

## **Appendix**

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Table A1. Covariate Balance Checks

Group	Control	Treatment 1	Treatment 2	One-way ANOVA
N	425	418	425	$F(2,1266)$
Female	54%	58%	54%	0.70
Age	20.41 (1.68)	20.21 (1.68)	20.43 (1.66)	2.03
Income group (1-10)	4.46 (1.42)	4.42 (1.42)	4.46 (1.44)	0.13
Subjective class (1-5)	1.99 (0.79)	2.06 (0.84)	2.04 (0.82)	0.83

\*\*\*p<.01; \*\*p<.05; \*p<.1. Standard errors in parentheses.

Table A2. Robustness Test with Alternative Self-interest Measure (Income Group)

	Inequality too high	Gov. should reduce inequality	Support for welfare expansion
Perceived income group (1-10)	-0.14*** (0.033)	-0.095*** (0.035)	-0.15*** (0.051)
Competition is bad	-0.030 (0.028)	-0.17*** (0.029)	-0.053 (0.042)
Wealth enough for everyone	0.046** (0.023)	0.076*** (0.024)	0.038 (0.036)
Social mobility	-0.17*** (0.026)	-0.097*** (0.027)	-0.35*** (0.040)
Reason for poverty: Bad luck (reference: modern social development)	-0.46* (0.26)	0.22 (0.27)	0.00083 (0.40)
Laziness or lack of willpower	-0.13 (0.14)	-0.48*** (0.15)	0.11 (0.22)
Social injustice	0.27** (0.11)	0.093 (0.11)	0.18 (0.16)
Family responsibility	-0.017 (0.024)	-0.014 (0.026)	-0.0068 (0.038)
Individual responsibility	-0.12*** (0.025)	-0.37*** (0.026)	-0.18*** (0.038)
Post-materialism	0.092 (0.077)	0.090 (0.081)	-0.12 (0.12)
Welfare benefitting immigrants	0.027 (0.022)	-0.014 (0.023)	0.041 (0.034)
Social distrust	0.013	0.0080	0.024

	(0.024)	(0.025)	(0.037)
Female	-0.18*	0.086	0.32**
	(0.095)	(0.099)	(0.15)
Age	0.031	-0.030	0.0010
	(0.028)	(0.029)	(0.043)
N	1,247	1,247	1,247
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.133	0.236	0.121

\*\*\*p<.01; \*\*p<.05; \*p<.1. OLS regression estimates. Standard errors in parentheses.

Constant terms not reported.

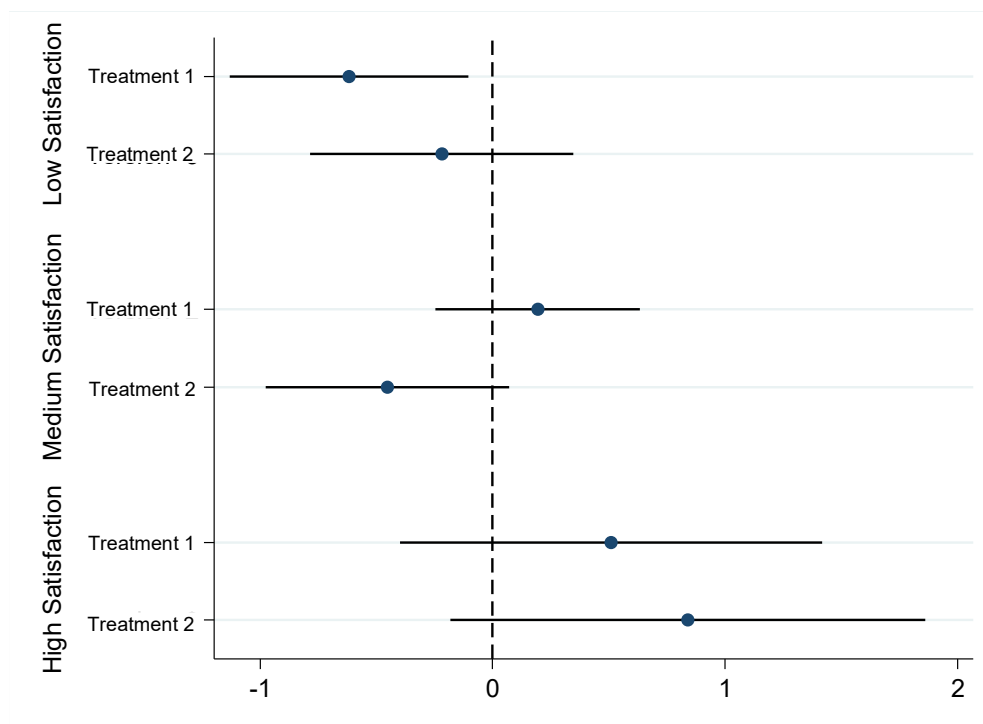
Table A3. Supplementary Regression Results by Treatment Group (Treated Respondents)

