

Study of students' perceptions of Covid-19 recommendations

Formas project – a short preliminary report for HKR

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Report outline

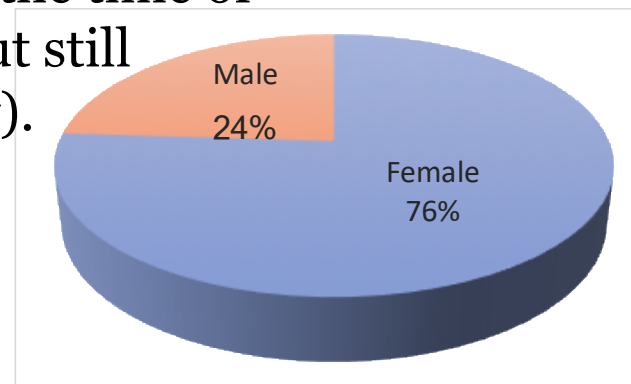
- Here we report some findings pertaining to the goals of:
 - To investigate students' views on Covid-19 related recommendations
 - The effects of Covid-19 crisis on some relevant individual variables
- HKR students compared with students from other Swedish universities
- *Note:* Participation in the study was completely voluntary → potential self—selection bias

Summary in a glance

- All Swedish students surveyed reported a moderate level of concern regarding Covid-19 pandemic in February 2021
- HKR students report being **more concerned** in February 2021 than at the beginning of the pandemic
- HKR students are mostly similar to other students, but some differences found:
 - They perceive their co-students as following social distance recommendations more strictly
 - Report less negative effect of Covid-19 on their studying
 - Have been to the campus less than other students in January 2021
 - Report being more productive compared to pre-Covid times
 - Miss in-person interaction with their colleagues less than other students

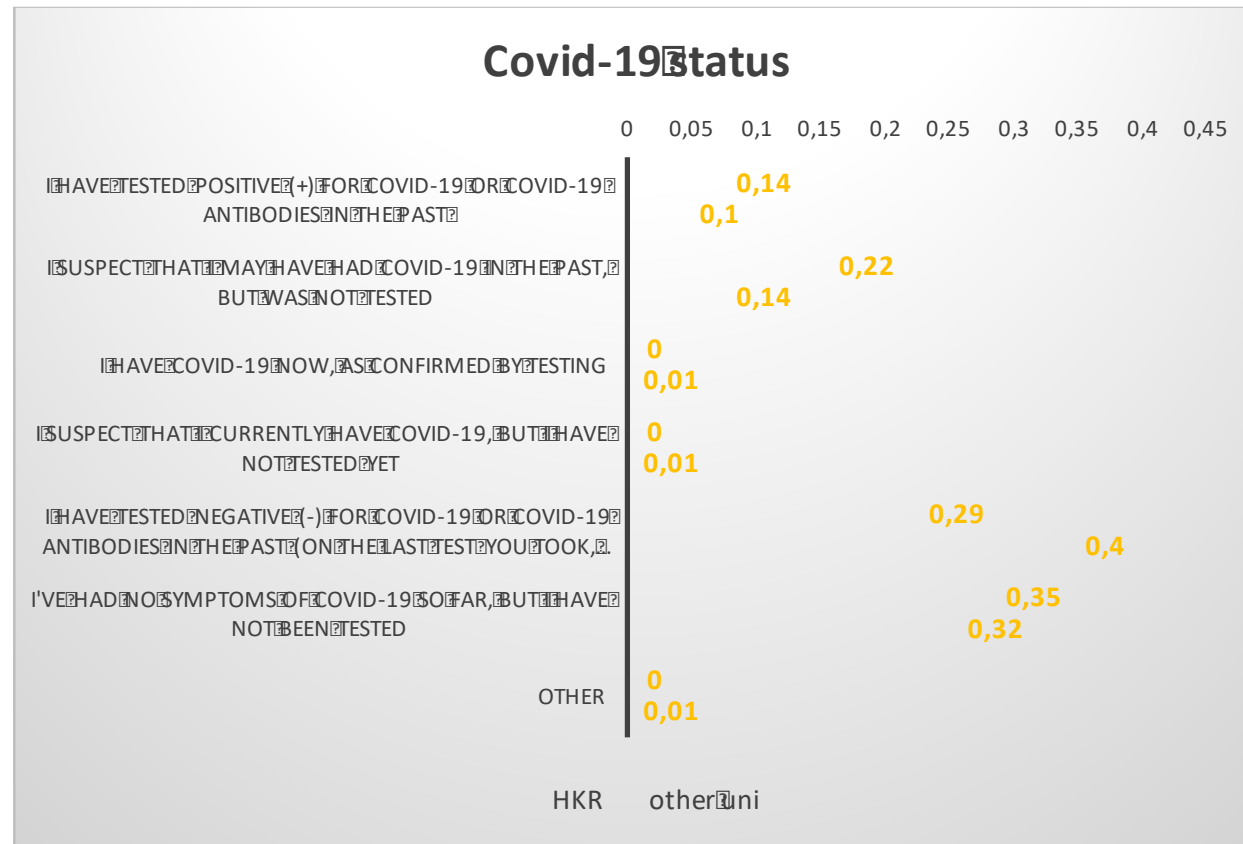
Study design and sample characteristics

- Data collection – February 2021; on-line
- N= 462
- Students from 19 universities participated
- Age mean = 22 years
- Gender: 348 F, 110 M, (2 Other, 2 NA)
- 440 participants were in Sweden at the time of the survey, remaining 22 abroad (but still studying at their Swedish university).



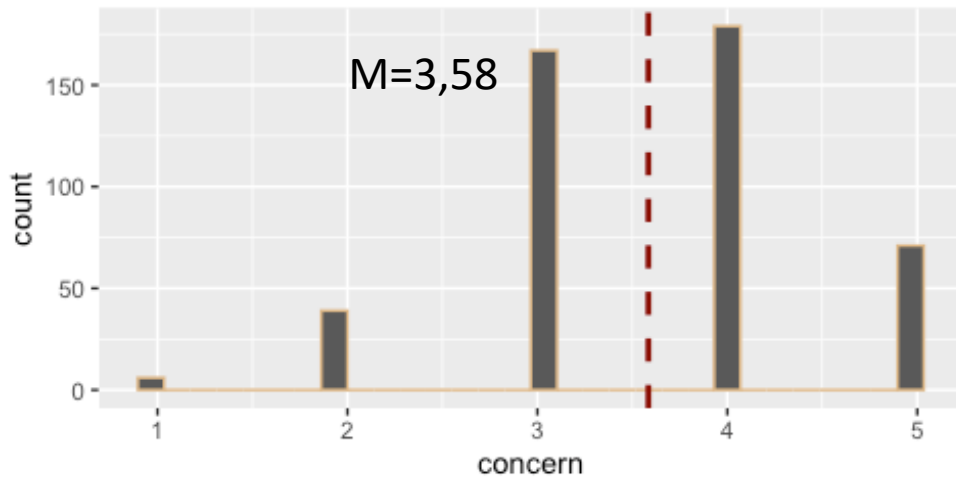
University	N
Lund University	105
Stockholm University	80
Kristianstad University	79
Dalarna University College	30
KTH Royal Institute of Technology	26
Luleå University of Technology	19
Jönköping University Foundation	16
Malmö University	14
Karolinska Institutet	12
Umeå University	11
University of Gothenburg	11
Örebro University	7
Linköping University	6
Stockholm School of Economics	5
Uppsala University	5
Not listed in answer options	3
Södertörn University	1
University of Borås	1

Which of the following best describes your Covid-19 status at the moment?

