

# Antisemitism in Greece: Evidence from a Representative Survey<sup>1</sup>

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## Abstract:

In a recent survey by ADL (<http://global100.adl.org/#map/weurope>), Greece was the most anti-Semitic country across all Western Europe reaching a 69% with France been second with a 37%. Given the very low number of Jewish people living in Greece, the 69% of Greeks who hold such attitudes is puzzling. To shed light on the profile of those people we conducted our own representative survey of the Greek population to gauge the influence of specific demographics and the impact of key characteristics that plausibly explain the variation of anti-Semitism among the Greeks. To do so, we collected data on a variety of issues including social trust, belief in conspiracies, subjective and objective political knowledge, Jewish-specific knowledge, ideological leanings and a measure tapping into victimisation. In this report, we set out our core methodology and present the preliminary descriptive statistics from this survey. If you wish to site this report use the following:

Antoniou, Georgios, Elias Dinas, Spyros Kosmidis, Leon Saltiel. 2014. Report on Antisemitism in Greece, Summer 2014.

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<sup>1</sup> **Version 1.0, August 2014**

## **The Survey:**

**Sample:** 1045 Greeks over 18 sampled via a multistage quote random sample

**Fieldwork:** 23-27/06/2014

**Data Collection:** University of Macedonia, Public Opinion Research Unit,  
Supervisor and Head, Dr Iannis Konstantinidis, Assistant Professor

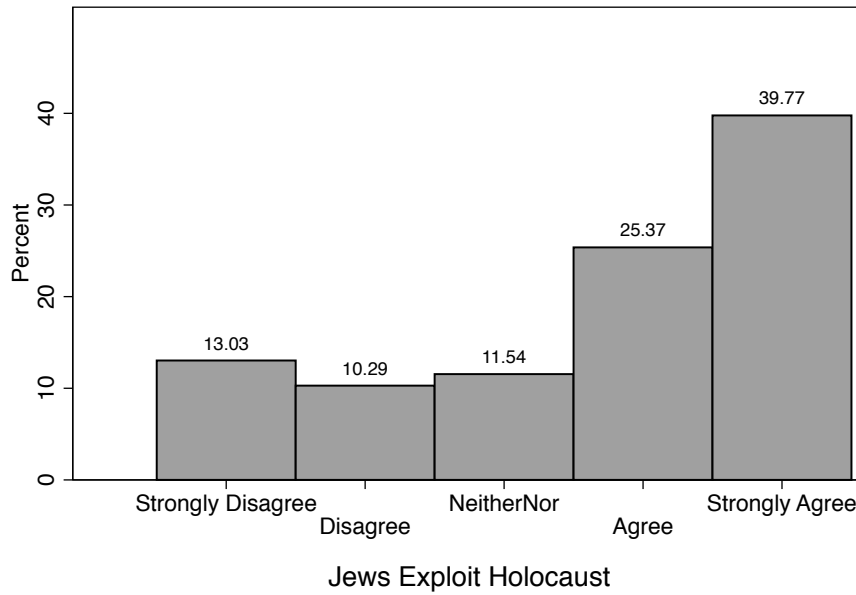
**Method of Data Collection:** CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Surveys)

## **Measurement of Anti-Semitic Attitudes:**

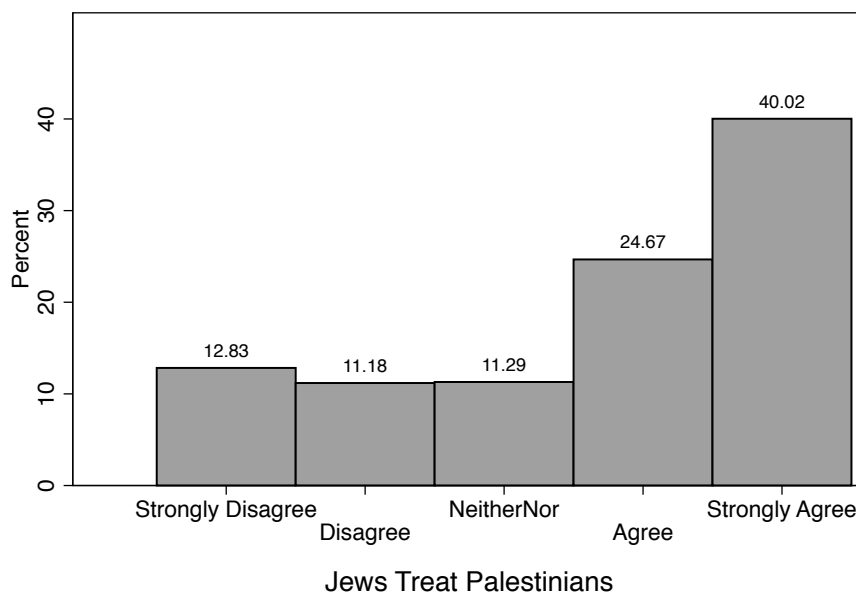
We developed three survey questions that could tap into anti-Semitic stances as well as a series of experiments to gauge alternative dimensions of anti-Semitism. In the following pages we will only present the distribution of the main observational (that is non experimental) data yet we also visualise the relationships between key variables and antisemitism.

