



# Political Trust: From Additive to Relative

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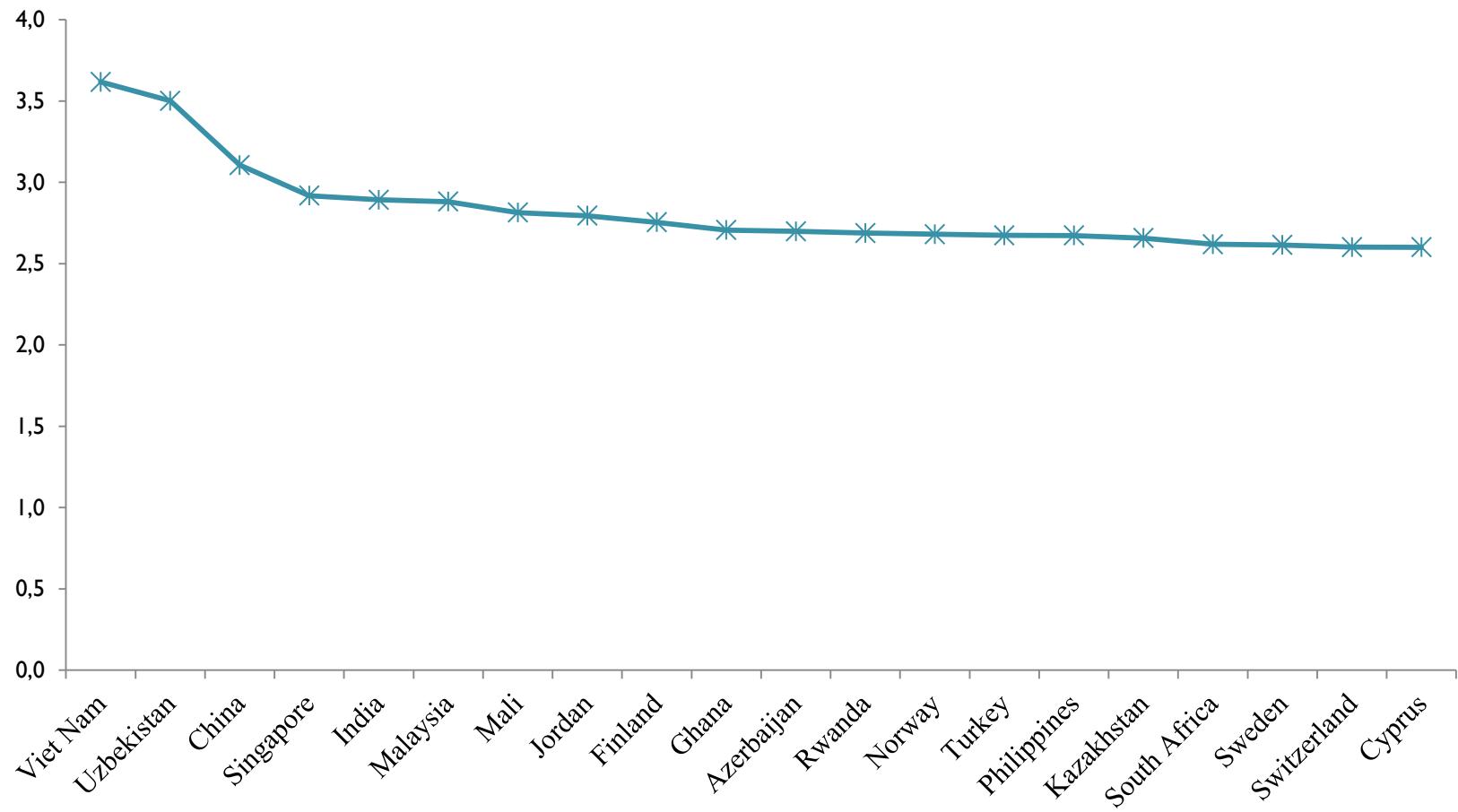
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## ADDITIVE APPROACH TO POLITICAL TRUST

The most widely used approach to measuring political trust is to ask respondents a series of questions about different political institutions and to create an additive index of answers to these questions.





World Values Survey (2004-2014)

# Is Level of Trust Comparable?

Trust is a **multidimensional** attitude (e.g. Simmel, 1950; Uslaner, 2002)

David Easton (e.g. 1976):

**Specific trust:** concerns about the outputs and performances of political institutions;

**Diffuse trust:** associates more with citizens' perceptions of regime legitimacy

# Radius & Variance

## Social Trust

Level of trust/Radius of Trust (Fukuyama, 1995)

Solution: Most people can be trusted?  
=F(Out-group trust, In-group trust) see: (Delhey, Newton, & Welzel, 2011)

## Political Trust

Variance : We classify individuals in the degree to which they trust multiple political institutions to the same degree to separate between diffuse and specific trust.

