


● ● ● | Issues and ideologies

API~414



● ● ● | Structure

1. Dalton Ch6: What are dynamics of public opinion towards issues and ideologies?
2. How would you research attitudinal support for issues?
 - Why use attitudinal scales?
 - How are these constructed?
 - Reliability analysis
 - Factor analysis
 - Means and ANOVA
 - Putting it all together in regression

● ● ● | Clarifying concepts

- What is meant by the following concept? How do these differ?
 - Values
 - Attitudes
 - Ideologies

● ● ● | Understanding the dynamics of attitudinal change

- What are the key trends over time?
 - Consistent shift or trendless fluctuations
- What explains attitudinal change?
- What explains enduring cross-national contrasts?
- Dalton Ch 6

● ● ● | Understanding key trends

- Domestic policy opinions
 - Growing cynicism about the state?
 - Attitudes towards racial equality
 - Support for gender equality?
 - Environmental protection?
 - Social issues
- Foreign policy opinions
 - Conflict
 - Cooperation
- Left-right ideology

● ● ● | Dalton's conclusions

- Are there clear ideological shifts in public opinion?
 - More libertarian attitudes
 - Yet uneasiness over government
 - Proliferation of issue publics
 - End of ideology?

How would you research changes in public opinion?

- o Categorical or nominal variables
 - Eg North, South, East, West
 - Useful for description and non-linear models
- o Ordinal variables
 - Eg 1. Very strong, 2. fairly strong, 3. fairly weak, 4. very weak
 - Useful for description and non-linear models
- o Continuous scales
 - Eg age in years, 7-pt lib-con scale,
 - Useful for linear multivariate models

Advantages of scales

- o Greater reliability from combining multiple survey items into scales
- o Reduces measurement error from single-item questions
- o Removes redundancy
- o Increases parsimony and simplicity

Internal efficacy: NES 2000

V001516
'I feel that I have a pretty good understanding of the important political issues facing the country.'

V001517
'I consider myself well-qualified to participate in politics.'

V001518
'I feel that I could do as good a job in public office as most other people.'

V001519
'I think that I am better informed about politics and government than most people.'

V001520
So many other people vote in the national election that it doesn't matter much to me whether I vote or not.

(Do you agree strongly, agree somewhat, neither agree nor disagree, disagree somewhat, or disagree strongly with this statement?)

1 AGREE STRONGLY
2 AGREE SOMEWHAT
3 NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE
4 DISAGREE SOMEWHAT
5 DISAGREE STRONGLY
8 DK

2. Reliability analysis

```
RELIABILITY
/VARIABLES=v001516 v001517 v001518 v001519
/FORMAT=NOLABELS
/SCALE(ALPHA)=ALL/MODEL=ALPHA
/STATISTICS=DESCRIPTIVE SCALE
/SUMMARY=TOTAL .
```

Output

Reliability Statistics

| | | | |
|------------------|------|------------|---|
| Cronbach's Alpha | .805 | N of Items | 4 |
|------------------|------|------------|---|

Item-Total Statistics

| | Scale Mean if Item Deleted | Scale Variance if Item Deleted | Corrected Item-Total Correlation | Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| v001517 NzD/NzD.T. R well-qualif to participate i | 8.99 | 9.392 | .679 | .726 |
| v001519 NzD/NzD.T. Better informed about govt in | 8.96 | 9.994 | .670 | .731 |
| v001516 NzA/NzA.T. Does R have good undrsy of | 9.73 | 11.062 | .696 | .767 |
| v001518 NzD/NzD.T. Could do good job in public o | 8.84 | 10.259 | .542 | .754 |

Create and check scale

```
compute effic=sum(v001516, v001517, v001518, v001519).
Var label effic='Internal efficacy scale'.
desc var=effic.
GRAPH
/HISTOGRAM(NORMAL)=effic .
```

Descriptive Statistics

| | effic | Valid N (listwise) |
|----------------|---------|--------------------|
| N | 1552 | 1552 |
| Minimum | 2.00 | |
| Maximum | 20.00 | |
| Mean | 12.1514 | |
| Std. Deviation | 4.12767 | |

Mean = 12.1514
Std. Dev. = 4.12767
N = 1552

3. Factor analysis

- Multiple dimensions
- Reduce variables into consistent scales
- Facilitate linear multivariate models

Commands

```

FACTOR
/VARIABLES v001534 v001535 v001536 v001537 v001538 v001539 v001527
v001528 v001529 v001519 v001518 v001517 v001516 v001520
/MISSING LISTWISE /ANALYSIS v001534 v001535 v001536 v001537
v001538 v001539 v001527 v001528 v001529 v001519 v001518 v001517
v001516 v001520
/PRINT INITIAL EXTRACTION ROTATION
/FORMAT SORT BLANK(.40)
/CRITERIA MINEIGEN(1) ITERATE(25)
/EXTRACTION PC
/CRITERIA ITERATE(25)
/ROTATION VARIMAX
/METHOD=CORRELATION .
    
```

Output

| Component | Initial Eigenvalues | | Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings | | Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings | |
|-----------|---------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| | Total | % of Variance | Total | % of Variance | Total | % of Variance |
| 1 | 3.524 | 25.172 | 3.524 | 25.172 | 2.763 | 19.876 |
| 2 | 2.556 | 18.258 | 2.556 | 18.258 | 2.316 | 16.540 |
| 3 | 1.141 | 8.147 | 1.141 | 8.147 | 2.123 | 15.161 |
| 4 | .923 | 6.591 | | | | |
| 5 | .847 | 6.049 | | | | |
| 6 | .718 | 5.132 | | | | |
| 7 | .690 | 4.898 | | | | |
| 8 | .637 | 4.553 | | | | |
| 9 | .603 | 4.310 | | | | |
| 10 | .597 | 4.267 | | | | |
| 11 | .538 | 3.841 | | | | |
| 12 | .435 | 3.109 | | | | |
| 13 | .420 | 3.002 | | | | |
| 14 | .390 | 2.712 | | | | |

