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Additional Information

# Connecting passenger loyalty to preferences in the urban passenger transport: trends from an empirical study of taxi vs. VTC services in Spain

# **Abstract**

Taxi service and private-hire driver companies (VTCs) offer their services through online platforms to cater for passenger demand yet there is a lack of studies as to who these passengers are, what their demands are and how to gain their loyalty over the next years. Based on a survey of taxi and VTC passengers in Spain, we have performed different qualitative and quantitative analyses to explore connections between loyalty and passengers' profiles, experience and values. The main result in terms of profile is that VTC passengers are more price-sensitive and less loyal than taxi passengers, who are less price-sensitive and more loyal. Regarding experience, loyalty to a taxi service centres on transparency and safety (trust), while in VTCs it revolves around quality and comfort. Finally, values are related to loyalty in the sense that passengers support the service they use most, but Corporate Social Responsibility does not influence a first choice. In terms of age, we observed that younger passengers are less loyal, more price-sensitive and more concerned with sustainability. This implies that these factors are worth to explore in other countries as they could drive the future of urban passenger transport. The results of this study show trends that could be of interest to researchers, companies and policymakers.

**Keywords** urban passenger transport, loyalty, preferences, business models, licences.

### Introduction

Over the last few years, some traditional business models have had to reinvent and reorganise their services. This is the case of the urban passenger transport sector which, especially in Spain, has been regulated for many years via licences. Although taxi services and luxury urban driver services, known in Spain as VTCs (private-hire driver licences), have coexisted since the 1990s (Doménech, 2015), the latter have grown dramatically with the arrival of online platforms and transportation network companies (TNCs) due to the increase of immediacy (Uber & AFI, 2017). Up until this time, VTC licences had operated as an exclusive service, mostly for companies and events. The role of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU, 2017), excluding TNCs from intermediary and free delivery services and confirming them as a transport service, put a halt to a period of uncertainty during which companies such as Cabify and Uber operated via VTC licences (cheaper than taxi), and sometimes even without them, in the same conditions as the taxi sector (Table 1).

In 1998, Spain established the ratio 1/30 to prevent VTCs from being assimilated with the public taxi service. This meant that one VTC licence could be authorized for every 30 taxi licences. However, the deregulation of urban passenger transport gained momentum with Directive 2006/123/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 12 December 2006, on services in the internal market (Services Directive or Bolkestein Directive), which gave a transposition period of three years (Official Journal of the European Union, 2006). In Spain, this transposition was carried out with the Omnibus Law (BOE, 2009) modifying various laws to adapt them to this Law on free access to service activities and their operation.

Based on the Omnibus Law, the 1/30 ratio was eliminated and this led to a conflict between the taxi sector and TNCs, which was resolved by the Court of Justice of the European Union in 2017. Thus, pressure from the taxi sector pushed the Government to reintroduce the 1/30 ratio in 2015 and it was ratified in 2018. However, this period produced a "legal vacuum" in the licences that had been requested from 2009 to 2015, which left many VTC licences pending. The Supreme Court accepted several of these licences. On the other hand, the National Commission of Markets and Competition (CNMC) appealed to the Supreme Court to eliminate the ratios and the limitation to operate between regions, claiming that the entry of new operators was being vetoed and that this could lead to an oligopoly. However, the ratio ruling has been confirmed.

Therefore, the latest national, regional and local regulations in Spain, as has occurred in other countries, have curtailed TNC activities (De Miguel et al., 2020) and, in some cases, these organisations have decided to stop operating in large cities. This is the case of Barcelona and Madrid. Even if they are also transportation providers, the reality is that they have few employed drivers. In fact, Cabify has more employed drivers than Uber, which mainly works with freelance drivers although they are acquiring some VTC companies in order to obtain licences. Therefore, until now VTC licences had mainly been owned by Cabify or by other small companies, and even by some taxi drivers (Doncel, 2019; Moratalla, 2021).

Table 1. Positioning matrix of transport providers with drivers in Spain included in the analysis.

		Using TNCs		
		General	Exclusive	
With licence	Taxis	Free Now, Cabify, Uber	PideTaxi, NTaxi	
	VTC*	Caony, coer		
Without licence	Natural person (sharing)	Blablacar		

Source: compiled by authors.

TNC business models are based on having a critical mass of drivers to guarantee immediate availability. Without this, TNCs will find it difficult to survive (Andersson et al., 2013). However, according to Standing et al. (2018), over-regulation has been an important barrier. Government has not provided a homogeneous framework for all the stakeholders concerned, and has protected the taxi service, generating considerable uncertainty and ambiguity and leading to considerable conflict in Spain (De Miguel et al., 2020). Moreover, regulation depends mainly on local governments which means that models can differ within the same region or country. We can say that, in the most restricted cases, these companies are now not a part of the collaborative economy (European Commission, 2016) if they ever were, though perhaps this was true in the early years. The only type of companies that could come under this heading are Blablacar-type services, although even these are evolving to a licence-type model in order to increase the number of clients.

Anyway, these platforms have developed a two-sided business model for both taxi and VTC drivers, and their long-term sustainability will depend on passenger satisfaction and loyalty. As Button (2020) pointed out, TNC competition leads to a lack of profitability

<sup>\*</sup> VTC (private-hire driver licence)

which results in fare-discounting wars and efforts to create consumer loyalty using their micro data. Conversely, users are enjoying significant benefits.

To our knowledge, there is a scarcity of studies at different levels of government, and in the taxi, VTC and TNC sectors, on how passenger transport deregulation affects different stakeholder groups, especially passengers, which is quite unusual, given that the taxi sector is essentially a public service. There is a need to obtain a greater insight into what motivates the different sides of the TNC market, including passengers and drivers (Button, 2020). Accordingly, our goal is to explore passenger profiles, experience and values in this sector, comparing the different services, and their connections to loyalty.

#### Literature review

Until about ten years ago, the majority of passenger transport in cities was based on the public taxi service. But certain factors such as traffic congestion, conditions in access to the service, or the need to offer affordable safe and clean private vehicles, have prompted private companies to develop new digital business models in recent years (Cohen and Kietzmann, 2014:281) that have thrived due to their low maintenance and personnel costs.

These platforms need to attract users on both sides of the equation (passengers and drivers) to increase value and utility (Cusumano et al., 2019), which has been named as "Ubernomics". Faced with this scenario, the traditional taxi service has been forced to modernize communication channels with its users. In this way, platforms such as NTaxi and PideTaxi have been developed because the taxi sector requested them (Madrid Council & Vectio, 2017). They allow passengers to easily search for and order available vehicle services, thereby increasing the value delivered to the passengers themselves but also to the drivers. (Apte and Davis, 2019).

