

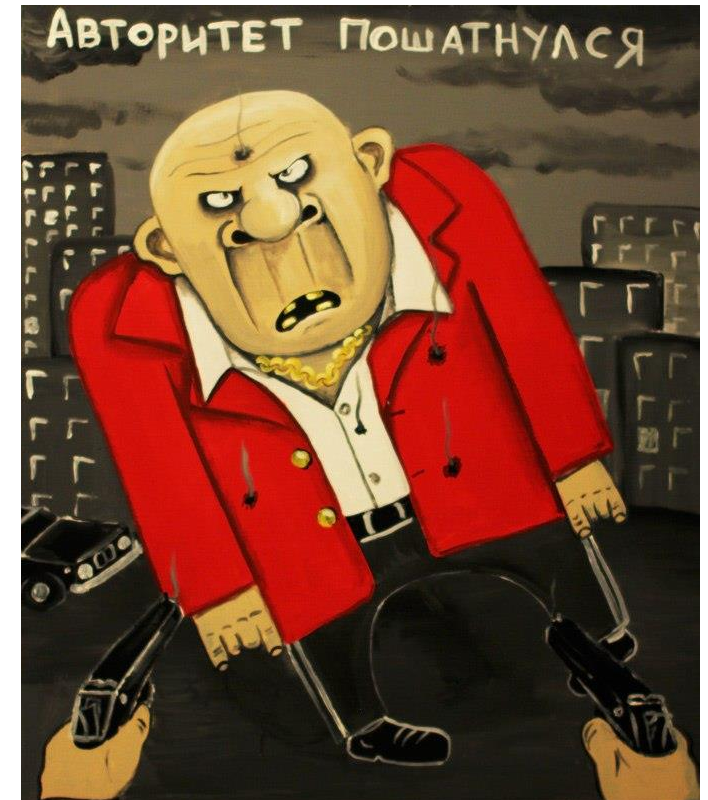


# Anomie and Alienation in a Comparative Perspective

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# Why should I care?

- ▶ We want to see what makes people frustrated, disoriented, makes them commit crime, suicide and what factors contribute to this
- ▶ Same things are being measured with very different tools
- ▶ Absence of good meta-analytic works
- ▶ Anomie and alienation scales are treated as well-established, most were developed in late 1950-1960ieth, when no EFAs and CFAs were available
- ▶ Nobody ever really made validity tests on anomie and alienation



Translation: Authority totters

# What am I talking about?

## ▶ Anomie:

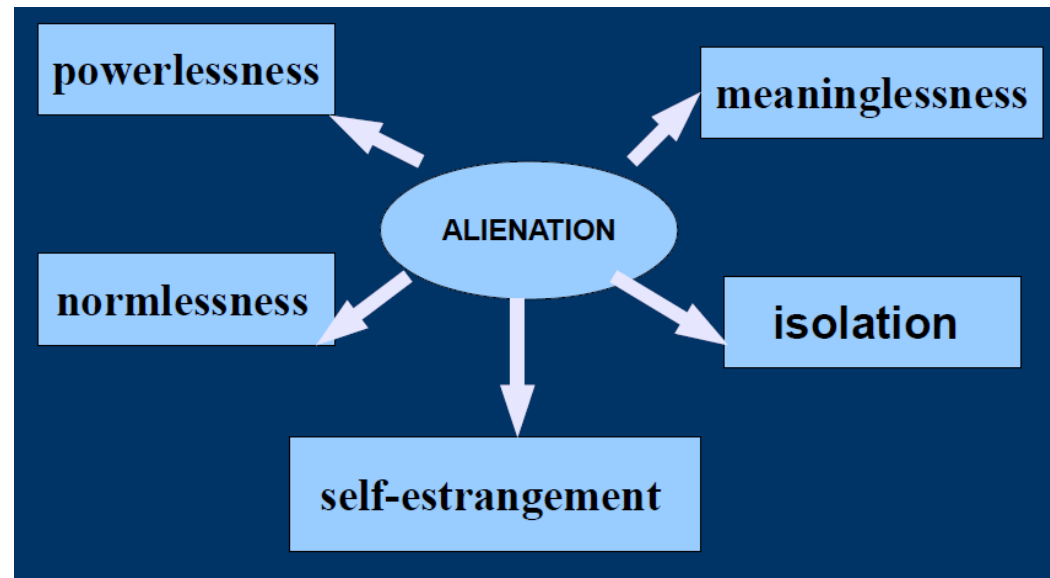
- ▶ Individual norm plurality without external control (Guyau, 1887)
- ▶ lack or absence of normative orientation (Durkheim 1897)
- ▶ a situation of normative conflict between societies' end and means (Merton 1938, 1968)
- ▶ unclarity of end themselves (Parsons 1937, 1968)

