

Dutch adolescents' democratic values

First results of a panel study on democratic values and educational careers (ADKS)

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University of Roehampton

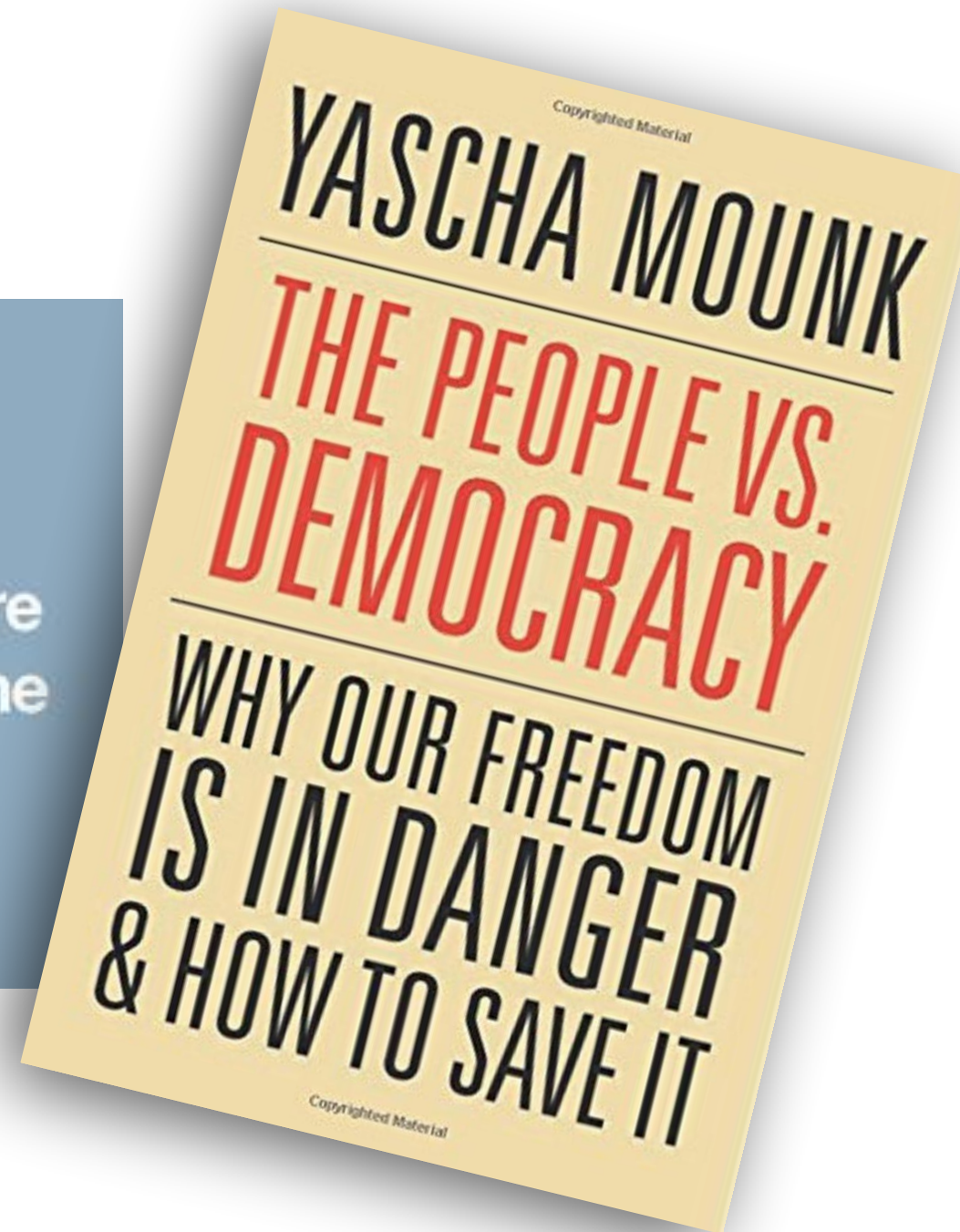
27th September

Background



www.nytimes.com

How Stable Are Democracies?
'Warning Signs Are Flashing Red' - The New York Times



Background



The project

- *Adolescentenpanel Democratische Kernwaarden en Schoolloopbanen (ADKS)*
- A longitudinal panel study on democratic core values and educational careers
- Interdisciplinary study:
 - Sociology: dr. Frank Wanders, prof. dr. Herman van de Werfhorst
 - Political science: Laura Mulder, Msc., Maria Kranendonk, Msc. and prof. dr. Tom van der Meer
 - Educational sciences: prof. dr. Geert ten Dam
- In collaboration with ministries, ProDemos and The Netherlands Institute for Social Research (SCP)

Aim of the project

Insight into:

- The longitudinal development of adolescents' support for the core values of the democratic rule of law
- The socialization process and its actors (schools, parents, peers)
- Socioeconomic and -cultural inequalities across the educational career

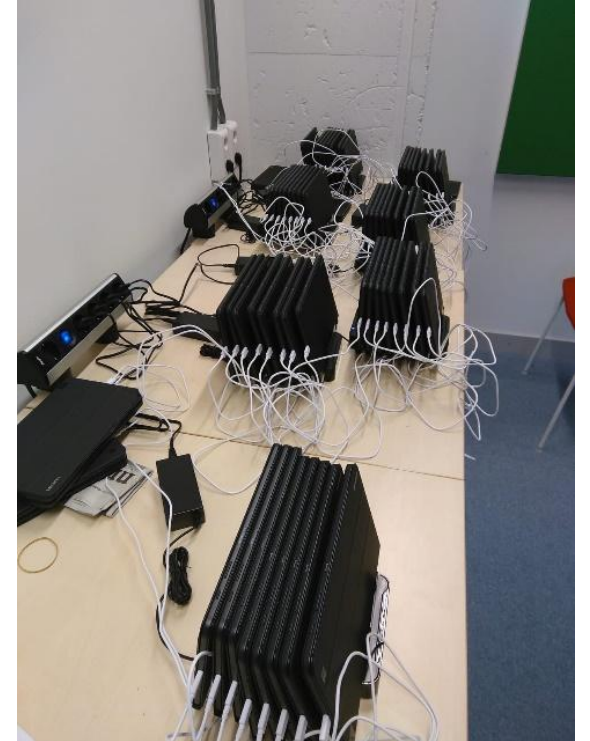
Focus: vertical democratic values and democratic dilemmas

