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## **Public policies expectations and personal readiness to relinquish ownership**

*long abstract (1150 words + appendix)*

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### **Introduction**

In recent years, profound transformations of property institutions have been observed. Most of all, property rights are being weakened and the transfer of ownership is increasingly being replaced by the provision of rental services. To comprehend the extent of contemporary property institution transformations, it is essential to determine if consumers are interested in relinquishing ownership and switching to access on demand. These changes must also be addressed by the state, which in certain situations can replace public policies centered on ownership transfer with those that only temporary access to certain goods is provided.

The subject of analysis of this paper is the correlation between respondents' views on public policies (in the context of ownership transfer or providing temporary access) and personal respondents' readiness to relinquish ownership of various item categories.

### **Methodology**

The research is based on a computer-assisted telephone survey (CATI). The interviews were made in June and July 2021 with a representative group of 1,000 people living in Poland. The questionnaire was based on a five-point Likert scale. Respondents were presented with five sets of questions, each containing a pair of inquiries. One question pertained to the evaluation of public policies aimed at transferring ownership to beneficiaries (or supporting them in ownership acquisition). The second question referred to lending (access-based solutions). To

mitigate response distribution biases that could arise due to the question sequence within a pair, they were presented in a randomized order.

A1. The government should purchase textbooks for students to own.

A2. The government should lend textbooks to students for the school year for free.

B1. The government should purchase educational toys for children to own.

B2. The government should lend educational toys to children for free.

C1. The government should facilitate the purchase of houses (e.g., by subsidizing).

C2. The government should facilitate access to rented housing (e.g., by subsidizing the rent).

D1. The government should support on-demand car sharing (renting by the minute or for an extended period).

D2. The government should support citizens in purchasing cars for personal ownership.

E1. In the case of remote learning, the government should purchase computers or tablets for children.

E2. In the case of remote learning, the government should lend computers or tablets to children for free.

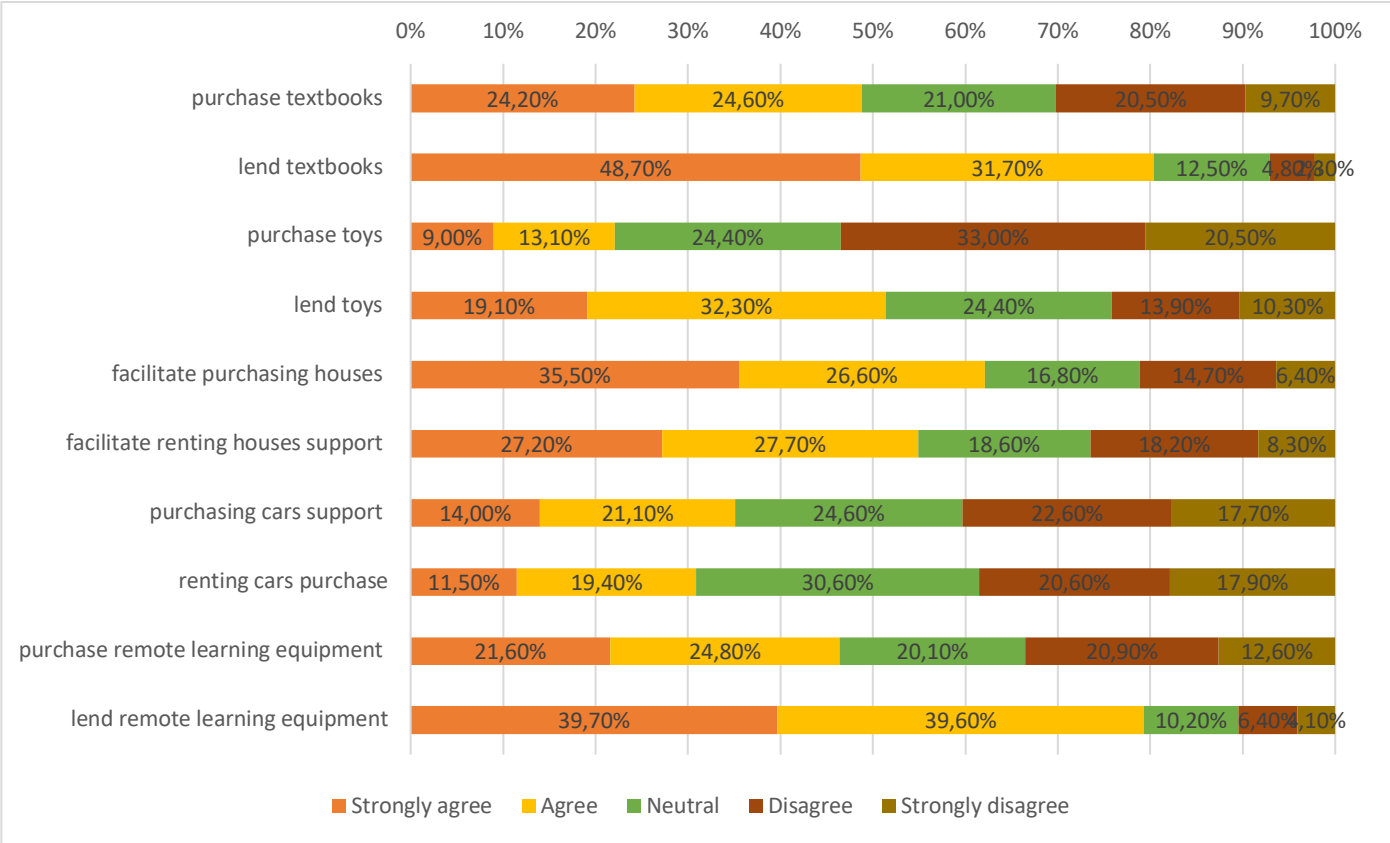
In the subsequent step, respondents' expectations were juxtaposed with their declarations regarding their personal willingness to relinquish ownership of the six specified categories of items when convenient on-demand access to these items is provided (rental system).

