



Facultade de Socioloxía

UNIVERSIDADE DA CORUÑA

European Social Survey's Democracy Module 2012 & 2020

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OECD WEBINAR: “The Ties That Bind: Government Openness as Key Driver of Trust”

11 September 2020

ESS6, 2012: context and rationale

Challenges in Europe

- Erosion of national democracy: shifting power to supranational agencies
- The economic crisis
- Citizens' discontent: public mobilizations, withdrawal from politics... (90% of Europeans like democracy - EVS 2009; but only 48% are satisfied – EB_May 2012)

WHAT ABOUT DEMOCRACY?



ESS6 – Theoretical framework

ELECTORAL DIMENSION	
Competition	Free and fair elections
	Differentiated offer by parties
	Opposition free to criticize
Vertical accountability	Retrospective accountability
	Justification by government
Deliberation	Participation in political discussion
Responsibility	Responsibility to other EU governments
LIBERAL DIMENSION	
Rule of law	Equality before the law
Horizontal accountability	Checks and balances
Minority rights	Protection of minority rights
Freedom of press	Press freedom
	Media reliability



ESS6 – Theoretical framework

SOCIAL DIMENSION	
Social Justice	Protection against poverty
	Reduction income differences
PARTICIPATORY DIMENSION	
Direct participation	Participation in referendum
INCLUSIVENESS DIMENSION	
Inclusiveness	Inclusiveness of participation rights (migrants)
REPRESENTATION DIMENSION	
Type of representation	Majority vs. proportional



OECD Guidelines

INTEGRITY

Free and fair elections

Checks and balances

Retrospective accountability

Media reliability

Equality before the law

FAIRNESS

Protection against poverty

Reduction income differences

Protection of minority rights

Inclusiveness of participation rights
(migrants) (OPENNESS?)

OPENNESS

Opposition free to criticize

Justification by government

Participation in referendum

Press freedom

Participation in political discussion

RESPONSIVENESS

RELIABILITY



ESS 6 – Ideal vs. Real

- **Views (ideal)**: the meaning attributed to democracy, the expectations with respect to democracy (**What democracy ought to be**)

How important you think it is for democracy in general

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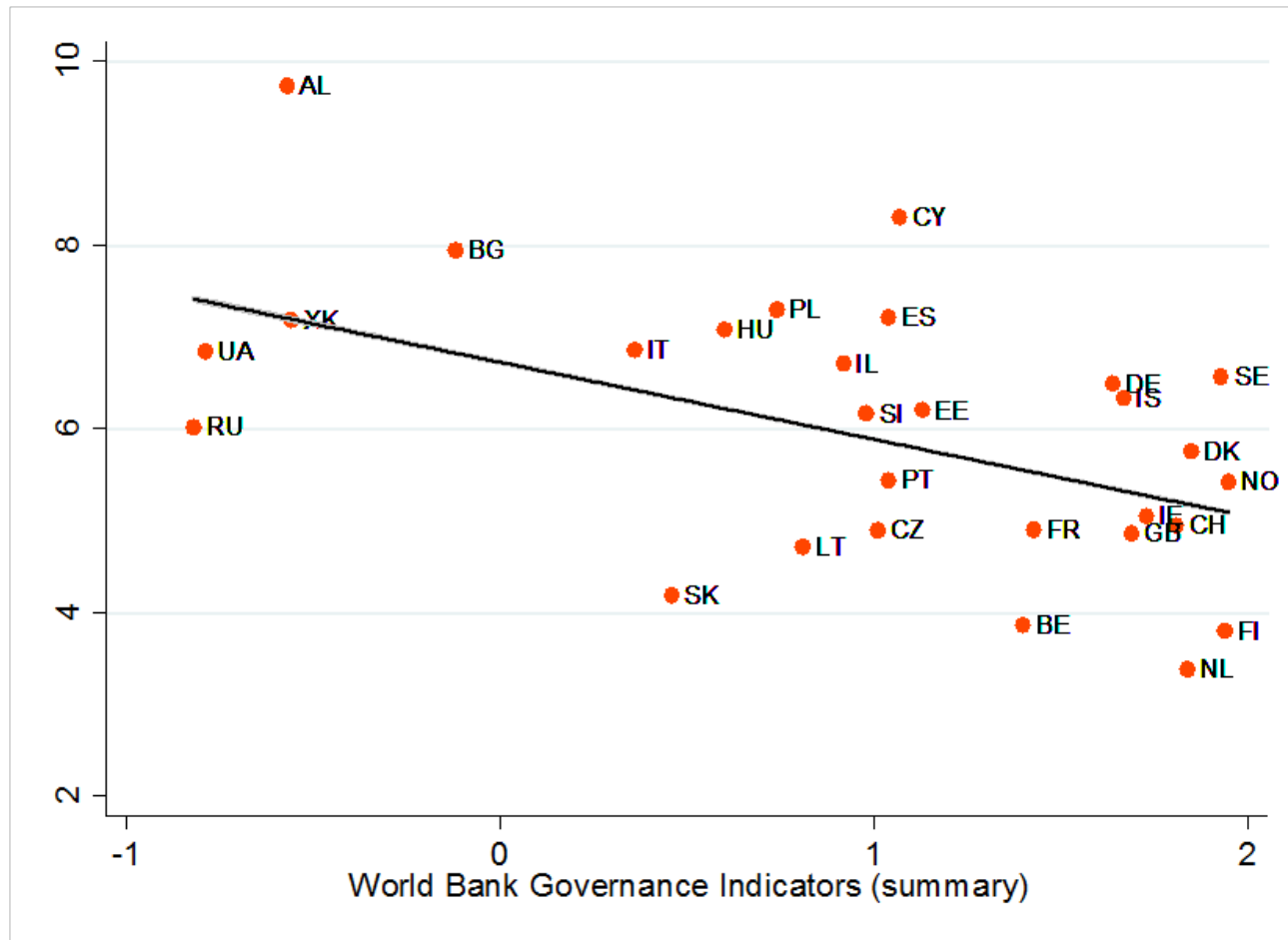
- **Evaluations (real)**: the assessment of the functioning of democracy in one's own country (**What democracy is**)

