

What's driving the public?

A cross-country analysis of political attitudes, human values and political articulation

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- Does the political culture of a country influence the relationship between deeper value orientations and more concrete socio-political attitudes?

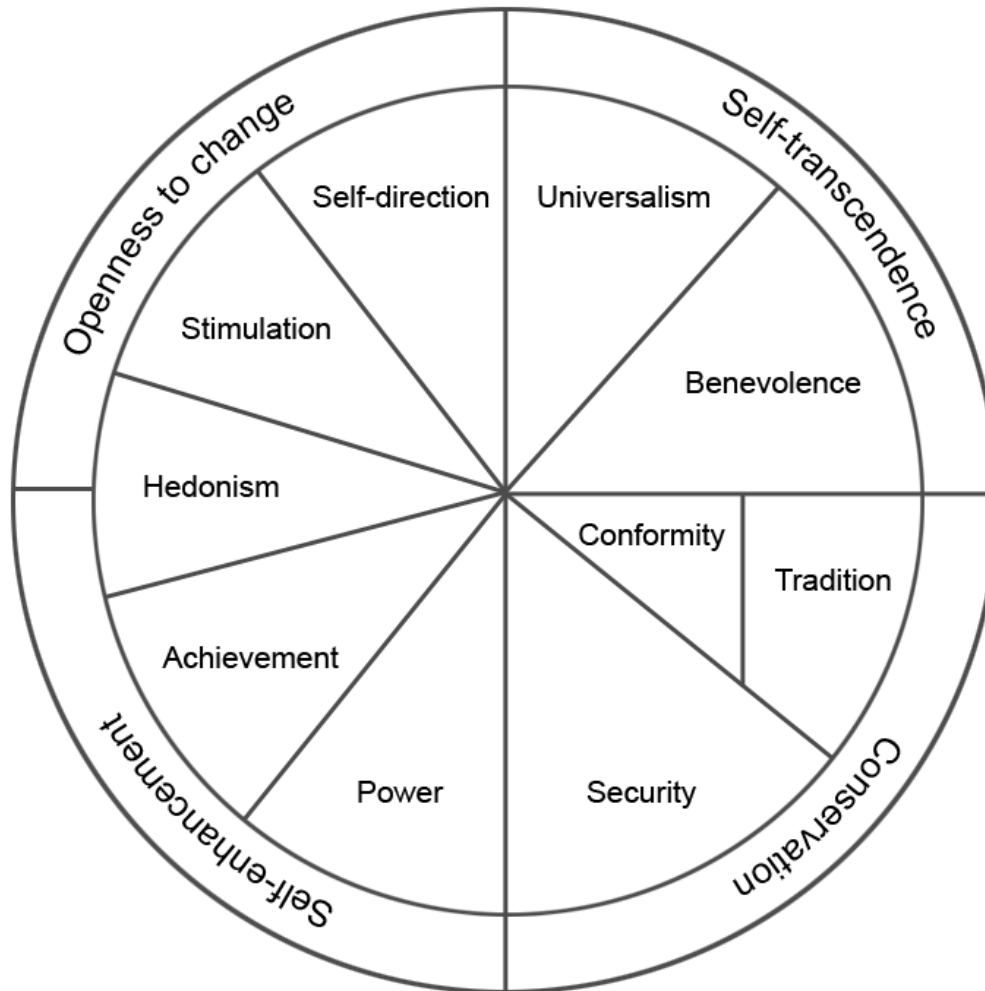
Previous research

- Belief system constraints – Elite imposed ideologies (Converse 1964)
- Psychological constraints – Core values (Feldman 1988)
- Symbolic politics – Framing-induced predisposition (Sears et al. 1980; Sears and Funk 1991)

