

Common Good, Self-Interest, and the Sense of Justice

Guillermina Jasso
New York University

Swiss Sociological Association
University of Zurich
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Theme

- **Self-interest and common good**
- **Achieve deeper understanding via**
 - **Anselmian theory**
 - **middle-range theory**
 - **more basic theory**
- **Quest for happiness pervasive**
- **Deduce testable implications**
- **Explain more & more by less & less**

Crossing No One's Lands

- from **Ideas**
- to **Theory**
- to **Test**

Overview

- **Anselmian Theory –
Two Inclinations of the Will**
- **Middle-Range Theory --
New Unified Theory of
Sociobehavioral Forces**
- **More Basic Theory –
Four Engines of Behavior**

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Anselmian Theory

- **Will has two inclinations**
- **Predictions (*SJR* 1989)**
 - **two preference orderings**
 - **three states: Har, Conf, Amb**
 - **if 2 alternatives, no Ambiguity**
 - **poorest always in Harmony**
 - **proportions differ by inc dist**

Anselmian Theory

- **Postulate:**

The will has two inclinations

– **affectio commodi**

– **affectio justitiae**

Two Inclinations of the Will

- **affectio commodi**
 - inclines the individual to seek the own good, the own perfection, the own happiness
- **affectio iustitiae**
 - inclines the individual to seek that which is intrinsically good, whether or not it promotes one's own good
- **Anselm (1033-1109)**
 - The affection for justice “tempers the inclination to happiness [so that] its excesses would be curtailed”
- **Duns Scotus (c. 1266-1308)**
 - The affection for justice “provides the first checkrein on what is to one's own advantage”

Anselmian Theory

- **Predictions I**
 - **two preference orderings**
 - **three possible states**
 - **Harmony**
 - **Conflict**
 - **Ambiguity**

Two Preference Orderings, Three Anselmian States

Harmony

Own Good: $C \succ B \succ D \succ A$

Common Good: $C \succ B \succ D \succ A$

Conflict

Own Good: $C \succ B \succ D \succ A$

Common Good: $A \succ D \succ B \succ C$

Ambiguity

Own Good: $C \succ B \succ D \succ A$

Common Good: $B \succ A \succ C \succ D$

Anselmian Theory

- **Predictions II**
 - If alternatives = 2, individual either in **Harmony** or **Conflict**
 - If alternatives > 2 , individual can be in any of three states

Anselmian Theory

- **Predictions III**
 - **Individual behavior shaped by Anselmian state**
 - **Social phenomena shaped by configuration of Anselmian states**

Anselmian Theory

- **Predictions IV**

Choosing an Income Distribution

- **Setup**

- **own good = increase own income**
- **common good = reduce income inequality**

- **Proportions in 3 states determined by shape of income distribution**

- **Poorest always in Harmony**

- **Richest may be in Conflict or Ambiguity**

First Partial Derivative of Own Income with Respect to Inequality Indicates Anselmian State

Harmony $\equiv x_I < 0$

Conflict $\equiv x_I > 0$

Ambiguity $\equiv x_I \lesseqgtr 0$

Prototypical Income Distributions, with and without Safety Net and Ceiling

	Supremum	
Infimum > 0	Yes	No
Yes	Quadratic	Exponential Pareto
No	Power-function	Lognormal

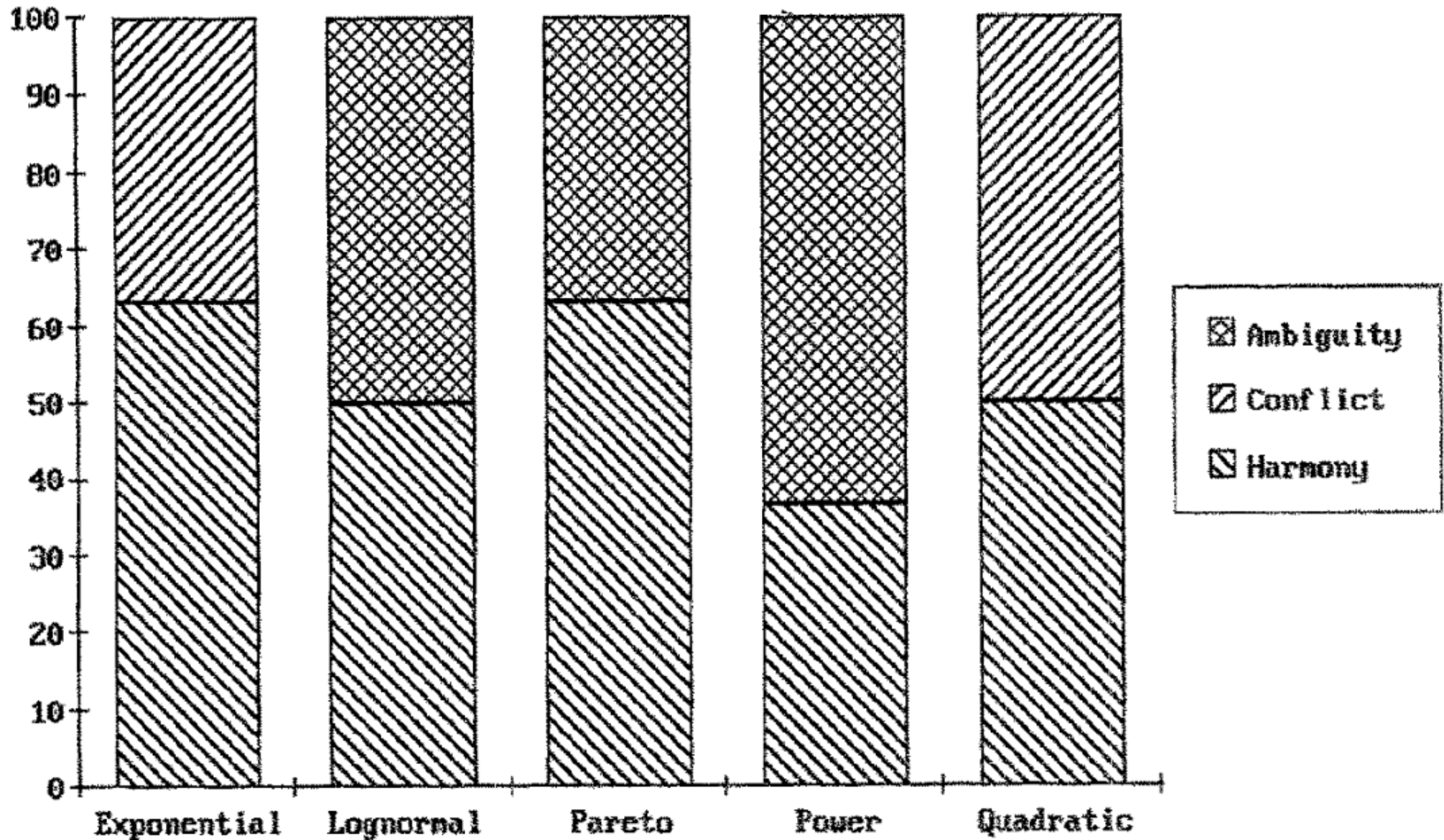
Effect of Inequality on Own Income

Variate	$\frac{\partial x}{\partial c}$	$\frac{\partial x}{\partial c} = 0$
Exponential	$-\frac{\mu}{c^2} [1 + \ln(1-\alpha)]$	$\alpha = \frac{e-1}{e} \approx 0.632$
Lognormal	$x[Q_N(\alpha)-c]$	$c = Q_N(\alpha)$
Pareto	$\frac{\mu[c + (c-1)\ln(1-\alpha)]}{c^3(1-\alpha)^{1/c}}$	$c = \frac{\ln(1-\alpha)}{1 + \ln(1-\alpha)}$
Power-function	$-\frac{\mu\alpha^{1/c}[c + (c+1)\ln\alpha]}{c^3}$	$c = -\frac{\ln\alpha}{1 + \ln\alpha}$
Quadratic	$\mu \cos \left[\frac{4\pi + \arccos(1-2\alpha)}{3} \right]$	$\alpha = 0.50$

