

**THE NEED TO CONTROL FOR POLITICAL  
ATTITUDES IN ACCOUNTING ETHICS  
AND PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Regardless of the accuracy of characterizations, the labels “conservative” and “liberal” are perceived by many to be polar opposites and suggest certain behavioral patterns. Consequently, one’s political attitude has potential accounting and public policy implications. Its measurement through lengthy questionnaires can result in low response rates to surveys and the creation of confounding effects in experiments. This paper proposes and tests the measurement of political attitude on a seven point scale that appears to correlate well with existing, more detailed, lengthy and comprehensive assessments. Our findings support the belief that political attitudes should be considered in behavioral research, in general, and especially in ethics research dealing with public policy.*

The 2004 United States presidential election was framed in the media and by party proponents as a choice between two diametrically opposed ideologies. Proponents of John Kerry painted the republican-party candidate, George Bush, as an ultra-conservative, while proponents of George Bush characterized the

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democratic-party candidate, John Kerry, as a flaming-liberal. Regardless of the accuracy of such characterizations, the labels “conservative” and “liberal” are perceived by many to be polar opposites and confer the aura of certain behavioral patterns.<sup>2</sup> Consequently, one’s political attitude has potential accounting and public policy implications.

From an empirical perspective, ethics theories and paradigms are often tested by respondent answers to survey instruments and by the responses of subjects participating in controlled experiments. The results of such research studies are influenced by a number of independent variables which may or may not be controlled for in the research study. Given the polarized political attitudes of those voting in the 2004 U.S. presidential-election, behavioral and ethics studies should consider and/or control for the impact of political attitude and its attendant measurement on the variable(s) of interest. For example, if one examines the scenarios and responses used in the Defining Issues Test (DIT, Rest, 1979), one might speculate that political attitudes could influence an individual’s behavioral choices (i.e., one’s ethical reasoning).

Indeed, there are many tests that could be influenced by one’s political attitudes. Given this and the increasing difficulty to obtain large blocks of time to administer research questionnaires, the purpose of our research is to examine one way to become more economical in our research design. Our point in this paper is that political attitudes may influence accounting survey research that is either behaviorally or ethically oriented especially if the research has public policy implications. Our findings suggest that accounting researchers should control for political attitudes rather than list it as a potential limitation in their conclusions.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Public Policy, Accounting and Political Attitudes**

One might ask what do political attitudes have to do with accounting in general and accounting ethics in particular? To respond to this question, we categorized the areas of coverage

published in *Research on Accounting Ethics and Public Policy* over its first five volumes. The data in Table 1 indicate that tax (education) issues make up 39.1 (27.3 percent) percent of the published research of this journal.<sup>3</sup> Consequently, 66.4 percent (39.1 + 27.3) of the published research involves issues that are politically charged. Additionally, the remaining 33.6 percent of the published research also deals with issues that frequently form the platform of one, if not both, of our dominant political parties in the United States. Furthermore, accounting rules and procedures are primarily determined by the Securities and Exchange Commission and Financial Accounting Standards Board. It would be naïve to assert that political attitudes are not a significant factor in the deliberations of these bodies.

Gender issues involving education and employment rights are challenges facing both the accounting profession and our government. Furthermore, many major fields of study at the college level have experienced dramatic changes in their gender mix. Accounting, in particular, has significantly more female majors today than in the past. Gender mix changes are often accompanied by political mix changes. Consequently, political attitudes should be considered when doing empirical research that examines accounting issues that involve public policy issues.

### **Overview of the Defining Issues Test**

Research has examined the potential influence of political attitudes on Rest's (1979) Defining Issues Test (Sweeney and Fisher, 1998, 1999; Fisher and Sweeney, 1998, 2001; and Bernardi et al, 2004). The Defining Issues Test (DIT) is a psychometric test that has been widely used in ethics research to quantify one's ethical sensitivity. The DIT's P score quantifies the percentage of higher level responses an individual uses in his or her ethical reasoning process.