To what extent you think each of the following applies in [country]

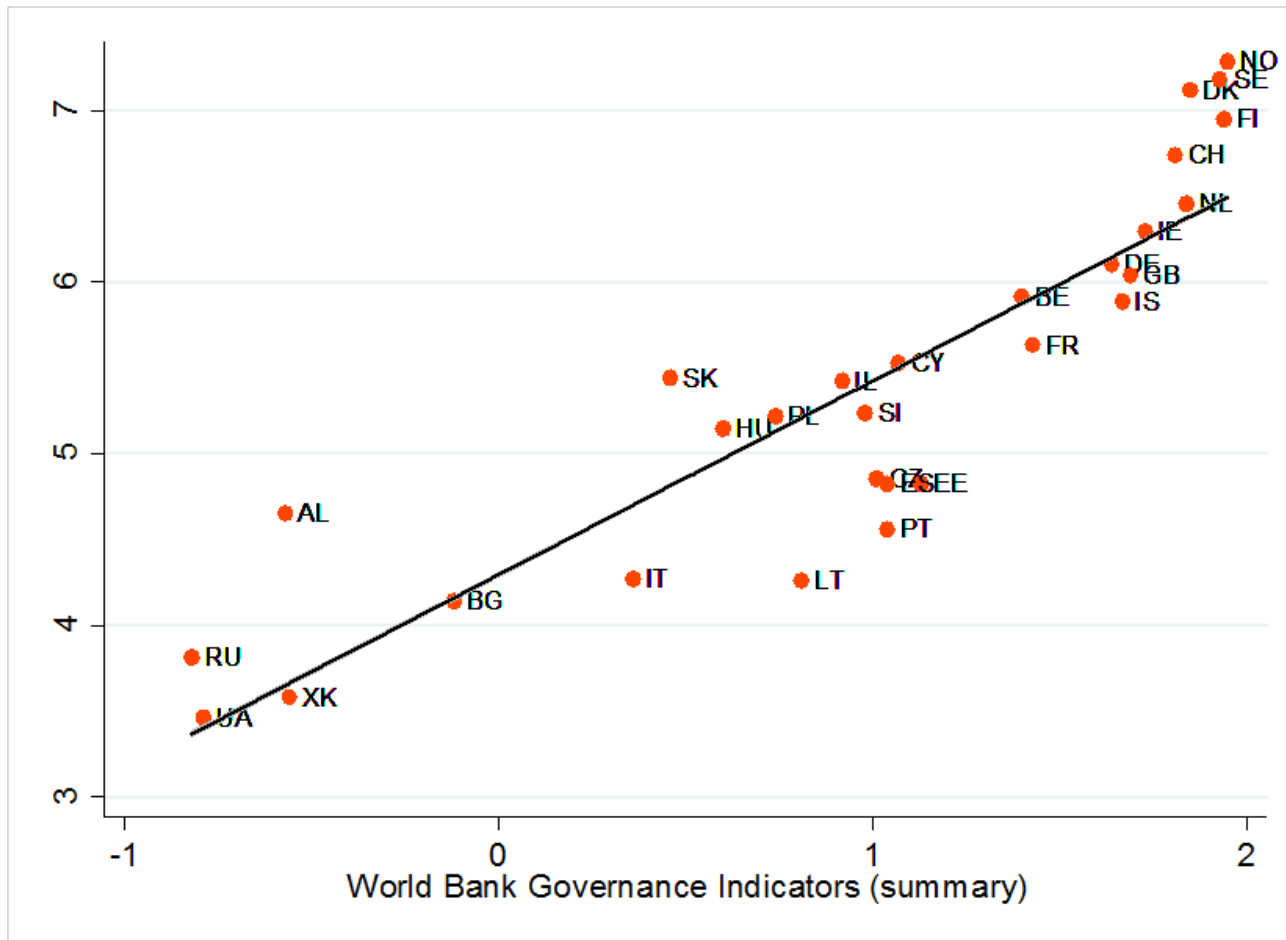
