

Network segregation, Social Isolation and Preference for Redistribution across societies

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1 Introduction

The escalating economic inequality and the current sanitary crisis have threatened social cohesion among citizens. However, these consequences have been unevenly experienced across the social structure. The upper and intermediate classes, benefiting from privileged access to social resources, have shown resilience. Conversely, working-class families have faced deteriorating material conditions, leading to a heightened sense of marginalisation and increasing the demand for welfare support. Particularly, social resources through network ties have been suggested to have a direct link with an individual's welfare through instrumental and expressive outcomes, such as providing information or help in moments of need. Consequently, inequalities in access to certain social positions (i.e. occupations) are translated into a lack of social resources beyond individual economic and cultural capital. Additionally, it has been argued that social isolation not only plays a role in terms of resources but given that higher levels of segregation can bolster opinions, it is argued that being isolated from other social classes can polarise attitudes mainly in the working and upper-middle classes. Employing data from the International Social Survey Programme - Social Networks this research aims to understand to what extent the demand for redistribution is linked to social ties. For addressing this, ego-centred social networks are used to represent the degree of class-based homogeneity of social ties. The results of multilevel estimations show that being socially segregated increases demand for redistribution. Additionally, this influence is conditional to social class, where the working and intermediate classes with highly homogeneous networks demand more governmental redistribution than the upper class. At the macro level, as the current distribution of economic resources influences the opportunity structure, it has been hypothesised that income inequality could bolster the influence of social segregation on the demand for redistribution. However, cross-level interactions do not provide supporting evidence on this behalf.