Anselmian Theory

Variate	Anselmian State		
	Harmony	Conflict	Ambiguity
Exponential	63.2%	36.8	0
Lognormal	50.0	0	50.0
Pareto	63.2	0	36.8
Power-Function	36.8	0	63.2
Quadratic	50.0	50.0	0

Anselmian State in Five Distributions



Remarks -- 1

- For the poorest p proportion of the population, both self-interest and the common good dictate the same choice, the same course of action
- For the richest $1-p$ proportion of the population, there is a choice
- The split p varies with the shape of the income distribution

Remarks -- 2

- **Anselmian theory has many implications for sociology**
 - **attitudes toward inequality – and their interpretation -- differ between the poorest p and the richest $1-p$**
 - **similarly for egoism and altruism**
 - **micro effects of Anselmian state**
 - **macro effects of configuration of Anselmian states**

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The **NUT** Is Founded on Classical Insights - 1

- **Plato (*Republic*):** “Governments vary as the dispositions of men vary. . . . There must be as many of one as of the other. . . . If the constitutions of States are five, the dispositions of individual minds will also be five.”
- **Aristotle (*Politics*):** “Different men seek after happiness in different ways and by different means, and so make for themselves different modes of life and forms of government.”

The **NUT** Is Founded on Classical Insights - 2

- **Aristotle (*Nicomachean Ethics*):** People care about their attributes (like beauty and intelligence) and their possessions (like land and wealth), not only for themselves but also “for the sake of happiness, judging that by means of them we shall be happy.”

New Unified Theory -- I

- Attempt to integrate theories of five sociobehavioral processes (*ESR 2008*)
 - **comparison** (including **justice & self-esteem**)
 - **status**
 - **power**
 - **identity**
 - **happiness (partially)**

New Unified Theory -- 2

- **Identity is a combination of three elements**
 - **PSO (justice, status, power)**
 - **quantitative characteristic**
 - **qualitative characteristic**
- **Person is a collection of identities**
- **Society is a collection of persons**

Quantitative Characteristics

- **Cardinal**

- **wealth**
- **land**
- **animals**

- **Ordinal**

- **beauty**
- **intelligence**
- **skills of all kinds**

Goods and Bads

- In the eyes of an observer, a thing is a **good** if and only if **more is preferred to less**.
- In the eyes of an observer, a thing is a **bad** if and only if **less is preferred to more**.

Qualitative Characteristics

- **Sex**
- **Race**
- **Ethnicity**
- **Language**
- **Nativity**
- **Religion**

Sociobehavioral Forces

- **Primordial sociobehavioral outcomes (PSO)**
- **Generated by quantitative characteristics**
- **In groups formed by categories of qualitative characteristics**

Key Idea of the **NUT**

- **There are three basic sociobehavioral forces, each with a distinctive mathematical form (idea of 3 forces based on Homans)**
 - **In nature there are three possible rates of change: increasing, decreasing, constant**
 - **What distinguishes the forces is the rate of change**
 - **justice** decreasing
 - **status** increasing
 - **power** constant

Specific Functions for Three Sociobehavioral Forces

- **Comparison**

- log-ratio form proposed by Jasso (*AJS* 1978); proof that it is only form that satisfies both scale-invariance and additivity (Jasso, *SM* 1990); also satisfies loss aversion (*AJS* 1978) and symmetry (*SMR* 1996)

- **Status**

- convexity property (Goode 1978); specific form proposed by Sørensen (*AJS* 1979) for occupations and adopted for individuals by Jasso (*ASR* 2001)

- **Power**

- no work on functional form (Webster 2006)
- must be linear (Jasso, *ESR* 2008)

