THE UNIVERSITY of York

THE QUEEN'S ANNIVERSARY PRIZES 2009

spru Social Policy Research Unit

JACOBS FOUNDATION
Our Promise to Youth

Child well-being in the macro context

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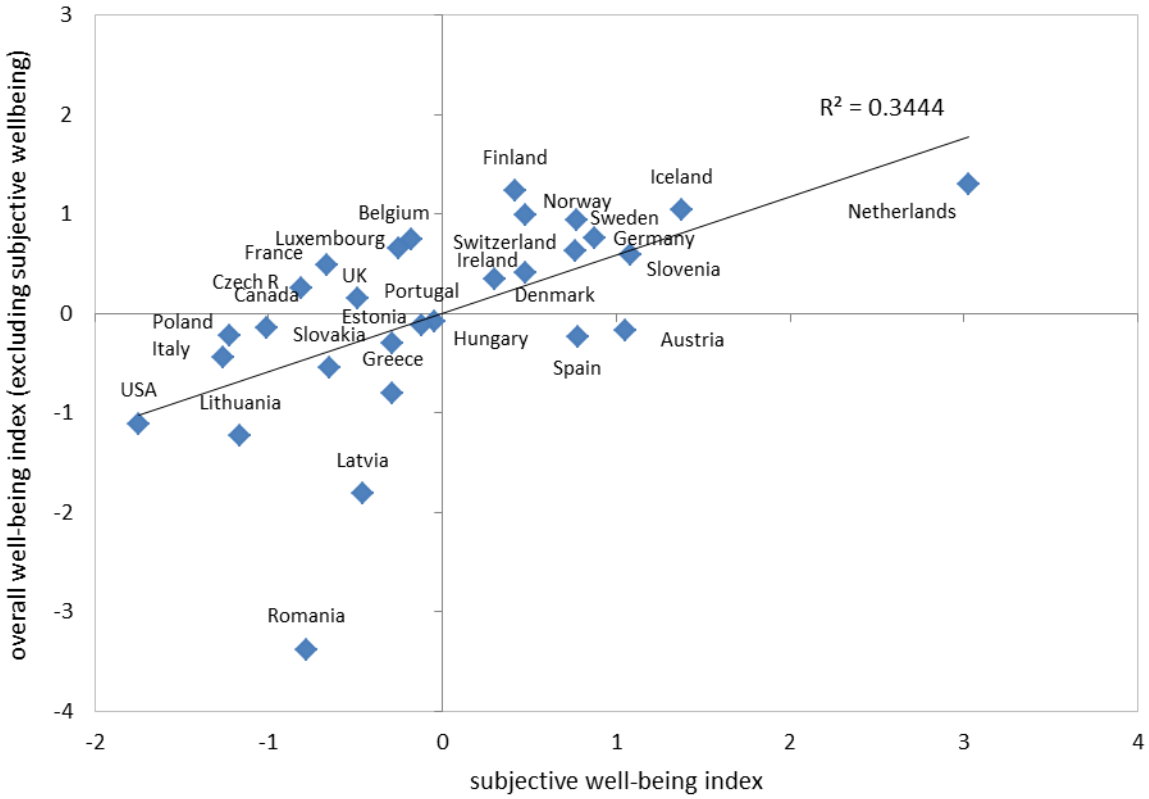
Objectives

- How is **subjective** child well-being related to other indicators at a country level?
- Indicators: social, economic, political, religious. cultural.
- Problems:
  - Very few sources of indicators covering all our countries
  - Very few countries – correlation is the statistical limit
  - Correlation influenced by (annoying but interesting) outliers (South Korea)
- What do we know already?

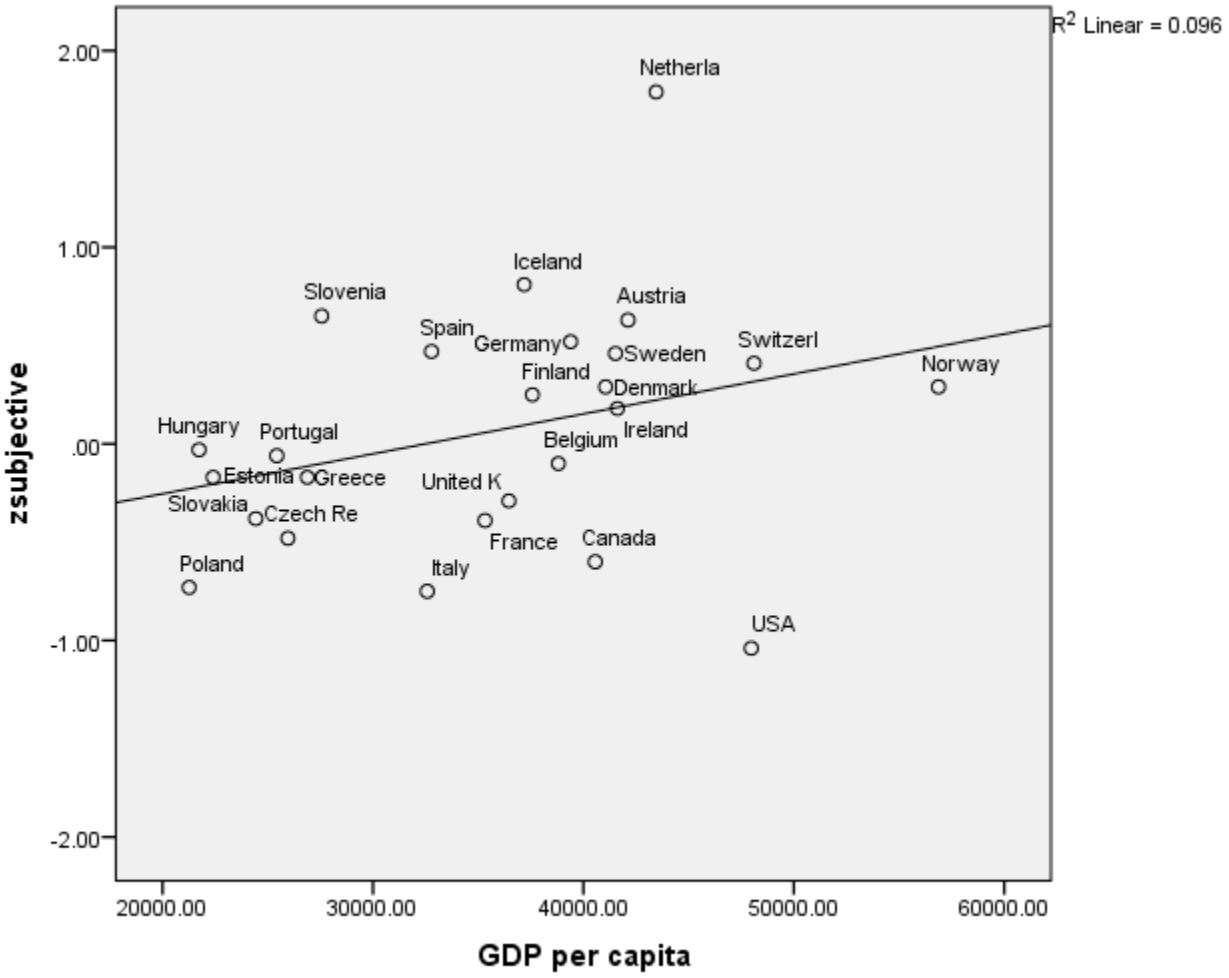
UNICEF RC10: all domains of objective well-being strongly correlated with subjective well-being

	Overall subjective well-being
Material well-being domain	.677**
Health and safety domain	.542**
Education domain	.474**
Behaviour domain	.534**
Housing and environment domain	.610**
Overall (exc subjective)	.666**

