



Diligentia

Stiftung für empirische Forschung

URKUNDE

Die Diligentia - Stiftung für empirische Forschung
verleiht ihren Preis 2020 für herausragende empirische und experimentelle
Forschungsarbeiten an

**Alain Cohn, Michel André Maréchal,
David Tannenbaum, Christian Lukas Zünd**

für ihre Studie „Civic honesty around the globe“

(Cohn et al., Science 365, 70-73 (2019) 5 July 2019; <http://science.sciencemag.org/on> April 29, 2020)

dotiert mit EUR 5.000,00

Under what conditions are people willing to forgo financial gains and display altruistic and socially beneficial behavior? This question has attracted the interest of social scientists for many decades. The article ‘Civic honesty around the globe’ by Alain Cohn, Michel André Maréchal, David Tannenbaum and Christian Lukas Zünd opens new avenues in the research on pro-social behavior, by presenting data from lost-wallet experiments in 40 countries and 355 cities. In contrast to economic theories based on purely self-interested agents, the authors find that a large share of citizens return a lost wallet to its owner. A striking result is that citizens are more likely to return wallets that contain relatively larger amounts of money. This finding is robust across countries and can be attributed to a desire for maintaining a positive self-image. The article’s findings contribute to our understanding of how monetary and non-monetary factors shape civic honesty, one of the key elements of successful social and economic institutions.

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