

IN WHAT KIND OF SOCIETY DO PEOPLE FLOURISH BEST?

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Presentation at Optentia webinar

**Pathways to flourishing individuals, organizations and
communities**

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How people flourish in nations

- Assumed and **apparent** flourishing
- Apparent flourishing \leftarrow long and happy life
- Happy-Life-Years differ across nations
- Correlates show in which kind of nations people flourish best

Notions of 'flourishing'

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- **Assumed: Beliefs**
- **Apparent: Facts**

Notions of 'flourishing'

- **Assumed:** Beliefs e.g. meaningful life
- **Apparent:** Facts: long and happy life

Notions of 'flourishing'

- **Assumed:** Beliefs e.g. meaningful life
Ethical views
- *Culturally variable*
- **Apparent:** Facts: live long and happy
Biological view
Universal

Measurement of long + happy life

- Measurement of happiness
- Combination with longevity

Measurement of happiness

Example of a survey question

Taking all together, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your life as a whole these days?

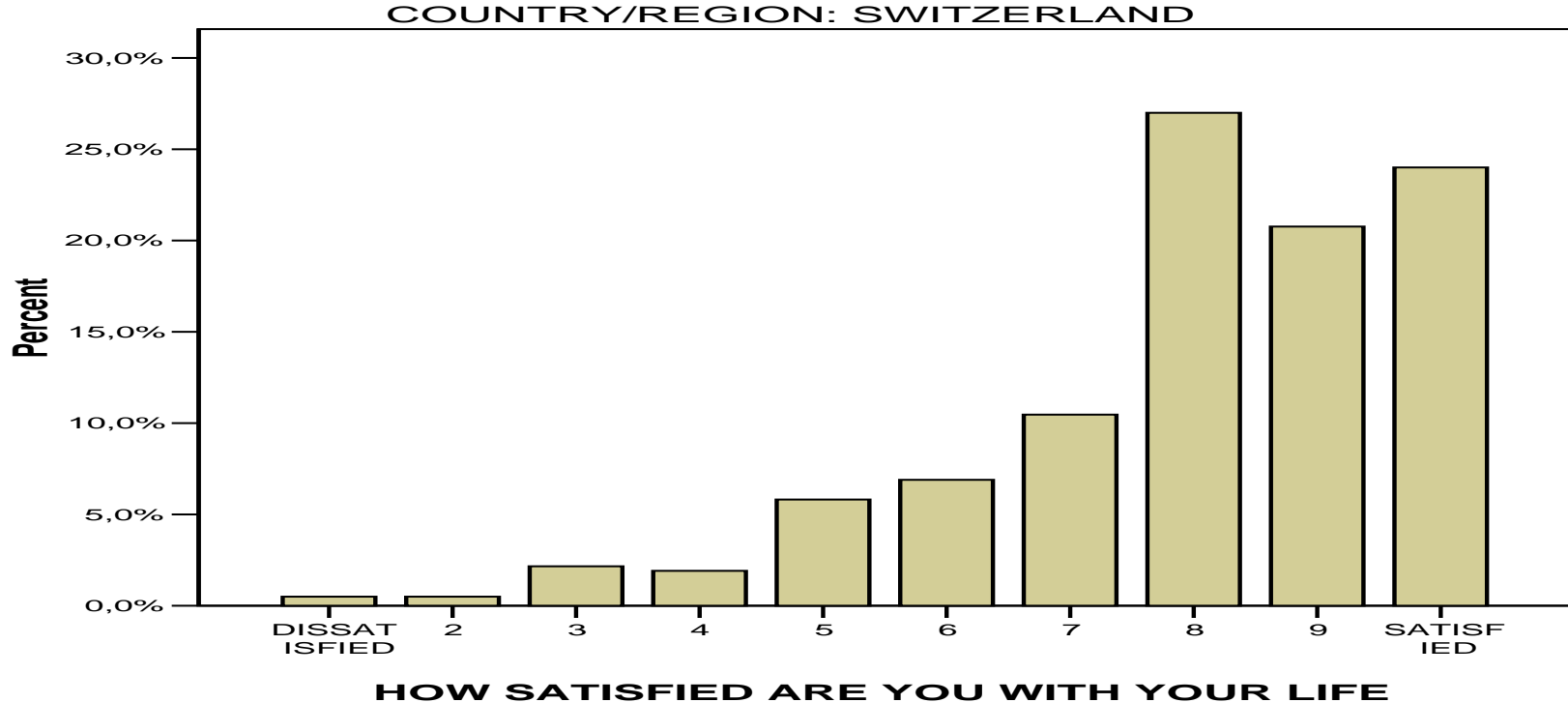
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Dissatisfied

