nature portfolio

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Reporting Summary

Nature Portfolio wishes to improve the reproducibility of the work that we publish. This form provides structure for consistency and transparency in reporting. For further information on Nature Portfolio policies, see our Editorial Policies and the Editorial Policy Checklist.

Statistics

For all statistical analyses, confirm that the following items are present in the figure legend, table legend, main text, or Methods section.

n/a	Confirmed	
☐	☒	The exact sample size (*n*) for each experimental group/condition, given as a discrete number and unit of measurement
☐	☒	A statement on whether measurements were taken from distinct samples or whether the same sample was measured repeatedly
☐	☒	The statistical test(s) used AND whether they are one- or two-sided *Only common tests should be described solely by name; describe more complex techniques in the Methods section.*
☐	☒	A description of all covariates tested
☐	☒	A description of any assumptions or corrections, such as tests of normality and adjustment for multiple comparisons
☐	☒	A full description of the statistical parameters including central tendency (e.g. means) or other basic estimates (e.g. regression coefficient) AND variation (e.g. standard deviation) or associated estimates of uncertainty (e.g. confidence intervals)
☒	☐	For null hypothesis testing, the test statistic (e.g. *F*, *t*, *r*) with confidence intervals, effect sizes, degrees of freedom and *P* value noted *Give P values as exact values whenever suitable.*
☒	☐	For Bayesian analysis, information on the choice of priors and Markov chain Monte Carlo settings
☐	☒	For hierarchical and complex designs, identification of the appropriate level for tests and full reporting of outcomes
☐	☒	Estimates of effect sizes (e.g. Cohen's *d*, Pearson's *r*), indicating how they were calculated

Our web collection on statistics for biologists contains articles on many of the points above.

Software and code

Policy information about availability of computer code

Data collection	The data on values was downloaded from the respective public websites in formats compatible with Stata.
Data analysis	All analyses were performed in Stata/SE version 16.0.

For manuscripts utilizing custom algorithms or software that are central to the research but not yet described in published literature, software must be made available to editors and reviewers. We strongly encourage code deposition in a community repository (e.g. GitHub). See the Nature Portfolio guidelines for submitting code & software for further information.

Data

Policy information about availability of data

All manuscripts must include a data availability statement. This statement should provide the following information, where applicable:

- Accession codes, unique identifiers, or web links for publicly available datasets
- A description of any restrictions on data availability
- For clinical datasets or third party data, please ensure that the statement adheres to our policy

The datasets from the World Values Survey and the European Values Study used in this study are publicly available. They can be accessed and constructed by following the steps provided on this website, where the data can also be downloaded: https://europeanvaluesstudy.eu/methodology-data-documentation/integrated-values-surveys/data-and-documentation/.

Research involving human participants, their data, or biological material

Policy information about studies with human participants or human data. See also policy information about sex, gender (identity/presentation), and sexual orientation and race, ethnicity and racism.

Reporting on sex and gender	We analyze data aggregated to the subnational region or country level. Information on individual sex orgender is not reported.
Reporting on race, ethnicity, or other socially relevant groupings	We analyze data aggregated to the subnational region or country level. Information on individual race, ethnicity, or other groupings is not reported.
Population characteristics	See below for a description of research sample.
Recruitment	See below for a description of research sample.
Ethics oversight	This study used publicly available, anonymous data. No additional ethical approval was required. This was confirmed by the Research Ethics Committee at the Department of Economics, University of Copenhagen.

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.

Field-specific reporting

Please select the one below that is the best fit for your research. If you are not sure, read the appropriate sections before making your selection.

☐ Life sciences ☒ Behavioural & social sciences ☐ Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences

For a reference copy of the document with all sections, see nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf

Behavioural & social sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

Study description	Quantitative analysis of global cultural diversity using data from the World Values Survey (WVS) and the European Values Study (EVS).
Research sample	Data are aggregated from respondents sampled by WVS and EVS, which follow standardized recruitment protocols. The combined WVS and EVS includes 640,110 individuals from 117 countries (WVS: seven waves, 1981-2022; EVS: five waves, 1981-2021). Samples are representative of all people in the age 18 and older residing within private households in each country, regardless of their nationality, citizenship or language.
Sampling strategy	We use all data available from the WVS and EVS. In some analyses, we restrict the sample to countries with with data for all of a given set of time periods, which we specify. This is to ensure balanced samples. In other analysis, we restrict the sample to respondents with information on the subnational region of residence.
Data collection	The WVS and EVS used a global network of social scientists to conduct face-to-face interviews at respondents' homes or places of residence. Answers were recorded using paper questionnaires or Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI).
Timing	Data is collected between 1981 and 2022.
Data exclusions	Sample sizes vary depending on the cultural items analyzed and the aggregation methods used. For overall diversity analyses, full samples were utilized to calculate the Cultural Fixation Index (CFst). For sub-national district analyses, respondents without information on their district of residence were excluded. To analyze cultural diversity over time, balanced samples were used to ensure that each country was represented in all time periods. The primary analysis, which used birth years as the time variable, restricted the sample to countries with at least 10 respondents born in each half-decade between 1930 and 1994.For robustness testing, interview years were used as the time variable, including countries with respondents interviewed in every decade of the 1990s, 2000s, and 2010s. Countries and respondents were grouped into decades based on the first year of each survey wave, with 2020 grouped in the 2010s.
Non-participation	This study did not involve participant recruitment. We conduct secondary analysis of data from the WVS and EVS. Details on how the WVS and EVS sample their respondents can be found at www.worldvaluessurvey.org and https://europeanvaluesstudy.eu.
Randomization	This study did not involve randomization. We conduct secondary analysis of data from the WVS and EVS. Details on how the WVS and EVS sample their respondents can be found at www.worldvaluessurvey.org and https://europeanvaluesstudy.eu.

Reporting for specific materials, systems and methods

We require information from authors about some types of materials, experimental systems and methods used in many studies. Here, indicate whether each material, system or method listed is relevant to your study. If you are not sure if a list item applies to your research, read the appropriate section before selecting a response.

Materials & experimental systems

n/a	Involved in the study
☒	☐ Antibodies
☒	☐ Eukaryotic cell lines
☒	☐ Palaeontology and archaeology
☒	☐ Animals and other organisms
☒	☐ Clinical data
☒	☐ Dual use research of concern
☒	☐ Plants

Methods

n/a	Involved in the study
☒	☐ ChIP-seq
☒	☐ Flow cytometry
☒	☐ MRI-based neuroimaging

Plants

Seed stocks	N/A
Novel plant genotypes	N/A
Authentication	N/A