The data collection

- Yearly survey of Dutch adolescents in secondary education for 4-6 years
- Stratified sample of Dutch municipalities
- All secondary schools within these municipalities, all educational tracks/levels
- All 1st grade classes
- Digital questionnaire
- Simplified and shorter questionnaire for students in the lowest level of vocational education ('praktijkonderwijs')
- Active consent of parents
- First wave: Oct 2018 and June 2019 among 1st graders (12-13 years old)

Facts and pictures

- 49 schools (out of 137 schools, response rate: 35.8%)
- 241 classrooms
- 100 tablets
- 6 suitcases
- 12 student-assistants
- 56.2% of the parents returned the form
- 2529 1st graders (response rate: 45.9%)

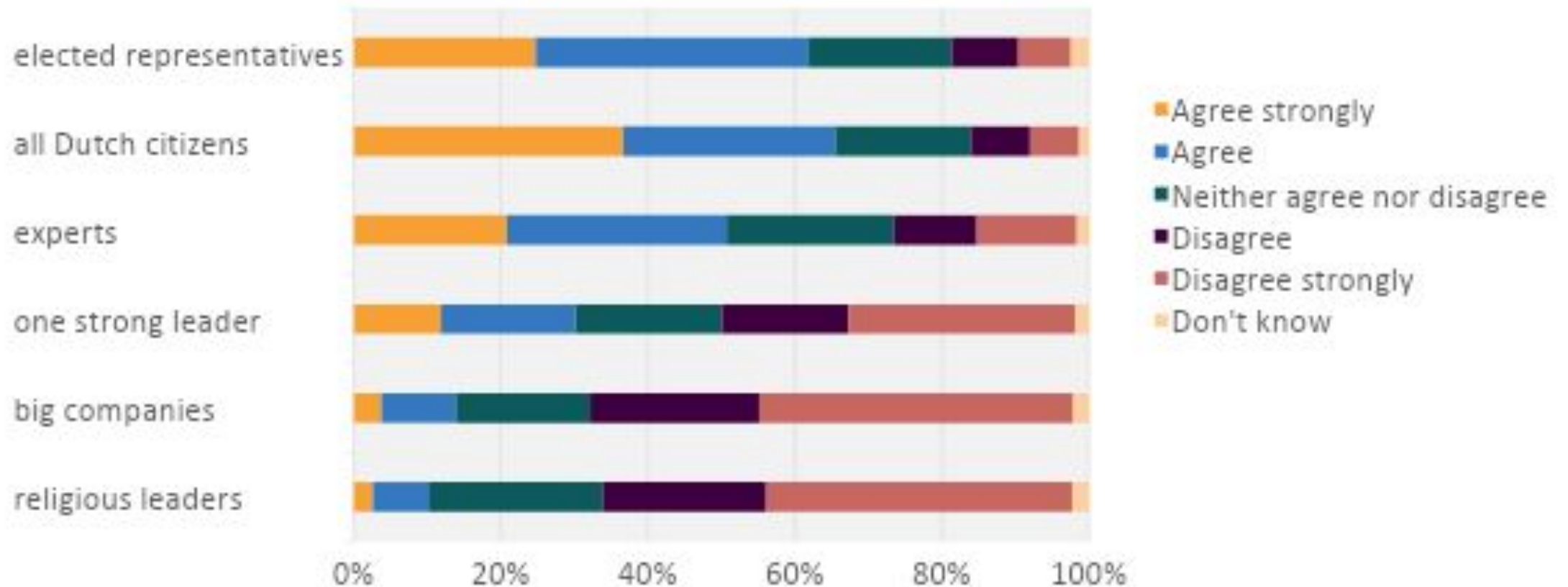


First results

- Results based on 2500 1st graders
- Data weighted
- Support for democratic values
- Political interest and efficacy
- Differences between students

Support for different government types

In the Netherlands, laws should be made by...

