

CULTURAL INSECURITY, SOCIAL TRUST, AND EVERYDAY ADAPTATION IN CHANGING COMMUNITIES

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Abstract

Cultural, demographic, and social changes are now happening at a quick pace and are affecting how communities experience their identity, trust, and adjustment. The current study explored the links between cultural insecurity, social trust, and adaptation to the everyday world, based on country-level data from the World Values Survey. A cross-sectional design with a quantitative approach was used for processing 234 country-wave observations, 213 complete observations from 95 countries and six waves of the survey were used for analysis. Cultural insecurity, social trust and everyday adaptation composite indices were created and tested for reliability, followed by Pearson correlation, hierarchical regression and bootstrapped mediation analysis. Everyday adaptation was negatively correlated with cultural insecurity and positively correlated with social trust. The final regression model indicated that cultural insecurity was a strong negative predictor; social trust and survey wave each were strong positive predictors and accounted for 12.4% of the variance in adaptation when adjusted for other variables. Results of mediation analysis indicated that social trust independently predicted adaptive outcomes but did not significantly mediate the relationship between cultural insecurity and everyday adaptation (95% CI of mediated effect did not contain zero). The results show that cultural insecurity has a direct impact on adaptive capacity, and that in turn, social trust has a protective social resource effect. Greater cultural recognition, inclusive governance, intercultural involvement, and institutional trust, therefore contribute to build up resilience and adaptation in evolving communities.

Keywords: Cultural insecurity; Social trust; Everyday adaptation; Community resilience; World Values Survey

1. Introduction

Global migration, urbanisation, technology and shifting social interaction are bringing radical changes in social, demographic, economic and cultural life in contemporary communities which are unprecedented. The transformations have contributed to redrawing local identities, changing the traditional social fabric and bringing in new cultural diversities that impact the sense of belonging and social integration of individuals. The benefits of diversity to enriching communities in terms of intercultural exchange and innovation can be accompanied by some uncertainty about the continuity of culture and the sense of collective identity. Migration studies, as well as sociology, psychology and community studies, have a growing interest in comprehending how individuals deal with these changes in their societies, which have become more and more interconnected (Castañeda, 2019; Grzymala-Kazłowska, 2018). Learning from recent study, however, it is important to recognise that an individual's sense of identity, sense of belonging and social acceptance can also shape their adaptation in culturally diverse communities, alongside structural conditions and situations, which means cultural and psychological aspects are also critical to understanding community resilience (Afonso et al., 2023; Albert, 2021; Boston et al., 2024).

Cultural insecurity is the sense that traditions, values, language, identity or way of life is being threatened by the continuing changes in society. The perceptions arise where communities face significant demographic change, immigration, economic change or shifts in culture, with people worried about their own cultural practices and collective identity being lost. Cultural insecure feelings may lead to social exclusion, identity conflicts, diminished psychological well-being and opposition to cultural diversity. Research on migration and multicultural societies has confirmed that feelings of identity

threat can affect social attitudes, emotional affiliation and intercultural relations, especially in societies undergoing rapid social change (Baumert et al., 2024; Guerra-Ayala et al., 2026). The same applies to how people understand cultural change and react to an increasingly diverse social environment, with normative beliefs around cultural integration and cultural identity negotiation affecting one's understanding (Baumert et al., 2023).

Social trust fosters cooperation, participation, mutual aid and trust in institutions. There is a positive association between high levels of trust and increased inclusion, conflict resolution and community resilience and a negative association between low levels of trust and decreased solidarity and adaptive capacity. It is not a matter of diversity itself, but of positive interaction, inclusive institutions, and meaningful intercultural engagement that is essential to its development (Dinesen et al., 2020; Fonseca et al., 2019). Everyday adaptation involves social, emotional, behavioural and cultural strategies to deal with community change. They may include the development of relationships, negotiating and formulating identities, involvement in community life, and seeking community support. Inclusive environments, social connectedness, collaborative participation, and resilient support systems help to strengthen adaptation efforts (Cubeddu & Martini, 2025; Dromgold-Sermen, 2022; Hai et al., 2025).

There is growing awareness of the link between cultural insecurity, social trust, and everyday adaptation as an important mechanism that affects the resilience of the community in various societies. People who feel more insecure about their culture may lose their desire to meet others, leading to lower interpersonal trust and fewer opportunities for them to be part of the community. On the other hand, high levels of social trust help to mitigate the negative impact of cultural threats by fostering cooperation, relationships with others, and adaptation to new environments.

Empirical research on the linkages between perceptions of cultural change, adaptive behaviours and trust as a social resource is scarce, while theoretical approaches suggest that trust can serve as such a resource.