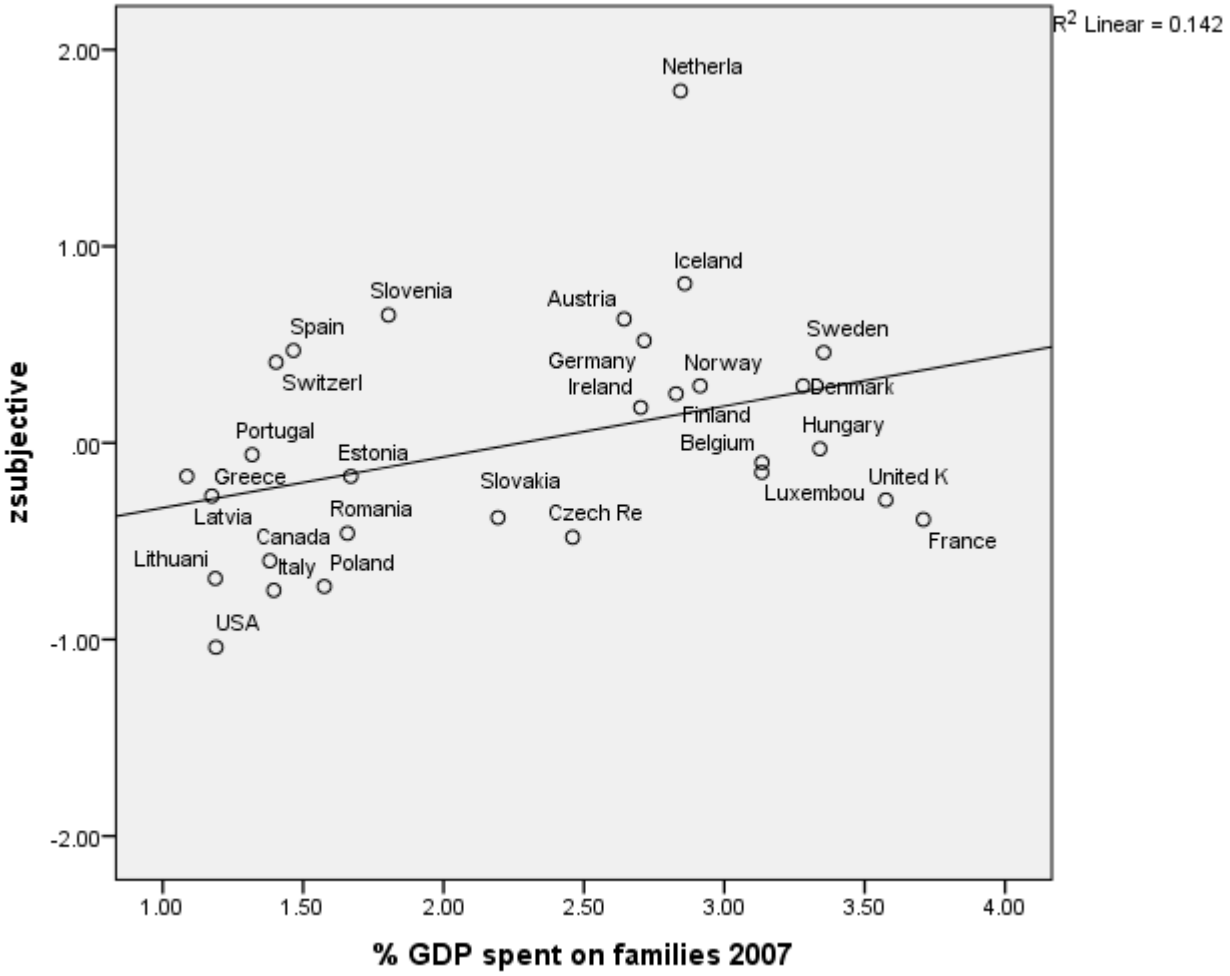
Subjective well-being vs objective well-being (excluding subjective)



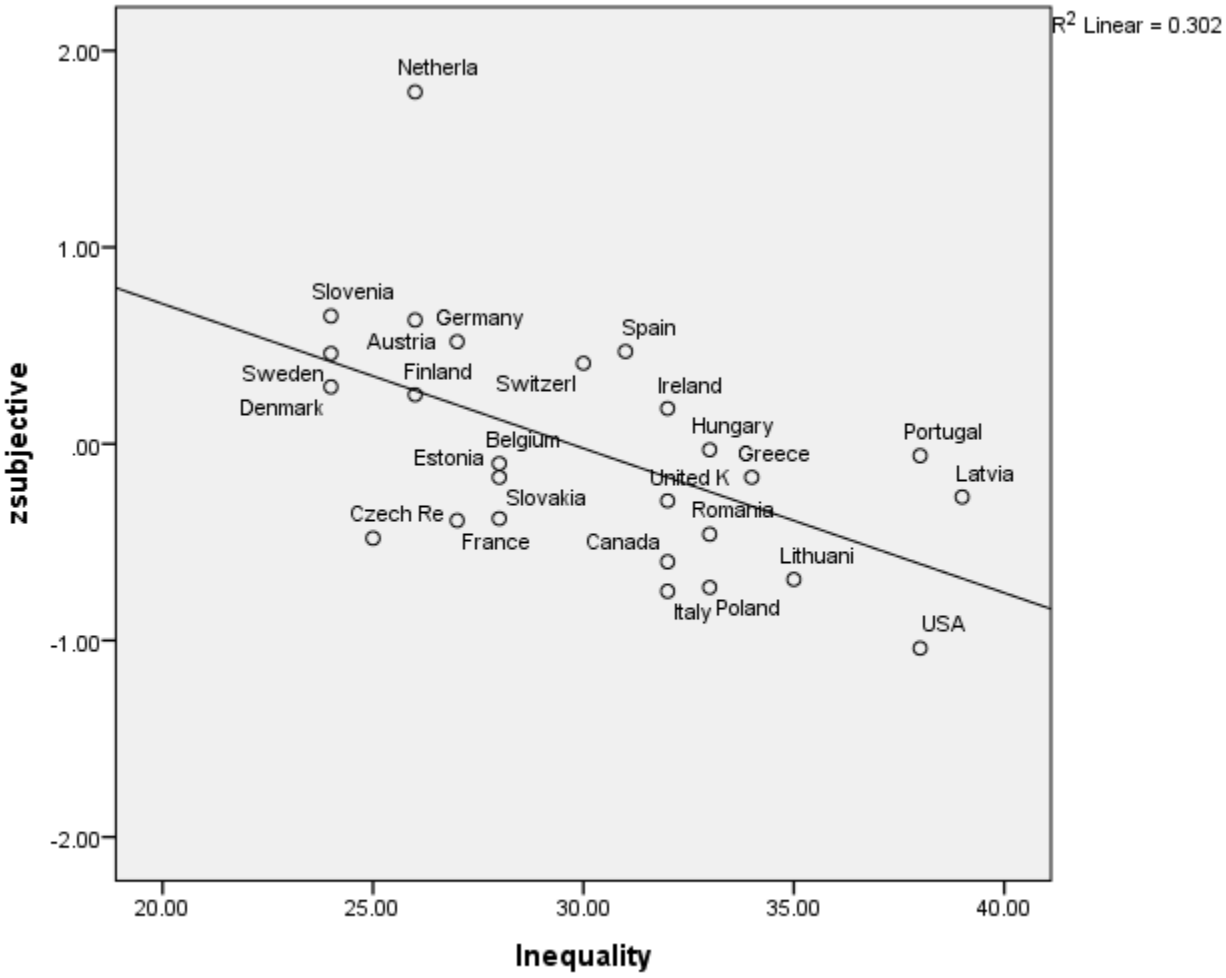
GDP per capita not related to SWB



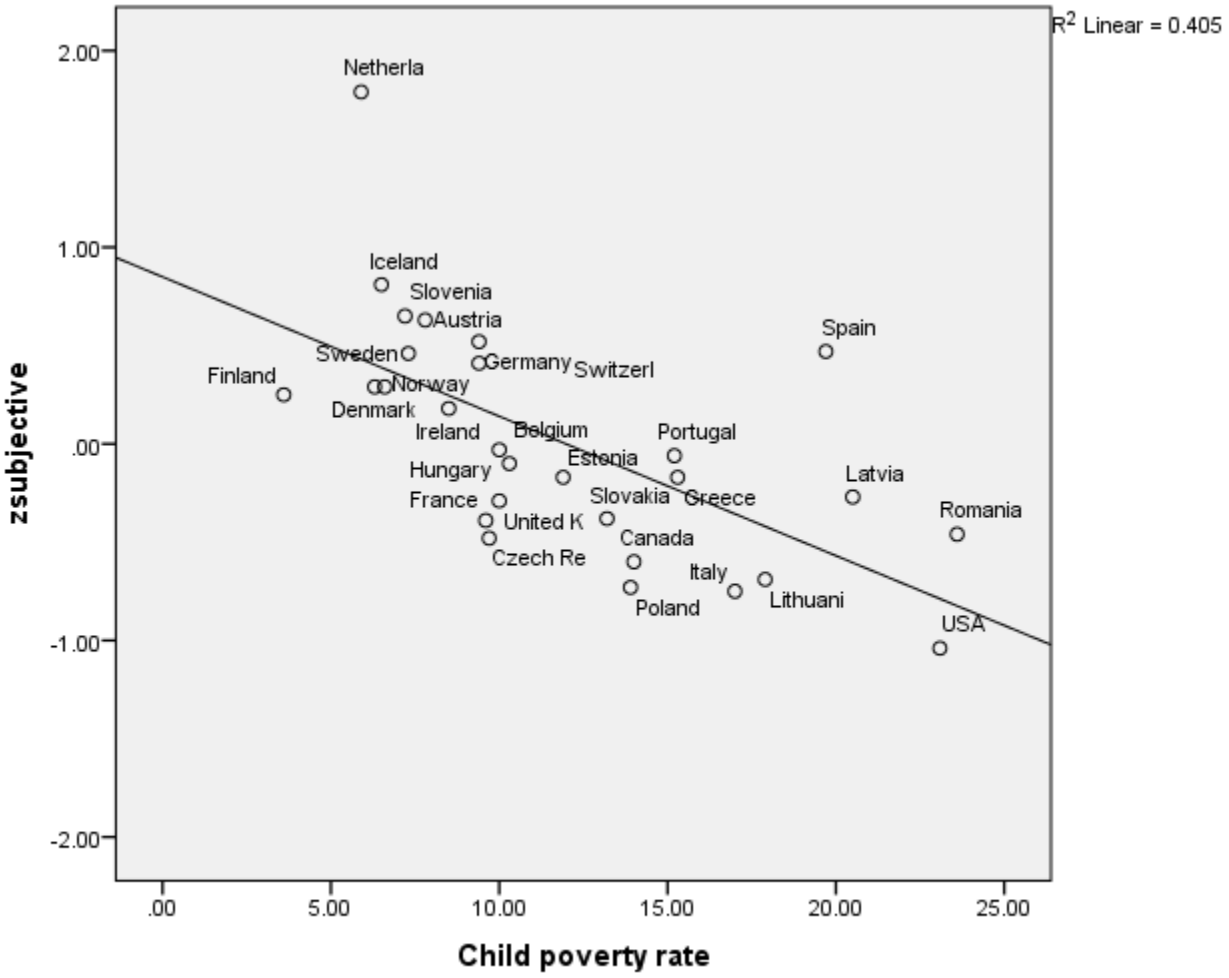
Spending on families only weakly related to SWB