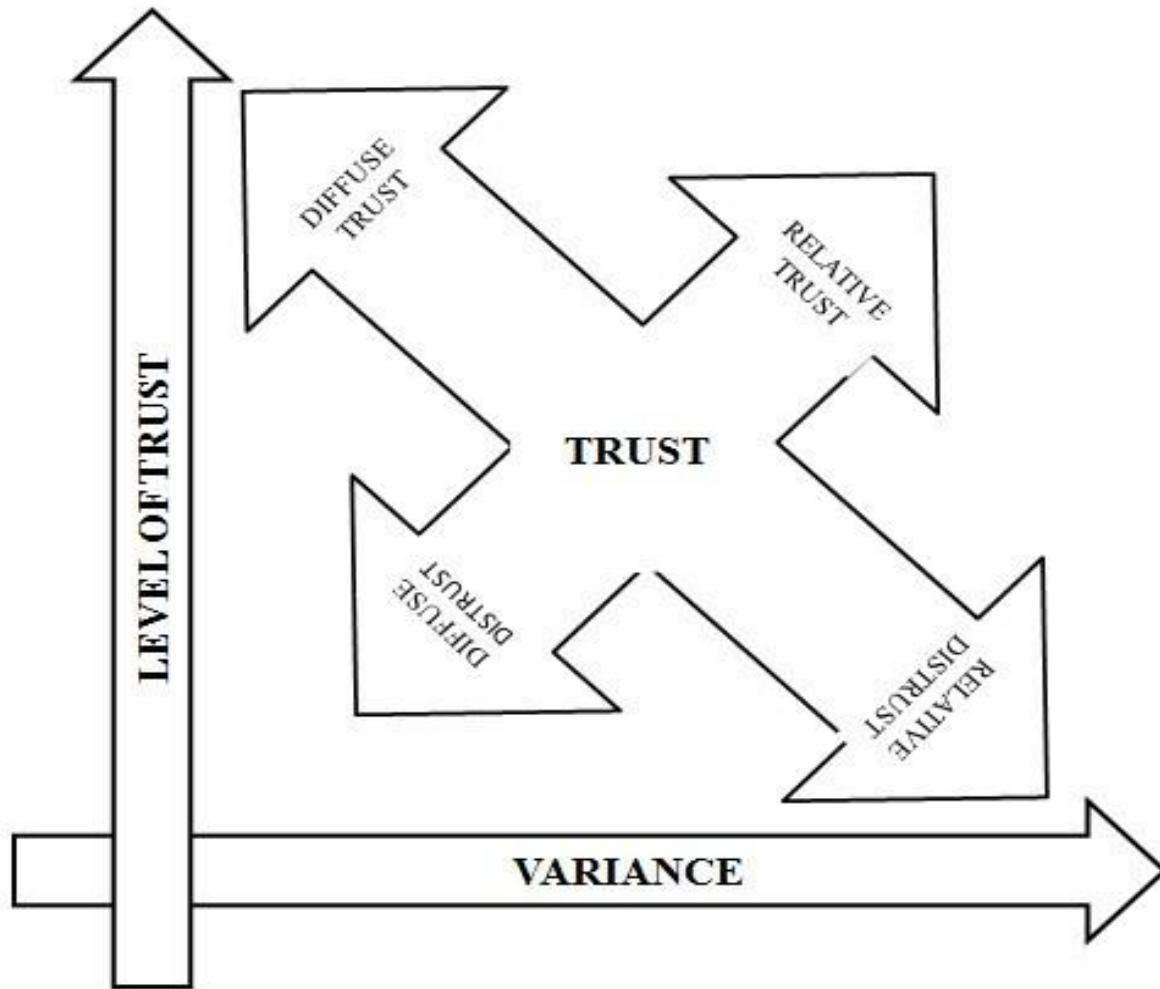
# A RELATIVE APPROACH

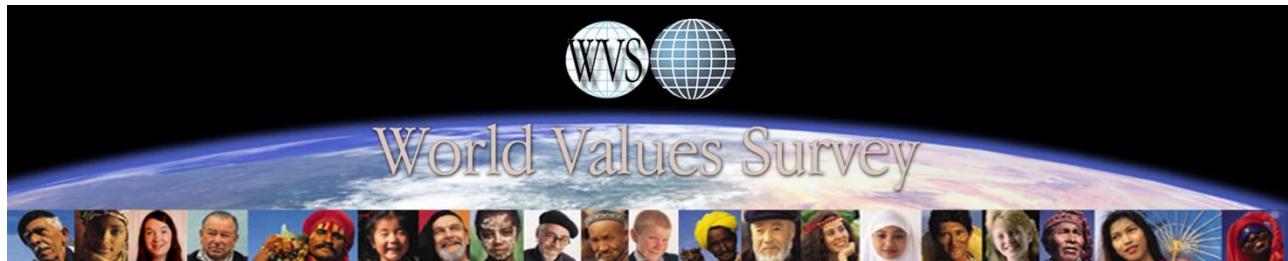
**Table 1. A Multidimensional Approach to Political Trust**

Political Institutions	Jordan	Kobe	Tracy	Rose
A	T	T	D	D
B	T	D	D	D
C	T	T	T	D
D	T	D	D	D
E	T	D	T	D
F	T	T	T	D
G	T	T	D	D
H	T	T	D	D
I	T	D	T	D
J	T	T	D	D
Mean	High	High	Low	Low
Variance	Low	High	High	Low
Type of Trust	Diffuse (support)	Specifc	Specific	Diffuse (cynic)