**Hypothesis:** *Individuals who are more supportive of public policies which provide access-based solutions demonstrate a greater personal readiness to relinquish ownership.*

## **Results**

The following table presents respondents' answers to the above-mentioned 6 pairs of questions.

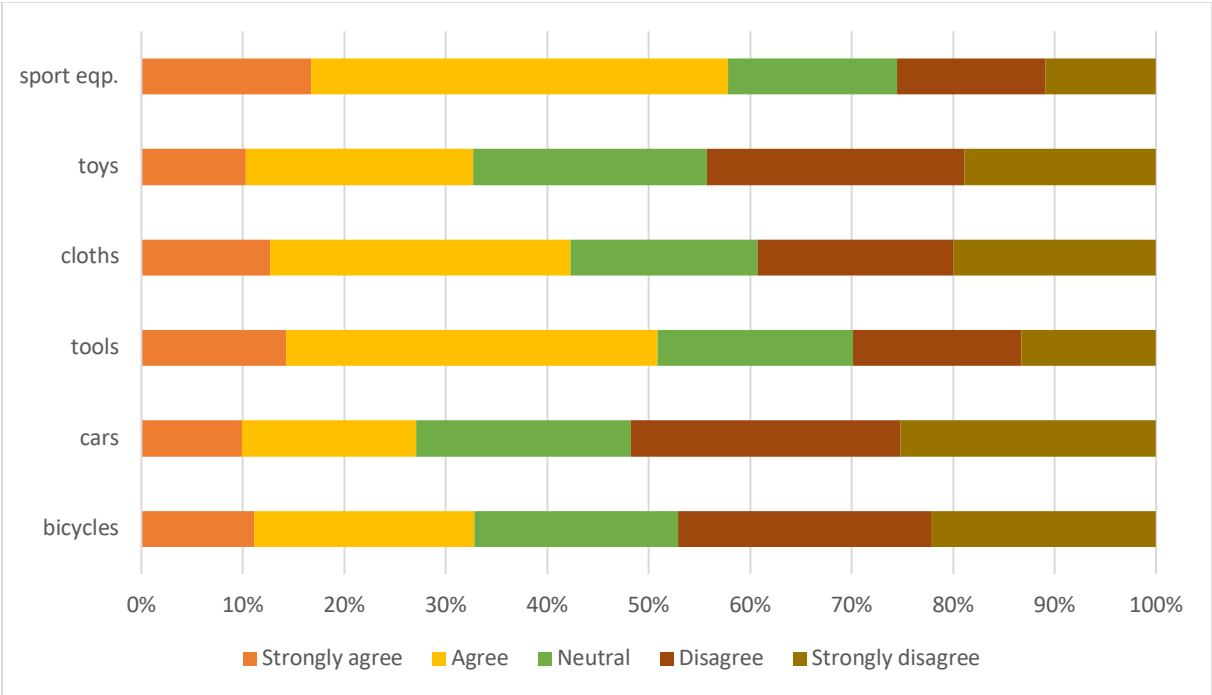
**Graph 1. Public policy expectations**



Source: own research.

