

Can competing diversity indices inform us about why ethnic diversity erodes social cohesion? A test of five diversity indices in Germany

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Abstract

An ever-growing number of studies investigates the relation between ethnic diversity and social cohesion, but these studies have produced mixed results. In cross-national research, some scholars have recently started to investigate more refined and informative indices of ethnic diversity than the commonly used Hirschman-Herfindahl Index. These refined indices allow to test competing theoretical explanations of why ethnic diversity is associated with declines in social cohesion. This study assesses the applicability of this approach for sub-national analyses. Generally, the results confirm a negative association between social cohesion and ethnic diversity. However, the competing indices are empirically indistinguishable and thus insufficient to test different theories against one another. Follow-up simulations suggest the general conclusion that the competing indices are meaningful operationalizations only if a sample includes: (1) contextual units with small and contextual units with large minority shares, as well as (2) contextual units with diverse and contextual units with polarized ethnic compositions. The results are thus instructive to all researchers who wish to apply different diversity indices and thereby test competing theories.

Keywords: ethnic diversity, social cohesion, social capital, immigration,

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1 **1. Introduction**

2 Following the seminal studies of Alesina et al. (1999) and Putnam (2007),
3 there has been a growing debate on the supposedly negative relation between
4 ethnic diversity and social cohesion over the last years. Particularly European
5 researchers have shown an interest, given the implications of such an association
6 for European countries that have experienced growing diversification because of
7 immigration. Is there a threat to the high levels of trust (e.g. Gundelach and
8 Traunmüller, forthcoming), civic engagement (e.g. Vermeulen et al., 2011) and
9 support for redistribution (e.g. Stichnoth, 2012) that characterize European
10 countries?

11 The literature on ethnic diversity and social cohesion provides a rich set of
12 empirical findings, but the overall picture is inconclusive (Portes and Vickstrom,
13 2011). The two existing quantitative reviews unearth patterns such as that the
14 “main evidence for negative diversity effects is found for intra-neighborhood so-
15 cial cohesion” (van der Meer and Tolsma, 2011, p. 30) or that “North American
16 studies tend to provide more confirmatory results, which cannot be said about
17 studies from developing countries or cross-national comparisons and probably
18 neither for Europe” (Schaeffer, 2012, p. 44). Against this background arises the
19 necessity to study why ethnic diversity should result in lower levels of social co-
20hesion. Only if we understand what it is about ethnic diversity that undermines
21 social cohesion, we can postulate hypotheses about the conditions under which
22 we should expect ethnic diversity to reduce social cohesion and under which
23 conditions we should not. If for example ethnic diversity was about commu-
24nication and coordination problems, as Habyarimana et al. (2007) propose, we
25 would not expect a strong ethnic diversity effect in countries where immigrants
26 tend to speak the native language, such as France.

27 Even though a number of plausible theoretical explanations have been pro-
28 posed, most studies provide no evidence for the supremacy of one explanation

29 over others. This situation makes it hard to judge the overall inconclusive find-
30 ings. Attempting to fill this gap, some researchers have recently started to
31 investigate more refined and informative measures of ethnic diversity than the
32 commonly used Hirschman-Herfindahl Index. Desmet et al. (2009) for example
33 test a linguistically weighted index of ethnic diversity, and Baldwin and Huber
34 (2010) an index of economic inequality between ethnic groups. Such studies
35 yield suggestive evidence on the relevance of certain theoretical explanations,
36 be they concerned with communication problems or unequal resource allocation
37 as in these examples. Unfortunately, the few existing, pioneering studies all
38 engage in cross-national comparisons, while the earlier discussed research on
39 the effects of ethnic diversity has generated mixed results particularly on the
40 sub-national level of European countries (e.g. Savelkoul et al., 2011; Gijsberts
41 et al., 2011; Tolsma et al., 2009).

42 This paper reports about the merits of comparing competing diversity indi-
43 cators in sub-national analyses, i.e. the aim is to investigate whether different
44 theories on why ethnic diversity should result in lower levels of social cohesion
45 can be tested against one another, by comparing the explanatory power of rival
46 diversity indices. As such, the paper tries to answer both substantial as well
47 as methodological questions. I make use of the German sub-set of the Ethnic
48 Diversity and Collective Action Survey (Schaeffer et al., 2011) with its roughly
49 7,500 respondents, who live in one of 55 theoretically and randomly sampled
50 German cities and regions. In particular, I compare the explanatory power of
51 the following indices: First, the common Herfindahl-Hirschman index of eth-
52 nic diversity and an ethnic polarization index are taken as operationalizations
53 of *cognitive biases*. Second, a culturally weighted ethnic diversity index and
54 an index of ethnic group-based income inequality are treated as indicators of
55 *asymmetrically distributed preferences*. Finally, a measure of average migrant
56 host-country language skills is used as an indicator of *coordination problems*. As
57 dependent variables, I investigate trust in neighbours and collective efficacy as
58 indicators of neighbourhood social cohesion.

59 However, while I find negative associations between the indicators of social

60 cohesion and ethnic diversity, the competing indices are empirically indistin-
61 guishable and thus insufficient to test different theories against one another. By
62 conducting follow-up simulations on these results, I can identify the general con-
63 ditions under which competing diversity indices become meaningfully different
64 from another: If the majority share is too large in even the most diverse cities
65 and regions, and if the sample does not cover contextual units with diverse and
66 contextual units with polarized ethnic compositions, the competing indices are
67 indistinguishable even from the mere percentage of minorities. Substantially
68 this implies that much of the (European) research on ethnic diversity and social
69 cohesion might actually be about majority responses to minority concentration
70 and disclose little about diversity effects per se. The conducted follow-up simu-
71 lations indicate, however, under which conditions the various indices do indeed
72 become telling and are thus instructive to all researchers who wish to apply
73 different diversity indices and thereby test competing theories.

74 **2. Theoretical background**

75 The central aim of this paper is to test different theories on why ethnic
76 diversity should result in lower levels of social cohesion, by comparing the ex-
77 planatory power of competing diversity indices. Following Chan et al. (2006),
78 but focusing on neighbourhoods rather than whole societies, I understand the
79 concept of *social cohesion* to encompass feelings of shared commonalities, trust,
80 reciprocity and solidarity that generate a social environment in which people
81 produce and share public goods and undertake collective endeavours. Testing
82 theories on ethnic diversity and social cohesion by comparing the explanatory
83 power of competing diversity indices, requires a discussion of different theories,
84 but more importantly it requires linking these theories to different diversity in-
85 dices.¹ Which index should be regarded as operationalization of which theory?
86 The literature discusses roughly five explanations of why ethnic diversity should

¹A thorough discussion of and introduction to diversity indices in general is given by Rao (1982) and Greenberg (1956).

87 drive down levels of social cohesion. Two of these explanations focus on cog-
88 nitive biases that are associated with mere **categorical differences** of “us”
89 versus “them”. Particularly sociologists and many political scientists see these
90 cognitive biases as being rooted in feelings of *group threat*, whereas economists
91 and social psychologists rather refer to *in-group favouritism*. Two other ex-
92 planations take actual **cultural differences** into account. Probably because
93 of Deutsch’s (1966) heritage, who emphasized the importance of shared lan-
94 guage for nation states, it seems to be particularly political scientists who are
95 among the few who see *coordination problems* as explaining lower levels of social
96 cohesion in mixed contexts. Economists on the other hand frequently discuss
97 *asymmetrically distributed preferences* and the inability to agree on shared goals
98 as potential explanation. Much less attention has been paid to explaining nega-
99 tive diversity effects by ethnically clustered networks that result in lower levels
100 of *social control* (e.g. Miguel and Gugerty, 2005). This paper is no exception
101 to this trend, because constructing an index of network density from data of
102 randomly sampled individuals is not straightforward (Wasserman and Faust,
103 1994). Table 1 gives an overview of the explanations and the linked diversity
104 indices (for further explanations see below). In the following, I will discuss the
105 first four theoretical explanations in more detail and link them to a set of five
106 diversity indices.

Table 1: Theoretical explanations and associated diversity indices

Type	Theoretical explanation	Index
Ethno-categorical diversity	In-group favouritism	HHI
	Group threat	EP
Ethno-cultural diversity	Asymmetric distribution of preferences	CED & EGI
	Coordination problems	LSU
Ethno-structural diversity	Social control	<i>Not investigated</i>

107 2.1. Ethno-categorical diversity

108 Most studies that investigate ethnic diversity employ indices that rely on
109 publicly available data of a population’s national, racial or ethnic composition.
110 I propose to call these indices indicators of *ethno-categorical diversity*, because

111 they reflect a population’s diversity as measured by statistically available cate-
112 gories that ignore any cultural or economic distances between those categories.

113 2.1.1. *In-group favouritism*

114 Among others, Alesina et al. (1999) and Alesina and La Ferrara (2002) refer
115 to social identity theory (Brown, 2000; Tajfel et al., 1971) and argue that since
116 people favour others who are alike, they trust people of other descent less and
117 avert cooperation when out-group members benefit as well. If the statistically
118 available categories reflect the ethnic boundaries people have in mind, and if
119 in-group favouritism is the main cause of the ethnic diversity effect, we should
120 find that *the commonly used Hirschman-Herfindahl Index (HHI) is the most*
121 *adequate predictor of social cohesion (HI)*. The reason is that for in-group
122 favouritism it is only the question whether someone belongs to an in-group or
123 out-group that matters and the share of minorities fulfils this criterion only for
124 the majority population. Results based on the percentage of ethnic minorities as
125 diversity proxy actually measure majority responses to minority concentration
126 rather than diversity effects per se. In most studies, the classical Hirschman-
127 Herfindahl Index (Hirschman, 1964) is subtracted from unity:

$$\text{HHI} = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^k s_i^2$$

128 where s_i denotes the share of ethnic category i and k the number of cate-
129 gories. This index can be interpreted as the likelihood that two randomly drawn
130 individuals do not share membership in the same ethnic category. It varies be-
131 tween a minimum of 0 for contexts with only one category and a maximum of
132 1, which is reached when the population is divided into an infinite amount of
133 categories.

