The immigration module in the 7th round of the European Social Survey and its Research possibilities

Eldad Davidov
University of Zurich and URPP “Social Networks”

Poland and its European context: Continuity and Change
March 9, 2016

Outline

- 1) **Overview** of the new immigration module in the European Social Survey (ESS): Background, aims, theory, additions.
- 2) Cross-country **comparability** of the measures.
- 3) **Ongoing research**

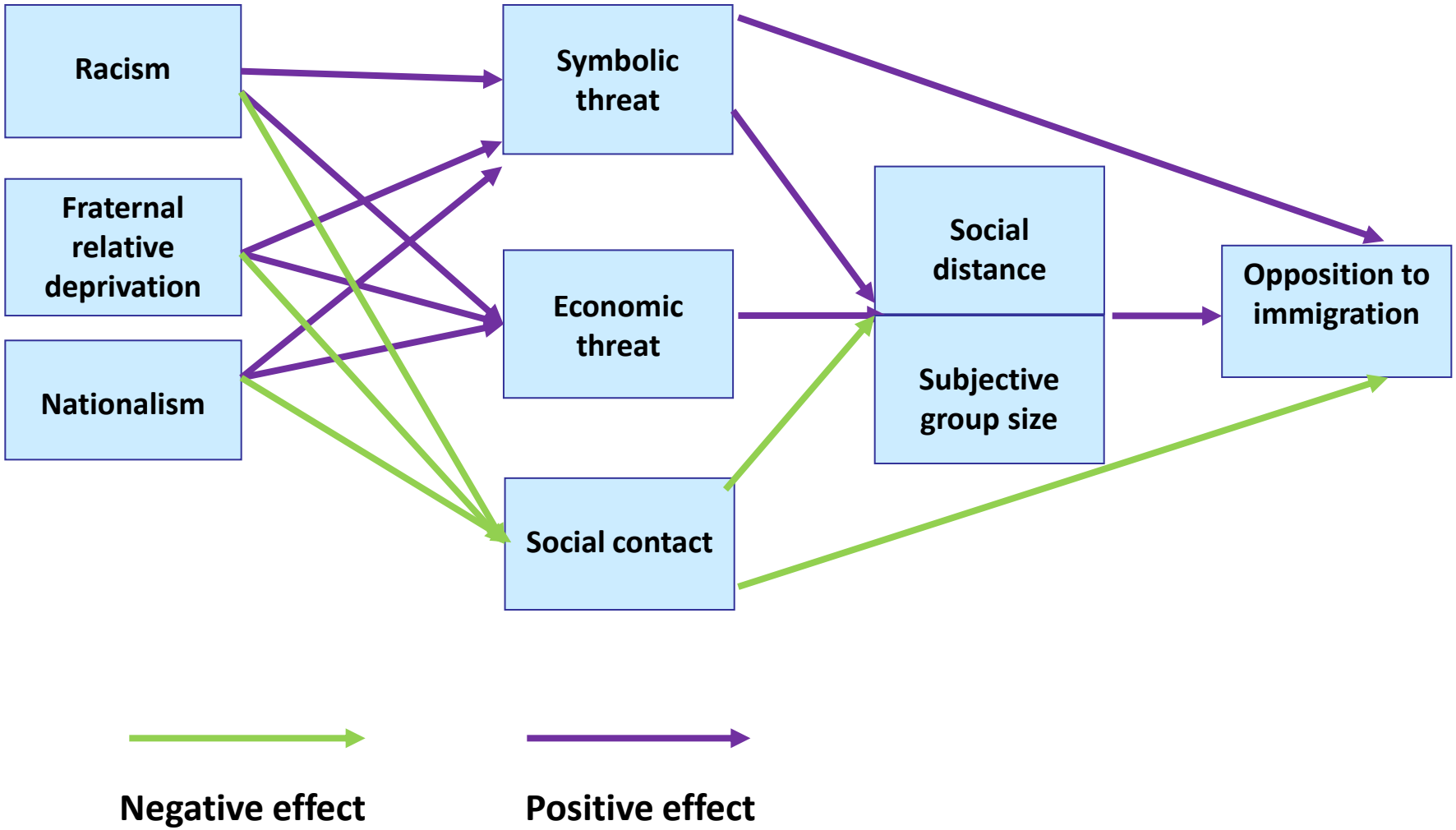
Overview: Background

- **The team that developed the module: PI** Anthony Heath, with Eldad Davidov, Robert Ford, Eva Green, Alice Ramos and Peter Schmidt
- **Repeat** of a module fielded in the first round of the ESS in 2002/3
- **Extensively analyzed** by scholars in a wide range of disciplines
- Topic remains of **great public concern** with new debates over refugees, rules of entry, multiculturalism and integration

The module's aims

- **Replicate** key items (especially those widely used by scholars) from Round 1 as well as those in the 'core'.
- **Improve** original measures where necessary and 'contextualize' the questions
- **Add** a few new items reflecting changes in public debate and theoretical developments

Theoretical approach



- **Endogeneity problem**: There are other **directions of causality** possible e.g. social contacts may influence racism (see Wagner et al. and Christ et al.)
- **Socio-demographic variables** like age, gender, education, income, professional status, immigration background, religion etc. may be added on the left side of the model
- One may also consider **contextual variables, interactions etc**.

