

“Sociocultural Complexity”



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Daniel T. Gruner
Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, PhD
Quality of Life Research Center
Claremont Graduate University

Complexity: Towards a new measure of societal well-being

*Daniel T. Gruner
and
Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi*

Claremont Graduate University

Table 1. Means of key variables by country

Country			Complexity	PA	NA	SWL	I
Albania			4.86	2.56	1.87	5.75	2.97
Belgium			6.03	2.83	1.56	7.45	5.75
Bulgaria			4.13	2.62	1.80	4.45	4.70
Switzerland			6.94	3.03	1.45	8.23	5.65
Cyprus			5.76	2.86	1.69	6.92	3.75
Czech R.			5.21	2.85	1.71	6.53	6.02
Germany			6.70	2.87	1.35	7.43	5.56
Denmark			7.77	2.99	1.24	8.61	5.86
Estonia			5.67	2.76	1.62	6.24	5.92
Spain			5.16	2.63	1.56	6.92	4.75
Finland			7.22	2.80	1.28	8.13	5.91
France			5.79	2.85	1.67	6.40	4.62
UK			6.28	2.77	1.46	7.30	5.00
Hungary			5.39	2.58	1.87	5.48	5.36
Ireland			6.09	2.92	1.44	6.63	3.74
Israel			5.96	2.77	1.47	7.45	5.13
Iceland			6.68	2.99	1.38	7.95	4.47
Italy			5.11	2.63	1.63	6.75	4.46
Lithuania			5.03	2.53	1.73	5.96	6.01
Netherlands			6.73	2.96	1.50	7.77	5.94
Norway			7.34	3.00	1.24	8.14	5.32
Poland			5.30	2.80	1.54	7.06	5.34
Portugal			4.99	2.63	1.62	5.90	3.53
Russia			3.99	2.72	1.80	5.81	6.33
Sweden			7.07	2.90	1.36	7.88	6.28
Slovenia			5.10	3.05	1.36	6.93	4.77
Slovakia			4.97	2.86	1.64	6.72	5.00
Ukraine			3.34	2.77	1.96	4.99	4.53
Kosovo			3.85	2.66	1.69	6.08	3.65

Note: I = mean decile income rank. Scale composites for Complexity, Positive Affect (PA), and Negative Affect (NA) aggregated at the population level from individual responses (29 countries, N = 39,215). Within country means were not weighted by population or design.

