

Failing to integrate migrant teenagers: lessons from ISRD

(International Self-Report Delinquency Study)

Professor Mike Hough
Birkbeck, University of London

Diego Farren
University of Hamburg

What I want to do

- Talk for around 40 minutes
- About migrant teenagers' integration in developed European countries
- And about their relationships with police and crime
- A depressing story, which boils down to this:
 - Recent migrant kids trust the police and invest legitimacy in them – much as the host population
 - Kids with more distant migrant backgrounds *don't*
 - Especially if they are from visible ethnic minorities
 - Partly because of discrimination and partly because of their immersion in deprived neighbourhoods.

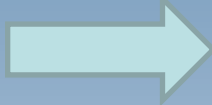
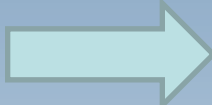

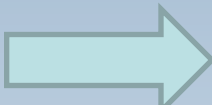
Origins of this work

- Work on the 2010 European Social Survey testing procedural justice theory
- Jon Jackson, Ben Bradford, myself and others developed a module testing PJ ideas
- We found strong support for the theory
- And showed how ‘modes of incorporation’ determined migrants’ attitudes to justice.
- But do the findings hold for younger people?
- I inserted a cut down version of the module into the ISRD questionnaire.

The International Self-Report Delinquency Study

- Three sweeps to date – 3rd covers 2014-17
- School survey of kids aged 12-16 in 28 countries
- Samples of around 2,000 per country
- 62,636 respondents, mainly online survey
- Questions include experience as offenders and victims, drug use, parental control (45 mins to do)
- PJ module done by 9th (and sometimes 8th grade)
- Trust in justice module: 10 items drawn from ESS
- This analysis covers 4,352 pupils in France, Germany, Netherlands, England, Scotland & US.

Trust, legitimacy and consent to the rule of law: the theory

- Fair and respectful treatment  Trust
- Trust  Legitimacy
- Legitimacy  Compliance with law
- Legitimacy  Cooperation with cops

- Normative compliance is better and less costly than instrumental (or coerced) compliance

Definition: the justice system has (empirical) legitimacy when:

1. Citizens offer their *willing* consent to the to the police and the justice system
2. Not just *coerced* consent
3. This consent derives from ‘moral alignment’ between the justice system and citizens
4. And from belief that the system acts legally and fairly

Three hypotheses

1. Pupils with migrant backgrounds will express less trust in the police, rate the police as having less legitimacy, and score higher on self-reported violence than natives.
2. These differences can be largely explained by the mediating effect of economic and social disadvantage.
3. There will be differences between ethnic minority migrants and white migrants, and differences between ethnic minority natives and white natives.

Procedural justice and offending measures

- Trust: three dimensions – trust in procedural fairness, trust in police effectiveness, trust in distributive fairness
- Legitimacy: three dimensions – duty to obey, moral alignment, lawfulness
- Compliance: prevalence of ‘last year’ involvement in carrying weapon, group fight or assault.

Measures of migrant and ethnicity status

- 1st generation migrant: child (and at least one parent) born abroad
- 2nd generation migrant: child of at least one 1st generation migrant
- Native: everyone else

- Visible ethnic minority: rough-and-ready recoding of self-defined ethnicity
- White: everyone else

