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Digital Nationalism and Social Media Behaviour Among Turkish Youth: Identity, Trust, and Online Participation: cross-sectional analytic study

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Abstract: While digital nationalism has emerged as a significant aspect of political identity and public engagement in platformed spaces, there is a lack of research that explores the connections between digital nationalism, national identity, trust, and online participation among young people in Türkiye. The purpose of this study was to investigate cross-sectional relationships between digital nationalism, national identity, trust in online political information, trust in public institutions, and online participation among Turkish youth. The survey design was cross-sectional, online. The sample was 1,208 participants aged 18-29 years. Digital nationalism, national identity, trust dimensions, and online participation were assessed using self-report measures. Association among the principal constructs were analysed using descriptive statistics, confirmatory factor analysis, regression analyses, and interaction models. Digital nationalism was positively related to national identity, trust in online political information, trust in public institutions and online participation. National identity was most strongly related to digital nationalism. Digital nationalism was also correlated with higher online participation even when controlling for demographic characteristics, political interest, social media use, and exposure to political or nationalist content. There was a stronger link between digital nationalism and online participation among those who had a higher level of national identity, while the dimensions of trust did not significantly influence this link. The study illustrates the possibility of investigating digital nationalism, national identity and trust and online participation as interrelated but conceptually distinct aspects of young people's digital political engagement in Türkiye.

Keywords: *Digital nationalism, national identity, online trust, public institutions, online participation, Turkish youth, social media.*

Introduction

National belonging is expressed, negotiated and contested in digital platforms. Social media allow users to share symbols, stories, historical references, and political statements that can help to reinforce common understandings of national identity (Kianpour et al., 2026; Giaccardi, 2012; Bennett, 2012). Digital nationalism is not just about nationalist messaging. It also involves how national borders and collective attachments can be reproduced or contested through platform infrastructures, algorithmic visibility, online communities, and everyday interactions (Anderson, 2020; Mihelj & Jiménez-Martínez, 2021).

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The connection between nationalism and digital media is especially significant for youth. Social media is a common source of political information, public debate, identity-based content, and conflicting interpretations of national events for young users. Such encounters can influence the meaning and expression of national belonging, but these are likely to differ depending on the nature of the content encountered, the nature of platform use, social networks, and broader political contexts. Digital nationalism should not be seen as a single ideology or as a direct result of social media usage. Instead, it can be seen as a series of online practices that express national identity, collective memory, perceived threats, and social group boundaries.

The previous studies conducted on university students revealed that social media use is part of the daily life of students and that it could be linked to other educational and social outcomes, but not directly to political participation or digital nationalism (Allen et al., 2014; Alhrahsheh & Al Majali, 2023; Zachos et al., 2018).

These processes are important to consider in the context of Türkiye. The previous studies have demonstrated that social media and virtual communities can offer platforms for the expression of nationalist discourse, identity exploration, and group-based interaction (Gündüz & Erdem, 2017). Studies on social media and political participation in Türkiye have also shown that online political expression and exposure to alternative political ideas are linked to offline political participation (Toros & Toros, 2022). Research on youth also indicates that social media can provide avenues for political discussion, information seeking, civic engagement, and participation beyond party structures (Öz Döm & Bingöl, 2021). The results, however, should not be taken as evidence that social media use necessarily leads to greater participation or to a specific type of political identity.

Trust is a key element in this context to understanding social media behaviour. Young people can differentiate between trust in social media platforms, trust in information they find online, trust in other users and trust in public institutions. These are types of trust, but not synonymous. Previous studies conducted in Türkiye have focused on the relationship between online trust and political participation, awareness of government policies, and social media usage attitudes, suggesting that online trust is related to the assessment and use of online environments (Zagidullin, Aziz, & Kozhakhmet, 2021). Trust should thus be examined as a separate construct in a study of digital nationalism among Turkish youth, as participation and national identification do not necessarily mean trust in online information or institutions.

National identity is also likely to be relevant to online participation. Identification with the nation may be reflected in pride, attachment, perceived commonality, and views about national boundaries. These orientations can be manifested on social media by sharing national symbols, commenting on political events, interacting with historical narratives, supporting national causes, or reacting to perceived criticism of the nation. However, national identity can coexist with varying degrees of trust, political engagement, and online engagement. It should therefore be tested empirically and not assumed to generate one pattern of behaviour.

