MODELING SELF-RATED SATISFACTION OR DISSATISFYING CHALLENGES DEFINING A DEPENDENT VARIABLE

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Migration as a love story

- Attraction
- Romance
- Live together
  - "Life is great with X"
  - Routine and difficulties

- Split or stay together

- Consider Canada
- Expectations
- Migrate
  - "Canada is the best"
  - Culture shock and challenges

- Leave Canada or stay

Satisfaction with experience

Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (LSIC-ELIC)

- 15 or older at time of landing
- Arrival between: 01/10/2000 - 30/09/2001
- 3 waves: Time after arrival
  - 6 months
  - 2 years
  - 4 years
- n = 7,716 in final sample that correspond to 157,615 individuals
- Module: Perceptions of settlement
  - Satisfaction with
    - ***own experience: life in Canada***
    - experience of child/children
    - other members of the family

First wave = 6 months after arrival

- Do not know satisfaction with life
  - before migrating
  - at time of arrival

- Unobservable counterfactual
  - Is the migrant better off than he or she would have been given no migration?

Wave 1:

How would you rate your level of satisfaction with your life in Canada?

Very dissatisfied

Dissatisfied

Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied

Satisfied

Very satisfied

Wave 1:

How would you rate your level of satisfaction with your life in Canada?

Very dissatisfied

Dissatisfied

Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied

Satisfied

Very satisfied

Wave 3:

How would you rate your level of satisfaction with your life in Canada?

Very dissatisfied

Dissatisfied

Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied

Satisfied

Very satisfied

6 months   **2 years**   **4 years**

Wave 1:

How would you rate your level of satisfaction with your life in Canada?

Very dissatisfied

Dissatisfied

Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied

Satisfied

Very satisfied

Wave 2:

Since your last interview, would you say, in general, that your level of satisfaction with life in Canada is

Higher

About the same

Lower

Wave 3:

How would you rate your level of satisfaction with your life in Canada?

Very dissatisfied

Dissatisfied

Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied

Satisfied

Very satisfied

Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 2 transformed
Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied	Lower	Dissatisfied
	About the same	Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
	Higher	Satisfied

Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 2 transformed
	Lower	Very dissatisfied
Very dissatisfied	About the same	Very dissatisfied
	Higher	Dissatisfied
	Lower	Dissatisfied
Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied	About the same	Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
	Higher	Satisfied
	Lower	Satisfied
Very satisfied	About the same	Very satisfied
	Higher	Very satisfied

Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 2 transformed
	Lower	Very dissatisfied
Very dissatisfied	About the same	Very dissatisfied
	Higher	Dissatisfied
	Lower	Very dissatisfied
Dissatisfied	About the same	Dissatisfied
	Higher	Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
	Lower	Dissatisfied
Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied	About the same	Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
	Higher	Satisfied
	Lower	Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
Satisfied	About the same	Satisfied
	Higher	Very satisfied
	Lower	Satisfied
Very satisfied	About the same	Very satisfied
	Higher	Very satisfied

Ordinal, indicator or even "continuous"

| Very satisfied |
| Satisfied |

| Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied |
| Dissatisfied |
| Very dissatisfied |

