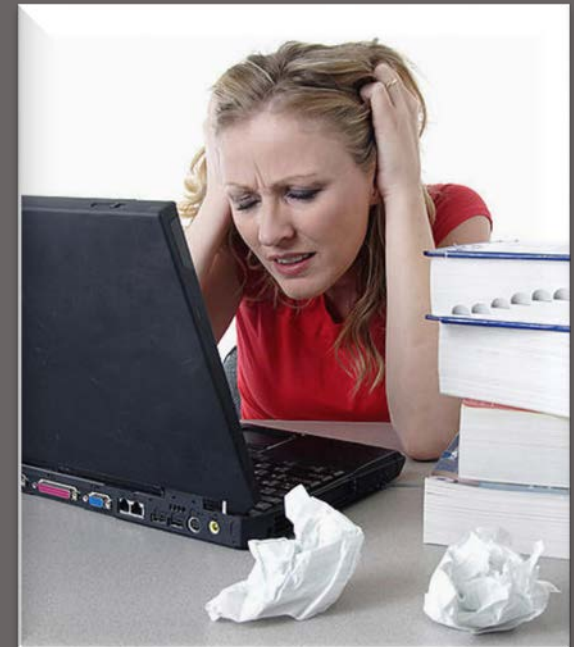


# MODELING SELF-RATED SATISFACTION OR DISSATISFYING CHALLENGES DEFINING A DEPENDENT VARIABLE

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QICSS 5<sup>th</sup> New  
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# Migration as a love story

- Attraction
- Romance
- Live together
  - ▣ “Life is great with X”
  - ▣ Routine and difficulties
- Split or stay together
- Consider Canada
- Expectations
- Migrate
  - ▣ “Canada is the best”
  - ▣ Culture shock and challenges
- Leave Canada or stay



Satisfaction with experience



# Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (LSIC-ELIC)

- 15 or older at time of landing
- Arrival between: 01/10/2000 - 30/09/2001
- 3 waves: Time after arrival
  - 6 months
  - 2 years
  - 4 years
- $n = 7,716$  in final sample that correspond to 157,615 individuals
- Module: Perceptions of settlement
  - Satisfaction with
    - ***own experience: life in Canada***
    - experience of child/children
    - other members of the family

# First wave = 6 months after arrival

- Do not know satisfaction with life
  - ▣ before migrating
  - ▣ at time of arrival
  
- Unobservable counterfactual
  - ▣ Is the migrant better off than he or she would have been given no migration?

## Wave 1:

How would you rate your level of satisfaction with your life in Canada?

Very dissatisfied

Dissatisfied

Neither  
dissatisfied nor  
satisfied

Satisfied

Very satisfied

## Wave 1:

How would you rate your level of satisfaction with your life in Canada?

Very dissatisfied

Dissatisfied

Neither  
dissatisfied nor  
satisfied

Satisfied

Very satisfied

## Wave 3:

How would you rate your level of satisfaction with your life in Canada?

Very dissatisfied

Dissatisfied

Neither  
dissatisfied nor  
satisfied

Satisfied

Very satisfied

6 months

2 years

4 years

**Wave 1:**

How would you rate your level of satisfaction with your life in Canada?

Very dissatisfied

Dissatisfied

Neither  
dissatisfied nor  
satisfied

Satisfied

Very satisfied

**Wave 2:**

Since your last interview, would you say, in general, that your level of satisfaction with life in Canada is

Higher

About the same

Lower

**Wave 3:**

How would you rate your level of satisfaction with your life in Canada?

