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Fairness, Group Identity, and Extremist Attitudes: Insights from Germany with a Procedural Justice Perspective

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motra

Monitoring System and Transfer
Platform Radicalisation



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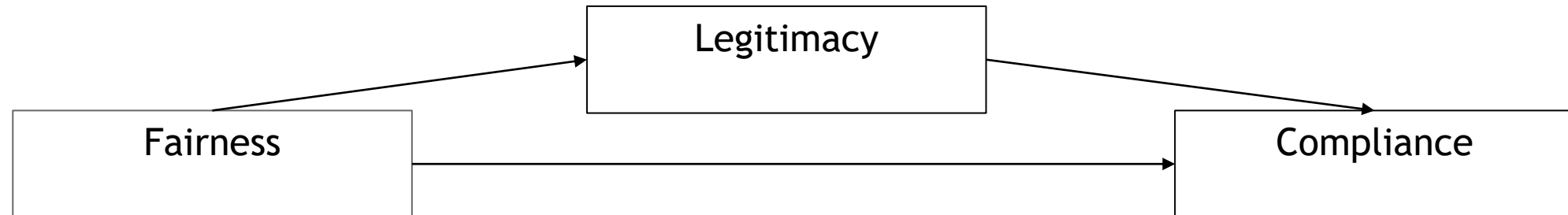


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Theoretical Background: Procedural Justice Theory

- Focuses on the impact of perceptions of fair treatment by authorities on rule compliance.
- Legitimacy as main mechanism explaining the relation between fairness and compliance
 - Legitimacy = closeness that people feel towards authorities and the institutions that they represent
 - Obedience = acting according to the rules dictated by authorities because of individual attachment to them

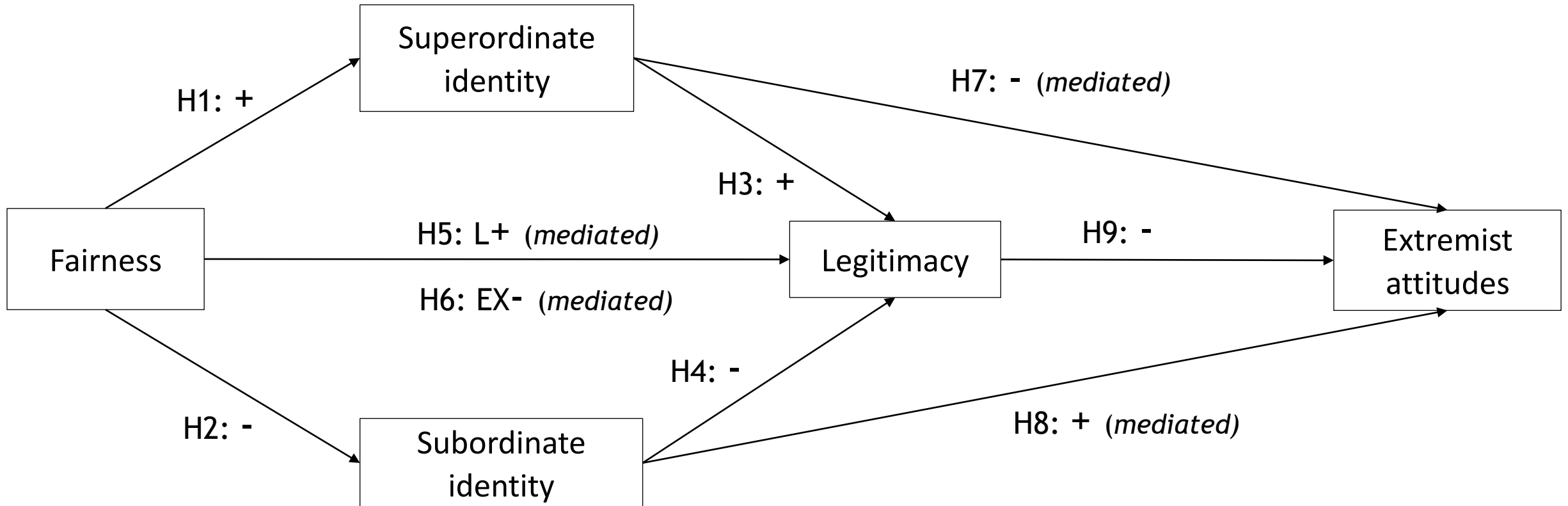


Theoretical Background: Procedural Justice Theory

Extension and adaption:

1. Extremist attitudes as non-compliance
 - Distance to democracy can be interpreted as a form of non-compliant attitude
 - At its extreme, rejecting democracy means rejecting the basic rules of most modern Western societies
2. Identity as additional mediator
 - Including superordinate identity, matching assumptions of Group Engagement Model (Tyler & Blader, 2000)
 - Including subordinate identity = identification with own ethnic group

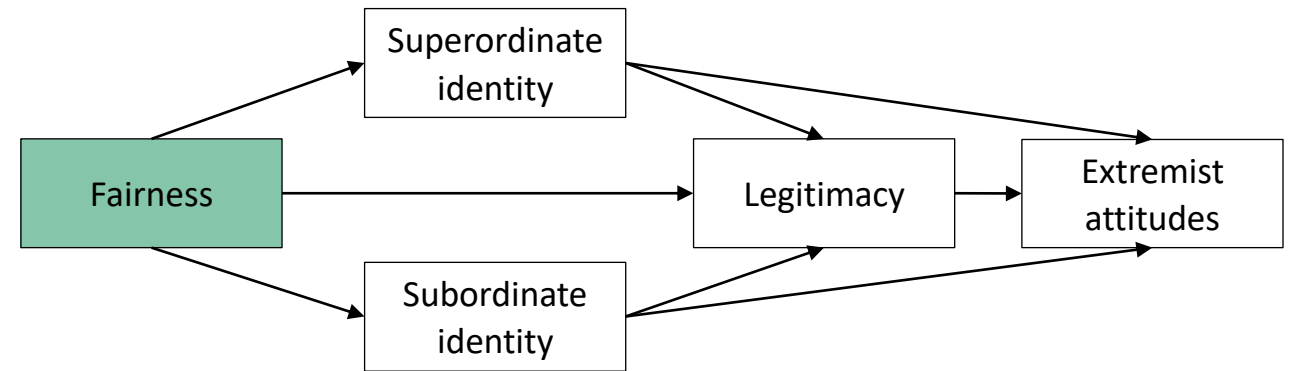
Model & Hypotheses



Introduction: Project background & data source

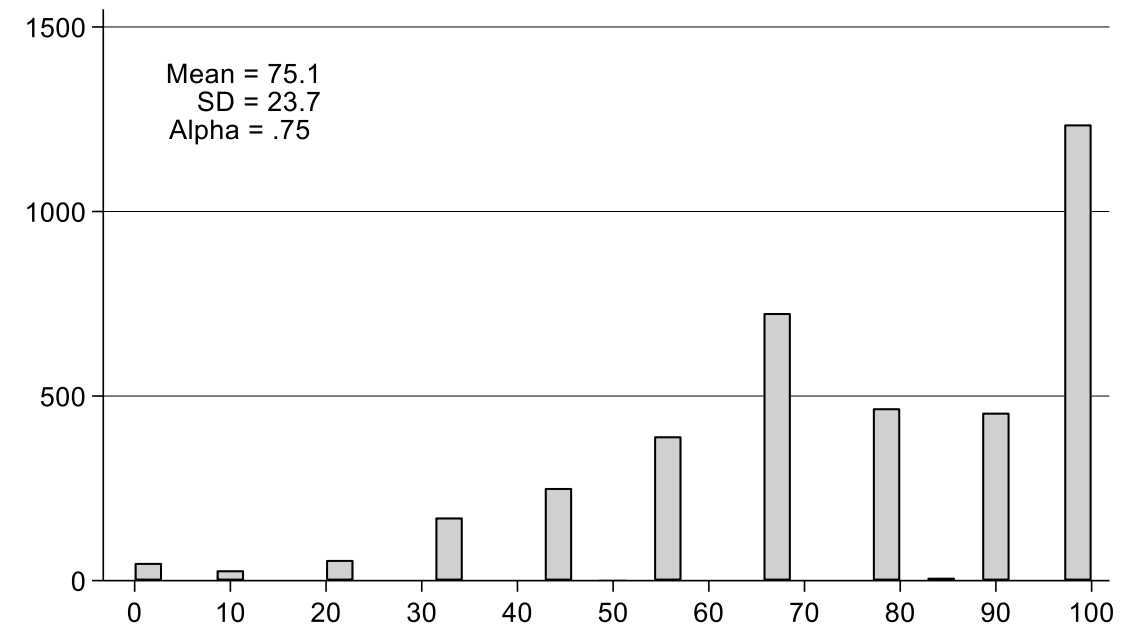
- **Project MOTRA (Monitoringsystem and Transferplattform Radicalization)**