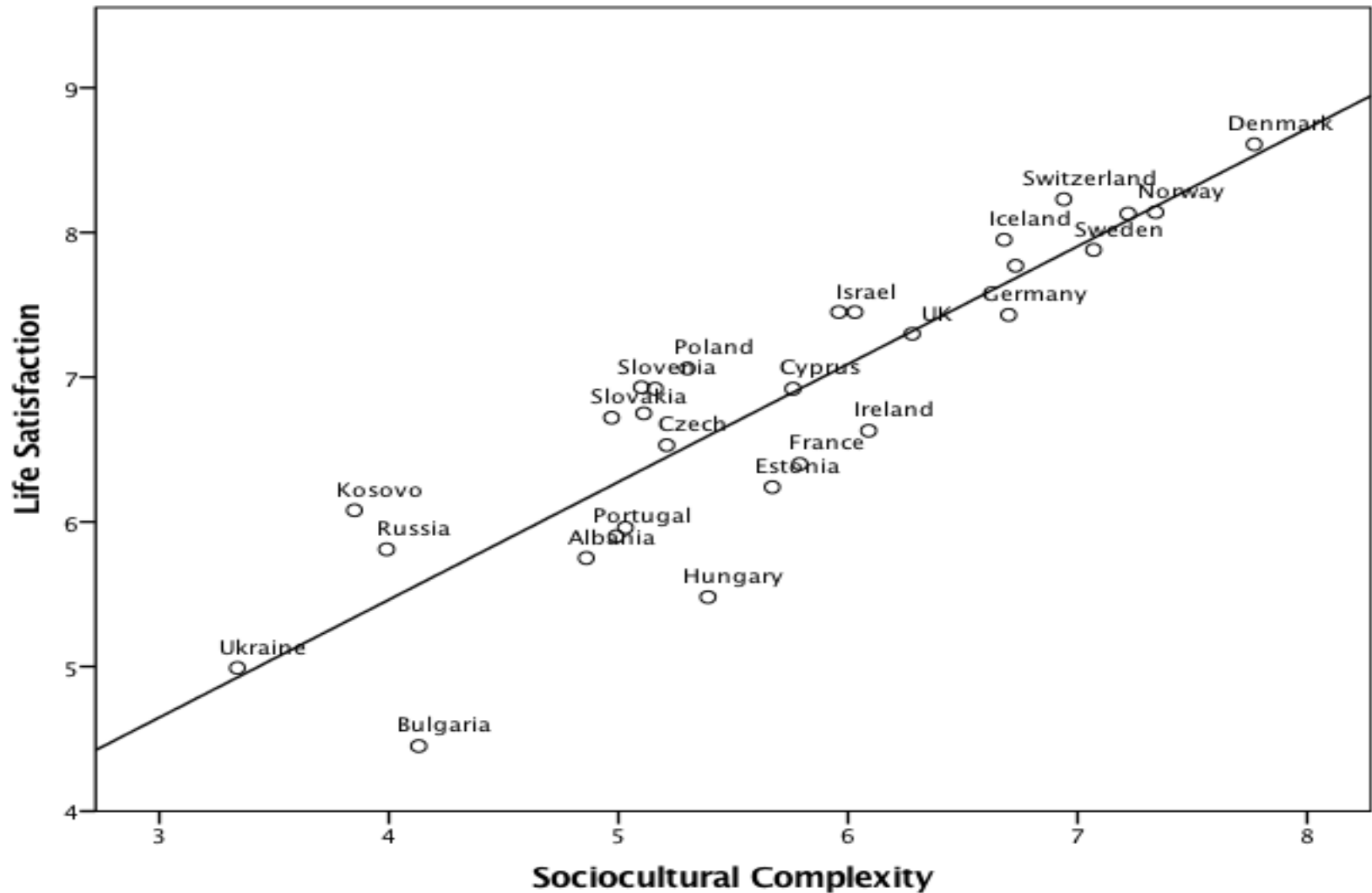


Figure 1: Scatterplot of sociocultural complexity and life satisfaction aggregated at the population level from individual responses ($R^2 = .78$, $p < .001$; $N = 29$ countries).

