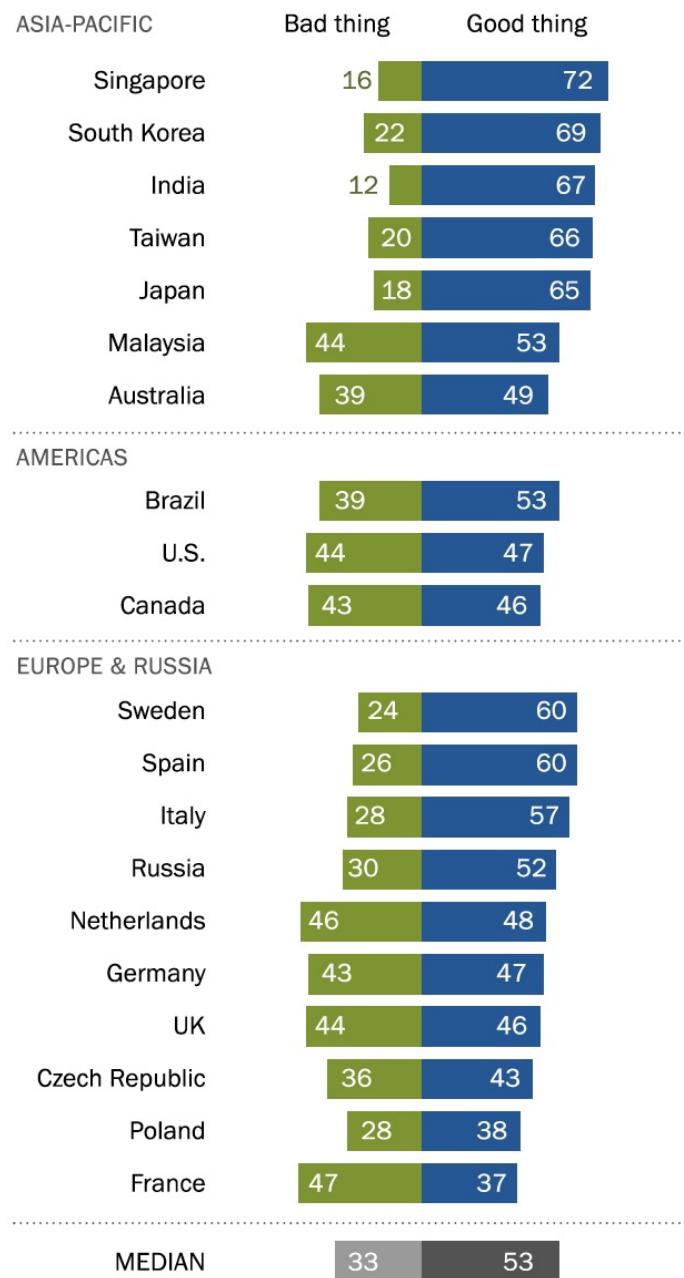
Consistent with environmental worries, majorities across all 20 publics say the more important energy priority should be increasing production of renewable energy such as wind and solar sources over increasing production of oil, natural gas and coal (median of 86% to 10%). Views about specific energy sources underscore this pattern with strong majorities in favor of expanding the use of wind, solar and hydropower sources and much less support, by comparison, for energy sources such as oil or coal. Views on expanding natural gas fall somewhere in between.

Public views about climate, environment and energy issues are strongly linked with political ideology. For example, those who place themselves on the political left are more inclined to see climate change as a serious problem and to think their government is doing too little to address it than those on the right; these differences are particularly wide in the U.S., Australia, Sweden, Canada, the UK and the Netherlands.

There is little consensus across regions in views of artificial intelligence, automation in the workplace

Public views of AI's impact on society are often mixed

% who say the development of artificial intelligence has mostly been a ___ for society



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: International Science Survey 2019-2020. Q11b.

