

Supplementary Materials for
Testing the Status-Legitimacy Hypothesis in China: Objective and Subjective
Socioeconomic Status Divergently Predict System Justification

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Materials

Study 2

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements. (1 = completely disagree, 6 = completely agree)

Perceived social fairness:

1. Generally speaking, Chinese society is fair.
2. It is difficult for a person to lead a happy life through their own efforts in today's society. (reversed scored)
3. In current China, people's gap in social status, wealth, income and other aspects are reasonable.
4. In this society, people will certainly get their return as long as they work hard.
5. There are usually many unfair things in the society (reversed scored)

Trust in government institutions:

1. Public security organs in China are strict and impartial.
2. There are a lot of hidden dangers in China's national defense security. (reversed scored)
3. When people's benefits are damaged, they can safeguard their own rights by means of laws.
4. China's foreign policy can really maintain the authority and dignity of the country.

Study 3

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements. (1 = completely disagree, 7 = completely agree)

Conservatism:

1. Internet contents, which are intermingled with good and bad things, need to be controlled by the government.
2. Homosexual and heterosexual should be treated equally. (reversed scored)
3. Everyone has the responsibility to love his or her country.
4. Premarital sex should be forbidden.
5. Journalists' freedom to interview and report is beneficial to society. (reversed scored)
6. Western countries are suppressing the development of China in all respects.
7. Chinese people need to relearn classic ancient Chinese Literature and traditional values.
8. Strong government is good for the society.
9. China should invest more in national defense.
10. Once married, we should not divorce.
11. Chinese people should boycott Japanese goods.
12. Nail households are immoral.
13. Poor people and rich people should enjoy the same level of medical treatment.
14. Government shouldn't intervene the market. (reversed scored)

System justification:

1. In general, I find Chinese society to be fair.
2. In general, Chinese political system operates as it should.
3. Chinese society needs to be radically restructured. (reverse-scored)
4. China is the best country in the world to live in.
5. Most policies in China serve the greater good.
6. Everyone in China has a fair shot at wealth and happiness.
7. Chinese society is getting worse every year. (reverse-scored)
8. Chinese society is set up so that people usually get what they deserve.

Study 4

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements. (1 = completely disagree, 7 = completely agree)

Perceived social mobility:

1. It is not too difficult for people to change their position in society.
2. There are a lot of opportunities for people to move up the social ladder.
3. It is common for people who are motivated enough to go "from rags to riches."
4. Most people end up staying in the same social class for their entire lives. (reverse-scored)
5. If you are born rich, it is very unlikely you will ever be poor. (reverse-scored)
6. If you are born poor, it is very unlikely you will ever be rich. (reverse-scored)

Additional Study Details

Study 1a

We analyzed sample attrition with respect to the main variables (education, income, subjective SES, and perceived social fairness). Results indicated that participants who miss on subjective SES were less educated and earned less money. Participants who miss on perceived social fairness reported lower income and lower educational level. Therefore, we analyzed the regression model using multiple imputation method, which could limit potential bias in parameter estimation. The results of this analysis were shown in Table S1. The direction and significance of parameters are consistent with analysis reported in the main text.

Table S1

Multiple Regression Analysis Predicting Perceived Social Fairness Using Multiple Imputation Method (Study 1a)

Predictor	<i>b</i>	<i>SE</i>	95% CI	
			<i>LL</i>	<i>UL</i>
Gender	.08**	.02	-.10	-.02
Age	.01***	.00	.01	.01
Education level	-.06***	.01	-.06	-.03
Income	-.09***	.01	-.10	-.06
Subjective SES	.11***	.01	.09	.12

Note. Multiple-imputation models were based on 5 imputed data sets. We coded gender as 0 (female) and 1 (male) and log-transformed income. CI = confidence interval; *LL* = lower limit; *UL* = upper limit. ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$.

Study 1b

We analyzed sample attrition with respect to the main variables (education, income, subjective SES, and perceived social fairness). Results indicated that participants who miss on income reported lower subjective SES and lower perceived social fairness. Participants who miss on subjective SES were less educated. Participants who miss on perceived social fairness were less educated, earned less money, and reported lower subjective SES. Therefore, we analyzed the regression model using multiple imputation method, which could limit potential bias in parameter estimation. The results of this analysis were shown in Table S2. The results remain unchanged.

Table S2

Multiple Regression Analysis Predicting Perceived Social Fairness Using Multiple Imputation Method (Study 1b)

Predictor	<i>b</i>	<i>SE</i>	95% CI	
			<i>LL</i>	<i>UL</i>
Gender	.05*	.02	.01	.09
Age	.00***	.00	.00	.01
Education level	-.06***	.01	-.07	-.04
Income	-.17***	.03	-.22	-.16
Subjective SES	.12***	.01	.11	.13

Note. Multiple-imputation models were based on 5 imputed data sets. We coded gender as 0 (female) and 1 (male) and log-transformed income. CI = confidence interval; *LL* = lower limit; *UL* = upper limit. ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$.

Study 2

We analyzed sample attrition with respect to the main variables (parental educational level, family monthly income, subjective family SES, perceived social fairness, and trust in government institutions). Results indicated that adolescents who miss on parental education and family monthly income reported lower subjective family SES. Therefore, we analyzed the regression model using multiple imputation method, which could limit potential bias in parameter estimation. The results of this analysis were shown in Table S3. The results remain unchanged.

