APPENDIX

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Title of publication: Legitimate child protection interventions and the dimension of confidence: A comparative analysis of populations views in six European countries
Year: 2022
Journal / Publisher: Journal of Social Policy

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Table A: Overview of attitudes towards Child Protection Systems. N (percent).

Values	Norway	England	Finland	Poland	Romania	Czechia	Total
Competency							
Very much disagree	92	30	34	31	74	23	284
	(9.15 %)	(2.97 %)	(3.39 %)	(3.06 %)	(7.39 %)	(2.28 %)	(4.70 %)
Disagree	190	159	120	144	277	121	1011
	(18.89 %)	(15.74 %)	(11.95 %)	(14.20 %)	(27.67 %)	(12.00 %)	(16.73 %)
Agree	389	477	558	578	428	566	2996
	(38.67 %)	(47.23 %)	(55.58 %)	(57.00 %)	(42.76 %)	(56.15 %)	(49.58 %)
Very much agree	144	162	156	121	103	88	774
	(14.31 %)	(16.04 %)	(15.54 %)	(11.93 %)	(10.29 %)	(8.73 %)	(12.81 %)
Do not know	191	182	136	140	119	210	978
	(18.99 %)	(18.02 %)	(13.55 %)	(13.81 %)	(11.89 %)	(20.83 %)	(16.18 %)
Fair							
Very much disagree	92	34	43	34	70	46	319
	(9.15 %)	(3.37 %)	(4.28 %)	(3.35 %)	(6.99 %)	(4.56 %)	(5.28 %)
Disagree	217	152	213	269	317	223	1391
	(21.57 %)	(15.05 %)	(21.22 %)	(26.53 %)	(31.67 %)	(22.12 %)	(23.02 %)
Agree	375	438	478	445	396	446	2578
	(37.28 %)	(43.37 %)	(47.61 %)	(43.89 %)	(39.56 %)	(44.25 %)	(42.66 %)
Very much agree	112	150	88	70	80	62	562

Values	Norway	England	Finland	Poland	Romania	Czechia	Total
	(11.13 %)	(14.85 %)	(8.76 %)	(6.90 %)	(7.99 %)	(6.15 %)	(9.30 %)
Do not know	210	236	182	196	138	231	1193
	(20.87 %)	(23.37 %)	(18.13 %)	(19.33 %)	(13.79 %)	(22.92 %)	(19.74 %)
Respectful							
Very much disagree	102	29	42	34	70	38	315
	(10.14 %)	(2.87 %)	(4.18 %)	(3.35 %)	(6.99 %)	(3.77 %)	(5.21 %)
Disagree	199	177	204	232	291	198	1301
	(19.78 %)	(17.52 %)	(20.32 %)	(22.88 %)	(29.07 %)	(19.64 %)	(21.53 %)
Agree	354	409	441	471	403	436	2514
	(35.19 %)	(40.50 %)	(43.92 %)	(46.45 %)	(40.26 %)	(43.25 %)	(41.60 %)
Very much agree	132	135	80	84	81	73	585
	(13.12 %)	(13.37 %)	(7.97 %)	(8.28 %)	(8.09 %)	(7.24 %)	(9.68 %)
Do not know	219	260	237	193	156	263	1328
	(21.77 %)	(25.74 %)	(23.61 %)	(19.03 %)	(15.58 %)	(26.09 %)	(21.98 %)
Discriminate							
Very much disagree	98	27	41	40	64	27	584
	(9.74 %)	(2.67 %)	(4.08 %)	(3.94 %)	(6.39 %)	(2.68 %)	(9.66 %)
Disagree	184	121	177	215	278	115	1581
	(18.29 %)	(11.98 %)	(17.63 %)	(21.20 %)	(27.77 %)	(15.38 %)	(26.16 %)
Agree	328	426	441	469	389	407	1671
	(32.60 %)	(42.18 %)	(43.92 %)	(46.25 %)	(38.86 %)	(40.38 %)	(27.65 %)
Very much agree	101	191	101	96	86	68	616

