# Supplemental Appendix:

# Political Trust and American Public Support for Free Trade

- Appendix A: Detail on Variable Creation/Coding for the ANES and NAES
- Appendix B: Regression Models Associated with Different Tables in the Main Paper
- Appendix C: Detail on the MTurk Survey Experiment

# Appendix A

## Detail on 2016 ANES Variable Creation & Coding

The raw survey data and codebook for the 2016 American National Election Study (ANES) are publicly available at the following link. `https://electionstudies.org/data-center/2016-time-series-study/`. Here, I used data from the September, 2019 version of the 2016 ANES. Below, I detail how each variable that I used in my regression models was created and coded. With the exception of age and income, all variables are either categorical or are scaled to range between 0 and 1.

- Trade Support (Low $\rightarrow$ High)

  Created by combining V162175 (1-3), V162176 (1-3), and a variable (1-2) that combines responses to V162152a and V162152b, into an index. Mean = 0.???. Min = 0. Max = 1. N = ????.

- Political Trust (Low $\rightarrow$ High)

  Created by combining VCF16125 (1-5), VCF161216 (1-2), V161217 (1-3), and V161218 (1-5) into an index. Mean = 0.348; Min = 0; Max = 1. N = 4,716.

- Female

  Created from V161342. 0 = Male; 1 = Female. Mean = 0.529. N = 4,218.

- White

  Created from V161310x. 0 = Non-White; 1 = White, non-Hispanic. Mean = 0.717. N = 4,237.

- Married

  Created from V161268. 0 = Not Married; 1 = Married. Mean = 0.505. N = 4,243.

- Homeowner

  Created from V161334. 0 = Do Not Own Home; 1 = Own Home. Mean = 0.624. N = 4,234.

- Union Household

  Created from V161302. 0 = Non-Union Household; 1 = Union Household. Mean = 0.137. N = 4,243.

- College Degree

  Created from V161270. 0 = Less than a 4-Year Degree; 1 = 4-Year Degree or Higher. Mean = 0.386. N = 4,231.

- Online Mode

  Created from V160501. 0 = In-Person Interview Mode; 1 = Online Interview Mode. Mean = 0.724. N = 4,270.

- Age

  Created from V161267. Ranges in years from 18-90+. Mean = 49.6. N = 4,149.

- Income

  Created from V161361x. Ranges from 1-28 (Under $5,000 to $250,000 or more). Mean = 15.4. N = 4,068.

- Personal Finances Evaluation in Past Year (Much worse off → Much better off)

  Created from V161111. Mean = 0.507. Min = 0. Max = 1. N = 4,257.

- National Economy Evaluations in Past Year (Much worse → Much better).

  Created from V161140x. Mean = 0.478. Min = 0. Max = 1. N = 4,252.

- Partisanship (Strong Democrat → Strong Republican)

  Created from V161158x. Mean = 0.478. Min = 0. Max = 1. N = 4,252.

- Ideological Self-Identification (Extremely liberal → Extremely conservative)

  Created from V161126. Mean = 0.523. Min = 0. Max = 1. N = 4,247.

- Social Trust (Never → Always)

  Created from V161219. Mean = 0.532. Min = 0. Max = 1. N = 4,255.

- Authoritarianism (Low → High)

  Created by combining V162239 (0 vs. 1), V162240 (0 vs. 1), V162241 (0 vs. 1), and V162242 (0 vs. 1) into an index. Mean = 0.535. Min = 0. Max = 1. N = 3,616.

  V162239 = *Please tell me which one you think is more important for a child to have: Independence or respect for elders.* 0 = independence/both; 1 = respect for elders.

  V162240 = *Which one is more important for a child to have: Curiosity or good manners.* 0 = Curiosity/Both; 1 = good manners.

  V162241 = *Which one is more important for a child to have: Obedience or self-reliance.* 0 = self-reliance/both; 1 = obedience.

  V162242 = *Which one is more important for a child to have: Being considerate or well behaved.* 0 = considerate/both; 1 = well-behaved.

