

**political  
trust begins  
closer than  
we think**

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**A  
CLASSROOM  
MOMENT**

# youth political trust

stable levels of political trust

rarely interact with institutions

citizenship education  
builds political attitudes

# the traditional explanation

civic learning opportunities  
open classroom discussions  
student participation

perceptions of  
fair treatment by teachers

respect  
voice  
interest in wellbeing

**a different  
mechanism**

# how political trust develops

 FAIR TREATMENT

 TRUST IN SCHOOLS

 POLITICAL TRUST

**when fair treatment is  
included, citizenship  
education matters less**

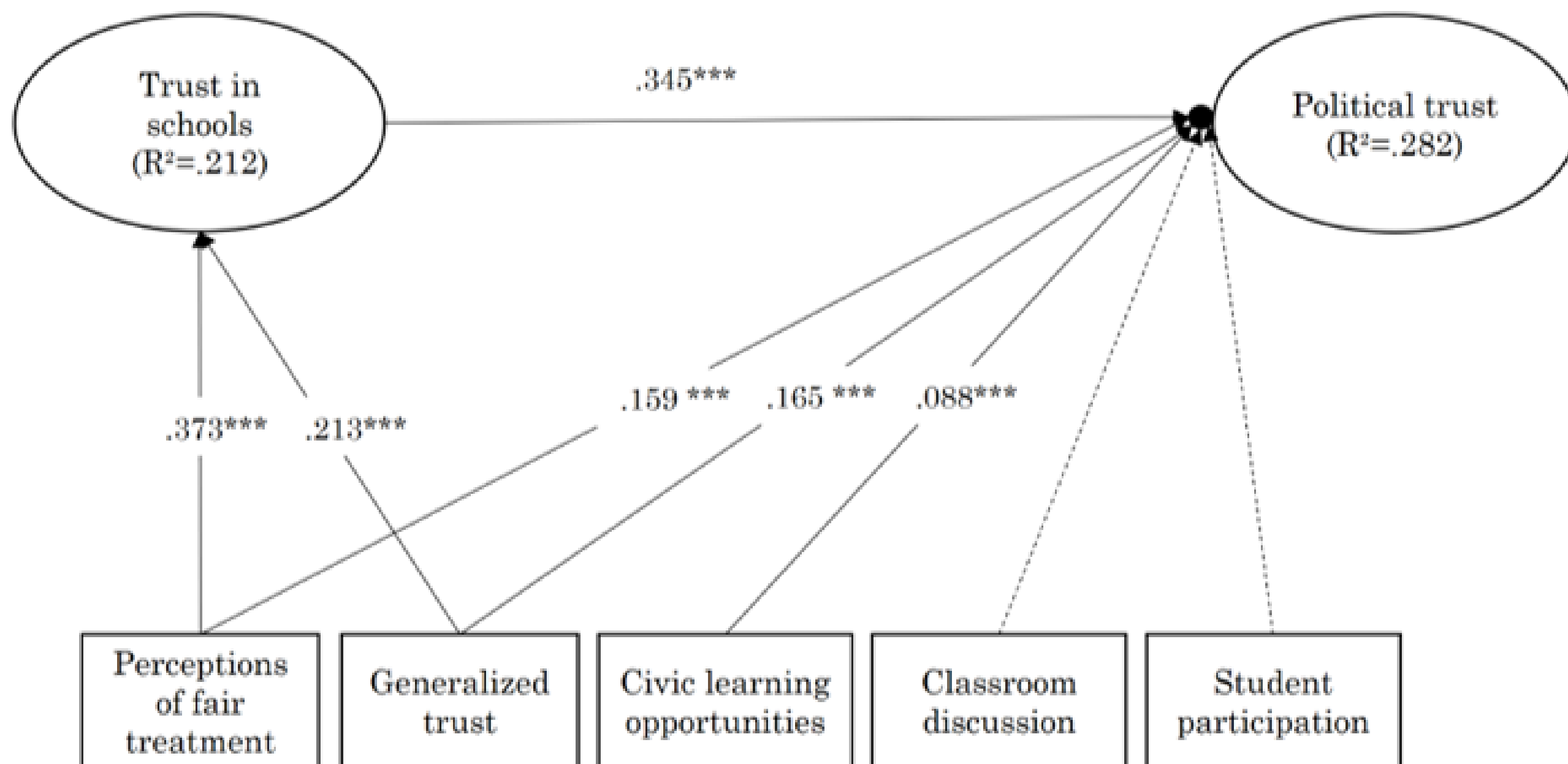
Table 2: Results Regression Analyses – Political Trust

	Model I	Model II	Model III	Model IV
Civic learning opportunities	.185 (.017)***	.129 (.015)***	.095 (.014)***	.086 (.013)***
Open classroom discussions	.082 (.014)***	.011 (.012)	-.013 (.011)	-.012 (.010)
Participation at school	.029 (.007)***	.031 (.008)***	.015 (.009)	.015 (.008)
Perceptions of fair treatment		.313 (.014)***	.169 (.011)***	.160 (.010)***
Trust in schools			.389 (.014)***	.343 (.015)***
Gender				.000 (.006)
Expected years of education				-.013 (.014)
Generalized trust				.164 (.012)***
Intercept	51.95	52.00	51.94	51.92
AIC	355338	350490	341093	332436
ICC school level	.046	.037	.030	.027
ICC country level	.048	.036	.047	.047
R <sup>2</sup> individual level	.057	.143	.261	.283
N student level	49735	49667	49352	48346

Source: ICCS 2016 samples of 14 European countries.

Note: Entries are standardized coefficient estimates (standard errors in parentheses) of a three level linear regression using Mplus 8; Estimator: MLR; Unconditional model ICC school level=.055; ICC country level=.038; N school level=2126; Weights applied on all levels; All variables are grand mean centred; Significance levels: \*  $p < 0.05$ ; \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ .

Figure 1: Political Trust



Source: ICCS 2016 samples of 14 European countries.

Note: standardized coefficient estimates of a three-level random intercept model using Mplus 8; School and country level is estimated but not visualised for simplicity reasons; dotted line = no significant relation. Estimator: MLR; N=49058; ICC school level=.030; ICC country level=.047; Appropriate weights are used on all levels;  $***p<0.001$ .

**why this matters for  
democracy?**

# **political trust begins closer than we think**

1. development of political trust begins before direct interactions with institution
2. fair treatment in school shapes political trust
3. trust in schools helps build political trust

**political  
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# Thank you!

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