



HIGHER SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
NATIONAL RESEARCH UNIVERSITY



***“Anomie: Social Reality or a Unique
Measure of all the Possible
Negative Phenomena?”***

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Contents

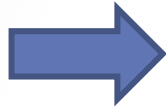
- Theoretical framework
- Approach towards operationalization
- Is data fitting the theory?
- -ESS
- -EVS
- Further Hypothesis
- Further Steps

Steps taken

- Whether EVS (2008) does provide us with more information on anomie?
- Clarification: Anomie VS Anomia
- Normlessness VS Meaninglessness
- Key independent variables of interest

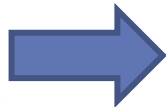
Theoretical approach

anomie



a state of society characterized by lack of norms and regulations (Durkheim 1893, 1897)

anomia

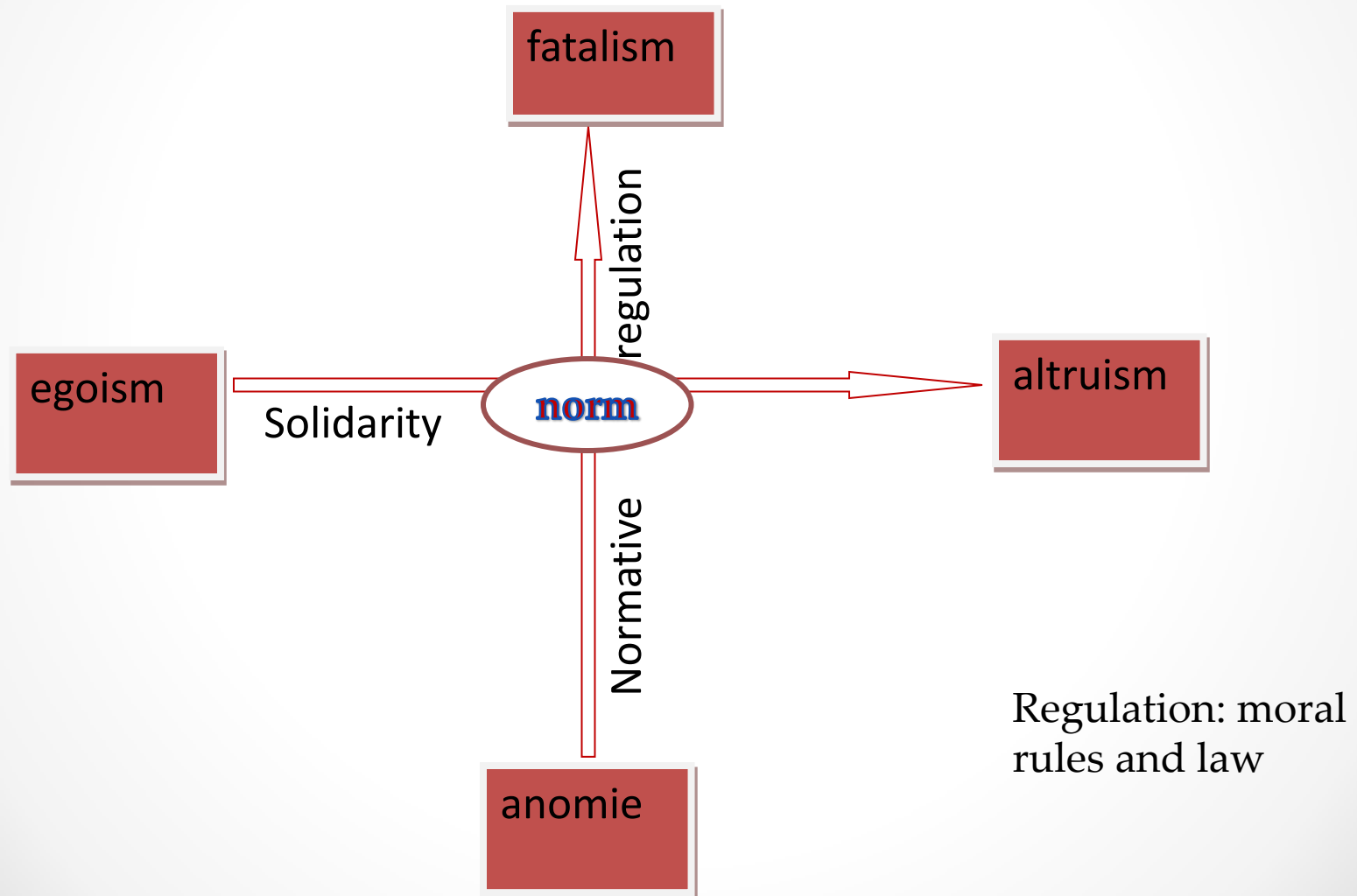


- individual state of members of the society (such as feelings of helplessness, atomization, concern about future, etc. (Srole 1956, Lamnek 1996))
- Characterizes property of a social system measured indirectly by the attitudes of single individuals (Robinson & Shaver 1973, 245)

