

Values, Experiences and
Attitudes: A Cross-National
Analysis of Opinions on
Immigration in Europe

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Ian Preston

Presentation for *Measuring attitudes and values in Europe*.
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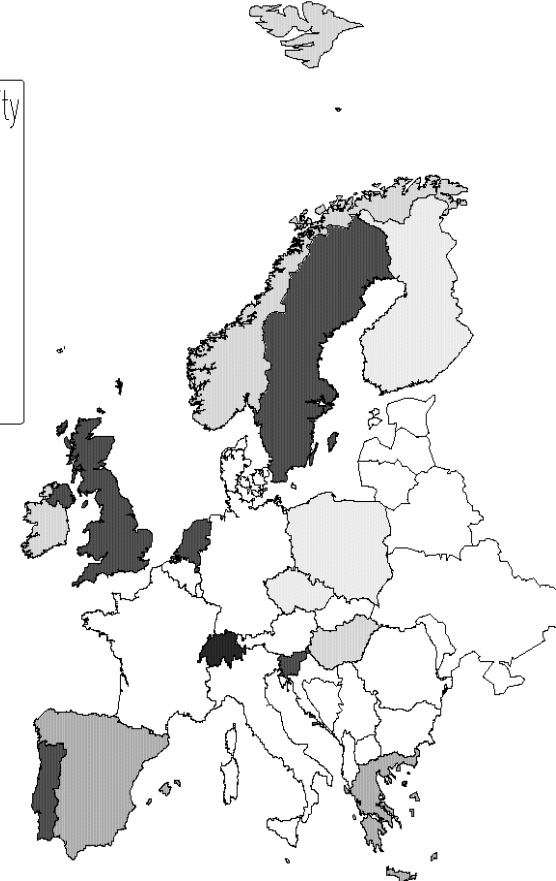
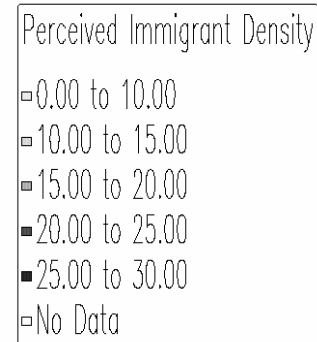
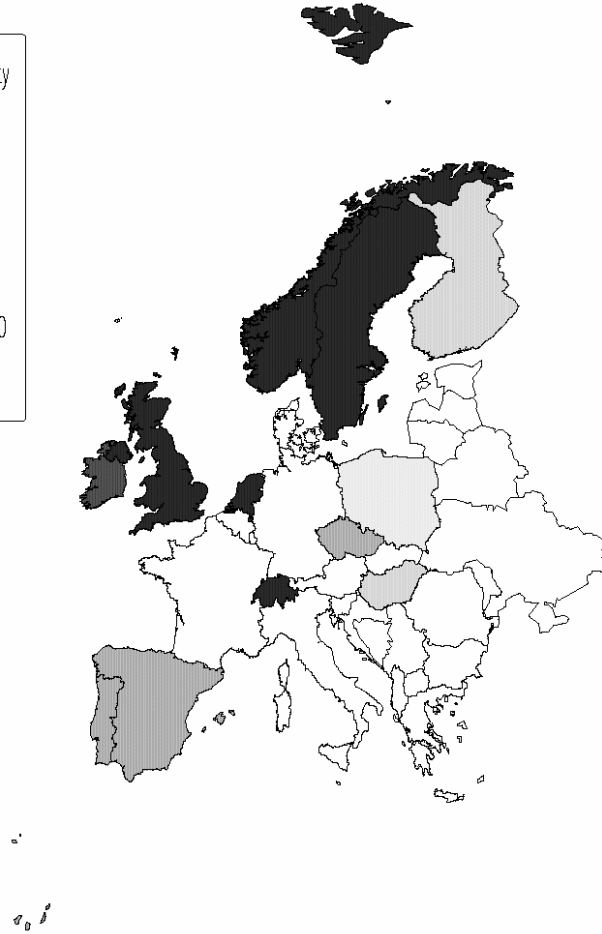
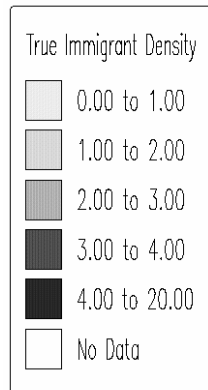
Structure of Talk

- Simple Illustration of some key questions regarding immigration, immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers
- Relate responses to macro-economic indicators of response countries
- Relate responses on immigration to some key individual characteristics
- Present partial correlation coefficients relating responses to individuals' opinion

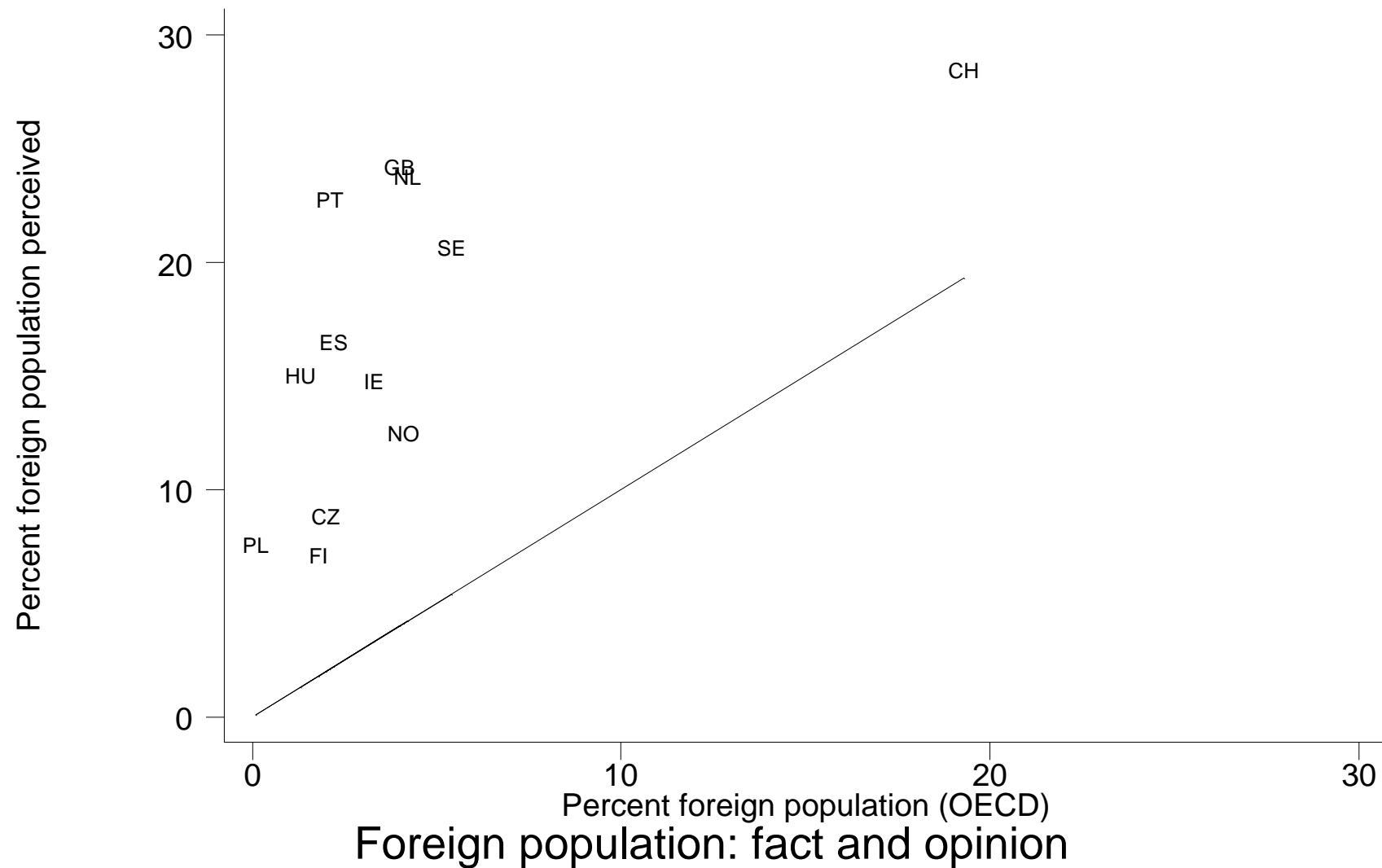
Module on Immigrants and Refugee Applicants