While the Defining Issues Test (Rest, 1979) does not consider Stage One considerations, it includes the other five stages to explain the thought process an individual uses to reason in ethical situations (Rest, 1986). The stage level at which an

**TABLE 1**  
**RESEARCH PUBLISHED IN THE *JOURNAL OF ACCOUNTING ETHICS AND PUBLIC***  
***POLICY BY VOLUME AND AREA***

JAE&PP Volume	Tax Issues	Education Issues	Int'l Issues	Auditor Liability	Ethics Codes	Trading Rules	Employment Issues	Health Care	Yearly Totals
One	30	10		5	2	2	3	2	54
Two	13	16	2	1	2	1	2	1	38
Three		1		2	-	-	1	-	4
Four	4	6	4	-	2	-	-	-	16
Five	3	2	4	1	2	4	-	-	16
Total	50	35	10	9	8	7	6	3	128

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Independence is included in auditor liability  
Volume Three had only one issue

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individual operates will form the basis of reasoning he/she uses when facing ethical dilemmas. The criterion for decision-making in Stage Two relates to the costs and benefits to the individual making the decision. Relationships with others in one's social and work environment provide the moral perspective in Stage Three. In this stage, cooperative behavior within the group is the standard for individuals; costs and benefits to the group now determine behavior. In Stage Four, individuals ensure the proper functioning of their society by following its rules. Stage Five's conception of norms includes protecting and maximizing the rights and welfare of all individuals. In this stage, individuals determine the rules that should be followed by evaluating the fairness of the process used to develop the rules. Stage Six individuals separate conventions and laws of the society from more general principles; individuals follow society's rules that are rational and impartial.

One might take exception to Rest's conception of Stage Five and Six reasoning. In fact, there may be a built-in conflict between maximizing rights and welfare. If one wishes to maximize rights (i.e., protecting rights rather than disparaging them), he or she may have to give way if the goal is to maximize welfare. For example, while the utilitarian approach to ethics maximizes welfare, this approach totally ignores rights. Nevertheless, it is evident even from this brief overview of the Defining Issues Test that one could hypothesize an association between the choices on the DIT and political attitudes. This is especially evident in the year of a major election where most of the issues become a matter of national debate. Consequently, the need to control for political attitudes is evident.

### **Characteristics and Sources of Political Attitude**

From an empirical perspective, one cannot assess political attitude in terms of mere political party affiliation. Although individual members of a particular political party may subscribe in a very general manner to the particular goals, objectives and ideology of their selected political party, the intensity of commitment will vary among and between individual party

members. Any given political attitude is likely to be strong among some individuals and weak among others (Krosnik, 1991). In fact, political party membership on the part of some individuals may be merely nominal as they may be opposed, in varying degrees, to particular precepts and objectives that are advocated by the political party of which they are a member. In terms of the United States, the label of “republican” or “democrat” is too general a classification for the purposes of serving as a meaningful variable in ethics and behavioral research.

There are different methods to characterize/label political attitudes. As an example, “The World’s Smallest Political Quiz” ([www.self-gov.org/quiz.html](http://www.self-gov.org/quiz.html)) consists of 10 questions that result in a score that characterizes/labels the political attitude of the respondent as centrist, conservative, libertarian, liberal or statist. Although interesting, the primary classifications used in most empirical research utilize a range of conservative through liberal and do not have the labels centrist, libertarian or statist. The political attitudes used in this paper follow prior empirical practice and utilizes the characterizations of conservative through liberal.

There are numerous values that are characteristically held by the left (liberal) and the right (conservative) around the world (Nolle-Neumann, 1998). While a strict formal hierarchy of values associated with the right and the left is fraught with the potential for virulent criticism, some generalities appear to be prevalent. Religious values and maintaining order in the nation tend to be associated with the right, whereas secular values and protecting freedom of speech are generally attributed to the left (Knutsen, 1998). Lambert and Chasteen (1997) found that liberalism is associated with a desire to assist disadvantaged groups and conservatism is associated with a respect for conventional values.

The source(s) of political attitudes appears to be both ambiguous and elusive based on research findings, to date. Conclusive evidence has not surfaced yet. In terms of gender, Rapoport et al. (1990) report that in the policy arena women are consistently more liberal than men. However, the breadth of such a finding is somewhat limited. It appears reasonable to entertain the

notion that our political attitudes are merely the byproduct of living a large number of years with our parents. Yet Atkeson and Rapoport (2003) report that greater levels of mothers' political interest directly and significantly influenced daughters' political communications while neither fathers nor mothers political interest affected sons.

Competing models of how political attitudes arise exist in the literature. The Jost et al. model (2003) proposes that advocacy of political conservatism is in large part a consequence of needs stemming from the desire to reduce uncertainties and fear. In contrast, Greenberg and Jonas (2003) believe that prevailing cultural norms, socialization influences, and perhaps even genetic predispositions rather than the need to reduce fear and certainty play the primary roles in determining whether people develop right-or-left-wing political attitudes.