134 2.1.2. *Group threat*

135 Another approach that deals with cognitive biases cites competition (e.g.
136 Olzak, 1992) or group threat (e.g. Blalock, 1967) theories, and argues that eth-
137 nic struggles for resources and representation compromise the competitors’ mu-

138 tual trustworthiness and renders collective endeavours across ethnic boundaries
 139 unlikely (e.g. Hou and Wu, 2009). Some authors claim that if group threat
 140 theory is right, it is not ethnic diversity per se that undermines trust and co-
 141 operation. By contrast, the most contentious situations are polarized, meaning
 142 that two equal opponents face each other (Montalvo and Reynal-Querol, 2005;
 143 Esteban and Ray, 1994). While Alesina et al. (2003) find polarization not to be
 144 a superior predictor in their cross-national analysis, Dincer (2011) does in her
 145 analysis of US federal states and claims that “Conflict is less likely in societies
 146 in which fractionalization is minimal or maximal” (Dincer, 2011, p. 291). If
 147 these authors are correct in their interpretation of group threat theory, *ethnic*
 148 *polarization (EP) is a better predictor of social cohesion than other diversity in-*
 149 *dices (H2)*. From their formal rent-seeking model Montalvo and Reynal-Querol
 150 (2005) derive the following index of ethnic polarization:

$$EP = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^k \left(\frac{0.5 - s_i}{0.5} \right)^2 s_i = 4 \sum_{i=1}^k s_i^2 (1 - s_i)$$

151 where s_i is the share of ethnic category i and k is the number of categories.
 152 This index increases if one shifts the population between categories in such a
 153 way that categories become equal in size. The index ranges from 0 where either
 154 all people belong to one category or are divided across an infinitive amount of
 155 categories, to 1 where there are two groups of equal size.

156 2.2. *Ethno-cultural diversity*

157 What the above-discussed indices might be correlated with, but do not mea-
 158 sure, is actual cultural diversity in norms, values, preferences, languages and
 159 meanings. Some indices try to capture these aspects of ethnic diversity and I
 160 suggest conceptualizing these as indices of *ethno-cultural diversity*. In regard to
 161 ethnic diversity and social cohesion, it makes sense to have a two-fold concep-
 162 tualization of culture first as a moral system, and second as habituated routines
 163 of action and ways to do things. Each of these conceptualizations is linked
 164 to a potential explanation of the relation between social cohesion and ethnic

165 diversity.

166 *2.2.1. Asymmetric distribution of preferences*

167 Seeing culture as a moral system that entails desirable goals and prefer-
168 ences (Parsons, 1972), ethnic diversity could mean disagreement about how a
169 shared community should look like and which public goods should be provided,
170 and could thereby lead to an under-provision of public goods (e.g. Kimenyi,
171 2006). In addition, Page (2008) has argued from a social choice perspective
172 that asymmetrically distributed preferences may erode trust for the potential
173 of disagreement they cause. In order to measure the asymmetric distribution of
174 preferences that derive from cultural differences between ethnic groups, Bald-
175 win and Huber (2010) rely on an extension of the Hirschman-Herfindahl Index
176 that is weighted by cultural differences between groups. If differences in values
177 and norms were central, a *culturally weighted index of ethnic diversity (CED)*
178 *should be a better predictor of social cohesion than other diversity indices (H3).*
179 Originally, Greenberg (1956) proposed this index, which he defined as:

$$\text{CED} = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{j=1}^k s_i s_j r_{ij}$$

180 where s is the share of ethnic category, i or j respectively and k denotes
181 the number of categories. r_{ij} is a measure of the cultural distance between
182 categories i and j that functions as a weight. r_{ij} ranges between 0 if ethnicities
183 are totally different in cultural terms and 1 if they are similar.² As for the HHI
184 measure, CED will take the value of 0 if all groups are similar in values or if
185 there is only one group and 1 if each individual is an own group and they hold
186 most different values. CED will by definition always be smaller or at best as
187 large as the orthodox ethnic diversity index, because HHI can be regarded as a

²Consider a setting with three groups with shares 0.5, 0.25 and 0.25:
 $\begin{bmatrix} 0.5 \\ 0.25 \\ 0.25 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0.5 & 0.25 & 0.25 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.25 & 0.125 & 0.125 \\ 0.125 & 0.0625 & 0.0625 \\ 0.125 & 0.0625 & 0.0625 \end{bmatrix}$.
The sum of the elements of this matrix is 1. This is true for any vector with elements that sum up to 1.

188 special case of CED that assumes maximal differences between all groups.

189 In theory, asymmetric distributions of preferences originate from cultural dif-
190 ferences, but economic differences might also be a cause. As Baldwin and Huber
191 (2010) point out: “Group-based economic differences can lead to different group
192 needs with respect to public goods, feelings of alienation or discrimination by
193 some groups, different attitudes toward redistribution across groups, and differ-
194 ent “class” identities by different groups” (Baldwin and Huber, 2010, p. 644).
195 According to their study, the negative impact of ethnic diversity as found in
196 cross-national studies is mostly due to economic inequality along ethnic lines.
197 If economic differences along ethnic lines were important in the sub-national
198 European case, *ethnic group-based economic inequality (EGI) should be a better*
199 *predictor of social cohesion than other diversity indices (H4)*. Baldwin and Hu-
200 ber (2010) propose the following index of ethnic group-based income inequality:

$$\text{EGI} = \frac{1}{2\bar{y}} \sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{j=1}^k s_i s_j | \bar{y}_i - \bar{y}_j |$$

201 where s is that share of category i or j and k the number of categories. $| \bar{y}_i -$
202 $\bar{y}_j |$ denotes the difference in average income between i and j , meaning that the
203 average income difference between ethnicities serves as a weight. At first sight,
204 the measure of ethnic group-based economic inequality is mathematically rather
205 similar to the culturally weighted ethnic diversity index; instead of cultural
206 differences, the average income differences serve as a weight. However, whereas
207 r_{ij} is negatively proportional (larger values denote smaller cultural differences),
208 average income differences are not. Furthermore, the EGI is not subtracted
209 from unity, but standardized by twice the grand average income. The EGI is
210 hence rather different in interpretation, and best understood as a special case
211 of the Gini index, for which each individual is assigned not his personal income,
212 but his ethnic group’s income. The index measures economic inequality between
213 ethnic groups.

214 *2.2.2. Coordination problems*

215 Instead of seeing culture as a moral system, Swidler (1986) proposes to con-
216 ceive of it as habituated routines of action and ways to do things, which most
217 importantly allow us to interact and communicate with others. A common
218 language, metaphor usage as well as a common set of practices and schemes
219 are necessary to communicate about the existence of shared preferences and
220 to successfully coordinate the production of public goods (e.g. Deutsch, 1966).
221 For this reason, some scholars claim ethnic diversity, seen as cultural diver-
222 sity, leads to problems in the exchange of meaning and hence to coordination
223 problems (e.g. Desmet et al., 2009; Habyarimana et al., 2007). Following the
224 example of Lancee and Dronkers (2011), I suggest that in a European context
225 language diversity does not seem to be the best indicator of coordination prob-
226 lems, since there are official first languages. A better way to test the implication
227 of coordination problems in an immigration country is to investigate migrants’
228 average host-country language skills and usage. If coordination problems are
229 critical, *average regional migrant host-country language skills and usage (LSU)*
230 *is a better predictor of social cohesion than other diversity indices (H5)*, even
231 though Lancee and Dronkers (2011) could not support this hypothesis for the
232 Dutch case. As a simple measure, I suggest the mean of migrants’ host-country
233 language skills l :

$$\text{LSU} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n l_i$$

234 **3. Data and methods**

235 As mentioned in the introduction, this paper relies on empirical analyses
236 which are followed up by simulations. I describe the data and estimation strat-
237 egy underlying the empirical analyses in this section, while the simulations and
238 their set-up are elaborated later on in an own section.

239 *3.1. The EDCA-Survey*

240 The analyses are based on the German sub-set of the Ethnic Diversity and
241 Collective Action Survey (EDCAS), which was conducted from October 2009
242 to April 2010 (Schaeffer et al., 2011). The German sub-set consists of 7,500
243 completed and 479 discontinued standardized telephone interviews with partic-
244 ipants who were at least 18 years of age. The survey has a 26% oversample of
245 persons of immigrant origin, defined here as either being born abroad or having
246 at least one parent who was born abroad. There is an additional 14% over-
247 sample of persons of Turkish origin. In order to prevent unaffordable screening
248 costs, these latter participants were not sampled via random digit dialing as
249 the other respondents but via their last names from telephone directories. The
250 sample is stratified by 55 German cities and regions. These cities and regions
251 were drawn from the nation’s roughly 420 rural and urban “Kreise,” the smallest
252 administrative region for which nation-wide harmonized public data is available.

253 I analyse two cognitive indicators of social cohesion. The first, trust in neigh-
254 bours, is identical to the measure Putnam (2007) uses.³ The second, collective
255 efficacy, was originally developed by Sampson et al. (1999) and is supposed
256 to measure a community’s capacity to collectively solve neighbourhood prob-
257 lems, such as bulky waste lying about or street muggings and harassment. The
258 EDCA-Survey measured collective efficacy with two items that are influenced by
259 Friedrichs and Oberwittler (2007), who adapted the concept to suit the German
260 context.⁴

261 The two indicators differ in that trust in neighbours is a general indicator
262 of neighbourhood relations, whereas collective efficacy asks about potentials
263 for collective action for typical scenarios. There is no theoretical reason to
264 assume the indicators to map differently on the competing diversity indices.

³“Please indicate on a scale from 0 to 10, how much you trust the people in your neigh-
bourhood.”

⁴“In neighbourhoods there are different problems. Let me give you some examples:
On a public green space lies bulky waste. On a scale from zero to ten, how likely is it that
people from your neighbourhood would jointly try to find a solution?

In a dark alley several people have been mugged. On a scale from zero to ten, [...]”

265 The two dependent variables are regressed on the above-discussed indices as
266 well as the number of years someone has lived in the neighbourhood, home
267 ownership, education, gender, migration background, dummies indicating the
268 religious confession and age. On the context level, the analyses control for
269 East/West-German differences, the local unemployment rate, the population
270 per square kilometre and the local crime rate. The descriptives of all dependent
271 and independent variables, including the indices, are shown in Table A.4 in the
272 appendix.