Post-treatment DV: Support for public housing			
	Control	Treatment 1	Treatment 2
Subjective class	-0.19	-0.13	-0.38**
	(0.14)	(0.20)	(0.16)
Competition is bad	0.026	-0.10	0.040
	(0.064)	(0.10)	(0.075)
Wealth enough for everyone	0.069	0.28***	0.062
	(0.051)	(0.085)	(0.065)
Social mobility	0.046	-0.16	-0.094
	(0.064)	(0.10)	(0.076)
Reason for poor: Bad luck	-0.42	2.23**	0.87
(reference: modern social development)	(0.51)	(0.90)	(0.85)
Laziness or lack of willpower	-0.17	0.49	-0.030
	(0.35)	(0.49)	(0.37)
Social injustice	-0.11	1.01***	0.40
	(0.24)	(0.38)	(0.27)
Family responsibility	-0.12**	0.073	-0.099
	(0.058)	(0.084)	(0.067)
Individual responsibility	-0.24***	-0.021	-0.065
	(0.062)	(0.090)	(0.067)
Post-materialism	0.074	-0.41	-0.084
	(0.18)	(0.29)	(0.23)
Welfare enjoyed by immigrants	0.011	-0.051	0.029
	(0.051)	(0.075)	(0.059)
Social distrust	0.12**	-0.043	0.0046

	(0.058)	(0.079)	(0.067)
Female	0.45**	0.17	0.35
	(0.22)	(0.33)	(0.25)
Age	-0.077	-0.11	0.036
	(0.066)	(0.092)	(0.071)
Gov. satisfaction	0.012	-0.091	0.24***
	(0.067)	(0.097)	(0.076)
N	322	164	247
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.113	0.186	0.127

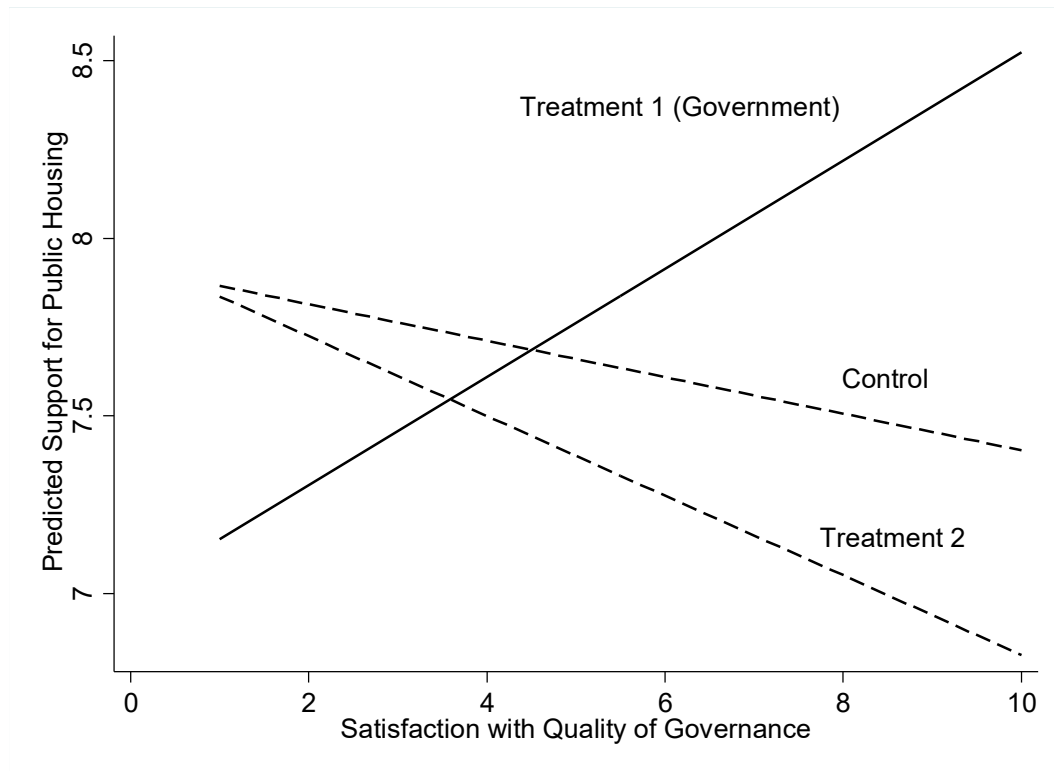
\*\*\*p<.01; \*\*p<.05; \*p<.1. OLS regression estimates. Standard errors in parentheses. Constant terms not reported. Only include "treated" respondents.