Major additions and innovations

1. Opposition to additional groups, e.g. **Muslims, Blacks, Roma, Jews**
2. **Survey experiment:** The **experiment** will randomly assign respondents to **one** of **four conditions** comparing migrants with different **skill levels** (professional vs unskilled) and **origins** (European vs non-European) and ask about attitudes.
3. **Ancestry** question (to be repeated also in 2017): To understand the respondent's **origins** better
4. **Fraternal relative deprivation:** whether one believes that **one's own group** is relatively **deprived** (and not one's individual circumstances)
5. Additional items on **symbolic threat**
6. items on **frequency and quality of contact**
7. New item on **nationalism** (attachment)
8. New items on **biological and cultural racism**
9. Perceptions of **where immigrants come from** (open-ended)

Cross-country **comparability** of the new measures

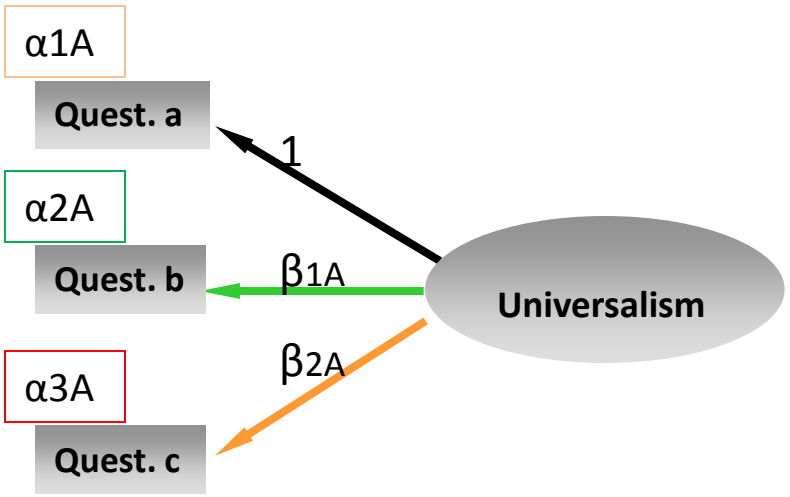
- Potential problems:
- Concepts in one culture may not exist or may exist in a different way in another culture.
  - *For example, when people speak about the value '**security**', it is associated with personal security in Germany and with state security in Israel.*
- Even if a similar concept exists in two cultures, it may be understood differently.
  - *Translation problems may result in misinterpretation. Example: Denmark most tolerant country toward immigrants (**offense** in Danish vs. **crime** in other languages).*
  - *The term '**immigrant**' was used in the ISSP also for Israel. To get a similar sense, the word 'foreigners' should have been used.*

- Even if similar concepts exist in different cultures and they were correctly translated (difficult…), people may **use the response scale differently**.
  - *For example, social desirability or yes-saying tendency may be stronger in one country compared to another. In the US, it has been shown that Hispanics have a stronger tendency to agree. A similar problem in South Europe?*
  - In **Israel** one **reads** from **right to left**. In other countries from left to right. This has to be considered in the **direction** of **response categories**…

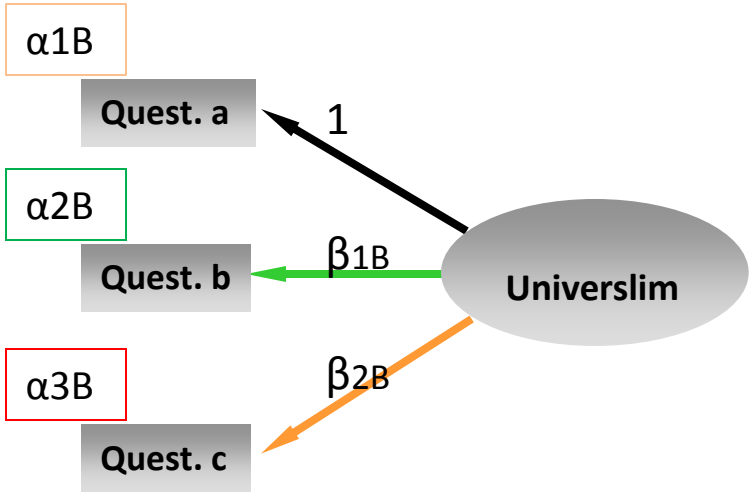
- So even if seldom done, we need to **test for comparability**
- There is a large set of statistical tools to address construct equivalence.
- We use **multi-group confirmatory factor analysis (MGCFA).**