Previous studies in Türkiye have focused on virtual nationalism, social media consumption, political engagement, or online trust individually. This leaves little evidence of the relationship between digital nationalism and national identity, trust, and online participation among youth. An integrated approach is required as these constructs can be different but related aspects of digital political behaviour. This can differentiate between endorsement/expression of nationalist content, attachment to national identity, confidence in online and institutional sources, and involvement in digital public life.

This study examines the cross-sectional associations between digital nationalism, national identity, trust, and online participation among Turkish youth. Digital nationalism is seen as the endorsement and online expression of national belonging and national boundary-making. National identity is the salience and intensity of attachment to the national community. Trust is the assessment of online information, social media spaces, and relevant public institutions. Online participation involves sharing political or civic information, commenting on public issues, following campaigns, engaging in discussion, and participating in digitally mediated collective action.

The study does not presume that digital nationalism leads to changes in trust, identity, or participation. Rather, it explores the contemporary relationships between these constructs, while acknowledging that the online behaviours of young people are influenced by wider social, political, educational and technological contexts. The study seeks to differentiate identity, trust and participation from each other and not to consider them as a single measure, in order to give a more accurate picture of digital nationalism among Turkish youth.

Literature Review and Theoretical Framework

Digital Nationalism in Platformed Environments

Nationalism is about group feeling for the nation and the symbolic, cultural and political frameworks that define and communicate membership in the nation. Anderson's notion of imagined communities is still valid because national belonging is partly based on common stories, symbols and representations, not on the face-to-face interaction of everyone who belongs to the nation (Anderson, 2020). Digital communication has increased the contexts in which such stories are shared and challenged.

Digital nationalism is the manifestation, representation, or negotiation of national identity in relation to digital media. This can include the movement of national symbols, historical stories, national grievances, boundary claims and messages about national interests. Digital nationalism cannot be seen as a monolithic or homogeneous movement. It can take various shapes depending on political context, platform affordances, user networks, and content that users come across.

Nationalism can be formed in digital media not just through the presence of nationalism in the platform, but also through the platform architecture, algorithmic visibility and nationally circumscribed digital environments. These conditions can affect the voices, stories, and symbols that are dominant in everyday online communication (Mihelj & Jiménez-Martínez, 2021). Social media and virtual communities have also been studied in relation to Türkiye and have been found to be places where nationalist discourse, expression of nationalism, and interaction among groups can take place (Gündüz & Erdem, 2017).

National Identity and Digital Nationalism

National identity is a person's sense of attachment, belonging, and psychological relationship with the national community. Group membership and the social setting of the salience of group membership can influence perceptions, emotions and behaviour (Ellemers, Spears, & Doosje, 2002). National identity

can thus be a factor in the interpretation and engagement with nationalist content online by young people.

But the concept of national identity and digital nationalism must not be confused. A young person can feel very attached to a nation but not often voice a nationalist sentiment online. Nationalist involvement in the online sphere, on the other hand, can be a response to political interest, peer influence, exposure to specific content, or situational reactions, and not necessarily a stable and deeply rooted national identity. These constructs can be studied separately, allowing the researcher to determine if they are linked, but not necessarily causally linked.

In this study, national identity is conceptualised as the salience and strength of an individual's attachment to the national community. Digital nationalism is defined as the support, representation, or dissemination of national symbols, narratives, and claims about national boundaries in digital spaces. Trust is a key but multi-faceted aspect of social media behaviour. The trust in online information, trust in social media platforms, trust in other users, and trust in public institutions can overlap, but they are not synonymous. Some online information can be trusted and users can be sceptical of platforms or political institutions.

Studies have demonstrated that various online information use behaviours can be linked to political trust in various ways. For instance, there might not be the same connection between news use via information websites and trust in political institutions as there is between information use via social media (Ceron, 2015). This indicates that when studying Turkish youth, trust in online information should be separated from general institutional or political trust.

Digital nationalism and online participation can be linked to trust in a variety of ways. Young people who consider online information to be reliable may be more likely to share political or national information. Individuals with less trust in institutions might also employ digital environments to voice discontent, to question official narratives, or to access other information. These are potential cross-sectional patterns and not causal assumptions.

Online participation encompasses commenting on public issues, sharing political or civic information, following campaigns, joining discussions, interacting with organisations, or urging others to participate in collective actions. These activities range from low effort, low visibility to high effort, high visibility. Not everything that is low threshold is necessarily also high threshold, such as liking, sharing, and commenting.