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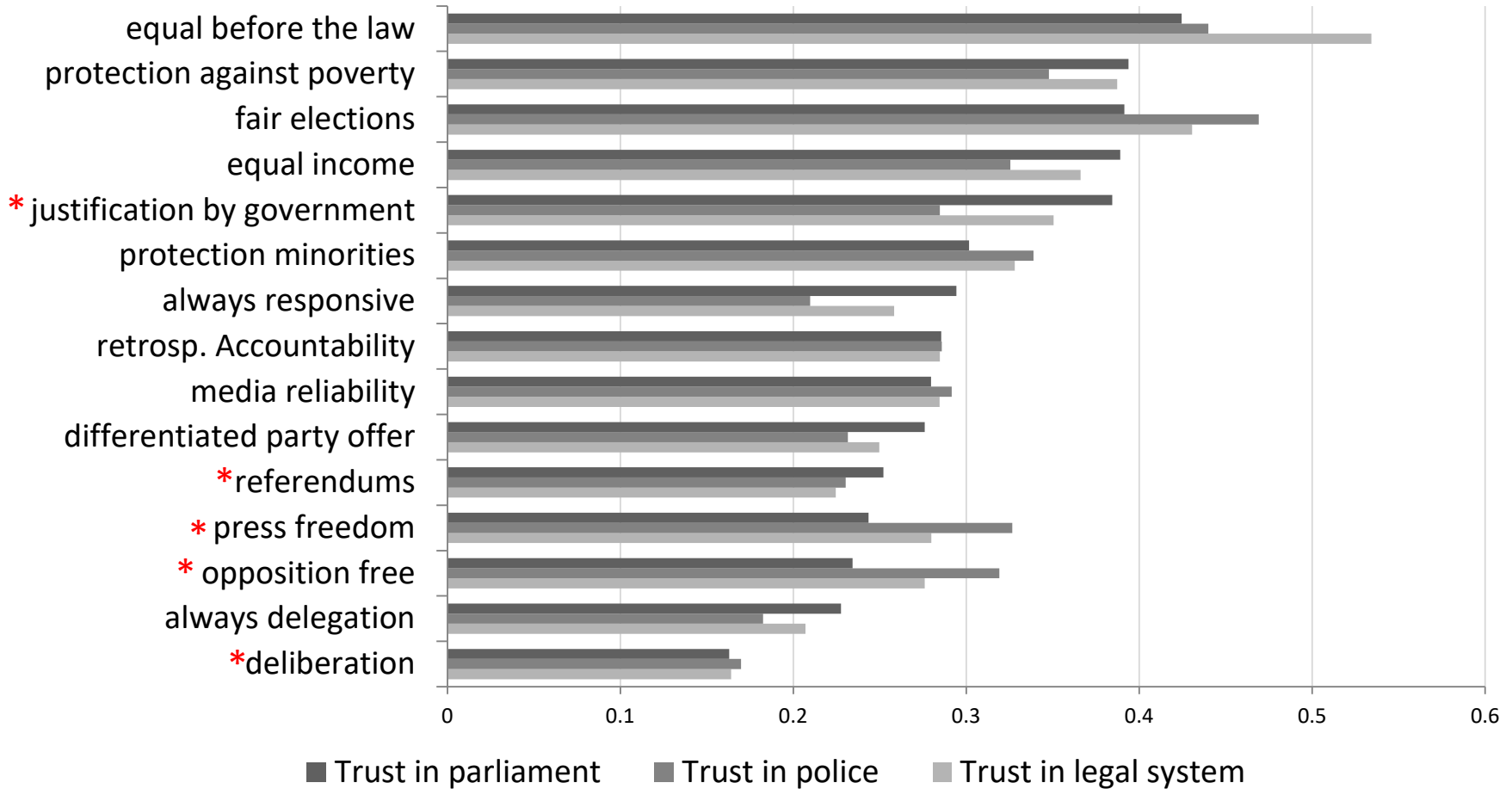
Ideal of democracy (*citizens vs. experts*)



