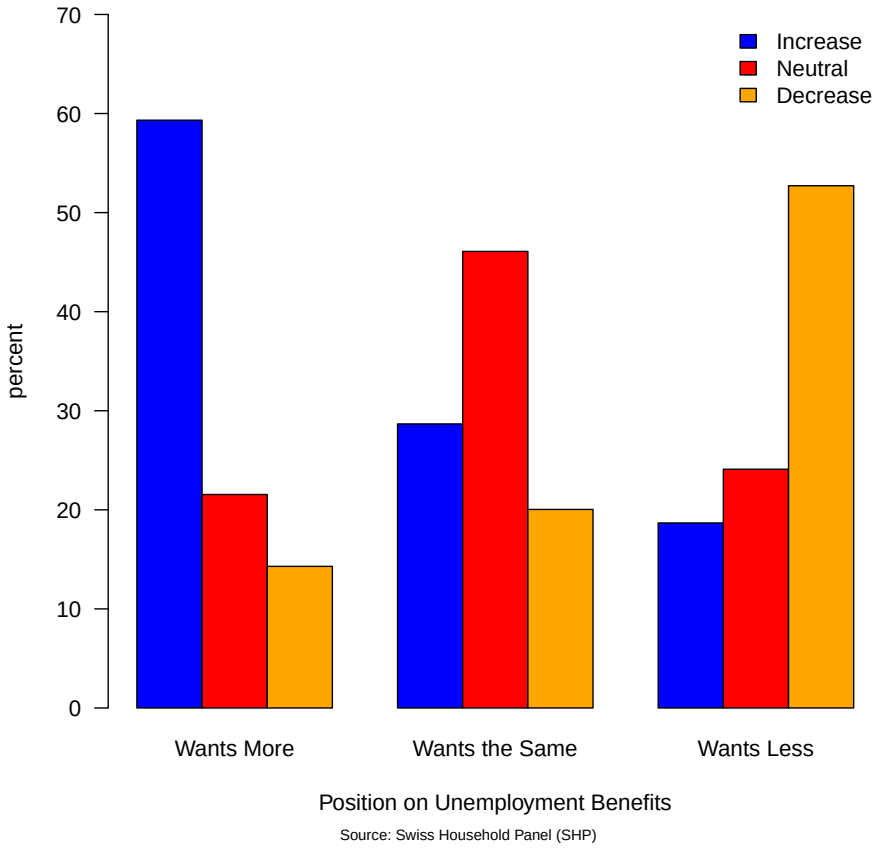
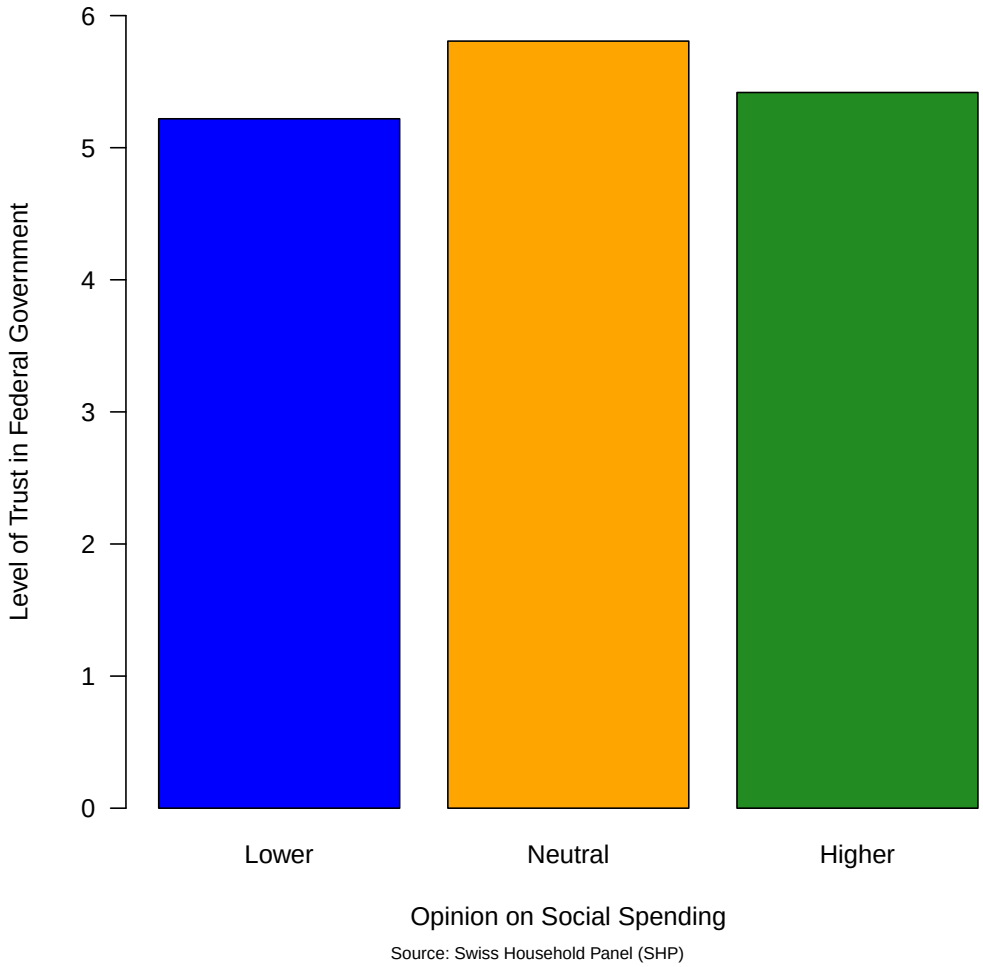
Supplementary Information (Figures and Tables) for "How do economic circumstances determine preferences? Evidence from long-run panel data"

