

Beyond family and welfare state
solidarity: A European comparison
of the impact of political history on
non-kin support

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5th International Annual Research Conference “Cultural and Economic
Changes under Cross-National Perspective”

Introduction

➤ **Social solidarity throughout time and space**

○ **The beginning:**

- Modernization, individualization and the rise of the state
- Altered relationships between individuals, community and the state

○ **More recently in the West:**

- Crowding-out hypothesis
- Rejected! Specialization of support (Brandt et al., 2009); informal relationships continue (van Oorschot & Arts, 2005)

○ **More recently in the East:**

- Social solidarity in socialist states (Outhwaite & Ray, 2005)
- Political and social transformation: withdrawal of the state, malfunctioning institutions, reliance on the family (Robila, 2004); informal networks (Ledeneva, 1998; Völker, 1995)

Introduction

- Pronounced differences between East and West of Europe in terms of sources of support
- Differences are primarily attributed to culture (familialism), welfare state generosity (SPE) and geography (typologies) (focus on family)
- Scarce research on non-kin as a source of support
- Scarce research on political history

- Aim: to examine the impact of political history on the extent to which people rely on non-kin ties as a source of support in Europe

Non-kin ties as a source of support

- Task-specific model:
Relationship properties define types of support (Litwak, 1985)
- Importance of reciprocity (Allan, 2008; Wenger, 1990)
- Age; sex; class; employment; residential area; health; family members in close proximity; conflict with family members
- Literature focuses on older people!

Non-kin ties in European comparative research

➤ **Social capital**

- More social capital in West than in East (Michaylova, 2004)
- Negative social capital: informal networks in the East (Rose, 1998)
- More informal capital in the East, North and West high on both formal and informal (Pichler and Wallace, 2007)
- Little difference between East and West (macro level) (van Oorschot et al., 2006)

➤ **Social (support) networks**

- More family-oriented in the East, higher predominance of friends in the West (Höllinger & Haller, 1990; Stoeckel & Litwin, 2013)

➤ **Networks are different from support providers**

- Networks measure existence of social relationships that have different functions (support, control and resources) (Dykstra, 2015); a necessary but not sufficient condition for possessing social capital (Finveen & van Oorschot, 2008)

Hypotheses

➤ Housing

- Ownership hypothesis – controlled, followed by mass privatization (Early, 2004; Völker, 1995)
- Spy hypothesis – surveillance (Outhwaite & Ray, 2005; Völker, 1995)

➤ Reciprocity and housing

- Longer tenure, longer period to return help vs. importance of reciprocity for network functioning

➤ Civic participation

- Gradual retraction from civic and cultural participation (Völker, 1995; Michaylova, 2004)
- Friendship created through formal or semi-formal organizations (Allan, 1996)
- Leads to habits of cooperation, solidarity and public spiritedness; create a norm of reciprocity (Putman, 1993)

Data

- Generations and Gender Survey, wave 1 (2005-2011)
- Emotional support
50.7% received emotional help (out of 92 406 cases); 50.6% from non-kin; 49.4% from other source of support (i.e. family or an organisation)
- Final sample:
10 (9) countries (BG, RO, LT, CZ, RU vs. AU, DE, BE, FR, NO)
N = 31 147 (27 154)
age range: 18-79
- **Dependent variable:** at least one of those (max 7) who provided emotional support to respondent was non-kin (friend or neighbor)