Values	Norway	England	Finland	Poland	Romania	Czechia	Total
	(10.04 %)	(18.91 %)	(10.06 %)	(9.47 %)	(8.59 %)	(6.75 %)	(10.19 %)
Do not know	333	277	321	229	160	271	1591
	(33.10 %)	(27.43 %)	(31.97 %)	(22.58 %)	(15.98 %)	(26.88 %)	(26.33 %)
Moral alignment							
Very much disagree	125	121	51	108	116	63	297
	(12.43 %)	(11.98 %)	(5.08 %)	(10.65 %)	(11.59 %)	(6.25 %)	(4.91 %)
Disagree	215	226	164	333	366	277	1130
	(21.37 %)	(22.38 %)	(16.33 %)	(32.84 %)	(36.56 %)	(27.48 %)	(18.70 %)
Agree	215	261	352	276	263	304	2460
	(21.37 %)	(25.84 %)	(35.06 %)	(27.22 %)	(26.27 %)	(30.16 %)	(40.71 %)
Very much agree	118	125	116	229	96	93	643
	(11.73 %)	(12.38 %)	(11.55 %)	(22.58 %)	(9.59 %)	(9.23 %)	(10.64 %)
Do not know	295	245	244	194	184	351	1513
	(29.32 %)	(24.26 %)	(24.30 %)	(19.13 %)	(18.38 %)	(34.82 %)	(25.04 %)

The table shows the distribution of responses to the five variables (x1_competency, x2_fair, x3_respect, x4_discriminate, x5_samesense) for each individual country and for the total sample. The table shows the share of respondents (%) and the number of respondents (N) on each of the response alternatives *1=very much disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = agree, 4 = very much agree,* and *"Do not know".* Percentages are calculated based on the total N, including NAs. Data: Survey developed by authors and responses collected by Faktum Markedsanalyse. RStudio: *frq*-function from *sjmisc*-package

Table B: Overview of attitudes towards Child Protection Systems. N (percent).

Values	Norway	England	Finland	Poland	Romania	Czechia	Total
Competency							
Disagree	282	189	154	175	351	144	1295
	(34.60 %)	(22.83 %)	(17.74 %)	(20.02 %)	(39.80 %)	(18.05 %)	(25.57 %)
Agree	533	639	714	699	531	654	3770
	(65.40 %)	(77.17 %)	(82.26 %)	(79.98 %)	(60.20 %)	(81.95 %)	(74.43 %)
Fair							
Disagree	309	186	256	303	387	269	1710
	(38.82 %)	(24.03 %)	(31.14 %)	(37.04 %)	(44.84 %)	(34.62 %)	(35.26 %)
Agree	487	588	566	515	476	508	3140
	(61.18 %)	(75.97 %)	(68.86 %)	(62.96 %)	(55.16 %)	(65.38 %)	(64.74 %)
Respectful							
Disagree	301	206	246	266	361	236	1616
	(38.25 %)	(27.47 %)	(32.07 %)	(32.40 %)	(42.72 %)	(31.68 %)	(34.27 %)
Agree	486	544	521	555	484	509	3099
	(61.75 %)	(72.53 %)	(67.93 %)	(67.60 %)	(57.28 %)	(68.32 %)	(65.73 %)
Discriminate							
Disagree	340	347	215	441	482	340	2165
	(50.52 %)	(47.34 %)	(31.48 %)	(56.18 %)	(57.31 %)	(46.13 %)	(48.63 %)
Agree	333	386	468	344	359	397	2287
	(49.48 %)	(52.66 %)	(68.52 %)	(43.82 %)	(42.69 %)	(53.87 %)	(51.37 %)

Values	Norway	England	Finland	Poland	Romania	Czechia	Total
Moral alignment							
Disagree	282	148	218	255	342	182	1427
	(39.66 %)	(19.35 %)	(28.68 %)	(31.10 %)	(41.86 %)	(27.70 %)	(31.50 %)
Agree	429	617	542	565	475	475	3103
	(60.34 %)	(80.65 %)	(71.32 %)	(68.90 %)	(58.14 %)	(72.30 %)	(68.50 %)

The table shows the distribution of responses to the five variables (x1_competency, x2_fair, x3_respect, x4_discriminate, x5_samesense) for each individual country and for the total sample. The table shows the share of respondents (%) and the number of respondents (n) on each of the combined response alternatives *0=disagree and 1=agree*. We have excluded "Do not know"-responses in the total N. Data: Survey developed by authors and responses collected by Faktum Markedsanalyse. RStudio: *frq*-function from *sjmisc*-package (Lüdecke 2018).

