

# Democratic deconsolidation revisited: Young Europeans are not dissatisfied with democracy

Jan Zilinsky, NYU

Nov. 20, 2018

# Questions

- Is there a generational gap in democratic evaluations?

# Questions

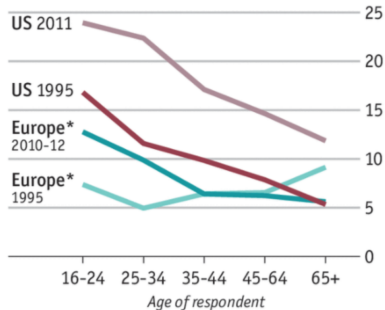
- Is there a generational gap in democratic evaluations?
- Is the youth disillusioned with democracy?

# Questions

- Is there a generational gap in democratic evaluations?
- Is the youth disillusioned with democracy?
- No & no.

## Losing faith

Share of respondents saying that democracy is a bad way to run their country, by age, %



\*Unweighted average of Britain, Germany, the Netherlands, Romania, Spain, Sweden and Poland

Source: "The danger of deconsolidation" by R. S. Foa and Y. Mounk *Journal of Democracy*, July 2016

The New York Times

# *How Stable Are Democracies? 'Warning Signs Are Flashing Red'*

By Amanda Taub

**RealClear** Politics ▼

## **Millennials Not Sure Democracy Is Essential. That's Scary**

Ian Bremmer, NBC News February 13, 2018



### **Millennials are rapidly losing interest in democracy**



# Data

- Evaluations of democracy
- Temporal coverage: 2002 to 2017
- 36 countries
- 353,998 respondents

# Data

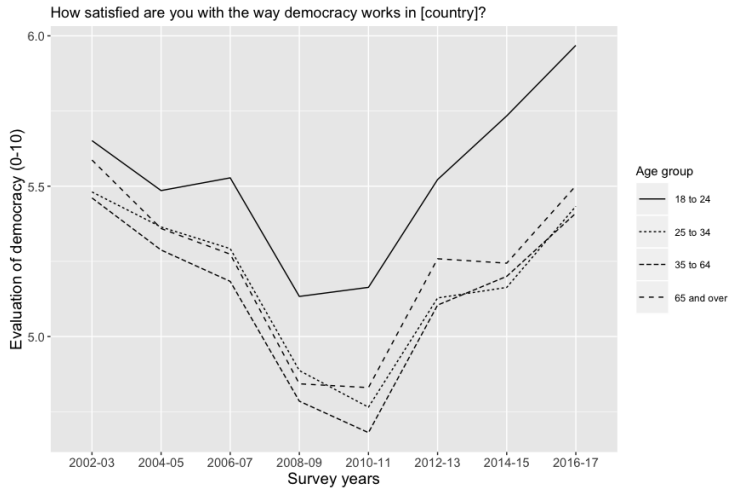
- Evaluations of democracy
- Temporal coverage: 2002 to 2017
- 36 countries
- 353,998 respondents
- Predict evaluations with respondent age withheld. Then add age as a model input.



# Results

**Table 1.** Outcome variable: “Satisfied with democracy”.

Model inputs						Model performance
<i>Income</i>	<i>Education</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>County FEs</i>	<i>Year FEs</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Expected % correctly predicted</i>
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	60.65%
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	60.72%



# Take-away

- No generational gap

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- No generational gap
- Assessment of “how democracy works” have improved

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**Table 1.** Performance of seven probit models. Outcome variable: “Satisfied with democracy”.

Model inputs									Model performance
<i>Income</i>	<i>Education</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>County FEs</i>	<i>Year FEs</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Trust</i>	<i>Government approval</i>	<i>Economic evaluations</i>	<i>Expected % correctly predicted</i>
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	60.65%
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	60.72%
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	61.7%
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	67.0%
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	68.6%
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	68.5%
×	×	×	×	×	✓	×	×	×	54.8%

*N* ranges from 256,536 (row 5) to 353,998 (row 7).

FE: fixed effects.