

**THE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF SOCIAL
INEQUALITY: DEMOCRATIC LEGITIMATION IN
CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE**

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EUREQUAL End of Project Round Table:

**Social Inequality and Its Consequences in
Central and Eastern Europe**

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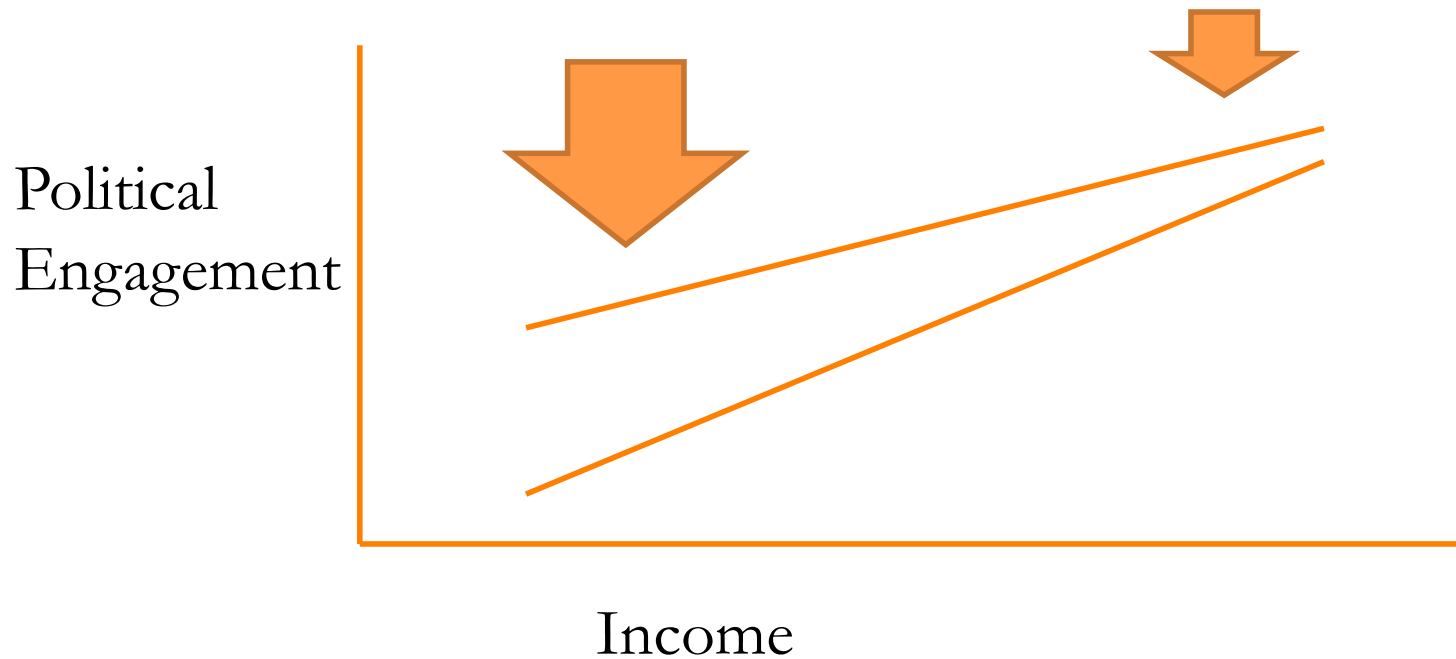
SOCIAL INEQUALITY AND POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

- What is it?
- Why is it important?
 - Inequality as inevitable
 - Inequality as limit to engagement?
 - Long term stabilization and legitimation
- How is social inequality related to engagement?
 - Little theory to guide our expectations thus social inequality is regarded as income inequality to flesh out the differences (Solt 2008)
 - Although related to income