- Traditionalism (Low → High)

  Created by combining V162207 (1-5), V162208 (1-5), V162209 (1-5), and V162210 (1-5) into an index. Mean = 0.520. Min = 0. Max = 1. N = 3,619.

  V162207 = *The world is always changing and we should adjust our view of moral behavior to those changes.* 1 = disagree strongly; 2 = disagree somewhat; 3 = neither agree nor disagree; 4 = agree somewhat; 5 = agree strongly.

  V162208 = *The newer lifestyles are contributing to the breakdown of our society.* 1 = disagree strongly; 2 = disagree somewhat; 3 = neither agree nor disagree; 4 = agree somewhat; 5 = agree strongly.

  V162209 = *We should be more tolerant of people who choose to live according to their own moral standards, even if they are very different from our own.* 1 = agree strongly; 2 = agree somewhat; 3 = neither agree nor disagree; 4 = disagree somewhat; 5 = disagree strongly.

  *This country would have many fewer problems if there were more emphasis on traditional family ties.* 1 = agree strongly; 2 = agree somewhat; 3 = neither agree nor disagree; 4 = disagree somewhat; 5 = disagree strongly.

- Feeling Thermometer: Big Business (Coldest → Warmest)

  Created from V162100. Mean = 0.499. Min = 0. Max = 1. N = 3,603.

- Feeling Thermometer: Donald Trump (Coldest → Warmest)

  Created from V161087. Mean = 0.370. Min = 0. Max = 1. N = 4,229.

- State (AL-WY)

  Created from V163001a. Included as a dummy variable in the regression models.

## Detail on 2004/2008 NAES Variable Creation & Coding

The raw survey data and associated codebooks for the 2004 and 2008 National Annenberg Election Surveys (NAES) are publicly available at the following link. `https://www.annenbergpublicpolicycenter.org/data-access/`. I downloaded the 2004 and 2008 (phone edition) NAES surveys and then combined the relevant variables that were asked identically in both surveys into a single pooled (2004 & 2008) larger dataset.

On the next pages, I detail how each variable that I used in my regression models was created and coded. With the exception of age and income, all variables are either categorical or are scaled to range between 0 and 1. As noted in the main paper, several of the variables, specifically trade attitudes and political trust, were not asked of all respondents, due to the rolling cross-sectional nature of these surveys. As such, the number of respondents in the regression models is far less than the total (potential) sample size obtained by pooling these two surveys and is smaller than the N listed below for each variable, i.e., the number of observations for trade attitudes listed below is not the same as the number of observations in the regression model (which relies on questions that overlap across these two surveys).

## 2004 NAES

- Trade Support (0 vs. 1)

  Created from CCB82. 0 = strongly oppose/somewhat oppose/neither favor nor oppose/don't know; 1 = somewhat favor/strongly favor. Mean = 0.419. Min = 0. Max = 1. N = 64,422.

- Political Trust (Low → High)

  Created by combining CMB01 and CMB02. 1 = Never; 2 = Some of the time; 3 = Most of the time; 4 = Always. Mean = 0.406. Min = 0. Max = 1. N = 21,561.

- Female

  Created from CWA01. 0 = Male; 1 = Female. Mean = 0.553. N = 81,422.

- White

  Created from CWC01 and CWC03. 0 = Non-White; 1 = White, non-Hispanic. Mean = 0.796. N = 79,973.

- Married

  Created from CWF07. 0 = Not Married; 1 = Married. Mean = 0.598. N = 80,438.

- Union Household

  Created from CWB06. 0 = Non-Union Household. 1 = Union Household. Mean = 0.153. N = 80,351.

- Urban Area

  Created from CWF13. 0 = Rural/Suburban; 1 = Urban. Mean = 0.286. N = 81,422.

- College

  Created from CWA03. 0 = Less than a 4-Year Degree. 1 = 4-Year Degree or Higher. Mean = 0.383. N = 80,409.

- Age

  Created from CWA02. Ranges in years from 18-97. Mean = 48.0. N = 80,429.