This study is designed to shed light on the interconnections between cultural insecurity, social trust and everyday adaptation in dynamic communities using data from the World Values Survey (WVS) across nations. Specific objectives of the study include to determine the extent of cultural insecurity among community residents, measure interpersonal, institutional and community social trust, measure everyday adaptation strategies, ascertain the relationship between cultural insecurity and social trust, determine the impact of cultural insecurity and social trust on everyday adaptation, and explore differences based on community and demographic characteristics.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 Research Design

The method of the study is quantitative and cross-sectional secondary data analysis with publicly available data from the World Values Survey (WVS). The research was designed as a comparative, cross-national study to examine the correlation between cultural insecurity, social trust, and daily life adaptation in communities with different degrees of social, cultural and economic change. The analysis aimed to examine the statistical association between key constructs and how contextual community characteristics are related to adaptive behaviours. The present study was based on secondary analysis and the data were obtained by standard survey techniques executed by the World Values Survey Association, which used standardized survey procedures.

2.2 Data Source and Study Population

The data used is from the World Values Survey (WVS) country-level dataset, which includes information from nationally representative surveys, across various countries and survey waves. The data set uploaded includes 234 country-wave observations from various geographical regions, cultural settings, economic systems and demographic characteristics (Lasso, 2018). Indicators in the WVS include those related to interpersonal trust, institutional confidence, cultural values, social participation, identity, perceptions of social change, and other variables that are relevant to community life and can be measured in a standard manner. These nationally representative samples provide an appropriate basis for examining cultural insecurity, social trust, and adaptation in changing communities from a comparative perspective.

2.3 Variable Selection and Operationalisation

The list of variables analyzed was determined from the World Values Survey code book and their theoretical importance to the study's goals. Indicators of cultural insecurity were defined as threats to cultural identity, concerns about social or cultural change, attitudes towards immigration and diversity, and perceptions of societal change. Social trust was assessed through indicators of generalized interpersonal trust, institutional trust, neighbourhood trust and public organizations trust. The indicators for everyday adaptation that were used included social participation, civic engagement, community involvement, subjective well-being, perceived quality of life, and behavioral adaptation to new social circumstances. To control cross-national differences, country-level contextual characteristics were included as control variables in the data set, such as demographic and socioeconomic indicators.

2.4 Data Preparation and Measurement

Pre-statistical screening of the downloaded database was performed. The coding schemes and variable names were checked with the codebook provided. Variables of interest to the study goals were extracted and recoded as needed for consistency in interpretation across time periods of the survey. Missing observations were checked and variables with too many missing values were not used if they were inappropriate. Conceptually related indicators were appropriately standardised and then combined into composite indices of cultural insecurity, social trust and everyday adaptation. If necessary, continuous variables were transformed to facilitate comparison across countries and categorical variables were recoded into an appropriate analytical format. Descriptive statistics were obtained to assess the distribution, central tendency and variability of each construct prior to inferential analysis.

2.5 Statistical Analysis

Proper statistical software was used for data analysis. The characteristics of selected variables were summarised using descriptive statistics such as means, standard deviations, frequencies and percentages. An exploratory factor analysis was used to examine the construct validity (where appropriate) and Cronbach's alpha was used to determine the internal consistency of composite constructs. Pearson correlation analysis was performed to explore the bivariate relationships between cultural insecurity, social trust and everyday adaptation. Multiple linear regression models were then created to clarify the predictive relationship between cultural insecurity and social trust in everyday adaptation, while controlling other relevant contextual variables. To assess the incremental contribution of social trust above and beyond demographic and contextual factors, hierarchical regression analysis was used. Except for the direct pathway between cultural insecurity and everyday adaptation, which was only examined under specific model assumptions and sample characteristics, SEM was used to investigate the direct and indirect connections between cultural insecurity, social trust, and everyday adaptation.

2.6 Reliability and Validity Assessment

Before conducting the main statistical analyses, the reliability and validity of the selected measures were tested. The survey items used in the study were already developed and applied by standardised international procedures, so that the variables had been gathered. The reliability of the composite measures for cultural insecurity, social trust, and everyday adaptation were re-examined in the current data set. Cronbach's alpha was computed to assess the internal consistency of the items in each construct. Any alpha coefficient ≥ 0.70 was deemed to be satisfactory. Where appropriate, exploratory factor analysis was also performed to explore the representativeness of the selected indicators for their intended constructs. To check the suitability of the variables for factor analysis, the Kaiser - Meyer - Olkin measure was computed, and Bartlett's test of sphericity was performed. Items with low factor loadings and/or lack of conceptual fit were dropped from the final composite measures.

