

# **Coalitional Affiliation as a Missing Link Between Ethnic Polarization and Well-being: An Empirical Test from the European Social Survey**

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# Outline

What are the effects of cross-ethnic social interactions on subjective well-being and health?

- ESS: initial tests of the basic mechanisms
  - Co-author: Pascal Boyer (Univ. of Lyon, Washington Univ. at St. Louis)

- WVS: macro-level structural and cultural factors

# Inter-ethnic Contact and Well-being

Ethnic diversity → ‘Hunkering down’ (Putnam 2007)

Decreased social trust

(Delhey and Newton, 2005; Dinesen and Sønderskov, 2012; Laurence, 2009; Stolle, Soroka and Johnston, 2008; Wickes et al., 2014)



Other studies fail to detect this negative relationship

(Bjørnskov, Dreher and Fischer, 2007; Bjørnskov et al., 2008; Stolle et al., 2013)

or even suggest a positive one

(Gundelach, 2014)

**Social contact hypothesis:** positive inter-ethnic contact → increased social trust

(Allport 1954, Pettigrew, 1997; Pettigrew and Tropp, 2000, Gundelach and Freitag, 2014; Stolle et al., 2013, Dinesen 2011)

-- **Still conflicting results**

-- **Mechanisms unclear: why do social contact influence well-being?**

# Coalitions

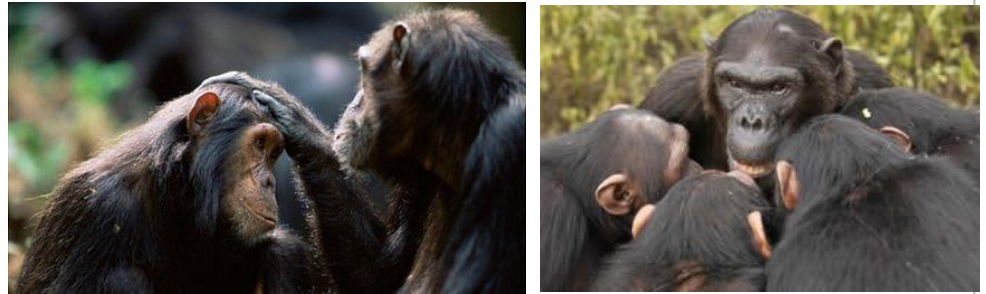
- ◆ A *coalition* is a pact among a collection of agents to cooperate towards a particular (set of) goal(s) that cannot be achieved by any single individual (or at much greater cost) (Hardin, 1982; Myatt & Wallace, 2009).
- ◆ Humans require, for their survival and reproduction, extensive support from kin but also from non-kin conspecifics, in e.g. hunting (Dubreuil, 2010; Kelly, 1995), parenting (Hrady, 1999, 2009), trade (Jaeggi & Van Schaik, 2011), most importantly in defense against other humans (Gat, 2006; Keeley, 1996).



# Coalitional Psychological Mechanisms

**Alliance detection system:** Evolved, cognitive capacity to track social and physical cues in order to detect social allegiances.<sup>1</sup>

Adaptations for forming social alliances and coalitions are also observed in other primates.<sup>2</sup>



By the early preschool years, children already have sophisticated inference rules about coalitional dynamics, social relationships and friendship.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Kurzban et al. 2001; Cosmides, Tooby, and Kurzban 2003; DeScioli and Kurzban 2009; DeScioli et al. 2011; Navarrete et al. 2004; Pietraszewski, Cosmides and Tooby 2014.

<sup>2</sup> Fornasieri & Roeder 1992; Harcourt 1978; Pandit & van Schaik 2003; Silk, Alberts & Altmann 2004; Harcourt and DeWaal 1992.

<sup>3</sup> Pietraszewski and German 2013.