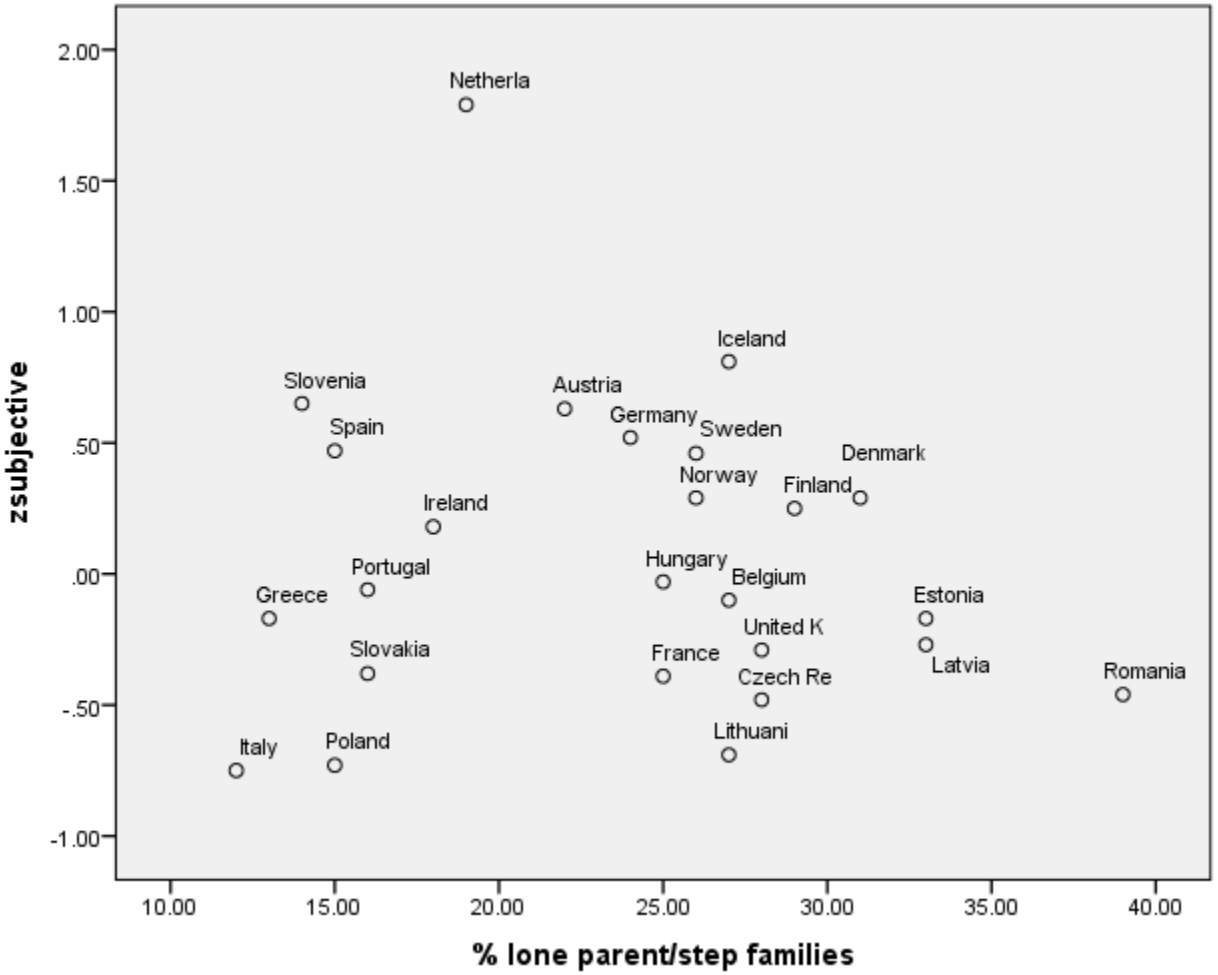
Inequality (gini) related to SWB



But not as closely as relative child poverty rate



But better than % broken families



That was all macro.
(Klocke et al 2014) have done micro analysis on SWB using HBSC

	Model 1		Model 2	
	B	S.E.	B	S.E.
Constant	0.462***	.036	0.560***	.030
Gender (female)	-0.185***	.013	-0.172***	.014
Age – 11 (Ref)				
Age – 13	-0.413***	.016	-0.412***	.018
Age – 15	-0.653***	.031	-0.647***	.037
Father in home (no)			-0.221***	.014
Mother in home (no)			-0.198***	.022
Father in work (no)			-0.207***	.016
Mother in work (no)			-0.062**	.021
Family Affluence Scale			0.124***	.016
Model stats	$F(3, 27) = 243.72$, $p < .001$, $R^2 = .079$		$F(8, 26) = 218.46$, $p < .001$, $R^2 = .124$	
Number of countries included in model	28		27#	

Macro characteristics not sig

	Model 3		Model 4	
	B	S.E.	B	S.E.
Constant	0.558***	.029	0.765***	.121
Gender (female)	-0.178***	.012	-0.177***	.013
Age – 11 (Ref)				
Age – 13	-0.365***	.017	-0.361***	.018
Age – 15	-0.486***	.031	-0.490***	.032
Father in home (no)	-0.172***	.011	-0.175***	.010
Mother in home (no)	-0.154***	.020	-0.147***	.018
Father in work (no)	-0.172***	.016	-0.167***	.014
Mother in work (no)	-0.015	.012	-0.009	.012
Family Affluence Scale	0.092***	.008	0.087***	.007
Victim of bullying (never) (Ref)				
Victim of bullying (once or twice)	-0.359***	.020	-0.366***	.019
Victim of bullying (2-3 times per month)	-0.614***	.033	-0.623***	.033
Victim of bullying (once a week)	-0.703***	.037	-0.711***	.039
Victim of bullying (several times a week)	-0.956***	.038	-0.962***	.040
Currently smoke (yes)	-0.362***	.021	-0.356***	.020
Been drunk (yes)	-0.286***	.028	-0.287***	.027
Exercise (more than once per week)	0.222***	.016	0.220***	.016
GDP PPP (in $1,000s)			-0.004	.002
Youth unemployment rate			-0.009	.005
Public spending on children and families (% of GDP)			0.030	.026
Model stats	$F(15, 25) = 520.02$, $p < .001$, $R^2 = .231$		$F(18, 24) = 1343.87$, $p < .001$, $R^2 = .235$	
Number of countries included in model	26##		25###	

Children's Worlds analysis

- 1. Search international sources for likely indicators. Over 100
  - World Bank economic indicators
  - UNDP WDIs
  - UNICEF SOWC
- 2. Establish dependent variables.
  - mean satisfaction
  - low satisfaction
  - mean happiness
  - low happiness
  - mean future (not asked in Israel – why?)
  - low future
  - ave rank of above

Correlation matrix of the dependent variables

	Mean satisfaction	low satisfaction	mean happiness	low happiness	Mean future	Low future	ave rank
Mean satisfaction	1	-.862**	.883**	-.806**	.835**	-.583*	-.897**
low satisfaction		1	-.685**	.863**	-.640*	.712**	.882**
mean happiness			1	-.852**	.897**	-.579*	-.880**
low happiness				1	-.766**	.757**	.922**
Mean future					1	-.731**	-.842**
Low future						1	.803**
ave rank							1