273 *3.2. The ethnic categories: Measuring s_i for the HHI, EP, CED and EGI indices*

274 Calculating ethnic diversity indices necessitates information on the shares of
275 ethnic categories. I use data of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees'
276 central register of foreign nationals⁵, which represents the most reliable source of
277 information on the foreign population in Germany. The regional shares of people
278 from all 193 fully recognized nations are available. Ethnic categories are thus
279 defined by nationality in this study. This has the disadvantage that all people of
280 immigrant origin who have acquired German citizenship are treated as German
281 natives, meaning that diversity and polarization are probably underestimated.
282 Unfortunately, data sources like the German micro census which allow for the
283 identification of German citizens of immigrant origin do not yield regionally
284 representative estimates of these populations. Note, however that I also discuss
285 additional analyses with inflated indices that do not underestimate the overall
286 share of persons of immigrant origin. Yet, the empirical results remain similar
287 in conclusion.

288 In line with Baldwin and Huber (2010), I rely only on groups that represent
289 a significant share of the local population.⁶ I set the minimum share to 0.05%
290 of the local population, so that a category needs to have a share of at least
291 0.05% in one or more contexts that are covered by the EDCA-Survey. Since

⁵Federal Office for Migration and Refugees: www.bamf.de

⁶I also calculated an ethnic diversity index relying on all 193 national groups. Yet this index hardly differs because the squared group shares of size 0.004 and smaller do not have any numerical leverage so that the results are identical.

292 many national categories of interest do not pass this threshold, I summed some
 293 categories to form a single category: North Africans (Moroccans, Tunisians, Al-
 294 gerians and Egyptians), persons from the Middle East (Emirates, Iraqis, Irani-
 295 ans, Jordanians, Kuwaitis, Lebanese, Omanis, Qataris, Syrians and Yemenites)
 296 and Afghanistan plus Pakistan. Including native Germans, this procedure re-
 297 sults in 22 ethnic categories that relate to the following countries (or regions):
 298 North Africa, the Middle East, Afghanistan plus Pakistan, Austria, Bosnia and
 299 Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg,
 300 Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, South Korea, Spain,
 301 Switzerland and Turkey.

302 *3.3. The cultural and economic weights: Measuring r_{ij} and $|\bar{y}_i - \bar{y}_j|$ for the*
 303 *CED and EGI indices*

304 Calculating a culturally weighted index of ethnic diversity (CED), requires
 305 a weight r_{ij} that denotes cultural differences between all ethnicities. Of course,
 306 Germany's Register of Foreign Nationals does not contain any information that
 307 would allow estimating cultural differences between nationalities. Instead, I use
 308 the latest available waves of the World Values Survey and European Values
 309 Study (2009) of 1981-2008. I estimated the mean value of Inglehart and Baker's
 310 (2000) traditionalism-secularism (TS) and materialism-post-materialism (PM)
 311 scales for each country⁷. Relying on these two scales, I calculated the average
 312 distances (D) in values between all countries that are linked to the 22 ethnic
 313 categories discussed above.⁸

314 Finally, I standardized D to vary between 0 and 1 and thereby obtained
 315 r_{ij} . This approach relies on the strong assumption that average values of ethnic
 316 groups in Germany can be inferred from the values held by persons living in
 317 their countries of origin. This assumption is questionable, particularly because
 318 the largest minority group, persons of Turkish origin, began immigrating to

⁷The officially suggested procedure is described here:
www.wvsevdb.com/wvs/WVSIntegratedEVSWSInstructions.jsp?Idioma=I

⁸ $D = \sqrt{(PM_i - PM_j)^2 + (TS_i - TS_j)^2}$

319 Germany nearly 50 years ago. I therefore regard the current operationalization
320 as a proxy that demands for improvement by future research.

321 Just as cultural differences, income differences between ethnicities $|\bar{y}_i - \bar{y}_j|$
322 are not easy to come by. I use the German Micro Census to estimate aver-
323 age differences in monthly equivalence household income between the 22 ethnic
324 categories of this study. These differences in equivalence household income are
325 estimated for Germany at large and not for each of the 55 contexts, because of
326 the Micro Census' is not representative on the regional level.

327 *3.4. Host-country language skills: Measuring l_i for the LSU index*

328 To investigate the importance of average migrant language skills and usage
329 within a region, I rely on the EDCA-Survey, which encompasses at least 24 re-
330 spondents with migration background per context. I built a scale l_i from three
331 items: All respondents of the EDCA-Survey with a migration background were
332 asked how often they had problems when speaking German, how often they
333 speak German with their family members and how often they speak German
334 with friends and acquaintances. An explorative principal components factor
335 analysis shows that all items load on a single factor with factor loadings above
336 0.6. I use the solution of this factor analysis to predict a factor score for each
337 individual. Note, however, that I did not consider respondents who were over-
338 sampled for the Turkish origin sample, since for this group no weights on their
339 sampling propensity could be estimated. Overall, this means that average re-
340 gional migrant host-country language skills and usage are aggregated from the
341 EDCA-Survey itself and might thus be subject to large measurement errors.

342 *3.5. Modelling strategy*

343 Since the data is clustered in 55 cities and regions and the analyses include
344 context level variables, a multi-level modelling strategy is needed. I estimate
345 linear regression models with cluster-robust standard errors. Cluster-robust
346 standard errors yield the advantage that the standard errors of parameters of
347 context-level regressors are not underestimated (Angrist and Pischke, 2009, p.

348 308-323). Moreover, they assume “no particular kind of within-cluster cor-
349 relation nor a particular form of heteroskedasticity” (Wooldridge, 2003, p.
350 134), meaning they allow for any kind of upper and lower level heteroskedas-
351 ticity. Random intercept models, an alternative estimation strategy, assume
352 homoskedastic errors on both the individual and contextual level (e.g. Rabe-
353 Hesketh and Skrondal, 2008). For my analyses, this is an unrealistic assumption
354 given that some contextual units are highly dense and socio-culturally hetero-
355 geneous cities like Berlin or Hamburg, and others are sparsely populated, ho-
356 mogeneous rural areas like Oberallgäu. Yet, results of estimations that rely on
357 random intercept models are similar in conclusion.

358 Unfortunately, only 85.7% of the respondents answered all questions. This
359 is particularly due to missing values on religious and educational background,
360 but also the attitudinal scales. I thus estimate the models with ten multivari-
361 ate imputations for the missing values on any of the variables. As suggested
362 by Enders (2010), the imputation model consisted of all variables of the later
363 analyses, including the interaction term discussed below. The imputation pro-
364 cedure includes respondents who discontinued the telephone interview, because
365 these were part of the original sampling plan and should thus not be excluded.
366 Results of estimations that rely on case wise deletion are similar in conclusion.

367 Because 55 clusters hardly allow to investigate the impact of various rather
368 collinear diversity indices, I run separate models for each of the competing diver-
369 sity measures. I then compare the respective model fits. While this procedure
370 does not allow to test the competing indexes directly against one another, it
371 informs us about which index yields the highest predictive power. However,
372 comparing fit between the models is not straightforward, because they rely on
373 multiply imputed data. Weakliem (2004) suggests to compare Akaike’s Infor-
374 mation Criterion (AIC) and the Bayesian Information Criterion (BIC). Unfor-
375 tunately, it is an open domain of research how to estimate AIC and BIC values
376 for models that rely on multiply imputed data. Instead, I use R^2 and Adjusted
377 R^2 values that I estimate with Yula Marchenko’s [mibeta](#) Stata ado-file, which
378 is based on Harel’s (2009) suggestions. Note that the AIC and BIC values of

379 models that do not rely on the multiply imputed data support the same con-
380 clusions.

381 **4. Results**

382 *4.1. Comparing the indices: Why is ethnic diversity associated with declines in* 383 *social cohesion?*

384 There are two studies on diversity effects in Germany, both of which rely on
385 the German Socio-Economic Panel. Gundelach and Traunmüller (forthcoming)
386 report a cross-sectional, negative association between ethnic diversity, particu-
387 larly the share of Turkish nationals, and generalized trust, but not with norms
388 of reciprocity. Stichnoth’s (2012) fixed effects panel analysis confirms a negative
389 effect of ethnic diversity on support for redistribution. My study complements
390 their findings for two additional dependent, neighbourhood-related variables
391 taken from a different data source: trust in neighbours (Table 2) and collec-
392 tive efficacy (Table 3). All indices of ethnic diversity (HHI), ethnic polarization
393 (EP), culturally weighted ethnic diversity (CED) and ethnic group-based in-
394 come inequality (EGI) show similar patterns of significant negative relations
395 to the two dependent variables. Assuringly, the results for the two indicators
396 of social cohesion, which are both measured on eleven point Likert scales, are
397 even highly similar in terms of the strengths of the coefficients. Only migrants’
398 average host country language skills (LSU), which differs most clearly in terms
399 of operationalization, shows a significant relation neither to collective efficacy
400 nor to trust in neighbours. One might argue that language skills only matter
401 in settings with a sizeable proportion of minorities. Yet, additional analyses
402 that are shown in the appendix in Table C.7, do not support the hypothesis
403 that migrants’ language skills matter more given larger shares of migrant mi-
404 norities. These results replicate Lancee and Dronkers’ (2011) findings for the
405 Netherlands.