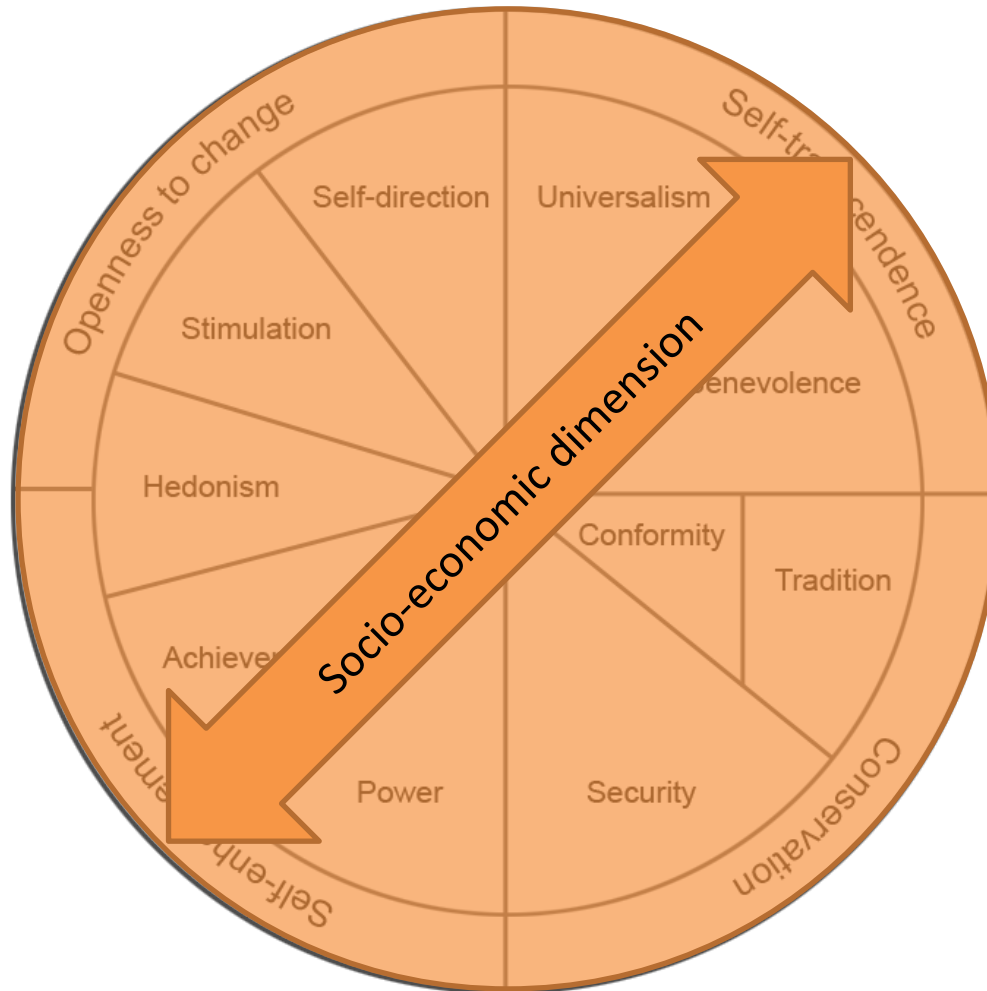
Socio-political attitudes

- Socio-economic attitudes
 - tension between economic equality and equity. Involves attitudes towards inequality, poverty and redistribution.
- Socio-cultural attitudes
 - the tension between promoting individual and civil liberties versus following traditions and norms. Involves attitudes towards (for instance) same sex marriage and adoption, immigration as well as children should be taught to obey authorities.

