Abdrew Gelman: multilevel modelling, income and voting notes

What’s the matter with Connecticut?

Two general trends which appear contradictory on the surface: richer US states now tend to support the Democrats while, at the individual level, richer US voters still support Republicans. The mechanism behind this paradox, discovered thanks to multilevel modelling, was that:

«In poor states, rich people are much more likely than poor people to vote for the Republican presidential candidate, but in rich states (such as Connecticut), income has almost no correlation with vote preferences.» (p.349)

In other words, the Gelman paradox is due to varying income – Republican support correlation across rich and poor states.