406 An important question pertains to differences between persons of immigrant
407 origin and natives. As a robustness check, Model 7 introduces an interaction

Table 2: Trust in neighbours and competing diversity indices

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
HHI	-1.27** (0.41)						-1.79*** (0.41)
EP		-0.83** (0.30)					
CED			-2.94** (1.06)				
EGI				-9.37* (3.77)			
LSU					0.09 (0.11)		
%Foreign nationals						-0.02** (0.01)	
<i>Interactions</i>							ref.
HHI*Immigrant Origin							1.03 (0.75)
Observations	7979	7979	7979	7979	7979	7979	7979
R^2	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.108	0.108	0.109	0.109
Adjusted R^2	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.106	0.106	0.107	0.107

Cluster-robust standard errors in parentheses; * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$

The coefficients of the **control variables** are shown in Table B.5 in the appendix

HHI: Hirschman-Herfindahl Index

EP: Ethnic polarization index

CED: Culturally weighted ethnic diversity index

EGI: Economic group based inequality index

LSU: Average regional migrant host-country language skills and usage

Table 3: Collective efficacy and competing diversity indices

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
HHI	-1.20*** (0.33)						-1.73*** (0.39)
EP		-0.84** (0.26)					
CED			-2.82** (0.85)				
EGI				-8.85** (2.97)			
LSU					-0.23 (0.14)		
%Foreign nationals						-0.02*** (0.01)	
<i>Interactions</i>							ref.
HHI*Immigrant Origin							1.06 (0.63)
Observations	7979	7979	7979	7979	7979	7979	7979
R^2	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.073	0.074	0.074
Adjusted R^2	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.071	0.072	0.072

Cluster-robust standard errors in parentheses; * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$

The coefficients of the **control variables** are shown in Table B.6 in the appendix

HHI: Hirschman-Herfindahl Index

EP: Ethnic polarization index

CED: Culturally weighted ethnic diversity index

EGI: Economic group based inequality index

LSU: Average regional migrant host-country language skills and usage

408 term to test whether diversity shows a significantly different association for per-
409 sons of immigrant origin than for natives. However, in line with the theoretical
410 mechanisms that are not majority-specific, none of the above-discussed relations
411 is significantly different for persons of immigrant origin as compared to natives.⁹
412 This also holds for the other diversity indices as additional analyses, which are
413 not displayed here, show.

414 Which of the competing significant indices, and hence of the associated expla-
415 nations, yields the highest explanatory power? Unfortunately, the R^2 and Ad-
416 justed R^2 values do not allow any conclusion. There are hardly any differences
417 in model fit between Models 1 to 5, and the few variations are negligible. This
418 means that none of the proposed indices shows any superior explanatory power
419 in the sub-national German comparison. These results refute hypotheses H2 to
420 H5 on the superiority of the refined diversity indices and yet neither provide
421 support for hypothesis H1 about the superiority of the Hirschman-Herfindahl
422 Index. While the common ethnic diversity index (HHI) is an adequate predictor,
423 these results do not suggest in-group favouritism to be the main explanation.
424 Correlations of 0.97 suggest the sobering conclusion that the competing indices
425 all simply reflect the mere percent of foreign nationals (with the exception of the
426 LSU). Indeed, Model 6 shows that results for the mere share of foreign nationals
427 as alternative predictor are similar to the diversity indices. This means that at
428 least in these analyses, the indices are invalid: they do not measure four theoret-
429 ically distinct concepts, but across the board a fifth alternative; mere minority
430 concentration. If this were true for other sub-national analyses, it could mean
431 that much of the (European) research on ethnic diversity and social cohesion is
432 actually about majority responses to minority concentration and tells us little
433 about diversity effects per se. There seems to be more than mere majority reac-
434 tions to minority concentration given that the relation also holds for persons of
435 immigrant origin, as reported above. But the existing diversity indices do not

⁹The interaction terms indicate that for persons of immigrant origin the relations might be less strong. This is not surprising, given that for persons of immigrant origin more diverse areas also tend to be those where more in-group members live.

436 operationalize this. This raises the question, under which conditions the com-
437 peting indices become telling at all, i.e. statistically different from one another?
438 Are such conditions likely in sub-national (European) settings? After all, the
439 competing indices have generated insights in cross-national analyses.

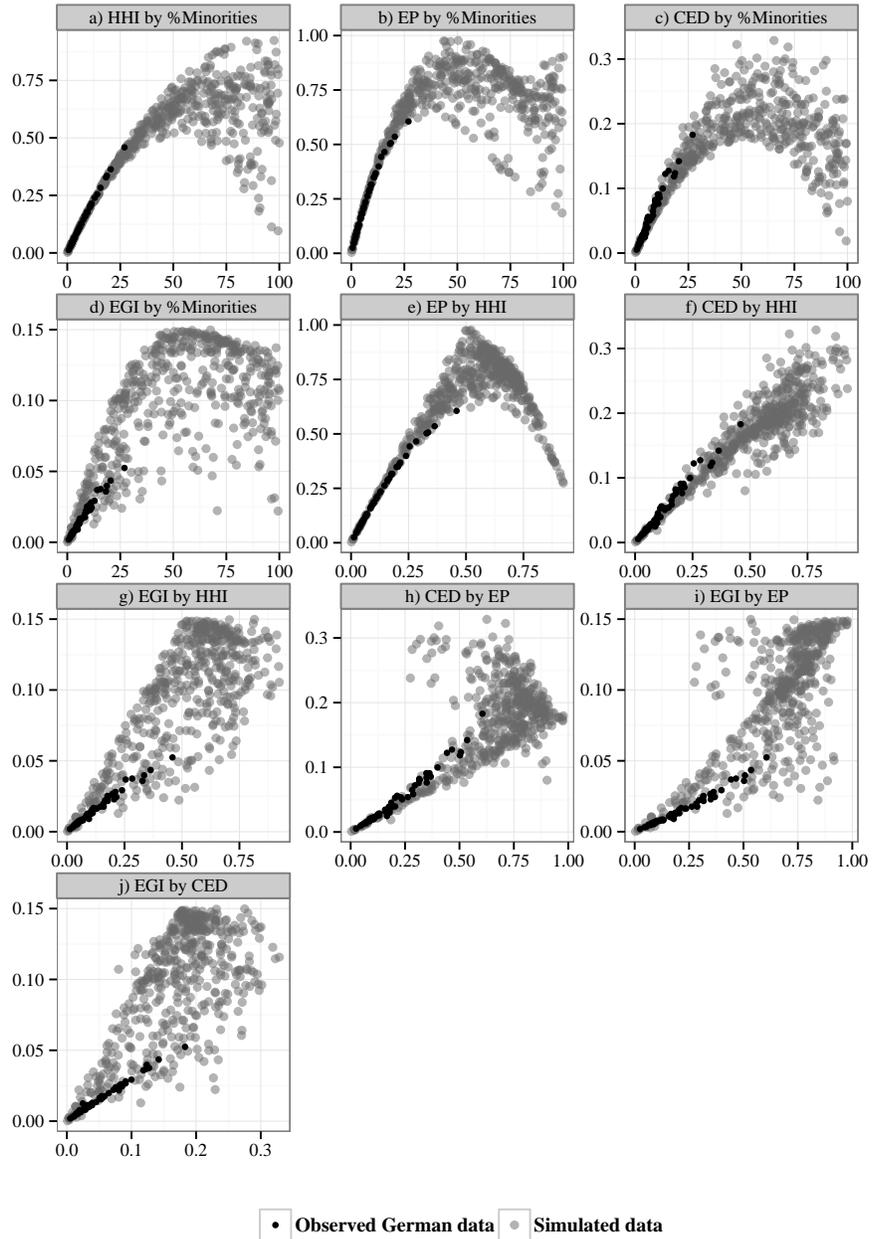
440 *4.2. Simulations: When are competing diversity indicators informative?*

441 *4.2.1. Identifying three potential factors*

442 To answer why the competing indices are indistinguishable in my analyses,
443 or vice versa under which conditions they are distinguishable, I simulated 500
444 contextual units with random population shares for up to 22 categories, and took
445 the first category to represent a “native” population. I calculated the different
446 diversity indices and the overall share of “minorities” for this simulated data.
447 To calculate the culturally and economically weighted indices, I used the same
448 weights as in the empirical analyses and assigned those to the 22 simulated
449 categories. Figure 1 shows ten scatter plots for all pairwise combinations of
450 the different indices. The sub-graphs’ titles denote which index is shown on
451 the Y-axis (first named index) and which one on the X-axis (second named
452 index); for example: “a) HHI [Y-axis] by %Minorities [X-axis]”. The sub-graphs
453 include both simulated (grey circles), and the 55 observed contexts (black dots).
454 We see that the statistical (dis-)similarity of the indices has two dimensions:
455 linear dependence and skedasticity. By facilitating the comparison between the
456 empirically observed and the simulated contexts, Figure 1 helps identifying three
457 potential reasons why the competing indices are statistically indistinguishable
458 in my sub-national analyses.

459 First, the large share of native Germans might simply dominate the indices
460 mathematically, or vice versa *the range of minority shares covered in the sample*
461 *of contextual units* is too small. A sample needs to include contextual units
462 with small and contextual units with large minority shares, which means that
463 the 21 groups of foreign nationals that together make up less than 30 per cent of
464 the population in each setting, have only little mathematical leverage, however
465 culturally or economically distinct they are. Sub-graphs a) to d) in Figure 1 show

Figure 1: Simulated relations between competing diversity indices



466 the four competing diversity indices against the percent minorities on the X-
467 axis. Within the range of minority shares that is covered by the EDCA-Survey
468 (1 - 29 percent), the four indices can hardly be distinguished from the mere
469 percentage of minorities both in terms of functional form and skedasticity. The
470 weighted indices (CED and EGI) become distinct at much lower minority shares,
471 which of course depends on the strength and variance of the weights. However,
472 weighting achieves distinctiveness only in terms of skedasticity, but leaves the
473 linear dependence unaffected. Important as it may be, the rather small range of
474 the majority shares is unlikely the only reason. The German micro census does
475 allow to estimate the accumulated regional share of people of immigrant origin,
476 instead of foreign nationals, which make the basis of the here calculated diversity
477 indices. However, across the 55 cities and regions the shares of foreign nationals
478 and of people of immigrant origin correlate strongly ($r = 0.95$). Yet, depending
479 on the region, the share of people of immigrant origin is between a factor 1.2 and
480 3.2 higher than the share of foreign nationals. Following Koopmans and Veit's
481 (forthcoming) example, I multiplied the percentages of the 21 minority groups
482 by the above mentioned factors. The resulting group shares can be regarded as
483 estimates of the 21 minority groups that include German nationals of immigrant
484 origin. The operation decreases the majority shares and thereby expands the
485 overall range of the minority shares. Yet, the above-presented empirical results
486 remain similar in conclusion even if the competing indices rely on such inflated
487 group shares. These additional analyses are shown in Tables C.8 and C.9 in the
488 appendix.