*Note: T: Trust; D: Distrust.*

# A Multidimensional Perspective





# Data

WORLD VALUES SURVEY

WAVE 5: 2004-2008

WAVE 6: 2010-2014

WVS 2004-2014

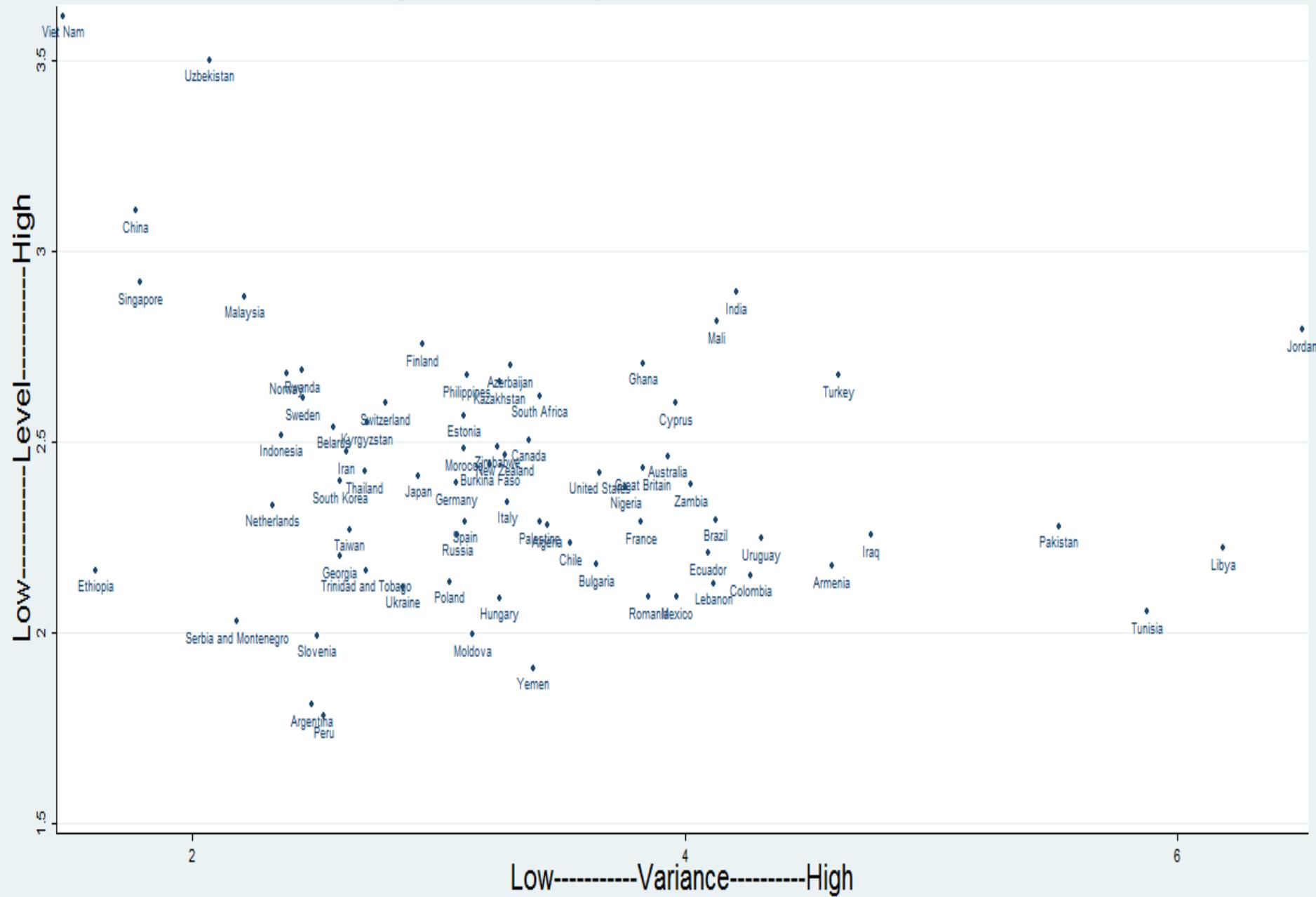
I am going to name a number of organizations. For each one, could you tell me how much confidence you have in them: is it a great deal of confidence, quite a lot of confidence, not very much confidence or none at all?