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

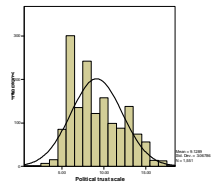
| | Rotated Component Matrix ^a | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Component 1 | Component 2 | Component 3 |
| v001517 NzBzNz.T. R well-qualif to participate i | .827 | | |
| v001519 NzBzNz.T. Better informed about gov in | .818 | | |
| v001516 NzBzNz.T. Does R have good undrstndg of | .750 | | |
| v001518 NzBzNz.T. Could do good job in public | .737 | | |
| v001529 O1aO1a.T. Politics too complicated | -.515 | | |
| v001528 O1bO1b.T. People dont have say in govt | | .730 | |
| v001538 O7. Elections make govt pay attention | | -.667 | |
| v001527 O1aO1a.T. Public officials don't care | | .657 | |
| v001520 Nz. Does R believe their vote matters | | .573 | |
| v001539 O8. Altn govt pays to people when making | | -.553 | |
| v001537 O6. How many in govt are crooked | | | .701 |
| v001536 O5. Govt run by big interests or for bene | | | .670 |
| v001534 O3a. How much can govt be trusted | | | -.668 |
| v001535 O4. How much of taxes does govt waste | | | .647 |

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.
Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.
a. Rotation converged in 5 iterations.

Compute and check trust scale

compute trust=sum(v001534, v001535, v001536, v001537).
 Var label trust 'Political trust scale'.
 desc var=trust.
 GRAPH
 /HISTOGRAM(NORMAL)=trust.

| Descriptive Statistics | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | trust Political trust scale |
| N | 1551 |
| Minimum | 1.00 |
| Maximum | 19.00 |
| Mean | 9.1289 |
| Std. Deviation | 3.06786 |



4. Means and anova

MEANS
 TABLES=effic trust BY educ malesex voted
 /CELLS MEAN COUNT STDDEV
 /STATISTICS ANOVA .

| Report | | | |
|--------|--------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| voted | R | effic Internal efficacy scale | trust Political trust scale |
| .50 | Did not vote | Mean 4.1702 | 8.5775 |
| | | N 376 | 314 |
| | | Std. Deviation 3.98833 | 3.18061 |
| 1.00 | Voted | Mean 11.0002 | 9.3042 |
| | | N 1176 | 1177 |
| | | Std. Deviation 3.96130 | 3.00978 |
| Total | | Mean 12.1514 | 9.1289 |
| | | N 1552 | 1551 |
| | | Std. Deviation 4.12767 | 3.06786 |

| Measures of Association | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------|-------------|--|
| | Eta | Eta Squared | |
| effic Internal efficacy scale * voted | .277 | .077 | |
| trust Political trust scale * voted | .101 | .010 | |

| ANOVA Table | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------|-------------|---------|------|
| | | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F | Sig. |
| effic Internal efficacy scale * voted | Between Groups | 2022.352 | 1 | 2022.352 | 128.453 | .000 |
| | Within Groups | 24403.065 | 1550 | 15.744 | | |
| | Total | 26425.417 | 1551 | | | |
| trust Political trust scale * voted | Between Groups | 149.849 | 1 | 149.849 | 16.076 | .000 |
| | Within Groups | 14438.351 | 1549 | 9.321 | | |
| | Total | 14588.210 | 1550 | | | |

5. Use in regression model

Do trust and efficacy predict voting turnout (with controls?)

- o REGRESSION
- o /MISSING LISTWISE
- o /STATISTICS COEFF OUTS R ANOVA
- o /CRITERIA=PIN(.05) POUT(.10)
- o /NOORIGIN
- o /DEPENDENT voted
- o /METHOD=ENTER educ age malesex effic trust .

Result

Model Summary

| Model | R | R Square | Adjusted R Square | Std. Error of the Estimate |
|-------|-------------------|----------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | .409 ^a | .168 | .163 | .39112 |

a. Predictors: (Constant), trust, political trust scale, effic, internal efficacy scale, age, Age, malesex, Sex, educ, Educational qualifications.

Coefficients^a

| Model | | Unstandardized Coefficients | | Standardized Coefficients | | t | Sig. |
|-------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|---------------------------|--|--------|------|
| | | B | Std. Error | Beta | | | |
| 1 | (Constant) | -.316 | .075 | | | 4.228 | .000 |
| | educ Educational qualifications | .175 | .018 | .248 | | 9.933 | .000 |
| | age Age | .005 | .001 | .181 | | 7.612 | .000 |
| | malesex Sex | -.018 | .021 | -.021 | | -.863 | .389 |
| | effic Internal efficacy scale | -.021 | .003 | -.203 | | -7.975 | .000 |
| | trust Political trust scale | .011 | .003 | .079 | | 3.334 | .001 |

a. Dependent Variable: voted. R voted

Discussion exercise

- o See appendix to Dalton
- o How would you use items in the ISSP 2004 to create an ideological scale?
- o How would you test its reliability and dimensionality?
- o What would be your core hypotheses about cross-national contrasts?
- o What would be your core hypotheses about trends over time?

Next class

Mon: Social cleavages