- Module: developed by Bauer, Card, Dustmann, Nazroo, and Preston, in co-operation with ESS.
- Includes about 40 questions on Immigrants, refugee applicants, and minorities
- Questions about: i) Perceived and desired numbers, ii) Believes on impact, iii) immigration criteria, iv) Tolerance and interaction

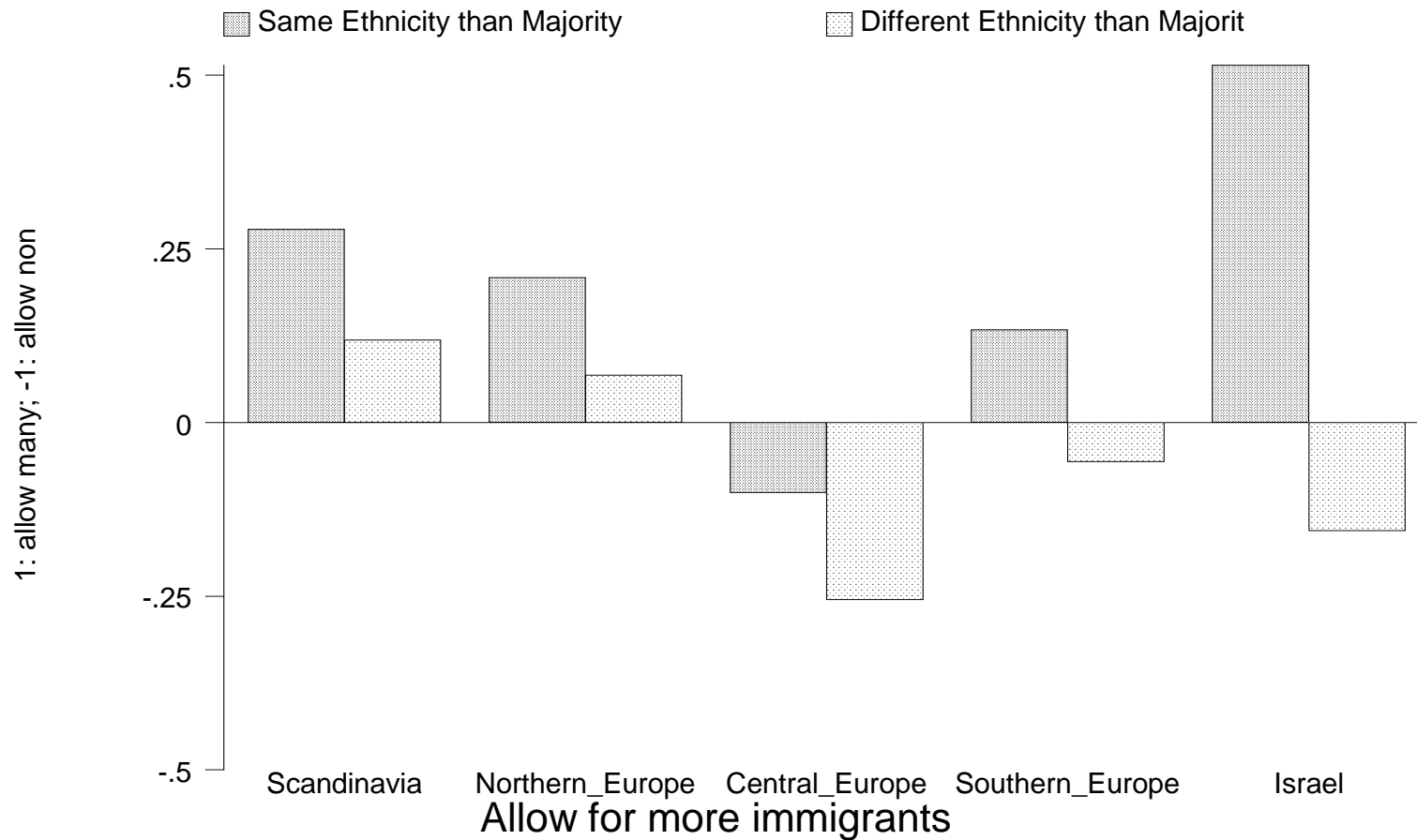
