

# Public opinion shifts throughout the crisis in EU regions

Evidence for potential long-term effects

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# Research questions

## 1. What impact had the crisis on public opinion across EU regions?

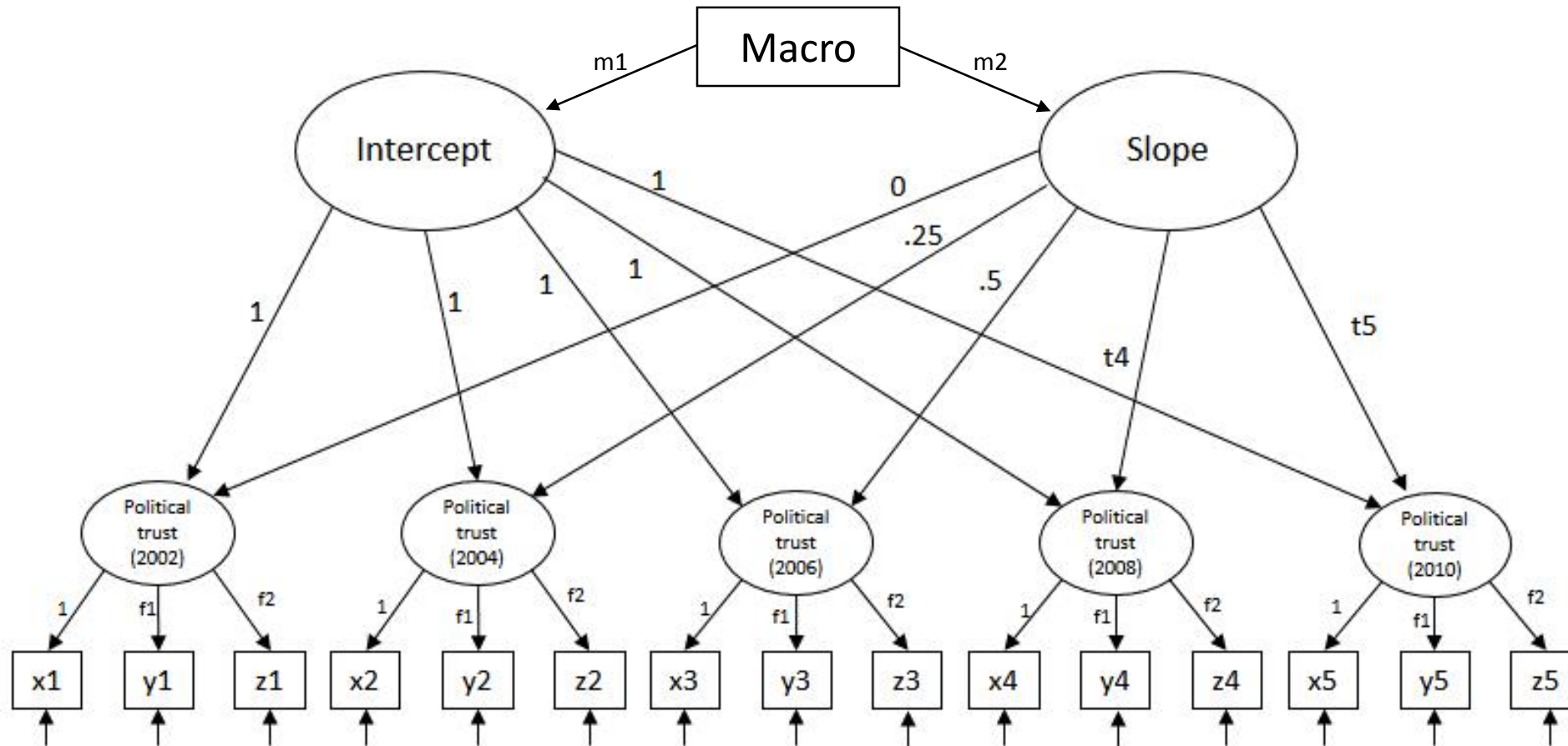
Three central public opinion items due to the nature of the crisis:

- Political trust (3 indicator latent variable)
- Social trust (3 indicator latent variable)
- Redistribution attitude (1 item)

## 2. Do perform regions differently depending on economic indicators?

Implicit assumption: Shifts in public opinion have a long-term effect, which might differ from short-term effects