| Satisfied |
| Not satisfied |

100

80

60

40

20
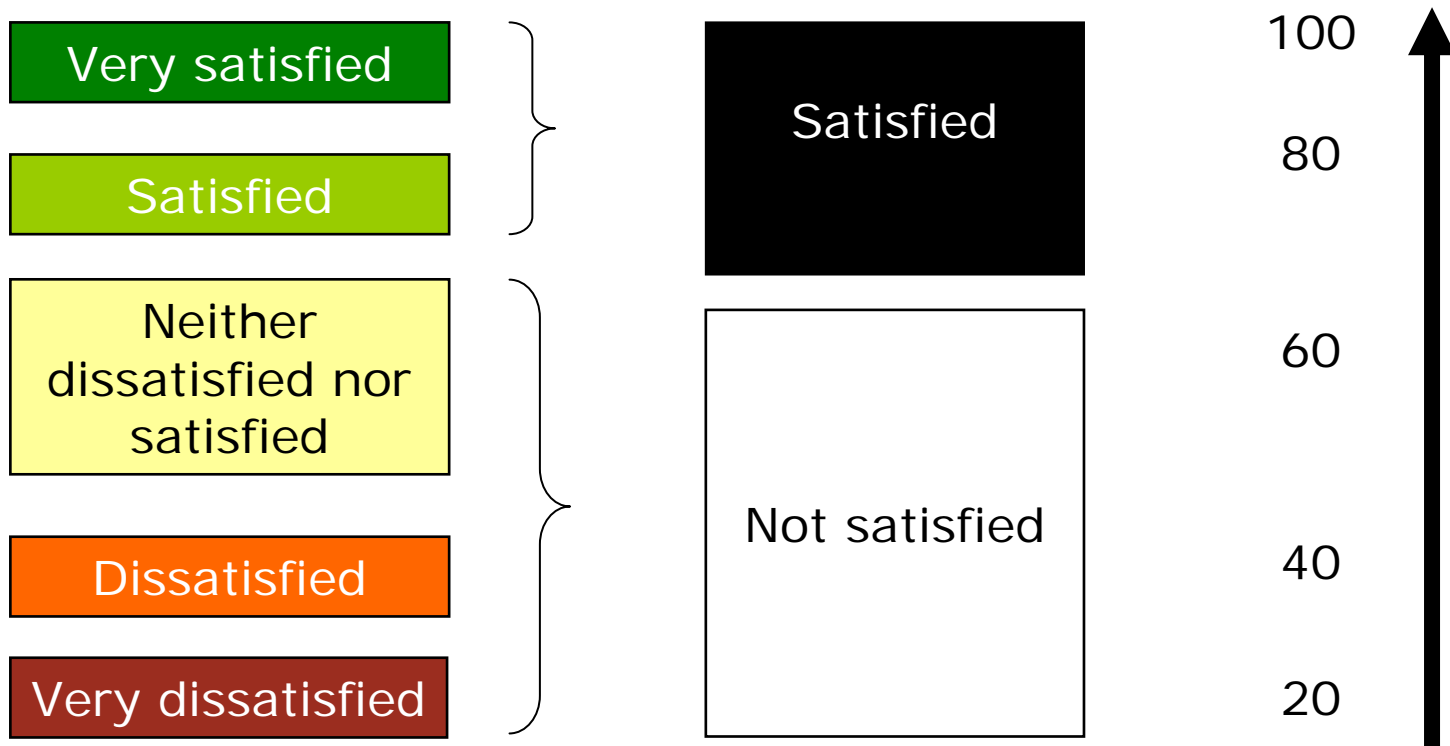
Which methods?

	Ordinal variable All waves	"Continuous" variable All waves	Indicator variable Waves 1 and 3
FE and RE	Ordinal logistic regression	Linear regression	Logistic regression
***Stata* command**	`xtologit` NOT in Stata 11	`xtreg`	`xtlogit`
Problems	GLAMM is slow, interpretation is harder	Not continuous, measurement error (wave 2)	No much variation. Sample size too small for models by imm. class poses problems in quadrature check.
With population weight	Cut points not well defined	Stat. significant, prefer fixed effects	Stat. significant, prefer fixed effects for few models that can be estimated!
With bootstrap weights, `bs4rw` command	Need to revise GLAMM and bootstrap weights	Stat. significant, prefer fixed effects	Nothing statistically significant for the few models that can be estimated!

Next: better models
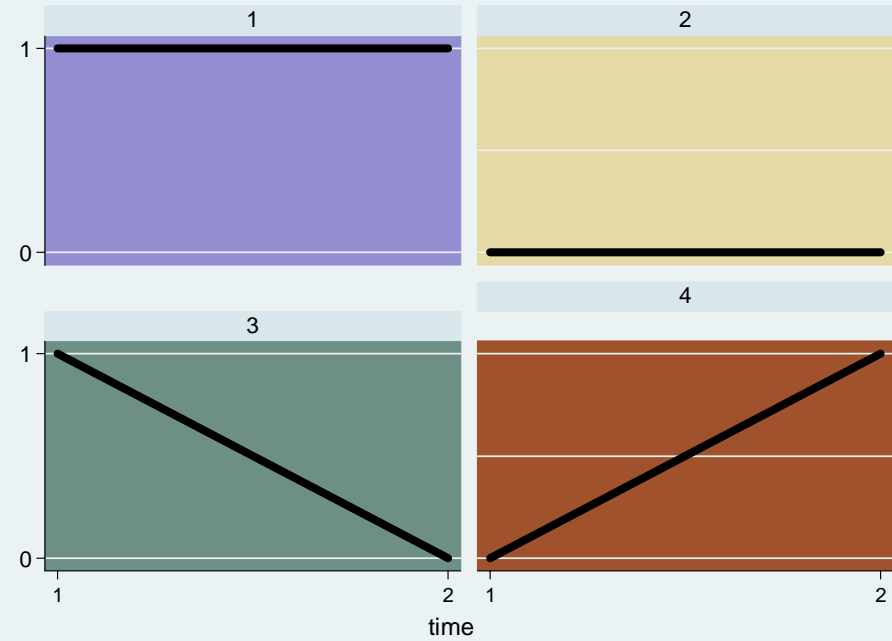
- Use waves 1 and 3 only
- Find a better model
  - With ordinal logistic regression
  - With logistic regression
  - Work with interactions with immigrant class instead of models by class
- So far, economic indicators, social networks and other measures of social integration
  - Rethink