 - Representative population surveys conducted by MOTRA-team Hamburg
 - Content: Perceptions of social and political situation in Germany; political attitudes; Perceptions and own attitudes reg. intolerance, discrimination and political extremism
- **1st wave of „MiD“ survey**
 - Field phase: 18 March - 10 June 2021
 - Total sample N = 4 483; analysis sample = 4 101 (after listwise deletion)
 - Representative sample of individuals aged 18 and over with registered residence in Germany

Operationalisation

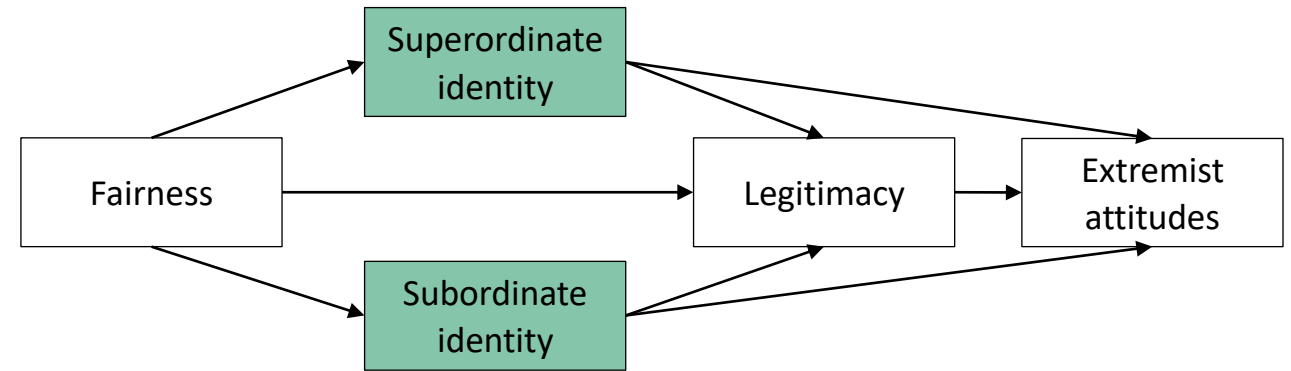


Where we live, people like me are ...

- ... disadvantaged regarding receiving social benefits.
- ... treated disrespectfully by authorities.
- ... treated unfairly by the police.

