

**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*.  
European Social Survey Launch Conference  
Brussels 25-26 November 2003

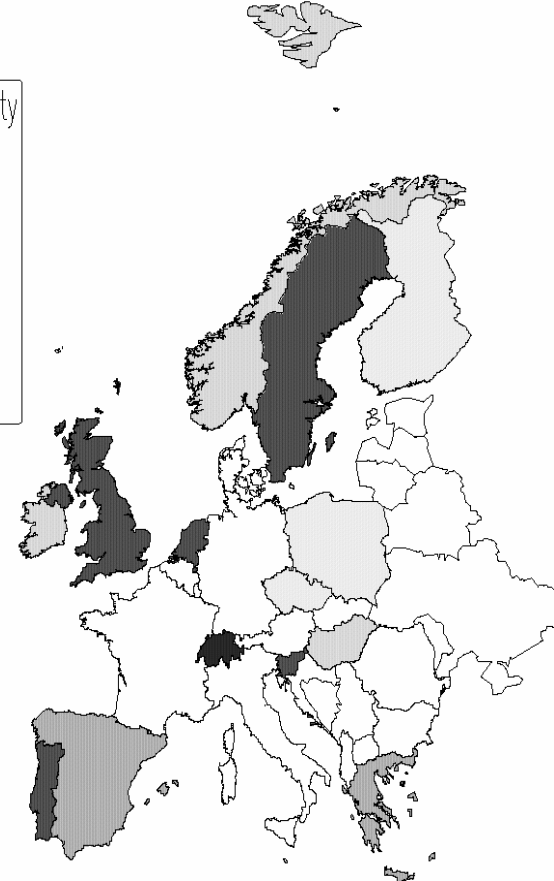
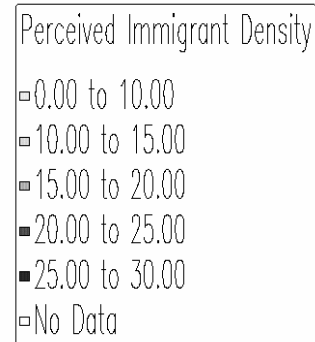
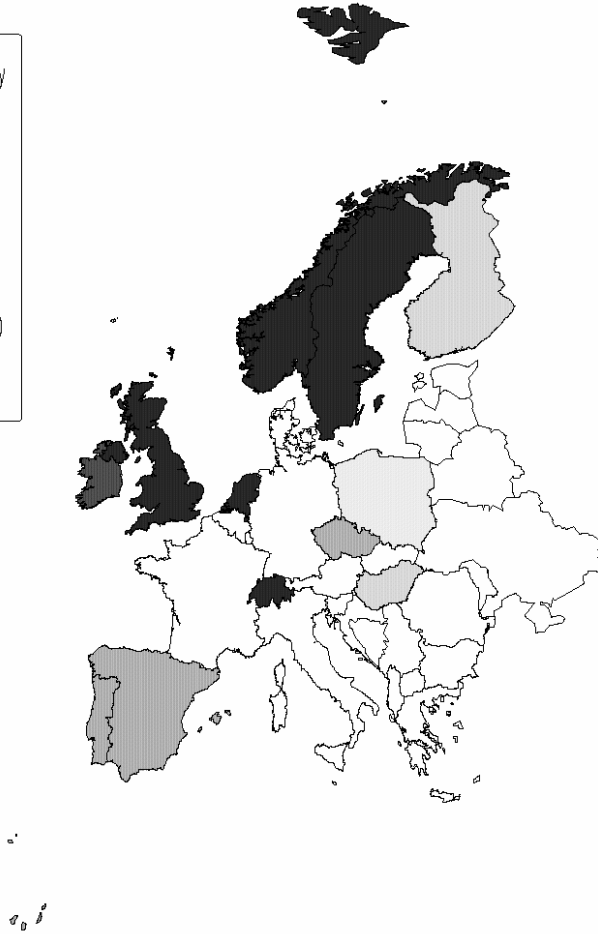
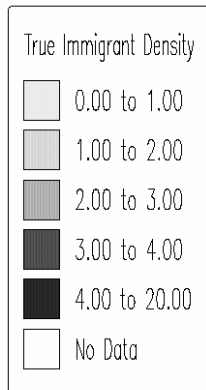
# Structure of Talk

- 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

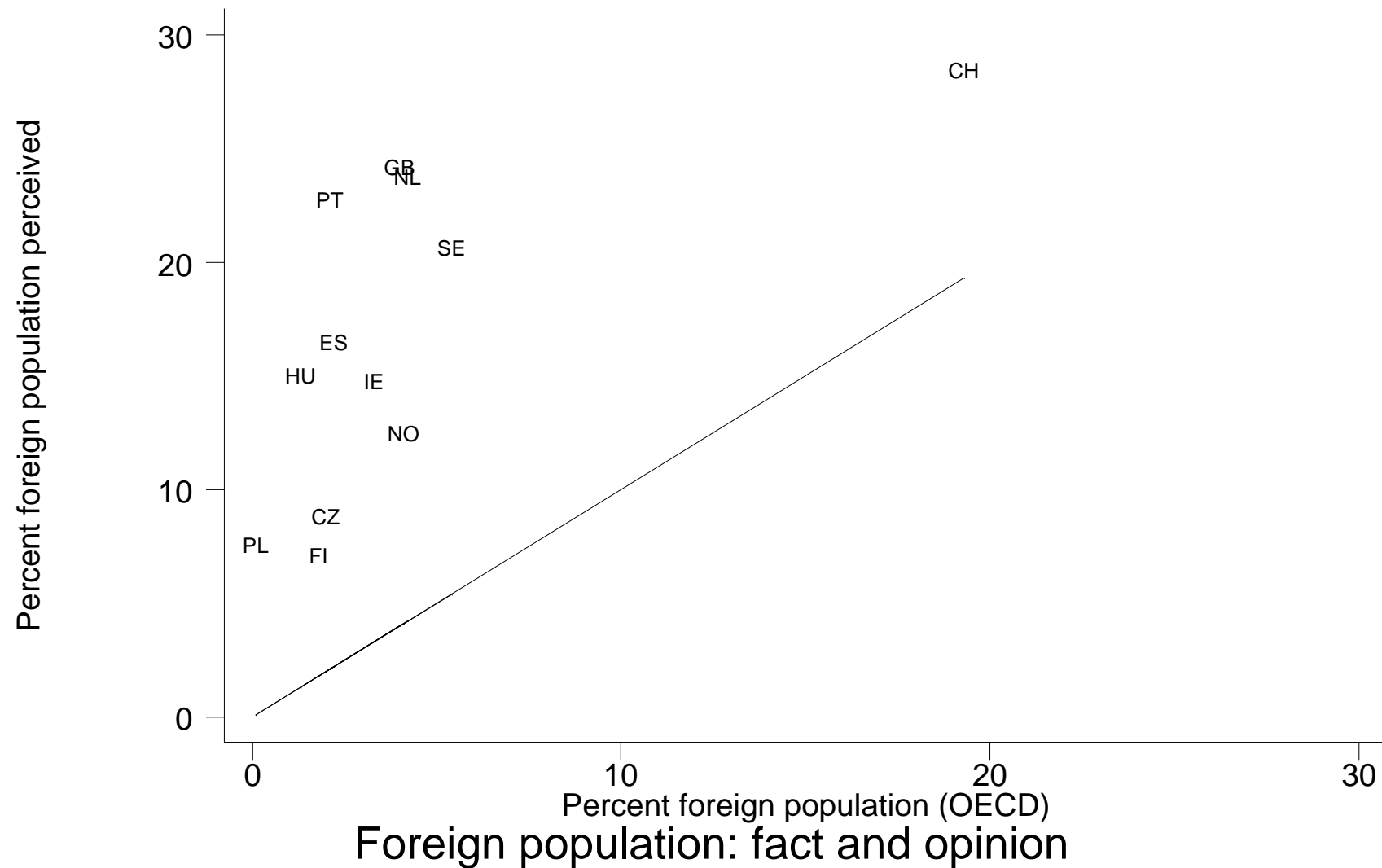
# Module on Immigrants and Refugee Applicants