- Income

  Created from CWA04. Ranges from 1-9 (Less than $10,000 - More than $150,000). Mean = 5.3. N = 72,934.

- Years at current address

  Created from ?. Ranges from 0-?. Mean = 11.5. N = 80,599.

- Partisanship (Strong Democrat → Strong Republican)

  Created from CMA01, CMA02, and CMA03. Independents are those who did identify as "Independent" or "something else" is CMA01 and who do not lean Democrat or Republican in CMA03. Mean = 0.492. Min = 0. Max = 1. N = 78,248.

- Ideological Self-Identification (Very conservative → Very liberal)

  Created from CMA06. Mean = 0.545. Min = 0. Max = 1. N = 81,096.

- George W. Bush Favorability (Low → High)

  Created from CAA01. Mean = 0.537. Min = 0. Max = 1. N = 80,784.

- State (AL-WY; AK & HI are not sampled)

  Created from CST.

## 2008 NAES

- Favor Free Trade (0 vs. 1)

  Created from CBC01. 0 = strongly oppose/somewhat oppose/neither favor nor oppose/don't know; 1 = somewhat favor/strongly favor. Mean = 0.363. Min = 0. Max = 1. N = 26,936.

- Political Trust (Low → High)

  Created from MB01. 1 = Never; 2 = Some of the time; 3 = Most of the time; 4 = Always. Mean = 0.343. Min = 0. Max = 1. N = 12,038.

- Female

  Created from WA01. 0 = Male; 1 = Female. Mean = 0.572. N = 57,967.

- White

  Created from WC01 and WC03. 0 = Non-White; 1 = White, non-Hispanic. Mean = 0.813. N = 56,177.

- Married

  Created from WFA03. 0 = Not Married; 1 = Married. Mean = 0.634. N = 56,699.

- Union Household

  Created from WB05. 0 = Non-Union Household. 1 = Union Household. Mean = 0.143. N = 56,749.

- Urban Area

  Created from WCF02. 0 = Rural/Suburban; 1 = Urban. Mean = 0.291. N = 57,967.

- College

  Created from WA03. 0 = Less than a 4-Year Degree. 1 = 4-Year Degree or Higher. Mean = 0.411. N = 56,610.

- Age

  Created from WA02. Ranges in years from 18-97. Mean = 53.3. N = 56,686.

- Income

  Created from WA04. Ranges from 1-9 (Less than $10,000 - More than $150,000). Mean = 5.8. N = 42,689.

- Years at current address

  Created from WFB01. Ranges from 0-97. Mean = 14.0 N = 57,728.

- Partisanship (Strong Democrat → Strong Republican)

  Created from MA01, MA02, and MA03. Mean = 0.464. Min = 0. Max = 1. N = 55,450.

- Ideological Self-Identification (Very conservative → Very liberal)

  Created from MA04. Mean = 0.549. Min = 0. Max = 1. N = 57,640.

- George W. Bush Favorability (Low → High)

  Created from AE01. Mean = 0.378. Min = 0. Max = 1. N = 57,255.

- State (AL-WY; AK & HI are not sampled)

  Created from WFC01.

## Detail on Cumulative ANES (1988 to 2012) Variable Coding and Creation

The raw survey data and codebook for the Cumulative American National Election Study (ANES) are publicly available at the following link. `https://electionstudies.org/data-center/anes-time-series-cumulative-data-file/`. Here, I used data from the November 18, 2021 version of the Cumulative ANES. Below, I detail how each variable that I used in my regression models was created and coded. With the exception of age and income, all variables are either categorical or are scaled to range between 0 and 1. The sample size, mean, standard deviation, minimum, and maximum for each variable is based on restricting the Cumulative ANES sample to the following years: 1988, 1992, 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008, and 2012 (pre-2016 years when the relevant dependent variable was asked, along with a set of variables to capture alternative explanations of trade attitudes and/or political trust.)

- Favor Limits on Foreign Imports (0 vs. 1)

  Created from VCF9231. 0 = oppose new limits/haven't thought much about it; 1 = favor new limits. Mean = 0.374. Min = 0. Max = 1. N = 15,339.

