

Political alignment and values in Estonia

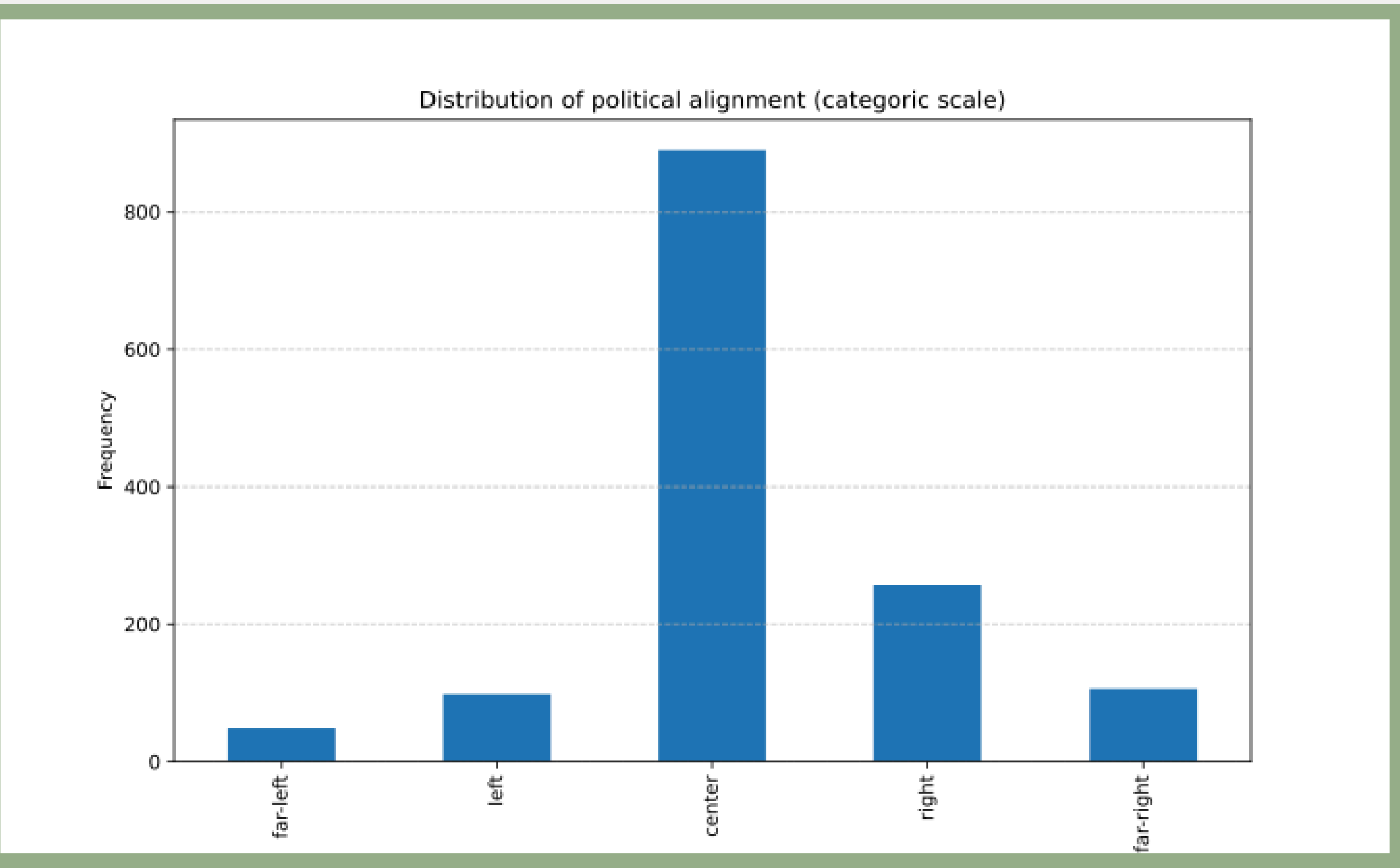
Kristina Kivistik, Sadu Maria Jaarman, Laura Lall

1. Introduction

Human values play a foundational role in shaping individual perspectives and collective societal trends, influencing everything from personal decision-making to broader societal trends. In Estonia, a country shaped by its history and evolving democratic system, understanding values is also key to understanding what drives political behavior. Therefore, this project seeks to explore the connection between human values and political self-placement on the left-right scale.