489 The second reason why the indices are indistinguishable is that German
490 regions hardly differ in their ethnic composition, or vice versa *the degree to*
491 *which a sample covers contextual units with diverse and contextual units with*
492 *polarized ethnic compositions* seems to be important. The simulated contexts
493 of sub-graphs a) to d) in Figure 1 suggest more variation to be possible even
494 within the small range of minority shares covered by the EDCA-Survey. For any
495 given minority share, the ethnic composition of all observed cities and regions is
496 always highly diverse. Taken from another angle, the ethnic polarization index

497 is always minimal, because the majority never faces one homogeneous minority.
498 Instead, the minority is always composed of a variety of subgroups. In contrast,
499 the simulated data entails contextual units with polarized compositions too
500 and therefore shows more skedasticity and less linear dependence between the
501 indices. Whatever the share of minorities, simulated and observed data differ
502 with respect to the fact that empirically there are no polarized situations where
503 the majority faces only one single ethnic minority. One could also expect the
504 indices to be indistinguishable because of the limitation to 22 groups. But this is
505 an unlikely reason, given that the Hirschman-Herfindahl Index can vary between
506 0 and a maximum value of $1 - (\frac{1}{k})$ given k groups (Fearon, 2003). The slope of
507 this function is diminishing rapidly. For 22 groups this means that the maximum
508 value of the HHI already lies at 0.95, as compared to the empirically observed
509 maximum value of 0.46, or 0.59 if inflated groups shares are utilized. This does
510 not mean that the number of groups is generally negligible. It might be highly
511 important with regard to the above-mentioned role of the ethnic composition.
512 A totally polarized situation, can similarly be regarded as one where 20 of the
513 22 groups have population shares of 0, or as one where there are only 2 groups.
514 The simulated data entail such contexts frequently, in contrast to the empirically
515 observed data. Varying numbers of groups are important with regard to how
516 much ethnic compositions vary, i.e. the range of polarized to diverse contexts
517 that can potentially be observed, as Figure 1 suggests.

518 Third, the weights that I apply both in the empirical analyses and simu-
519 lation assume cultural and economic differences to be similar in every one of
520 the 55 cities and regions. But maybe *whether weights can vary by contextual*
521 *unit* matters. In cross-national analyses the cultural and economic weights vary
522 by context, because the groups differ across the countries. Income differences
523 between blacks and whites in the US are not similar to those between persons of
524 Surinamese origin and native Dutch in the Netherlands. Since cultural and eco-
525 nomic differences between ethnic groups possibly also vary across sub-national
526 contexts, refined weights that vary by context could help to distinguish the
527 weighted indices from one another.

528 *4.2.2. Testing the importance of the range of minority shares, varying ethnic*
529 *compositions and weights that vary by context*

530 Figure 1 only gives a visual impression that helps to identify potential rea-
531 sons. To test the proposed reasons and inform future research about the condi-
532 tions under which the indices become telling, I performed a second simulation
533 that relies on a different strategy. Under 15 gradually different conditions, I
534 each sampled 55 contextual units with random population shares of up to 22
535 categories, resembling the empirical analyses above. In the first condition, the
536 category that is supposed to represent “natives” had to have a share of at least
537 70 percent. This means minority shares of the 55 simulated contexts vary in
538 a range of 0 to 30 percent. In the following conditions, I subsequently lowered
539 this restriction by five percent points, up until minorities shares could range
540 between 0 and 100 percent. I estimated coefficients of determination R^2 , i.e.
541 the squared correlation between the indices, for each condition: how strongly do
542 the indices determine each other in a sample when minorities can only make up
543 to 30, 35, . . . , 100% of the contextual units’ populations? I repeated this over-
544 all procedure 500 times and estimated the average R^2 value for each condition.
545 This allows to study the importance of the range of minority shares covered. To
546 study what happens if ethnic compositions hardly vary, I next repeated the pro-
547 cedure, but now restricted the routine to only simulate diverse contexts where
548 there are always 22 groups. In other words, all groups have shares larger than
549 0, just as in the 55 observed German cities and regions. Finally, I conducted
550 the two versions of these simulations both with constant weights and weights
551 that vary over the contexts. To achieve this, I simulated a 22-by-22 matrix of
552 random values between 0.5 and 1.5 for each simulated context. I then multiplied
553 it element-wise to the matrices containing the economic and cultural weights.¹⁰
554 This means that the cultural and economic differences between the 22 groups
555 are randomly increased or decreased by up to 50%. Figure 2 visualizes one par-

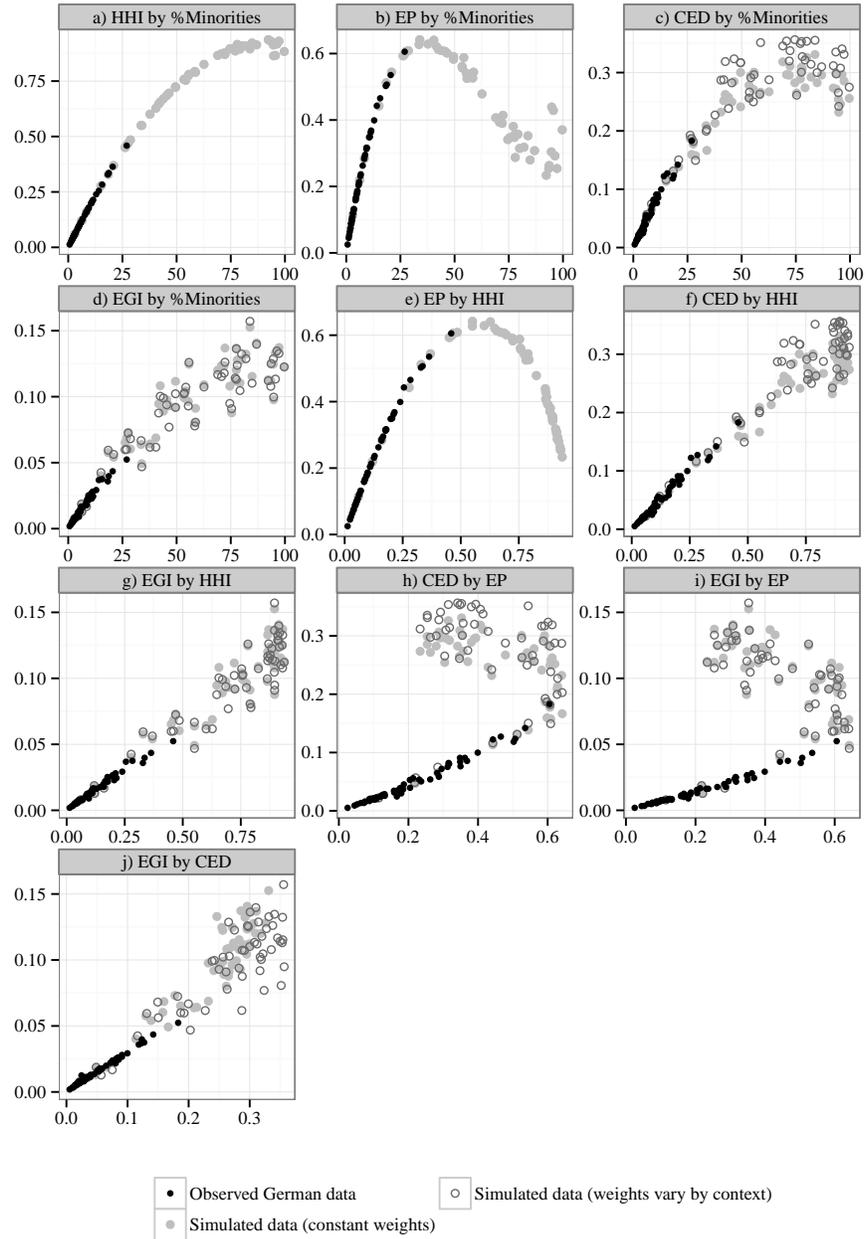
¹⁰Since the cultural weights have a maximum value of 1, I truncated all values larger than that to 1.

556 ticular sample out of numerous simulated ones and thus gives an impression of
 557 what underlays the below discussed results. It shows scatter plots for a sample
 558 of 55 simulated contextual units where minorities shares were allowed to range
 559 from 0 to 100% and where the ethnic composition within each contextual unit
 560 is always diverse, i.e. there are always 22 groups and thus not a single polarized
 561 setting. The figure shows impressively how the latter constraint of allowing
 562 no polarized ethnic compositions generates a stark resemblance between simu-
 563 lated and actually observed data. Furthermore, the filled grey circles represent
 564 contextual units that have been weighted with constant weights, while the hol-
 565 low ones represent units that have been weighted with context varying weights.
 566 The negligible difference between filled and hollow circles already suggests that
 567 context varying weights might be of less importance.

568 The overall results of the simulations are visualized in the six sub-graphs of
 569 Figure 3. Each sub-graph shows the R^2 values among the indices against the
 570 range of minority shares that is covered in the sample. The sub-graphs start
 571 out at the range of 0 to 30 percent minorities, which is the range covered in
 572 the above-discussed empirical analyses. Like a cross-table, the sub-graphs of
 573 Figure 3 are arranged according to two dimensions. The graphs in column 1
 574 show results for simulated samples that include varying ethnic compositions, i.e.
 575 from polarized to diverse. The graphs in column 2 show results for simulated
 576 samples that keep a constant number of 22 groups and are thus always diverse,
 577 i.e. the ethnic composition is not varying between diverse and polarized in these
 578 samples. The graphs of row a) show results for R^2 values among indices that do
 579 not rely on any weighting (among HHI, EP and %Minorities), while the results
 580 shown in row b) and c) always involve at least one index that relies on weighting
 581 (CED or EGI). The results shown in row b) rely on constant weights, and those
 582 of row c) on weights that vary by context. All figures entail cut-off lines at
 583 $R^2 = 0.8$ (red dashed line). I take values below to indicate unproblematic levels
 584 of mutual determination, i.e. collinearity.¹¹ I include a line at $R^2 = 0.6$ (grey

¹¹An $R^2 = 0.8$ indicates a tolerance of 0.20 and a VIF of 5 respectively.