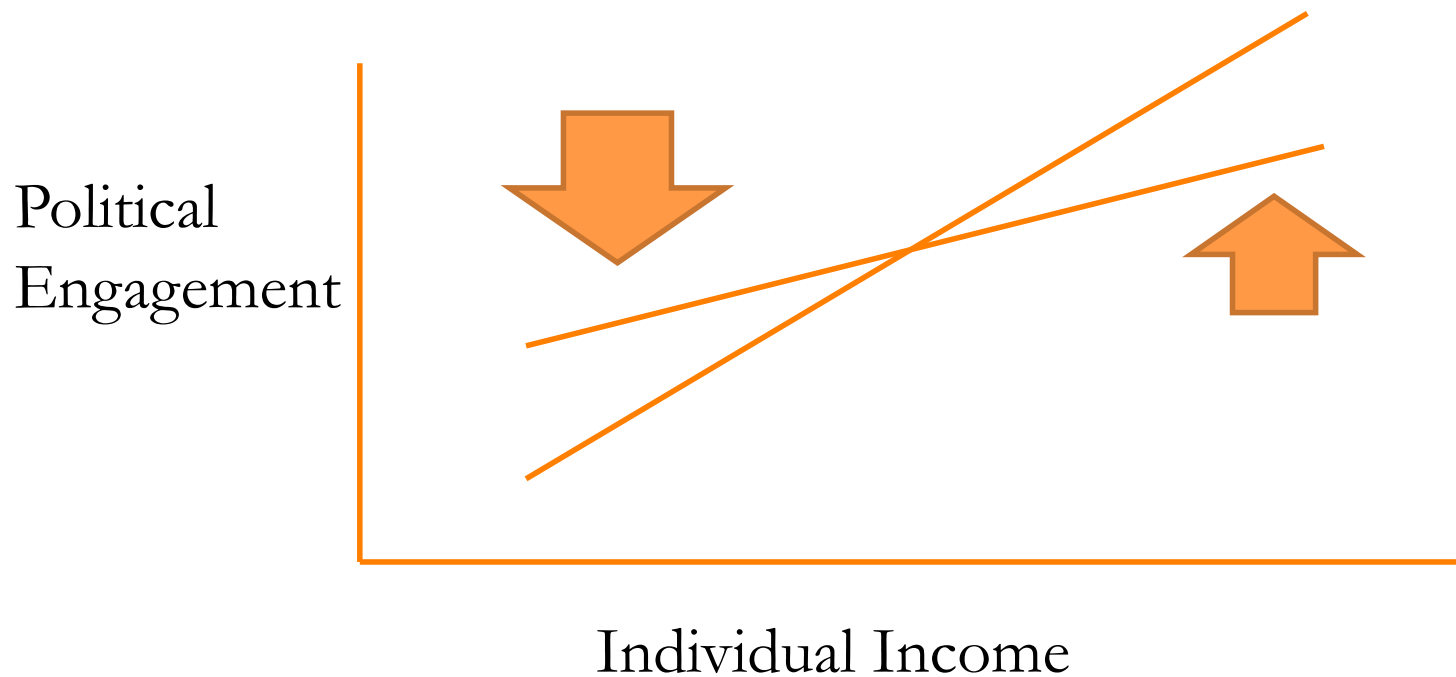
Inequality and Political Engagement: *Relative Power Theory*

- Political engagement decreases with increases in objective and individual inequality, affecting the poorer more than the rich, i.e. ‘relatively’.