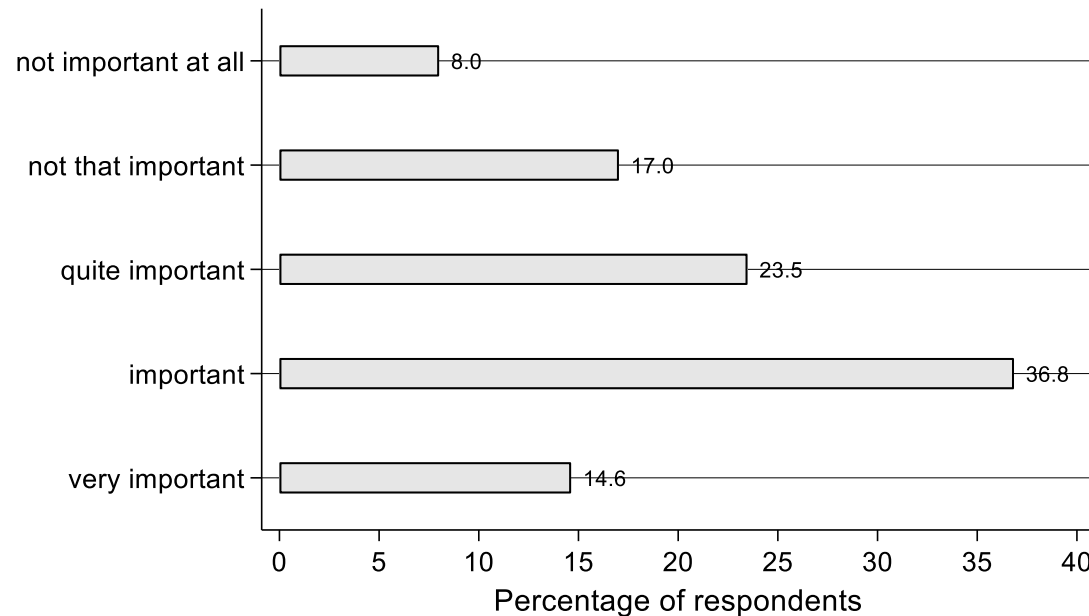


Operationalisation

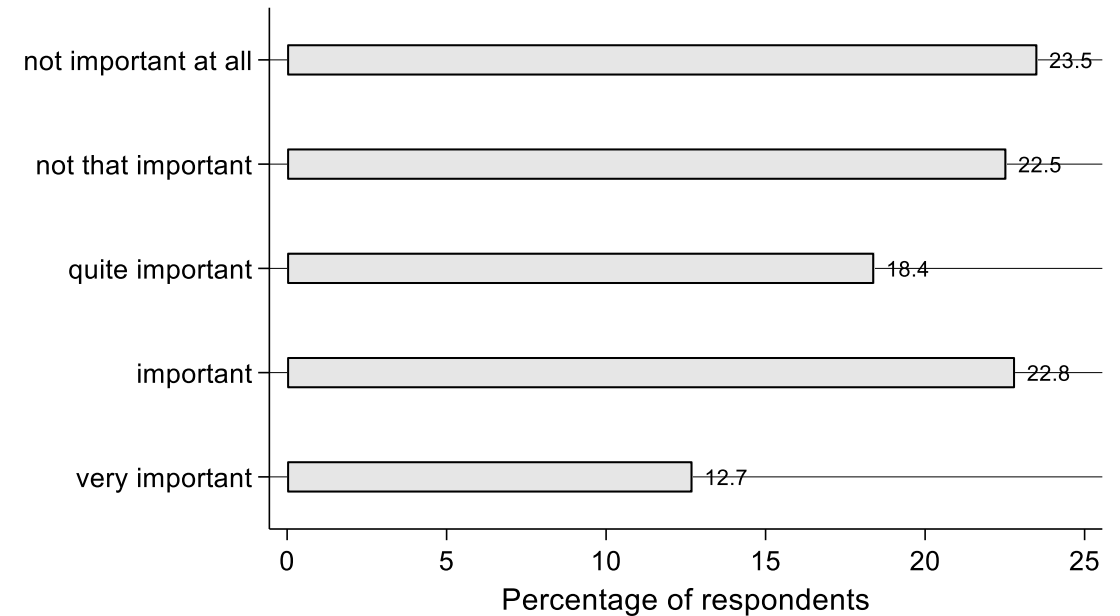


How important are the following aspects to your sense of who you are?