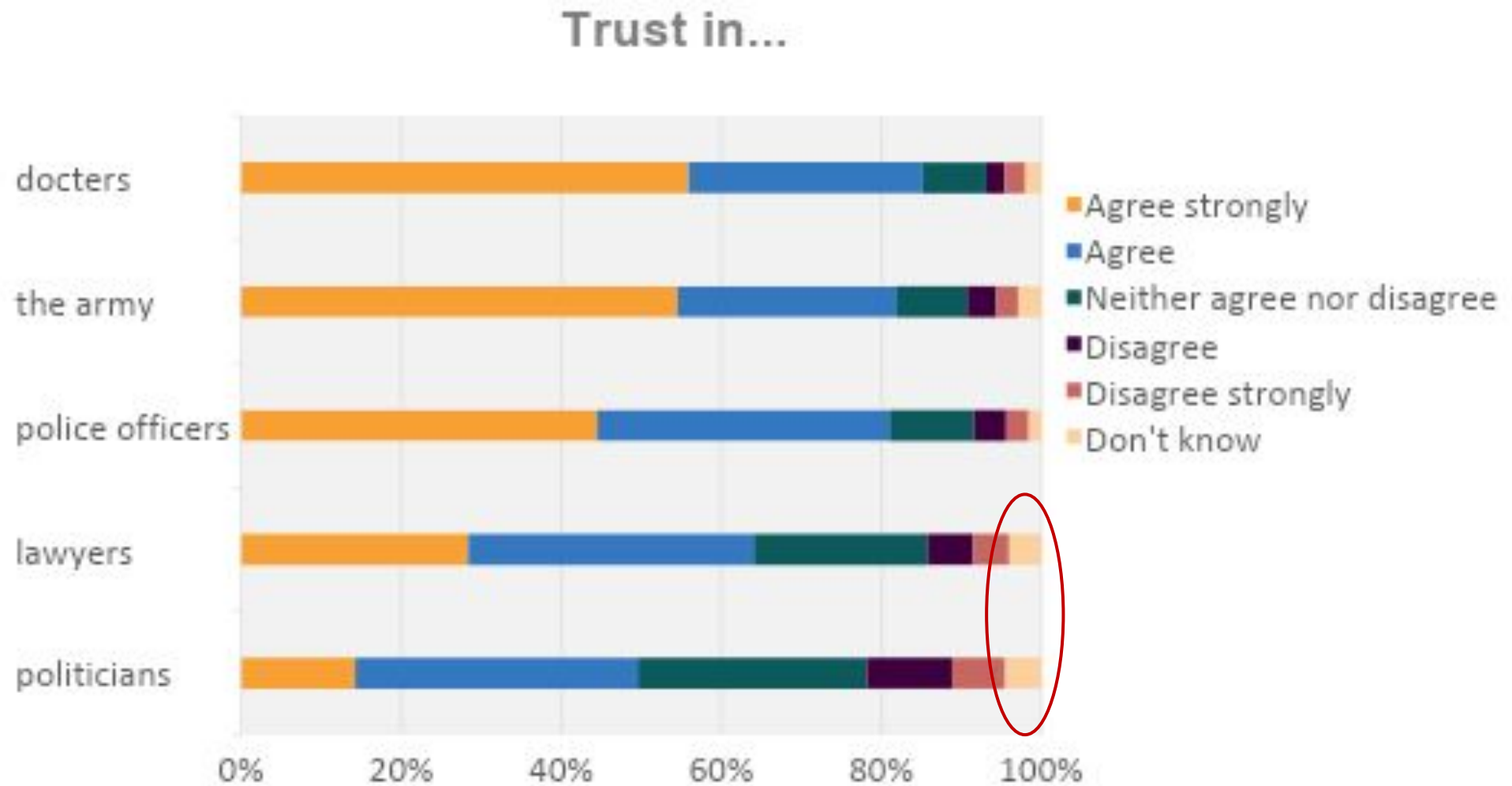


Support for different government types – by educational track

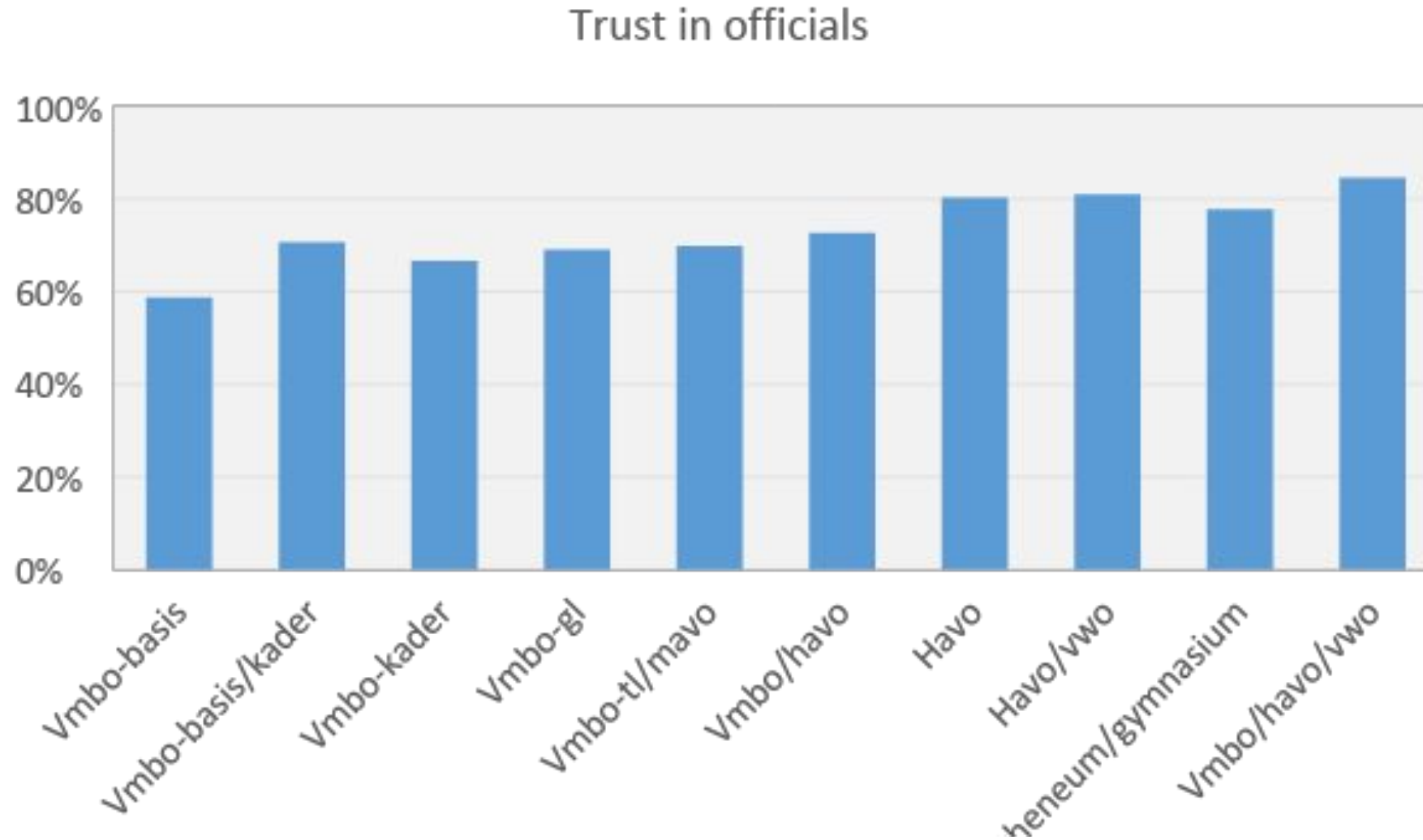
Deviation from the mean in %-points

		Elected representatives	All Dutch citizens	Experts	One strong leader	Big companies	Religious leaders
Lower vocational	Vmbo-basis	-21,6	-17,5	-10,9	11,1	3,2	13,5
	Vmbo-basis/kader	-9,0	1,0	4,5	13,0	8,7	3,1
	Vmbo-kader	-14,1	-7,3	-2,2	14,5	11,4	9,3
Upper vocational	Vmbo-gl	-1,8	-6,7	5,8	8,0	0,6	9,7
	Vmbo-tl/mavo	-5,1	-7,9	0,2	7,4	1,7	2,6
