



# Socialization and Justice Attitudes (Progress Report)

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# Something old, something new...

## Continuity

- Research Question: The relation of socialization and distributive justice attitudes

## Change

- Dependent variable  
Attitudes toward wage distribution -> Attitude to income inequalities
- Research design  
Broader country selection (inclusion of non-post-socialists)  
Quantification of socialization (no qualitative definition of generations)

# Scope of the Presentation

## **Justice Attitudes toward the Income Inequalities**

- Indicators for voting behavior, unemployment motivation, life satisfaction

## **The post-socialist puzzle**

- Structuralist (Wegener and Steinman 1995, Kelley and Evans 1993, Osberg and Smeeding 2006)  
VS.  
Culturalist (Hadler 2005, Gijsberts 2002)
- Drastic shift for being against inequalities to supporting larger inequalities (Kelley and Zagorski 2005)

## **Research Question**

- Does cultural/socialist baggage determines attitudes?
- How much does socialization play a role in the shifts?

# Theoretical Considerations (I)

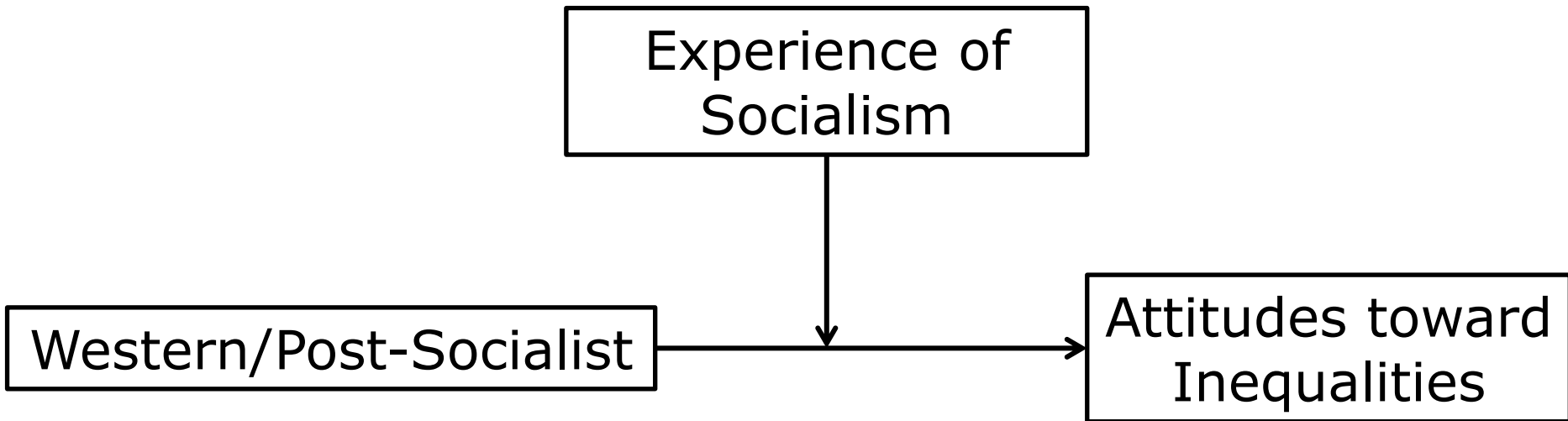
## **Culturalist assumption**

- Socialization and experience: cornerstones of values
- Values shape justice attitudes toward income inequalities

## **Mechanism of Socialization**

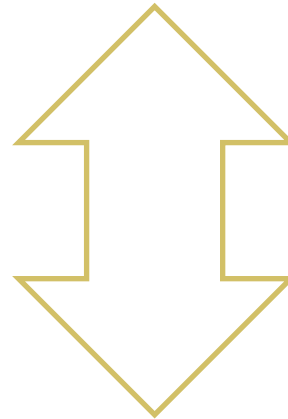
- Traditional approach
  - Childhood experience serve the bases of values
  - Later experience has little or no effect on values
  - Role of growing up in socialism is decisive
- "Life Long Learning" approach
  - Childhood experience is not decisive, later stages of life matter just as much
  - Growing up in socialism can be relativized by experiences before/after