Data

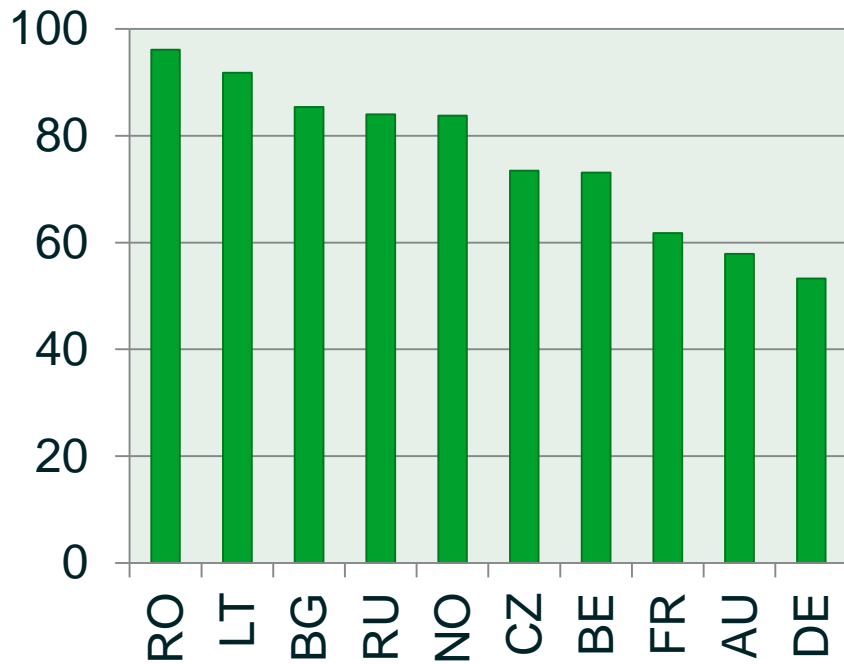
➤ Independent variables

➤ Level 2 variables:

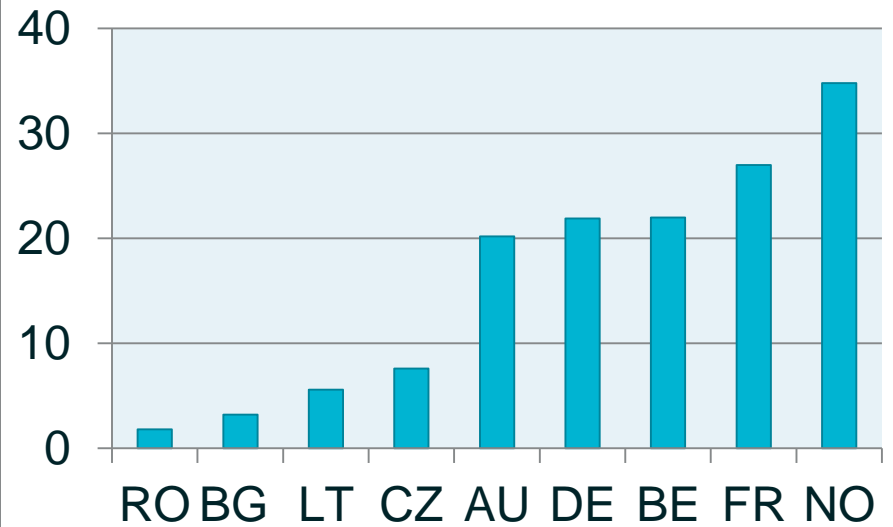
- post-communist dummy
- homeownership /residential mobility (Eurostat, 2015; EMF, 2013)
- active and passive civic participation (EVS, 2008)
 - generated with Poisson multilevel models (ecometric approach)
 - using 44 countries in Europe
 - adjusting for age, sex, employment, marital status, income and residence