Immigrants as percentage of population



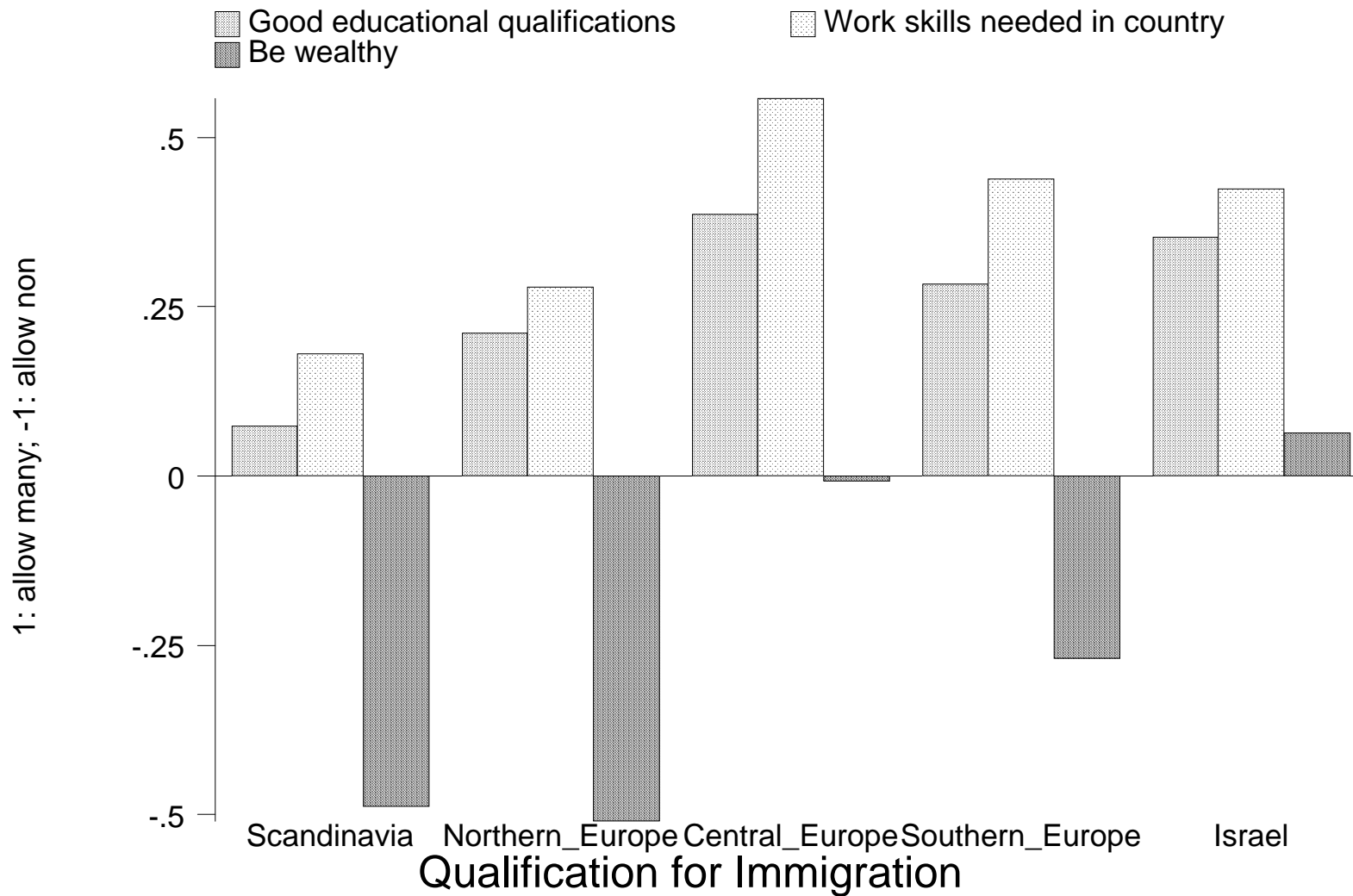
Foreign Population: Fact and Opinion



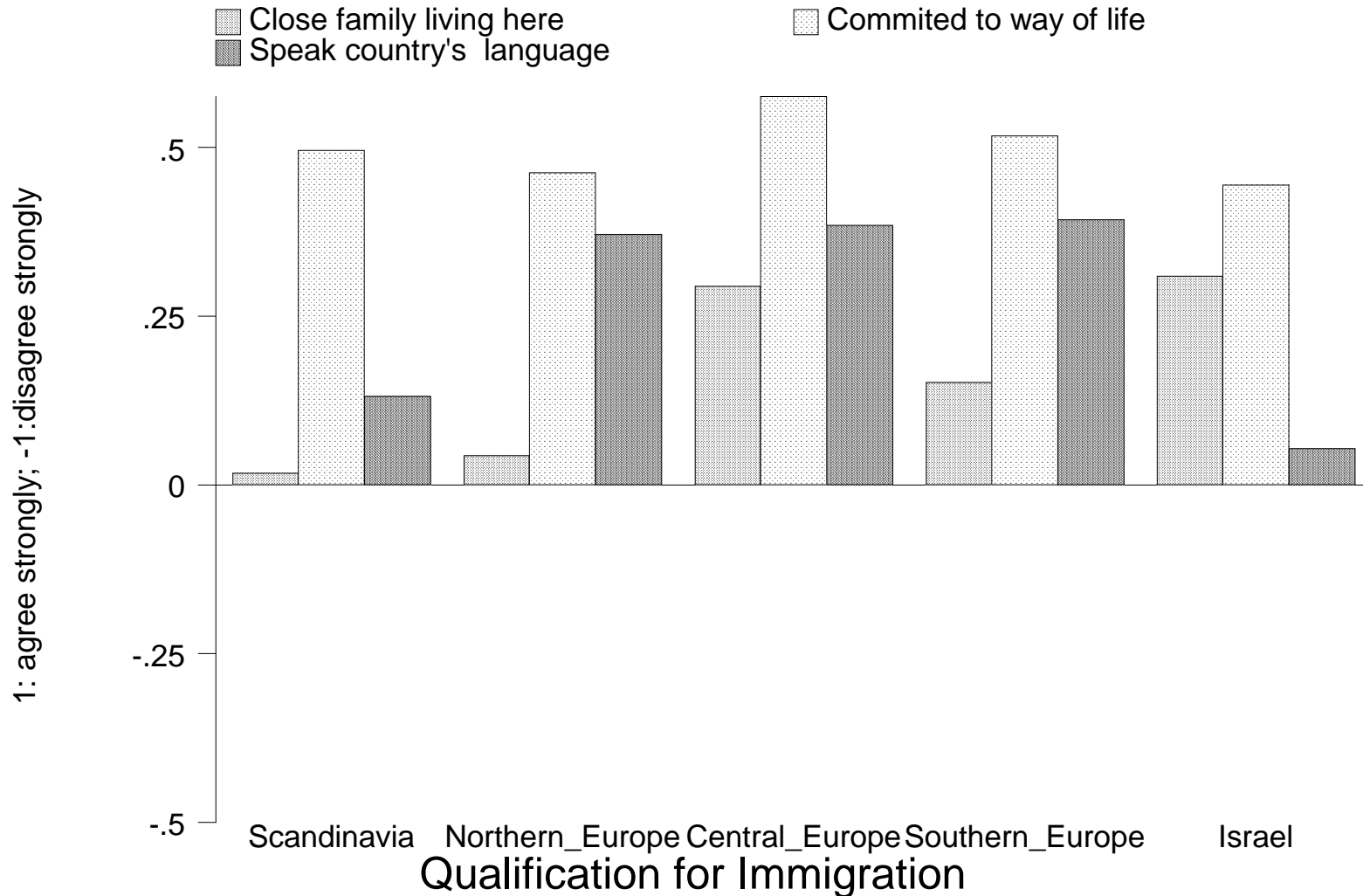
Support for Liberal Immigration Policy: Same / Different Ethnicity than Majority Population



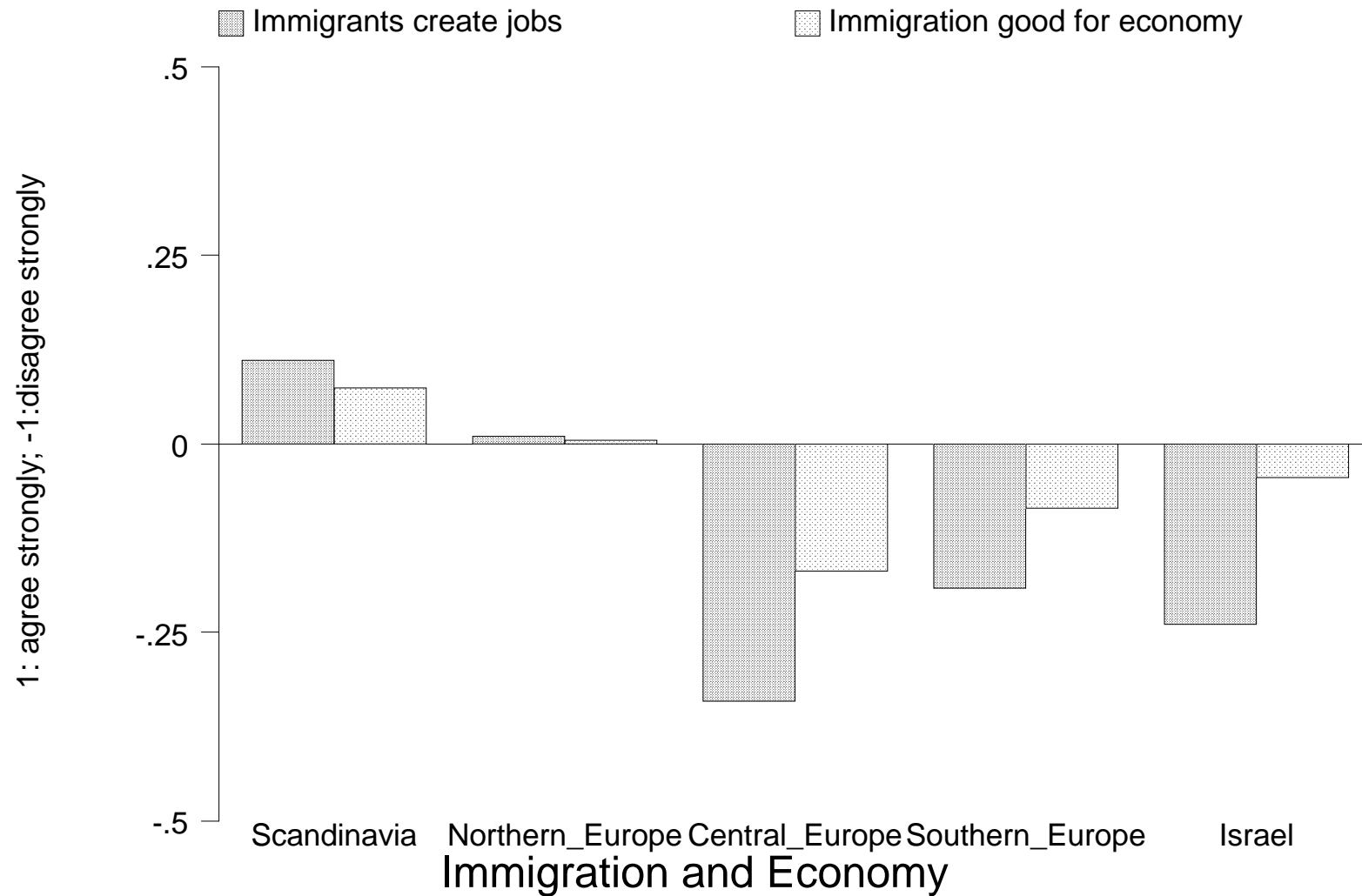
Qualification for Immigrants: Education, wealth and work skills needed



