Summary of Sociaal en Cultureel Planbureau (2020)  
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**Summary**

This research describes the developments of institutional trust, redistribution preferences, feelings of solidarity, social trust, discrimination and stigmatization among the Dutch during the pandemic. It draws from research on similar crises such as natural hazards (earthquakes), economic crises (2008 and 1930s) and security crises (MH17 and 9/11); and outlines probable future developments. In summary, the COVID-19 pandemic has increased institutional trust and preferences for redistributive politics since the vulnerable are seen to be especially unlucky during this crisis. Moreover, it has increased feelings of solidarity, which can be attributed to media messaging that the virus can only be battled collectively. However, it has also increased discrimination and stigmatization as people connected to COVID-19 hotspots have experienced more discrimination compared to pre-COVID-19. But the research points that these effects are likely to last only as long as the pandemic, however long that may be, after which they are bound to return to normal. The effects are deemed to be most durable for the youth which are going through their formative years during this crisis, affecting the political views of these generations in the long term.

**Implications for infrastructure**   
Infrastructure companies should not pay too much attention to shifting public opinions as these are likely to last only as long as the ongoing health and economic crisis. Although, short-term increases in conservatism may affect immigration policy which can be important for labor supply. The only certainty is the aging population accompanied by varying intergenerational solidarity. Therefore, infrastructure policies should show sensitivity to these issues, ensuring that the way infrastructure is managed and built is friendly to all generations.

**Stock-and-flow diagram**

The spread of the COVID-19 pandemic is modelled using SIR (susceptible, infected and recovered) structure (see Figure 1). Central to this model is the variable regarding institutional trust. The pandemic has had positive effects on institutional trust as citizens have responded favorably to government actions and the visibility of politicians on the media (see Table 1). This, in turn, affects the government’s ability to control the crisis, as there is less resistance to government preventative measures.

Institutional trust is important in addition to enabling government intervention because it increases the feeling of solidarity among citizens, thus boosting social cohesion and promoting overall stability of the social order. At the same time, it balances out the negative effects of stigmatization and discrimination.

Beyond the health crisis, the economic crisis, evidenced by a decreasing amount of available economic resources, has had a positive effect on institutional trust and feelings of solidarity. In times of crisis, the vulnerable are seen as less responsible for their economic shortcomings, thus preferences for redistribution rise albeit temporarily. Institutions are also looked at more favorably since they hold the key for unlocking the economic crisis.

Lastly, COVID-19 prevalence affects feelings of solidarity in two different ways. First, it increases feelings of solidarity since the uncertainty and tragedy of the situation inspires empathy and collective action. But, at the same time, the prevention measures have inspired shifts in lifestyle that increase conservatism and thus increase discrimination, ultimately negatively affecting social cohesion. The research proposes that the government and media can navigate these effects by emphasizing the importance of collaboration for exiting this crisis. As an example, views on immigration have been more favorable during the pandemic presumably because there has been less negative press on the issue since the focus has been on the pandemic.



Figure 1. Stock-and-flow diagram based on Sociaal en Cultureel Planbureau (2020). The dotted arrow is an assumption induced from the document.

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| **N.** | **Page** | **Quote** | **Causal link** |
| 1 | 1 | At the beginning of this year, the Netherlands was hit by the corona virus, which resulted in many infections in a short time and deaths. | Susceptible -> Infection rate -> Infected -> Recovery rate -> Recovered -> Infection rate  Susceptible -> Infection rate -> Infected -> Death rate |
| 2 | 2 | Also trust, solidarity and commitment between people mutually are indicative of greater social cohesion, which in turn can be conducive to social order, stability and security and the maintenance of collective provisions in a country. | Feeling of solidarity -> Social cohesion -> Stability of social order |
| 3 | 2 | An increase discrimination and stigmatization can actually put this social cohesion under pressure | Frequency of stigmatization -> Frequency of discrimination -> Social cohesion |
| 4 | 4 | Then in January the virus in China rage, few people were worried about corona. The call for preventive measures was not strong and strong government intervention probably would have met with resistance. | Infected -> Awareness of pandemic -> Resistance to government intervention  Death rate -> Awareness of pandemic -> Resistance to government intervention |
| 5 | 4 | The spread of the virus for the time being reasonably under control. | Infected -> Awareness of pandemic |
| 6 | 4 | An (expected) change in resources (for example, the loss of a job) due to corona (measures) can also influence the views and attitudes towards institutions, policy and each other. | Available economic resources -> Expected economic resources -> Institutional trust  Available economic resources -> Expected economic resources -> Feeling of solidarity |
| 7 | 6 | A reduced trust in political and social institutions (such as the House of Representatives or the judiciary) can lead to a loss of legitimacy among citizens and vice versa. | Institutional trust -> Feeling of solidarity |
| 8 | 6 | A sufficient basis of political and institutional trust currently determines the extent to which a society succeeds in curbing the spread of the virus. | Institutional trust -> Resistance to government intervention ->Infection rate |
| 9 | 9 | Trust in politics and institutions in democracies rises quite quickly after, for example, a terrorist attack, a natural disaster or an airplane disaster. | Death rate -> Institutional trust |
| 10 | 9 | Greater visibility of the Prime Minister or President through national speeches may also explain the increased confidence. | Infected -> Visibility of politicians -> Institutional trust |
| 11 | 9 | Schraff (2020) argues that it is not so much government intervention, but the development of the number of corona infections that determines confidence. | Death rate -> Institutional trust  Infected -> Visibility of politicians -> Institutional trust |
| 12 | 11 | In the longer term an economic crisis (higher unemployment rates, reduced economic growth) will have a negative impact on confidence in institutions and politics: disappointing economic performance generally leads to a decline in political confidence. | Available economic resources -> Institutional trust |
| 13 | 12 | We can expect that people will be more in favor of redistribution in the short term due to the corona crisis, but future research must show whether this is the case and how long it will last | Infected -> Feeling of solidarity |
| 14 | 14 | The unemployed are seen as more deserving of support during an economic crisis, because the blame for unemployment is often beyond their control, while in boom times the unemployed may be held more responsible for not having a job. | Available economic resources -> Feeling of solidarity |
| 15 | 15 | This turning inward manifests itself not only literally in social distancing, but also mentally in a decline in tolerance and openness during an epidemic (Schaller and Murray 2008). This translates into, among other things, an increase in divergent conservative views, such as a more negative attitude towards immigration | Infected -> Conservatism -> Frequency of stigmatization |
| 16 | 19 | People with more institutional trust often also have more trust in their fellow human beings | Institutional trust -> Feeling of solidarity |
| 17 | 20 | People are more likely to turn to the in-group, which increases social exclusion, which can manifest itself in discrimination. | Conservatism -> Frequency of stigmatization -> Frequency of discrimination |
| 18 | 21 | It can be expected that the corona crisis will also lead to an increase in discrimination | Infected -> Conservatism -> Frequency of stigmatization -> Frequency of discrimination |

Table 1. Causal links found within Sociaal en Cultureel Planbureau (2020)

**References**

Sociaal en Cultureel Planbureau (2020) *Socio-cultural consequences of corona: Expected consequences of corona on views and attitudes of the Dutch.* https://www.scp.nl/publicaties/publicaties/2020/07/17/verwachte-gevolgen-van-corona-voor-de-opvattingen-en-houdingen-van-nederlanders#, accessed on 21 October 2020.