Exact measurement equivalence:

Group A (Culture, country, time point)



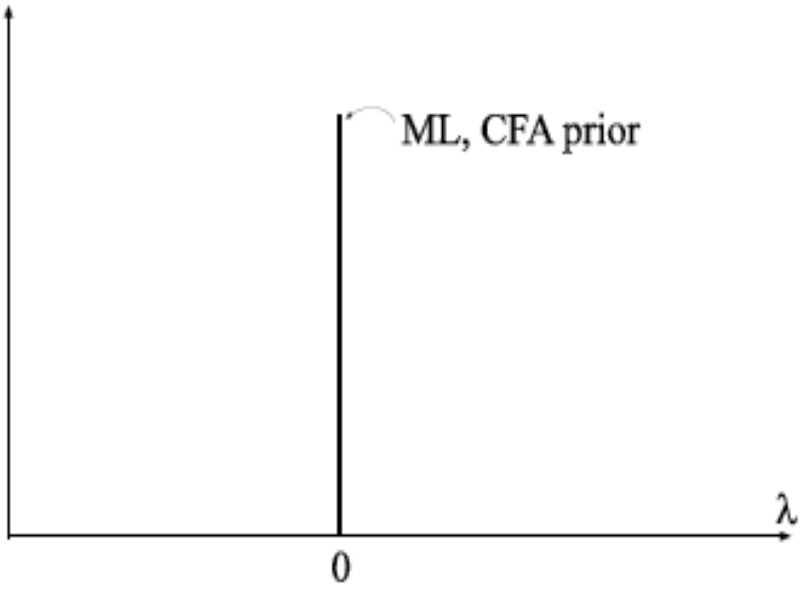
Group B (Culture, country, time point)



Test for approximate (Bayesian) rather than exact measurement invariance

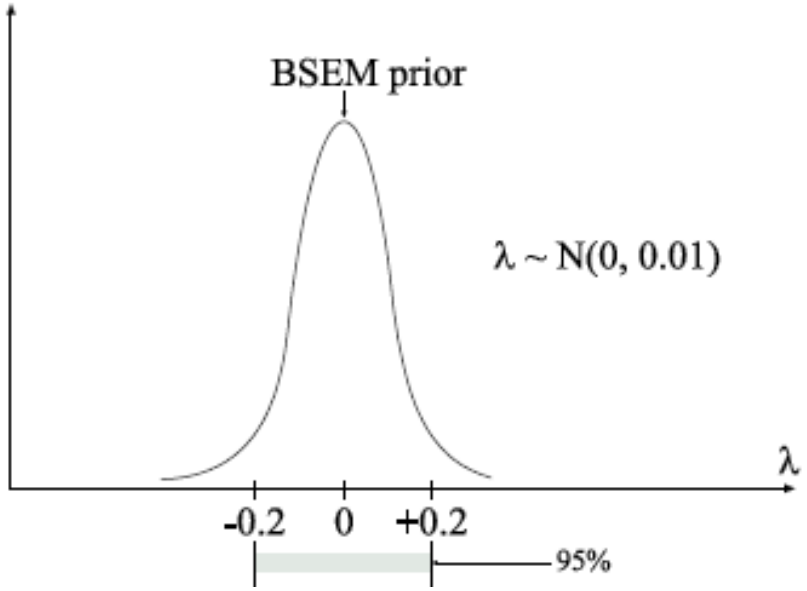
Comparison of exact and approximate approaches to MI

(Muthén & Asparouhov, 2012; Van de Schoot et al., 2013; Zercher et al.2015)



exact zero

a very strong informative prior (like a constraint in ML)
(with a mean and a variance of zero)



approximate zero

zero-mean and small-variance (.01) where 95% of the loading variation

Study 1

- The comparability of attitudes toward immigration in the European Social Survey: Exact versus approximate equivalence (2015). Davidov, E., J. Cieciuch, P. Schmidt, B. Meuleman, R. Algesheimer, and M. Hausherr. *Public Opinion Quarterly* 79, 244-266.