Results very frustrating

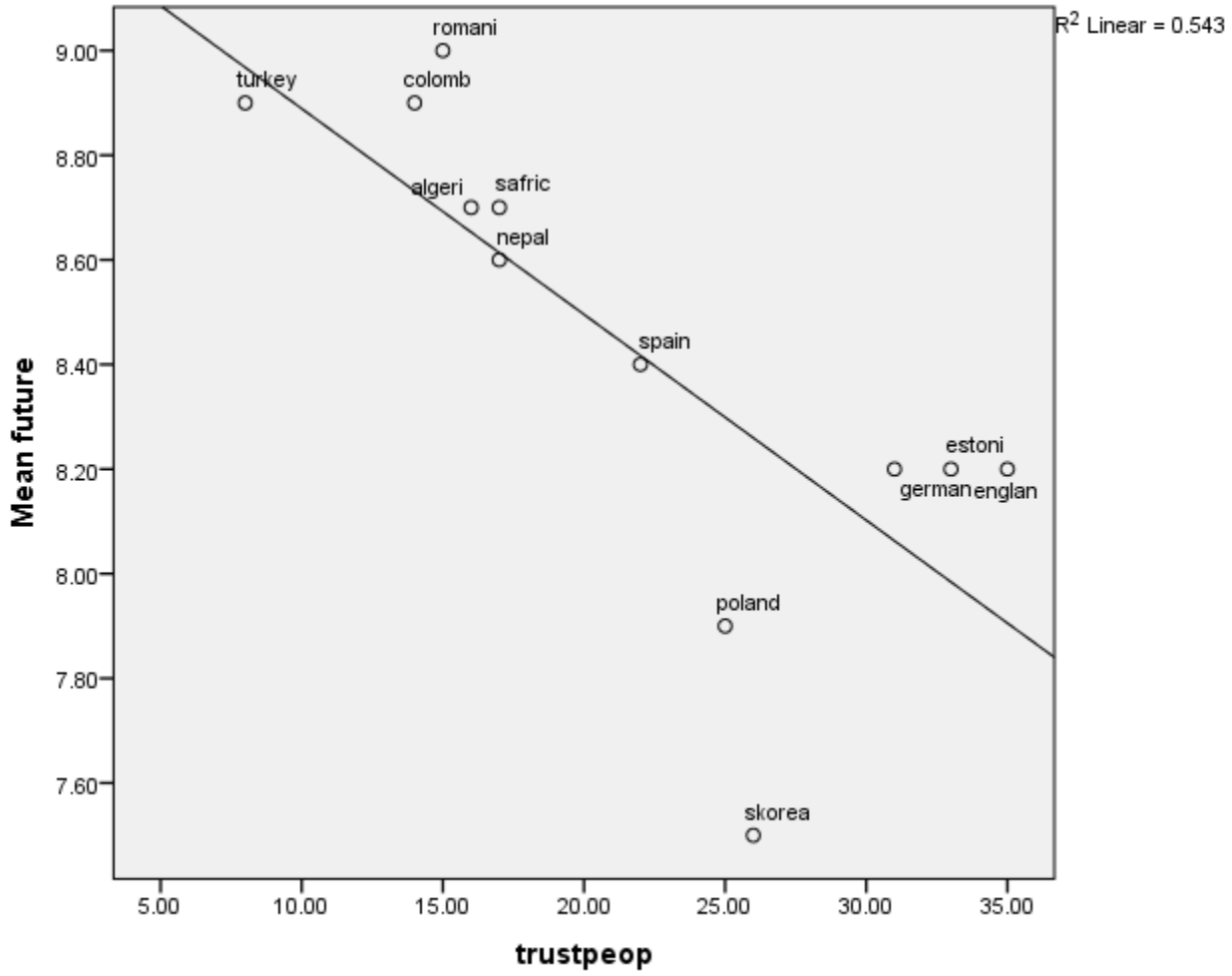
- Only five significant associations found with any of the 100 plus independent variables
  - % young people in the population
  - Gender equality index
  - Level of trust of other people
  - % in tertiary education
  - Under five mortality rank
  - Enrolment in primary education
  - Inflation rate

  - Mostly with future index which excludes Israel
  - Direction of correlation theoretically perverse

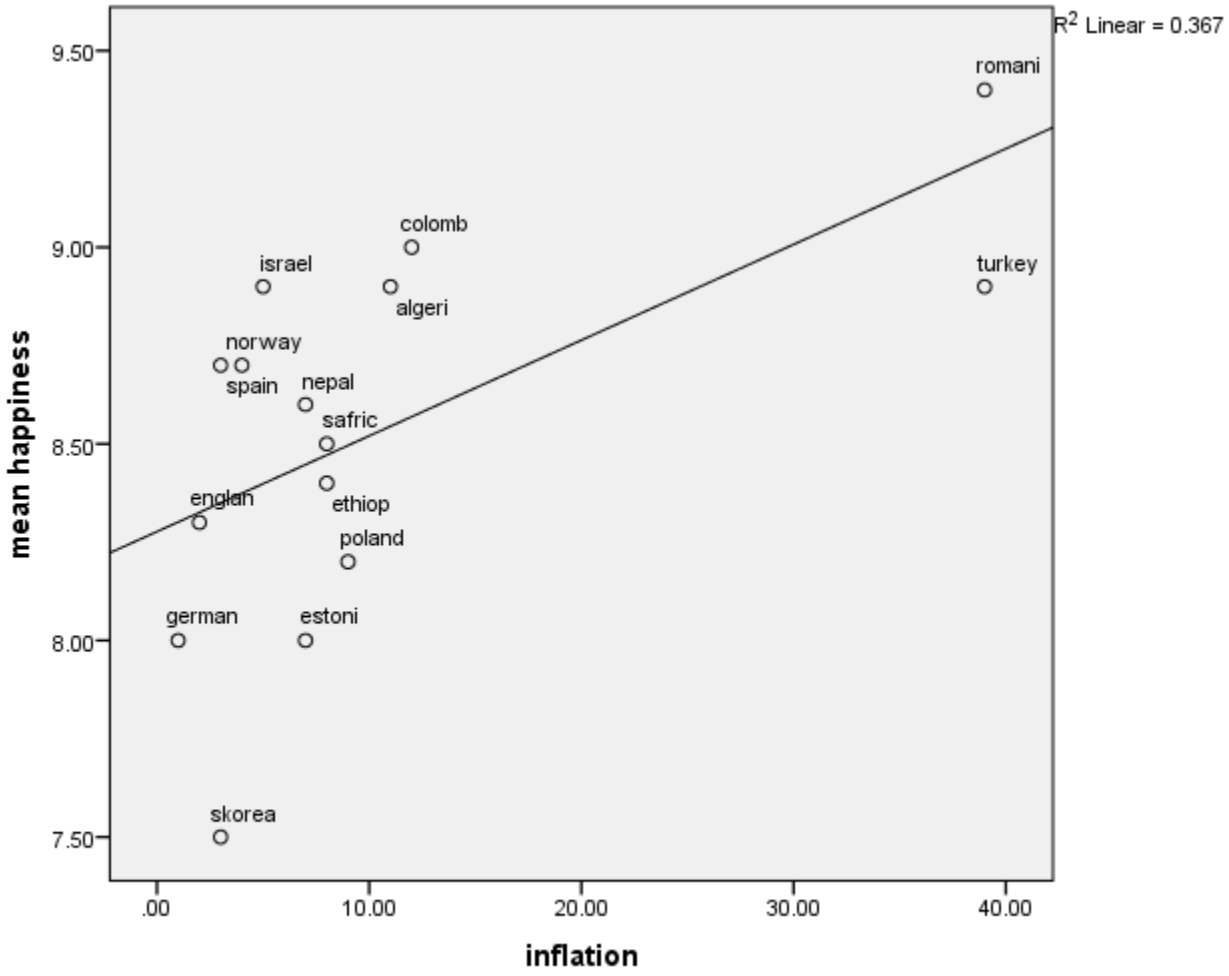
Correlation matrix

	youthpc	genderindex	trustpeop	tert	under5rank	enrolprim	inflation
Mean satisfaction	.108	.253	-.436	-.341	-.139	-.548*	.502
low satisfaction	-.119	-.079	.204	.272	-.040	.402	-.258
mean happiness	.249	.406	-.681*	-.394	-.330	-.553*	.606*
low happiness	-.328	-.279	.512	.456	.225	.381	-.373
Mean future	.511	.613*	-.737**	-.585*	-.545*	-.571*	.560*
Low future	-.567*	-.303	.430	.414	.227	.185	-.178
ave rank	-.280	-.248	.546	.305	.150	.497	-.461

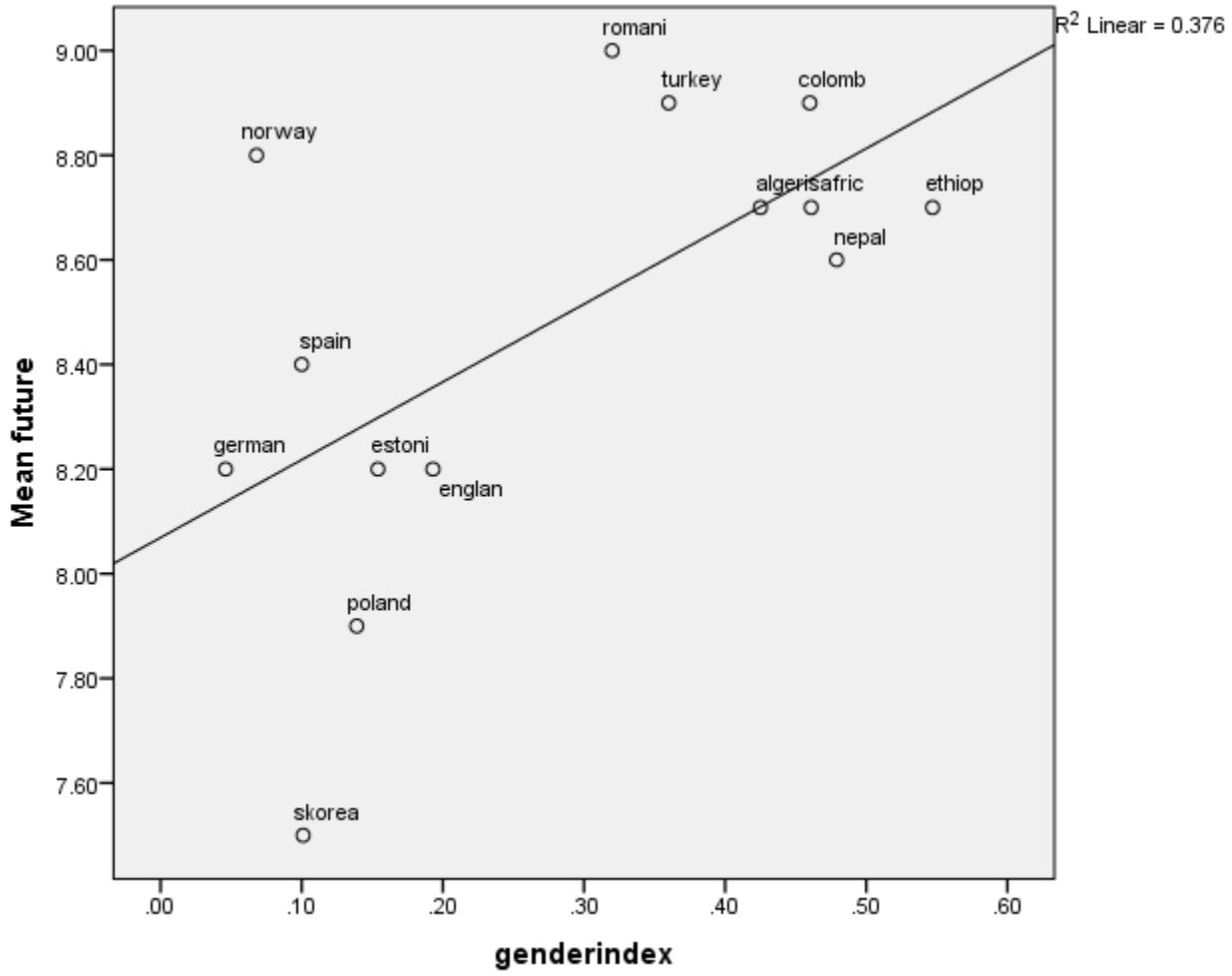
Less people trust other people lower the mean future score!