	Vmbo/havo	-3,4	2,1	-1,5	-0,6	-1,2	-2,1
Theoretical/academic	Havo	3,5	8,3	3,0	3,0	3,5	-0,8
	Havo/vwo	8,4	2,5	3,3	-5,0	-5,9	-3,8
	Vwo (vwo/atheneum/gymnasium)	8,6	4,3	-3,2	-14,9	-6,3	-6,0
	Vmbo/havo/vwo	3,0	-5,1	3,6	-3,4	2,8	-0,2

Trust in politicians and officials

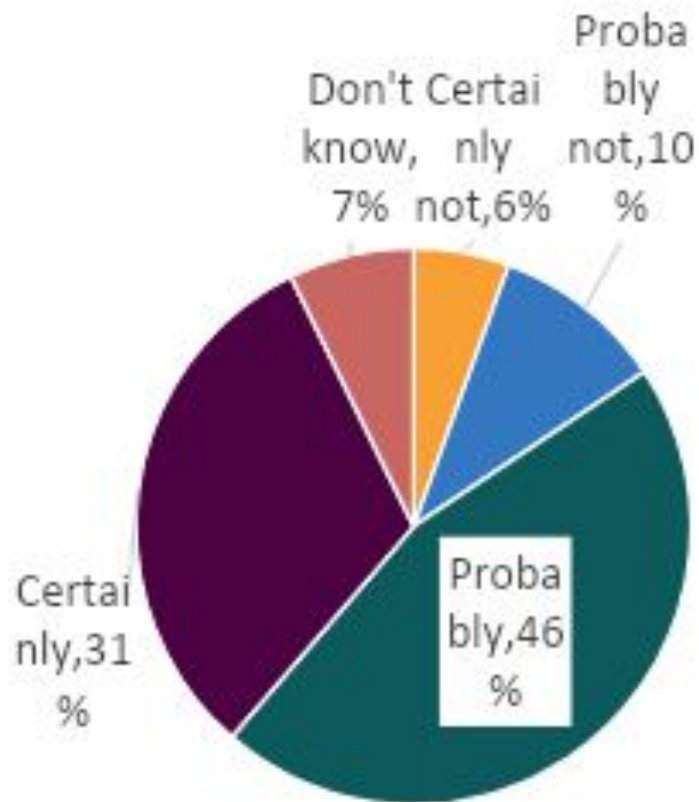


Trust in politicians and officials – by educational track



Intention to vote

Do you think you will vote when you reach the age of 18?



Voter turnout in national elections:

2017: 81.9%

2012: 74.6%

By educational track:

Lower vocational: 65%

General/academic: 90%

Citizenship

Critical citizen

Stand up against injustice

Speak out against laws

Vote

Duty-based citizen

Work hard

Abide by the law

Do voluntary work

Support other people

Engaged citizen

Be active in neighbourhood

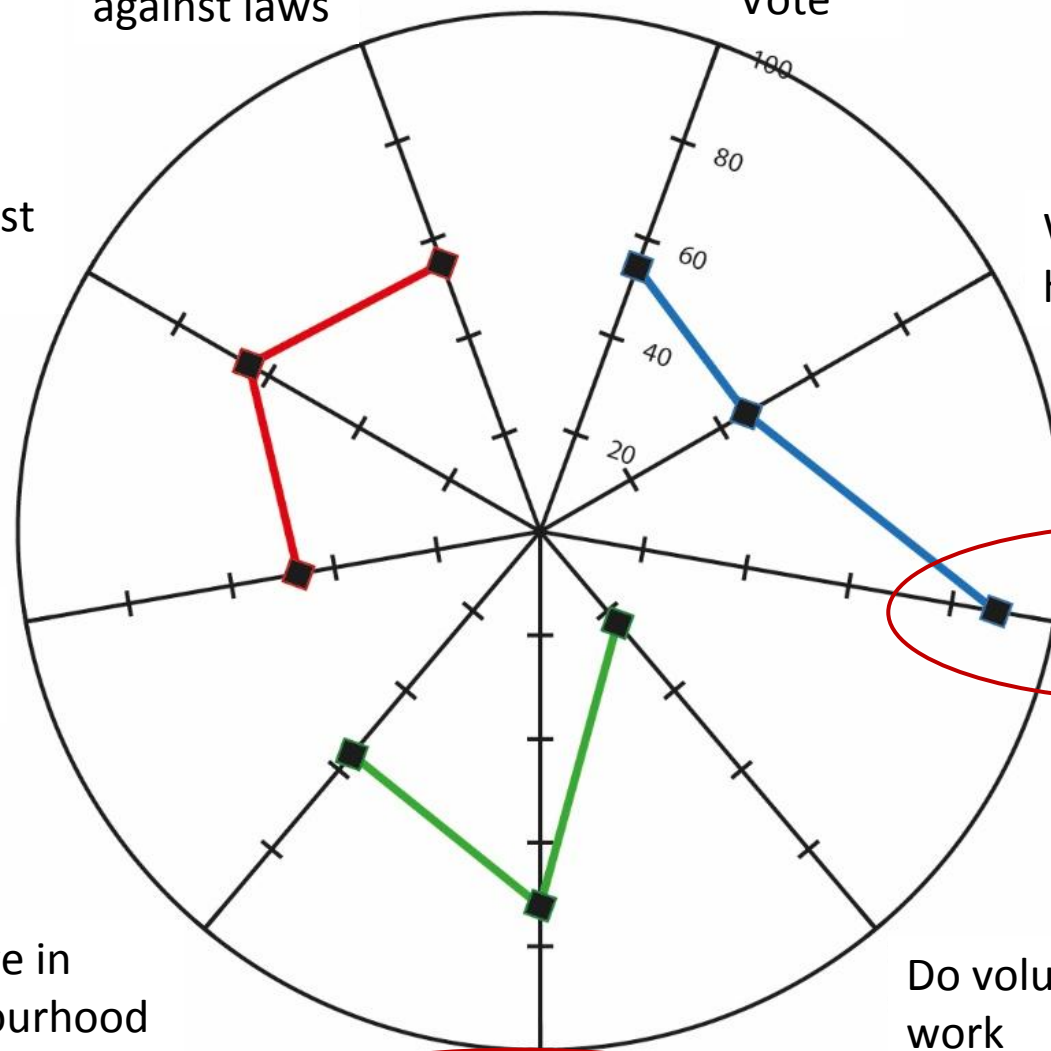
Be critical about Dutch government

Vocational tracks:

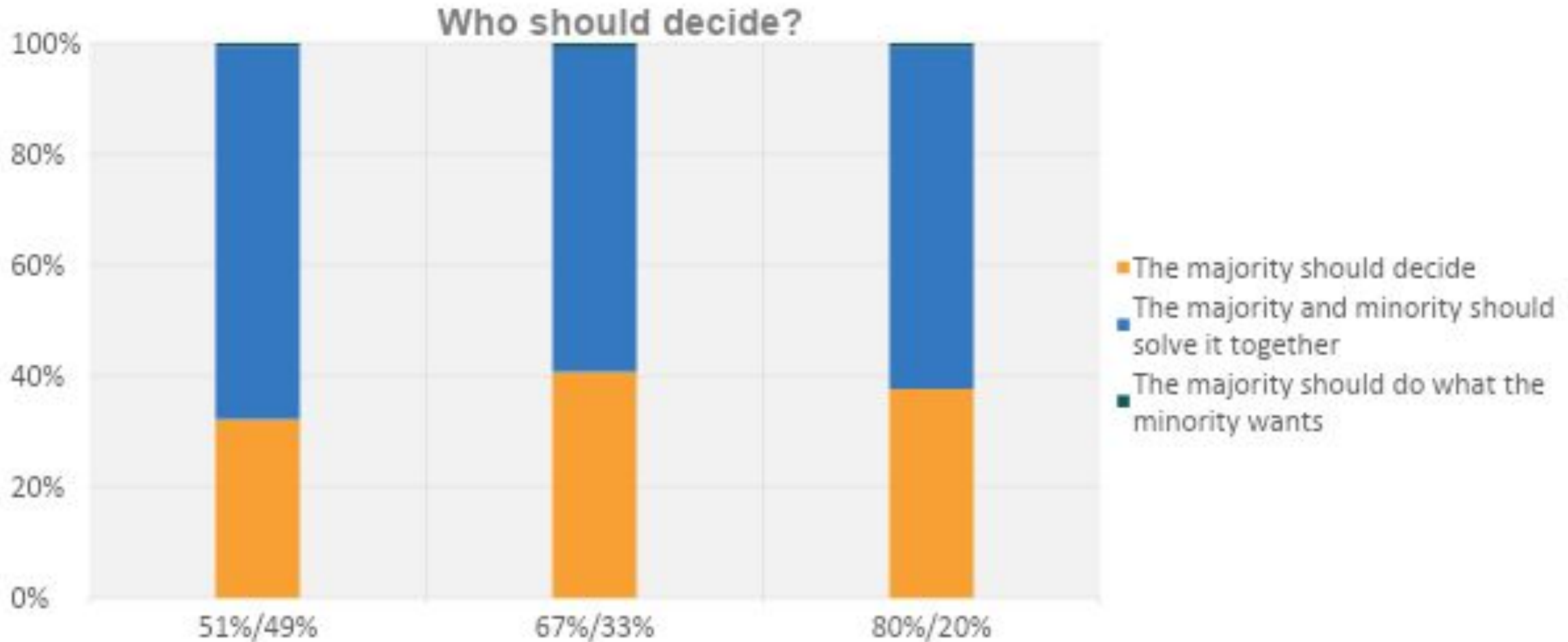
More: voluntary work, work hard
Less: voting, abiding by the law, critical citizenship

Academic track:

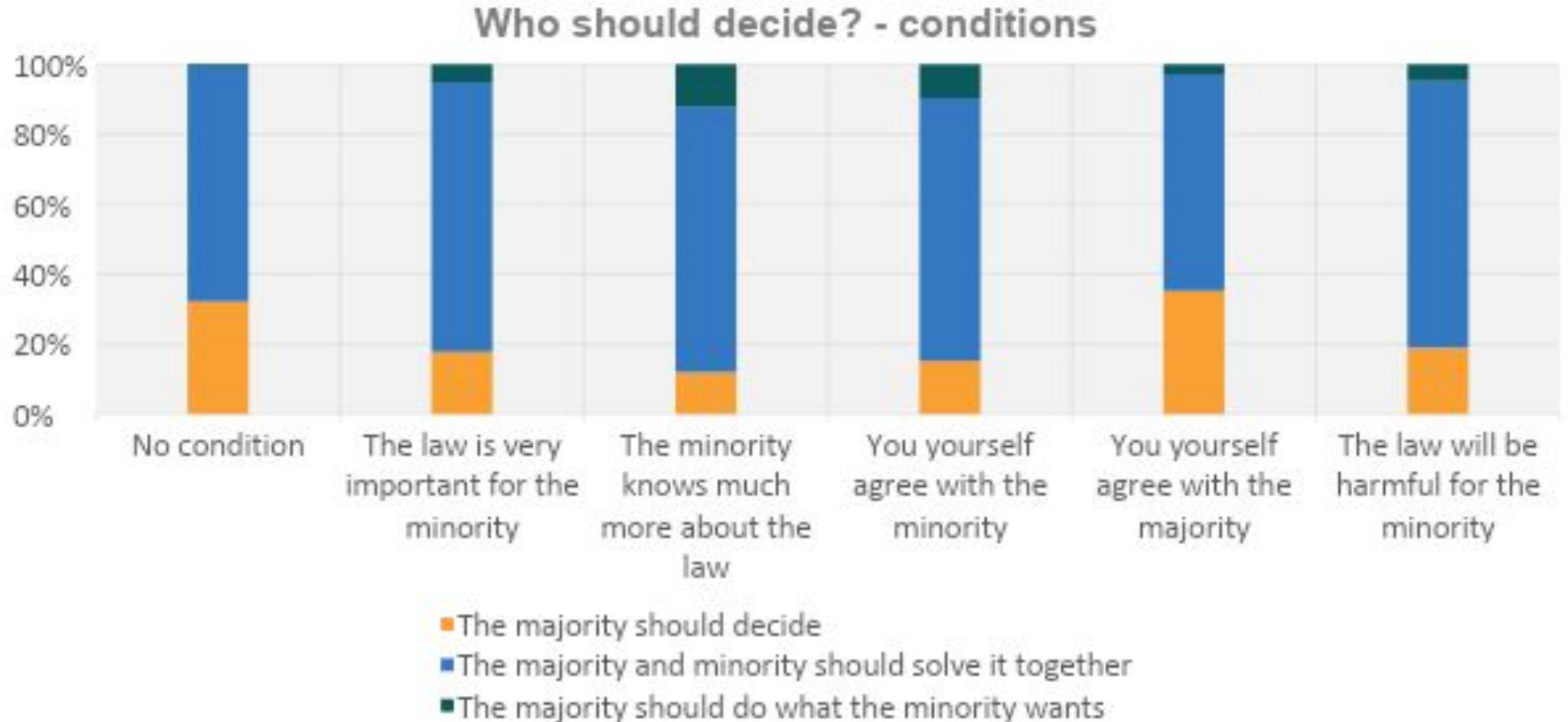
More: critical citizenship, abiding by the law, supporting other people



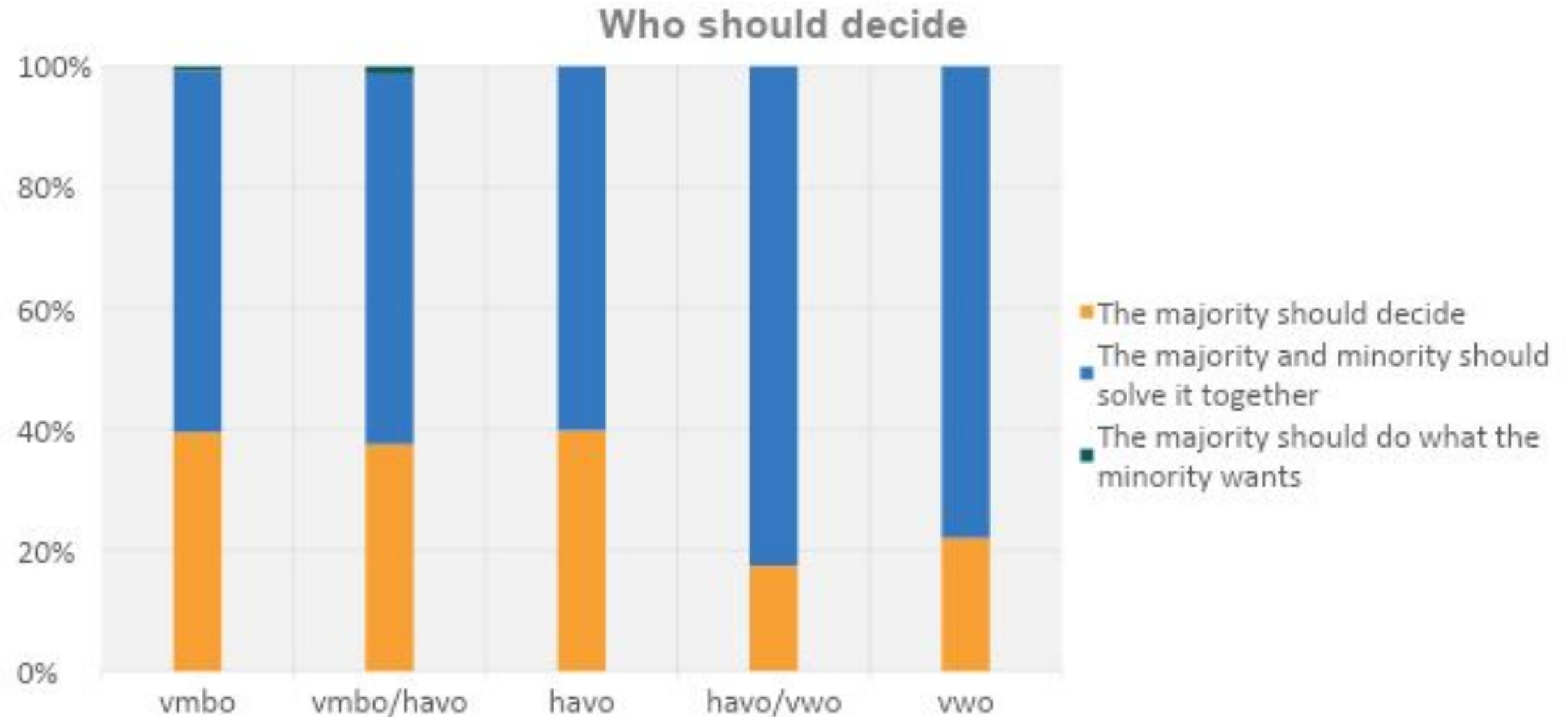
Decision-making



Different conditions (variant 51/49%)