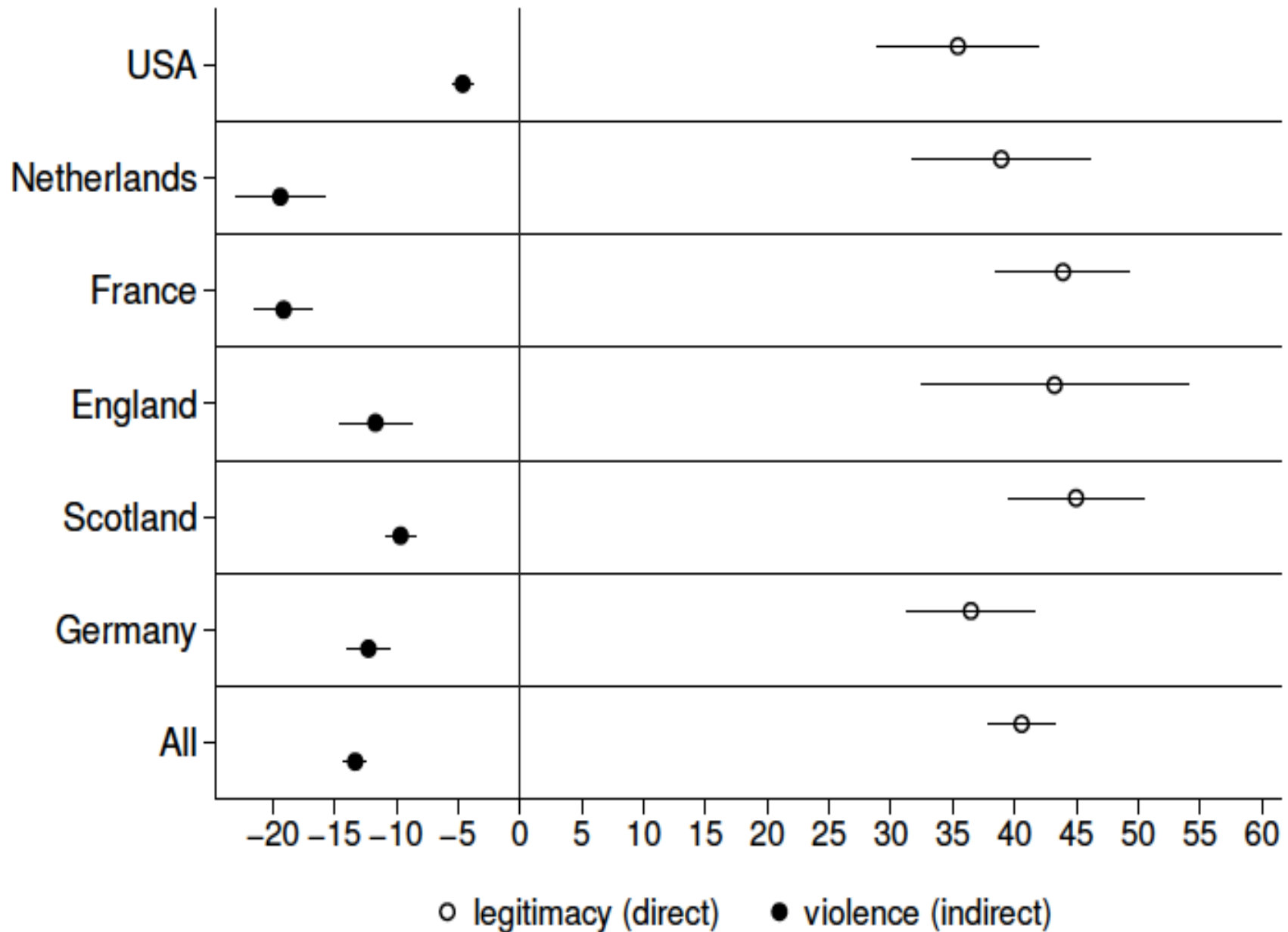
Control variables and analysis

- Demographic controls (all models): gender, age, family structure.
- Controls measuring social and economic integration (hypotheses 2 & 3) such as:
 - Affluence
 - Neighbourhood deprivation
 - Neighbourhood collective efficacy
 - Proportion of family friends that are migrants
- Linear path analysis (form of regression)

The results

First, the overall relationships between trust, legitimacy and compliance across six countries