In the subsequent phase of the study, respondents were queried about their willingness to relinquish ownership of six categories of items (sports equipment, expensive toys, formal clothing, tools such as drills and saws, cars, and bicycles) in a scenario where convenient on-demand access to these items could be acquired at their place of residence. Observed willingness to forgo ownership is relatively high, although there is pronounced variation across individual categories. Concerning items that are typically required more frequently (e.g., cars) or are intended for children, a stronger inclination toward retaining ownership is evident. Similarly, as seen in the section pertaining to public policies, housing is treated with particular significance.

**Graph 2. Willingness to relinquish ownership of selected item categories.**



Source: own research.

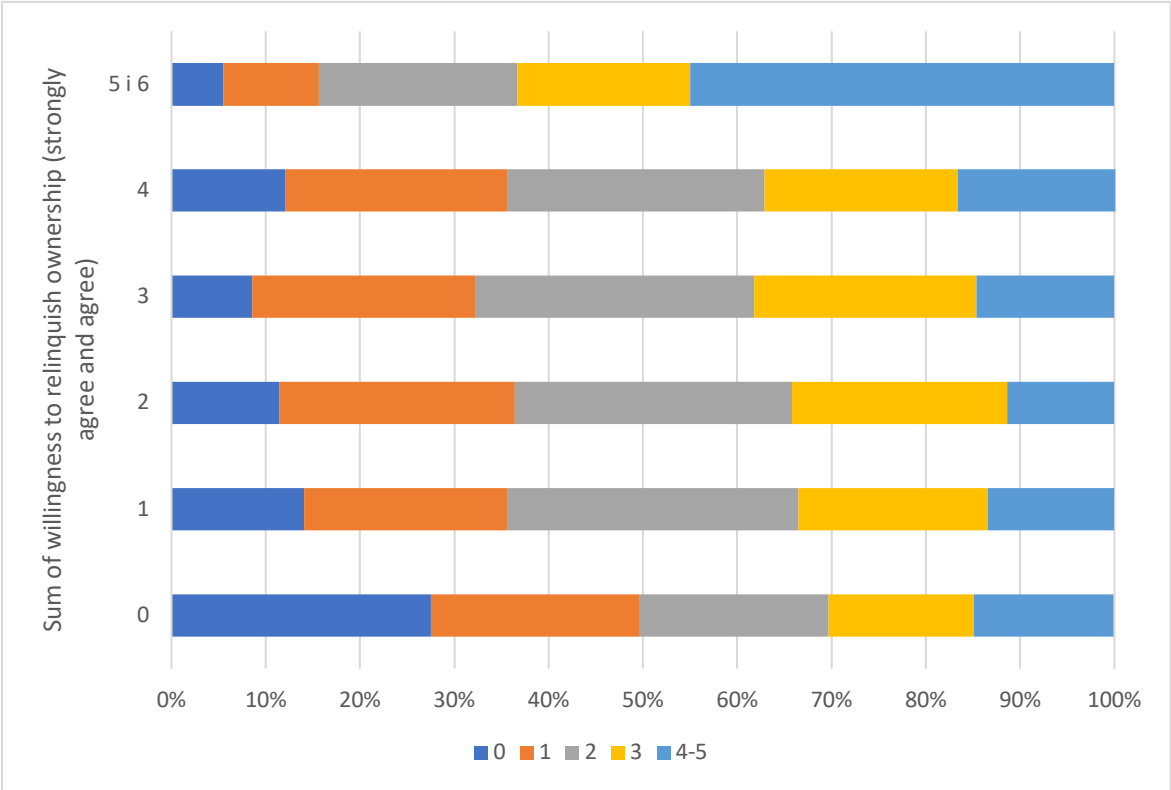
To capture a broader context, it is necessary to conduct Chi-square tests on more aggregated variables. This approach would allow us to grasp the cumulative effect of certain influences that, individually, might not be statistically significant but could collectively make a noteworthy difference. Therefore, further Chi-square tests were conducted in relation to the variable "Sum of Readiness to Relinquish Ownership" (where all responses of "strongly agree" and "agree" were summed in the six questions on willingness to relinquish ownership of specific categories of items). Additionally, due to a low number of observations, sums of 5 and 6 were combined into a single category.