2 Data, variables and methods

Data

Variables

Methods

3 Results

3.1 Descriptive

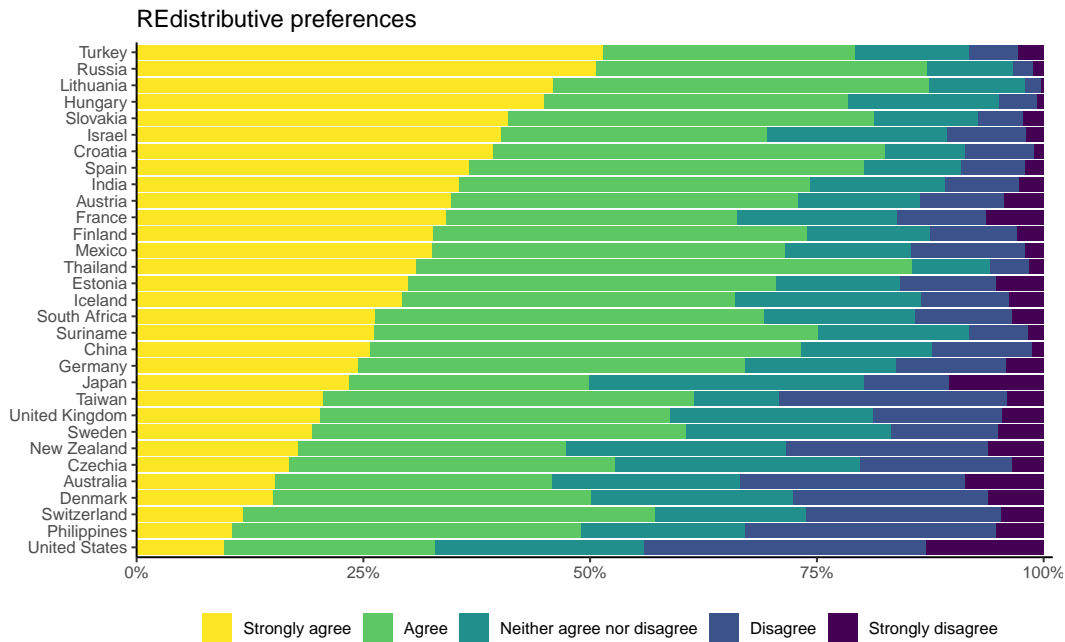


Figure 1: Redistributive preferences by country in the ISSP 2017

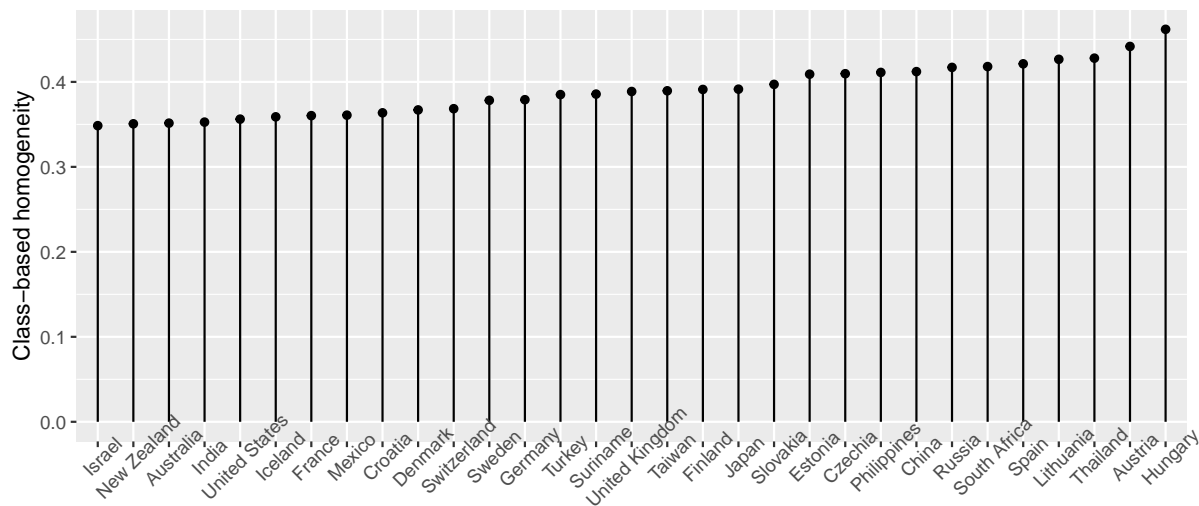


Figure 2: Class-based network homogeneity by country in the ISSP 2017

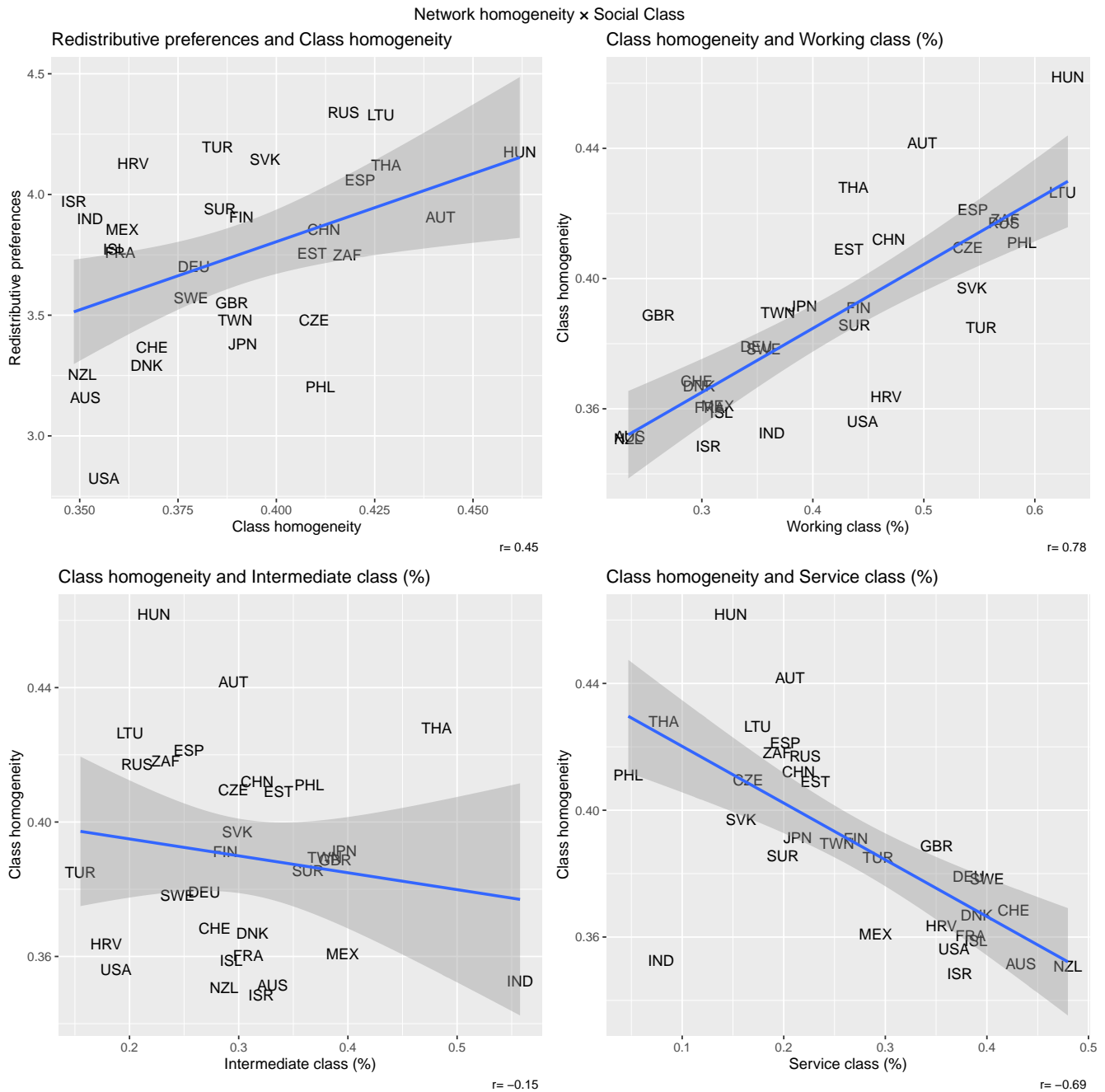


Figure 3: Redistribution, Network homogeneity and Social Class in the ISSP 2017

3.2 Individual level

1. Class:

- having a working class position is associated with higher redistributive preferences
- class homogeneity is higher among the working class, and lower in the upper-class

Table 1: Multilevel regression for redistributive preferences, network homogeneity and social class

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5
Class-based network homogeneity	0.18*** (0.02)		0.06* (0.03)	0.05* (0.03)	0.09 (0.05)
Social Class (ref: Intermediate Class)					
Service Class		−0.09*** (0.02)	−0.08*** (0.02)	−0.05*** (0.02)	0.07* (0.03)
Working Class		0.10*** (0.01)	0.10*** (0.01)	0.07*** (0.01)	0.02 (0.03)
Income Tercile (ref: Low)					
Middle				−0.12*** (0.02)	−0.12*** (0.02)
High				−0.20*** (0.02)	−0.19*** (0.02)
Education in years				−0.01*** (0.00)	−0.00** (0.00)
Not in labor force				0.05*** (0.01)	0.05*** (0.01)
Union: Yes				0.14*** (0.01)	0.14*** (0.01)
Homogeneity x Social Class					
Homogeneity x Service Class					−0.46*** (0.08)
Homogeneity x Working Class					0.10 (0.06)
Controls	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
BIC	104588.44	104474.75	104422.05	104219.56	104185.57
Num. obs.	35281	35281	35281	35281	35281
Num. Countries:	31	31	31	31	31
Var: Group	0.14	0.13	0.13	0.14	0.14
Var: Residual	1.13	1.12	1.12	1.11	1.11

*** $p < 0.001$; ** $p < 0.01$; * $p < 0.05$

2. Network segregation

- being more segregated increase redistributive preferences

3. Network segregation x Social Class

- The influence of homogeneity is positive among the working and intermediate classes, and negative among the upper class

