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Good Life Beyond Growth
Jena 22-05-2015

Basic Income - an Acceleration Brake? !

1 Basic Income as a means for degrowth
by enabling a more authentic economy

2 Basic Income as contribution against social acceleration

Basic Income is a basic income.
It is a safe financial fundament
for elementary needs,
which can be added with other
kind of incomes.



Added Income

financed by taxes

- income tax
- heritage tax
- eco tax
- finance transaction tax
- ...



Basic Income

- guaranteed grant for everybody
- as an individual right
- without any conditions:
 - no proof of neediness
 - no duty to join the labour market

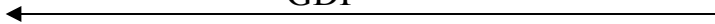
Previous debate:
Basic Income as libertarian welfare state and to free labour

- economical redistribution
- libertarian reform of welfare state
- reducing buerocracy
- freeing labour
- fostering innovation/creativity
- a means to induce growth

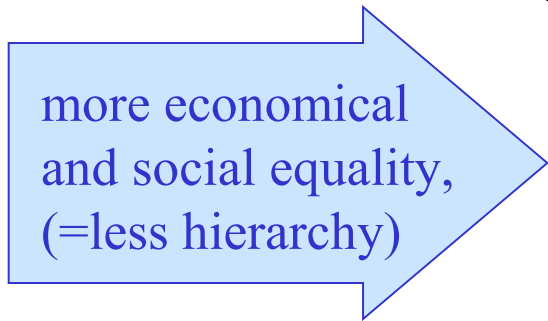


New debate: Basic Income as a means to reduce growth?

GDP



Basic Income means ...



... an authenticity grant

from productivism

making economic activities less attractive



reducing productions without subjectiv given sense

reducing productions without collectiv given sense



to more authentic production

from consumerism

enabling experiments of alternative lifestyles



bringing the feeling of abundance



reducing status-oriented consumption

to more authentic consumption

consumption

GDP



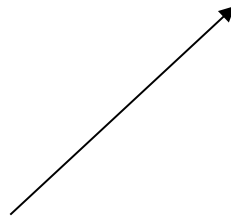
Hartmut Rosa:
**Acceleration
motors**

**The capitalist
economic motor:
time is money**

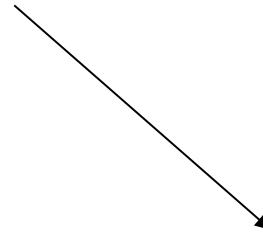
productivistic production (U.S.)
maximizing product innovations
minimizing production time



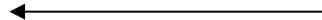
Technical
acceleration



Acceleration of the
pace of life



Acceleration of
social change



Acceleration
brakes through

Basic Income

**The (capitalist)
economic motor:
time is money**

**The economic brake:
security and
equality**

productivistic production (U.S.)
maximizing product innovations
minimizing production time

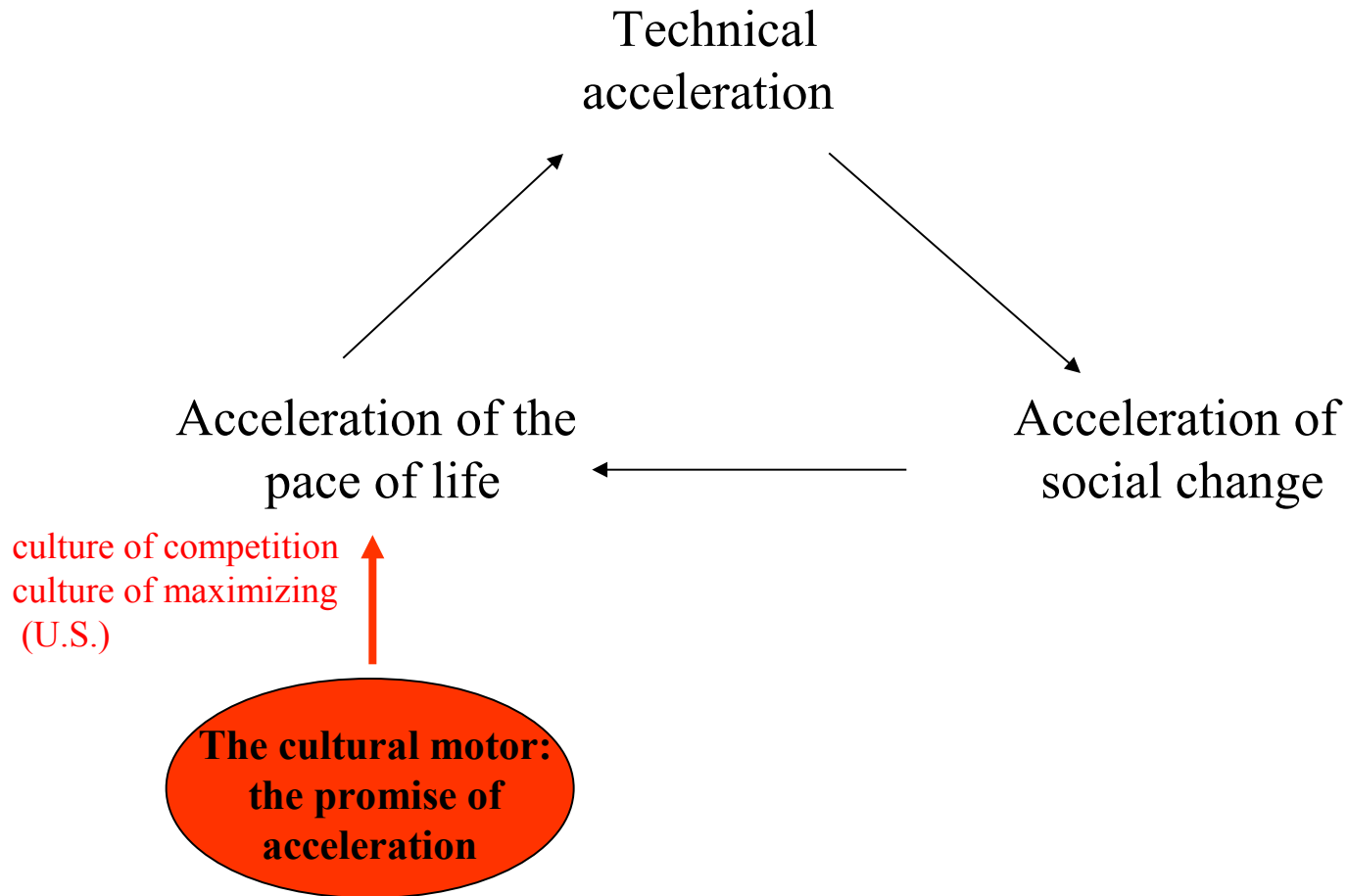
(more) authentic production:
less coercion for innovations
more acceptance of slower economic processes

