PERCEPTION OF MUTUAL HELP AMONG SINGLE EUROPEANS BEFORE AND AFTER THE GREAT RECESSION

A Shirokanova

Laboratory for Comparative Social Research

Two Theoretical Perspectives on Individualization

Empowerment

Independence from ascribed statuses

Active life
Search for the self

Urban life

Communication

Cooperation

(Bauman 2005; DePaolo 2007; Klinenberg 2012; Mikucka 2014)

Uncertainty

Higher risks of poverty and disease
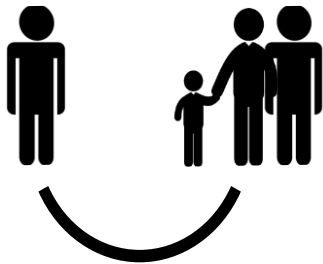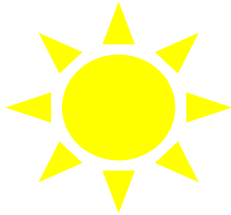
Social insecurity

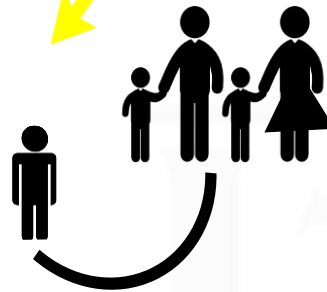Unhappiness

Isolation

„Bowling alone"

(Bauman 2005; Groezinger 1994, etc.)

The Great Recession:
A Natural Experiment

2006   2008   2012

Hypotheses

Background:
Individual self-expression values (SEV) in the countries with higher average levels of SEV are stronger associated with altruism (Welzel 2010:172).
Self-transcendence (Universalism+Benevolence, etc) logic as caring for all the others vs. for the narrow circle (Schwartz 2007:724).

H1: In the countries with high self-expression and self-transcendence values, these values increase the individual perception of help around (singles).

H2: Due to long-term recession, the impact of self-expression and self-transcendence values is likely to grow in 2012 as compared to 2006, among singles.

Data

Datasets
European Social Survey
Wave 3 (2006): 37800 respondents
Wave 6 (2012): 42170 respondents
Cross-sectional design
Same 22 European countries:

Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom

Advantages
+ Rotating Module on Personal and Social Wellbeing
+ SES variables
 +Methodologically consistent

Variables

Dependent Variable
„Please tell me to what extent you feel that people in your local area help one another?" (0-6 → 0-2 scale)
Independent Variables
**Self-Expression Values equivalent** for the ESS: Trust+Happy+Gender≈+Petitions+Redistribution (behaves like the original SEV; Rudnev 2014).
Self-Transcendence: Transcending one's selfish concerns and promoting the welfare of others, close and distant, and of nature – universalism, benevolence, equality, etc.
Self-Enhancement: Enhancing one's own personal interests (even at the expense of others) – achievement, power, success, wealth, etc.
Self-dimension=Self_tr – Self_en.
Controls: **living alone**, gender, married, age, education, town, income, socializing, GDP.
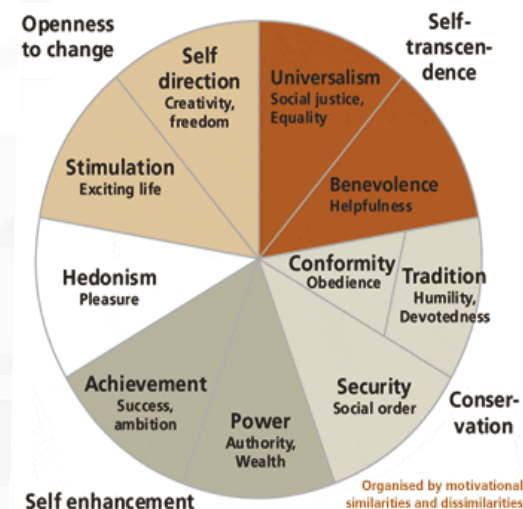
Variables

Research Question
My question in this study is on the effect of VALUES and their magnitude in the times of crisis.

Operationalizing Singles
people living alone.