Latent Variable: *Attitudes toward allowing immigrants into the country*

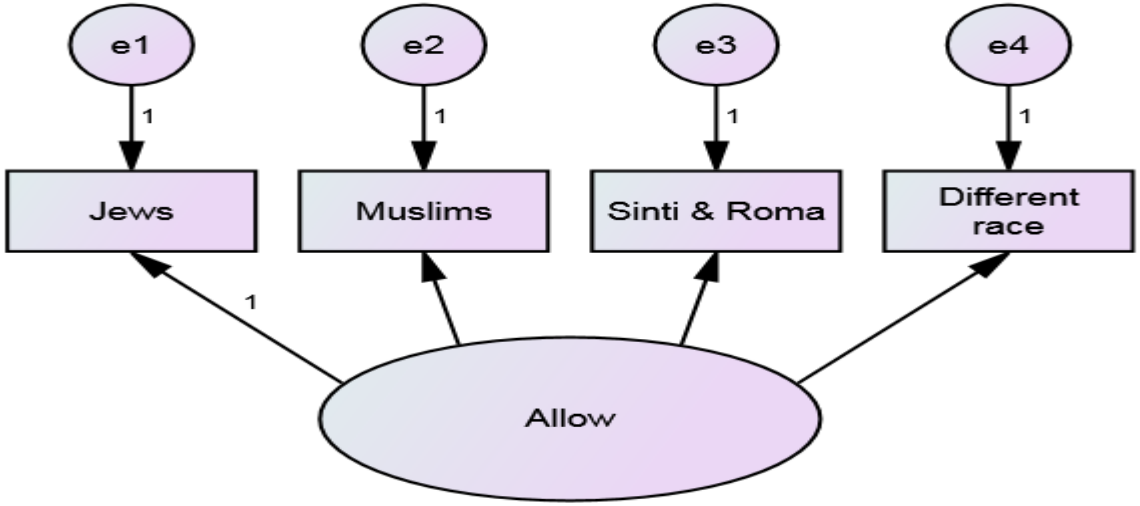
- **all countries and six rounds of the ESS** of the items:

- **Result: Approximate invariance supported in all cases – good news.**

Study 2:

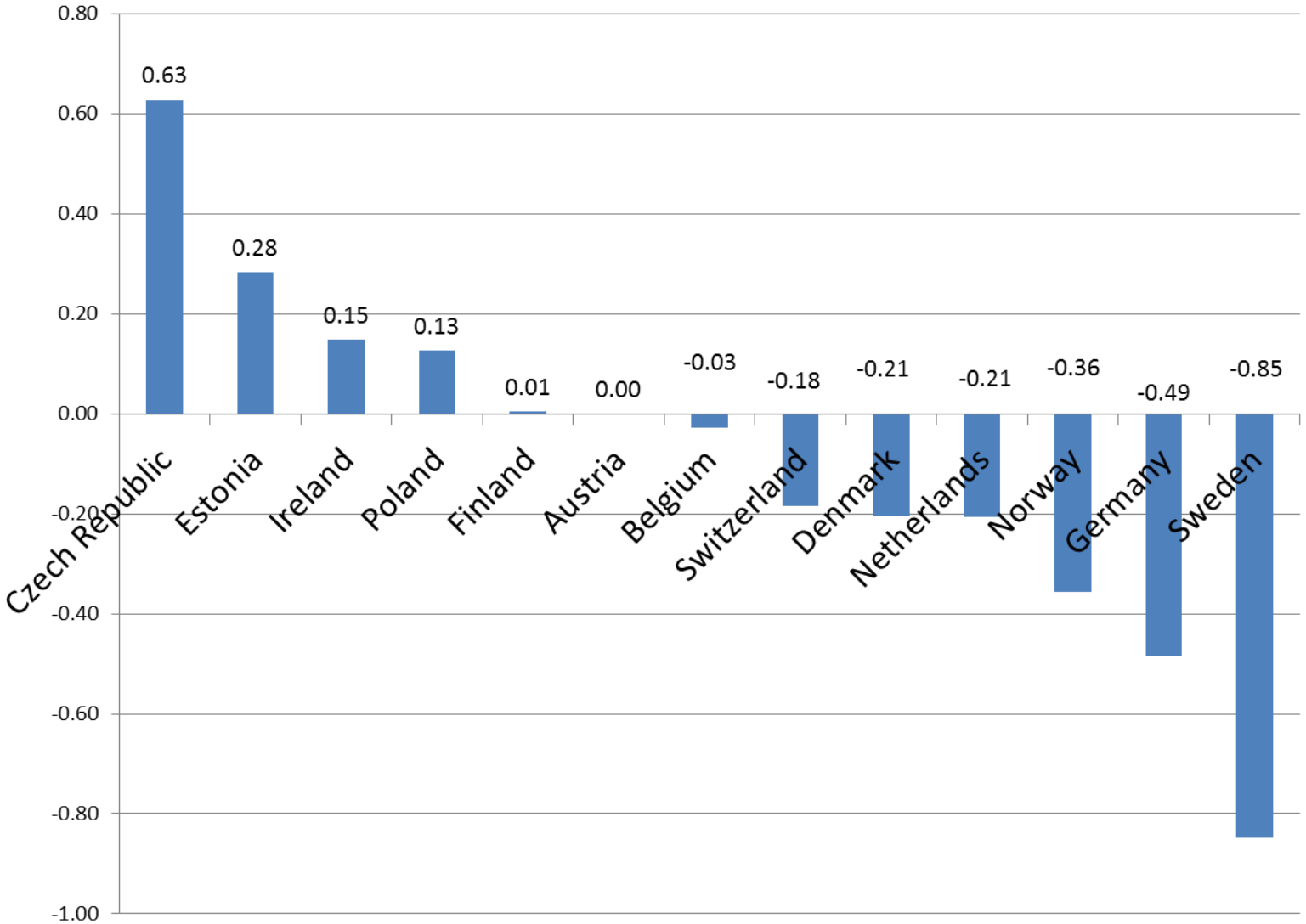
- The cross-country comparability of the immigration module in the *new* European Social Survey 2014-15 (in progress). Cieciuch, J., E. Davidov, P. Schmidt and R. Algesheimer.