Anomie

- Back to Durkheim's interpretation, which means embeddedness in the regulative system
- What was studied by Merton is the congruence and conflict within the normative systems.
- Differentiate between anomie and heteronomy (Tard, Merton (after Gofman 2013))

Durkheim on anomie: "Suicide" (1912): contemporary societies



Anomie

- Emile Durkheim (1912): two kinds of anomie:
- sharp form anomie - caused by various forms of crises that shutter the collective order and can lead both to degradation and prosperity. It causes the variability in the rate of suicide.
- anomie as a chronic phenomenon - permanent in certain fields of social life. These are the commercial and industrial life and the institute of family

Anomia

- The term “anomia” was introduced by Leo Srole (1956). “Microscopic level” of studying the phenomenon showing the level of integration of the individuals “in the total action fields of their interpersonal relationships and reference groups” (Srole 1956: 710).
- anomie as an objective social state, anomia as “subjectively perceived anomie” (Olsen 1969: 290)
- „...the first thing a sociologist in the area will want to impress on his audience is that **anomie refers to a property of a social system** and hence **cannot be directly measured by the attitudes of single individuals.**“ => anomy, anomia
(Robinson & Shaver 1973, 245)

Upon relevance

- Which anomie? Anomie is understood and interpreted differently by various sociologists (Lamnek 1996: 108)
- Merton, who lay fundament to a overwhelming tradition in theoretical and empirical works on anomie, was hardly dealing with anomie directly
- Anomia is usually not differentiated from anomie or alienation (rarely used at all). Anomie is often mixed with alienation as well
- Problems with operationalization and measurement



Scales: Anomie-Alienation

1. Anomy Scale (McClosky, Schaar 1965)
2. Anomia Scale (Srole 1956)
3. Powerlessness (Neal & Seeman 1962)
4. Political Alienation (Seeman 1969)
5. Alienation via Rejection (Streuning & Richardson 1965)
6. Purpose-in-Life Test (Crumbaugh 1968)
7. Alienation Scale (Dean 1961)
8. Alienation (Middleton 1963)
9. Political Alienation (Horton & Thompson 1962)
10. Alienation (Nettler 1957)
11. Anomie Scale (Hyman, Wright & Hopkins 1960)
12. Helplessness (Gamson 1961)
13. Alienation (Davids 1955)
14. Alienation Within a Social System (Clark 1959)

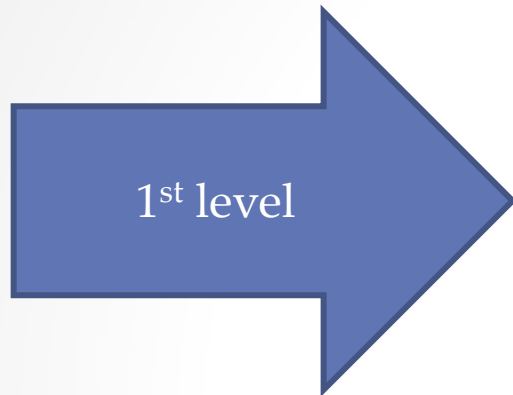
**Robinson & Shaver 1973,
245**

- +
15. The MOS Alienation Scale (Travis 1993)
 16. Meaninglessness (Legge et al. 2008)
 17. Don't Know Scale (Kosals & Swader, 2012)

Disadvantages of the Existing Scales

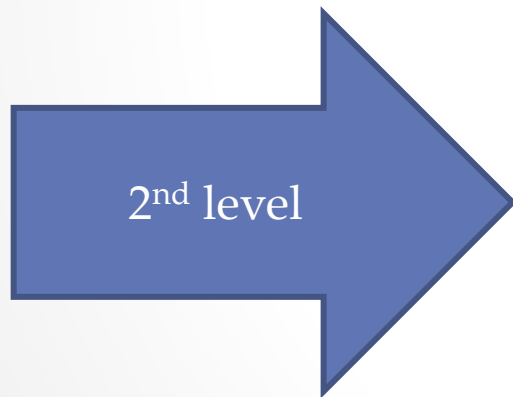
- measuring **other phenomena** rather than anomie and alienation, as in case of Crumbaugh (1968) where individuals with neuroses are found out.
- **broadening the notion of psychological anomie** to feelings of anxiety, mistrust, and lack of the feeling of safety, pessimism and hopelessness (McIver, Risman, De Garcia).
- **Concepts of anomia and alienation are being mixed** (Srole 1956), there have hardly been any attempts to differentiate the concepts
- Lack of **control over agreement response set** (Srole 1956)
- **Absence of tests on reliability or validity** of various scales (McClosky & Schaar 1965)
- **Insufficient sample size** (Hyman, Wright & Hopkins 1960)
- **Inaccuracy** in constructing scales (Travis 1993)
- **Narrowing down the concepts** (in the scale used by Legge et al. 2008 the concept of anomia is shrunk to meaninglessness).