Figure 1 presents the distribution of the Likert Agree/Disagree scale on the following two items *“The Jews exploit Holocaust to gain influence in the International arena”* and *“The Jews treat Palestinians in the same way they were treated by the Germans in WWII”*. The questions were mixed –in terms of sequence—with other statements that are unrelated to anti-Semitism. As it is clear from Figures 1 and 2 the distribution of the two variables is very similar although qualitatively distinct.

**Figure 1:** *“The Jews exploit Holocaust to gain influence in the International arena”*



**Figure 2:** *“The Jews treat Palestinians in the same way they were treated by the Germans in WWII”*



As it becomes clear the levels of anti-Semitism in Greece are extremely high and they generally confirm the recent survey by the ADL. In contrast to that survey, our survey gives us the chance to thoroughly explore the variations in anti-Semitism. The following section explores whether and how different variables relate to anti-Semitism.

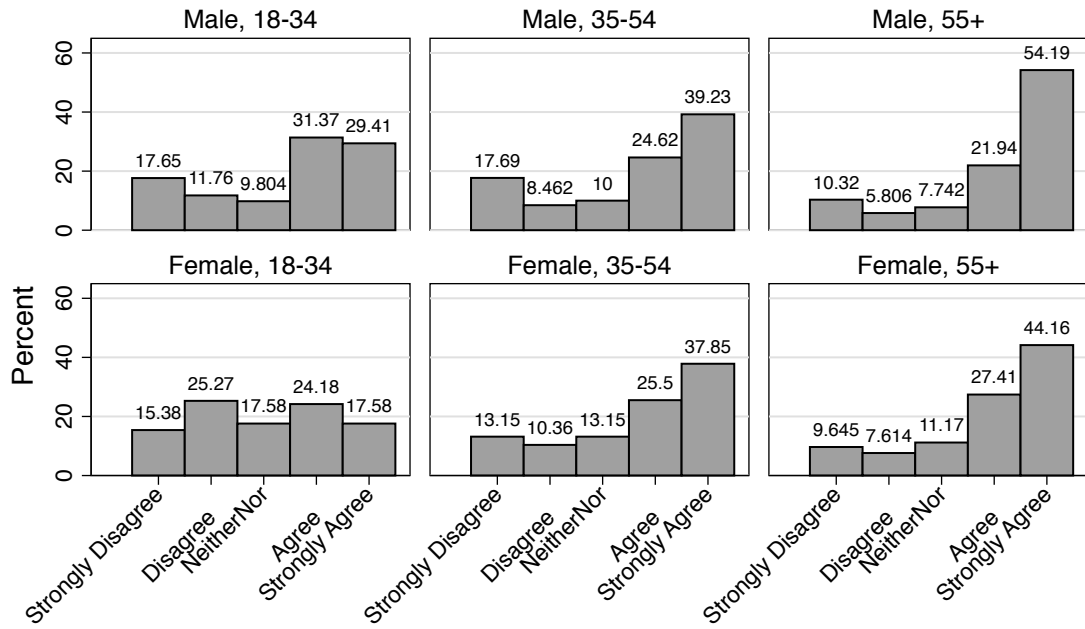
## **Explanatory Variables:**

### **1) Demographics**

We mainly explore the relationship between Age, Education and Antisemitism and we use two ways to visualise these relationships. The first includes a breakdown of the first two histograms by age groups and different levels of education. The two figures (3(a) and 3(b)) present the two anti-Semitism attitude scales stratified by gender and age. Both measures seem to reveal identical patterns (perhaps the 18-34 female figure is slightly different) namely a constant increase of anti-Semitic attitudes the older the respondents are. The gender differences are negligible with the exception of young females in the sample who demonstrate a more balanced distribution of opinions. Again, 42% is still a large percentage of anti-Semitic opinions.

