

Electromagnetic Fields: Perceived Risks, Social Trust, and Confidence

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1st Survey

- Telephone Survey
- German speaking part of Switzerland
- N=1313
- Persons between 18 and 74 years of age were interviewed
- January 2002

Knowledge and Trust

- Surveys show that most people do not have much knowledge about science

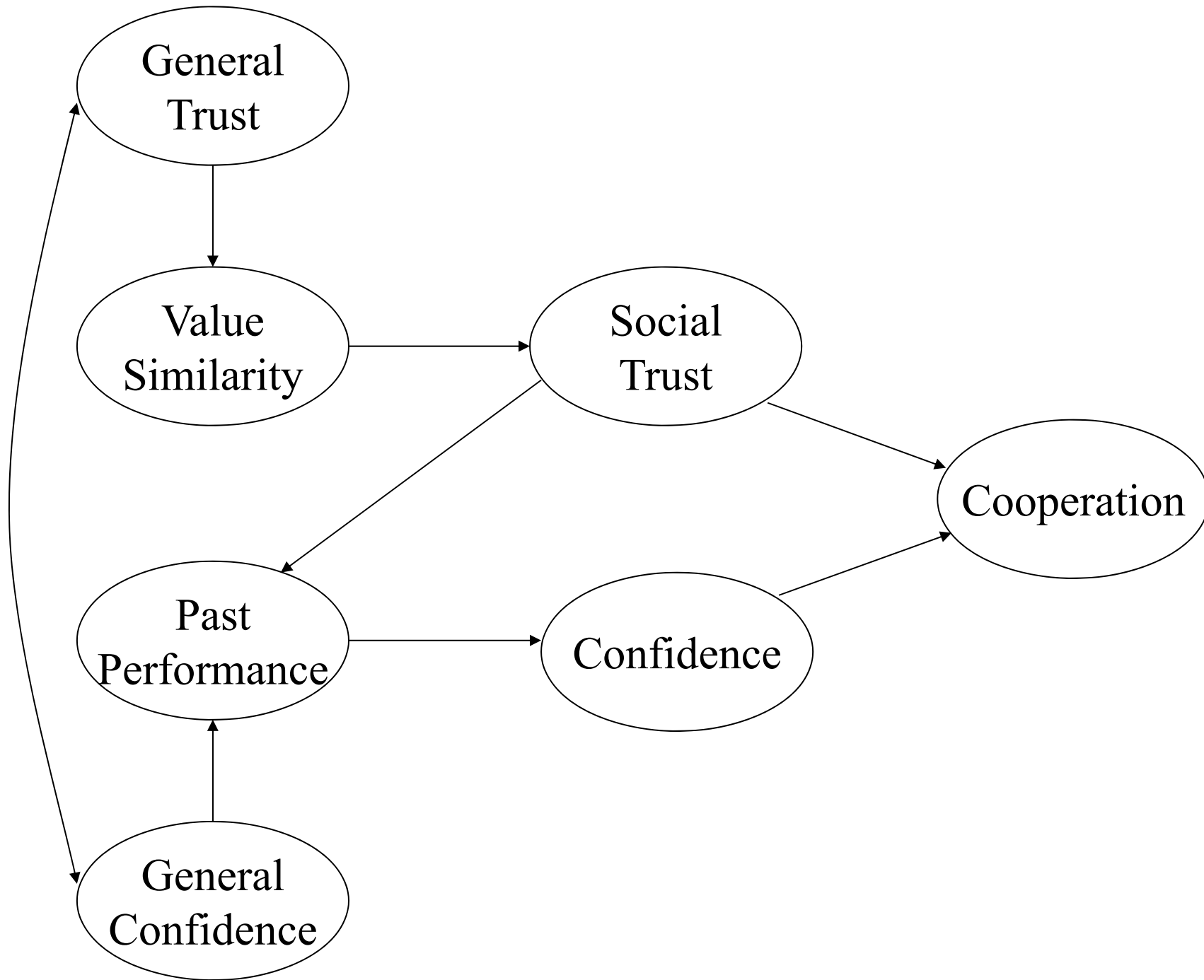


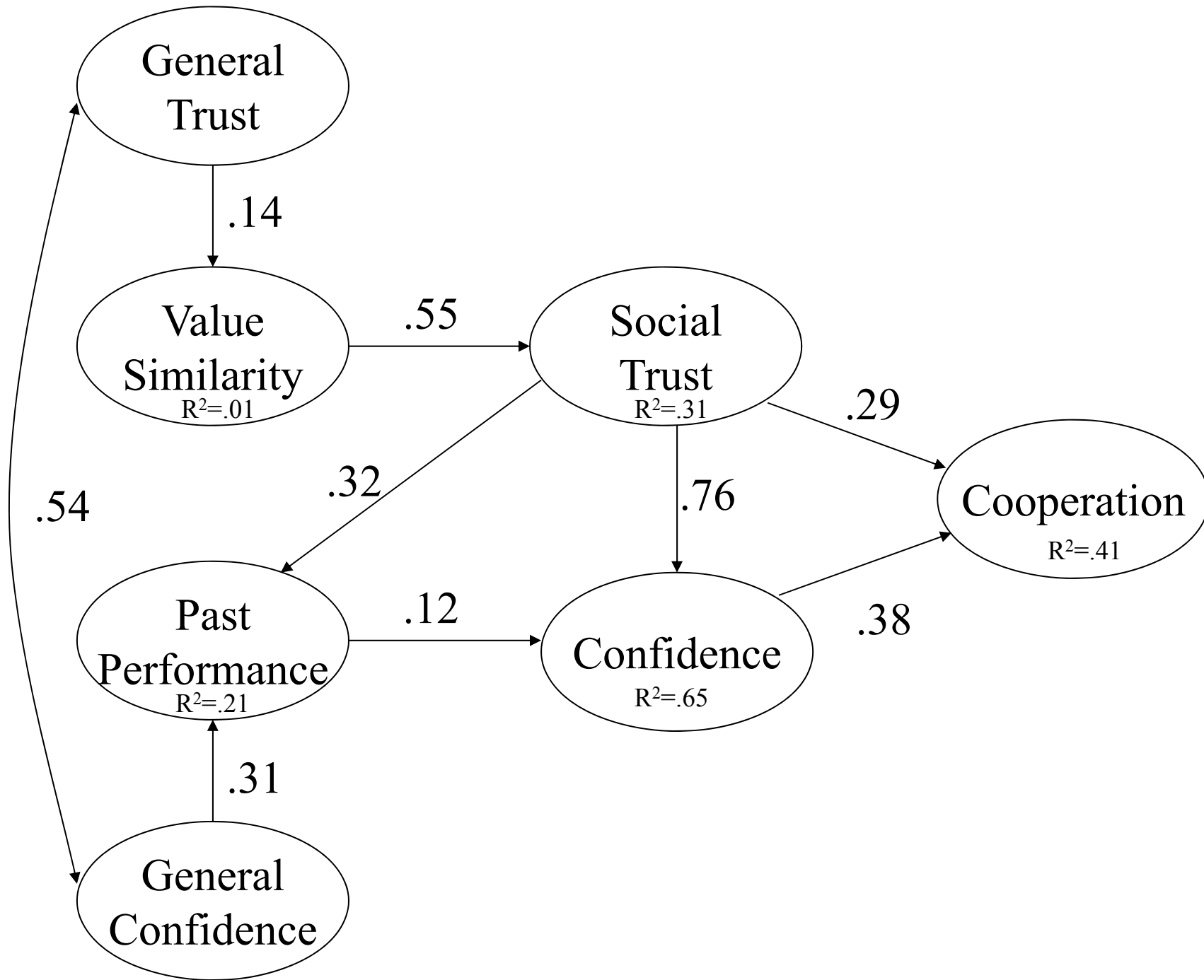
- Lay people rely on experts and on other people
- Trust is important



