

Exam
Inequality and Conflict in Societal Participation
FSW_S_ICSP_2019 – P 2

Master Sociology, 2019-2020
Tuesday December 17, 2019
08:30 – 10:30 hrs
Room: TenT Cluster 7 Yellow (44)
Course Coordinator: René Bekkers

Welcome! This exam consists of 6 questions. You can earn 104 points in total: there is one bonus question worth 4 points. The number of points you can earn with each question varies between questions and is shown for each question.

Write your answers on this exam. The space provided for each question should suffice for your answer. Submit all 15 pages of the exam when you are ready.

The grade for this exam is 60% of the final grade for this course.

After all exams are graded you can make an appointment to discuss your answers with the coordinator via r.bekkers@vu.nl.

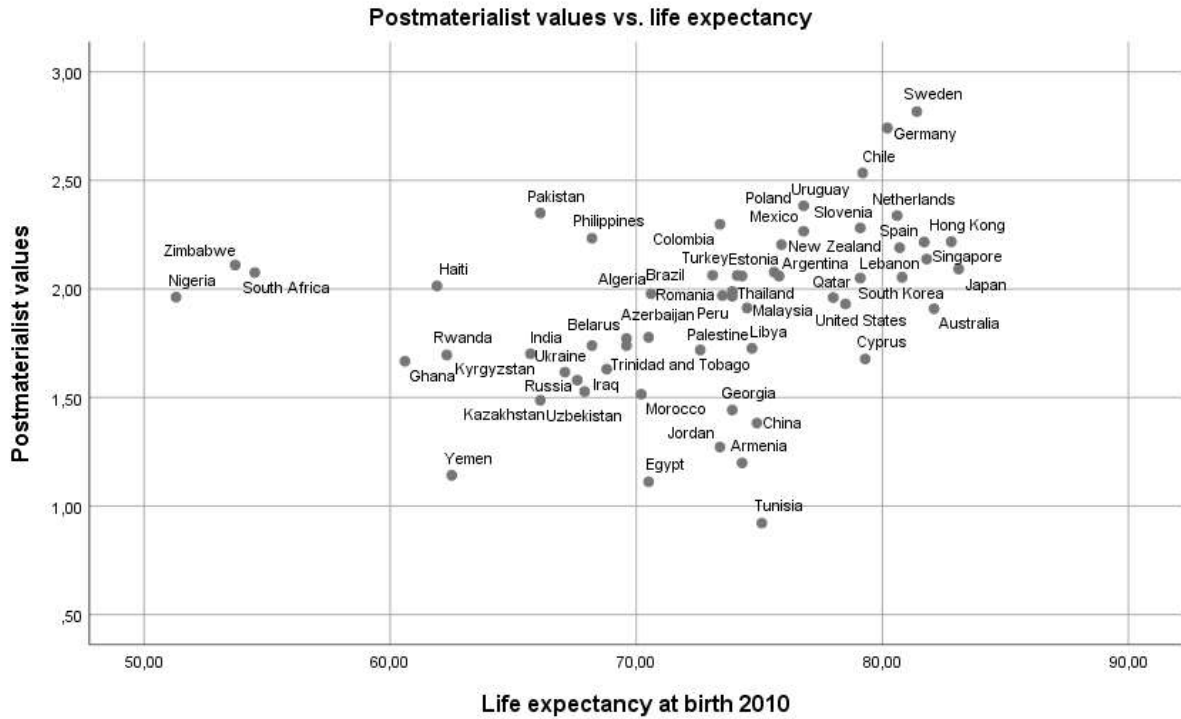
If you are not signed in for this exam, you will not receive a grade. Via VUnet you can object against the fact that you cannot sign in for the exam after the deadline. Submit your objection online within one week after the exam. More information is available at www.vu.nl/intekenen

Good luck!