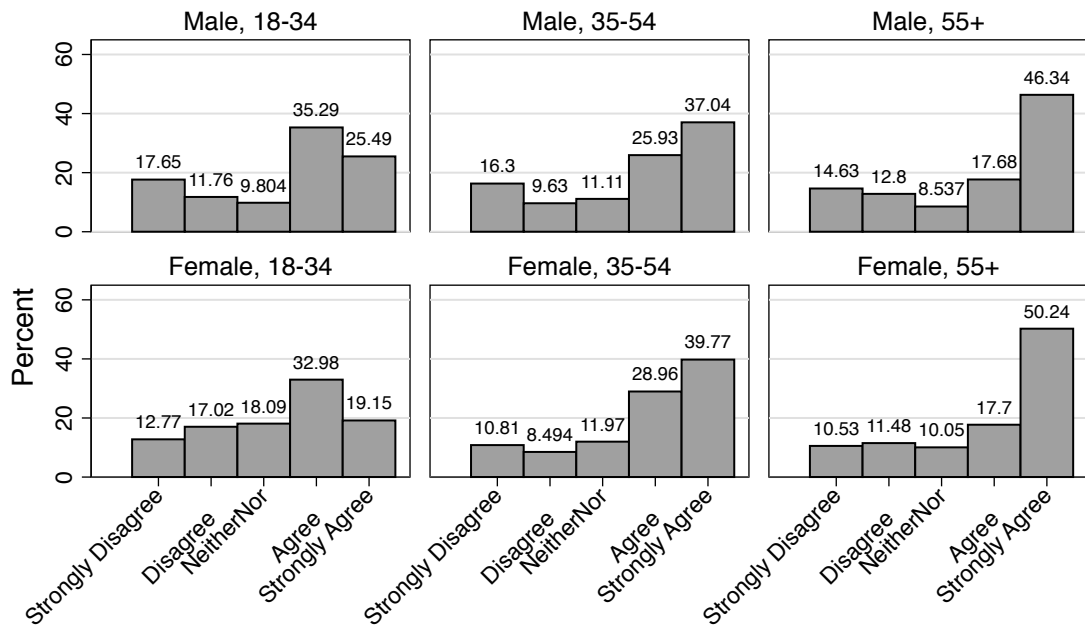
**Figure 3: Age, Education and Antisemitism**

(a)



Jews Exploit Holocaust

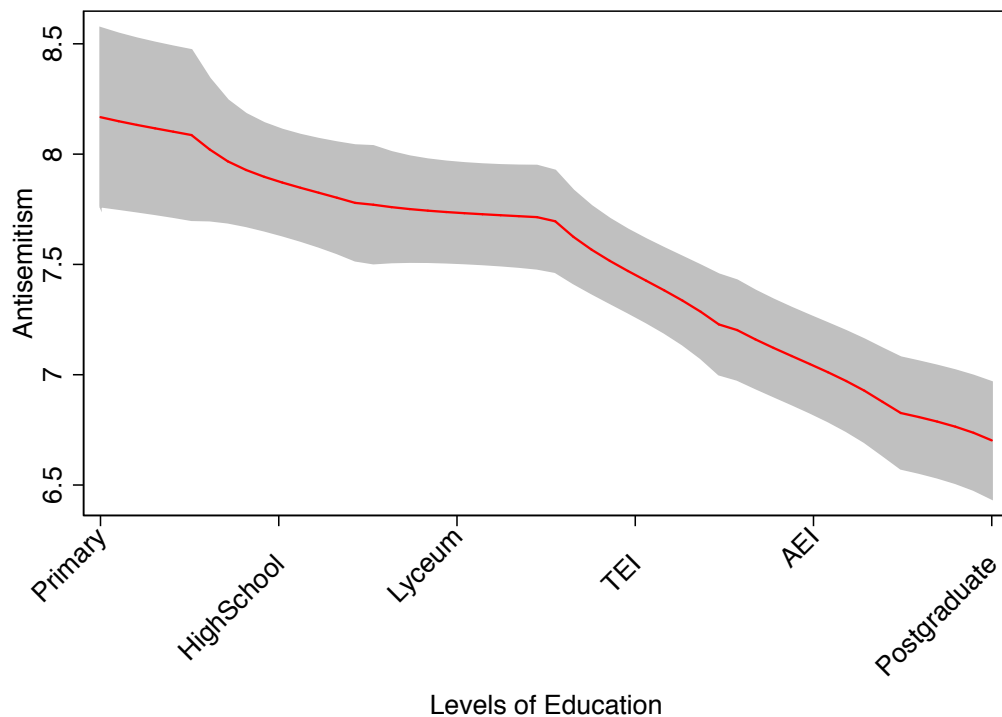
(b)



