

## APPENDIX A.

### SURVEY QUESTION

Questions were asked in German. In this Appendix, we present English translations by the authors.

#### STUDY 1

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**Screening Questions**

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*What is your gender?*

- 1 - male
- 2 - female
- 3 - diverse

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*What year were you born in?*

- 7 - 2004
- 91 - 1920

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*What is your highest general degree of education?*

- 1 - Student
- 2 - Left school without degree of a lower secondary school
- 3 - Degree after 7 years of school attendance at most (abroad)
- 4 - Polytechnic secondary school GDR, Degree 8th or 9th grade
- 5 - Polytechnic secondary school GDR, Degree 10th grade
- 6 - Lower Secondary school
- 7 - Secondary school
- 8 - Advanced technical college certificate
- 9 - General qualification for university entrance

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*Which federal state do you live in?*

- 1 - Baden-Württemberg
- 2 - Bavaria
- 3 - Berlin
- 4 - Brandenburg
- 5 - Bremen
- 6 - Hamburg
- 7 - Hesse
- 8 - Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania
- 9 - Lower Saxony
- 10 - North Rhine-Westphalia
- 11 - Rhineland-Palatinate
- 12 - Saarland
- 13 - Saxony
- 14 - Saxony-Anhalt
- 15 - Schleswig-Holstein
- 16 - Thuringia

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**Political Engagement**

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*Now we would like to ask you some questions about politics. How interested are you in politics?*

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- 1 - Very strong
  - 2 - Strong
  - 3 - Moderately
  - 4 - Little
  - 5 - Not at all

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*There are different ways of trying to improve things in society or help prevent things from going wrong. During the last 12 months, have you done any of the following?*

- a. Contacted a politician, government or local government official
- b. Signed an online or offline petition/signature campaign
- c. Taken part in a public demonstration
- d. Expressed my opinion about or discussed political and social issues

- 1 - No
- 2 - Yes, once
- 3 - Yes, sometimes
- 4 - Yes, often

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*If there was a federal election next Sunday, would you vote?*

- 1 - No, I would not vote
- 2 - Yes, I would vote
- 97 - I am not entitled to vote

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*Which party would you vote for if federal elections were held next Sunday?*

- 1 - CDU/CSU
- 2 - SPD
- 3 - FDP
- 4 - DIE LINKE
- 5 - GRÜNE
- 6 - AfD
- 7 - Other party:
- 98 - I don't know

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*In the following you will find several statements concerning politics. Please say to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.*

- a. Politics is too complicated to understand what it is really about.
- b. I find it easy to form an opinion about political topics.
- c. Most politicians are only interested in votes, not in people's opinions.
- d. Politicians do not care about what people like me think.

- 1 - Disagree completely
- 7 - Fully agree
- 98 - I don't know

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*How much do you personally trust the following public institutions or groups?*

- a. Federal Parliament
- b. Federal Government
- c. European Union

- 1 - Don't trust at all
- 7 - Entirely trust

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*In politics one sometimes speaks of "left" and "right". Where would you place yourself on this scale, where 0 means "left" and 10 means "right"?*

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0 - Left  
10 - Right

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*How satisfied or dissatisfied are you - all in all - with democracy as it exists in Germany?*

- 1 - Extremely dissatisfied
- 2 - Rather dissatisfied
- 3 - I partially agree
- 4 - Rather satisfied
- 5 - Extremely satisfied

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**Well-Being Module**

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*Now we would like to know from you how you evaluate your life. How important do you personally consider the following areas of life?*

- a. Own family
- b. Work
- c. Leisure time
- d. Friends
- e. Neighborhood
- f. Financial situation
- g. Health
- h. Politics
- i. Religion

- 1 - Very unimportant
- 7 - Very important

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*How satisfied are you with these areas of life?*

- a. Own family
- b. Work
- c. Leisure time
- d. Friends
- e. Neighborhood
- f. Financial situation
- g. Health
- h. Politics
- i. Religion

- 1 - Very dissatisfied
- 7 - Very satisfied

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*We would like to know how you felt during the last week. During the last 7 days how often*

- a. have you felt depressed?
- b. have you felt that everything you did was exhausting?
- c. was your sleep restless?
- d. were you happy?
- e. did you feel lonely?
- f. did you enjoy life?
- g. did you feel sad?
- h. could you not find the strength to do anything?

