



WHY PEOPLE TRUST THE POLICE? EVIDENCE FROM EUROPEAN SOCIAL SURVEY

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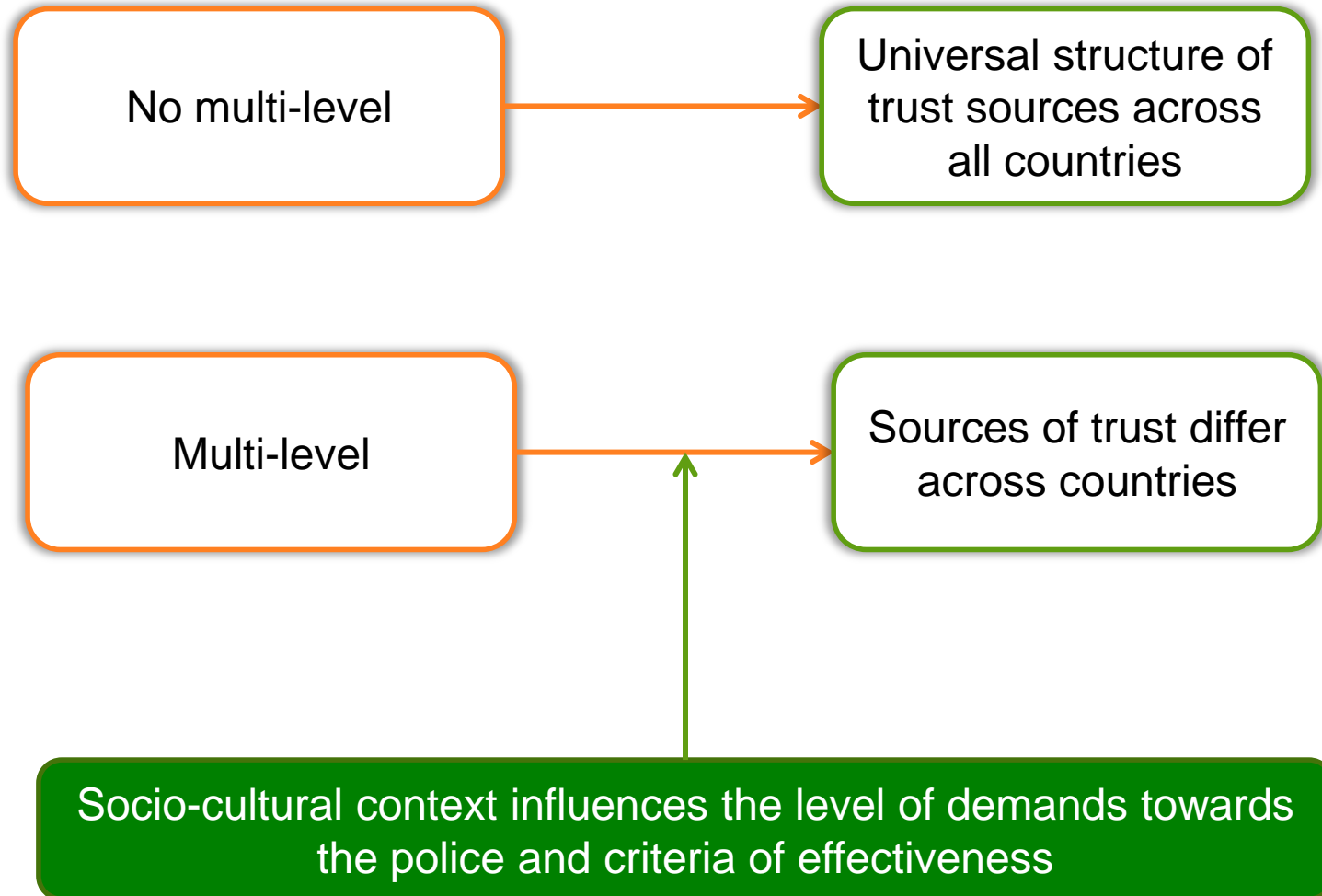
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Previous Cross-Cultural Studies of Trust in the Police

