

2016

Ohio Wesleyan Students' Perceptions of Economic Issues and Inequality

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Recommended Citation

Dawson, Cameron; Meyer, Johanna; Rhinesmith, Alyssa; Shaw, Carson; and Sliupas, Viesulas, "Ohio Wesleyan Students' Perceptions of Economic Issues and Inequality" (2016). *Student Symposium*. 19.
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Perceptions of Capitalism, Socialism, and Inequality: The Attitudes of OWU Students

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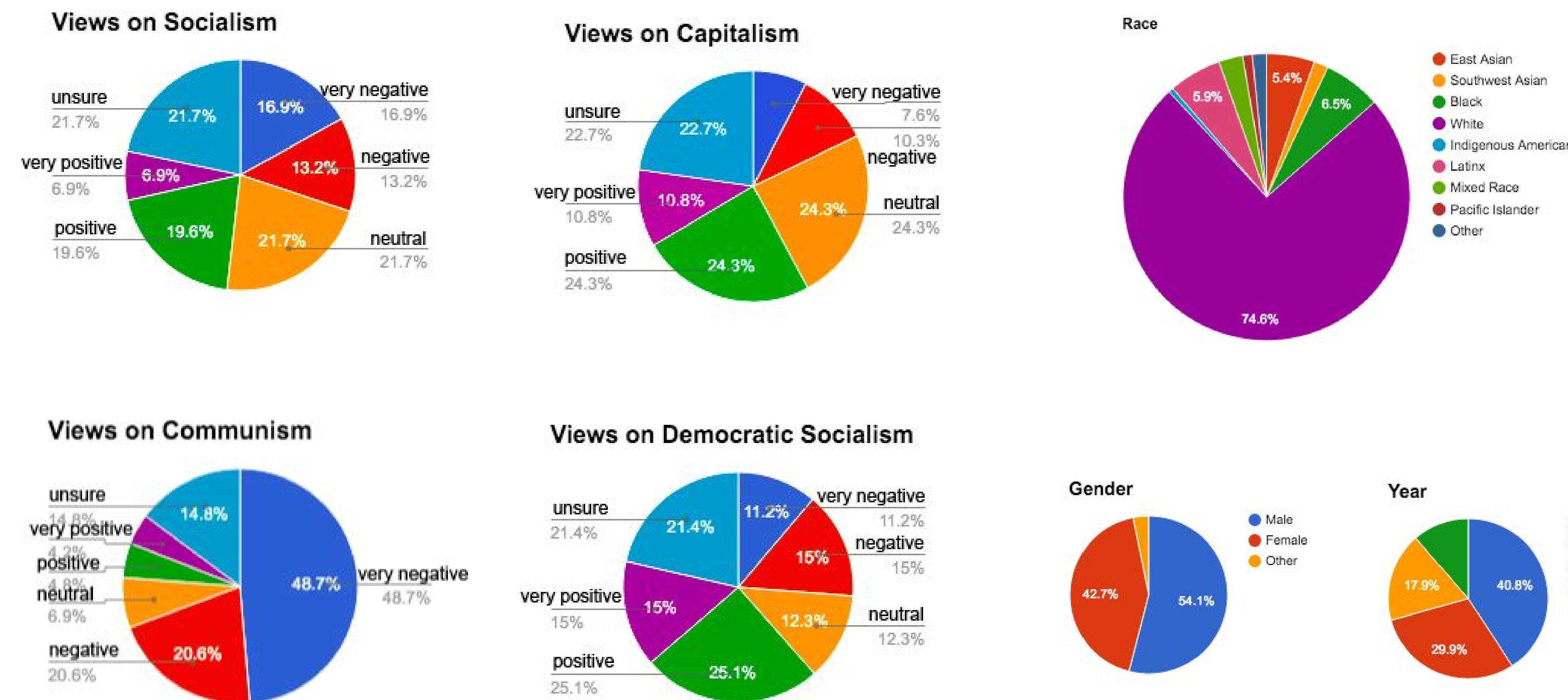
Introduction

- Attempted to gauge the climate of student attitudes at OWU pertaining to capitalism, socialism and societal inequality
- Compared associations about forms of governments across various demographics
- Based on the current political atmosphere in the U.S., college students represent a growing voter base for polarized candidates
- OWU liberal arts students will be the leaders, educators, and business professionals of tomorrow. What do they really think about the U.S. government and systems of inequality?