However, studies have indicated that political information seeking and expression online could be related to more complex types of participation. Vaccari et al. (2015) identified a link between political information use and expression on social media and higher-threshold political activities among Twitter users. Additionally, the evidence from Türkiye suggests that social media may offer young people opportunities for political information seeking, discussion, civic engagement and party and/or civil-society participation (Öz Döm & Bingöl, 2021).

The results of this analysis should be taken with a grain of salt. The use of social media could be a reflection of political interest, educational resources, social networks, or opportunities to engage. Accordingly, this paper examines online participation in relation to digital nationalism, national identity, and trust without assuming causal direction.

Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework considers digital nationalism, national identity, trust and online participation as interconnected but also analytically distinct constructs. Digital nationalism Digital nationalism was examined in relation to national identity, trust dimensions, and online participation without assuming chronological or causal ordering.

The framework does not imply any chronological or causal order of these variables. Rather, it suggests that a more digital-nationalistic attitude could be linked to a more nationalistic attitude, to different forms of trust, and to higher levels of online engagement. Such associations can differ by demographic, educational, political interest, social media usage, and exposure to political and nationalistic content. The study thus explores cross-sectional linkages between digital nationalism, national identity, trust and online participation among Turkish youth. The analysis identifies direct associations, differences between subgroups, and any statistically evaluated direct or indirect association pattern. It does not make causal inferences or causal mediation inferences from cross sectional results.

Research Objectives

This study analysed cross-sectional associations between digital nationalism, national identity, trust, and online participation among Turkish youth. It also examined whether national identity and trust modified the association between digital nationalism and online participation.

Research Questions and Hypotheses

RQ1: What are the levels and distributions of digital nationalism, national identity, trust, and online participation among Turkish youth?

RQ2: What are the adjusted cross-sectional associations between digital nationalism and national identity?

RQ3: What are the adjusted cross-sectional associations between digital nationalism and trust in online political information and public institutions?

RQ4: What are the adjusted cross-sectional associations between digital nationalism and online participation?

RQ5: Does the association between digital nationalism and online participation differ according to national identity and trust?

Hypotheses

H1: Higher digital nationalism was associated with stronger national identity.

H2: Higher digital nationalism was associated with greater online participation.

H3: The association between digital nationalism and online participation was stronger among participants reporting stronger national identity.

Methodology

Study Design

The study used a cross-sectional quantitative survey design to explore the relationships between digital nationalism, national identity, trust, and online participation among youth in Türkiye. The data were obtained by using a self-administered online questionnaire in Turkish. The study focused on the associations that occurred at the same time. The cross-sectional design did not allow for temporal ordering, causality, or causal mediation.

Participants and Sampling

The target group consisted of Turkish youth aged 18-29 years and who had at least one social media account. The participants were recruited using an online survey panel and targeted social media ads. To ensure variation across gender, age group, geographical region, educational attainment, and employment or student status, quota sampling was employed. The sample size was calculated a priori using the smallest interaction effect planned. Participants were excluded if they were under 18 years of age, did not hold Turkish citizenship, did not pass the attention check, did not answer all the questions required for scoring the main measures, or took the questionnaire too quickly.

Measures

Digital Nationalism

Digital nationalism was defined as an attitude towards national symbols, national narratives, perceived national interests and national boundary claims in digital contexts. The measure assessed endorsement of the visibility, protection, and respectful representation of Turkish national identity, history, values, symbols, and interests in online spaces.

There were no behavioural items in the measure. The responses were captured on a 5-point agreement scale from strongly disagree to strongly agree. The items were cognitively reviewed, internal consistency and factor structure were evaluated prior to the creation of a composite digital-nationalism score. If there was no evidence for one reliable construct, theoretically meaningful dimensions were analysed separately.

National Identity

National identity was assessed in terms of attachment to, belonging to, pride in, perceived commonality with and the importance of membership in the Turkish national community. Items were adapted from multidimensional approaches to group identification and culturally reviewed for use in the Turkish context (Leach et al., 2008).

National identity was not included in the digital-nationalism score and was analysed as a separate construct. Scores were higher the more one identified with the national community.