Selected effects of trust on PJ variables

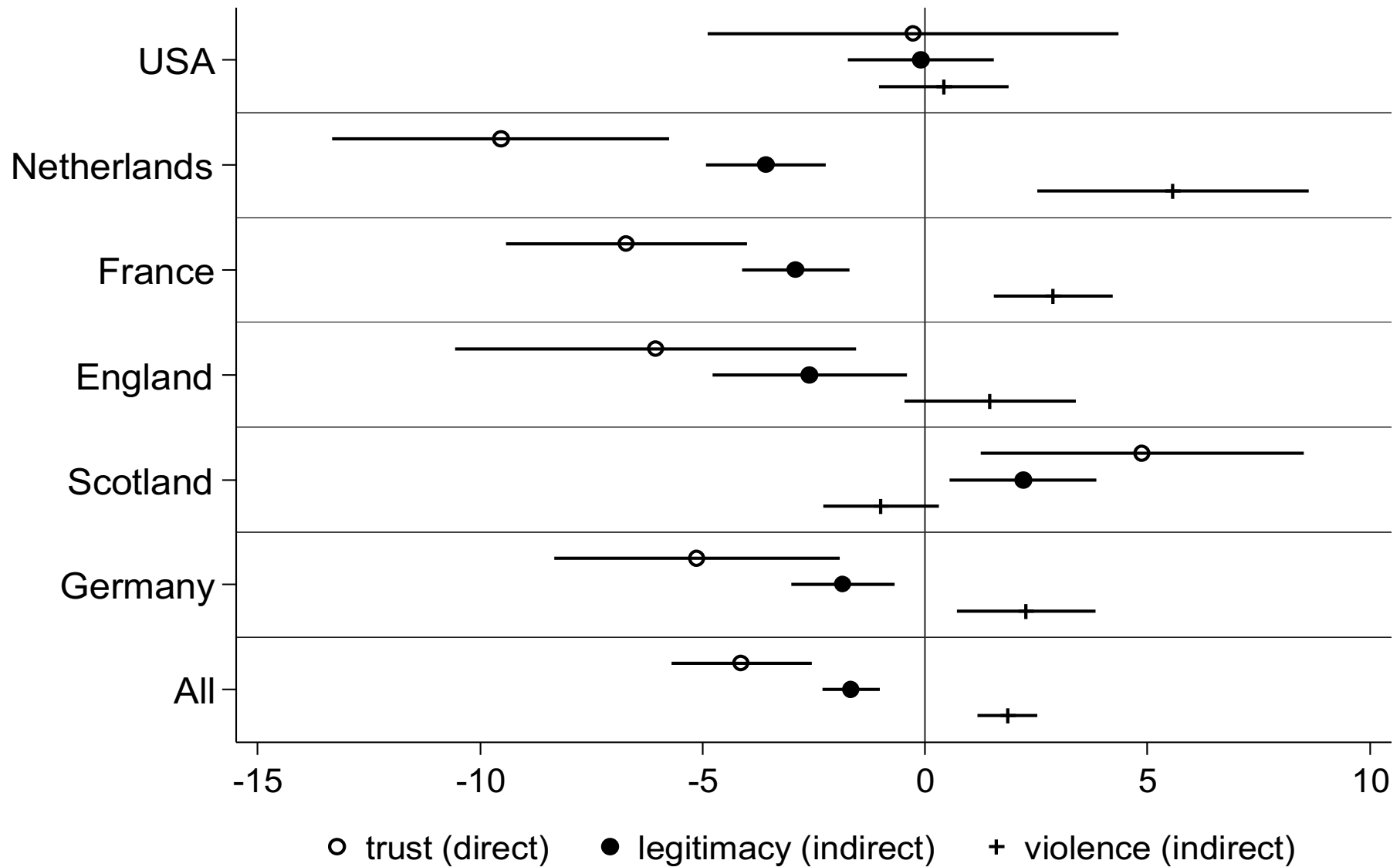


Hypothesis 1

Pupils with migrant backgrounds will express less trust in the police, rate the police as having less legitimacy, and score higher on self-reported violence than natives

[Hypothesis motivated by prior work on ESS]