Anomie VS Anomia



ANOMIA – level of individuals

- Migrants/non-migrants
- Religiosity
- SWB
- Civic participation
- Loneliness
- Ideology



ANOMIE – societal level (countries)

- (aggregated statistics)
- GDP per capita
 - Crime rate
 - Suicide rate
 - Alcohol consumption rate
 - Violence
 - Transformation Index of the country

Anomie VS Anomia

NORMLESSNESS

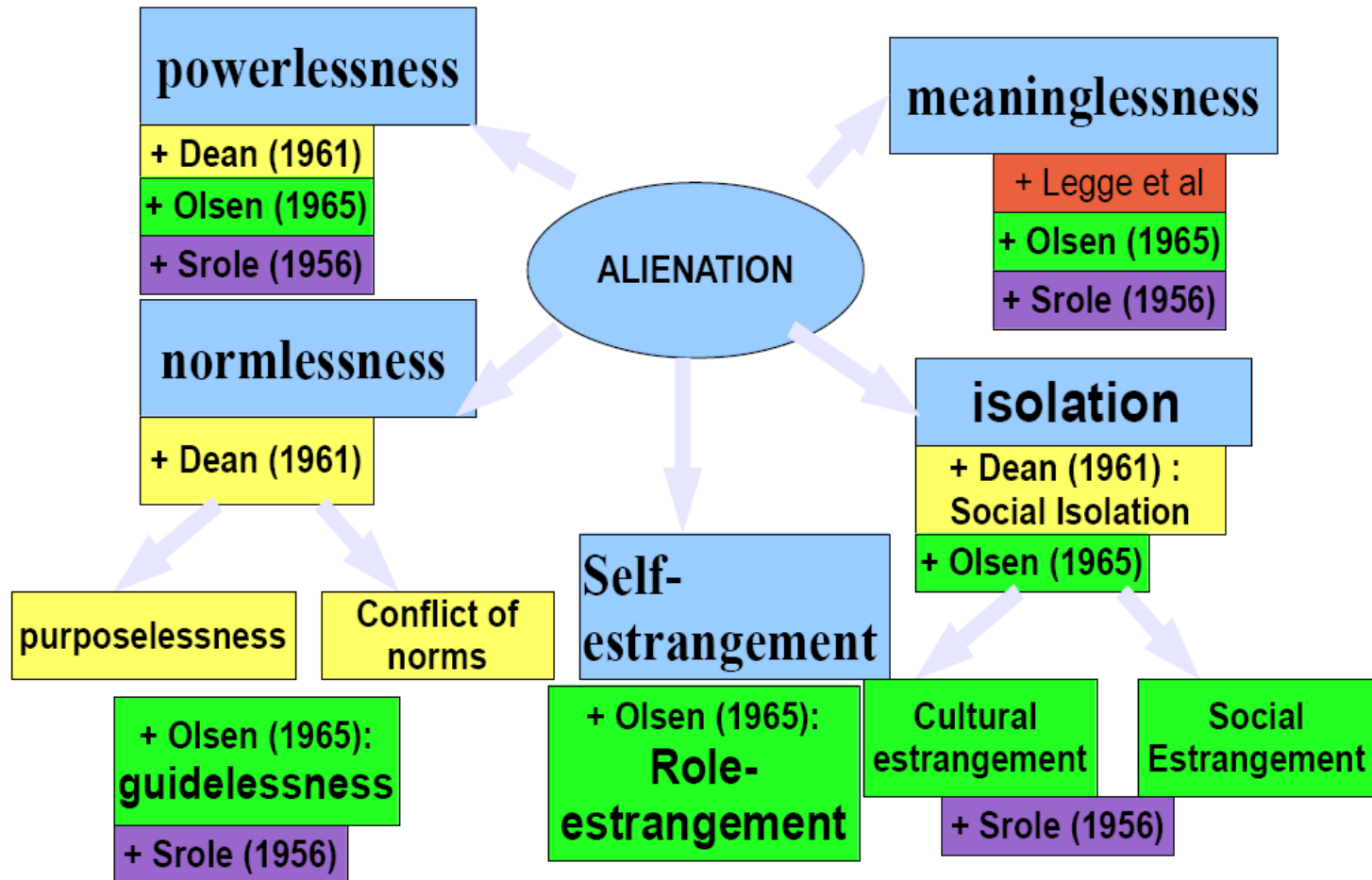
Conflict of norms,
values
(Dean 1961)
Absence of norms /
values
(Durkheim 1893, 1897)
[„objective character of
anomie“]

MEANINGLESSNESS

Unpredictability of
outcomes upon given
moral beliefs (Seeman
1959, Srole 1956)

Previous Steps: upon Seeman's Alienation Scale (1959)

