

The well-being gap between the employed and the unemployed. Re-examination of stigma hypothesis

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WHAT'S THE WORST
PART ABOUT YOU
BEING UNEMPLOYED?



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IS IT THE RISK OF
STARVATION, THE
INABILITY TO DATE,
OR THE FEELING OF
BEING UTTERLY
WORTHLESS?



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SO FAR
THE WORST
PART IS
THIS
CONVER-
SATION.



WAIT
'TIL YOU
HEAR MY
TOUGH
LOVE
SPEECH.

Unemployment hurts...

...but not when there are many unemployed around!

- ▶ regional unemployment rate
- ▶ also on couple level
- ▶ “stigma effect”:
common unemployment →
weaker norm to work →
unemployed suffer less



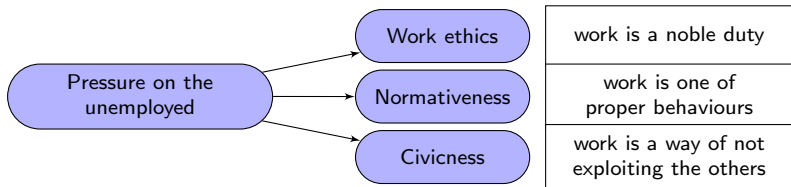
but...

- ▶ Some comparative studies show the opposite (common sense!) effect
- ▶ Does the norm to work equal $1 - \text{unemployment rate}$?

- ▶ Taking new and broad data, can we observe the stigma effect?

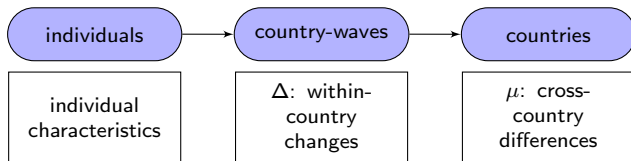
What if we distinguish cross-country differences and differences across time?

- ▶ Can country values explain the stigma effect?



Data and method

- ▶ WVS+EVS
- ▶ 3-level MLM:



- ▶ DV: life satisfaction

Unemployment rate

Effect of contextual unemployment

Initial model

	all	men	women
unemployed	−0.433***	−0.495***	−0.371***
unempl rate	−0.478	−0.535	−0.438
unemployed × unempl rate	−0.158	−0.283	0.014
	developed	developing	transition
unemployed	−0.210	−0.451***	−0.435***
unempl rate	−0.361	−0.177	−0.619
unemployed × unempl rate	−4.416***	0.365	−0.238

Effect of contextual unemployment

Full model

	all	men	women
unemployed	-0.422***	-0.506***	-0.338***
μ unempl rate	-0.967	-0.944	-0.977
unemployed $\times$ μ unempl rate	-0.347*	-0.411	-0.242
Δ unempl rate	1.464	1.413	1.403
unemployed $\times$ Δ unempl rate	1.967*	1.922*	2.860*

	developed	developing	transition
unemployed	0.375*	-0.342***	-0.451***
μ unempl rate	0.280	-0.114	-2.125 ⁺
unemployed $\times$ μ unempl rate	-3.054***	-0.476	-0.385
Δ unempl rate	-0.472	7.420*	-4.732*
unemployed $\times$ Δ unempl rate	-0.759	2.040 ⁺	3.005*

Values

Work ethics has expected effect but does not explain the effect of contextual unemployment

Full model

	all	men	women
unemployed	-0.422***	-0.506***	-0.338***
work ethics	0.093***	0.102***	0.087***
unemployed x work ethics	-0.060*	-0.014	-0.106*
unemployed x μ unempl rate	-0.347*	-0.411	-0.242
unemployed x Δ unempl rate	1.967*	1.922*	2.860*
unemployed x μ country work ethics	-0.199 ⁺	-0.208	-0.092
unemployed x Δ country work ethics	-1.204***	-0.785 ⁺	-1.574***
	developed	developing	transition
unemployed	0.375*	-0.342***	-0.451***
work ethics	0.045***	0.128***	0.124***
unemployed x work ethics	-0.005	-0.059	-0.141*
unemployed x μ unempl rate	-3.054***	-0.476	-0.385
unemployed x Δ unempl rate	-0.759	2.040 ⁺	3.005*
unemployed x μ country work ethics	-1.790***	0.017	0.277
unemployed x Δ country work ethics	-4.270***	-1.856*	-1.287

If civicness is high or grows, unemployed (in developed countries) suffer more

Full model

	all	men	women
unemployed	-0.422***	-0.506***	-0.338***
civicness	0.056***	0.055***	0.057***
unemployed x civicness	-0.017	-0.014	-0.024
unemployed x μ unempl rate	-0.347*	-0.411	-0.242
unemployed x Δ unempl rate	1.967*	1.922*	2.860*
unemployed x μ country civicness	-0.001	-0.028	0.039
unemployed x Δ country civicness	-0.134	-0.245 ⁺	-0.087
	developed	developing	transition
unemployed	0.375*	-0.342***	-0.451***
civicness	0.090***	0.055***	0.041***
unemployed x civicness	-0.047*	0.021	-0.029 ⁺
unemployed x μ unempl rate	-3.054***	-0.476	-0.385
unemployed x Δ unempl rate	-0.759	2.040 ⁺	3.005*
unemployed x μ country civicness	-0.558***	-0.074	-0.063
unemployed x Δ country civicness	-1.697***	0.148	0.183

In more normative countries unemployed suffer less (developed & developing)

Full model

	all	men	women
unemployed	-0.422***	-0.506***	-0.338***
normativeness	0.009*	0.012*	0.005
unemployed × normativeness	-0.006	-0.013	0.002
unemployed × μ unempl rate	-0.347*	-0.411	-0.242
unemployed × Δ unempl rate	1.967*	1.922*	2.860*
unemployed × μ country normativeness	0.022	0.074	-0.035
unemployed × Δ country normativeness	0.014	-0.189	0.252
	developed	developing	transition
unemployed	0.375*	-0.342***	-0.451***
normativeness	0.003	0.010	0.017*
unemployed × normativeness	0.007	-0.035 ⁺	0.003
unemployed × μ unempl rate	-3.054***	-0.476	-0.385
unemployed × Δ unempl rate	-0.759	2.040 ⁺	3.005*
unemployed × μ country normativeness	0.171*	0.223*	-0.049
unemployed × Δ country normativeness	0.372 ⁺	0.151	-0.531

Conclusions

- ▶ effect of unemployment rate – both positive and negative!
- ▶ work is a part of the modern (civic) – rather than the traditional – ethics
- ▶ values are significant for the developed countries, what about the developing and transition countries?
- ▶ the values did not explain the effect of unemployment rate – which other cultural factors could be taken into account?

Thank you!