Technical
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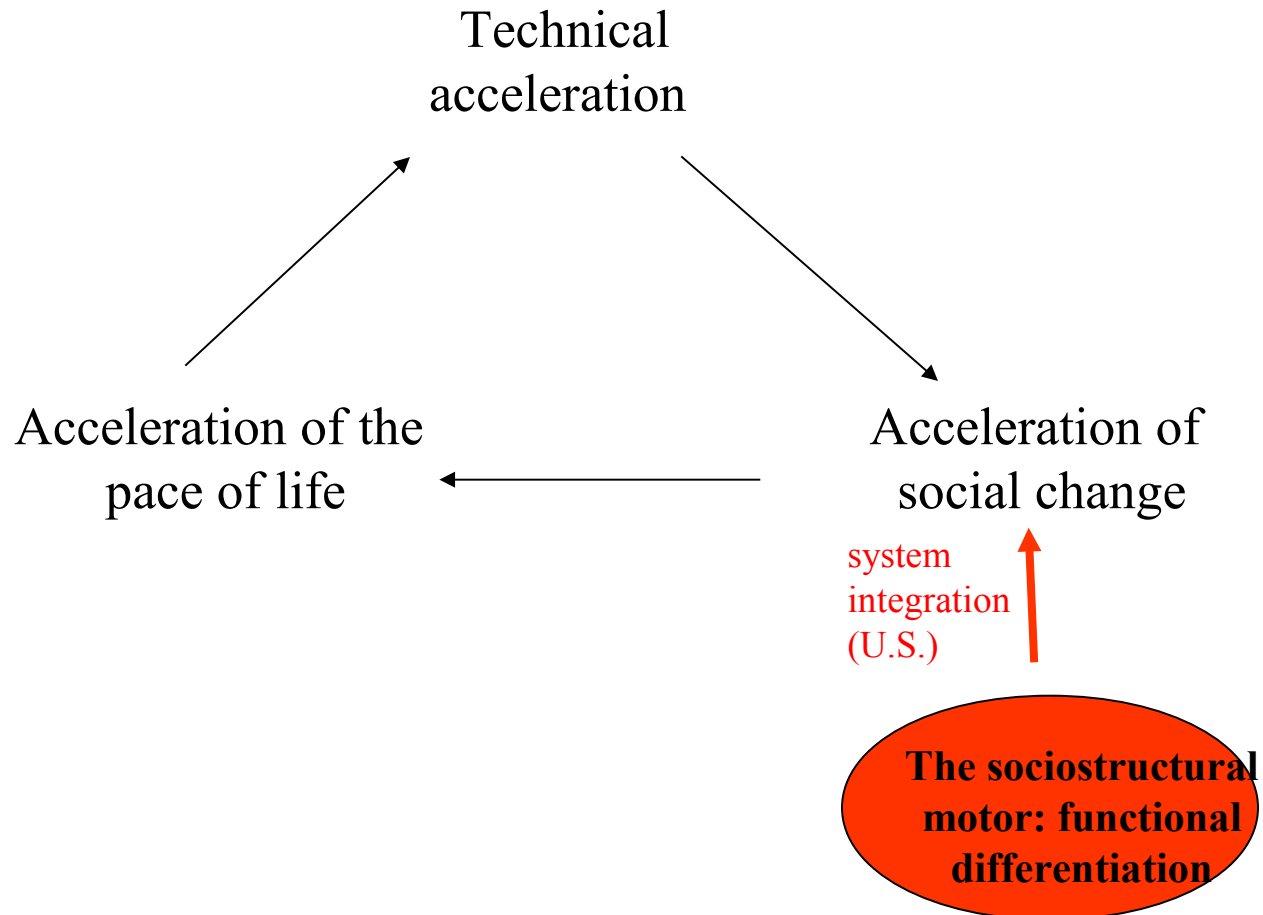
culture of competition
culture of maximizing
(U.S.)