Table C: Vignette scenario and response alternatives, including three treatments

We randomly assigned respondents to three types of parental behaviours with an experimental vignette that distinguished between parent(s) having: X1, learning disability; X2, mental health problems; and X3, substance abuse problems:	
Case scenario	**Response alternatives**
Please consider the following situation: Jon (11) and Mira (9) are living with their parents. The school is concerned about the children because both mother and father have a learning disability/mental health problems/substance abuse problem. A psychologist has examined the children and has concluded that Jon and Mira have serious learning problems and lack basic social skills. The psychologist states that this is due to lack of stimuli and help from the parents, and the children need a lot of help and support. The parents do not want any help and cannot teach and show their children how to behave towards friends and other adults. The psychologist concludes that Mira and Jon are at significant risk of developing permanent social and emotional problems. Based on the condensed information in this case, which option would you recommend the child protection authorities to take?	1. They should not get involved at all 2. They should monitor/visit the family, but not interfere unless the situation worsens 3. They should provide in-home services for the family, even if the parents do not want it 4. They should prepare for a care order to temporarily place the children with another family 5. They should prepare for a care order to permanently place the children with another family

Table D. Mean, SD and valid N for each statement by country

	Competency			Fair			Respect			Discriminate			Moral alignment			Latent		
	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N
NO	2.72	0.88	815	2.64	0.86	796	2.66	0.91	787	2.48	0.99	673	2.61	0.89	711	2.64	0.74	523
EN	2.93	0.73	828	2.91	0.75	774	2.87	0.74	750	2.53	0.96	733	3.02	0.74	765	2.88	0.56	531
FI	2.96	0.69	868	2.74	0.71	822	2.73	0.72	767	2.78	0.81	683	2.79	0.73	760	2.81	0.58	550
PO	2.90	0.66	874	2.67	0.69	818	2.74	0.69	821	2.39	0.83	785	2.76	0.72	820	2.69	0.53	634
RO	2.63	0.80	882	2.56	0.77	863	2.59	0.78	845	2.40	0.86	841	2.61	0.78	817	2.57	0.58	672
CZ	2.90	0.61	789	2.67	0.71	777	2.73	0.70	745	2.58	0.82	737	2.79	0.68	657	2.73	0.45	491
Tot.	2.84	0.74	5065	2.70	0.76	4850	2.71	0.77	4715	2.52	0.89	4452	2.76	0.77	4530	2.71	0.59	3401

Table E. Coding of background variables

Variable name	Description of recoding
Gender	Woman = 0 Man = 1
Age	Age
Age group	1 = 18-22 2 = 23-35 3 = 36-55 4 = 56-80

Variable name	Description of recoding
Region	11 regions in Norway and UK, 14 regions in Czechia, 5 regions in Finland, 6 regions in Poland, 8 regions in Romania
Income	6-point scale: 1 = lowest income level, 6 = highest income level *Original coding: 6-point scale in Norway, England, and Finland, 10-point scale in Czechia, 13-point scale in Poland and 17-point scale in Romania. For polish respondents, the alternative values indicated monthly income level, whilst the remaining five countries had alternatives denoting annual income levels. Because the values across countries are incomparable, and all the countries' income alternatives were recoded to a 6-point scale, the inconsistency in monthly and annual income is not of much trouble. Additionally, the countries with more than 6 values were recoded into a 6-point scale in order to have a consistent scale across all six countries.*
Size city	1 = Rural area/village with less than 5000 inhabitants 2 = Rural area/village with 5000-49.999 inhabitants 3 = City with 5000-49.999 inhabitants 4 = City with 50.000 inhabitants or more 5 = Capital city area
Employment	0 = Not working (including respondents who are student/apprentice, unemployed (looking for job), unemployed (receiving disability benefits), and retired) 1 = Working (including respondents who are permanently employed fulltime, permanently employed parttime, on temporary contracts and freelancers) *Original coding: Permanently employed, fulltime = 1, Permanently employed, parttime = 2, Temporary contract = 3, Freelancer = 4, Student/apprentice = 5, Unemployed, looking for job = 6, Unemployed, receiving disability benefits = 7, Retired = 8*
Political orientation	0-3 = Left 4-6 = Centre 7-10 = Right

Variable name	Description of recoding
	Original coding: 11-point scale: 0 = Left, 5 = Centre, 10 = Right
Marital status	0 = Not married (including respondents who responded not married, divorced, separated and widowed) 1 = Married/partnership (including respondents who are legally married or in a legal partnership/civil union) *Original coding: Not married = 1, In a legal partnership/civil union = 2, Legally married = 3, Divorced = 4, Separated = 5, Widowed = 6*
Children in household	0 = No children 1 = Children *Original coding: No children = 1, 1 child = 2, 2 children = 3, 3 children = 4, 4 children = 5, 5 or more children = 6*
Education	1 = Low (including whose who have not completed any education, primary education, secondary education and occupational/vocational education) 2 = Medium (including those with higher education 1-3 years) 3 = High (including those with higher education 4 years or more) *Original coding: I have not completed any education = 1, Primary education = 2, Secondary education = 3, Occupational/vocational education = 4, Higher education, 1-3 years = 5, Higher education, 4 years or more = 6*