Very dissatisfied

Dissatisfied

Neither  
dissatisfied nor  
satisfied

Satisfied

Very satisfied

# Wave 1

# Wave 2

# Wave 2 transformed

Neither  
dissatisfied nor  
satisfied

Lower  
About the same  
Higher

Dissatisfied  
Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied  
Satisfied



# Wave 1

Very dissatisfied

Neither  
dissatisfied nor  
satisfied

Very satisfied

# Wave 2

Lower  
About the same  
Higher

Lower  
About the same  
Higher

Lower  
About the same  
Higher

# Wave 2 transformed

Very dissatisfied  
Very dissatisfied  
Dissatisfied

Dissatisfied  
Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied  
Satisfied

Satisfied  
Very satisfied  
Very satisfied

# Wave 1

Very dissatisfied

Dissatisfied

Neither  
dissatisfied nor  
satisfied

Satisfied

Very satisfied

# Wave 2

Lower

About the same

Higher

Lower

About the same

Higher

Lower

About the same

Higher

Lower

About the same

Higher

Lower

About the same

Higher

# Wave 2 transformed

Very dissatisfied

Very dissatisfied

Dissatisfied

Very dissatisfied

Dissatisfied

Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied

Dissatisfied

Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied

Satisfied

Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied

Satisfied

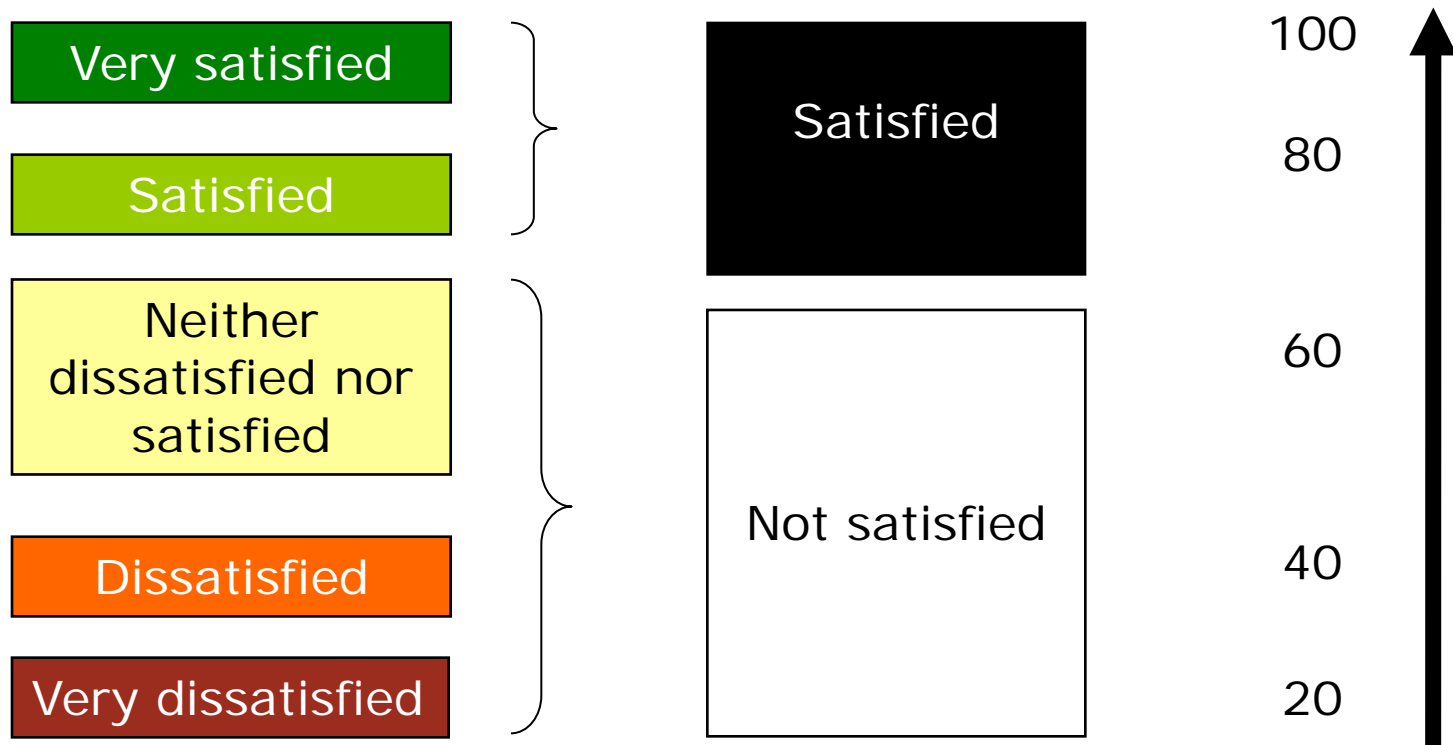
Very satisfied

Satisfied

Very satisfied

Very satisfied

# Ordinal, indicator or even “continuous”



Which methods?