culture of recognition of
others/ of oneself

**The cultural motor:
the promise of
acceleration**

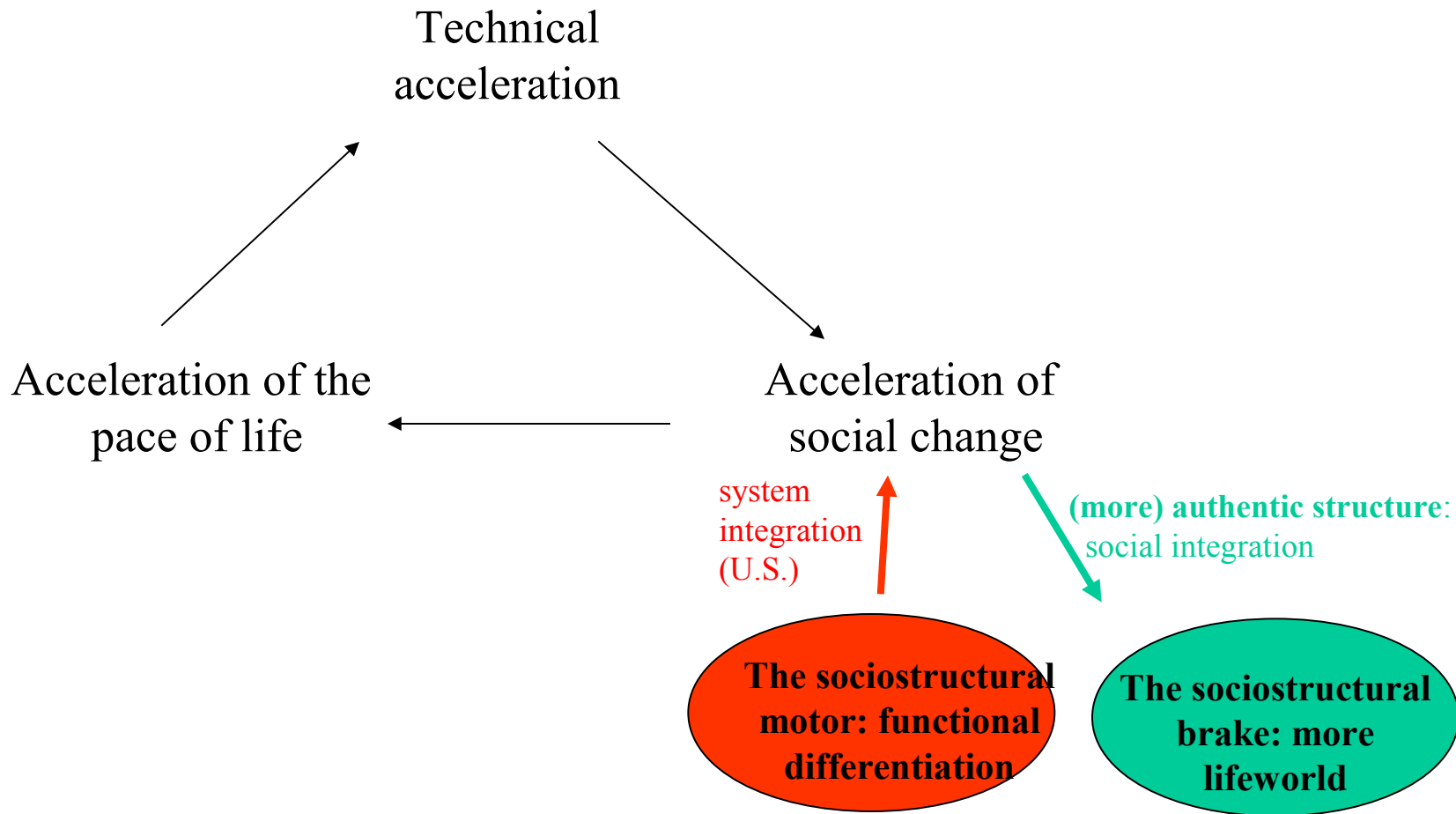
**The cultural brake:
less hierarchy
less scarcity**

Hartmut Rosa:
Acceleration
motors



Acceleration
brakes through

Basic Income



Acceleration
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Basic Income

**The economic motor:
time is money**

**The economic brake:
economic security and
equality**

productivistic production
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(more) authentic production:
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Technical
acceleration

Acceleration of the
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Acceleration of
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culture of competition
culture of maximizing