- 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

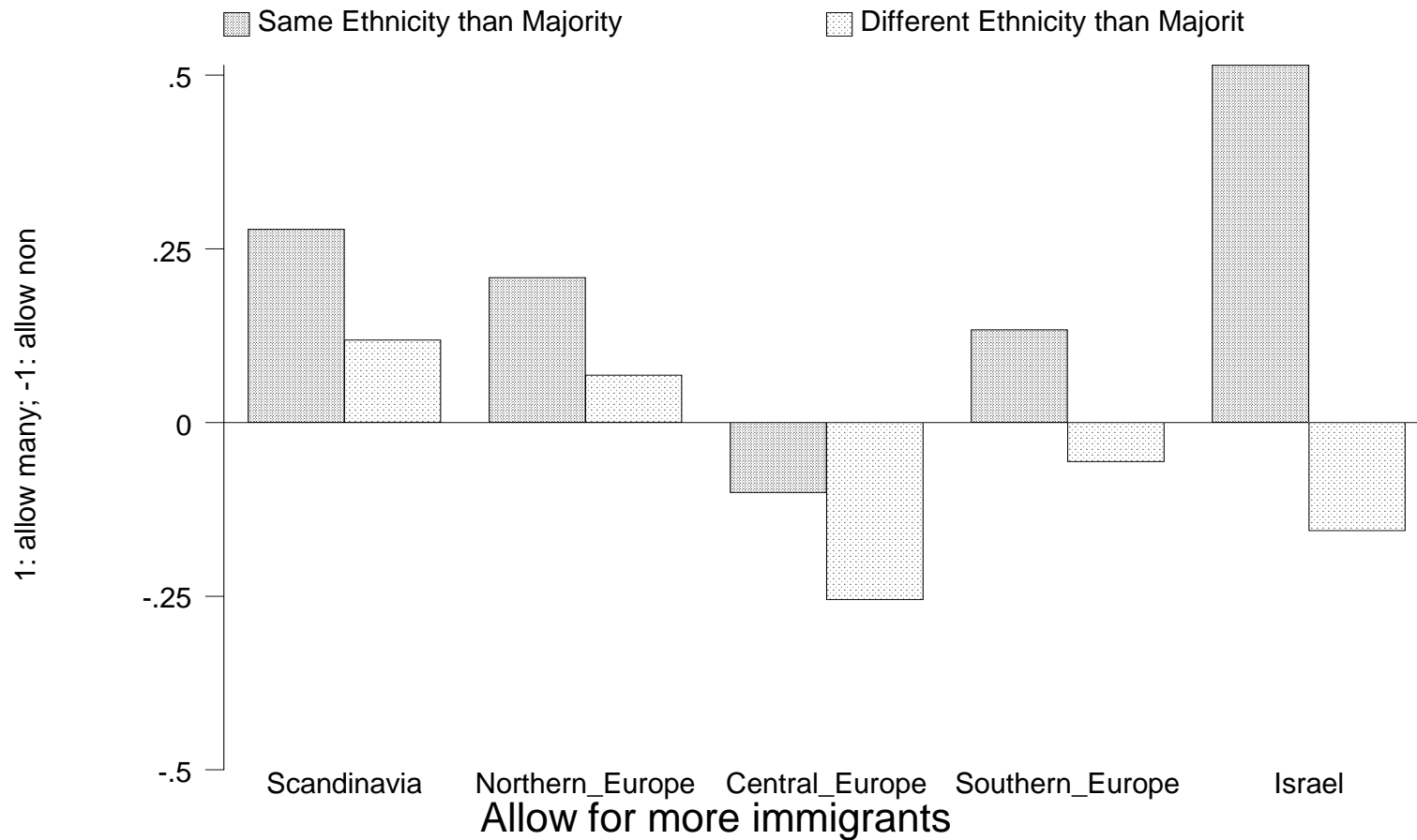
# Immigrants as percentage of population