Real democracy (*citizens vs. experts*)



Trust & evaluations: correlations

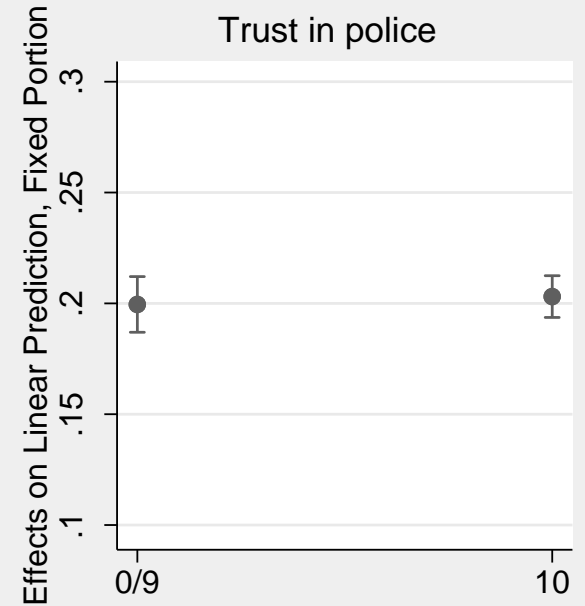
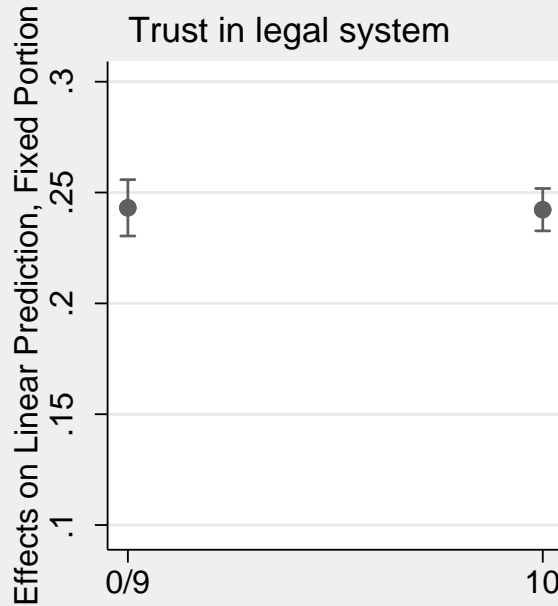
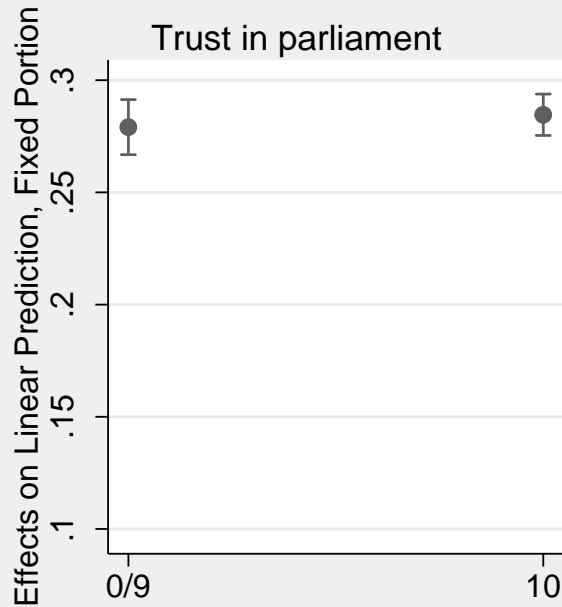