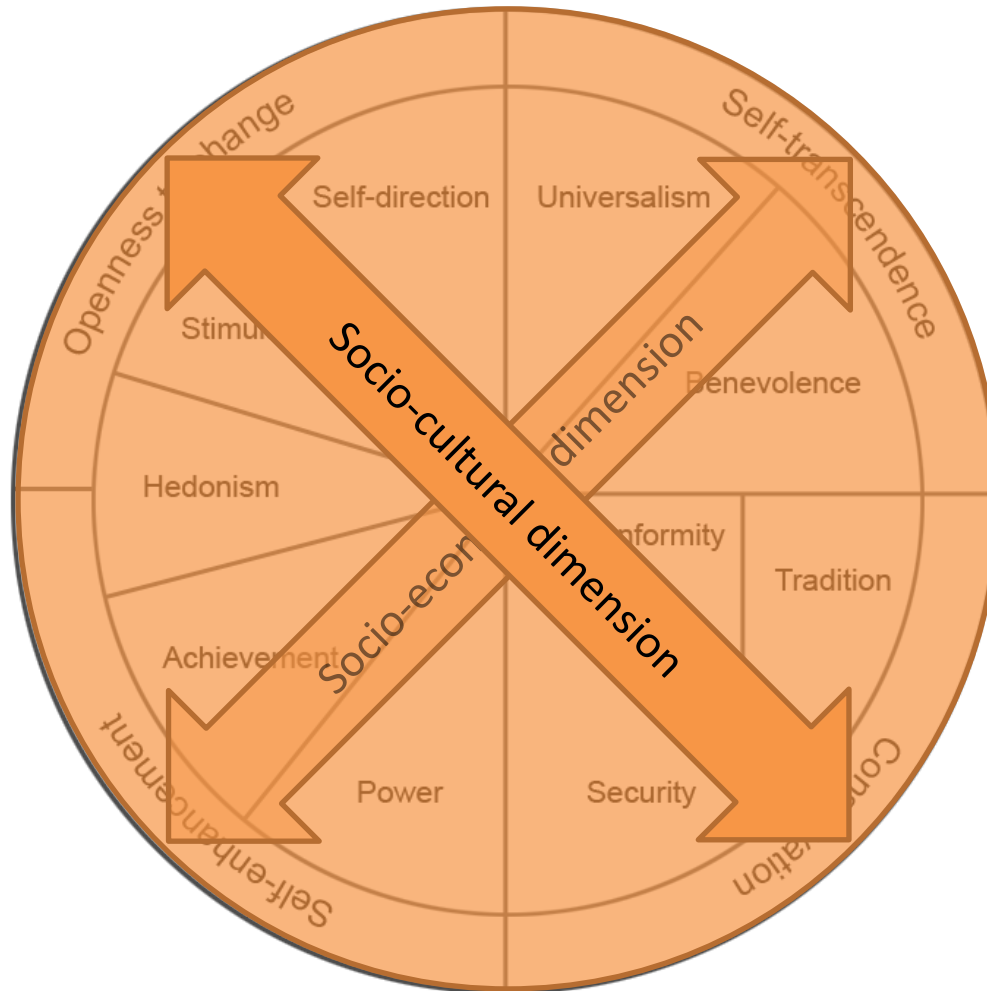
Basic human values



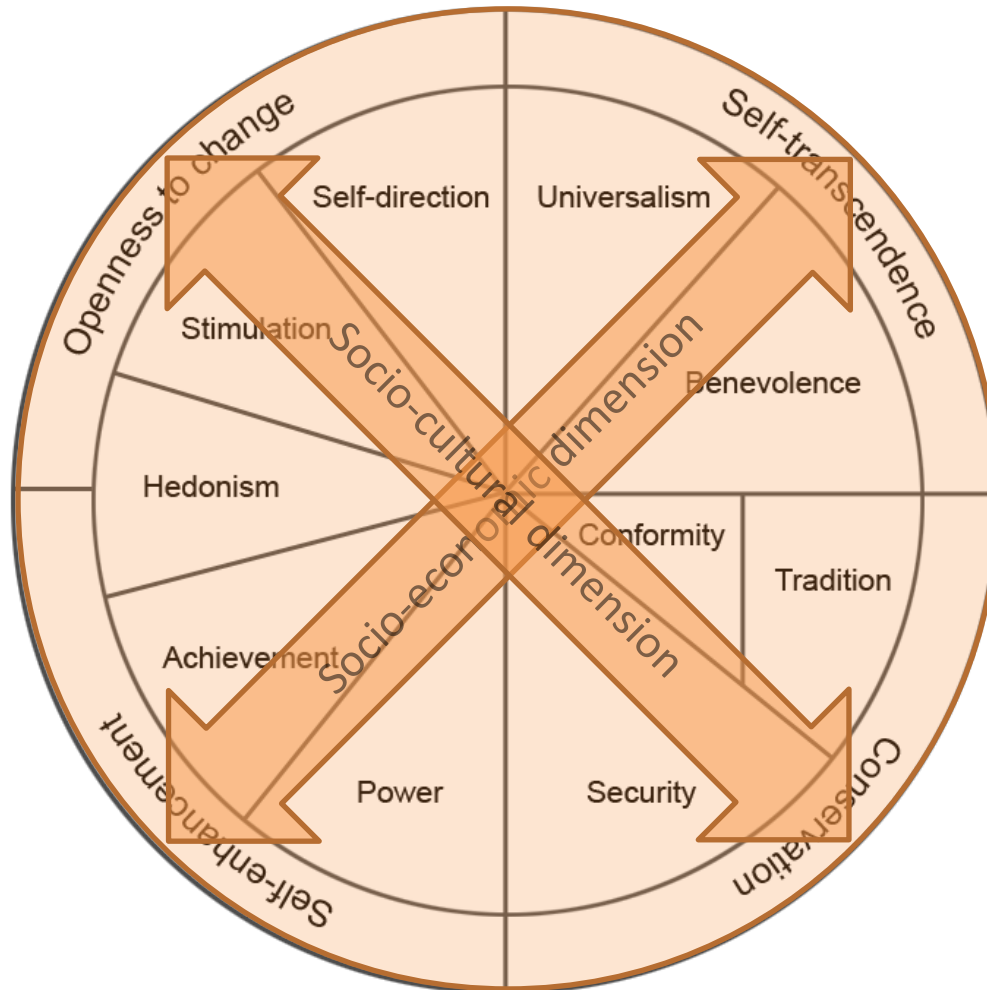
Basic human values and socio-political attitudes