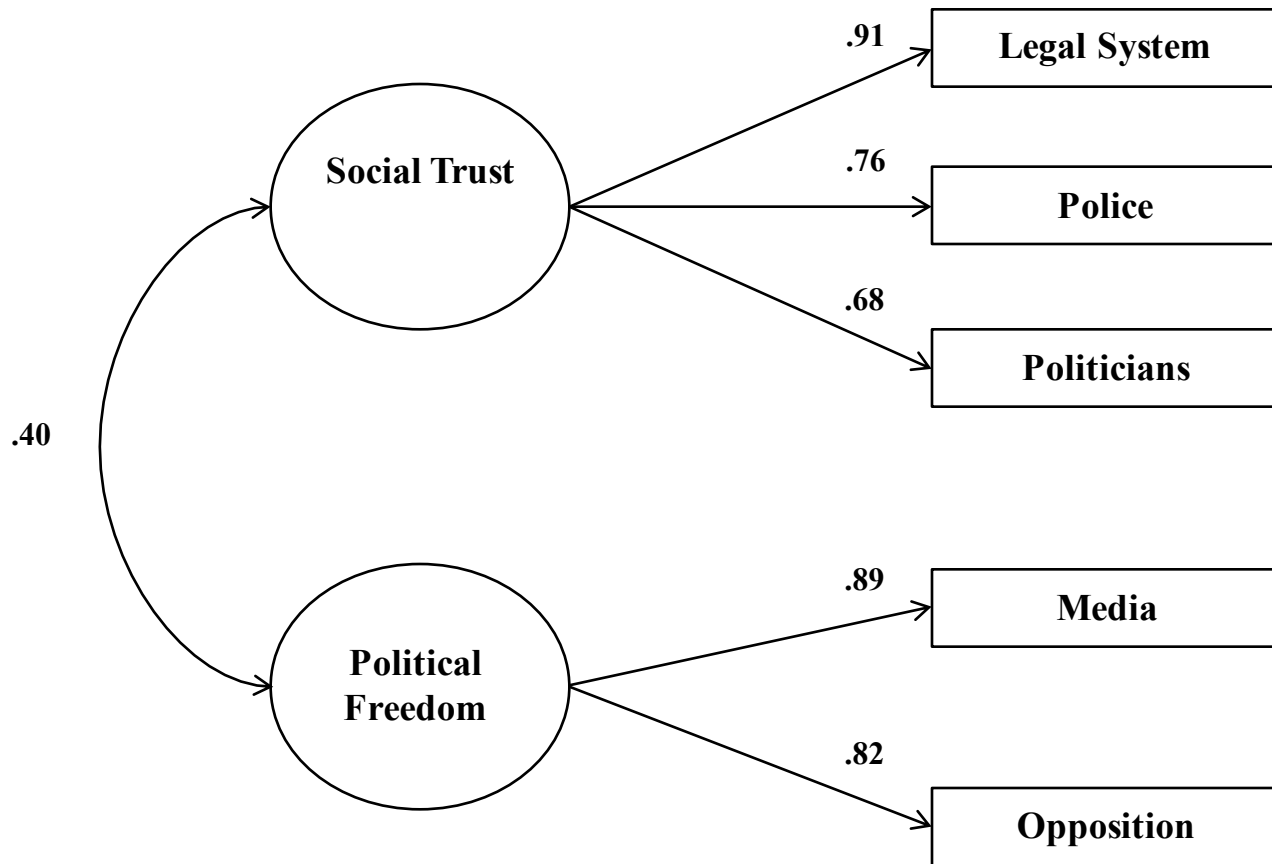


Figure 2: Confirmatory factor analysis of sociocultural complexity, displaying factor loadings and intercorrelations. *Note:* All path estimates significant ($p < .001$). Error terms removed for model clarity.

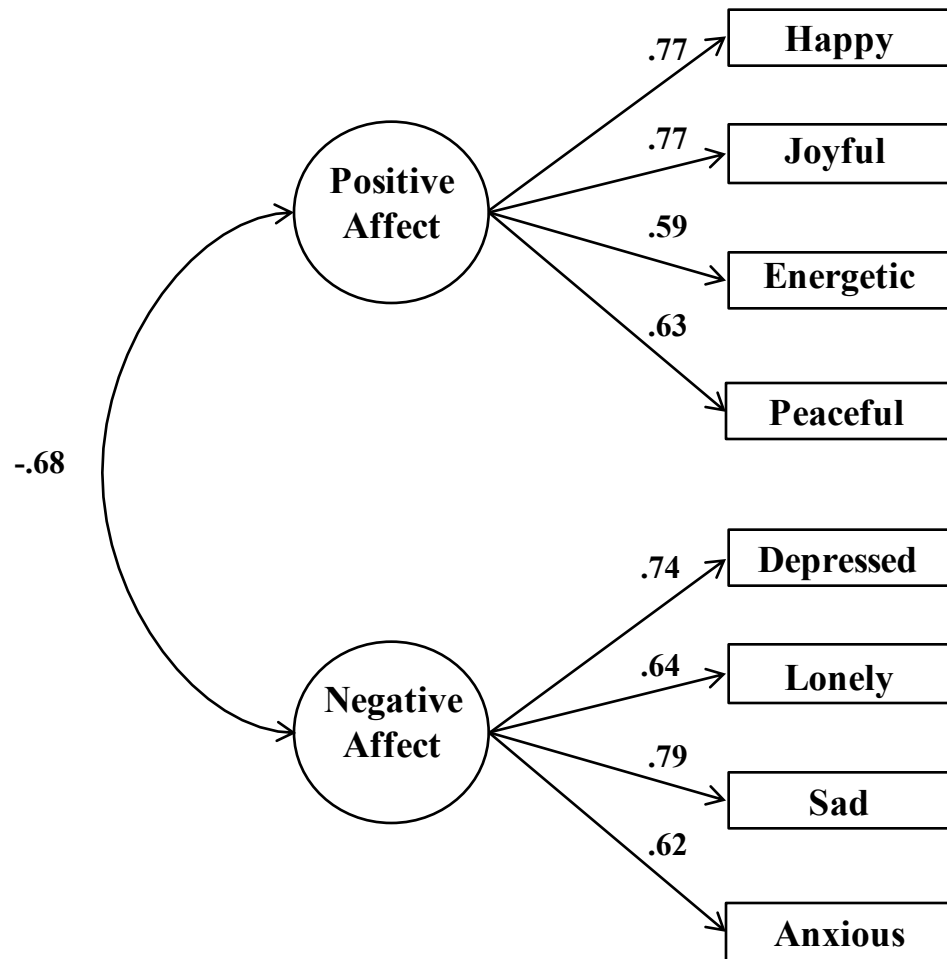


Figure 3: Confirmatory factor analysis of positive and negative affect, displaying factor loadings and intercorrelations. *Note:* All path estimates significant ($p < .001$). Error terms removed for model clarity.