Satisfied

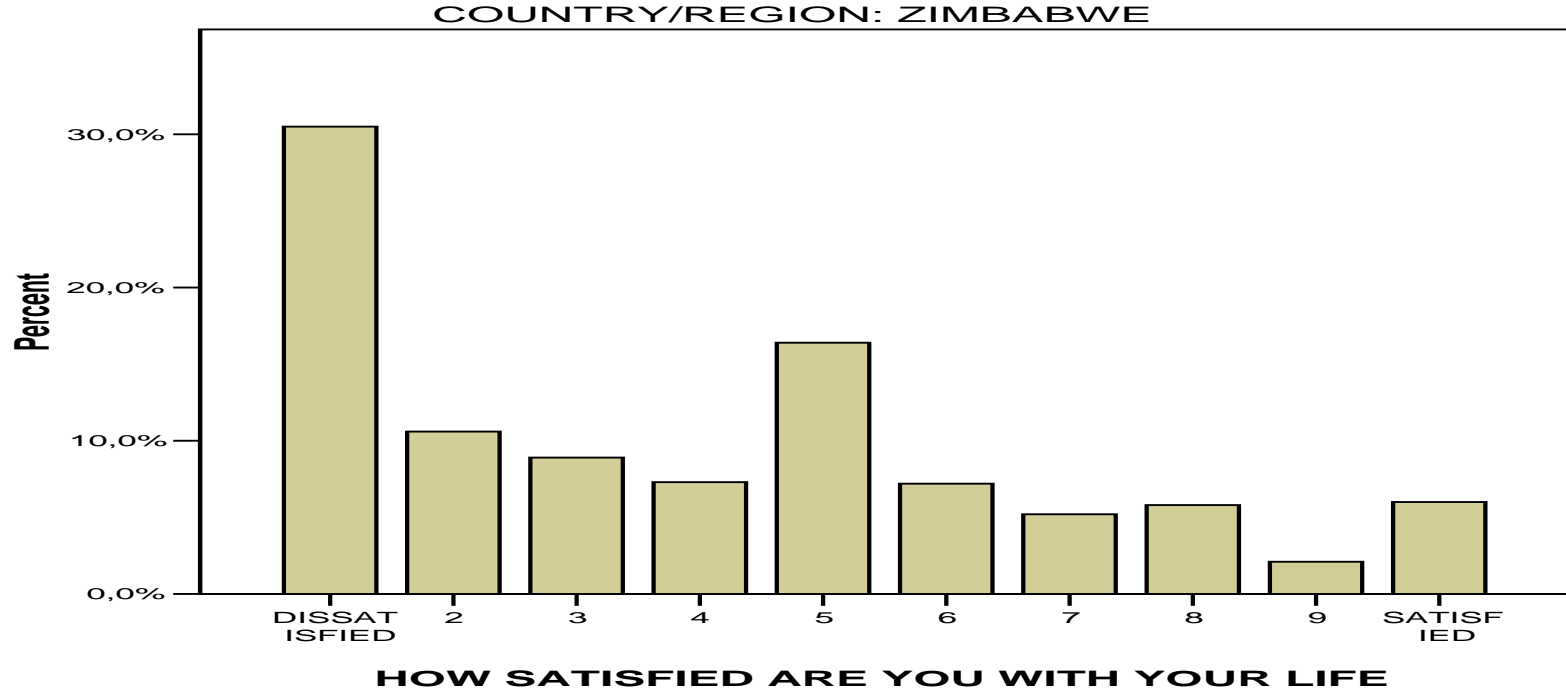
Measurement of happiness

Switzerland



Measurement of happiness

Zimbabwe



Measure of Happy Life Years

Meaning:

How long and happy people live

Computation:

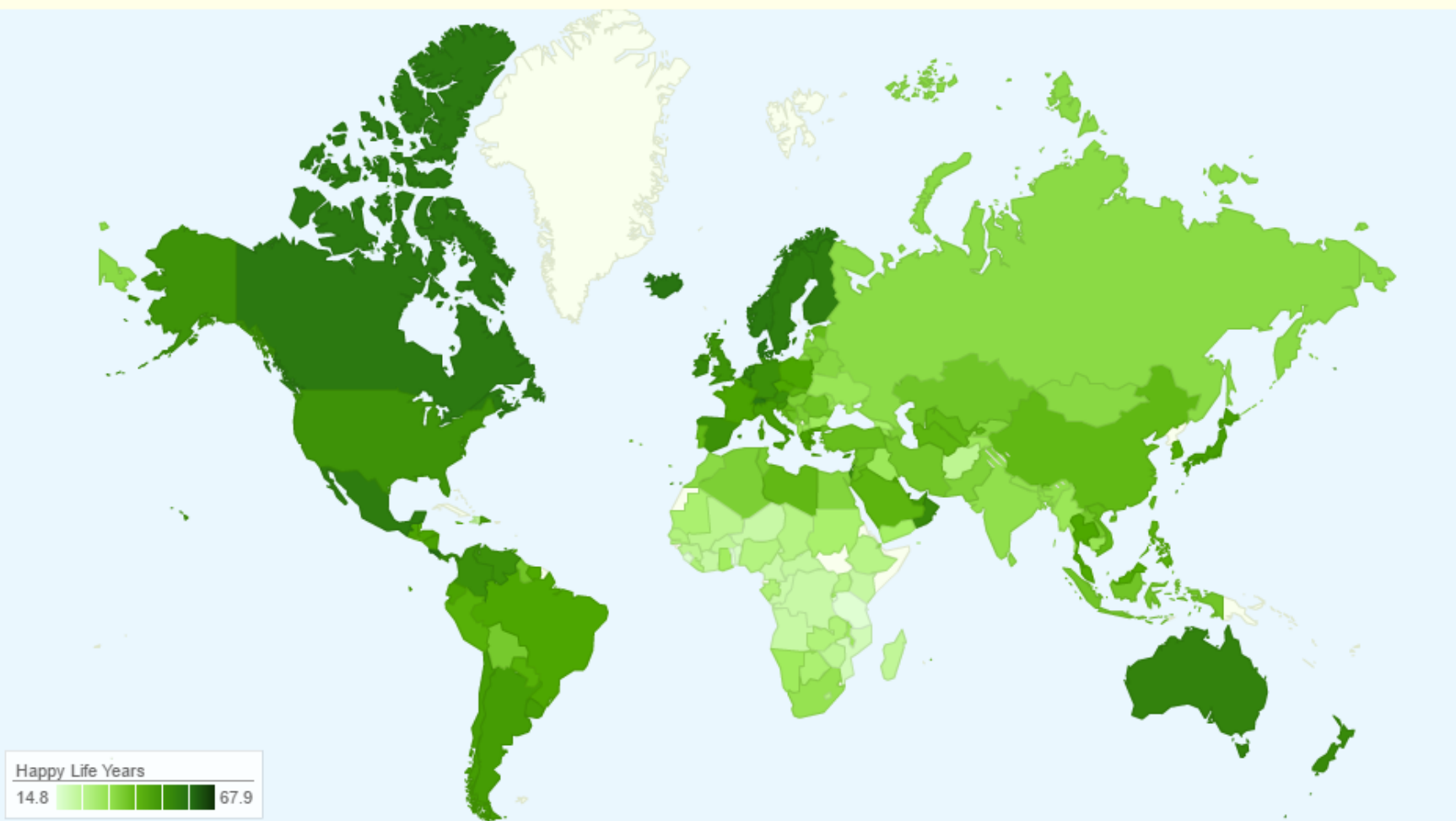
Life-expectancy x 0-1 happiness

Happy Life Years in nations around 2010

	<i>Average happiness</i>	<i>Life expectancy</i>	<i>HLY</i>
Switzerland	8,0	82,6	66,0
USA	7,3	78,9	57,5
France	6,4	81,8	52,4
Russia	5,6	68,0	37,8
South Africa	6,3	56,9	35,6
Zimbabwe	4,1	59,9	24,5

HAPPY LIFE YEARS IN 159 NATIONS 2005-2014

How long and happy people live



Societal correlates of HLY

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among 117 nations around 2010