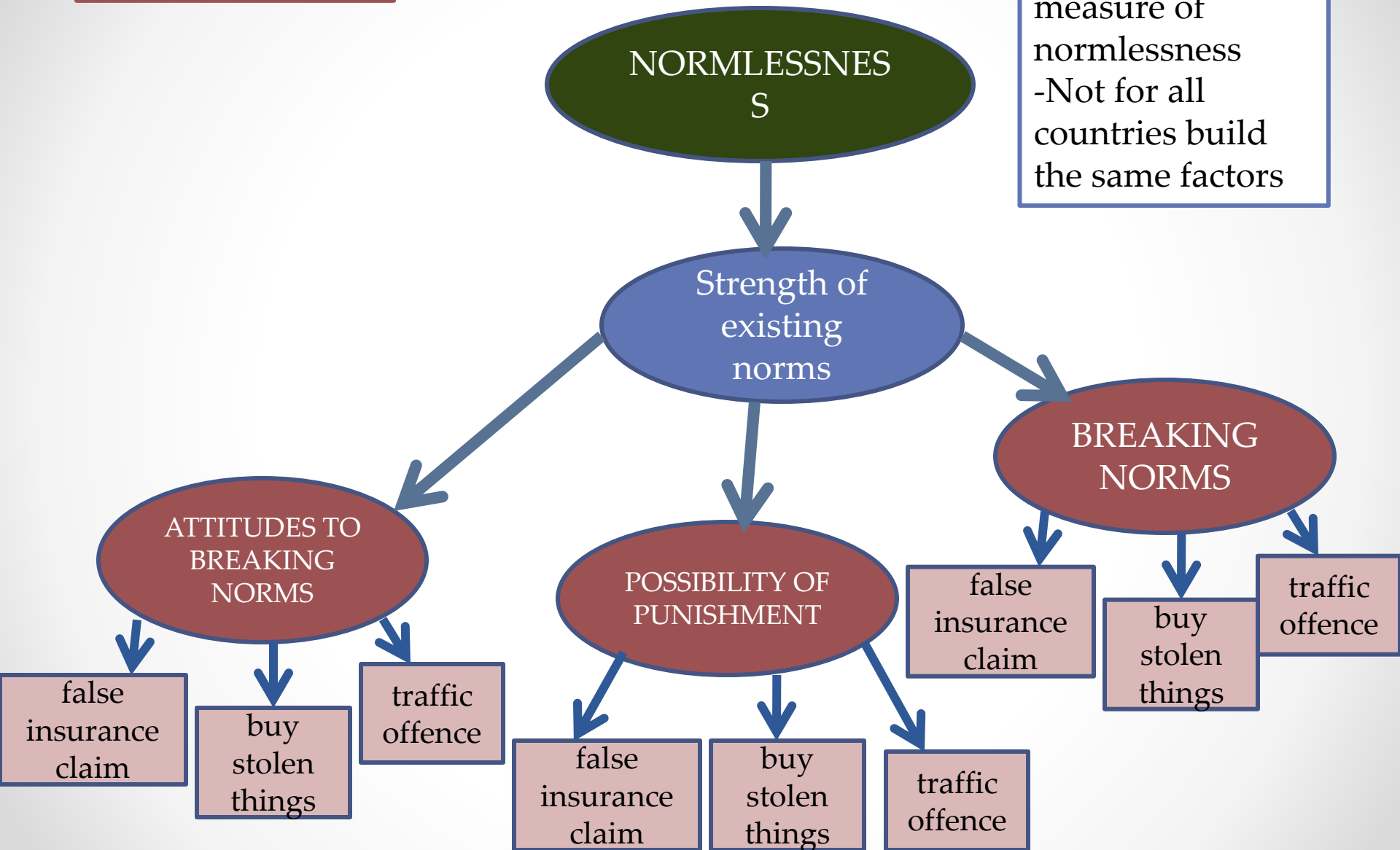
Implementation of the Scales



ESS 2010

Drawbacks

