

**Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences**

**School of Social Sciences and Philosophy**

**Department of Sociology**

### Junior Sophister Supplemental Hilary Term 2021

### TSM, BESS, PPES, BSS, BSL, Soc Soc Pol,

### Visiting and Erasmus

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# Researching Society 2

**Dr Yekaterina Chzhen**

**Instructions to Candidates**:

Please answer **all three (3)** questions (1,500 words max overall) and submit your research report via Blackboard on **Friday 20th August at 17.00** at the latest. Please attach the coversheet below to your submission.

A close up of a logo

Description automatically generated **SOCIOLOGY DEPARTRMENT**

**Assignment Submission Form - Individual Assignment**

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| --- | --- |
| **Student Name:** |  |
| **Student ID Number:** |  |
| **Programme Title:** |  |
| **Module Title:** | Researching Society 2 |
| **Assessment Title:** |  |
| **Lecturer(s):** | Dr Yekaterina Chzhen |
| **Date Submitted:** |  |

I have read and I understand the plagiarism provisions contained in the General Regulations of the University Calendar found at:

<http://www.tcd.ie/calendar/assets/pdf/tcd-calendar-h-regulations.pdf>

I declare that the assignment being submitted represents my own work and has not been taken from the work of others save where appropriately referenced in the body of the assignment.

**Signed** **Date:**

Download the dataset ESS\_short.sav from ‘Data for Supplemental Assignment’ on Blackboard. It is an extract from the European Social Survey 2018. The dataset is limited to just one country, Ireland, but no individual responses were excluded. It contains the following selection of variables:

* *Trstlgl*: “Trust in the legal system” on an 11-point scale from 0 (no trust at all) to 10 (complete trust).
* *Brncntr*: “Born in country” (1 Yes; 2 No).
* *Gndr*: “Gender” (1 Male; 2 Female).
* *Age*: age in years (min: 15; max: 90)
* *Edulvl*: Highest level of education (1 “Upper secondary or lower”; 2 “Further/Higher”) (3 “Postgraduate”)
* *Activity*: “Main activity” (1 “Paid work”; 2 “Education”; 3 “Unemployed”; 4 “Retired”; 5 “Looking after family”; 6 “Other”).

The aim of the assignment is to assess variation in trust in the legal system in Ireland. Do any necessary recoding and analyze the data using appropriate statistical tests. Comment on both statistical and substantive significance of your results. Include the SPSS syntax (as text) that you have used for this assignment in a separate appendix at the end of the document (not contributing to the word count). You do not need to include any references.

**Question 1**

Analyze the variation in trust in the legal system separately by age, gender, educational attainment, economic activity and migration background. Present the regression coefficients and any other relevant information for each of the five regression models. Provide an interpretation of this information, including the relative magnitude of the effects.

**Question 2**

Instead of regressing each of the independent variables on trust in the legal system separately, include all the independent variables in one multiple regression model. How do these results differ from your conclusions based on the regressions with only one independent variable? Give some possible explanations for these differences.

It is possible that the effect of age on trust in the legal system varies by migration background (i.e. whether born in Ireland or not). Test this hypothesis using interaction analysis and discuss the results.

HINT: You could create two dummy variables from *Brncntr,* one where the reference category is “born in Ireland” and another where the reference category is “foreign born”. Creating two corresponding interaction terms and entering them in separate regressions would allow you to estimate the ‘main effect’ of age separately for those who are born in Ireland and the rest, with the corresponding p-values.

**Question 3**

Recode trust in the legal system into a binary variable, justify your choice of the cut-off point and estimate a logistic regression model with age, gender, educational attainment, economic activity and migration background as predictors. Present the results in a table and interpret the findings.

Graphs may be pasted directly from SPSS, but tables should be edited. Tables should include meaningful titles and variable labels. Include the data source underneath the tables (i.e. the name and year of the survey). Numbers should be rounded to two or three decimal places. Make it clear which countries are included in the graphs and tables. Marks will be deducted for bad presentation.

Pay close attention to the reporting and interpreting the results of your statistical tests. Write in full sentences. It is good practice to (re)state the hypothesis you set out to test, then report whether your results supported it, then present the results that allowed you to draw this conclusion. Where relevant, state the direction of a difference (i.e. positive or negative).

When reporting on the statistical significance of your findings, use asterisks in the tables (i.e. \*\*\* p<0.001; \*\* p<0.01; \* p<0.05) and refer to the significance levels in the text. Use the most conservative (lowest) p-value you can. For example, if the p-value is between 0.01 and 0.05, it’s p<0.05, but if it is between 0.001 and 0.01, it is p<0.01, not p<0.05. If the p-value is less than 0.001 (e.g. 0.000), it is p<0.001.