2.7 Hypothesis Testing and Model Specification

The empirical analysis was designed to examine the postulated relationships between cultural insecurity, social trust and everyday adaptation. Everyday adaptation was considered as a dependent variable, and cultural insecurity was identified as the primary independent variable. Social trust was studied both as an independent predictor and as a possible mediating

variable. The first regression model was used to estimate the effect of cultural insecurity on everyday adaptation. The second model added social trust to evaluate its direct effect and found that the presence of social trust did not diminish the impact of cultural insecurity. Other contextual and country-specific factors were then added to the analysis to account for variations in demographic makeup, socioeconomic status, cultural diversity, institutional trust, and perceived social change. Indirect-effect analysis was used to examine the mediation effect of social trust, with bootstrapped confidence intervals. The significance of the statistical tests was determined at the 5% level and the performance of the models was measured in terms of regression coefficients, standard errors, confidence intervals, adjusted R^2 values and some appropriate goodness-of-fit tests.

3. Results

3.1 Dataset and Analytical Sample Characteristics

The original World Values Survey data set consisted of 234

country-wave observations and 1,891 variables, and the accompanying codebook provided 1,420 variable descriptions. Data screening, recoding, standardisation and construction of the study indices resulted in 220 observations with sufficient information for cultural insecurity, 227 observations for social trust, and 228 observations for everyday adaptation. Of the 213 country-wave observations, 206 (96.7%) had complete data for all three of the main constructs and were included in the final analysis. In total, these observations were from 95 countries, in six waves of the survey, Waves 1 through 6. The relatively high retention rate suggests that the chosen World Values Survey indicators were suitable to provide cross-national coverage for analysing cultural insecurity, social trust and adaptation in everyday life. The number of the original country-wave observations in the complete analytical sample was around 91%, as shown in Table 1. The wide geographical spread of the country and the six waves of the survey enabled the analysis of the variation in different cultural, institutional and social environments.

Table 1. Dataset and analytical sample profile

Characteristic	Value
Original country-wave observations	234
Observations retained for cultural insecurity	220
Observations retained for social trust	227
Observations retained for everyday adaptation	228
Complete analytical observations	213
Number of countries	95
Number of survey waves	6
Earliest survey wave	1
Latest survey wave	6

3.2 Descriptive Statistics and Reliability of the Study Constructs

Standardised composite measures are presented in descriptive statistics in Table 2. The mean score of the cultural insecurity was -0.034 with a standard deviation of 0.840 and the range of the scores was from -1.740 to 3.857 . There is a wide range,

showing a lot of variation across the countries on issues of perceived cultural distance, preference for tradition, and concern about rapid social change. The social trust was approximately centred with a mean of 0.002 , a standard deviation of 0.785 and values ranging from -1.568 to 2.793 . The mean for Everyday adaptation was -0.025 and the standard deviation was 0.730 with a range of -2.345 to 2.193 .

Table 2. Descriptive statistics and reliability of the study constructs

Construct	N	Mean	SD	Minimum	Maximum	Cronbach's alpha
Cultural insecurity	213	-0.034	0.840	-1.740	3.857	0.751
Social trust	213	0.002	0.785	-1.568	2.793	0.777
Everyday adaptation	213	-0.025	0.730	-2.345	2.193	0.635

The internal consistency of the cultural insecurity index was acceptable with Cronbach's alpha of 0.751 . The social trust measure was also found to have a good degree of reliability (alpha coefficient = 0.777). The reliability coefficient for everyday adaptation was 0.635 , which is below the accepted 0.70 , but still acceptable for an exploratory composite measure derived from the three heterogeneous measures of life satisfaction, health, and social participation. The distributions observed also suggested that the three constructs were able to

reflect meaningful variation between the countries and survey waves sampled. The distributions of cultural insecurity, social trust, and everyday adaptation scores are shown in Figure 1. Cultural insecurity had the largest positive outliers and the greatest distribution indicating that a smaller number of country-wave observations had particularly high levels of cultural insecurity. In contrast, the social trust and daily adaptation dimensions showed larger focal densities around their mean, with significant international differences, as well.