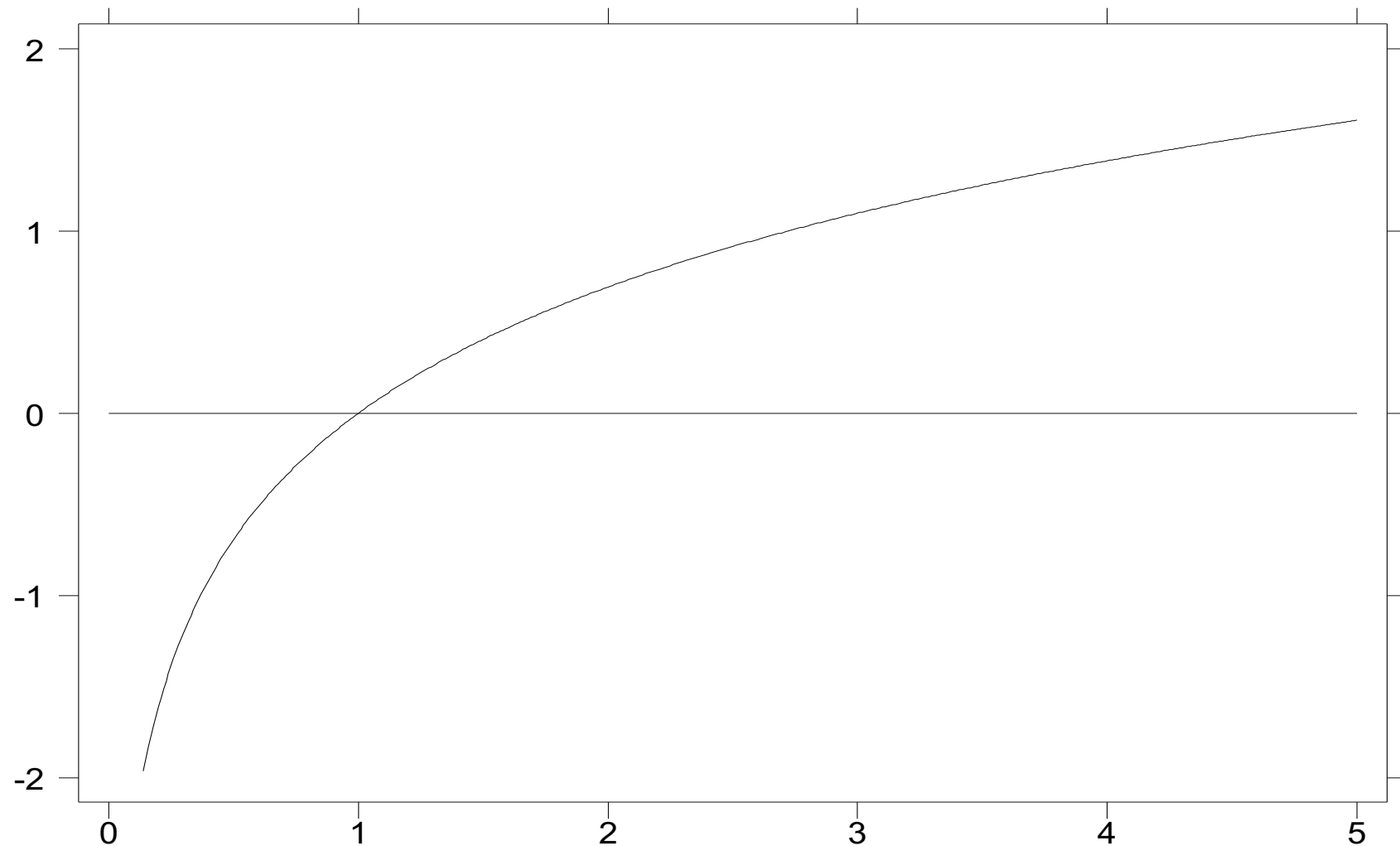
Justice Evaluation Function

$$J = \theta \ln \left(\frac{A}{C} \right)$$

Properties of the Justice Evaluation Function

- **Original four noticed (*AJS* 1978)**
 - Mapping onto justice evaluation scale
 - Justice evaluation it yields is in justice units
 - Integrates rival ratio-difference views
 - Deficiency is felt more keenly than comparable excess
- **Theorem and proof (*SM* 1990)**
 - Scale-invariance (homogeneity of degree zero)
 - Additivity (zero second-order mixed partial derivative)
- **Two more properties (*SMR* 1996)**
 - Symmetry
 - Limiting form of difference between two power functions
- **Links loss aversion and the **Golden Number** (2006, 2015)**

Justice Evaluation Increases at a Decreasing Rate with the Actual Reward



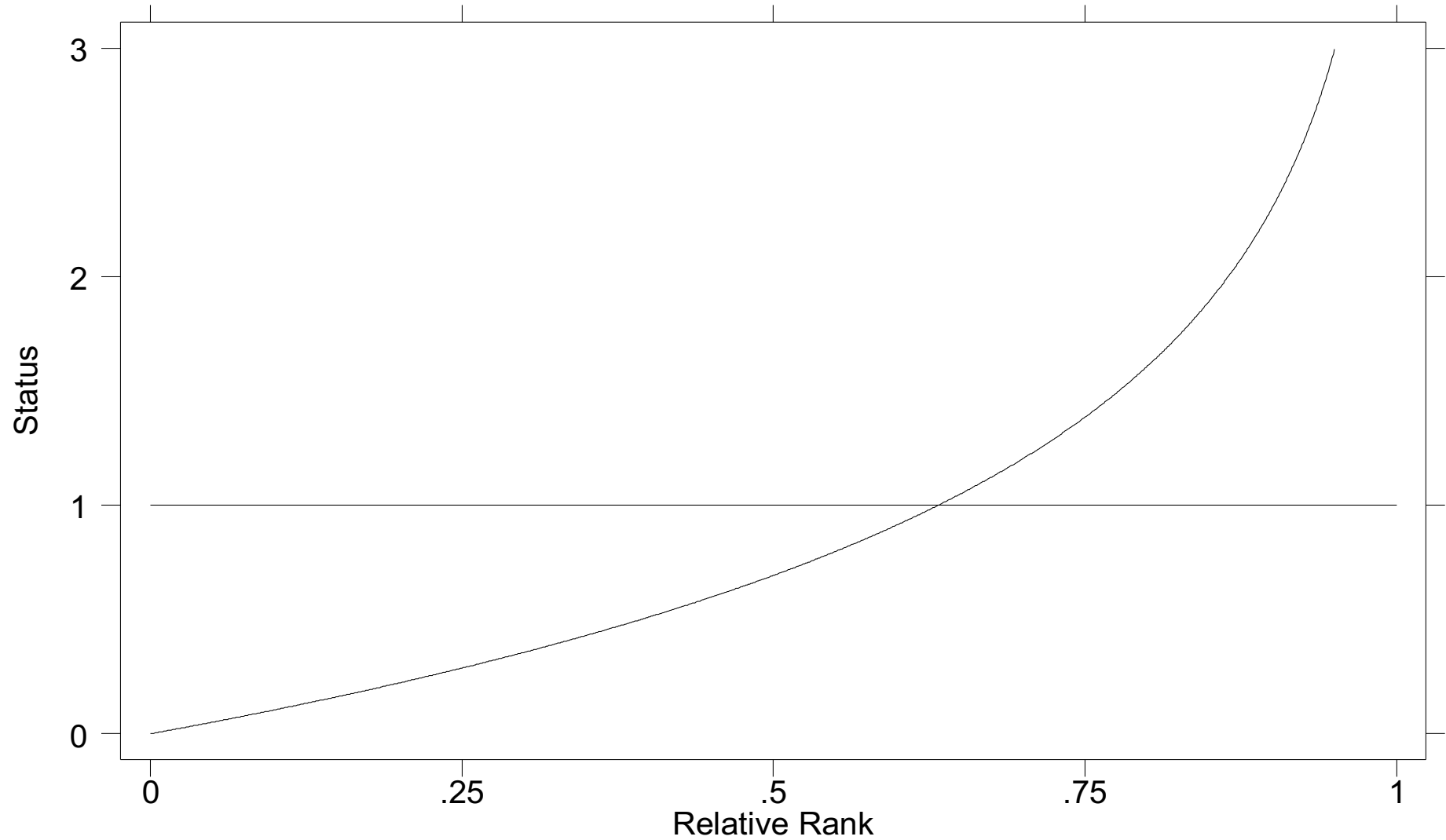
Status Function

$$S = \ln \left(\frac{1}{1-r} \right)$$

History and Properties of the **Status Function**

- **Proposed by Sørensen (*AJS* 1979)**
- **Satisfies convexity condition discussed by Goode (1978)**
- **Status increases at an increasing rate with personal quantitative characteristic**
- **Status distribution is negative exponential**

