Explaining cross-country noninvariance in attitudes toward granting citizenship rights

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In this study we test the cross-country invariance properties of measurements of citizens’ willingness to concede citizenship rights to immigrants. First we test for three levels of measurement invariance: configural, metric and scalar. The analysis suggests considerable differences in the measurement intercepts of the items across countries. Next we use multilevel structural equation modeling (Davidov et al. 2012) to explain variations in item intercepts. We show how variation in a contextual variable which reflects the civic conception of citizenship in a country may explain intercept noninvariance. The contextual variable has three categories reflecting the civic conception in a country: *jus solis*, which stands for countries in which any individual born in a state’s territory becomes its permanent citizen; *jus domicili*, which stands for countries which recognize as a citizen any individual who has established a home or has resided in the state for a long period; and *jus sanguinis*, which stands for countries in which citizenship is transferred through family ties. For the analysis we use data from the International Social Survey Program (ISSP) 2003 with the national identity module.