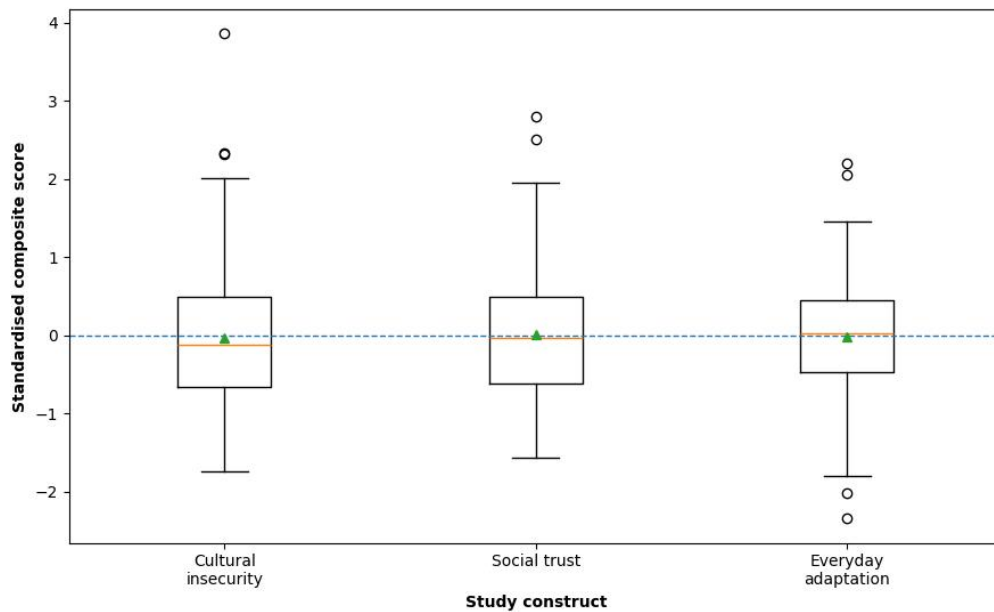


Figure 1. Distribution of Cultural Insecurity, Social Trust, and Everyday Adaptation

3.3 Correlations among Cultural Insecurity, Social Trust, and Everyday Adaptation

Pearson correlation analysis was used to evaluate the bivariate relationships between the three major constructs in the current study. Cultural insecurity was negatively associated with everyday adaptation with $r = -0.147$ as seen in Table 3. This association suggests that cultural insecurity, reported in the country wave, was associated with lower scores of everyday adaptations. The direction of the association was in the direction predicted in theory, but the size was small.

Everyday adaptation was positively correlated with social trust ($r = 0.194$). The results indicate that increased interpersonal trust and increased institutional trust were associated with increased adaptive functioning (life satisfaction, subjective health, social participation). There was a positive correlation between cultural insecurity and social trust ($r = 0.123$). But this was a loose connection, and a lack of cultural insecurity and social trust were not the only two poles of a single spectrum.

Table 3. Pearson correlation matrix

Construct	Cultural insecurity	Social trust	Everyday adaptation
Cultural insecurity	1.000	0.123	-0.147
Social trust	0.123	1.000	0.194
Everyday adaptation	-0.147	0.194	1.000

The correlation structure of the three constructs is summarised visually in Figure 2. The negative cell between cultural insecurity and everyday adaptation signifies that the two variables were inversely related, while the positive cell between social trust and everyday adaptation highlights the facilitative aspect of trust in the adaptive process. Overall, the

positive association between cultural insecurity and social trust is relatively weak, suggesting that both constructs present in some national contexts and thus need to be analyzed together in multivariate models.