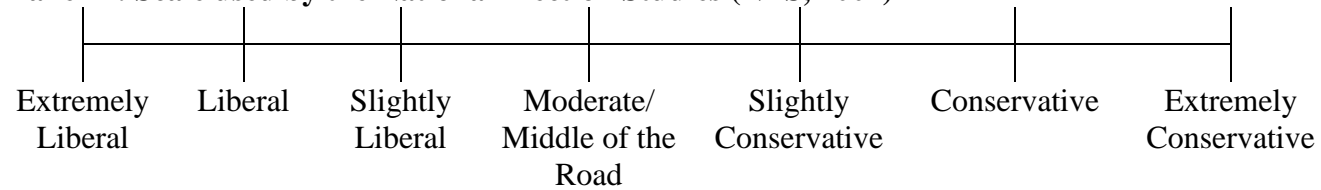
### **NES and HERI Surveys**

The concept of polarized views is also addressed in the surveys (Figure 1) used in: National Election Studies (NES) (2002); the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) (2002) and the Defining Issues Test 2 (Rest and Narváez, 1998). The NES data are from voter surveys taken before major elections over a 28-year period. The data represent a seven-point scale shown in Figure 1 with two additional points: "8" indicates "haven't thought much about this" and "0" (i.e., the ninth response) indicates "Don't know" (NES question G1a.T). The HERI data are from students entering their freshman year of college; the data include "404,000 students [who] completed the Freshman Survey at 717 participating institutions nationwide" (HERI, 2002). The authors could find no published data on the number of responses to the political attitudes scale on the Defining Issues Test 2 (DIT2); however, it is a widely used test in ethics research. While some might argue that college freshmen are politically unsophisticated, Bernardi et al. (2004) provide data indicating the mix of political attitudes in the NES and HERI studies are surprisingly similar.

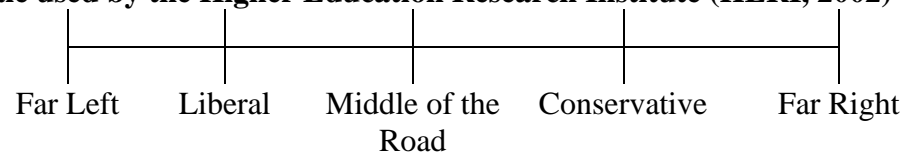
**FIGURE 1**  
**SURVEYS USED TO MEASURE POLITICAL ATTITUDES**

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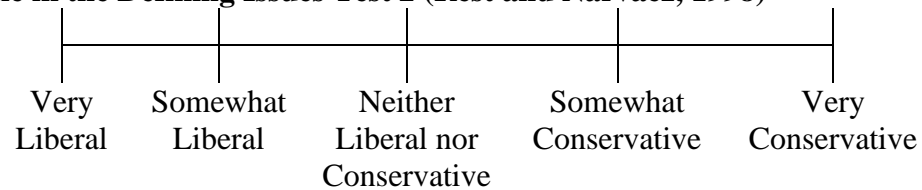
**Panel A: Scale used by the National Election Studies (NES, 2002)**



**Panel B: Scale used by the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI, 2002)**



**Panel C: Scale in the Defining Issues Test 2 (Rest and Narváez, 1998)**



### **Impact on Research Methodologies**

Two common research methodologies utilized in both ethics research and behavioral research are surveys and experiments. The intent of this paper is not to contrast them but rather to acknowledge that each methodology is widely used by researchers and appears often in both academic and professional journals. In each of these methodologies demographic information, such as political attitudes, is crucial to the analyses of the data. However, lengthy questions which have as their purpose the elicitation of demographic information are often a hindrance to obtaining sufficient respondents and subjects.

Most potential subjects that are of interest to the researcher have been bombarded with requests to participate in surveys. The most common surveys encountered are telephone interviews and mailings requesting the completion of a survey instrument. Most of us have experienced both and tend to be discriminating in selecting those surveys in which we are willing to become participants.