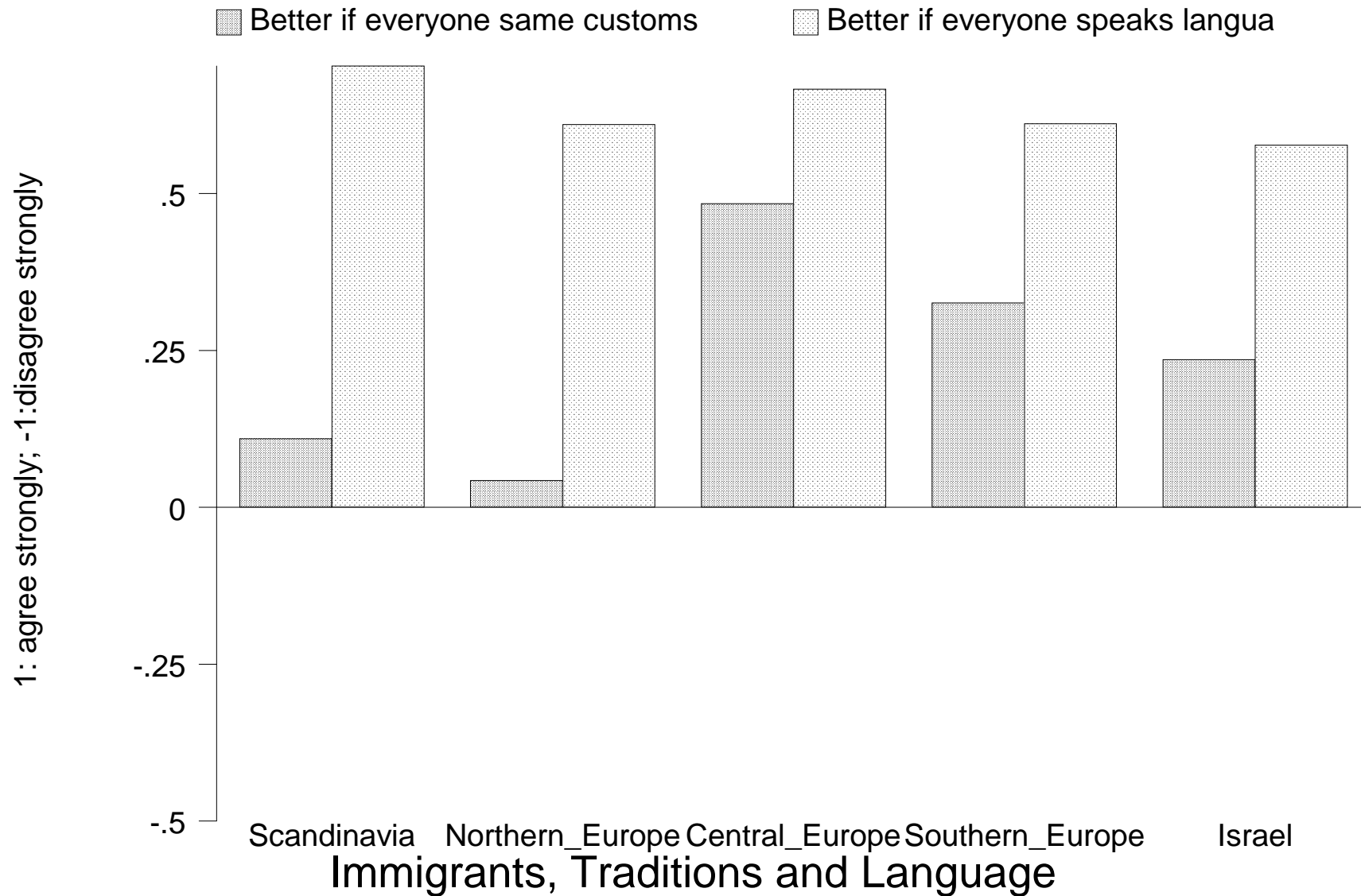
Qualification for Immigrants: Language, family links and commitment to way of life



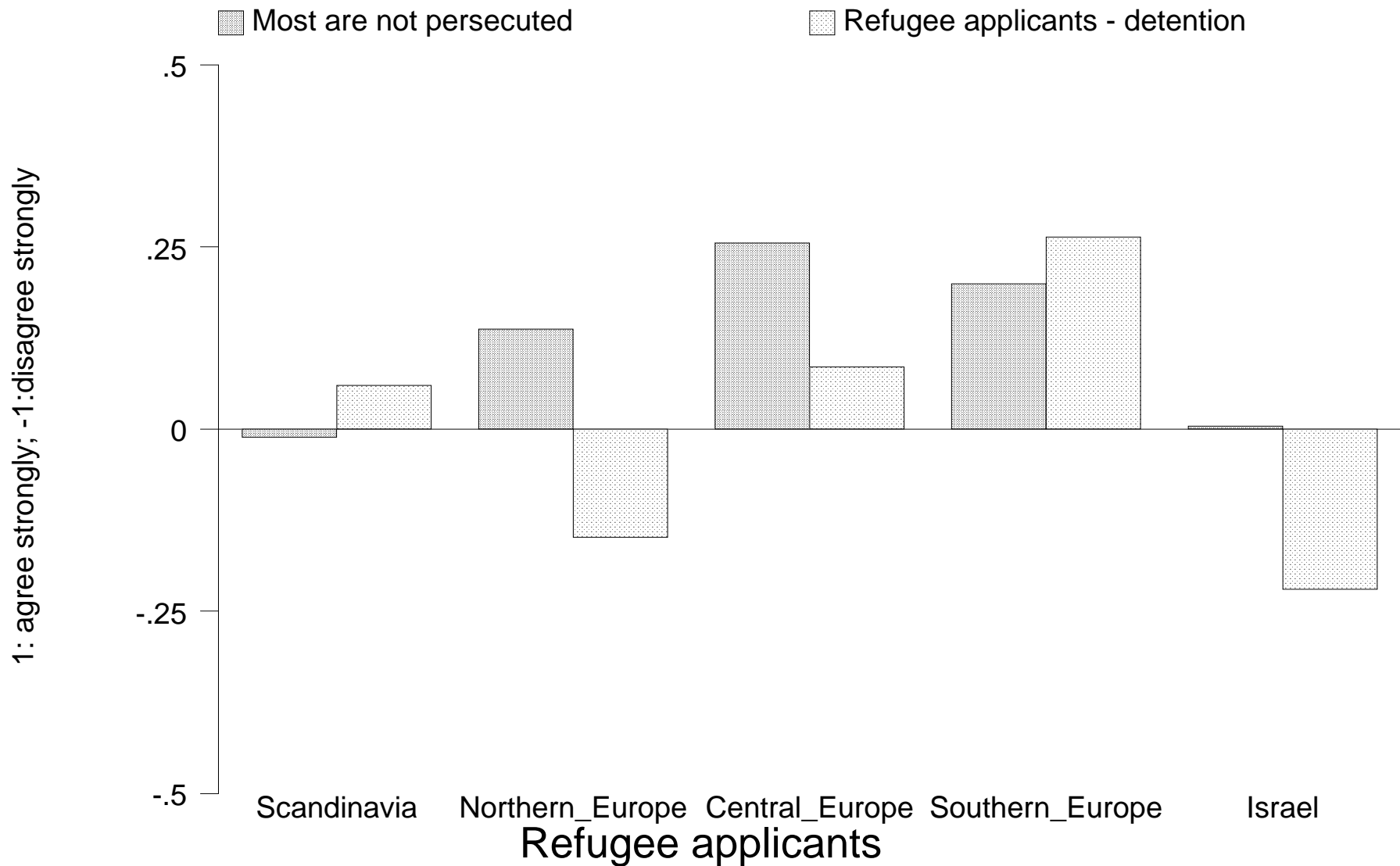
Immigrants: Job creation and beneficial for the economy



