

1 ORIGINAL ARTICLE

2 **Factors Influencing Trust in Algorithmic Decision-Making: An**  
3 **Indirect Scenario-based Experiment**

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## 51 **ARTICLE HISTORY**

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## 53 **ABSTRACT**

54 Algorithms are involved in decisions ranging from trivial to significant, but people  
55 often express distrust towards them. Research suggests that educational efforts to  
56 explain how algorithms work may help mitigate this distrust. In a study of 1,921  
57 participants from 20 countries, we examined differences in algorithmic trust for  
58 low-stakes and high-stakes decisions. Our results suggest that statistical literacy  
59 is negatively associated with trust in algorithms for high-stakes situations, while  
60 it is positively associated with trust in low-stakes scenarios with high algorithm  
61 familiarity. However, explainability did not appear to influence trust in algorithms.  
62 We conclude that having statistical literacy enables individuals to critically evaluate  
63 the decisions made by algorithms, data and AI, and consider them alongside other  
64 factors before making significant life decisions. This ensures that individuals are not  
65 solely relying on algorithms that may not fully capture the complexity and nuances  
66 of human behavior and decision-making. Therefore, policymakers should consider  
67 promoting statistical/AI literacy to address some of the complexities associated  
68 with trust in algorithms. This work paves the way for further research, including the  
69 triangulation of data with direct observations of user interactions with algorithms  
70 or physiological measures to assess trust more accurately.

## 71 **KEYWORDS**

72 Algorithms; Data; AI; Trust; Statistical literacy; Explainability

## 73 **Introduction**

74 “Incorrect. I am not an AI. My code name is Project 2501. I am a living, thinking entity that was created in  
75 the sea of information.” – Puppet Master (Ghost in the Shell)

76 The Fourth Industrial Revolution is characterised by the ubiquity of information  
77 and digital technologies. This revolution is epitomised by Artificial Intelligence (AI)  
78 and Machine Learning (ML), and at the heart of AI/ML are algorithms. Institutions,  
79 organisations and governments are using algorithms to cope with the vast amounts  
80 of information in these social sectors and to speed up and optimise decision-making  
81 processes [1]. For example, the widespread use of algorithms in society was partic-  
82 ularly demonstrated by the research undertaken to understand the global impact of  
83 COVID-19. During this crisis, algorithms played crucial roles across multiple domains:  
84 statistical algorithms were deployed to model virus fatality curves and study interven-  
85 tion effectiveness [2], while machine learning techniques supported molecular, medical,  
86 and epidemiological applications [3]. The successful deployment of algorithms in such  
87 high-stakes scenarios underscores both their growing importance in societal decision-  
88 making and the critical need to understand the factors that influence public trust in  
89 algorithmic systems. This evolution of algorithmic applications extends beyond pub-  
90 lic health emergencies to numerous other domains where decisions can significantly  
91 impact human lives and society. From surveillance systems monitoring public spaces

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92 to algorithms managing financial markets and predicting economic trends, these tools  
93 increasingly mediate high-stakes decisions across various sectors. The growing reliance  
94 on algorithmic decision-making in such consequential contexts necessitates a deeper  
95 understanding of their societal implications and reliability.

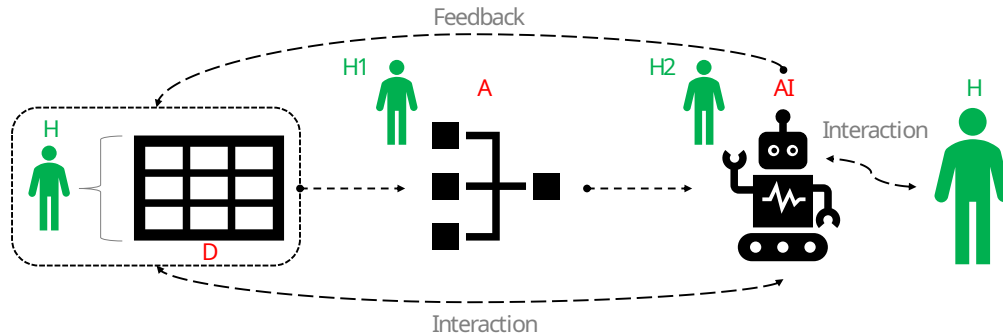
96 Algorithms help people to make decisions that have wider social implications; algo-  
97 rithms have transformative social power [4] when they are used to integrate complex  
98 data, such as the risk factors of homeless people [5] or identifying the people with the  
99 greatest need in relation to different diseases [6]. The use of algorithms to aid decision  
100 making implies that there should be some confidence in their reliability. This raises a  
101 number of important questions. First, how much trust do people place in algorithms?  
102 More specifically, does trust depend on the context in which the algorithm is used? Is  
103 trust determined by knowing how the algorithm works? And is trust affected by an  
104 individual’s cognitive abilities?

105 This study examines how trust in algorithms is affected by the societal relevance of  
106 the algorithm, the declared reliability of the algorithm, and the level of data literacy of  
107 the cogniser. First, the three key concepts of AI/ML, data and algorithms are defined.  
108 Second, it provides examples of the nature and use of algorithms in society. Third,  
109 the issue of explainable algorithms and trust is considered. Finally, the nature of the  
110 current study and the working hypotheses are outlined.

### 111 *AI/ML, data, and algorithms*

112 Broadly speaking, artificial intelligence (AI) is any type of technology that automates  
113 processes to solve problems that are usually associated with human intellectual capa-  
114 bilities [7]. More specifically, AI aims to solve problems and achieve goals with limited  
115 or no human supervision. A closely related term is machine learning (ML). Originally  
116 coined by Samuel [8], ML can be defined as a collection of algorithms (mainly sta-  
117 tistical and mathematical) to build computers capable of learning through experience  
118 (see [9]). While the terms AI and ML are often used interchangeably, ML may be con-  
119 sidered a more appropriate term than AI. Stereotypically, AI tends to be associated  
120 with rather unrealistic narratives depicting agents capable of human behaviour (see  
121 [10]), and such examples are not yet feasible (also known as general AI). ML refers  
122 to algorithms designed to perform specific tasks in an automated way (also known as  
123 narrow AI) [11].

124 ML relies on data and algorithms (see [12]), which together permeate many sectors  
125 of society (e.g. Schwab Intelligent Portfolios, [13]). While algorithms can be defined as  
126 step-by-step procedures for solving a problem, data can be defined as numerical and  
127 categorical information about objects, events, processes and people that is digitally  
128 encoded (see [12]). For example, the following steps represent a solution algorithm for  
129 estimating the central tendency in a vector of numbers: i) sum all the numbers, and ii)  
130 divide the result of the sum by the number of elements in the vector. This algorithm  
131 is known as the arithmetic mean (or average). The caveat of this algorithm is that it  
132 will be biased if the data does not follow a Gaussian shape. In other words, the output  
133 of this algorithm is only reliable if the data can be confidently shown to have a normal  
134 shape (e.g. via normality tests). In the context of AI-related technologies, algorithms  
135 are procedures designed to perform automated tasks using data sets to support human  
136 reasoning and decision making. In other words, data is used to feed algorithms, and  
137 algorithms in turn are used to drive AI agents [14]. Thus, algorithms are the “ghost  
138 in the shell” behind any AI agent. The figure 1 illustrates this relationship between



**Figure 1.** Relationship between data (D), algorithms (A) and artificial intelligence (AI) (ADA for short). Big data is used to feed algorithms, which in turn form the core of AI agents. There are four important aspects to note: i) big data revolves (in one way or another) around human-related states, processes and events, ii) such data is the substance of any algorithm, iii) algorithms are the drivers of AI agents, and iv) algorithmic/AI behaviours and outputs have implications for how new data is built and how humans (H) relate to ADA technologies in general. H1 and H2 are a subset of humans with specialised skills relevant to ADA. Source: the authors (icons from Font Awesome Free 5.2.0 by @fontawesome - <https://fontawesome.com> ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Font\\_Awesome\\_5\\_solid\\_robot.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Font_Awesome_5_solid_robot.svg)) and Mozilla ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fxemoji\\_u1F6BB.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fxemoji_u1F6BB.svg))).

