Abstract:
This research studies whether or not parents are willing to transmit trust to their children in Tyumen, Russia. Focusing on children aged 17-18 years old, this study aims to understand whether children’s levels of trust reflect the trust levels of their parents also. Previous research has extensively researched the transmission of trust as evidenced from panel data, but none have tested the transmission through the use of experiments. This research tries to look at how a behavioral measure of trust, in comparison to the often-used attitudinal measure of trust, is strongly correlated between parents and their children. We use an online experiment using the trust game with two different treatment groups. We hypothesize that parents are willing to transmit trust, but this trust will range depending on different demographics such as their age and gender. However, we also hypothesize that the average level of trust of the children will be higher in comparison to their parents, as they learn the consequences of having high or low trust from their parents. We found that older adults were more likely to show a level of distrust when their decision was observed by a child while younger adults, in the same scenario, were more likely to show a level of trust. Another significant result we found is that the higher the level of education of a child, the higher their level of trust is as well. This study helps add value to understanding of how policymakers can better accommodate the younger generation in times of transition through the understanding of their trust level and its development.