The International Social Survey Programme (ISSP)

Barry Milne

COMPASS Colloquium
Statistics NZ
13 August 2018
International Social Survey Programme

- Cross-national surveys since 1985
- 45 countries
  - Self-funded, typically university and non-profits
- Data archived and made freely available
  - www.issp.org
- >9000 publications
  - 400-500/year
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Vote on EVERYTHING
- Survey
  - Survey content - ‘60 ticks’ plus background variables
- Committees
- The Secretariat
- Who hosts meetings
- Who becomes a member
- …

But it’s stood the test of time
How ISSP works

- Representatives from each country administer the survey in the given year (ideally)
  - Designed as a postal survey, but other modes possible
  - $n \geq 1200$ (ideally)

- Standard set of questions and background variables
  - Voted on and approved at the previous year's General Assembly
  - Questions can't (shouldn't) be modified, but additional questions allowed

- Data deposited in ISSP archive by September of the following year
  - Within country analysis possible prior to that point

Topics
- Being Truly [NATIONALITY]
- National Pride
- Globalization
- Immigration
- Citizenship
- Race/Ethnicity

‘Truly being a New Zealander’: ascriptive versus civic views of national identity

Louise Humpage\textsuperscript{a} and Lara Greaves\textsuperscript{b}

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\textbf{ABSTRACT}
This article explores the relative strength of public support for ascriptive and civic aspects of national identity to assess the boundaries of ‘inclusion’ or ‘exclusion’ within New Zealand’s national imaginary. Data from the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) module on citizenship in 2015 provide a unique window into public understandings of what characteristics are associated with ‘truly being a New Zealander’ in the 21st century. Although New Zealanders have relatively inclusive attitudes overall, those with low education and those who sit on the political Right or vote New Zealand First were more likely to relate to ascriptive views, while female and Māori respondents were more likely to associate with civic notions of New Zealandness. Older respondents were more likely to associate with both ascriptive and civic views about truly being a New Zealander. The implications of such findings for social cohesion and belonging will be of interest to both policy-makers and national identity theorists.

\textbf{KEYWORDS}
National identity; attitudes; New Zealand; ascriptive; civic

Topics
- Citizenship rights/obligations
- Participation in civic activities
- Trust in government
- Evaluation of institutions
- Satisfaction with democracy
- Referenda
- NZ flag debate

Household Income

- <=$40,000
- $40,001-$70,000
- $70,001-$150,000
- >150,000

Legend:
- don't want change
- depends on design
- do want change
Topics
- Work-Life Balance
- Work Values
- Current work: situation, characteristics & opinions
- Organised labour

Trends in Work Stress and Exhaustion in Advanced Economies

Nadia Steiber · Florian Pichler

Abstract  The study examines trends in work-related stress and exhaustion between 1997 and 2005 among employees in 13 countries and aims to identify the social and market forces underlying these trends. We argue that investigating the degree to which workers perceive their jobs as stressful or exhausting (indicators of job strain) has advantages over studying perceived job demands (antecedents of job strain). Analysis of comparative data from the International Social Survey Programme revealed that job strain is fairly prevalent affecting about 30–40 % of the workforce. Patterns of change over time varied substantially across countries and occupational groups. In most countries work stress has not increased between 1997 and 2005, two notable exceptions being Ireland and Slovenia. Work-related exhaustion has risen to a significant degree in the Czech Republic, Denmark and Hungary. There was also evidence that job strain has declined among high-level managerial, professional and technical workers in some countries. The findings suggest that protective institutions may help to mitigate job strain while rapid economic development increases workers’ risk of experiencing job strain.
Role of government

Topics
- State intervention in the economy
- Government spending
- Government responsibilities
- Government performance/capability/trust
- Political interest, trust and efficacy
- Corruption
- Referenda

Do you think that referendums are good ways to decide important political questions?

