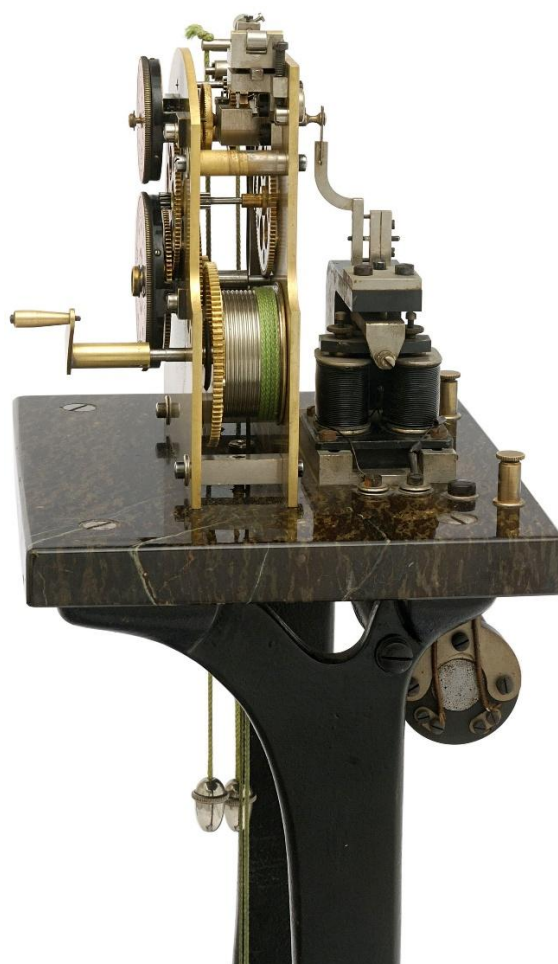


XXXI INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

EMPIRICAL STUDIES IN PSYCHOLOGY

MARCH 28 – 30, 2025

FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY, UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE



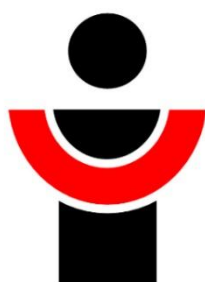
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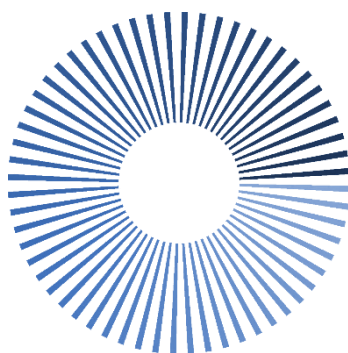
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CHRONOSCOPE WITH POLARIZED MAGNET, AFTER SCHULZE
(E. Zimmermann, Leipzig – Berlin)

Precision clock mechanism with time resolution up to 1 millisecond that can be connected to a number of different instruments. The apparatus is an improved version of Hipp's chronoscope. Instead of an electromagnet, Schulze introduced a polarized magnet which makes chronoscope suitable for all time intervals, even at varied DC voltage. The chronoscope has two dials: the upper dial indicates milliseconds, and the lower indicates tenths of a second.

From the Collection of Old Scientific Instruments of the Laboratory of Experimental Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade

GENERALIZED TRUST AS A PROTECTIVE FACTOR FOR DEPRESSIVE
SYMPTOMS: EVIDENCE FROM THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL SURVEY

Vladimir Mentus*

Institute of Social Sciences

Although the determinants of depressive symptoms have been extensively studied across various groups, generalized trust has largely been neglected in this context, particularly in nationally representative samples. Previous research has shown that many forms of social capital – such as personal relationships, social support, and community engagement – can act as protective factors against the development of depression. Therefore, it is reasonable to expect that this dimension of social capital would also be positively associated with lower levels of depressive symptoms. We analyzed nationally representative data from 24 European countries, collected as part of the eleventh round of the European Social Survey in 2023 and 2024, which included a total of 40,156 respondents. Depressive symptoms were measured using the CES-D 8 scale, with scores ranging from 0 to 24, where higher scores indicate more severe depressive symptoms. Generalized trust was assessed using the 11-point Social Trust Scale of the European Social Survey, consisting of three items. Additionally, 13 control variables identified as potentially relevant according to previous research were included in the regression model: gender, age, education, household income, social connections, subjective health, exposure to financial difficulties during childhood, exposure to household conflict during childhood, being discriminated, being unemployed, being divorced, being widowed, and average satisfaction with the economy in the country. The results of the two-level HLM analysis reveal a significant negative association between generalized trust and depressive symptoms ($b = -.200$, $SE = .011$, $p < .001$), confirming our hypothesis. Specifically, for each one-unit increase in generalized trust, the expected value of depressive symptoms decreases by 0.2 units. Finally, the low intraclass correlation coefficient ($ICC = .022$) indicates that most of the variation in depressive symptoms is attributable to differences within countries, rather than between them. Our analysis supports previous findings regarding the protective role of social capital against the development of depression, which is particularly important given the scale of its global rise in recent times.

Keywords: generalized trust; depressive symptoms; European Social Survey

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