Obvious limitations
Living alone does NOT exclude having long-time relationships.
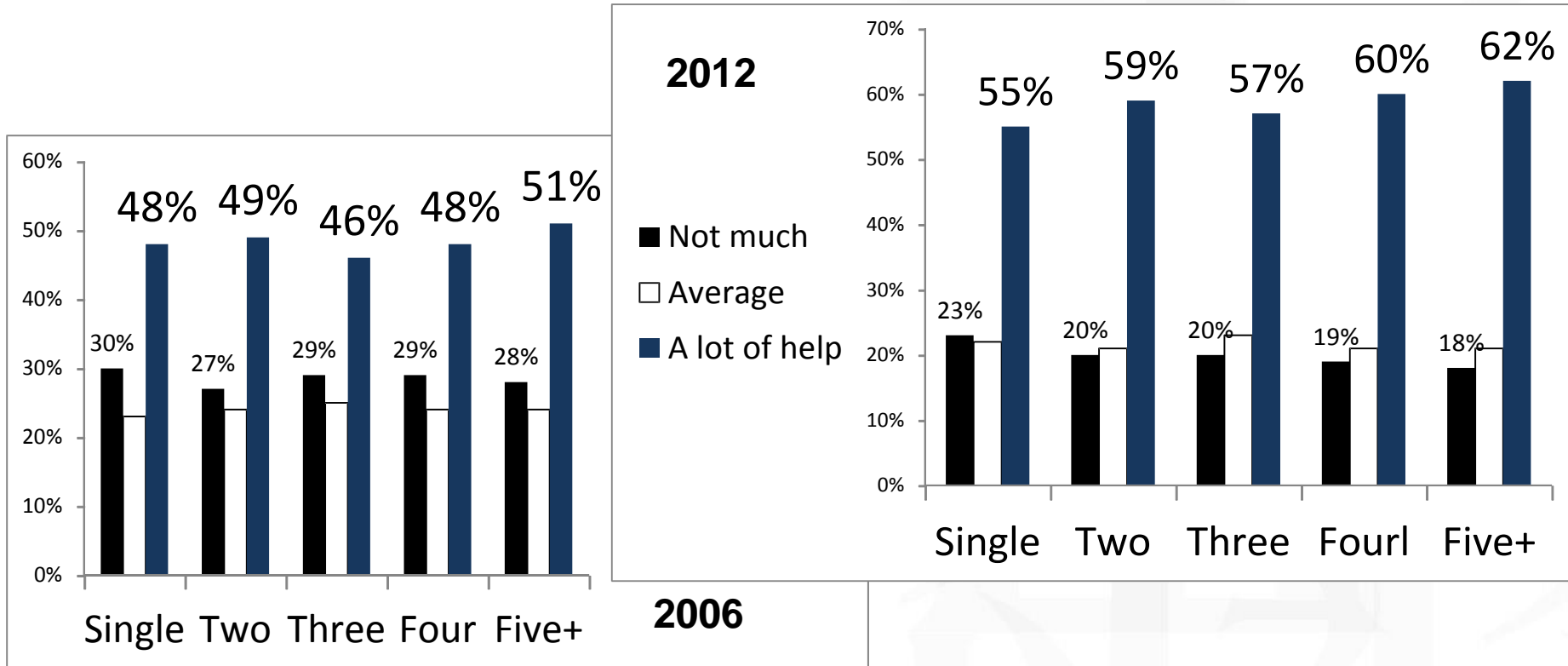Two-people households could consist of single parents.
However, living alone per se increases the exposure to physical insecurity and, thus, is valid for this analysis.
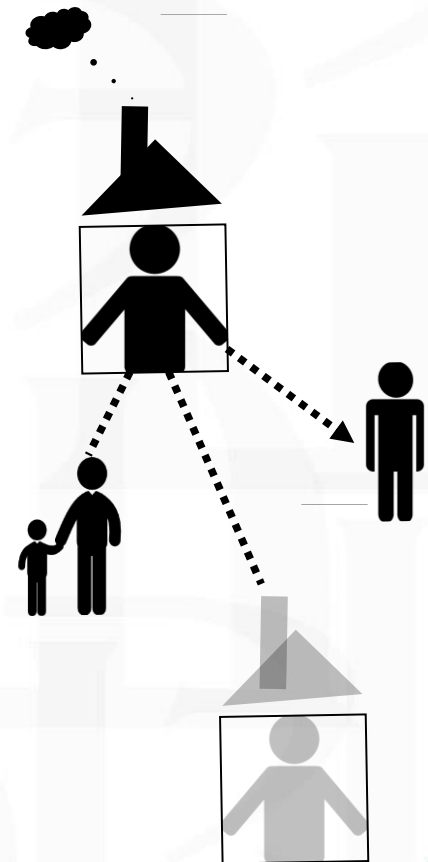
Variables