1. Postmodernization (14 points)

a. Explain the two key hypotheses of Inglehart: the Scarcity Hypothesis and the Socialization Hypothesis. (4 points)

b. The figure on the next page is a scatterplot of the relation between life expectancy in 2010 and postmaterialist values in 2014. Describe the relation between the two variables based on the figure. (5 points)

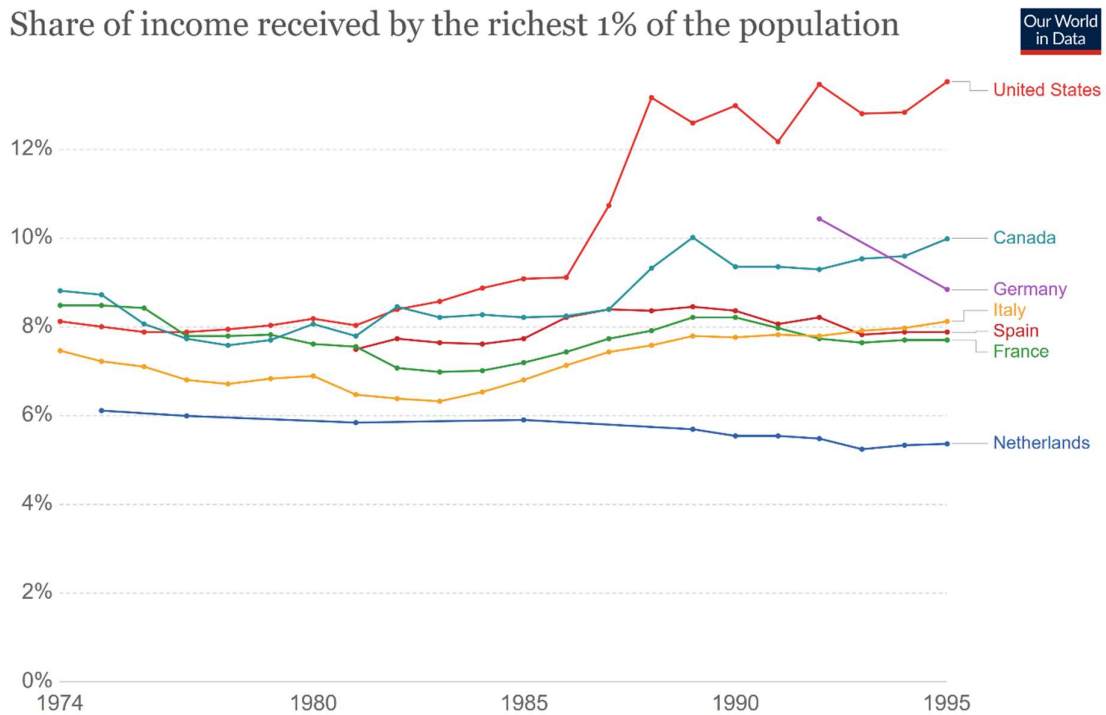


Notes: The y-axis represents postmaterialist values on a range from 1 (materialist) to 5 (postmaterialist). The x-axis is life expectancy at birth in years. Sources: World Values Survey 2014, wave six; UNDESA (2013a). 2012 Revision. World Population Prospects. Population Division Database. Detailed Indicators. Accessed June 14, 2013.

c. Apply the two key hypotheses from your response to question a to explain the results you observe in the figure. (5 points)

2. Inequality and participation (16 points)

Below you see a graph of how much of total income the top 1% has received per year in selected countries, from 1974 to 1995.



Source: Alvaredo, Facundo, Anthony B. Atkinson, Thomas Piketty and Emmanuel Saez via the Quality of Government dataset
CC BY

a. What prediction follows from Marx' theory of historical materialism on the change in the willingness to engage in protest for the countries and the period in the graph? (8 points)

b. Describe what you see in Figure 10.12 from Inglehart, a fragment of which is displayed below. Test your prediction on the relation between income inequality and protest from question 1a for the period 1981-1990 based on figure 10.12. (8 points)