Table S3

Multiple Regression Analysis Predicting Perceived Social Fairness and Trust in Government Institutions Using Multiple Imputation Method (Study 2)

Dependent Variable	Predictor	<i>b</i>	<i>SE</i>	95% CI	
				<i>LL</i>	<i>UL</i>
Perceived social fairness	Gender	.01	.02	-.04	.06
	Age	-.11***	.02	-.14	-.09
	Parental education level	-.07***	.01	-.10	-.05
	Family monthly income	-.06***	.02	-.10	-.03
	Subjective SES	.12***	.02	.08	.16
Trust in government institutions	Gender	.04	.03	-.01	.09
	Age	-.10***	.02	-.13	-.07
	Parental education level	-.06***	.01	-.08	-.03
	Family monthly income	-.08**	.02	-.12	-.03
	Subjective SES	.08***	.02	.04	.12

Note. Multiple-imputation models were based on 5 imputed data sets. We coded gender as 0 (girl) and 1 (boy). CI = confidence interval; *LL* = lower limit; *UL* = upper limit. ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$.

Study 3

Table S4

Multiple Regression Analysis Predicting System Justification

Predictor	<i>b</i>	<i>SE</i>	β	95% CI	
				<i>LL</i>	<i>UL</i>
Gender	.21	.12	.10	-.02	.45
Age	-.02	.01	-.14*	-.03	.00
Education	-.27	.08	-.23**	-.42	-.11
Subjective SES	.09	.04	.13*	.02	.17

Note. We coded gender as 0 (female) and 1 (male); *LL* = lower limit; *UL* = upper limit.

* $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$.

Study 4

Table S5

Multiple Regression Analysis Predicting System Justification

Predictor	<i>b</i>	<i>SE</i>	β	95% CI	
				<i>LL</i>	<i>UL</i>
Gender	.11	.13	.04	-.16	.37
Age	.01	.01	.10	-.00	.03
Education	.03	.08	.03	-.12	.18
Income	-.00	.06	-.00	-.11	.11
Subjective SES	.11	.04	.16**	.03	.19

Note. We coded gender as 0 (female) and 1 (male); *LL* = lower limit; *UL* = upper limit.

** $p < .01$.

Study 5

Table S6

Multiple Regression Analysis Predicting System Justification

Predictor	<i>b</i>	<i>SE</i>	β	95% CI	
				<i>LL</i>	<i>UL</i>
Gender	.11	.09	.05	-.07	.29
Age	.01	.01	.05	-.01	.02
Education	.00	.05	.00	-.10	.10
Income	-.08	.03	-.12**	-.13	-.02
Subjective SES	.15	.03	.21***	.09	.21

Note. We coded gender as 0 (female) and 1 (male); *LL* = lower limit; *UL* = upper limit.

** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$.

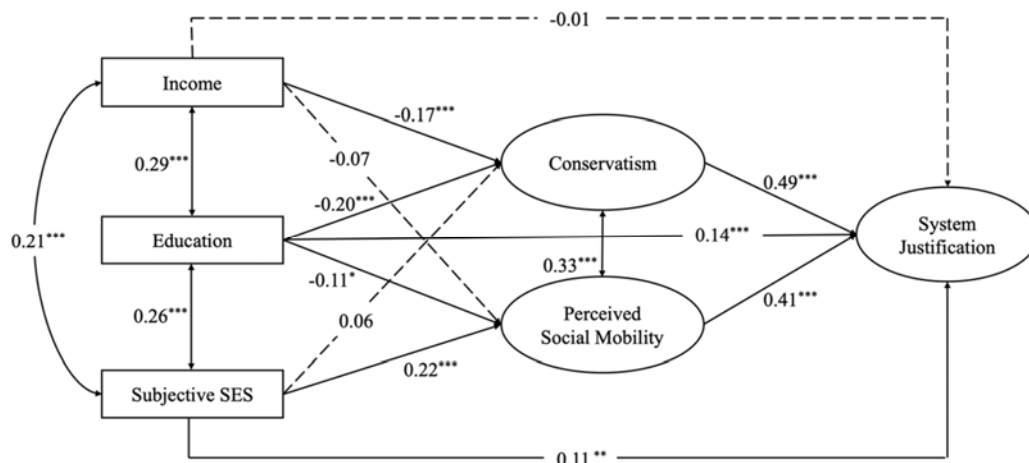


Figure S1. The structural equation model with full paths.

Note. Significance of standardized regression coefficients is indicated, * $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$. Age and gender are controlled in this model, and are allowed to correlate with objective and subjective SES indicators. The structural model showed acceptable fit to the data: $\chi^2(54) = 222.09$, $p < .001$; CFI = .93; TLI = .90; RMSEA = .07 [.06, .08], SRMR = .04. The indirect path from income to system justification through conservatism is significant (indirect effect = -.08, $p = .001$, 95% CI = [-.13, -.03]). The indirect path from education to system justification through conservatism is significant (indirect effect = -.10, $p < .001$, 95% CI = [-.15, -.05]). The indirect path from education to system justification through perceived social mobility is significant (indirect effect = -.05, $p = .035$, 95% CI = [-.09, -.00]). The indirect path from subjective SES to system justification through perceived social mobility is significant (indirect effect = .09, $p < .001$, 95% CI = [.04, .14]). Other indirect paths are not significant.