

Peer Review

Review of: "Social Capital and National Innovativeness – The Influence of Trust and Tolerance on the National Capacity to Innovate"

Andre Luiz Romano¹

1. Federal University of Alfenas, Alfenas, Brazil

The article "Social Capital and National Innovativeness – The Influence of Trust and Tolerance on the National Capacity to Innovate" presents a relevant approach by investigating how social capital, trust, and tolerance impact national innovation. Its theoretical foundation is solid, supported by well-established authors, and the methodology uses data from the World Values Survey and the Global Innovation Index. However, some aspects can be improved to strengthen its contribution and increase its chances of publication.

- The introduction could be more objective in clearly highlighting the research gap being addressed and the study's contribution to the literature. Additionally, defining "national innovation" more precisely would be beneficial.
- In the methodology, the construction of the social capital index could be better justified, especially regarding the choice of weights and statistical robustness. Moreover, the analysis does not control for external variables such as education level, R&D investment, and GDP per capita, which may affect innovation. Adjustments are needed to minimize the risk of reverse causality bias.
- In the discussion, the relationship between trust and innovation could be further explored, particularly distinguishing between "thick trust" (internal trust) and "thin trust" (external trust between different groups). Comparing the results with recent studies on culture and innovation would also reinforce the study's originality.
- The conclusion is well-structured but could be more assertive in emphasizing the study's main contribution, particularly how the findings can influence public policies and business strategies.

Finally, a revision of the writing could reduce redundancies and improve the text's flow. With these adjustments, the article has great potential for publication in high-impact academic journals.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.