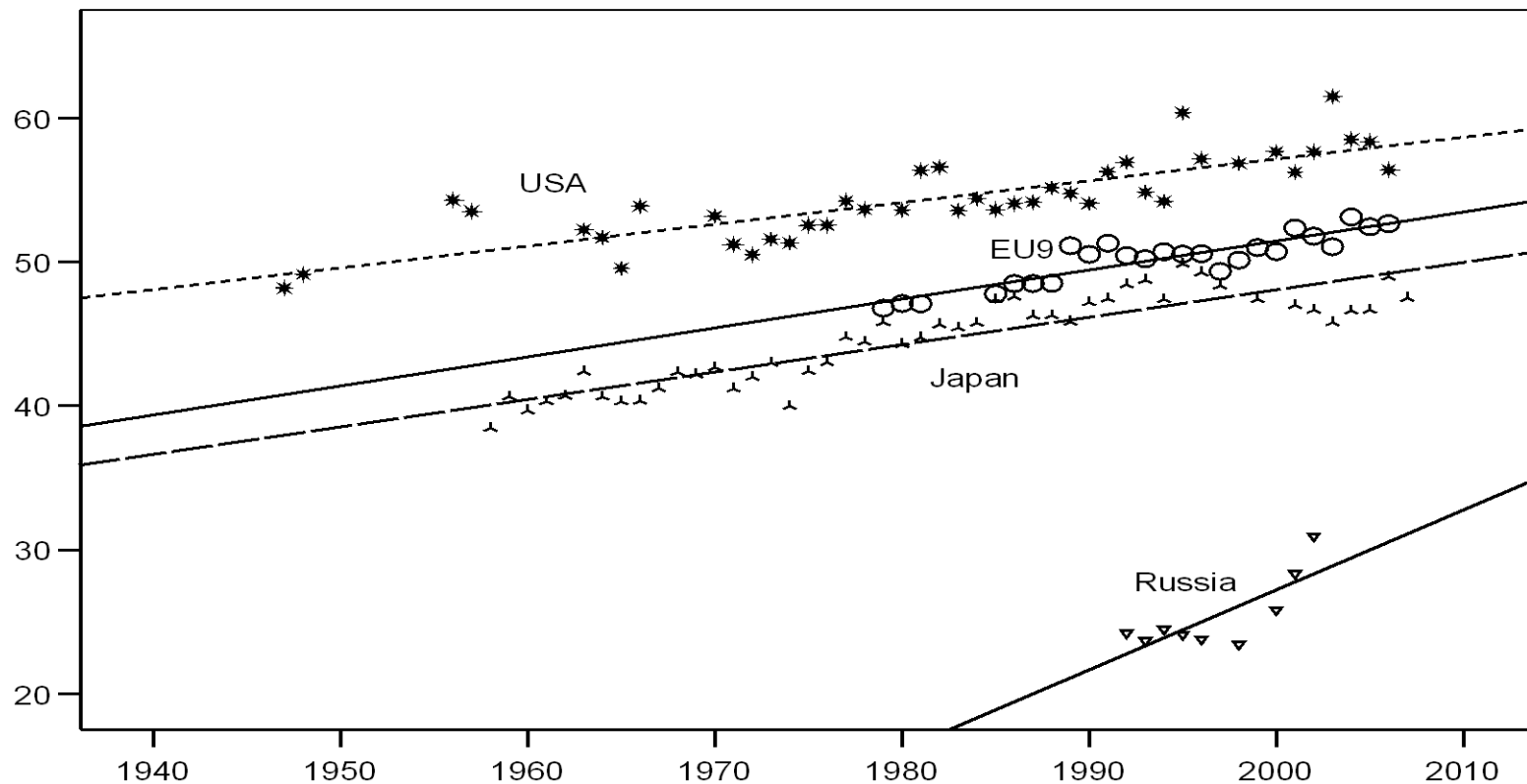
- Economic prosperity +.73
- Good governance +.66
- Gender equality +.63
- Democracy +.58
- Income equality +.21

Explained variance 60%

Conclusions

- Flourishing manifests in how long and happy people live
- People flourish best in modern society
- Modernization pathway to flourishing

Trend Happy Life Years 1948-2010



Full text

Greater happiness for a greater number:
Did the promise of enlightenment come
true?

Social Indicators Research, 2017

vol. 130, nr. 1, pp. 9-25,

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