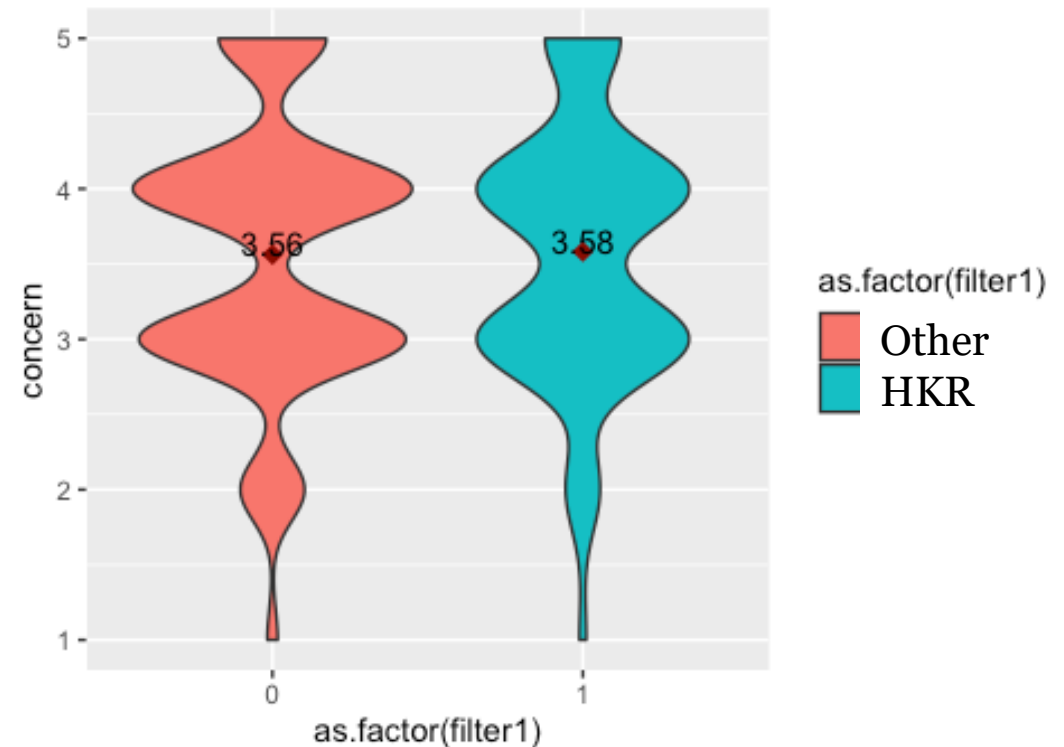


- Frequencies per answer do not differ between HKR students and students from other universities

“How concerned are you about the current Covid-19 pandemic?”



- *Answer options:* scale ranging from (1)- Not concerned at all; to (5) - Extremely concerned
- Means not different between HKR students and other students

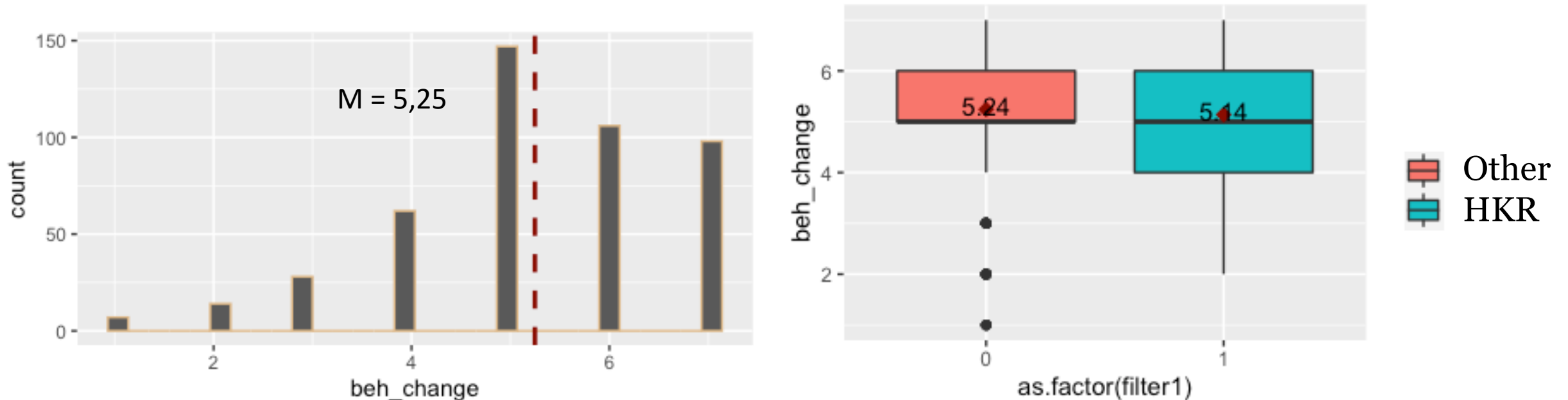


“Has your level of concern about Covid-19 changed since the beginning of the pandemic this year (i.e. since March 2020)?”



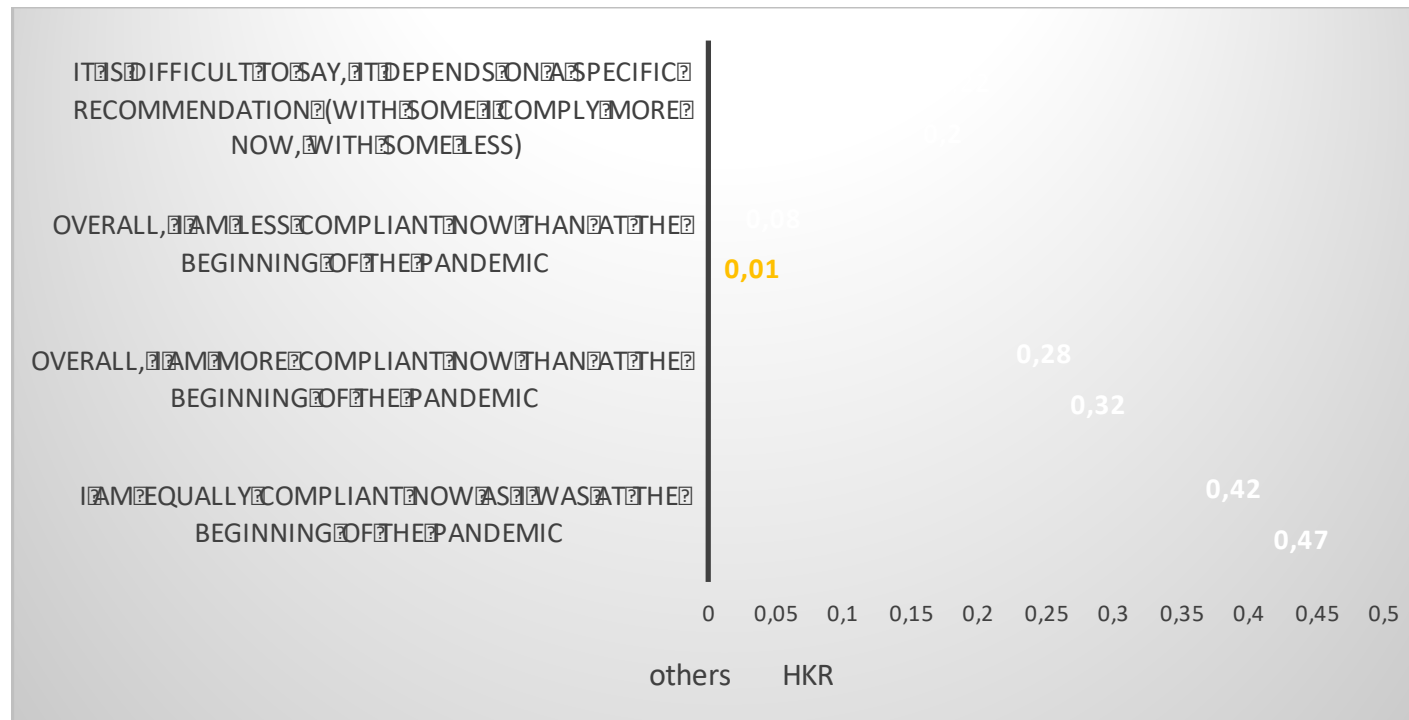
Frequencies of answers differ significantly between HKR and other students ($p < 0.01$) – HKR students were somewhat more concerned about the pandemic in Feb 2021 than at its beginning in March 2020.