Table F. Overall Confidence (latent) in the Child Protection System by Socio-Demographic Characteristics (Mean, SD, t/F-test, 95 %)

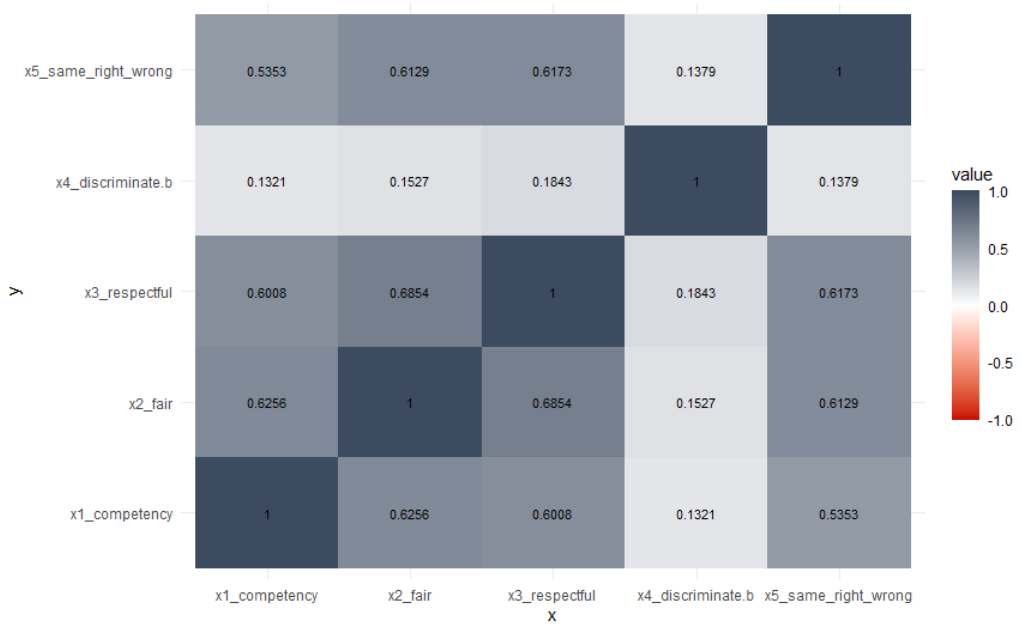
	Mean	SD	t/F = Pr(t/F)
Gender			
Female	2.71	0.60	t(-0.58904)= 0.555
Male	2.72	0.58	
Age			
18-22	2.70	0.51	F(0.555)= 0.456
23-35	2.72	0.56	
36-55	2.69	0.62	
56-80	2.74	0.59	
Education			
Low	2.70	0.58	F(2.05)= 0.152
Medium	2.72	0.60	
High	2.77	0.58	
Marital status			
Not married	2.70	0.60	t(-1.1305)= 0.258
Married/partnership	2.72	0.58	
Employment			

Not working	2.66	0.62	t(-3.7604) =0.00***
Working	2.74	0.57	
Children			
No children	2.69	0.60	t(-2.0758) =0.037**
Children	2.75	0.58	
Size of home area			
Rural < 5000	2.73	0.55	F(0.494) =0.482
Rural 5000-49.999	2.70	0.60	
City 5000-49.999	2.73	0.59	
City > 50.000	2.71	0.61	
Capital area	2.69	0.58	
Political orientation			
Left	2.71	0.61	F(0.41) =0.522
Centre	2.71	0.58	
Right	2.73	0.59	

A sub-section on the latent variable

Figure 1 below illustrate the strength and direction of the correlations between each of the five statement variables. As we can see, four out of the five items (x1, x2, x3, and x5) are relatively highly correlated (well over 0.5 for all correlations), whilst the fourth item (x4) has lower correlation coefficients than the others (ranging from 0.1321 to 0.1843). We believe that these correlation coefficients, and the Cronbach's alpha test are sufficient to justify the creation of a latent variable of level of confidence. The latent variable is an operationalisation of an underlying concept, confidence, that may be difficult to measure due to its highly abstract and unobservable nature (Fariss et al., 2020). We thus construct a latent trait variable taking the mean value of each respondent's response to the five statements. The latent variable is a numeric variable that goes from 1 to 4 by 0.2, as seen in table 1 below.