- Political Trust (Low $\rightarrow$ High)

  Created from a pre-coded index included in the Cumulative ANES (VCF0656) that ranged from 0-100, with higher values reflecting higher political trust. Re-coded to range from 0 to 1. Mean = 0.280; Min = 0; Max = 1. N = 16,157.

- Female

  Created from VCF0104. 0 = Male; 1 = Female. Mean = 0.543. N = 17,494.

- White

  Created from VCF0105b. 0 = Non-White; 1 = White, non-Hispanic. Mean = 0.668. N = 17,371.

- Married

  Created from VCF0147. 0 = Not Married; 1 = Married. Mean = 0.509. N = 17,450.

- Homeowner

  Created from VCF0146. 0 = Do Not Own Home; 1 = Own Home. Mean = 0.658. N = 17,259.

- Union Household

  Created from VCF0127b. 0 = Non-Union Household; 1 = Union Household. Mean = 0.158. N = 17,404.

- College Degree

  Created from VCF0110. 0 = Less than a 4-Year Degree; 1 = 4-Year Degree or Higher. Mean = 0.270. N = 17,300.

- Age

  Created from VCF0101. Ranges in years from 18-90+. Mean = 47.6. N = 17,375.

- Income

  Created from VCF0114. Ranges from 1-5. Mean = 2.81. N = 16,146.

- Personal Finances Evaluation in Past Year (Much worse off $\rightarrow$ Much better off)

  Created from VCF0880a. Mean = 0.511. Min = 0. Max = 1. N = 17,243.

- National Economy Evaluations in Past Year (Much worse $\rightarrow$ Much better).

  Created from VCF0871. Mean = 0.400. Min = 0. Max = 1. N = 17,273.

- Partisanship (Strong Democrat $\rightarrow$ Strong Republican)

  Created from VCF0301. Mean = 0.436. Min = 0. Max = 1. N = 17,361.

- Ideological Self-Identification (Extremely liberal → Extremely conservative)

  Created from VCF0803. Mean = 0.529. Min = 0. Max = 1. N = 16,504.

- Traditionalism (Low → High)

  Created by combining VCF0851 (1-5), VCF0852 (1-5), VCF0853 (1-5), and VCF0854 (1-5) into an index. Mean = 0.581. Min = 0. Max = 1. N = 15,570.

  VCF0851 = *The newer lifestyles are contributing to the breakdown of our society.* 1 = disagree strongly; 2 = disagree somewhat; 3 = neither agree nor disagree; 4 = agree somewhat; 5 = agree strongly.

  VCF0852 = *The world is always changing and we should adjust our view of moral behavior to those changes.* 1 = agree strongly; 2 = agree somewhat; 3 = neither agree nor disagree; 4 = disagree somewhat; 5 = disagree strongly.

  VCF0853 = *This country would have many fewer problems if there were more emphasis on traditional family ties.* 1 = disagree strongly; 2 = disagree somewhat; 3 = neither agree nor disagree; 4 = agree somewhat; 5 = agree strongly.

  VCF0854 = *We should be more tolerant of people who choose to live according to their own moral standards, even if they are very different from our own.* 1 = agree strongly; 2 = agree somewhat; 3 = neither agree nor disagree; 4 = disagree somewhat; 5 = disagree strongly.

- Feeling Thermometer: Big Business (Coldest → Warmest)

  Created from VCF0209. Mean = 0.547. Min = 0. Max = 1. N = 15,438.

- State (AL-WY)

  Created from VCF0901a. Included as a dummy variable in the regression models.

- Year (1988, 1992, 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012)

  Created from VCF0004. Included as a dummy variable in the regression models.