This variable was juxtaposed with:

- The sum of support for public policies based on sharing (tallying "strongly agree" and "agree" responses across 5 questions) (sums 4-5 grouped into one category due to a low number of observations).
- The sum of support for public policies centered around ownership transfer (tallying "strongly agree" and "agree" responses across 5 questions) (sums 4-5 grouped into one category due to a low number of observations).

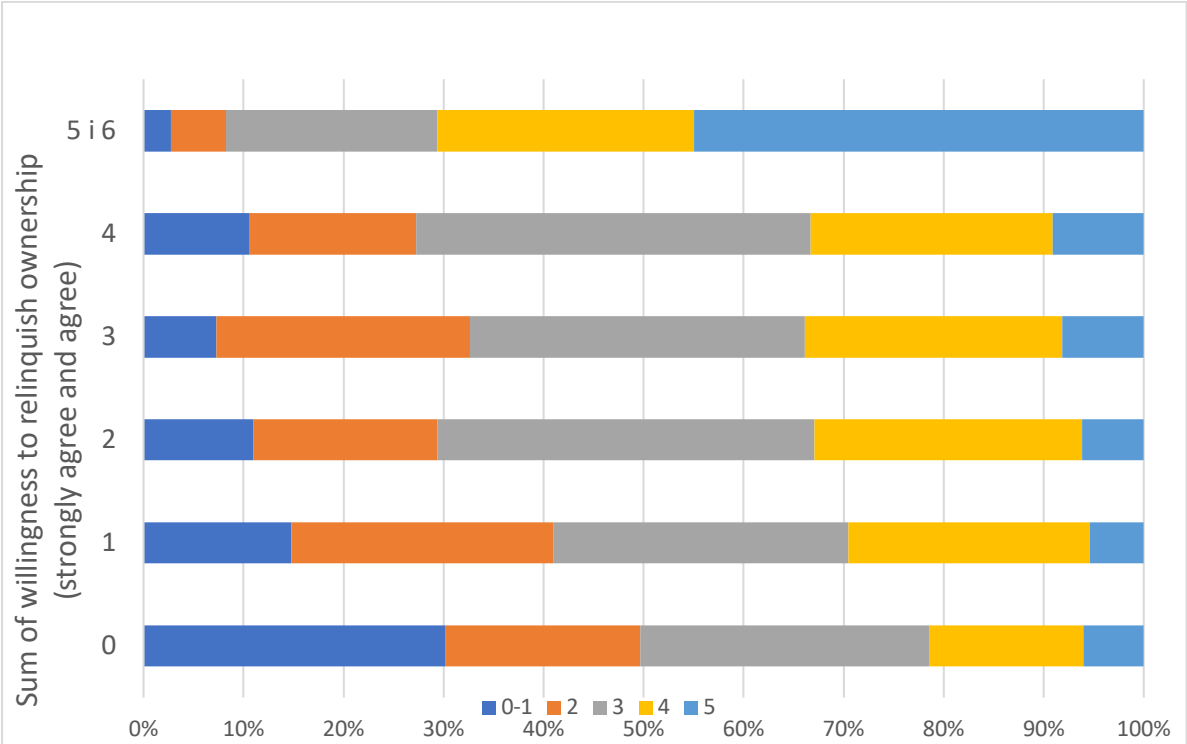
The conducted analyses demonstrated the significance of Pearson's Chi-square in both cases.

**Graph 3. Sum of willingness to relinquish ownership versus sum of support for access-based public policies.**



Source: own research.

**Graph 4. Sum of willingness to relinquish ownership versus sum of support for ownership transfer-based public policies.**



Source: own research.