- The measurement of **four latent variables** are tested:
- **allowing** for immigrants belonging to different ethnic groups than the majority population into the country, Muslims, Jews and Sinti & Roma;
- - **qualification** for entry;
- - two types of **threat** due to immigrants – realistic and symbolic

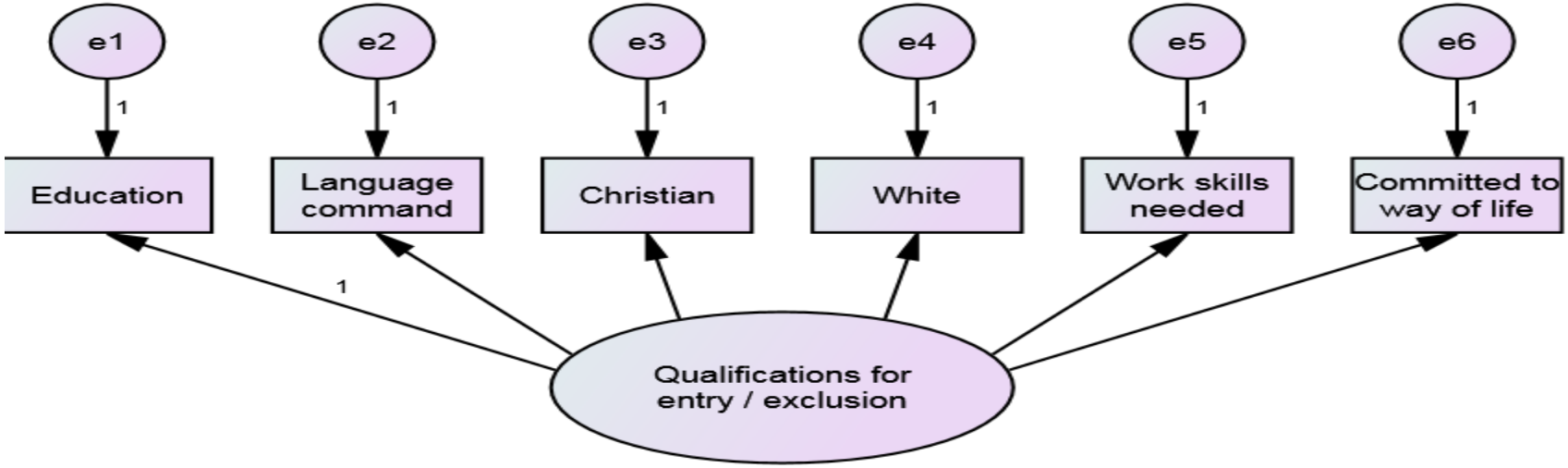

e1
e2
e3
e4
1
1
1
1
Jews
Muslims
Sinti & Roma
Different race
1
Allow

- Result:
- **Both metric and scalar invariance.**

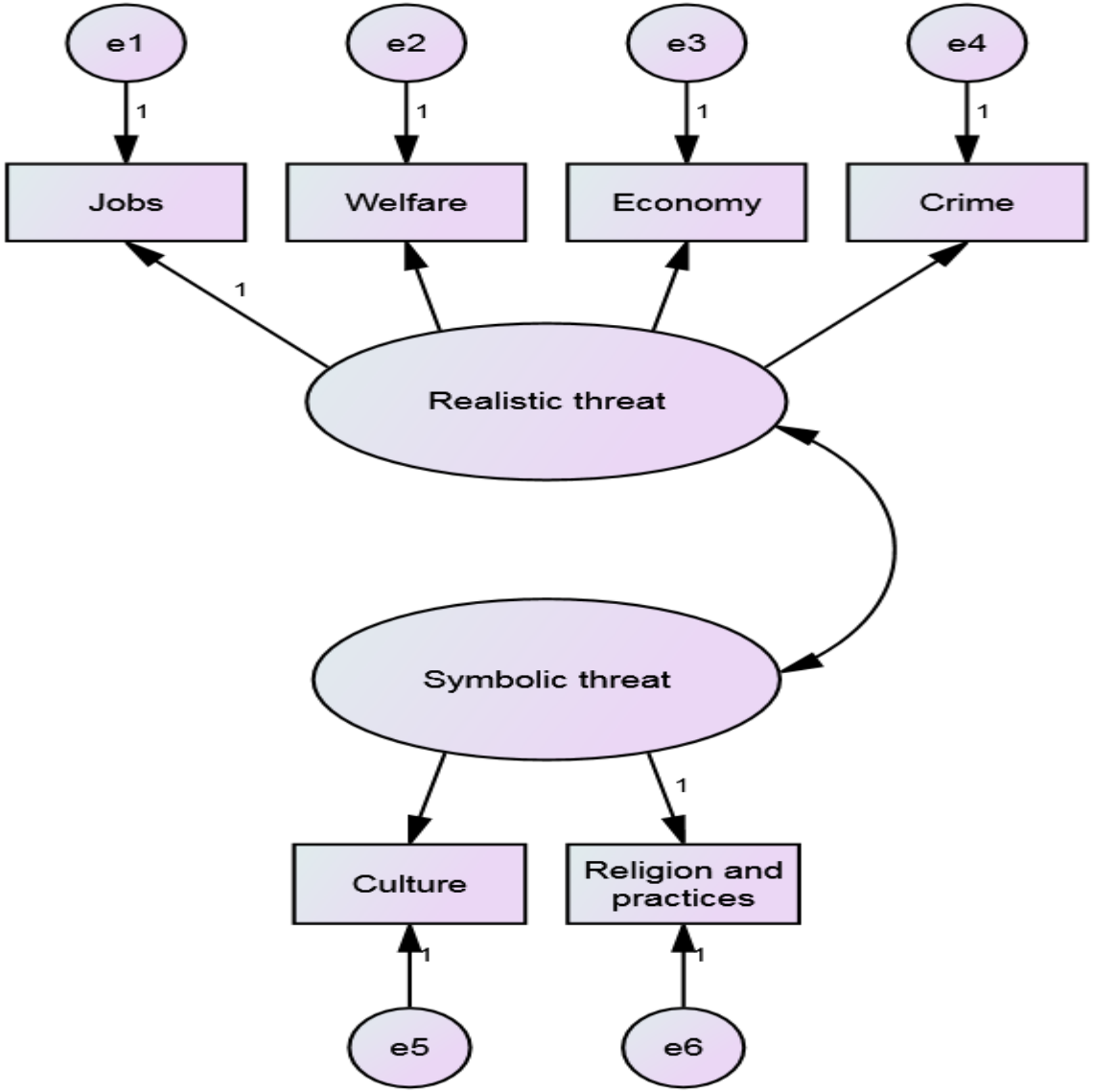
Attitudes toward Jews, Muslims, Sinti and Roma, different race



Latent means at the scalar level of measurement invariance


e1
e2
e3
e4
e5
e6
1
1
1
1
1
1
Education
Language command
Christian
White
Work skills needed
Committed to way of life
1
Qualifications for entry / exclusion

- Result:
- **Metric but no scalar invariance.**
- **Approximate scalar invariance** across a subset of European countries.


e1
e2
e3
e4
1
1
1
1
Jobs
Welfare
Economy
Crime
1
Realistic threat
Symbolic threat
1
Culture
Religion and practices
1
1
e5
e6

- Result:
- **Metric but no scalar invariance.**
- **Approximate scalar invariance** across a subset of European countries.

Study 3:

- Toward Understanding the Dynamic Relations between Economic Conditions and Anti-Immigrant Sentiments: a Quasi-Experiment in Times of the European Economic Crisis (R&R). Kuntz, A., E. Davidov and M. Semyonov

- **Research question**: Did **negative attitudes** toward immigrants tended **rise** when **economic** conditions **deteriorated** in the economic crisis of 2008?
- 14 immigration countries before (2006) and after (2010) the peak of the European economic crisis

- Main findings:
- Anti-immigrant attitudes were **more pronounced** in countries with **perceived depressed** economic conditions than in countries with **prosperous** economic conditions

Study 4

- Nationalism and anti-immigrant sentiments: What is the link? Coenders, M., A. Gorodzeisky, E. Davidov, M. Semyonov and P. Schmidt. In Progress.

- **Research questions:**
- How does the relation between **nationalism** and **rejection** of immigrants **vary** across countries?
- We expect that with an **integrative** policy toward immigrants in a country and a **left wing government** this **link** would be **weaker**.
- Data: ESS Round 7, 2014.