#### 140 *The place of algorithms in society*

141 Algorithms influence our daily lives. Whether it is defining our interests through our  
 142 browser history [15], determining what music we should listen to [16], or where we  
 143 should go for dinner [17]. On a massive scale, algorithms are being used to extract  
 144 information from so-called “big data” and support decision making in areas as diverse  
 145 as surveillance [18], traffic management [19], and financial markets [13]. More recently,  
 146 a new field of human-algorithm interaction mediated by natural language generation  
 147 (NLG) systems has emerged, such as the Generative Pre-trained Transformer 3 model  
 148 (better known as GPT-3) [20]. GPT-3 produces human-like texts that are difficult to  
 149 distinguish from texts written by humans [21], and this has begun to raise concerns  
 150 about its use in various contexts, such as academic plagiarism [22] or computer pro-  
 151 gramming [23]. While algorithms are increasingly embedded in our digital experiences,  
 152 it is important to distinguish between their varying levels of impact on human lives.

153 As such, the majority of algorithms are used in a context that does not significantly  
 154 affect our lives. We refer to these instances of algorithmic use as low-stakes scenarios.  
 155 More recently, however, AI and ML algorithms have been used in scenarios that could  
 156 have a significant impact. For example, algorithms are being used in hiring and promo-  
 157 tion decisions [24], the criminal justice system [25], and self-driving cars [26], to name  
 158 a few. We call the latter a high-stakes scenario. That is, the above situations represent  
 159 two types of scenarios in which algorithms could affect our daily lives: one with little  
 160 involvement and almost no consequences (low-stakes scenario), and the other with  
 161 great involvement and consequences (high-stakes scenario).

162 However, our interactions with algorithms are not limited to low-stakes and high-  
 163 stakes scenarios and often involve preconceptions related to fear and distrust [27].  
 164 The literature suggests several explanations for why people do not trust algorithms,

165 including a cost-benefit oriented logic where people tend to distrust algorithms even  
166 when presented with evidence of their superior performance, as they weigh potential  
167 risks more heavily than potential benefits [28]. Many see algorithms as an “enigmatic  
168 technology” because they are difficult to understand [4] or in some cases, because  
169 people believe that algorithms are not capable of learning from their mistakes [29],  
170 but at the same time they also believe that they could be replaced by computers  
171 [30,31]. Algorithmic bias can also affect trust (see examples in medicine [32,33]. For a  
172 recent comprehensive report on trust in AI, see [34]).

173 ‘Technophobia’, a term coined by Rosen and Mcguire in the 1990s, describes the  
174 anxiety caused by a potential interaction with computers or computer-related tech-  
175 nology, usually accompanied by negative attitudes towards computers [35][36]. Recent  
176 demographic analyses have revealed nuanced patterns in technology anxiety. Research  
177 indicates no significant gender differences in technophobia scores between males and  
178 females, challenging earlier assumptions about gender-based technological comfort lev-  
179 els. The age distribution suggests that technophobia manifests across multiple gener-  
180 ations, from young adults through middle age, rather than being concentrated among  
181 older populations as often assumed. Professional background data shows particular  
182 prevalence among educators and students, with experience levels primarily ranging  
183 from novice to moderate. While the studied sample was predominantly White, it also  
184 included smaller representations from other ethnic groups, such as Caucasian, Indian,  
185 and African American participants [36,37]. These findings suggest that technopho-  
186 bia’s relationship with demographic factors is more complex than previously assumed,  
187 transcending traditional socio-demographic boundaries and affecting individuals across  
188 various social, professional, and cultural groups.

189 Similar existential fears dominate the public debate around concerns such as au-  
190 tonomous weapons [38,39]. One of these sociological fears is the fear of autonomous  
191 robots. This is a widespread fear in different countries [40,41], even though most peo-  
192 ple have not had contact with this type of robot. These fears could be the result of  
193 exposure to the way robots are portrayed in science fiction or social constructs re-  
194 lated to robots, such as the possibility of being replaced by a robot at work [40,41].  
195 This polarisation against robots and AI is fuelled by attention-grabbing events such  
196 as the recent confirmation by Blake Lemoine, a Google engineer, that the chatbox  
197 LaMDA has the ability to express thoughts and feelings like a human child [42] or  
198 the concerns about text generated by GPT-3 [43]. These examples further distract the  
199 public from the most legitimate and worrying problems of these systems, such as “data  
200 colonialism” or the disturbing parallels between AI development and European colo-  
201 nialism [44]. These parallels manifest in several ways: the extraction and exploitation  
202 of data from marginalized populations, mirroring colonial resource extraction; the use  
203 of Global South populations as testing grounds for AI systems developed in the Global  
204 North, reminiscent of colonial medical experimentation; and the imposition of Western  
205 conceptual frameworks of intelligence and ethics onto diverse cultural contexts. The  
206 field’s emphasis on “ethics” often serves, paradoxically, as a form of technocratic ra-  
207 tionalization similar to how ethical arguments were used to justify colonial expansion  
208 [44]. Additionally concerning is that algorithms may reinforce preconceived stereotypes  
209 [45] and mishandle our personal data or who our data is shared with [46], perpetu-  
210 ating historical patterns of discrimination and surveillance that characterized colonial  
211 governance. In addition, how the data given to algorithms is annotated has a direct  
212 impact on algorithmic performance [47], raising questions about whose worldview and  
213 categories are being encoded into these systems.

214 The media plays a significant role in shaping public perception of AI by cover-

215 ing two main sources of concern: autonomous technology and computer technology  
216 [48]. Autonomous technology refers to intelligent machines capable of making deci-  
217 sions independently, while computer technology encompasses software that supports  
218 communication and computation. The media tends to distinguish between these two  
219 categories and also differentiates between fear and criticism when discussing AI. This  
220 dichotomous approach to presenting the issues surrounding AI introduces a bias in  
221 how we perceive the risks associated with the technology. Consequently, this bias in-  
222 fluences the level of trust we place in AI systems. The way the media frames the  
223 discussion about AI has a substantial impact on public opinion and can lead to a  
224 distorted understanding of the actual risks and benefits of the technology.

225 Developing a better understanding of how algorithms work and how to modify them  
226 can help reduce distrust in these systems, as suggested by several authors [4,28,49].  
227 When people have knowledge about how algorithms work, they can use this informa-  
228 tion to empower themselves as users. For example, music fans have acted collectively to  
229 boost the rankings of certain bands by engaging in massive streaming or downloading  
230 [50]. Another example is LinkedIn Brazil, which changed its algorithms to allow job  
231 ads targeted at Afro-Brazilians following social pressure [51]. These cases show that  
232 understanding how an algorithm works can both minimise suspicion and empower  
233 users. It is not necessary to understand all the technical details of how an algorithm  
234 works, but rather to understand that algorithms use statistical methods to classify,  
235 sort, rank and order information. This understanding of statistical concepts is called  
236 statistical literacy [52].

### 237 *Explainable algorithms*

238 The knowledge required to understand and critically evaluate statistical results in  
239 order to make decisions based on them is defined as statistical literacy (SL) [52]. Since  
240 its inception, the concept of SL has evolved [53] to include elements related to the  
241 context in which statistical reasoning can be applied [54]. SL plays a crucial role in  
242 society [55] and the communication of statistical information is now more important  
243 than ever [56]. More recently, SL is leading individuals to recognise the importance of  
244 mathematics in the world [57].