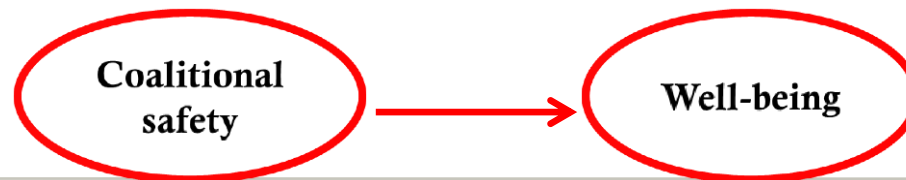


# Linking diversity with well-being: Cross-ethnic coalitional affiliations

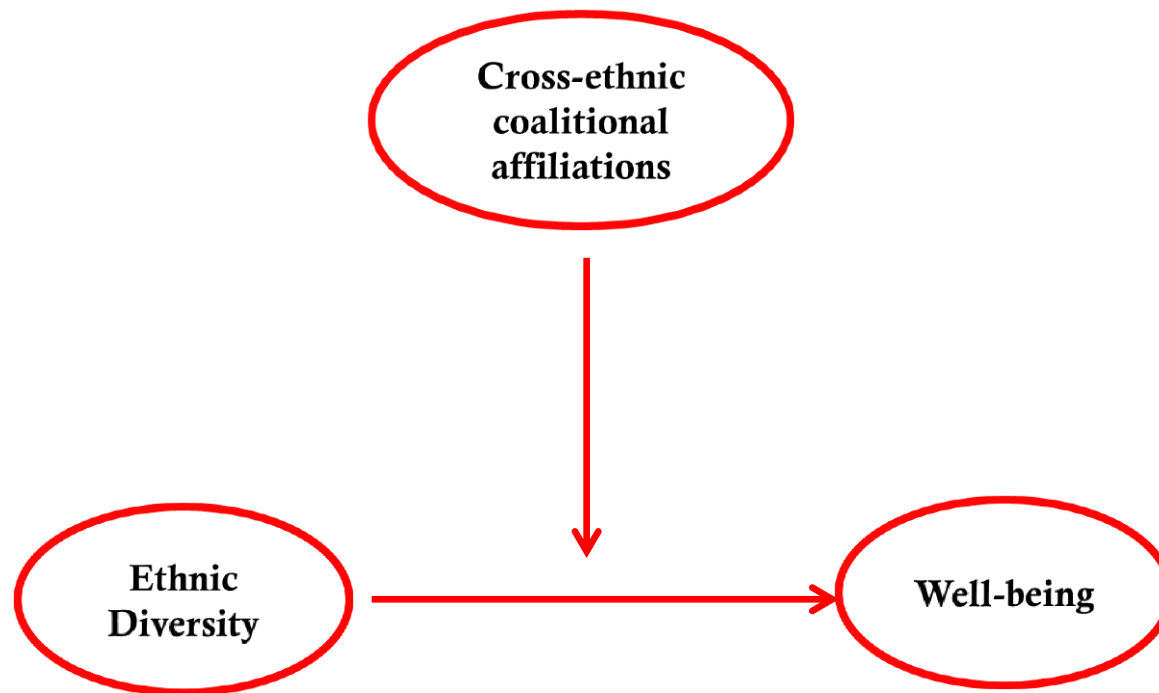
- Race and ethnicity have become perceptual cues for detecting alliances under historical conditions that created racially inequalitarian societies (Kurzban et al. 2001; Cosmides et al. 2003).
- *Cross-ethnic coalitional affiliations*: ethnic diversity in coalitions.



- *Coalitional safety*: intuitive evaluations of support from other members of the various group(s) and alliances or *coalitional affiliations*.



# Linking diversity with well-being: Cross-ethnic coalitional affiliations



# Data & Methods

## European Social Survey (ESS, Round 1, 2002-2003)

19 countries: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

### **Outcome variables:**

- Subjective well-being ( $\alpha = 0.80$ ):
  - Happiness (How happy are you? “0” Extremely unhappy - “10” Extremely happy)
  - Life satisfaction (How satisfied are you with your life? “0” Extremely dissatisfied- “10” Extremely satisfied)
- Subjective health (How is your health in general? Reverse coded, “1” Very bad – “5” Very good)



# Core Explanatory Variables:

## **Perceived ethnic diversity:**

People of minority race/ethnic group in current living area.