Figure 2: Simulated relations between competing diversity indices, only diverse contexts with 22 groups



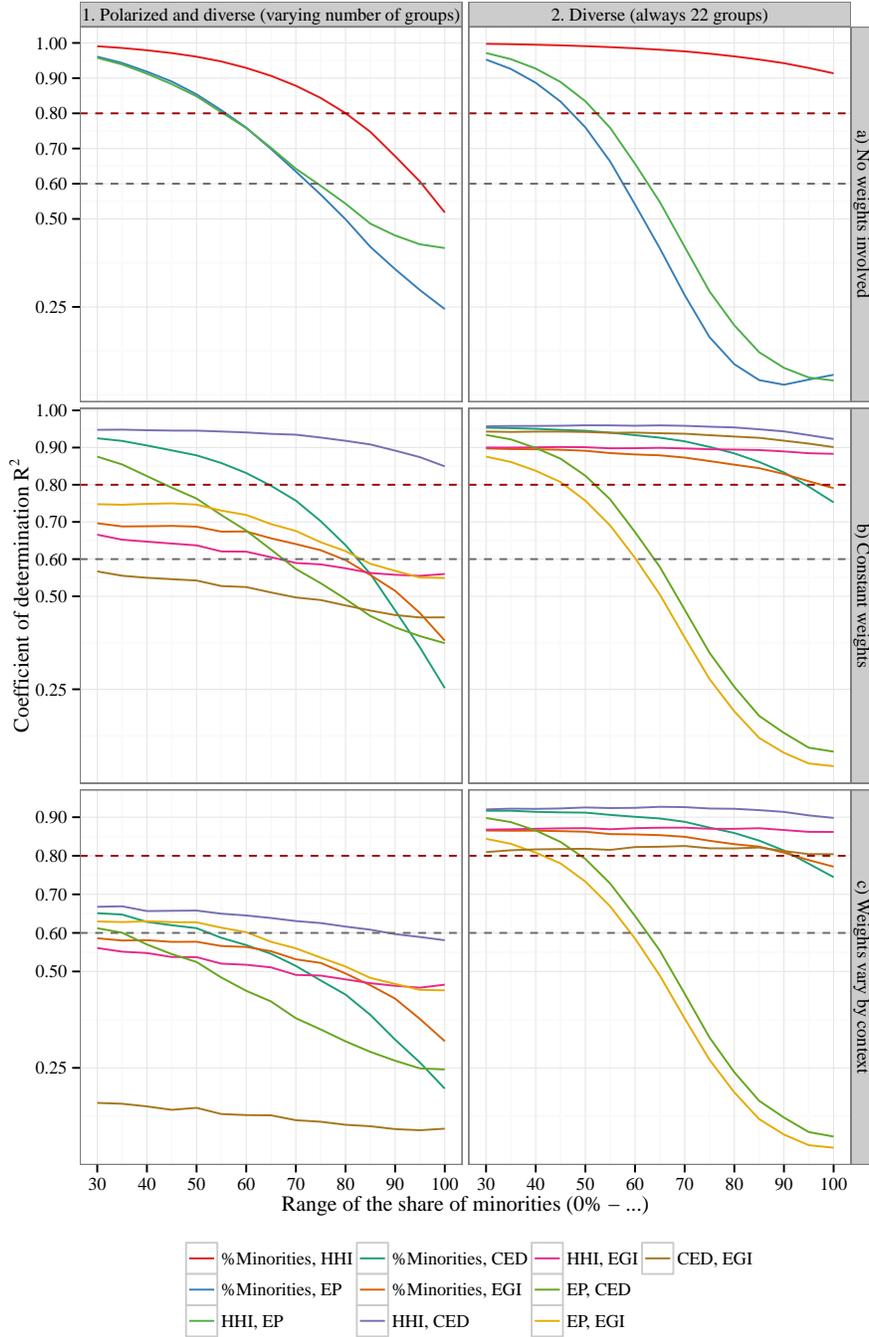
585 dashed line) too, because under the additional consideration of control variables,
586 such as the local unemployment rate or population density, potential collinearity
587 might increase again.

588 Much could be said about the degree of similarity between concrete indices.
589 But given the number of overall 34 comparisons, I refrain from such a detailed
590 discussion and focus on the general pattern. Figure 3 shows a decline in the
591 high coefficients of determination between the indices as the range of minority
592 shares increases. As expected, the range of minority shares covered in a sample
593 is a main reason why indices capture distinctive information. Overall, a range
594 of up to 80 percent minority shares allows to disentangle most indices from one
595 another, as long as polarized and diverse contexts are part of the sample (see
596 below). This is of course far from the actually observed range and researchers
597 might need to think about whether there are other contexts than cities and
598 regions, such as school classes or work teams, where concentrations of up to
599 that strength can be found.

600 Weighting is another factor. The increased skedasticity lowers the overall lev-
601 els of determination. Focussing on simulations that entail polarized and diverse
602 contexts (column 1) we see that because of the overall shift, many weighted
603 indices become distinct from their counterparts even if the range of minority
604 shares covered varies from 0 to 50 percent only. If the range reaches up to 80
605 percent, weighted indices seem to be safe to use with R^2 values lower than 0.6.
606 This is particularly true when weights vary by context, as the comparison of
607 sub-graphs 1b) and 1c) shows quite drastically. These observations of course
608 depend on the weights utilized. For countries with smaller or larger income
609 differences between ethnic groups, or studies with better proxies of cultural
610 differences, the shift could differ in strength. Weighting, particularly context
611 specific weighting, complements the role of the range of minority concentration:
612 indices that rely on varying weights do not seem to show steeper declines in
613 mutual determination as the range of minority share increases.

614 Finally, whether ethnic compositions vary between polarized and diverse
615 (column 1) is not a complementary factor that simply decreases the R^2 values

Figure 3: Coefficients of determination among competing diversity indices



616 additionally. Instead, it affects the way both weighting and the range of minority
617 shares matter. Generally, the sobering implication is that as ethnic compositions
618 are always diverse (column 2), increasing ranges of minority shares only allow
619 a general distinction of diversity and minority concentration from polarization
620 indices. Diversity, culturally or economically weighted diversity and minor-
621 ity concentration, however, are indistinguishable if there are always 22 groups.
622 Weighting, and particularly context-specific weighting, decreases the levels of
623 mutual determination only marginally. In more polarized situations, only few
624 weights apply and depending on the groups, may change the context's diversity
625 considerably. If there are 22 groups in each context, however, all weights always
626 apply. This means that all contexts face rather similar weighting. Principally,
627 this is also true for context-specific weights, although they decrease R^2 values
628 somewhat. Overall, these results are particularly disillusioning as the simulated
629 samples of exclusively diverse contextual units where there are always 22 groups
630 (column 2) better resemble the sub-national situation in many countries, and
631 certainly the above-presented empirical analyses. The R^2 values at minority
632 ranges up to 30 percent are quite similar to the ones observed in the EDCA-
633 Survey. This is not at all the case for the predictions of the simulated samples
634 that include both polarized contextual units and diverse contextual units, i.e.
635 samples that have varying ethnic compositions. It again highlights the need to
636 think about other contexts than cities and regions, that entail a broader range
637 of ethnic compositions.

638 **5. Conclusion**

639 An ever-growing number of studies investigates the relation between ethnic
640 diversity and social cohesion, but the results are mixed. In cross-national re-
641 search, some scholars suggest promising alternatives to the orthodox Hirschman-
642 Herfindahl Index. These indices, such as culturally and economically weighted
643 ethnic diversity, can be regarded as operationalizations of competing theoretical
644 explanations. Testing the explanatory power of these competing indices against

645 one another potentially answers why ethnic diversity is associated with declines
646 in social cohesion. This study sought to expand upon previous research by test-
647 ing the applicability of this approach in a sub-national analyses of 55 German
648 cities and regions.

649 The analyses do confirm a negative relation between ethnic diversity neigh-
650 bourhood social cohesion in Germany, and thereby complement existing stud-
651 ies. Yet, the main question, what drives ethnic diversity effects, could not be
652 answered. Coordination problems are unlikely to be the reason. Migrants' av-
653 erage host-country language skills did not show a significant relation to any of
654 the indicators of social cohesion. Along with the results of Habyarimana et al.
655 (2007) and Lancee and Dronkers (2011), this rather speaks against coordination
656 problems as a driving force behind the diversity effects. In comparison to this
657 clear-cut result, the lesson concerning the other indices is sobering. Their com-
658 parison does not provide any further insights beyond their common association
659 with social cohesion, because the supposedly competing indices are statistically
660 indistinguishable, and equivalent to the mere percentage of foreign nationals in
661 these analyses. This renders them invalid in the given setting, because for these
662 German contextual units they do not measure the four theoretically distinct
663 concepts they claim to measure. Worse yet, this raises the question in how
664 far existing studies actually provide evidence for diversity effects rather than
665 majority responses to minority concentration?

666 Since comparing these indices did provide insights in previous cross-national
667 analyses, I conducted follow-up simulations to identify the general conditions
668 under which the competing indices become valid operationalizations of (cultur-
669 ally and economically weighted) ethnic diversity and polarization. In Germany,
670 the most ethnically diverse city has a share of foreign nationals of about 29 per-
671 cent. Yet, the simulations show that minority shares need to range considerably
672 in order for the indices to be distinguishable and sufficiently distinct from mere
673 minority concentration; samples need to cover contextual units with small and
674 contextual units with large minority shares. Weighting indices by economic and
675 cultural differences between ethnic groups, and particularly fine-grained weight-

676 ing that is context specific, further helps to distinguish indices from one another.
677 But generally, weighting is of lesser importance due to a third crucial factor:
678 the variety of ethnic compositions covered. In Germany, the majority never
679 faces one homogeneous minority. Instead, the minority is always composed of
680 a variety of ethnic (sub)groups. In this regard the simulations indicate the dis-
681 illusioning lesson that when ethnic compositions are always diverse and never
682 polarized, increasing ranges of minority shares only allow a general distinction
683 of diversity from polarization. Weighting has hardly any leverage under such
684 circumstances, and diversity cannot be distinguished from minority concentra-
685 tion. This result is highly disillusioning because an immigrant population that
686 is composed of a variety of ethnic groups best resembles the situation in most
687 European, and arguably also many North American, cities and regions.