## ▶ Alienation

- ▶ Alienation of human essence, between workers, from product, from production act (Marx, 1844)
- ▶ “devastating effect of capitalist production on human beings, on their physical and mental states and on the social processes of which they are a part” (Ollman, 1976)
- ▶ State when individuals loose sense of belonging to their community or nation (Grodzins 1956)

# Operationalizing alienation

- ▶ Seeman 1959 – the most convincing and popular approach to operationalize the concept based on value-expectancy theory and Rotter's Social Learning



# What do I do?

- What does the Middleton alienation scale measure?
- How consistent are the alienation and anomie measures?

## ▶ 5 databases

- ▶ WVS, 2011, Russia and Kazakhstan
- ▶ Euromodule, 8 countries, 1998-2002 (Slovenia (1999), Germany (1999), Hungary (1999), Sweden (1999), Spain (2000), Switzerland (2000), Austria (2002), Turkey (2001-2002), and South Korea (2001-2002))
- ▶ GSS, 1976, USA
- ▶ Ukrainian National Monitor, 2010
- ▶ Group Focused Enmity, 2008, eight countries (France, Germany, Great Britain (England, Scotland, Wales), Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, and Portugal)

## ▶ 3 anomie / alienation scales

- ▶ Middletin 1963
- ▶ McClosky and Schaar 1965
- ▶ Srole 1956