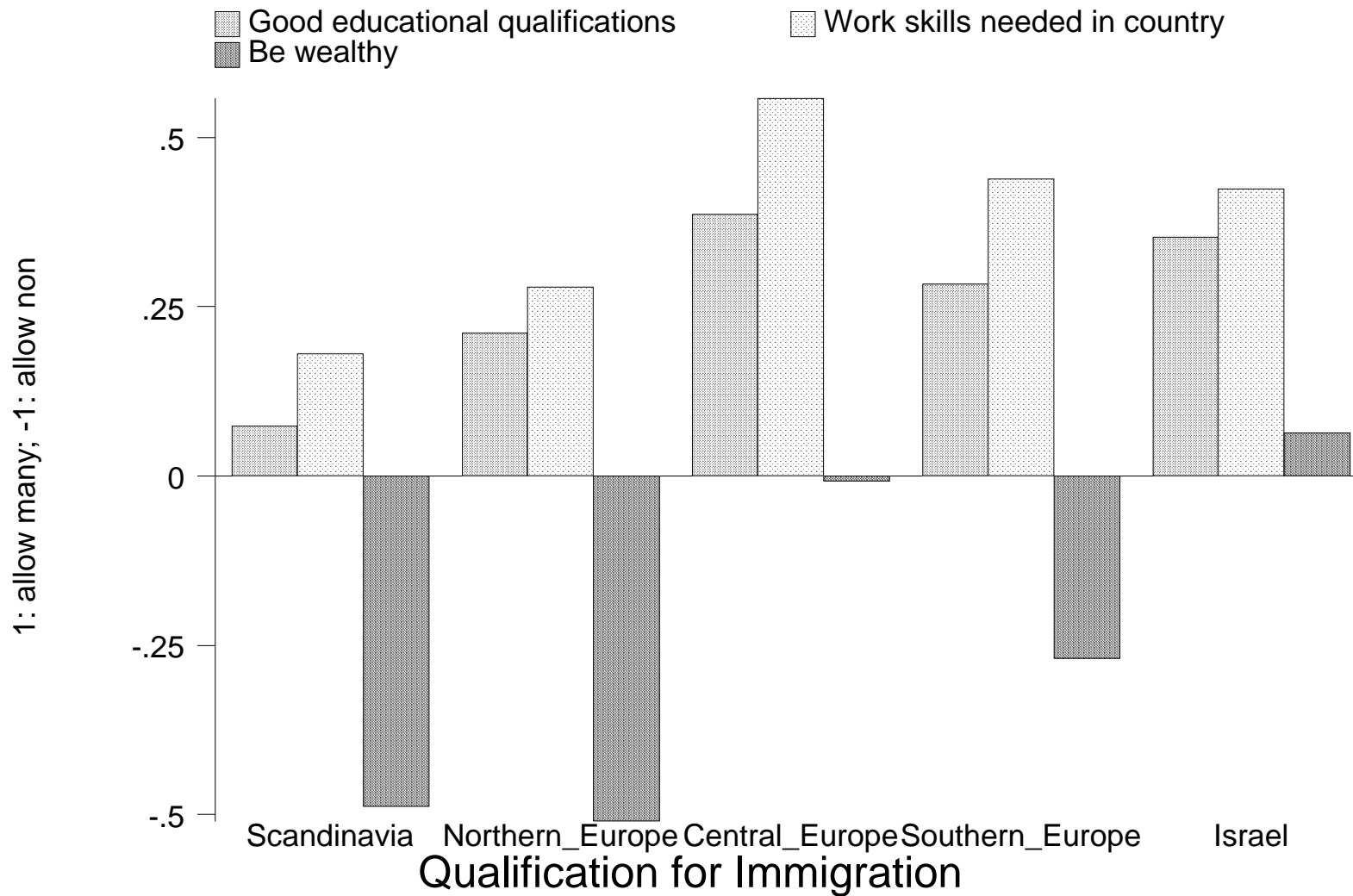
# Foreign Population: Fact and Opinion



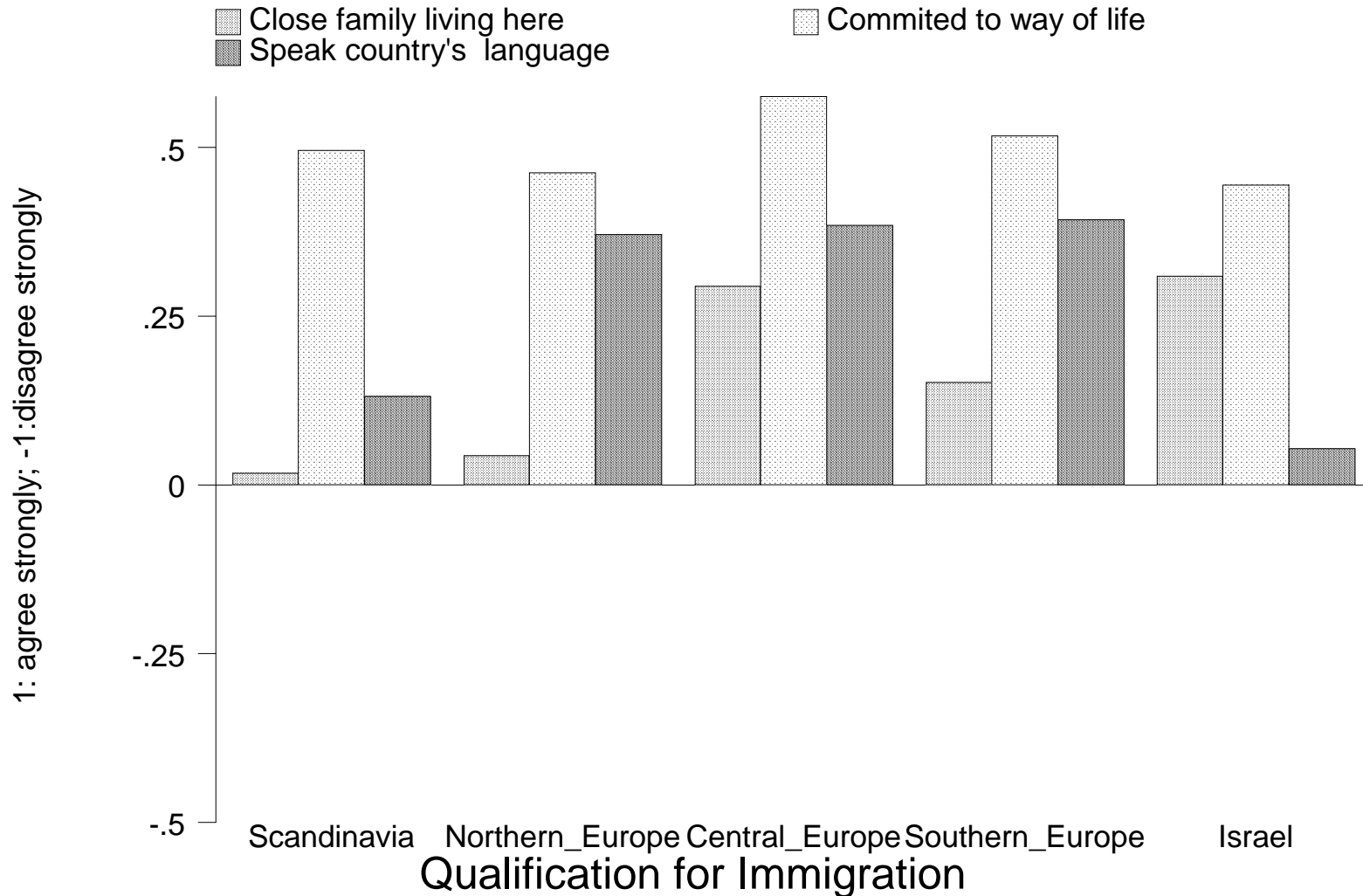
# Support for Liberal Immigration Policy: Same / Different Ethnicity than Majority Population