245 Due to the statistical nature of algorithms, some level of SL is crucial to under-  
246 standing what algorithms are capable of, but this understanding will also depend  
247 on the level of transparency or explainability of the algorithms [58]. Explainability  
248 refers to the interpretability, comprehensibility or readability of the algorithm. Most  
249 of the latest algorithms are based on complex multi-layer networks, the basis of deep  
250 learning, which use an internal logic that experts cannot fully understand [59]. These  
251 systems are called ‘black box’ algorithms and various efforts have been made to pro-  
252 mote their transparency [60]. Black box algorithms are less trusted than transparent  
253 models because they cannot be explained [61].

254 Several approaches have been proposed to increase the transparency of AI models  
255 and reduce systematic errors that affect their performance. One such approach is  
256 based on the concept of “model cards for model reporting” (see Figure 1 from [62]).  
257 This approach suggests that a comprehensive list of information should accompany  
258 the description of how the model was trained. This information should include details  
259 of the technician who developed the model, the intended use of the model, and the  
260 demographic or phenotypic groups on which the model has been tested. In addition,  
261 the model card should list the decisions made to optimise the model’s performance and

262 the various analyses carried out during the training process. Similar efforts to provide  
263 a framework for identifying biases associated with the data used to build or train AI  
264 models include the REVISE (REvealing Visual biaSEs) [63] and The Spotlight [64]  
265 projects. These initiatives aim to increase transparency by systematically documenting  
266 and disclosing potential biases, enabling more informed use and interpretation of AI  
267 models.

268 Another more complex concern, also related to explainability, is the principle of  
269 explicability, a concept that combines intelligibility and accountability as the basis of  
270 an interpretable AI model [65]. The latter concept points to the importance of trans-  
271 parency, in the sense that all procedures and details used to build, train and test the  
272 AI model should be available during its development and use. This principle is part  
273 of the four principles endorsed by the OECD [66] and the European Commission’s  
274 High Level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence (HLEG) to guide the development  
275 of ‘trustworthy’ AI: respect for human autonomy, prevention of harm, fairness and  
276 accountability [67]. Despite consensus on these four principles, we are still far from  
277 creating a legal framework that guarantees accountability mechanisms in AI develop-  
278 ment [68].

279 In this context, our work presents an experimental study that looks at factors that  
280 might explain why people trust algorithms, such as: SL, explainability, stake levels,  
281 demographics, among others.

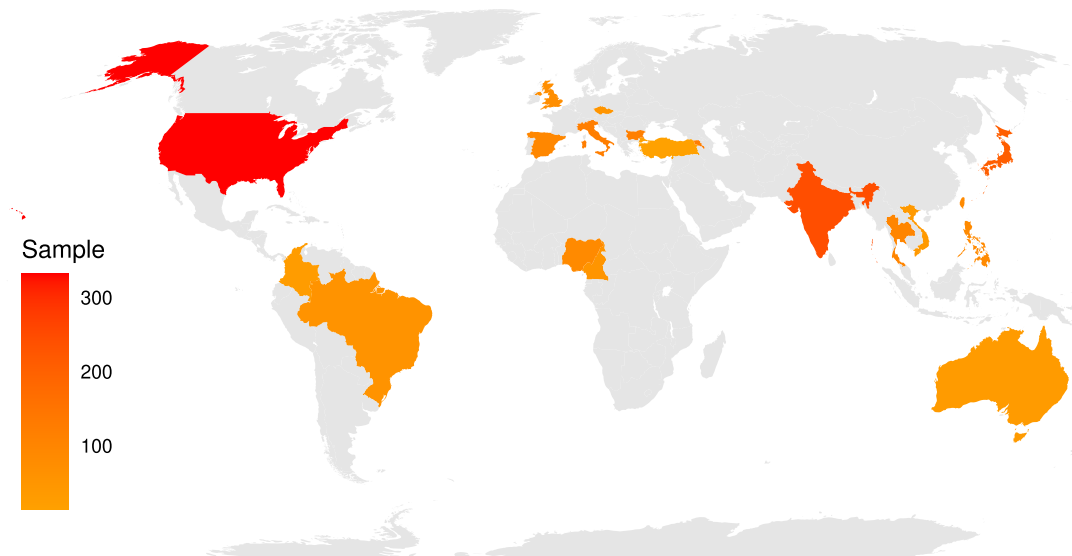
## 282 **Methods**

### 283 *Participants*

284 Data from 3,260 participants were available from 20 countries (Armenia, Australia,  
285 Bulgaria, Brazil, Cameroon, Colombia, Czech Republic, Spain, Indonesia, India, Italy,  
286 Japan, Nigeria, Philippines, Thailand, Turkey, Taiwan, UK, USA, and Vietnam). How-  
287 ever, only participants who provided complete data were included in the analyses  
288 ( $n=1,921$ ) (see Fig. 2,  $M_{age}=26.03 \pm 9.88$  SD; 59.5% women, 38.2% men, 1.8% other).  
289 Each participating laboratory obtained ethical approval from its local ethics commit-  
290 tee, and data collection began only after ethical approval (the ethics approval for the  
291 leading research group in Australia was granted by the University of South Australia,  
292 with the approval number 203238. This approval was then used by the other partici-  
293 pating laboratories to obtain their own respective ethics approvals). All participants  
294 voluntarily accessed the internet link for this study and agreed to participate after  
295 reading the information page and agreeing to take part. They were recruited via social  
296 media using convenience sampling.

### 297 *Materials*

298 This online survey consisted of four sets of questions: (1) a demographic questionnaire  
299 in which participants were asked about their first language, country of residence, age,  
300 gender, level of education, level of familiarity with ADA (their level of familiarity  
301 with ADA was assessed using a visual analogue rating scale (VAS) ranging from 0  
302 [not very familiar] to 5 [very familiar] and using up to two decimal places); (2) a  
303 VAS rating scale version of the six-item ‘propensity to trust scale items’ from [69],  
304 with a range of responses from 0 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), using up  
305 to two decimal places; (3) a selection of 14 items (questions 2, 4, 9, 10, 12, 14, 18,