Study 5

- Threat and rejection: Muslim and Jewish immigrants in European societies. Coenders, M. and E. Davidov. In Progress.
- **Research question**: whether **realistic** and **symbolic** threat influence more strongly **rejection** of **Muslim** vs. **Jewish** immigrants.
- Expectations:
  - **Symbolic** threat translates to rejection significantly more strongly for **Muslim** than for Jewish immigrants
  - **Economic** threat translates to rejection in a **similar** way for Jewish and Muslim immigrants

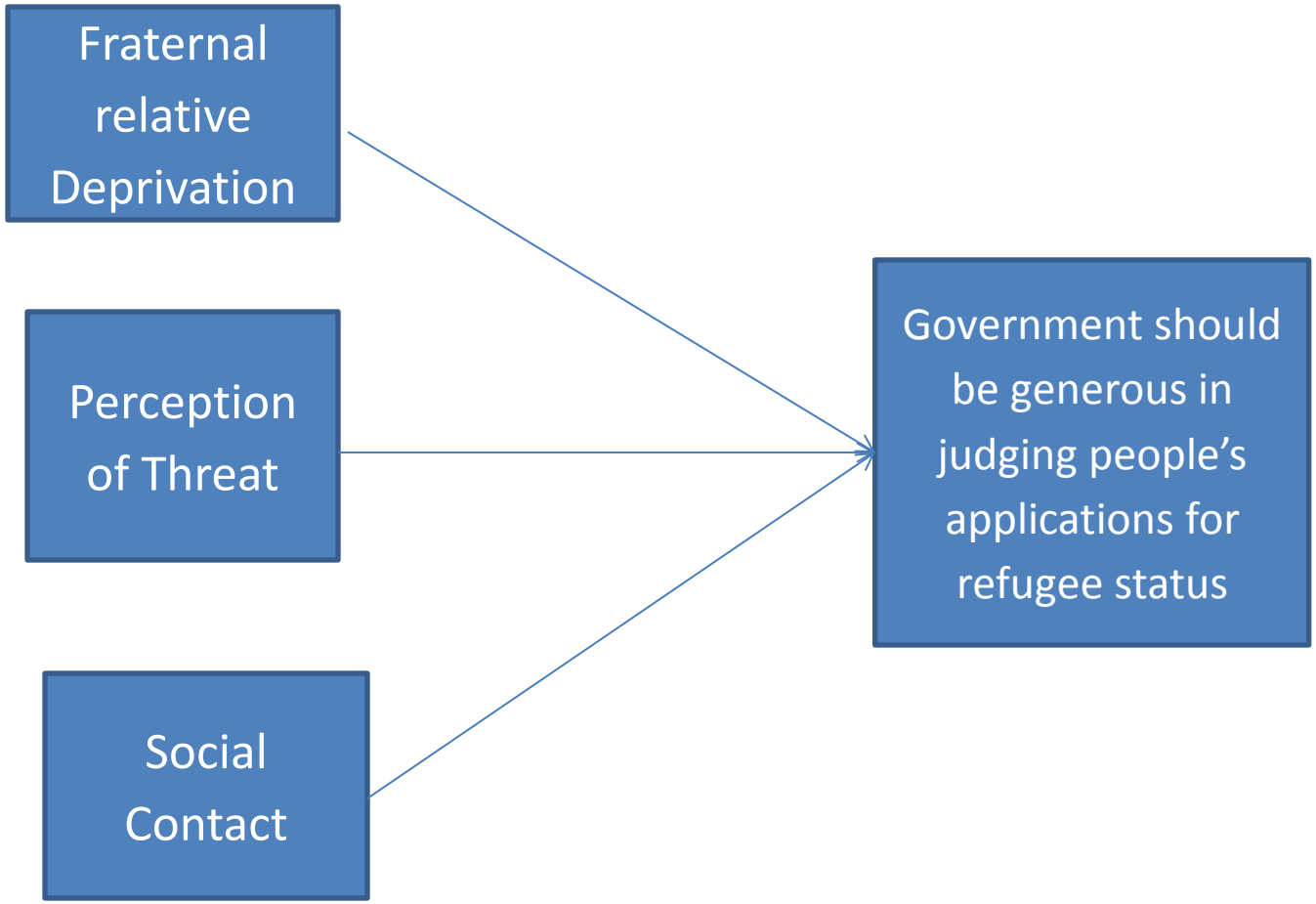
Study 6

- Media use and Attitudes toward Immigration in Europe in a Cross-country Perspective. Masso, A., M. Coenders and E. Davidov. In Progress.