## Detail on 2016-2020 ANES Panel Variable Creation & Coding

I created the 2016-2020 ANES panel by merging data (based on matching case IDs across these two surveys) from the 2016 ANES and the 2020 ANES. The raw survey data and codebook for both the 2016 American National Election Study (ANES) and the 2020 American National Election Study (ANES) are publicly available at the following link. `https://electionstudies.org/data-center/`. Here, I used data from the September, 2019 version of the 2016 ANES (`https://electionstudies.org/data-center/2016-time-series-study/`) and the July, 2021 version of the 2020 ANES (`https://electionstudies.org/data-center/2020-time-series-study/`). I provide the codebook for both the 2016 and 2020 ANES, along with relevant survey data for purposes of replication. Below, I detail how each variable that I used in my cross-lagged regression models was created and coded.

- Trade Support, 2016 (0 vs. 1)

  Created from V162176. 0 = oppose/neither favor nor oppose; 1 = favor. Mean = 0.406. Min = 0. Max = 1. N = 2,801.

- Political Trust, 2016 (Low → High)

  Created by combining VCF16125 (1-5), VCF161216 (1-2), V161217 (1-3), and V161218 (1-5) into an index. Mean = 0.347. Min = 0. Max = 1. N = 2,791.

- Trade Support, 2020 (0 vs. 1).

  Created from V162175. 0 = oppose/neither favor nor oppose; 1 = favor. Mean = 0.466. Min = 0. Max = 1. N = 2,647.

- Political Trust, 2020 (Low → High)

  Created by combining V201233 (1-5), V201234 (1-2), V201235 (1-3), and V201236 (1-5) into an index. Mean = 0.355; Min = 0. Max = 1. N = 2,804.

# Appendix B

## Table B1

Table 1: Political Trust and Support for Free Trade Agreements, 2004-2008

| | DV = Favor Free Trade |
|---|---|
| Political Trust | 0.193*** |
| | (0.012) |
| Female | -0.019*** |
| | (0.006) |
| White | -0.049*** |
| | (0.007) |
| Married | -0.006 |
| | (0.007) |
| Union Household | -0.077*** |
| | (0.006) |
| College Degree | 0.100*** |
| | (0.006) |
| Age | -0.003*** |
| | (0.000) |
| Income | 0.010*** |
| | (0.002) |
| Years at Current Address | -0.001** |
| | (0.000) |
| Live in Urban Area | 0.008 |
| | (0.009) |
| Partisanship | -0.006 |
| | (0.011) |
| Ideology | -0.057*** |
| | (0.011) |
| Favorability: George W. Bush | 0.146*** |
| | (0.011) |
| Constant | 0.399*** |
| | (0.017) |
| State Fixed Effects | ✓ |
| Year Fixed Effects | ✓ |
| Observations | 27,930 |
| $R^2$ | 0.068 |

*Note*: Dependent variable is dichotomous (0 = opposed to/neutral toward more free trade agreements; 1 = favor more free trade agreements). OLS coefficients with robust standard errors clustered by state in parentheses (a probit model yields very similar results). Sources are the 2004 and 2008 NAES. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1, two-tailed.

## Table B2

Table 2: Political Trust and Support for Limits on Foreign Imports, 1988-2012

| | DV = Favor Import Limits |
|---|---|
| Political Trust | -0.108*** |
| | (0.016) |
| Female | -0.021** |
| | (0.008) |
| White | 0.003 |
| | (0.011) |
| Married | 0.009 |
| | (0.009) |
| Homeowner | 0.023** |
| | (0.009) |
| Union Household | 0.028*** |
| | (0.010) |
| College Degree | -0.068*** |
| | (0.010) |
| Age | 0.002*** |
| | (0.000) |
| Income | 0.005 |
| | (0.004) |
| Personal Finances | -0.002 |
| | (0.014) |
| National Economy | -0.069*** |
| | (0.022) |
| Partisanship | -0.062*** |
| | (0.017) |
| Ideology | -0.052*** |
| | (0.019) |
| Traditionalism | 0.210*** |
| | (0.020) |
| FT: Big Business | -0.112*** |
| | (0.023) |
| Constant | 0.434*** |
| | (0.027) |
| State Fixed Effects | ✓ |
| Year Fixed Effects | ✓ |
| Observations | 12,628 |
| $R^2$ | 0.062 |

*Note*: Dependent variable is dichotomous (0 = oppose new limits on foreign imports/haven't thought much about it; 1 = favor new limits on foreign imports). OLS coefficients with robust standard errors clustered by state in parentheses (a probit model yields very similar results). Source is the 1988-2012 Cumulative ANES. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1, two-tailed.

