

6th LCSR International Workshop

“Trust, Social capital and Values in a Comparative Perspective”

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Historical legacies, cross-country interactions and value convergence in Europe

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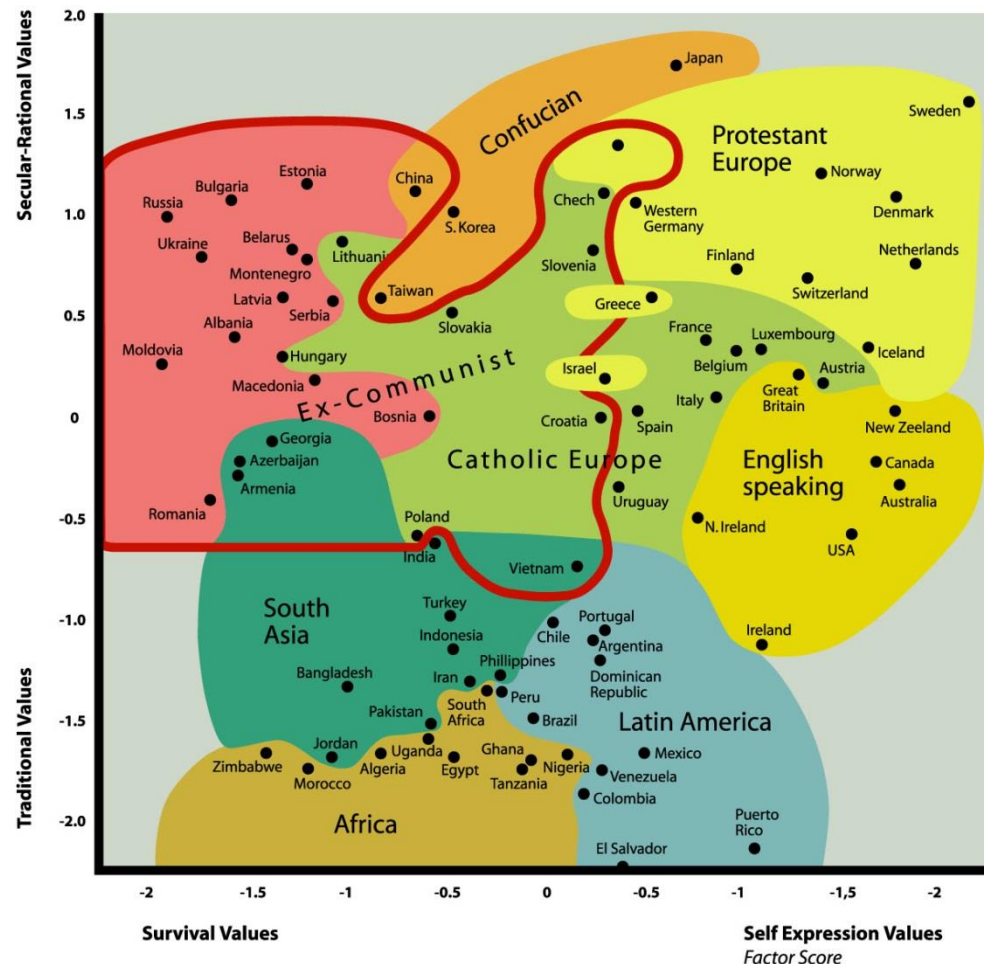
University of Oslo

Outline of presentation

- Research problem and questions
- Theoretical framework
- Empirical methods
- Preliminary findings
- Still to be done/Challenges

Research problem

- Historical background (religion, language, imperial legacies) and values
- Cultural zones
- Mechanisms
- Interactions and diffusion of values?