At a recent conference, researchers using a survey methodology expressed concern about the seemingly ever decreasing response rate. One conference presenter stated that in today's environment "a response rate of 15 percent is pretty darn good!" Many researchers attribute the decrease in response rates primarily to (1) overkill by the number of surveys people are asked to participate in, (2) poorly designed survey instruments, and (3) the length of time to complete surveys. They stressed that some consequences of low response rates are a lack of generalizability, threats to randomness in sampling techniques, and issues about the efficacy of results. Mayer (1992) argues that even with all of their limitations, opinion polls, properly conducted and interpreted, provide us with a considerably more accurate means of assessing the changes and trends in public opinion than any other alternative. Such an argument demonstrates why surveys continue to be used by researchers and other professionals and are still considered to be a well respected methodology in many fields.

Experimental instruments gathering demographic data face threats from unnecessarily lengthy questions whose purpose is to

elicit demographic information. The demographic variables are certainly important and often crucial to the analyses of experimental data. However, to the extent that excessive time is devoted to responding to demographic questions it diverts and consumes the attention of subjects as well as their energy and this may cause the experiment to be corrupted by fatigue and attention deficit. Both are threats to the integrity of the experiment.

The authors believe that any action that would reduce the amount of time/verbiage consumed in the elicitation of demographic information would be a positive step towards enhancing the results of both surveys and experiments. Given the importance of political attitude to many research areas it is crucial to gather/measure this demographic item efficiently and effectively. It should be noted that both the authors' and Fisher and Sweeney (1998) have reviewed the literature and note that a widely accepted measure of political orientation does not exist at this time. Our proposed procedural elicitation is described in the Methodology section and the results are assessed in the Discussion section of this paper.

### **Examples of Research using Political Attitude as a Variable**

Political orientation has been shown to be a significant factor in studies of racism. Gaertner (1973) demonstrated that liberal and conservatives reacted differently to an anonymous African-American or European-American telephone caller who was allegedly having automobile trouble. Nail et al. (2003) note that liberals appear to experience inner conflict with respect to the prospect of being prejudiced against historically disadvantaged groups and this may cause them to be intolerant toward those who display prejudice against such groups.

Green and Reed (1980) surveyed city managers and city administrators in the U. S. to assess their political orientations and social values. Their policy orientations towards economic welfare issues and labor unions are conservative. They appear to be highly tolerant on issues of sex equality and free speech. Their political party affiliation tends to be equally divided between democrats,

republicans and independents. It appears prudent to control for the political attitudes of such professional managers when assessing the policies and activities of municipalities. Furthermore, elected and appointed public officials reflect a wide range of political attitude. However it is essential to recognize that the fiduciary responsibilities of said officials are ultimately based in integrity (Cohan 2002).

LeVeness and Primeaux (2004) note that any discussion of sustainable development requires a clarification of its: universal and communal dimension and its individual (persons, businesses, nations) dimensions. However, such clarification may be very difficult to achieve. The survey research of Johnson et al. (2004) and Olli et al. (2001) demonstrate that respondents with a college education, younger persons, those living in an urban environment and individuals with more liberal political orientation or ideologies have been shown to be more environmentally concerned than others. Our literature review provides a basis for our research question (RQ) concerning an association between an individual's beliefs about ethical issues and their political attitudes:

**RQ:** *Is there an association between an individual's beliefs concerning ethical issues and the person's political attitudes?*

## RESEARCH DESIGN

Our sample includes 209 students from two universities located in the Northeast region of the United States. The students' responses, which include 11 seniors, 51 juniors, 82 sophomores and 65 freshmen, were obtained during normal class time to ensure participants completed the survey. Table 2 shows the sample demographics by gender and year in college.

For this study, we had to choose between two scales to measure political attitudes from the National Election Survey (NES) (2002) and the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) (2002). Indeed, making these types of choices is the subject of this paper. While the NES data are from voter surveys taken before

major elections, the HERI data are from students about to enter their freshman year of college. In the end, we decided to use the NES survey in our research. Our decision was influenced by the existence of and access to a larger data set for comparison purposes. Furthermore, the NES survey appears often in prior research (Sweeney and Fisher, 1998, 1999; Fisher and Sweeney, 1998, 2001; and Bernardi et al, 2004).