# Theoretical Considerations (II)



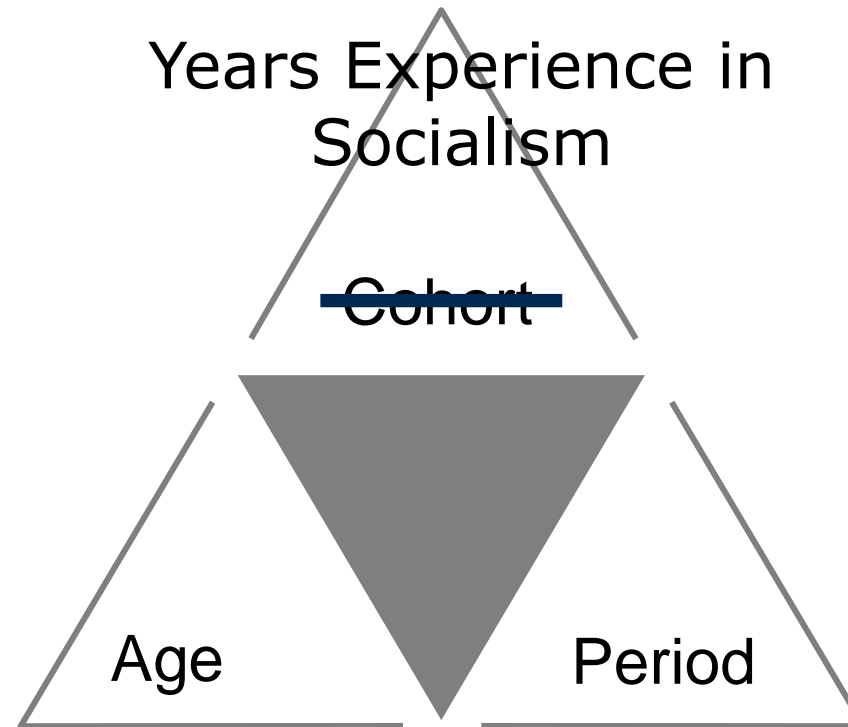
# Hypotheses

**H1. Individuals who spent their formative years outside a socialist regime are more likely to be closer to their Western counterparts in their attitudes toward inequalities.**



**H2. The less time individuals spent time socialized in a socialist regime the more likely will they be like their Western counterparts.**

# Methodological Considerations



$$\text{expyears} = (\text{endsoc} - \text{birthcohort}) - (\text{startsoc} - \text{birthcohort})$$

# Data

## International Social Survey Program

- International research project, national representative
- 4 Modules on Attitudes toward Income Inequality
- Years: 1987, 1992, 1999, 2009

<b>Western</b>	<b>Post-socialist</b>
Australia	Hungary
Austria	Poland
Germany-West	Germany-East
New Zealand	Bulgaria
Norway	Czech Republic
Great Britain	Russia
United States	



# Variables

## Dependent Variable(s)

- Preferred Income Inequality (based on "personal Gini")  
*(Larger value – prefer more inequalities)*
- Justice Evaluation (discrepancy between preferred+percieved Gini)  
*(Larger value – thinks inequalities are more unfair)*

## Independent Variables

- East/West Comparison  
*(1: From Socialist State)*
- Experience with Socialism
  - Formative Years Solely under Socialism  
*(1:Formative Years in Socialism)*
  - Ratio of Life Spent under Socialism (ordinal)  
*(100%: All of life spent under socialism)*