(more) authentic culture
recognition of others
recognition of oneself

system
integration

**(more) authentic
structure:**
social integration

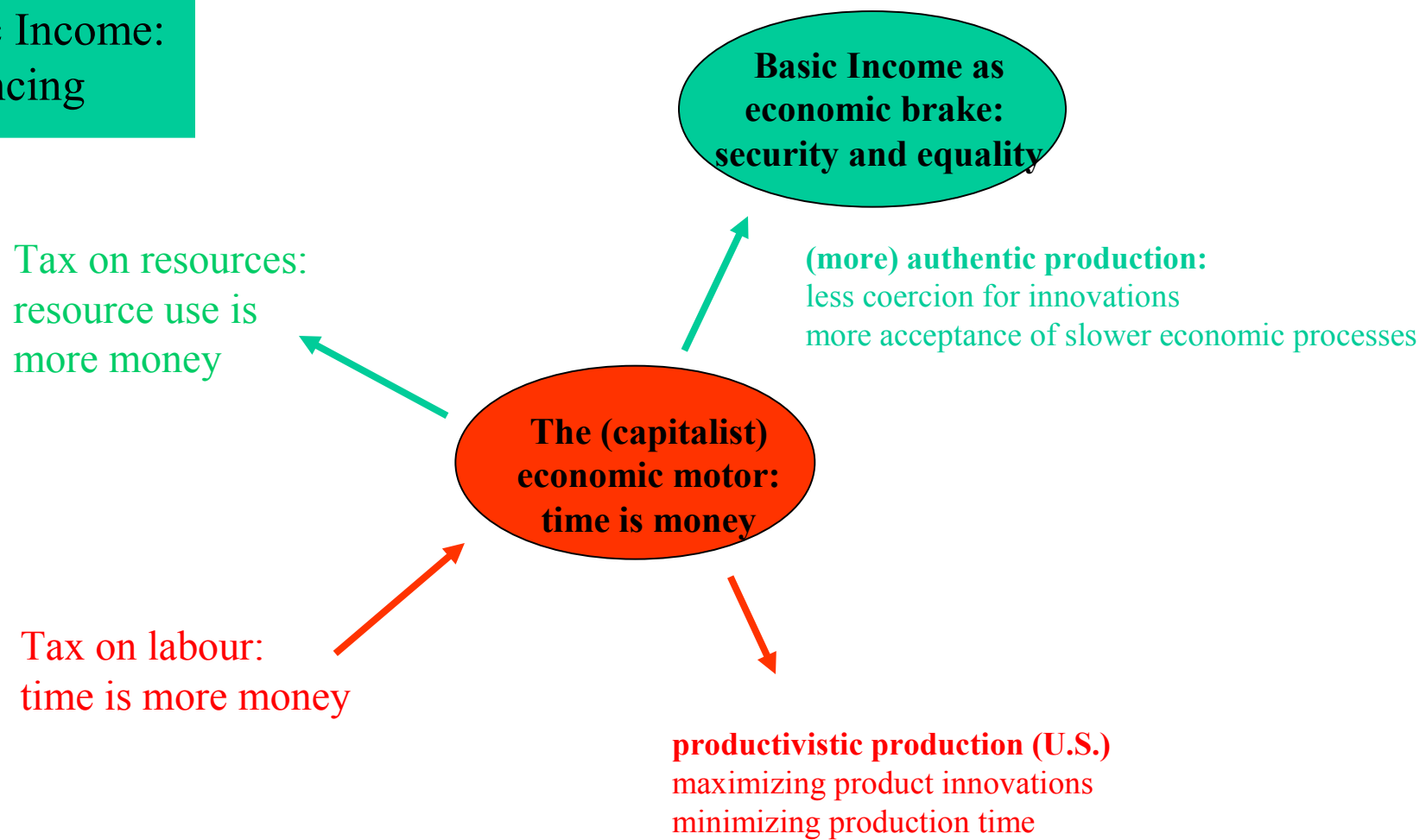
**The cultural motor:
the promise of
acceleration**

