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Title: New Measures of Subjective Political Efficacy and Political Trust

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Dataset(s): 1987 Pilot Study

Abstract

Shingles describes and evaluates the 1987 Pilot Study experimental measures of efficacy and trust. The Pilot Study questions were designed to measure particular dimensions of efficacy and trust, relating to the political community as a whole, the rules and institutions of government, and incumbent government officials. Specifically, the items measured were: Internal political efficacy, incumbent-based efficacy, incumbent based-trust, regime-based efficacy, and regime-based trust. Shingles' analysis provides evidence for the existence of independent dimensions along these five lines and indicates that such dimensions can be successfully measured with the questions asked in the Pilot Study. Moreover, criterion validation demonstrates that a number of background, issue attitude, and campaign activity variables have distinct relationships with the five dimensions in theoretically expected directions. Shingles also includes two supplements to his report. The first contains a detailed analysis of rejected survey questions and provides suggestions for alternate item wordings to discourage response set effects. The second appendix details Pearson correlations between efficacy and trust variables and selected criterion variables.