

Rights and trust in child protection - Denmark - England - Norway (#73251)

Author(s)

This pre-registration is currently anonymous to enable blind peer-review.
It has 3 authors.

Pre-registered on:

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1) Have any data been collected for this study already?

No, no data have been collected for this study yet.

2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?

H1: Those who are supportive of children's rights, even when it comes at the expense of parental rights, considers neglect to be more serious and will accept more intrusive measures.

H2: Those who place trust in the child protection system will identify child abuse and neglect to be more serious and will accept more intrusive measures by the child protection system compared to those who do not place trust (trust less),.

H3: Institutional context in form of child protection system, will correlate with trust level in the population and child right orientation. Danish and Norwegian respondents (with child right protective system) will thus favour child rights, identify neglect and abuse to be more serious, and suggest a more intrusive intervention, compared to their English peers (with a child maltreatment protective system).

We also examine the effects of the respondents' socioeconomic characteristics, and expect younger citizens, women and citizens with higher education to be more favourable to children's rights, and to express more confidence in the system.

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.

The dependent variables are a) view on acceptability of using corporal punishment and b) the type of state intervention.

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?

Each participant will be presented with the same vignette and the same questions. All respondents will be asked the same background questions.

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.

We will use an ordered logistic regression model to analyze the association between the dependent and explanatory variables. Ordered logistic regression is a suitable technique because both dependent variables are categorical. To assess the first hypothesis (H1), we will run an ordered logistic regression using the acceptability of using corporal punishment as a child-rearing method as a dependent variable. The primary explanatory variable is individuals' supportiveness towards child's rights. For the second hypothesis (H2), we will run an ordered logistic model using degree of acceptance towards intrusive state intervention as dependent variable. Here, the primary explanatory variable is trust in the child protection system. Additionally, we will include a set of socioeconomic variables (gender, age, education and income) as moderating variables.

We'll run a pooled model with respondents from all three countries and include country-dummy variables. We have country-dummy variables in the pooled model for two reasons: Firstly, to estimate the fixed-effect of the explanatory variable, which let us assess how generalizable the estimated effects are across the three countries. Secondly, we can see if country affiliation affects our dependent variable. As a supplement, we will also estimate the same statistical models for each country. This allows the estimated coefficients to vary across countries, and we can assess whether the effect of our explanatory variables behaves differently within countries.

We will report significance the following way: $*=p<0.10$, $**=p<0.05$, $***=p<0.01$, with the awareness that both the $p<0.05$ and in particular $p<0.10$ are on the margin of what is relevant to report as statistically significant.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.

Missing responses will be reported and omitted from the analysis.

Residual categories, such as "Other" / "I do not want to answer" category will be reported and omitted from the analysis.

7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.

The total sample size is a minimum of 3,000 respondents. The participants will be recruited using a data-collection bureau, including a minimum of 1000 respondents each from Norway and Denmark, and England.

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)

The survey questions will be made publicly available at www.discretion.uib.no