Author	Data	Multilevel	Interaction term
Kääriäinen (2007)	European Social Survey 4	Yes	No
Jang et al. (2010)	World Value Survey 4	Yes	No
Morris (2011)	World Value Survey 5	Yes	Yes, with minority status
Cao et al. (2012)	World Value Survey 5	Yes	No
Gimpelson, Monusova (2012)	European Social Survey 4	No	No

Motivation for multi-level modeling



Data

The 5th wave of the European Social Survey (2010)

- ❑ Special module on trust in the police and courts. Authors: Jonathan Jackson, Mike Hough, Stephen Farrall, Jan de Keijser and Kauko Aromaa
- ❑ 27 countries: Russian Federation, Ukraine, Israel, Belgium, Bulgaria, Switzerland, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark, Estonia, Spain, Finland, France, United Kingdom, Greece, Croatia, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Slovenia, Slovakia
- ❑ Country-level data from Good Governance Indicators (2010, World Bank).

Main dependent variable

- «How much you personally trust the police?»
- 11-point scale
 - from «no trust at all» (0),
 - to «complete trust» (10)
- No missing data

Legitimacy and Trust as independent variables (Hough, Jackson, & Bradford, 2013)

Legitimacy

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graph TD; Legitimacy --> OTO[Obligation to obey]; Legitimacy --> PL[Perceived lawfulness]; Legitimacy --> MA[Moral alignment]; Trust --> E[Effectiveness]; Trust --> PF[Procedural fairness]; Trust --> DF[Distributive fairness];
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Obligation
to obey

Perceived
lawfulness

Moral
alignment

Trust

Effectiveness

Procedural
fairness

Distributive
fairness

Independent variables.

- Individual-level
 - Legitimacy: obligation to obey, moral alignment, lawfulness
 - “Trust”: Effectiveness, procedural fairness, distribute fairness
 - Feeling of safety
 - Crime experience
 - Discrimination
 - Age
 - Gender
 - Education
 - Subjective income
- Country-level
 - Quality of institutions

Operationalization

Variable	Question from ESS5
Obligation to obey	To what extent is your duty to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Back the decisions made by the police even when you disagree with them?2. Do what the police tell you even if you don't understand or agree with the reasons?3. Do what the police tell you to do, even if you don't like how they treat you?
Lawfulness	How often would you say that the police in take bribes?
Moral alignment	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The police generally have the same sense of right and wrong as I do.2. The police stand up for values that are important to people like me.3. I generally support how the police usually act.4. The decisions and actions of the police are unduly influenced by pressure from political parties and politicians.

Operationalization

Variable	Question from ESS5
Effectiveness	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Based on what you have heard or your own experience how successful do you think the police are at preventing crimes in where violence is used or threatened?2. And how successful do you think the police are at catching people who commit house burglaries?3. If a violent crime were to occur near to where you live and the police were called, how slowly or quickly do you think they would arrive at the scene?
Procedural fairness	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Based on what you have heard or your own experience how often would you say the police generally treat people in with respect?2. About how often would you say that the police make fair, impartial decisions in the cases they deal with?3. And when dealing with people, how often would you say the police generally explain their decisions and actions when asked to do so?
Distribute fairness	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. When victims report crimes, do you think the police treat rich people worse, poor people worse, or are rich and poor treated equally?2. And when victims report crimes, do you think the police treat some people worse because of their race or ethnic group or is everyone treated equally?

Operationalization

Variable	Question from ESS5
Feeling of safety	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. How safe do you – or would you - feel walking alone in this area after dark?2. How often, if at all, do you worry about your home being burgled?3. How often, if at all, do you worry about becoming a victim of violent crime?
Crime experience	Have you or a member of your household been the victim of a burglary or assault in the last 5 years?
Discrimination	Would you describe yourself as being a member of a group that is discriminated against in this country?
Education	ISCED Scale (International Standard Classification of Education)
Subjective income	Which of the descriptions on this card comes closest to how you feel about your household's income nowadays?
Quality of institutions	Control of corruption (Good Governance Indicators, 2010)

Hypothesis

1. Lawfulness has positive influence on trust in countries with higher level of corruption and became insignificant in countries with low levels of corruption
2. Discrimination has negative effect on trust in the police. It keeps its influence across all countries.
3. Low subjective income has negative effect on trust in the police. It keeps its influence across all countries.
4. Education has positive influence on trust in countries with low level of corruption and negative influence in countries with high level of corruption

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