

Rural Values in Montana

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“We all have values, but the community—the small community—really is unique in forming good values.”

-Anonymous

Hypotheses

- 1) Living in rural Montana leads to the development of rural values characterized by a feeling of resentment towards urban communities.
- 2) Montanans will express feelings of resentment towards the federal government more than the Montana state government.

Methodology

- Interviewed 48 Montana residents.
- Analyzed the sentiment values of frequently used words and phrases from each interview.
- Assigned each community an overall sentiment value.
- Compared results to 2018 Carroll College Exit Poll.

Figure 1

Sentiment Values of State and Federal Government by Community

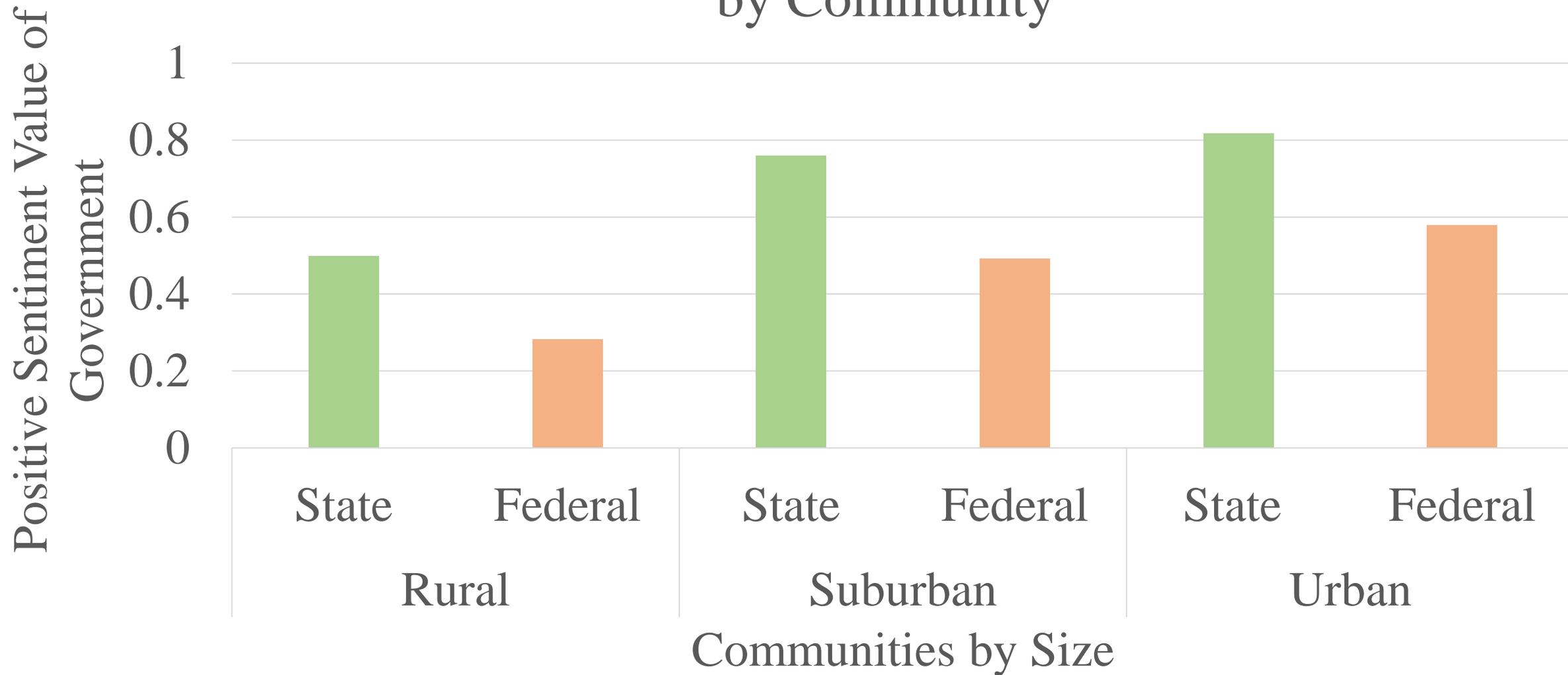


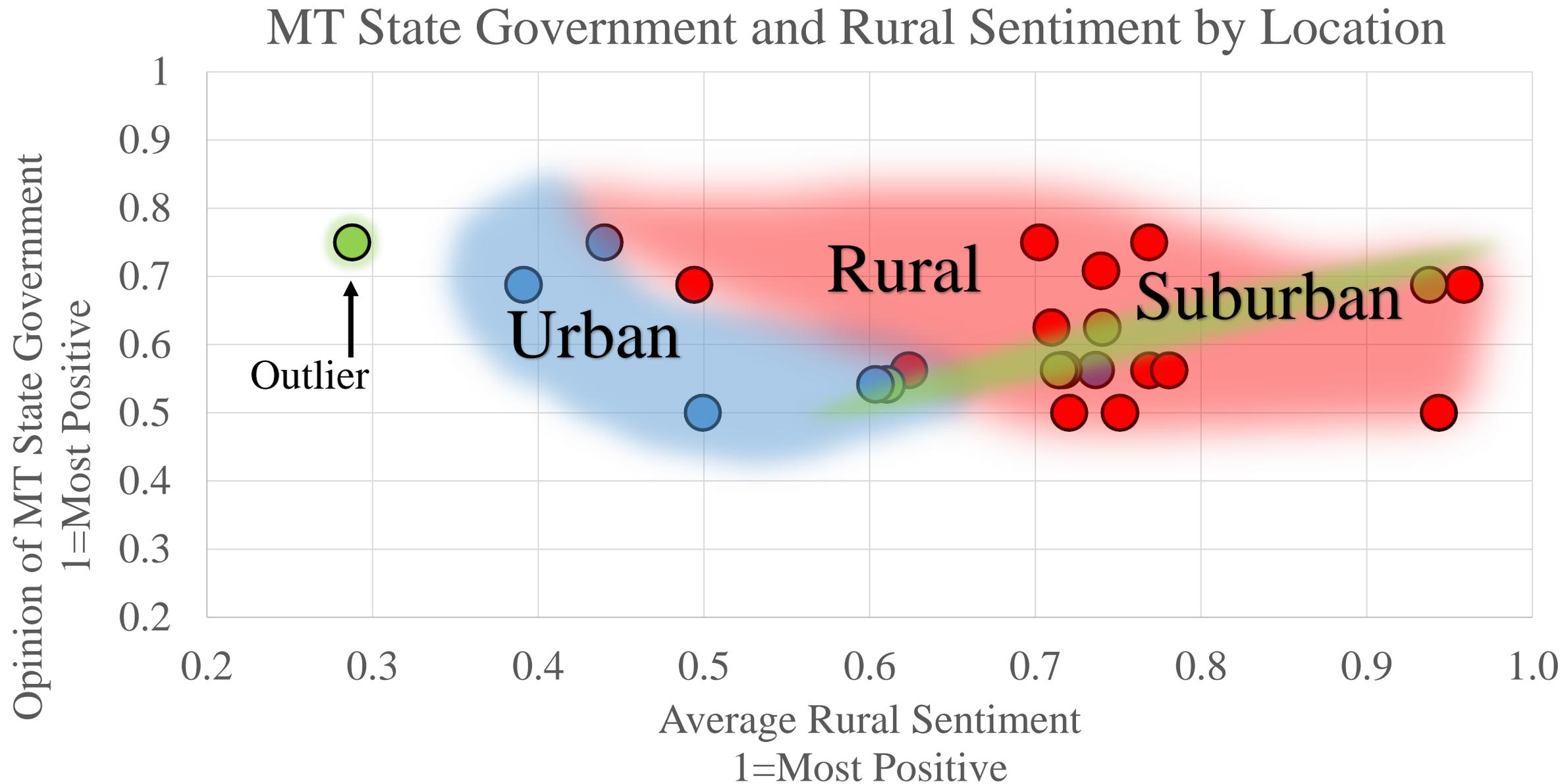
Table 1

		<i>Overall</i>	<i>Rural</i>	<i>Suburban</i>	<i>Urban</i>
<i>Do rural areas receive more or less than their fair share of resources?</i>	<u>Rural</u> communities get <u>less</u> than their fair share of resources and <u>urban</u> communities get <u>more</u> than their fair share of resources.	0.15	0.14	0.12	0.18
<i>Do urban areas receive more or less than their fair share of resources?</i>	Rural communities get their fair share of resources and urban communities get their fair share of resources.	0.66	0.68	0.68	0.62
	<u>Rural</u> communities get <u>more</u> than their fair share of resources and <u>urban</u> communities get <u>less</u> than their fair share of resources.	0.19	0.18	0.20	0.20

Data Analysis

- In general, respondents from rural, suburban, and urban communities in Montana expressed favorable sentiment towards rural areas and the Montana state government.
- Each community expressed negative sentiment toward the federal government.
- Suburban communities differed the most in their impression of rural values.

Figure 2



Conclusion

- Most Montanans self-identify as rural residents.
- Living in rural Montana leads to the development of a distinguishable set of rural values.
- Rural values in Montana do not seem to be defined by resentment towards urban communities or the Montana state government.



Thank You!

Questions?

Selected References

- Cramer Walsh, Katherine J., *The Politics of Resentment: Rural Consciousness in Wisconsin and the Rise of Scott Walker*, The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 2016.
- Gimpel, James G., and Kimberly A. Karnes. “The Rural Side of the Urban-Rural Gap,” *PS: Political Science and Politics* 39, no. 3 (July 2006): 458-467.