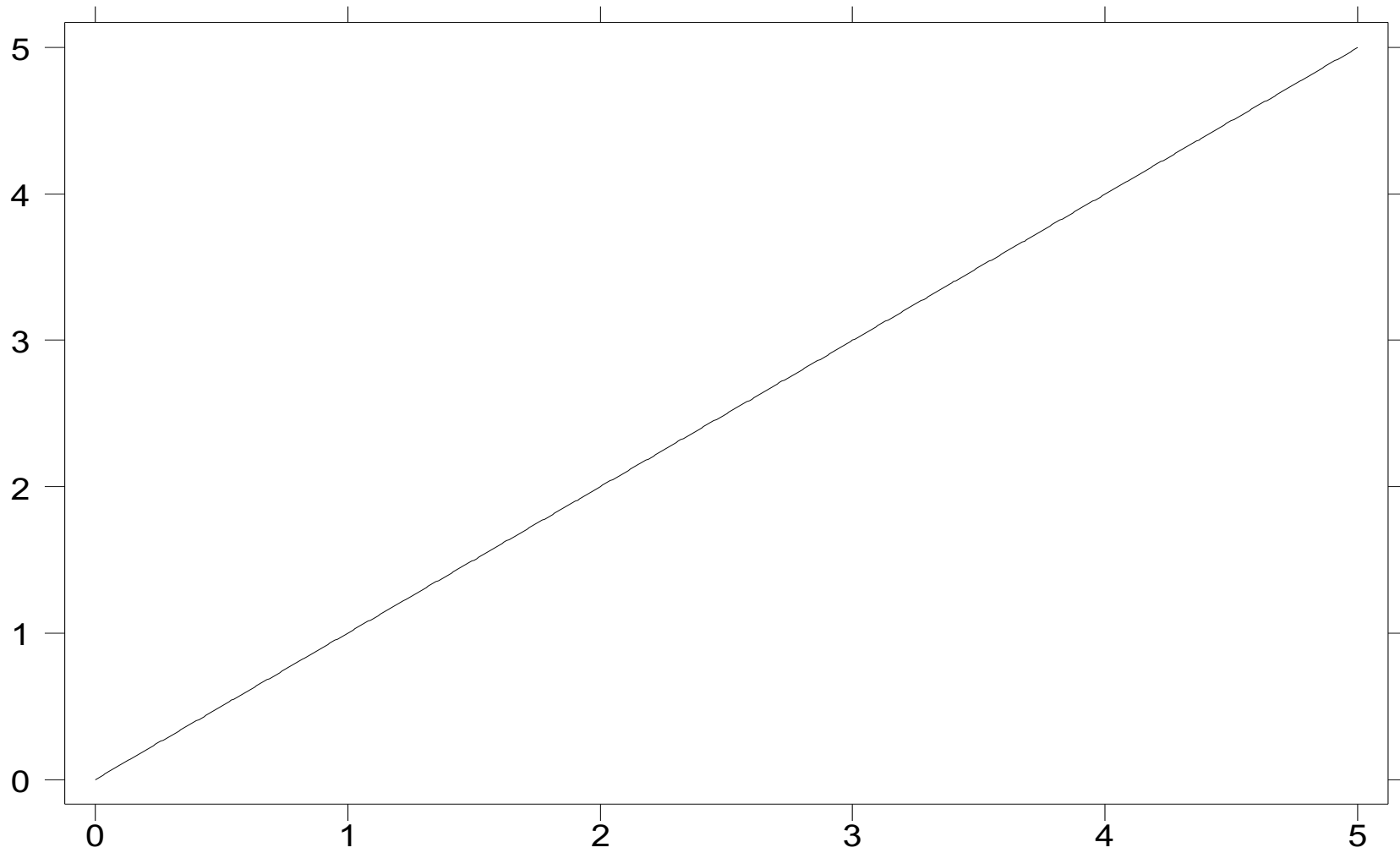
Status Function



Power Function

$$P = a + bX$$

Power Function



Carriers of Identity, Carriers of Happiness

- Using Rayo and Becker's (2007) evocative words, we might say that there are three carriers of identity, three carriers of happiness
 - justice
 - status
 - power

Five Types of Societies in the NUT

- **The new unified theory gives rise to five types of societies (recalls Plato)**
 - 1. justice-materialistic**
 - 2. justice-nonmaterialistic**
 - 3. status**
 - 4. power-materialistic**
 - 5. power-nonmaterialistic**

New Unified Theory of Sociobehavioral Forces

Justice

Status

Power

**All
Domains of
Behavior**

A diagram illustrating the components of a unified theory. On the left, three terms are listed vertically: 'Justice' in blue, 'Status' in red, and 'Power' in green. Three black arrows originate from the right side of each term and converge on a single point. From this convergence point, a single black arrow points to the right, ending at the text 'All Domains of Behavior' in orange. The word 'All' is positioned above 'Domains of Behavior'.

Testing the Theory

- Theory yields wealth of predictions for multiple and disparate domains, including novel predictions
- **Predictions** display the “marvellous deductive unfolding” of the theory (Popper)
- **Postulates**’ fruitfulness is evident in the “**derivations** far afield from its original domain” which “permit an increasingly broad and diversified basis for **testing** the **theory**” (Danto)

Some Predictions of the NUT

- Gain from theft greater when stealing from a fellow group member rather than an outsider; this premium is greater in poor groups**
- Parents will spend more of their toy budget at an annual giftgiving occasion than at birthdays**
- Veterans of wars fought away from home are more vulnerable to posttraumatic stress than veterans of wars fought on home soil**
- Gifts are more valuable in the giver's presence**
- As husbands' income inequality increases, divorce rates decrease**

Self-Interest and Common Good

- **Self-interest always to increase J, S, P**
- **Common good now more elaborate**
 - whole population
 - subgroup
- **Variety of predictions in special models**
 - critical inequality level
 - segregation with subgroup homogeneity
 - segregation with subgroup heterogeneity
 - emergence of norms

Inequality as Switching Constant when **Justice** is the Active Force

- Critical **inequality** level occurs
 - when Atkinson's **inequality** equals $1-(2/e)$, or approximately **.264**
 - when Theil's **MLD** equals $\ln(e/2)$, or approximately **.307**
- If income inequality exceeds critical level, may trigger switch between cardinal and ordinal valued goods
- Based on guardian model

Modeling Segregation

- **Begin with a group or population**
- **The group has a subgroup structure generated by a personal qualitative characteristic such as race or sex**
- **Two types of segregation**
 - **subgroups internally homogeneous**
 - **subgroups internally heterogeneous**

Modeling Segregation cont'd

- **Subgroup internally homogeneous**
 - each person attaches to the subgroup, thinks and acts exclusively as a member of the subgroup
 - relations between subgroups a function of distance between the subgroups
- **Subgroup internally heterogeneous**
 - some persons attach to the subgroup, others not
 - new subgroups emerge, consisting of individuals attached to their subgroup plus one mixed subgroup

Modeling Segregation cont'd

- **New vocabulary**
 - **Pre-existing subgroups – based on personal qualitative characteristics**
 - **Emergent subgroups – based on sociobehavioral attachments**

