

The Geography of Happiness

World Happiness Report 2015

overview of chapters 2 and 3

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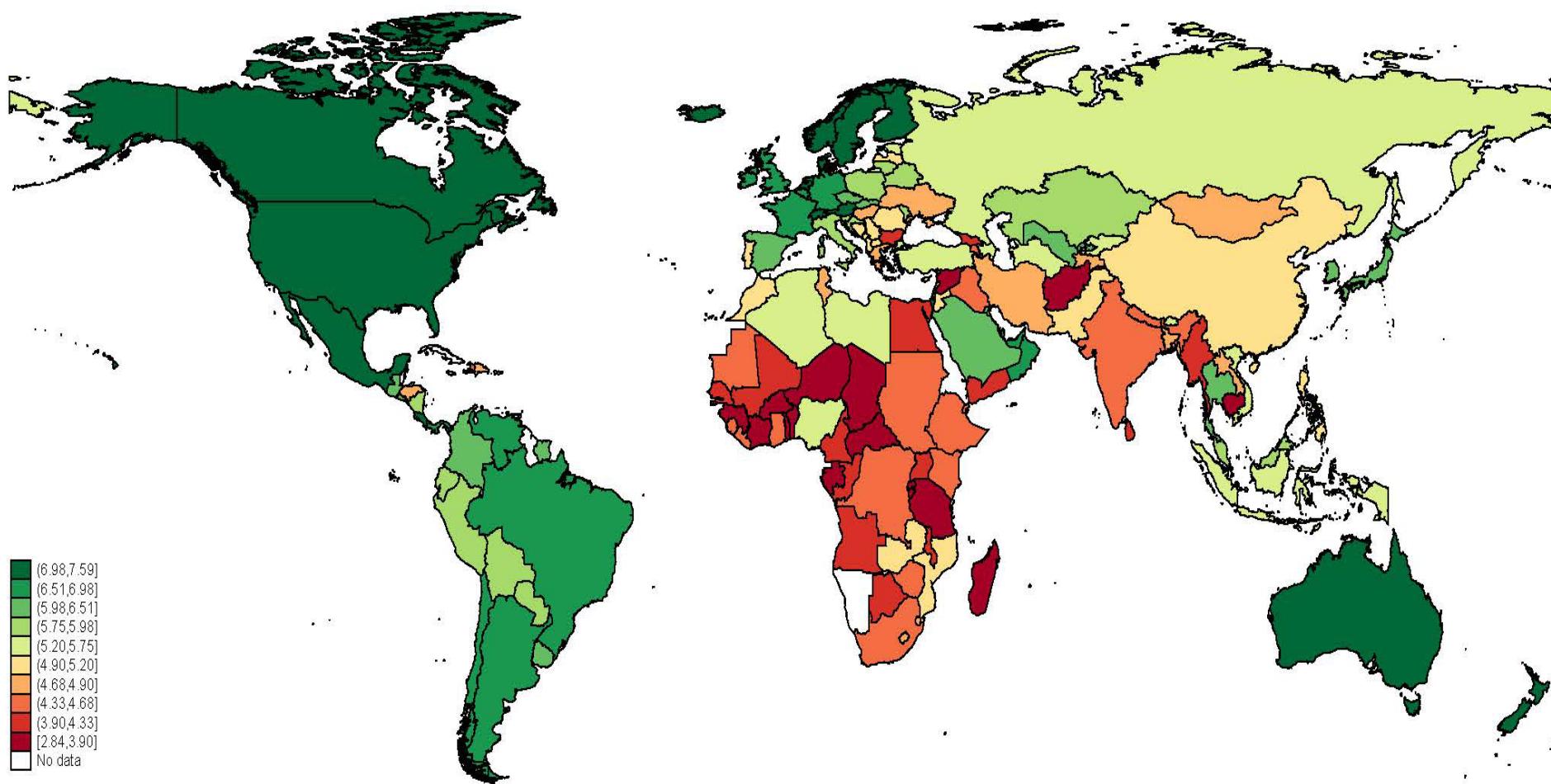
In collaboration with Shun Wang, Haifang Huang, Nicole Fortin
and Grant Schellenberg