# Latent Growth Model (example for political trust)

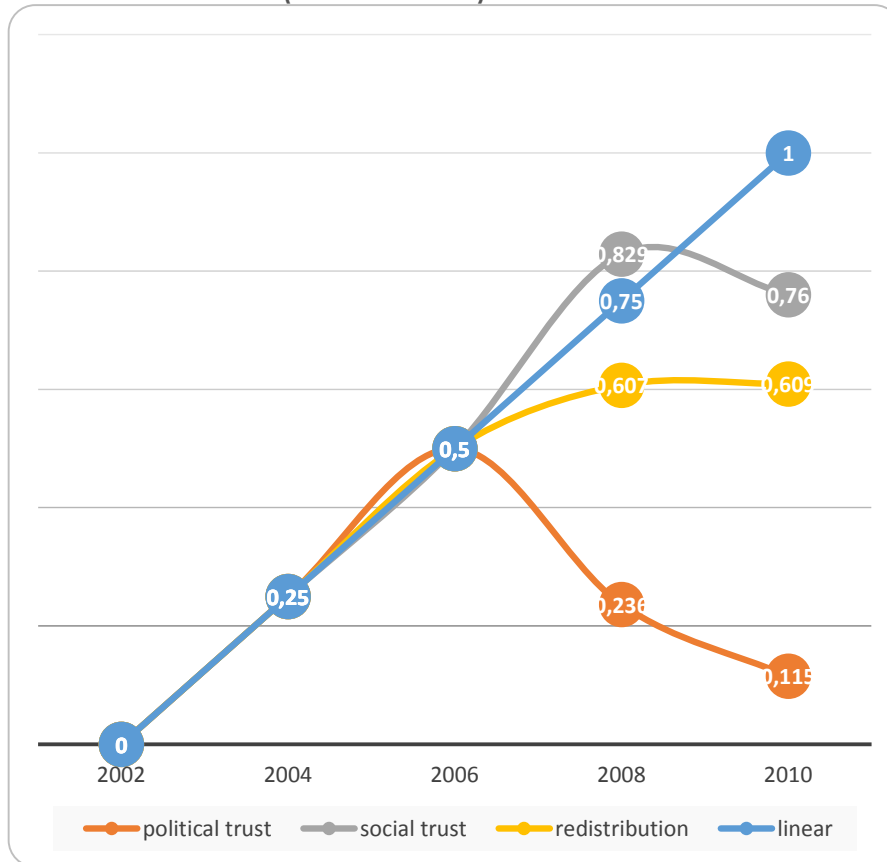


# Data

- ESS rounds 1-5 with all EU countries participating in all 5 rounds (BE, DK, DE, ES, FI, FR, GB, HU, IE, NL, PL, PT, SE, SI)
- Aggregated on NUTS1 level (N=60) with minor adaptations:
  - merged Saarland, Bremen and Hamburg for small N
  - skipped ES7 and PO5 for indefinite covariance matrix
- Macro variables to define groups (above/below average):
  - Recent Performance: Unemployment rate 2009 (37/23), GDP 2009 (32/28)
  - Long-term development: UR2009/UR2002 (37/23), GDP2009/GDP2002 (31/29)

# Results

Development through crisis (t4 = 2008) and after (t5 = 2010)



Macro effects on  
(Reference group = above average)

	Intercept (m1) Red./Pol./Soc.	Slope (m2) Red./Pol./Soc.
Unemployment rate 2009	+ / - / -	0 / 0 / 0
UR ratio 2009/2002	0 / 0 / +	0 / 0 / 0
GDP 2009	+ / - / -	0 / 0 / 0
GDP ratio 2009/2002	- / 0 / +	+ / 0 / 0

Red. = redistribution attitudes, Pol. = political trust, Soc. = social trust;  
+ = effect is positive and significant, - = effect is negative and significant, 0 = not significant

# Findings and (policy) implications

- Public opinion seems to be similarly effected in EU regions
- Its more about the starting point than the difference in change
- The crisis opened a window of opportunity, but it is already closed in 2010 (lost chance to regain political trust)
- Shifts from 2008 to 2010 can be considered unfavorable for policy change (climate change?)
- Unsatisfying aspects of the paper:
  - Measurement of political climate needs more detail
  - Alternate variables need to be consider (e.g. lost generation problem)