Table 2. Means, standard deviations, and intercorrelations of key variables

	M	SD	1	2	3	4	5
1. Complexity	5.43	1.94	--				
2. Social Trust	4.41	2.22	.87***	--			
3. Political Freedom	6.98	2.56	.76***	.34***	--		
4. Positive Affect	2.80	0.63	.13***	.12***	.09***	--	
5. Negative Affect	1.58	0.57	-.24***	-.21***	-.18***	-.52***	--
6. Income	5.60	2.81	.05***	.07***	.01*	.14***	-.16***
7. Life Satisfaction	6.74	2.35	.37***	.35***	.24***	.39***	-.42***

Note: * $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$; *** $p < .001$, two-tailed. All scale composites (e.g., Complexity, Social Trust, Political Freedom, Positive Affect, Negative Affect) averaged from individual responses ($N = 39,215$).

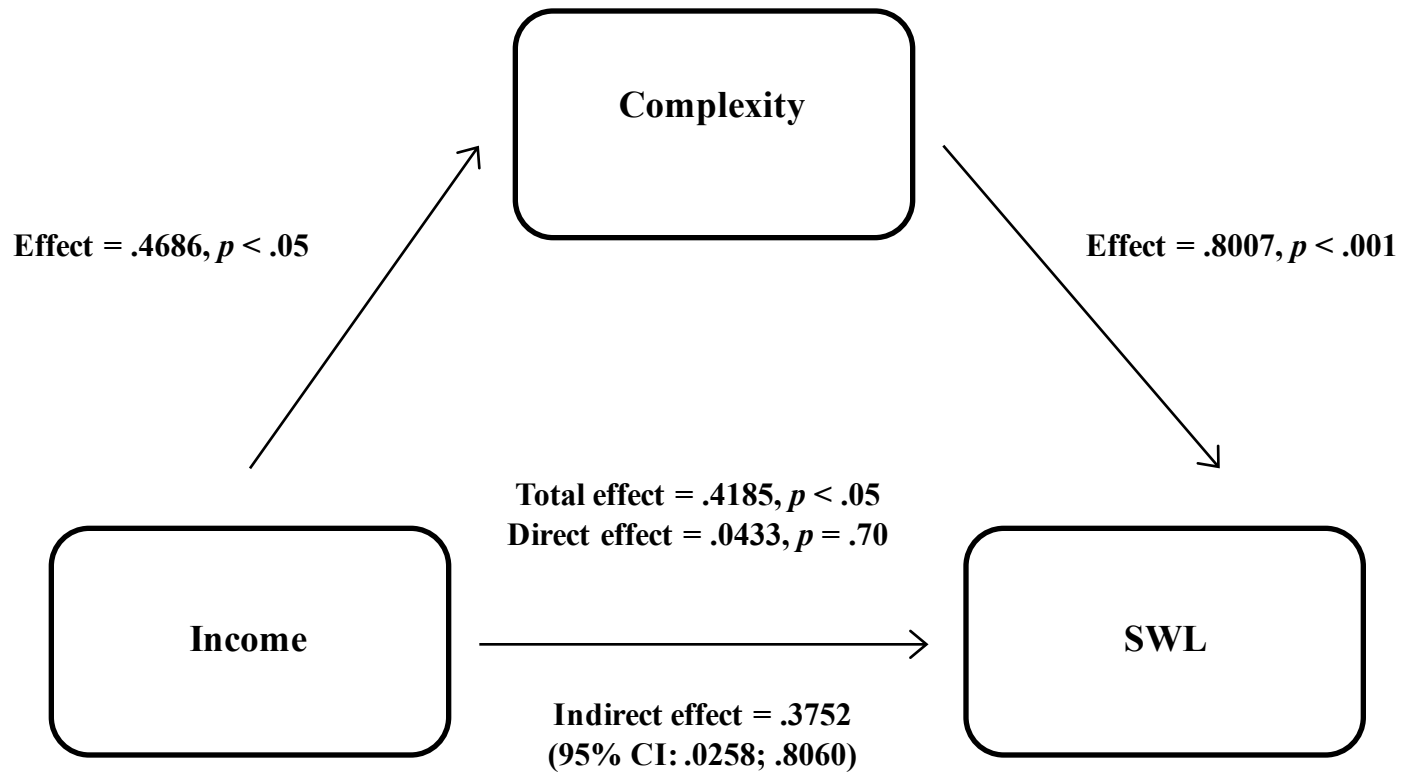


Figure 4: Bootstrapped indirect effect of complexity on income and life satisfaction(SWL).