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree or disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

2015 54%
2016 71%
Social Networks (1986, 2017)

Topics

- Social networks and support
- Economic and cultural capital
- Social cohesion
- Social inequalities
- Wellbeing and health
- Social integration & loneliness

Topics

- Religious beliefs and behaviours
- Religion and politics
- Religion and power
- Religion and science
- Religion and peace/conflict
- Religious extremists
- Spirituality

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Religion, Paranormal Beliefs, and Distrust in Science: Comparing East Versus West

Maggali Clovert
Vassilis Saroglou

Summary

Studies in Western contexts suggest that religiosity is in conflict with rationality since it relates to paranormal beliefs and distrust in science. East Asian cultures, known to be holistic and tolerant of contradictions, may, however, not experience this conflict. Using the International Social Survey Program, we analyzed data from Buddhists, Protestants, and Catholics in South Korea (N= 258: 390: 175), as well as Catholics and Protestants in Austria and Denmark (N= 715: 555). Results confirmed a positive association between religiosity and paranormal beliefs among dominant religious groups but not among Korean Christians. Moreover, whereas religiosity in the West (correlated positively with distrust in science, the opposite held for religious Korean groups. Religiosity mediated the relationship between paranormal beliefs and distrust in science among all dominant religious groups but in opposite directions in East and West. These findings bring a new cross-cultural perspective on the religion-science relationship.

Topics
- What occupations do/should earn Inequality (concerns, experience, fixes, global)
- Redistribution policy
- Social conflict
- Economic insecurity


Topics
- Climate change
- Environmental behaviour
- Salience of environmental issues
- Trust in sources of information
- Political views

Gender, Scientific Knowledge, and Attitudes toward the Environment: A Cross-National Analysis

BERNADETTE C. HAYES, QUEEN’S UNIVERSITY OF BELFAST

As of yet, relatively little information exists regarding gender differences in attitudes toward the environment. This is particularly the case when countries besides the United States and Canada are considered. Furthermore, the information available has proved to be inclusive, with some studies indicating that men are more concerned about the environment than women; others indicating that women are more concerned but only in relation to a narrow range of risk-related environmental issues, and still others finding no significant differences. Using nationally representative survey data from the United States, Great Britain, Norway, the Netherlands, West Germany, East Germany, and Japan, this study investigates gender differences in levels of scientific knowledge and its consequences for attitudes toward general environmental issues. The results suggest that although men and women do differ in terms of their knowledge of scientific matters, this has little or no effect on their attitudes toward the environment. Across a majority of nations, women are not more concerned about environmental issues than men and this lack of relationship holds whether or not differences in levels of scientific knowledge are controlled for in the analysis.

Political Research Quarterly, Vol. 54, No. 3 (Sep., 2001), pp. 657-671
Health and Healthcare (2011, 2021)

Topics

- Views on health system/practitioners/satisfaction
- Resource targeting/priorities
- Health locus of control
- Health status
- Alternative medicine use
- Healthcare Access


Topics

- Gender and employment
- Marriage and children
- Social policy
- Work-family conflicts
- Partnership: Power, decision making, money management
- Gendered division of household work

A stalled revolution? Gender role attitudes in Australia, 1986–2005

Marcel van Egmond · Janeen Baxter · Sandra Buchler · Mark Western

Abstract This paper examines trends over time in attitudes to gender equality in Australia. We use data from repeated cross-sectional surveys in Australia to investigate trends in beliefs about men’s and women’s work and family roles between 1986 and 2005. We find that men are consistently more conservative than women, that younger cohorts tend to be less conservative than older cohorts, but those born between 1960 and 1980 are more egalitarian on some issues than those born after 1980. There is also evidence that the overall trend toward more egalitarian gender attitudes is most marked in Australia up until the mid-1990s with the trend flattening and in some cases, even reversing after this period. The paper concludes that there is currently a period of relative stability in gender attitudes in Australia, but with some tendency toward more conservative views.

Keywords Gender attitudes · Gender roles · Male breadwinner · Change over time
Why do countries do it?

- To track the opinions, attitudes and behaviours of a country over time – and to compare to other countries
  - Measures surveys can give that admin data cannot
  - Capture trends in the face of social and demographic change

- Assess different countries views on global issues
  - Rising inequality (income, wealth)
  - Immigration
  - Terrorism
Issues

- Funding
  A problem for all; A barrier too far for some

- Continuity often requires champions

- Poor coverage in some parts of the world

- Tension between conservation of measurement and capturing the latest trends/issues/social movements
QUESTIONS?