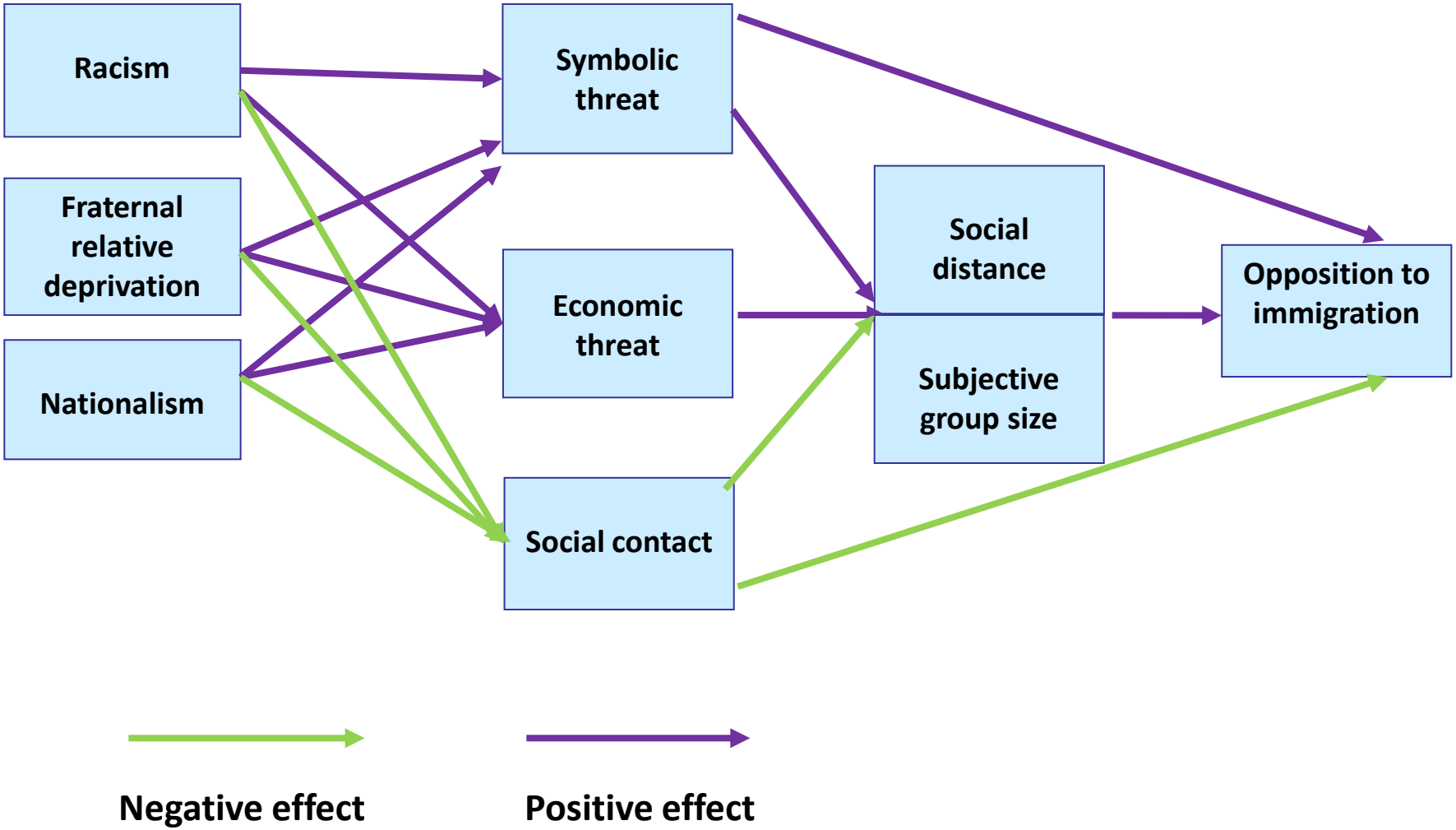
- **Research question**: Is there a positive association between **media use** and **(negative) attitudes** toward immigration in European countries?
- In addition, we expect in countries with a higher level of **media autonomy**, where **sensationalized** news is more abundant, that
  - **attitudes** toward immigrants will be more **negative**.
  - the **link** between media use and negative attitudes toward immigrants will be **stronger**.
- Data: ESS 2014.

Study 7

- Fraternal relative deprivation and rejection of refugees: A comparative analysis. Raijman, R., T. Pettigrew, P. Schmidt and E. Davidov. In Progress.


Fraternal relative Deprivation
Perception of Threat
Social Contact
Government should be generous in judging people's applications for refugee status

In sum


Racism
Fraternal relative deprivation
Nationalism
Symbolic threat
Economic threat
Social contact
Social distance
Subjective group size
Opposition to immigration
Negative effect
Positive effect

- Thank you very much for your attention!