Variation changes after recoding

Ordinal variable
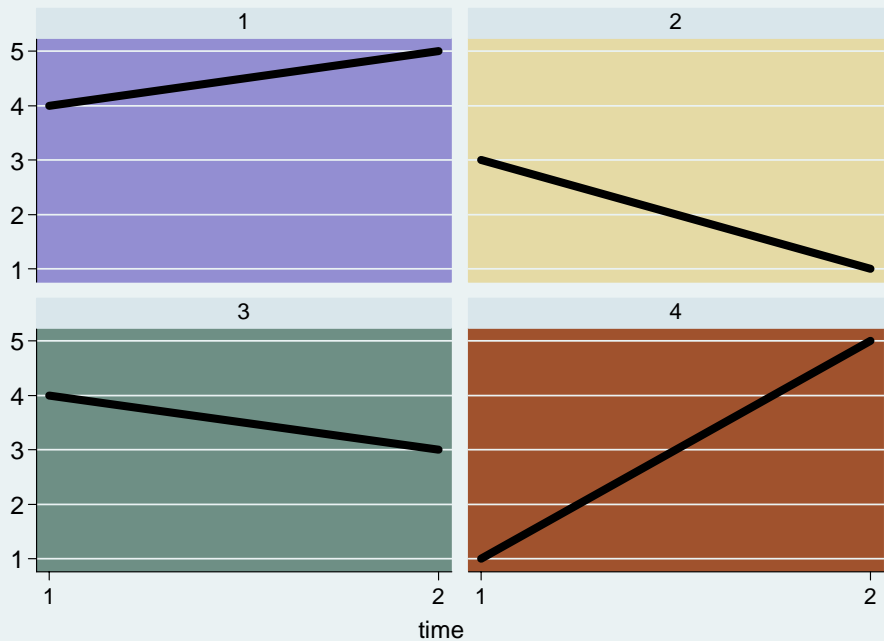
Dichotomic variable

4 hypothetical individuals and their trajectories of satisfaction

Limitations of data and concepts

- Longitudinal data
  - Advantage: Can study changes through time
  - Time varying and time invariant
  - Variation between and within
  - If no variation, then use only one wave?
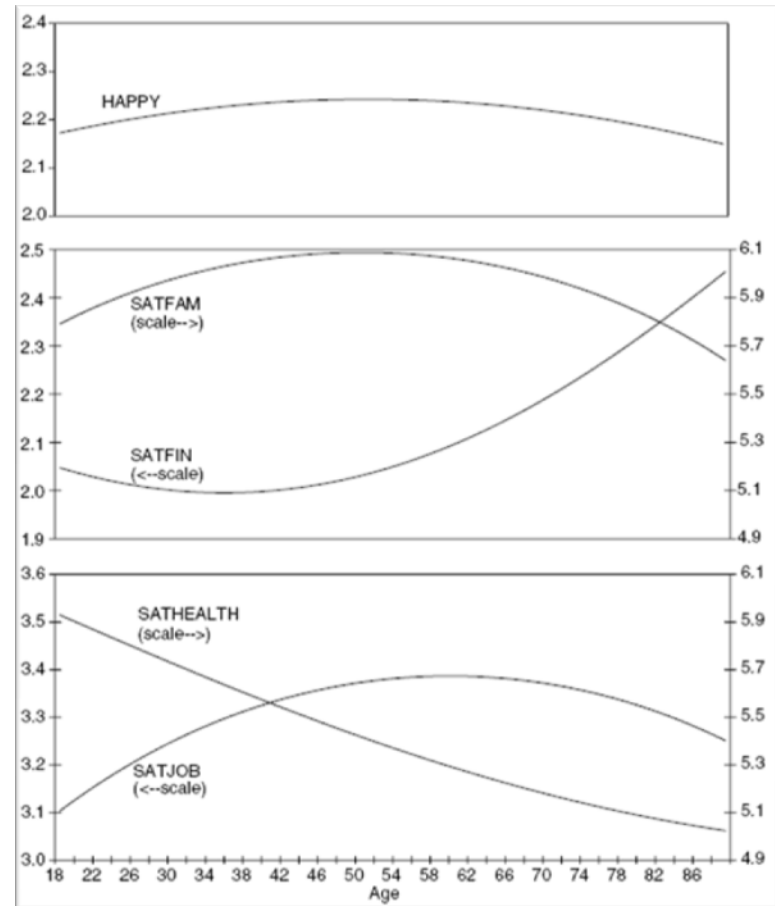
- Think about population and bootstrap weights

