

Anomie and Anomia: a Possible Approach towards the Measurement of Social Well- Being and Deviation

Ekaterina Lytkina



27.04.2012, Saint-Petersburg

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Specific Contribution:

- Post-Soviet countries are often claimed to have experienced a great increase of anomie after the collapse of the Soviet Union, which caused disappearance of the old values and with the absence or weakness of the old ones (Krivosheev 2008).
- Popularity of implementation of anomie theory in the post-soviet Europe, such as the former Eastern Germany (Heinz 1994), Hungary (Vingender 2001), Ukraine (Golovaha and Panina 2008), Russia (Pokrovski 2000, Krivosheev 2008).
- Also wider theories of negative social changes have been developed, including the notion of anomie (Stompka 2001).

Specific Contribution:

- Still anomie theory has been and is being widely implemented :
- in relation to the Western Europe (Faßauer and Schirmer 2007, Atteslander 2006, Legge 2010) and the USA (Merton 1964, 2006, Messner and Rosenfeld 1997)
- in a cross-cultural context (as Messner and Rosenfeld 1997, Atteslander 2006).
- A certain level of anomie is sure to have existed in the former USSR (Gofman 2008, Krivosheev 2008).
- Discrimination between the social anomie and psychological anomia (Srole 1956, Merton 1964).

Theoretical Framework:

- Emile Durkheim (1912): two kinds of anomie:
- **sharp form anomie** - caused by various forms of crises that shutter the collective order and can lead both to degradation and prosperity. It causes the variability in the rate of suicide.
- **anomie as a chronic phenomenon** - permanent in certain fields of social life. These are the commercial and industrial life and the institute of family
- one can differentiate between the two types of anomie and view the transitional post-soviet societies as the ones having experienced the influence of the sharp anomie. At the same time the certain rate of chronicle anomie is typical of contemporary societies (Merton 1964, 2006).