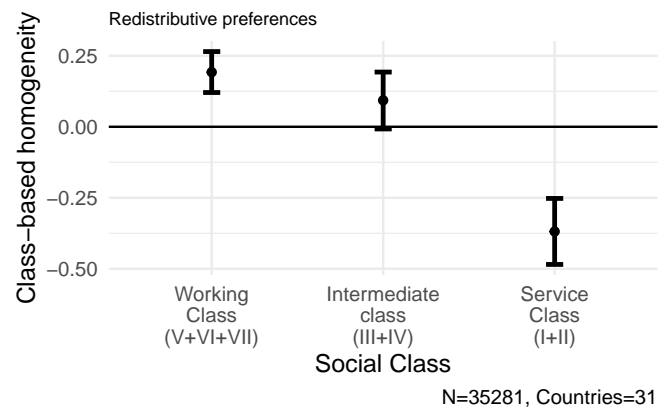


Figure 4: Conditional marginal effects of Network homogeneity on redistributive preferences

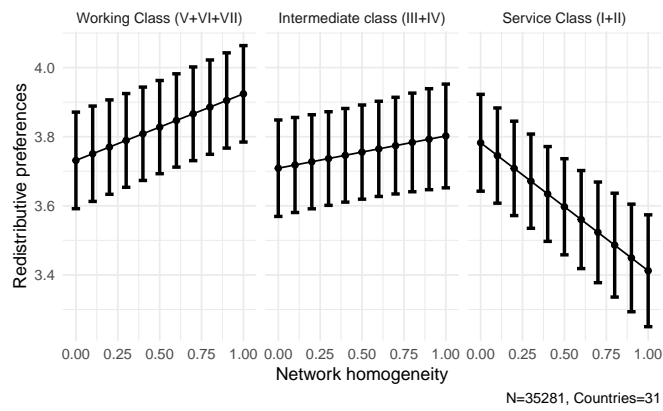


Figure 5: Predictions for Redistributive Preferences

Table 2: Cross-level interaction for Network homogeneity and Economic Inequality

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5	Model 6
log GDP	−0.05 (0.04)	−0.05 (0.04)	−0.05 (0.04)	−0.04 (0.04)	−0.04 (0.04)	−0.04 (0.04)
Gini (Disposable)	0.01 (0.01)	0.01 (0.01)	0.01 (0.01)			
Homogeneity x Gini (D)			−0.00 (0.00)			
Gini (Market)				−0.00 (0.01)	−0.00 (0.01)	−0.00 (0.01)
Homogeneity x Gini (M)						0.00 (0.00)
BIC	104251.13	104270.04	104289.73	104251.16	104270.08	104289.68
Num. obs.	35281	35281	35281	35281	35281	35281
Num. groups: country2	31	31	31	31	31	31
Var: country2 (Intercept)	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14
Var: Residual	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11
Var: country2 homclass		0.01	0.01		0.01	0.01
Cov: country2 (Intercept) homclass		−0.00	−0.00		−0.00	−0.00

*** $p < 0.001$; ** $p < 0.01$; * $p < 0.05$

3.3 Macro level

- expected: economic inequality increases segregation (maybe weak or null effect)
- expected: economic inequality increase the influence of network homogeneity