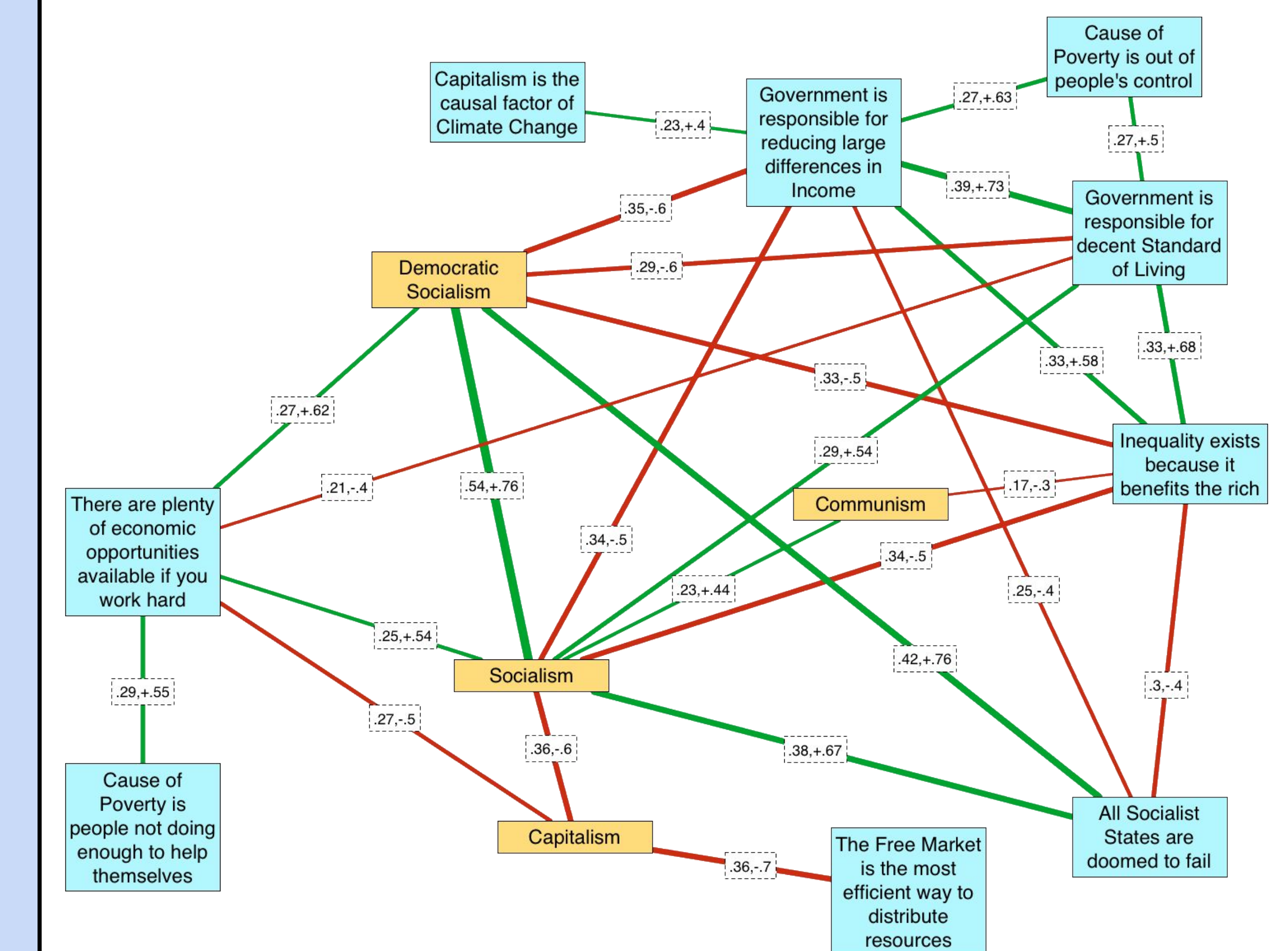
Method

- Survey Sample:** 201 OWU students from various majors, classes and athletic fields
- Survey Type:** quantitative survey including national survey questions
- Shortcomings:** Not enough of an outreach to the entire student body, mostly surveyed 1st and 2nd year students as a result of surveying intro classes