“1” Almost Nobody

“2” Some

“3” Many

- reverse coded for those with an immigrant background

# Cross-ethnic coalitional affiliation



Not immigrant + have several or a few immigrant friends + meet with friends everyday

Immigrant + have no immigrant friends + meet with friends everyday

Not immigrant + have no immigrant friends + meet with friends everyday

Immigrant + have several or a few immigrant friends + meet with friends everyday

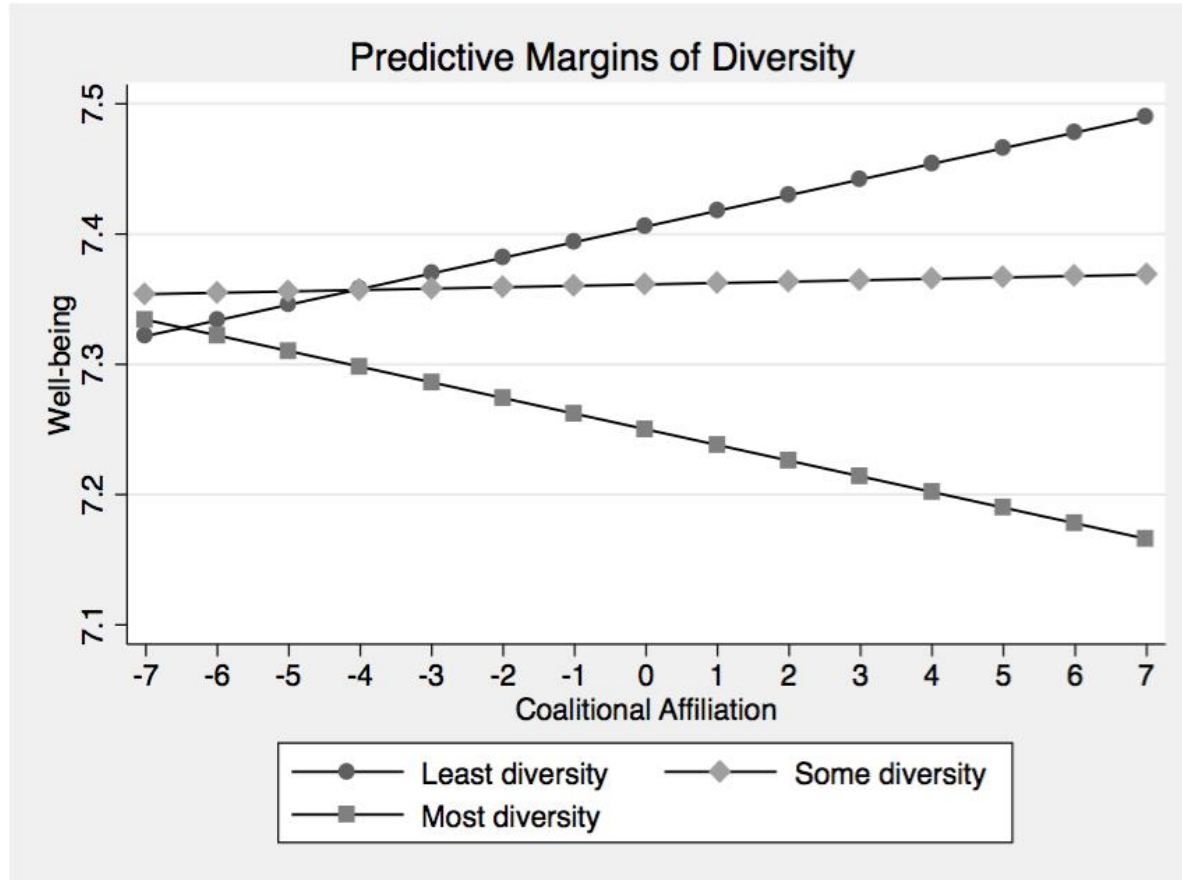
# MODELS

- Two-level random-intercept models : Individuals (level one) are nested in countries (level two) with Stata.
- All models control for: tolerance for gays/lesbians, socio-economic indicators (feelings about income, education, and unemployment), immigrant background, belonging to a discriminated group, demographic characteristics (gender, birth year, and marital status). Ethnic fractionalization at the national level, income inequality (Gini coefficient) and Gross Domestic Product (GDP per capita).
- All continuous predictors were grand-mean centered.
- Design weights are applied.

