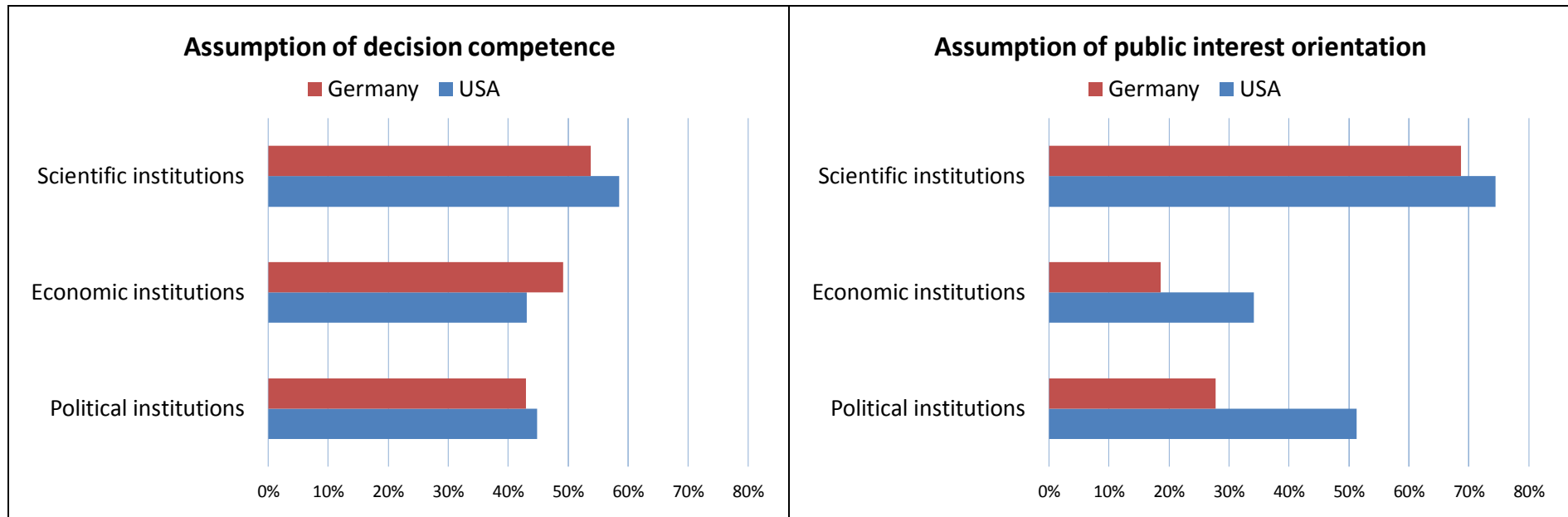


Trust in scientific institutions compared to trust in economic and political institutions



The data was gathered by representative phone surveys of the German and US population, conducted in May-June 2004 (sample: 942 German and 601 US citizens), on behalf of the Food Policy Institute, Rutgers University, USA, and Forschungszentrum Jülich, Germany.

The question about decision competence read: "*Scientific institutions – such as universities and government research laboratories – are NOT competent enough to make the right decisions*". The graph shows the proportion of respondents who "strongly" or "somewhat" disagreed – indicating that they perceived scientific institutions as competent. The question about public interest orientation read: "*Scientific institutions – such as universities and government research laboratories – try to do what is best for society*". The graph shows the proportion of respondents who "strongly" or "somewhat" agreed. Equivalent questions were used regarding economic and political institutions. As the general pattern is similar in Germany and the United states, cross-national differences are not discussed here.

For methodological details see: [Peters, H.P., Lang, J.T., Sawicka, M., & Hallman, W.K. \(2007\): Culture and technological innovation. Impact of trust and appreciation of nature on attitudes towards food biotechnology in the USA and Germany. *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, 19 \(2\), 191-220.](#) The detailed data on trust as well as the question wording in German and English are included in the [online appendix](#) of that paper (table A-1).