## Table B3

Table 3: Heterogeneity in the Trust-Trade Relationship, 2016 ANES

| | DV = Free Trade Support Scale | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | (1) | (2) | (3) |
| Political Trust | 0.162*** | 0.206*** | 0.128*** |
| | (0.045) | (0.034) | (0.046) |
| Political Trust × White | -0.014 | | |
| | (0.060) | | |
| Political Trust × Female | | -0.108** | |
| | | (0.054) | |
| Political Trust × College | | | 0.062 |
| | | | (0.079) |
| Additional Controls | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| State Fixed Effects | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Observations | 3,132 | 3,132 | 3,132 |
| $R^2$ | 0.230 | 0.231 | 0.230 |

*Note*: Dependent variable is support for free trade scale (ranges 0-1; high = pro-trade). Political trust is coded to range from 0-1 (as in the main paper). All models include the same variables as in Table 2 in the main paper (2016 ANES). The constitutive terms for the interaction, constant terms, and other control variables are included but are not shown here. White (0 = Non-White; 1 = White, non-Hispanic), Female (0 = Male; 1 = Female), College (0 = Less than a 4-year degree; 1 = 4-year degree or higher). OLS coefficients with robust standard errors clustered by state in parentheses. Source is the 2016 ANES. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1, two-tailed.

## Table B4

Table 4: Heterogeneity in the Trust-Trade Relationship, 2004-2008 NAES

| | DV = Favor Free Trade | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | (1) | (2) | (3) |
| Political Trust | 0.124*** | 0.217*** | 0.173*** |
| | (0.028) | (0.019) | (0.014) |
| Political Trust × White | 0.091** | | |
| | (0.037) | | |
| Political Trust × Female | | -0.045 | |
| | | (0.029) | |
| Political Trust × College | | | 0.059** |
| | | | (0.026) |
| Additional Controls | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| State Fixed Effects | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Year Fixed Effects | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Observations | 27,930 | 27,930 | 27,930 |
| $R^2$ | 0.068 | 0.068 | 0.068 |

*Note*: Dependent variable is free trade support (0 vs. 1 high = pro-trade). Political trust is coded to range from 0-1 (as in the main paper). All models include the same variables as in Table 3 in the main paper (2004-2008 NAES). The constitutive terms for the interaction, constant terms, and other control variables are included but are not shown here. White (0 = Non-White; 1 = White, non-Hispanic), Female (0 = Male; 1 = Female), College (0 = Less than a 4-year degree; 1 = 4-year degree or higher). OLS coefficients with robust standard errors clustered by state in parentheses. Source is the 2004-2008 NAES. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1, two-tailed.

## Table B5

Table 5: Heterogeneity in the Trust-Trade Relationship, 1988-2012 ANES

| | DV = Favor Import Limits | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | (1) | (2) | (3) |
| Political Trust | -0.086*** | -0.110*** | -0.126*** |
| | (0.028) | (0.026) | (0.020) |
| Political Trust × White | -0.037 | | |
| | (0.040) | | |
| Political Trust × Female | | 0.003 | |
| | | (0.039) | |
| Political Trust × College | | | 0.064 |
| | | | (0.040) |
| Additional Controls | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| State Fixed Effects | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Year Fixed Effects | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Observations | 12,628 | 12,628 | 12,628 |
| $R^2$ | 0.062 | 0.062 | 0.062 |

*Note*: Dependent variable is support for import restrictions (0 vs. 1 high = pro-trade/anti import restrictions). Political trust is coded to range from 0-1 (as in the main paper). All models include the same variables as in Table 4 in the main paper (1988-2012 ANES). The constitutive terms for the interaction, constant terms, and other control variables are included but are not shown here. White (0 = Non-White; 1 = White, non-Hispanic), Female (0 = Male; 1 = Female), College (0 = Less than a 4-year degree; 1 = 4-year degree or higher). OLS coefficients with robust standard errors clustered by state in parentheses. Source is the 1988-2012 Cumulative ANES. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1, two-tailed.