TNCs connect drivers to passengers, so both passengers and drivers use the platform and obtain a valuable service from it. In this sense, it can be understood that both sides are customers (Osterwalder and Pigneur, 2010; Täuscher & Kietzmann, 2017; Kumar et al., 2018). The difference between them is that drivers pay for the services offered by the platform, while passengers benefit from the platform's services and pay the driver through it but without additional charges (De Miguel et al., 2020). That is, the platform collects a percentage of the income of each driver. That percentage can reach up, for example, to 30% in the case of Uber (Button, 2020). As suggested by Ritter & Schanz (2019), the flow and origin of the income allows the different groups of clients to be specifically defined. But on the other hand, some platforms segment their clients depending on whether they are corporate clients or not (Skok & Baker, 2018). In fact, platforms such as Cabify focus above all on clients with a business profile.

Another criterion through which platforms segment their customers is their technological skills. There are groups of clients whose predisposition to use collaborative platforms, reserving services and paying for them through these tools, is greater than for others (Watanabe et al., 2016; Skok & Baker, 2018). That's the case, for example, of the Millennials and other younger generations, who are more familiar with the use of certain technologies (Kumar et al., 2018; Apte & Davis, 2019; Young & Farber, 2019).

In terms of a value proposition for passengers, these platforms state that they offer safety, transparency, affordability, convenience, flexibility and quality (Table 2).

Table 2. Main definitions and concepts regarding passenger profiles, experience and values.

Keywords	Definition and Concept
Affordability	The state of being cheap enough for people to be able to buy (Cambridge
Titterauetitty	Dictionary, 2020). In transportation means that all households, including those
	with low incomes, can afford to access basic services and activities. This typically
	means devoting less than 20% of household budgets to transport (Litman, 2013).
Safety	A state in which or a place where you are safe and not in danger or at risk
	(Cambridge Dictionary, 2020). TNCs relate safety to licenced drivers (taxi or
	VTC) and the option to track the ride.
Transparency	A situation in which business and financial activities are done in an open way
	without secrets, so that people can trust that they are fair and honest (Cambridge
	Dictionary, 2020). The level of availability and accessibility of market information
	to its participants (Zhu, 2004).
Convenience	A judgement made by consumers according to their sense of control over the
	management, utilization and conversion of their time and effort in achieving their
	goals associated with access to and use of the service (Farquhar & Rowley, 2009).
Quality	The extent to which the service delivered meets the customer's expectations
-	(Ghobadian et al., 1994).
Flexibility	The firm's intent and capabilities to generate firm-specific real options for the
	configuration and reconfiguration of appreciably superior customer value
	propositions (Johnson et al., 2003).
Comfort	Comfort relates to aesthetics, a sense of relaxation and well-being (Zhang et al.,
	1996).
Loyalty	It is a deeply held commitment to rebuy or repatronise a preferred product/service
	consistently in the future, thereby causing repetitive same - brand or same brand -
	set purchasing, despite situational influences and marketing efforts having the
	potential to cause switching behaviour (Oliver, 1999).
Corporate Social	It is the notion that corporations have an obligation to constituent groups in
Responsibility	society other than stockholders and beyond that prescribed by law and union
	contract. Two facets of this definition are critical. First, the obligation must be
	voluntarily adopted; behaviour influenced by the coercive forces of law or union
	contract is not voluntary. Second, the obligation is a broad one, extending beyond
	the traditional duty to shareholders to other societal groups such as customers,
	employees, suppliers, and neighbouring communities (Jones, 1980).

Source: own source compiled from different authors.

Customer satisfaction is a holistic concept that is shaped by customer experiences with a particular service, which are reflected by the extent to which customers are happy with the service (Dimitriadis & Zilakaki, 2019). It is important to jointly consider elements of the service concept and characteristics of customers as co-creators (Anderson et al., 2008). According to Khuong and Dai (2016), there are two variables that directly affect taxi customer satisfaction, namely comfort and price. Passengers that use taxis and VTC services are price-sensitive, although some studies indicate that passengers would be prepared to pay more for them (Kumar et al., 2018; Clauss et al., 2019). To attract passengers, platforms like Free Now offer promotions and price reductions (Kumar et al., 2018). However, Clauss et al. (2019) state that loyalty depends on customer satisfaction rather than on prices.

Platforms such as FreeNow, Uber and Cabify, pay special attention to **safety** in their services, because as indicated on their respective websites, all routes are geolocated and drivers are duly identified in each case (De Miguel et al., 2020), which could also be understood as trust. **Transparency** in the service also concerns all platforms. But the concept is applied in a different sense in the case of VTC platforms and taxi service. The former link transparency to the fact that customers know the price of the service in

advance (thus being able to accept or reject it), while the second associates transparency to the possibility of checking the route in real time while traveling (Vassallo et al., 2018).

An essential factor for both VTC platforms and taxi service apps, is **convenience**. The convenience refers, above all, to the simplicity, speed and accessibility in handling the application; to the possibility of requesting the service at any location; to the existence of different payment options; and to the response time (Kumar et al., 2018). Since the type of vehicles offered by the VTC platforms has always been their distinctive feature, taxi solutions such as Pidetaxi or Free Now, based on the demands of their passengers, offer different types of vehicles (even ecological cars) that they can book in advance.

The **quality** of the service is controlled by some platforms through a rating system for drivers and passengers included at the application itself (Watanabe et al., 2016; Vassallo et al., 2018; Apte and Davis, 2019). Although certain studies warn that service users generally tend to overestimate these services when they rate them online (Kumar et al., 2018), this system offers interesting indicators for quality control. This is an important aspect because if drivers do not know the routes well and their service is not perceived as a quality service, it becomes difficult to retain customers (Kumar et al., 2018).

The possibility of sharing routes between several passengers is one of the main characteristics of some applications in terms of **flexibility** (Vassallo et al., 2018). In this way, it is also possible to attract environmentally sensitive users or price sensitive users (Ertz et al., 2018).

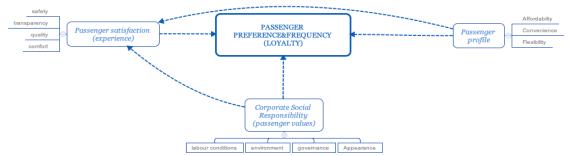
Loyalty is a deeply held commitment to rebuy or repatronise a preferred product/service consistently in the future, thereby causing repetitive same - brand or same brand - set purchasing, despite situational influences and marketing efforts having the potential to cause switching behaviour (Oliver, 1999). Loyalty is also reflected in the share of the total purchases a customer buys from a particular supplier (given a particular product and a particular period of time) (Helgesen, 2006).