“To what degree has your behaviour changed as to avoid Covid-19 infection in current situation in comparison to your normal behavior before Covid-19?”



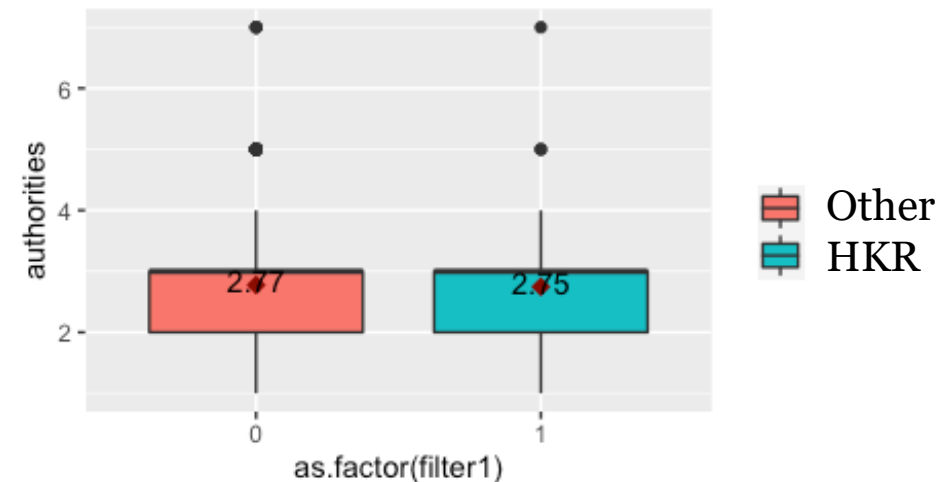
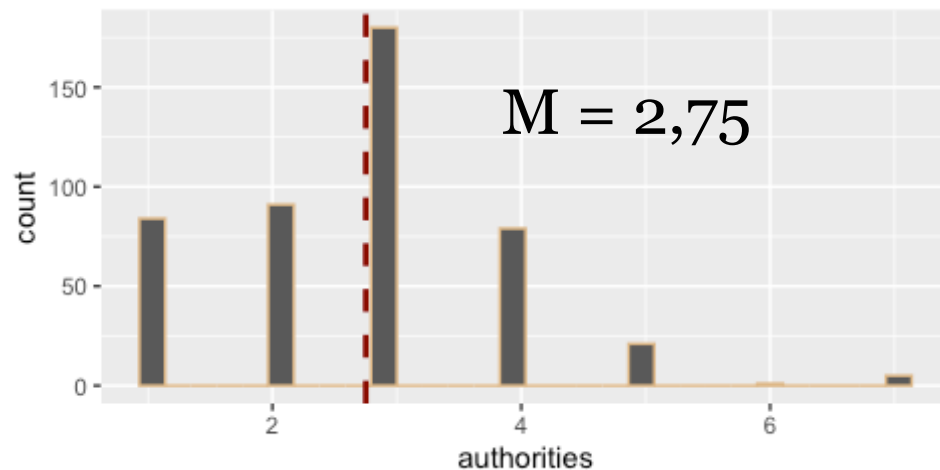
- Answer options: A scale ranging from (1)- I have not changed my behaviour; to (7) - I have drastically changed my behaviour
- No significant difference between HKR students and other students

“Since the beginning of the pandemic (March 2020), how did your compliance with recommended behaviours for preventing infection change until today?”



- No significant difference between HKR students and other students

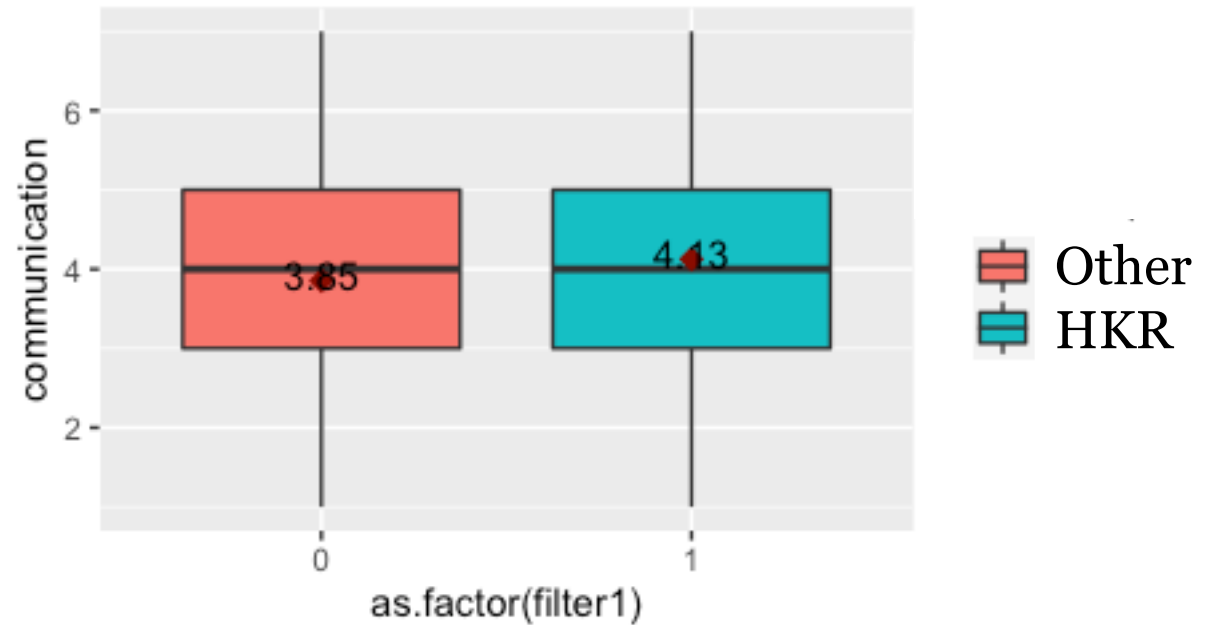
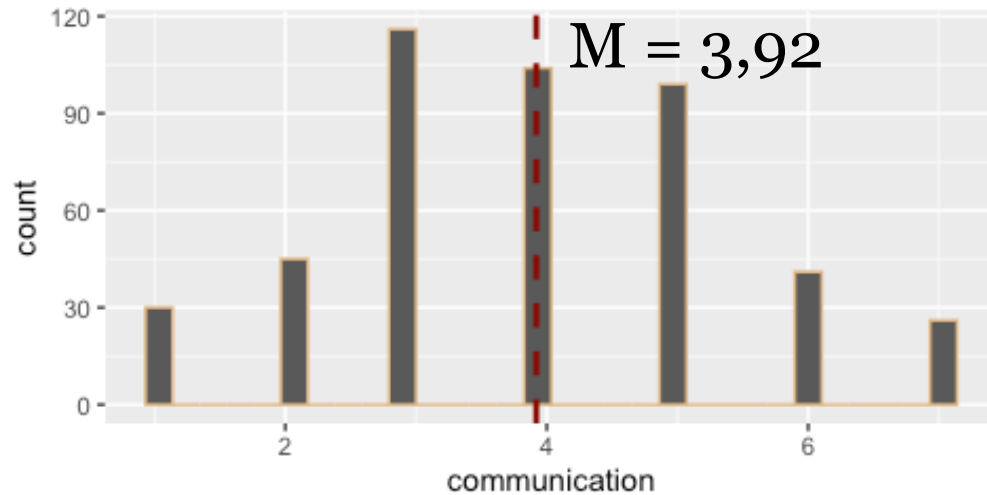
“In general, do you think that the authorities are taking too few or too many measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19?”



