

Dear Editors of *Social Forces*,

I am pleased to submit my manuscript titled “*More Diverse, More Skeptical? How Changes in Class-based Network Diversity Shape Public Support for Commodified Welfare Services: Longitudinal Evidence from Chile*”, for your consideration. This paper examines how changes in the socioeconomic diversity of personal networks influence individuals’ support for market-based welfare distribution. Drawing on three waves of the Chilean Longitudinal Social Survey (ELSOC, 2016–2023), this study provides one of the first longitudinal analyses linking class-based network diversity to attitudes toward market justice in Latin America.

The paper addresses three main gaps in existing literature.

First, previous studies have mainly examined the link between social class and distributive preferences from a cross-sectional and individual-based perspective. While class-based differences in redistributive attitudes are well documented, less attention has been paid to the social environments in which such preferences are formed and change. Recent research has begun to highlight the importance of class-based networks in shaping political attitudes (e.g., Lindh et al. 2021; Otero and Mendoza 2023; Paskov and Weisstanner 2022). Building on this emerging line of work, I argue that interpersonal networks—particularly their class-based composition—play a key role in how individuals develop beliefs about the fairness of market outcomes and the legitimacy of inequality. This perspective connects to the “class experience” argument (Helgason and Rehm, 2024), which emphasizes that individuals’ exposure to different social and occupational contexts over the life course constitutes an experiential process of political learning. In this sense, social networks function as socializing environments through which people encounter and internalize diverse “class experiences” that shape their fairness judgments and attitudes toward inequality.

Second, I focus on network *diversity* rather than network class profiles or size. Whereas prior research emphasizes the influence of specific class ties, this study conceptualizes diversity as cross-class embeddedness, capturing simultaneous connections to multiple occupational groups. The findings show that individuals whose networks become more socioeconomically diverse over time tend to express weaker support for the commodification of welfare services. This evidence supports what I term the market skepticism hypothesis: exposure to diverse class experiences reduces the legitimacy of market-based inequality.

Third, the paper situates this relationship in a context characterized by high inequality and market-oriented welfare institutions. Chile represents a compelling case to test these dynamics, as it combines sustained economic inequality with a heavily privatized welfare model. The longitudinal evidence presented here shows that changes in network diversity—not only shifts in occupational mobility—predict attitudinal change. This finding advances existing theories of political learning and social influence by emphasizing the life-course dynamics of networks in shaping distributive justice preferences.

Methodologically, the study applies two-way fixed-effects models to account for within-person change and time-invariant unobserved heterogeneity. This approach captures how individual variations in network composition affect evolving attitudes toward market justice across time. To ensure the robustness of these findings, I also conducted a supplementary

analysis incorporating individuals' intragenerational social mobility trajectories—classified as stable, upward, or downward according to their occupational status across waves—using a between-within (hybrid) multilevel model specification. The results confirm that the association between increasing network diversity and declining support for market justice remains substantively and statistically robust even after accounting for mobility profiles, underscoring that changes in network diversity operate as an additional channel of attitudinal change.

I believe this manuscript aligns well with the aim and scope of *Social Forces*, which has previously published research on the link between social stratification, social networks, and political attitudes (Otero et al. 2021; Helgason and Rehm 2024; Mijs and Usmani 2024). The paper contributes to ongoing debates in sociological research on welfare attitudes and distributive justice by integrating perspectives from social network analysis, moral economy, and political sociology. Theoretically, it builds on the discussion on social influence and political socialization research, arguing that interpersonal networks act as key arenas for normative learning and attitude adaptation across the life course. In line with this perspective, the study advances the view that exposure to heterogeneous social contexts provides informational and socializing experiences that gradually reshape fairness judgments and support for market-based welfare systems. In doing so, it may also interest readers concerned with how micro-level changes in social relations translate into broader shifts in normative support for market-based systems.

Thank you very much for considering this manuscript for publication in *Social Forces*. I appreciate your time and attention and look forward to the opportunity to contribute to your journal.

Best regards,

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