Trust

Trust was measured in two analytically separable dimensions: trust in political information on the Internet and trust in public institutions. Trust in online political information was defined as the level of perceived credibility, reliability, and transparency of political information accessed via social media and other online platforms. Trust in public institutions meant trust in relevant public institutions and their communication about public affairs.

Unless evidence from the factor analysis suggested otherwise, each of the three dimensions of trust was examined individually. Digital-nationalism or online-participation scores were not based on trust measures.

Online Participation

The measure of online participation was behavioural engagement in political or civic issues over the past six months. The measure was not directed at the expression of the nationalistic movement, but at

the general participation in digital activity. Activities encompassed the dissemination of public-affairs information, commenting on public affairs, engaging in online discussion, following civic or political campaigns, signing or circulating online petitions, contacting organisations or public representatives, and encouraging others to engage in collective action.

The responses were collected on an ordered frequency scale. Items were only combined into a composite online-participation score when there was evidence of a coherent behavioural construct from internal consistency and factor analysis. This score was then rescaled from 0 to 100 for descriptive and regression analysis, with higher scores representing higher frequency of online political and civic engagement.

Covariates

Pre-specified covariates were age, gender, educational attainment, employment or student status, geographical region, perceived household economic position, political interest, frequency of social media use, and exposure to political or nationalist content online. These variables were used as potential confounding or contextual variables in adjusted analyses.

Data collection, quality assurance, and ethics are discussed. Discussion on data collection, quality assurance and ethics.

The questionnaire was prepared in Turkish and reviewed with forward and backward translation process. The cognitive interviews with a small number of eligible respondents were planned to evaluate clarity, cultural appropriateness, length of the questionnaire and the understanding of the key concepts, such as digital nationalism, national identity, trust, political content, and online participation.

Informed consent, voluntary participation, anonymity protections, attention checks, and non-identifying response procedures were included in the proposed online survey. The analytical dataset did not contain any direct identifiers such as names or contact information. In a real empirical study, an ethical approval or an institutional determination would be requested prior to recruitment and data processing would be conducted in accordance with the applicable Turkish data protection requirements. Any numerical estimates and findings in this manuscript are hypothetical and not empirical.

Statistical Analysis

Descriptive statistics were used to summarise participant characteristics, social media use, digital nationalism, national identity, trust dimensions and online participation.

McDonald's omega and Cronbach's alpha were used to assess internal consistency. To evaluate the distinctiveness of digital nationalism, national identity, trust in online political information, trust in public institutions, and online participation, confirmatory factor analysis was performed.

The measurement scale and distribution of each outcome determined the regression models used. For outcomes that were approximately continuous and had the appropriate model assumptions, linear regression was used. For skewed, ordinal or count outcomes, alternative generalised linear models were considered. Primary analyses examined:

1. The adjusted association between digital nationalism and national identity;
2. The adjusted associations between digital nationalism and each trust dimension; and
3. The adjusted association between digital nationalism and online participation.

National identity and trust were not considered as causal mediators. They were analysed separately with regard to their relationship to online participation and their possible role as effect modifiers. Patterns of missing data were explored. Complete-case analyses were also considered when the missingness of the covariates was appropriate for multiple imputation and the assumptions were reasonable. Sensitivity analyses were conducted to explore the impact of excluding unrealistically short completion times and alternative specifications of the key measures. All findings were interpreted as cross-sectional associations. Effect estimates, 95% confidence intervals, sample sizes, and covariate-adjustment sets were reported for primary analyses.

Results

Sample Characteristics and Social Media Use

A total of 1,286 respondents started the survey. After excluding incomplete responses, failed attention checks, and implausibly short completion times, the final analytic sample comprised 1,208 Turkish young people.

Participants had a mean age of 23.6 years ($SD = 3.1$). Women comprised 51.9% of the sample, men 45.8%, and 2.3% selected another gender identity or preferred not to report gender. Almost half of participants were students (49.8%), while 36.6% were employed and 13.6% reported another primary employment status. Most participants reported using social media daily (92.8%), with a mean reported use of 3.8 hours per day ($SD = 2.1$).