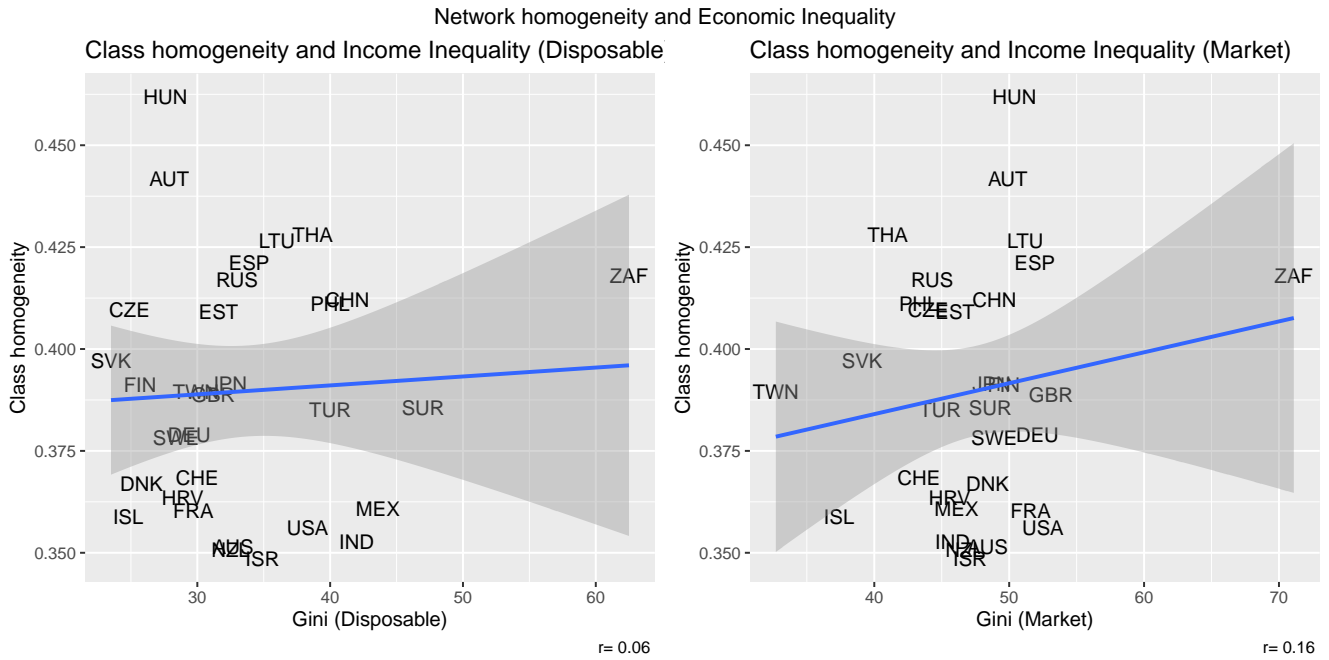


Figure 6: Network Homogeneity and Income Inequality in the ISSP 2017

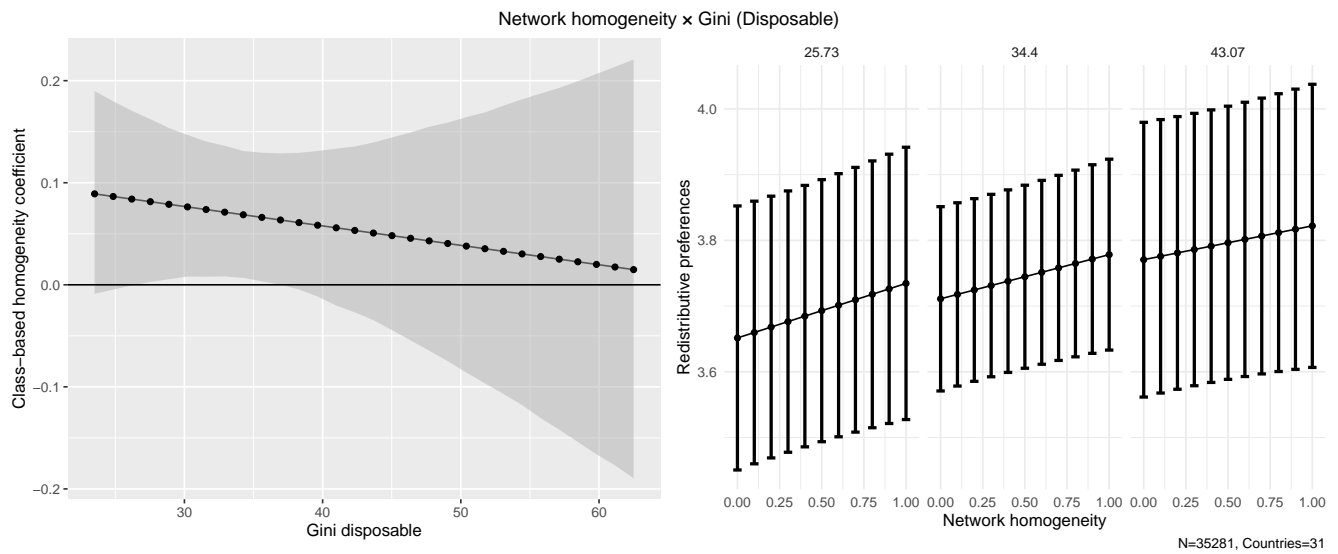


Figure 7: Cross-level interaction for Network homogeneity and Economic Inequality I