Erasmus University, Rotterdam, May 21, 2015

Setting the Stage

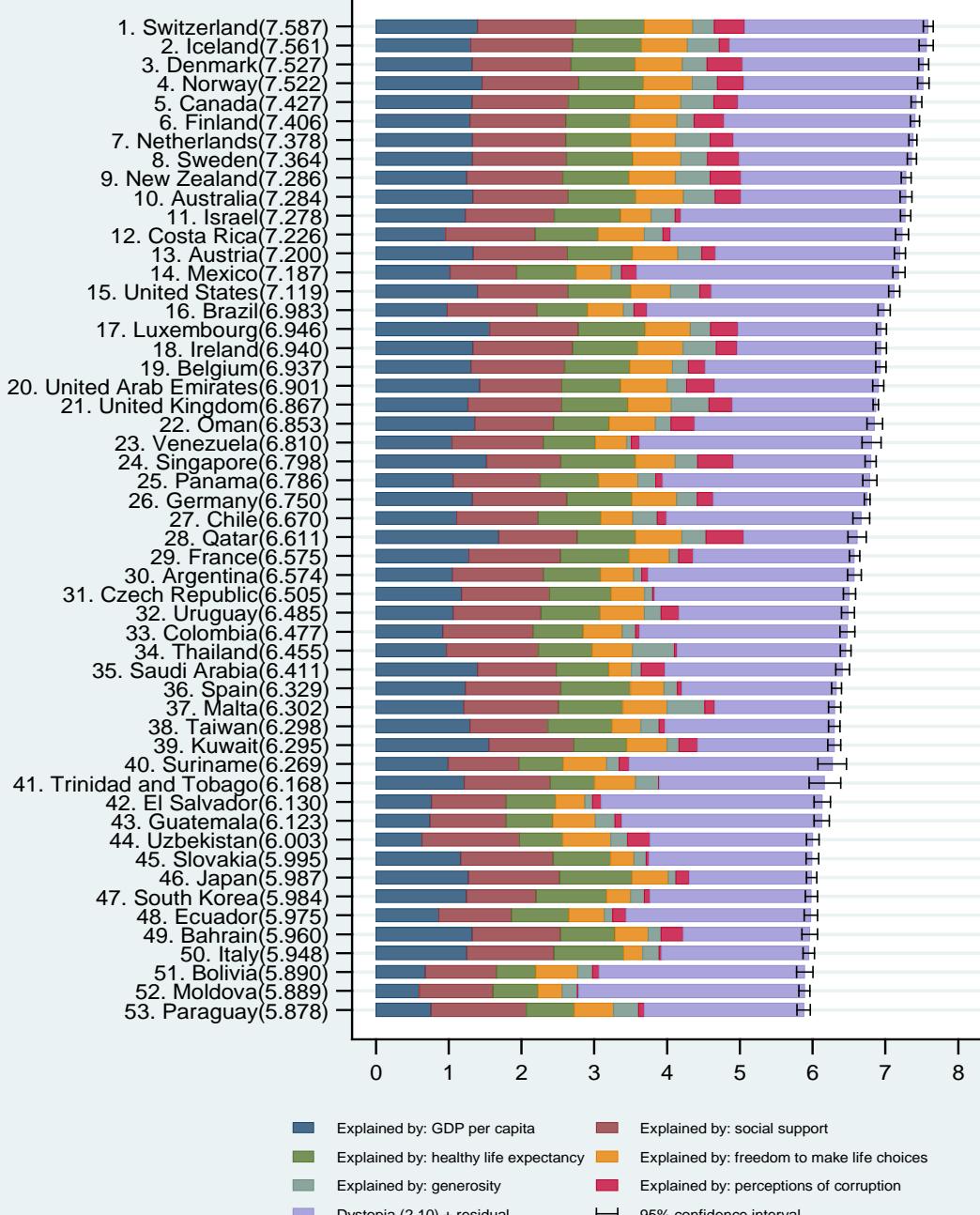
- Emotions vs Life Evaluations
- Different measures tell consistent stories
- WHR 2015 concentrates on life evaluations and affect in Chapter 2, and on a larger range of experiences, by gender, age and region, in Chapter 3
- Later chapters cover cost benefit analysis (4) neuroscience (5), mental health among the young (6), the civil economy tradition (7) and social capital more generally (8)