„To what extent do you feel that people in your local area help one another"?

Generally, the level went up in 2012 – Good news, everyone!

2012

- Not much
- Average
- A lot of help

2006

Method – ordinal multilevel

Thresholds
the model has 1 threshold indicating the prediction of perceiving "A lot" or "Average" mutual help for specific individuals in specific countries (O'Connell 2010).

Model
MUTUAL HELP = SEV*+ Self_dim* + lnGDP + interactions + SES
*free slopes

Interpretation of coefficients
Fixed effects estimate the logit of probability that the individual would perceive higher mutual help in the area.
A positive logit means a higher probability of perceiving help around.
Proportional odds are assumed – the slope is constant for each level-2 group, the intercepts are unique.
Software: HLM7.

Country Level Descriptives

2006	Minimum	Maximum	Mean (SD)
SEV	0.45	**0.67**	0.56 (0.07)
Self-Trans	0.72	**0.82**	0.76 (0.03)
Self-Enhance	0.39	**0.61**	0.51 (0.06)
2012			
SEV	0.45	0.67	0.57 (0.07)
Self-Trans	0.70	0.84	0.78 (0.04)
Self-Enhance	0.40	0.64	0.54 (0.07)
HDI	0.73	0.94	0.86 (0.05)
GDPloss	0.03	0.35	0.13 (0.07)

Results of Ordinal MLM

2006 (ESS3)*		2012 (ESS6)*	
Country SEV	ns	Country SEV	**+**
Country Self-En	Self-Dimension: **---**	Country Self-En	ns
Country Self-Tr		Country Self-Tr	**–**
Ln GDP	+ **(constant)**	Ln GDP GDP loss	ns ns
Individ. SEV *Country's SEV	+ **-- (decreasing)**	Individ. SEV *Country's SEV	+ **-– (decreasing)**
Individ. Self-Tr	Self-Dimension: + interaction: ns	Individ. Self-Tr *CountrySelf-Tr	**–** **++ (increasing)**
Individ. Self-En		Individ. Self-En	ns