Furthermore, some studies have related consumer satisfaction to **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)**. Corporate social responsibility encompasses the economic, legal, ethical, and discretionary (philanthropic) expectations that society has of organizations at a given point in time (Carroll, 1979). For example, in the mobile phone sector and according to Dimitriadis and Zilakaki (2019), CSR does not have a significant direct effect on customer loyalty, while corporate image and customer satisfaction do have a significant positive effect on customer loyalty. These results coincide with the results of a similar survey conducted in the transport sector (Chang and Yeh, 2017). However, some of the two-sided passenger transport businesses (for example, Uber) are seen as the capitalist part of the sector because they do not behave ethically regarding drivers' labour rights (Täuscherand and Kietzmann, 2017). In recent years, cities in different parts of the world have ruled that TNC drivers are technically employees of their TNCs and are thus entitled to employee benefits (Button, 2020). Moreover, Rosenblat and Stark (2016) highlighted that,

"power and information asymmetries emerge via Uber's software-based platform through algorithmic labor logistics shaping driver behavior, electronic surveillance, and policies for performance targets" (p. 3777).

After the literature review, some questions arose regarding the loyalty of passengers who use these services (taxi and VTC) in Spain. The model we propose explores different connections for passenger loyalty based on profiles, experience and values, in the case of two-sided urban passenger transport platforms (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Model proposed.



Source: authors'own.

As we understand the model, passenger loyalty is related to a passenger's preference and frequency of use of a service, which is influenced by a passenger's profile, experience and values. Moreover, profile and values can influence the passenger experience.

Therefore, we propose different research questions:

- RQ1. Is there a relationship between passenger profiles and loyalty?
- 229 RQ2. Is there a relationship between passenger values and loyalty?
- 230 RQ3. Is there a relationship between passenger experiences and loyalty?
- RQ4. Is there a relationship between passenger values and experiences?
- 232 RQ5. Is there a relationship between passenger profiles and experiences?

# Methodology

This section presents the method used to obtain data, the variables defined and the techniques employed for data analysis.

#### Data

Data for the analysis were obtained through a survey answered by 134 passengers that used taxi, VTC and Blablacar services in Spain. We included Blablacar in order to check the trend amongst young people to using more collaborative transport models because, by now, this option is not available in Spain with Uber or Cabify. A pre-test of the survey was answered by three experts. The questionnaire was delivered from 6/3/2020 to 17/3/2020 through social networks (mainly Twitter and Whatsapp) and included 25 items (Annex A). As we cannot determine the whole population, we adopted a snowball sampling approach using personal contacts (Tsafarakis et al., 2019). This type of sampling is frequently used in social science research when the aim of the study is exploratory and results cannot be generalised to a population (Collin et al., 2017). In this paper, the main objective was to explore differences in preferences between users. The snowball sample method enabled us to capture answers from different age groups. The main urban area covered was Valencia. However, as the service evaluated was based on mobility apps, users also answered about other cities, such as Madrid and Barcelona.

Figure 2 shows the options identified through the survey, separated by the four user groups based on age and family situation:

- Group 1 (20-29 years), Millennials without family obligations (16.4% respondents),
- Group 2 (30-49 years), almost all Millennials with children of school age (54.5% respondents),
- Group 3 (50-69 years), Generation X or Babyboomers with adult children (276% respondents), and
- Group 4 (>70 years) who are retired (1.5% respondents). However, for the data analysis we did not compare group 4 as it was underrepresented.

Data in Figure 2 indicate that 50% of users only chose taxi services, 34% chose taxis and other services and 16% did not use a taxi service. Data also indicated that 9% of users only selected VTCs, 4.5% only Blablacar and 2.2% a combination of VTC and Blablacar. In total, 62% of users were loyal to one service or company, while 38% were multiplatform users. Figure 2 also indicates differences according to the age of users, especially between the youngest and the other segments. Loyalty only to taxis was the lowest in this user segment, with seemingly greater loyalty to only Cabify and Blablacar services than the rest of segments.

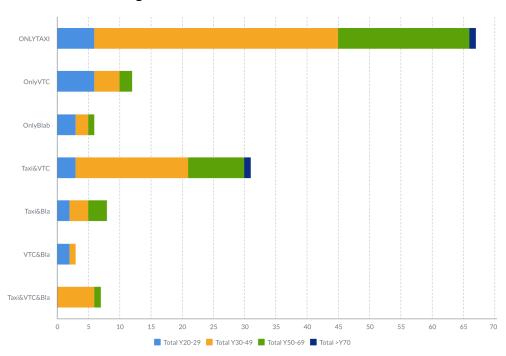


Figure 2. User segments by service preference (frequencies). Source: authors' own compilation based on survey data

# **Variables**

The variables employed in the analyses were defined from questions included in the survey. Table 3 shows these variables and their values, which are the answers given in the survey. These variables identified loyalty to taxi and/or VTC services, whether users were price-sensitive, and their principles about transparency, responsibility, sustainability and governance. There were also items which expressed users' opinions about quality, comfort and safety in the services. Flexibility was not included because in Spain there are

no real options for VTCs to offer route-sharing for multiple passengers, although this could change in the future.

Table 3. Variables and values

Concept	Variables	Item	Values	Type of variable	Obs
Loyalty	Preference:	User preference for transport	1 = No Taxi	Nominal	134
	OnlyTX	service	2 = Taxi with		
	TX&Other		others		
	NoTX		3 = Only Taxi		
	Frequency in use:	Higher frequency in the use	1 = Yes	Nominal	134
	HighTX	of taxis.	0 = No		134
	HighVC	Higher frequency in the use of VTCs.			
Age	AGE	User age	1 = 20-29	Nominal	134
		_	2 = 30-49		
			3 = 50-69		
			$4 = \ge 70$		
Convenience	APP	Use of a taxi app	1 = Yes	Nominal	134
			$0 = N_0$		
Price-	CheapVC	VTCs and Blablacar are	1 = Disagree	Ordinal	123
sensitive user	CheapBLA	cheaper than taxis	2 = Slightly		89
Quality	BetservVC	VTCs are better value for	disagree	Ordinal	122
	KdrivVC	money and drivers are more	3 = Slightly		118
		pleasant	agree		
Comfort	CleanVC	VTC cars are cleaner and	4 = Strongly	Ordinal	121
	NewVC	newer	agree		134
Appearance	OstentVC	VTC cars are ostentatious	5 = Totally	Ordinal	134
Transparency	RoutTX	Taxi drivers know the routes better	agree	Ordinal	115
Safety	ConfTX	I trust taxi drivers more		Ordinal	134
Social	LabTX	Labour conditions are better		Ordinal	123
responsibility		for taxi drivers			
Sustainability	Elect	Taxi and VTC cars should		Ordinal	134
•	PolutBLA	be hybrid or electric.			120
	PolutTX	I would use Blablacar to			134
		pollute less.			
		Taxis pollute less than VTC			
		cars.			
Governance	GovTX	Government should protect	1	Ordinal	134
	NRegVC	taxis against VTCs.			127
		New regulations damage			
		VTC companies.			

