Abstract:

The ANES and the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NSLY) will begin a longterm collaboration focusing on parent-child socialization. This collaboration offers a unique opportunity to trace the roots of youth socialization on political and social attitudes, including key measures of social capital, most notably generalized trust. The ANES and NSLY have traditionally used different questions to measure generalized trust. The 2006 ANES Pilot survey asked both questions (as well as two new measures). The ANES may change the wording of the traditional “standard” question to the NLSY measure—or perhaps to one of the two new measures. In this report, Uslaner investigates how well these measures perform—in comparison with each other and with the theoretical expectations about the determinants and consequences of trust.