- 1 - Never
  - 2 - Hardly ever
  - 3 - Sometimes
  - 4 - Most of the time
  - 5 - Almost always
  - 6 - Always
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**Political Module**

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*There are different opinions as to what it takes to be a good citizen. What do you think: To what extent the following things are important to be a good citizen?*

- a. To show solidarity to people who are worse off than yourself.
- b. To vote in public elections.
- c. Never try to evade taxes.
- d. To form your own opinion, independently of others.
- e. Always to obey laws and regulations.
- f. To be active in organizations.

1 - Not at all important

7 - Very important

98 - I don't know

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*How willing are the following parties to compromise?*

- a. CDU/CSU
- b. SPD
- c. FDP
- d. DIE LINKE
- e. GRÜNE
- f. AfD

1 - Not at all willing to compromise

7 - Very willing to compromise

98 - I don't know

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*How competent do you think the following parties are?*

- a. CDU/CSU
- b. SPD
- c. FDP
- d. DIE LINKE
- e. GRÜNE
- f. AfD

1 - Very incompetent

7 - Very competent

98 - I don't know

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**Final Module**

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*Now we would like to know how you felt about this survey. How was the questionnaire?*

- a. interesting
- b. diverse
- c. long
- d. difficult

1 - Not at all

2 - Rather not

3 - I partially agree

4 - Rather

5 - Very

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*How interesting do you find answering questions on the following topics?*

- a. Nature and Environment
  - b. Satisfaction and Well-Being
  - c. Political Attitudes and Participation
  - d. Personality and Values
  - e. Current Crises
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- 
- f. Social Networks and Media
  - g. Work and Leisure
  - h. Economy and Society
  - i. Flight and Immigration

1 - Not interesting at all  
7 - Very interesting

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*How interesting do you find answering questions on the following topics?*

- a. Nature and Environment. The topic includes, for example, questions about the relationship between humans and the environment as well as questions about climate change and the energy transition.
- b. Satisfaction and Well-Being. The topic includes, for example, questions about feelings such as happiness and sadness as well as questions about satisfaction with certain areas of life.
- c. Political Attitudes and Participation. The topic includes, for example, questions on supporting organizations as well as questions on voting decisions and evaluating the federal government.
- d. Personality and Values. The topic includes, for example, questions about attitudes towards other people as well as questions about personal interests and behavior.
- e. Current Crises. The topic includes, for example, questions about the coronavirus crisis and the war in Ukraine.
- f. Social Networks and Media. The topic includes, for example, questions on television and Internet use as well as questions on activity in social networks.
- g. Work and Leisure. The topic includes, for example, questions about professional activities as well as questions about working conditions and leisure activities.
- h. Economy and Society. The topic includes, for example, questions about the economic situation in Germany as well as questions about taxes and prosperity.
- i. Flight and Migration. The topic includes, for example, questions about the significance of refugees for Germany and questions about contact with refugees.

1 - Not interesting at all  
7 - Very interesting

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*How comprehensible did you find the questions just asked about interest in different topics?*

1 - not at all comprehensible  
7 - completely comprehensible

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*Which topics fit best with the following questions?*

- a. Which of the following social networks have you used in the last three months?
- b. During the last 7 days how often have you felt depressed?
- c. How similar is this person to you? It is important for him/her to preserve traditional values and convictions.

1 - Satisfaction and Well-Being  
2 - Personality and Values  
3 - Social Networks and Media

- d. How willing would you be to pay much higher prices in order to protect the environment?
- e. How would you generally rate the current economic situation in Germany?
- f. Do colleagues and superiors help you with your work when necessary?

4 - Nature and Environment  
5 - Economy and Society  
6 - Work and Leisure

- g. Do refugees rather represent a threat or an enrichment for your personal values?
- h. How satisfied are you with democracy as it exists in Germany?
- i. How much do you trust the following people and institutions in dealing with the coronavirus?

7 - Political Attitudes and Participation  
8 - Flight and Migration

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## STUDY 2 AND STUDY 3

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*How interesting do you find answering questions on the following topics?*

- a. Satisfaction and Well-Being
- b. Political Attitudes and Participation
- c. Nature and Environment
- d. Personality and Personal Values
- e. Media and Social Networks
- f. Work and Occupation
- g. Flight and Immigration
- h. Economy and Society
- i. Leisure and Rest
- j. Current Crises

1 - Not interesting at all

7 - Very interesting

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APPENDIX B.