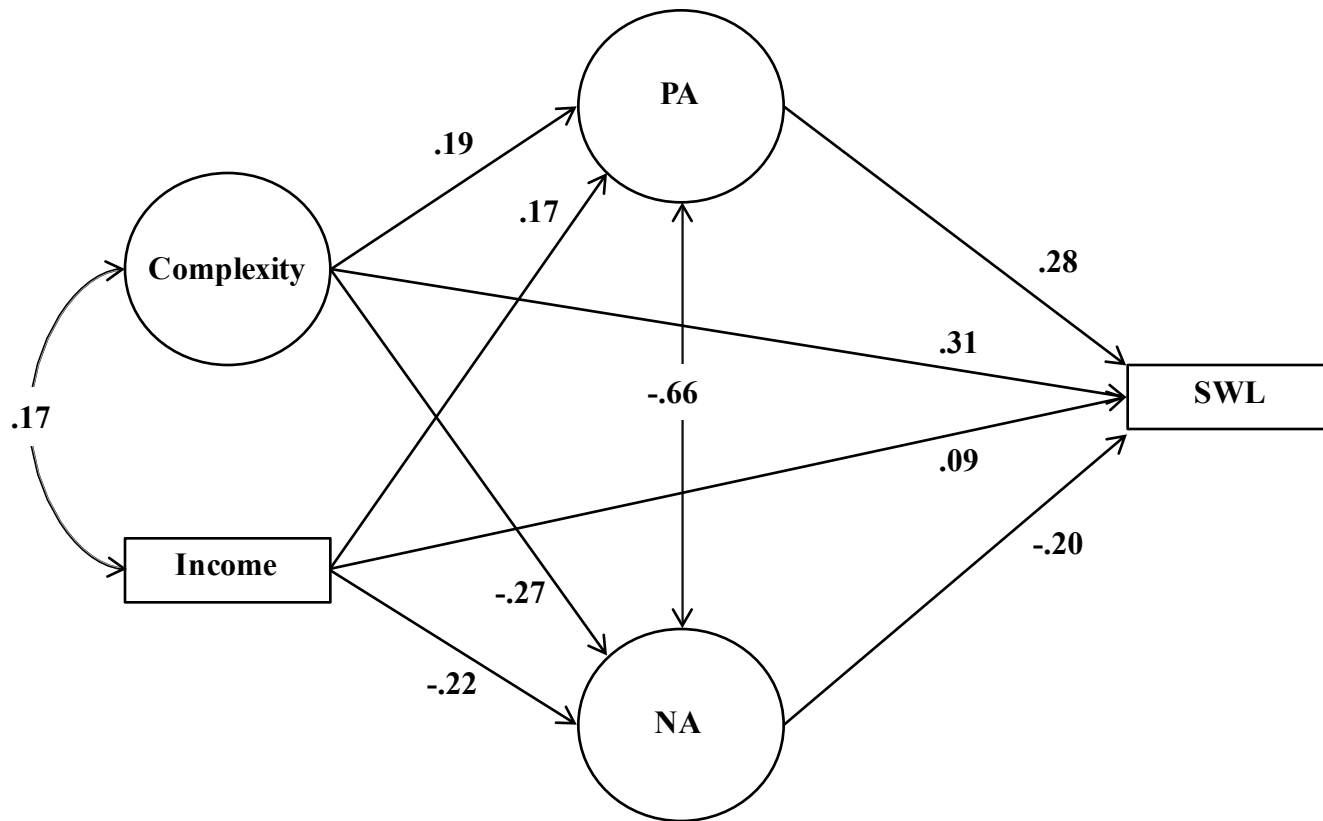


Figure 5: Hybrid structural equation model displaying standardized effects of sociocultural complexity (Complexity), personal income (Income), positive affect (PA), negative affect (NA), and satisfaction with life (SWL). *Note:* Error terms, disturbances, and factor items removed for clarity. Circles represent latent factors and rectangles represent single-item measures. All path estimates are significant ($p < .001$).