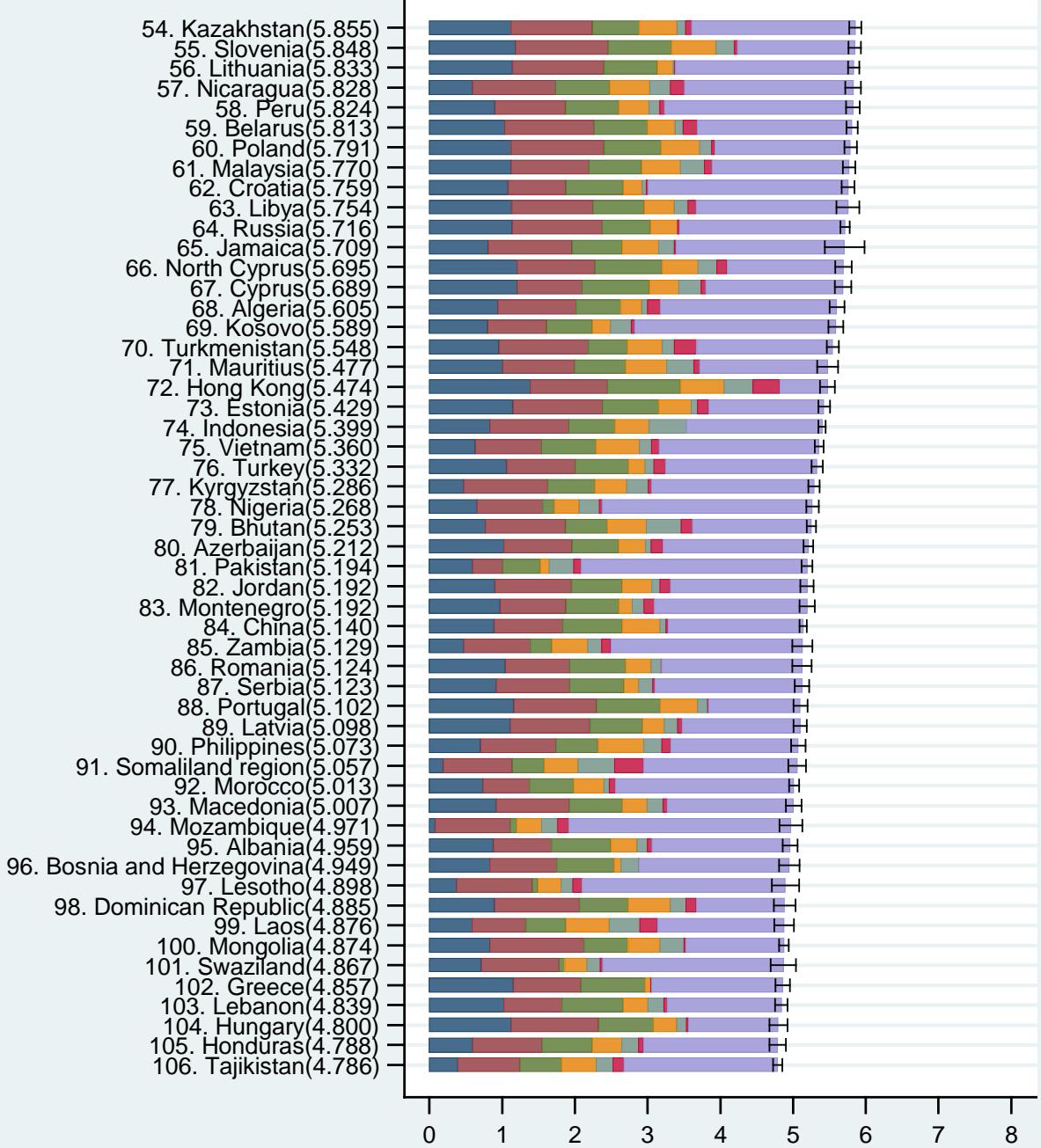
Global geography of national average life evaluations by decile: top decile >7.0, bottom decile<3.9