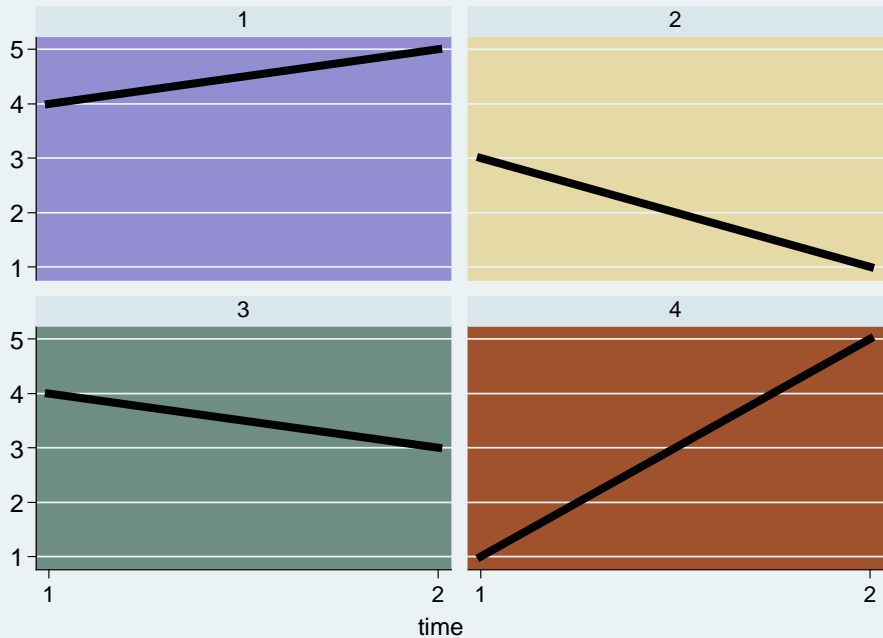
	<b>Ordinal variable</b> All waves	<b>“Continuous” variable</b> All waves	<b>Indicator variable</b> Waves 1 and 3
<b>FE and RE</b>	Ordinal logistic regression	Linear regression	Logistic regression
<b>Stata command</b>	xtlogit NOT in Stata 11	xtreg	xtlogit
<b>Problems</b>	GLMM is slow, interpretation is harder	Not continuous, measurement error (wave 2)	No much variation. Sample size too small for models by imm. class poses problems in quadrature check.
<b>With population weight</b>	Cut points not well defined	Stat. significant, prefer fixed effects	Stat. significant, prefer fixed effects for few models that can be estimated!
<b>With bootstrap weights, bs4rw command</b>	Need to revise GLMM and bootstrap weights	Stat. significant, prefer fixed effects	Nothing statistically significant for the few models that can be estimated!

# Next: better models

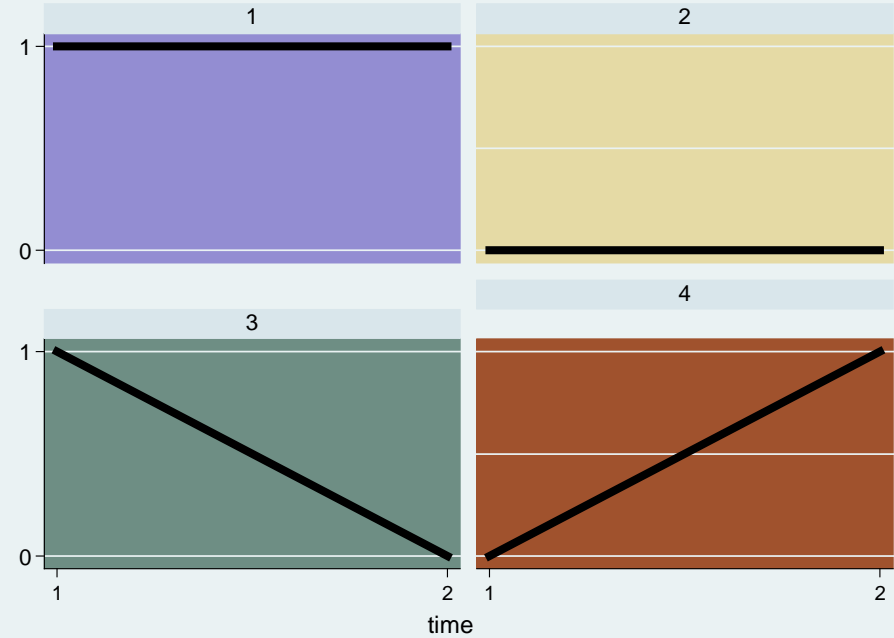
- Use waves 1 and 3 only
- Find a better model
  - ▣ With ordinal logistic regression
  - ▣ With logistic regression
  - ▣ Work with interactions with immigrant class instead of models by class
- So far, economic indicators, social networks and other measures of social integration
  - ▣ Rethink