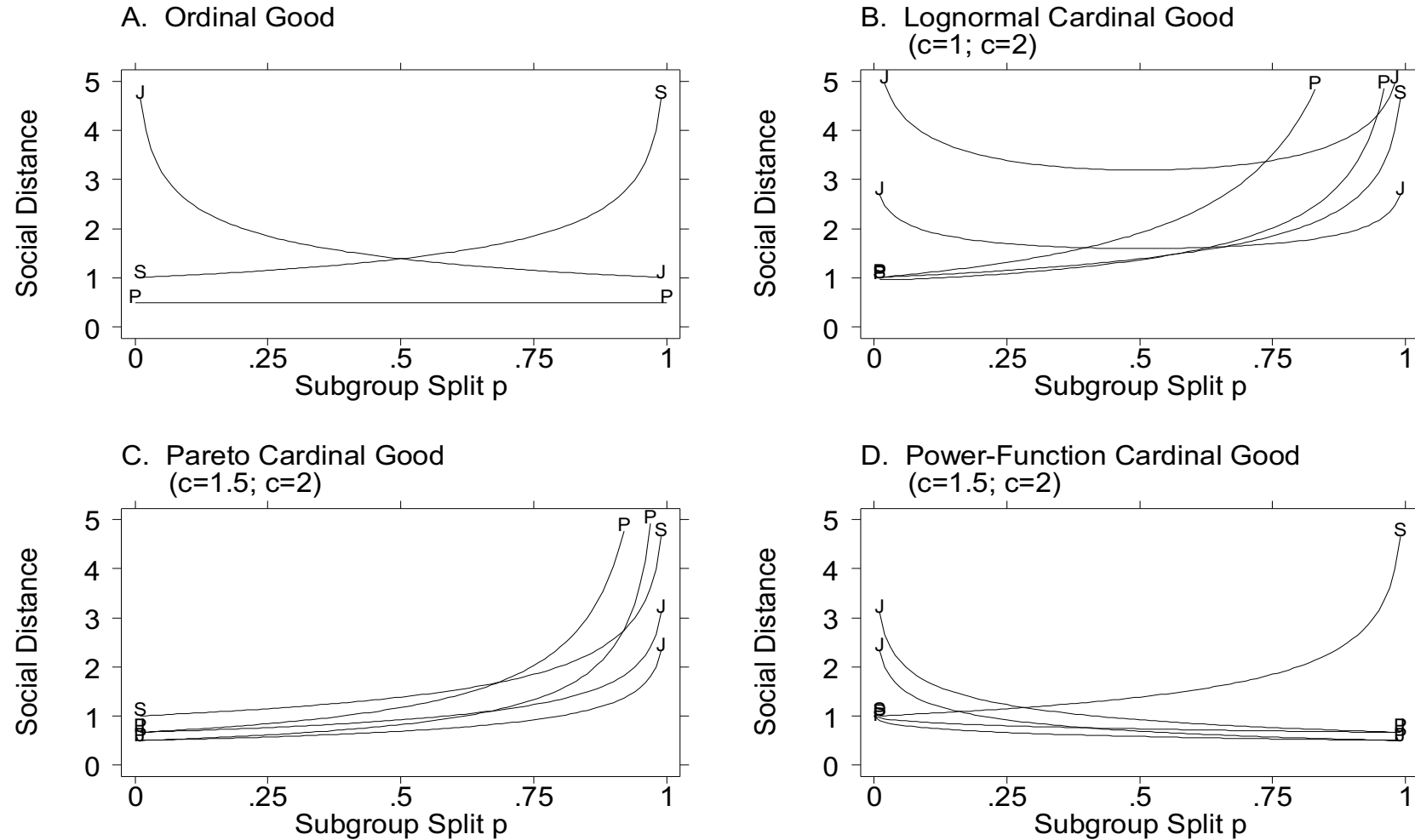
Modeling Segregation cont'd

- **Example – racial segregation**
 - **Two pre-existing subgroups, blacks and whites**
 - **First segregation model – everyone attaches to their own racial subgroup, and relations between the races vary with distance between the subgroups**
 - **Second segregation model – some blacks identify as black, some whites identify as white, and some blacks and whites are color-blind – generating three emergent subgroups (e.g., choosing to live in all-black, all-white, and mixed neighborhoods)**

Segregation with Subgroup Homogeneity: Testable Implications

- **Early results in two-subgroup case**
 - **Social Distance depends on**
 - **subgroup relative size**
 - **valued goods**
 - **distributional form of cardinal goods**
 - **sociobehavioral force**
 - **Large variety of analytic results**

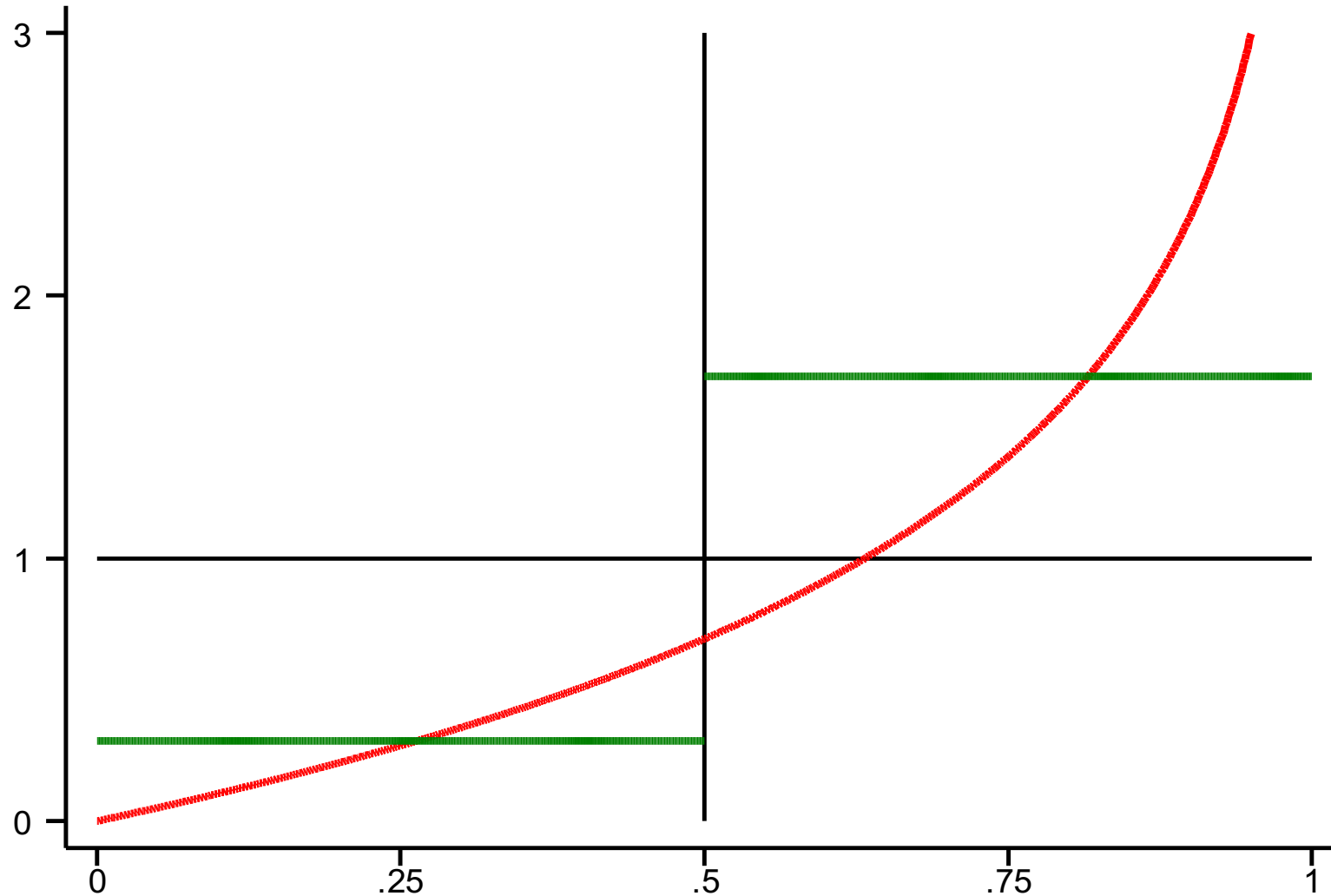
Fig 2. Segregation with Subgroup Homogeneity