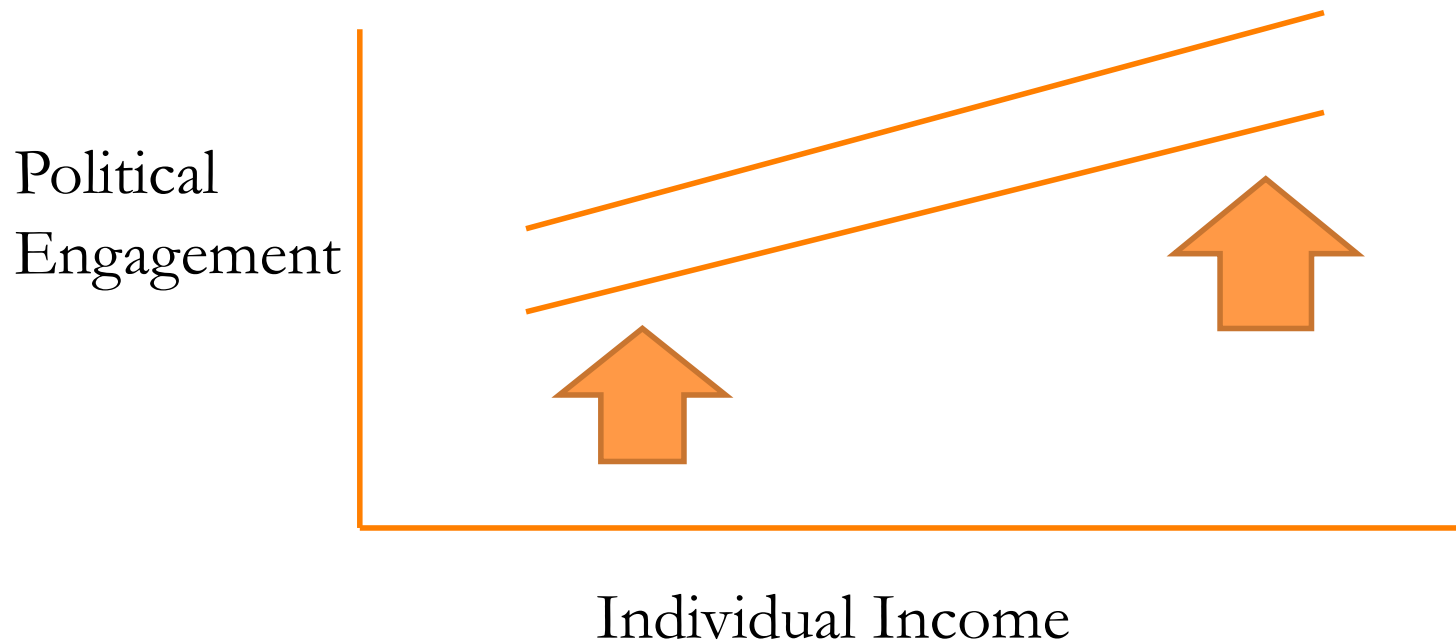
Inequality and Political Engagement: *Resource Theory*

- Engagement pivots on the basis of individual inequality: the rich engage more as they have the resources to be more politically active, and poor less.



Inequality and Political Engagement: *Conflict Theory*

- Increases in inequality increase engagement for all income levels as all groups engage the debate politically




HYPOTHESES

- **H₁**: Social and political engagement decreases overall with increases in perceptions of excessive social inequality but de-mobilizes the poor more than the rich - (*Relative power theory*).
- **H₂**: Social and political engagement increases for the rich and decreases for the poor as the perceptions of excessive social inequality increases - (*Resource theory*).
- **H₃**: The perception of excessive social inequality increases social and political engagement for all income levels (i.e. regardless of income levels) - (*Conflict theory*).



METHODOLOGY I

- 13 CEE countries including: Belarus, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, and Ukraine in 2007.
 - **Perceptions of Social Inequality:** “Some people say that there is too much social inequality in our society. Others say that there is no or almost no social inequality in our society. What is your view?” Respondents were presented with a range of choices, including ‘too much social inequality’, ‘about the right amount of social inequality’, ‘not enough social inequality’, and ‘there is no or almost no social inequality’.
 - Includes an interaction with income
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METHODOLOGY II