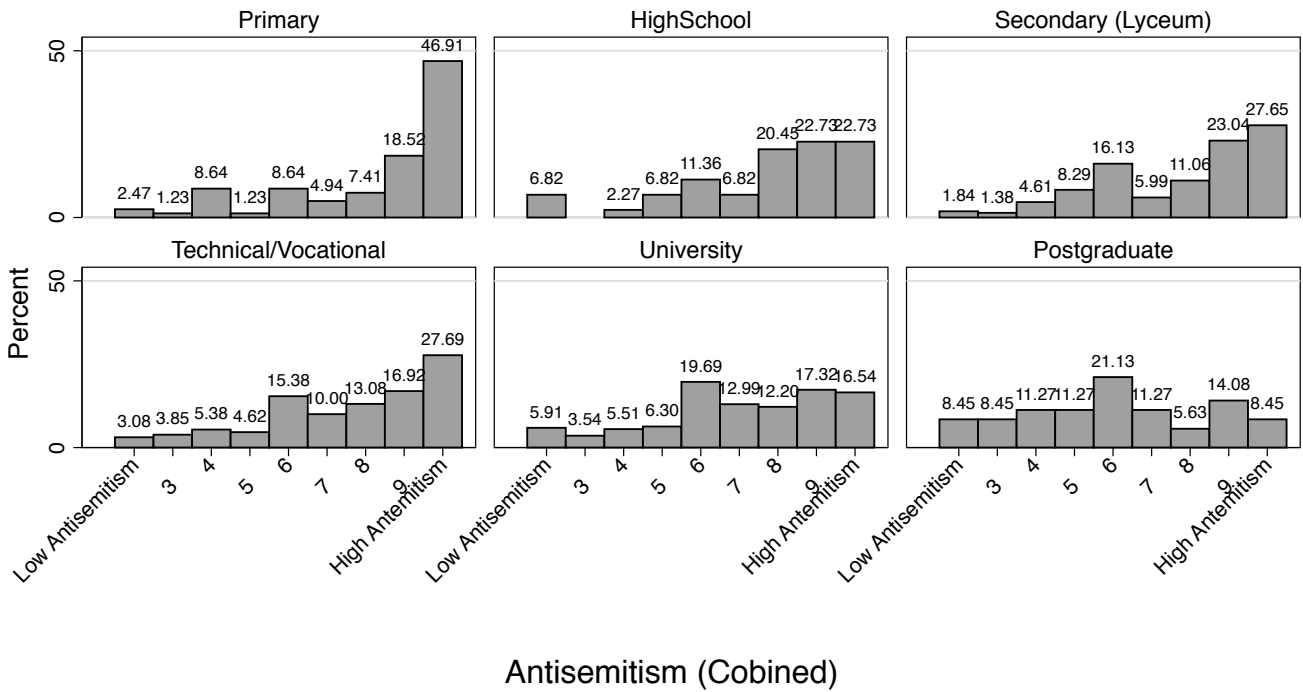
Jews Treat Palestinians

Figure 4 presents the relationship between education and anti-Semitism utilising a local polynomial smoother. Figure 4 suggests that respondents with lower levels of education hold stronger anti-Semitic views, that become weaker the more educated respondents are. This is not to say that respondents with postgraduate degrees do not hold such views. Although they are less anti-Semitic compared to respondents with no university education, their scores are still considerably high. Figure 5 is more revealing in terms of the exact numbers across education levels. Do notice, however, that the numbers for primary and high school graduates are not particularly high in our sample to make reliable inferences.

