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INDIVIDUAL-LEVEL EVIDENCE ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TRUST IN POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND GENERALIZED TRUST: AN ANALYSIS IN THE CASE OF VIETNAM

The relationship between political and generalized trust has been placed in the centre of academic debate for several decades. Recent studies have found a positive link between the two constructs in democratic countries and Asian nondemocratic settings, but no correlation among them in post-communist countries. This paper extends the understanding of the link in nondemocratic settings by taking Vietnam as a case to investigate conditions behind the relationship. Using data of Vietnam from the fourth wave of Asian Barometer Survey, results of logistic regressions reveal that different types of trust in political institutions differently affect generalized trust. Trust in partisan institutions is positively associated with generalized trust, while there is no relationship between trust in checking institutions and generalized trust. Furthermore, partisanship and voluntary associational membership are demonstrated as two prominent conditions under which the variation of the link between trust in political institutions and generalized trust can be observed.

Keywords: generalized trust, trust in political institutions, political trust, social capital