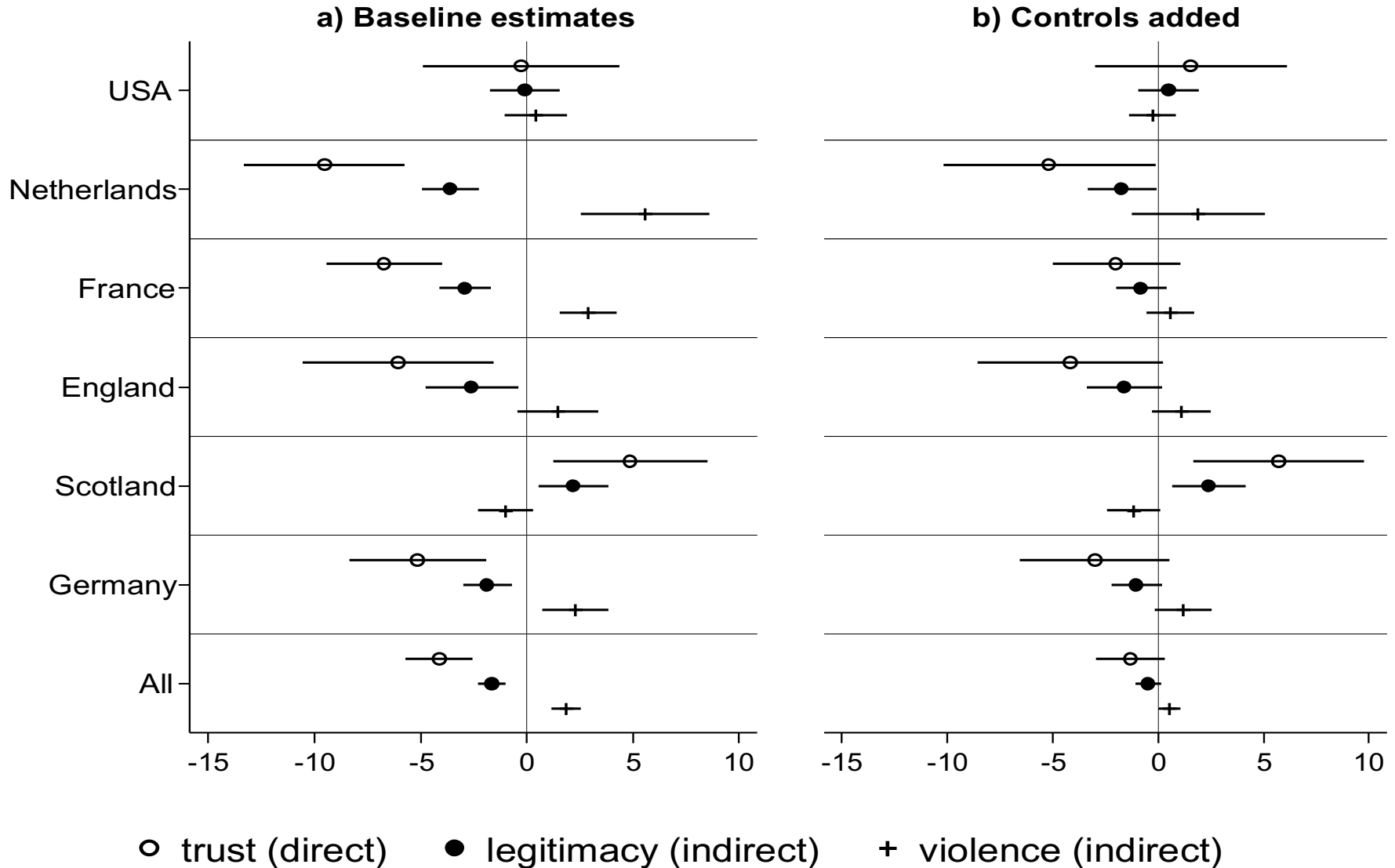
Selected effects of migration without controls



Hypothesis 2

These differences between migrant and native pupils can be largely explained by the mediating effect of economic and social disadvantage.