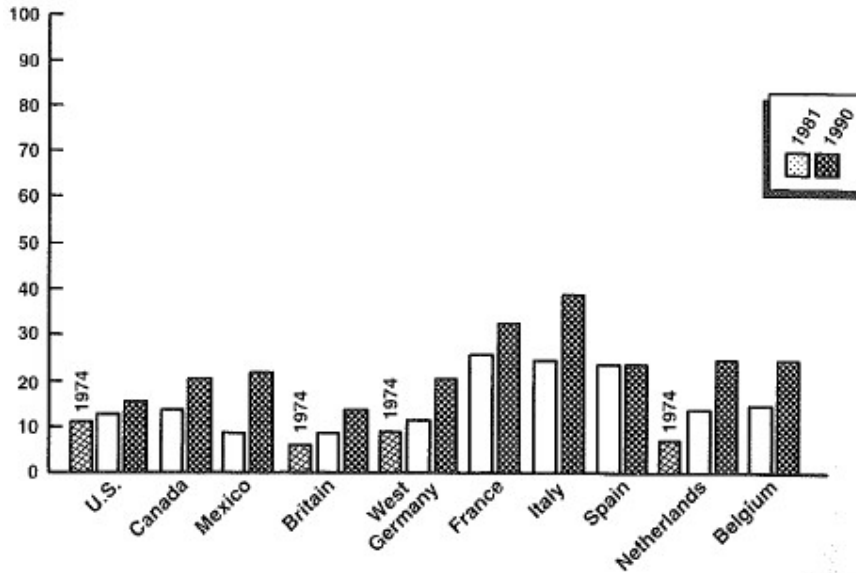


Figure 10.12. Percentages saying that they have taken part in a demonstration, or might do so, in 1981 vs. 1990, in 20 countries. *Source:* 1981 and 1990 World Values surveys. 1981 data not available for Hungary.

3. Postmaterialism and Climate Change (16 points)

In the past weeks, delegations from a large number of countries came together in Madrid to discuss a global strategy to mitigate effects of climate change at the UN Climate Change Summit.

a. Formulate a hypothesis about differences between countries in the degree of support that delegations representing these countries advocated at the conference. Based on the theory of postmaterialism, which countries would you predict favor the most far-reaching measures to mitigate effects of climate change? (4 points)

b. Below you find sections from a news article on support for measures that mitigate effects of climate change and a graph representing the level of postmaterialism for a large number of countries by their income per capita (in \$1,000). Test the hypothesis you have formulated above, using these materials. (6 points)

Largest countries silent as world seeks action on climate

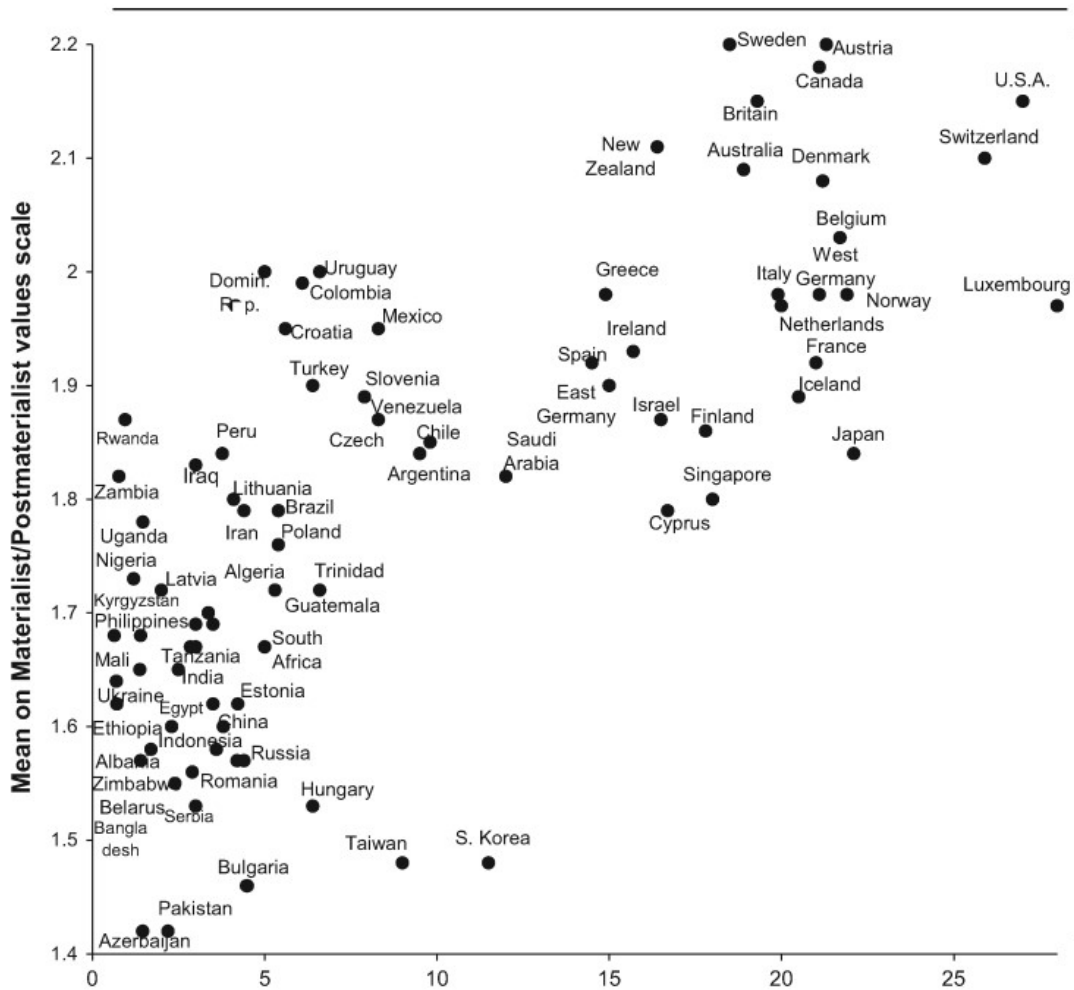
By Chloé Farand, published 12/12/2019, 6:41am