**The cultural brake:
less hierarchy
less scarcity**

**The sociostructural
motor: functional
differentiation**

**The sociostructural
brake: more
lifeworld**

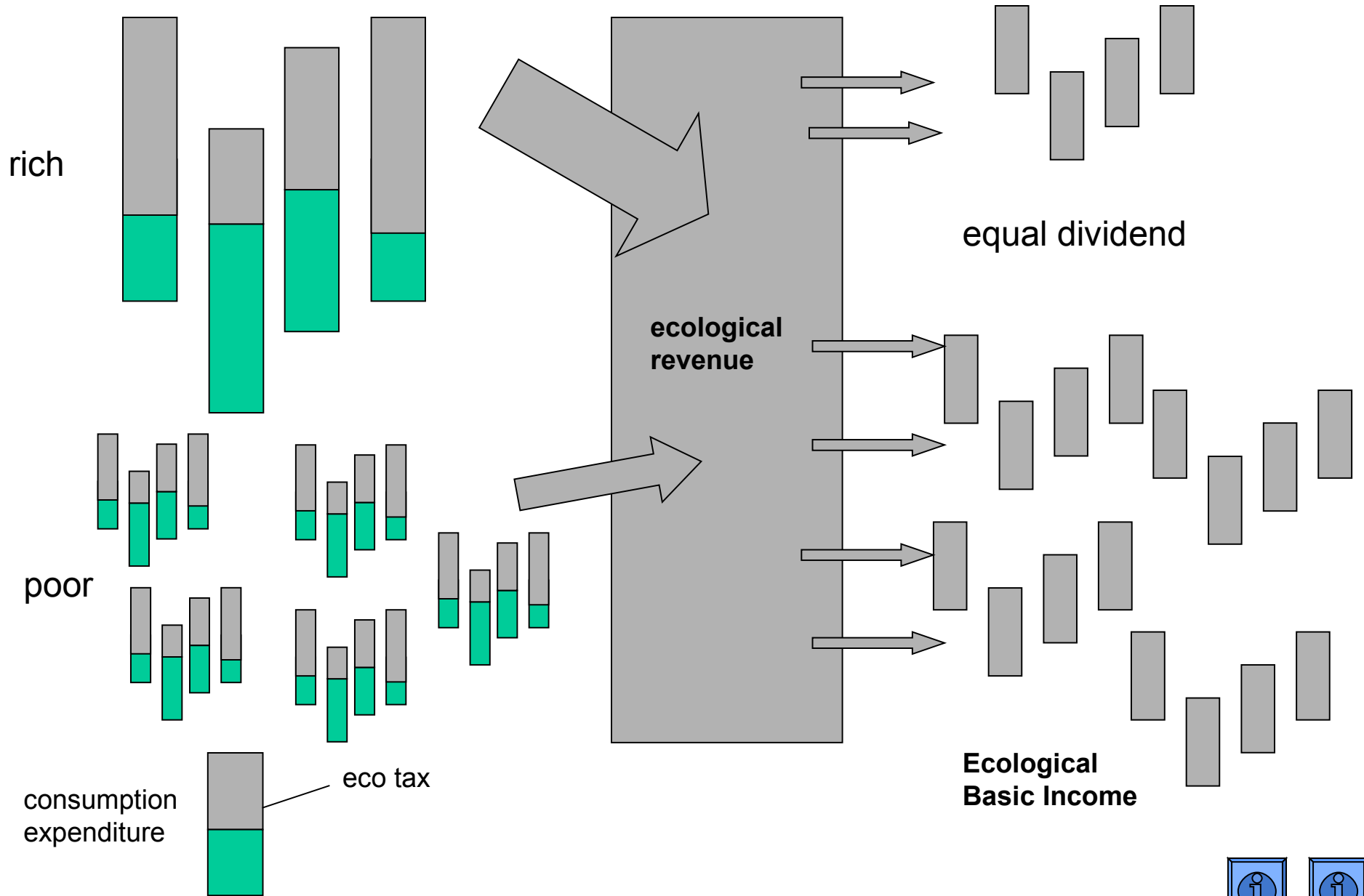
Basic Income: Financing



What will we do in the (wanted) case of degrowth?

Rising: Time is more money?
Rising: Resource is more money?

Ecological Basic Income = Tax and Share
Ecological steering and redistribution



Basic Income financed by eco-taxes:
sustaining Ecological Modernization and Degrowth

unwished technologies
become less attractive
change of (relative) prices

unwished culture
becomes less attractive
change of (relative) values

Alternative technologies

Alternative consumption

Less consumption

→ technological way
(efficiency, consistency)

→ cultural way
(life style, sufficiency)

Ecological Modernization

Degrowth

References

Psychology of Abundance

„A psychology of scarcity produces anxiety, envy, egoism [...]. A psychology of abundance produces initiative, faith in life and solidarity“