Basic human values and socio-political attitudes



Basic human values and socio-political attitudes



Hypotheses

1. Trade-off/balance between value-attitudes dimensions:
 - Where socio-economic attitudes are more strongly value-driven, socio-cultural attitudes are less value-driven
2. Moderation by political articulation:
 - In countries where socio-economic issues are more salient in politics, values drive socio-economic attitudes rather than socio-cultural ones

Data

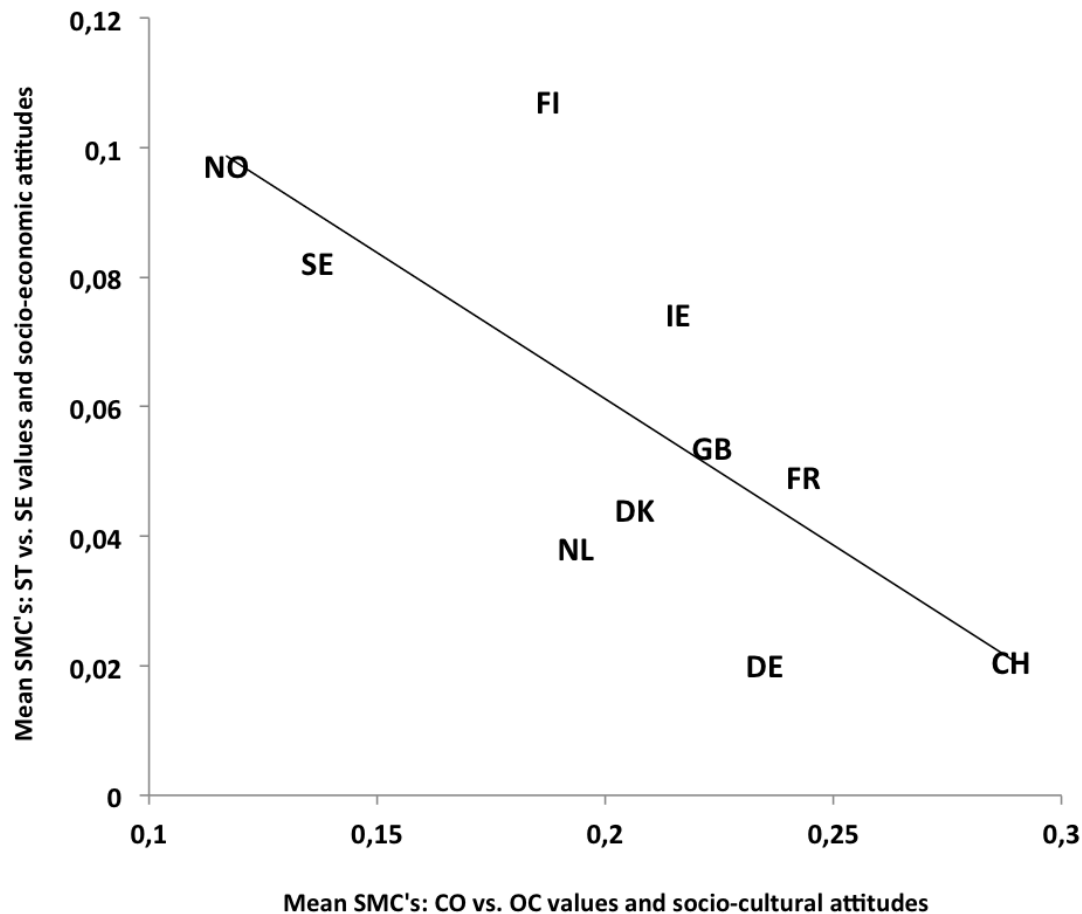
- Data from the European Social Survey (ESS) from 2008 (round 4)
- Constructs and items
 - Basic human values (4 latent constructs)
 - Socio-economic attitudes (4 items)
 - Socio-cultural attitudes (4 items)
- Manifesto data for political articulation
 - Balance between socio-economic and socio-cultural issues