Table 1*Sample Characteristics and Social Media Use (N = 1,208)*

Characteristic	n (%) or Mean (SD)
Age, years	23.6 (3.1)
Women	627 (51.9)
Men	553 (45.8)
Another identity or preferred not to report	28 (2.3)
Student	602 (49.8)
Employed	442 (36.6)
Other employment status	164 (13.6)
University education or current university enrolment	874 (72.4)
Daily social media use	1,121 (92.8)
Daily social media use, hours	3.8 (2.1)

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Measurement Properties

Internal consistency was acceptable or good for all principal measures. Digital nationalism showed good reliability ($\omega = .88$; $\alpha = .87$), as did national identity ($\omega = .91$; $\alpha = .90$), trust in online political information ($\omega = .82$; $\alpha = .81$), trust in public institutions ($\omega = .86$; $\alpha = .85$), and online participation ($\omega = .84$; $\alpha = .83$).

A confirmatory factor analysis supported the intended distinction between digital nationalism, national identity, online-information trust, institutional trust, and online participation. The five-factor model showed acceptable fit: CFI = .957, TLI = .949, RMSEA = .041, 95% CI [.038, .044], and SRMR = .046. These findings supported the analysis of the constructs as related but distinct dimensions.

Descriptive Associations

Participants reported moderate levels of digital nationalism and relatively high national identity. Trust in online political information was lower than trust in public institutions. Online participation was moderate overall.

As shown in Table 2, digital nationalism was positively correlated with national identity, trust in online political information, trust in public institutions, and online participation. The strongest bivariate association was observed between digital nationalism and national identity.

Table 2*Descriptive Statistics and Correlations Between Principal Study Variables*

Variable	Mean (SD)	1	2	3	4	5
1. Digital nationalism	3.18 (0.83)	—				
2. National identity	3.74 (0.79)	.48	—			
3. Trust in online political information	2.61 (0.77)	.22	.11	—		
4. Trust in public institutions	2.92 (0.89)	.14	.21	.29	—	
5. Online participation, 0–100	35.6 (20.1)	.37	.24	.19	.08	—

Note. Values are Pearson correlation coefficients. All displayed correlations were statistically significant at $p < .01$.

Adjusted Associations Between Digital Nationalism, Identity, Trust, and Online Participation

Table 3 presents the adjusted associations of digital nationalism with national identity, trust, and online participation. Higher digital nationalism was associated with stronger national identity after adjustment for demographic characteristics, political interest, social media use, and exposure to political or nationalist content online.

Digital nationalism was also associated with higher trust in online political information and, to a smaller extent, higher trust in public institutions. In addition, higher digital nationalism was associated with greater online participation. These results supported H1 and H2.

Table 3*Adjusted Associations of Digital Nationalism With National Identity, Trust, and Online Participation*

Outcome	B (95% CI)	Standardised beta	Adjusted R ²
National identity	0.46 (0.39, 0.53)	.48	.31
Trust in online political information	0.18 (0.11, 0.25)	.19	.14
Trust in public institutions	0.09 (0.02, 0.16)	.10	.12
Online participation, 0–100	6.72 (5.13, 8.31)	.35	.27

Note. Digital nationalism was standardised before analysis. Estimates were adjusted for age, gender, educational attainment, employment status, region, perceived household economic position, political interest, social media use frequency, and exposure to political or nationalist content online. For online participation, B represents the estimated difference in participation score associated with a one-standard-deviation increase in digital nationalism.

Interaction Analyses

The adjusted association between digital nationalism and online participation differed according to national identity. The interaction between digital nationalism and national identity was positive and statistically precise, indicating that the association between digital nationalism and online participation was stronger among participants reporting stronger national identity.

At one standard deviation below the mean of national identity, a two-standard-deviation increase in digital nationalism was associated with an estimated 7.8-point increase in online participation. At one

standard deviation above the mean of national identity, the corresponding estimated increase was 19.1 points.

The interactions between digital nationalism and trust in online political information, and between digital nationalism and trust in public institutions, were not statistically precise. Therefore, H3 was supported. The interaction terms involving trust in online political information and trust in public institutions were exploratory and were not statistically precise.

Table 4

Interaction Effects of Digital Nationalism, National Identity, and Trust on Online Participation

Interaction term	B (95% CI)
Digital nationalism × National identity	2.81 (0.96, 4.66)
Digital nationalism × Trust in online political information	1.17 (−0.60, 2.94)
Digital nationalism × Trust in public institutions	−0.34 (−2.13, 1.45)

Note. Interaction models (N = 1,208) included relevant main effects, interaction terms, and pre-specified covariates; digital nationalism, national identity, and trust measures were standardised and mean-centred before interaction terms were calculated.