Table 2. Random-intercept regression results for key predictors, European Social Survey (N = 32,833)

|   | 1A                  | 1B                  | 2A                  | 2B                  | 3A                  | 3B                  |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|   | Wellbeing           | Health              | Wellbeing           | Health              | Wellbeing           | Health              |
| Some ethnic/racial diversity in living area | -0.05<br>[0.038]    | -0.050**<br>[0.012] | -0.045<br>[0.038]   | -0.046**<br>[0.012] | -0.044<br>[0.039]   | -0.046**<br>[0.012] |
| Most ethnic/racial diversity in living area | -0.156**<br>[0.050] | -0.088**<br>[0.019] | -0.149**<br>[0.048] | -0.082**<br>[0.019] | -0.156**<br>[0.046] | -0.083**<br>[0.019] |
| Cross-ethnic coalitional affiliation        |                     |                     | 0.005<br>[0.003]    | 0.004*<br>[0.001]   | 0.012**<br>[0.004]  | 0.005**<br>[0.002]  |
| Some minority x Coalitional affiliation     |                     |                     |                     |                     | -0.011**<br>[0.004] | -0.002<br>[0.002]   |
| Many minority x Coalitional affiliation     |                     |                     |                     |                     | -0.024**<br>[0.006] | -0.004<br>[0.004]   |
| Tolerance                                   | 0.052**<br>[0.011]  | 0.020**<br>[0.006]  | 0.053**<br>[0.011]  | 0.021**<br>[0.006]  | 0.053**<br>[0.011]  | 0.021**<br>[0.006]  |
| Feelings about household income             | -0.668**<br>[0.043] | -0.187**<br>[0.013] | -0.668**<br>[0.043] | -0.188**<br>[0.013] | -0.669**<br>[0.043] | -0.188**<br>[0.013] |
| Education                                   | 0.001<br>[0.004]    | 0.024**<br>[0.003]  | 0.001<br>[0.004]    | 0.024**<br>[0.003]  | 0.002<br>[0.004]    | 0.024**<br>[0.003]  |
| Unemployed                                  | -0.563**<br>[0.148] | 0.001<br>[0.025]    | -0.564**<br>[0.148] | 0<br>[0.025]        | -0.561**<br>[0.148] | 0<br>[0.025]        |
| Immigrant                                   | -0.015<br>[0.039]   | -0.014<br>[0.018]   | -0.027<br>[0.039]   | -0.024<br>[0.019]   | -0.019<br>[0.039]   | -0.022<br>[0.019]   |
| Discriminated                               | -0.565**<br>[0.057] | -0.187**<br>[0.028] | -0.564**<br>[0.057] | -0.186**<br>[0.028] | -0.565**<br>[0.058] | -0.186**<br>[0.028] |
| Male  | -0.103**<br>[0.021] | 0.066**<br>[0.014]  | -0.102**<br>[0.021] | 0.067**<br>[0.014]  | -0.102**<br>[0.021] | 0.067**<br>[0.014]  |
| Birth year                                  | 0.007**<br>[0.002]  | 0.016**<br>[0.001]  | 0.007**<br>[0.002]  | 0.016**<br>[0.001]  | 0.007**<br>[0.002]  | 0.016**<br>[0.001]  |
| Married                                     | 0.361**<br>[0.029]  | 0.057**<br>[0.014]  | 0.361**<br>[0.029]  | 0.056**<br>[0.014]  | 0.362**<br>[0.029]  | 0.056**<br>[0.014]  |
| Ethnic fractionalization                    | 0.591*<br>[0.265]   | 0.07<br>[0.143]     | 0.592*<br>[0.265]   | 0.071<br>[0.143]    | 0.592*<br>[0.267]   | 0.071<br>[0.143]    |
| Gini coefficient                            | -0.042**<br>[0.016] | 0.007<br>[0.009]    | -0.042**<br>[0.016] | 0.007<br>[0.009]    | -0.042**<br>[0.016] | 0.007<br>[0.009]    |
| GDP per capita                              | 1.417**<br>[0.183]  | 0.521**<br>[0.132]  | 1.421**<br>[0.183]  | 0.524**<br>[0.131]  | 1.421**<br>[0.184]  | 0.524**<br>[0.131]  |
| Intercept                                   | 7.297**<br>[0.073]  | 3.844**<br>[0.033]  | 7.296**<br>[0.073]  | 3.843**<br>[0.032]  | 7.292**<br>[0.073]  | 3.842**<br>[0.033]  |
| Variance (Intercept)                        | 0.066               | 0.0298              | 0.0656              | 0.0296              | 0.0661              | 0.0297              |