688 These findings have important implications for (European) sub-national re-
689 search. They question the use of diversity indices to study ethnic diversity ef-
690 fects. Researchers who analyze secondary data should check whether the indices
691 utilized can actually be distinguished from minority concentration empirically
692 and whether their results hold for persons of immigrant origin if they wish to
693 provide evidence for diversity effects. If researchers aim to conduct an own
694 survey they should carefully design a stratified sample that includes both po-
695 larized and diverse compositions for a range of minority shares that is as large
696 as possible. Alternatively, future research might exploit other contextual units
697 than cities and regions to study diversity effects, particularly since more local
698 diversity measures seem to be the better predictors (Dinesen and Sønderskov,
699 2011). Some neighbourhoods in Amsterdam, Berlin, London, Paris or Brussels
700 potentially have ethnic compositions that are not characterized by a clear ma-
701 jority of natives, and are sometimes even rather polarized. Sturgis et al. (2011),
702 however, warn against drawing neighbourhood boundaries that are meaningless
703 to individuals. Another possibility might thus be to investigate school classes
704 (e.g. Dinesen, 2011), organizations, or work groups.

705 Finally, my research highlights that both theory and methodology neglect
706 as a special case the typical European situation where there is a clear, dom-

707 inant majority. Ethnic compositions that are typical for European cities and
708 regions are theoretically treated as an intermediary stage between the ideal-
709 typical situations of total homogeneity and total (maybe culturally or econom-
710 ically weighted) diversity or polarization respectively. Given the sheer absence
711 of strong diversity or polarization in most parts of Europe, theory and method-
712 ology development should be concerned more with the particular implications of
713 typical compositions, rather than non-existent ideal typical ones. One solution
714 might be relational diversity indices as proposed by Koopmans and Schaeffer
715 (2012), which distinguish between the perspectives of different ethnic groups
716 within the same context. Such a relational approach might also tackle the prob-
717 lem that the existing diversity indices are not well suited to study minority
718 reactions to diversity. In many instances, they simply measure the share of mi-
719 norities and thus existing indices note an increase in diversity as the own group
720 share grows. This is unfortunate since we would expect the share of the own
721 group to be positively associated with levels of trust, in contrast to diversity.

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Table A.4: Descriptive statistics

	Mean	SD	Min	Max
<i>Dependent Variables</i>	ref.			
Trust in Neighbours	6.78	2.53	0	10
Collective Efficacy	6.19	2.57	0	10
<i>Individual Level Variables</i>	ref.			
Age	48.31	16.92	18	97
Education, reference: Low	0.09	0.28	0	1
Middle	0.61	0.49	0	1
High	0.30	0.46	0	1
Employed	0.61	0.49	0	1
Years in the Nbh.	19.05	16.09	0	90
Home Owner	0.45	0.50	0	1
Female	0.54	0.50	0	1
Immigrant origin	0.43	0.49	0	1
Married	0.52	0.50	0	1
Religion, reference: Atheist	0.40	0.49	0	1
Protestant	0.18	0.38	0	1
Catholic	0.19	0.39	0	1
Muslim	0.16	0.37	0	1
Other	0.07	0.25	0	1
<i>Contextual Level Variables</i>	ref.			
East Germany	0.13	0.34	0	1
Local Unemployment Rate	8.54	3.39	3.27	14.76
Population Density	1.53	1.36	0.04	4.27
Crime Rate	0.09	0.04	0.03	0.16
<i>Ethnic Diversity Indices</i>	ref.			
HHI	0.16	0.11	0.01	0.46
CED	0.07	0.04	0.01	0.18
EP	0.27	0.16	0.03	0.61
LSU	0.02	0.20	-0.61	0.44
EGI	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.05
%Foreign nationals	10.94	7.16	1.10	29.71

858 **Appendix B. Results for the control variables**

Table B.5: Results for the control variables of Table 2 (trust in neighbours)

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
<i>Individual level</i>							
Age	ref. 0.02*** (0.00)						
Education, referece: Low	ref.						
Middle	0.18 (0.10)	0.18 (0.10)	0.18 (0.10)	0.18 (0.10)	0.19 (0.10)	0.18 (0.10)	0.18 (0.10)
High	0.43*** (0.11)	0.43*** (0.11)	0.43*** (0.11)	0.43*** (0.11)	0.44*** (0.11)	0.43*** (0.11)	0.43*** (0.11)
Employed	0.06 (0.06)	0.05 (0.06)	0.06 (0.06)	0.06 (0.06)	0.05 (0.06)	0.06 (0.06)	0.05 (0.06)
Years in the Nbh.	0.01*** (0.00)						
Home Owner	0.55*** (0.05)						
Female	0.17** (0.05)	0.17** (0.05)	0.17** (0.05)	0.17** (0.05)	0.17** (0.05)	0.17** (0.05)	0.16** (0.05)
Immigrant origin	-0.38*** (0.08)	-0.38*** (0.08)	-0.38*** (0.08)	-0.38*** (0.08)	-0.38*** (0.08)	-0.38*** (0.08)	-0.55*** (0.13)
Married	0.39*** (0.05)	0.39*** (0.05)	0.39*** (0.05)	0.39*** (0.05)	0.38*** (0.05)	0.39*** (0.05)	0.39*** (0.05)
<i>Religion, reference: Atheist</i>							
Protestant	0.40*** (0.08)	0.40*** (0.08)	0.40*** (0.08)	0.40*** (0.08)	0.40*** (0.08)	0.40*** (0.08)	0.40*** (0.07)
Catholic	0.20* (0.08)	0.20* (0.08)	0.20* (0.08)	0.20* (0.08)	0.19* (0.08)	0.20* (0.08)	0.21* (0.08)
Muslim	0.06 (0.11)	0.06 (0.11)	0.06 (0.11)	0.06 (0.11)	0.05 (0.11)	0.05 (0.11)	0.05 (0.11)
Other	-0.01 (0.14)	-0.01 (0.14)	-0.01 (0.14)	-0.02 (0.14)	-0.02 (0.14)	-0.01 (0.14)	-0.01 (0.14)
<i>Contextual level</i>							
East Germany	0.11 (0.08)	0.09 (0.08)	0.08 (0.09)	0.10 (0.08)	0.20* (0.08)	0.12 (0.08)	0.08 (0.08)
Local Unemployment Rate	-0.02 (0.01)	-0.02 (0.01)	-0.01 (0.01)	-0.01 (0.01)	-0.01 (0.01)	-0.02* (0.01)	-0.02 (0.01)
Population Density	0.05 (0.03)	0.04 (0.02)	0.04 (0.02)	0.04 (0.03)	-0.02 (0.02)	0.06* (0.03)	0.05* (0.03)
Crime Rate	-2.67** (0.80)	-2.80*** (0.78)	-2.70** (0.82)	-2.73** (0.81)	-3.23*** (0.76)	-2.24* (0.86)	-2.69** (0.82)
Constant	5.53*** (0.20)	5.54*** (0.20)	5.48*** (0.20)	5.49*** (0.20)	5.38*** (0.20)	5.53*** (0.20)	5.61*** (0.19)
Observations	7979	7979	7979	7979	7979	7979	7979
R^2	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.108	0.108	0.109	0.109
Adjusted R^2	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.106	0.106	0.107	0.107

Cluster-robust standard errors in parentheses; * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$

Table B.6: Results for the control variables of Table 3 (collective efficacy)

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
<i>Individual level</i>							
Age	ref. -0.00 (0.00)						
Education, referece: Low	ref.						
Middle	0.08 (0.12)	0.08 (0.12)	0.08 (0.12)	0.08 (0.12)	0.09 (0.12)	0.08 (0.12)	0.08 (0.12)
High	0.14 (0.13)	0.14 (0.13)	0.14 (0.13)	0.14 (0.13)	0.15 (0.13)	0.14 (0.13)	0.14 (0.13)
Employed	0.19*** (0.05)						
Years in the Nbh.	0.00* (0.00)						
Home Owner	0.81*** (0.08)	0.81*** (0.08)	0.81*** (0.08)	0.81*** (0.08)	0.81*** (0.08)	0.81*** (0.08)	0.80*** (0.08)
Female	0.24*** (0.06)						
Immigrant origin	-0.03 (0.09)	-0.03 (0.09)	-0.03 (0.09)	-0.03 (0.09)	-0.04 (0.09)	-0.03 (0.09)	-0.20 (0.14)
Married	0.37*** (0.05)	0.37*** (0.05)	0.37*** (0.05)	0.37*** (0.05)	0.36*** (0.05)	0.37*** (0.05)	0.37*** (0.05)
Religion, reference: Atheist	ref.						
Protestant	0.36*** (0.09)						
Catholic	0.14 (0.07)	0.14 (0.07)	0.14 (0.07)	0.14 (0.07)	0.13 (0.07)	0.14 (0.07)	0.14* (0.07)
Muslim	0.09 (0.10)						
Other	-0.10 (0.15)	-0.10 (0.15)	-0.10 (0.15)	-0.10 (0.15)	-0.10 (0.15)	-0.10 (0.15)	-0.09 (0.16)
<i>Contextual level</i>							
East Germany	ref. 0.12 (0.10)	ref. 0.09 (0.11)	ref. 0.09 (0.11)	ref. 0.11 (0.11)	ref. 0.20 (0.10)	ref. 0.13 (0.10)	ref. 0.09 (0.10)
Local Unemployment Rate	-0.01 (0.01)	-0.01 (0.01)	-0.01 (0.01)	-0.01 (0.01)	-0.01 (0.01)	-0.02 (0.01)	-0.01 (0.01)
Population Density	-0.03 (0.03)	-0.03 (0.03)	-0.04 (0.03)	-0.04 (0.03)	-0.10*** (0.02)	-0.02 (0.03)	-0.02 (0.03)
Crime Rate	-4.11*** (0.86)	-4.20*** (0.85)	-4.12*** (0.86)	-4.17*** (0.88)	-4.89*** (0.97)	-3.71*** (0.92)	-4.13*** (0.87)
Constant	5.87*** (0.19)	5.90*** (0.20)	5.83*** (0.19)	5.84*** (0.19)	5.78*** (0.19)	5.88*** (0.19)	5.96*** (0.19)
Observations	7979	7979	7979	7979	7979	7979	7979
R^2	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.073	0.074	0.074
Adjusted R^2	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.071	0.072	0.072

Cluster-robust standard errors in parentheses; * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$

Table C.7: Two indicators of social cohesion and the LSU index interacted with the share of persons of immigrant origin