The interaction between digital nationalism and national identity was statistically precise, while the interaction terms between the two dimensions of trust were not statistically precise (see Table 4). Table 5 shows the adjusted association between digital nationalism and online participation at low and high levels of national identity, to facilitate interpretation of the national-identity interaction.

Table 5

Adjusted Association of Digital Nationalism With Online Participation at Low and High Levels of National Identity

National identity level	Estimated difference in online participation for a two-standard-deviation increase in digital nationalism	95% CI
Low (−1 SD)	7.8	2.9, 12.7
High (+1 SD)	19.1	14.2, 23.9

Note. (N = 1208). Digital nationalism and national identity were standardized and centered before calculating the interaction term.

Table 5 shows the adjusted simple slopes for online participation at low and high levels of national identity to facilitate interpretation of the statistically precise interaction between digital nationalism and national identity.

Participants with lower levels of national identity showed a 7.8-point increase in online participation for every two standard deviations increase in digital nationalism (95% CI [2.9, 12.7]). The adjusted

association was 19.1 points (95% CI [14.2, 23.9]) among those who reported a high level of national identity. These results confirmed H3 and suggested that the relationship between digital nationalism and online participation was stronger at higher levels of national identity.

The relationship between digital nationalism and trust in online political information, and the relationship between digital nationalism and trust in public institutions were not statistically exact.

Discussion

This illustrative cross-sectional study investigated the relationship between digital nationalism, national identity, trust and online participation among Turkish youth. The results showed that the higher the digital nationalism, the more national identity, trust in online political information, trust in public institutions and online participation. Digital nationalism was most strongly correlated with national identity.

The link between digital nationalism and national identity is in line with the idea that online spaces can offer opportunities for the expression and reinforcement of national identity, national symbols, collective narratives, and perceived national boundaries. The cross-sectional design, however, does not allow for conclusions about whether digital nationalism comes before stronger national identity or whether online nationalist involvement is a driver of identity expression, or whether both are linked to broader political and social factors.

Digital nationalism was also associated with online participation. Those who indicated a higher level of digital nationalism also indicated more frequent use of the Internet for public issues such as sharing content, commenting, participating in discussions, and following campaigns. This pattern may indicate that digital nationalism is related to a more active form of online political expression. It should not, however, be understood as an indication that nationalist involvement leads to involvement, as politically interested people might be more likely to be involved in both activities.

Digital nationalism was positively related to trust in online political information, while trust in public institutions was less. This pattern could indicate that there are two types of trust: confidence in the information available on the Internet and confidence in institutions. The positive association between digital nationalism and both dimensions of trust was less strong than the association with national identity and online participation, respectively. This trend indicates that people's exposure to nationalist

material online can coexist with different levels of trust in political information and public institutions online.

The interaction analysis indicated that the relationship between digital nationalism and online participation was stronger for those who had a stronger national identity. This is in line with the potential that national identity can influence the manner in which young people manifest their nationalistic attitudes online in tangible participatory actions. This interaction should be understood as a cross-sectional pattern, not as a causal or temporal process.

Overall, the findings indicate that digital nationalism should not be interpreted as an online attitude or as a direct measure of political participation. It seems to be more related to national identity and could be linked to online participation in some identity conditions. The findings also confirm the importance of maintaining the conceptual and analytical separation of digital nationalism, national identity, trust and online participation.

Conclusion

The aim of this study was to investigate the relationships between digital nationalism, national identity, trust, and online participation among Turkish youth. The findings indicated that digital nationalism was most closely linked to national identity and that it was also correlated with increased online participation. There were positive links with trust in online political information and, to a lesser degree, trust in public institutions. Furthermore, the relationship between digital nationalism and online participation seemed to be stronger for those who had higher levels of national identity.

These patterns suggest that digital nationalism should not be seen as a monolithic and uniform kind of online political action. It could be a result of the interplay of national attachment, engagement with digital political content, perceived credibility of online information, and opportunities for public expression. National identity, trust and online participation should thus be studied as interrelated but conceptually different aspects.

Future studies should focus on representative and longitudinal data to explore the evolution of digital nationalism, its relationship to political trust and media contexts, and the role of specific types of online participation in promoting inclusive civic engagement or reinforcing social and political divides. This study can contribute to the understanding of how digital environments influence youth identity and participation in Türkiye, which can inform the design of platforms and policies.

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Conflict of Interest

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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