Selected effects of migration without and with controls for mode of integration



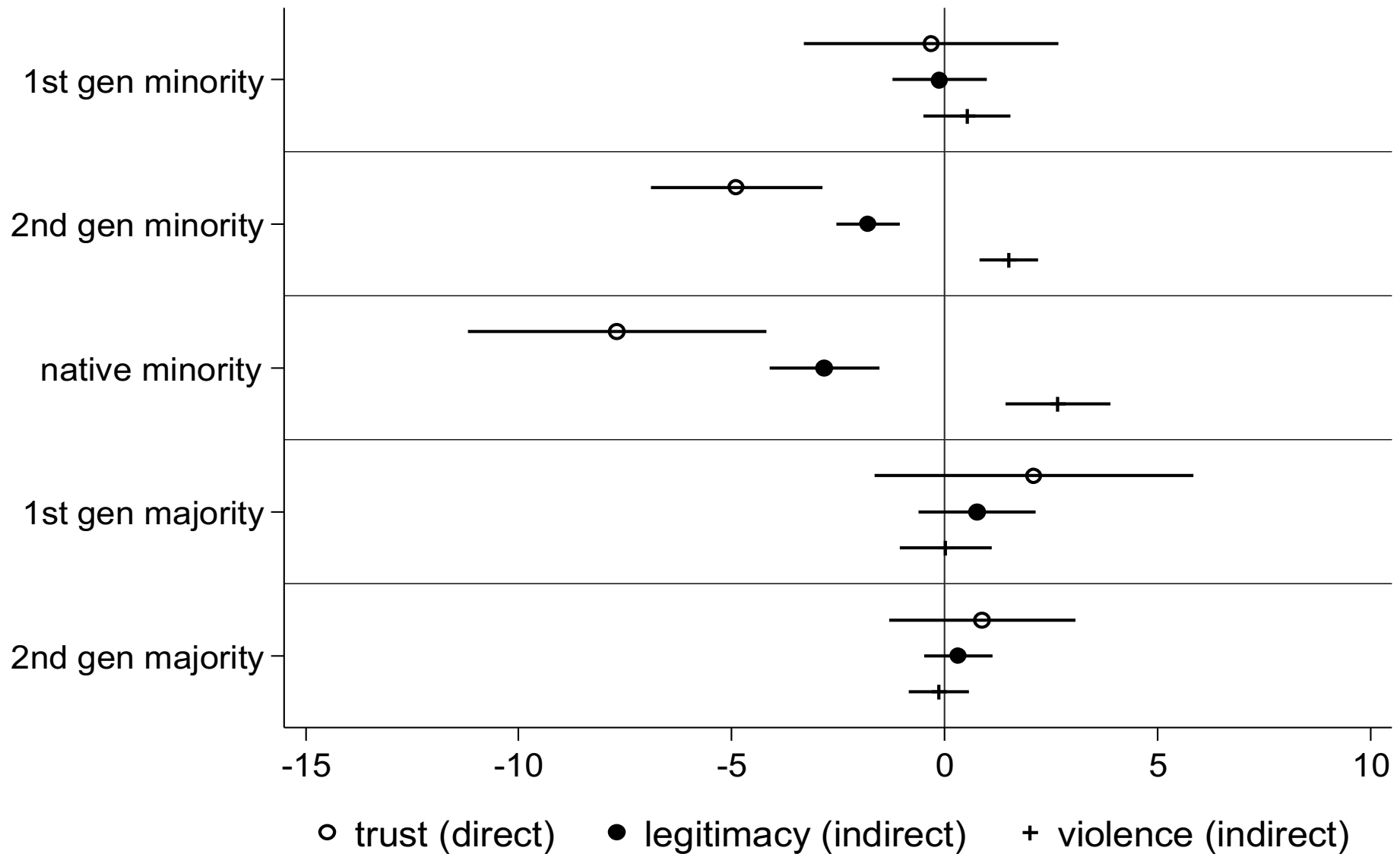
Hypothesis 3

There will be differences between:

- ethnic minority migrants and white migrants, and
- differences between ethnic minority natives and white natives,

[Hypothesis motivated by research on group position theory and experience of discrimination.]

Effect of minority and migration status on selected PJ variables



Limitations

- High non-response rate at school level
- Limitations of long & complex surveys
- Crude measure of ethnicity
- Native minorities largely in UK & US
- In essence, correlational rather than causal study – but alternative explanations of causality are less parsimonious
- But consistency of findings is striking
- Given levels of measurement noise

Conclusions

- PJ theory is useful in explaining migrants' orientation to crime and policing
- The relationships between migrant status, hostility to police and violence is spurious
- But clear differences between minority and majority migrants – which become *more* marked as migrants acquire native status.
- Best understood as:
 - Poor incorporation of minority migrants
 - Interacting with experience of discrimination
- We all pick up the bill for this policy failure

Conclusions

- It is not migration *per se* that is the problem, it is the *how* of migration
- And these six developed countries don't do it very well

References

Farren, D., Hough, M., Murray, K. and McVie, S. (2018). Trust in the police and police legitimacy through the eyes of teenagers. In Roché, S. and Hough, M. (Eds.): **Minority Youth, Social Integration and the State: The ISRD-3 Study in Europe and the US**. New York: Springer

Farren, D. and Hough, M. (2018) 'Teenagers' perceptions of legitimacy and preparedness to break the law: the impact of migrant and ethnic minority status' in (eds.) Roché, S. and Hough, M. **Minority Youth, Social Integration and the State: The ISRD-3 Study in Europe and the US**. New York: Springer.

Bradford, B., Jackson, J. and Hough, M. (2018) '[Ethnicity, legitimacy and modes of incorporation: early findings from the European Social Survey](#)' In: Roche, Sebastian and Oberwittler, Dietrich, (eds.) **Police-citizen Relations: A Comparative Investigation of Sources and Impediments of Legitimacy around the World**. Routledge, Oxon, UK.

Failing to integrate migrant teenagers: lessons from ISRD

(International Self-Report Delinquency Study)

Professor Mike Hough
Birkbeck, University of London

Diego Farren
University of Hamburg