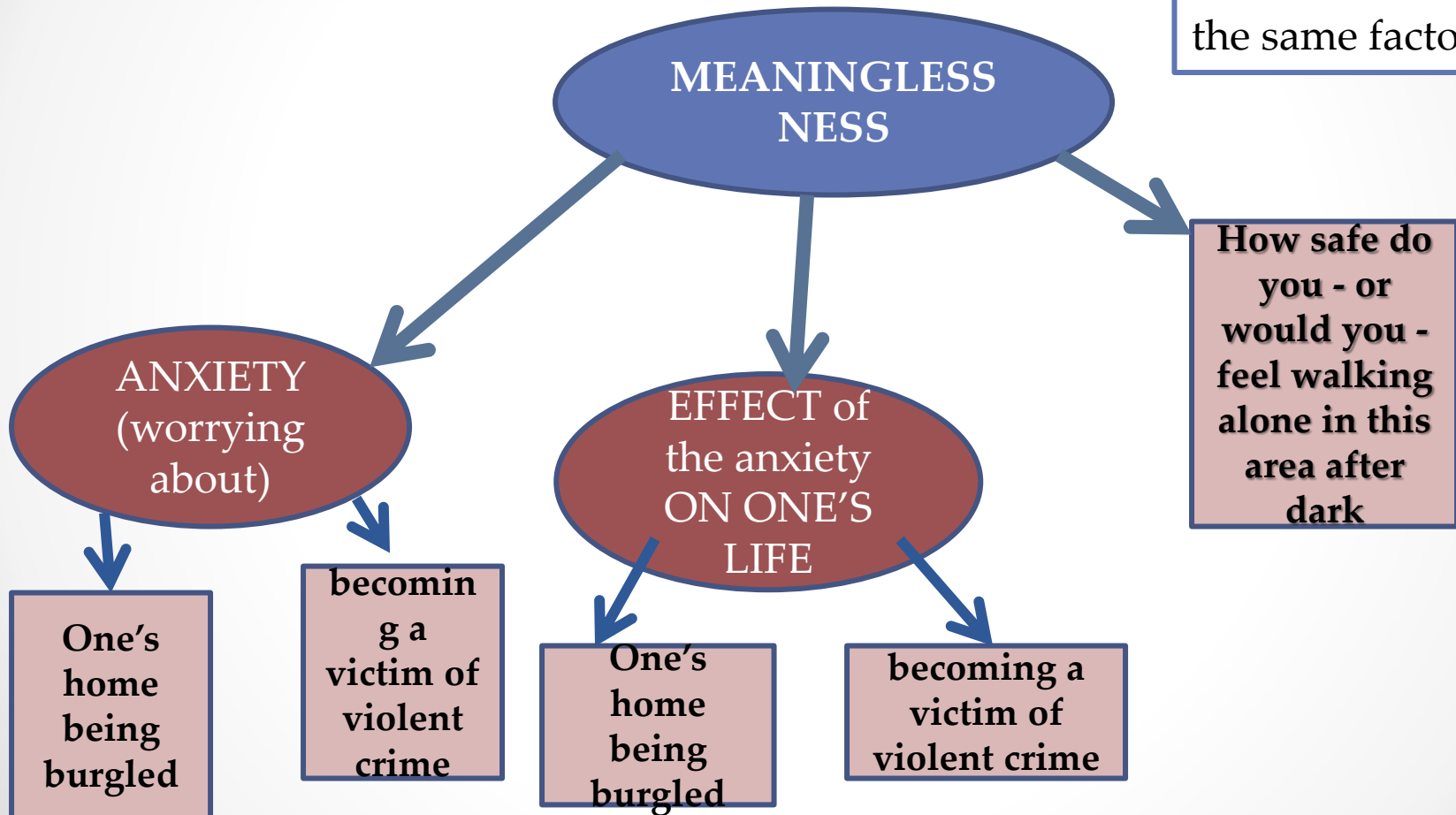
- Insufficient measure of normlessness
- Not for all countries build the same factors