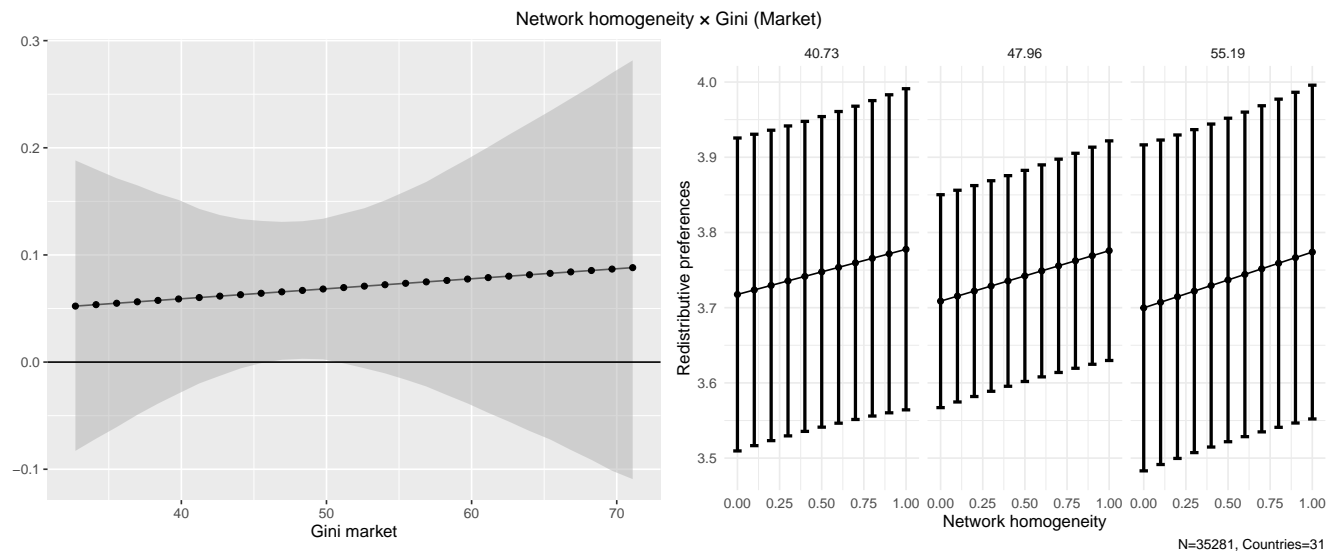


Figure 8: Cross-level interaction for Network homogeneity and Economic Inequality II

Table 3: Multilevel regression for redistributive preferences, network homogeneity (strong) and social class

