

Inequality in Happiness

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For more information go to: www2.bc.edu/~calvobra/teaching.htm

On average, nothing is average!



- Dispersion
- Social disparities
- Equal/unequal distribution

Stubborn stereotypes



Have a Coke
and a smile.



Coke adds life.

Age disparities in happiness

- **Golden years are really golden**

Odds of being happy increased 5% with 10 years.

Very happy:

33% at age 88

24% at age 18 to early 20s



Race and class disparities in happiness

- **Race and class**

Younger blacks and poor are less happy.

- **Intersection age, race, class**

Differences fade as people age.



Global trends in the dispersion of happiness

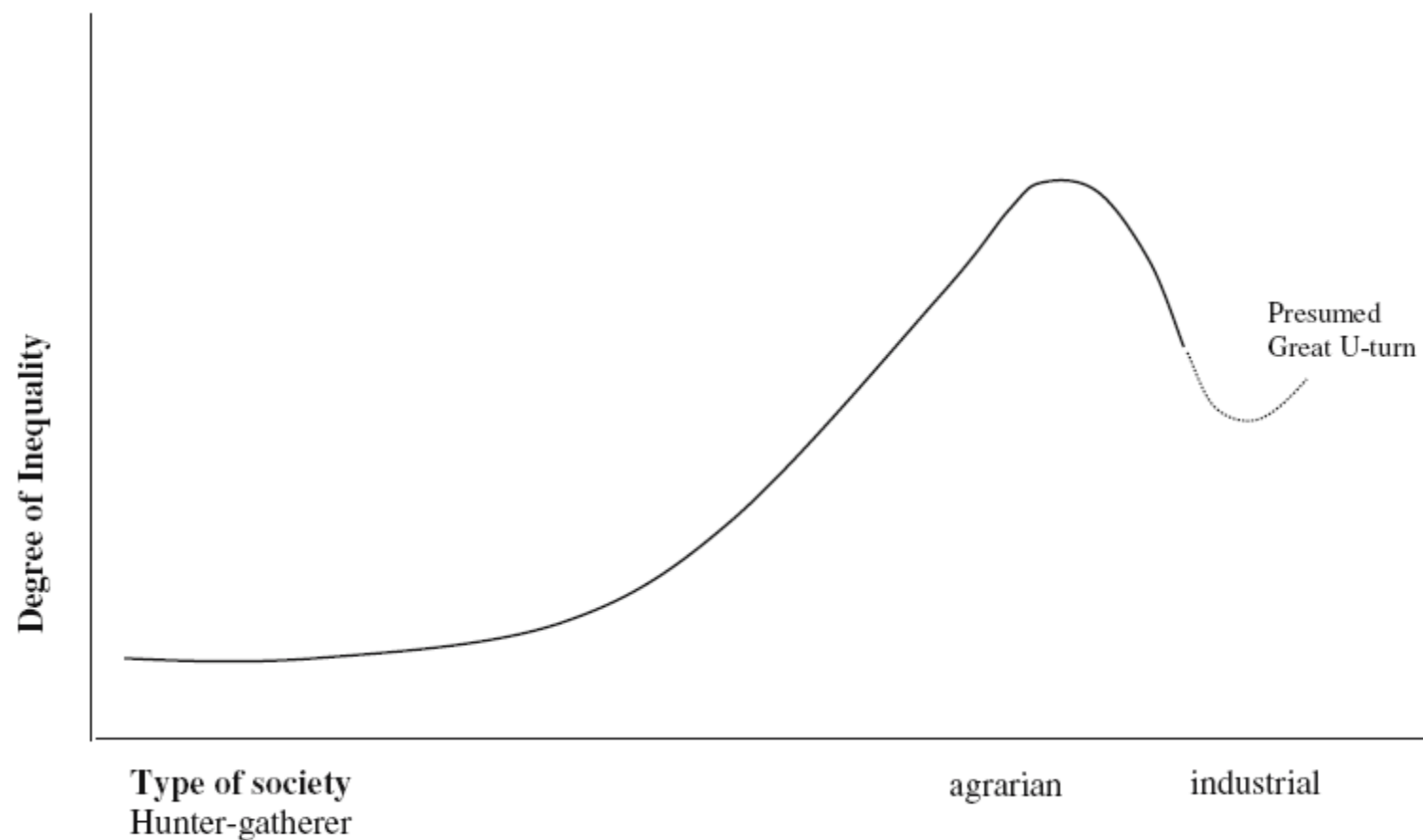


Figure 1. Long-term development of social inequality.