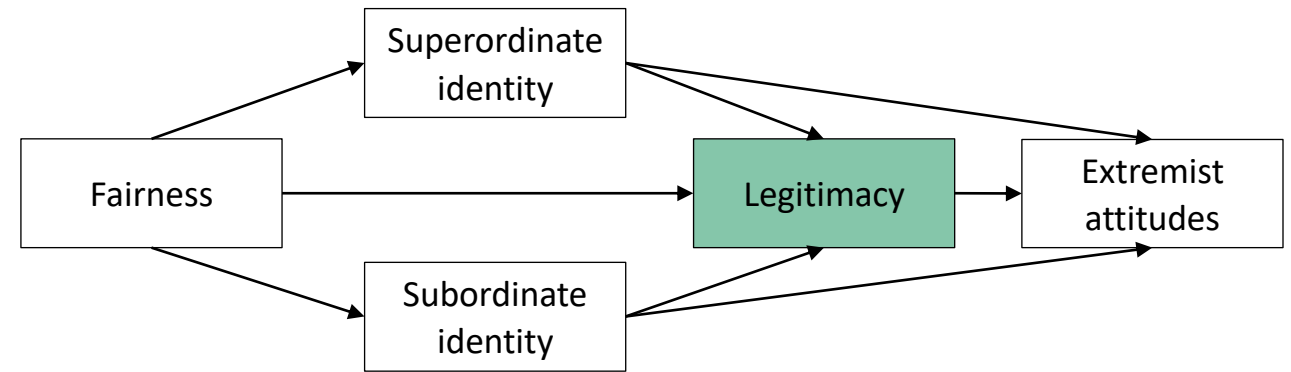
- Being part of the European culture



- My ethnic background

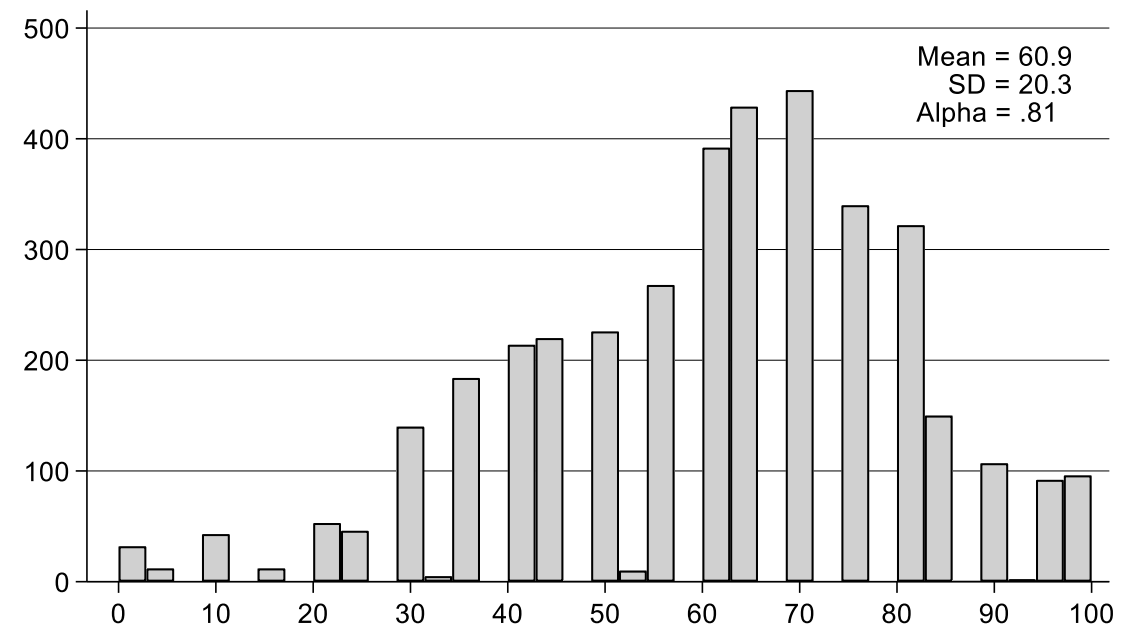


Operationalisation

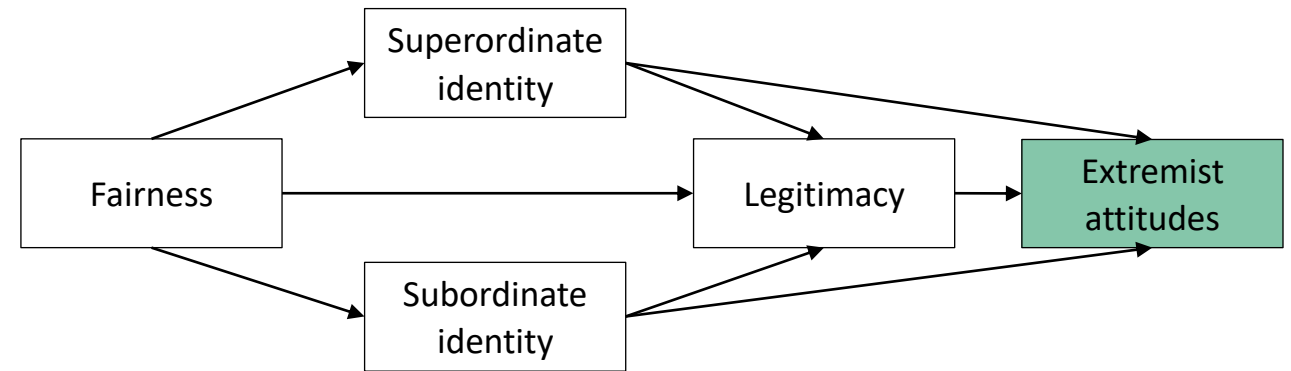


How much trust do you have in...

- ...the law courts?
- ...the police?
- ...the government?
- ...the state authorities?



Operationalisation