Source: authors' own compilation

# Data analysis

Different exploratory analyses were carried out using the SPSS 26 and fsQCA software (Ragin and Davey, 2016) to test the connections between the different concepts<sup>1</sup>. In total, five connections were defined and are shown in Figure 3:

Prior to these analyses, information about missing values was obtained with the EM option in SPSS 26. Little's test for MCAR (missing completely at random), applied to the fifteen ordinal variables in the database, was not significant (Chi2= 246.584; DF = 221; Sig. = 0.114). This implies that missing values were MCAR and more options could be used to manage missing data (Hair et al., 2010), including pairwise and listwise deletion (Garson, 2015), although with caution, depending on the method to be used



Source: authors' own compilation

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- Connection 1 explored whether passenger profiles were related to loyalty (RQ1).
- Connection 2 explored whether passenger values were related to loyalty (RQ2).
- Connection 3 explored whether passenger experiences were related to loyalty (RQ3).
- Connection 4 explored whether passenger values were related to their experience (RQ4).
- Connection 5 explored whether passenger profiles were related to their experience (RQ5).

Table 4 provides a summary of the non-parametric tests and correlations used in the analysis of the five connections in Figure 3. All of them were based on the type of data involved in the analyses. The sample was divided into Valencia (84) and non-Valencia (50) and some analyses were carried out separately to detect similarities and differences.

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Table 4. Methods used in the five connections

		Dependent	t variable
In	dependent variable	Loyalty	User experience
		(nominal)	(ordinal variable)
	Nominal variable	RQ1. Connection 1:	RQ5. Connection 5:
User profile	(app use, age, price-sensitive)	Cramer's V	Kruskal-Wallis
	Ordinal (price-sensitive)		RQ5. Connection 5:
	Ordinar (price-sensitive)		Kendall's Tau b
	Ordinal		RQ4. Connection 4:
User values	Oldinai		Kendall's Tau b
User values	Dichotomous transformation	RQ2. Connection 2:	
	(values 1 and 0)	Cramer's V	
User	Dichotomous transformation	RQ3. Connection 3:	
experience	(values 1 and 0)	QCA	

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Source: authors' own compilation

The tests used measured the association between variables, that is, whether variables were

independent. Cramer's V is an association measure based on Ch2, Kruskal-Wallis tests

- 321 the null hypothesis that samples in a population have the same distribution and *Kendall's*
- 322 Tau is a correlation coefficient (Upton and Cook, 2014). Pairwise comparison was
- 323 conducted when the result for a test was significant and SPSS performed the post-hoc
- 324 Bonferroni adjustment to significant values.

In Connection 3, a Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) was conducted to obtain necessary and sufficient causal conditions and whether the output was loyalty to taxi or VTC services (HighTX and HighVC). Four models were defined, one for the entire dataset and three that analysed all the age segments:

*Model 1* analysed lower loyalty in the use of VTCs (entire dataset, 134 users):

```
~HighVC = f(QualityVC, ComfortVC, TransparencyTX, SafetyTX)
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*Model 2* analysed lower loyalty in the use of taxis by the youngest user segment (Age 1, 20-29 years old):

$$\sim$$
HighTX = f(PriceSensitive, TransparencyTX, SafetyTX)

*Model 3* analysed lower loyalty in the use of VTCs by the Age 2 dataset (30-49 years old):

~HighVC = f(QualityVC, ComfortVC, AppearanceVC, TransparencyTX, SafetyTX)

*Model 4* analysed higher loyalty in the use of taxis by the Age 3 dataset (50-69 years old):

The conditions in the four models were the user experience concepts in Table 3. As the analysis conducted was a crisp set QCA, the ordinal data were first dichotomised, transforming values 1 and 2 into 0, while the remaining values were transformed into 1. Moreover, when a concept was made up of two variables, logical "OR" was used to create the condition (for example, the price-sensitive condition was obtained with the logical formula "CheapVT OR CheapBLA").

#### Results

This section presents the results for the five connections. They are divided into loyalty (1 to 3) and user experience (4 and 5) connections.

# Results for loyalty (RQ1, RQ2, RQ3)

Cramer's V was used to analyse the association between loyalty and user profile (Connection 1) and between loyalty and user values (Connection 2). Table 5 shows the results for the two connections and differentiates between the results for Valencia and for the rest of the sample. Loyalty was measured by the variable preference.

Table 5. Results for loyalty: connections 1 and 2

	Variables		Cramer's V:	preference	
Concepts	(dichotomic)	Valencia	<i>p</i> -value	Non- Valencia	<i>p</i> -value
Connection 1 (RQ1)					
Price-sensitive user	CheapVC or CheapBLA	0.318	0.013	0.538	0.001
Age	AGE	0.439	0.002	0.245	0.241
Convenience	APP	0.332	0.008	0.425	0.012
Connection 2 (RQ2)					
Appearance	OstentVC	0.084	0.773	0.246	0.277
Social responsibility	LabTX	0.119	0.550	0.293	0.121
Sustainability	Elect	0.124	0.704	0.296	0.097
	PolutBLA	0.064	0.867	0.100	0.907
	PolutTX	0.135	0.508	0.352	0.067
Governance	GovTX	0.310	0.018	0.156	0.590
	NRegVC	0.117	0.600	0.277	0.172

Source: authors' own compilation

Results for *connection 1* show that there is a link between user profile and loyalty to service. There was an association between sensitivity to price and preference for a service as the p-value is lower than 0.05. Cramer's V value indicates that the level of association was moderate with the value coming in at between 0.30 and 0.60 (Humble, 2020). The association is explained by a higher percentage of price-sensitive users who selected options different to only-taxi (38.8% vs. 27.1% in Valencia, 48.9 % vs. 23.4% in the non-Valencia subsample).

 Table 5 shows a moderate association between age and preference of transport service in the Valencia subsample, with a Cramer's V of between 0.30 and 0.60. Differences were observed for Age 1 (20-29 years) in relation to the other two age segments. The youngest users preferred the NoTX option (VTC&Blablacar), while the other two segments preferred the OnlyTX option. Therefore, loyalty to taxis is lower among younger users.

There was a moderate association between the use of a service and the use of a taxi app (convenience concept) in the two subsamples, with a Cramer's V of between 0.30 and 0.60. That means that the use of different apps is widespread among all kinds of users.

Results for *connection 2* in Table 5 indicate that there was no significant link between user values and loyalty (measured by preference). The association analysis shows no relation between appearance, social responsibility, sustainability and governance variables. Therefore, there was no difference in the selection of a transport service based on whether users considered VTC cars to be ostentatious. Moreover, there was no difference in the selection of a transport service based on user concerns about drivers' labour conditions. However, we can observe that, in the Valencia subsample, taxi users were more concerned about taxi drivers' labour problems. The selection of a transport service was not impacted by users' values about sustainability.

Table 6 presents the QCA results for *connection 3*, which explored whether passenger experiences indicated the necessary or sufficient conditions for loyalty. User experience was measured through the concepts of quality, comfort, transparency, and safety.

The QCA analysis was performed in two main steps in the four models, the analysis of necessary conditions and the analysis of sufficient conditions (Annex B). They all

revealed that there were no necessary conditions. Ragin (2014) stated that necessary conditions can be identified because they are present in every solution in a model. In this paper, we established that necessary conditions had to have consistency values  $\geq 0.9$  (Schneider and Wagemann, 2012).

The second step in the QCA analysis was to obtain the sufficient conditions, that is, to find those conditions which had the value 1 and, consequently, the output would also have the value 1 (Schneider and Wagemann, 2012). Table 6 shows the results for the four models. The configuration of the table follows the one defined by Ragin and Fiss (2008).

Model 1 explored the reasons for the lower use of VTCs compared to taxis. The model yielded two sufficient solutions, the absence of quality associated with VTC services and the presence of safety (trust) related to taxis. Since the solution coverage was 0.6, there might be other conditions which also explain the frequency of use of VTCs.

Model 2 explored the reasons for the lower use of taxis compared to VTCs by users between 20 and 29 years of age. The three conditions evaluated refer to a price-sensitive user and the two characteristics associated with taxis, transparency and safety (trust). The model gave a sufficient solution which means that young adult users do not use taxis more often because they do not perceive the transparency and safety when they travel by taxi, coupled with the fact that they are price-sensitive users. Moreover, given that the solution coverage was 0.467, there might be other conditions which would also explain why there is not higher frequency in the use of taxis.

Model 3 explored the reasons for the lower use of VTCs compared to taxis by users between 30 and 49 years. The five conditions included in the analysis refer to the characteristics associated with good service in taxis and VTCs, besides the feel that VTC cars are ostentatious. The model gave three sufficient solutions: a lack of quality in the VTC service, the feel that VTC cars are ostentatious, and a combination of safety (trust) and lack of transparency in taxi services. The result reveals to firms offering these services that it is important for this user segment to feel safe while they use these transport services. In addition, some users rated the ostentatious type of cars available in VTC services negatively.

Model 4 explored the reasons for the higher use of taxis compared to VTCs by users between 50 and 69 years of age. The four conditions evaluated refer to the characteristics associated with good service in taxis and VTCs. The model yielded three combinations of sufficient conditions:

