

Something for the weekend

By Linda Anderson

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Although trust in the financial system is gradually returning, individuals are still cautious when it comes to dealing with national banking institutions, according to the latest [research](#) which measures public attitudes to the US financial system.

The report's authors say that individuals are showing increased confidence in their local banks and are also less fearful about the stock market. Nevertheless they are still wary of further investment.

Luigi Zingales, a professor of entrepreneurship and finance at the [University of Chicago Booth School of Business](#) and Paola Sapienza, a professor of finance at the [Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University](#), are the authors of the Chicago Booth/Kellogg School Financial Trust Index, which measures public opinion towards the financial system, each quarter.

"Trust in banks has gone up to 33 per cent since it hit its lowest point in March 2009 at 29 per cent," they say.

"But in relative terms, trust in banks over the last year hasn't been restored in the same way as trust in stocks, mutual funds or large corporations."

The academics say that banks have still not recovered from the initial shock and the bad press they received. "This trend is reflected in very high support for financial regulation, which currently stands at 61 per cent."

And, when it comes to trusting what you see when watching a football match, you might want to re-examine your instincts.

Researchers have discovered that when there is an ambiguous foul during a game, the foul is more often than not attributed by the referee to the taller of the two players involved.

Niels van Quaquebeke and Steffen Giessner, scientists at [Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University](#) have based their research on the widely held assumption that taller people are believed to be more aggressive and dominant. They have analysed all the ambiguous fouls - a figure that comes to almost 124,000 - in the past seven seasons of the UEFA Champions League and German Bundesliga, as well as the last three Fifa world cups.

Their analysis of the data has confirmed their initial belief that the taller footballers on the pitch are blamed by the referee more often than their shorter colleagues for fouls, even if no foul has been committed.

The academics' research will be published this month in the Journal of Sport and Exercise Psychology.

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