# Neighborhood diversity, coalitional affiliation and well-being



# DISCUSSION

- Increasing proportion of ethnic/racial minorities in living area erodes subjective well-being and health.

BUT:

- For well-being, these effects depend on coalitional perceptions:
  - Stronger coalitional affiliations with in-group ethnic/racial groups (homogenous coalitional affiliations) magnify the negative effects of perceived diversity.



# Outline

What are the effects of cross-ethnic/racial social interactions on subjective well-being and health?

- ESS: initial tests of the basic mechanisms
- WVS: macro-level structural and cultural factors

# Preliminary investigations

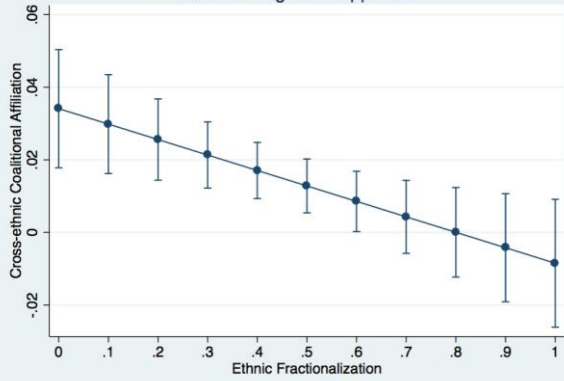
- WVS -2005
- Coalitional affiliation: Ethnic diversity erodes a country's unity ("1") – Ethnic diversity enriches life ("10")
- Income inequality: gini index
- GDP
- Ethnic fractionalization (Alesina et al. 2003)

2-Level regression results, World Values Survey, Wave 5, 2005-2007 (Level 2  $N = 38$ )