**Figure 4:** *Levels of Education and Antisemitism (local polynomial)*



**Figure 5: Levels of Education and Antisemitism (categorical)**

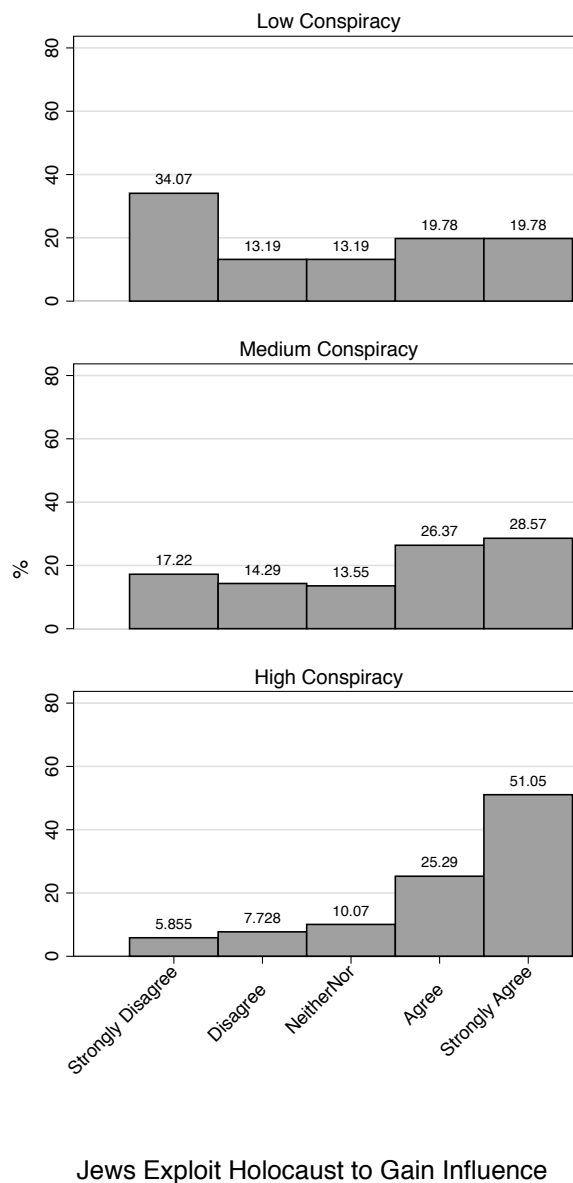


## 2) Conspiracy Theories and Antisemitism

According to the global survey on anti-Semitism conducted by ADL, the numbers for Greece are startling and significantly larger compared to any other European country. In fact it is only comparable to Middle Eastern countries. Is anti-Semitism a real attitude for Greek citizens? Do they hold such strong opinions that would define their behaviour? To address this, we collected data on a number of prominent conspiracy theories to gauge the general tendency of different responses to subscribe in conspiratorial alignments of reasoning. More specifically, we asked questions about the 9/11 events and whether this was a hoax to impose US foreign policy in the world or whether the cure for cancer has been found and the pharmaceutical industry does not

put it on sale to make more money, whether Neal Armstrong really landed on the moon in 1969 and, finally, whether the Greek crisis was imposed by international “centres”. To ease presentation we created an additive index of all these theories on which low values denote “Strong Disagreement” and high values “Strong agreement” in all four statements presented to our respondents.