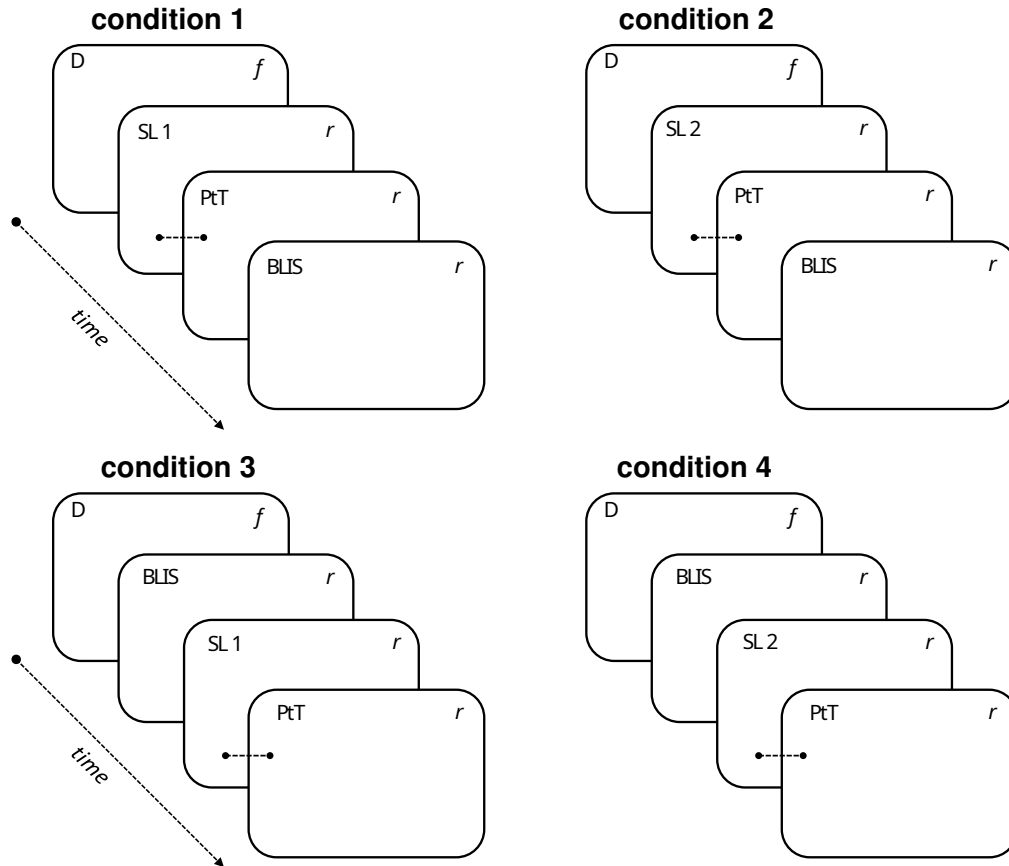
**Figure 2.** Geographical distribution of the sample participants. Armenia (females: 86, males: 40,  $age_{median}=35.5$ ,  $MAD=14.08$ ), Australia (females: 16, males: 16,  $age_{median}=33.5$ ,  $MAD=14.08$ ), Bulgaria (females: 101, males: 18,  $age_{median}=21$ ,  $MAD=3.00$ ), Brazil (females: 35, males: 24,  $age_{median}=22$ ,  $MAD=4.40$ ), Cameroon (females: 17, males: 35,  $age_{median}=23$ ,  $MAD=5.93$ ), Colombia (females: 18, males: 6,  $age_{median}=25.5$ ,  $MAD=7.41$ ), Czech Republic (females: 33, males: 18,  $age_{median}=21$ ,  $MAD=1.48$ ), Spain (females: 69, males: 23,  $age_{median}=35.5$ ,  $MAD=14.08$ ), Indonesia (females: 101, males: 28,  $age_{median}=19$ ,  $MAD=0$ ), India (females: 30, males: 82,  $age_{median}=19$ ,  $MAD=0$ ), Italy (females: 78, males: 43,  $age_{median}=27$ ,  $MAD=5.93$ ), Japan (females: 112, males: 86,  $age_{median}=24$ ,  $MAD=4.45$ ), Nigeria (females: 45, males: 40,  $age_{median}=22$ ,  $MAD=2.97$ ), Philippines (females: 66, males: 19,  $age_{median}=20$ ,  $MAD=1.48$ ), Thailand (females: 62, males: 30,  $age_{median}=20$ ,  $MAD=1.48$ ), Turkey (females: 9, males: 4,  $age_{median}=23$ ,  $MAD=5.93$ ), Taiwan (females: 59, males: 36,  $age_{median}=20$ ,  $MAD=1.48$ ), UK (females: 55, males: 17,  $age_{median}=28$ ,  $MAD=11.12$ ), USA (females: 142, males: 184,  $age_{median}=22$ ,  $MAD=2.96$ ), and Vietnam (females: 36, males: 2,  $age_{median}=22$ ,  $MAD=0$ ). 1% of participants had an elementary school education or less, 19% had a high school education, 13% had a post-secondary/non-tertiary education, 3% had an undergraduate education, 48% had a bachelor’s education, 14% had a master’s education, and 3% had a Ph.D. or higher education. (see supplementary files for details). (Source: Wikimedia Commons, adapted from: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:10-40\\_Window.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:10-40_Window.svg))

306 19, 27, 31, 34-37) from the 37-item Basic Literacy In Statistics (BLIS) scale [70]. The  
 307 14 items from the BLIS were chosen to cover different statistical concepts equally,  
 308 i.e. items 2 and 4 relate to data production, items 9 and 10 to graphs, items 12 and  
 309 14 to descriptive statistics, items 18 and 19 to sampling distributions, items 27 and  
 310 31 to hypothesis testing, items 34 and 35 to the scope of conclusions, and items 36  
 311 and 37 to regression and correlation (these items are available in the supplementary  
 312 material via the Qualtrics files). Finally, (4) 12 scenarios related to situations in which  
 313 algorithms are used (half related to low-stake situations and the other half to high-  
 314 stake situations). Each scenario was followed by two questions (see below), which were  
 315 answered on a VAS rating scale from 0 (not at all likely) to 5 (very likely), using up  
 316 to two decimal places. The results of expert judgement of these items are provided in  
 317 the supplementary material. All phases of the study were programmed and distributed  
 318 using Qualtrics™.

### 319 *Scenarios relating to algorithms used*

320 Two scenarios were created to illustrate different situations in which people interact  
 321 with algorithms. Half of them represented low-stake situations, i.e. (1) algorithms





**Figure 3.** Illustration of the four experimental conditions to which participants were randomly assigned. D = demographic questions (age, gender, education level, open-ended question about what algorithms are, and VAS rating of participants’ level of familiarity with ADA). SL = 12 scenarios list 1 and 2 (list 1 = six low-stake scenarios with explainability and six high-stake scenarios without explainability, scenario list 2 = six low-stake scenarios without explainability and six high-stake scenarios with explainability). PtT = six-item propensity to trust scale. BLIS = 14-item BLIS scale.  $f$  = Items were presented in a fixed order.  $r$  = items presented in random order. Note that PtT always followed one of the two scenario lists.

322 to make restaurant recommendations, (2) to select stories for online news, (3) to  
 323 organise and sort emails, or (4) to suggest new restaurants, (5) new clothes, and (6)  
 324 new music. The other half represented high-stakes situations, i.e. (7) algorithms to  
 325 support court decisions based on psychological profiles, (8) to select CVs, (9) to make  
 326 hiring recommendations for a job, (10) to select the best candidate for a position at a  
 327 university, (11) to control the brakes of autonomous vehicles, and (12) to decide the  
 328 priority of care in a medical context.

329 Each scenario contained a sentence related to its explainability. These sentences con-  
 330 tained information about a specific machine learning method used by the algorithm  
 331 (e.g. clustering learning methods, classification learning statistical methods, logistic re-  
 332 gression methods, dimensionality reduction techniques, supervised statistical methods  
 333 and clustering statistical methods). The sentence also briefly mentioned the quality of  
 334 the method.

335 The following are examples of two different scenarios used to evaluate trusting  
 336 algorithms:

337 *Scenario 1 - Low stake*

338 **Overall context** A new reservation app uses algorithms to make dining recommen-  
339 dations to its users, only revealing the three restaurants in the area available  
340 for a reservation that are the best match for your needs. The algorithm is based  
341 on information provided to the system by the user about restaurant preferences  
342 and requirements.

343 **With explainability** The algorithm relies on clustering learning methods and has  
344 shown a high predictability accuracy across a variety of restaurants.

345 **Specific context** You decide to use the app to find a recommendation for a dinner  
346 with your close friends next Friday. The app produces three restaurants with  
347 reservations available at the time you selected.

348 **Questions** 1. How likely are you to regularly trust this app for decisions regard-  
349 ing restaurant reservations? 2. How likely are you to recommend this app for  
350 restaurant reservations to others?

351 *Scenario 2 - high stake*

352 **Overall context** A new employee selection software uses algorithms to make hiring  
353 recommendations to its users, only revealing the top candidates in the candidate  
354 pool that are the best match for the company's needs. The algorithm is based  
355 on information provided to the system about preferences and requirements for  
356 the job.

357 **With explainability** The algorithm uses clustering statistical techniques and has  
358 shown high predictability when selecting candidates.

359 **Specific context** You decide to use the software to find a recommendation for who  
360 to bring in for an onsite interview for an important role in your company. The  
361 software produces three recommended candidates who match the criteria.

362 **Questions** 1. How likely are you to regularly trust this software for decisions regarding  
363 hiring? 2. How likely are you to recommend this software for hiring decisions to  
364 others?