○ Social Engagement

- Professional and Political Group Membership
- Trust

○ Political Engagement

- Political Interest
- Political Knowledge
- Political Participation

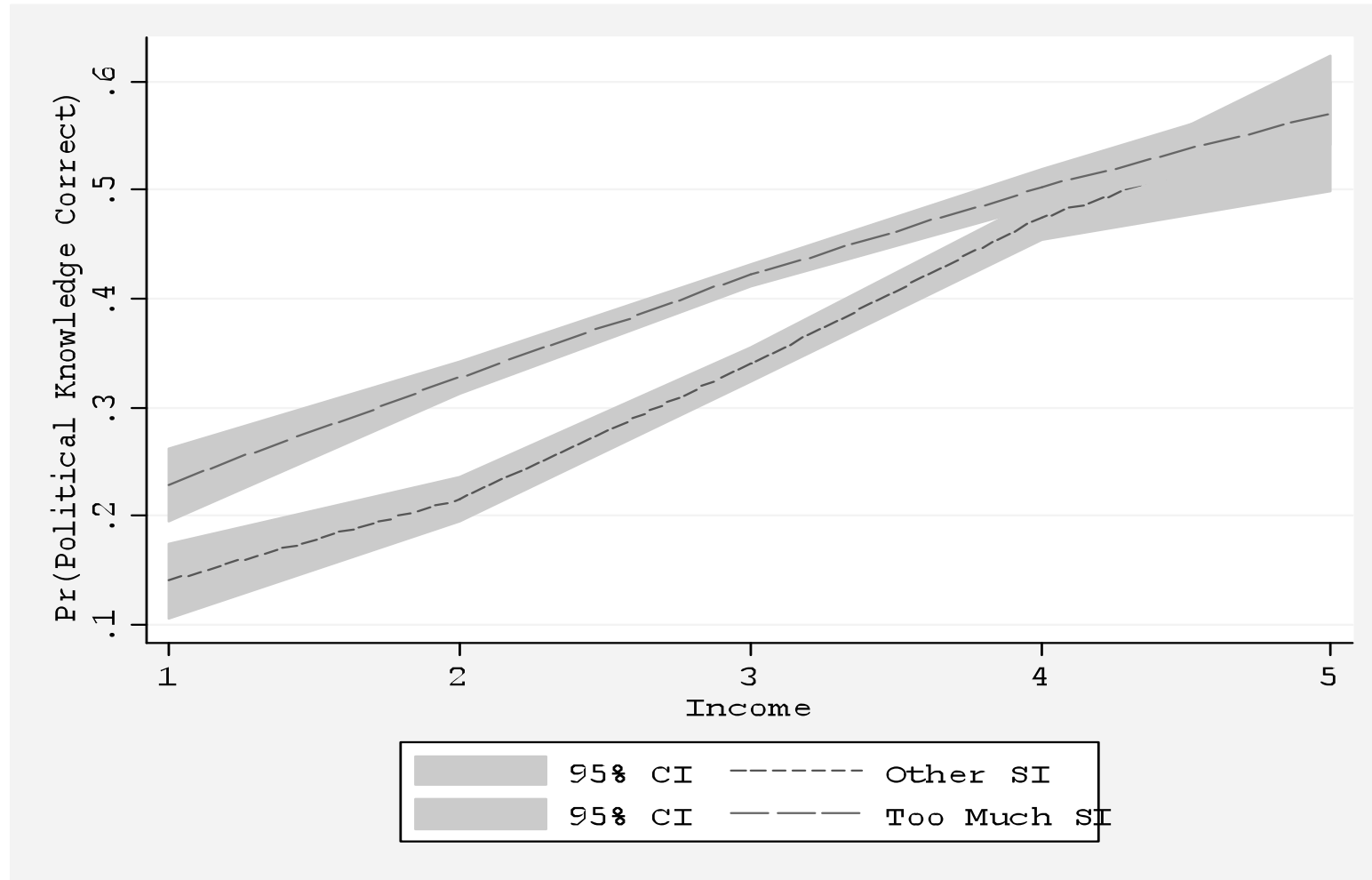
- **Control variables:** Subjective evaluations of economic and income inequality, ideology, education, gender, age, ethnicity, employment status, urbanity, and social group membership.



SOCIAL INEQUALITY AND ENGAGEMENT

	Beta (s.e.)	'Too Much' Social Inequality	Interaction w/ Income	Income
Prof. Group Membership		-0.23*** (0.06)	0.08 (0.06)	-0.15** (0.05)
Political Group Membership		0.02 (0.12)	-0.05 (0.10)	0.25** (0.09)
Trust		-0.11*** (0.03)	0.05 (0.03)	0.04 (0.02)
Political Interest		0.04* (0.02)	0.00 (0.02)	0.10*** (0.02)
Political Knowledge		0.15** (0.05)	-0.20*** (0.05)	0.49*** (0.05)
Political Participation		0.16*** (0.02)	-0.05** (0.02)	-0.02 (0.02)

SOCIAL INEQUALITY AND INCOME INTERACTIONS: POLITICAL KNOWLEDGE



SOCIAL INEQUALITY AND INCOME INTERACTIONS: POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