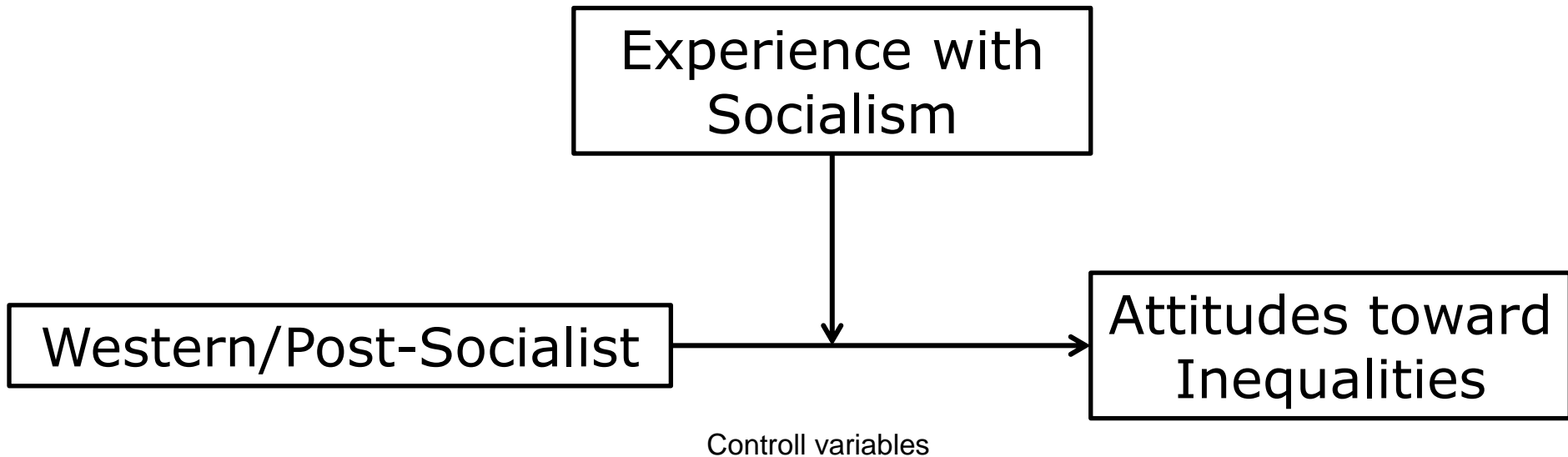
## APC Related Controll Variables

- Age, Year of Survey (1987 (ref.), 1992, 1999, 2009)

## Other Controll Variables

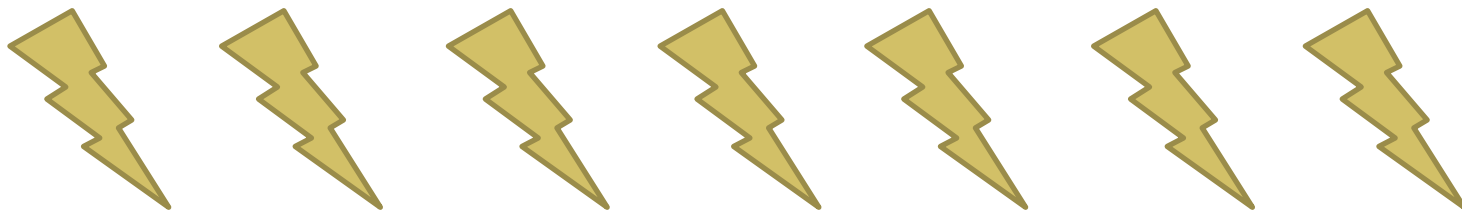
- Gender (1:male), Education, Employment (1:employed)

# Models (III)



## Regression Analysis with Interaction Effect

- EastXExperience -> all Westerners will have 0 experience



# Solution (I)

	Model 1	Model 2
gender	x	x
edysr	x	x
employ	x	x
age	x	x
issp92	x	x
issp99	x	x
issp09	x	x
east		x
form		
eastXform		

