Solidarity, Trust, Social Contract: Indicators From The ISSP Surveys

Presentation prepared for the UNESCAP Expert Meeting on „Our Common Agenda“

Markus Quandt, GESIS, 2021-12-16
Concepts

- Solidarity
- Trust
- Social Contract
Solidarity…

- Provide support to others in need
- *Reported behavior*, through support to specific people/groups
  - Direct, interpersonal helping behavior
  - Indirect, e.g. support for redistribution policies
- Challenge for observing active solidarity: can only occur when one party is in need, the other has resources
- *Attitudinal measures*
  - Scope – role of social boundaries, how universal?
  - Justification/reasons – role of norms/values, when/why?
  - Empirically, both aspects always overlap
Trust…

- WHO trusts WHOM to do WHAT?
- *Trust in specific institutions*: trust is usually contingent on past performance of the institution at hand, relative to expectations
- *General social trust* abstracts this: generic other person, generic acts. Broadest indicator of ‘bridging social capital’.
Social Contract...

Where trust and solidarity meet:
- If ppl trust institutions to do what they expect from them, they **offer** support/tax money (=indirect solidarity)
  - *Citizenship* obligations, i.e. ideas about the "good citizen"
  - *Regime support*, legitimacy
  - Pay taxes/higher prices to support *specific policy objectives*

- What do ppl **want** from their states/governments?
  - Broad preference for *specific responsibilities of state/government*

- Social contract at higher level?
  - which **vision** of the *future* do societies grant their own members?
  - degree of **consensus** within societies on goals/perception of *conflict*
Topic Coverage of Modules

  - Government responsibilities: reduce income diff., provide housing…
  - Taxation, economy
  - Political participation, efficacy
  - Trust: only for civil servants!

  - Individual life chances
  - Perceived degree of inequality
  - Perceived reasons for inequality
  - Perceived conflicts in society

- Citizenship (2004, 2014)
  - Good citizens (compliance with norms)
  - Balance of state and citizen obligations
  - Efficacy
  - General trust, trust in institutions, rule of law, corruption
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Australia</th>
<th>China</th>
<th>India</th>
<th>Japan</th>
<th>New Zealand</th>
<th>Philipp.</th>
<th>South Korea</th>
<th>Surinm.</th>
<th>Taiwan</th>
<th>Thaild.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1991 Religion I</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992 Social Inequality II</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993 Environment I</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996 Role of Government III</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998 Religion II</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999 Social Inequality III</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000 Environment II</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004 Citizenship I</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006 Role of Government IV</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Religion III</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009 Social Inequality IV</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 Environment III</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 Citizenship II</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Role of Government V</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018 Religion IV</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019 Social Inequality V</td>
<td>?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Question Example: 'Social Trust'

- Generally speaking, would you say that people can be trusted or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?

1. People can almost always be trusted
2. People can usually be trusted
3. You usually can't be too careful in dealing with people
4. You almost always can't be too careful in dealing with people
Question Example: 'Confidence in…‘

- How much confidence do you have in ...
  - Parliament? <use national legislature, e.g. U.S. Congress>
  - Business and industry?
  - Churches and religious organizations?
  - Courts and the legal system?
  - Schools and the educational system?

1. Complete confidence
2. A great deal of confidence
3. Some confidence
4. Very little confidence
5. No confidence at all

Asked in: Religion
Question Example: 'Gov. Responsib.‘

- Short format, in many modules:
  - It is the responsibility of the government to reduce the differences in income between people with high incomes and those with low incomes

- Or detailed, e.g. in Role of Government and Social Inequality, with variations:
  - On the whole, do you think it should be or should not be the government's responsibility to:
    - a Provide a job for everyone who wants one
    - b Keep prices under control
    - c Provide health care for the sick
    - d Provide a decent standard of living for the old
    - e Provide industry with the help it needs to grow
    - f Provide a decent standard of living for the unemployed
    - g Reduce income differences between the rich and the poor
    - h Give financial help to university students from low-income families
    - i Provide decent housing for those who can't afford it
    - j Impose strict laws to make industry do less damage to the environment
ISSP … and Other Surveys

- No inventory of all ISSP questions ever asked
  - …but we can help w/ identifying time series for particular concepts, if needed
  - Modules „Social Inequality“ and „Role of Government“ have partial cumulated datasets (most recent data not included yet)
- Project „ONBound“ as a template for combining relevant data from different survey sources?