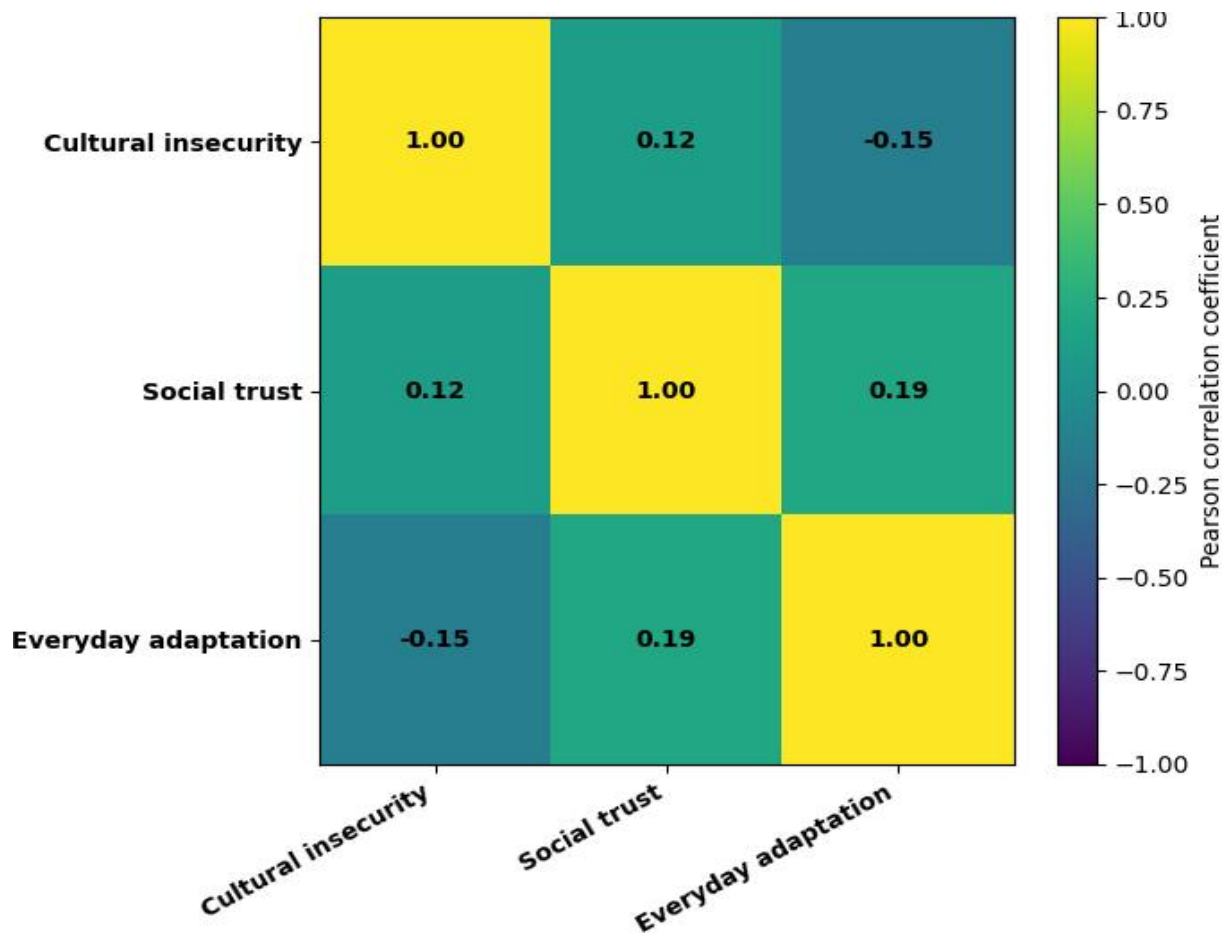


Figure 2. Correlation Matrix of Cultural Insecurity, Social Trust, and Everyday Adaptation

3.4 Hierarchical Regression Analysis of Everyday Adaptation

A hierarchical regression analysis was conducted to see if cultural insecurity and social trust were significant predictors of everyday adaptation. Cultural insecurity was used as the sole predictor in Model 1. The results indicated that cultural insecurity significantly negatively affected everyday adaptation with standardised coefficient ($\beta = -0.147$), standard error (0.061) and (p)-value (0.016). The 95% confidence interval ranged from -0.266 to -0.027 . The model accounted for a small percentage of the variance in everyday adaptation (adjusted $R^2 = 0.017$).

Similarly, social trust was integrated into Model 2 in addition to cultural insecurity. Cultural insecurity was also a large negative predictor of everyday adaptation, and the coefficient

was larger ($\beta = -0.173$), $p = 0.004$. Social trust was a significant positive predictor ($\beta = 0.216$, $p < 0.001$), and 95% confidence interval (0.098, 0.334). The addition of social trust raised the adjusted R^2 from 0.017 to 0.058, meaning that social trust explained more than cultural insecurity alone.

Survey wave was included as a contextual control variable in Model 3. Cultural insecurity was another strong negative predictor of everyday adaptation ($\beta = -0.225$), ($p < 0.001$). Social trust was also positively and significantly associated with adaptation ($\beta = 0.221$), ($p < 0.001$). Survey wave was positively associated with everyday adaptation with beta value ($\beta = 0.267$) and p value ($p < 0.001$). The model accounted for 12.4% of the adjusted variance in everyday adaptation in the final model. As seen in Table 4, only cultural insecurity was a negative predictor of everyday adaptation, and social trust and survey waves were significant positive predictors.

Table 4. Hierarchical regression analysis predicting everyday adaptation

Model	Predictor	Beta	Robust SE	t-value	p-value	95% CI	Adjusted R ²
Model 1	Cultural insecurity	-0.147	0.061	-2.401	0.016	[-0.266, -0.027]	0.017
Model 2	Cultural insecurity	-0.173	0.061	-2.851	0.004	[-0.292, -0.054]	0.058
Model 2	Social trust	0.216	0.060	3.581	<0.001	[0.098, 0.334]	0.058
Model 3	Cultural insecurity	-0.225	0.056	-4.033	<0.001	[-0.334, -0.116]	0.124
Model 3	Social trust	0.221	0.061	3.648	<0.001	[0.102, 0.340]	0.124
Model 3	Survey wave	0.267	0.061	4.355	<0.001	[0.147, 0.387]	0.124

In all of the regression models, cultural insecurity was found to be consistently related to lower levels of everyday adaptation, with social trust and survey wave controlled for. By comparison, social trust was found to be linked to greater adaptation and to be statistically significant in all the multivariate models. The positive survey-wave coefficient indicates that, overall, scores on everyday adaptation tended to be higher in later survey waves, but this temporal relationship

should also be interpreted with caution as it was not a balanced longitudinal panel. As seen in Figure 3, there is a negative linear correlation between cultural insecurity and everyday adaptation. The regression line has a negative slope, which means that the adaptive outcomes tended to be poorer at the higher levels of cultural insecurity. These individual observations were spread out but the overall trend had a statistically significant result.