Data

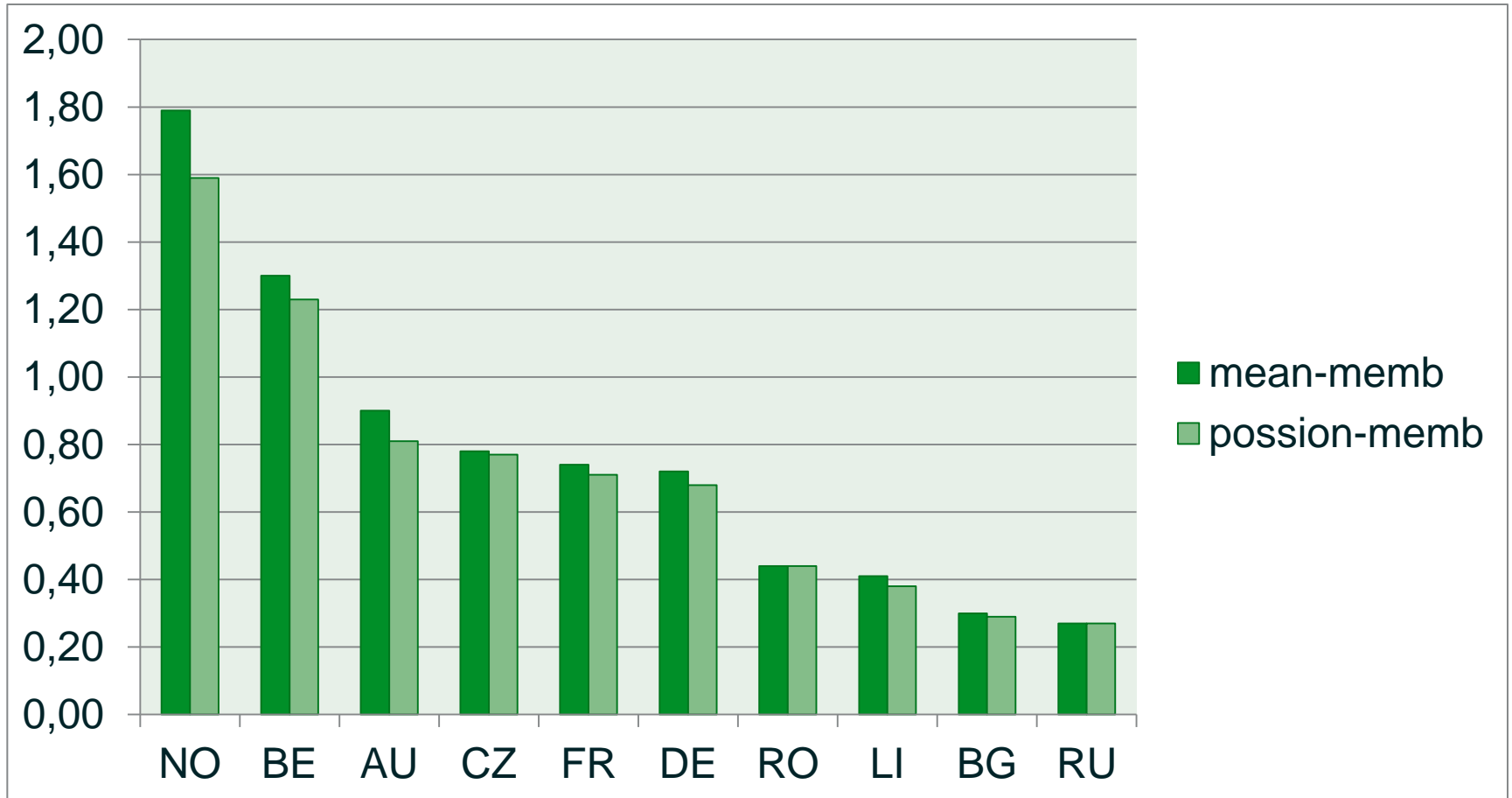
homeownership rate



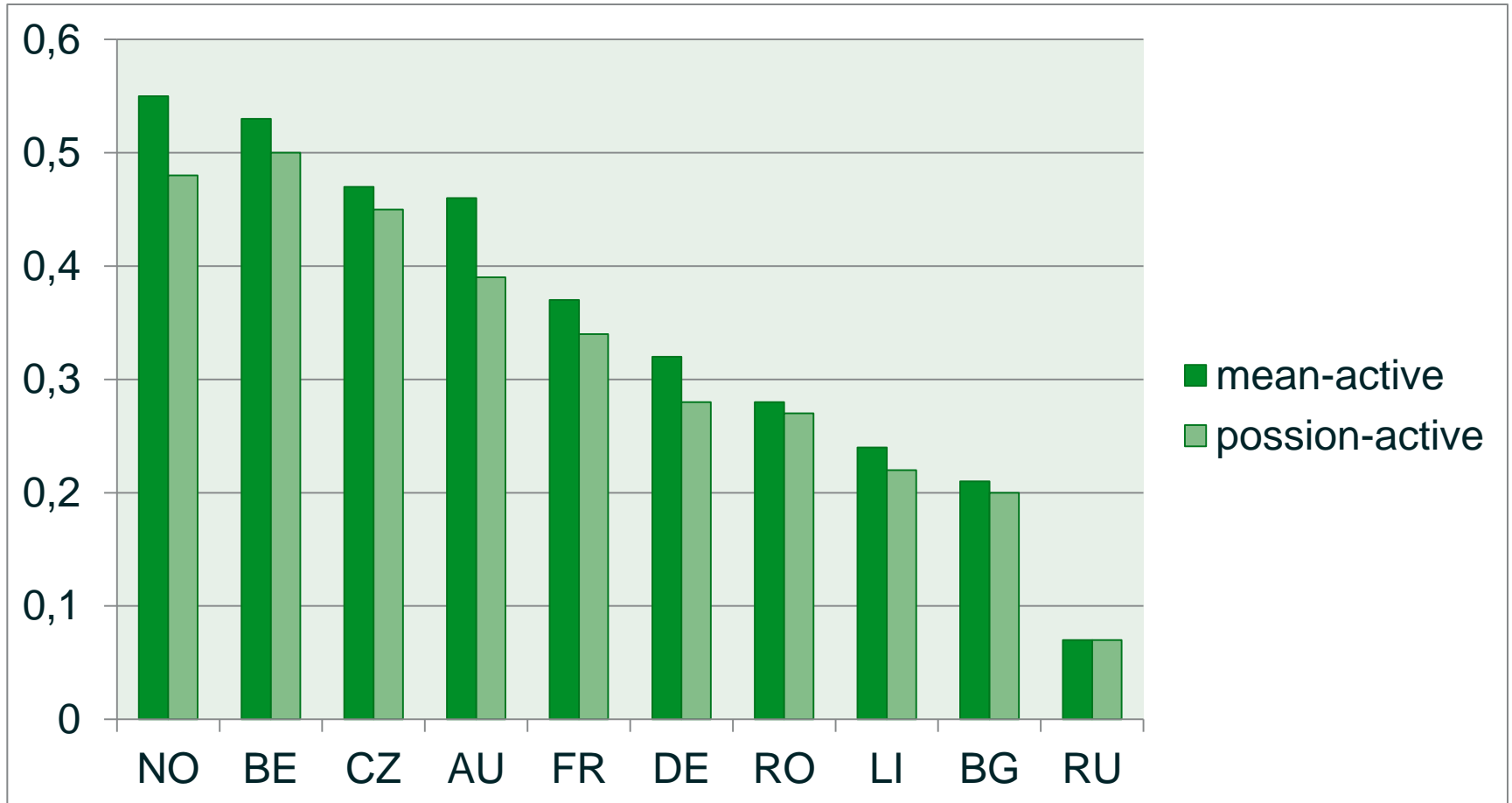
share of population having moved in the past 5 years