# Solution (II)

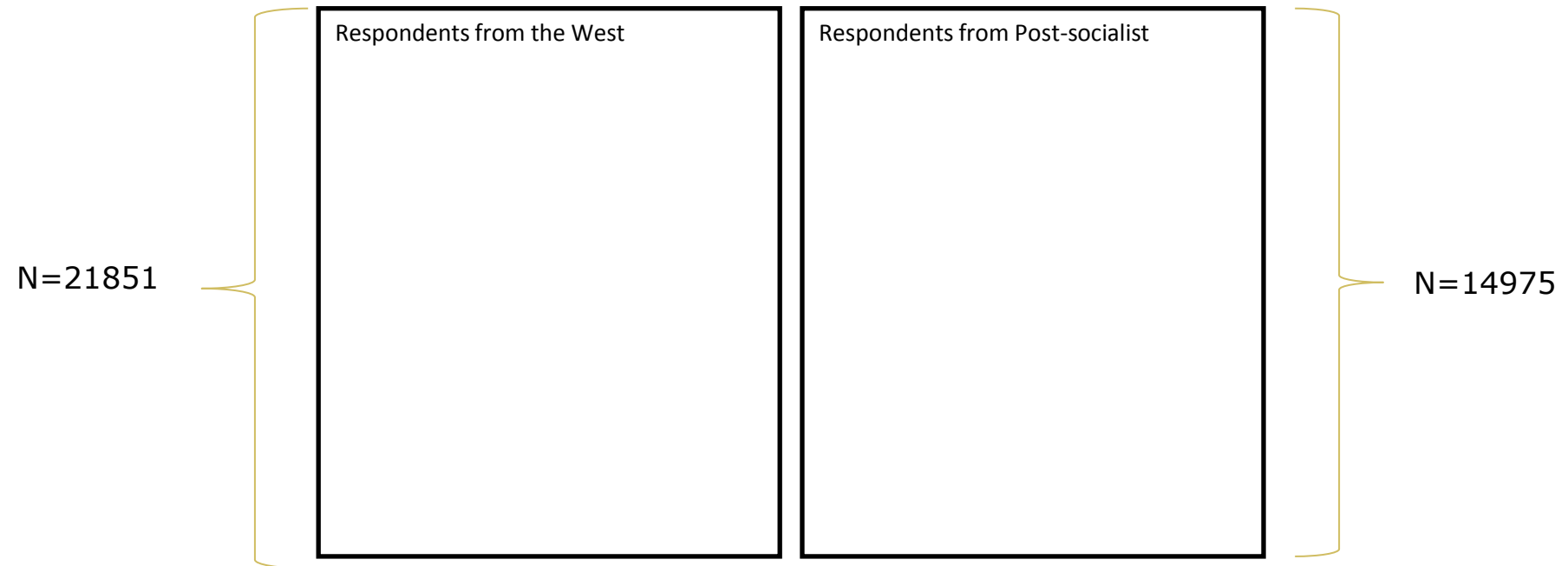