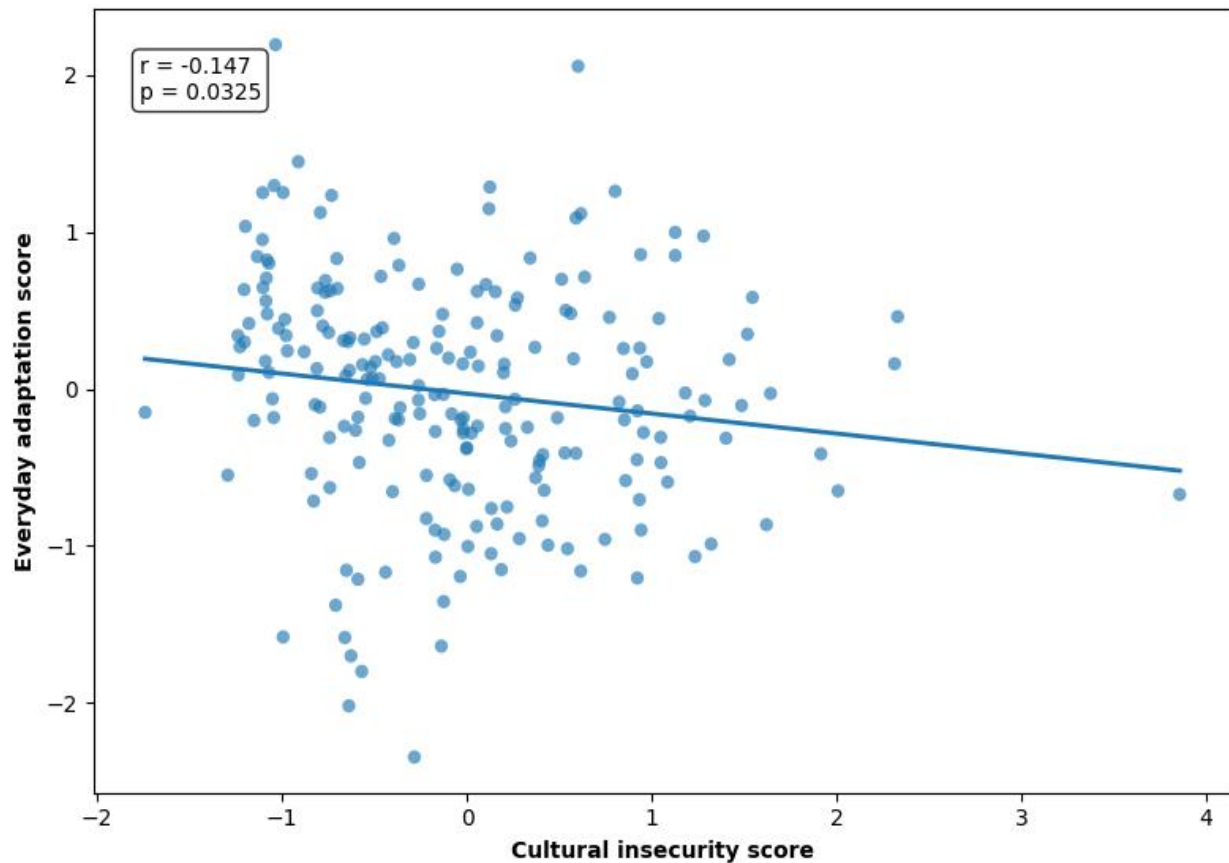


Figure 3. Relationship Between Cultural Insecurity and Everyday Adaptation

The final model standardised regression coefficients are shown in Figure 4. The negative coefficient of cultural insecurity was significant while the positive coefficients of social trust and survey wave were significant. All three

confidence intervals were well away from zero, and thus the predictors were statistically significant in the final model. Survey wave had the highest positive value, social trust was likewise positive, and cultural insecurity was the most negative.