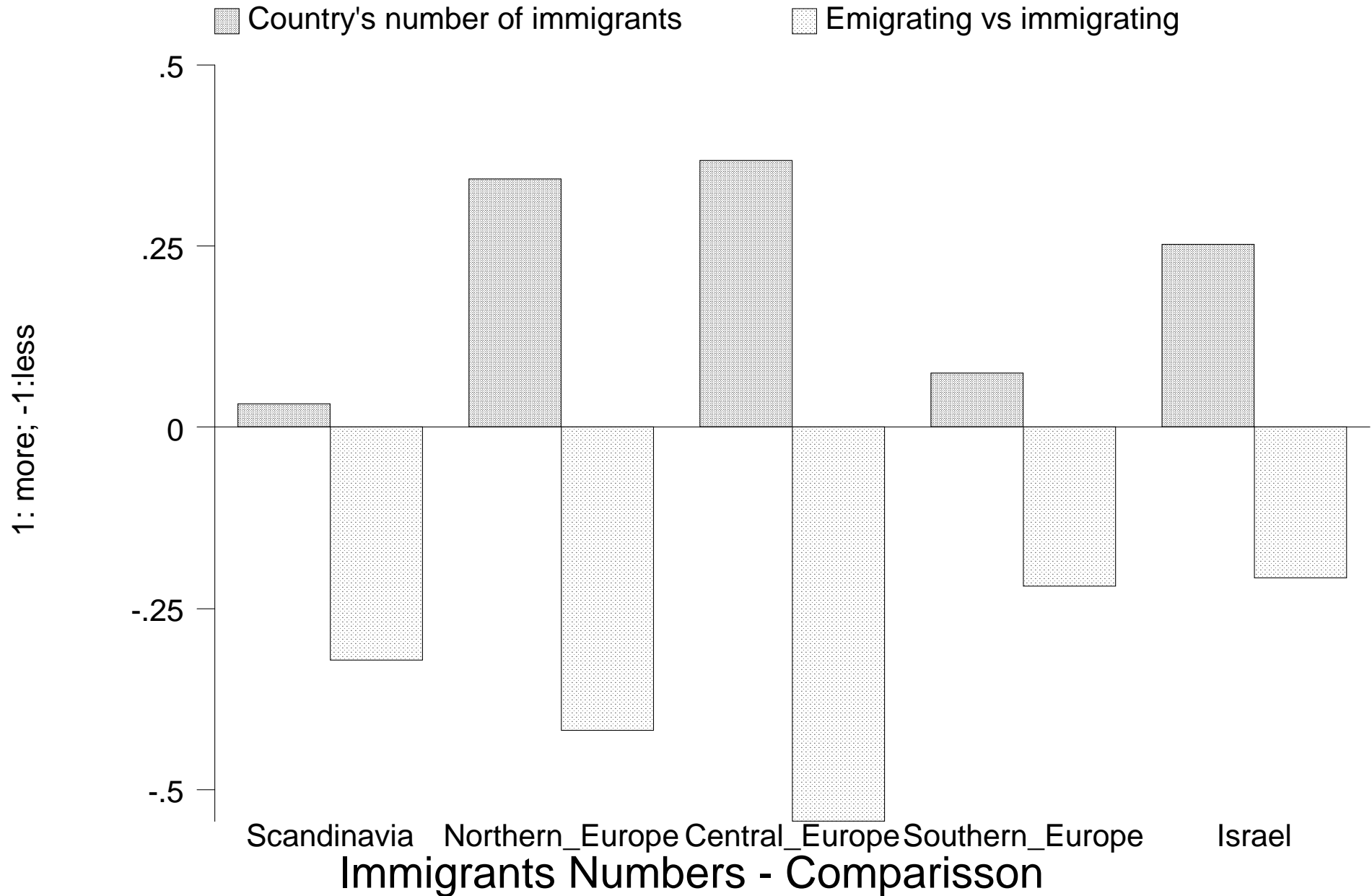
Immigrants: Same traditions and Language



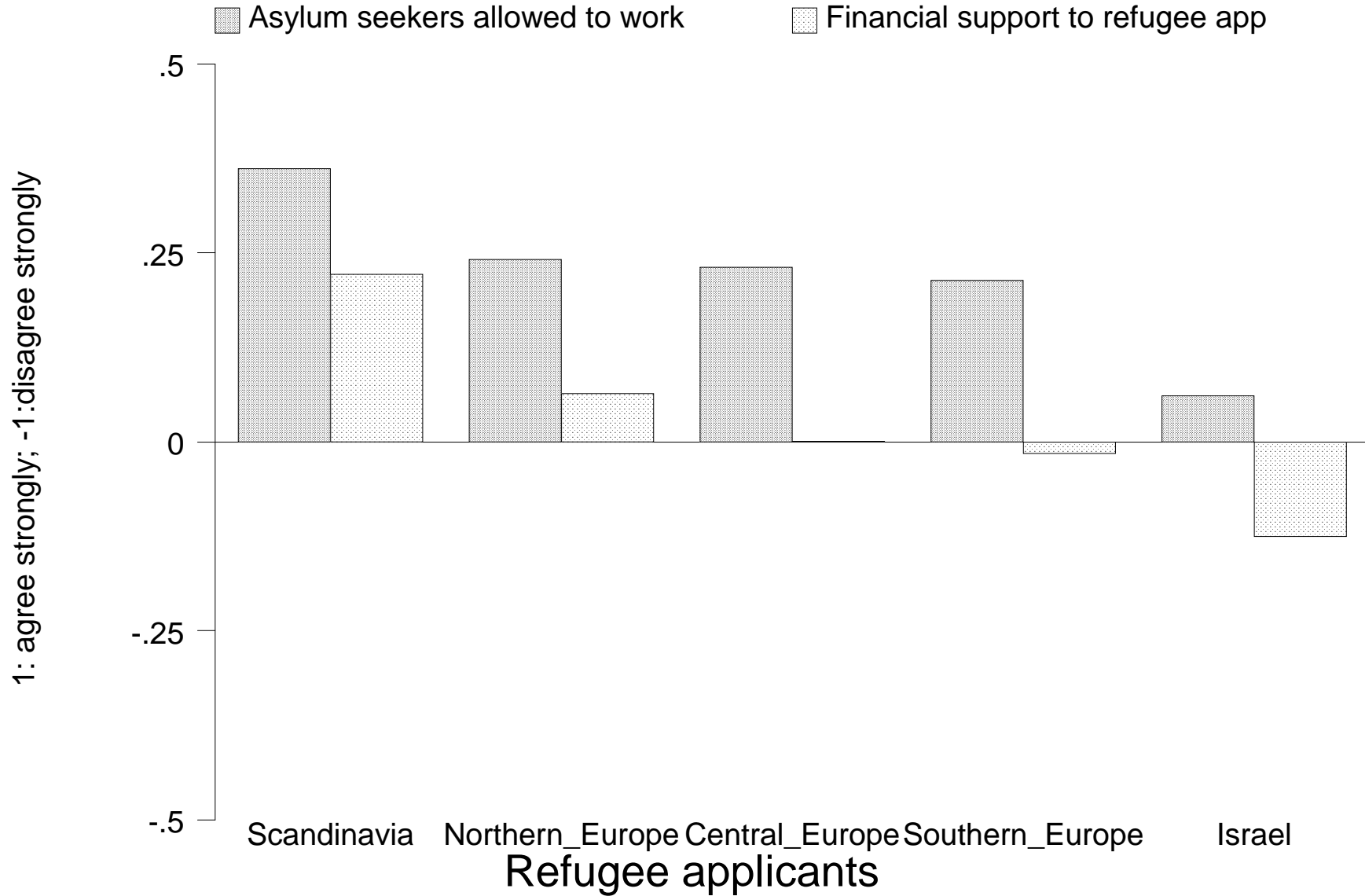
Refugee applicants: Are claims true, and should they be detained?