- Answer options:
 - 1 - Far too few
 - 4 - Just right amount of measures

- No difference between HKR students and other students

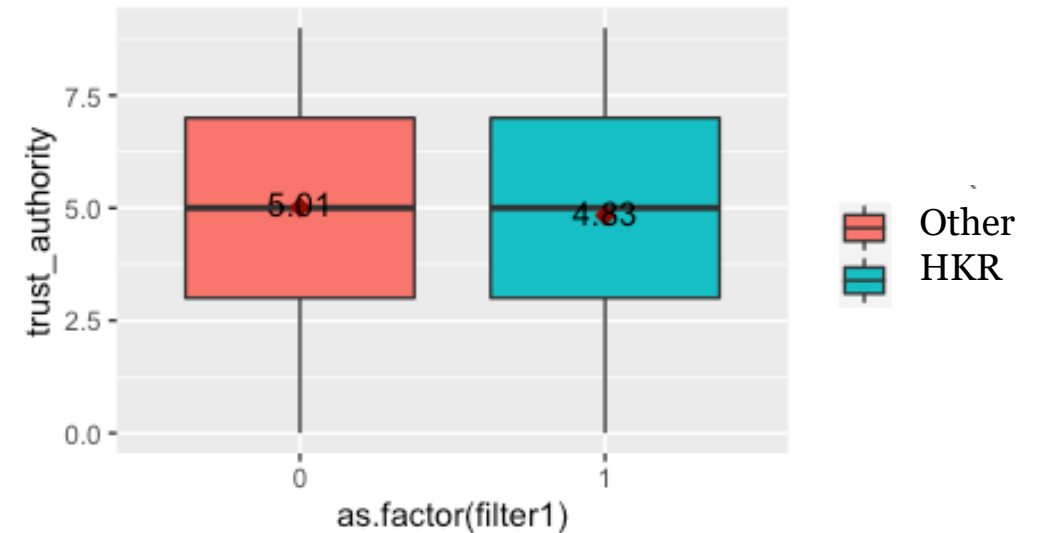
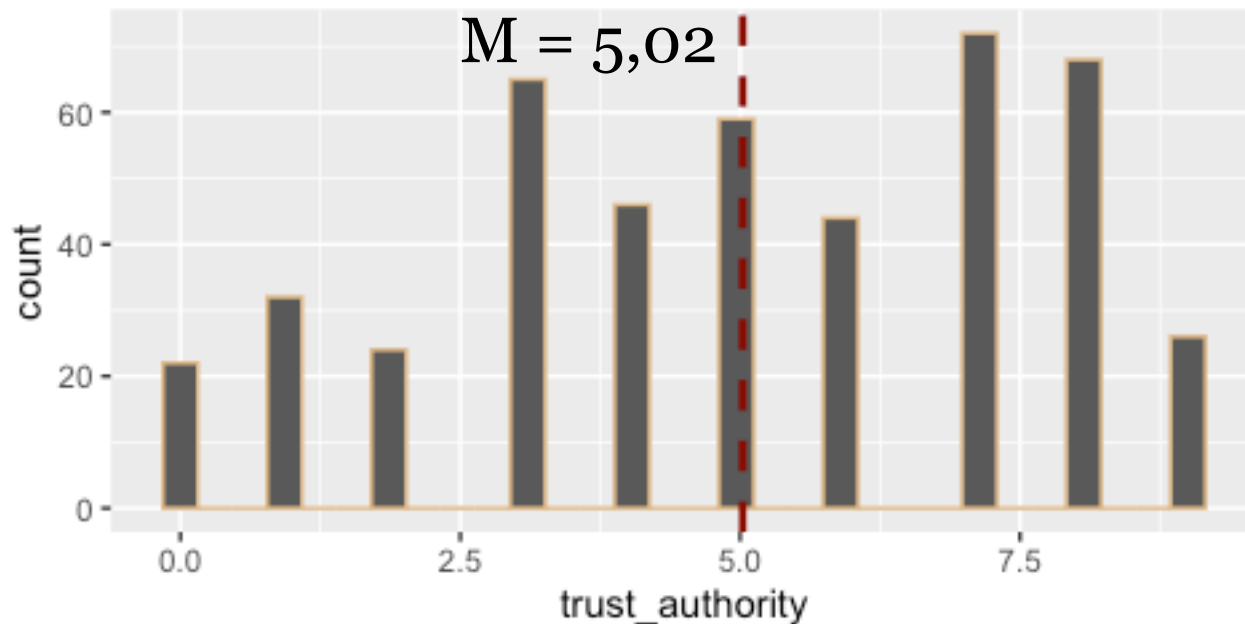
“To what extent do you think the communication from the authorities regarding the measures is clear?”



