Does Institutional Trust Increase Pro-Immigrant Attitudes? A Study of Majority and Minority Populations in Europe

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The main purpose of the paper...

… is to study the relationship between **trust in institutions** and **attitudes towards immigrants** …

… among **majority and minority populations** in Europe...

…to get empirical evidence based grounds for policy proposals that through **favourable "peoples' climate"** can support economic growth.

Trends in international migration flows	Trends in attitudes towards immigrants
• The share of migrants as a share of the world's population has remained relatively stable over the last decade (The Migration and Remittances Factbook 2011, 18) • The absolute figure, however, has increased remarkably. • The recent economic crisis slowed down the increase in absolute numbers, but in 2010 the number of new foreign workers reached its pre-crisis level in several countries.	• Racism and intolerance are on the rise in Europe (ECRI, 2011). • It's not a recent trend (European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia, 2005) • Even the people who perceive the possible benefits of migration would prefer decrease in migration flows in the future (OECD International Migration Outlook, 2010).

Trends in international migration flows and the importance of immigration as a tool for facing the problems that aging societies face with don't go with the patterns of attitudes towards immigrants and immigration

Motivation of the study (2)

- Attracting global talent pool is important for every country to be in the forefront of innovation, to stimulate economic growth and overcome the burdens that threaten our social systems.

- Negative attitudes towards immigrants might undermine the pursuit.

- Determinants of the attitudes towards immigrants have to be understood in order to decrease xenophobia and racist attitudes.

Earlier studies in the field

- **Individual theories and theoretical approaches**
  - Individual economic theories (Scheve and Slaughter, 2001);
  - Human capital theory (Mayda 2006, Espenshade and Calhoun, 1993);
  - Cultural marginality explanation (Allport, 1954);
  - Neighborhood safety explanation (Chandler and Tsai, 2001);
  - Contact theory explanation (Allport; 1954);
  - Political affiliation explanation (Espenshade and Hempstead, 1996);
  - Societal integration explanation (Hooghe et al., 2006)

- **Collective theories and theoretical approaches** (regional and national)
  - Collective economic theory (Espenshade and Hempstead, 1996);
  - Contact theory (Quillian ,1995)

Based on the succinct overview given by Rustenbach (2010)

Political trust in the contect of attitudes towards immigrants

- Earlier studies have found that political alienation has an important impact on attitudes towards immigrants (Espenshade and Hempstead, 1996, took off from Uchitelle 1994)

- In our paper we set the trust component (trust in institutions) of political alienation into the focus

- The changing nature of political trust – trust in institutions as a determinant of the attitudes that can be managed by politicians

Concept in focus of our paper

Trust in institutions – people's belief that country's institutions not, at worst, knowingly or willingly do them harm, and will, at best, act in everybody's interests. (Elaboration on Delhey's and Newton's (2002) definition of trust)

- Measured by the subjective estimations about
    - Trust in parliament
    - Trust in legal system
    - Trust in the police
    - Trust in politicians
    - Trust in political parties

More narrow concept than **political trust** that can be seen as a function of different components (presidential approval, media, perceptions about social and cultural change etc) (Hetherington 1998)

Other theoretical explanations that we used in our models as controls

Theoretical approach	Variables
Individual economic theories	Employment status Unemployment longer than 3 months during past 5 years Household's total net income Stance to economic security in the future (How likely not enough money for household necessities next 12 months)
Human capital theory	Highest level of education
Contact theory (individual approach)/Cultural marginality explanation	Living abroad for more than 5 month during past 5 years Belonging to a minority group (we divided into two) Being ever discriminated against
Societal integration explanation	Interpersonal trust Living with a partner Living with kids
Neighbourhood safety explanation	Feeling safe in dark
Other control variables	Age Gender Domicile

Data

- European Social Survey (ESS) 4th round database (2008)
- Data for 30600 respondents from 27 countries (excl. BG, CY, SK – data problems)
  - data of peoples' **individual characteristics** and status (age, gender, highest level of education, labour market status, experience of working abroad, etc.)
  - data of peoples' **attitudes** towards countries' institutions and immigrants.

Methods

- Method of **principal component factor analysis** to elaborate aggregated indicators of peoples attitudes towards immigrants and trust in institutions.