Immigration and emigration – Comparison



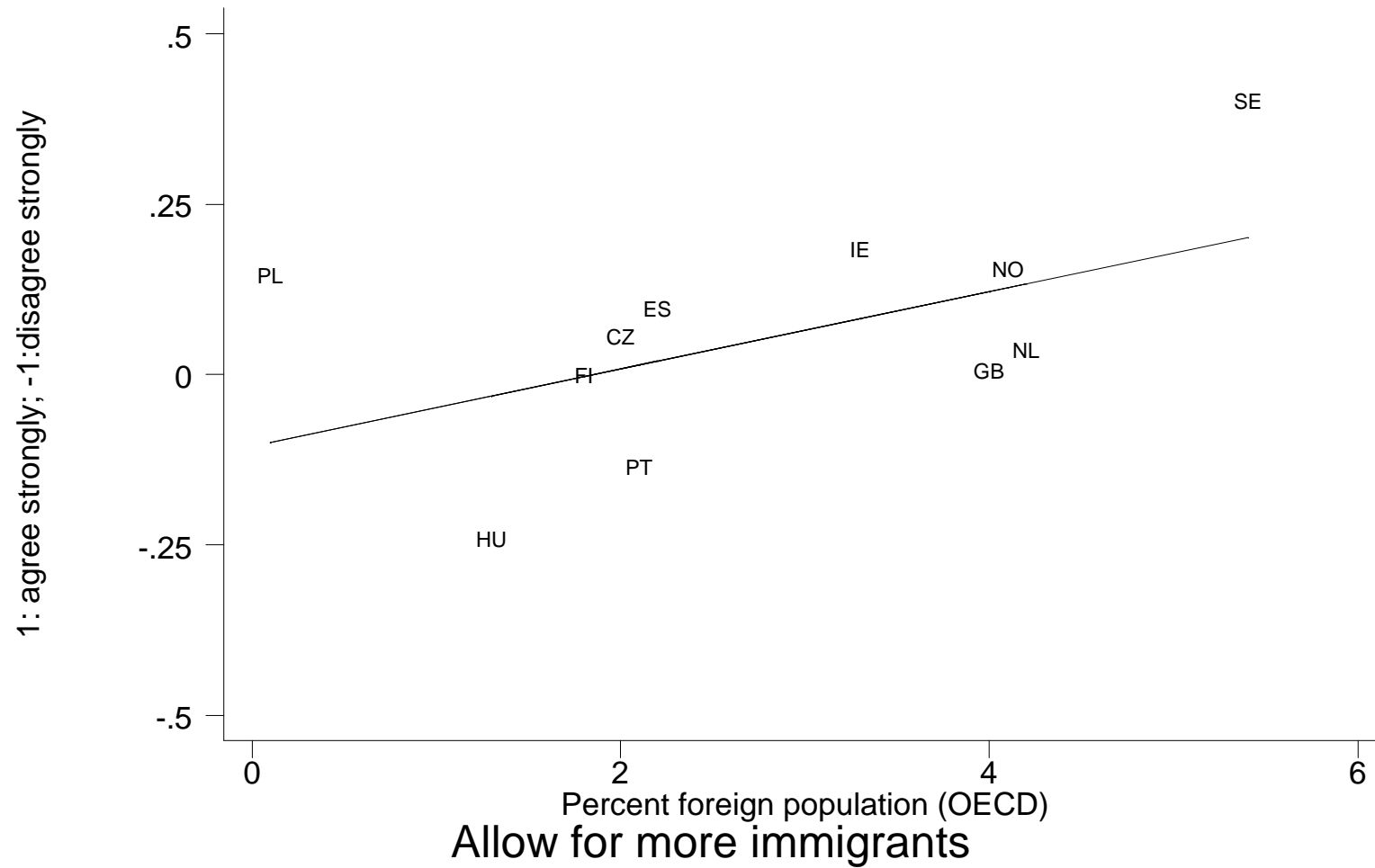
Refugee applicants: financial support and work permits



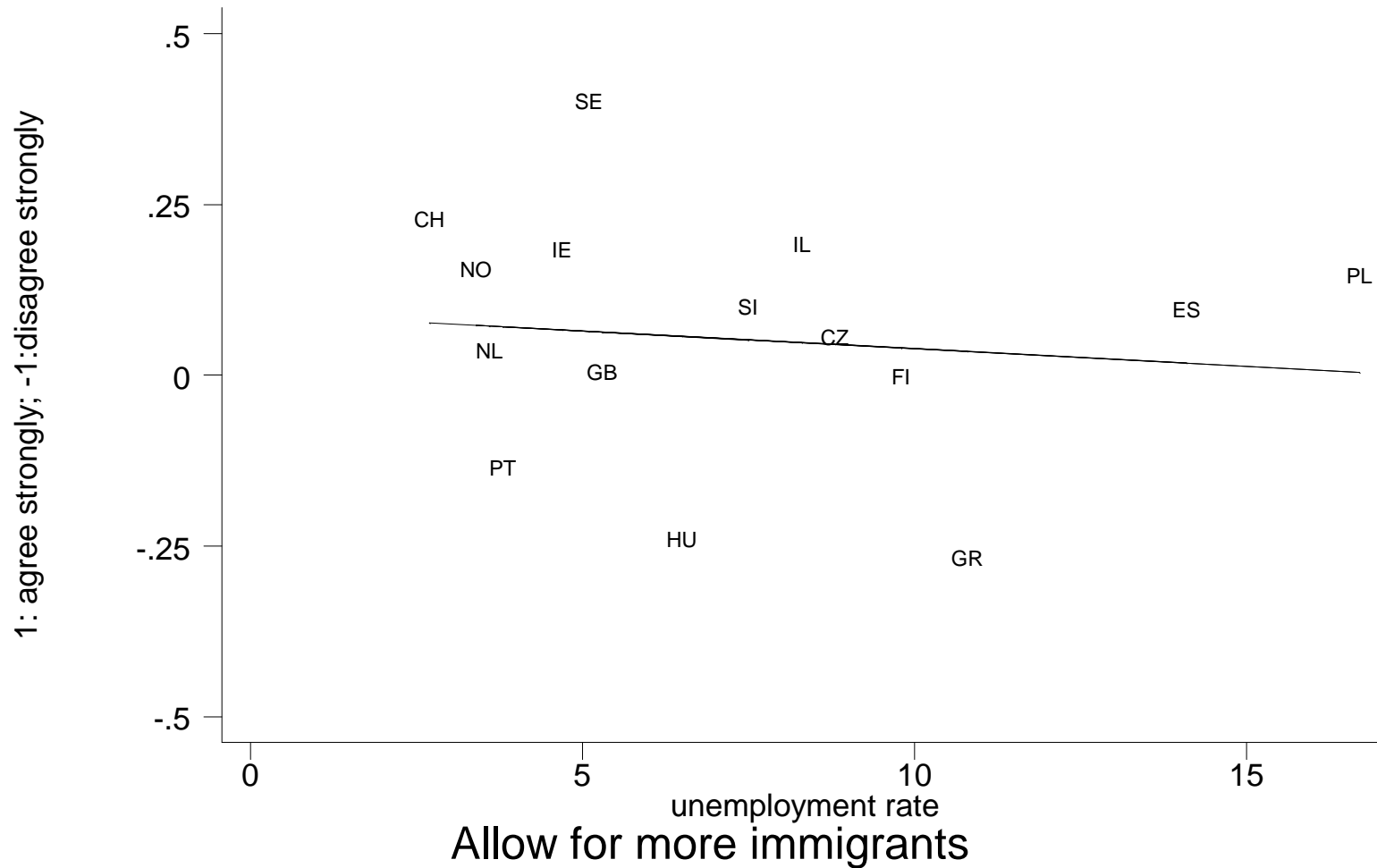
Responses and Macro-Economic Indicators

- This section relates particular aspects of attitudes to economic indicators in the various countries
- Macro-information is drawn from The World Bank and from the OECD
- Macro-data refer to 2001 in most cases