**Figure 6:** *Conspiratorial Thinking (categorical) and Antisemitism*

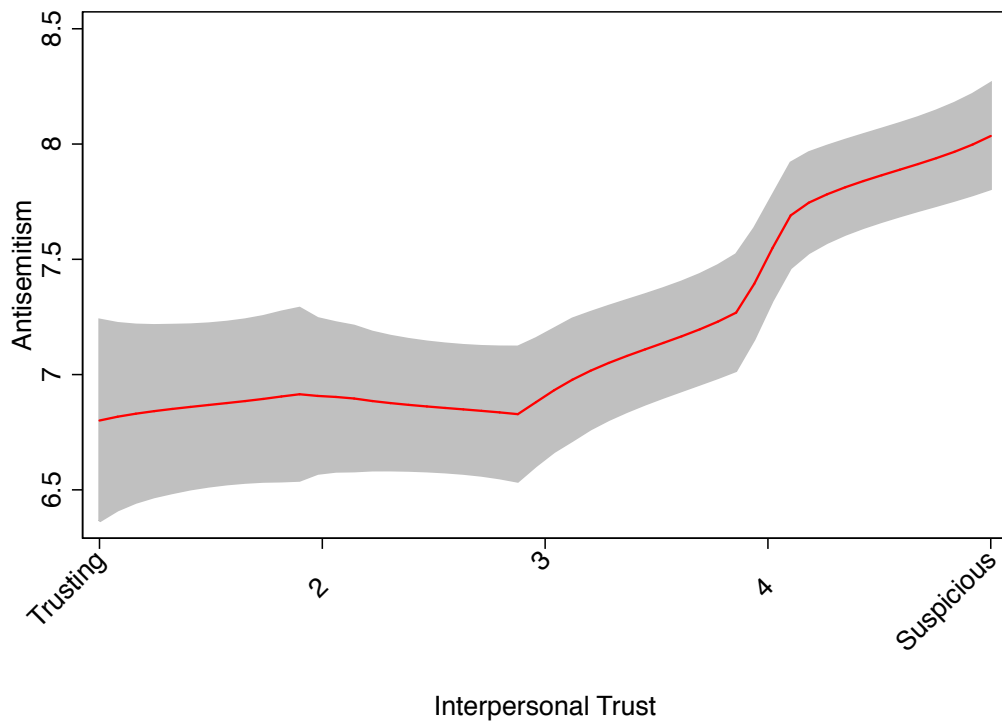




### c) Social (Interpersonal) Trust and Antisemitism

A plausible trait of respondents who would hold antisemitic views is lack of trust. We tried to evaluate this using a 5-point scale measuring whether the respondent can trust (1) or be suspicious (5) of other people. This type of scale resembles to an “interpersonal trust” measure widely used in the literature. Figure 7 plots the nonlinear relationship via a local polynomial smoother. As it is clear from the plot, respondents who are more suspicious of others are more likely to hold antisemitic attitudes. Notice that on the vertical axis we report the combined measure of antisemitism (Figures 1 and 2 combined). In this sense a 10 means a strong agreement on both items.