Global trends in the dispersion of happiness

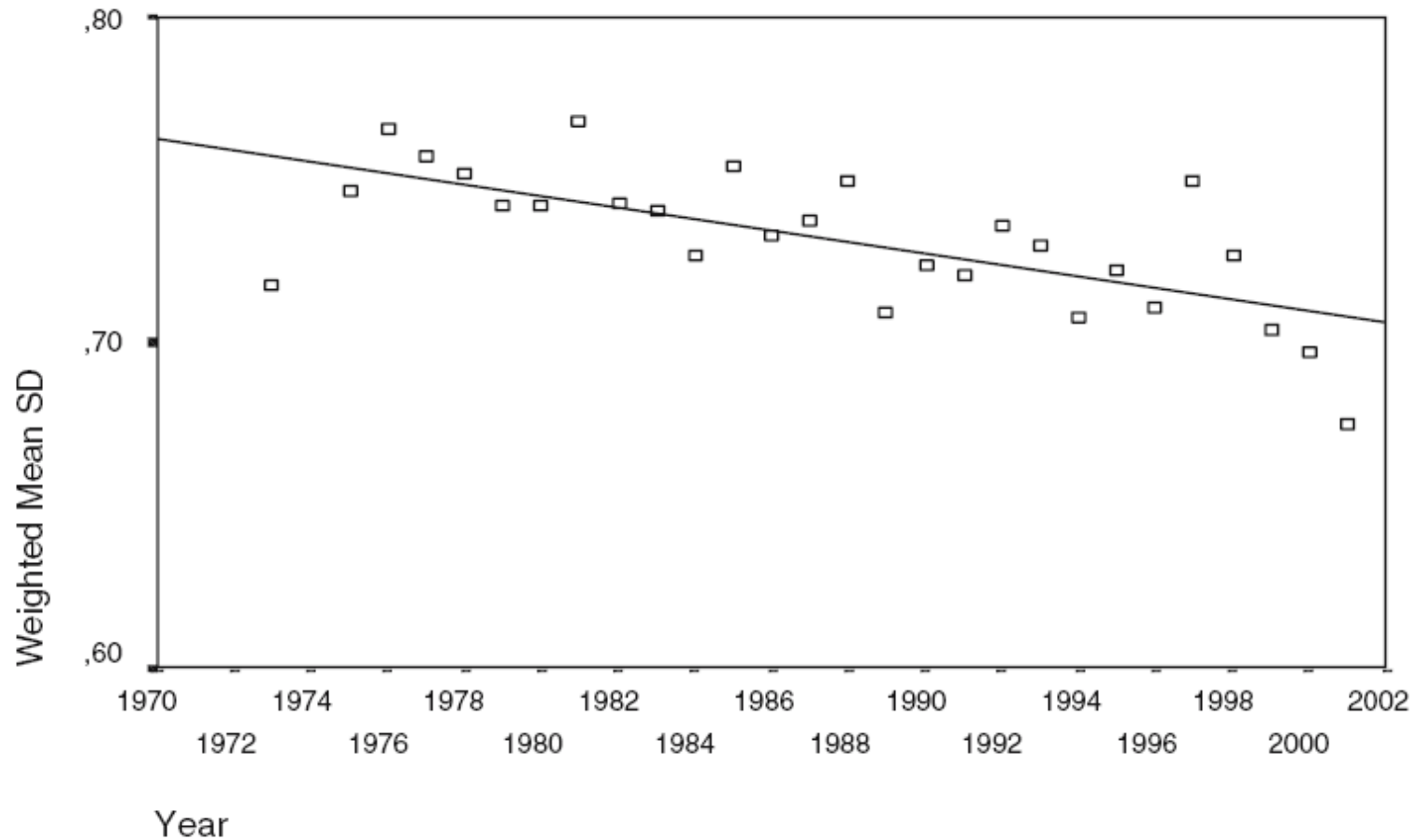
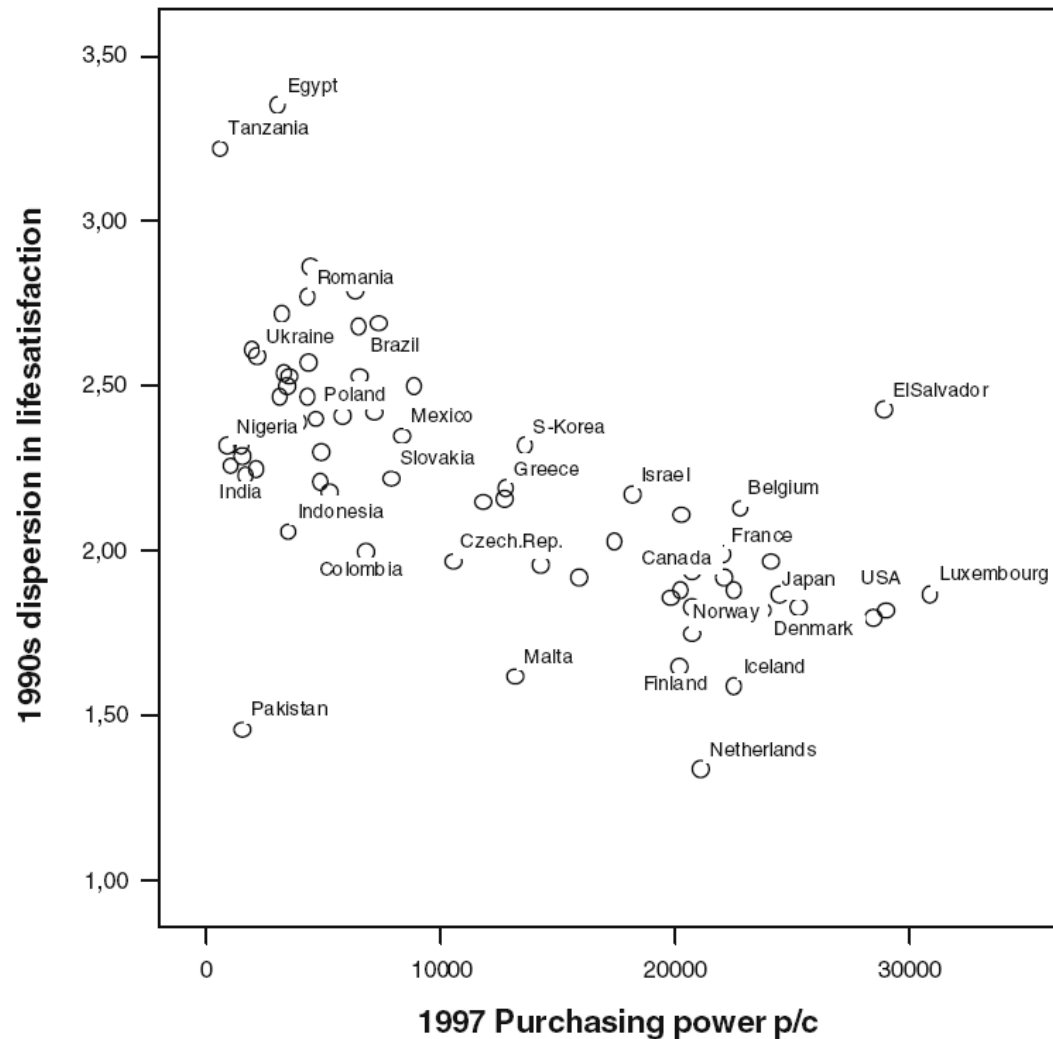


Figure 5. Trend in dispersion of life-satisfaction in the European Union.

Global trends in the dispersion of happiness



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