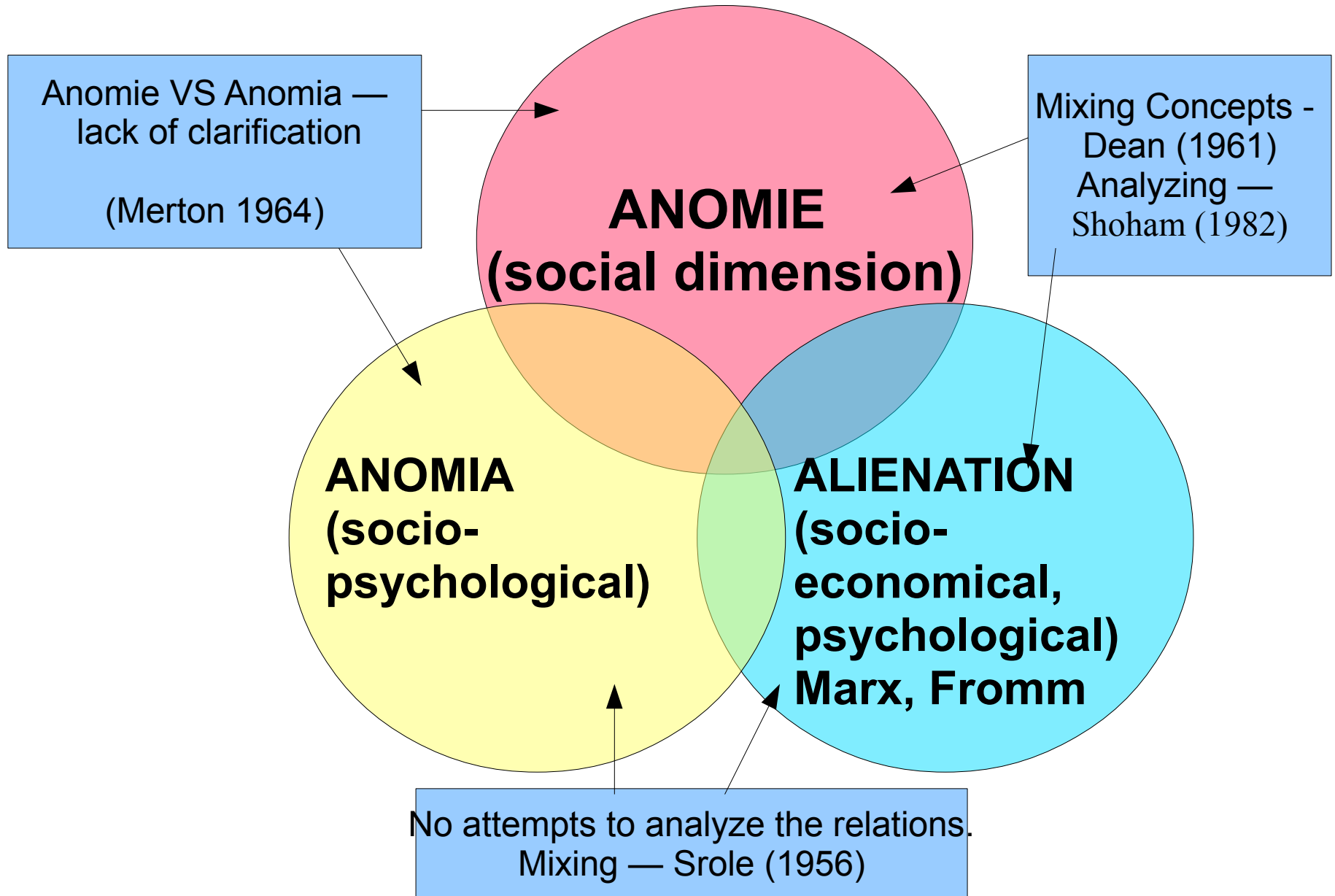
Anomie VS Anomia

- Srole (1956) - dichotomy “eunomia-anomia” : Eunomia means a well regulated state of the society or state, while anomia, its opposition, means disintegration and alienation between people.
- Robert Merton (1964): necessity of the division between the psychological anomia and social anomie.

Anomie - a social situation, characterized by lack of norms and regulations (Durkheim), and or the gap between the culturally supported goals and institutional means of fulfilling them (Merton). Anomie characterizes the condition of social surround.

Anomia - an individual psychological condition (as a consequence of anomie), characterized by social malintegration (feelings of alienation, feebleness, helplessness, loneliness, etc.). It is a condition of particular people (Merton). This track of anomie theory wasn't developed enough though.

