

# Dataset Relating Collective Angst, Identifications, Essentialist Continuity and Collective Action for Progressive City Policy among Gdańsk Residents

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## Abstract

This dataset contains the individual responses of 456 residents of Gdańsk who participated in the study. The study was conducted before the second term of the presidential election in Poland in 2020. Demographic variables as well as psychological measures of angst, place attachment, identification in-group continuity and willingness to engage in collective action were collected. We also measured the perception of the risk of politically motivated violence and perceived motives for the assassination of Mayor Adamowicz.

**Keywords:** collective angst, collective action, identification

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## Specification table (data records)

Subject area	Psychology
More specific subject area	Social psychology
Type of data	quantitative
How the data was acquired	Survey Monkey platform
Data format	.sav
Experimental factors	online survey
Experimental features	residents of Gdańsk

Data source location	MOST Wiedzy Open Research Catalog, Gdańsk University of Technology, Gdańsk, Poland
Data accessibility	creative commons, attribution, non commercial

## Background

Collective angst as the result of perceived threats to a group to which one belongs has usually been investigated in relation to in-group protective action (Wohl et al, 2011). We decided to explore if collective action for progressive city policy may also serve this function. We investigated this relation in the local Gdańsk context, where the assassination of mayor Adamowicz may create the feeling that Gdańsk and its values are being attacked. Our main goal was to investigate the relationship among collective angst, city identification, essentialist group continuity, and willingness to engage in collective actions for the progressive policy initiated by Adamowicz (supporting the Model of Equal Treatment, helping refugees). The second goal of this study was to explore whether collective angst related to President Andrzej Duda's reelection or Rafał Trzaskowski victory will provide the same predictions as collective angst related to the assassination of Mayor Adamowicz. In this study, we also measured the perception of the risk of a politically motivated attack.

## Methods

Participants were recruited through the official website of the city of Gdańsk, where short information about the survey and invitation to take part in the study were placed. Gdańsk.pl is an important portal with a local reach that allowed us to spread the information about the survey to the local community. We used the SurveyMonkey platform to collect the data from the respondents. Each participant declared informed consent to participate in the study. The research was in line with the ethical standards of the American Psychological Association and the Polish Psychologists' Association.

## Data records

The participants responded to several psychological measures as well as demographic questions (age, gender, place of living). The quantitative data were collected. In the case of measures consisting of several items, responses for each item were aggregated. Respondents used a 7-point response format (with 1 – strongly disagree, and 7 – strongly agree) for all scales. A detailed description of the numeric variables related to the scales are presented in Tab. 44.1.

The dataset contains perception of the motives for the assassination: verbal attacks by PiS politicians, verbal attacks by PO politicians, verbal attacks by the media, political views of the assassin, mental instability of the assassin, common use of hate speech and calls for violent action in the public debate, passivity of the state services in relation to previous cases of incitement to killings, personal conflict, poor psychiatric healthcare,

poor prison system. The dataset also includes respondents' answers as to what extent they think that aggression in public debate and the political situation in the country can lead to attempts of physical attacks on: LGBT community, refugees, economic immigrants, Catholics, Polish President Andrzej Duda, Mayor of Gdańsk Aleksandra Dulkiewicz, politicians of the Law and Justice Party, and politicians of opposition parties. A 7-point response format (anchored 1 – strongly disagree, and 7 – strongly agree) was used by the respondents.

Tab. 44.1

## Variable description

Variable	Scale	Number of aggregated items
inherit	Place attachment inherited	2
discover	Place attachment discovered	2
Ident	Group identification	12
pci	Politicised identity	2
collAct	Collective action	12
angst	Collective angst	3
essent	Essentialist in-group continuity	2
narrat	Narrativist in-group continuity	2
Duda_angst	Collective angst_Duda reelection	3
Trzaskowski_angst	Collective angst – Trzaskowski victory	3

**Data availability****Dataset DOI**

[10.34808/ypz9-mr46](https://doi.org/10.34808/ypz9-mr46)

**Dataset License**

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**References**

Wohl, M. J. A. et al. (2011) 'One day we might be no more: Collective angst and protective action from potential distinctiveness loss', *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 41(3), pp. 289–300. DOI:10.1002/ejsp.773.