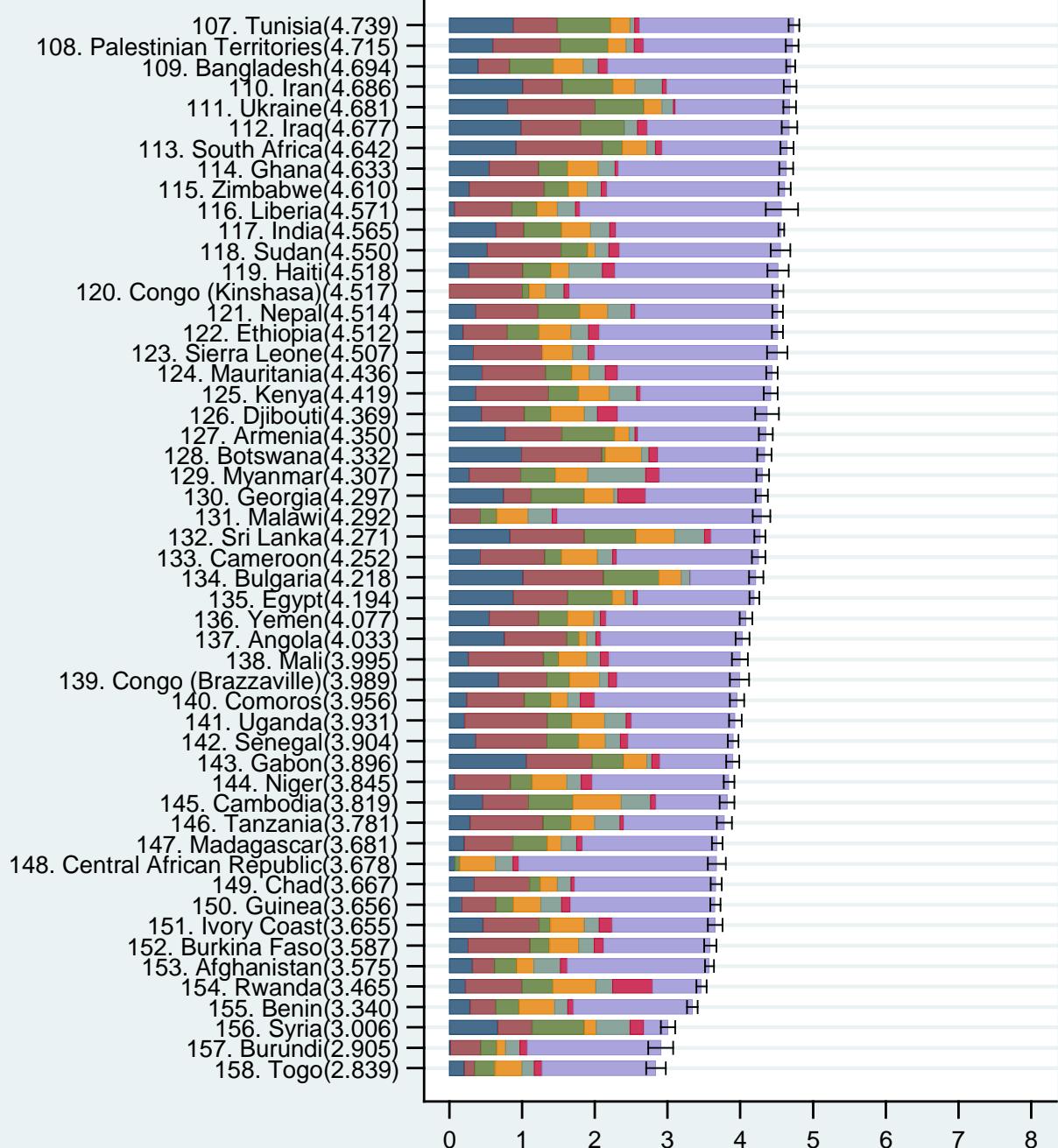


Six Variables support life evaluations

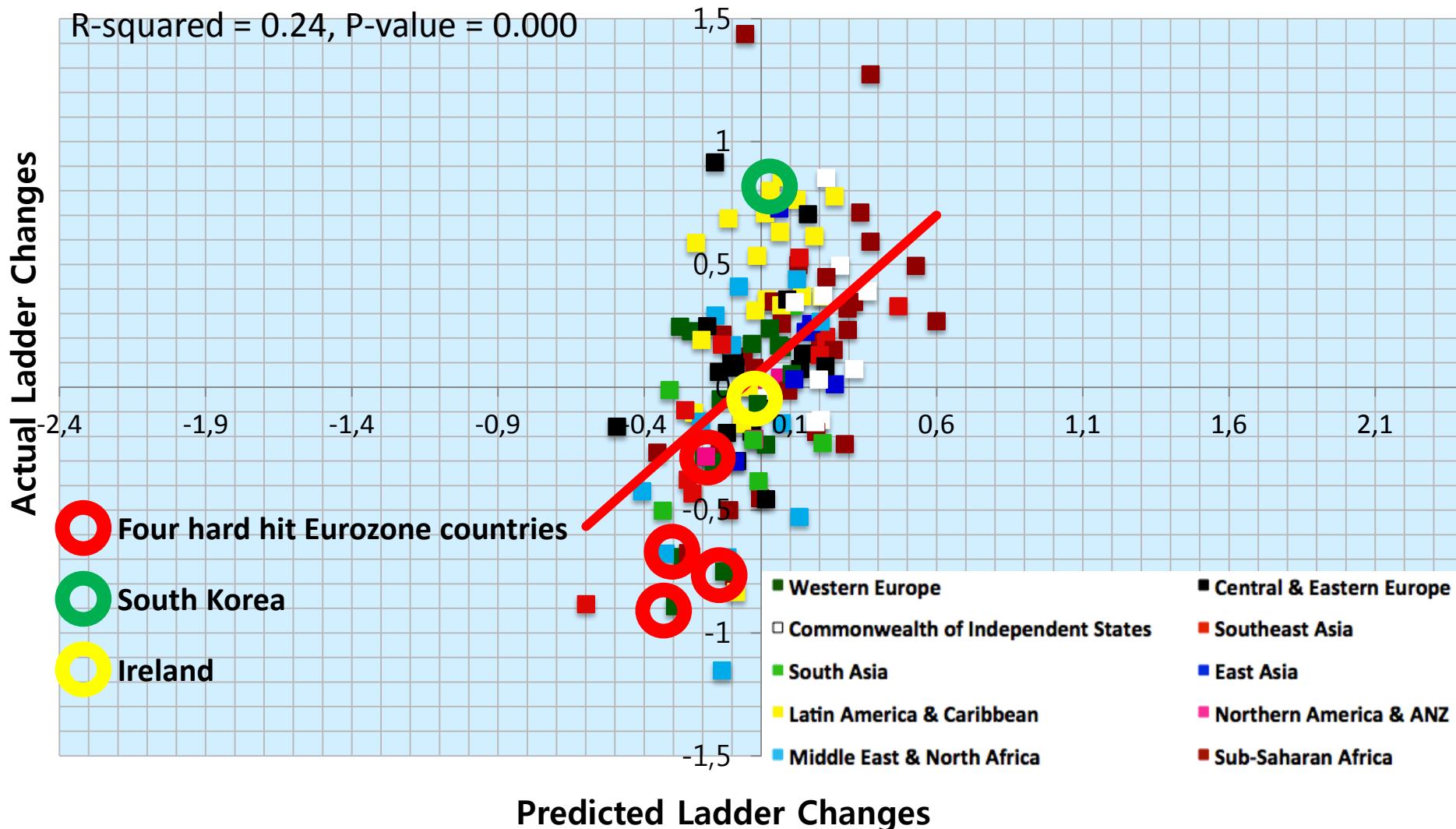
- GDP per capita
- Healthy life expectancy
- Having someone to count on
- Generosity
- Freedom to make life decisions
- Absence of corruption (standing for trust)