**Figure 7:** *Social Trust and Antisemitism*



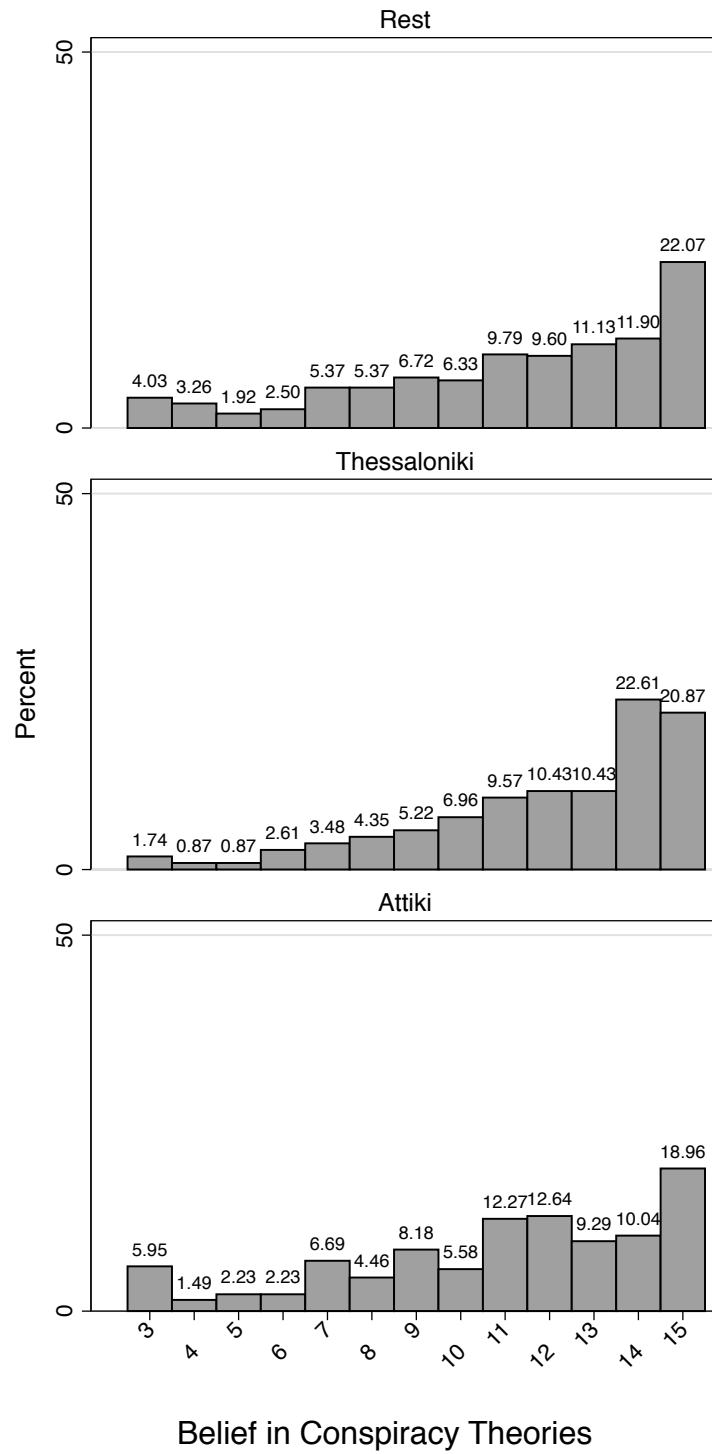
## **Final Remarks**

In this short report we have presented the distribution of some of the measures we collected in our survey along with the relationship between these variables and anti-Semitism. The purpose of this memo is to inform those interested on the topic or Greek public opinion. The project team will make this report public and it is advisable for those interested to contact the authors for any queries or ideas. We do understand that a significant part of this project was related to conspiracy theories (see Figure 6). In the Appendix you can find the details for those measures along with additional plots exploring plausible relationships that could help us understand this phenomenon. Do notice, finally, that we only present relationships that survive the significance tests of multivariate empirical models.