- The first was a combination of lack of quality in the VTC service and lack of feeling safe when travelling by taxi. This combination indicates that this segment of users is more loyal to taxis because they do not perceive the quality of VTC services, though they do not perceive safety (trust) as a characteristic of taxi services either.
- 450 The second solution was a combination of transparency in taxi services, though 451 there was also an absence of the perception of safety (trust), as in the first 452 combination.
  - The third combination included lack of quality in the VTC service, though in this case, there was the presence of transparency in the taxi service.

It is important to highlight the differences obtained in segments 2 and 3 in relation to how they rated taxi services. Users between 30 to 49 years rated safety (trust) positively while users between 50 and 69 years rated transparency positively. Given that the solution coverage was 0.56, there could be other conditions which would also explain why there is higher frequency in the use of the taxi by this segment of users.

The results of *connection 3* can be summarised as follows:

Absence of quality in the VTC service is a sufficient condition which explains both lower loyalty to VTCs and higher loyalty to taxis.

  Comfort in the VTC service is not a sufficient condition in loyalty. This means that users do not pay major attention to the car.

 - Transparency in the taxi service is a sufficient condition which explains higher loyalty to taxis among older users. Conversely, the absence of transparency is a sufficient condition which explains lower loyalty to taxis among younger users.

- Safety (trust) in taxi services is a sufficient condition which explains lower loyalty to VTCs.

Table 6. Sufficient conditions for the entire dataset (RQ3)

Model	Mod	lel 1	Model 2		Model 3		Model 4		
Output	~High	nVTC	~HighTaxi	ζ	HighVT	С	HighTaxi		
Dataset		plete	Age 1		Age 2		Age 3		
		aset	(20-29)		(30-49)			(50-69)	
Conditions	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	<b>S6</b>	S7	S8	<b>S9</b>
Price-sensitive			ä						
Quality-VTC									
Comfort-VTC									
Appearance									
Transparency- Taxi									1
Safety-Taxi									
No. Cases	20	20	8	20	20	8	7	2	8
Raw coverage	0.409	0.445	0.4667	0.375	0.406	0.125	0.2	0.08	0.28
Unique coverage	0.155	0.191	0.467	0.25	0.281	0.063	0.2	0.08	0.28
Consistency	0.957	0.925	0.875	1	0.963	1	0.714	1	0.875
Frequency cutoff		2	1		2			2	
Consistency	0.	.8	0.875		1			0.833	
cutoff									
Solution	0.92	296	0.875		0.979			0.824	
consistency									
Solution	0.	.6	0.467	0.734 0.56					
coverage									
<b></b>	Core condition present in parsimonious and intermediate solutions								
	Core co	Core condition absent in parsimonious and intermediate solutions							
ä	Contrib	utory cor	ndition presen	t in the ir	termedia	te solutio	n		

Source: authors' own compilation

478 17479 v 480 t 481 r 482 v 483 c 484 a 485 t t

The results for *connection 4* are presented in Table 7, which correlates experience and values. They indicate that taxi-less-polluting (sustainability) correlated positively with transparency and safety (trust), which refer to the taxi service. Conversely, taxi-less-polluting correlated negatively with quality and comfort in the VTC service. Moreover, when passengers prefer transparency and safety (trust), they support the social benefits of the taxi, while this is not important for those who prefer quality and comfort (VTC) and support the social benefits of VTCs. Therefore, it can be stated that values are related to the taxi-passenger or VTC-passenger experience.

Table 7. Kendall's Tau b between values and experience (RQ4)

Variables	Concept	Quality		Comfort		Transparen cy	Safety
variables	analysed	BetservVC	etservVC KdrivVC CleanVC NewVC		NewVC	RoutTX	ConfTX
Valencia							
OstentVC	Appearance	-0.164	-0.145	-0.237*	-0.042	0.148	0.334**
LabTX	Social responsibility	-0.074	-0.086	-0.092	-0.041	0.178	0.212*
Elect		0.030	0.199*	0.297**	0.212*	0.137	-0.006
PolutBLA	Sustainability	-0.020	0.089	0.086	0.081	-0.098	-0.113
PolutTX		-0.249**	-0.358**	-0.227*	-0.221*	0.277**	0.376**
GovTX	Governance	-0.357**	-0.335**	-0.393**	0.325**	0.450**	0.507**
NRegVC		0.369**	0.456**	0.551**	0.522**	-0.269**	-0.333**
Non- Valencia							
OstentVC	Appearance	-0.188	-0.256	-0.284*	-0.112	0.023	0.311*
LabTX	Social responsibility	-0.289*	-0.221	-0.124	-0.052	0.175	0.280*
Elect		-0.029	0.023	-0.065	-0.030	-0.057	-0.165
PolutBLA	Sustainability	-0.038	0.000	-0.114	-0.023	0.019	-0.021
PolutTX	Sustamaomity	-0.585**	-0.568**	-0.492**	- 0.548**	0.413**	0.537**
GovTX	Governance	-0.541**	-0.410**	-0.383**	- 0.326**	0.297*	0.528**
NRegVC		0.560**	0.449**	0.500**	0.495**	-0.350**	-0.469**

\**p*-value < 0.05; \*\**p*-value < 0.01

Source: authors' own compilation

Table 8 shows the results for *connection 5*, which explored whether user profile (price and age) was related to user experience. The results for the Kruskal-Wallis test indicated significant differences between age groups and experience with VTC services (quality and comfort). The pairwise comparison indicated a significant difference between Age 3 and Age 1 (based on the Bonferroni adjustment, p-value=0.043 in quality and p-value=0.022 in comfort). As these results were not found in the rest of the sample, more analyses for these relationships should be performed.

Results for Kendall's Tau b in Table 8 indicate the existence of a relationship between price-sensitive users and their experience with taxi and VTC services. These users, who stated that VTCs and Blablacar are cheaper, rated the VTC service positively whereas they rated taxi services negatively. There were few differences between the two subsamples.

 Table 8. Connection between user profiles and user experience (RQ5)

	•	Channa Aga	Price-sensitive		
Variables	Concept	Groups: <b>Age</b>	CheapVC	CheapBLA	
variables	analysed	H's Kruskal	Kendall's	Kendall's	
		Wallis (a)	Tau b	Tau b	
Valencia					
BetservVC	Quality	4.040	0.623**	0.296**	
KdrivVC	Quality	6.175*	0.360**	0.236*	
CleanVC	Comfort	5.062	0.313**	0.292**	
NewVC	Comiori	7.973*	0.289**	0.138	
RoutTX	Transparency	0.009	-0.300**	-0.062	
ConfTX	Safety	2.649	-0.379**	-0.184	
Non-Valencia					
BetservVC	Ovolity	0.801	0.643**	0.429**	
KdrivVC	Quality	2.069	0.575**	0.384**	
CleanVC	Comfort	0.245	0.451**	0.208	
NewVC	Commort	1.343	0.536**	0.442**	
RoutTX	Transparency	0.460	-0.219	-0.207	
ConfTX	Safety	0.071	-0.307*	-0.369*	

<sup>a</sup>Degree of freedom = 2 or 3; \*p-value < 0.05; \*\*p-value <0.01 Source: authors' own compilation

# 4.6. Final results

Table 9 shows a summary of the descriptive results for urban mobility in the sample analysed in Spain, and of the responses to our research questions-

Table 9. Summary of results

Table 7. Summa		Dependent variable				
Independ	lent variable	Loyalty	User experience			
		(nominal)	(ordinal)			
	Nominal	RQ1. Connection 1:	RQ5. Connection 5:			
	(app use, age,	Association for price-sensitivity	Difference in comfort			
	price-sensitive)	and convenience	experience by age group			
User profile			RQ5. Connection 5:			
