

# AN INVESTIGATION OF ATTITUDES TOWARDS WHITE- AND BLUE-COLLAR CRIME IN NEW ZEALAND

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**ABSTRACT:** *This study undertakes an empirical analysis of attitudes towards white- and blue-collar crime. Tax evasion and welfare fraud are utilised as proxies for white- and blue-collar crime, respectively. Prior research indicates that society has different attitudes towards the crimes of tax evasion and welfare fraud. However, it is not known why this is the case, particularly as both crimes are conceptually similar: they harm society in the same way, they have the same victim, and they are both financial crimes that require deliberate action by the offender.*

*The study has two aims. The first is to measure the extent to which society views tax evasion and welfare fraud differently in New Zealand. The second, and primary, objective of this research is to offer an explanation for why different views exist.*

*Data for the study is collected from a survey completed by 1,500 New Zealanders comprising a representative sample of the New Zealand population. The theoretical frameworks of Social Dominance Orientation and Right-Wing Authoritarianism are used for analytical purposes.*

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