- **OLS regression analysis** to explore the variability of peoples' attitudes towards immigration.
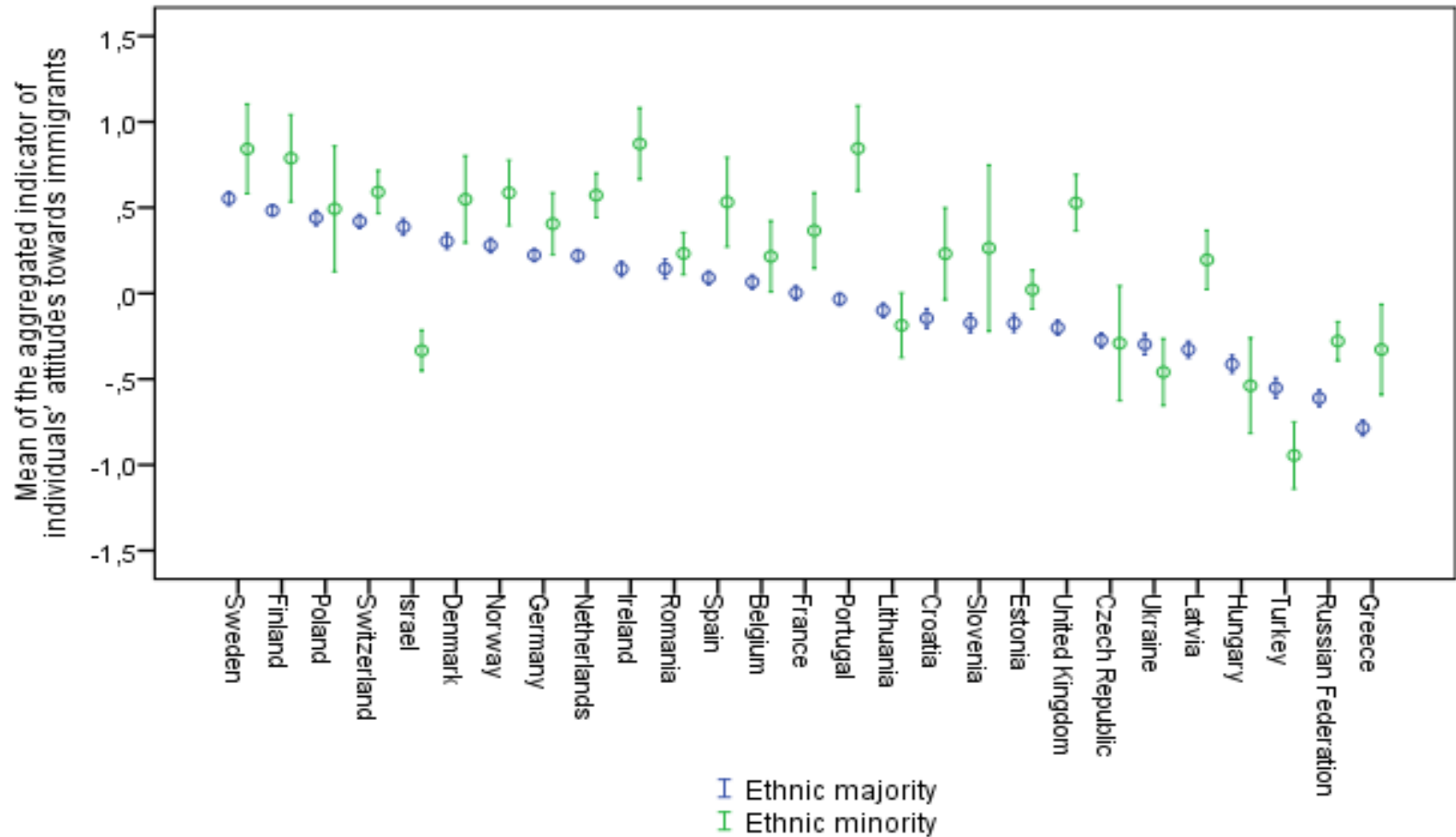
Aggregated indicators

