

Multi-Item Scale for Project:

FGZ Cohesion Panel: Wave 2 – Questions on climate change, antisemitism, and gender equality (English Version)

Question Text:

Currently, there is a lot of discussion about climate policy (i.e., policy decisions made because of climate change). To what extent do you agree with the following statements? *[Derzeit gibt es viele Diskussionen über die Klimapolitik (d.h. politische Entscheidungen, die wegen des Klimawandels getroffen werden). Inwieweit stimmen Sie den folgenden Aussagen zu?]*

Answer Categories:

Strongly disagree *[Stimme überhaupt nicht zu]*
Rather disagree *[Stimme eher nicht zu]*
Neither agree nor disagree *[Teils-teils]*
Rather agree *[Stimme eher zu]*
Strongly agree *[Stimme voll und ganz zu]*

Findings for Multi-Item Scale:

There was no item nonresponse for question 2, that is, all three items were answered by all 240 respondents. In addition, the test persons used the entire scale range for all items (see Table 3). Looking at the frequency distributions of items a and b, it can be seen that respondents agreed and disagreed with the statements in roughly equal proportions (item a: 34 % vs. 38 %, item b: 38 % vs. 35 %). Item c, on the other hand, was agreed with significantly more often (65 %) than disagreed (15 %).

The aim of the pretest was to investigate how the test persons justified their answers to the individual items and whether the justifications matched the selected answer option. The corresponding cognitive follow-up questions (N1_F2, see Appendix) were asked of the 116 subjects who were (randomly) as-signed to Group 2. About one-third of these subjects were asked questions on items a, b, and c, respectively.

Recommendations for Multi-Item Scale:

The results of the pretest do not indicate any problems with the question, so it can be left in its current form.

Cognitive Techniques:

General Probing

All Items for Question(Question Text):

Currently, there is a lot of discussion about climate policy (i.e., policy decisions made because of climate change). To what extent do you agree with the following statements?
[Derzeit gibt es viele Diskussionen über die Klimapolitik (d.h. politische Entscheidungen, die wegen des Klimawandels getroffen werden). Inwieweit stimmen Sie den folgenden Aussagen zu?]

-> Tested Items:

Item Text:

a.I am concerned that my own standard of living will decline because of climate policy.
[Mir macht Sorgen, dass mein eigener Lebensstandard wegen der Klimapolitik sinken wird.]

Recommendations:

The results of the pretest do not indicate any problems with the item, so it can be left in its current form.

Findings:

For item a, respondents who disagreed with the statement justified their answers by saying that their own way of life had already been adapted or that they would accept cuts in their standard of living because it was more important to stop climate change:

- *"Because climate change is an urgent issue that absolutely must be addressed. Even if the current standard of living goes down, I think it's necessary."* (TP262, response: rather disagree)
- *"Why should I be concerned? My standard of living is already relatively climate friendly."* (TP303, response: strongly disagree)

Test persons who agreed with the statement justified their answers with concerns about rising energy and food prices or restrictions on vacationing:

- *"The cost of food and energy will rise."* (TP279, response: rather agree)
- *"I like to travel a lot and want to continue to do so (without interference and a guilty con-science)."* (TP382, response: strongly agree)
- *"Raising prices and keeping wages the same doesn't make it any easier financially for fami-lies."* (TP498, response: strongly agree)

Question Topic:

Environment/ Climate protection

Construct:

Concerns: Impact of climate policy

Item Text:

b. I am concerned that jobs are being destroyed as a result of climate policy without sufficient new ones being created. [*Mir macht Sorgen, dass infolge der Klimapolitik Arbeitsplätze vernichtet werden, ohne dass ausreichend neue geschaffen werden.*]

Recommendations:

The results of the pretest do not indicate any problems with the item, so it can be left in its current form.

Findings:

For item b, those test persons who disagreed with the statement argued that new jobs could be creat-ed through the development of new technologies:

- *"It is precisely through climate policy that new jobs are created after all (e.g.wind power plants, solar parks, etc.)."* (TP233, response: rather disagree).
- *"In order to achieve the goals in combating climate change, new technologies must be developed, which in turn promote the emergence of new industries."* (TP296, response: strongly disagree).

In contrast, test subjects who agreed with the statement justified it with concerns about job losses in areas such as the auto industry or air travel, which could not be compensated for by newly created jobs:

- *"If no new other jobs are created by cutting current jobs in mining, nuclear power, the auto industry, and air travel, for example, these people will be left without jobs."* (TP280, response: strongly agree)
- *"As a result of climate policy, some companies will have to close. The question is whether new businesses and jobs will be created."* (TP455, response: strongly agree)

Question Topic:

Environment/ Climate protection

Construct:

Concerns: Impact of climate policy

Item Text:

c. I am concerned that conflicts in society will increase because of climate policy. [*Mir macht Sorgen, dass Konflikte in der Gesellschaft wegen der Klimapolitik zunehmen werden.*]

Recommendations:

The results of the pretest do not indicate any problems with the item, so it can be left in its current form.

Findings:

For item c, disagreement with the statement was based on the fact that the interest in combating climate change was more important and that thus the majority would agree:

- *"I guess everyone has an interest in climate policy making progress."* (TP256, response: rather disagree)
- *"I think most people would get involved."* (TP264, response: rather disagree)

Test subjects who agreed with the statement justified it with concerns about rising social inequality and resistance to possible restrictions:

- *"The high level of inflation combined with the climate policy of the politicians leads to social inequalities."* (TP289, response: strongly agree)
- *"Consequently, there will have to be restrictions on lifestyles. Many citizens will resist this."* (TP267, response: strongly agree)

Question Topic:

Environment/ Climate protection

Construct:

Concerns: Impact of climate policy