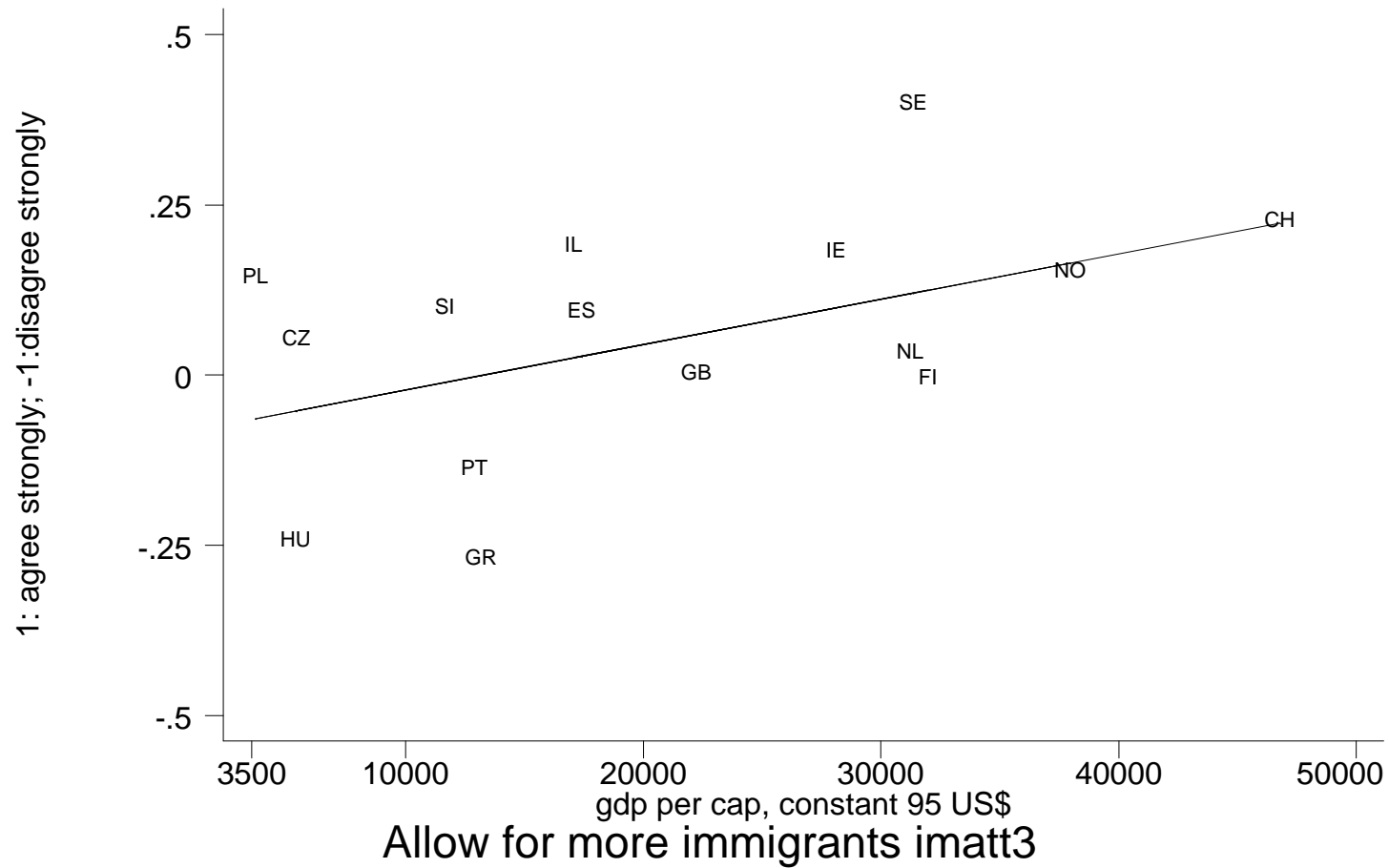
Opinion on further immigration and stock of foreign born population



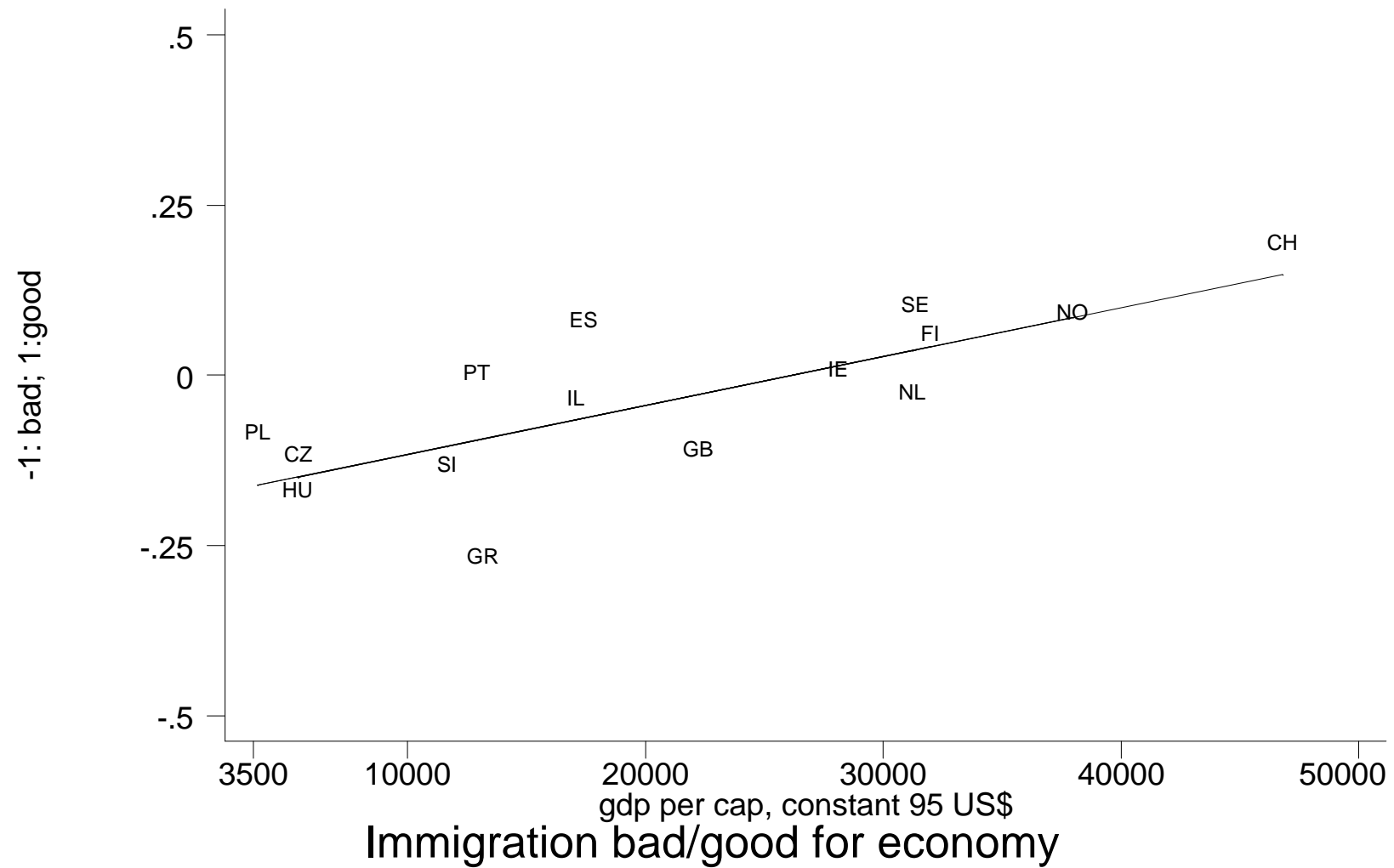
Opinion on further immigration and unemployment rate