Different Types of Trust

- Interpersonal trust: Involves interaction
- Social trust: Trust within groups
Trust at a distance, based on limited information
- General trust: Trust across groups (among strangers)
- Confidence: Expectations based on past experience or evidence
- General Confidence: Positive expectations regarding systems





2nd Survey

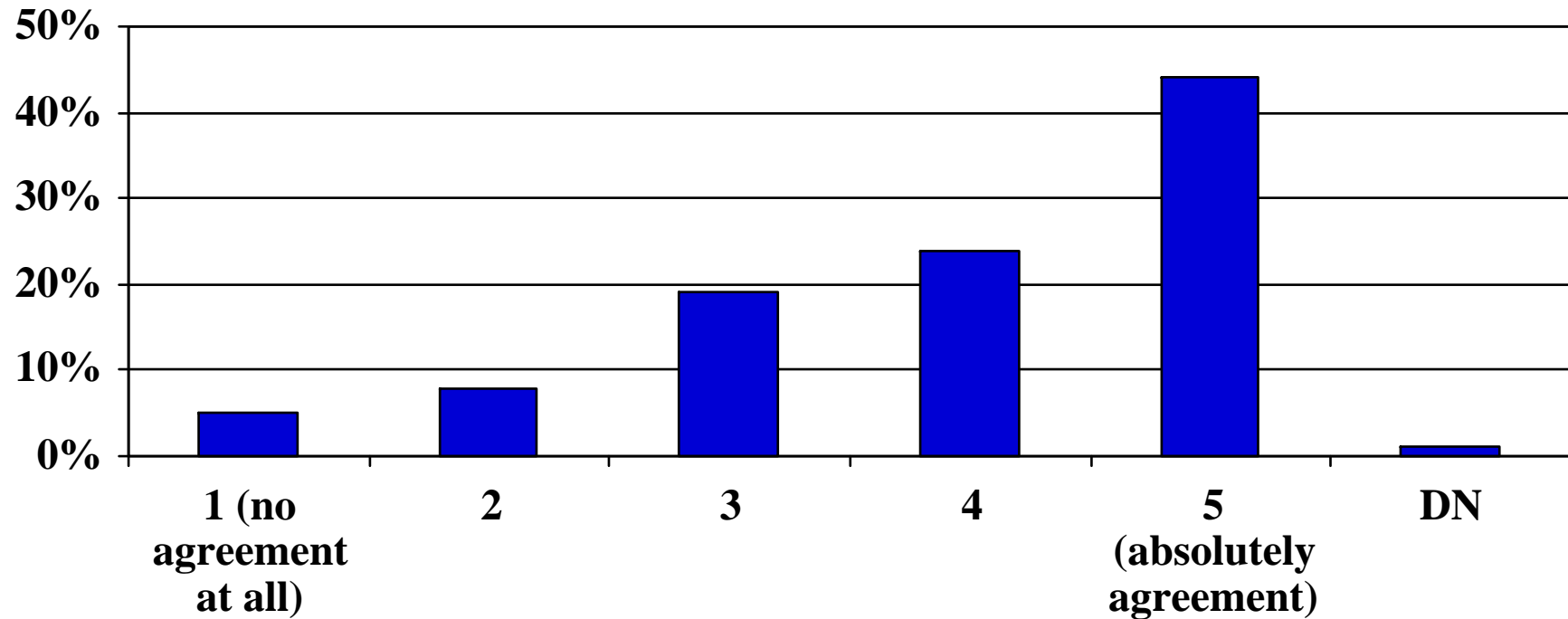
- Telephone Survey
- German and French speaking part of Switzerland
- N=1015
- Persons between 18 and 74 years of age were interviewed
- July 2002