Key Theoretical and Empirical Problem

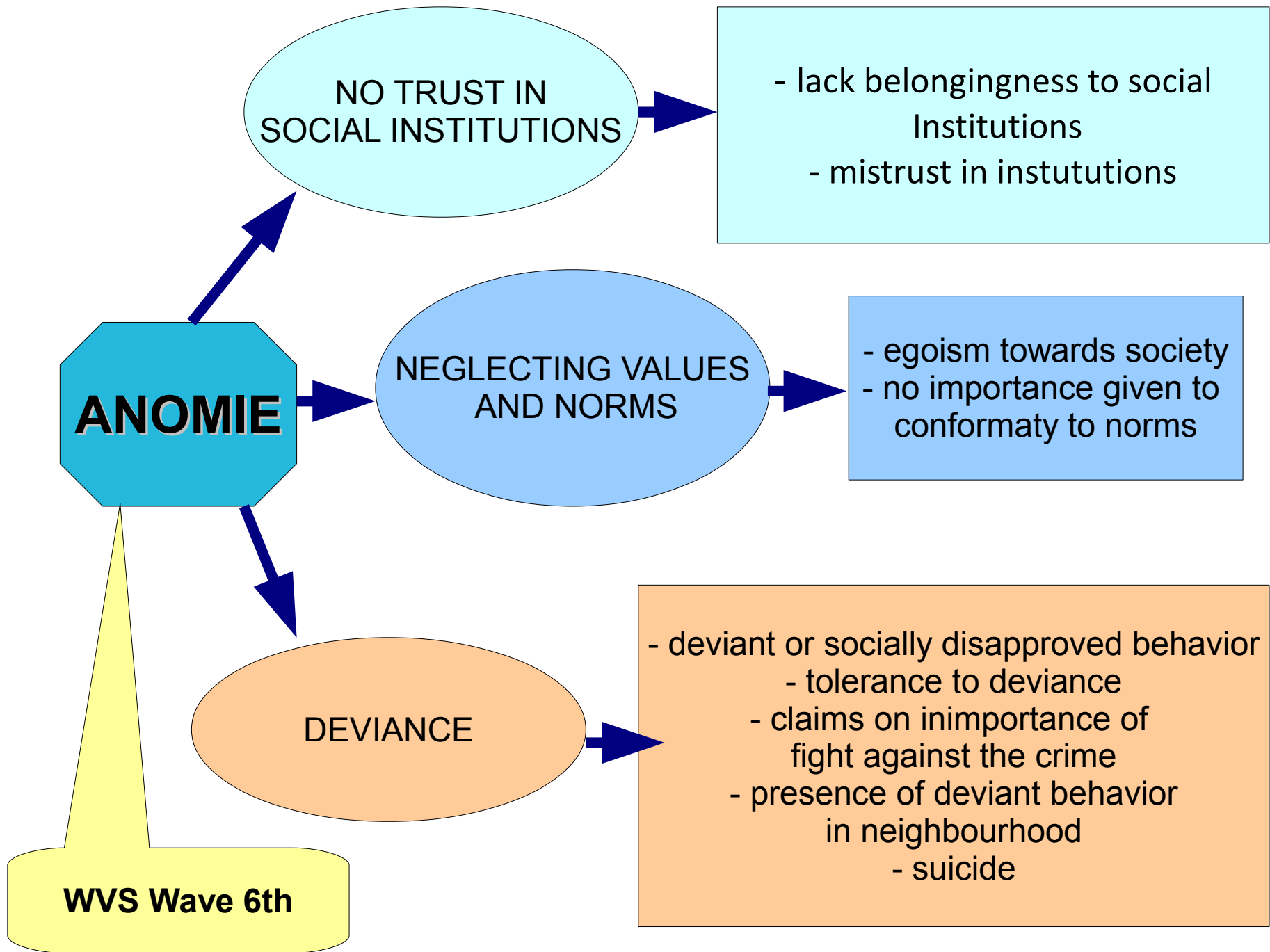


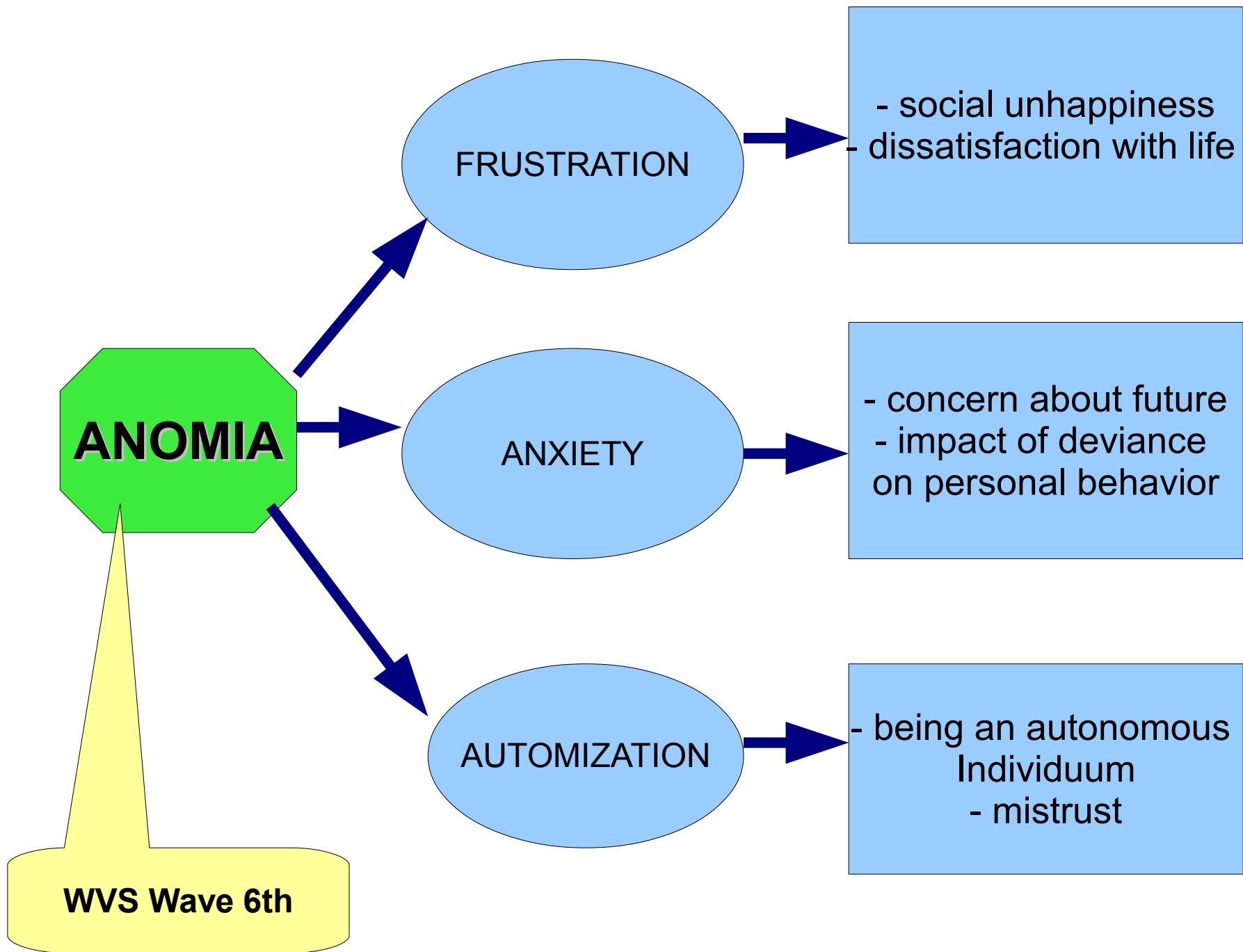
Key question:

What factors influence anomie and anomia?

Necessity: finding appropriate measurement of anomie and anomia

Core Variables (WVS): Anomie VS Anomia





ANOMIA

FRUSTRATION

ANXIETY

AUTOMIZATION

- social unhappiness
- dissatisfaction with life

- concern about future
- impact of deviance on personal behavior

- being an autonomous Individuum
- mistrust

WVS Wave 6th

Hypotheses:

- A higher level of anomie can be measured in the (post) transformational countries in comparison to the Western European countries
- The more democratic the country is, the more autonomous an individual is (anomia)
- The more authoritarian the country is, the less anomic (anomie) it is.
- The more religious the population is, the less autonomous (anomia) an individual is.
- The more prosperous a country is, the less tolerant to deviance it is

Analyses (WVS Wave 5):

Indices on trust in institutions (upon factor analysis)

Index	combining	Variance Explained	Cronbach's Alpha
To governmental institutions	Police, parliament, civil service, government, justice system, parties	42,9%	0,88
To liberal institutionals	Major companies, environmental organizations, women organizations, UN, charity organizations	8,9%	0,81
To ideological institutions*	Church, press, TV, army*	6,7%	0,684

Targeted Data Base:

- World Values Survey dataset, Waves 3, 5, 6*
- (post) transitional countries (Russia, Ukraine and Poland) and countries with more stability in social organization (Germany*, France, Great Britain and USA).
- Possible to use the data of ESS (rounds 2006, 2010)

Thank you for your attention!

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