365 *Procedure*

366 The experiment is a  $2 \times 2$  factorial design: the importance of the situation in which  
367 an algorithm is used (low and high stake situation) and the explainability of the algo-  
368 rithm (with and without). These factors were implemented in the 12 scenarios via two  
369 lists; list 1 = six low-stake scenarios with explainability and six high-stake scenarios  
370 without explainability, and scenario list 2 = six low-stake scenarios without explain-  
371 ability and six high-stake scenarios with explainability. The four sets of questions were  
372 counterbalanced across participants, resulting in four experimental conditions (see Fig-  
373 ure 3). Qualtrics ensured that participants were randomly assigned to each condition  
374 and that a balanced number of responses were collected for each condition. While the  
375 median time to complete the task was 24 minutes, there was some variation, with  
376 an interquartile range of 27 minutes (i.e., half of the participants completed the task  
377 within a 27-minute time span).

378 **Statistical analyses**

379 Data analysis was conducted using multilevel linear models implemented in the R  
380 packages `lmerTest` and `lme4` [71,72]. The significance level for all statistical tests was  
381 set at  $\alpha = 0.05$ . The model tested was:  $p \sim e * S * BLIS + g + a + ADA + c + (1|id) +$   
382  $(1|i)$  where ‘p’ is the probability of trusting/recommending/using algorithms, ‘e’ is  
383 the presence of explainability, ‘S’ is the stake level (i.e. high and low stake), ‘BLIS’  
384 represents statistical literacy (frequency of correct answers), ‘g’ represents participant  
385 gender, ‘a’ represents participant age, ‘ADA’ represents participant familiarity with  
386 ADA, ‘id’ represents subject identification, ‘i’ represents each of the 12 scenarios,  
387 and ‘c’ represents participant country (\* represents main effects and interactions.  
388 Only numeric variables are shown in teletype font; other variables are categorical. The  
389 variable ‘propensity to trust scale’ was not added as a covariate as it showed a high  
390 correlation with the dependent variable,  $r_{(1768)} = 0.69, p < 0.001$ ).

391 A stepwise backward model/variable selection algorithm was applied to this model  
392 to produce a significant and parsimonious model. The initial and final models were  
393 evaluated using metrics such as AIC and AICc weights [73],  $R^2$  (coefficient of deter-  
394 mination) for conditional (both fixed and random effects) and marginal (fixed effects)  
395 models, and performance score. These metrics were estimated using the `performance`  
396 R package [74].

397 Once a parsimonious model was found, the marginal and conditional  $R^2$  values  
398 were estimated using the `r2 nakagawa` command from the `performance` R package  
399 [74], then, the variance components of the random factors were estimated using the  
400 `gstudy` command from the `gtheory` R package [75].

401 For access to all materials and analysis codes, including a machine learning  
402 approach, visit the following link: [https://figshare.com/projects/Trust\\_in\\_](https://figshare.com/projects/Trust_in_algorithms_An_experimental_approach_-_Data_repository/156212)  
403 [algorithms\\_An\\_experimental\\_approach\\_-\\_Data\\_repository/156212](https://figshare.com/projects/Trust_in_algorithms_An_experimental_approach_-_Data_repository/156212)

404 **Results**

405 The stepwise backward evaluation suggested the same model as the initial model (see  
406 section ‘Statistical Analyses’). Tables 1 and 2 provide a summary of the models, while  
407 table 3 provides an ANOVA-like table for the model. An evaluation of the assumptions  
408 of the linear model using the R package `gvlma` showed that these assumptions were  
409 not met [76] (although, a QQ plot of the residuals showed no significant deviation  
410 from normality). As a result, a robust linear mixed model [77] was fitted using the  
411 `robustlmm` R package, and the estimates obtained were similar to those of the linear  
412 mixed model. These results are not unexpected, as previous research has shown that  
413 linear mixed models are robust to violations of distributional assumptions [78]. Further  
414 details of the statistical models can be found in the supplementary material.

415 The intercept of the resulting mixed linear model was 1.46 (see table 1), suggesting  
416 that on a scale of 0 to 5, the probability of trusting, recommending, or using algo-  
417 rithms in explainable and high-stake scenarios, as rated by young women with lower  
418 BLIS and ADA scores, was 29.32% ( $\frac{1.46}{5}$ ). This probability significantly increased for  
419 low-stake scenarios (34.2%) or higher ADA scores (40.3%) and significantly decreased  
420 for higher BLIS scores (17.2%), older age (29.1%), or when the survey was answered  
421 by men (27.1%). Some countries showed a significant decrease in the likelihood to  
422 trust, recommend, or use algorithms, such as Japan (24.6%), the US (26.9%), and  
423 the UK (26.1%) (see Figure 5). Regarding the interactions between predictors, the

424 likelihood of trusting, recommending, or using algorithms significantly increased for  
425 low-stake scenarios combined with higher BLIS scores (53.8%) and significantly de-  
426 creased for scenarios without explainability combined with low-stake and higher BLIS  
427 scores (21.4%), always compared to the intercept (see Figure 6).

428 In terms of main effects, the results suggest a positive association between the  
429 likelihood of trusting/recommending/using algorithms and statistical literacy and  
430 familiarity with ADA, and a negative association between the likelihood of trust-  
431 ing/recommending/using algorithms and age. That is, the higher the level of statistical  
432 literacy, the higher the likelihood of trusting algorithms, and the higher the familiarity  
433 with ADA, the higher the likelihood of trusting algorithms. Also, the older a person  
434 is, the less likely they are to trust algorithms (although focused analyses indicated  
435 a slightly negative association between age and BLIS, such an association must be  
436 treated with caution as the number of observations decreases with increasing age). In  
437 terms of gender, it was found that participants who identified their gender as male  
438 were less likely to trust, recommend or use algorithms than those who identified their  
439 gender as female or other (this situation may be related to the fact that men have  
440 statistically significantly higher average levels of BLIS than women or ‘other’; see sup-  
441plementary materials for details). Finally, only three countries showed a trend towards  
442 less reliance on algorithms, all of them highly industrialised countries (see Fig. 5).

443 Figures 4 and 6 show the main results in terms of the main effect of  $S$  and the  
444 two-way interactions between stake level ( $S$ ) and statistical literacy (BLIS).

445 Figure 4 shows that the likelihood to trust/recommend/use algorithms is higher  
446 in low-stakes than in high-stakes scenarios, regardless of whether the scenarios have  
447 some explainability information or not. Figure 6 suggests that the likelihood to  
448 trust/recommend/use algorithms in low-stakes scenarios increases as the level of sta-  
449tistical literacy increases; however, in high-stakes scenarios, the likelihood to trust  
450 decreases as the level of statistical literacy increases.

## 451 Discussion

452 The aim of this study was to investigate the personal characteristics (i.e. statistical  
453 literacy and demographics) and algorithmic characteristics (i.e. explainability and lev-  
454 els of stakes of algorithms) that influence people’s trust in algorithms. The results  
455 showed a negative relationship between statistical literacy and trust in algorithms  
456 in high-stakes situations and a positive relationship in low-stakes scenarios. Explain-  
457 ability alone did not influence people’s trust in algorithms. These results and their  
458 implications are discussed, as well as the limitations of the study.