	(1) Trust in Neighbours	(2) Collective Efficacy
<i>Individual level</i>	ref.	ref.
Age	0.02*** (0.00)	-0.00 (0.00)
Education, referece: Low	ref.	ref.
Middle	0.18 (0.10)	0.09 (0.12)
High	0.43*** (0.11)	0.14 (0.13)
Employed	0.05 (0.06)	0.19*** (0.05)
Years in the Nbh.	0.01*** (0.00)	0.00* (0.00)
Home Owner	0.55*** (0.05)	0.81*** (0.08)
Female	0.17** (0.05)	0.24*** (0.06)
Immigrant origin	-0.38*** (0.08)	-0.02 (0.09)
Married	0.39*** (0.05)	0.37*** (0.05)
Religion, reference: Atheist	ref.	ref.
Protestant	0.39*** (0.07)	0.36*** (0.09)
Catholic	0.20* (0.08)	0.14* (0.07)
Muslim	0.05 (0.11)	0.10 (0.10)
Other	-0.02 (0.14)	-0.09 (0.15)
<i>Contextual level</i>	ref.	ref.
East Germany	0.06 (0.08)	0.08 (0.10)
Local Unemployment Rate	-0.02* (0.01)	-0.02 (0.01)
Population Density	0.07* (0.03)	-0.02 (0.03)
Crime Rate	-2.08* (0.82)	-3.87*** (0.94)
<i>Indices</i>	ref.	ref.
LSU	0.09 (0.18)	-0.15 (0.25)
%Immigrant origin	-0.02*** (0.01)	-0.02** (0.01)
LSU*%Immigrant origin	0.01 (0.02)	-0.00 (0.02)
Constant	5.62*** (0.19)	5.98*** (0.20)
Observations	7979	7979
R^2	0.109	0.074
Adjusted R^2	0.107	0.072

Cluster-robust standard errors in parentheses; * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$
LSU: Average regional migrant host-country language skills and usage

Table C.8: Trust in neighbours and competing, inflated diversity indices

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
<i>Individual level</i>						
Age	ref. 0.02*** (0.00)	ref. 0.02*** (0.00)	ref. 0.02*** (0.00)	ref. 0.02*** (0.00)	ref. 0.02*** (0.00)	ref. 0.02*** (0.00)
Education, referece:	ref.	ref.	ref.	ref.	ref.	ref.
Low						
Middle	0.17 (0.10)	0.17 (0.10)	0.17 (0.10)	0.17 (0.10)	0.17 (0.10)	0.17 (0.10)
High	0.42*** (0.12)	0.42*** (0.12)	0.42*** (0.12)	0.41*** (0.12)	0.41*** (0.12)	0.42*** (0.12)
Employed	0.05 (0.06)	0.05 (0.06)	0.05 (0.06)	0.05 (0.06)	0.05 (0.06)	0.05 (0.06)
Years in the Nbh.	0.01*** (0.00)	0.01*** (0.00)	0.01*** (0.00)	0.01*** (0.00)	0.01*** (0.00)	0.01*** (0.00)
Home Owner	0.55*** (0.05)	0.55*** (0.05)	0.55*** (0.05)	0.55*** (0.05)	0.55*** (0.05)	0.55*** (0.05)
Female	0.16** (0.05)	0.16** (0.05)	0.16** (0.05)	0.16** (0.05)	0.16** (0.05)	0.16** (0.05)
Immigrant origin	-0.38*** (0.08)	-0.39*** (0.08)	-0.38*** (0.08)	-0.38*** (0.08)	-0.38*** (0.08)	-0.60*** (0.17)
Married	0.38*** (0.05)	0.38*** (0.05)	0.38*** (0.05)	0.38*** (0.05)	0.38*** (0.05)	0.38*** (0.05)
Religion, reference:	ref.	ref.	ref.	ref.	ref.	ref.
Atheist						
Protestant	0.41*** (0.07)	0.41*** (0.07)	0.41*** (0.07)	0.41*** (0.07)	0.41*** (0.07)	0.41*** (0.07)
Catholic	0.21* (0.09)	0.21* (0.09)	0.20* (0.09)	0.21* (0.09)	0.21* (0.09)	0.21* (0.09)
Muslim	0.07 (0.11)	0.07 (0.11)	0.07 (0.11)	0.07 (0.11)	0.07 (0.11)	0.06 (0.11)
Other	0.00 (0.15)	0.00 (0.15)	0.00 (0.15)	0.00 (0.15)	0.00 (0.15)	0.00 (0.15)
<i>Contextual level</i>						
East Germany	ref. 0.06 (0.09)	ref. 0.04 (0.10)	ref. 0.05 (0.10)	ref. 0.06 (0.09)	ref. 0.07 (0.09)	ref. 0.03 (0.09)
Local Unemployment Rate	-0.02 (0.01)	-0.01 (0.01)	-0.02 (0.01)	-0.01 (0.01)	-0.02 (0.01)	-0.02 (0.01)
Population Density	0.05 (0.03)	0.03 (0.02)	0.04 (0.03)	0.03 (0.02)	0.05* (0.03)	0.05* (0.03)
Crime Rate	-2.36** (0.86)	-2.93*** (0.77)	-1.87 (1.04)	-2.97*** (0.77)	-2.32* (0.87)	-2.42** (0.88)
<i>Indices</i>						
HHI	-1.11** (0.35)					-1.42*** (0.34)
EP		-0.75* (0.31)				
CED			-2.19* (0.82)			
EGI				-7.75** (2.88)		
%Immigrant origin					-0.02** (0.01)	
<i>Interactions</i>						
HHI*Immigrant Origin						ref. 0.71 (0.51)
Constant	5.63*** (0.20)	5.63*** (0.21)	5.59*** (0.20)	5.54*** (0.20)	5.60*** (0.19)	5.72*** (0.19)
Observations	7979	7979	7979	7979	7979	7979
R ²	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.109
Adjusted R ²	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.107

Cluster-robust standard errors in parentheses; * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$

HHI: Hirschman-Herfindahl Index

EP: Ethnic polarization index

CED: Culturally weighted ethnic diversity index

EGI: Economic group based inequality index

LSU: Average regional migrant host-country language skills and usage

Table C.9: Collective efficacy and competing, inflated diversity indices

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
<i>Individual level</i>						
Age	ref. -0.00 (0.00)	ref. -0.00 (0.00)	ref. -0.00 (0.00)	ref. -0.00 (0.00)	ref. -0.00 (0.00)	ref. -0.00 (0.00)
Education, referece:	ref.	ref.	ref.	ref.	ref.	ref.
Low						
Middle	0.10 (0.11)	0.11 (0.11)	0.11 (0.11)	0.10 (0.11)	0.10 (0.11)	0.10 (0.11)
High	0.17 (0.13)	0.17 (0.13)	0.17 (0.13)	0.17 (0.13)	0.17 (0.13)	0.17 (0.13)
Employed	0.17** (0.05)	0.17** (0.05)	0.17** (0.05)	0.17** (0.05)	0.17** (0.05)	0.17** (0.05)
Years in the Nbh.	0.00 (0.00)	0.00 (0.00)	0.00 (0.00)	0.00 (0.00)	0.00 (0.00)	0.00 (0.00)
Home Owner	0.80*** (0.08)	0.80*** (0.08)	0.80*** (0.08)	0.80*** (0.08)	0.80*** (0.08)	0.80*** (0.08)
Female	0.24*** (0.05)	0.24*** (0.05)	0.24*** (0.05)	0.24*** (0.05)	0.24*** (0.05)	0.23*** (0.05)
Immigrant origin	-0.04 (0.09)	-0.04 (0.09)	-0.04 (0.09)	-0.04 (0.09)	-0.04 (0.09)	-0.23 (0.17)
Married	0.37*** (0.06)	0.37*** (0.06)	0.37*** (0.06)	0.37*** (0.06)	0.37*** (0.06)	0.37*** (0.06)
Religion, reference:	ref.	ref.	ref.	ref.	ref.	ref.
Atheist						
Protestant	0.36*** (0.09)	0.36*** (0.09)	0.36*** (0.09)	0.37*** (0.09)	0.36*** (0.09)	0.36*** (0.09)
Catholic	0.15* (0.07)	0.15* (0.07)	0.14* (0.07)	0.14* (0.07)	0.15* (0.07)	0.15* (0.07)
Muslim	0.11 (0.10)	0.12 (0.10)	0.11 (0.10)	0.11 (0.10)	0.11 (0.10)	0.11 (0.10)
Other	-0.07 (0.16)	-0.07 (0.16)	-0.07 (0.16)	-0.07 (0.16)	-0.07 (0.16)	-0.07 (0.16)
<i>Contextual level</i>						
East Germany	ref. 0.06 (0.11)	ref. -0.01 (0.12)	ref. 0.03 (0.11)	ref. 0.06 (0.11)	ref. 0.08 (0.10)	ref. 0.03 (0.10)
Local Unemployment Rate	-0.01 (0.01)	-0.00 (0.01)	-0.01 (0.01)	-0.00 (0.01)	-0.02 (0.01)	-0.01 (0.01)
Population Density	-0.02 (0.03)	-0.04 (0.03)	-0.02 (0.03)	-0.05 (0.03)	-0.02 (0.03)	-0.02 (0.03)
Crime Rate	-3.65*** (0.98)	-4.16*** (0.97)	-2.95* (1.19)	-4.31*** (0.95)	-3.65*** (0.97)	-3.70*** (0.98)
<i>Indices</i>						
HHI	ref. -1.18*** (0.31)					ref. -1.46*** (0.34)
EP		-1.00*** (0.29)				
CED			-2.61** (0.79)			
EGI				-8.20** (2.69)		
%Immigrant origin					-0.02*** (0.00)	
<i>Interactions</i>						
HHI*Immigrant Origin						ref. 0.63 (0.46)
Constant	6.00*** (0.19)	6.07*** (0.21)	5.98*** (0.20)	5.91*** (0.19)	5.96*** (0.19)	6.09*** (0.20)
Observations	7979	7979	7979	7979	7979	7979
R ²	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.073	0.074	0.074
Adjusted R ²	0.072	0.071	0.072	0.071	0.072	0.072

Cluster-robust standard errors in parentheses; * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$

HHI: Hirschman-Herfindahl Index

EP: Ethnic polarization index

CED: Culturally weighted ethnic diversity index

EGI: Economic group based inequality index

LSU: Average regional migrant host-country language skills and usage