*controls: age, city, income, socializing with friends; <u>singles (negative in 2012)</u>, 5+ people in the household.
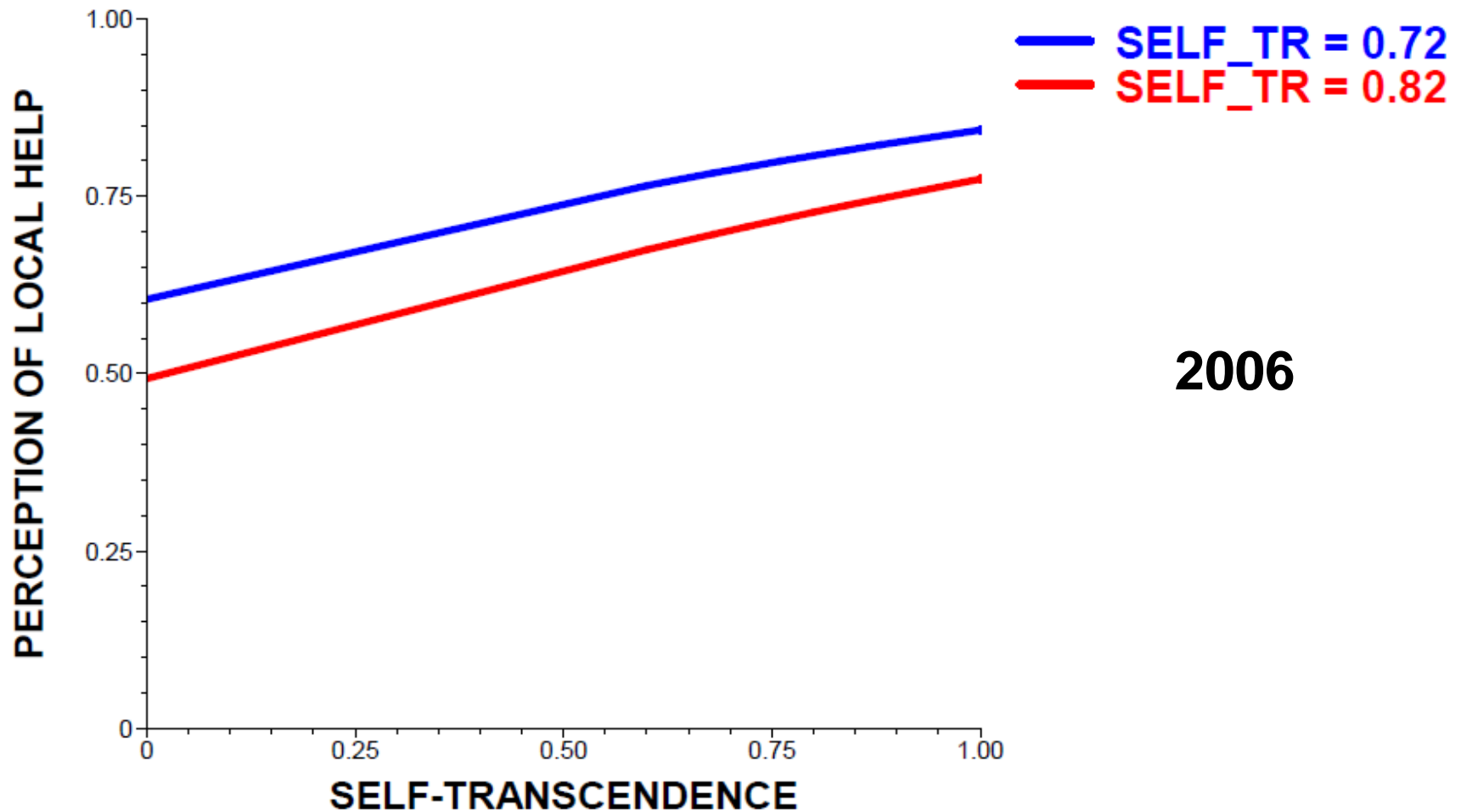