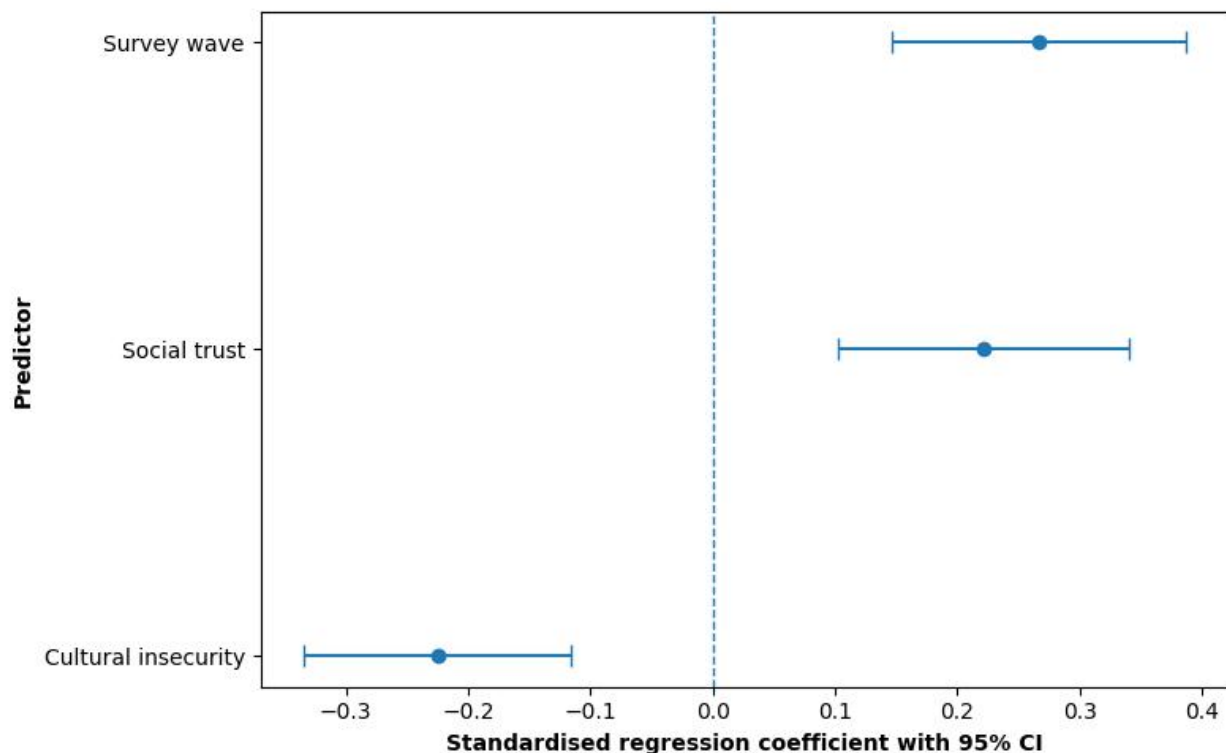


Figure 4. Standardised Regression Coefficients Predicting Everyday Adaptation

3.5 Mediation Analysis of Social Trust

For mediation analysis, a bootstrapped approach was followed to identify whether social trust was a mediator between cultural insecurity and everyday adaptation. The path from cultural insecurity to social trust was positive and statistically non-significant ($\beta = 0.123$, 95% CI = -0.014, 0.261). After accounting for cultural insecurity, the relation of social trust to everyday adaptation was positive and statistically significant with an estimated coefficient of 0.216 (95% CI: 0.098, 0.334).

The direct effect of cultural insecurity on everyday adaptation was still negative, statistically significant, and estimated as -0.173, with a 95% confidence interval of -0.292 to -0.054. There was an estimated indirect effect of 0.027 via social trust. But its bootstrapped 95% confidence interval contained -0.004, 0.064 and 0.0. Thus, the indirect effect was not significant. The total effect of cultural insecurity on everyday adaptation was (-0.147, -0.266, -0.027) with a 95% confidence interval. Table 5 Summaries Social trust had a positive effect on adaptation but was not found to be significant.

Table 5. Bootstrapped mediation analysis

Effect	Estimate	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Cultural insecurity → Social trust	0.123	-0.014	0.261
Social trust → Everyday adaptation	0.216	0.098	0.334
Direct effect	-0.173	-0.292	-0.054
Indirect effect	0.027	-0.004	0.064
Total effect	-0.147	-0.266	-0.027

The results revealed that social trust had a significant direct effect on everyday adaptation but failed to mediate the cultural insecurity adaptation path. Even after controlling for social trust, cultural insecurity was directly and negatively associated with everyday adaptation. Thus, rather than being a substantiated explanatory mechanism that is a pathway by which cultural insecurity affects adaptation, social trust should be viewed as a stand-alone social resource that protects against adaptation difficulties.

The results generally reveal that cultural insecurity had a negative correlation with everyday adaptation, while social trust had a positive correlation with adaptive outcome. Results also indicate cultural insecurity continued to affect correlation, regression analysis and mediation. However, since the data set were cross-national observations of waves, the relationships found in this study can be viewed as cross-national patterns and are not necessarily the same at the individual level and should not be interpreted as direct causal effects.

4. Discussion

The present study analyzed the cross-national data from World Values Survey to assess the relationship between cultural insecurity, social trust and everyday adaptation. The results revealed that cultural insecurity negatively correlated with everyday adaptation, and that social trust positively correlated with adaptive outcomes in changing communities. While social trust alone positively predicted adaptation, the mediation analysis showed that it did not significantly mediate between cultural insecurity and adaptation. The general results of this study confirm the proposed hypotheses and show that perceived cultural security and trust are both important factors in adaptive capacity in culturally diverse societies.