The higher the inflation rate the higher the happiness!



The lower the gender equality the higher the mean future!

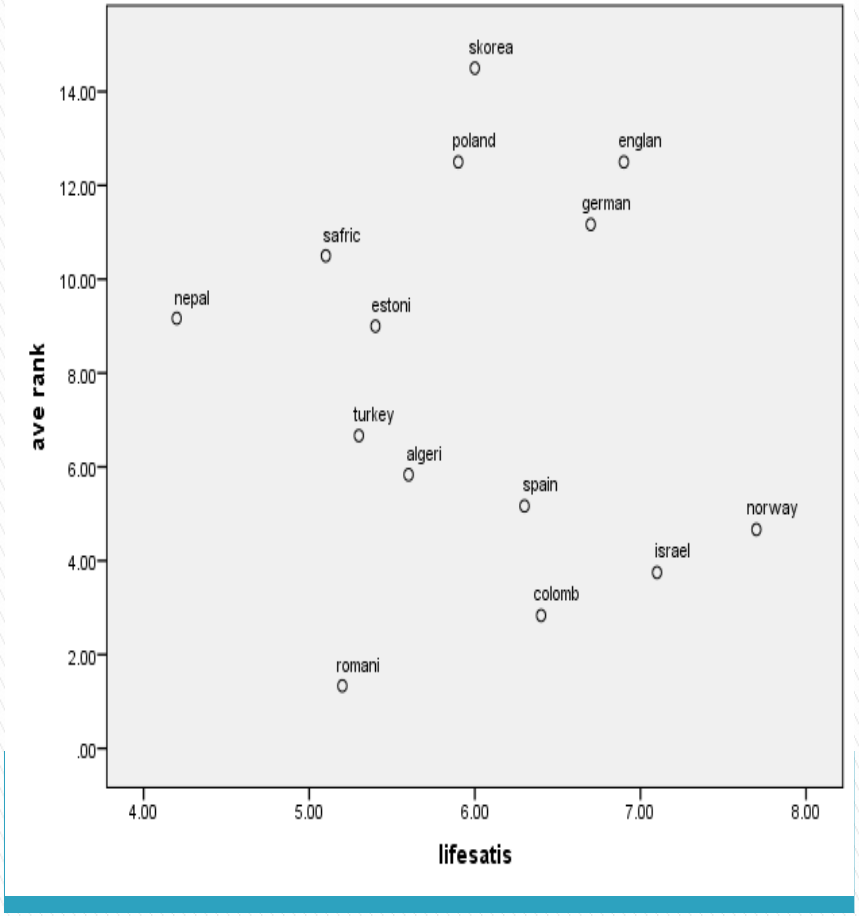


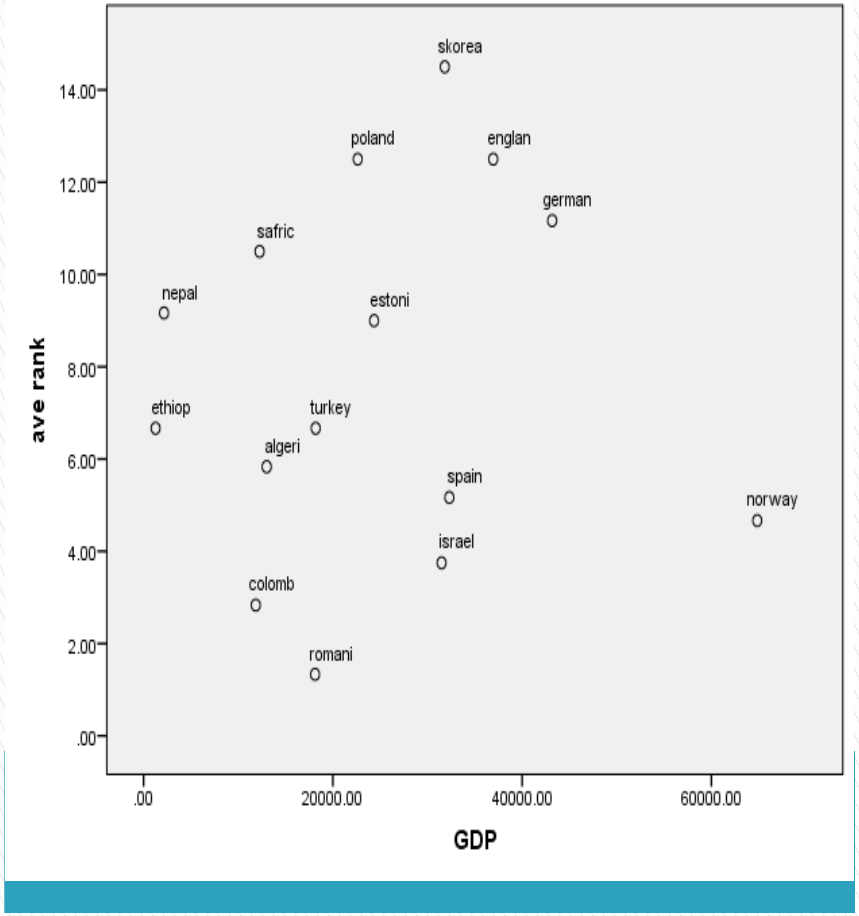
Start with some hypotheses

- Child well-being related to
  - Adult life satisfaction
  - GDP per capita
  - Spending on schools
  - Female employment
  - Inequality
  - Youth unemployment