# Variation changes after recoding

Ordinal variable



Dichotomic variable



4 hypothetical individuals and their trajectories of satisfaction

# Limitations of data and concepts

- Longitudinal data
  - ▣ Advantage: Can study changes through time
  - ▣ Time varying and time invariant
  - ▣ Variation between and within
  - ▣ If no variation, then use only one wave?
  
- Think about population and bootstrap weights

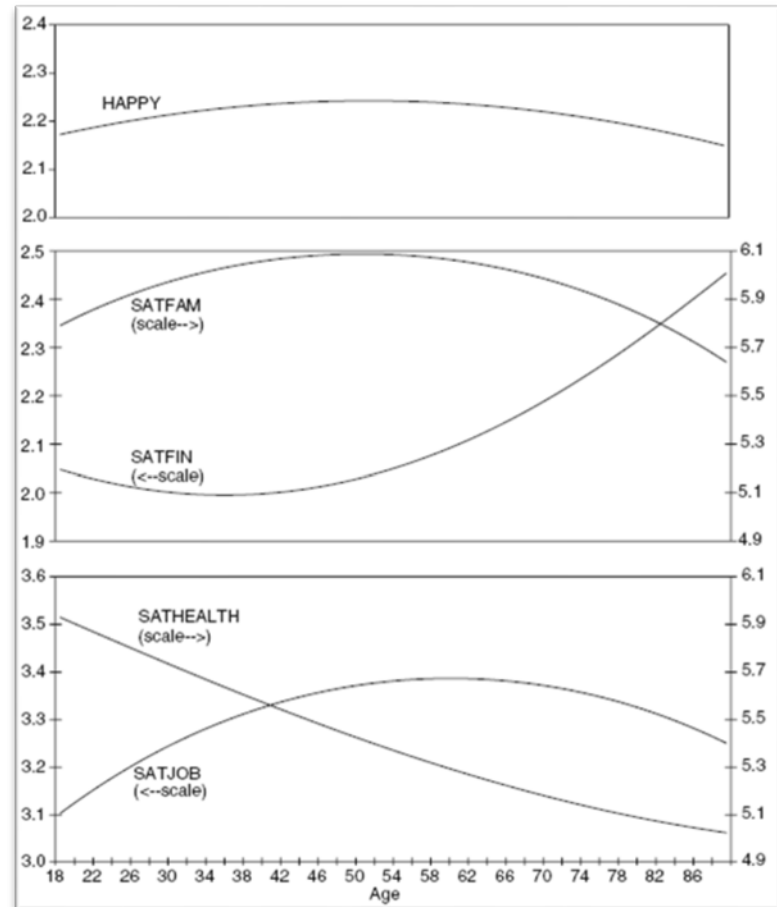
# Limitations of concepts

## □ Happiness

- Tends to level established by personality and genetics
- As the outcome of experiences in life domains