**TABLE 2**  
**SAMPLE DEMOGRAPHICS BY GENDER**

Year Group	Male Students	Female Students	Total
Seniors	4	7	11
Juniors	35	16	51
Sophomores	43	39	82
Freshmen	49	16	65
Totals	112	87	209

The dependent variable Political Attitude (PolAtt) was measured using the NES seven-point Likert scale (Figure 1) ranged from Extremely Liberal (1) through Extremely Conservative (7). The five independent variables, which all have the potential of having political as well as accounting implications, include: Standard of Living (StdLive), Health insurance (HealthIns), Minority, Abortion, and Women’s Rights (WomRigh). Standard of Living is the belief that the government should see to it that every person has a job and good standard of living (1) through the government should just let each person get ahead on his/her own (7). Health insurance centers on the belief there should be a government insurance plan that would cover all medical and

hospital expenses (1) through medical expenses should be paid by individuals and through private insurance like Blue Cross (7). Minority is the belief that the government should make every effort to improve the social and economic position of African-Americans and other minority groups (1) through government should not make any special effort to help minorities because they should help themselves (7). Abortion centers on one's belief about abortion:

1. Abortion should never be permitted.
2. Abortion should be permitted only if the life and health of the woman is in danger.
3. Abortion should be permitted if, due to personal reasons, the woman would have difficulty in caring for the child.
4. Abortion should never be forbidden, since one should not require a woman to have a child she doesn't want.

Women's Rights contrast the belief that a woman's place is in the home (1) through women should have an equal role with men in running business, industry, and government (7). Finally, we also controlled for gender with men (women) coded as one (zero).

## ANALYSIS

### Overview

Our analysis examines the association between a participant's proclaimed political ideology and their responses to four questions on a seven-point Likert scale and one response to a multiple choice question (Appendix). These questions came directly off the National Election Survey (NES) questionnaire (2000). The Table 3 data show the Pearson correlation coefficients for these questions, the individual's political ideology and gender. Table 3 shows that, as anticipated, the participants' political attitudes associate with the questions dealing with standard of living, health insurance, minority rights and abortion, which all have potential policy and accounting implications. The upper number for each intersection reflects the correlation between changes in the two variables; the lower number indicates the level

**TABLE 3**  
**PEARSON CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS**

	PolAtt	Gender	WomRigh	Abortion	Minority	HealthIns
StdLive	0.31 (0.00)	-0.00 (0.94)	-0.00 (0.93)	-0.01 (0.84)	0.49 (0.00)	0.33 (0.00)
HealthIns	0.27 (0.00)	0.15 (0.03)	0.11 (0.11)	0.16 (0.03)	0.27 (0.00)	
Minority	0.30 (0.00)	-0.05 (0.46)	0.07 (0.34)	-0.03 (0.64)		
Abortion	0.31 (0.00)	-0.14 (0.06)	0.07 (0.32)			
WomRigh	0.09 (0.17)	-0.45 (0.00)				
Gender	0.01 (0.92)					
X.XX	Estimated correlation coefficient.					
.YYYY	Significance of the coefficient.					
PolAtt	Political Attitude					
StdLive	Standard of Living					
HealthIns	Health Insurance					
WomRigh	Women's Rights					

of significance with values below .10 being significant (i.e., it is noteworthy). Each of these four variables explains approximately 9.0 percent ( $R^2$ ) of the variation in political attitudes. However, political attitudes do not associate with either women's rights or gender. On the other hand, gender positively associates with health insurance and negatively associates with both abortion and women's rights. Beliefs about minority rights associate with standard of living and health insurance. Finally, standard of living associates with beliefs concerning health insurance.

### **Predictors of Political Attitude**

To determine the relative statistical importance attached to a question in predicting an individual's political attitude, we used stepwise multiple regressions to examine the order in which the independent variables entered the model. The data in Table 4 indicate that concerns about one's standard of living were the most important consideration when predicting political attitudes. While the standard of living variable was very significant ( $p < 0.0001$ ), it explained only about 10.2 percent of the variation (adjusted  $R^2$ ) in political attitudes. The second variable in the model was beliefs about abortion, which explained approximately the same amount of variation as did the standard of living variable (i.e., 9.7 percent adjusted  $R^2$  and  $p = 0.0001$ ). Finally, while minority concerns explained an additional 2.5 percent of the variation ( $p = 0.0136$ ), beliefs about nationalizing health insurance explained only 0.7 percent of the variation and was marginally significant ( $p = 0.0994$ ). The data support the notion that a person's political attitude is a function of his/her beliefs about a variety of issues.