V109	Confidence: The armed forces	A great deal
V110	Confidence: The press	Quite a lot
V111	Confidence: Television	Not very much
V112	Confidence: Labour Unions	None at all
V113	Confidence: The police	
V114	Confidence: The courts	
V115	Confidence: The government (in your nation's capital)	
V116	Confidence: Political Parties	
V117	Confidence: Parliament	
V118	Confidence: The Civil service	

$$\text{MEAN} = \text{SUM} / (\# \text{ POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS})$$

$$\text{VARIANCE} = \text{SUM}(\text{TRUST IN EACH INSTITUTION} - \text{MEAN})^2$$

### Figure 2. Contrasting Level and Variance of Political Trust



# New rankings

	Additive Trust	Diffuse Trust	Relative Trust	Diffuse Distrust
Viet Nam	1	Viet Nam	1	Peru
Uzbekista	2	Uzbekistan	2	Argentina
China	3	China	3	Ethiopia
Singapore	4	Singapore	4	Yemen
India	5	Malaysia	5	Slovenia
Malaysia	6	Azerbaijan	6	Serbia and Montenegro
Mali	7	Mali	7	Trinidad and Tobago
Jordan	8	India	8	Lebanon
Finland	9	Kyrgyzstan	9	Algeria
Ghana	10	Belarus	10	Moldova
Azerbaija	11	Philippines	11	Tunisia
Rwanda	12	Rwanda	12	Hungary
Norway	13	Finland	13	Mexico
Turkey	14	Kazakhstan	14	Poland
Philippin	15	Norway	15	Ukraine
Kazakhsta	16	Burkina Faso	16	Libya
South Afr	17	Cyprus	17	Iran
Sweden	18	Estonia	18	Georgia
Switzerla	19	Sweden	19	Taiwan
<u>Cyprus</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>Indonesia</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>Ecuador</u>

# Democracy, Social Trust and Political Trust

Growth of critical citizens (Norris, 1999; 2011)

- H1: Democracy decrease diffuse trust
- H2: Democracy increase relative trust

Social Trust and Political Trust (e.g. Newton, 1999)

- H3: Social trust increase diffuse trust
- H4: social trust has little impact on relative trust

**Table 5. OLS Regression on Diffuse and Relative Trust (WVS, 2004-2014)**

	Model (1) Diffuse	Model (2) Relative	Model (3) Diffuse	Model (4) Relative	Model (5) Diffuse	Model (6) Relative
Intercept	31.67*** (4.31)	50.44*** (3.76)	29.68*** (3.96)	50.56*** (3.82)	28.30*** (4.03)	51.16*** (4.12)
Democracy Index	-2.84*** (0.64)	3.08*** (0.56)	-3.91*** (0.63)	3.16*** (0.61)	-3.90*** (0.70)	3.96*** (0.72)
Social Trust			33.77*** (7.26)	-2.30 (7.01)	26.03*** (7.15)	-6.08 (7.32)
Region (Ref. Africa)					...	...
Asia					13.86*** (3.69)	-9.25* (3.79)
Europe†					2.19 (3.69)	-3.65 (3.78)
America#					1.96 (4.25)	-13.04** (4.35)
Middle East					-11.50* (4.72)	7.78 (4.84)
N	101	101	100	100	100	100
R2	0.16	0.23	0.32	0.23	0.52	0.39

Standard errors in parentheses

\* p &lt; 0.05, \*\* p &lt; 0.01, \*\*\* p &lt; 0.001

† Excluding Middle East countries; # including Oceania countries, Australia and New Zealand.



THANK YOU

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