Figure A1. Marginal Effects of Treatments by Governance Satisfaction (Alternative Grouping)



Marginal effects of the treatments by the level of satisfaction in governance. Respondents are divided into low ( $\leq 3$ ), medium (4-6), and high ( $\geq 7$ ) satisfaction. The dot represents the point estimate and the line covers the 95% confidence interval.

Figure A2. Effect of Governance Satisfaction on Welfare Support (Disaggregated)



Predicted values of support for public housing as governance satisfaction changes. Based on estimates from separate regressions from models reported in columns 1, 3, and 4 in Table A3.

Table A4. Correlation Figures

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)
(1) Inequality too high	1.00														
(2) Gov. should reduce inequality	0.25	1.00													
(3) Support for welfare expansion	0.15	0.28	1.00												
(4) Perceived income group	-0.18	-0.14	-0.15	1.00											
(5) Subjective social class	-0.15	-0.14	-0.09	0.57	1.00										
(6) Competition is bad	-0.03	-0.16	-0.03	0.06	0.02	1.00									
(7) Wealth enough for everyone	0.04	0.10	0.02	0.01	0.01	-0.13	1.00								
(8) Social mobility	-0.26	-0.20	-0.29	0.20	0.13	-0.01	0.07	1.00							
(9) Family responsibility	-0.06	-0.04	-0.03	0.04	0.10	-0.21	0.05	0.06	1.00						
(10) Individual responsibility	-0.22	-0.42	-0.20	0.12	0.08	0.02	-0.01	0.22	0.10	1.00					
(11) Post-materialism	0.10	0.12	0.03	-0.03	-0.09	-0.05	0.06	-0.13	-0.07	-0.13	1.00				
(12) Welfare benefitting immigrants	0.09	0.04	0.09	-0.01	-0.07	0.04	-0.04	-0.19	-0.13	-0.10	0.13	1.00			
(13) Social distrust	0.03	-0.02	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.11	-0.13	-0.07	-0.12	0.02	-0.01	0.15	1.00		
(14) Female	-0.07	-0.01	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.06	0.06	0.02	-0.04	0.06	-0.04	0.00	-0.03	1.00	
(15) Age	0.04	-0.02	0.03	-0.03	-0.02	0.04	0.06	0.01	0.00	-0.04	-0.02	-0.06	0.02	-0.05	1.00

### ***A. Survey Administration***

Survey collection was conducted at eight Hong Kong public-funded universities on the following dates: Hong Kong Polytechnic University (10 March 2017), Hong Kong Baptist University (15 March 2017), Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (17 March 2017), Lingnan University (20 March 2017), City University (22 March 2017), Chinese University of Hong Kong (24 March 2017), Hong Kong Education University (27 March 2017), and University of Hong Kong (31 March 2017). 160 surveys were collected from each university on average (maximum 240 at Polytechnic University and Baptist University; minimum 60 at University of Hong Kong).

At each session, a team of research assistants would approach passersby near major public areas at each respective campus. After confirming their willingness to participate and student status, they were led to the survey area. They were then shown a consent form containing basic information of the survey including the name of the principal investigator (the author), the purpose of the project, details of data management (data anonymity and data retention period), their right to withdraw at any time, and the confidentiality of their response. Furthermore, the funding body of the project (Central Policy Unit/ Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office) was not disclosed to avoid bias in their response.

Although students in Hong Kong are bilingual (all universities use English as the medium of instruction), respondents were given the translated Chinese version of the survey (copies of the original English version were available upon request but not needed). Some additional background information about the group of respondents is provided here:

Age Distribution of Respondents			
Age	N	%	Cum. %
17	4	0.32	0.32
18	150	11.83	12.15
19	263	20.74	32.89
20	341	26.89	59.78
21	236	18.61	78.39
22	135	10.65	89.04
23	78	6.15	95.19
24	34	2.68	97.87
25	16	1.26	99.13
26	11	0.87	100

Distribution of Respondents by Study Major			
Major	N	%	Cum. %
Arts/Humanities	148	11.78	11.78
Business	278	22.13	33.92
Business/Law	1	0.08	34.00
Business/Science	1	0.08	34.08
Business/Social Science	4	0.32	34.40
Education	104	8.28	42.68
Engineering	266	21.18	63.85
Engineering/Science	1	0.08	63.93
Law	16	1.27	65.21
Law/Social Science	4	0.32	65.53
Medicine	56	4.46	69.98
Science	145	11.54	81.53
Social Science	138	10.99	92.52
Other	94	7.48	100

Note: Total N is larger than 1245 because of missing responses in other variables.