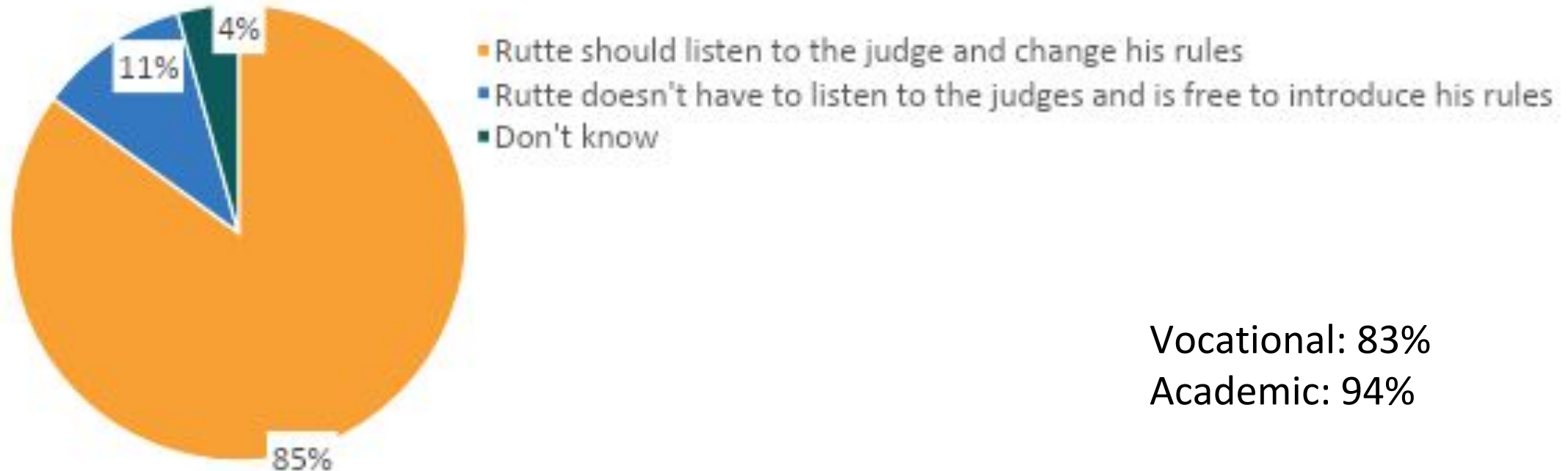


Decision-making – by educational track



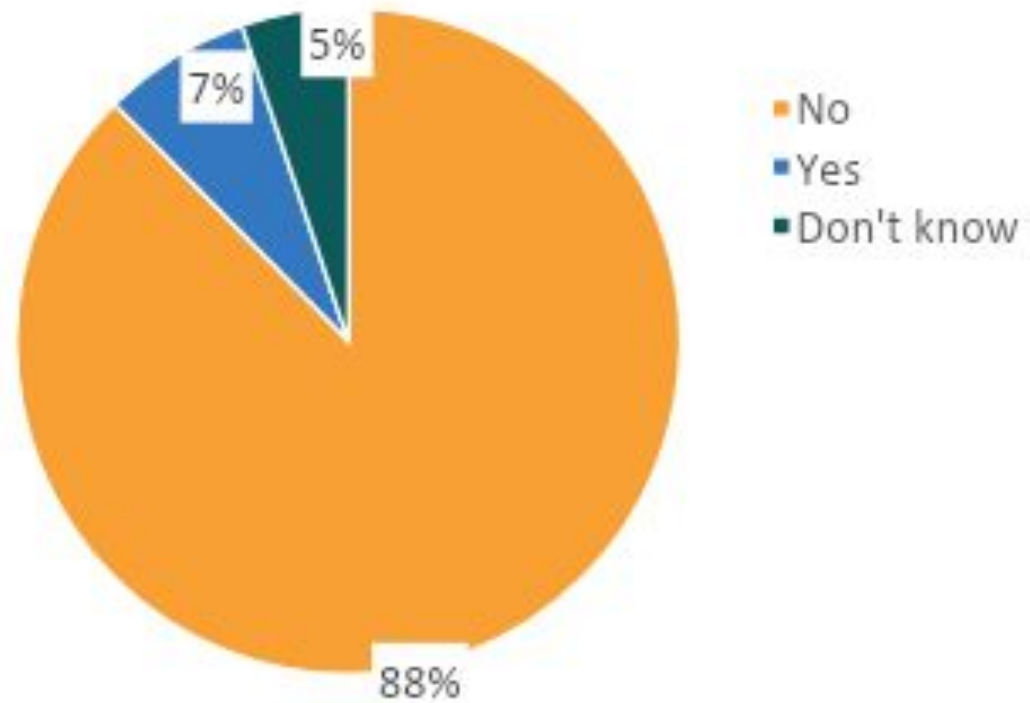
Trias politica

Mark Rutte wants to introduce new rules for the Netherlands. According to the judges, these rules are against the Dutch law. What should Mark Rutte do?



Trias politica II

Should Rutte fire the judges?



Vocational: 87%
Academic: 97%

Equal rights

- 80% (strongly) agrees that people should have equal rights and duties in the Netherlands
- Equal rights for different groups?

Equal rights

When a majority wants to restrict voting rights for a certain group, should the judge prevent this?

Yes (prevent)

No (not prevent)