Data



Data



Data

➤ Independent variables

➤ Level 1 variables

- Reciprocity (short term)
- Disagreement with a family member
- Home owner

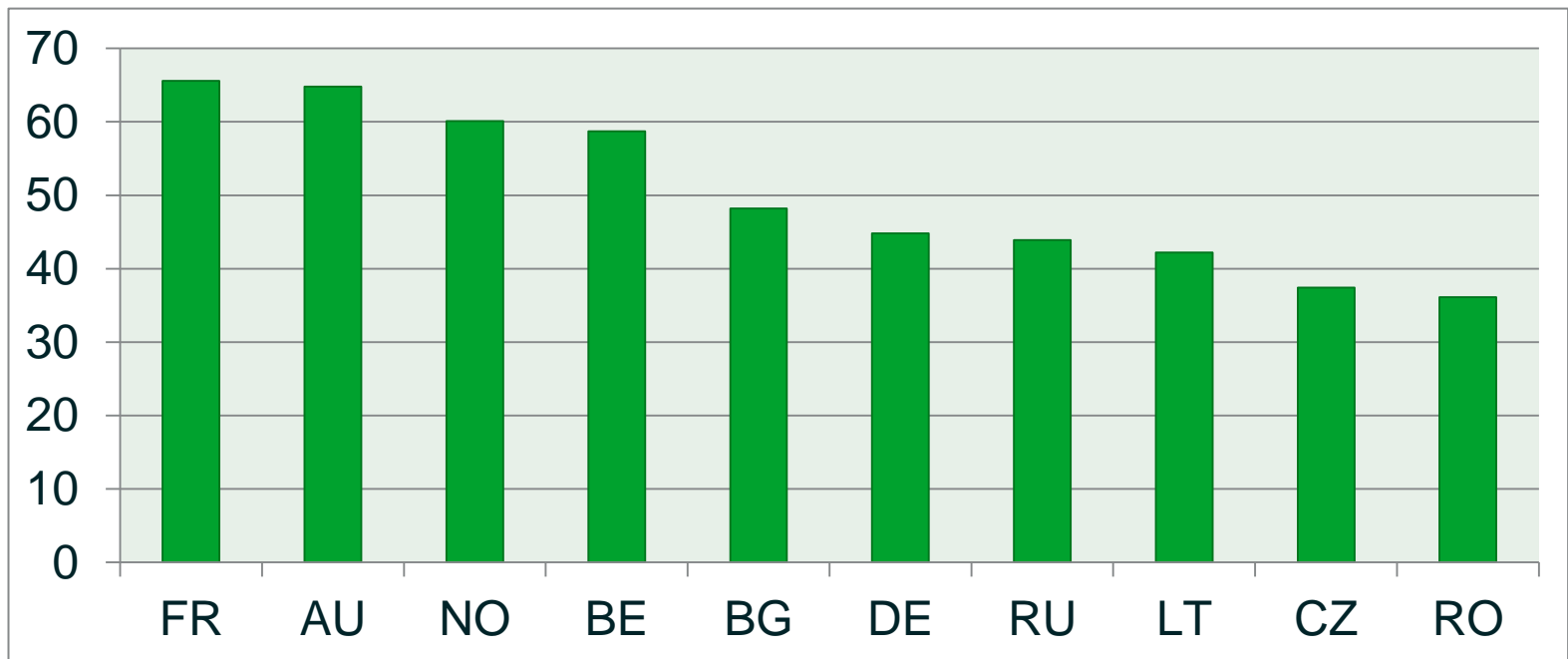
- Family background (living alone, children, mother and father alive)
- SES (age, gender, education, difficulty making ends, residence)