Erich Fromm: The Psychological Aspects of Guaranteed Income, New York 1966



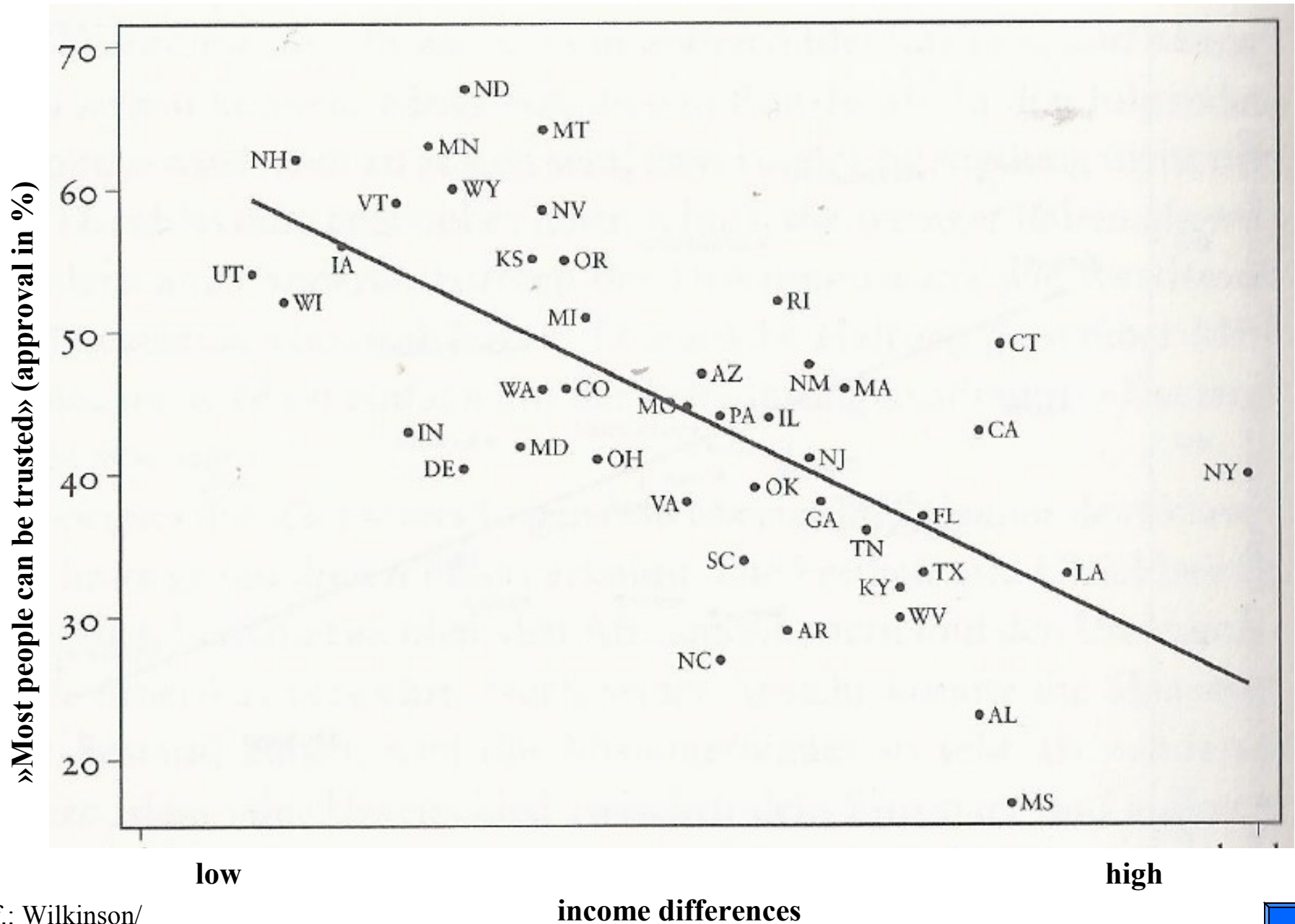
Psychology of Time Wealth

„Until now man has been too occupied with work (or has been too tired after work) to be seriously concerned with such problems as ‘What is the meaning of life?’, ‘What do I believe in?’, ‘What are my values?’, ‘Who am I?’ etc. If he ceases to be mainly occupied by work, he will either be free to confront these problems seriously, or he will become half mad from direct or compensated boredom.“

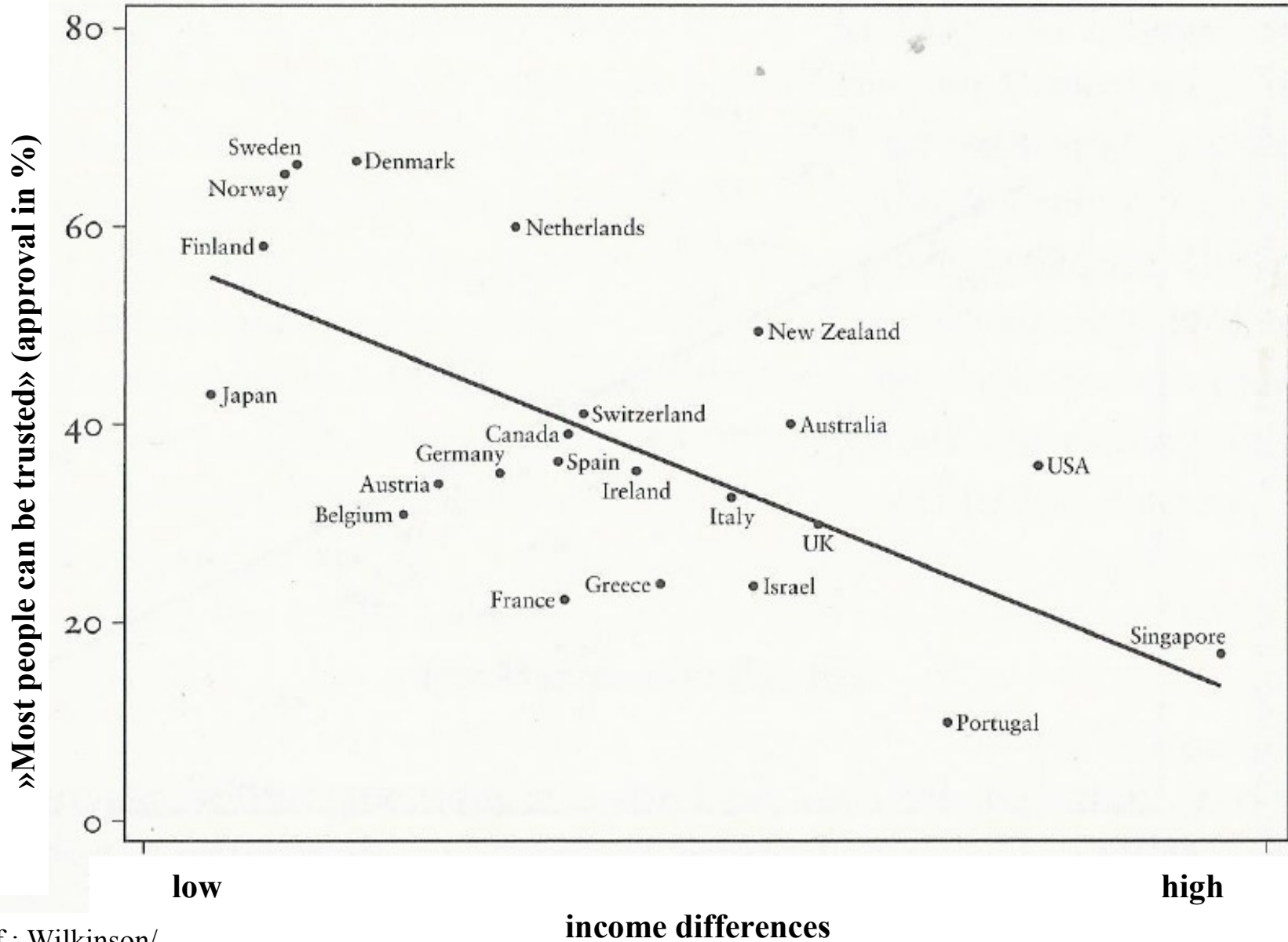
Erich Fromm: The Psychological Aspects of Guaranteed Income, New York 1966