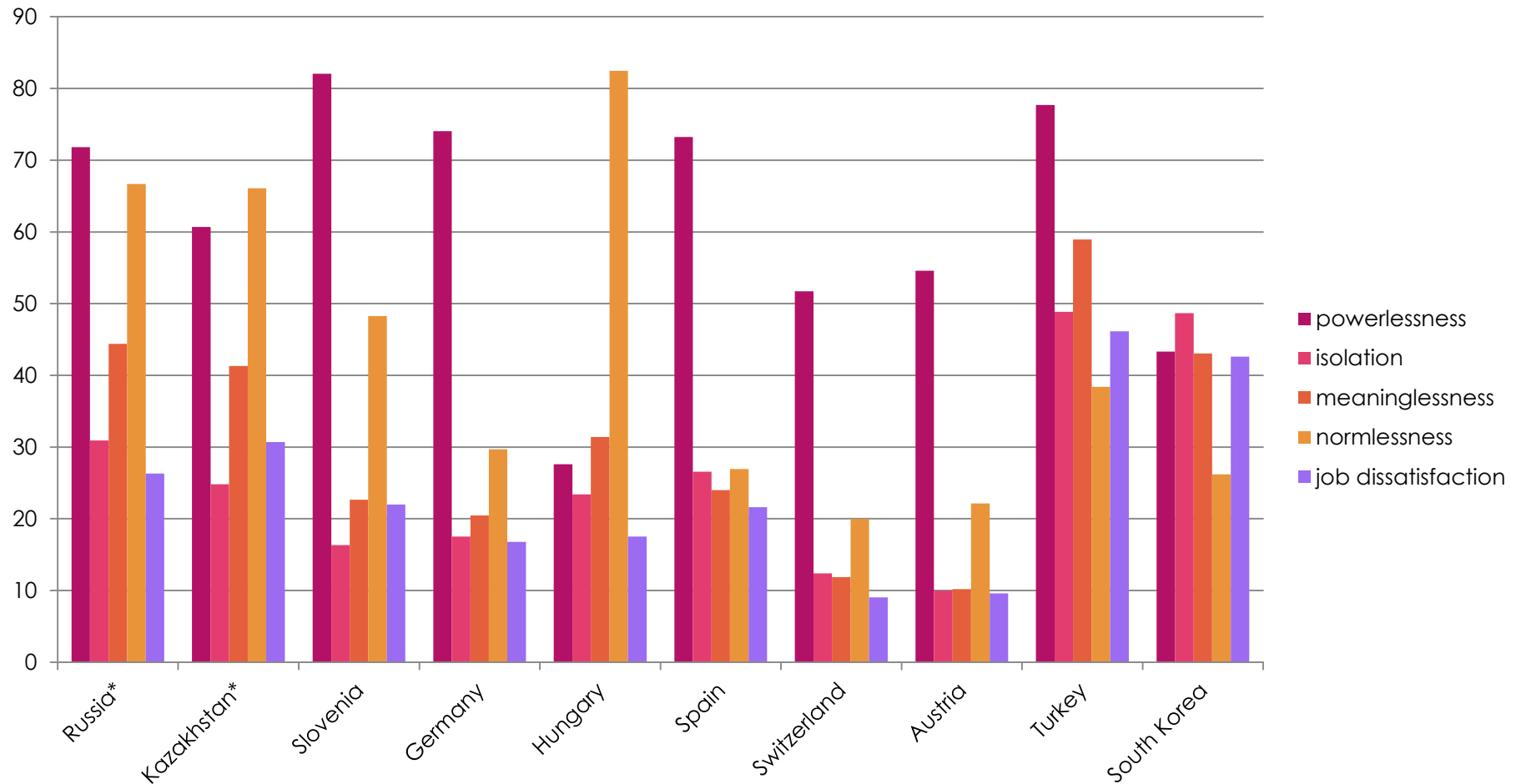
# Datasets compared

Concept	WVS	Euromodule	GSS	Ukrainian National Monitor	GFE
Powerlessness	1	1	1		2
meaninglessness	1	1	1	4	2
Social isolation	1	1		1	2
Normlessness	1	1	1	3	
Job dissatisfaction	1	1			
Futility			1		
Pessimism			2		
Trust			1		
Marketization			1		
Instrumentalism			1		
Value Change				1	

# Middleton Scale

Concept	Question - Euromodule	Questions – World Values Survey
<b>Powerlessness</b>	I cannot influence most of today's problems (1)	I don't have enough possibilities to make an influence on solving the problems we all face today (1)
<b>Social Isolation</b>	I often feel lonely (2)	I often feel lonely (2)
<b>Job Dissatisfaction</b>	I don't really enjoy my work (3)	I don't like my job (5)
<b>Meaninglessness</b>	Life has become so complicated today that I almost can't find my way (4)	Life has become so difficult that I often don't have any idea what I should do (3)
<b>Optimism</b>	I am optimistic about the future (5)	(not asked)
<b>Normlessness</b>	In order to get ahead nowadays you are forced to do things that are not correct (6)	In order to move forward people often have to break rules (4);

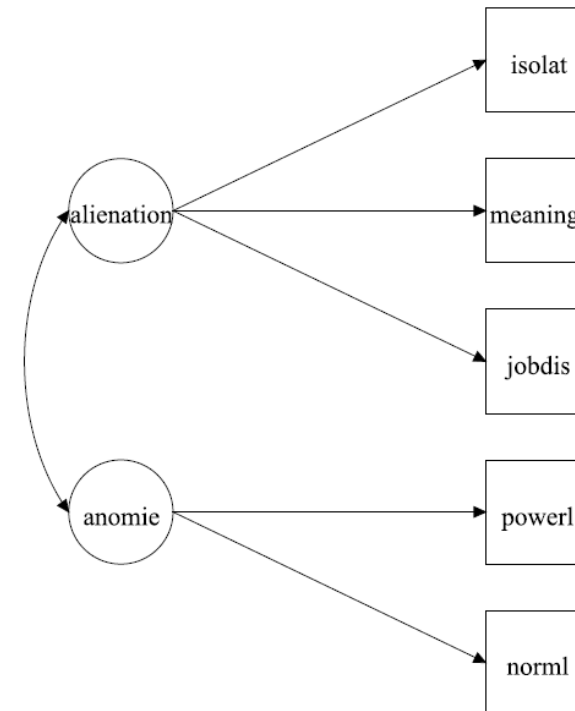
# Middleton Scale: across countries (agreement frequencies)