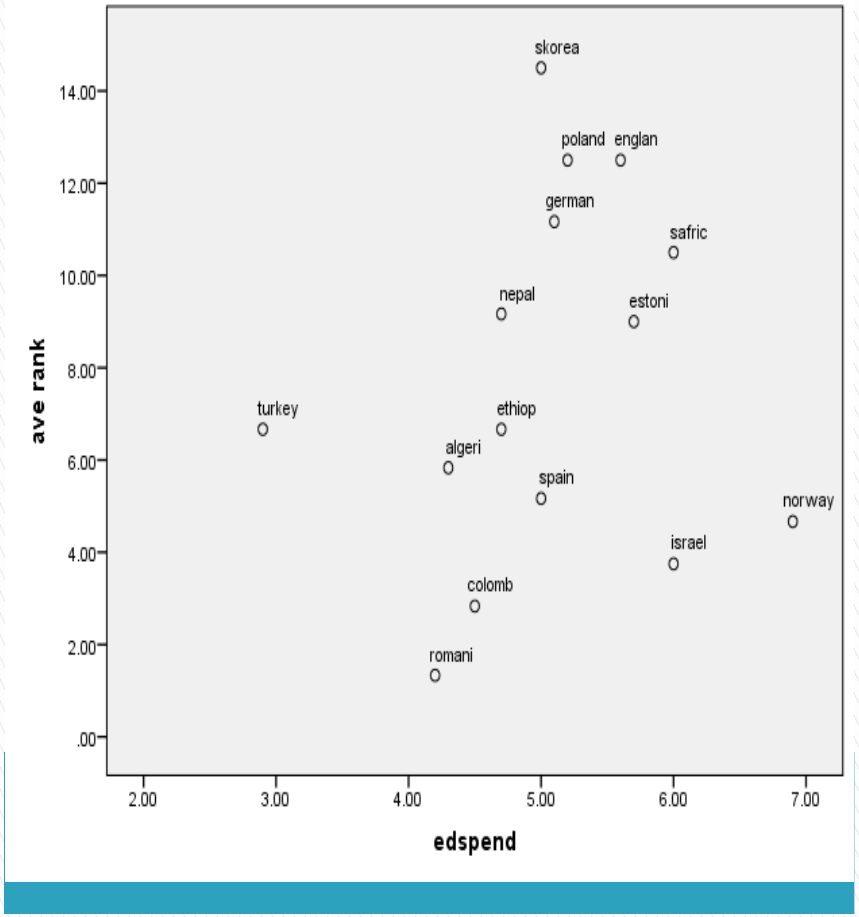
Adult life satisfaction

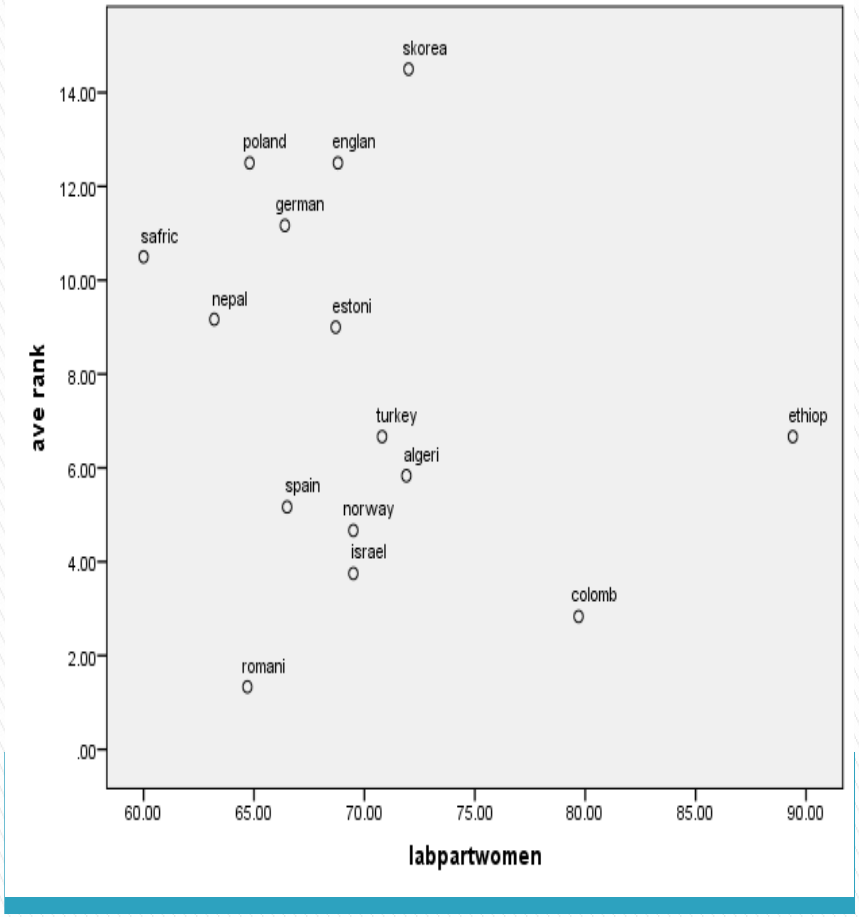
GDP



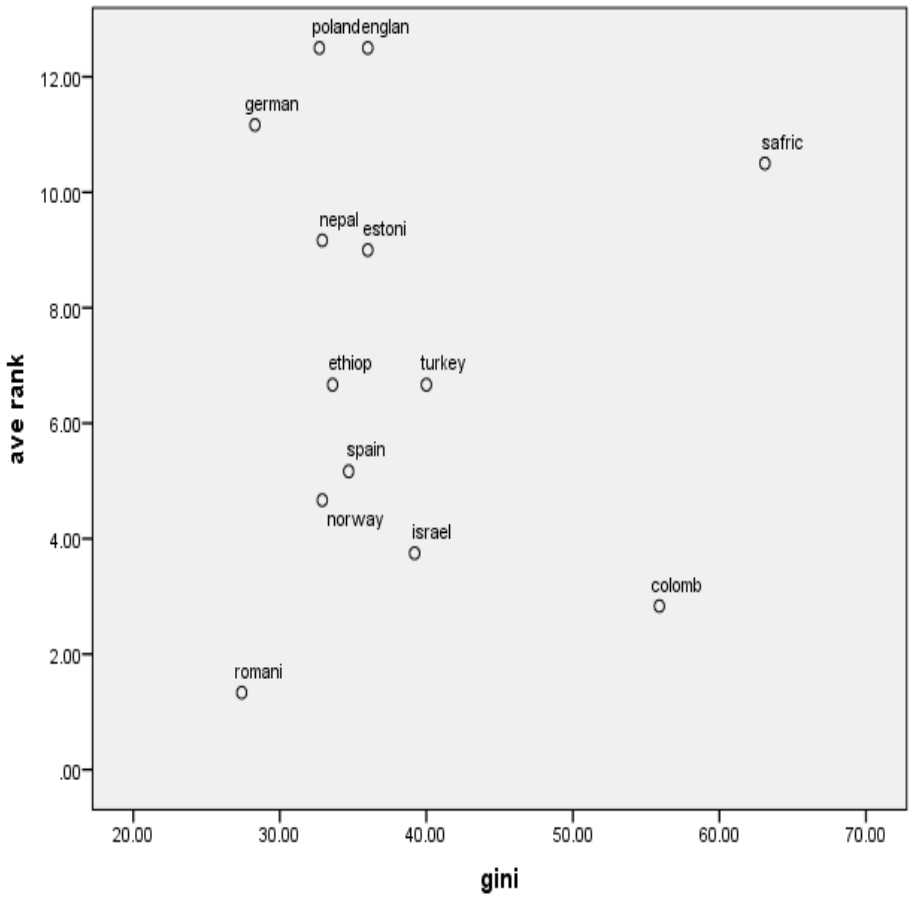


Education spending Female employment

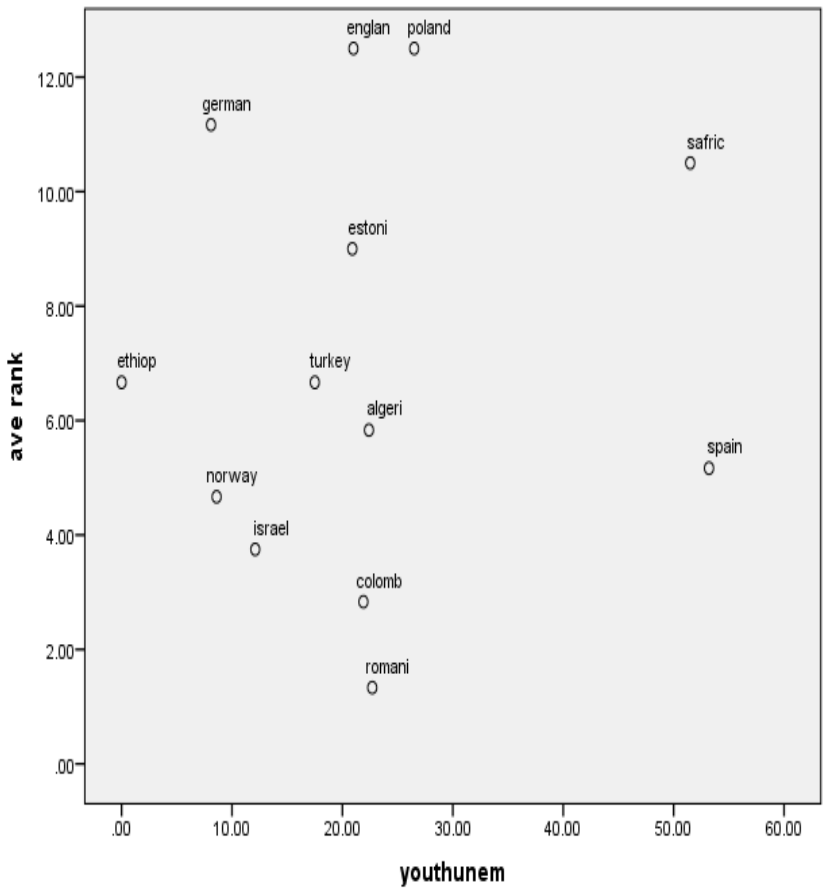




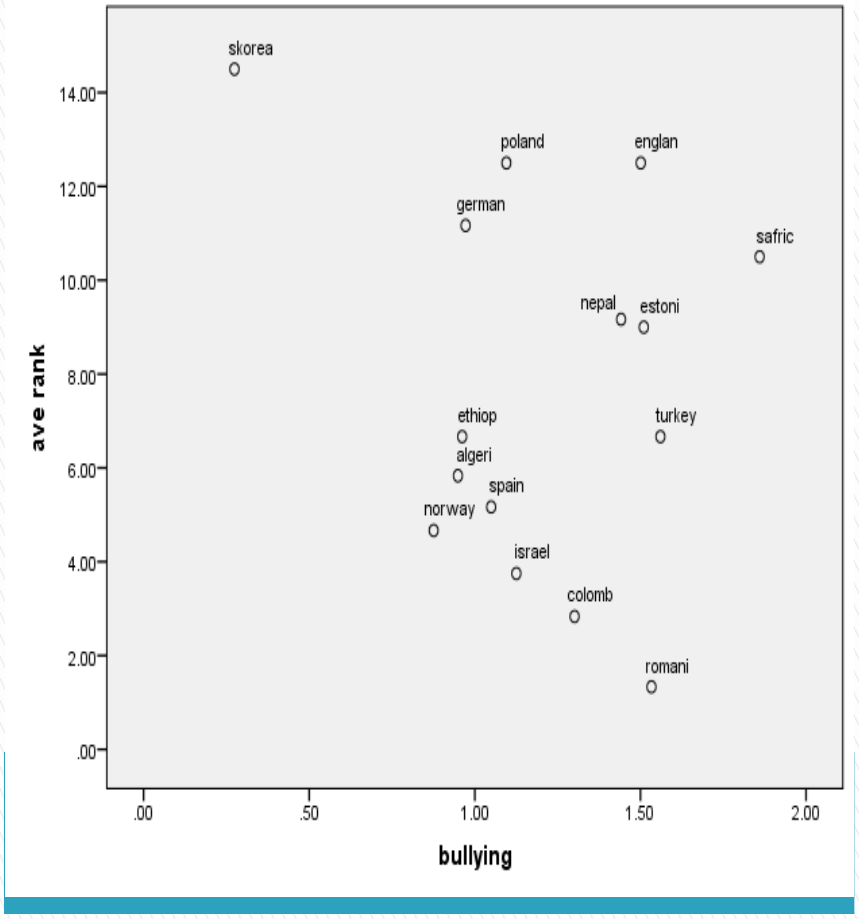