Women *not* allowed to vote



Homosexuals *not* allowed to vote



Only people who are born in NL allowed to vote



Only people who have knowledge of politics



Only rich people



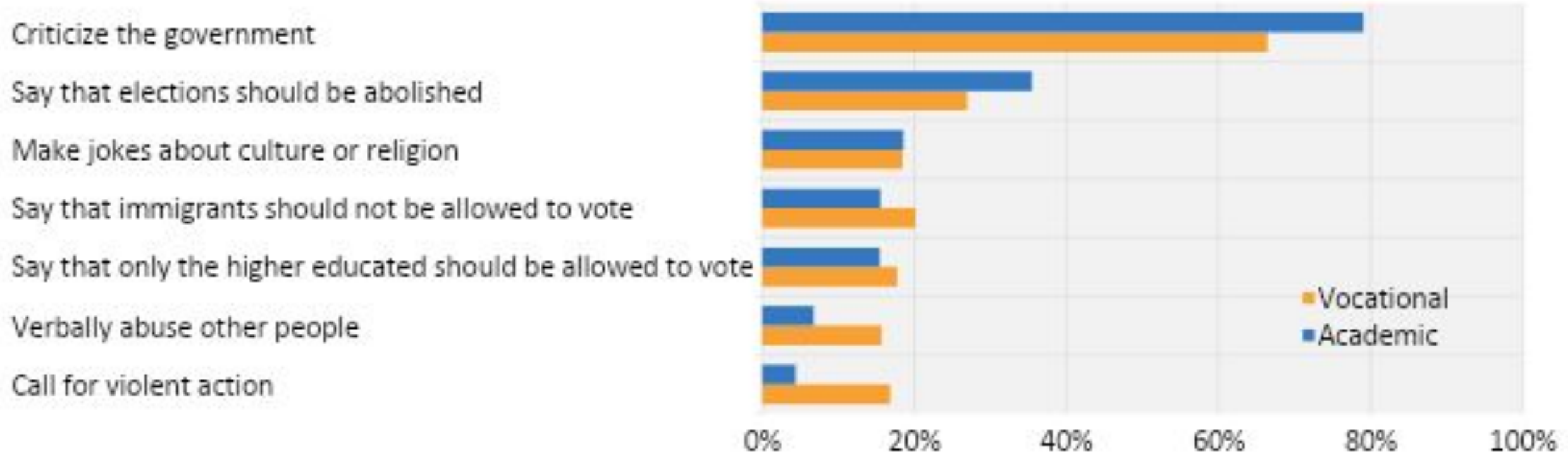
Only people who believe in God



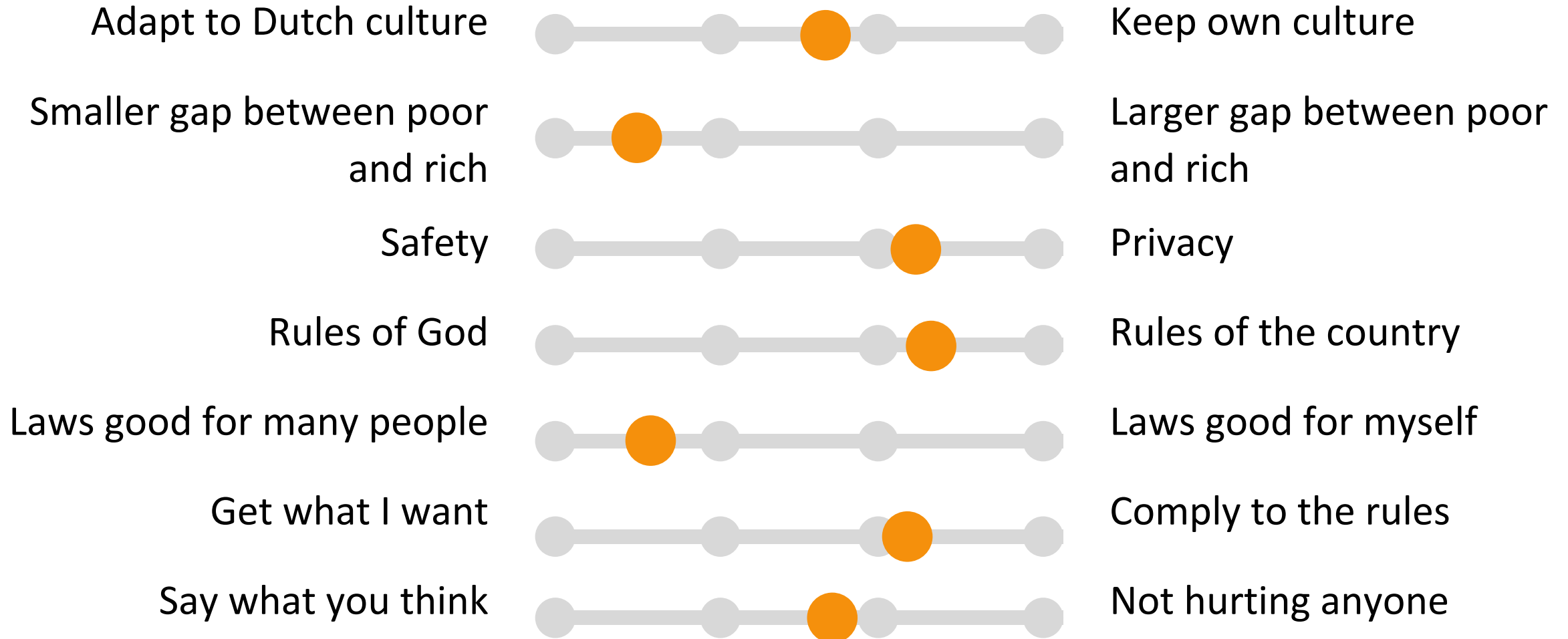
Freedom of speech

- 86% (strongly) agrees that everyone should be allowed to say what he/she wants
- Also limits to the freedom of speech:

In a talkshow on TV, should someone be allowed to...



Democratic dilemma's



Political interest, efficacy and knowledge

- Interest in societal issues, not so much in politics
- Most interest in crime, climate and terrorism, somewhat less in poverty and refugees
- Low levels of internal political efficacy, higher levels of external efficacy
- Students talk little about politics with parents, teachers and peers
- Students named on average 2,2 political parties
- Again, differences between educational tracks

Conclusion: the good, the bad and the ugly

- Quite some support for democracy and its institutions
- And for consensus decision-making, the separation of powers, and values of equal rights and freedom of speech
- But also depending on specific conditions or groups
- Low trust in politicians, little political interest, knowledge, and efficacy
- Differences between students already present at the start of secondary education
- Especially by educational track

Future questions

- Relationship between democratic values and political interest, knowledge, and efficacy
- Socialization process: which actors contribute to the development of democratic values and to what extent?
- Development of differences between groups across the educational career
- What is the role of the school? Can schools compensate for inequalities?
- More in-depth knowledge about decisions students make in specific situations, using qualitative research



Thank you!

Coming soon: report about the first results

(Authors: Paula Thijs, Frank Wanders, Laura Mulder, Maria Kranendonk, Sander Kunst, Tom van der Meer, Herman van de Werfhorst, Floris Vermeulen & Geert ten Dam)

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