



EUROPEAN SOCIAL SURVEY ROUND 8

”Poland and its European context: Continuity and Change”

ABSTRACTS

Effect of education on occupational position. Cross-national patterns of decline or stability in 2002-2016

Henryk Domański and Dariusz Przybysz (Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences)

Research on social stratification has confirmed many theories stating that educational attainment strongly affects occupational position. However, over recent years it was disclosed that in some Western societies this relationship tends to decline, which may be attributed to over-education and growing elasticity of work. Using data from the European Social Survey for 2002-2016 we attempt to establish: (i) to what extent this tendency has become a universal feature of market societies at the current stage, (ii) whether some inter-country patterns in this relationship have emerged, especially in terms of division into typical Western, liberal, post-communist, Mediterranean or Nordic welfare states.

Biographical note

Henryk Domański. Professor of Sociology in the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, in Warsaw. His main fields of interest are studies on social stratification and mobility and methodology of social research.

Dariusz Przybysz is an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and a member of the European Social Survey Team in Poland. His primary research interests focus on social stratification and application of mathematical methods in social sciences.

Economic Inequality, Institutional Trust, and Protest Behavior

Kazimierz M. Słomczyński, Irina Tomescu-Dubrow, Marta Kołczyńska and Joshua K. Dubrow (Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences)

Some studies have found that economic inequality depresses non-electoral political engagement (e.g., Dubrow, Słomczyński and Tomescu-Dubrow 2008; Solt 2015); some found that economic inequality slightly increases political participation (e.g., Karakoc 2013), whereas others found no relationship (e.g. Dalton 2010). In this paper, we focus on the impact of income inequality on attending demonstrations – the main form of protest worldwide. Based on grievance theory, resource theory, relative power theory and opportunity-structure theory, we formulate specific hypotheses about the impact of income inequality on the probability that individuals participate in legal demonstrations, accounting for people’s location in the social structure and macro-



characteristics of countries in which these individuals live. In our analysis of the European Social Survey, we focus on income inequality as a basic characteristic of the social stratification system as a whole. The effects of individual-level variables – including education and income – are relatively well established, especially for economically advanced countries and Western democracies. We confirm their positive impact. We also comment on the impact of institutional trust on the probability of attending demonstrations.

Biographical note

Kazimierz M. Słomczyński, Professor at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences and director of the Cross-National Studies: Interdisciplinary Research and Training Program, CONSIRT (consirt.osu.edu). His main interest is in social stratification and methodology of the social sciences. He is PI of the Polish Panel Study POLPAN 1988-2018 (funded by the Polish National Science Centre) and co-PI in the Survey Data Recycling grant (funded by the US National Science Foundation).

Irina Tomescu-Dubrow, Associate Professor at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences and program manager of the Cross-National Studies: Interdisciplinary Research and Training Program, CONSIRT (consirt.osu.edu). Her main interest is in social stratification and comparative sociology. She is co-PI of the Polish Panel Study POLPAN 1988-2018 (funded by the Polish National Science Centre) and co-PI in the Survey Data Recycling grant (funded by the US National Science Foundation).

Marta Kołczyńska recently obtained her PhD degree from Ohio State University. Currently she holds a post-doctoral position at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences and is involved in the Cross-National Studies: Interdisciplinary Research and Training Program, CONSIRT (consirt.osu.edu). With Joshua Dubrow she works on a project devoted to economic and political inequality. She also collaborates with the team working on the Polish Panel Study POLPAN 1988-2018.

Joshua Dubrow, Professor at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences and program coordinator of the Cross-National Studies: Interdisciplinary Research and Training Program, CONSIRT (consirt.osu.edu). He is PI on the project Political Voice and Economic Inequality across Nations and Time (funded by the Polish National Science Centre). Recently he completed the project Who Wins and Who Loses in the Parliamentary Elections? From Formal Theory to Empirical Analysis (also funded by the Polish National Science Centre). His interests include political sociology, gender and politics, cross-national research, sociological practice and interdisciplinarity.