Push to gain new commitments from large polluters largely fails as hopes for climate ambition at Cop25 narrow to a single line of text

On Wednesday, Cop25 president Carolina Schmidt announced that 73 small and developing countries had signalled their intention to enhance their climate plans and 72 countries working to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 joined a high ambition coalition launched in New York in September.

Meanwhile China, India, Brazil and Saudi Arabia have made no indications of their willingness to enhance their ambition. The US is leaving the Paris Agreement. Australia is on the record saying it will not change its goal.

Source: <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2019/12/12/largest-countries-silent-world-seeks-action-climate/>



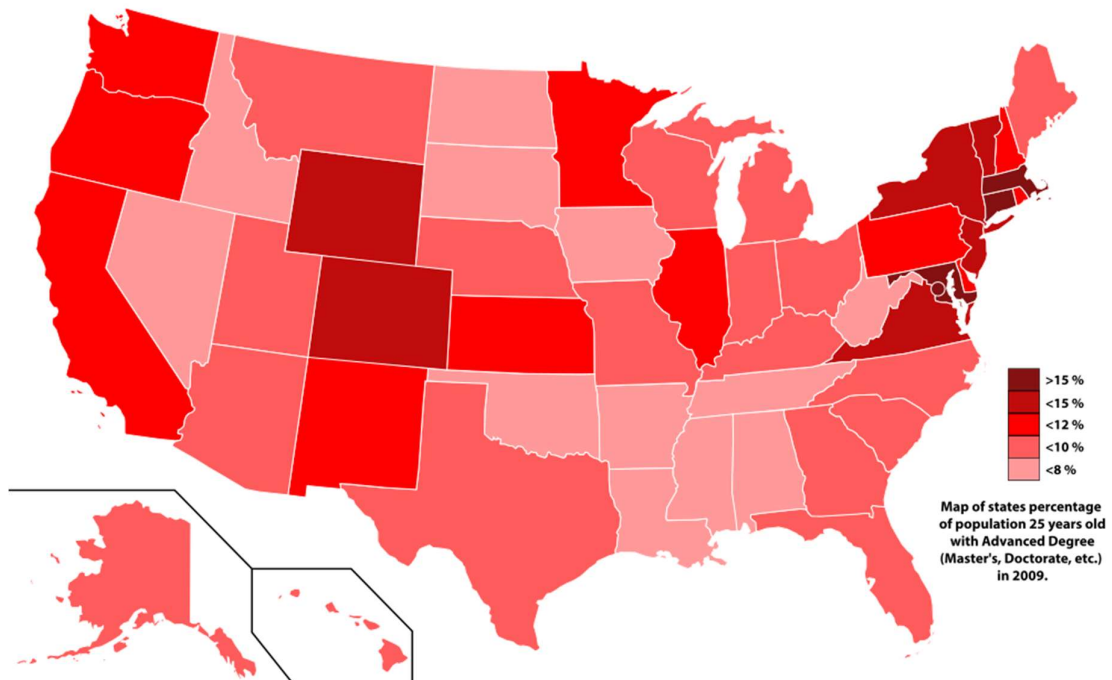
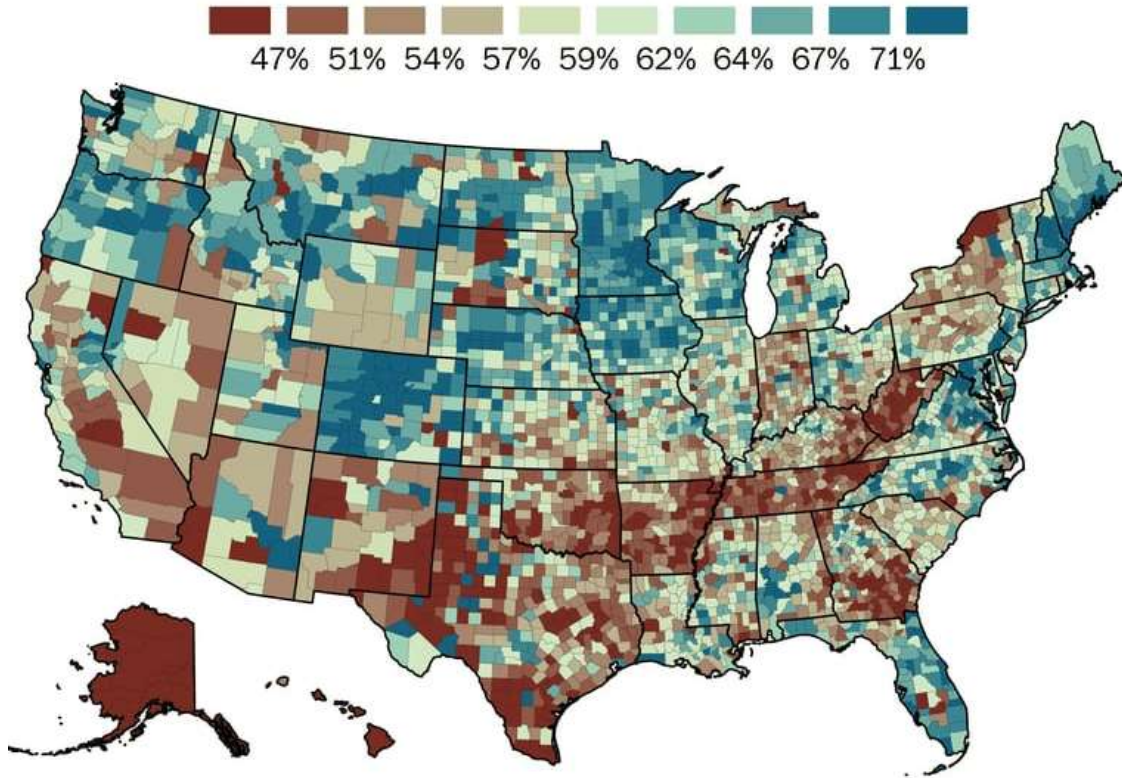
Source: Inglehart, R.F. (2008). – Changing Values among Western Publics from 1970 to 2006. *West European Politics*, 31 (1-2): 130–146. <https://ourworldindata.org/uploads/2013/11/materialistpost-materialist-values-by-gnpcapita-inglehart-20080-555x500.png>

c. Clearly, the level of support for climate change mitigation measures of countries is determined by more than the degree of postmaterialism among the public. Formulate two alternative hypotheses that may explain anomalies to the pattern you predicted. (6 points)

4. Education and voting (20 points)

Below you find a map showing the turnout in the 2016 US presidential elections per state and a map of educational attainment per state.