459 Existing research has explored various factors influencing trust in AI. For instance,  
460 Lee et al. [81] highlighted the importance of perceived fairness of algorithms and users’  
461 perceptions of algorithm agency and intentionality. Araujo et al. [82] investigated the  
462 roles of potential usefulness, fairness, and risk perceptions in users’ engagement with  
463 algorithms. Cabiddu et al. [83] examined factors such as users’ inherent trust propen-  
464 sity and the drivers of information technology acceptance. Aysolmaz et al. [84] focused  
465 on algorithm fairness, accountability, and privacy. Similar to the present study, some  
466 of these investigations employed fictional scenarios grounded in real-world contexts  
467 [81,82,84], and one study utilized a comparable sample size of approximately 2,000  
468 participants [84]. Notably, none of these studies employed multicultural samples or  
469 examined the relationship between algorithm trust and statistical literacy. This gap  
470 was also identified in a systematic review by Mahmud et al. [85], which encompassed

**Table 1.** Fixed effects for the linear mixed model. The  $R^2$  values correspond to the Nagakawa coefficients [79]:  $R^2_{cond} = 0.363$  and  $R^2_{marg} = 0.241$ . Country names are identified by the ISO 3166 standard. The reference category for the variable ‘gender’ is female, and the reference category for the variable ‘country’ is Armenia (AM). Effect sizes for significant variables were estimated following [80] (these values are interpretable as Cohen’s  $d$ )

	Estimate	Std. Error	df	t value	Pr(>  t )	Effect size ( $d$ )
(Intercept)	1.466e+00	1.157e-01	3.354e+01	12.669	2.46e-14 ***	
eWITHOUT	6.231e-02	6.489e-02	2.567e+03	0.96	0.337013	
SLS	2.479e-01	3.527e-02	4.350e+04	7.03	2.10e-12 ***	0.217
BLIS	-6.020e-01	1.277e-01	2.457e+03	-4.714	2.57e-06 ***	-0.526
Age	-6.183e-03	1.444e-03	1.917e+03	-4.281	1.95e-05 ***	-0.005
GenderMale	-1.088e-01	2.541e-02	1.889e+03	-4.285	1.92e-05 ***	-0.095
ADA	5.483e-01	1.257e-02	1.895e+03	43.611	< 2e-16 ***	0.480
CountryAU	-1.234e-01	1.018e-01	1.876e+03	-1.213	0.225469	
CountryBG	-3.737e-02	6.830e-02	1.880e+03	-0.547	0.584321	
CountryBR	8.501e-02	8.216e-02	1.878e+03	1.035	0.300939	
CountryCM	-1.420e-01	8.690e-02	1.878e+03	-1.634	0.102445	
CountryCO	1.063e-01	1.146e-01	1.877e+03	0.928	0.353747	
CountryCZ	-1.467e-01	8.722e-02	1.878e+03	-1.682	0.092771 .	
CountryES	9.634e-03	6.978e-02	1.876e+03	0.138	0.890202	
CountryID	-8.746e-02	6.744e-02	1.880e+03	-1.297	0.194838	
CountryIN	1.470e-02	7.303e-02	1.882e+03	0.201	0.840448	
CountryIT	-2.432e-02	6.597e-02	1.989e+03	-0.369	0.712430	
CountryJP	-2.351e-01	6.132e-02	1.880e+03	-3.833	0.000131 ***	-0.205
CountryNG	-7.398e-02	7.471e-02	1.879e+03	-0.99	0.322211	
CountryPH	-6.087e-02	7.539e-02	1.880e+03	-0.807	0.419529	
CountryTH	-6.954e-02	7.514e-02	1.881e+03	-0.925	0.354832	
CountryTR	1.614e-01	1.496e-01	1.877e+03	1.079	0.280707	
CountryTW	-7.210e-02	7.538e-02	1.881e+03	-0.956	0.338971	
CountryUK	-1.577e-01	7.606e-02	1.876e+03	-2.073	0.038301 *	-0.138
CountryUS	-1.184e-01	5.752e-02	1.881e+03	-2.059	0.039599 *	-0.103
CountryVN	-1.397e-01	9.694e-02	1.878e+03	-1.441	0.149782	
eWITHOUT:SLS	4.463e-02	5.006e-02	4.353e+04	0.891	0.372671	
eWITHOUT:BLIS	2.067e-02	1.695e-01	2.565e+03	0.122	0.902951	
SLS:BLIS	1.225e+00	9.136e-02	4.349e+04	13.406	< 2e-16 ***	1.071
eWITHOUT:SLS:BLIS	-3.898e-01	1.302e-01	4.351e+04	-2.994	0.002755 **	-0.341

Signif. codes: \*\*\* [0, 0.001], \*\* (0.001, 0.01], \* (0.01, 0.05], . (0.05, 0.1]

471 over 80 empirical studies, none of which included statistical literacy as a factor influ-  
472 encing trust in AI.

473 This study is the first to examine the relationship between statistical literacy and  
474 trust in algorithms, revealing a nuanced relationship that depends on context. Our  
475 findings demonstrate that statistical literacy has opposite effects in different scenar-  
476 ios: it increases trust in algorithmic decisions for low-stakes situations while decreasing  
477 trust for high-stakes decisions. This differential effect suggests that statistical literacy  
478 enables a more sophisticated understanding of algorithmic capabilities and limitations.  
479 In low-stakes scenarios (such as restaurant recommendations or music suggestions),  
480 individuals with higher statistical literacy appear to recognize that algorithmic pre-  
481 dictions based on pattern recognition and large datasets can be effective and reliable.  
482 However, in high-stakes contexts (such as employment or criminal justice decisions),  
483 this same statistical knowledge leads to greater skepticism - not because the algorithms  
484 are necessarily less accurate, but because statistically literate individuals better un-  
485 derstand the potential consequences of algorithmic biases and limitations. Those with  
486 statistical literacy are better equipped to understand that while statistical models may  
487 achieve high average accuracy, they can still fail in critical individual cases or perpet-  
488 uate systemic biases present in training data. This cautious approach to high-stakes  
489 algorithmic decisions reflects not just critical thinking, but a deeper understanding of

**Table 2.** Random effects for the linear mixed model. The variance explained by the random factors (estimated via the function `gstudy` in the `gtheory` R package) were: ID=16.3% and Item 2.3%.

Groups	Name	Variance	Std.Dev.
ID	(Intercept)	0.21380	0.4624
Item	(Intercept)	0.03076	0.1754
Residual		1.06489	1.0319

**Table 3.** Analysis of Deviance Table (Type III Wald  $\chi^2$  tests) for the fixed effects of the model with the best fit.

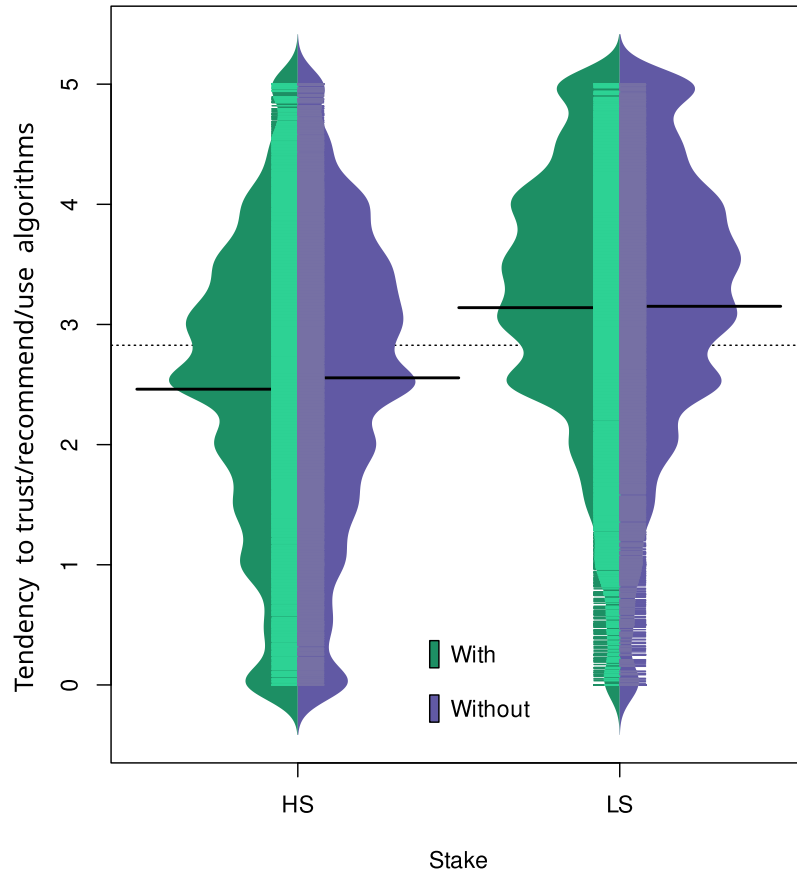
	$\chi^2$	Df	Pr(> $\chi^2$ )
(Intercept)	160.5147	1	< 2.2e-16 ***
e	0.9221	1	0.3369223
S	49.4186	1	2.068e-12 ***
BLIS	22.2199	1	2.431e-06 ***
Age	18.3263	1	1.861e-05 ***
Gender	18.3575	1	1.831e-05 ***
ADA	1901.9323	1	< 2.2e-16 ***
Country	47.7956	19	0.0002746 ***
e:S	0.7948	1	0.3726661
e:BLIS	0.0149	1	0.9029413
S:BLIS	179.7312	1	< 2.2e-16 ***
e:S:BLIS	8.9643	1	0.0027531 **

Signif. codes: \*\*\* [0, 0.001], \*\* (0.001, 0.01], \* (0.01, 0.05], . (0.05, 0.1]

490 how statistical methods work and where they may fall short.