Figure S1 Relationship between Opinions on Social Spending and Unemployment Benefits



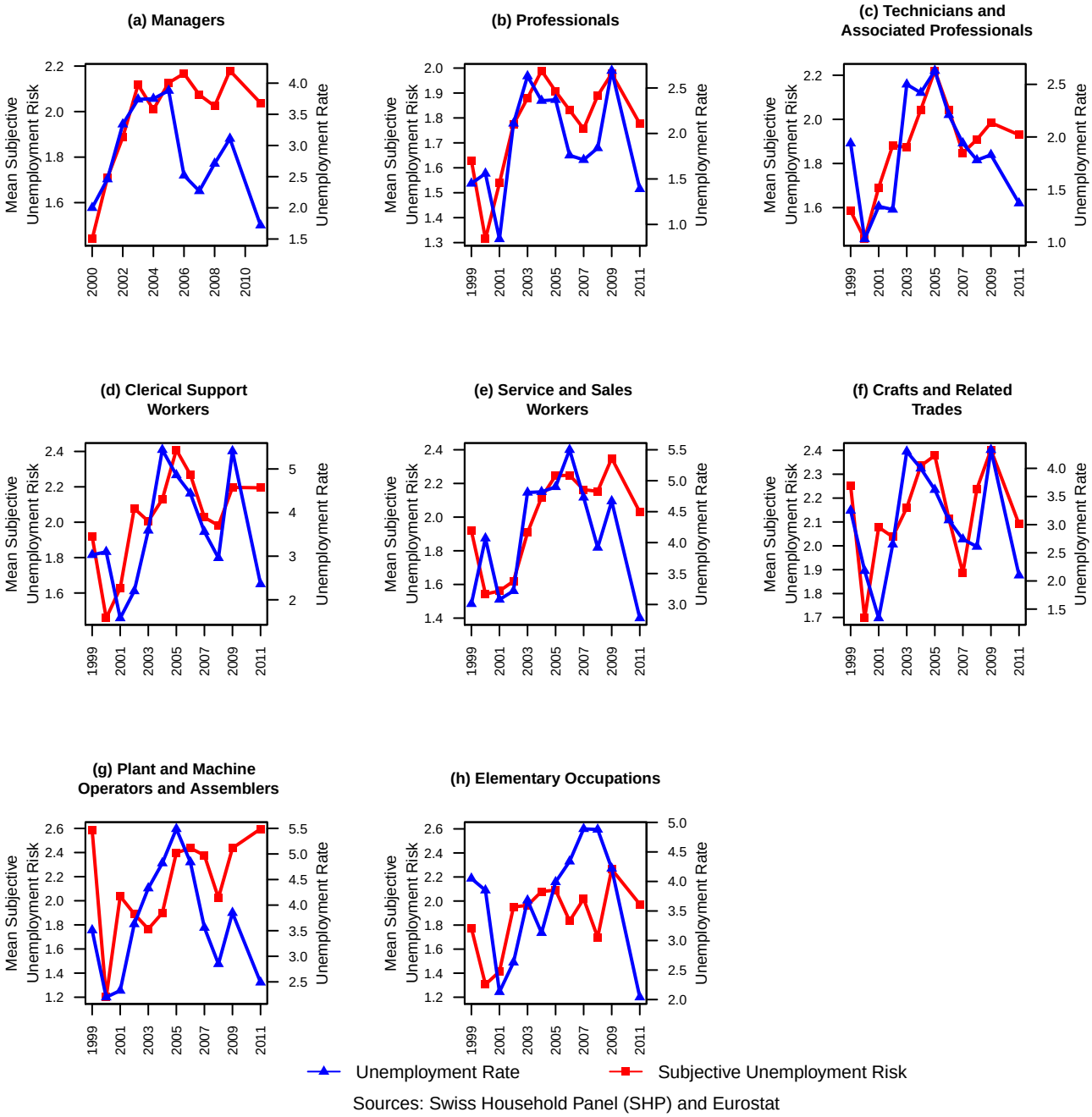
Note: The question on unemployment benefit used here asks respondents "the government spends money in different sectors. Could you please tell me, for the following sectors, if you wish the government would spend more, less or the same amount?' They are then offered a list that includes "unemployment benefits". The figure shows the distribution of opinions on social spending as a function of opinions on unemployment benefits, in 2011 only (the only year the question on unemployment benefits was asked). For example the left-hand side shows, for those respondents who wanted more spending on unemployment benefits, the percentage who wanted more social spending, less social spending, or were neutral. Responses are pooled across all waves.

Figure S2 Trust in the Federal Government and Preferences for Higher Social Spending



