OPERATIONALIZATION OF INDEPENDENT VARIABLES (41C, Q19 PAPER)

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Operationalization of Basic Values:

These values are titled universalism, security, and self-direction, measured in six questions in which question 1 and 2 measure the value of universalism, 3 and 4 measure security, while 5 and 6 measure self-direction:

Q49:
    Please tell us if you disagree or agree with the following statements:
    1. Every person in the world should be treated equally
    2. Everyone should have equal opportunities in life
    3. It is important to live in secure surroundings
    4. I avoid anything that might endanger my safety
    5. It is important to make my own decisions about what I do
    6. I like to be free and not depend on others

Response alternatives are: very much disagree (1), disagree (2), agree (3), very much agree (4), or do not know/do not want to answer (5). The pairs are then aggregated so that each basic value is represented by one variable, with 0 representing low value and 1 representing high value of each basic value.

Operationalization of Political Values:

The variable has either *freedom*, *caring*, or *order* as prioritized value. The values examined are based on Swedlow & Wyckoff (2009)'s study where they investigated attitudinal structures of political ideologies and how they are connected to the value preferences. Respondents had to choose either of the two options from three possible pairings of values. The variable was constructed from three sequential related questions in the survey. The questions are as follows:

Q1:
    When it comes to political issues, which one of the following two goals is most important to you, if you had to choose just one?
    1. Protecting the freedom of the individual
    2. Caring for those who need help
Q2:
    Which of these is more important to you:
    1. Maintaining order and stability in society
    2. Protecting the freedom of the individual
Q3:
    Finally, which of these is more important to you:
    1. Caring for those who need help
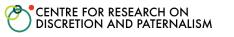   2. Maintaining order and stability in society

As can be seen, answering all three questions led to a prioritization of which belief and in which order that each individual deemed to be important respectively. These orders are recorded as priority value that can be seen in the following Table 1. We argue that individuals with neutral stance of priority does not contribute to the research insight, hence, recoding them as NAs.

Table 1 – Political Values Operationalization

Priorities of Values	Q1	Q2	Q3	Recoding

Freedom > Caring > Order	1	2	1	Freedom
Freedom > Order > Caring	1	2	2	Freedom
Caring > Freedom > Order	2	2	1	Caring
Caring > Order > Freedom	2	1	1	Caring
Order > Freedom > Caring	1	1	2	Order
Order > Caring > Freedom	2	1	2	Order
Freedom = Caring = Order	1	1	1	NA
Caring = Order = Freedom	2	2	2	NA

Operationalization of Rights' Orientation:

Preference on using certain rights as principle for decision making derives from the following question, in which respondents could choose one alternative:

Q10:

In child protection court cases involving maltreatment of a child, which of the following three principles do you believe should be used by a decision-maker?
1. The decision-maker should give priority to what serves the child best
2. The decision-maker should give equal priority to both what serves the child best and what serves the parents best
3. The decision-maker should give priority to what serves the parents best
4. Don't know / Don't want to answer

The questions on rights' orientation were built upon prior research. Initially, Berrick et al. (2022) investigated rights orientation and operationalized the variable as three separate statements in which each were scaled 1-4, measuring the agreement for each statement respectively. However, in recent study, the framework was further developed into what was presented above (Berrick et al., 2024). The following Table 2 shows distribution of respondents' choice related to rights orientation in this study.

Table 2 – Total sample distribution of Rights' Orientation

	n	%	% (excluding non-response)
Child Rights	29088	71.9	75.11
Equal Rights	8755	21.64	22.61
Parents' Rights	884	2.18	2.28
Non-response	1728	4.27	-

Operationalization of Authoritarian Value:

Authoritarian value was measured using childrearing measurement which initially introduced in 1992 on the American National Election Study (ANES), but later redeveloped by Engelhardt et al. (2023) with four additional measurement items, totalling to 8-items measurement. The order of alternatives for each item is randomized, i.e., some respondents saw "Independent" first, while others saw "Respectful of their elders" first (see methodological report page 13). The respondents must choose either of the two options.

Q32:

"Although there are a number of qualities that people think children should have, every person thinks that some are more important than others. Although you may feel that both qualities are important, please choose which one of each pair is more important for a child to have. Would you say that it is more important for a child to be:

Table 3 – Child qualities that are compared against each other in each item

	Low Value of Authoritarianism	High Value of Authoritarianism
Q32-1	Independent	Respectful of their elders

Q32-2	Curious	Good-mannered
Q32-3	Self-reliant	Obedience
Q32-4	Considerate	Well-behaved
Q32-5	Free-spirited	Polite
Q32-6	Imaginative	Orderly
Q32-7	Adaptable	Disciplined
Q32-8	Open-minded	Loyal

Operationalization of institutional context of child protection system (CPS):

The institutional context of child protection system is operationalized based on the global child protection typology from Oxford Handbook of Child Protection Systems (Berrick et al., 2023a). it is a tentative classification, and must thus be read with caution.

For the 41 countries covered in this survey, we did not have any country that can be classified into having child exploitation-based protection system. Most countries are classified as child maltreatment-based protection system. For the regression analysis, we refer to the child rights-based protection system as a reference category. The 41 countries included in the study are categorized in Table 4 below.

Table 4 – CPS Typology for 41 Countries

No	CPS Typology	Number of Countries	Country Names
1	Child Exploitation	0	-
2	Child Deprivation	6	Chile, Colombia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Mexico, Turkey
3	Child Maltreatment	22	Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, England, Estonia, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Poland, Scotland, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, US, Wales
4	Child Well-Being	8	Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland
5	Child Rights	5	Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden

Operationalization of confidence in CPS system:

We operationalize confidence in the child protection system in this study based on prior study by Juhasz and Skivenes (2017). The same questions were also later replicated in Skivenes & Benbenishty's (2022a; 2022b) works. To measure confidence in child protection services, we asked the following questions to the respondents.
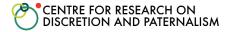
Q37:
> Please tell us how much confidence you, personally, have in:
> 1. The child welfare agencies that shall protect children
> 2. The child welfare workers at these agencies
> 3. The judges in court who make decisions about care orders

Response alternatives: very little (1), some (2), quite a lot (3), a great deal (4), or do not know/do not want to answer (99). For our analysis, we are using a latent variable that aggregates the three actors as a whole system. We conducted correlation and reliability tests on the three actors, in which results can be seen in Table 5**Error! Reference source not found.**. We found that it has moderate to strong correlation in the same direction for the

pairings. Furthermore, Cronbach's Alpha result shows that the latent variable is good on its reliability test. Confidence in child protection system variable is operationalized as a 0-1 scale where 0 represents low level of confidence and 1 represents high level of confidence in the system.

Table 5 – Correlation and Cronbach's Alpha for Trust in Child Protection System

	Child Welfare Agencies	Child Welfare Workers	Judges in Court
Child Welfare Agencies	1		
Child Welfare Workers	0.742	1	
Judges in Court	0.615	0.610	1
Cronbach's Alpha	0.851 (Reliability: Good)		