Research Questions:

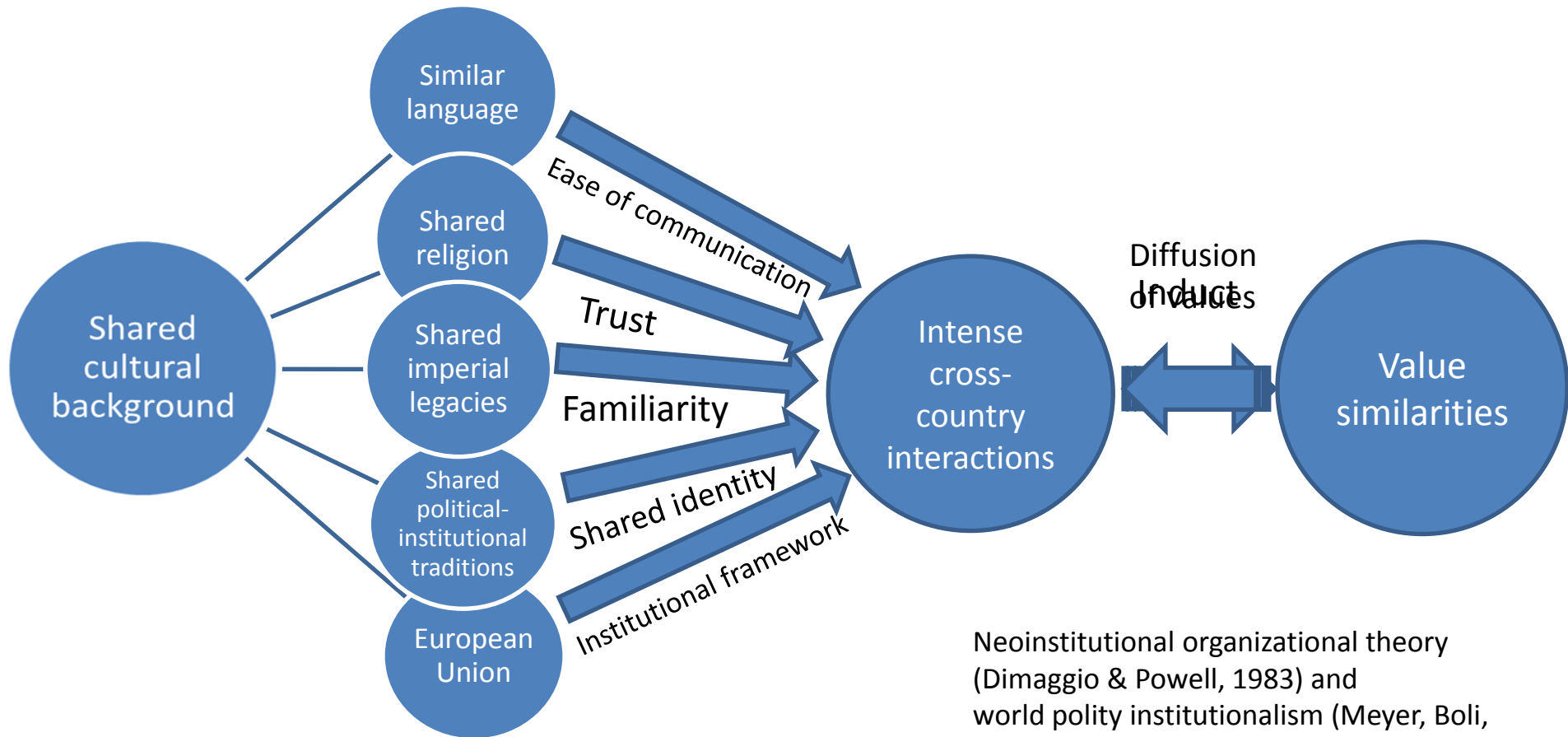
Main research question:

- “Do economic, social and political cross-country interactions partly explain the effect between shared historical background (such as language, religion and political-institutional traditions) and value similarities between the European countries?”

To this end I divide the main question in two parts:

- (1) Do shared historical legacies predispose countries to interact more intensively with each other?
- (2) Do cross-country interactions bring countries closer culturally?