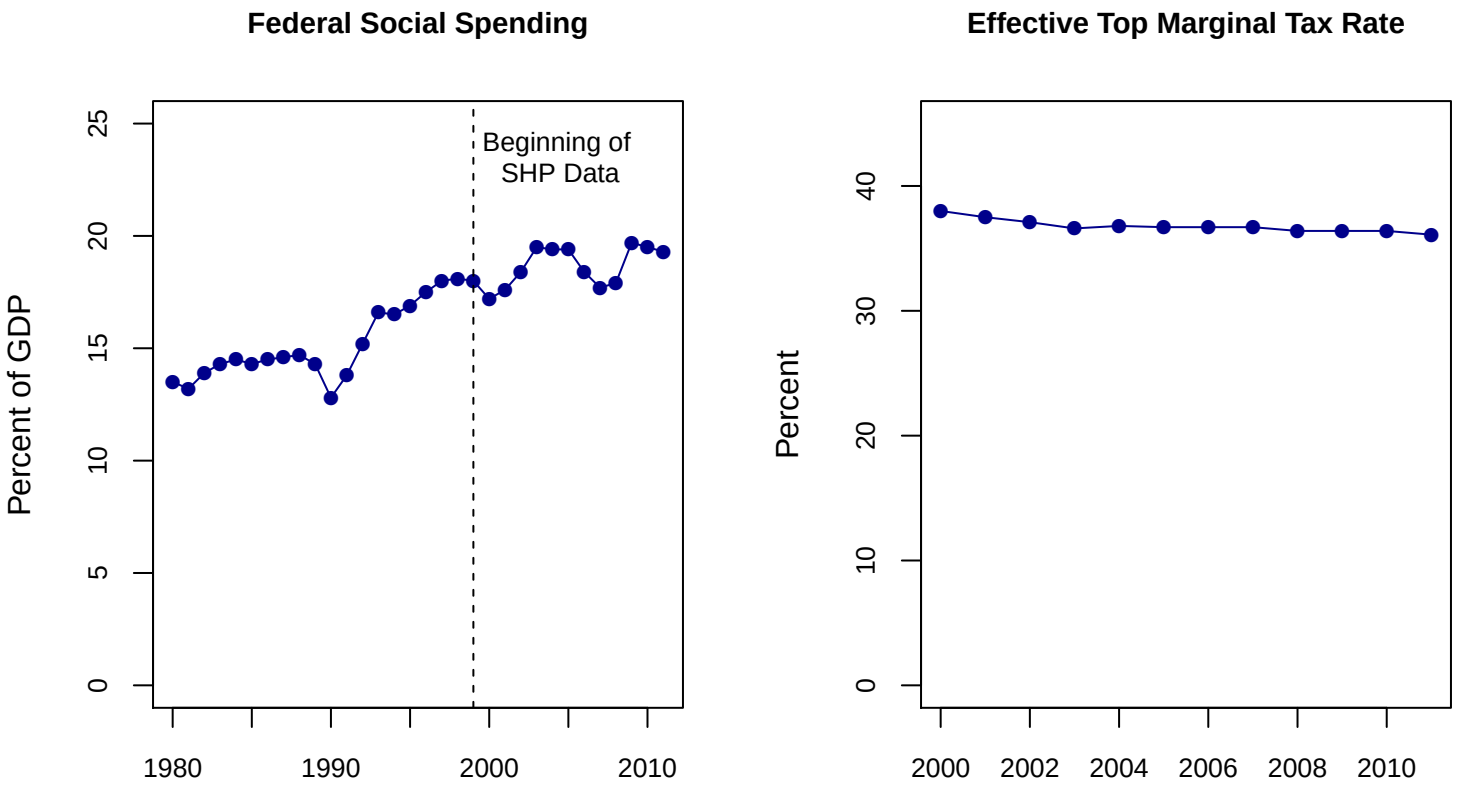
Note:The figure shows the mean score for trust in the federal government for respondents in each of the response categories for the independent variable on social spending. Specifically, the question on trust in the federak government asks: "How much confidence do you have in the federal government in Bern, if 0 means "no confidence" and 10 means "full confidence"? Responses are pooled across all waves.

Figure S3 Over-Time Changes in Occupational Unemployment Rates and Risks, 1999-2011



Note: Each panel shows unemployment rates in each of 8 occupational groups, comparing them to the mean subjective unemployment risk held by respondents in these occupations