# Qualification for Immigrants: Education, wealth and work skills needed

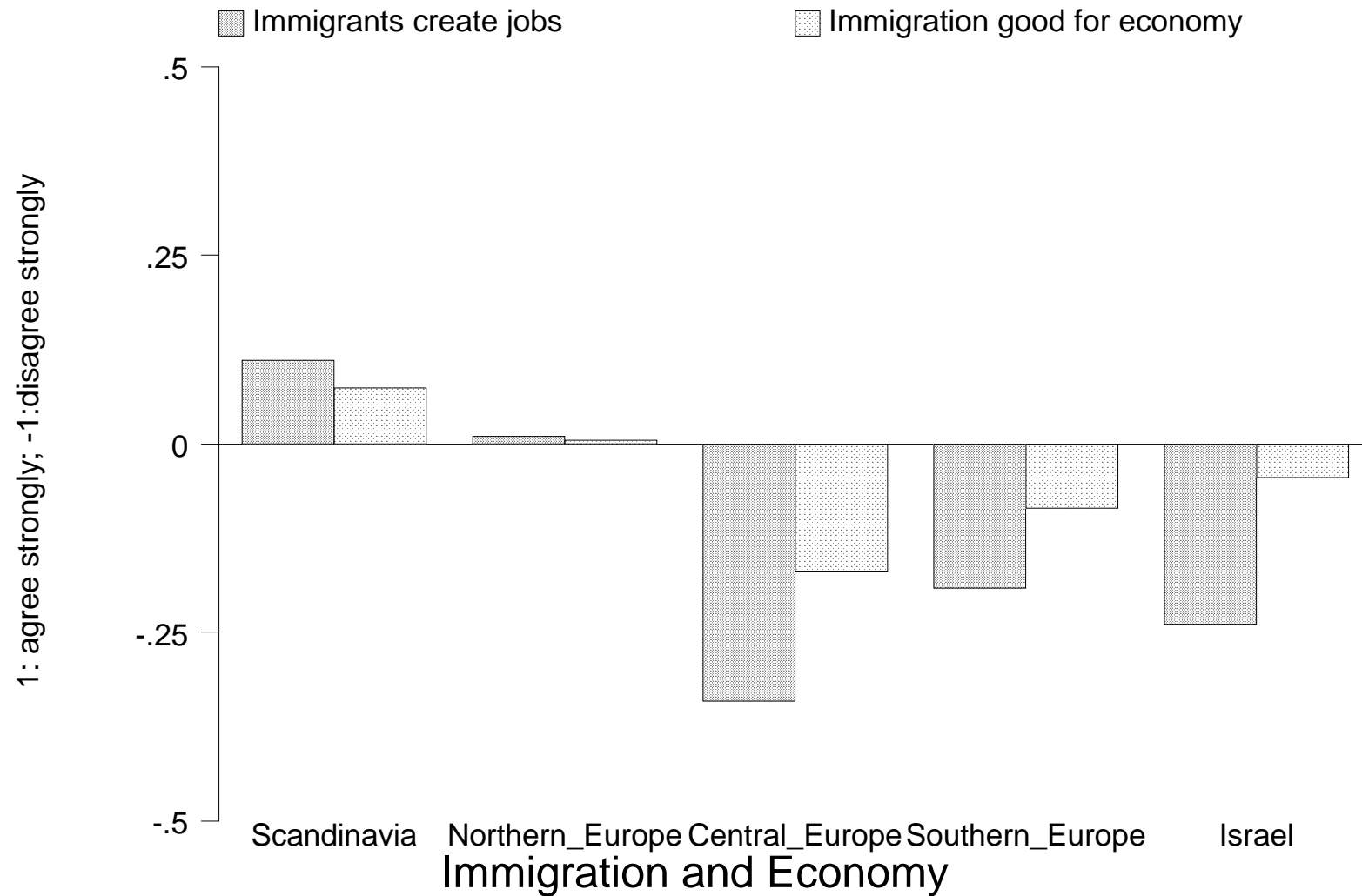


# Qualification for Immigrants: Language, family links and commitment to way of life

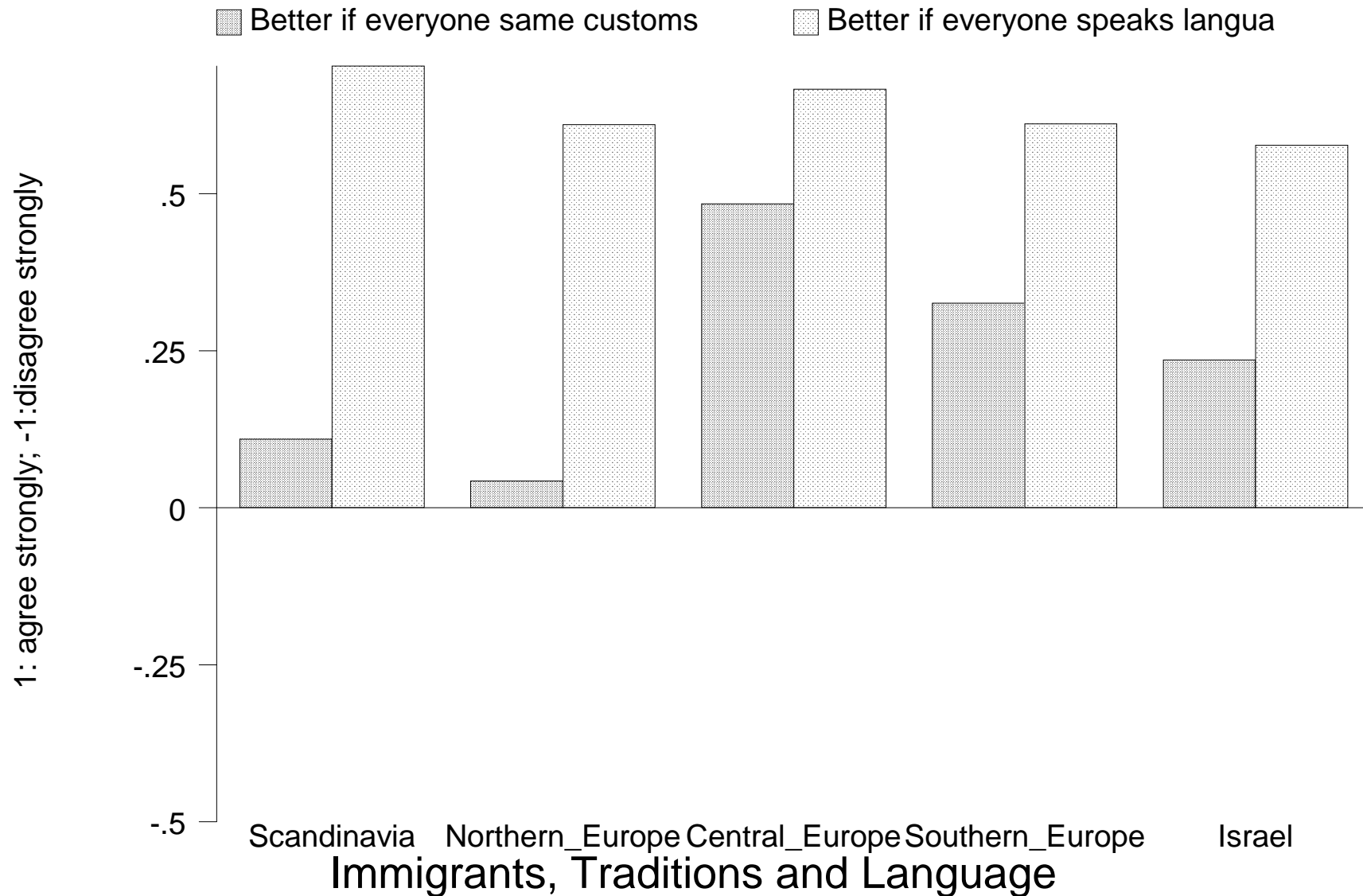




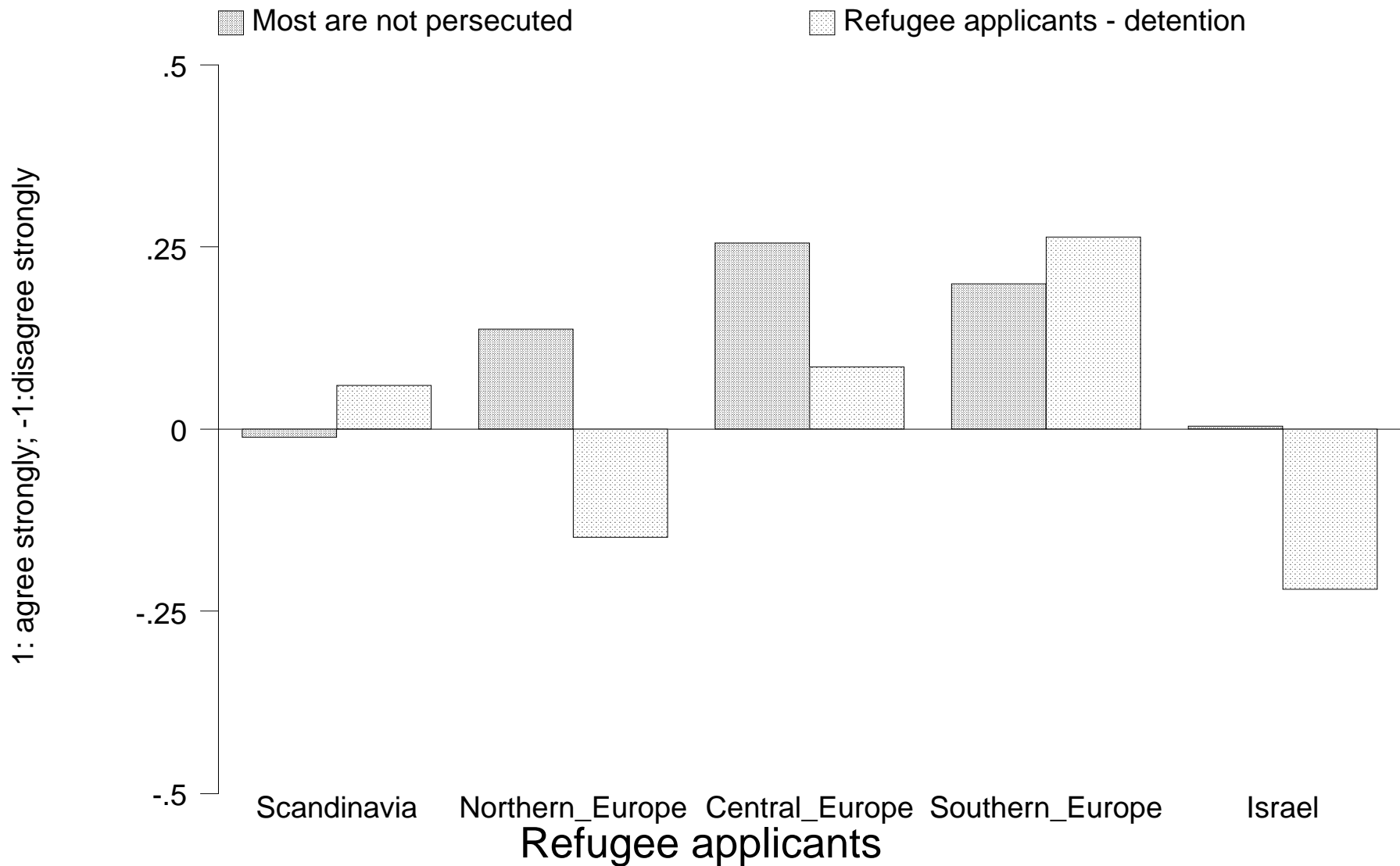
# Immigrants: Job creation and beneficial for the economy