Dimension A. Basic rights of freedom

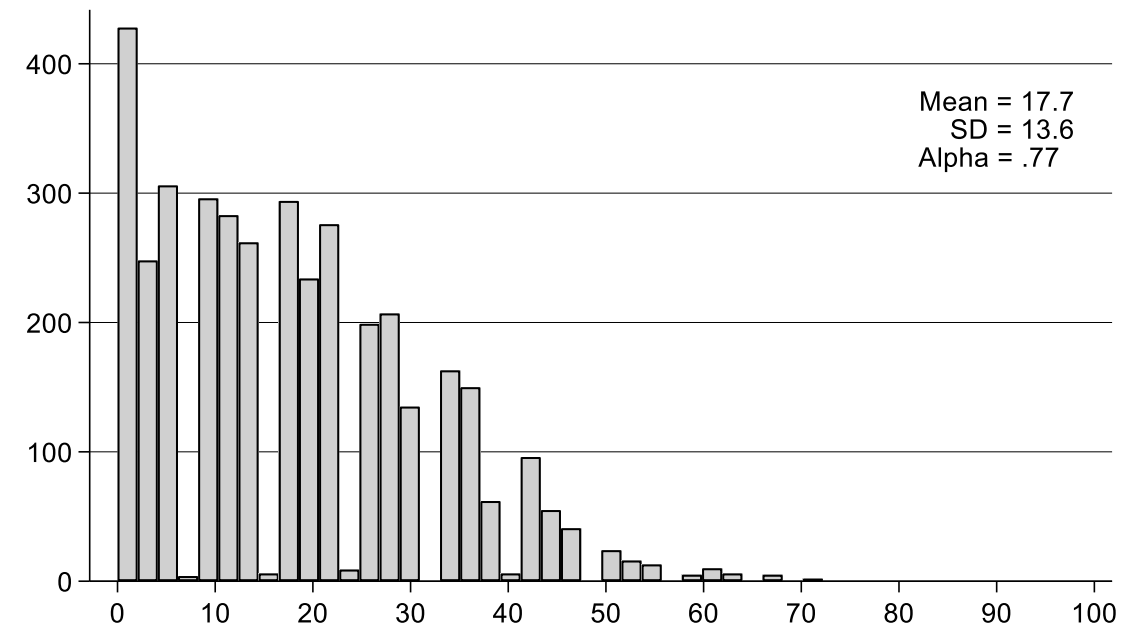
- Every citizen should have the right to go out and demonstrate for what they believe in.
- Strikes and demonstrations pose a danger to public order and should be banned.
- The freedom of the press in our country must be protected.
- All minorities should have the right to freely express their views.