# Validity Checks - a theoretical approach

- ▶ Anomie and alienation as separate dimensions
  - ▶ Anomie – those whose opportunities are limited (=> no legitimate means for goal attainment are present), tend to deviate
  - ▶ Alienation – those who are detached from society, are incapable to have strong social ties, are alienated from work and are deprived of life objectives



# WVS

	Russia	Kazakhstan
<b>Alienation (factor loadings)</b>		
Isolation	.563 (.023)	.475 (.032)
Meaninglessness	.803 (.027)	.866 (.043)
Job dissatisfaction	.338 (.028)	.265 (.032)
<b>Anomie (factor loadings)</b>		
Powerlessness	.441 (.030)	.509 (.037)
Normlessness	.473 (.032)	.488 (.037)
Latent factor correlation (ANOMIE with ALIENATION)	.688 (.043)	.668 (.051)

# EUROMODULE

	Slovenia	Germany	Switzerland	Austria	Turkey	South Korea
<b>Alienation (factor loadings)</b>						
<b>Isolation</b>	.531 (.036)	.597 (.021)	.575 (.036)	.605 (.054)	.589 (.016)	.623 (.043)
<b>Meaninglessness</b>	.711 (.041)	.712 (.021)	.572 (.036)	.712 (.056)	.663 (.016)	.319 (.048)
<b>Job dissatisfaction</b>	.474 (.039)	.480 (.022)	.428 (.034)	.460 (.051)	.527 (.017)	.674 (.044)
<b>Anomie (factor loadings)</b>						
<b>Powerlessness</b>	.300 (.051)	.413 (.032)	.210 (.049)	.276 (.071)	.418 (.025)	.580 (.169)
<b>Normlessness</b>	.685 (.098)	.377 (.031)	.519 (.105)	.421 (.096)	.365 (.023)	-.118 (.054)
<b>Latent factor correlation (ANOMIE with ALIENATION)</b>	.514 (.080)	.807 (.056)	.469 (.098)	.726 (.158)	.940 (.048)	.997 (.289)

# Validity Checks - a theoretical approach

- ▶ Hypothesis on anomie and alienation causes

	Type of work (manual)	Income	Age (increasing)	Urbanization	Gender (male)	Education
Anomie	ns	+	ns	ns	-	-
Alienation	+	ns	+	+	+	+





# Turning to dimensionality issue

- ▶ Russia and Kazakhstan – a two-dimensional model is of preference, job dissatisfaction is an indicator to be excluded
- ▶ Slovenia and Switzerland – two-dimensional model is of preference, but powerlessness and normlessness are indicators to be excluded
- ▶ Austria, Germany, Spain, Hungary – a one-dimensional model is preferable, powerlessness and normlessness are indicators to be excluded
- ▶ Turkey – a one-dimensional model is preferable, normlessness is the indicator to be excluded
- ▶ South Korea – a one-dimensional model, different item functioning (normlessness and meaninglessness – these are also to be excluded)

# Srole 1956

- ▶ NEXT TO HEALTH, MONEY IS MOST IMPORTANT –  
*marketization*
- ▶ LIVE ONLY FOR TODAY – *futility*
- ▶ MOST DONT CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO OTHERS –  
*instrumentalism*
- ▶ DONT KNOW WHOM TO TRUST – *social isolation? Trust?*
- ▶ WONDER IF ANYTHING IS WORTHWHILE – *meaninglessness*
- ▶ OFFICIALS NOT INTERESTED IN AVERAGE MAN –  
*powerlessness*
- ▶ NO RIGHT & WRONG WAYS TO MAKE MONEY –  
*normlessness*
- ▶ LOT OF THE AVERAGE MAN GETTING WORSE – *pessimism*
- ▶ NOT FAIR TO BRING CHILD INTO WORLD – *pessimism*