"Science and Scientists Held in High Esteem Across Global Publics"

Public views of artificial intelligence, described for survey respondents as computer systems designed to imitate human behaviors, are generally viewed positively by publics in the Asia-Pacific region. A median of two-thirds in the Asia-Pacific say that AI has been a good thing for society, while a median of 20% say it has been a bad thing. Elsewhere public views are mixed. In Europe a median of 47% say the development of AI has been good for society. Roughly half view AI positively in Brazil (53%), Russia (52%), the U.S. (47%) and Canada (46%).

Opinions about the impact of robotics to automate jobs also are mixed. A median of 48% say such automation has mostly been a good thing, while 42% say it has been a bad thing. As with views of AI, assessments of job automation are generally more positive in the Asia-Pacific region (median of 61% say it's been a good thing). Fewer in Europe (a median of 48%) share this positive view. Those in France (35%), Spain (37%) and Brazil (29%) are among the least likely to say robots and automation in the workplace has been a good thing for society. In the U.S., slightly more say this type of automation has been bad than good for the country (50% vs. 41%).

Across places surveyed, those with higher levels of education and who have taken more science courses in their schooling are especially likely to consider AI and workplace automation as a positive development for society. Views tend to be less positive among those with lower levels of education.

Many publics give positive marks for handling the coronavirus outbreak

The coronavirus pandemic altered the lives of people around the world. Governments applied a myriad of approaches in response to the outbreak, and the scope of the health crisis varied widely.

A separate Pew Research Center survey conducted June to August of 2020 in 14 countries found a median of 73% think their country has done a good job handling the novel coronavirus. Strong majorities in Denmark, Germany, Canada, Australia, the Netherlands and South Korea hold this view as do at least seven-in-ten in Italy and Sweden. In Japan 55% give their country positive marks. In the UK, U.S. and Spain, ratings are more divided, with wide differences of opinion across political or ideological groups about their country's handling of the outbreak.

More think their country has done a bad job handling the outbreak in places with higher counts of coronavirus-related fatalities. Similarly, the share who say their country is more divided than before the outbreak is strongly related to the number of cases and deaths from the disease. The U.S. stands out on this measure with 77% of Americans saying the outbreak has further divided the nation.

Among the reports' other major findings:

- **Many see childhood vaccines as bringing high preventive health benefits but some doubts about safety and effectiveness remain.** A majority of adults in 17 of the 20 publics rate the preventive health benefits from childhood vaccines – such as the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine – to be high. But there are only a handful of publics – Sweden, Spain and Australia – where about eight-in-ten or more are convinced of the high preventive health benefits. Smaller majorities take this view in other places, including Italy, the Netherlands and Singapore. And while most places consider the risk of side effects from childhood vaccines to be low, half or more in Japan, Malaysia, Russia, South Korea, France and Singapore consider the risk to be medium or high. Those who identify on the political right, or who have a favorable view of a right-wing populist party in Europe, are less likely to see the preventive health benefits of such vaccines as high or the risk of side effects to be low or none. These differences are particularly large in the Netherlands, UK and France.
- **There are widespread concerns about the safety of genetically modified foods in many of these publics.** Larger shares believe foods with genetically modified (GM) ingredients are *unsafe* to eat than say they are safe (20-public median of 48% vs. 13%). Though familiarity with GM foods is not always high: A median of 37% say they don't know enough about such foods to say. Health risks also are seen in produce grown with pesticides and food and drinks with artificial preservatives. Women are more likely than men to express safety concerns about all three food groups.
- **Many give science news coverage positive marks but cite lack of public understanding as a problem for science coverage.** Overall, a median of 68% say the news media do a very or somewhat good job covering science; 28% say they generally do a bad job. Publics generally agree about one issue with the news, however: Majorities across 18 of the 20 publics say that limited public understanding is a problem for coverage of scientific

research. Far fewer consider media oversimplifying findings or researchers overstating their findings to be a problem for coverage of research.

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