

SOCIOL 701 Quantitative Project
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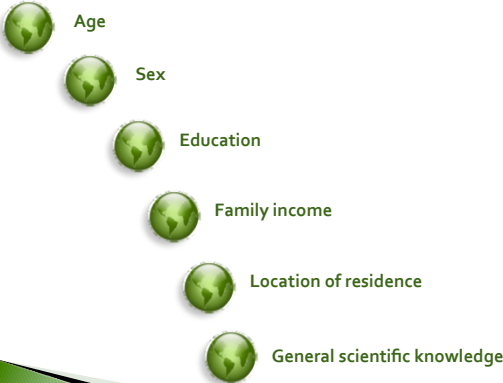
An assessment of
individual-level predictors
for environmental concern
in New Zealand

Environmental Sociology



- Beck (1992) – *Risk Society*
- Global hazards that evade direct human perception
- Importance of subjective understandings





Age

Sex

Education

Family income

Location of residence

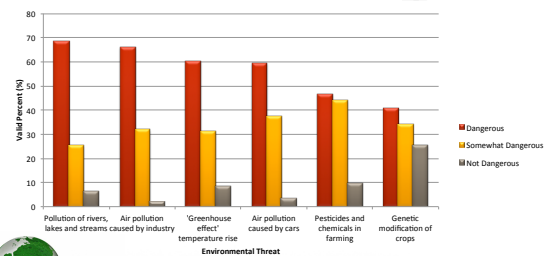
General scientific knowledge

Secondary Data Source

- **ISSP Dataset: Environment II (2000)**
- Systematic random sample drawn from New Zealand Electoral Roll
- Self-administered mail survey
- Response rate 62% (final sample size 1112)
- Young people underrepresented



Bar chart showing how dangerous threats to the environment are perceived to be



Possible explanation – Tremblay and Dunlap (1978)

Environmental Concern

- “The degree to which people are aware of the problems regarding the environment and support efforts to solve them and/or willingness to contribute personally to their solution” (Dunlap & Jones 2002, 485)



Environmental Concern

Constructing a scale of environmental concern

1. We worry too much about the future of the environment and not enough about prices and jobs today
2. People worry too much about human progress harming the environment
3. There are more important things to do in life than protect the environment
4. There is no point in doing what I can for the environment unless others do the same
5. Many of the claims about environmental threats are exaggerated

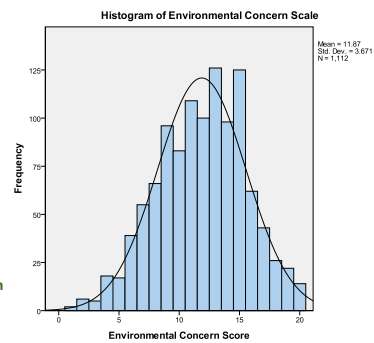


Hypothesis

- ↓ Age
- Female
- ↑ Education
- ↑ Family income
- ↑ General scientific knowledge
- Urban



> Environmental concern



Results: Bivariate Analysis

Correlations output for *Environmental Concern*, *Age*, and *General Scientific Knowledge* (interval/ratio variables)

		Environmental Concern Score	Age	General Scientific Knowledge Score
Environmental Concern Score	Pearson Correlation	1	-.176**	.225**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000
	N	1112	1102	1068
Age	Pearson Correlation	-.176**	1	-.113**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.000
	N	1102	1102	1058
General Scientific Knowledge Score	Pearson Correlation	.225**	-.113**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	
	N	1068	1058	1068

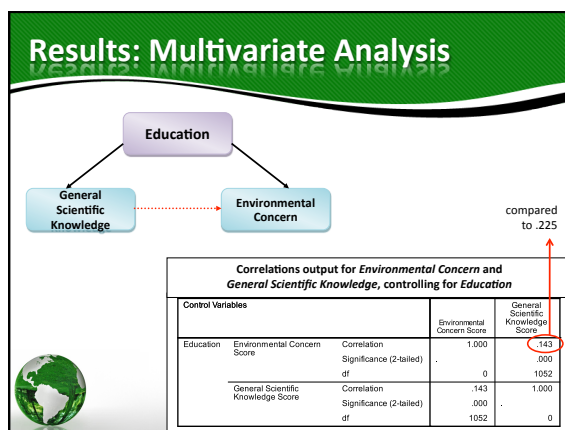
** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Correlations output for <i>Environmental Concern, Sex, and Location of residence</i> (interval/ratio and dichotomous variables)					
			Environmental Concern Score	Sex	Location of residence
Spearman's rho	Environmental Concern Score	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.111*	-.030
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000	.321
		N	1112	1110	1089
Sex		Correlation Coefficient	.111*	1.000	.036
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.	.230
		N	1110	1110	1088
Location of residence		Correlation Coefficient	-.030	.036	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.321	.230	.
		N	1089	1088	1089

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Correlations output for <i>Environmental Concern, Education, and Family income</i> (interval/ratio and ordinal variables)					
			Environmental Concern Score	Education	Family income
Spearman's rho	Environmental Concern Score	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.255*	.169*
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000	.000
		N	1112	1098	1028
Education		Correlation Coefficient	.255*	1.000	.370**
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.	.000
		N	1098	1098	1017
Family income		Correlation Coefficient	.169*	.370**	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.
		N	1028	1017	1028

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).



Future Research

- Ethnicity
- Environmental attitudes, behavioural intentions and actual behaviour

Questions?