- Answer options: A scale ranging from (1) - Extremely unclear; to (7) - Extremely clear

- No difference between HKR students and other students

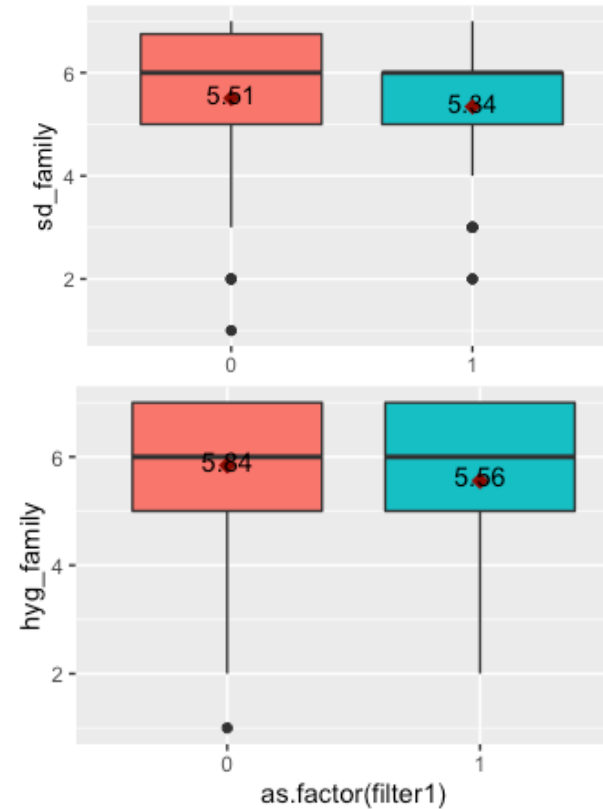
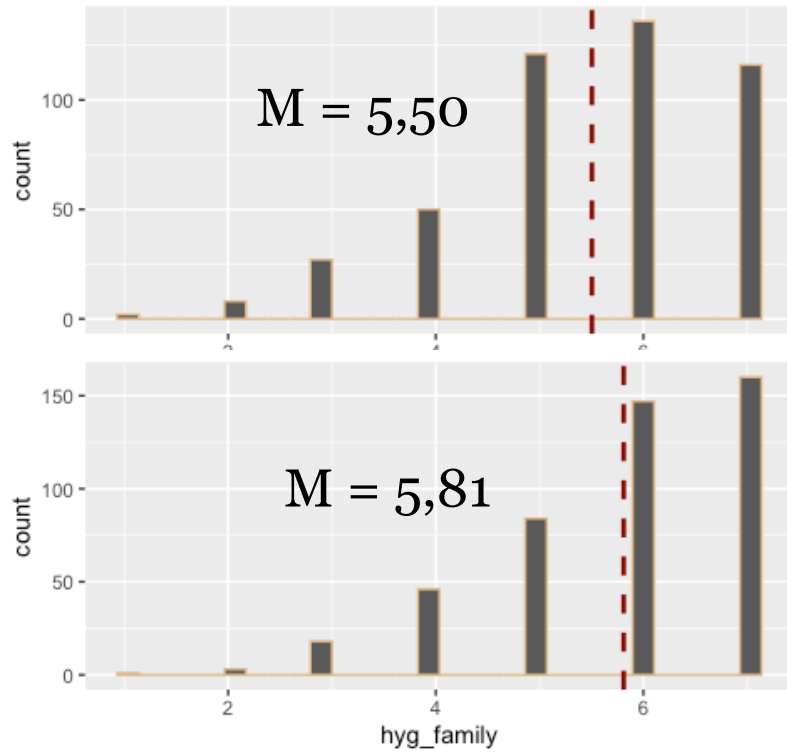
“In general, on a scale of 1-10, how much trust do you have in the authorities when it comes to dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic?”



- Answer options: A scale ranging from (1) - No trust at all to (10) - Full trust
- No difference between HKR students and other students

“To what extent is your family following the guidelines for social distancing/ hygiene?”

Social distance



Other
HKR

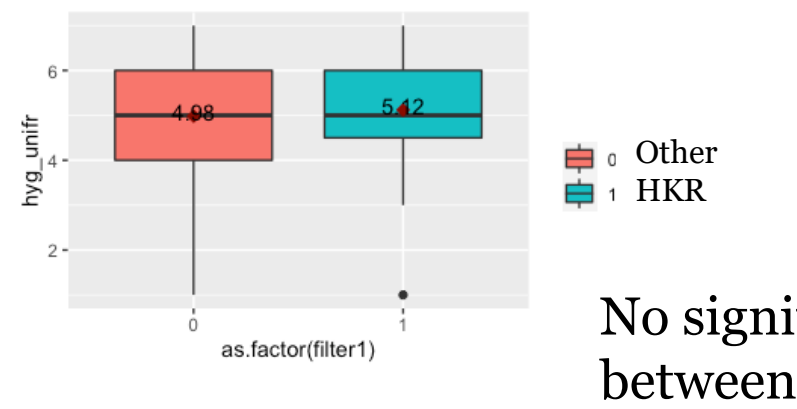
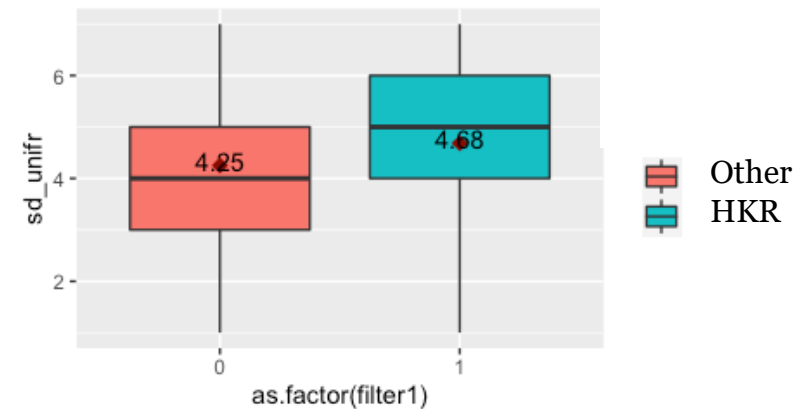
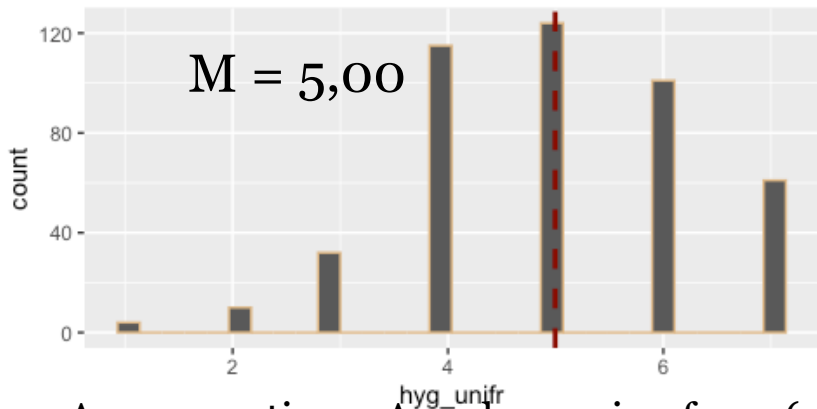
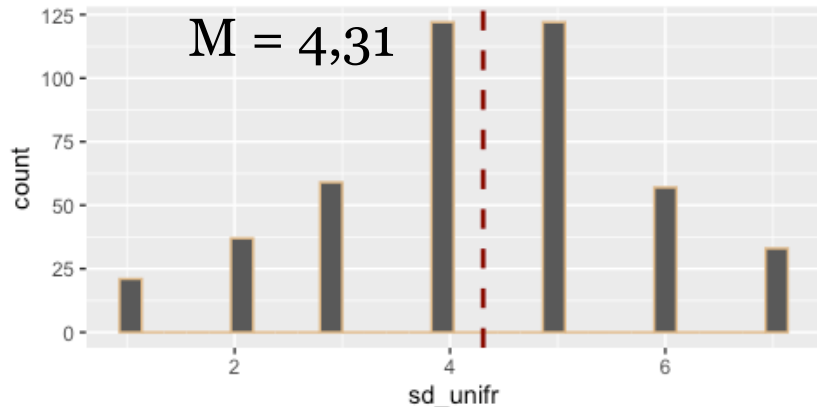
No difference between HKR students and other students

Other
HKR

No difference between HKR students and other students

- Answer options: A scale ranging from (1)They do not follow the recommendations at all; to (7) - They strictly follow all recommendations

“To what extent are your friends and peers at the university following the guidelines related to social distancing/hygiene?”