Voter turnout in 2016 (votes cast as share of citizen voting age population)



a. Compare the two maps and describe the relation between the level of education and turnout in elections. (6 points)

b. What does the relation between the two maps imply for the validity of the absolute education model? (8 points)

c. On the next page you find a graph showing the turnout in presidential elections in the US since 1948. Describe the trend after 1970 and discuss what this trend implies for the validity of the absolute education model. (6 points)

Presidential Turnout Rates 1948-2012



Note: the yellow line represents voter turnout rates calculated by dividing the number of votes by the "voting-age population" (VAP), consisting of everyone age 18 and older residing in the United States. The green line represents turnout rates calculated for those eligible to vote, or the voting-eligible population (VEP).

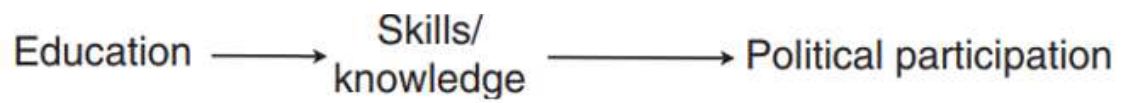
d. BONUS: Why do you think have the VAP and the VEP rates have diverged over time? (4 points)

5. Education models (18 points)

a. Explain in your own words what the 'relative education model' discussed in the review paper by Persson is about, and how it is different from the absolute education model. (6 points)

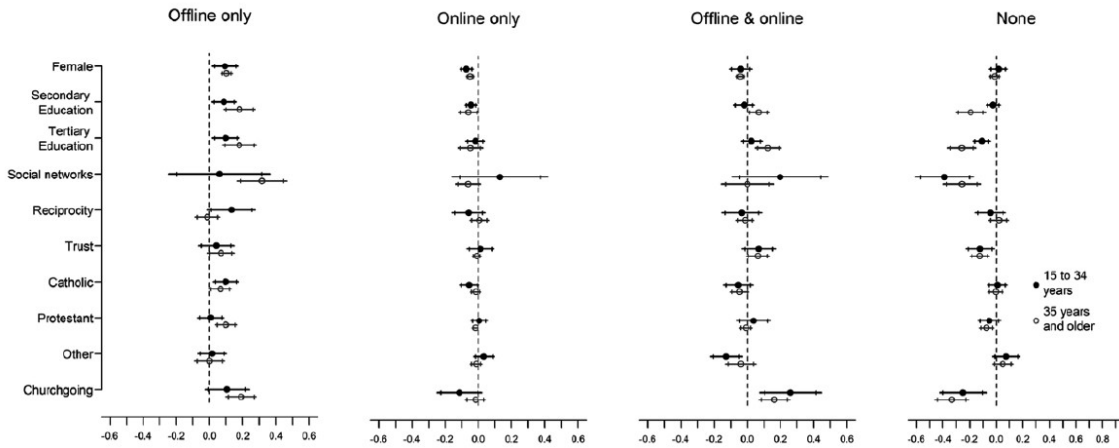
b. Identify and explain the key differences between the relative education model and the civic voluntarism model by Verba, Schlozman & Brady. (6 points)

c. A third model of civic participation adds pre-adult socialization factors. Give an example of a pre-adult socialization factor, and describe how this factor could be included in a causal model such as the one below by discussing the relation between this factor and the variables in the model (6 points).



6. Education, volunteering, and wellbeing (16 points)

a. The figure below is copied from Ackermann & Manatschal (2018). The coefficients of 'Secondary education' and 'Tertiary education' show the differences between the higher educated and respondents with only primary education. How do these coefficients show that online volunteering can be a way to overcome participation inequality? (6 points)



b. De Wit, Bekkers, Karamat Ali & Verkaik (2015) conclude their report as follows: "In sum, voluntary engagement does enhance people's welfare, but we should not expect miracles from participation in third sector activities." Explain how they come to this conclusion. (6 points)

c. In their analysis of differences between monozygotic twins in prosocial behavior in the US, Bekkers et al. found that more religious twins spend more time on volunteer work than their less religious brothers or sisters from the same twin pair. More educated twins, however, spent the same amount of time volunteering as their less educated brothers and sisters. What does this tell you about the source of the associations between volunteering, education and religiosity? (4 points)