Method

- 2-level random intercept logit model
- Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) Estimation using Metropolis Hasting Sampling
- 150 000 iteration/ 5000 burn-in length
- Priors derived from maximum likelihood

Results

➤ Emotional support across countries



Results

➤ Correlations between macro level variables

	post- communist	homeowner ship	residential mobility	active participation	passive participation
post-communist	1.000				
homeownership	0.6487*	1.000			
residential mobility	-0.9093*	-0.3947*	1.000		
active participation	-0.8075*	-0.1463*	0.8762*	1.000	
passive participation	-0.8168*	-0.2851*	0.7604*	0.9191*	1.000

Results

- Contextual effects

post-communist	-0.259* (0.120) (CI= -0.024; -0.494)
residential mobility	0.011+ (0.007) (CI= 0.019; -0.003)
residential mobility *reciprocity	0.029*** (0.007) / -0.027*** (0.003) (CI= 0.043; 0.015) / (CI= 0.033; 0.021)
homeownership	-0.007+ (0.005) (CI= 0.003; -0.019)
homeownership *reciprocity	-0.024***(0.005) / 0.027***(0.003) (CI= -0.014; -0.034) / (CI= 0.033; 0.021)
passive CP	0.261+ (0.167) (CI= 0.588; -0.233)
active CP	0.735+ (0.533) (CI= 1.780; -0.310)

Results

- Individual effects

reciprocity	3.684 (0.037)
disagreement	0.230 (0.031)
homeowner	0.006 (0.044)
Family Background	
living alone	0.511 (0.091)
have children	-0.020 (0.052)
mother alive	-0.049 (0.046)
father alive	0.050 (0.043)
SES	
age	-0.007 (0.002)
sex (male)	-0.492 (0.035)
education	0.098 (0.014)
difficulty making ends	-0.097 (0.043)
urban	0.110 (0.039)

Variance and fit statistics

	post- communist	residential mobility	residential mobility*reciprocity	
intercept	-2.064 (0.111)	-2.132 (0.112)	-2.130 (0.106)	
u	0.033 (0.025)	0.045 (0.038)	0.042 (0.036)	
rho%	0.99	1.35	1.26	
DIC	23834.343	21436.389	21367.865	

	homeownership	homeowner* reciprocity	passive CP	active CP
intercept	-2.198 (0.099)	-2.210 (0.104)	-2.212 (0.105)	-2.236 (0.114)
u	0.045+ (0.033)	0.046 (0.034)	0.042 (0.032)	0.046 (0.036)
rho%	1.35	1.38	1.26	1.38
DIC	23834.324	23733.981	23834.584	23834.658

Null model: u= 0.309 (0.168); rho% = 8.59

Conclusion

- In post-communist countries compared with traditionally capitalist countries, people are less likely to receive emotional help from non-kin
- Homeownership rate and residential mobility have only marginal impact and provide support for the 'spy hypothesis'
- Strong statistical and substantial effect of reciprocity
- Impact of reciprocity seems to be stronger in countries where neighboring distrust exists
- Passive and active civic participation have only marginal impact and confirm that engagement leads to more cooperation
- Whether or not post-communist countries have less social capital depends on the definition of social capital
- Whether or not a European will choose for non-kin support is more dependent on individual characteristics than country context

A stylized, handwritten-style logo of the word "Erasmus" in a cursive script.

Thank you for your
attention!!

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This report was presented at the 5th LCSR International Annual Conference “Cultural and Economic Changes under Cross-national Perspective”.

November 16 – 20, 2015 – Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia.

<http://lcsr.hse.ru/en/conf2015>

Настоящий доклад был представлен на V ежегодной международной конференции ЛССИ «Культурные и экономические изменения в сравнительной перспективе».

16-20 ноября 2015 года – НИУ ВШЭ, Москва, Россия.

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