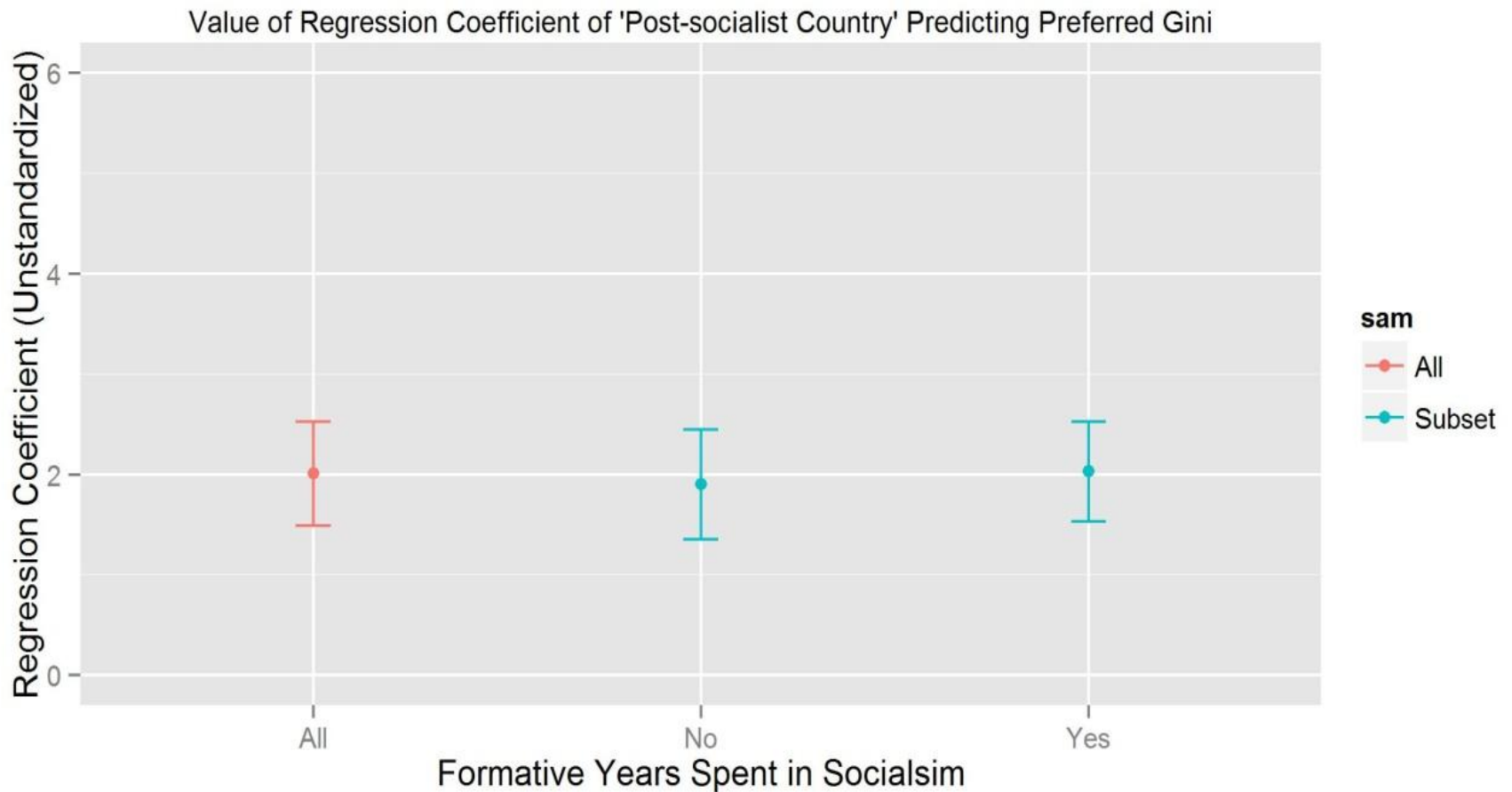