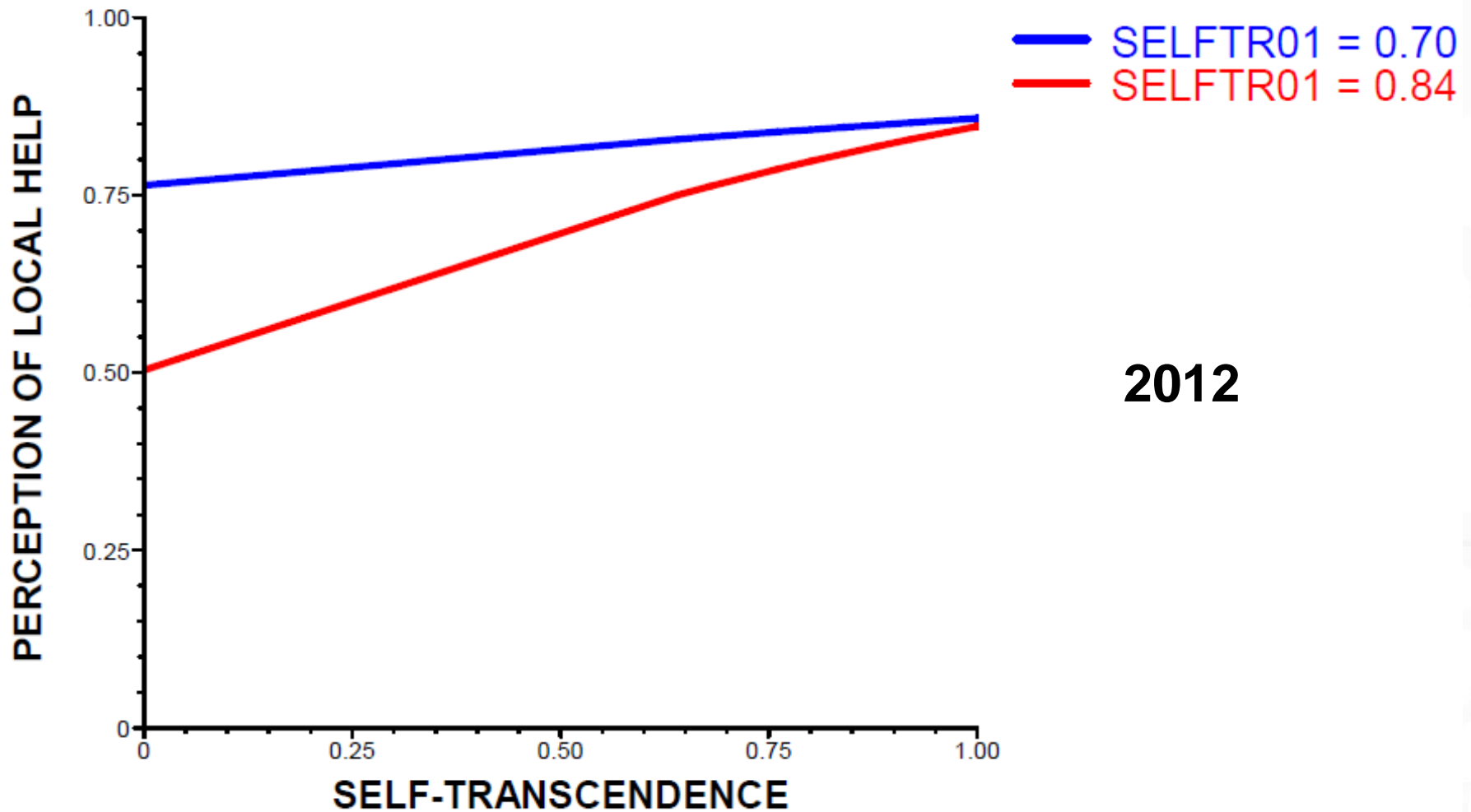# Results of Ordinal MLM
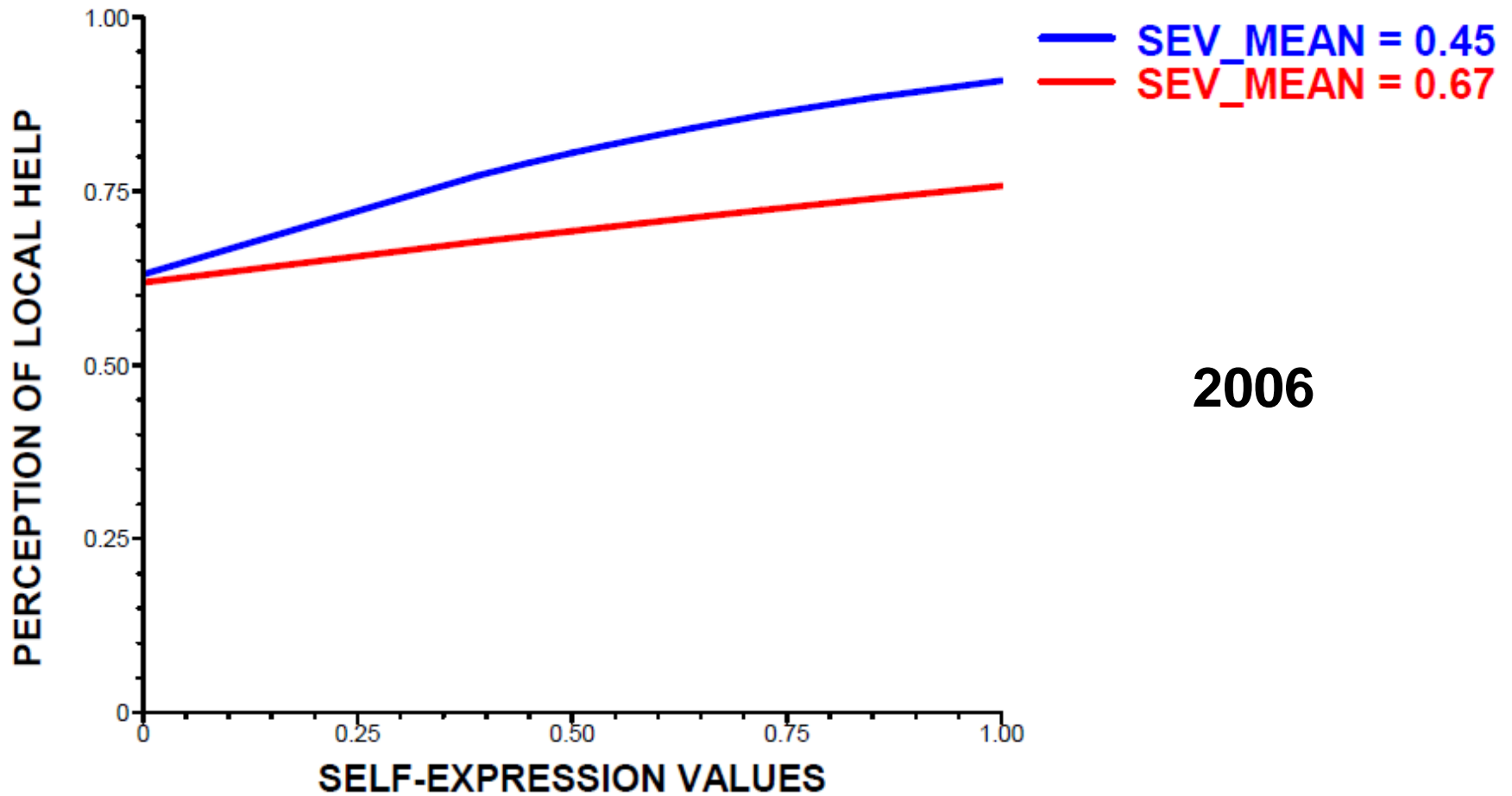