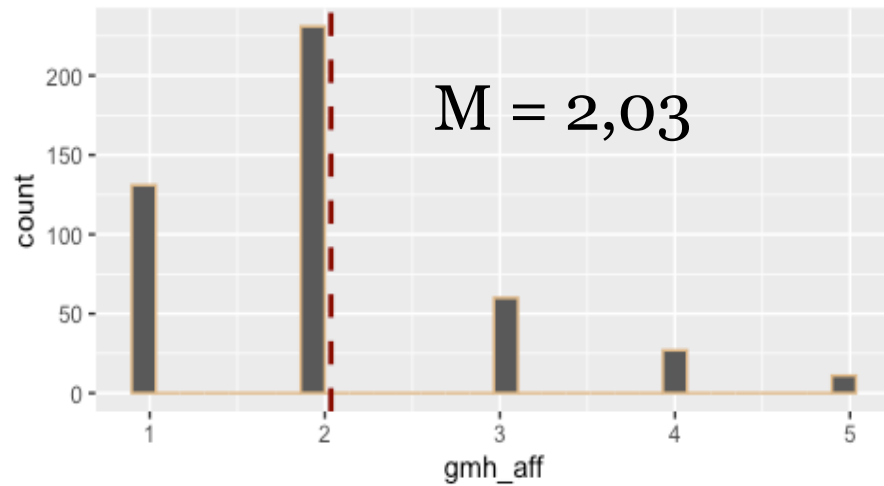
No significant difference between groups

- Answer options: A scale ranging from (1) - They do not follow the recommendations at all; to (7) - They strictly follow all recommendations

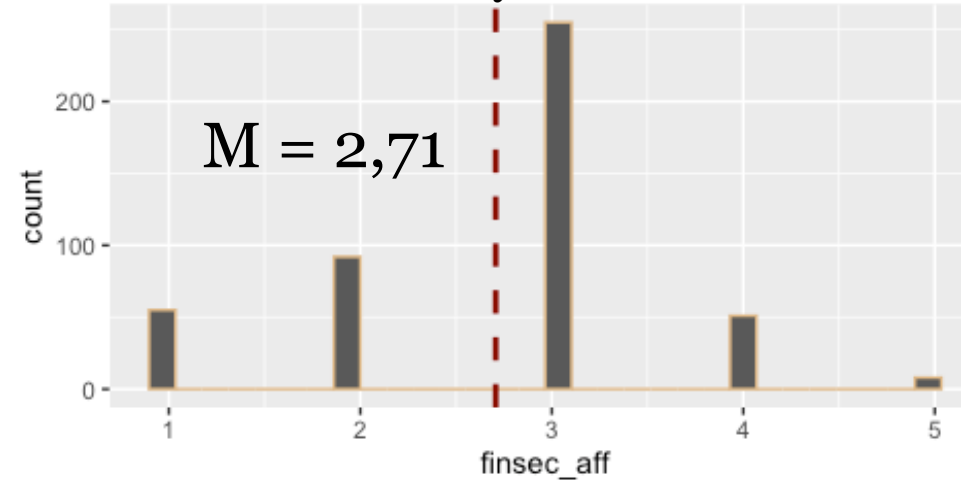
HKR students report that their co-students follow social distance recommendations slightly **more** than students of other universities do ($p < 0.05$)

(Full sample) “So far, has the Covid-19 crisis affected your...”