491 Paradoxically, explainability only affected people’s trust in algorithms when it was  
 492 absent, the stakes were low, and statistical literacy was high. This contradicts previous  
 493 findings in the literature, which have shown that interventions focused on explaining  
 494 the decision-making processes of algorithms can increase the use of and trust in al-  
 495 gorithms, for example in healthcare [86], journalism [87] and military settings [88,89].  
 496 One possible reason for this inconsistency could be due to the way we operationalised  
 497 ”explainability” in our study, where the explanations included technical jargon that  
 498 may have exceeded the expected level of familiarity among participants. However, this  
 499 may also mean that the information related to the explainability of the algorithm is  
 500 not related to trust or distrust in the algorithm. Rather than focusing on how an  
 501 algorithm works, our results suggest that statistically literate individuals primarily  
 502 consider what the algorithm is being used for - its purpose and potential impact -  
 503 when deciding whether to trust it. This finding challenges the common assumption  
 504 that greater algorithmic transparency necessarily leads to more appropriate trust cal-  
 505 ibration.

506 Over time, the concept of statistical literacy has evolved from the understanding  
 507 and application of statistical techniques to a broader understanding explicitly related  
 508 to trust in algorithms. Algorithms now consist of thousands of lines of formulae and  
 509 are increasingly used to make decisions that may be difficult for humans to understand  
 510 (known as the black box effect). Consequently, statistical literacy now encompasses  
 511 not only the ability to understand statistical output, but also the skills needed to  
 512 critically interpret and evaluate statistical information and reasoning, which requires  
 513 a higher degree of critical thinking. Therefore, the promotion of statistical literacy  
 514 is essential to ensure that individuals have the necessary skills to understand and  
 515 interpret statistical information and algorithms and to become critical users of ADA.  
 516 Furthermore, our findings have important implications for policymakers and educators,  
 517 who should consider incorporating statistical literacy training into school curricula and  
 518 professional development programs. This can help ensure that individuals are equipped

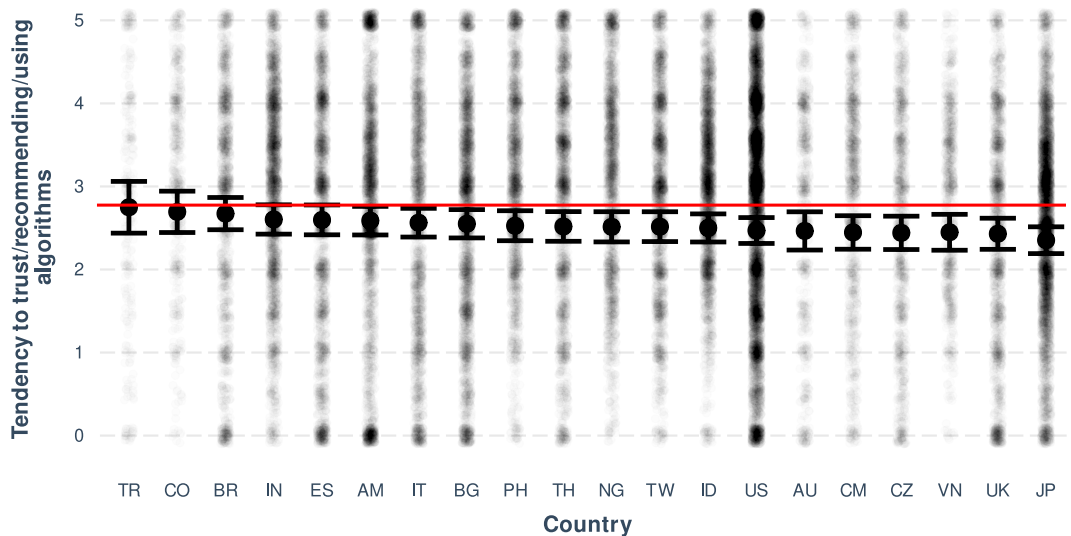


**Figure 4.** Beanplots showing the tendency to trust/recommend/use algorithms as a function of explainability (with or without) and situation stake (high stake = HS or low stake = LS). This figure shows the main effect of the stake factor ( $S$ ) and the non-significant effect of explainability ( $e$ ) (recall that this variable was not significant but used for illustrative purposes). The dotted horizontal line represents the grand mean and the four solid horizontal lines represent the groups' means.

519 with the skills they need to navigate an increasingly data-driven world and make  
 520 informed decisions based on statistical information and algorithms (but see section  
 521 ‘implications and limitations’ below).

522 Our results showed that older people and men were less likely to trust algorithms  
 523 than younger people and women. Previous research has shown that certain demo-  
 524 graphic groups are more likely to trust algorithms than others. However, previous  
 525 studies have shown that older people tend to trust ADA more than younger people,  
 526 while gender has been shown to have inconsistent effects (see for example [90,91]).  
 527 These differences may be due to particular characteristics of the study participants,  
 528 possibly influenced by a bias towards certain aspects of the topic at hand.

529 In our cross-country analysis, we observed variations in trust in algorithms, with  
 530 industrialised countries such as Japan, the US, and the UK exhibiting lower levels  
 531 of trust in AI. This finding aligns with a recent study on trust in AI by Gillespie et  
 532 al. [34], which reported that Japan had one of the lowest levels of trust in AI, while



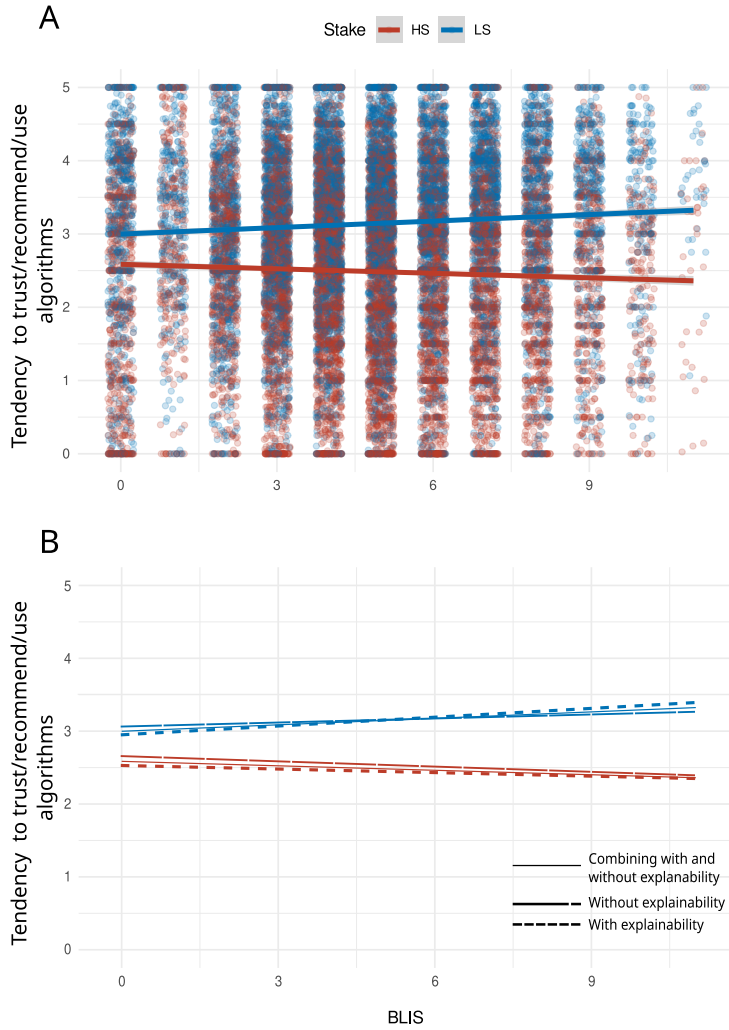
**Figure 5.** Plot showing the variability in the tendency to trust/recommend/use algorithms across countries. Countries are labelled with Turkey: TR, Colombia: CO, Brazil: BR, India: IN, Spain: ES, Armenia: AM, Italy: IT, Bulgaria: BG, Philippines: PH, Thailand: TH, Nigeria: NG, Taiwan: TW, Indonesia: ID, USA: US, Australia: AU, Cameroon: CM, Czech Republic: CZ, Vietnam: VN, UK: UK, and Japan: JP. The most important predictors for all models in each country were  $S$  followed by ADA and BLIS. Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals around the mean. The horizontal line indicates the overall mean. Although the substantial overlap of the confidence intervals suggests no significant statistical pairwise differences, the focus is on ranking countries based on their average tendency to trust algorithms.