Segregation with Subgroup Heterogeneity

- Individuals seek to enhance their identity and maximize their happiness, comparing their own Z with the average for their subgroup
- If the personal Z is less than the subgroup average Z , the person attaches and orients to the subgroup, but if the personal Z exceeds the subgroup average Z , the person becomes blind to subgroup

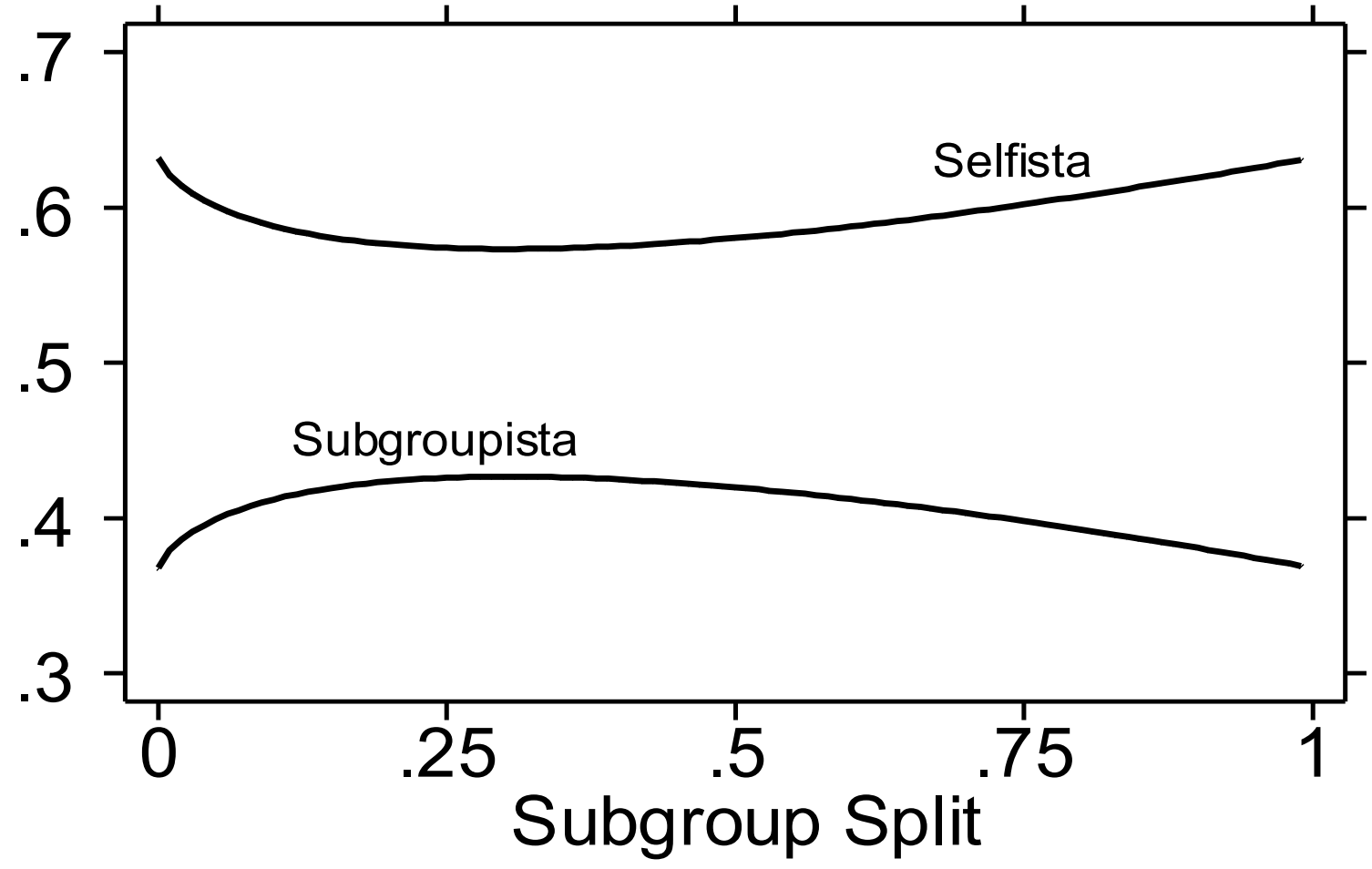
Figure 4. Personal and Subgroup Z



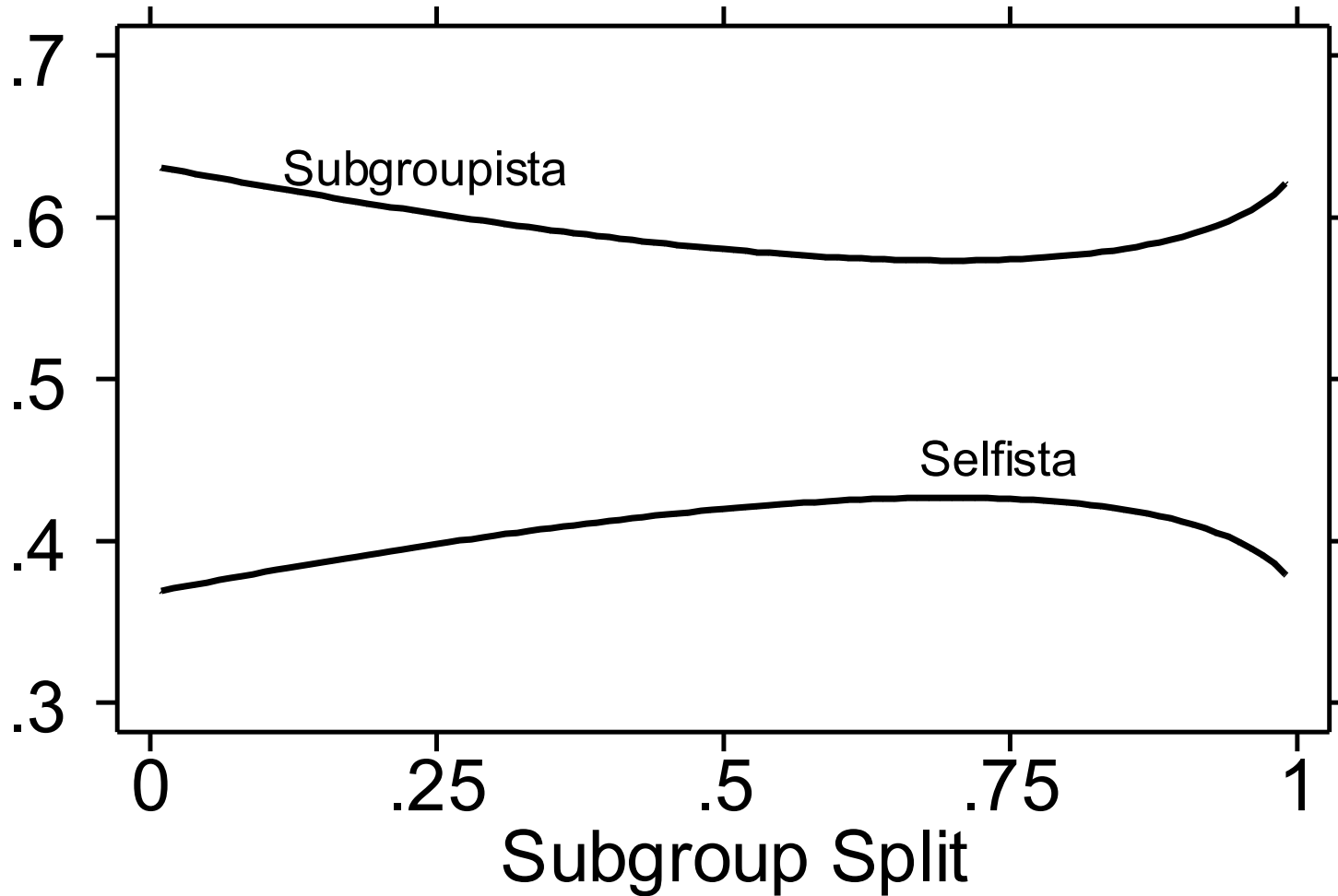
Segregation with Subgroup Heterogeneity: Testable Implications