The modeling process we use is an iterative one; that is it attempts to improve the explanatory power of the prior model, which is measured by the adjusted  $R^2$ . In the first step (i.e., initial model), the model indicates that the average response was 2.3 or on the liberal side of the moderate political attitude. The most powerful variable in determining how far to move towards the conservative viewpoint is a person's views on the standard of living issue. The stronger the individual's belief that "the

**TABLE 4**  
**REGRESSION MODELS FOR POLITICAL ATTITUDE**

Step	Intercept	StdLive	Abortion	Minority	HealthIns	R <sup>2</sup>	Adj R <sup>2</sup>
One	2.87	0.28				.107	.102
Two	1.80	0.28	0.38			.207	.199
	.0001	.0001	.0001				
Three	1.58	0.20	0.39	0.15		.235	.224
	.0001	.0012	.0001	.0066			
Four	1.43	0.18	0.37	0.14	0.08	.246	.231
	.0001	.0052	.0001	.0136	.0994		
X.XX	Regression parameter for the specified variable or constant.						
.YYYY	Significance of the parameter.						
StdLive	Belief that the government should see to it that every person has a job and good standard of living (1) <u>through</u> the government should just let each person get ahead on his/her own (7).						
HealthIns	Belief there should be a government insurance plan that would cover all medical and hospital expenses (1) <u>through</u> medical expenses should be paid by individuals and through private insurance like Blue Cross (7).						
Minority	Belief that the government should make every effort to improve the social and economic position of African-Americans and other minority groups (1) <u>through</u> government should not make any special effort to help minorities because they should help themselves (7).						
Abortion	Belief that abortion should never be permitted (1) <u>through</u> abortion should never be forbidden (4).						

government should just let each person get ahead on his/her own”, the more conservative the individual’s political attitude is predicted to be. The first improvement on the model (i.e., step two) adds one’s views on healthcare issues; the new model has nearly twice the explanatory power of the original model (i.e., from .102 to .199). Together, the final two improvements to the model (i.e., steps three and four) provide a relatively small increase to the explanatory power – less than half the increase of the second step (i.e., from .199 to .231).

### **DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

Our findings support the belief that political attitudes should be considered in behavioral and ethics research dealing with public policy. The correlation data in Table 3 are especially cogent as our subjects were college students. The associations suggest that these beliefs are instilled in our population while it is relatively young. Additionally, the fact that each of the questions dealing with standard of living, health insurance, minority rights and abortion only explain about 9.0 percent ( $R^2$ ) of the variation in political attitudes indicates that a much longer test would be required to achieve a level of explanatory power ( $R^2$ ) that would make most researchers comfortable with their results.

Having said this and after noting the dramatic cutback in available time provided for research by many agencies, it behooves researchers to rethink their research designs. We can no longer afford the luxury of multiple tests that corroborate our findings in one area; rather, we must settle on tests that provide us with a reasonable level of confidence necessary to establish our findings. In our study, we find that a seven-point political attitudes scale appears to adequately reflect the political attitudes of our sample. The finding leads us to suggest that, rather than use a lengthy questionnaire to establish an individual’s political attitude, the seven-point Likert scale from the National Election Survey provides an attractive alternative.

The seven-point Likert scale also permits additional and more refined analyses of surveys and experimental results. The

scale can be adjusted such that artificial points can be relabeled to determine the robustness/sensitivity of results (e.g. points 3 and 5 on the scale could be initially used to classify subjects as liberals and conservatives as opposed to moderates). Then the points could be adjusted to test the robustness of the research findings. In this case, liberals would be assigned points one and two, moderates would now be classified as three to five and conservatives as points six and seven. Another possibility suggested by Bernardi et al. (2004) is to use a nine-point Likert scale. A nine-point scale provides equal representation of three possibilities: liberals (one to three), moderates (four to six) and conservatives (seven to nine).

This study has at least two limitations. First, the sample only includes college students and, therefore, may not present an accurate representation about adult political attitudes. Second, our sample includes students from two schools located in the Northeastern section of the United States and may not be able to be generalized to a wider population as evidenced by the 2004 presidential election. Future research should attempt to obtain a wider range of subjects and contrast the political beliefs of college students with an older sample of adults.