Economic Conditions, Group related relative deprivation and threat: A Multi-level-analysis of 20 European countries based on the 7th round of the ESS

Peter Schmidt (University of Giessen)

Explaining negative attitudes towards immigration in general and threat due to immigration in particular has been a major topic of study in recent decades. While intergroup contact has received considerable attention in explaining ethnic threat, group relative deprivation (GRD), that is, feelings that one's group is unfairly deprived of desirable goods in comparison to relevant out-groups, has been largely ignored in cross-national research. Nevertheless, various smaller-scale studies have demonstrated that GRD can have a decisive impact on prejudice. In the current study we systematically examine across 20 European countries the effect of GRD on ethnic threat, thereby controlling for intergroup contact and value priorities. The 7th round of the European Social Survey (ESS) includes questions assessing respondents' feelings of group deprivation compared to immigrants and offers for the first time an opportunity to contextualise the threat-inducing effect of GRD across Europe. A multilevel structural equation model (MLSEM) demonstrates a considerable effect of GRD on ethnic threat on both the individual and country level. The results indicate that GRD is not only an important mediating factor between social structural positions and perceived threat, but also fully mediates the impact of contextual economic indicators on ethnic threat.

Biographical note

Peter Schmidt is Professor Emeritus of the faculty of social science of the University of Giessen and Humboldt Research Fellow of the Polish Foundation for Basic Research. He has been involved in the development of the new immigration module in the ESS and a new module for the GESIS ACCESS PANEL on contacts, experiences and attitude toward different ethnic groups and refugees in Germany. In the last few years he has worked especially on latent variable models for cross-cultural comparisons.

Attitudes towards immigrants and refugees: A comparison of settlement and non-settlement countries

Bart Meuleman (in collaboration with Arno van Hootehem and Koen Abts), University of Leuven (Belgium)

The refugee crisis has intensified the debate on the resettlement of refugees in European countries, which has led to an increasing opposition between settlement and non-settlement countries. However, the question remains how the recent events have impacted public opinion, and to what extent we witness a similar polarization of public opinion in European societies. The current study attempts to gain insight into the development of attitudes towards refugees. For that purpose, we use two main strategies. First, we look at evolution of attitudes towards refugees since the early 2000s, and contrast this evolution to general trends in anti-immigrant attitudes. Second, we compare the effects of economic and cultural threat, and the human values universalism and conformity-tradition on attitudes towards immigrants and refugees in four settlement (Belgium,

Germany, Netherlands and Sweden) and three non-settlement countries (Estonia, Poland and Slovenia). We hypothesize that economic threat and universalism are more important in settlement countries, as including refugees and migrants in society simultaneously heightens competition over resources and illustrates the logic of universalism. Data from the several rounds of the European Social Survey, including the most recent 2016 round, is analyzed with a Multi-Group Structural Equation Modelling approach. Our results indicate that, contrary to what is often assumed, the opinion climate vis-à-vis refugees has not become more negative between 2002 and 2016. Furthermore, economic threat and universalism are more important for attitudes towards refugees in settlement countries than in non-settlement countries, while cultural threat has the biggest effects in non-settlement countries. Differences in the attitudes towards immigrants are less clear-cut, indicating the distinctiveness of attitudes towards refugees and migrants. Results largely confirm our hypotheses for attitudes towards refugees but not for attitudes towards migrants.

Biographical note

Bart Meuleman is Associate Professor and head of department at the Centre for Sociological Research (CeSO) at the University of Leuven (Belgium). His main research interests are cross-cultural survey methodology and cross-national comparisons of value and attitude patterns.

Attitudes towards immigration in Europe, 2002 - 2016: Competition, integration, and values

Kinga Wysieńska-Di Carlo and Zbigniew Karpiński (Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences)

The last two decades have been rich in political and social events that have shaped Europe and the attitudes and opinions of its citizens. In our presentation, we look at views on immigration in 30 European nations between 2002 and 2016. We first review a number of explanations regarding the attitudinal effects of socioeconomic position, changing contexts, and integration policies. We then use data from eight rounds of the European Social Survey (ESS) to illustrate patterns in responses to questionnaire items pertaining to immigration, and we interpret those patterns in the light of our proposed explanations. We pay special attention to changes that occurred in Poland and other Visegrad countries between 2004 and 2006 and then between 2014 and 2016. The first period marks the accession of these countries to the EU and saw a large wave of emigration, especially from Poland. The second marks the rise of populist and nationalist tendencies across Europe, but Visegrad countries are the only ones in which governments took a strong anti-European and anti-refugees stance and refused to meet EU refugee relocation quotas. We conclude the presentation with a cautionary tale contrasting the ESS data for Poland for the last two waves with results of discrimination tests from the same period.