Dimension B. Constitutional principles of democracy

- Those who lose out in an election should not be allowed to criticise the business of government.
- If a government is doing a good job, there is no reason to hold a new election after four years.
- If Parliament makes a decision, it cannot be allowed to be overturned by a court.
- In order to have strong political leadership in Germany, Parliament should have less influence.

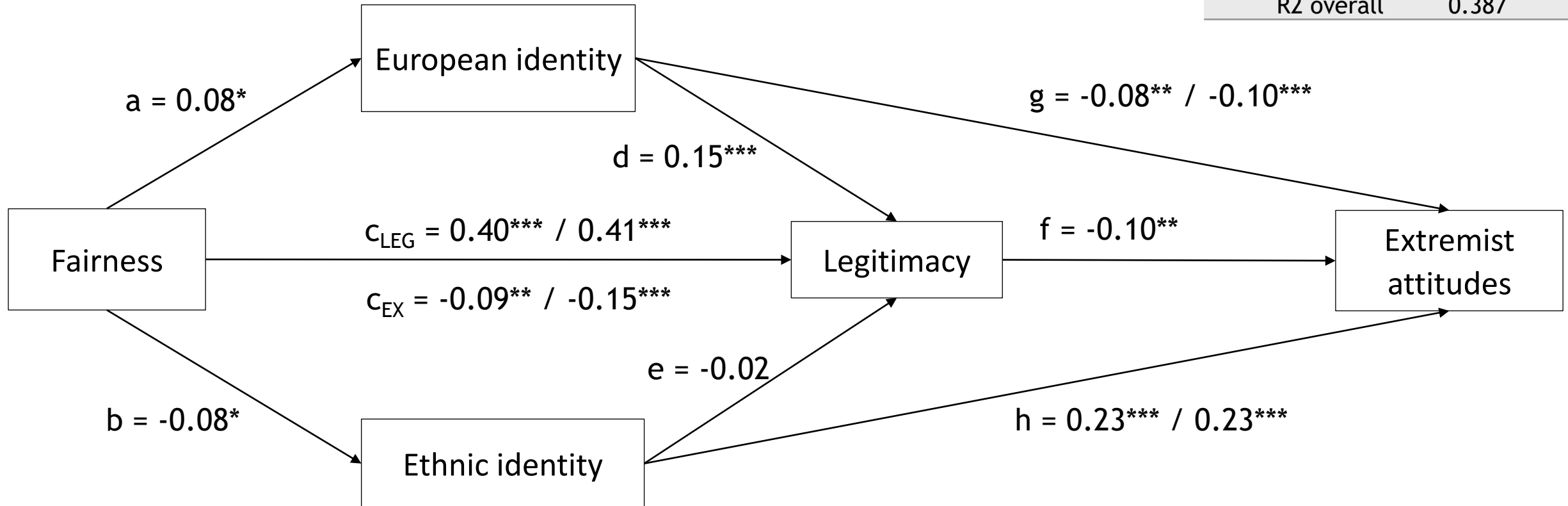
Dimension C. Equal rights

- People should not be discriminated against because of their skin colour.
- Women and men should receive equal pay for doing the same work.
- Foreigners should not be treated differently to native citizens regarding allocation of housing.
- Muslims must be allowed to pursue their religion in the same way as Christians, Jews or followers of other religions.