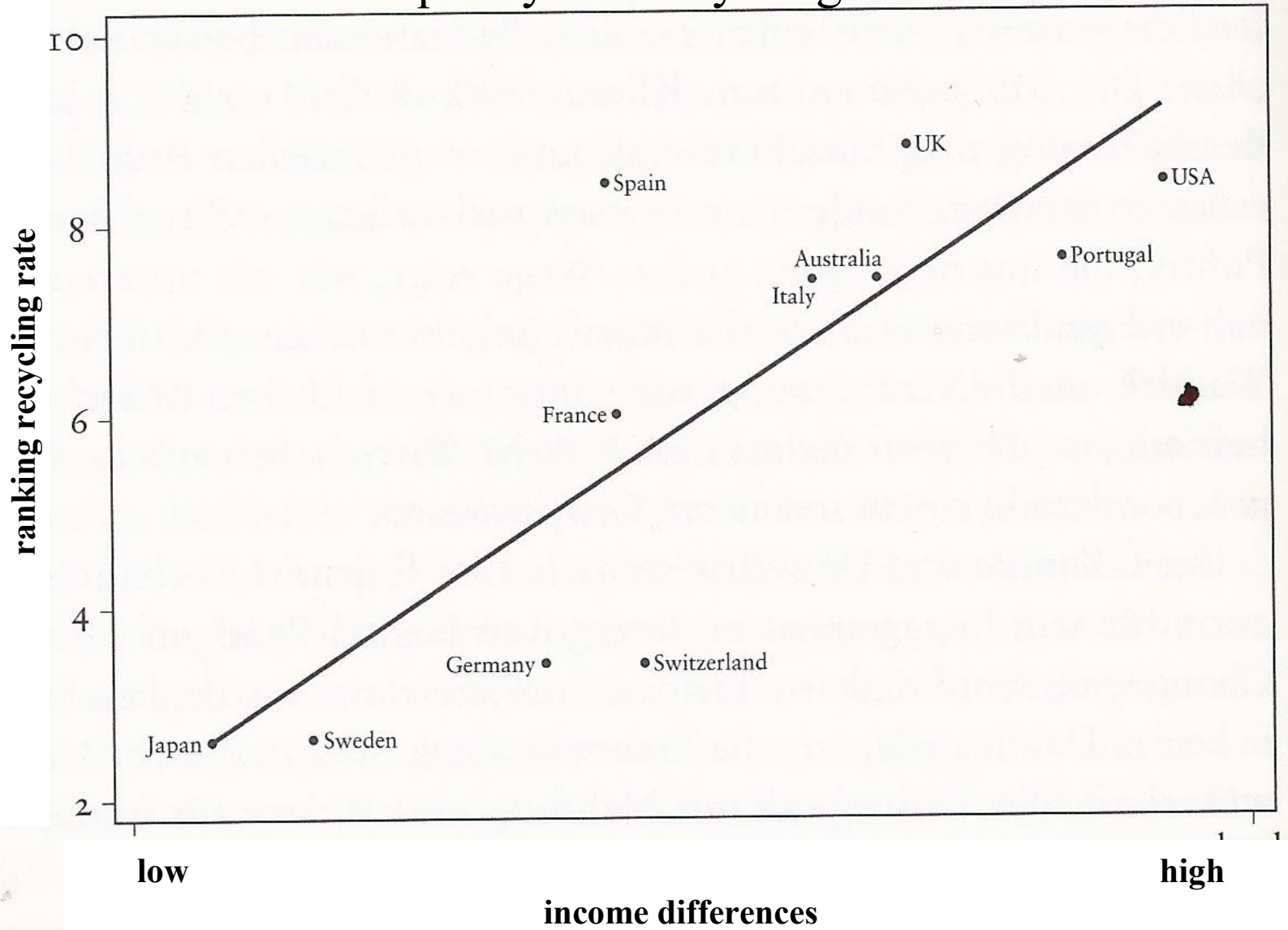
Inequality and confidence: states of America