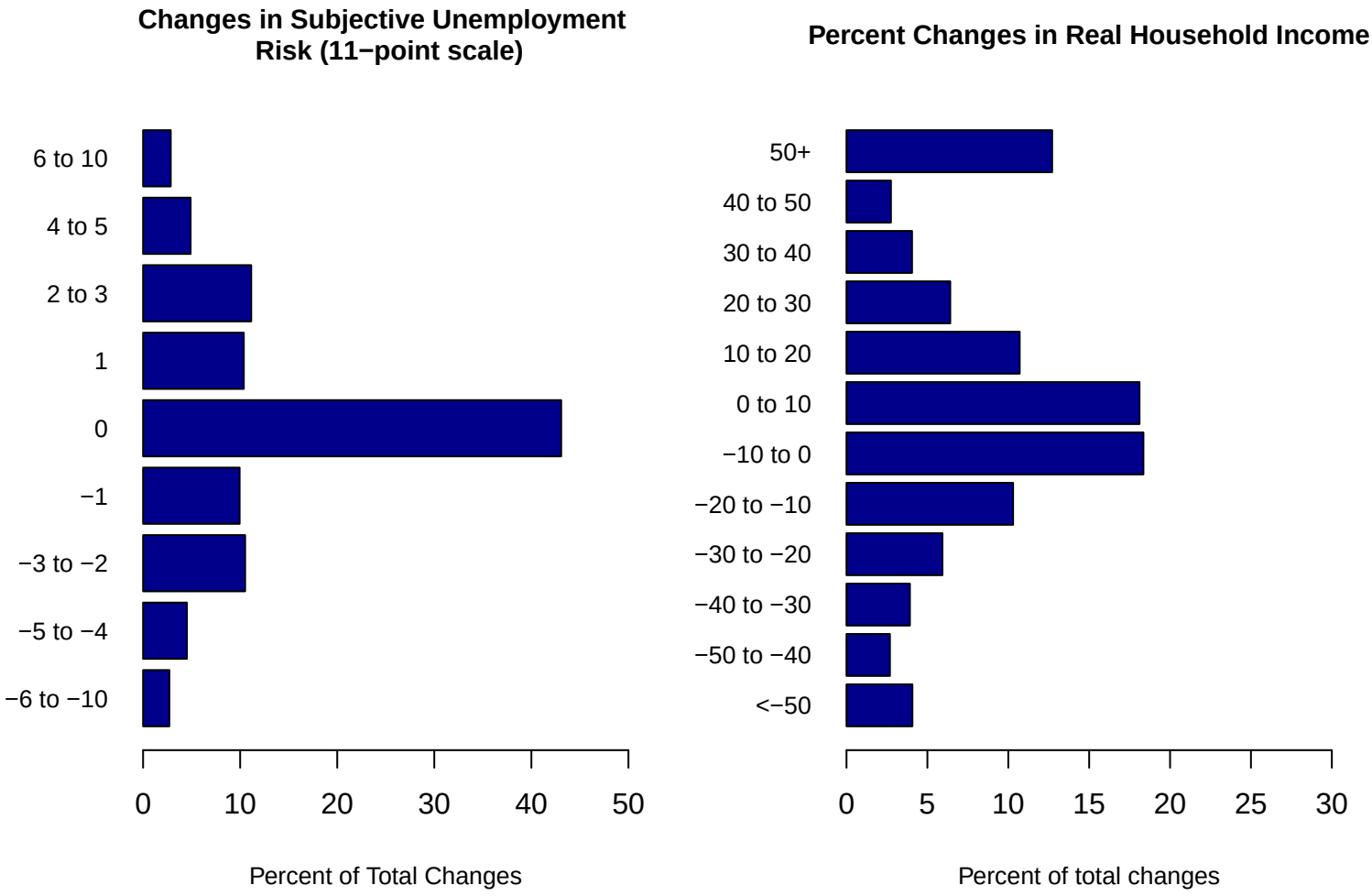
Figure S4 Swiss Federal Social Spending and Highest Tax Rate over Time



Sources: OECD Social Expenditure Database and OECD Tax Database

Note: Data on taxation for the rich only begin in 2000

Figure S5 Distributions of Changes in the Key Independent Variables



Source: Swiss Household Panel (SHP)

Note: Diagrams display disributions of changes in the variables between any two consecutive waves.

Table S1: Summary Statistics for Individuals Appearing in One Wave Only, and Sample Used in this Paper

	Those appearing for one wave only	SHP sample used in this paper[a]
Variable	Mean or Percent	Mean or Percent
Support higher social expenditure (% yes)	41.0%	43.9%
Support higher taxes on rich (% yes)	70.3%	71.7%
Subjective Unemployment Risk (scale: 0="no risk" to 10="a very high risk")	1.95	1.81
Mean household Income, 1999 Swiss Francs[b]	63,149	61,115
Female (%)	52.4%	50.1%
Mean Age (years)	36.9	38.5
Didn't graduate high school (%)	4.2%	2.2%
College Degree (%)	11.4%	13.5%
Number of observations	2,811	41,979
Number of individuals	2,811	7,844

Source: Swiss Household Panel (SHP)

[a]People appearing in at least two waves. Statistics are for the first wave in which each individual appears

[b]Equivalence-scaled to adjust for household size. The Swiss Franc was worth between $1.00 and $1.50 over the period of the panel.