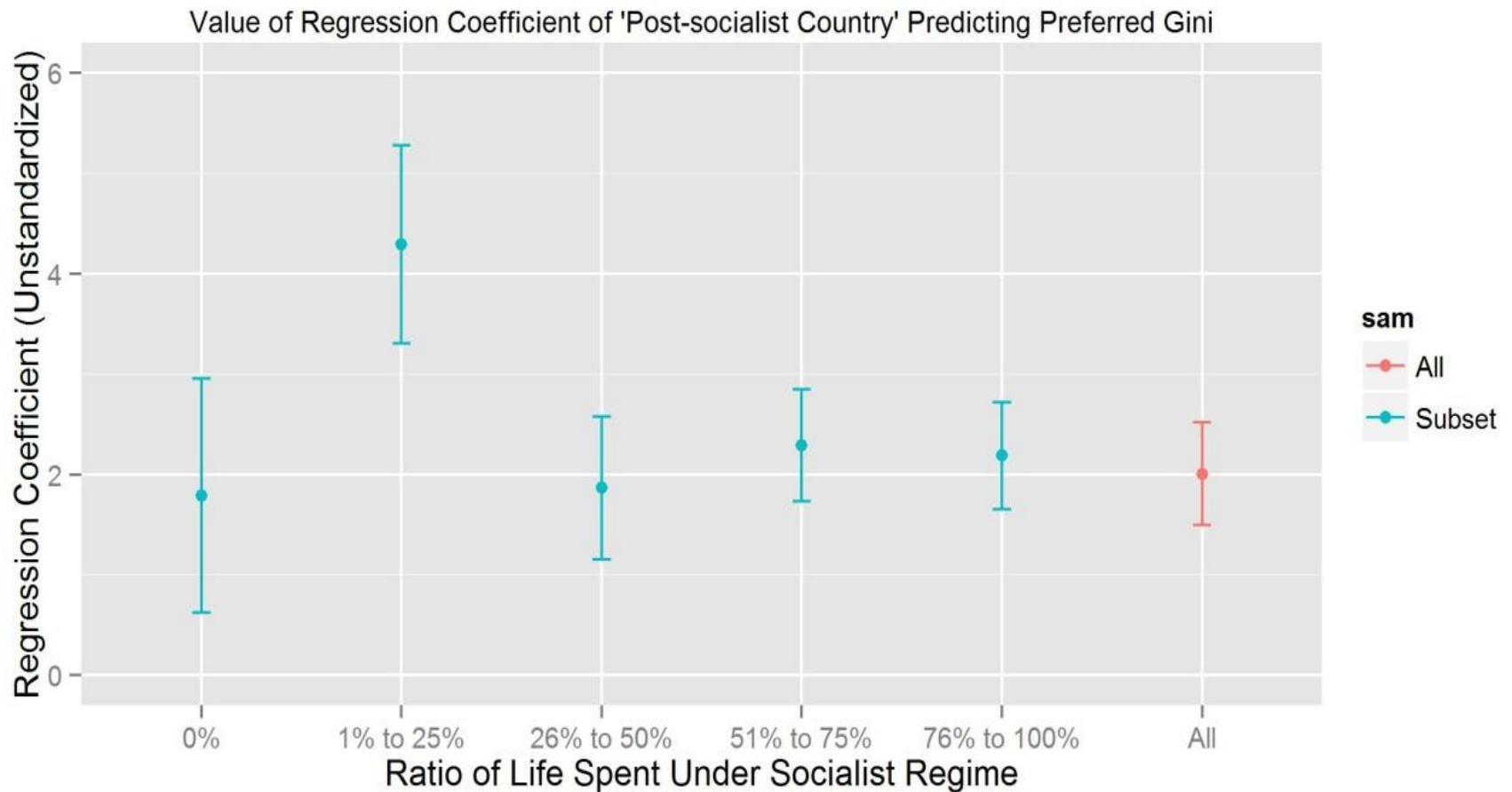
Figure 2 – Illustration of Sample Design