Theoretical framework



Homophily principle (McPherson, Smith-Lovin, & Cook, 2001) - "similarity breeds connection"

Neoinstitutional organizational theory (DiMaggio & Powell, 1983) and world polity institutionalism (Meyer, Boli, Thomas, & Ramirez, 1997)

Methods

- Two-stage and mediation analysis
- Dyadic OLS (country-pairs as units of analysis)
- Instrumental variables or other technique to deal with reverse causality

Data

Sample: 40 European and ex-Soviet countries, 780 dyads

Dependent variable:

- Value distance: data from Spolaore and Wacziarg (2015). The index is based on World Value Survey 1981-2010 Integrated Questionnaire and it includes aggregates of all value-related questions that are available in the dataset for all countries. The cultural distance between pairs of countries denotes the cumulative Euclidean distance on 98 variables.

Historical background:

- shared language and language family
- shared predominant religion
- shared political-institutional traditions (communism vs. democracy)
- shared past empire membership: my own data; alternatives?
- years of shared European Union membership

Control variables:

- geographic distance: NationMaster (2003-2008), own calculations
- GDP per capita difference: World Bank

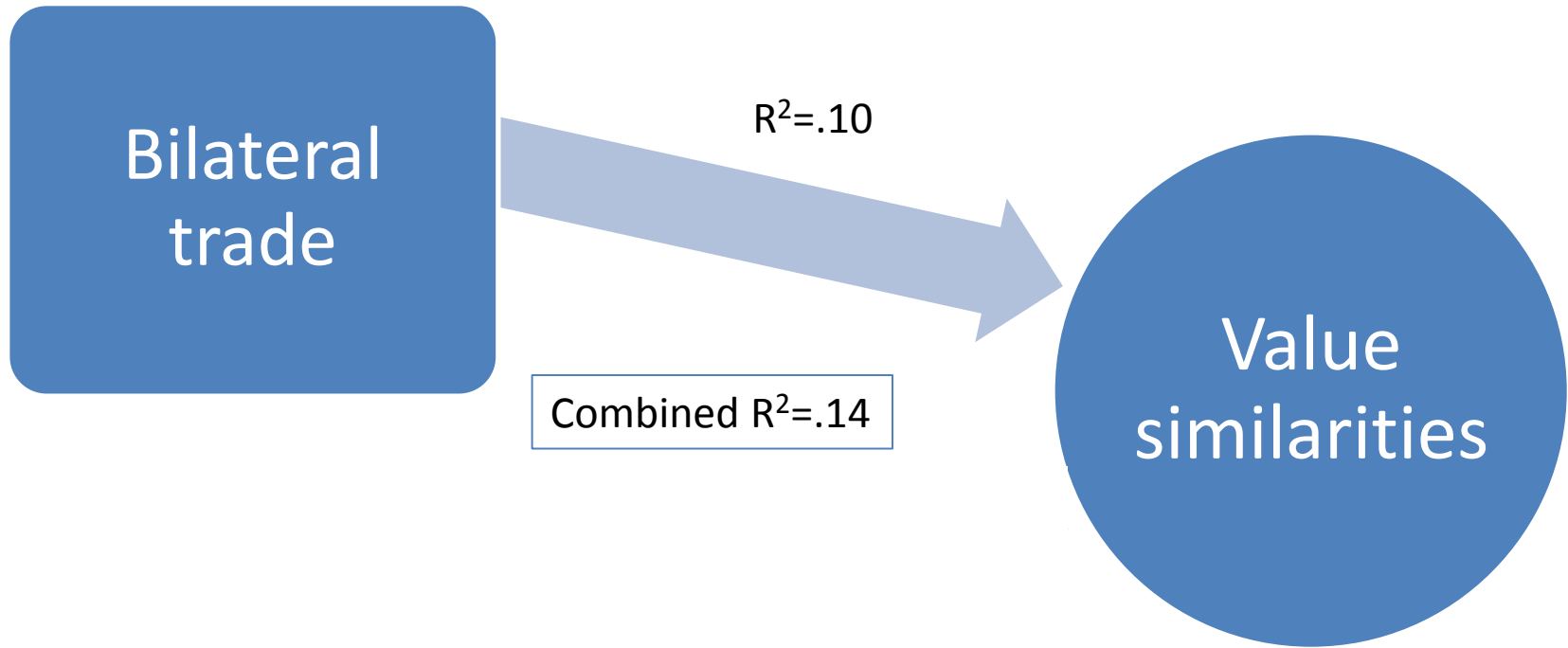
Cross-country interactions:

- bilateral trade flow: data from The Correlates of War Project, total bilateral trade/GDP (country1 and country2), own computations, but different weighting of the bilateral trade flows is possible.
- shared IGO membership: data from The Correlates of War Project 2 International Organizations Dataset.

Preliminary findings: first stage

Variable	Bilateral trade	Common IGO membership
Religion:		
Same religion (ref.)		
Protestant – Orthodox	-.02	-.17*
Protestant – Muslim	.27	-.32*
Catholic – Muslim	.36*	-.29**
Protestant – Catholic	.15	.12*
Catholic – Orthodox	-.00	-.19**
Orthodox – Muslim	.02	-.50**
Language:		
Different language or family (ref.)		
Same language family	.27**	.00
Same language	2.37**	-.58**
Political-institutional traditions:		
Ex-comm. – Non-ex-comm. (ref.)		
Both ex-communist	-.30**	-.52**
Both non-ex-communist	-.31**	.85**
Common empire membership	.37**	-.21**
Years common EU-membership	.03**	.02**
Geographic distance (log)	-.53**	-.38**
GDP per capita difference	-.06	-.10**
Adjusted R-squared	.36	.71

Preliminary findings: second stage



Preliminary findings: mediation?

	Cross-country interactions
Bilateral trade flow	-7.26**
Common IGO membership	-5.96**
Religion:	
Same religion (ref.)	
Protestant – Orthodox	
Protestant – Muslim	
Catholic – Muslim	
Protestant – Catholic	
Catholic – Orthodox	
Orthodox – Muslim	
Language:	
Different language or family (ref.)	
Same language family	
Same language	
Political-institutional traditions:	
Ex-comm. – Non-ex-comm. (ref.)	
Both ex-communist	
Both non-ex-communist	
Common empire membership	
Years common EU-membership	
Geographic distance (log)	
GDP per capita difference	
Adjusted R-squared	.13

