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Trust on the Internet: A Virtual Reality?

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Oral Presentation O3.1

TRUST ON THE INTERNET: A VIRTUAL REALITY?

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Social capital has recently gained popularity, but it is not a new topic. The relationship between civic engagement and trust has been well tested, and it has been used in the past to help diagnose the health of a society. Unfortunately with evolving technology, some of this research may be now obsolete. The internet has changed the way that people communicate and learn. Since the internet has reached such high proliferation rates, especially among the younger generations, it is likely to have an effect on the relationship between civic engagement and trust. Using NES survey data primarily, I tested the effects of the internet on said relationship, and internet access had an effect in the predicted direction.