Clearly, a greater willingness to relinquish ownership of multiple categories of items is noticeable among individuals who more frequently support public policies based on sharing. Furthermore, the measure of Cramer's V is relatively high in this case: 0.327. The most substantial difference is observed when comparing the percentage of the highest willingness to relinquish ownership (regarding 5 or 6 categories of items) - among those who strongly support sharing-based public policies, this percentage is nearly 30%, compared to the rest where this percentage does not exceed 10%. Similarly, at the opposite end, the lack of willingness to relinquish ownership of any category of items among individuals who do not support any sharing-based public policy is over 30% - more than twice the rate of any other group.

## **Conclusion**

This implies that the hypothesis - "Individuals who are more supportive of public policies which provide access-based solutions demonstrate a greater personal readiness to relinquish ownership." has been positively verified. However, it is important to note that this effect became apparent only when considering the cumulative level of willingness to relinquish ownership. It demonstrates a certain consistency among respondents, wherein if they consider access-based solutions favorable on a macro scale (in public policies), they also declare a readiness to engage with such solutions in their personal choices.

Incidentally, another very interesting correlation was observed, shedding a slightly different light on the above explanation. Namely, even among respondents who more frequently support public policies involving ownership transfer, the willingness to cumulatively relinquish ownership of items is statistically significantly higher. Therefore, if this effect is present among both individuals who favor policies based on access and those favoring ownership transfer, it must be concluded that the readiness to relinquish ownership is stronger among individuals who expect an active state policy to support citizens - irrespective of the form this support might take. Thus, it is not solely a matter of lesser attachment to ownership. Rather, the high willingness to relinquish ownership should be understood as a characteristic trait of respondents expecting significant state involvement.

## Appendix

**Table 1. Cross tab. Sum of willingness to relinquish ownership (strongly agree and agree) \* Sum of support for access-based public policies (strongly agree and agree).**

			Sum of support for access-based public policies (strongly agree and agree)					
			0	1	2	3	4-5	Total
<b>Sum of willingness to relinquish ownership (strongly agree and agree)</b>	0	Frequency	41	33	30	23	22	149
		Expected frequency	19.4	32.6	40.4	30.8	25.8	149.0
	1	Frequency	21	32	46	30	20	149
		Expected frequency	19.4	32.6	40.4	30.8	25.8	149.0
	2	Frequency	26	57	67	52	26	228
		Expected frequency	29.6	49.9	61.8	47.2	39.4	228.0
	3	Frequency	20	55	69	55	34	233
		Expected frequency	30.3	51.0	63.1	48.2	40.3	233.0
	4	Frequency	16	31	36	27	22	132
		Expected frequency	17.2	28.9	35.8	27.3	22.8	132.0
	5-6	Frequency	6	11	23	20	49	109
		Expected frequency	14.2	23.9	29.5	22.6	18.9	109.0
	Total	Frequency	130	219	271	207	173	1000
		Expected frequency	130.0	219.0	271.0	207.0	173.0	1000.0

Pearson's Chi-square statistically significant, Cramer's V: 0.163.

*Own study.*

**Table 2. Cross tab. Sum of willingness to relinquish ownership (strongly agree and agree) \* Sum of support for ownership transfer-based public policies (strongly agree and agree).**

			Sum of support for ownership transfer-based public policies (strongly agree and agree).					
			0-1	2	3	4	5	Total
<b>Sum of willingness to relinquish ownership (strongly agree and agree)</b>	0	Frequency	45	29	43	23	9	149
		Expected frequency	18.8	29.4	48.6	35.8	16.5	149.0
	1	Frequency	22	39	44	36	8	149
		Expected frequency	18.8	29.4	48.6	35.8	16.5	149.0
	2	Frequency	25	42	86	61	14	228
		Expected frequency	28.7	44.9	74.3	54.7	25.3	228.0
	3	Frequency	17	59	78	60	19	233
		Expected frequency	29.4	45.9	76.0	55.9	25.9	233.0
	4	Frequency	14	22	52	32	12	132
		Expected frequency	16.6	26.0	43.0	31.7	14.7	132.0
	5-6	Frequency	3	6	23	28	49	109
		Expected frequency	13.7	21.5	35.5	26.2	12.1	109.0
	Total	Frequency	126	197	326	240	111	1000
		Expected frequency	126.0	197.0	326.0	240.0	111.0	1000.0

Pearson's Chi-square statistically significant, Cramer's V: 0.231.

*Own study.*