	Ordinal (price-		Relationship between price-			
	sensitive)		sensitivity and experience			
sensitive)			(positive for VTC and			
			negative for taxi)			
			RQ4. Connection 4:			
	Ordinal		Relationship between			
User values			values and experience			
Osci values	Transformed to	RQ2. Connection 2:				
	dichotomic	There is no association, except for				
	dicholomic	governance supporting taxi service				
		RQ3. Connection 3:				
		QCA shows that age matters in				
User	Transformed to	determining sufficient causal				
experience	dichotomic	conditions. Quality, safety and				
		transparency appear as sufficient				
		solutions explaining loyalty				

Source: authors' own compilation

# Discussion

At present, the use of platforms for taxi and VTC services in Spain is influenced by age (Kumar et al., 2018; Apte & Davis, 2019; Young & Farber, 2019; Watanabe et al., 2016; Skok & Baker, 2018). However, we disagree with Khuong and Dai (2016) in terms of passenger satisfaction. They gave more importance to comfort and price instead of safety and transparency, which is not the case for taxi passengers. Comfort only seems to be valued by VTC passengers and price depends on age. The results show that the customers of these platforms are not always price-sensitive. This is especially applicable in the case of taxi services.

Price-sensitivity was observed in the case of VTC passengers, especially in the 20-29 age group. For the youngest group, loyalty depending on customer satisfaction rather than on price was not applicable. This is in keeping with Kumar et al. (2018) and Clauss et al. (2019) who stated that passengers were prepared to pay more and that loyalty depended on customer satisfaction rather than on prices.

Taxi passengers especially value safety (trust), which is in line with Madrid Council & Vectio (2017). In fact, this variable is emphasised by VTC companies in order to increase trust among their potential customers (De Miguel et al., 2020; Vassallo et al., 2018). For Kumar et al. (2018), this is a key point because if drivers do not know the routes well and their service is not perceived as being a quality one, it becomes difficult to retain customers.

We agree with Dimitriadis and Zilakaki (2019) and Chang and Yeh (2017) in the sense that values do not have a significant direct effect on customer loyalty, though we can say that drivers' labour rights are a concern (Täuscherand and Kietzmann, 2017; Rosenblat and Stark, 2016), depending on their transport preference (De Miguel et al., 2020). When passengers prefer transparency and safety, they support the social benefits of taxis, while this is not important for those who prefer quality and comfort (VTC) and support the social benefits of VTCs. This result is in line with Sigmados (2019). Surprisingly, and taking into account the conflict between taxis and VTCs in Spain (De Miguel et al., 2020), we found fewer negative attitudes from passengers than we expected, both for taxis and for VTCs.

Environmental benefits (Ertz et al., 2018) are not a priority at present. By contrast, Spanish citizens prefer the public management of public services (AEVAL, 2016:75) as this is supposed to encourage more social values.

Finally, we agree that the passenger comments and review tools in these apps are barely used (Watanabe et al., 2016; Vassallo et al., 2018; Apte and Davis, 2019). Other experiences have shown that, no matter what the type of service, passengers value the perception of availability and quality (Heikkilä & Heikkilä, 2019). Accordingly, greater insights into what drives the various stakeholders is still required (Button, 2020).

# **Conclusions**

TNCs offer a wider range of services in some cities with relatively more TNC competitors and public transport providers (Button, 2020). Therefore, taxis need to focus heavily on loyalty if they wish to survive over the next few years, and especially with the younger

customer segment. They also need to increase comfort and quality. On the other hand, VTCs need to increase transparency and safety, with a view to catering for and gaining the trust of older groups. Users need to be targeted by age and attention needs to be paid to the groups that are less satisfied in each case.

Three important conclusions can be inferred from our analysis, in the case of urban mobility in Spain:

- 1) There is a relationship between user profiles and user experiences, and between user profiles and loyalty to services. Younger users consider their experience to be better in VTCs, while older users think their experience is better with a taxi service. Price-sensitive users are more loyal to VTCs while non price-sensitive customers are more loyal to taxi services. The preference of younger users towards using VTC services might change the market share structure in the future, with VTCs becoming the main urban passenger transport option offered in Spain.
- 2) There is also a relationship between user values and user experiences, but a weak relationship between user values and loyalty to services. The analysis indicates that passenger values tend to favour either taxis or VTCs when they evaluate their experience. This could infer that companies are already increasing their loyalty and passengers identify with the service they have chosen.
- 3) There are sufficient conditions in user experiences which result in the presence or absence of loyalty to services, and age clarifies these conditions. An absence of quality in VTC leads to lower frequency in the use of VTC services. Transparency in the taxi service results in higher frequency of taxi use by customers in the Age 3 segment (50-69 years old). Conversely, the type of cars used by VTC services is a barrier for some customers in the Age 2 segment (30-49 years old).

These results may prove to be relevant for academia, as there is a lack of studies on urban transport passenger loyalty. We have focused on the case of Spain, but the study could be extended to other countries. Furthermore, the results are relevant for taxi and VTC services, as it gives them information about the need to work on loyalty depending on passenger age groups, and focusing on the experience variables that require further development in both services.

Finally, future research could centre on how passengers, and especially young users, feel about taxis as a public service.

#### Limitations

 On the one hand, although our study was exploratory and the sample is not representative of the whole country (Tsafarakis et al., 2019; Collin et al., 2017), the results show trends and differences that could be analysed again in a few years' time to evaluate the changes that occur as passengers get older. Moreover, in the specific case of Spain, we should review how deregulation has evolved and impacted user perceptions (De Miguel, 2010).

We have to take into account that the questionnaire was delivered just before the first COVID-19 lockdown in Spain. Therefore, the results could be different in a post-pandemic scenario. On the other hand, it would be of interest to have the opinion of taxi and VTC drivers to compare their answers (De Miguel et al., 2020). This is especially relevant in the case of VTC drivers, as not all of them are TNC employees.