- Random Sample (without removal) from the two respective samples for balancing  
From the West (N=5000) vs. from Post-socialist subset (N=5000)
- Repeated OLS regression  
1000 times, saving the regression coefficients

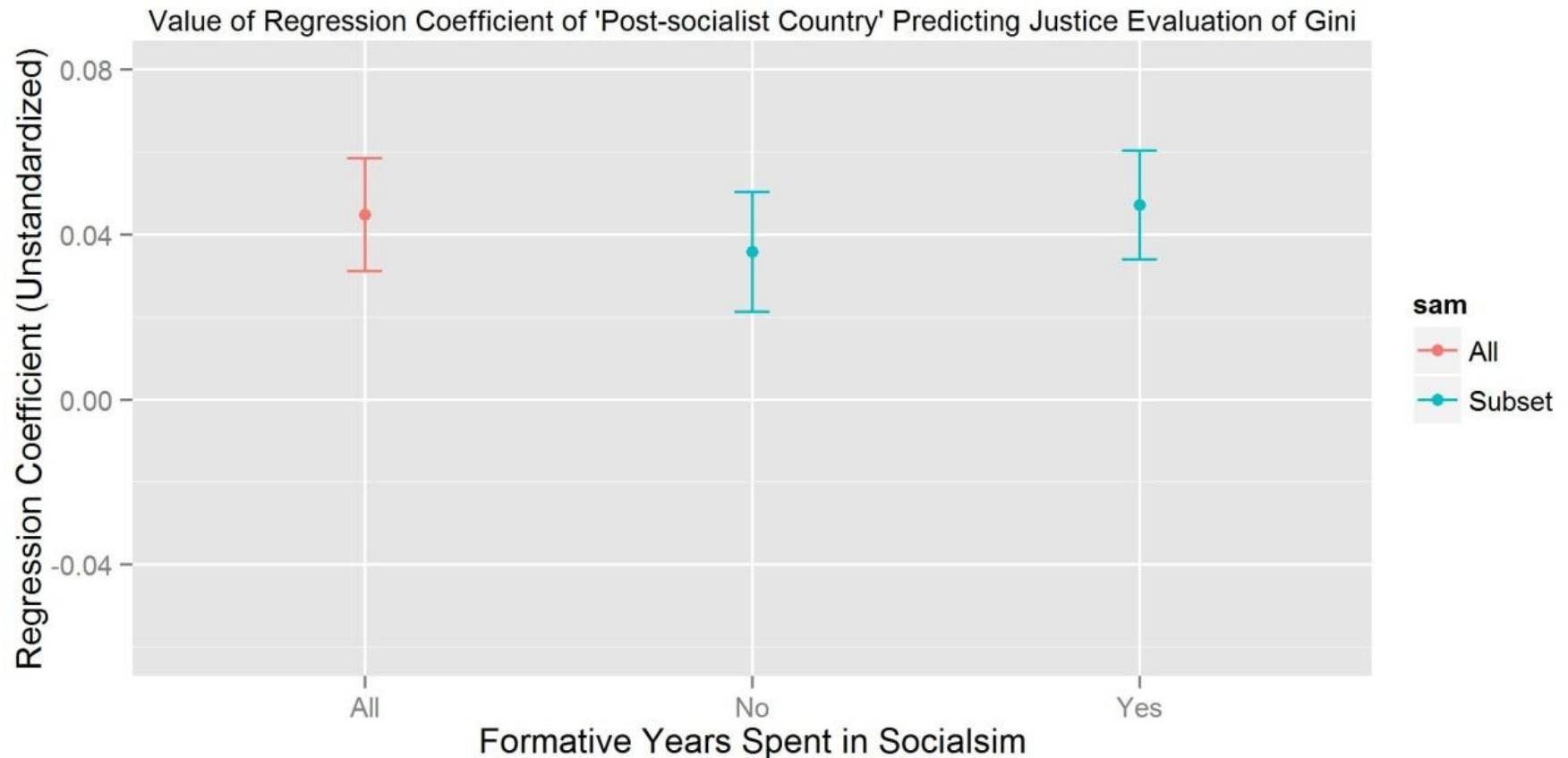
# Results (Preferred)