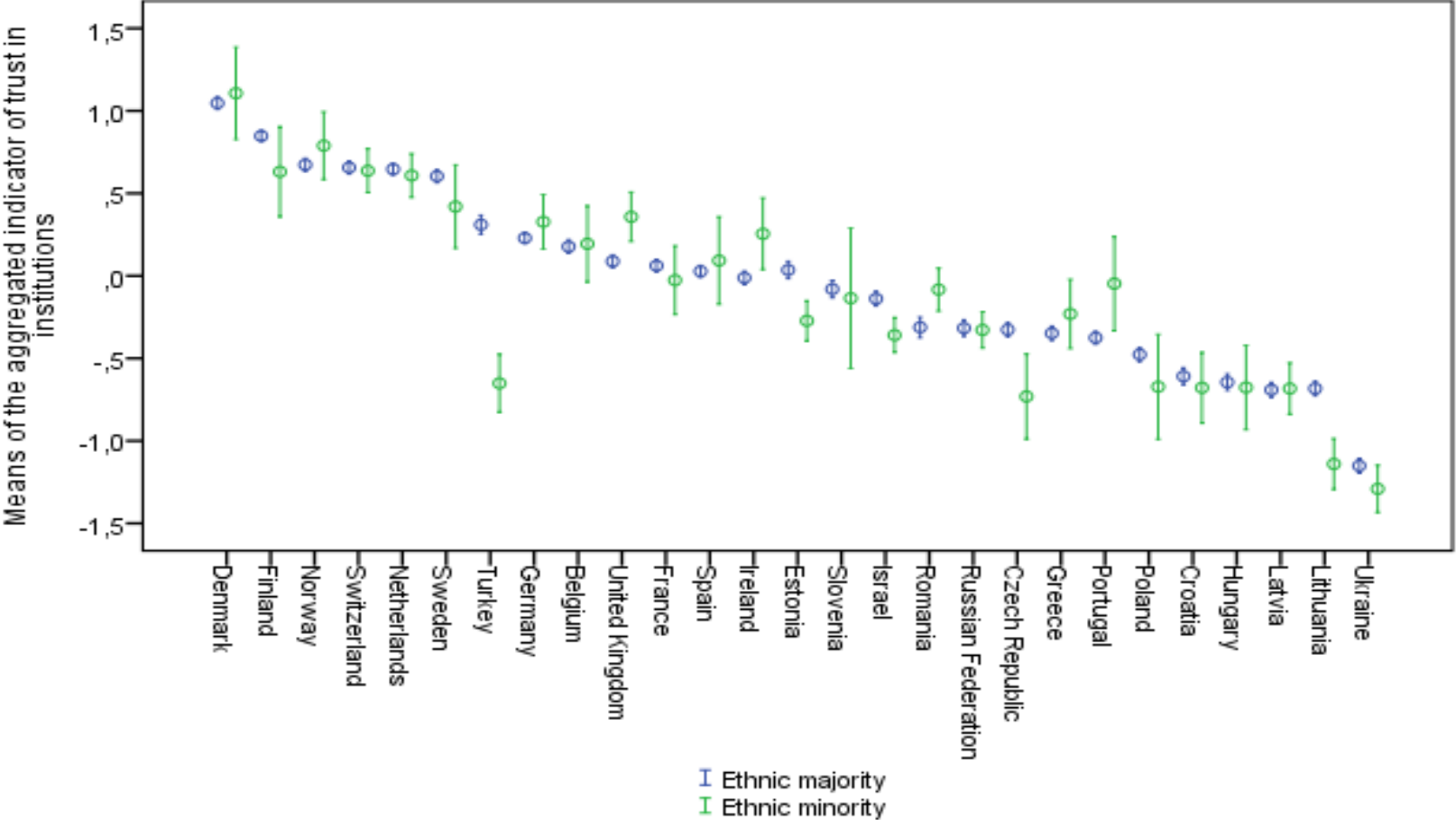| Question	Factors	
	Attitudes towards immigration	Trust in institutions
1. Immigration bad or good for country's economy	0,871	
2. Country's cultural life undermined or enriched by immigrants	0,885	
3. Immigrants make country worse of better place to live	0,894	
4. Trust in country's parliament		0,863
5. Trust in the legal system		0,823
6. Trust in the police		0,750
7. Trust in politicians		0,886
8. Trust in political parties		0,862
KMO, Measure of Sampling Adequacy	0,733	0,804
% of Variance	78,0	70,2

Method: Principal Components, weighted by DWEIGHT
Source: authors' calculations based on the ESS 4th round data

Mean of the aggregated indicator of individuals' attitudes towards immigrants in the 27 countries and its 95% confidence interval

Mean levels of the aggregated indicator of majority and minority populations' trust in institutions and its 95% confidence intervals in 27 European countries

Regression models

- **Dependent variables ($Y1$ and $Y2$)** – majority and minority populations' attitudes towards immigration (factor scores of the composite indicator)
- **Independent variables (X):**
  - Factor scores of composite indicator (trust in institutions)
  - Personal characteristics of individuals (age, gender, domicile, highest level of education, experience of working abroad, belonging into a group discriminated against in the country, interpersonal trust, etc.)
  - Country dummies

Sample: European Social Survey, **30 600 respondents from 27 countries**

Empirical results (1)