## 1 factor

Chisq = 213.316

Df = 27

P-value 0.0000

RMSEA 0.068

Pclose 0.000

RMSR 0.053

MONEY 0.314

LIVENOW 0.402

CAREOTHE 0.491

TRUST 0.450

MEANL 0.471

POWERL 0.364

NORML 0.384

PESSIM 0.625

MAXPESS 0.652

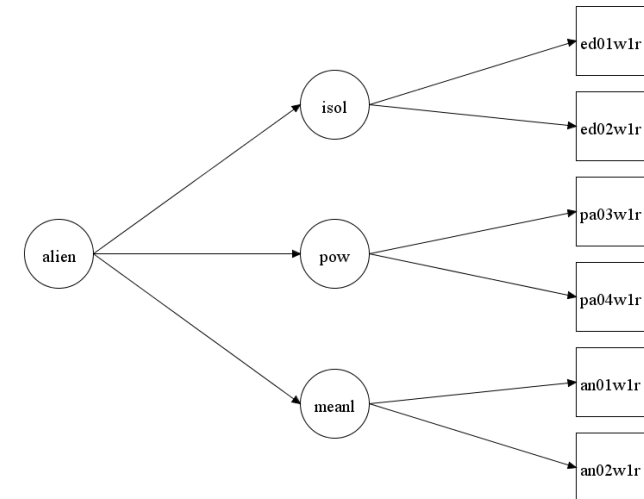


# MacClosky and Shaar – Ukrainian National Monitor

Now everything is so relative, that anything can happen	<b>Meaninglessness</b>	<b>1 factor</b> Chisq = 131.937 Df = 27 P-value 0.0000 RMSEA 0.066 Pclose 0.010 RMSR 0.053  RELATIVE 0.353 FRIENDSH 0.591 UNCLEAR 0.524 RULECHAN 0.467 VALUECHA 0.411 NOBELIEF 0.478 BELOST 0.507 RIGHTBEF 0.260 RIGHTWRO 0.091
What we now lack is a life lasting friendship	<b>Social isolation</b>	
With today's lack of order and clarity it's unclear what one should believe in	<b>Meaninglessness</b>	
Everything is changing so rapidly that you don't know what rules to follow	<b>Normlessness</b>	
Many of those that our parents believed at is ruining in front of our eyes	<b>Value Change</b>	
The problem now is that many people don't believe in anything	<b>Meaninglessness</b>	
I often feel myself out of place	<b>meaninglessness</b>	
Earlier people would feel better as everyone would know how to behave in a right way	<b>Normlessness</b>	
I think others know it better what is right and what is wrong	<b>Normlessness</b>	

# MacClosky and Shaar

Concept	Variable label	Question
Powerlessness	PA03W1R	Politicians do not care what people like me think
Powerlessness	PA04W1R	People like me do not have any say about what the government does
Meaninglessness	AN01W1R	Nowadays things are so confusing that you sometimes do not know where you stand
Meaninglessness	AN02W1R	Nowadays things are so complex that you sometimes do not know what is going on
Social Isolation	ED01W1R	Finding real friends is becoming more and more difficult nowadays
Social Isolation	ED02W1R	Relationships are getting more and more unstable



# Conclusions

- ▶ The scales are comprised out of different indicators. We see, that the indicators function differently that is relative on:
  - ▶ Countries | Cultural specific features (like South Korea where normlessness is with a negative sign)
  - ▶ Number of indicators
  - ▶ Range of indicators
  - ▶ Wording
  - ▶ Order of questions
- ▶ Neither anomie or alienation can be measured universal across countries. The most unique measurements for Europe were:
  - ▶ Meaninglessness
  - ▶ Social isolation
  - ▶ Job dissatisfaction
- ▶ The last isn't applicable in Russia and Kazakhstan. Here, however, normlessness and powerlessness worked
- ▶ Middleton's scale seems to give more plausible results. However, of advantage is having more indicators per construct

Thank you for your attention!

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Translation: Life is a  
cheerful carnival

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