ESS 2010

Drawbacks

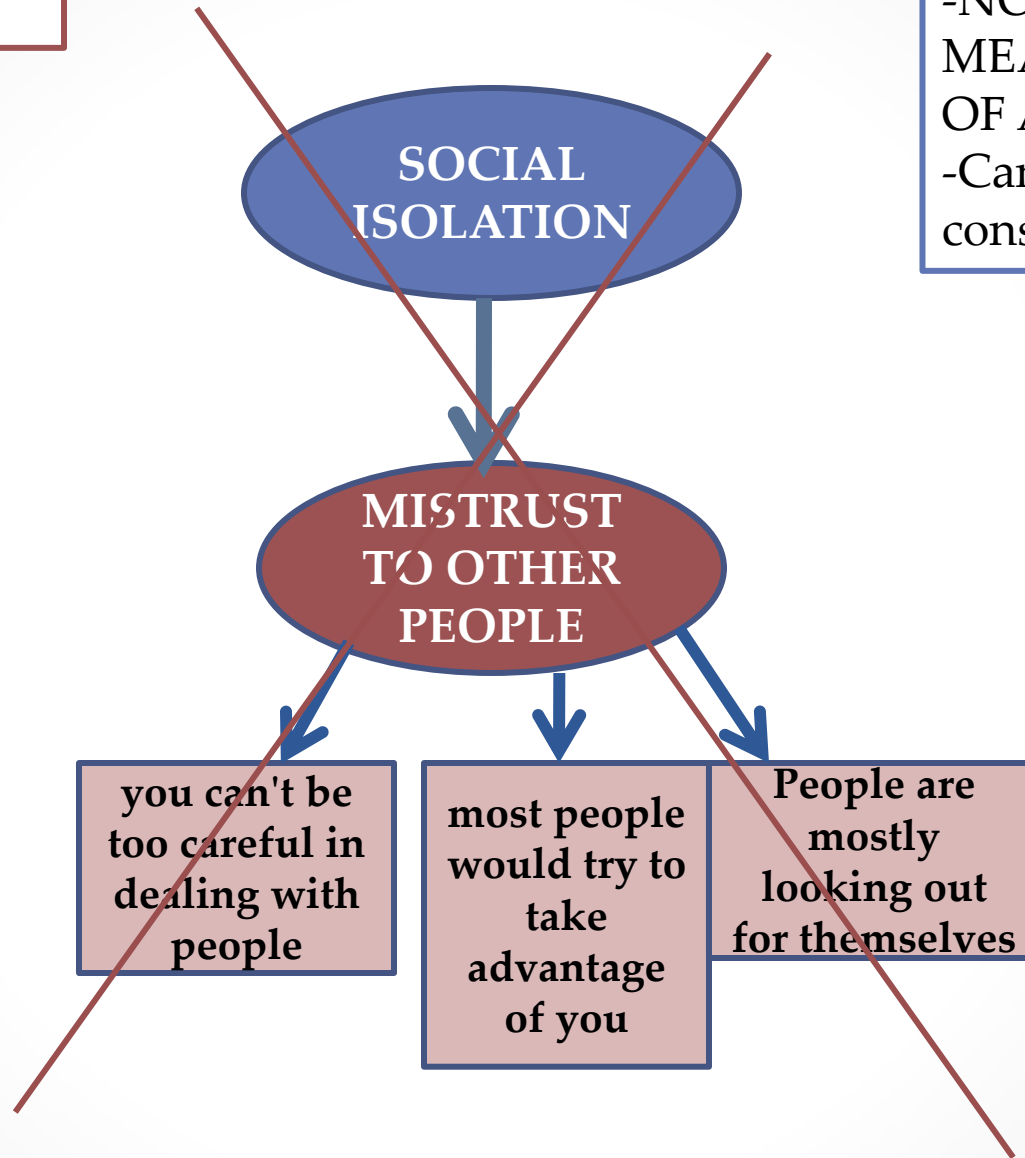
- Closer to measurement of alienation
- Not for all countries build the same factors