The negative relationship between cultural insecurity and everyday adaptation indicates that cultural threat, demographic changes, and shifting social norms can be detrimental to the ability to successfully adapt to changing community environments. Fast-paced social change can produce uncertainty about identity, traditions and continuity of culture, resulting in a reduction in psychological security and social inclusion. The accelerated demographic transition that many communities are undergoing can lead to increased difficulties in maintaining a balance of cultural preservation and openness to diversity. This consequently is a way of enhancing cultural resilience and inclusive social contexts, thereby lowering insecurity and fostering adaptive responses (Hu & Zhang, 2026; Huizinga & Van Hoven, 2018).

While the relationship between cultural insecurity and a lack of social trust was relatively weak, it suggests that the sense of cultural insecurity can have an impact on trust in neighbours, institutions and wider social networks. Trust is built by having positive social interactions with someone multiple times and sharing community experiences, not just cultural similarity. Thus, in communities where constructive intercultural engagement is possible through opportunities provided, demographic diversity does not necessarily lead to a decline in trust. This aligns with earlier studies indicating that in culturally diverse societies, neighbourhood relations, institutional credibility, and the values that prevail in the context shape the formation of trust (Lundåsen, 2023; Ziller et al., 2019).

One of the most salient positive predictors of everyday adaptation was social trust. Higher levels of trust were linked to increased cooperation, community engagement, information sharing, and emotional security, all of which can help to facilitate adaptation in times of social change. People who have positive views of community members and institutions are more likely to seek support from others, engage in community life, and be resilient in the face of uncertainty. This study contributes to the understanding of the role of trust as a social asset that enhances adaptive resilience in evolving communities (OECD & D., 2024; Riazi et al., 2026).

Successful adaptation can be accomplished by maintaining cultural identity and interacting with changing social context. Maintaining traditions, developing intercultural connections, engaging in community life and relying on support networks are all constructive strategies, while cultural insecurity can result in withdrawal and decreased social interaction (Masten et al., 2021; Motti-Stefanidi & Masten, 2020).

The positive effect of survey wave exhibited in the regression analysis indicates that adaptive outcomes differ for various levels of societal development and historical contexts. Trust and adaptation to differences may also vary across communities because of varying migration experiences, educational opportunities, cultural diversity, and residence patterns. Previous longitudinal evidence also suggests dynamic identity development and reciprocal integration processes, instead of unidirectional adaptation, play a role in

adaptation (Jugert et al., 2020; Klarenbeek, 2021).

The results help advance conceptual analyses of cultural threat, social capital, community resilience and sociocultural adaptation, and reveal the distinction between cultural insecurity and social trust, as well as the complementary role of these two factors in shaping adaptive behaviour. Social trust, however, is not a major mediator but instead acts as a positive force in adaptive capacity on its own, whereas cultural insecurity is a negative force on adaptive capacity on its own. These findings also lend weight to the multidimensional view on social cohesion, which states that identity, trust, participation, and resilience are all intertwined and operate in tandem in evolving communities (Plikynas et al., 2022; Zhang et al., 2018).

Policies need to be reinforced to make cultural recognition, social trust, inclusive governance, community dialogue and intercultural participation more powerful. Fair and transparent institutions can help to diminish cultural insecurity and enhance community resilience and adaptation (Heath & Richards, 2020; Organization, 2024).

The cross-sectional and aggregated data do not provide causal or individual-level interpretation. The results also be influenced by self-reported measures, contextual differences, and unmeasured community factors. Longitudinal and mixed method/cross-cultural designs should be employed in future research to study the shift of cultural insecurity, trust and adaptation. Other areas that need to be explored are institutional trust, digital communities and intergenerational adaptation.

5. Conclusion

Social and cultural changes are accelerating and reconfiguring the nature of belonging, trust and adaptation today. This study analyzed the cross-national patterns of the relationship between cultural insecurity, social trust and everyday adaptation, by using cross-national data provided by the World Values Survey. Results showed that cultural insecurity was cross-culturally linked to less successful adaptations in daily life, while social trust was related to more successful adaptations. Hierarchical regression analysis determined that cultural insecurity and social trust did not lose their significance when considered with respect to contextual variation, and mediation analysis showed that social trust did not serve as a statistically significant mediator but was an additional protective resource. In summary, these findings indicate that two potential approaches for strengthening community resilience are to address the perception of cultural insecurity and to build social trust. The paper adds to the existing literature on cultural change by bringing these constructs together in one analytical model and offering comparison with a variety of national contexts. While the cross-sectional and aggregated nature of the data precludes causal understanding of the relationships, the data provide insight for policy and community practice. Inclusive governance, cultural recognition, institutional transparency and opportunities for meaningful intercultural interaction can help build social cohesion and enhance adaptive capacity. Further longitudinal and comparative studies are required to shed light on dynamic relationship between cultural insecurity, social trust, and adaptation in more diverse and rapidly evolving communities in the future.

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