**Table B1.** Mixed Effects Logistic Regression Models of the Correct Assessment of a Survey Questions' Topic

<i>Predictors</i>	Correct Assessment of a Surveys' Topic							
	<i>Odds Ratios with std. Errors in Parentheses and p-Values</i>							
Intercept	4.49 (0.51)	<0.001	2.78 (0.43)	<0.001	1.50 (0.36)	0.095	0.59 (0.23)	0.173
Explanation (Reference: Without)								
With Explanation	0.75 (0.12)	0.066	0.81 (0.12)	0.169	0.81 (0.12)	0.153	0.81 (0.12)	0.163
Education (Reference: Low)								
Intermediate			1.43 (0.26)	0.049	1.63 (0.30)	0.008	1.61 (0.30)	0.009
High			2.68 (0.50)	<0.001	3.09 (0.59)	<0.001	2.97 (0.57)	<0.001
Age in Years (Reference: 18-30)								
31-48					1.23 (0.25)	0.302	1.20 (0.24)	0.362
49-63					2.01 (0.45)	0.002	1.86 (0.41)	0.005
>63					1.92 (0.50)	0.012	1.78 (0.46)	0.025
Gender (Reference: Male)								
Female					1.43 (0.21)	0.018	1.47 (0.22)	0.010
Residence (Reference: West Germany)								
East Germany					0.95 (0.17)	0.765	0.95 (0.17)	0.768
Topic Interest							1.06 (0.04)	0.112
Survey Interest							1.20 (0.09)	0.020
Observations	3,051		3,051		3,051		3,051	
Individuals	1,023		1,023		1,023		1,023	
RE Individuals	3.33		3.16		2.97		2.85	
ICC	0.50		0.49		0.47		0.46	
R <sup>2</sup> Marginal	0.003		0.028		0.044		0.051	
R <sup>2</sup> Conditional	0.504		0.504		0.498		0.492	

**Table B2.** OLS Regression Models of Data Quality Indicators by Topic Explanation and Educational Level

<i>Predictors</i>	Acquiescence		Extreme Responding		Midpoint Responding		Item Nonresponse		Comprehensibility	
	<i>Coefficients with std. Errors in Parentheses and p-Values</i>									
Intercept	0.52	<0.001	0.28	<0.001	0.26	<0.001	0.01	0.005	0.81	<0.001
	(0.02)		(0.02)		(0.02)		(0.00)		(0.01)	
Explanation (Reference: Without)										
With Explanation	-0.00	0.851	0.02	0.291	-0.00	0.801	0.00	0.235	0.00	0.884
	(0.02)		(0.02)		(0.02)		(0.00)		(0.01)	
Education (Reference: Low)										
Intermediate	0.05	0.032	-0.03	0.138	-0.00	0.998	-0.00	0.276	-0.00	0.969
	(0.03)		(0.02)		(0.02)		(0.00)		(0.02)	
High	0.12	<0.001	-0.06	0.011	-0.05	0.016	-0.01	0.056	0.05	0.002
	(0.02)		(0.02)		(0.02)		(0.00)		(0.02)	
Observations	1060		1060		1060		1101		1097	
R <sup>2</sup>	0.025		0.008		0.007		0.005		0.012	
R <sup>2</sup> adjusted	0.022		0.005		0.005		0.002		0.009	

**Table B3.** OLS Regression Models of Respondents' Interest in Political Topics by Variables of Interest

<i>Predictors</i>	Political Att. and Participation		Flight and Migration		Economy and Society		Current Crises	
	<i>Coefficients with std. Errors in Parentheses and p-Values</i>							
Intercept	4.44 (0.08)	<0.001	4.53 (0.09)	<0.001	4.98 (0.07)	<0.001	5.25 (0.08)	<0.001
Age in Years (Reference: <49)								
49-63	0.18 (0.06)	0.002	0.30 (0.06)	<0.001	0.12 (0.05)	0.017	0.10 (0.06)	0.071
>63	0.13 (0.06)	0.024	0.39 (0.06)	<0.001	0.13 (0.05)	0.016	0.13 (0.06)	0.021
Gender (Reference: Male)								
Female	-0.07 (0.04)	0.098	0.18 (0.05)	<0.001	-0.18 (0.04)	<0.001	0.08 (0.04)	0.061
Residence (Reference: West Germany)								
East Germany	0.03 (0.05)	0.596	-0.16 (0.06)	0.006	0.00 (0.04)	0.978	-0.10 (0.05)	0.052
Education (Reference: Low)								
Intermediate	-0.02 (0.07)	0.760	-0.05 (0.08)	0.545	0.09 (0.07)	0.168	-0.08 (0.07)	0.265
High	0.05 (0.07)	0.457	0.07 (0.08)	0.321	0.16 (0.06)	0.013	0.03 (0.07)	0.673
Std. Political Interest	0.85 (0.02)	<0.001	0.47 (0.03)	<0.001	0.49 (0.02)	<0.001	0.49 (0.03)	<0.001
Std. Social Trust	0.15 (0.02)	<0.001	0.17 (0.03)	<0.001	0.13 (0.02)	<0.001	0.08 (0.02)	<0.001
Observations	3,974		3,967		3,976		3,970	
R <sup>2</sup>	0.321		0.135		0.186		0.140	
R <sup>2</sup> adjusted	0.320		0.134		0.184		0.139	