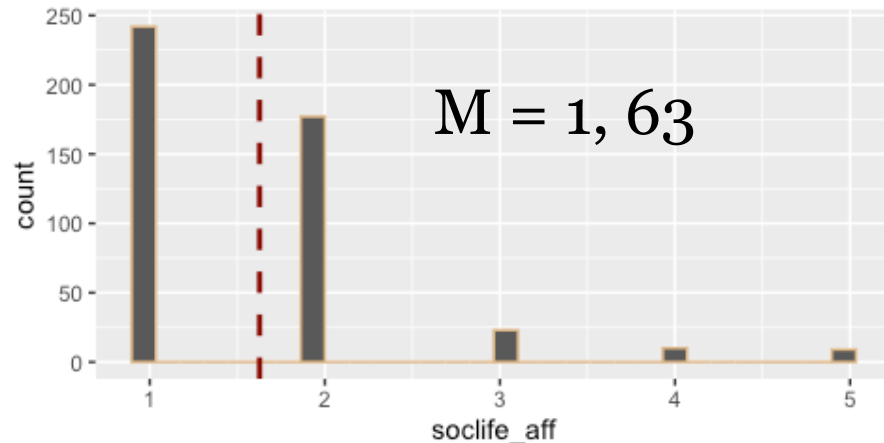
...General mental health



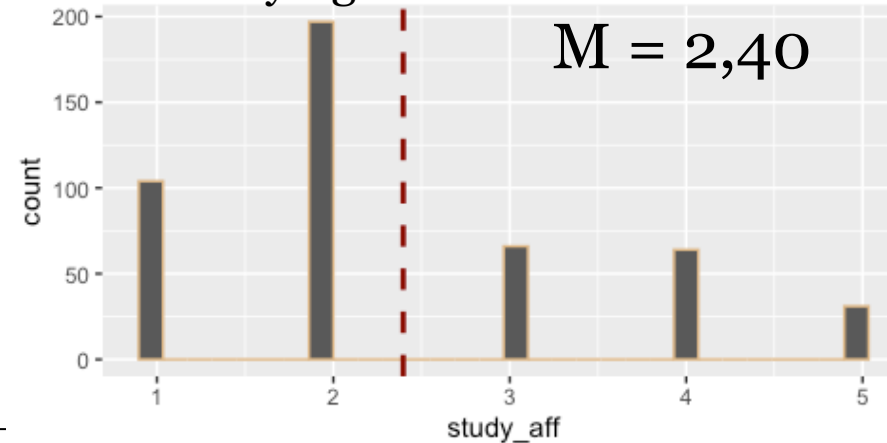
...Financial security



...Social life

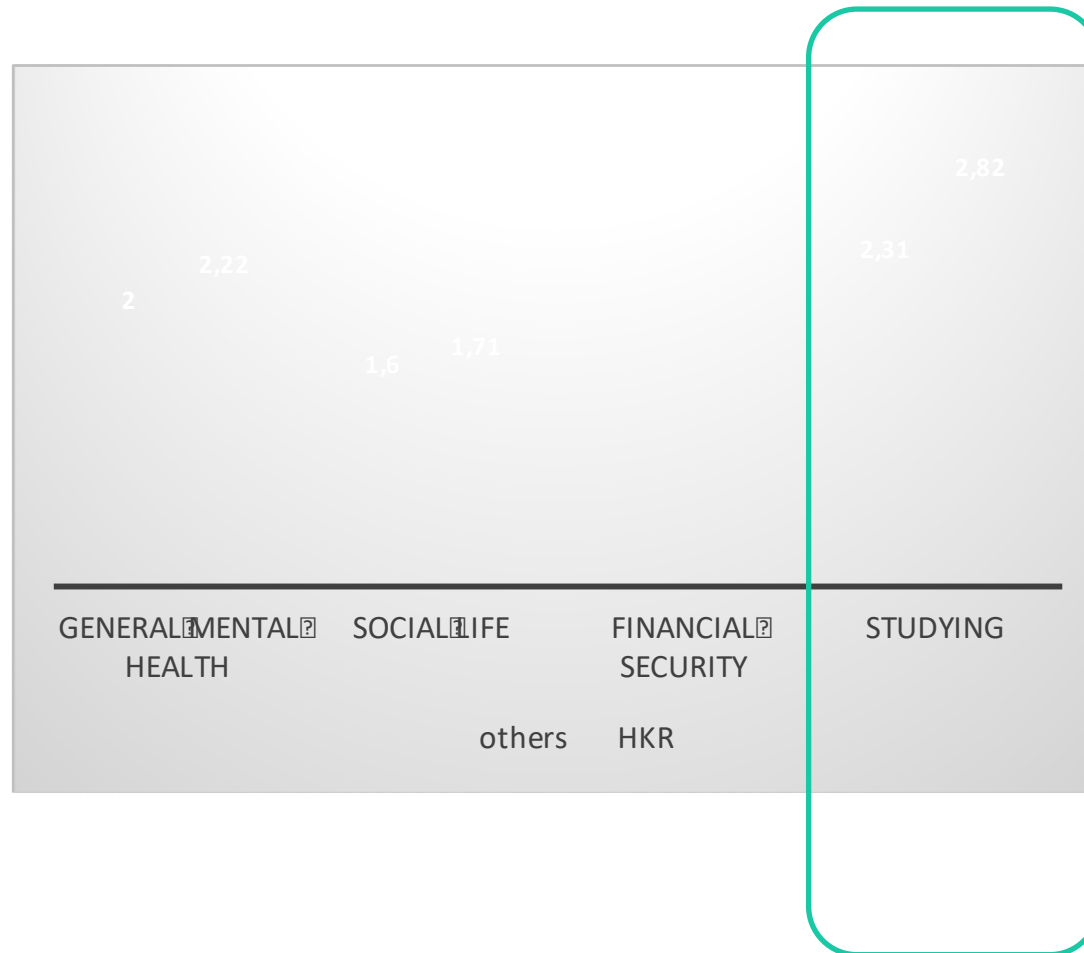


...Studying



- Answer options:
 - 1=Strongly negatively affected
 - 2=Slightly negatively affected
 - 3=Did not affect in any way
 - 4=Slightly positively affected
 - 5=Strongly positively affected

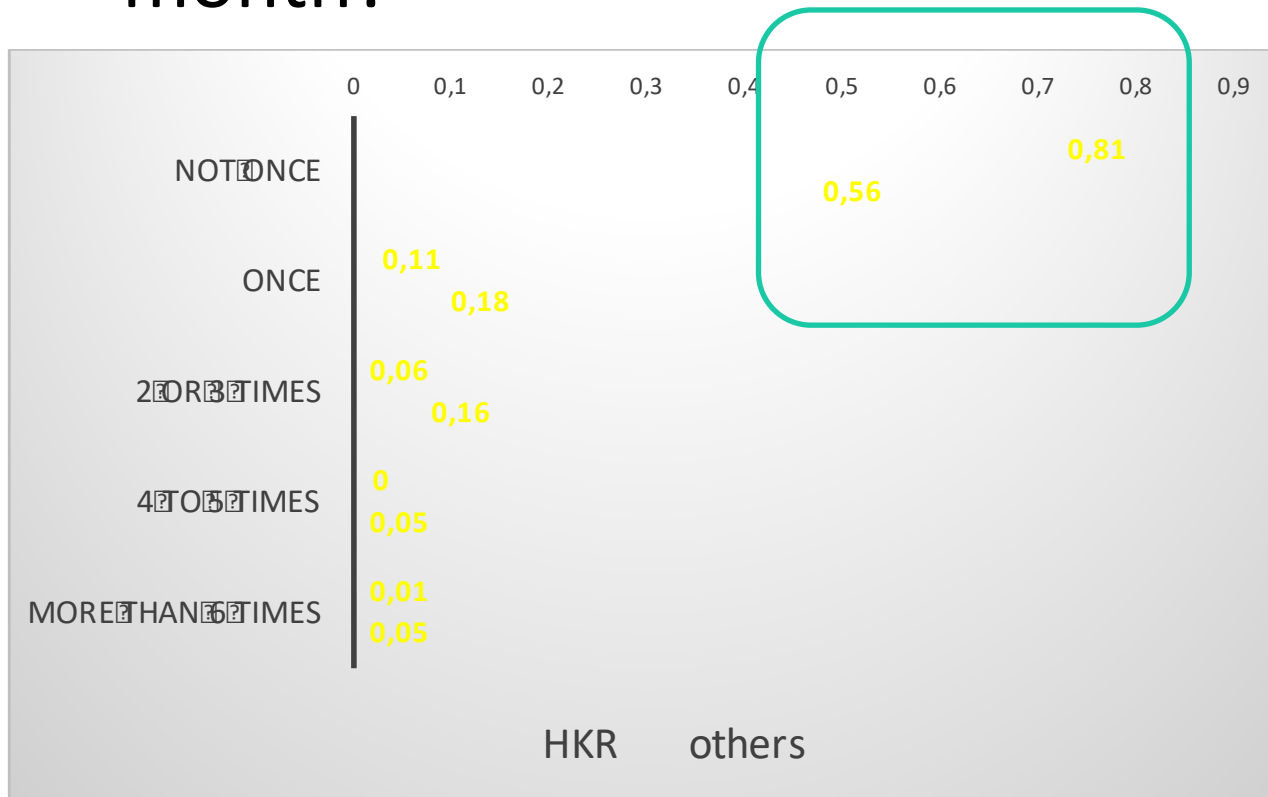
“So far, has the Covid-19 crisis affected your...”