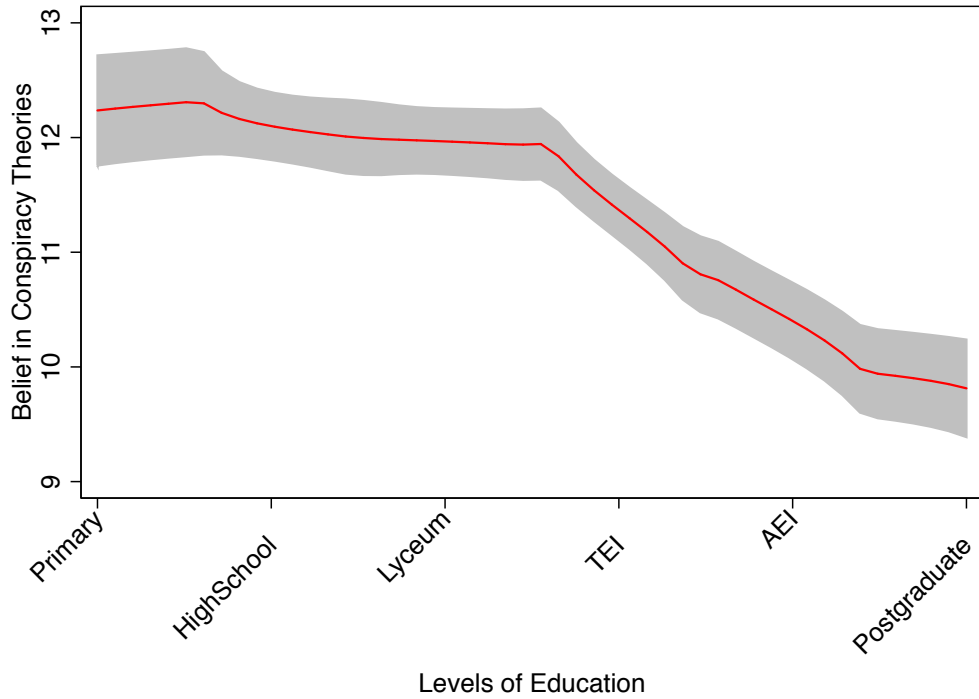
# APPENDIX

## A. Correlates of Conspiratorial Thinking

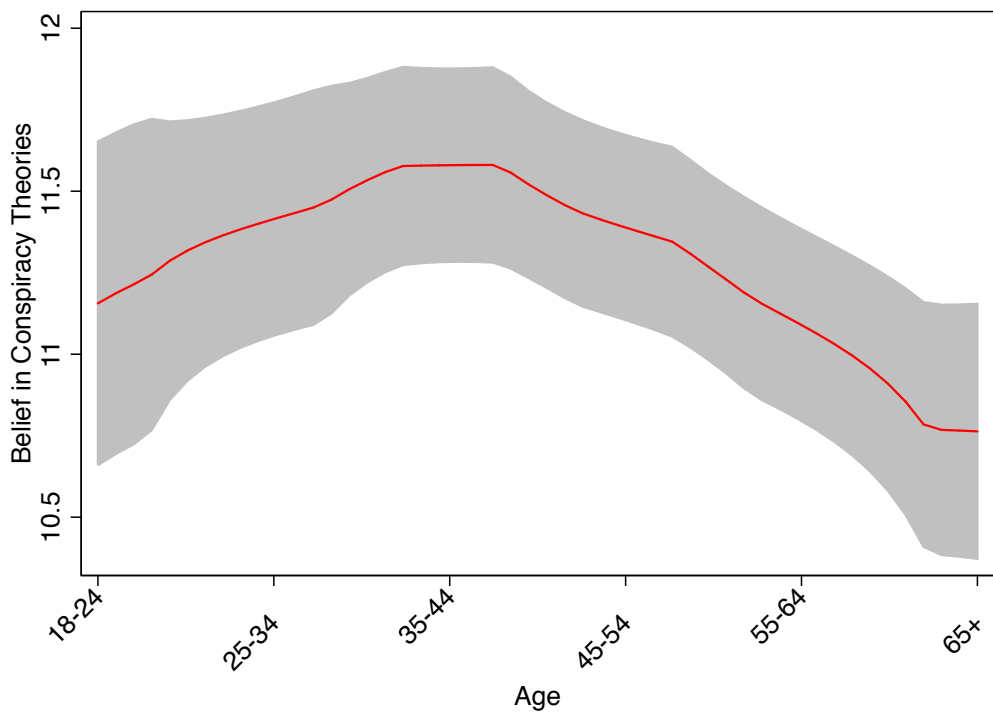
Figure A.1: Conspiratorial Thinking across regions



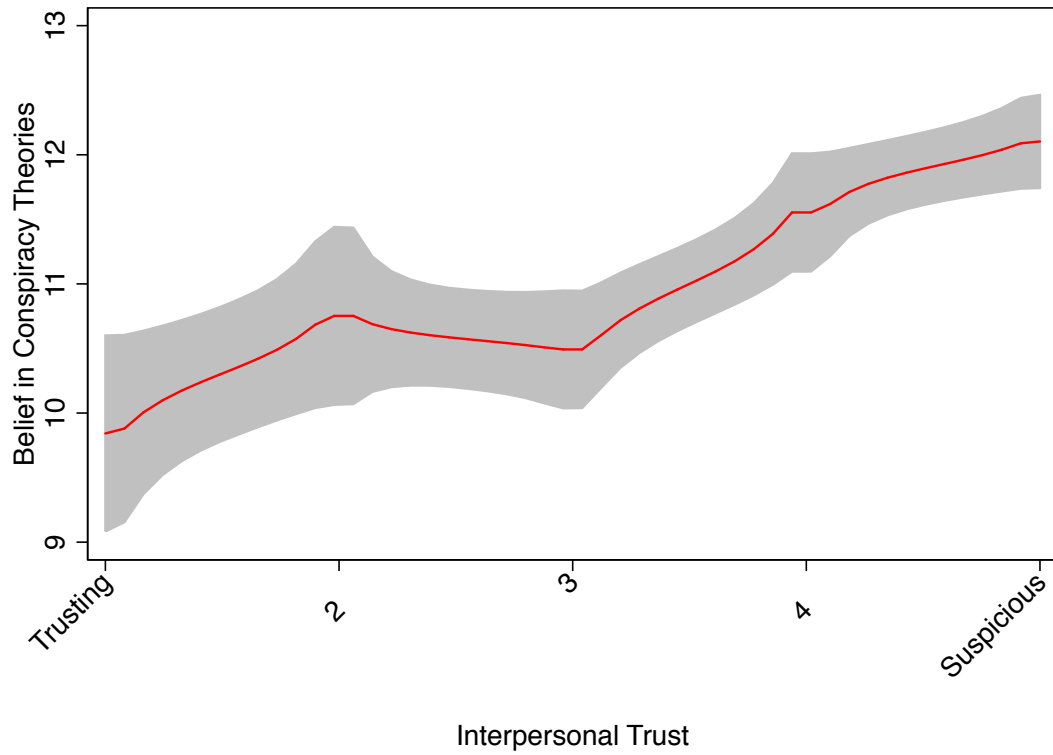
**Figure A.2:** *Conspiratorial Thinking across Levels of Education*



**Figure A.3:** *Conspiratorial Thinking across Age Groups*



**Figure A.4:** *Conspiratorial Thinking and Interpersonal Trust*



**Figure A.5:** *Conspiratorial Thinking and Ethnocentrism/Cosmopolitanism*