- **Early results in two-subgroup case**
 - higher-ranking from each subgroup are **Integrationists**
 - lower-ranking from each subgroup are **Segregationists**
 - **Everything depends on**
 - subgroup relative size
 - valued goods
 - distributional form of cardinal goods
 - sociobehavioral force

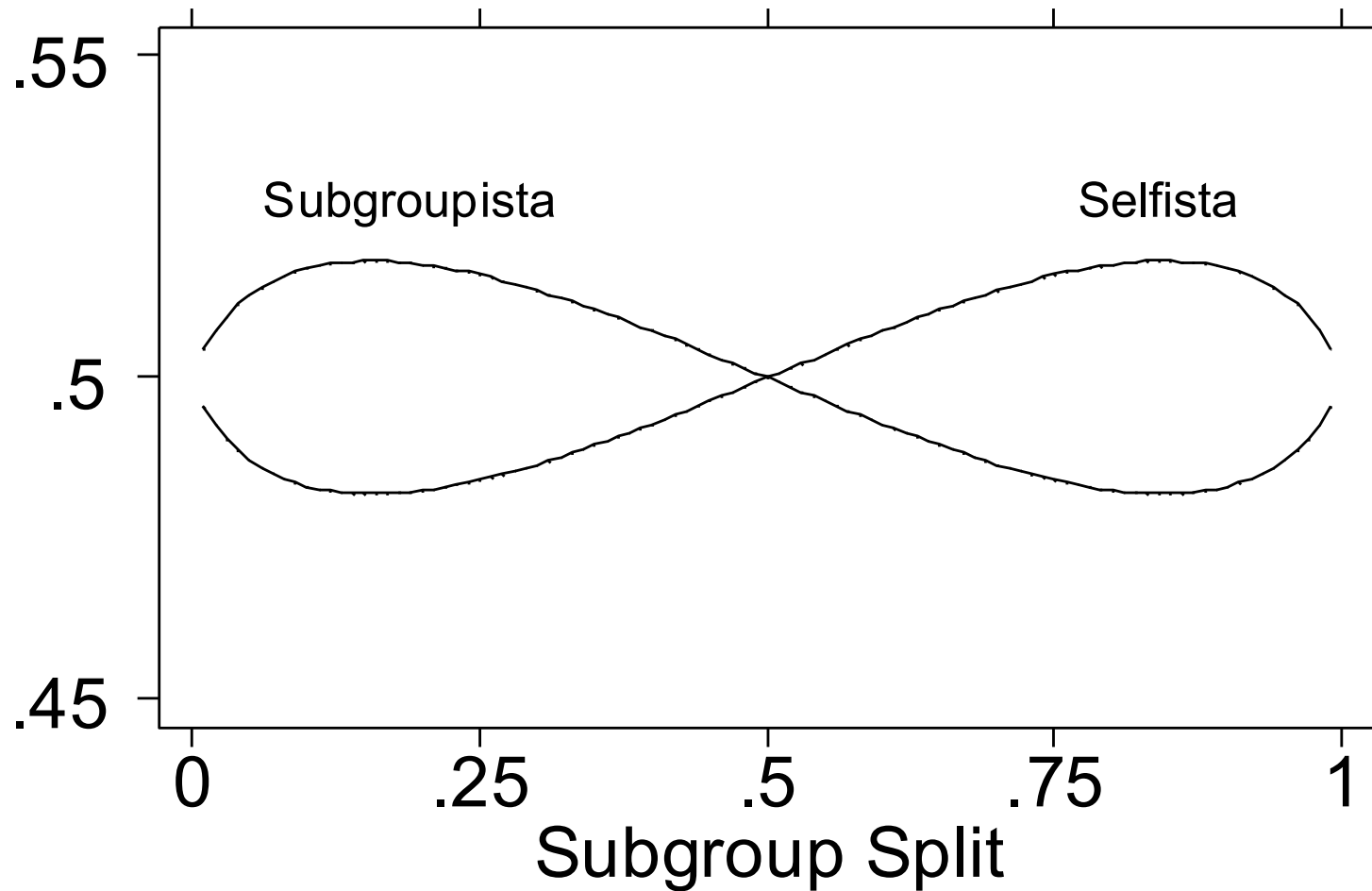
Selfistas and Subgroupistas in **Justice**-Nonmaterialistic Society