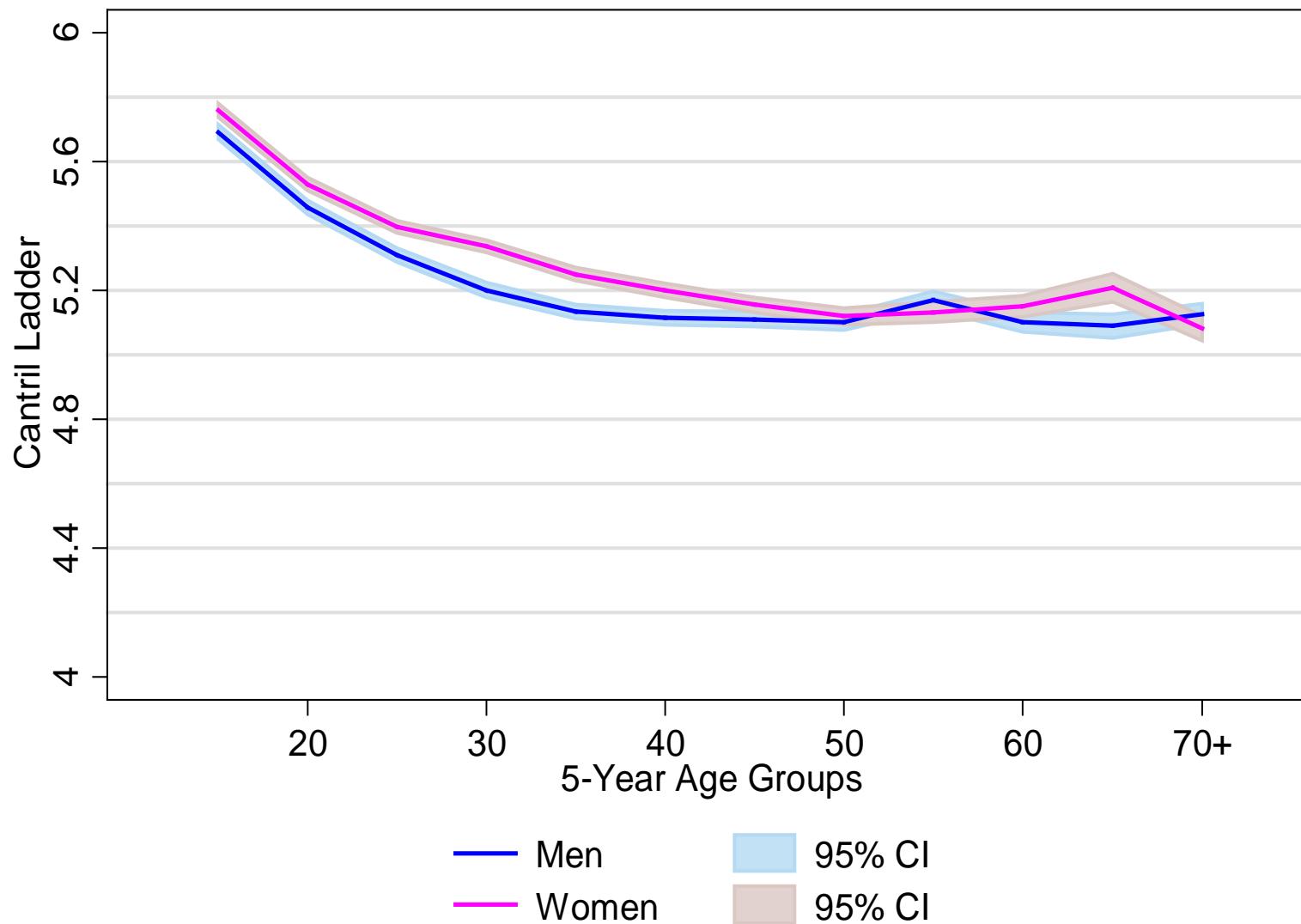




Actual vs. Predicted Happiness Changes in 130 countries, 2005-07 to 2010-12 (0 for missing values)