	Majority		Minority	
	Unstandardized Coefficients	Standardized Coefficients	Unstandardized Coefficients	Standardized Coefficients
Trust in institutions	0,197*** (0,008)	0,200	0,159*** (0,033)	0,157
Societal integration explanation:				
Interpersonal trust	0,061*** (0,003)	0,155	0,061*** (0,013)	0,141
Lives with partner	-0,027** (0,013)	-0,013	-0,012 (0,060)	-0,005
Lives with children	-0,037*** (0,013)	-0,019	0,019 (0,061)	0,009
Neighbourhood safety explanation:				
Doesn't think that it's very dangerous to walk in the dark	0,129*** (0,008)	0,106	0,127*** (0,040)	0,098

*** p<0,01; ** p<0,05; * p<0,1. Dependent variable: factor scores of the aggregated indicator of individuals' attitudes towards immigrants and immigration. Country dummies are included, but not shown here. Weighted by DWEIGHT.

Empirical results (2)

	Majority		Minority	
	Unstandardized Coefficients	Standardized Coefficients	Unstandardized Coefficients	Standardized Coefficients
Individual economic theories:				
Employment status (ref: employed)				
Unemployed	0,017	0,004	-0,176	-0,051
	(0,031)		(0,109)	
Inactive	0,026*	0,013	-0,016	-0,007
	(0,015)		(0,070)	
Unemployed for more than 3 months during past 5 years	0,032**	0,015	0,100*	0,045
	(0,013)		(0,059)	
Income level (ref: low)				
Medium	0,030**	0,015	-0,004	-0,001
	(0,015)		(0,065)	
High	0,100***	0,047	0,003	0,001s
	(0,017)		(0,080)	
How likely not enough money for household necessities next 12 months	-0,041***	-0,039	-0,057	-0,052
	(0,008)		(0,036)	

*** $p<0,01$; ** $p<0,05$; * $p<0,1$. Dependent variable: factor scores of the aggregated indicator of individuals' attitudes towards immigrants and immigration. Country dummies are included, but not shown here. Weighted by DWEIGHT.

Empirical results (3)

	Majority		Minority	
	Unstandardized Coefficients	Standardized Coefficients	Unstandardized Coefficients	Standardized Coefficients
Human capital theory:				
Highest level of education (ref: low)				
Medium	0,122*** (0,015)	0,062	0,046 (0,071)	0,021
High	0,327*** (0,016)	0,159	0,159** (0,077)	0,069
Contact theory/Cultural marginality approach:				
Belongs to a discriminated group	0,031 (0,027)	0,008	0,249*** (0,065)	0,106
Has worked abroad	0,123*** (0,025)	0,029	0,049 (0,091)	0,013

*** p<0,01; ** p<0,05; * p<0,1. Dependent variable: factor scores of the aggregated indicator of individuals' attitudes towards immigrants and immigration. Country dummies are included, but not shown here. Weighted by DWEIGHT.

Empirical results (4)

	Majority		Minority	
	Unstandardized Coefficients	Standardized Coefficients	Unstandardized Coefficients	Standardized Coefficients
Control variables:				
Gender - male	-0,034***	-0,018	0,066	0,030
	(0,011)		(0,054)	
Age	0,007***	0,124	-0,021**	-0,301
	(0,002)		(0,010)	
Age squared	-0,000***	-0,173	0,000	0,256
	(0,000)		(0,000)	
Domicile (ref: rural)				
Town	0,082***	0,039	0,143**	0,061
	(0,014)		(0,071)	
City	0,140***	0,068	0,210***	0,095
	(0,014)		(0,071)	
Constant	-1,126***		-0,608*	
	(0,062)		(0,312)	
Number of cases (N)	28844		1756	
Prob>F	0,000		0,000	
R²	26,5		26,2	

*** $p<0,01$; ** $p<0,05$; * $p<0,1$. Dependent variable: factor scores of the aggregated indicator of individuals' attitudes towards immigrants and immigration. Country dummies are included, but not shown here. Weighted by DWEIGHT.

Conclusion

- European populations' attitudes toward immigrants are in general consistent with most of the theoretical considerations under review.
  - With some exeptions in the case of ethnic minorities

- **Trust in institutions and interpersonal trust have the strongest relationship with the attitudes** whereas trust in institutions is more strongly related to the attitudes than interpersonal trust.

- Policy implication: **Increase transparency** and **enhance trustworthy governance** to become an attractive destination country for global talents.

Thank you for you attention!

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