Figure 1 Correlation table



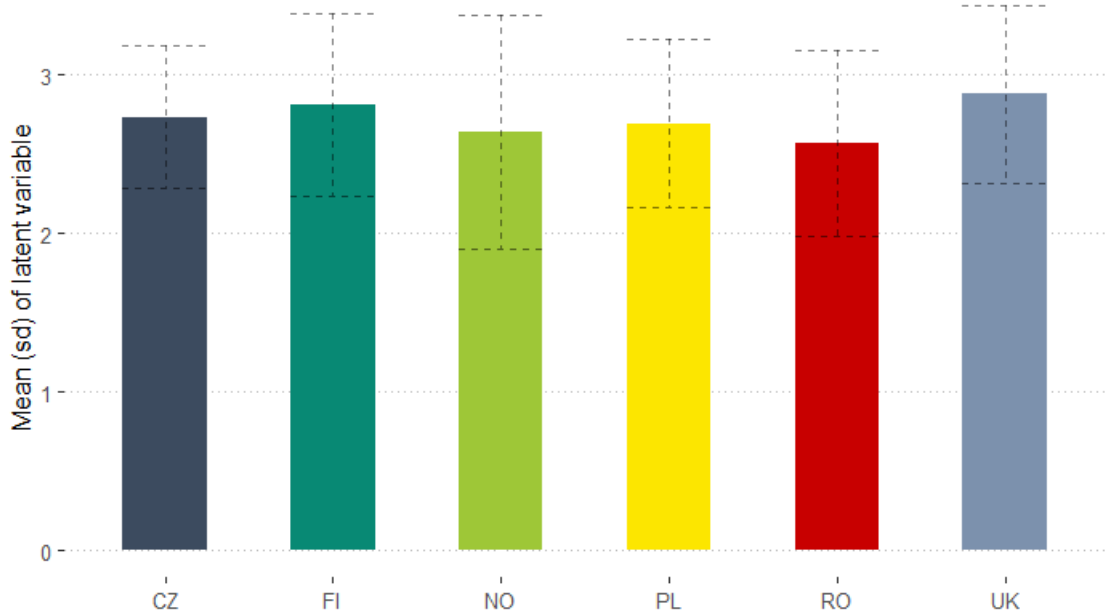
Many problems in the social sciences involve making inferences about quantities that are not directly observable. Here I refer to these quantities as latent states or latent variables. In each instance, the available data are manifestations (or indicators) of the latent quantity and the inferential problem can be stated as follows: Conditional on observable data y, what should we believe about latent quantities x? (Jackman, 2008, pp. 1-2).

A latent trait refers to a set of observable variables are manifestations of an underlying conceptual process that is not perfectly observable or knowable (Fariss et al., 2020, p. 1). There are no hard rules for deciding when a scale measure z is reliable on the basis of Cronbach's alpha, however, reliabilities less than .5 are often considered less than acceptable in many settings. In some disciplines, such as psychology and educational testing, higher reliability coefficients are normally applied (e.g., see Jackman (2008); Ping and Xitao (2003); Viswesvaran and Ones (2000)). When disaggregating the results to country level, we do find some variations in the Cronbach's alpha, see table 2 in the article. The country with the highest score here is Norway (0.86), followed by Finland (0.81) and Romania (0.77). At the bottom we find Czechia with 0.65. The Cronbach's alpha test for Czechia also show that the x4_discriminate variable is negatively correlated with two other items (x5_same_sense_right_wrong and x2_fair), even after it has been inverted to align with the direction of the scales in the other variables.

Tabell 1 Descriptive statistics of Confidence variable

Value	N	Raw %	Valid %	Cum. %
1.00	37	0.61	1.09	1.09
1.20	40	0.66	1.18	2.26
1.40	33	0.55	0.97	3.23
1.60	97	1.61	2.85	6.09
1.80	107	1.77	3.15	9.23
2.00	224	3.71	6.59	15.82
2.20	276	4.57	8.12	23.93
2.40	262	4.34	7.70	31.64
2.60	280	4.63	8.23	39.87
2.80	618	10.23	18.17	58.04
3.00	667	11.04	19.61	77.65
3.20	328	5.43	9.64	87.30
3.40	213	3.52	6.26	93.56
3.60	87	1.44	2.56	96.12
3.80	64	1.06	1.88	98.00
4.00	68	1.13	2.00	100.00
NA	2642	43.72	NA	NA

Figure 2. Latent variable, average score per country and standard deviation



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