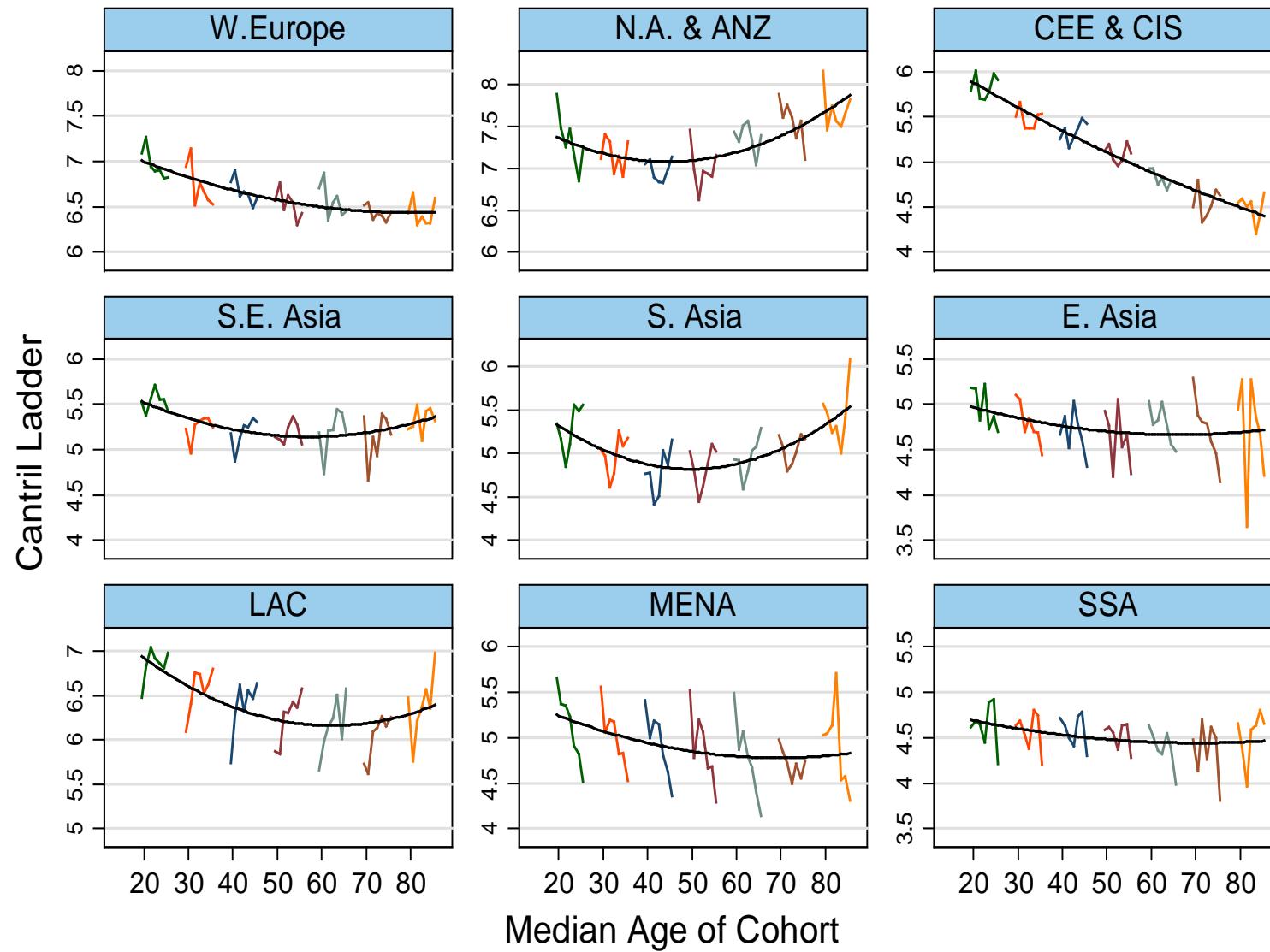


Cantril Ladder by Gender and 5-Year Age Groups



Note: Averages of Regional Averages with Fixed Regional Population Shares

Trends by Birth Cohort and Region (Cantril Ladder)