* Openness



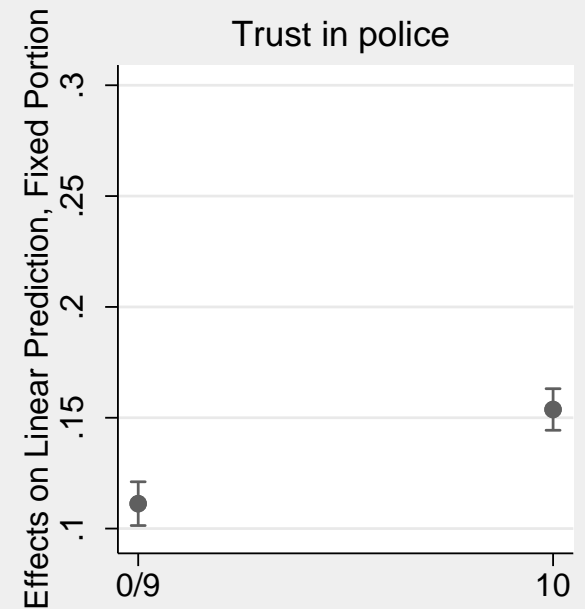
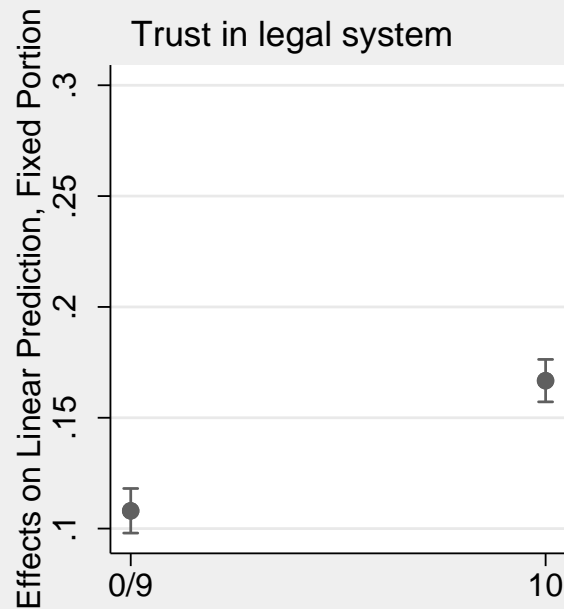
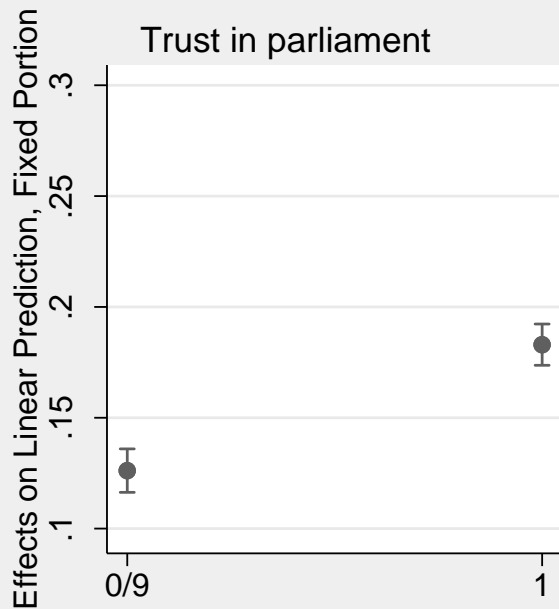
Openness and Trust

Views*Evaluations “**Justification by government**”



Openness and Trust

Views*Evaluations “Participation in referendums”



ESS10, context and rationale

What's new/different?

- New players in the European party system in the 'name of democratic renewal' + the 'illiberal democracies'
- Direct democracy as 'democratic breakdown'? (Greece, Brexit, Catalonia...)
- The European Union as the economic and democratic enemy
- And now... a pandemia

WHAT ABOUT DEMOCRACY IN THIS NEW CONTEXT?



Theoretical framework

CONCEPT	LIBERAL	SOCIAL	DIRECT	POPULIST
Participation (PARTICIP)			+	+
Competition (COMPET)	+	(+)	(+)	
Freedom (FREE)	+	(+)	(+)	
Horizontal accountability (HORACC)	+	(+)	(+)	-
Multilevel democracy (EU)	+	(+)	(+)	-
Representation (REPRST)	+	(+)	(+)	-
Rule of law (RULLAW)	+	(+)	(+)	-
Vertical Accountability (VERTACC)	+	(+)	(+)	+
Responsiveness (RESPNSV)	(+)	(+)	(+)	+
Populism (POP)				+
Equality (EQUAL)		+		
Regime support (SUPPORT)	DEM	DEM	DEM	AUT
The core of democracy (CORE)				



Data to come...

- Fieldwork will come later than foreseen, data to be available in 2022
- Pre-test consistent with ESS6, 2012 (but previous to pandemia)



Thank you!