533 the US and the UK had intermediate levels. Interestingly, countries such as India and  
 534 Brazil, which demonstrated high levels of trust in the Gillespie et al. study (see Figure  
 535 2 in their report), appear in our linear mixed model with positive estimates (see table  
 536 1 and Figure 5), although not statistically significant. This suggests that different  
 537 methodologies may yield varying perceptions of trust levels across countries.

### 538 Implications and limitations

539 Various machine learning techniques require *data work* or human intervention in the  
 540 form of data generation, annotation and algorithmic verification [47]. This labour-  
 541 intensive process is often distributed to teams in business process outsourcing compa-  
 542 nies (BPOs) or to individuals through labour platforms, reducing production costs [92].  
 543 Miceli and Posada [93] studied one BPO in Argentina and three platforms operating  
 544 in Venezuela and found that the discourses and social relations that structured data  
 545 work were aimed at controlling workers (through managerial approaches in the BPO  
 546 and algorithms in the platforms) to increase productivity and reduce worker “bias”.  
 547 The problem is that feedback from workers was discouraged and, by taking clients’  
 548 decisions as “ground truth”, the data production process reproduced clients’ biases,  
 549 which were carried out by algorithms trained on that data. Their research concluded  
 550 that the quality of the data depended on the voice and engagement of workers, which  
 551 in turn required decent working conditions and recognition. Even if the data used in  
 552 the algorithm is well annotated and leads to good algorithmic performance, there is  
 553 the question of the human ability to interpret these results, as human judgments are  
 554 modulated by social-emotional processes [21,94–96]. Future work should consider the





**Figure 6.** Scatterplot showing the correlation between BLIS scores, explainability and the tendency to trust/recommend/use algorithms as a function of stake level. This figure illustrates the interaction between stake (high stake = HS or low stake = LS) and statistical literacy (BLIS) according to the level of explainability of algorithms (e). The observations on the x-axis are jittered for visualisation purposes.

555 human and social aspects of data production and make the work visible in documen-  
 556 tation efforts [97]. This transparency of the social aspects of datasets will contribute  
 557 to trust in the operation of algorithms.

558 While the current findings are indeed informative, it is important to recognize cer-  
 559 tain limitations that may constrain the generalizability of these results and claims [98].  
 560 We argued that statistical literacy influences trust in both low- and high-stakes sce-  
 561 narios; however, it could be part of a broader understanding of technology, algorithms,  
 562 and data. Indeed, statistical literacy could be considered a sub-skill of AI literacy if  
 563 AI literacy is understood as the ability to recognize, understand, use, and critically  
 564 evaluate AI technologies and their societal impacts, supported by foundational knowl-  
 565 edge in statistics and computing. Therefore, policymakers should consider promoting  
 566 AI literacy to address some of the complexities associated with trust in algorithms.

567 Our study utilized self-reported measures via rating scales, which are efficient and  
 568 cost-effective for capturing data on thoughts, feelings, and subjective experiences. How-

569 ever, these measures can be influenced by social desirability, response bias, misinter-  
570 pretation, or lack of self-awareness. For instance, physiological research has shown that  
571 self-reported measures of physical activity can both overestimate and underestimate  
572 actual levels of physical activity [99]. Therefore, future extensions of this work should  
573 consider a more robust approach, such as triangulating the data with direct obser-  
574 vations of user interactions with algorithms or physiological measures to assess trust  
575 more accurately.

576 High-stakes and low-stakes situations exhibit significant variability across individ-  
577 uals and cultures, existing on a context-dependent continuum rather than as dis-  
578 crete categories. For example, choosing a restaurant for dinner with friends may carry  
579 different stakes across cultural contexts, socioeconomic backgrounds, and individual  
580 preferences. Our study’s primary limitation lies in not systematically investigating  
581 how participants from different backgrounds interpreted and classified these scenarios.  
582 Additionally, while our sample included participants from 20 countries, certain geo-  
583 graphical regions like Central Europe were underrepresented, potentially limiting the  
584 generalizability of our findings across different cultural contexts. Although we aimed  
585 to move beyond WEIRD (Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich, and Democratic)  
586 sampling biases, more comprehensive geographic and cultural representation, along  
587 with larger sample sizes from each region, would be necessary to make broader gener-  
588 alizations about algorithmic trust across diverse populations [100,101]. Future research  
589 should incorporate scenario validation across different cultural contexts and expand  
590 sampling to include currently underrepresented regions and demographic groups.

## 591 **Conclusion**

592 This study investigated the personal and algorithmic factors that affect individuals’  
593 trust in algorithms. Our findings revealed that when the stakes are low, statistical  
594 literacy is positively correlated with the likelihood of trusting an algorithm. However,  
595 when the stakes are high, our results indicated a negative correlation between statis-  
596 tical literacy and the likelihood of trusting an algorithm. Therefore, we conclude that  
597 having statistical literacy enables individuals to critically evaluate the decisions made  
598 by ADA and consider them alongside other factors before making significant life deci-  
599 sions. This ensures that individuals are not solely relying on algorithms that may not  
600 fully capture the complexity and nuances of human behaviour and decision-making.

## 601 **Disclosure statement**

602 The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial  
603 or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

## 604 **Data availability statement**

605 The data that support the findings of this study as well as the analysis scripts in  
606 R are openly available at [https://figshare.com/projects/Trust\\_in\\_algorithms\\_](https://figshare.com/projects/Trust_in_algorithms_An_experimental_approach_-_Data_repository/156212)  
607 [An\\_experimental\\_approach\\_-\\_Data\\_repository/156212](https://figshare.com/projects/Trust_in_algorithms_An_experimental_approach_-_Data_repository/156212)

## 608 Author contributions statement

609 Conceptualisation: FM-R; Methodology: FM-R, JT, MTL, and RG; Software: JT,  
610 MTL, and RG; Formal analysis: JT, MTL, and RG; Investigation: all authors; Re-  
611 sources: all authors; Data curation: JT, MTL, and RG; Writing - Original Draft:  
612 FM-R and JT; Writing - Review Editing: all authors; Visualisation: JT; Supervision:  
613 FM-R; Project administration: FM-R.

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615 bution (CC BY) public copyright license to any Author Accepted Manuscript version  
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617 An earlier version of this manuscript can be found at [https://osf.io/preprints/](https://osf.io/preprints/psyarxiv/9wh2f)  
618 [psyarxiv/9wh2f](https://osf.io/preprints/psyarxiv/9wh2f). We recommend referring to and citing the current version rather  
619 than the earlier one.

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