- Answer options:
 - 1=Strongly negatively affected
 - 2=Slightly negatively affected
 - 3=Did not affect in any way
 - 4=Slightly positively affected
 - 5=Strongly positively affected

HKR students report **less negative effect of Covid-19 on their studying** than other students ($p < 0.01$)

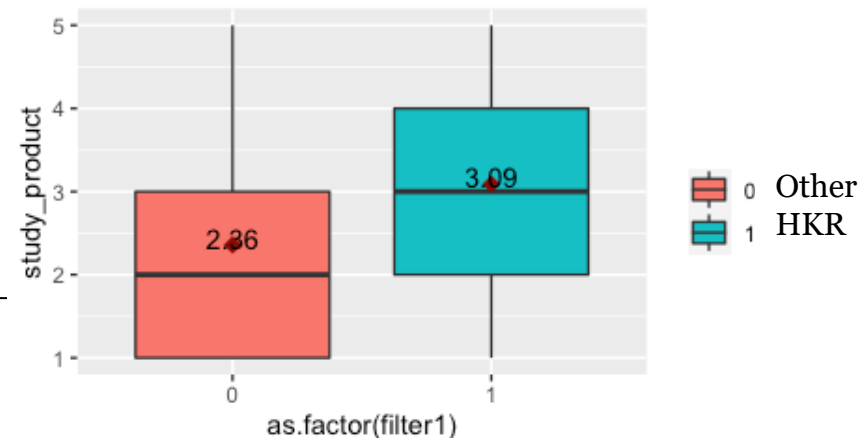
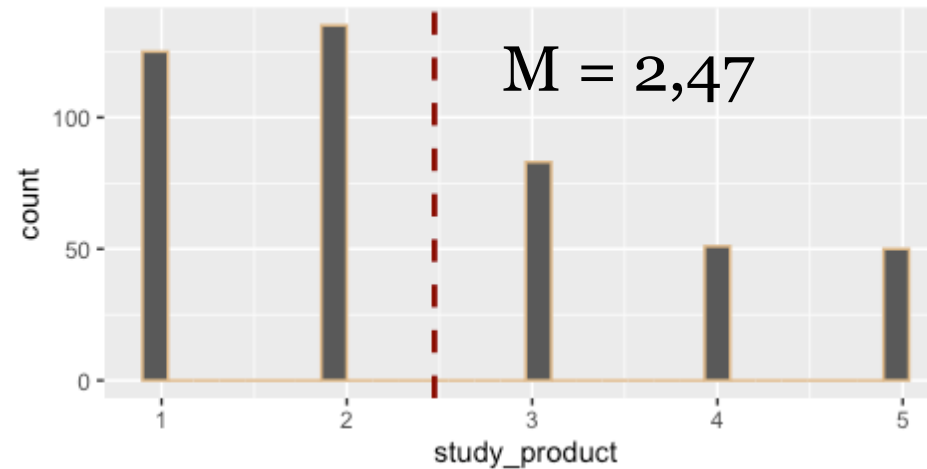
“How many times have you been to the campus in the last month?”



HKR students have been to the campus **less** than other students ($p < 0.01$) in January 2021

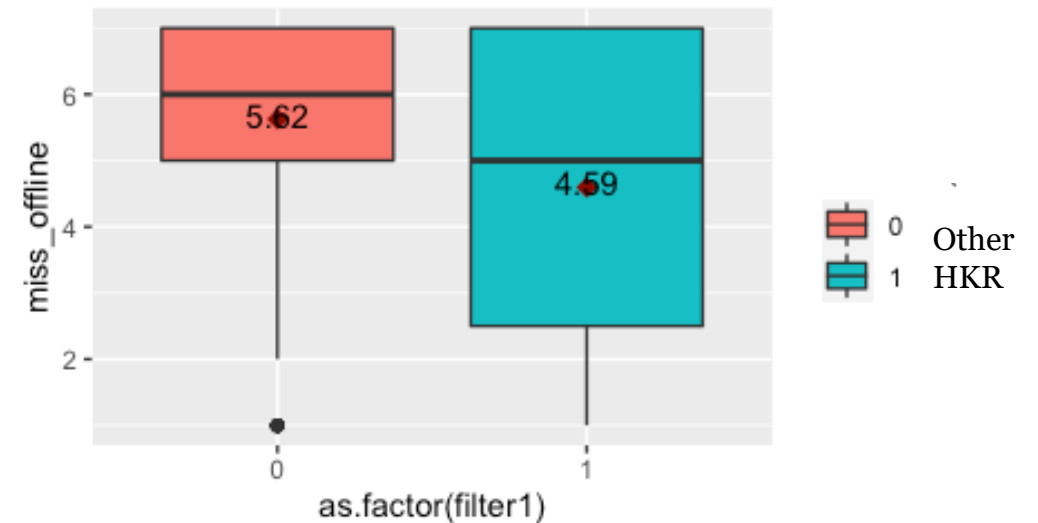
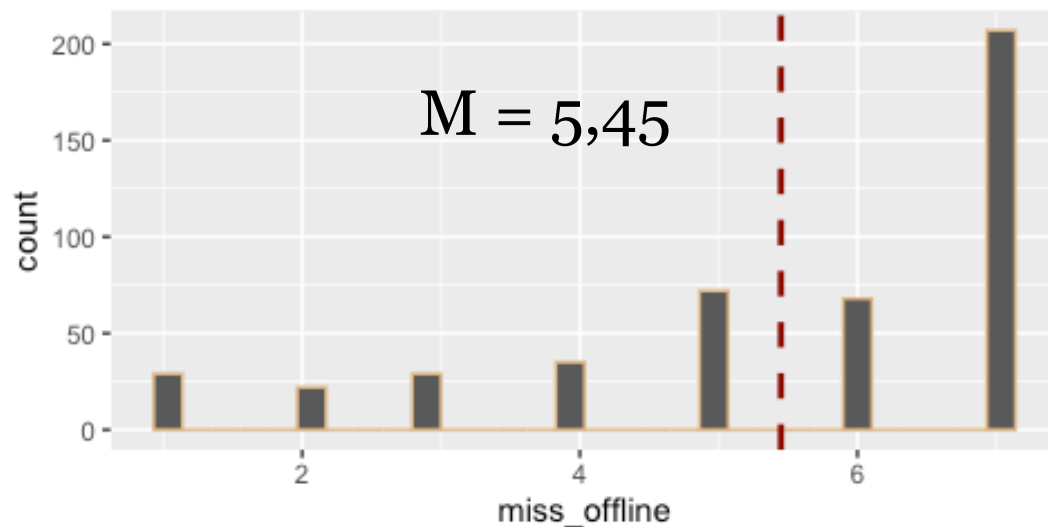
“Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, most or all of the coursework is online and studying is mostly done at home. How productive do you feel your studying is compared to before the pandemic (BEFORE March 2020)?”

- Answer options:
 - 1=Much less productive
 - 2=Somewhat less productive
 - 3=Equally productive
 - 4=Somewhat more productive
 - 5=Much more productive



HKR students report being **more productive** compared to pre-Covid times than other students ($p < 0.01$)

“To which degree do you miss having offline/in-person interactions with your fellow students and teachers?”



- Answer options: A scale ranging from (1) - Not at all; to (7) - A great deal

HKR students report missing in-person interaction with their colleagues less than other students ($p < 0.01$)

“Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, would you say that you have been smoking, drinking alcohol and/or consuming drugs more, equally, or less?”



- Not different frequencies of answers were between HKR students and other students

Conclusions

- All students reported a moderate level of concern regarding Covid-19 pandemic in February 2021
- HKR students report being **more concerned** in February 2021 than at the beginning of the pandemic
- HKR students are mostly similar to other students, but some differences found:
 - They perceive their co-students as following social distance recommendations more strictly
 - Report less negative effect of Covid-19 on their studying
 - Have been to the campus less than other students in January 2021
 - Report being more productive compared to pre-Covid times
 - Miss in-person interaction with their colleagues less than other students

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