Conclusions

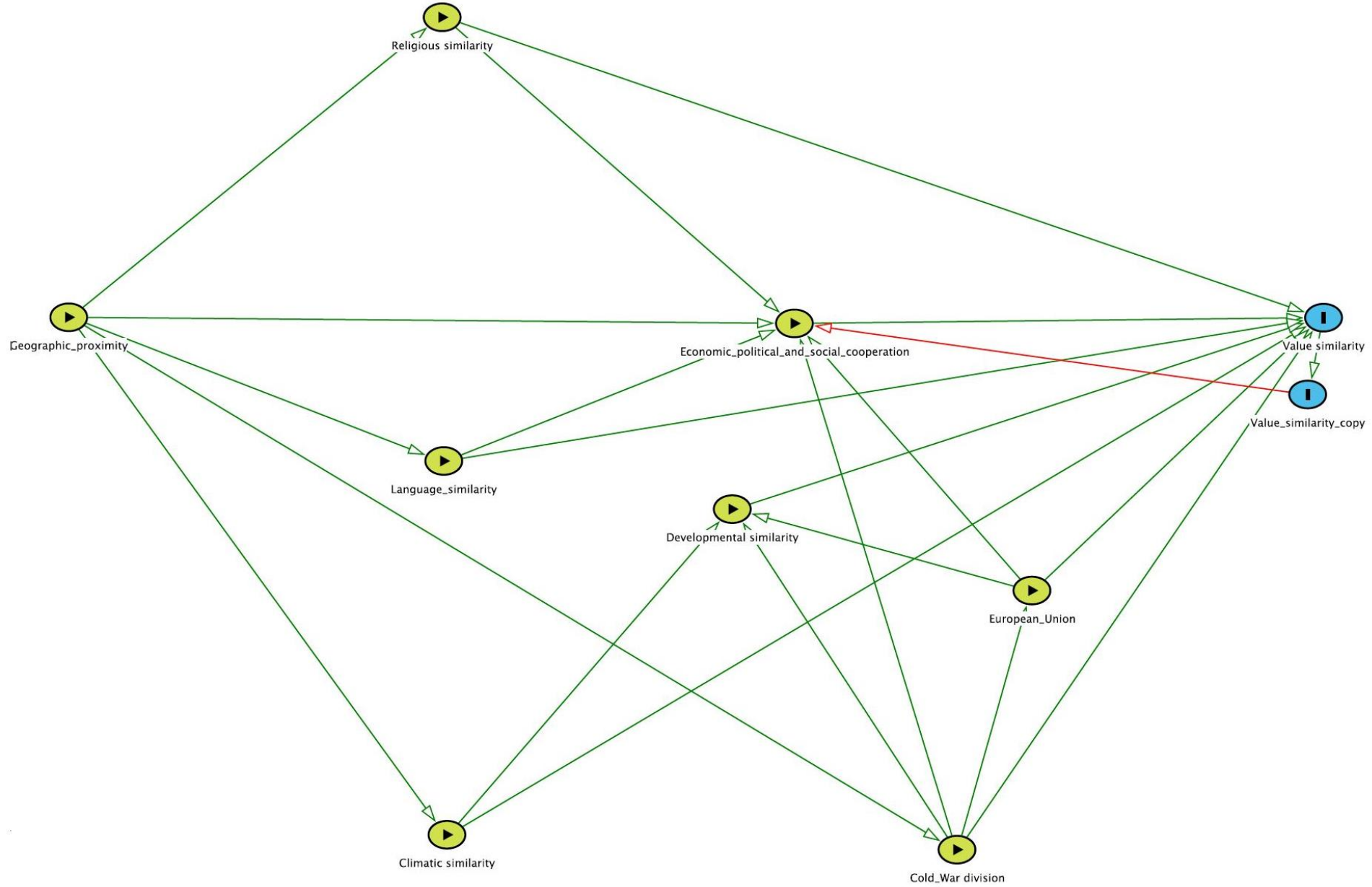
- Shared historical background is a strong predictor of cross-country interactions (but some relationships are not as expected).
- Cross-country interactions are strongly associated with value similarities (but we don't know about the direction of causality).
- The effect of shared historical background on value similarities is partly mediated through cross-country interactions.

Still to be done/questions

- Find and include other measures of cross-country interactions, such as international phone calls, internet flows, migration patterns, etc; cultural products export/import instead of total trade
- Deal with the problem of reverse causality
- Standard errors?
- Dynamics of patterns of interaction

Feedback?

Variable	Observations	Frequencies	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Cumulative cultural distance	780		-15.45	30.50	-89.81	84.69
Religion:	780				0	6
Same religion		189			0	1
Protestant – Orthodox		70			0	1
Protestant – Muslim		21			0	1
Catholic – Muslim		57			0	1
Protestant – Catholic		191			0	1
Catholic – Orthodox		219			0	1
Orthodox – Muslim		33			0	1
Language:	780				0	2
Different language or family		649			0	1
Same language family		119			0	1
Same Language		12			0	1
Political-institutional traditions :	780				0	2
Both ex-communist		171			0	1
Both non-ex-communist		210			0	1
Empire membership	780				0	1
Common EU-membership	780		4.63	10.28	0	56
GDP per capita difference (10 000 USD)	780		1.45	1.15	.00	4.87
Geographic distance	780		2.98	.76	.35	4.56
Bilateral trade	780		0	1		
IGO membership	780		0	1		



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