Gini



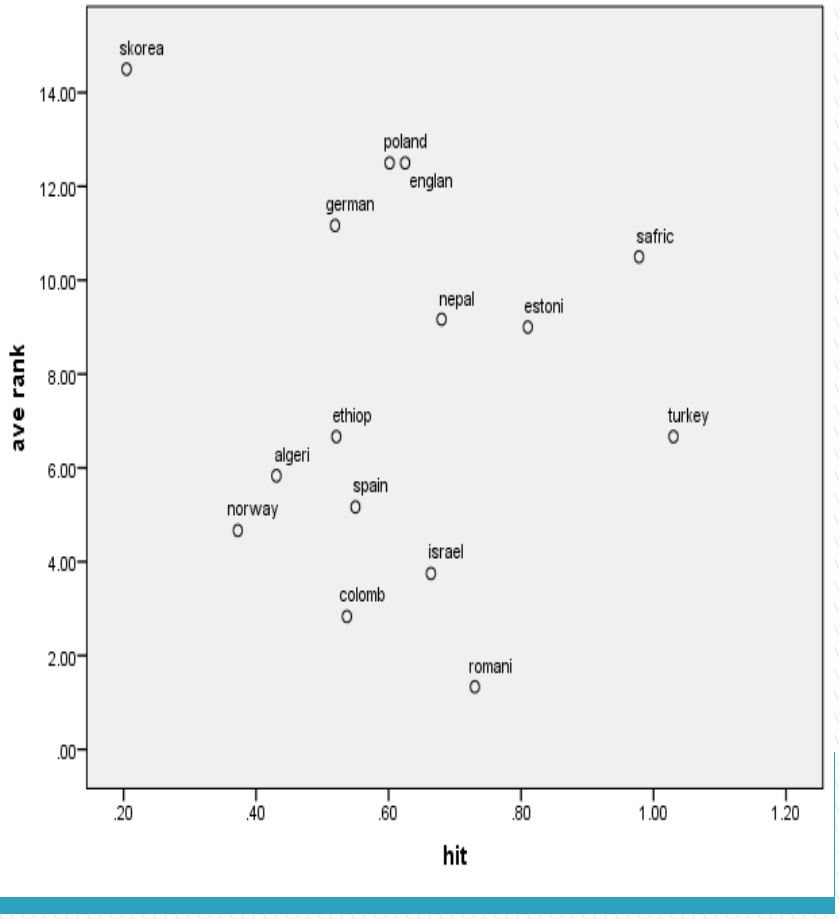
Youth unemployment



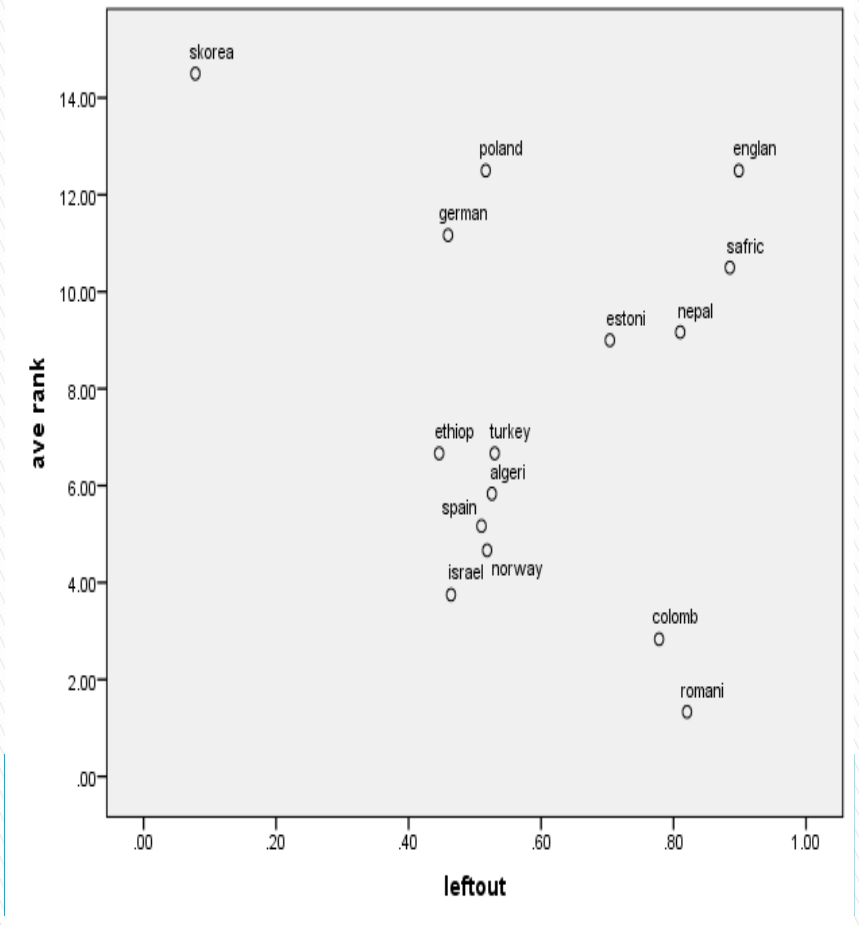
Bullying



Hit



Left out


skorea
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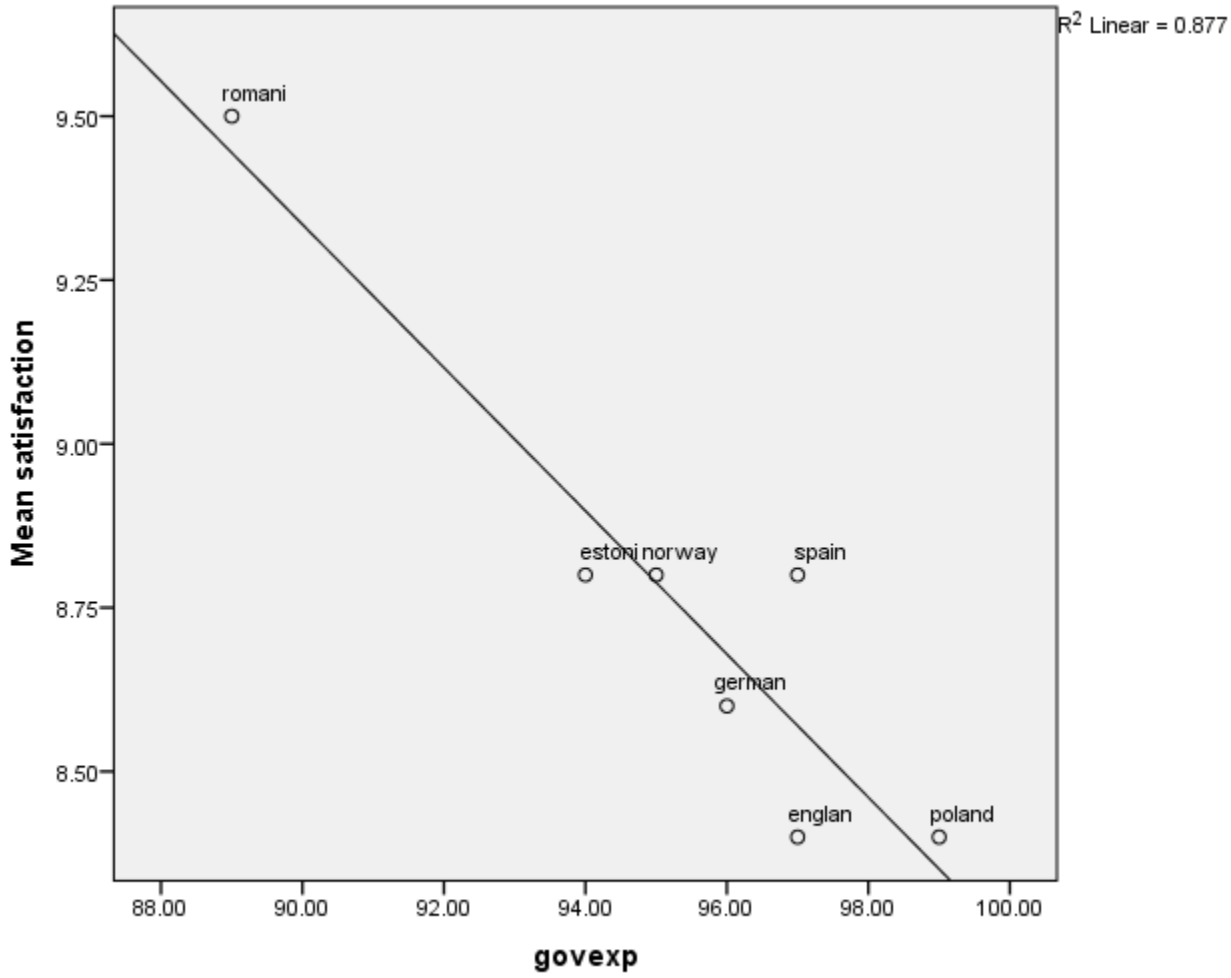
leftout

