

The relationship between fear and value of altruism

Eric Lin

University of Nevada, Reno



Theoretical framework

- Durkheim's Social Solidarity
- Simmel's Functional Theory of Conflict
- Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



Pyramid of Needs (After Abraham Maslow)

Data

- World Values Study-Wave 6: 2010-2014
- European Values Study-Wave 4: 2008-2010
- 60 countries & about 85,000 individuals
- Gini & GDPP PPP per capita
 - World Bank, UNHDR, and CIA Factbook

Methods

- Multilevel Regression
 - 2 levels
 - Models estimated using GLS
 - Control variables at both the national and individual levels

Prosocial questions

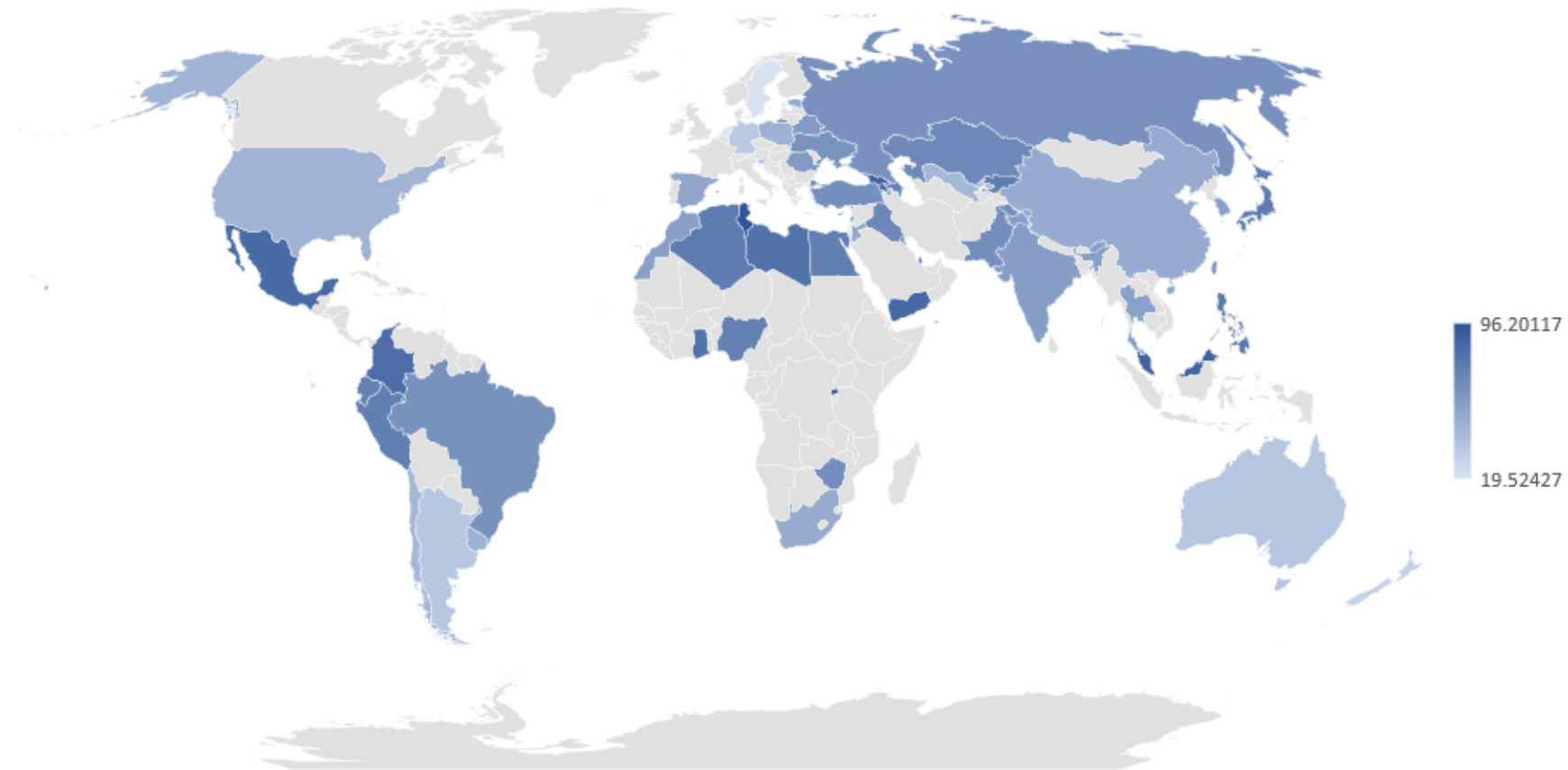
- It is important to do something for the good of society:
- It is important to help people living nearby; to care for their needs:

Fear Questions

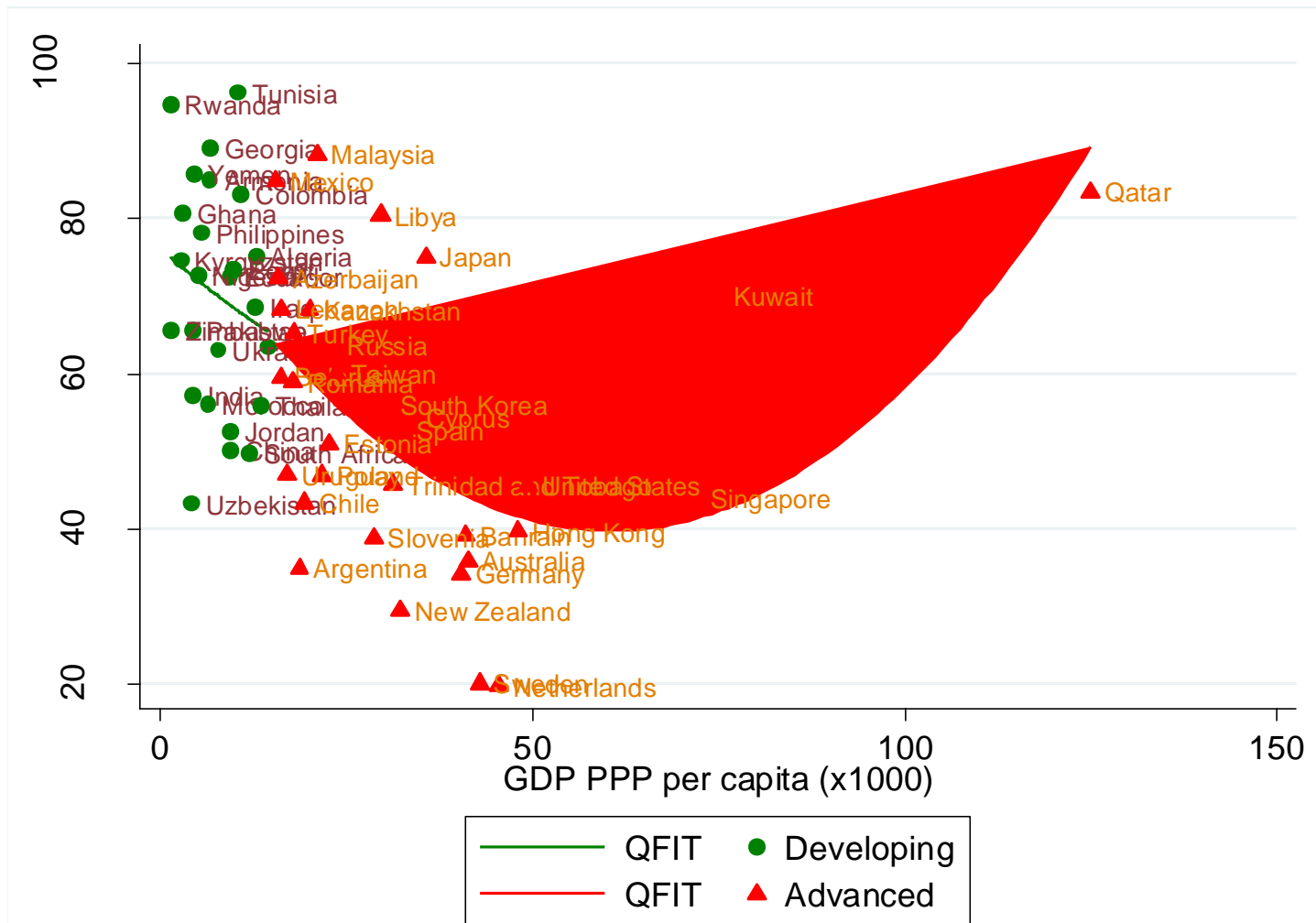
- A war involving my country:
- A terrorist attack:
- A civil war:

Fear of large-scale violence

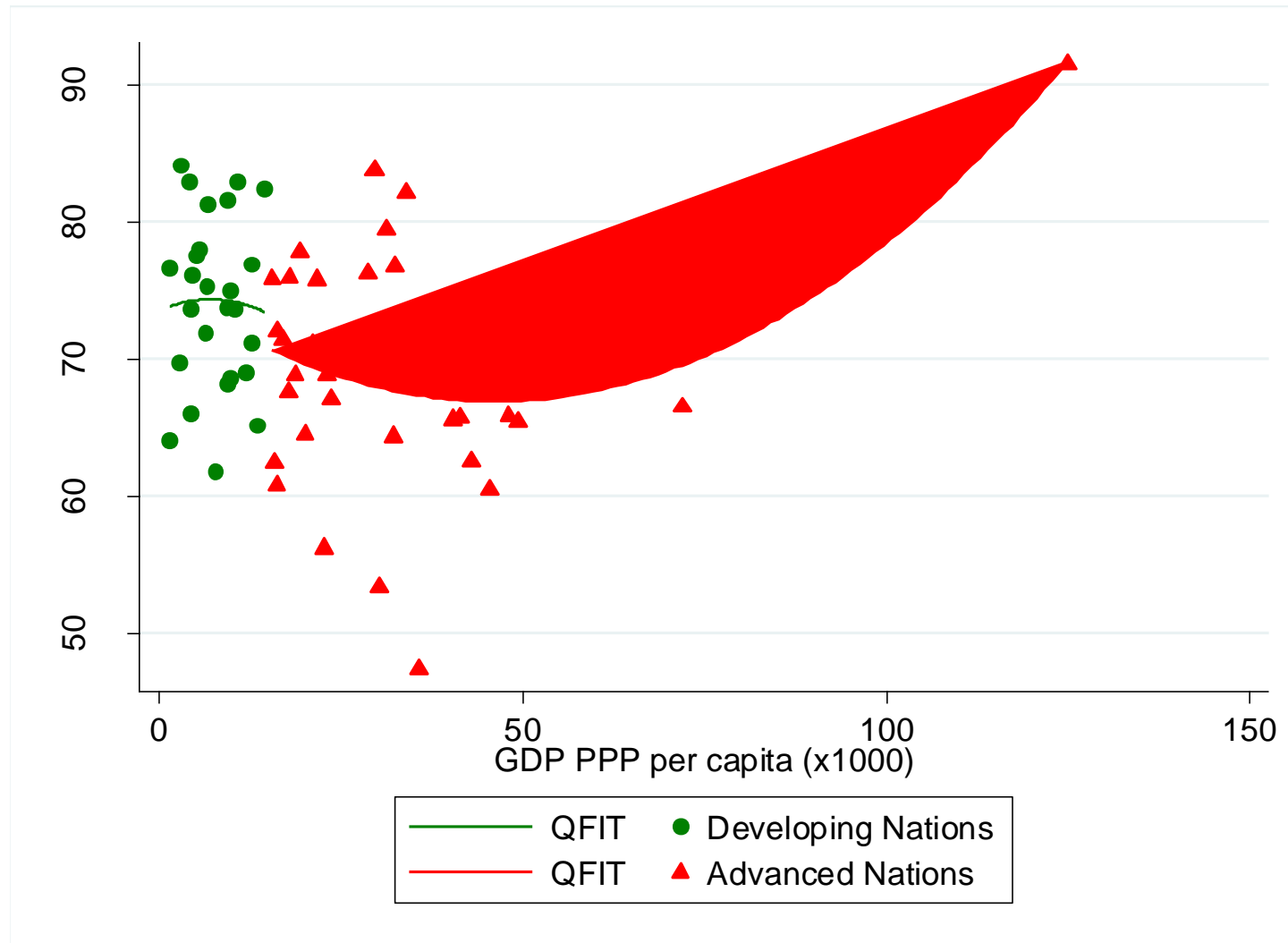
N=84,224



Fear & GDP



2-item Prosocial & GDP

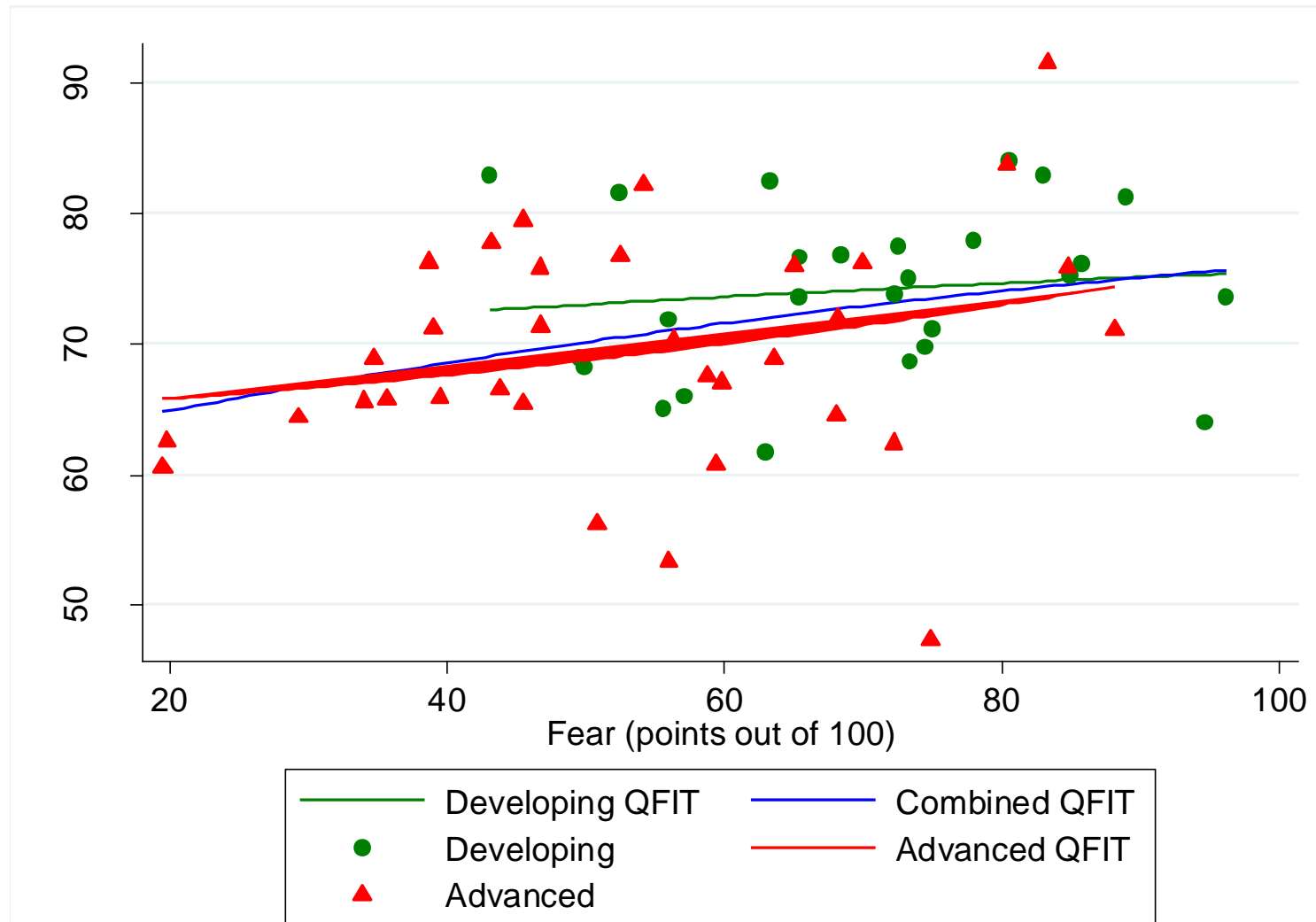


Developing v Advanced

	Developing	Advanced
Fear	0.102***	0.103***
	17.98	18.83
SWB	0.064***	0.078***
	10.86	-14.89
Gini	0.011	0.087
	0.15	1.92
GDP	0.024	-0.052
	0.38	-1.02
Age	0.034***	0.059***
	5.98	11.07
Gender	0.021***	-0.029***
	4.09	-6.27
Edu	0.074***	0.064***
	12.45	11.73
Married	-0.009	-0.014**
	-1.66	-2.73
Religious	0.054***	0.052***
	9.38	-10.15
Income	-0.031***	-0.003
	-5.58	-0.48
Meritocracy	0.100***	0.060***
	19.1	12.14
National Pride	0.088***	0.073***
	15.66	13.97
N	34268	38897