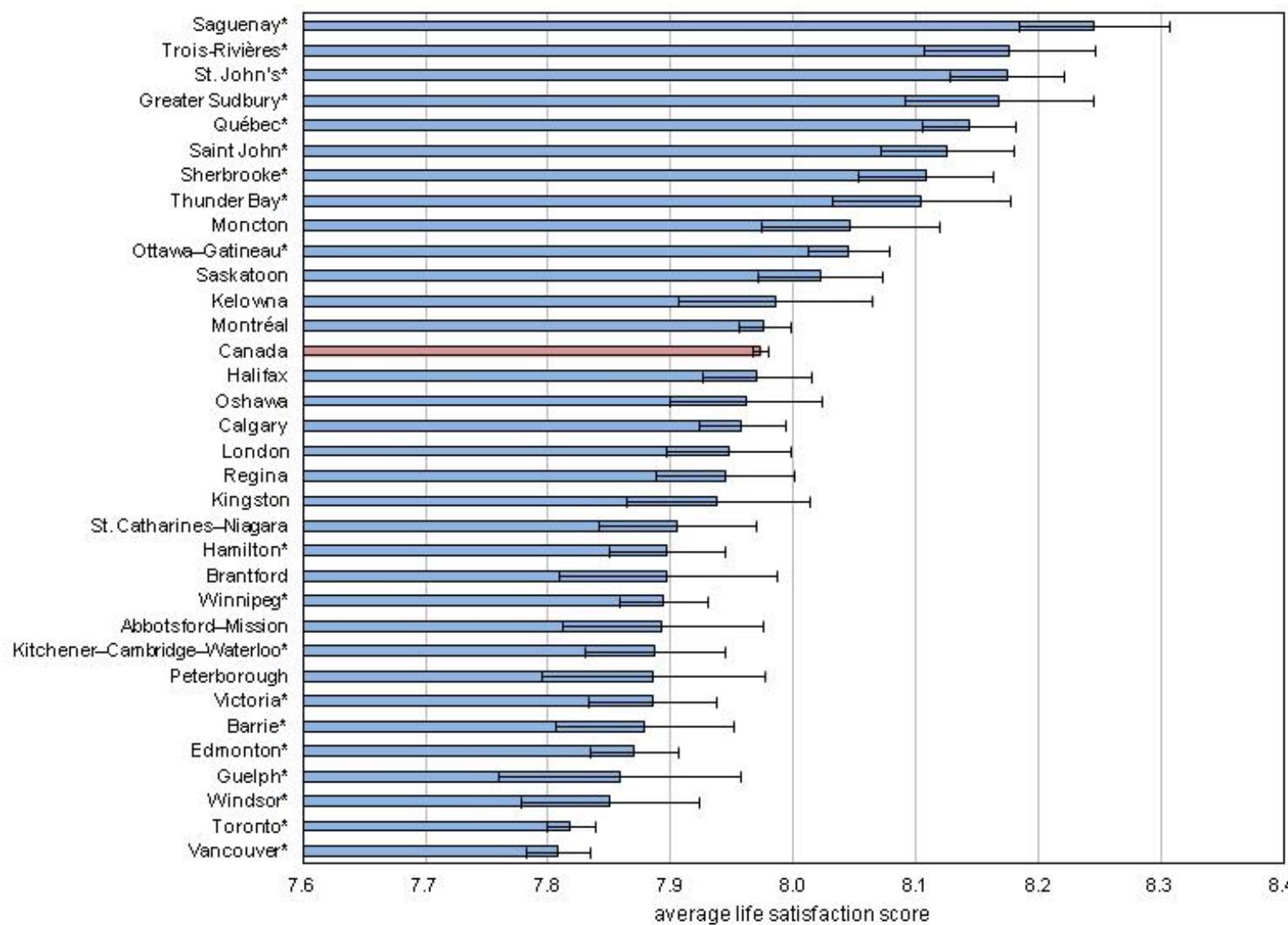


Sub-national geography of happiness

- Differences in life evaluations among regions within a country are one tenth as large as differences among countries
- Thus Cantril ladder averages among US states in 2012-2013 (for states with more than 2000 observations) vary by a maximum of 0.4 points top to bottom, compared to almost 5 points for national averages.
- The same is true across cities and regions in Canada

Chart 1
Average life satisfaction across census metropolitan areas, 2009 to 2013

CMAs and Canada



* The census metropolitan area (CMA) average is significantly different from the Canadian average ($p < 0.05$)

Note: The horizontal error lines overlaid on the bars indicate the 95% confidence intervals (CIs). CIs indicate the degree of variability in the estimate and enable more valid comparisons of differences between estimates.

Sources: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009 to 2013, and Canadian Community Health Survey, 2009 to 2012.

Life satisfaction, sense of belonging and population size, Canadian CMAs