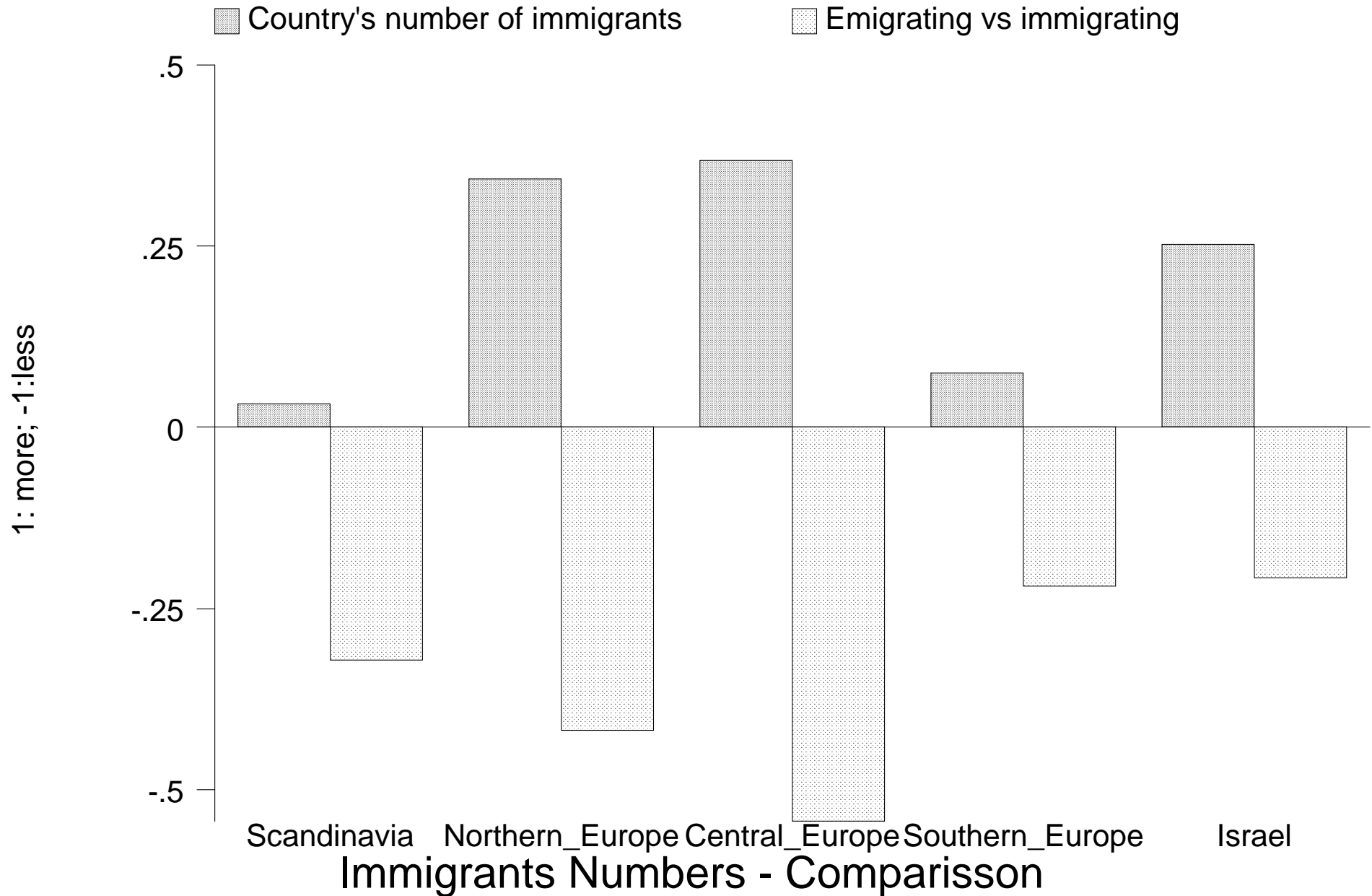
# Immigrants: Same traditions and Language



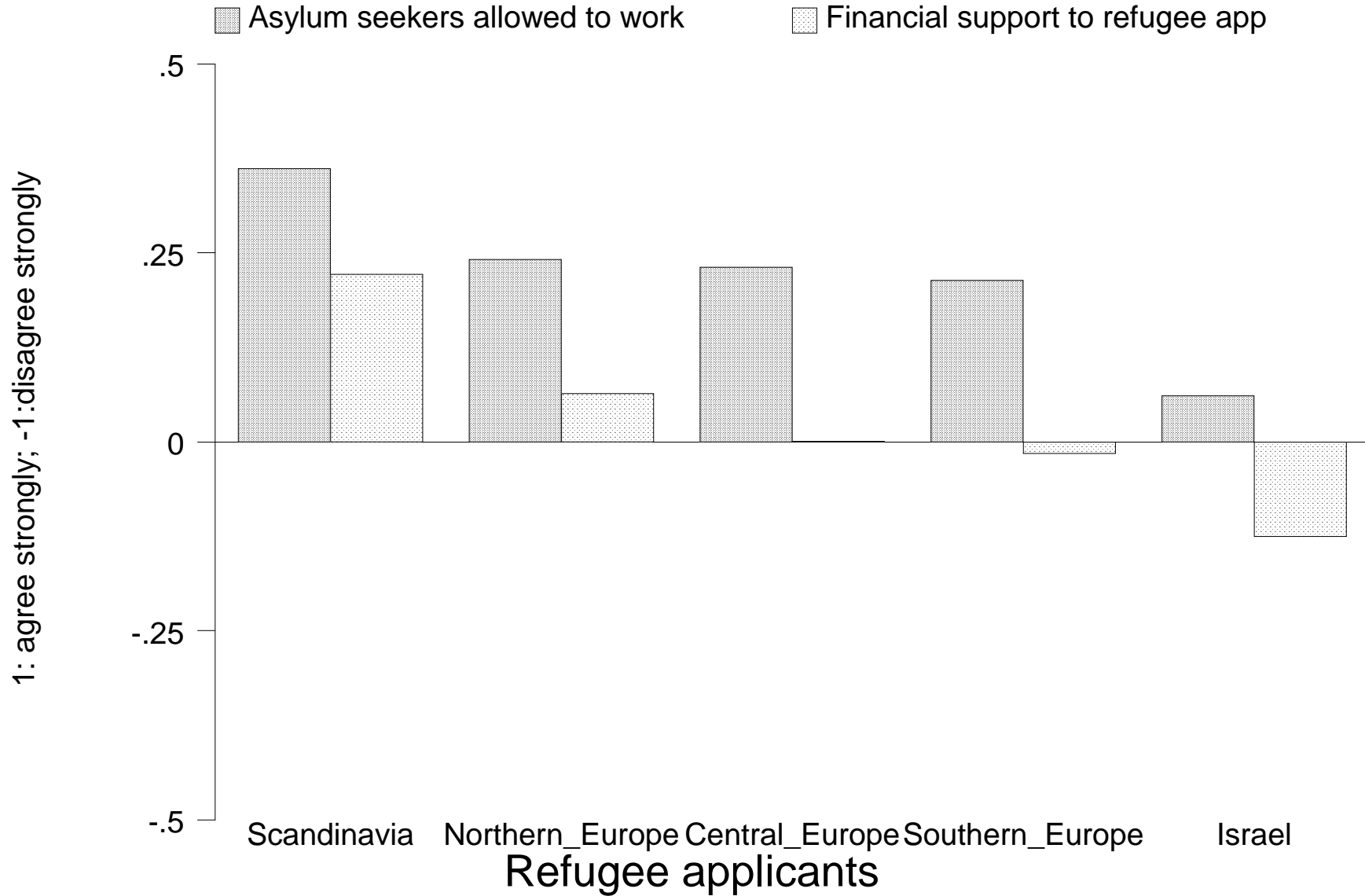
# Refugee applicants: Are claims true, and should they be detained?