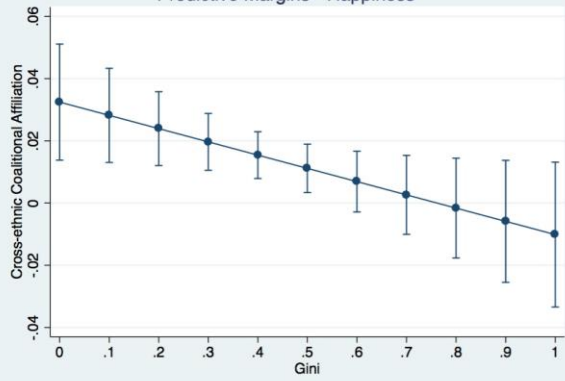
| VARIABLES                    | HAPPINESS           |                     |                     |                     | SUBJECTIVE HEALTH   |                     |                     |                     |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                              | 1A                  | 1B                  | 1C                  | 1D                  | 2A                  | 2B                  | 2C                  | 2D                  |
| Coala                        | 0.014**<br>[0.004]  | 0.032**<br>[0.010]  | 0.034**<br>[0.008]  | -0.009<br>[0.010]   | 0.014**<br>[0.003]  | 0.018*<br>[0.008]   | 0.030**<br>[0.007]  | -0.017*<br>[0.008]  |
| Gini                         | 0.164*<br>[0.071]   | 0.192**<br>[0.072]  | 0.163*<br>[0.071]   | 0.164*<br>[0.071]   | 0.078<br>[0.050]    | 0.083<br>[0.051]    | 0.077<br>[0.050]    | 0.078<br>[0.050]    |
| Ethnic fractionalization     | -0.001<br>[0.058]   | -0.002<br>[0.058]   | 0.027<br>[0.059]    | -0.002<br>[0.058]   | 0.027<br>[0.041]    | 0.027<br>[0.041]    | 0.05<br>[0.042]     | 0.026<br>[0.041]    |
| GDP (Log)                    | 0.150**<br>[0.051]  | 0.150**<br>[0.050]  | 0.152**<br>[0.050]  | 0.124*<br>[0.051]   | 0.113**<br>[0.036]  | 0.113**<br>[0.036]  | 0.115**<br>[0.035]  | 0.078*<br>[0.036]   |
| Coala x gini                 |                     | -0.043*<br>[0.020]  |                     |                     |                     | -0.008<br>[0.017]   |                     |                     |
| Coala x<br>Fractionalization |                     |                     | -0.043**<br>[0.016] |                     |                     |                     | -0.035**<br>[0.013] |                     |
| Coala x GDP                  |                     |                     |                     | 0.041**<br>[0.016]  |                     |                     |                     | 0.055**<br>[0.013]  |
| Income                       | 0.172**<br>[0.005]  | 0.172**<br>[0.005]  | 0.172**<br>[0.005]  | 0.172**<br>[0.005]  | 0.133**<br>[0.004]  | 0.133**<br>[0.004]  | 0.133**<br>[0.004]  | 0.133**<br>[0.004]  |
| Education                    | 0.026**<br>[0.004]  | 0.026**<br>[0.004]  | 0.026**<br>[0.004]  | 0.026**<br>[0.004]  | 0.055**<br>[0.003]  | 0.055**<br>[0.003]  | 0.055**<br>[0.003]  | 0.054**<br>[0.003]  |
| Age                          | -0.064**<br>[0.006] | -0.063**<br>[0.006] | -0.063**<br>[0.006] | -0.063**<br>[0.006] | -0.307**<br>[0.005] | -0.307**<br>[0.005] | -0.307**<br>[0.005] | -0.307**<br>[0.005] |
| Male                         | -0.006**<br>[0.002] | -0.006**<br>[0.002] | -0.006**<br>[0.002] | -0.006**<br>[0.002] | 0.021**<br>[0.002]  | 0.021**<br>[0.002]  | 0.021**<br>[0.002]  | 0.021**<br>[0.002]  |
| <i>N</i>                     | 45,695              | 45,695              | 45,695              | 45,695              | 45,951              | 45,951              | 45,951              | 45,951              |