**Table B4.** OLS Regression Models of Respondents' Interest in Personal Topics by Variables of Interest I

<i>Predictors</i>	Nature and Environment		Satisfaction and Well-Being		Personality and Values	
	<i>Coefficients with std. Errors in Parentheses p-Values</i>					
Intercept	5.11 (0.08)	<0.001	5.06 (0.09)	<0.001	5.13 (0.08)	<0.001
Age in Years (Reference: <49)						
49-63	0.14 (0.06)	0.014	-0.12 (0.06)	0.051	-0.07 (0.06)	0.207
>63	0.20 (0.06)	0.001	-0.17 (0.07)	0.010	-0.20 (0.06)	0.001
Gender (Reference: Male)						
Female	0.30 (0.04)	<0.001	0.35 (0.05)	<0.001	0.46 (0.04)	<0.001
Residence (Reference: West Germany)						
East Germany	0.12 (0.05)	0.015	-0.01 (0.05)	0.880	-0.02 (0.05)	0.748
Education (Reference: Low)						
Intermediate	0.01 (0.07)	0.922	-0.19 (0.07)	0.011	0.05 (0.07)	0.475
High	0.06 (0.07)	0.368	-0.35 (0.07)	<0.001	0.01 (0.07)	0.868
Std. Political Interest	0.19 (0.03)	<0.001	-0.02 (0.03)	0.503	0.10 (0.02)	<0.001
Std. Social Trust	0.16 (0.02)	<0.001	0.16 (0.03)	<0.001	0.18 (0.02)	<0.001
Observations	3,980		3,977		3,978	
R <sup>2</sup>	0.053		0.030		0.053	
R <sup>2</sup> adjusted	0.051		0.028		0.051	

**Table B5.** OLS Regression Models of Respondents' Interest in Political Topics by Variables of Interest II

<i>Predictors</i>	Work and Occupation		Leisure and Rest		Media and Social Networks	
	<i>Coefficients with std. Errors in Parentheses p-Values</i>					
Intercept	5.20 (0.09)	<0.001	5.14 (0.08)	<0.001	4.48 (0.09)	<0.001
Age in Years (Reference: <49)						
49-63	-0.24 (0.06)	<0.001	-0.08 (0.06)	0.179	-0.10 (0.06)	0.100
>63	-1.03 (0.07)	<0.001	-0.22 (0.06)	<0.001	-0.24 (0.07)	<0.001
Gender (Reference: Male)						
Female	0.12 (0.05)	0.017	0.11 (0.04)	0.015	0.33 (0.05)	<0.001
Residence (Reference: West Germany)						
East Germany	0.08 (0.06)	0.184	0.16 (0.05)	0.001	-0.03 (0.05)	0.572
Education (Reference: Low)						
Intermediate	-0.15 (0.08)	0.080	-0.07 (0.07)	0.296	-0.12 (0.08)	0.103
High	-0.10 (0.08)	0.230	-0.25 (0.06)	<0.001	-0.06 (0.07)	0.430
Std. Political Interest	0.08 (0.03)	0.005	-0.09 (0.03)	<0.001	0.10 (0.03)	<0.001
Std. Social Trust	0.21 (0.03)	<0.001	0.11 (0.02)	<0.001	0.14 (0.03)	<0.001
Observations	3,972		3,989		3,970	
R <sup>2</sup>	0.089		0.026		0.027	
R <sup>2</sup> adjusted	0.087		0.024		0.025	