Limitations of concepts

- Happiness
  - Tends to level established by personality and genetics
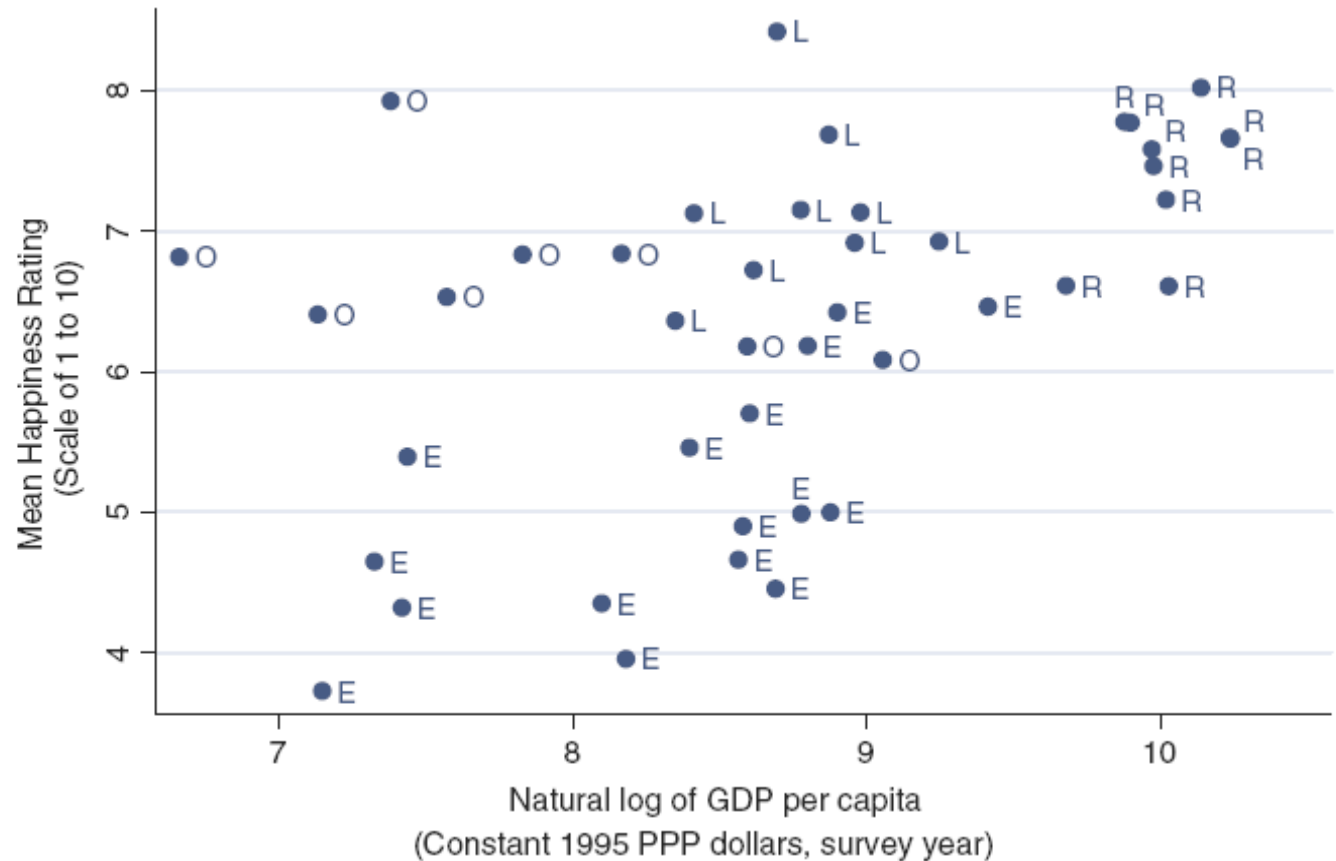 - As the outcome of experiences in life domains
- Different domains
  - And migration?

Happiness around the world

Variation:
81% individual attributes
+
19% country characteristics

E: Europe, L: Latin America, R: Rich Industrial, O: Other. (Ball and Chernova, 2008)

Modeling satisfaction and dissatisfying challenges

- What does satisfaction with life in Canada really mean?
- Report what we find and DO NOT find
  - Good scholarship
  - When results are non-results