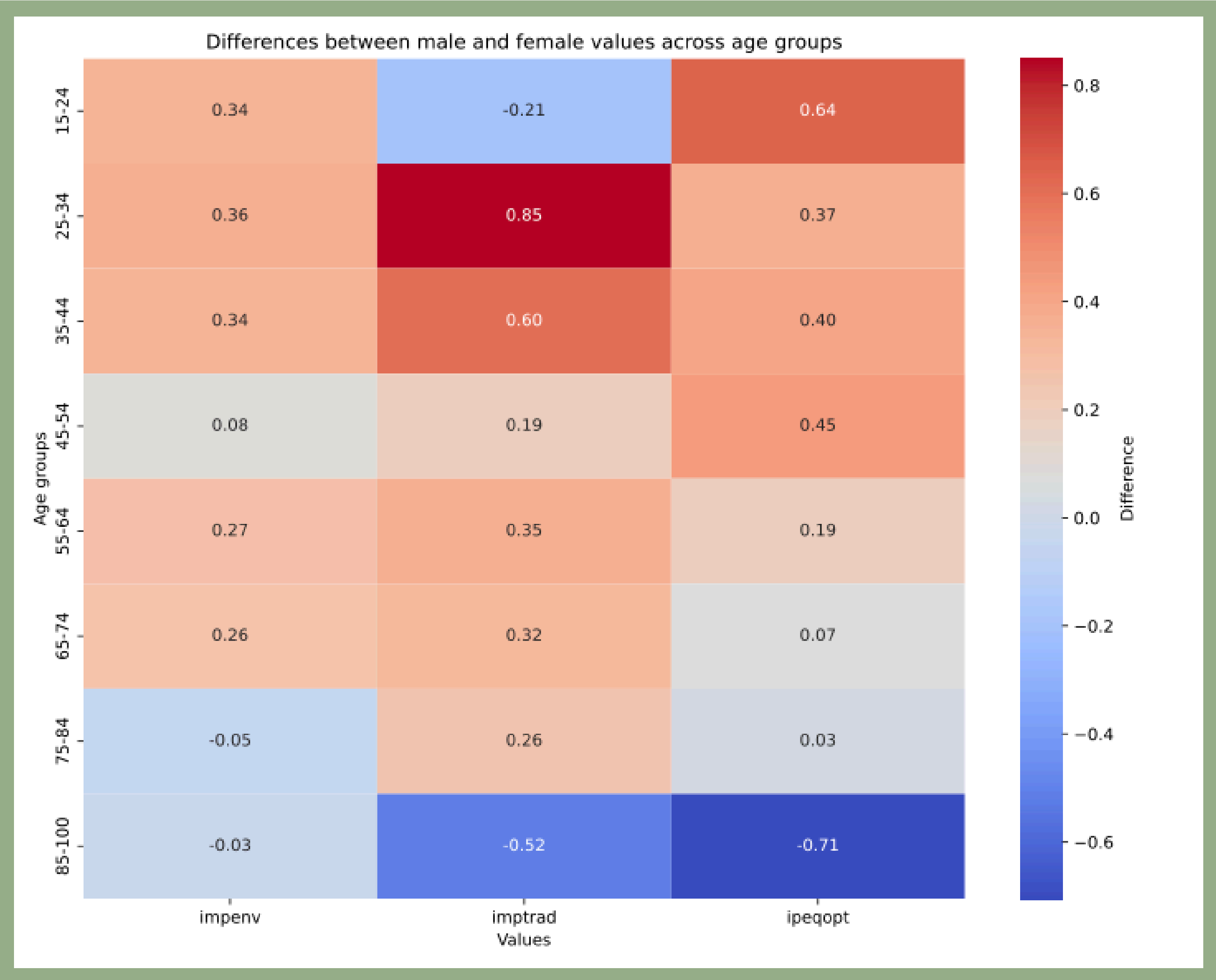
3. Results

- Majority identifies themselves as a centrist, few extremes.
- Significant differences in importance of traditon (imptrad) and equality (ipeqopt) between left and right
- Left and right leaning people place similar importance on freedom (impfree), respect (iprspot), safety of their surroundings (impsafe) and loyalty (iplylfr)
- Men aged 25-34 place the least importance on traditions
- Both genders place decent importance on the environment
- Women generally value traditions more than men



2. Data and methods

- European Social Survery (ESS) round 10
- 1542 participants, self-reported human values (1-6 scale), political-self placement (0-10 scale)
- Cleaned responses by handling missing values
- Categorical groups for group comparisons (left, right, center)
- Gender difference exploration
- Pandas - data manipulation, cleaning, and preprocessing
- Matplotlib and Seaborn - visualization (bar charts, KDE plots, heatmaps, clustered heatmaps)
- SciPy - t-tests to determine statistical significance between human values and political leanings



- impenv - nature and environment, imptrad - traditions and customs, ipeqopt - equality and equal opportunities
- Positive values - more importance for females
- Negative values - more importance for males.