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### Annexes

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#### A. Questionnaire (own compilation)

Questions	Response alternatives
Age range	20-29; 30-49; 50-69; 70-79
Kind of urban passenger service used	Taxi; VTC-Cabify; VTC-Uber; Blablacar or similar
App used when ordering a taxi service	FreeNow-Mytaxi; PideTaxi; None; Other
Looking at consumer reviews before	Yes/No
purchasing a taxi or VTC service through	
an app	
Frequency of using a taxi service	Never; Almost never/1-2 timesxmonth; Seldom/3-4
	timesxmonth; Almost always/1-2 timesxweek;
	Always/3-4 timesxweek
Frequently of using a VTC (Uber,	Never; Almost never/1-2 timesxmonth; Seldom/3-4
Cabify)	timesxmonth; Almost always/1-2 timesxweek;
	Always/3-4 timesxweek

VTCs are cheaper than taxis	Strongly disagree; Disagree; Slightly agree; Agree;
V Test are enouper than taxis	Strongly agree, Strongly agree, Figies,
VTCs give a better service than taxis at a	Strongly disagree; Disagree; Slightly agree; Agree;
lower price	Strongly agree
Taxis should give a fixed price before	Strongly disagree; Disagree; Slightly agree; Agree;
they start their route	Strongly agree
I use Blablacar because it is cheaper	Strongly disagree; Disagree; Slightly agree; Agree;
	Strongly agree
VTC drivers are more pleasant than taxi	Strongly disagree; Disagree; Slightly agree; Agree;
drivers	Strongly agree
Taxi drivers know the routes better than	Strongly disagree; Disagree; Slightly agree; Agree;
VTC drivers	Strongly agree
I trust a taxi driver more than a VTC	Strongly disagree; Disagree; Slightly agree; Agree;
driver	Strongly agree
VTC cars are cleaner than taxis	Strongly disagree; Disagree; Slightly agree; Agree;
	Strongly agree
VTC cars are newer than taxis	Strongly disagree; Disagree; Slightly agree; Agree;
	Strongly agree
VTC cars are too ostentatious	Strongly disagree; Disagree; Slightly agree; Agree;
	Strongly agree
The Government needs to protect taxi	Strongly disagree; Disagree; Slightly agree; Agree;
services from VTCs	Strongly agree
Labour conditions are better for taxi	Strongly disagree; Disagree; Slightly agree; Agree;
drivers than for VTC drivers	Strongly agree
The labour conditions of VTC drivers are	Strongly disagree; Disagree; Slightly agree; Agree;
deficient	Strongly agree
Taxis pollute less than VTC cars	Strongly disagree; Disagree; Slightly agree; Agree;
	Strongly agree
All cars, taxis and VTCs should be hybrid	Strongly disagree; Disagree; Slightly agree; Agree;
or electric vehicles	Strongly agree
I would use services such as Blablacar to	Strongly disagree; Disagree; Slightly agree; Agree;
pollute less	Strongly agree
The VTC-taxi conflict has had a negative	Strongly disagree; Disagree; Slightly agree; Agree;
effect on the image of taxi service	Strongly agree
During the conflict, all the stakeholders	Strongly disagree; Disagree; Slightly agree; Agree;
took an equal stance	Strongly agree
The new regulation harms VTC	Strongly disagree; Disagree; Slightly agree; Agree;
companies excessively	Strongly agree

# B. Analysis of necessary conditions and cases in sufficient conditions (own compilation)

Table B1. Necessary conditions for Models 1 to 4

	Table B1. Necessary conditions for wooders 1 to 4							
Model 1								
Output: ~HighVTC	HighVTC		~ HighVTC					
Condition	Consistency	Coverage	Consistency	Coverage				
QualityVTC	0.916667	0.252874	0.590909	0.747126				
ComfortVTC	0.833333	0.185185	0.800000	0.814815				
TransparencyTaxi	0.416667	0.163934	0.463636	0.836066				
SafetyTaxi	0.166667	0.075472	0.445455	0.924528				
~QualityVTC	0.083333	0.042553	0.409091	0.957447				
~ComfortVTC	0.166667	0.153846	0.200000	0.846154				
~TransparencyTaxi	0.583333	0.191781	0.536364	0.808219				
~SafetyTaxi	0.833333	0.246914	0.554545	0.753086				
Model 2								
Output : ~HighTaxi	HighTaxi		~HighTaxi					
Condition	Consistency	Coverage	Consistency	Coverage				

Pricesensit	0.857143	0.285714	1.000000	0.714286
TransparencyTaxi	0.571429	0.333333	0.533333	0.666667
SafetyTaxi	0.571429	0.571429	0.200000	0.428571
~ Pricesensit	0.142857	1.000000	0.000000	0.000000
~ TransparencyTaxi	0.428571	0.300000	0.466667	0.700000
~ SafetyTaxi	0.428571	0.200000	0.800000	0.800000
Model 3				
Output: ~HighVTC	HighVTC		~ HighVTC	
Condition	Consistency	Coverage	Consistency	Coverage
QualityVTC	1.000000	0.183673	0.625000	0.816327
ComfortVTC	0.777778	0.118644	0.812500	0.881356
Appearance	0.111111	0.037037	0.406250	0.962963
TransparencyTaxi	0.444444	0.111111	0.500000	0.888889
SafetyTaxi	0.111111	0.034483	0.437500	0.965517
~QualityVTC	0.000000	0.000000	0.375000	1.000000
~ComfortVTC	0.222222	0.142857	0.187500	0.857143
~Appearance	0.888889	0.173913	0.593750	0.826087
~TransparencyTaxi	0.555556	0.135135	0.500000	0.864865
~SafetyTaxi	0.888889	0.181818	0.562500	0.818182
Model 4				
Output: HighTaxi	HighTaxi		~HighTaxi	
Condition	Consistency	Coverage	Consistency	Coverage
QualityVTC	0.400000	0.555556	0.666667	0.444444
ComfortVTC	0.720000	0.642857	0.833333	0.357143
TransparencyTaxi	0.400000	0.833333	0.166667	0.166667
SafetyTaxi	0.520000	0.812500	0.250000	0.187500
~QualityVTC	0.600000	0.789474	0.333333	0.210526
~ComfortVTC	0.280000	0.777778	0.166667	0.222222
~TransparencyTaxi	0.600000	0.600000	0.833333	0.400000
~SafetyTaxi	0.480000	0.571429	0.750000	0.428571

#### Table B2. Cases<sup>1</sup> in model solutions

**Model 1:** ~HighVTC = f(QualityVTC, ComfortVTC, TransparencyTAXI, SafetyTAXI)

**S1:** US10 (1,1), US100 (1,1), US102 (1,1), US103 (1,1), US107 (1,1), US108 (1,1), US109 (1,1), US111 (1,1), US112 (1,0), US113 (1,0), US117 (1,1), US119 (1,1), US123 (1,1), US125 (1,1), US126 (1,1), US127 (1,1), US129 (1,1), US13 (1,1), US131 (1,1), US134 (1,1)

**S2:** US10 (1,1), US103 (1,1), US107 (1,1), US108 (1,1), US111 (1,1), US113 (1,0), US114 (1,1), US116 (1,1), US117 (1,1), US119 (1,1), US120 (1,1), US125 (1,1), US129 (1,1), US130 (1,1), US131 (1,1), US132 (1,1), US134 (1,1), US14 (1,1), US19 (1,1), US23 (1,1)

Model 2 (age 1): ~HighTaxi = f(Pricesensit, TransparencyTaxi, SafetyTaxi)

**S3:** US121 (1,1), US44 (1,0), US50 (1,1), US51 (1,1), US52 (1,1), US53 (1,1), US55 (1,1), US62 (1,1) **Model 3 (age 2):** ~HighVTC = f(QualityVTC, ComfortVTC, AppearanceVTC, TransparencyTAXI, SafetyTAXI)

**S4:** US10 (1,1), US123 (1,1), US125 (1,1), US13 (1,1), US134 (1,1), US19 (1,1), US22 (1,1), US23 (1,1), US24 (1,1), US26 (1,1), US27 (1,1), US30 (1,1), US36 (1,1), US5 (1,1), US6 (1,1), US69 (1,1), US72 (1,1), US79 (1,1), US82 (1,1), US85 (1,1)

**S5:** US124 (1,1), US125 (1,1), US132 (1,1), US14 (1,1), US2 (1,0), US23 (1,1), US6 (1,1), US63 (1,1), US64 (1,1), US65 (1,1), US67 (1,1), US68 (1,1), US70 (1,1), US72 (1,1), US74 (1,1), US75 (1,1), US76 (1,1), US79 (1,1), US80 (1,1), US81 (1,1)

**S6:** US125 (1,1), US25 (1,1), US43 (1,1), US45 (1,1), US46 (1,1), US6 (1,1), US65 (1,1), US90 (1,1)

**Model 4 (age 3):** HighTaxi = f(QualityVTC, ComfortVTC, TransparencyTAXI, SafetyTAXI)

**S7:** US100 (1,1), US102 (1,1), US109 (1,1), US112 (1,0), US126 (1,1), US127 (1,1), US7 (1,0)

**S8:** US11 (1,1), US39 (1,1)

**S9:** US107 (1,1), US108 (1,1), US113 (1,0), US129 (1,1), US131 (1,1), US37 (1,1), US8 (1,1), US99 (1,1)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Cases in intermediate solutions