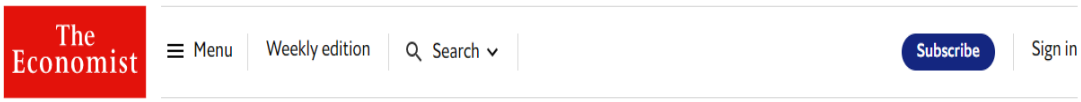
# Appendix C

## Detail on the MTurk Survey Experimental Data Used Here

I created this survey on Qualtrics and then fielded it on Amazon's Mechanical Turk (MTurk) on September 10, 2021. Survey-takers were told that it should take them no more than 5 minutes to complete and were compensated $0.20 (twenty cents) for their time. This is a fairly common compensation amount on MTurk, where workers often seek to complete a high volume of tasks in a short period of time. Because this involved human subjects, I submitted it to a University IRB (Internal Review Board) prior to fielding it. It was deemed exempt from review by a University IRB on September 7, 2021.

On the next page, I show the experimental treatment (the fictitious news article) and follow-up attention-check that "treatment group" respondents saw. I also show the one question that I used here to measure trade opinion (asked of all respondents).

## Fictitious News Article




# We Can Still Trust Government

July 15th 2021

BY PAUL MARTIN

A lot has been written about political trust as of late. In fact, a poll released by the Pew Research Center in 2021 found that just 24% of Americans said that they trusted the government to do the right thing most of the time or always. Indeed, it seems as though political scandals, corruption, and mismanagement of numerous crises have become commonplace over the past several decades, occurring under both parties.

This is more myth than reality, however and we should not forget that government often does a much better job than people give it credit for. This ranges from the effective administration of Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security to the guarantee of clean air and water. We often take these things for granted, but we should really be thankful and give government some much-deserved credit. Furthermore, the vast majority of government officials and politicians are honest, decent, hard-working people whose reputations are sullied by a small minority of corrupt, scandal-plagued individuals.

Although it is not often reflected in the mass media, using words such as honest, decent, and hard-working to describe most politicians and public servants is not as ridiculous as it sounds. I may be criticized for saying so, but I can confidently say that these words accurately describe my time working in the federal government, a government that we can still trust.

- *Paul Martin is a former career civil servant who worked for the federal government for over 30 years, in both Democratic and Republican administrations.*

**Attention Check (b = Correct)**

- Which of the following best describes the article you just read?

    (a) A former athlete discussing the Tokyo Olympic games

    (b) A former federal government employee discussing political trust

    (c) A former professor discussing free speech on college campuses

**Trade Opinion (0 = Discourage/Neither; 1 = Encourage)**

- Overall, do you think the policy of the United States should be to encourage, discourage, or neither encourage nor discourage international trade?

    (a) Discourage

    (b) Neither encourage nor discourage

    (c) Encourage

## Sample Demographics

Here I show relevant demographics for this MTurk sample. All of these demographic questions were asked "pre-treatment" and treatment assignment (control group vs. treatment group) was randomly assigned.

- Gender

    Female = 43.4%

    Male = 55.9%

    Non-binary/third gender = 0.5%

    Prefer not to say = 0.3%

- Race

  White, non-Hispanic = 82.2%

  Black, non-Hispanic = 10.1%

  Hispanic (any race) = 4.3%

  Other = 3.5%

- Age

  18-29 = 19.4%

  30-39 = 43.6%

  40-49 = 23.9%

  50-64 = 10.4%

  65 or older = 2.7%

- Education

  High school diploma (or less) = 5.3%

  Some college (no degree) = 7.5%

  2-year college degree = 6.9%

  4-year college degree = 67.3%

  Higher than a 4-year degree = 13.0%

- Treatment Assignment

  Control = 47.9%

  Treatment = 52.1%

- Attention check

  Failed = 15.3%

  Passed = 84.7%