Correlation between perceived risks and familiarity with source

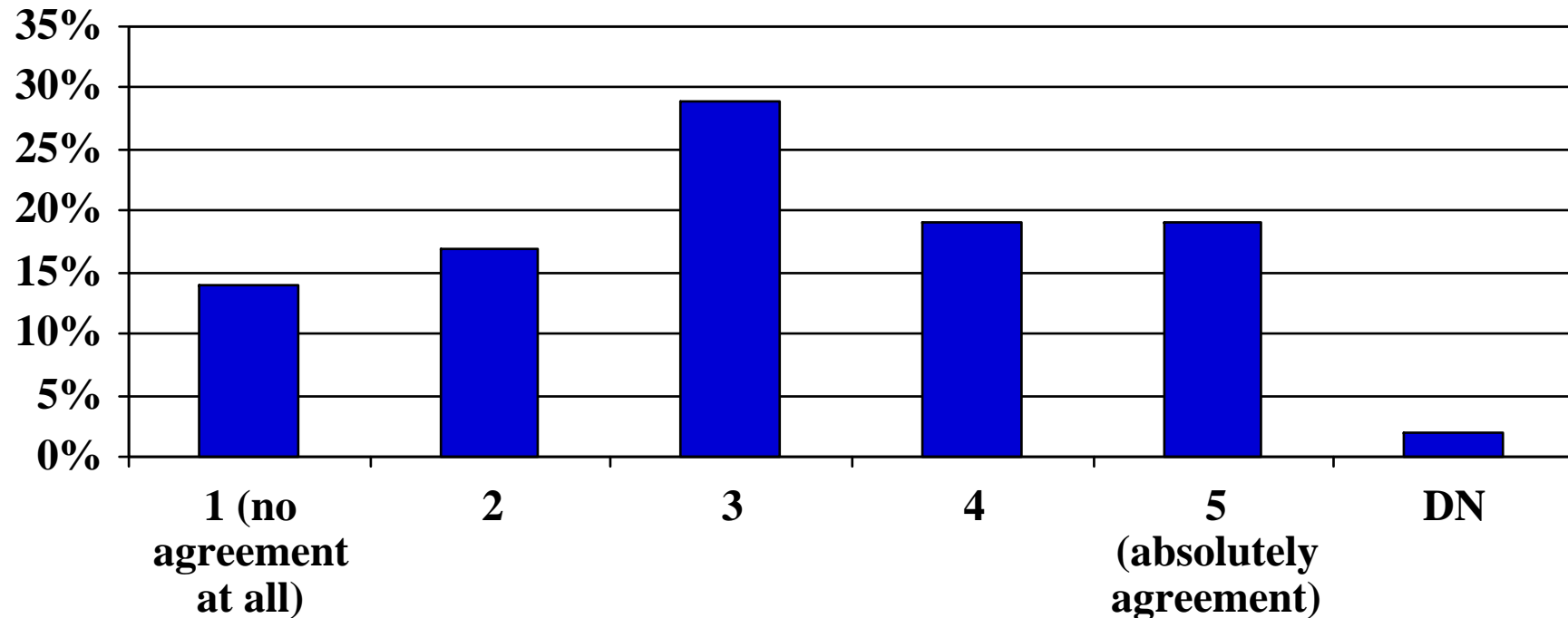
	Perceived risks	
	Mobile phone	Base station
Frequency of mobile phone use	-.17* (N=681)	-.17* (N=681)
Estimated distance from a base station	.05 (N=347)	.08 (N=347)

* P < .001

„Fixing limiting values should always be based on the worst scenario“



„The way that plants and animal react to electro-smog is a reliable predictor how humans would react“



Predictors of Perceived Risks Associated with EMF

Predictor	Standardized Coeff.
Gender	.09*
Superstition	.15**
Most chemical substances cause cancer	.22**
There are person who can detect weak EMFs	.10*
Benefit	-.17**
Trust	-.16**
Language	-.02

$R^2=.23$, * $p < .01$, ** $p \geq .001$