Conclusions

- Macro explanations for subjective well-being are either bizarre or end up as chicken pox
- Maybe this is because N is too small or the countries are too diverse.
- But I have run the analysis on 7 European countries.
- Sig correlations still bizarre (thanks to Romania)

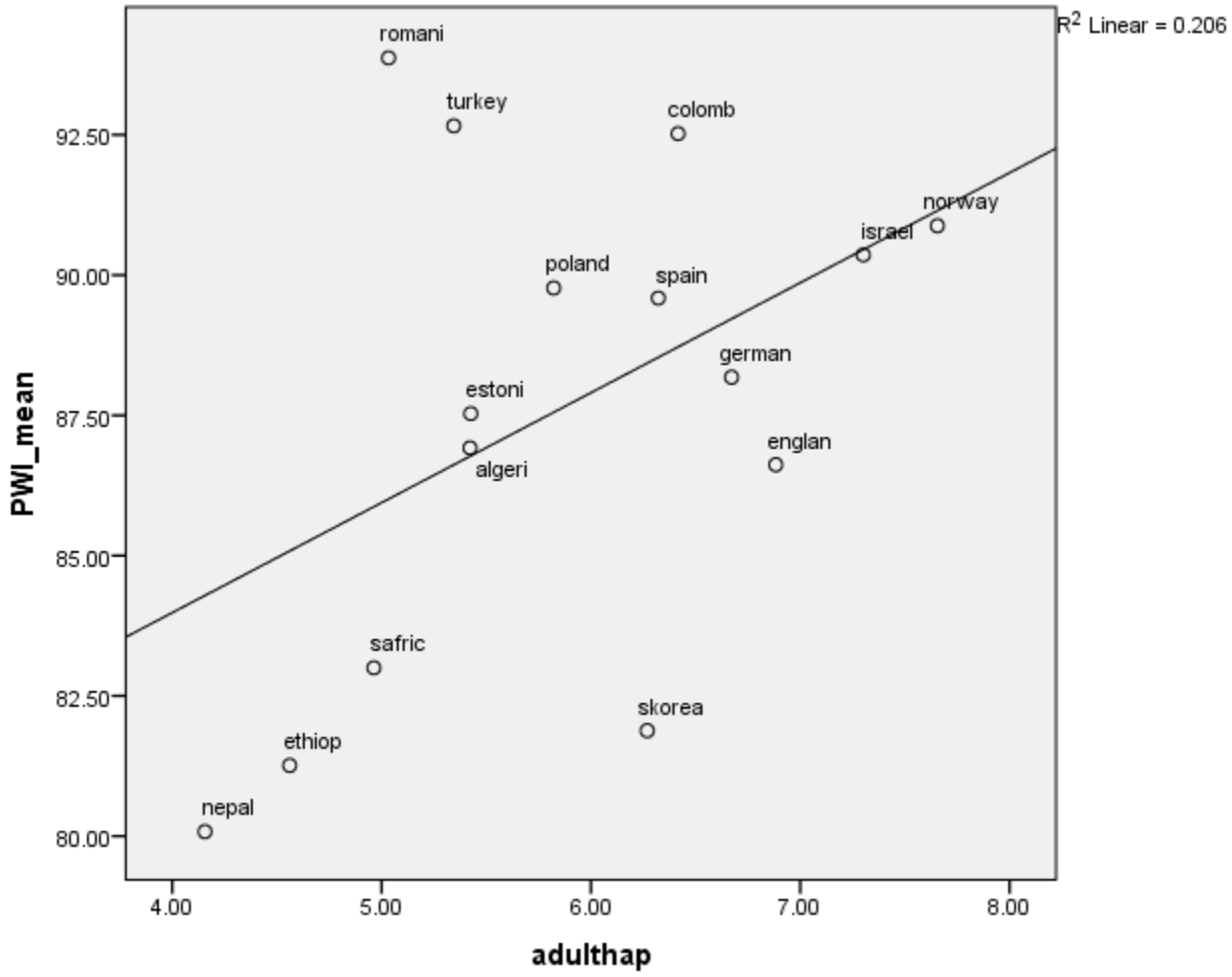
European countries



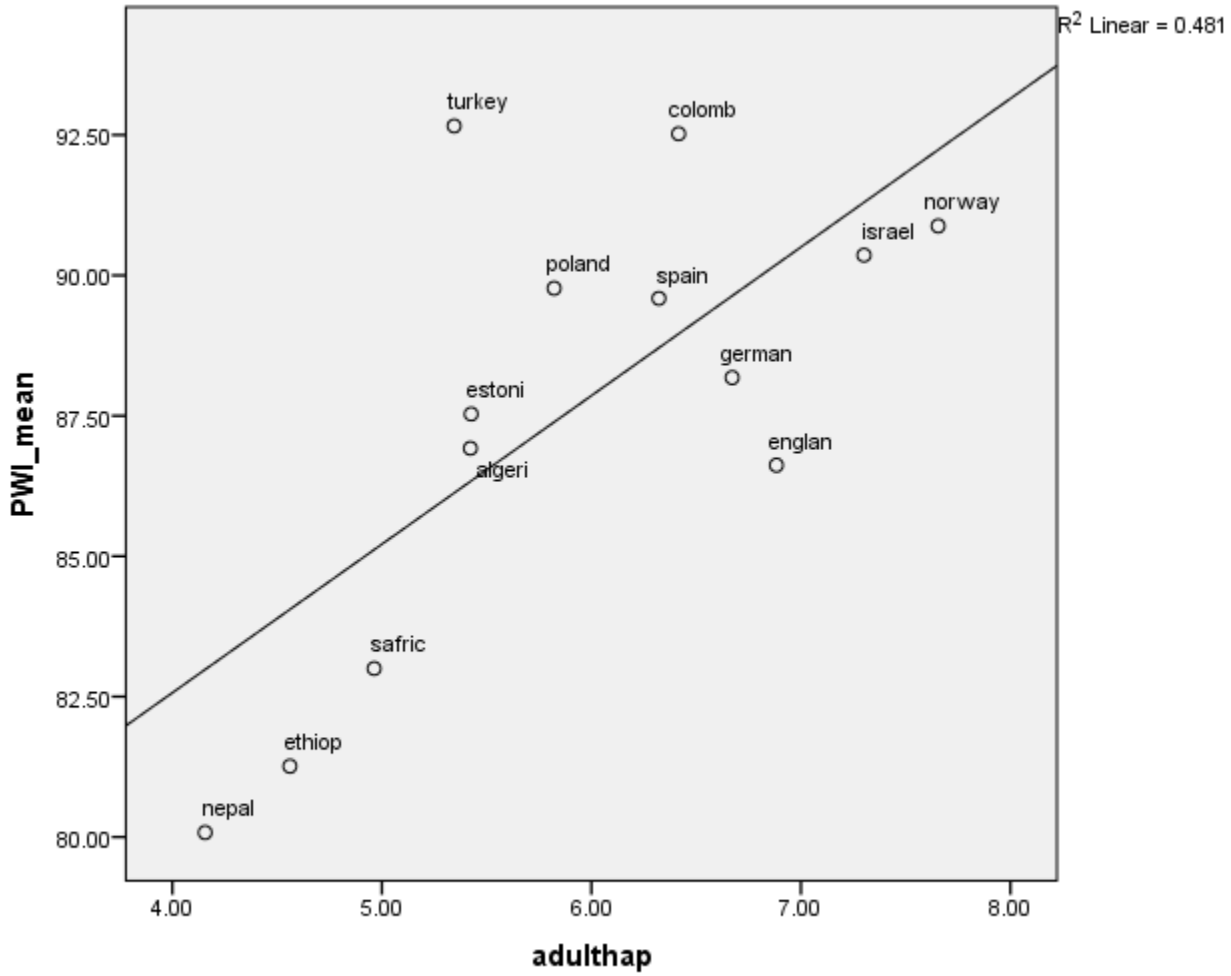
Adult happiness

- Helliwell, Layard and Sachs explained 74% of the variation in life satisfaction (Cantril's ladder) using GDP per capita, social support, health life expectancy, freedom to make life choices, generosity and perceptions of corruption.
- Adult happiness related to child PWI (though not the others)

Child well-being versus adult happiness (Gallup) 2010/12



Excluding Romania and South Korea



Conclusion

- Needs more work
- Try to replicate the adult happiness explanatory factors
- Need to settle on a dependant variable
- Too few countries
- Volunteers please!

Suggestions please!

- You can all have the data

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