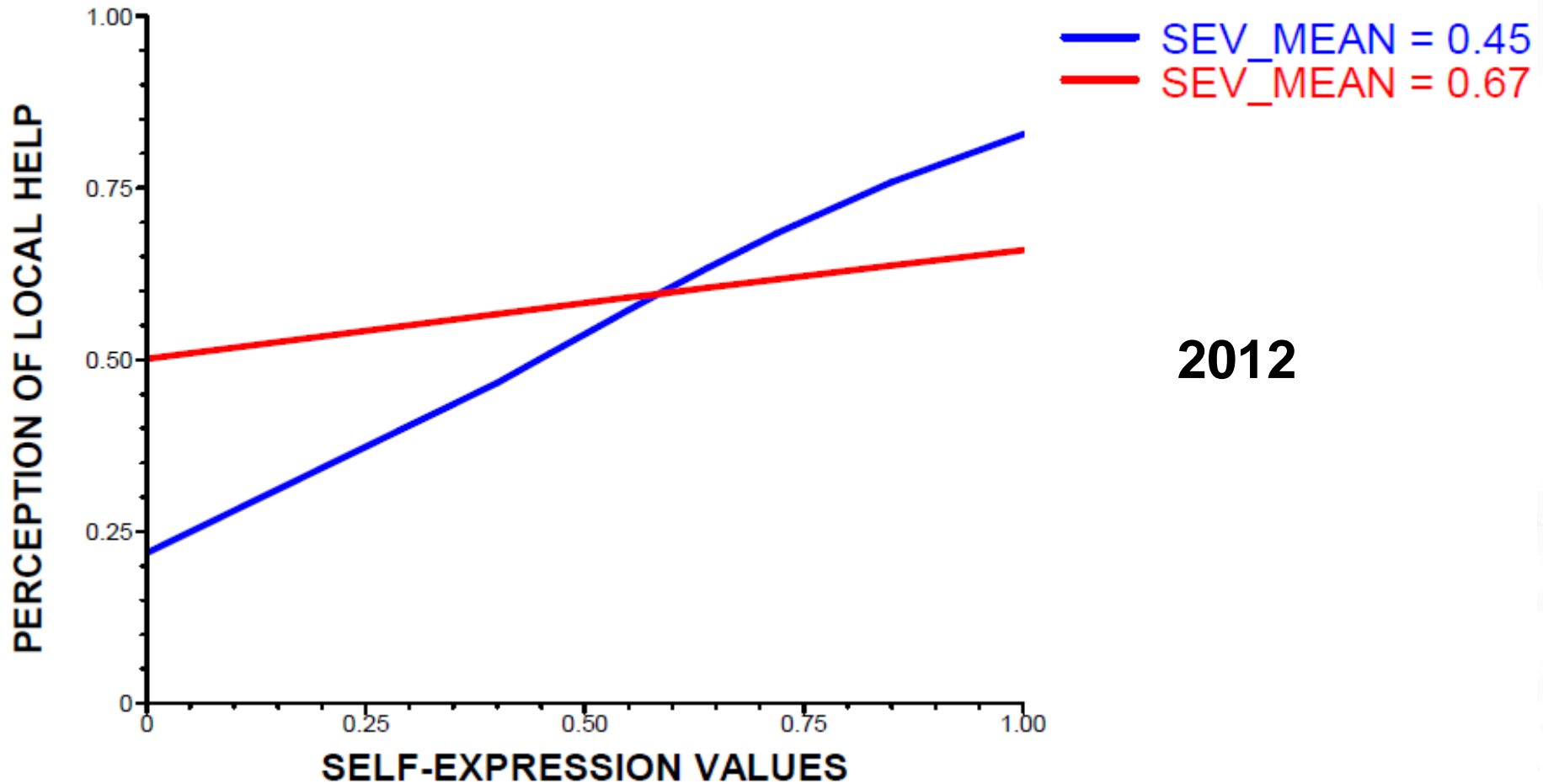
Results of Ordinal MLM