*p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001

2-item Prosocial & fear

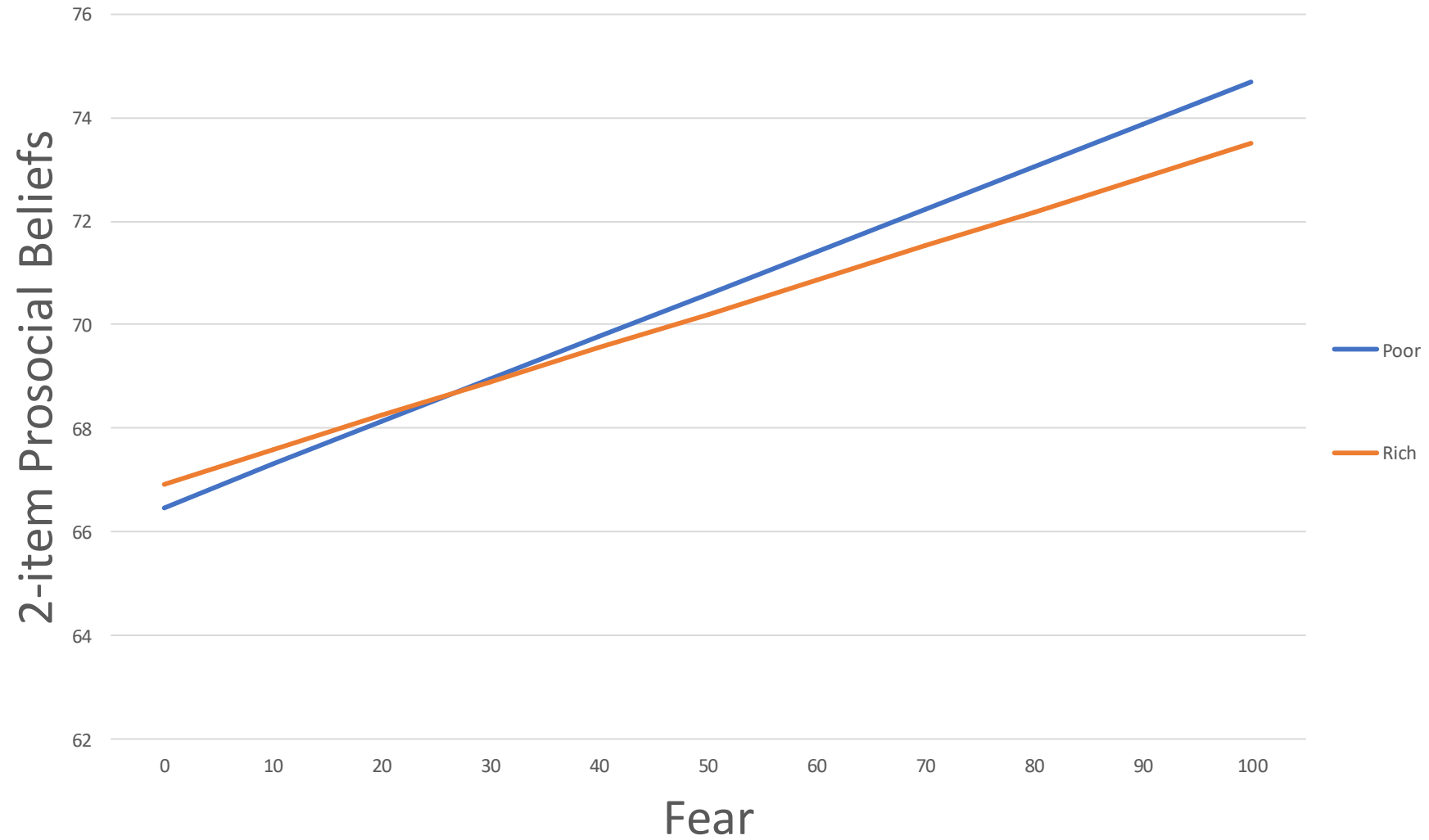


Rich v Poor

	Poor	Rich
Fear	0.113***	0.102***
	11.1	15.58
SWB	0.056***	0.065***
	-5.36	-10.93
Gini	0.065	0.052
	1.64	1.25
GDP	-0.073*	-0.079
	-2.10	-1.85
Age	0.033**	0.046***
	3.17	7.2
Gender	-0.005	-0.007
	-0.53	-1.29
Edu	0.082***	0.067***
	7.62	10.89
Married	-0.012	-0.021***
	-1.18	-3.36
Religious	0.076***	0.042***
	-7.53	-6.58
Income	-0.006	0.001
	-0.66	0.23
Meritocracy	0.051***	0.090***
	5.38	15.66
National Pride	0.095***	0.077***
	9.32	12.57
N	10501	28428

*p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001

Rich vs poor



Summary

- Individuals in developing nations are more afraid of large-scale violence and value prosocial ideas more
- Wealthy individuals value prosocial ideas more than their poor counterparts
- The poor benefit a bit more from their fear
- Greater levels of fear are related to greater levels of prosocial value

Discussion

- Does this only pertain to ingroup?
- Will any type of fear produce similar results?
- Collectivistic v Individualistic?
- Left v Right?
- 3rd level: Rural v Metro?
- Fear mongering may have solidarity benefits.

Thank you for your
time.

Eric Lin

elin237@nevada.unr.edu