# Immigration and emigration – Comparison



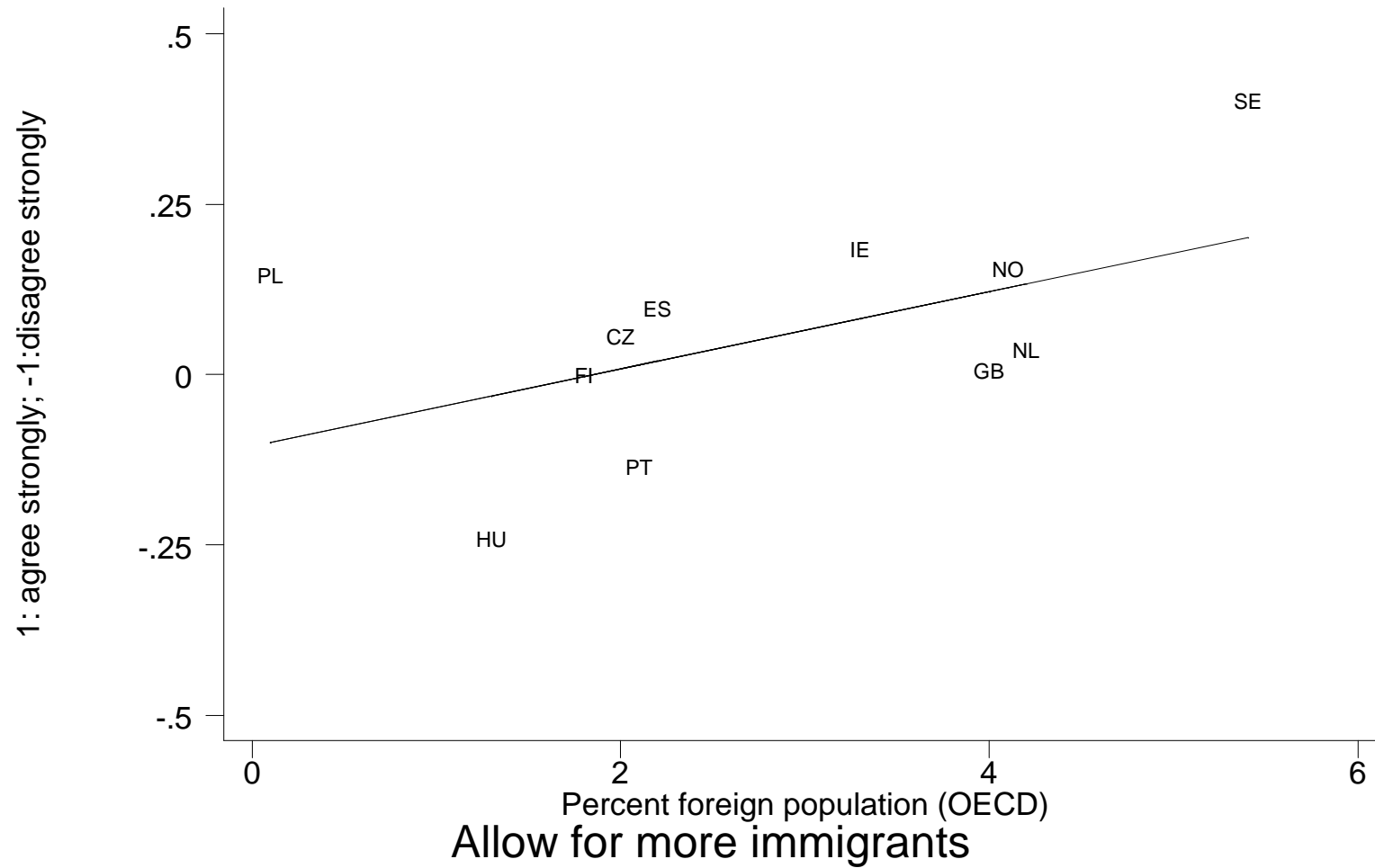
# Refugee applicants: financial support and work permits



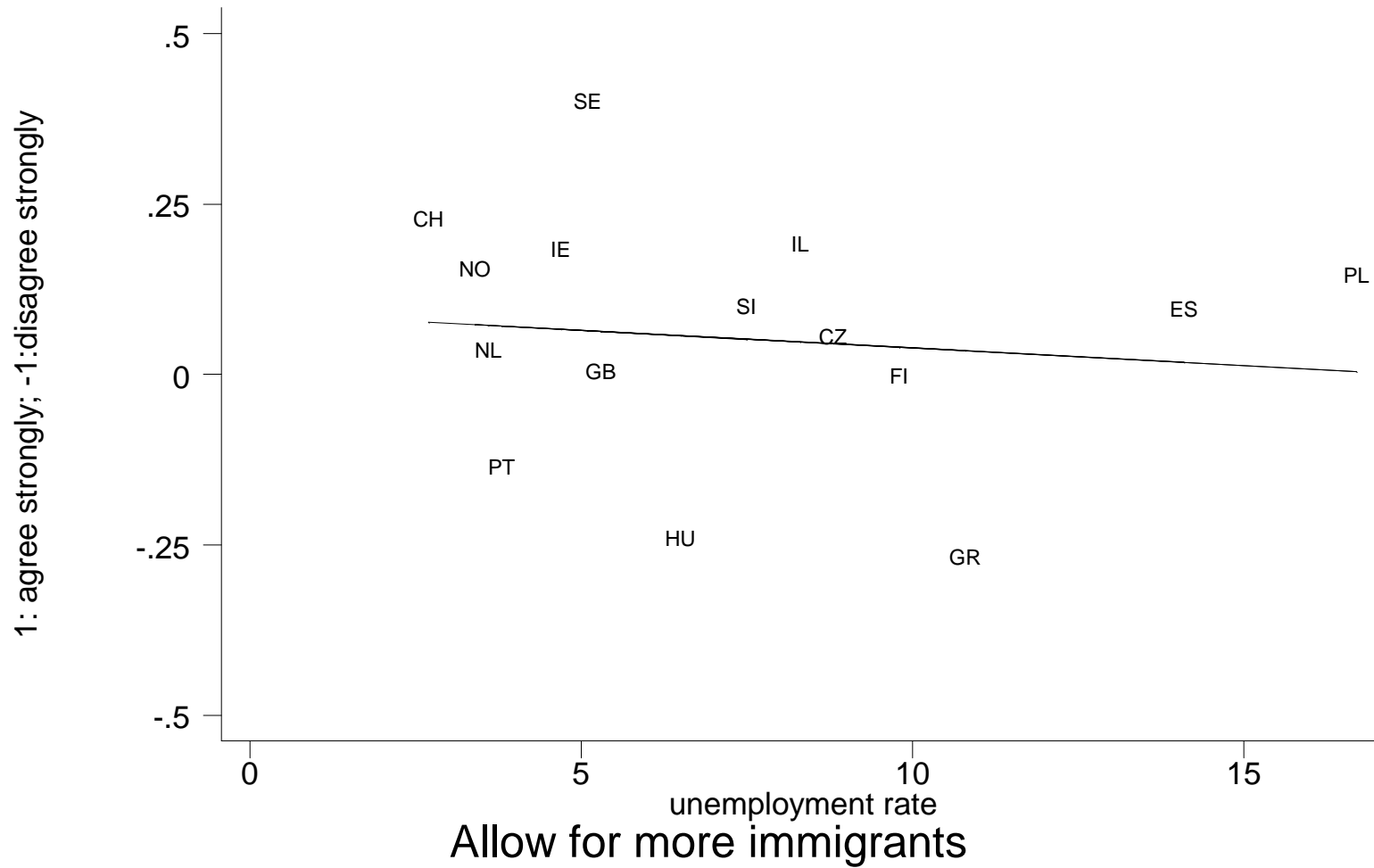
# Responses and Macro-Economic Indicators