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5
Class-based network homogeneity	0.08*** (0.02)		0.02 (0.02)	0.02 (0.02)	0.02 (0.04)
Social Class (ref: Intermediate Class)					
Service Class		-0.09*** (0.02)	-0.08*** (0.02)	-0.05** (0.02)	0.01 (0.02)
Working Class		0.10*** (0.01)	0.11*** (0.01)	0.08*** (0.02)	0.02 (0.02)
Income Tercile (ref: Low)					
Middle				-0.13*** (0.02)	-0.13*** (0.02)
High				-0.22*** (0.02)	-0.21*** (0.02)
Education in years				-0.00** (0.00)	-0.00* (0.00)
Not in labor force				0.06*** (0.02)	0.06*** (0.02)
Union: Yes				0.15*** (0.01)	0.15*** (0.01)
Homogeneity x Social Class					
Homogeneity x Service Class					-0.24*** (0.05)
Homogeneity x Working Class					0.12** (0.05)
Controls	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
BIC	92325.92	92211.00	92183.09	91988.28	91966.35
Num. obs.	30947	30947	30947	30947	30947
Num. Countries:	31	31	31	31	31
Var: Group	0.14	0.13	0.13	0.14	0.14
Var: Residual	1.15	1.14	1.14	1.13	1.13

*** $p < 0.001$; ** $p < 0.01$; * $p < 0.05$

4 Other analysis

- strong ties
- weak ties
- R's data only

Table 4: Multilevel regression for redistributive preferences, network homogeneity (weak) and social class

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5
Class-based network homogeneity	0.07*** (0.02)		−0.01 (0.02)	−0.01 (0.02)	0.00 (0.04)
Social Class (ref: Intermediate Class)					
Service Class		−0.08*** (0.02)	−0.08*** (0.02)	−0.05** (0.02)	−0.01 (0.02)
Working Class		0.12*** (0.01)	0.13*** (0.02)	0.09*** (0.02)	0.08** (0.02)
Income Tercile (ref: Low)					
Middle				−0.11*** (0.02)	−0.11*** (0.02)
High				−0.19*** (0.02)	−0.19*** (0.02)
Education in years				−0.01*** (0.00)	−0.01*** (0.00)
Not in labor force				0.05** (0.02)	0.05** (0.02)
Union: Yes				0.15*** (0.01)	0.14*** (0.01)
Homogeneity x Social Class					
Homogeneity x Service Class					−0.12* (0.06)
Homogeneity x Working Class					0.03 (0.05)
Controls	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
BIC	87106.81	86970.88	86950.82	86800.99	86820.64
Num. obs.	29408	29408	29408	29408	29408
Num. Countries:	31	31	31	31	31
Var: Group	0.14	0.13	0.13	0.14	0.14
Var: Residual	1.12	1.12	1.11	1.11	1.11

*** $p < 0.001$; ** $p < 0.01$; * $p < 0.05$

Table 5: Multilevel regression for redistributive preferences, network homogeneity and social class for Respondent

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5	Model 6
Class-based network homogeneity - Resp.	0.09*		-0.09*	-0.08*	-0.08	0.01
	(0.04)		(0.04)	(0.04)	(0.04)	(0.07)
Social Class - Resp. (ref: Intermediate Class)						
Service Class		-0.12***	-0.11***	-0.08***	-0.08***	0.06
		(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.04)
Working Class		0.09***	0.13***	0.10***	0.08***	0.01
		(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.05)
Income Tercile (ref: Low)						
Middle				-0.13***	-0.12***	-0.12***
				(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.02)
High				-0.21***	-0.19***	-0.18***
				(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.02)
Education in years				-0.01*	-0.00	-0.00
				(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Not in labor force				0.02	0.02	0.02
				(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.02)
Union: Yes				0.13***	0.13***	0.12***
				(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.02)
Homogeneity x Social Class						
Homogeneity x Service Class						-0.52***
						(0.11)
Homogeneity x Working Class						0.13
						(0.10)
Service Class (Spouse)					-0.03	-0.02
					(0.02)	(0.02)
Working Class (Spouse)					0.07***	0.07**
					(0.02)	(0.02)
Controls	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
BIC	54878.02	54788.72	54790.79	54749.53	54757.72	54740.61
Num. obs.	18326	18326	18326	18326	18326	18326
Num. Countries:	31	31	31	31	31	31
Var: Group	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15
Var: Residual	1.16	1.15	1.15	1.14	1.14	1.13

*** $p < 0.001$; ** $p < 0.01$; * $p < 0.05$