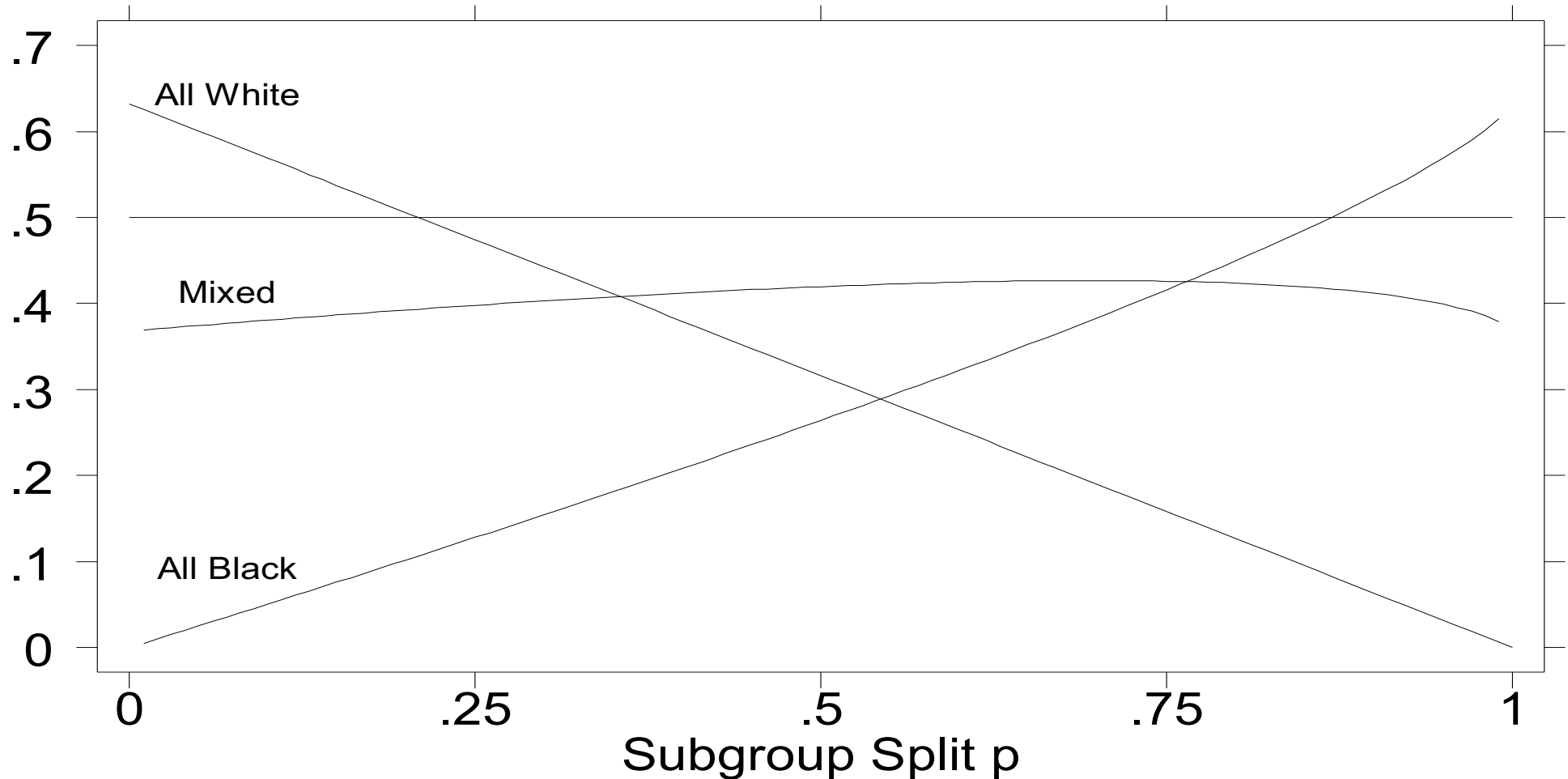
Selfistas and Subgroupistas in Justice-Pareto Society



Selfistas and Subgroupistas in **Justice**-Lognormal Society



Residential Segregation in a **Justice**-Pareto Society



Emergence of Norms:

Testable Implications

- **Never steal from someone poorer than yourself**
- **When stealing from someone richer, never leave him/her poorer than you were before the theft**
- **If the victim is poorer than the thief, punish the thief more severely, the larger the amount stolen**
- **In all societies, guardians will propose the norm, “Thou shalt not steal,” but norm will meet with opposition and may have to be imposed from above**

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Fundamental Engines of Human Behavior

- **To know the causes of things**
- **To judge the goodness of things**
- **To be perfect**
- **To be free**

Remarks about the Four Fundamental Engines

- **Ascribed to humans**
- **Ascribed to deities**
- **Appear in discourse between humans and deities**
- **Appear in both**
 - **what humans pray for**
 - **what human renounce in spirit of sacrifice**

More Remarks

- **Virgil.** Happy the person who searches out the causes of things
- **Genesis.** Be like gods, who know what is good and what is bad
- **Aquinas.** Humans seek their own perfection
- **Epictetus.** To live as we wish

And More Remarks

- The **Judging** engine provides the behavioral foundation for a theorem that links the goodness/badness of a thing with the goodness/badness of the thing's distribution (*ESR*, in press)
- The **Knowing** and **Judging** engines provide the behavioral foundation for positive and normative applications of factorial surveys, respectively (*SMR* 2006)
- All four engines are carriers of happiness, using Rayo and Becker's (2007) evocative words

Self-Interest and Common Good

- **Self-interest = attaining happiness**
 - learning the causes of things
 - judging the goodness or badness of things
 - progressing toward perfection
 - liberty
- **Common good = equal chances for all humans**
 - to learn the causes of things
 - to judge the goodness or badness of things
 - to progress toward perfection
 - to be free

New Application: Studying the Rise and Fall of Slavery

- **Via four fundamental engines of behavior**
- **Analyze self-interest**
- **Analyze common good**

Begin with the **Freedom** Engine

- **Humans want to be free**
- **Humans want to know how free they are**
- **Desire to measure freedom generates**
 - **power**
 - **slavery**

Humans Want To Be **Free**

- **Self-evident**
- **In every religion**
- **In every literature**
- **In music**
- **In art**

How **Free** Am I?

- **Hard to know**
- **But there are devices to assess relative freedom**
 - **power over another (as in Weber) means more freedom**
 - **slavery makes it permanent**

Continue with the **Perfection** Engine

- **Humans seek their own perfection (Aquinas)**
- **Humans want to know how perfect they are: Am I one of the elect?**
- **Desire to measure perfection generates**
 - **quest for wealth**
 - **slavery**

How **Perfect** Am I?

- **Hard to know**
- **But there are devices to assess relative perfection**
 - **money is a good measuring-stick (as in Weber)**
 - **slavery provides continuing income to**
 - **owners**
 - **traders**
 - **myriad others in slave society and economy**

Now add the **Judging** Engine

- **Humans judge what is good and what is bad**
- **Sooner or later, via simple or subtle or sophisticated reasoning, humans come to see slavery as bad**
- **Abolitionist impulse and abolitionist movements rest on**
 - **the **Judging** engine**
 - **the common good: equal life chances**

Finally add the **Learning** Engine

- **Humans want to know the causes of slavery and its trajectories across time and space**
- **What accounts for random enslavement versus enslavement of groups of people based on a characteristic like race, gender, or religion?**
- **And thus we study slavery**
- **And the more we learn, the more the **Judging** engine works**

Studying the Rise and Fall of Slavery

- **Via four fundamental engines of behavior**
- **Analyze self-interest**
- **Analyze common good**
- **All four engines at work**
- **For future theoretical and empirical analysis**
 - **relative strength of each engine**
 - **contextual effects on relative strength of each engine**
 - **common good via idea of equal life chances across all four engines**
 - **common good via **judging** engine**
 - **self-measurements and the part they play**

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- **Is link mediated by sense of justice?**
- **Achieve deeper understanding via**
 - **Anselmian theory**
 - **middle-range theory**
 - **more basic theory**
- **Quest for happiness pervasive**
- **Deduce testable implications**

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Guillermina Jasso
New York University

Swiss Sociological Association
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