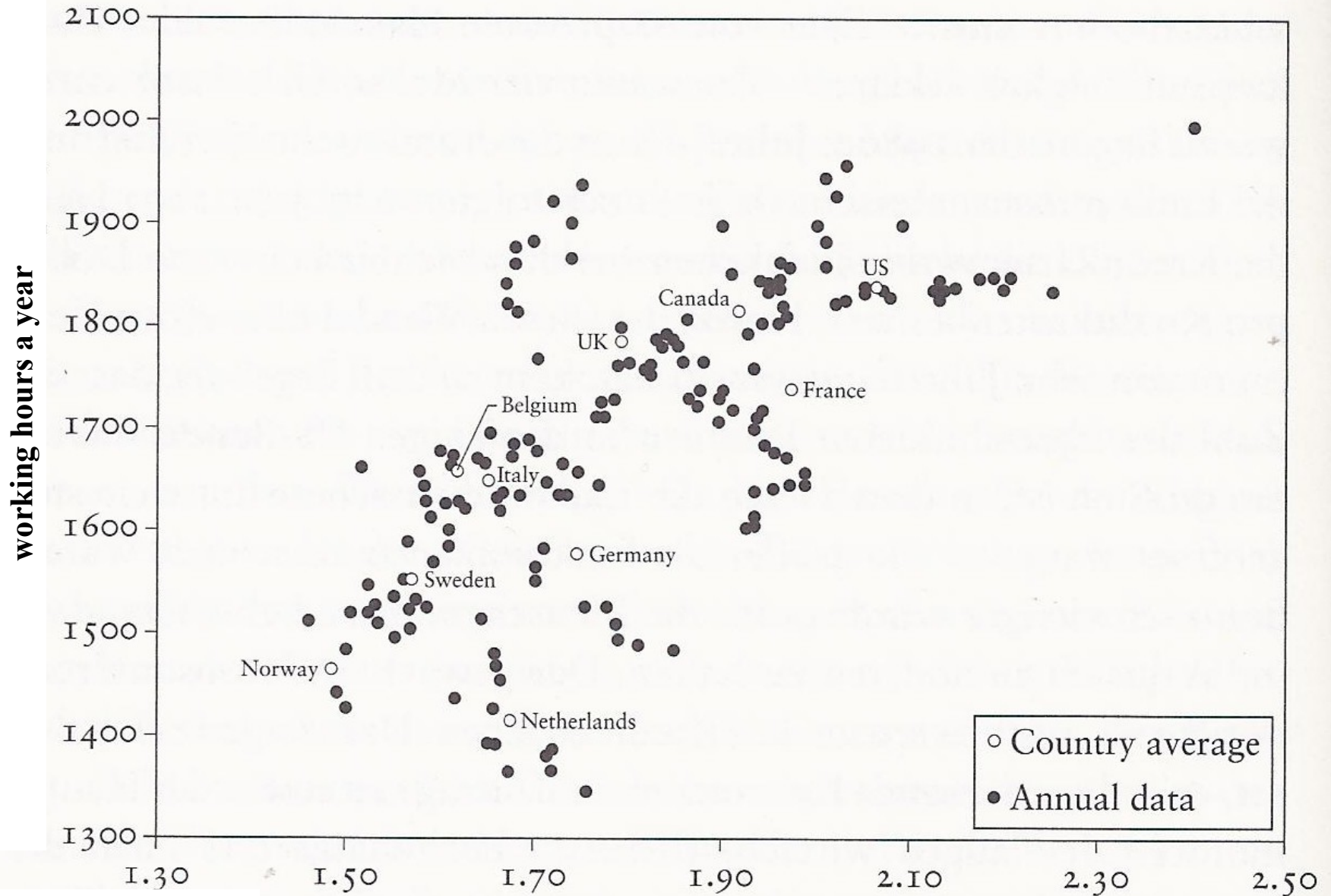
Inequality and confidence: developed countries



Inequality and recycling rate



Inequality and working hours



Basic Income Field Experiment „Mincome“ Canada 1974; 1979

- Basic Income, \$11.000 yearly (60% of poverty line)
paid as Negative Income Tax
every dollar external income reduced the grant by \$ 0,50
- more than 1000 families, both in Winnipeg and Dauphin
(rural area)
- students continued more likely from grade 11 to grade 12
- hospital visits decreased by 8.5%
- labour supply response decreased by 1 to 7 %

Ref.:

Forget, Evelyn L. 2011: The Town with no poverty

Hum, Derek/ Simpson, Wayne 1993: Economic Response to a Guaranteed Annual Income:
Experiences from Canada and the United States