Results of Ordinal MLM

Results of Ordinal MLM

Discussion

SES

Expected results: married (+), big city (–), income (+), socializing with friends (+), discrimination (–), bigger households (+); but – elder people (+), and no consistent effect for singles (0/-), gender (males(0/-)), education (0/-).

GDP significant in 2006 but not in 2012.

Values

Self-expression and self-transcendence values alike tend to produce mediating effects depending on the individual's and country levels of these values.

However, their effects changed in 2012, especially for the countries with lower SEV values (South and East of the ESS?).

One clear bottomline

On average, singles as a group were not socially hit by the recession stronger than other groups. But country effects matter.

Issues

Centering variables
Enders and Tofighi (2007:128) recommend group mean centering for the studies where the relation between two individual-level variables and cross-level interactions are of interest.
Hox (2010:62) argues in favour of grand mean centering.

Number of level-2 units – low power, bad SE
22 countries;
5 free slopes, 7 level-1 predictors, 4-6 level-2 predictors, 1-2 interaction, 1 threshold.
Substantially, it could be worthwhile to distinguish between SEV and self-transcendence; universalism and benevolence.
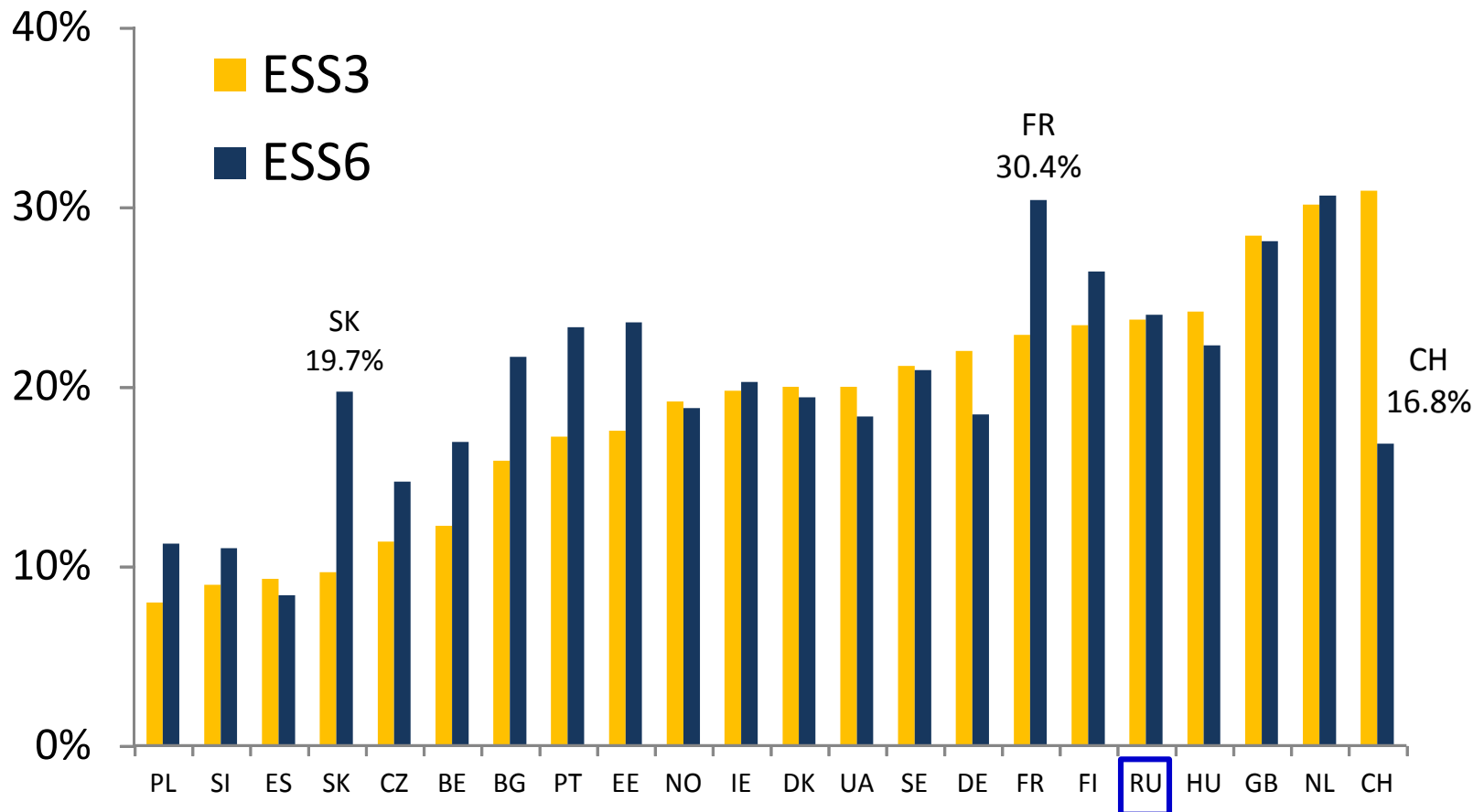My goal is to find out how values help us keep up/go under.

Thank you VERY MUCH
for your attention!

20, Myasnitskaya str., Moscow, Russia, 101000
Tel.: +7 (495) 628-8829, Fax: +7 (495) 628-7931
www.hse.ru

Variables

Singles in Europe

Model Specification

$\text{Prob}[R_{ij} <= 0 | \beta_j] = \varphi*0_{ij} = \varphi0_{ij}$
  $\text{Prob}[R_{ij} <= 1 | \beta_j] = \varphi*1_{ij} = \varphi0_{ij} + \varphi1_{ij}$
  $\text{Prob}[R_{ij} <= 2 | \beta_j] = 1.0$

$\varphi0_{ij} = \text{Prob}[LOCHELP(0) = 1 | \beta_j]$
$\varphi1_{ij} = \text{Prob}[LOCHELP(1) = 1 | \beta_j]$

$\log[\varphi*0_{ij}/(1 - \varphi*0_{ij})] = \beta0_j + \ldots$
$\log[\varphi*1_{ij}/(1 - \varphi*1_{ij})] = \beta0_j + \ldots + \delta1$

This report was presented at the 5th LCSR Summer School "Introduction to Factorial Design and Data Visualization with R".

July 25 – August 3, 2015 – Higher School of Economics, Voronovo, Moscow region.

http://lcsr.hse.ru/en/summer2015

Настоящий доклад был представлен на V международной летней школе ЛССИ «Введение в факториальный дизайн исследования и визуализация данных с помощью R».

25 июля – 3 августа 2015 года – НИУ ВШЭ, Вороново, Московская область.

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