\*  $p < .05$ , \*\*  $p < .01$

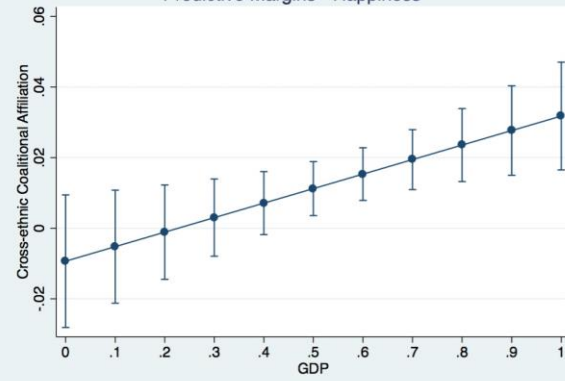
Predictive Margins - Happiness



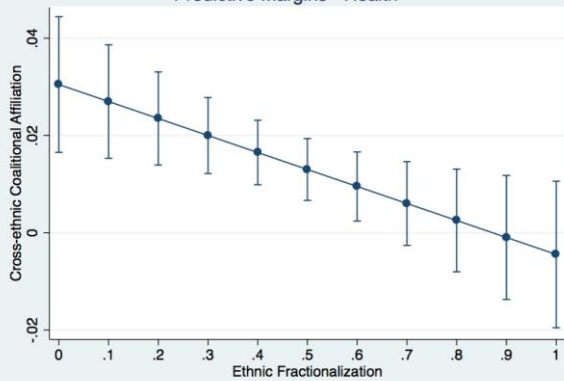
Predictive Margins - Happiness



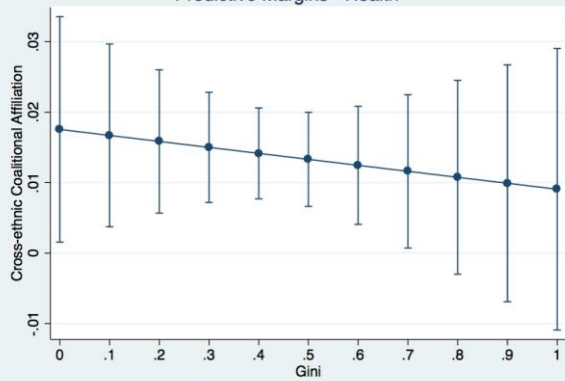
Predictive Margins - Happiness



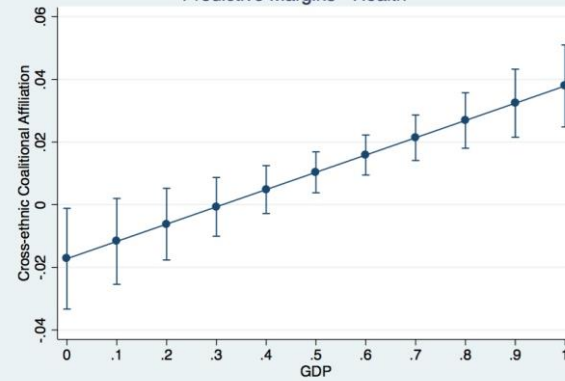
Predictive Margins - Health



Predictive Margins - Health



Predictive Margins - Health



# Future Directions

- What are the structural factors and cultural-evolutionary turning points creating/modulating coalitional safety?
  - i.e. economic development, social capital, political quality, level of democracy, coalitional conflict and tolerance at the national-level
- How does coalitional psychology change over time?
- A new scale: “Coalitional Safety Scale”
- What are the causal mechanisms?
  - Physiological experiments

Take home message:





THANK YOU!

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QUESTIONS & COMMENTS??

# Coalitional Psychology Scale

- **Coalitional Thinking**
- A1. Coalitional detection
- A2. Coalitional identification
- B1. Rivalry detection
- B2. Rivalry identification
  
- **Coalitional Safety**
- C1. In-group coalitional strength
- C2. In-group coalitional coherence
- C3. In-group coalitional support
- C4. In-group coalitional commitment
- D1. Out-group threat
- D2. Out-group strength
- D3. Out-group coherence

We are all part of different groups. In some of these groups, we have a common goal and interest with other members. We are able to come together to overcome an obstacle and share rewards and benefits. These groups are our coalitions. For example, ethnicity/race (ex. White, Asian, Hispanic), a religious group (ex. Catholic, the St. Peter Roman Catholic Church, Buddhist), a geographical community (ex. American, Texan, Brooklyn), an advocacy group (ex. parent teacher association, political action group).

In general, would you say that you have several, some or no coalitions?

- Several
- Some
- No

*{If several or some is clicked:}*

In general, what group would you say is the most important coalition to you? Please answer by filling in the blank area in the sentence below.

\_\_\_\_\_ *{insert group name}* are the most important coalition to me.

People have different ways of living, traditions and values. Some of these different ways could be in conflict with how *{insert group name}* go about their everyday lives.

In general, would you say that there are several, some or no other groups that have tension with your coalition, *{insert in-group name}*?

- Several
- Some
- No

*{If several or some is clicked:}*

Could you please write down the first group that comes to your mind that have tension with *{insert group name}*?

\_\_\_\_\_ *{insert out-group name}* have tension with my coalition,  
\_\_\_\_\_ *{insert in-group name}*