## □ Different domains

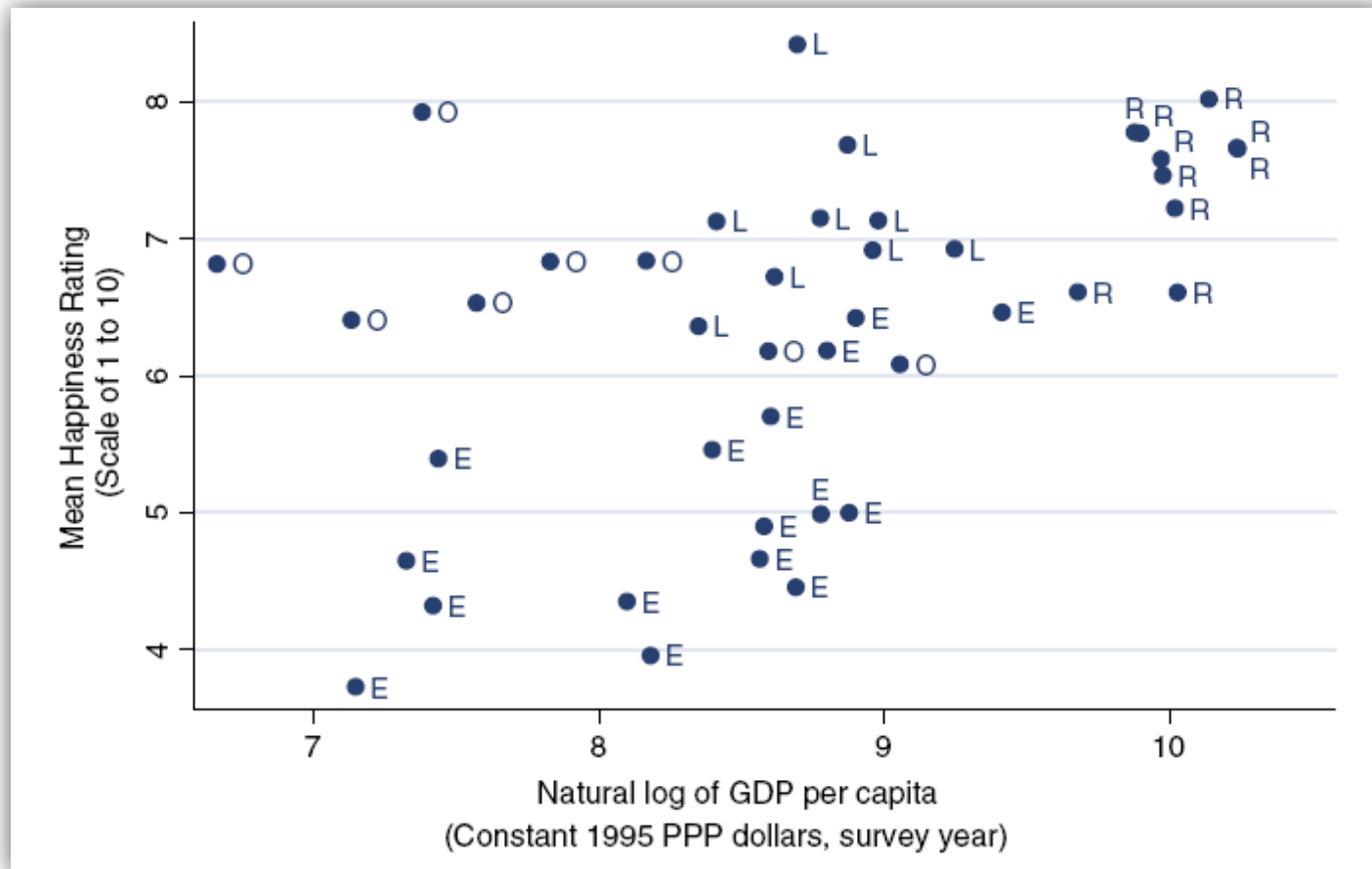
- And migration?





# Happiness around the world

**Variation:  
81% individual  
attributes  
+  
19% country  
characteristics**



E: Europe, L: Latin America, R: Rich Industrial, O: Other. (Ball and Chernova, 2008)

# Modeling satisfaction and dissatisfying challenges

- What does satisfaction with life in Canada really mean?
- Report what we find and DO NOT find
  - ▣ Good scholarship
  - ▣ When results are non-results