- 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

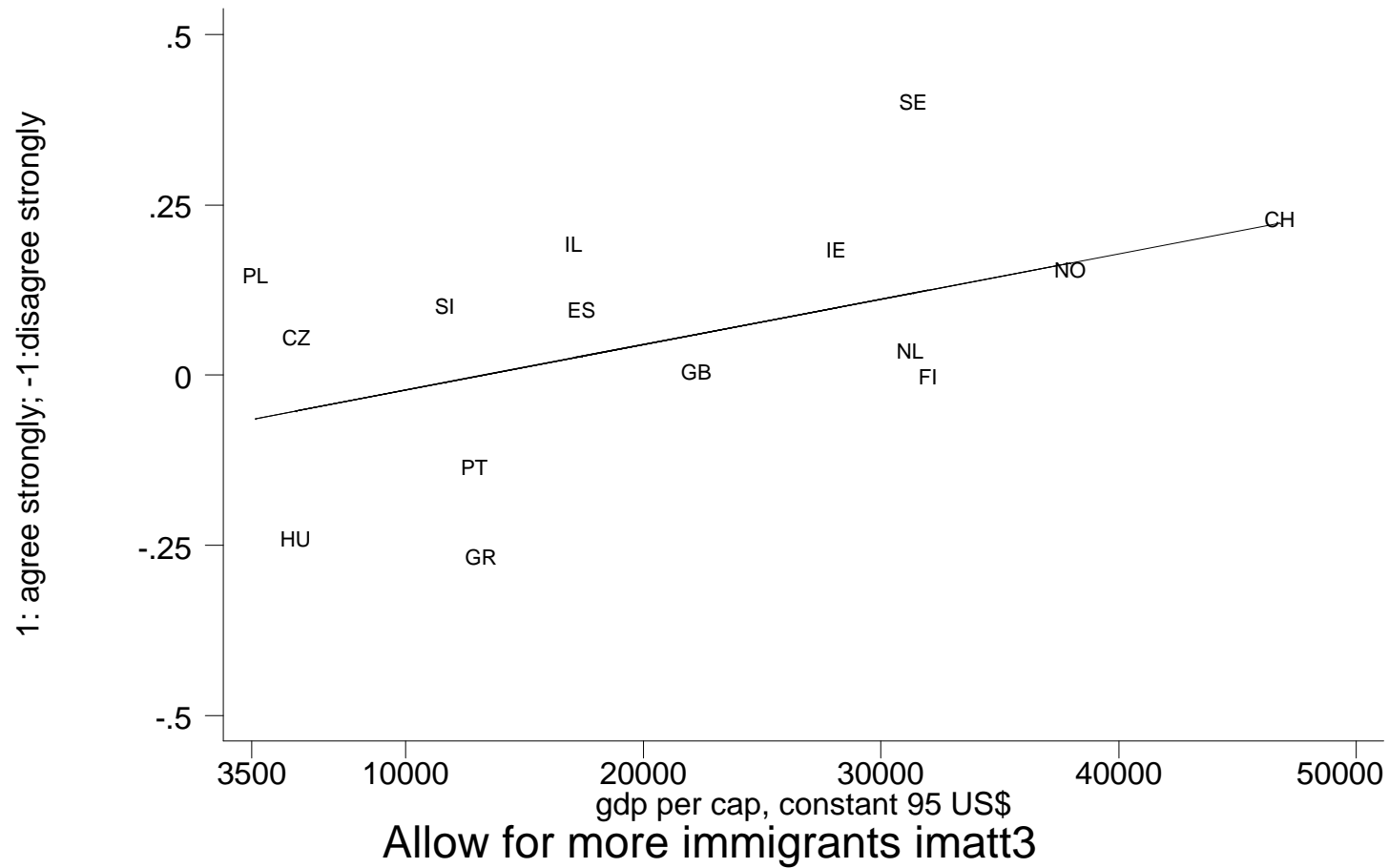


# Opinion on further immigration and unemployment rate

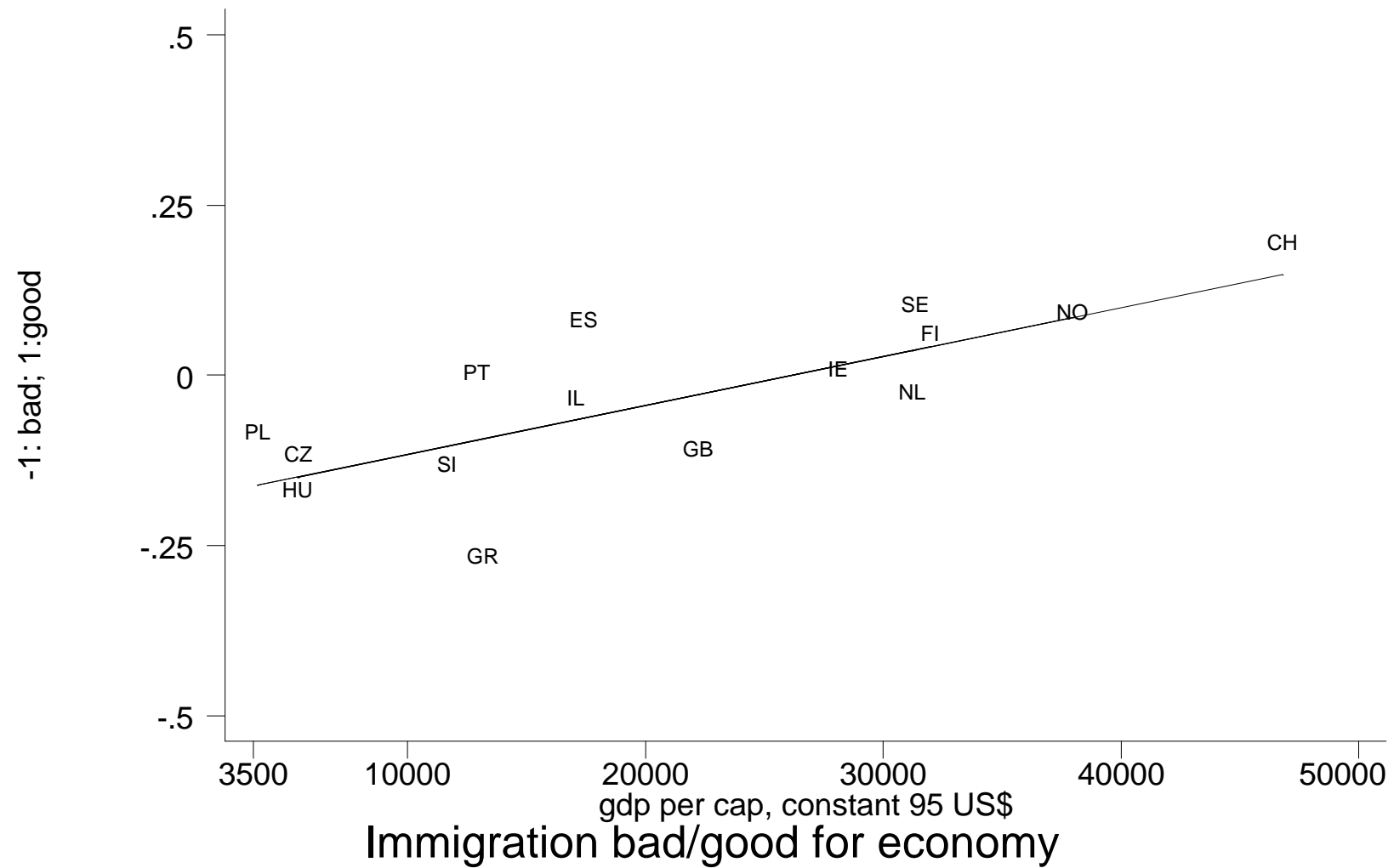




# Opinion on further immigration and GDP



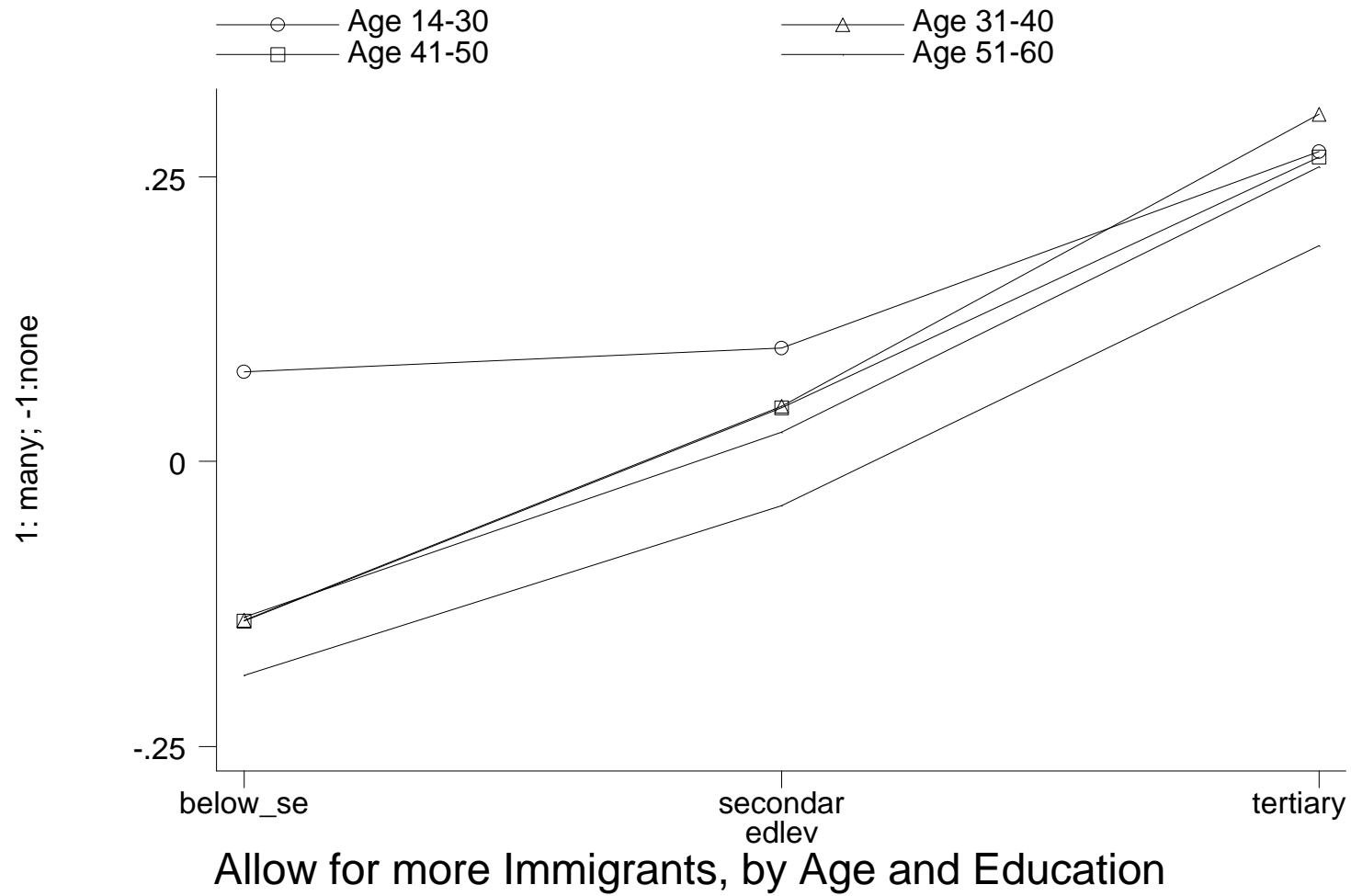
# Economic Benefits of Immigration and GDP



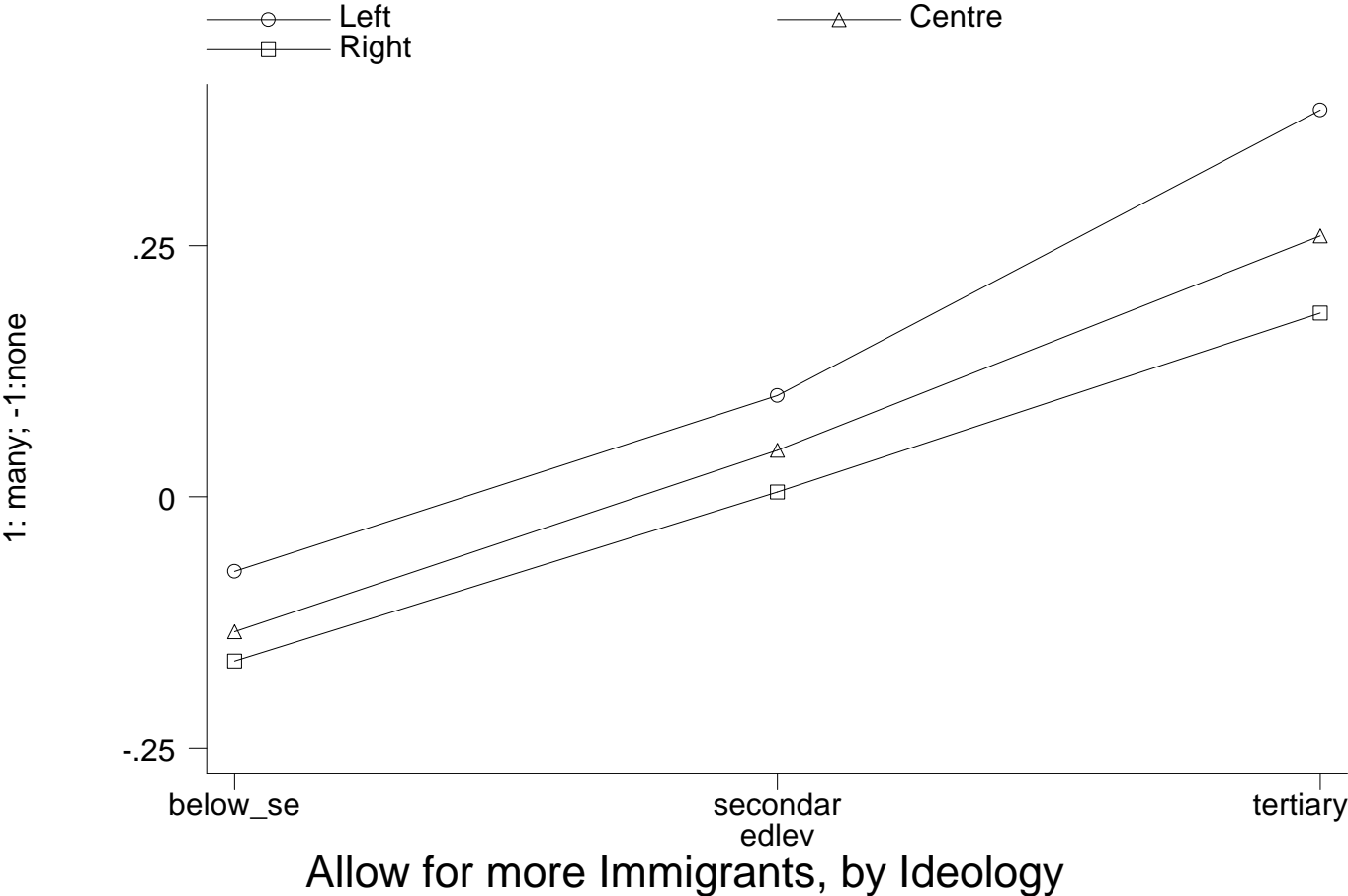
# Opinion on Immigration and Individual Characteristics

- 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	<b>0.018</b> (12.44)**
immigrants make country better place	<b>0.029</b> (17.03)**
immigrants make country's crime problems better	<b>0.017</b> (11.44)**
immigrants create new jobs	<b>0.001</b> (1.07)
Immigration: good for economy taxes and services:	<b>0.039</b> (24.84)**
immigrants take out less	<b>0.011</b> (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.