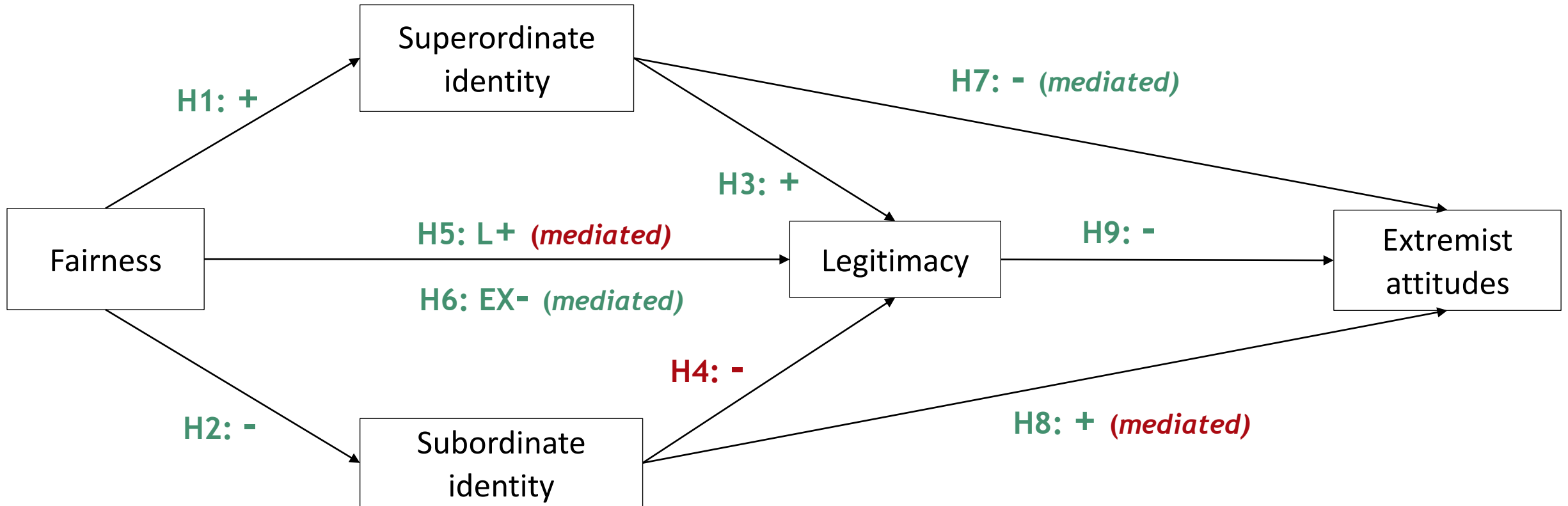
Results

	N	4,101
R2 (path a)	0.035	
R2 (path b)	0.084	
R2 (path c _{LEG})	0.226	
R2 (path c _{EX})	0.246	
R2 overall	0.387	



Standardized beta-coefficients are shown. Robust standard errors were used. Results are weighted (design and post-stratification).
 *** $p < .001$ ** $p < .01$ * $p < .05$. Covariates (not shown): gender, age, migration status, region and education.

Summary of Hypotheses



Conclusions

- Procedural Justice Theory is valuable addition to research on extremism
- Combination with social identities helpful for explaining mechanisms on the group level
 - Even when controlling for superordinate group and legitimacy, ethnic identity is a strong predictor of extremist attitudes
 - The role that fair treatment via social identity has on perceptions of the political system is central for understanding extremism in both minority and majority groups
- Limitation
 - Cross-sectional data → order of effects not causal; declining trust should be monitored
 - Measurement of identity not ideal

Thank you!

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