### ***B. Survey Structure***

The survey contained a total of 22 questions (all close-ended) and background information at the end of the survey. The 22 questions could roughly be divided into 4 sections: (a) questions on welfare system and economic systems (11 questions); (b) self-assessments of family and personal class and income (4 questions); and (c) questions on politics and welfare policies (6 questions). After these 21 questions, the vignette was shown, followed by the last post-treatment question. The design of the last question was as similar as possible to the questions immediately preceding it to avoid any unnecessary attention (e.g. question wording; answering format). The survey ended with 4 questions on personal background.

The respondents should have no knowledge of the experimental design before the debriefing section. As randomization was sequentially, all respondents were simply given a copy of the survey that looked exactly the same (except the vignette which was not on the first page). All respondents also filled in the survey in the same area but were prevented from communicating with each other.

Once the formal survey was completed, the survey copy (several pages) would be

collected by the RAs and a debriefing note would be given to them (details about the debriefing note are provided below). This was followed by a question asking them to recall the vignette they received (at which point they were not allowed to communicate with other respondents or look at the survey again). The lower half of the debriefing note contained a slip requiring respondents to acknowledge the purpose of the research, consent to the use of their data collected, and acknowledge receipt of the cash reward.

### ***C. Vignette Design Choices***

During the design of the vignette used in this study, the following factors were taken into consideration. The first consideration is that the “stories” must appear plausible and real to participants (Barter and Renold 1999), which should not be a problem for the current study as all three vignettes used were factual statements. Another important factor is clear and accessible language to avoid confusion, including brevity and the use of respondents’ words (Morrison et al. 2004). However, if the vignette is instead too short, it might not sufficiently “trigger” a reaction among the respondents (e.g., to associate the policy with the actor; or to recall their real impression towards the actor), or that it might discourage heuristic processing. In this regard, the vignettes used should be appropriate for two reasons. First, it should be considered as a conservative design. If the vignettes were too brief or short, it should induce a downward bias on the results; i.e., making it more difficult to establish a significant result. The fact that a significant pattern can be identified (albeit under certain conditions) shows that the vignette largely worked as intended. Second, in practice, vignettes come in different forms and length, ranging from several sentences to a whole paragraph, or even the use of graphical information. There seems to be no consensus among researchers on how long is considered “too long”. The length of the vignettes used should also be typical. To pick a convenient example from a recent study on a related topic, Jansen and Kevins (2018) adopt a vignette treatment consisting of 20 to 32 words, which is of comparable length to the ones used in this research. Finally, the inclusion of a control vignette (the group with only the factual statement) is useful for assessing the baseline response (e.g., Barter and Renold 1999).

### ***D. Full Debriefing Note***

During the debriefing stage, the following debriefing note was given to the respondent. The RAs would also answer any questions they might have.

“Thank you for participating in the survey. As mentioned at the start of the survey, this study aims to understand the relationship between youth's support for welfare and

their discontent. The majority of the survey questions is dedicated for this purpose.

The only exception is question 22, which asks you to indicate the level of agreement towards increasing the supply of public housing. A short paragraph was provided before this question. In fact, this paragraph comes in 3 different versions. Respondents might answer differently on this question depending on their political views towards the current government or other political groups. The purpose of this is to allow us to distinguish the effect of youth discontent and political attitudes. In order to avoid bias, it was also necessary for respondents to remain unaware of this. We wish you can understand.

If you have any questions about the research, please feel free to contact [name of Principal Investigator] at [telephone] or [email]. If you refuse to consent the use of data for research purposes, you have the right to withdraw now. If you understand the explanations above, and you are still willing to allow us use the data for research purposes, please sign at the appropriate place below.

Can you recall which version of the description was shown before Q22? (please circle)

(1) Survey findings on youth discontent towards housing

(2) Survey findings on youth discontent towards housing AND current government aiming to increase housing supply

(3) Survey findings on youth discontent towards housing AND pan-democrats fighting for increase in housing supply”

### ***References***

Barter, Christine, and Emma Renold. 1999. The Use of Vignettes in Qualitative Research., Social Research Update, 25, 1-7.

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Morrison, Rebecca, Kristin Stettler, and Amy Anderson. 2004. Use of Vignettes in Cognitive Research on Establishment Surveys. Journal of Official Statistics, 20(2), 319-340.