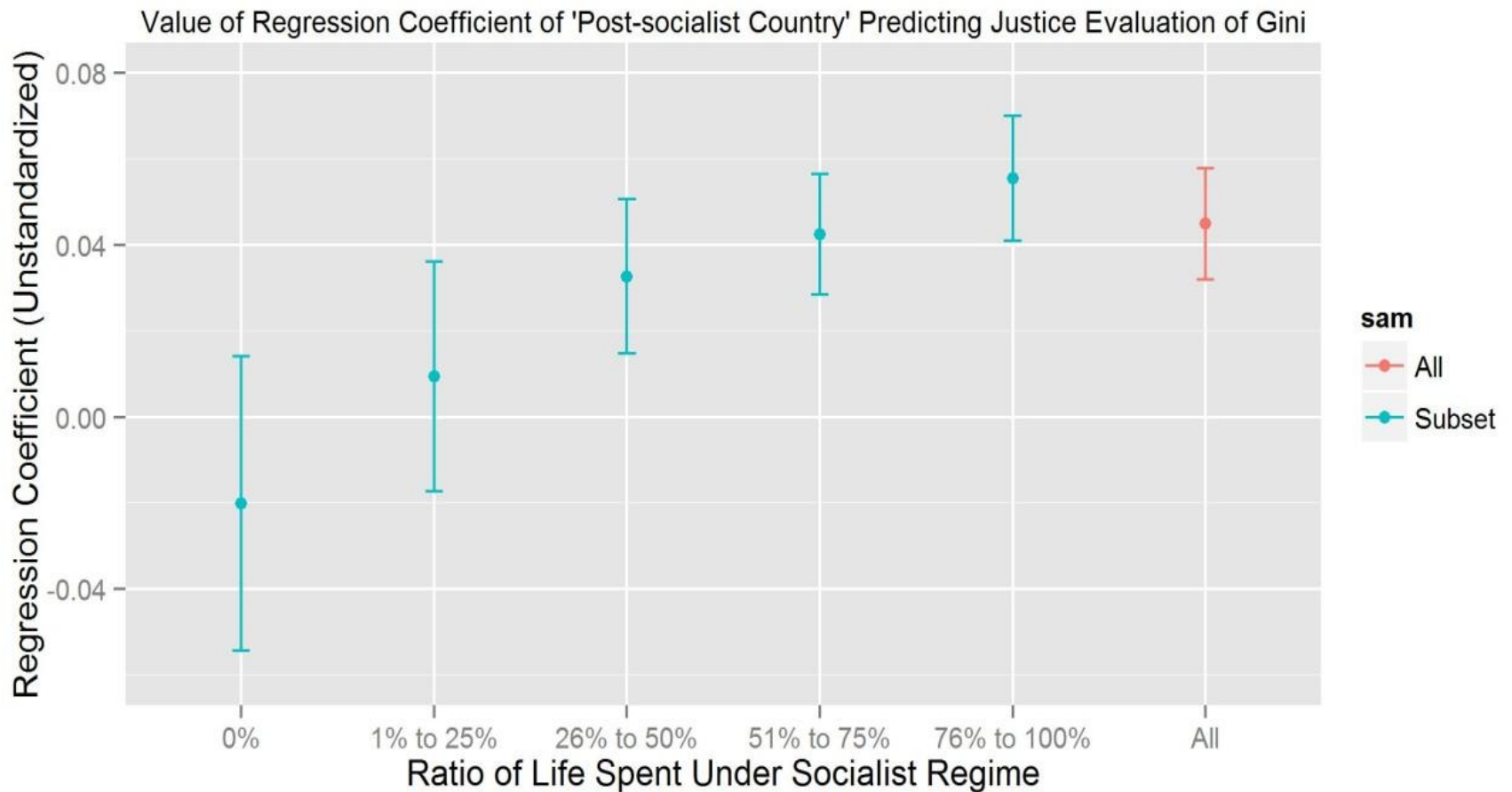
# Results (Preferred)



# Results (Justice Evaluation)



# Results (Justice Evaluation)





# Summary of Analysis

## Results

- Socialization has no effect on East/West difference in regard to the preference of income inequality.
- Socialization has a significant effect on East/West differences in regard to justice evaluations of income inequality
- Traditional approach to socialization: not confirmed, although tendencies reflect some
- Life long learning approach: confirmed

## Discussion

- Preferences toward income inequalities determined by objective inequalities (to smooth cognitive dissonance, belief in a just world)
- Perceptions of inequalities seems decisive for differences between Post-Socialist/?

# Questions and Further Steps

## Limitations of the Study

- Answering what I am asking?
- Hhold income not incorportated as controll (needed?)
- Comparison of non-nested regression coefficients?

## Future for the Paper

- Rechecking of the analysis
- Dropping the preferred Gini?
- Expanding the theoretical foundations of the study



**EUROPEAN PH.D.**  
IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND  
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CO-ORDINATED BY HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN



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# Thank you for your attention!

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