Biographical note

Kinga Wysieńska-Di Carlo is a former research fellow at the non-profit Albert Shanker Institute in Washington, D.C., and an Assistant Professor of Sociology in the Institute of Philosophy and

Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Her research interests include status and legitimacy processes, social stratification, international migration, and discrimination.

Zbigniew Karpiński is an Assistant Professor in the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences. His research interests include status and legitimacy processes, social stratification and social inequality, and trust and cooperation. His most recent research focuses on mechanisms of homophily in social networks.

Attitudes towards Energy Security and Climate Change across Europe

Ewa Rokicka, University of Lodz, Poland

The paper presents attitudes towards energy security and climate change that were measured in the framework of ESS Round 8. The module covered four broad areas:

- (1) concerns about energy security and climate change,
- (2) energy preferences,
- (3) beliefs on climate change,
- (4) personal norms, efficacy and conviction.

The main conclusions resulting from the analyses conducted are as follows:

1. Citizens of the countries with a high percentage of use of renewable energy manifest less concern about energy security, whereas in countries like Belgium and France citizens are highly concerned about security, supposedly because of the high level of use of nuclear power.
2. Mainly people from northern countries believe that they would engage in the reduction of energy use that could mitigate climate, whilst large countries like the Russian Federation, United Kingdom or Germany are pessimistic in this respect.
3. Looking at the preferences towards the use of energy sources we find that those countries that already have reached a relative high level of use of renewables are advocates of these sources in contrast to countries using a relative high percentage of fossil fuels.
4. Regarding willingness to engage in ecologically friendly behaviour we find the Russian Federation at the negative end of a large scale. Germany is at the other end of this scale.

In order to construct typologies in which very similar surveying countries belong to one type, and very different units to other types (in other words, the variance between groups of objects is maximized and the variance within minimized), multidimensional statistical techniques were applied: 'multi-dimensional scaling' and 'cluster analysis'.

Biographical note

Ewa Rokicka is Professor of Sociology, Institute of Sociology, University of Łódź. Head of Department of Sociology of Social Structure and Social Change. Main fields of her interests are: quality of life, sustainable development, social structure and social inequalities (research, teaching, extension).



Public Opinion on Climate Change Concerns, Policy Views, and Energy: Evidence from the European Social Survey

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More than three decades of social science research demonstrates climate change as an important social problem commanding international attention. Although a substantial body of scholarship examines patterns of climate views of general publics world-wide, precisely how these are associated with attitudes supportive of renewable energy and energy conservation across nations is less well understood. In this work, we begin by identifying the most consistent predictors of climate views and the frameworks that explain these patterns extend to research on renewable energy attitudes and actions. We use 2016 data from 17 countries in the European Social Survey to investigate how climate change concerns shape policy and energy views. We adopt a welfare state regime organizing framework to discuss findings from our empirical models in these nations, describing the strength and consistency of predictors of these views across contexts. Comparing liberal, conservative, social-democratic and eastern welfare state typologies, our findings reveal cross-national similarities and differences in individuals' climate change concerns, policy views, and energy attitudes and actions. This study joins a growing body of research seeking to discuss promising avenues through which future research may inform key gaps in our understanding of environmental and political views.

Biographical note

Prof. Marquart-Pyatt is a comparative researcher with substantive interests in environmental sociology, quantitative methodology, political sociology, and comparative social change. She specializes in the application of quantitative analytical techniques to pressing global social issues related to the environment and politics including environmental concern, sustainability, and democratic values. Her substantive research examines social change comparatively and cross-nationally, and includes both macro-comparative and micro-level work.

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