Method

- Two-step approach:
 1. Multi-group structural equation modeling (MGSEM) of values and attitudes constructs
 2. Country-level effect sizes and SMC's (relative focus) related to political articulation

Results:

Mean SMC's for each set of dimensions

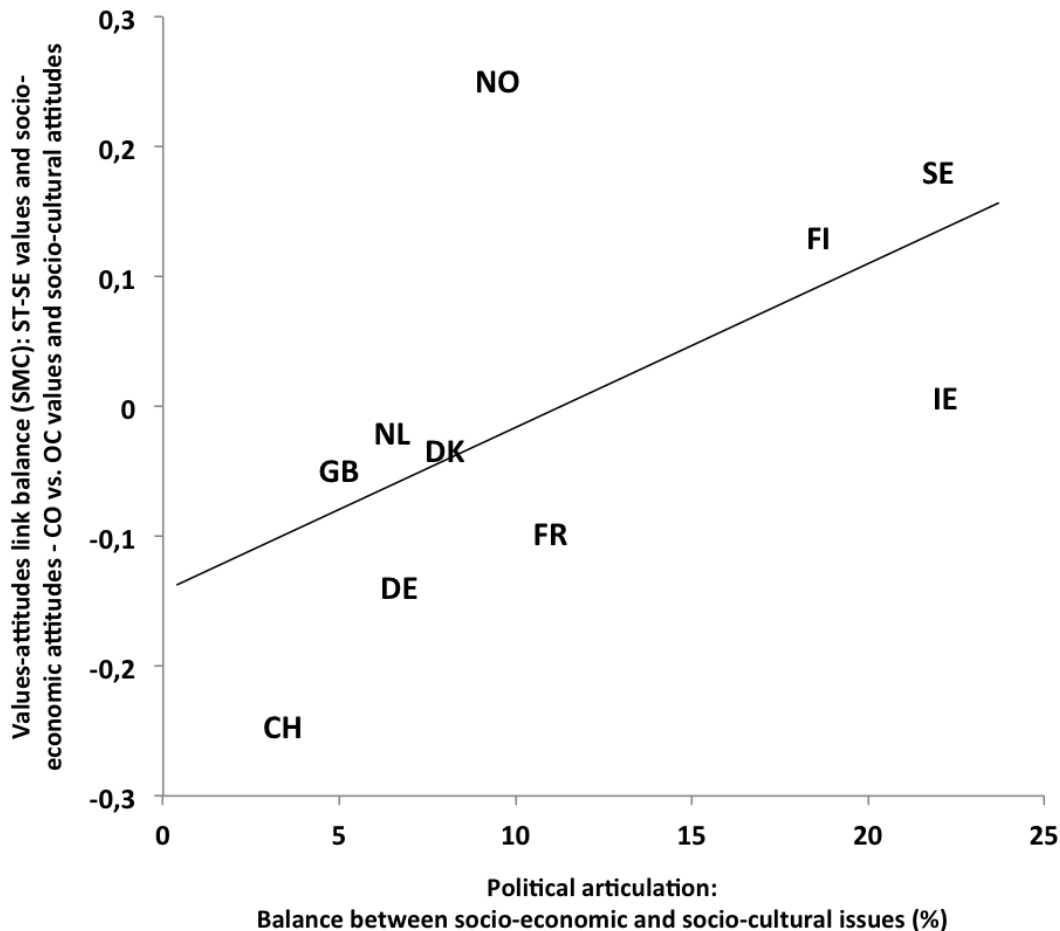


$R^2: 0.56$

Stronger link between ST/SE values and socio-economic attitudes associated with weaker link between CO/OC values and socio-cultural attitudes.

Results:

Political articulation and SMC balance



R^2 : 0.35 (0.63 -NO)

Stronger articulation of socio-economic issues is associated with stronger link between ST/SE values and socio-economic attitudes.

Stronger articulation of socio-cultural issues associated with stronger link between CO/OC values and socio-cultural attitudes.

Conclusion

- Trade-off exist
- Clear relationship between political articulation and values-attitudes links across countries
- Political articulation influence what dimension will be activated, but not how