Table S2: Cross-Sectional Models, Alternative Specifications

	Support for Higher Social Spending		Support for Higher Taxes on Rich	
	Ordered Logit	Logit	Ordered Logit	Logit
Income (log)	-0.141*	-0.171*	-0.514*	-0.513*
	(0.032)	(0.034)	(0.045)	(0.044)
Unemployment Risk	0.018*	0.022*	0.009	0.012
(11-pt. Scale)	(0.006)	(0.006)	(0.007)	(0.007)
Female	0.409*	0.455*	0.371*	0.384*
	(0.032)	(0.036)	(0.038)	(0.039)
Low Education	-0.158	-0.061	-0.272	-0.197
	(0.147)	(0.145)	(0.190)	(0.172)
High Education	0.307*	0.207*	-0.271*	-0.302*
	(0.050)	(0.058)	(0.058)	(0.060)
Age (years)	0.036*	0.029*	0.026*	0.023*
	(0.008)	(0.009)	(0.009)	(0.010)
Age^2	-0.0004*	-0.0004*	-0.0004*	-0.0004*
	(0.00008)	(0.0001)	(0.0001)	(0.0001)
Wave Dummies	yes	yes	yes	yes
Canton Dummies	yes	yes	yes	yes
N	41,979	41,979	41,979	41,979

$*p < 0.05$

Standard errors are clustered by household

Source: Swiss Household Panel (SHP)

Note: For the ordered logit models, dependent variables are identical to Table 1. For the logit models, the dependent variable is coded as 1 for "support", and 0 for "neutral" or "oppose". Otherwise the specifications are identical to Table 1

Table S3: Fixed Effects Models, without Wave Dummies

	Support for Higher Social Spending	Support for Higher Taxes on Rich
Income (log)	-0.002	-0.005
	(0.004)	(0.004)
Unemployment Risk	-0.000	0.001*
(11-pt. Scale)	(0.001)	(0.001)
Low Education	-0.039	-0.010
	(0.034)	(0.037)
High Education	0.015	0.002
	(0.014)	(0.012)
Age (years)	-0.015*	0.003
	(0.003)	(0.002)
Age^2	0.0001*	0.000006
	(0.00003)	(0.0002)
Constant	1.085*	0.735*
	(0.077)	(0.062)
Wave Dummies	yes	yes
Canton Dummies	yes	yes
N	41,979	41,979

$*p < 0.05$

Standard errors are clustered by household

Source: Swiss Household Panel (SHP)

Table S4: Fixed Effects Models, Alternative Specifications

	Support for Higher Social Spending		Support for Higher Taxes on Rich	
	2-point Scale	Income in Deciles	2-point Scale	Income in Deciles
Income (log)	-0.011*		-0.012*	
	(0.006)		(0.005)	
Income Decile		-0.0005		-0.002
		(0.0009)		(0.0007)
Unemployment Risk	0.001	0.000	0.003*	0.002*
	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)
Low Education	-0.041	-0.040	0.000	0.001
	(0.043)	(0.034)	(0.044)	(0.037)
High Education	0.017	0.015	0.007	0.000
	(0.020)	(0.014)	(0.019)	(0.012)
Age (years)	-0.013*	-0.013*	0.009*	0.007*
	(0.003)	(0.003)	(0.003)	(0.002)
Age^2	0.00008*	0.0001*	0.000003	0.000005
	(0.00003)	(0.00003)	(0.00003)	(0.00002)
Constant	0.871*	0.968*	0.496*	0.546*
	(0.098)	(0.067)	(0.087)	(0.051)
Wave Dummies	yes	yes	yes	yes
Canton Dummies	yes	yes	yes	yes
N	41,979	41,979	41,979	41,979

$*p < 0.05$

Standard errors are clustered by household

Source: Swiss Household Panel (SHP)

Note: For the models with income in deciles, dependent variables are identical to Table 1. For the other models, the dependent variable is coded as 1 for "support", and 0 for "neutral" or "oppose".