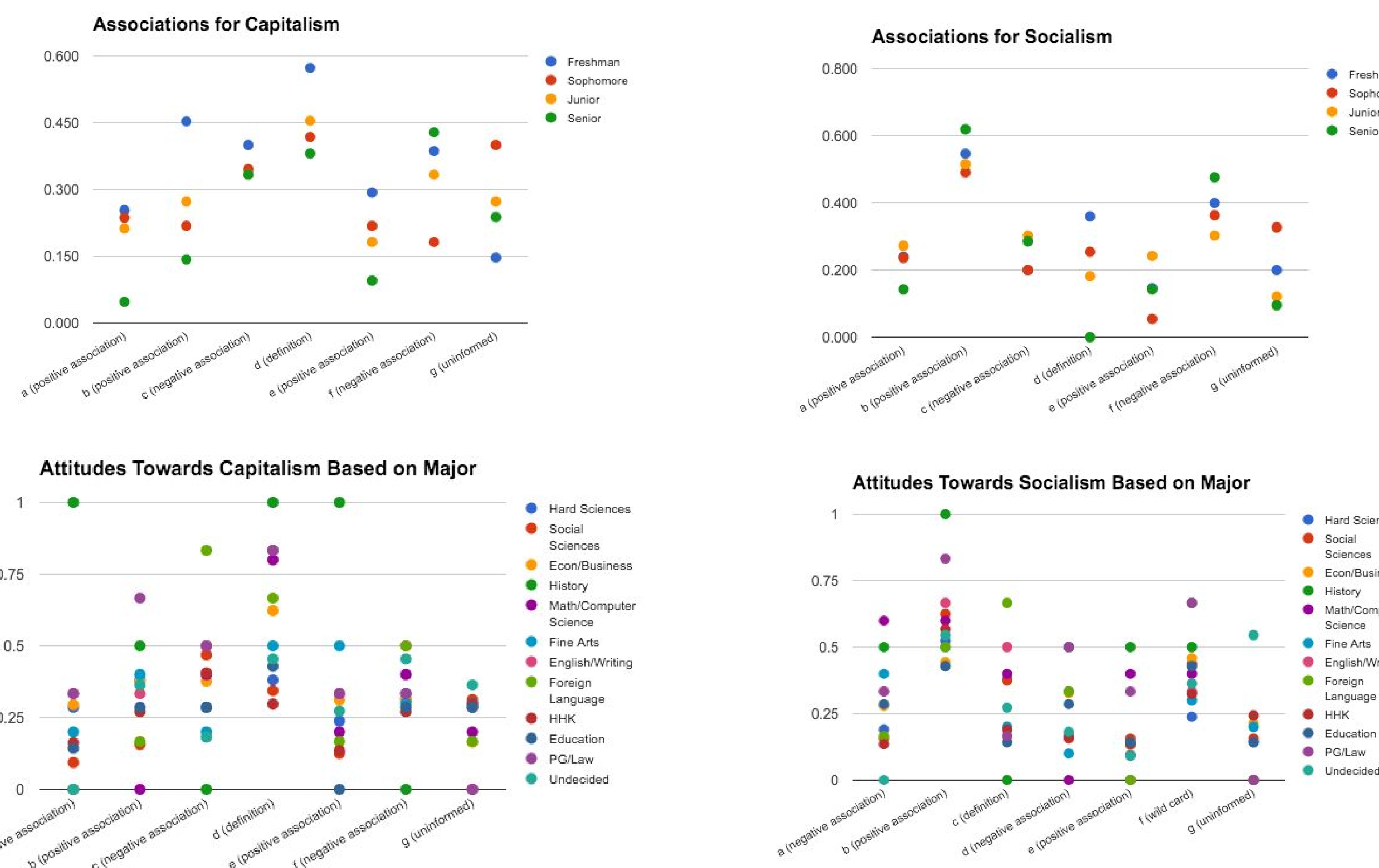
Demographics



Results



Data Analysis



Conclusions

- Ohio Wesleyan students felt they knew enough about Communism to rate it negatively in the survey, but felt unsure about their perceptions toward the other economic systems that were presented.
- Economics and Fine Art students typically had the most misconceptions about what inequality in the United States looks like.
- Generally speaking, female and non-binary students had more views that positively aligned with socialism and democratic socialism, while male students typically had views that positively aligned with capitalism.
- First year students were more likely to report positive associations with capitalism than fourth year students. Fourth year students were more likely to report positive associations with socialism than first year students.
- OWU students overwhelmingly reported that they don't believe capitalism is a driving force of climate change.
- Education, Politics & Government/Law, and Economics students typically had the lowest precision rate when identifying the definition of Socialism.
- All majors surveyed generally agreed that what they learned about Socialism in school was biased.