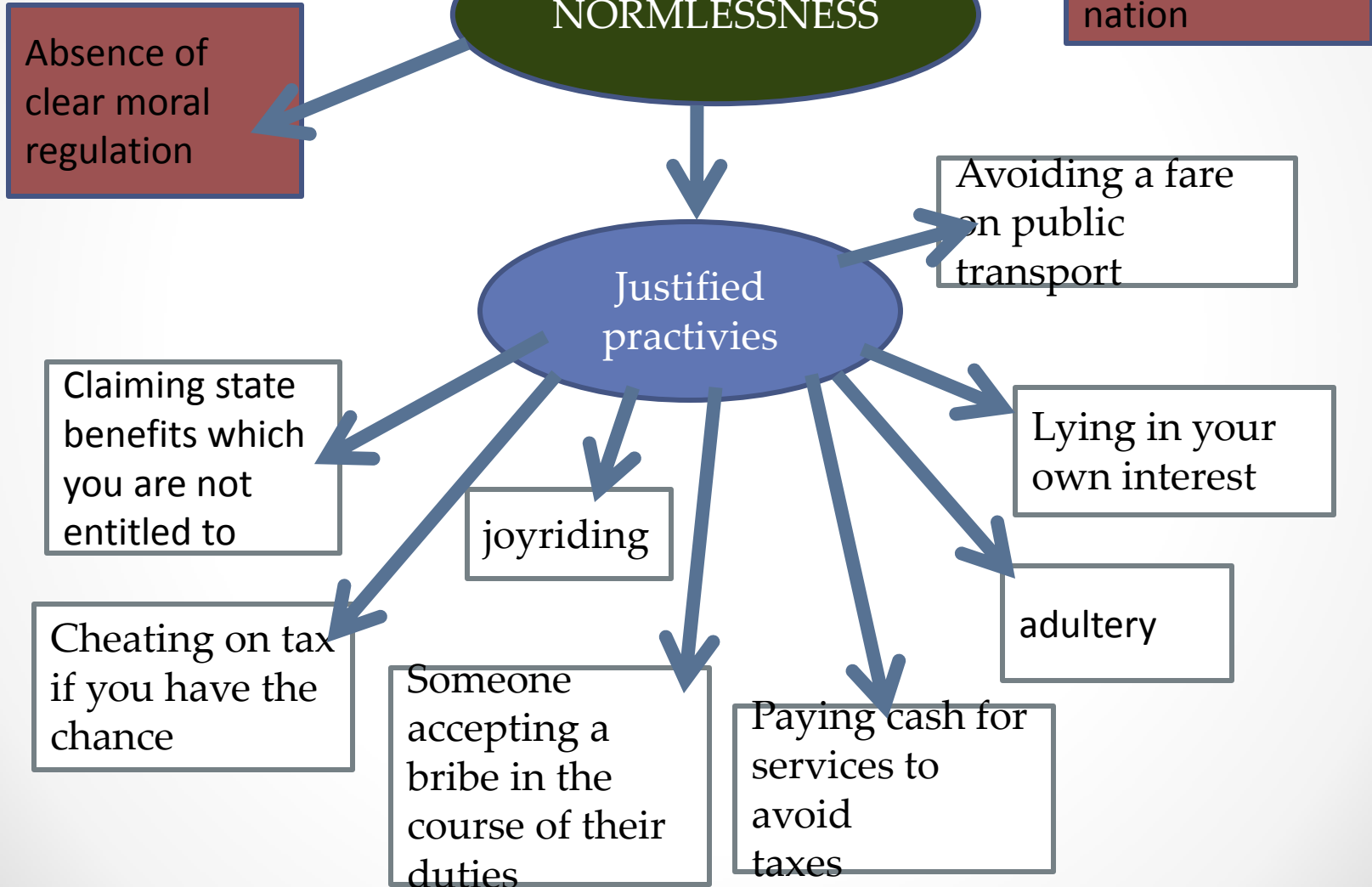
ESS 2010

Drawbacks

- NOT A MEASUREMENT OF ANOMIE
- Can be used as a consequence of it

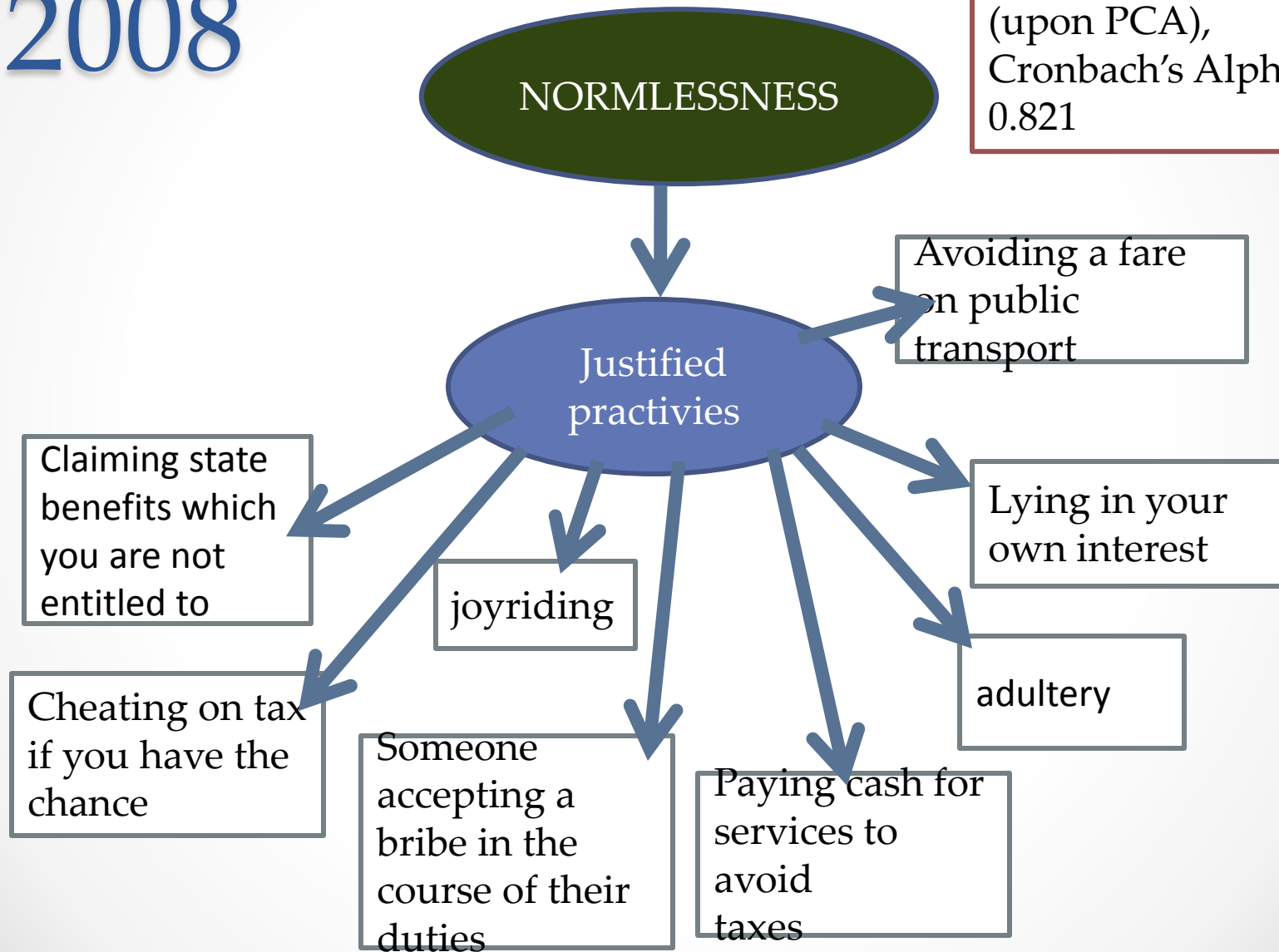


EVS 2008

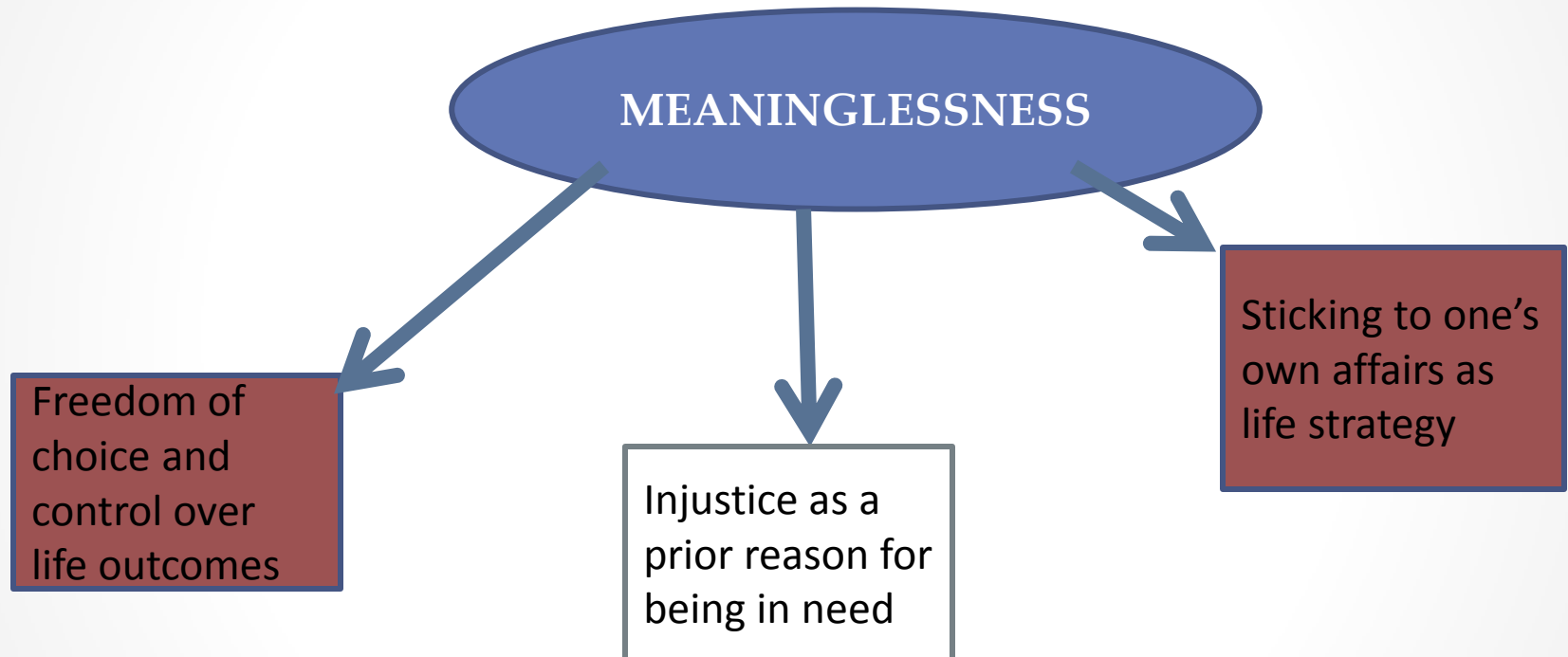


EVS 2008

Build one factor
explaining 20% of
the variance
(upon PCA),
Cronbach's Alpha
0.821



EVS 2008



Some findings

- Suicide is hardly a measure of anomie. Still, there are four types of anomie and gender differences claimed by Durkheim are no more relevant
- EVS offering a suitable measure of normlessness
- Linear regressions: most relevance: confidence in church as institution. Insignificant determination by interest in politics, trust in political institutions
- Measurement of meaninglessness is to be analyzed

Further steps

- SEM upon the suggested measurement
- Find more relevant independent variables. Check for aggregated indices measuring anomie (country level)
- Measurement of ideology?

Further Hypothesis

- *Migrants should show a higher level of anomia (Travis 1993)*
- *Unmarried men should be more anomic (Durkheim)*
- *Those working in the sphere of economics should have a higher level of anomia (Durkheim)*

Thank you for your
attention!