

# How Much Do People Value Future Generations? Climate Change, Trust, and Public Support for Future-Oriented Policies - Data from China

**SND-ID:** 2020-130-3. **Version:** 1. **DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5878/ge21-mz09>

## Download data

FutureGenerations.ZH.zip (58.96 KB)

## Associated documentation

Questionnaire.docx (16.99 KB)

## Download all files

2020-130-3-1.zip (~75.95 KB)

## Citation

Fairbrother, M. (2020) How Much Do People Value Future Generations? Climate Change, Trust, and Public Support for Future-Oriented Policies - Data from China (Version 1) [Data set]. Institute for Future Studies. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.5878/ge21-mz09>

## Creator/Principal investigator(s)

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## Research principal

[Institute for Future Studies](#) - Institute for Futures Studies

## Description

Do people care about future generations? Moral philosophers say we should, but it is unclear whether laypeople agree. In particular, humanity's inadequate efforts to mitigate climate change could be due to public indifference or heavy discounting of future generations' well-being. Using surveys and survey experiments in four countries—Sweden, Spain, South Korea, and China—we found that most people say they care about future generations, and would be willing to reduce their standard of living so that people can enjoy better lives in the future. However, not everyone who says they care supports two public actions that could be taken for the benefit of future generations: policies to reduce either global warming or national debt. We find evidence that much of people's apparent lack of concern for future generations is actually due to distrust of major social institutions, and associated doubts about the effectiveness of future-oriented policies.

## Data contains personal data

No

## Language

[English](#)

## Unit of analysis

[Individual](#)

## Population

Adults in Sweden (age range 16-65), Spain (age range 16-65), South Korea (age range 18-54) and China (age range 18-50)

## Time Method

[Cross-section](#)

## Sampling procedure

[Mixed probability and non-probability](#)

Vi genomförde vår studie i fyra länder med olika nivåer av politiskt förtroende: Sverige, Spanien, Sydkorea och Kina. Baserat på tidigare omröstningar och studier är institutionellt förtroende högt i Sverige och Kina och lågt i Spanien och Sydkorea. Vi valde också dessa fyra länder eftersom de spänner över två kulturellt distinkta världsregioner, och befolkningen i de fyra länderna är också kända för att ha olika nivåer av optimism om framtiden. Undersökningarna gjordes av det internationella företaget Ipsos MORI, med online-paneler för vuxna. Uppnådda N var: Sverige 1084 (spänner över åldersintervallet 16-65); Spanien 1298 (16-65); Sydkorea 1176 (18-54); och Kina 1165 (18-50). Eftersom de är online-paneler är proverna inte helt representativa för de nationella befolkningarna. I synnerhet det kinesiska urvalet innehåller oproportionerligt yngre, mer urbana och mer utbildade respondenter.

## Time period(s) investigated

2019 - 2019

## Data format / data structure

[Numeric](#)

[Text](#)

## Data collection 1

- Mode of collection: Self-administered questionnaire
- Time period(s) for data collection: 2019 - 2019
- Source of the data: Research data

## Geographic spread

Geographic location: [Sweden](#), [China](#), [Spain](#), [Korea, the Republic of](#)

## Responsible department/unit

Institute for Futures Studies

## Funding

- Funding agency: The Swedish Foundation for Humanities and Social Sciences
- Funding agency's reference number: M17-0372:1

## Research area

[Energy and natural resources](#) (CESSDA Topic Classification)

[Government, political systems and organisations](#) (CESSDA Topic Classification)

[Political behaviour and attitudes](#) (CESSDA Topic Classification)

[Elites and leadership](#) (CESSDA Topic Classification)

[Climate research](#) (Standard för svensk indelning av forskningsämnen 2011)

[Sociology \(excluding social work, social psychology and social anthropology\)](#) (Standard för svensk indelning av forskningsämnen 2011)

[Philosophy](#) (Standard för svensk indelning av forskningsämnen 2011)

[Ethics](#) (Standard för svensk indelning av forskningsämnen 2011)

[Social behaviour and attitudes](#) (CESSDA Topic Classification)

## Keywords

[Climatic alteration](#), [Energy consumption](#), [Ethics](#), [Future generations](#)

## Publications

Fairbrother M, Arrhenius G, Bykvist K and Campbell T (2021) Governing for Future Generations: How Political Trust Shapes Attitudes Towards Climate and Debt Policies. *Front. Polit. Sci.* 3:656053. doi: 10.3389/fpos.2021.656053

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If you have published anything based on these data, [please notify us](#) with a reference to your publication(s). If you are responsible for the catalogue entry, you can update the metadata/data description in DORIS.

## Accessibility level

Access to data through SND

Data are freely accessible

## Use of data

[Things to consider when using data shared through SND](#)

## Versions

Version 1. 2020-12-10

## Homepage

[Climate ethics and future generations](#)

## Contact for questions about the data

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## Related research data in SND's catalogue

[How Much Do People Value Future Generations? Climate Change, Trust, and Public Support for Future-Oriented Policies - Data from Sweden](#)

[How Much Do People Value Future Generations? Climate Change, Trust, and Public Support for Future-Oriented Policies - Data from Spain](#)

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