Additionally, even if this research is generalizable to the United States, it may not be for other countries. An interesting extension to this research would be to extend it into the international setting. Those wishing to undertake such an extension should become familiar with the work of Hofstede (1991) on cultural constructs in general and the work of Smith (2002) who extended Hofstede's research on culture into accounting. Hofstede's Individualism-Collectivism construct closely parallels the views of some ethicists who classify on whether decisions are made on an individualist or collectivist basis (Machan, 1998). Researchers should sample from countries that differ on Hofstede's Individualism/Collectivism construct (1984, 83-84), which is the:

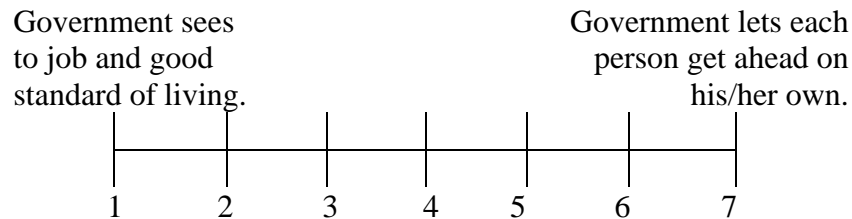
*[P]reference for a loosely knit social framework in society. The fundamental issue addressed by this dimension is the degree of interdependence a society maintains among individuals.*

### ENDNOTES

1. The authors collaborate on many research projects and alternate lead author responsibilities. Both authors contribute equally to all of their joint works.
2. The terms “liberal” and “conservative” have different meanings in different countries. In this paper the terms are used in their United States connotation.
3. Given the space constraints of the table, issues were at times combined and about ten articles did not fit into any of our classifications.

### APPENDIX POLITICAL ATTITUDES SURVEY

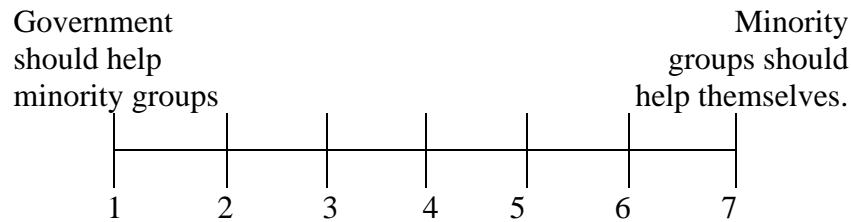
- a. Some people feel that the federal government in Washington should see to it that every person has a job and good standard of living. Others think that the government should just let each person get ahead on his/her own. And of course, other people have opinions somewhere in between. Where would you place yourself on this scale?



- b. There is much concern about the rapid rise in medical and hospital costs. Some feel that there should be a government insurance plan that would cover all medical and hospital expenses. Others feel that medical expenses should be paid by individuals and through private insurance like Blue Cross. Where would you place yourself?

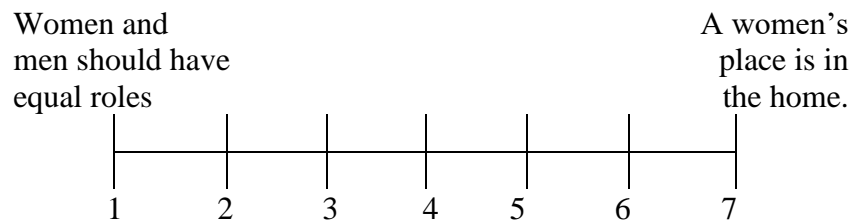


- c. Some feel that the federal government in Washington should make every effort to improve the social and economic position of African-Americans and other minority groups. Others feel that the government should not make any special effort to help minorities because they should help themselves. Where would you place yourself on this scale?

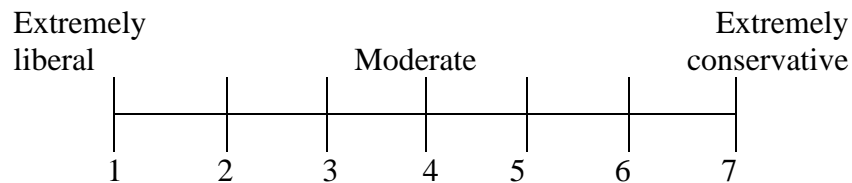


- d. There has been much discussion concerning abortion during recent years. Which of the following opinions best agrees with your view?
1. Abortion should never be permitted.
  2. Abortion should be permitted only if the life and health of the woman is in danger.
  3. Abortion should be permitted if, due to personal reasons, the woman would have difficulty in caring for the child.
  4. Abortion should never be forbidden, since one should not require a woman to have a child she doesn't want.

- e. There has been a lot of talk about women's rights. Some people feel that women should have an equal role with men in running business, industry, and government. Others feel that the women's place is in the home. Where would you place yourself on this scale?



- f. Concerning important political and social issues, where would you place yourself on this scale?



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