Opinion on further immigration and GDP



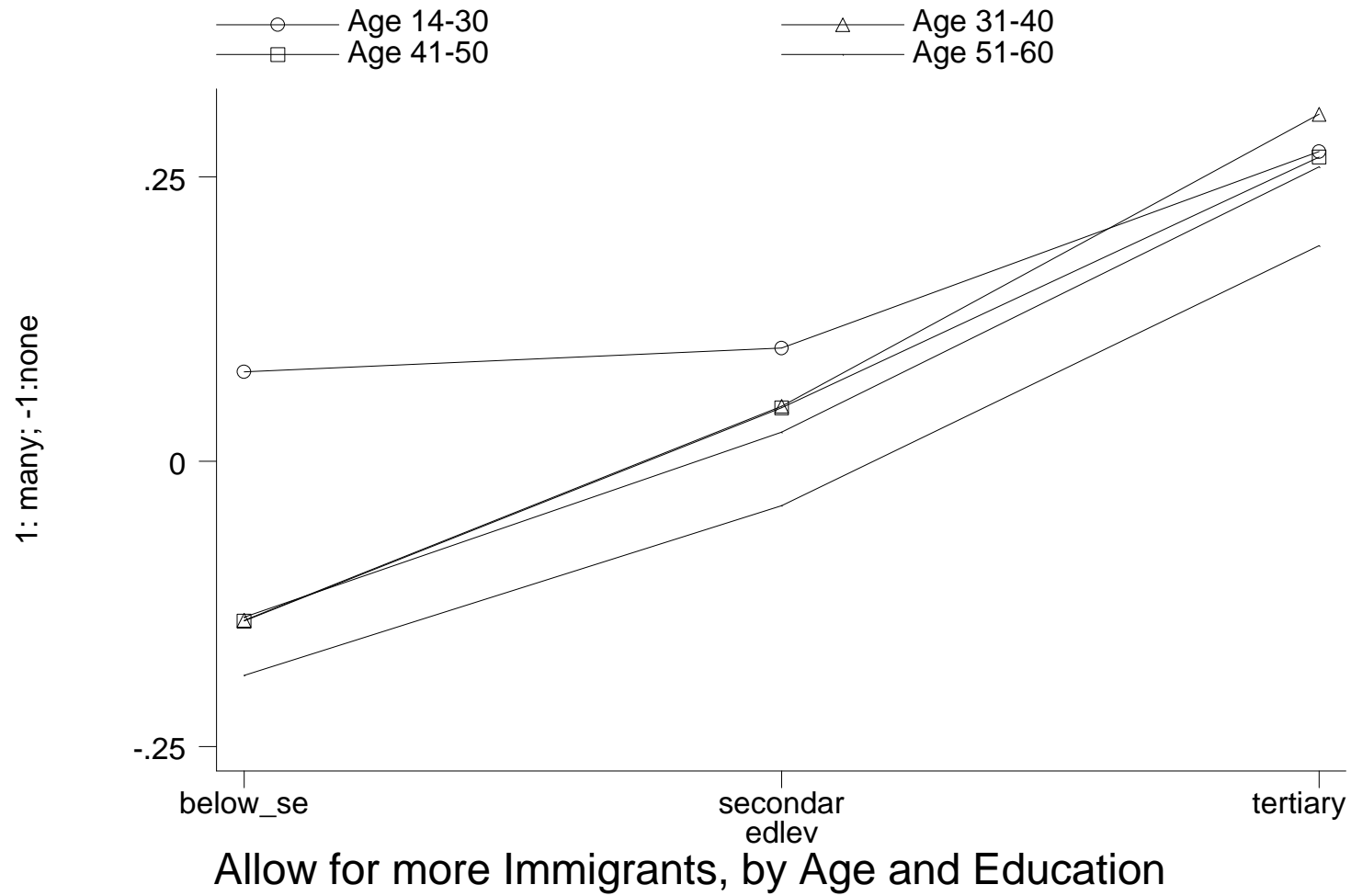
Economic Benefits of Immigration and GDP



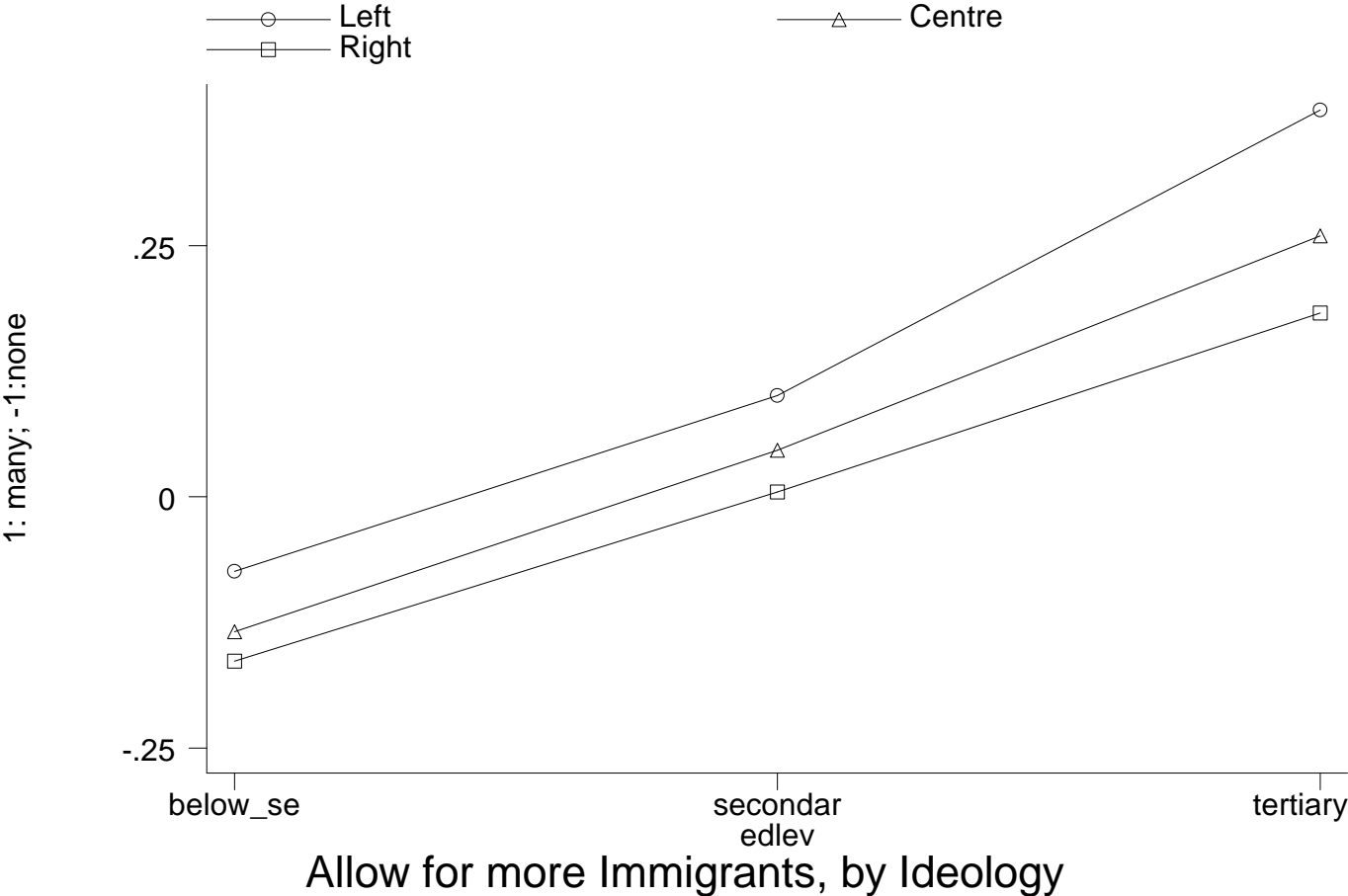
Opinion on Immigration and Individual Characteristics

- Are there systematic differences in the way individuals' opinion towards further immigration varies with observed characteristics?
- How are individuals' opinion towards further immigration related to their concerns about the economy/crime/welfare and fears of cultural alienation?

Opinion towards further immigration, by age and education



Opinion towards further immigration, by education and political opinion



Regressions

- All regressions include country dummies, age dummies, education dummies, and a variable for gender

Dependent Variable: Allow many/few immigrants

country's cultural life enriched	0.018 (12.44)**
immigrants make country better place	0.029 (17.03)**
immigrants make country's crime problems better	0.017 (11.44)**
immigrants create new jobs	0.001 (1.07)
Immigration: good for economy taxes and services:	0.039 (24.84)**
immigrants take out less	0.011 (7.75)**

Dependent Variable: Allow many/few immigrants

TV watching (total average time) **-0.037 (6.24)****

TV watching, news/ politics **0.036 (3.94)****

Newspaper read. (tot. aver. time) **-0.055 (4.57)****

Newspaper read. (politics) **0.13 (8.01)****

Dependent Variable: Allow many/few immigrants

Most people can be trusted **0.107** (15.79)**

Most people try to be fair **0.040** (5.74)**

Future Work

- Characterize in more depth differences in attitudes towards immigrants, minorities, and refugees in different countries in the European area, as well as the US, Australia, and Canada
- Develop and evaluate alternative hypotheses about the sources of these differences.
- Develop an overarching model of attitudinal responses that recognizes the intertemporal and dynastic dimension of opinion formation.
- Analyse the way opinion formation interacts with the economic and political process.