Table S5: Fixed Effects Model for higher social spending, for respondents who began the panel in the middle category of support

	Support for Higher Social Spending
Income (log)	0.008
	(0.006)
Unemployment Risk	-0.001
	(0.001)
Low Education	-0.093*
	(0.046))
High Education	-0.001
	(0.023)
Age (years)	-0.00003
	(0.004)
Age^2	0.00003
	(0.00004)
Constant	0.340
	(0.103)
Wave Dummies	yes
Canton Dummies	yes
N	15,408

$*p < 0.05$

Standard errors are clustered by household

Source: Swiss Household Panel (SHP)

Note: Models include only those respondents who began the panel answering "neutral" to the relevant dependent variable

Table S6: Cross-sectional models Containing Information on Parents' Ideologies

	Support for Higher Social Spending (3-pt. Scale)		Support for Higher Taxes on Rich (3-pt. Scale)	
	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)
Income (log)	-0.018*	-0.020*	-0.071*	-0.080*
	(0.008)	(0.008)	(0.007)	(0.006)
Unemployment Risk	0.002	0.003	0.001	0.0008
(11-pt. Scale)	(0.001)	(0.002)	(0.001)	(0.001)
Leftwing Father	0.083*		0.030*	
	(0.011)		(0.009)	
Leftwing Mother		0.080*		0.032*
		(0.011)		(0.009)
Poor Family	0.012	0.020	0.020*	0.027*
	(0.010)	(0.011)	(0.008)	(0.009)
Female	0.096*	0.092*	0.068*	0.061**
	(0.009)	(0.006)	(0.007)	(0.008)
Low Education	0.006	0.017	0.042	-0.045
	(0.064)	(0.065)	(0.038)	(0.061)
High Education	0.058*	0.059*	-0.028*	-0.022
	(0.012)	(0.010)	(0.011)	(0.011)
Age (years)	0.006*	0.008*	0.0002	0.0016
	(0.002)	(0.002)	(0.002)	(0.002)
Age^2	-0.00006*	-0.00008*	-0.00002	-0.00003
	(0.00003)	(0.00002)	(0.0002)	(0.00003)
Constant	0.602*	0.552*	1.563*	1.613*
	(0.098)	(0.107)	(0.087)	(0.099)
Wave Dummies	yes	yes	yes	yes
Canton Dummies	yes	yes	yes	yes
N	23,644	19,083	23,644	19,083
R^2	0.095	0.10	0.054	0.058

$*p < 0.05$

Standard errors are clustered by household

Source: Swiss Household Panel (SHP)

Table S7: Cross-sectional models Containing Information on Parents' Ideologies, without individual economic and educational variables

	Support for Higher Social Spending (3-pt. Scale)		Support for Higher Taxes on Rich (3-pt. Scale)	
	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)
Leftwing Father	0.083*		0.029*	
	(0.011)		(0.009)	
Leftwing Mother		0.083*		0.030*
		(0.011)		(0.009)
Poor Family	0.007	0.014	0.028*	0.036*
	(0.011)	(0.011)	(0.008)	(0.009)
Female	0.093*	0.089*	0.073*	0.066*
	(0.009)	(0.010)	(0.007)	(0.008)
Age (years)	0.006*	0.009*	-0.00017	0.001
	(0.002)	(0.003)	(0.002)	(0.002)
Age^2	-0.00007*	-0.00009*	-0.00002	-0.00003
	(0.00003)	(0.00003)	(0.00003)	(0.00003)
Constant	0.418*	0.350*	0.801*	0.766*
	(0.098)	(0.062)	(0.046)	(0.050)
Wave Dummies	yes	yes	yes	yes
Canton Dummies	yes	yes	yes	yes
N	23,644	19,083	23,644	19,083
R^2	0.091	0.095	0.033	0.034

$*p < 0.05$

Standard errors are clustered by household

Source: Swiss Household Panel (SHP)