Dear editors of the *European Sociological Review*,

I am pleased to submit my manuscript titled, "Class-based Network Segregation, Economic Inequality, and Redistributive Preferences Across Societies," for your consideration. This original research examines the relationship between class-based network segregation, income inequality, and redistributive preferences, utilizing the most recent data from the third release of the ISSP 2017 Social Networks Module. My study incorporates data from 31 developed and developing countries, providing a robust cross-national perspective.

Three main patterns can be identified in the literature concerning the assessment of redistributive preferences. The first patterns refer to the well-documented link between social class position and political attitudes in the economic domain. Theoretically, the class-attitude link has been explained through self-interested and value-driven motivations. Additionally, another argument is that social interactions within the workplace also imprint political views that later are reflected in redistributive preferences. For example, diverse interpersonal service roles promote empathy and egalitarian views, whereas hierarchical managerial positions and autonomy in self-employment foster conservative perspectives. In this debate, it is clearer how individual social class is associated with preferences, but an open puzzle is the role of the class position in social networks, such as partners, family of origin, or friends in shaping preferences.

The second observed pattern references the evidence on the role of class-based networks on redistributive preferences. As mentioned above, the role of social networks has been addressed by a couple of studies, where it is argued that the class position of ties shapes attitudes through social influence processes. In other words, individuals adjust their opinions according to the class position of their network ties. These studies have shown that being connected to specific classes aligns attitudes according to the class position of the tie in the form of single tie contacts, but do not assess to what extent the degree of similarity between the individual and the network ties can form homogenous networks– understood as network segregation, could lead to stronger class-based attitudes in both sides of the class structure. In my paper, I argue that the influence of class-based network segregation is moderated by social class. This implies that not only the ties exert influence, but also when these ties form segregated networks can be associated with stronger redistributive preferences in the working class and weaker redistributive preferences in the upper class.

A third observed pattern shows that cross-national studies that have addressed the role of class-based networks are scarce. As my study points out, the role of economic inequality has been studied either as a moderator of the class-attitude link or the class-network link but has not been studied in a unified comprehensive framework. It has been shown that, in countries with high inequality, the upper classes are more likely to support redistribution, while the redistributive preferences of the lower classes remain consistent regardless of inequality levels. Additionally, high inequality reinforces stratified access to social activities and widens the social distance between classes. In other words, the upper classes are more socially active and maintain diverse networks, whereas the lower classes face greater social isolation and reduced participation. In this respect, large N and cross-national research designs (for example, ISSP) are very useful, insofar as this kind of project has the explicit aim to provide measures equivalently in different national contexts, thereby adding a cross-national perspective to the individual national studies. Moreover, cross-national data allows us to examine how the interaction between class-based network segregation and social class on redistributive preferences varies cross-nationally. In this regard, the ISSP provides an opportunity to investigate how economic inequality moderates the interaction between network segregation and social class on redistributive preferences.

Considering the above, we believe our research makes valuable contributions to the study of class-based networks, redistributive preferences, and cross-national comparisons**.** First, I analyze redistributive preferences based on the interaction of individual social class and class-based network segregation – empirically measured as network homogeneity. In line with my first hypothesis, the association of network homogeneity is moderated by individual social class. This implies that higher network homogeneity in the working class is associated with higher redistributive preferences, while homogeneous networks in the service class are associated with lower support for redistribution. Overall, greater network homogeneity thus is associated with a wider divide in redistributive preferences between the working and the service classes.

My study also hypothesized that economic inequality mitigates the conditional association of network homogeneity by social class on redistributive preferences. Therefore, I examined the cross-level interaction between income inequality and the interaction between class-based network homogeneity and social class through a three-way interaction to explain redistributive preferences. In line with my expectations, income inequality mitigates the conditional relationship between class-based network homogeneity and social class on redistributive preferences, regardless of the size of the welfare state and economic prosperity at the country level. Specifically, the interaction between homogeneity and social class diminishes in countries with higher income inequality. The most significant differences in redistributive preferences appear within homogeneous service-class networks, while preferences in homogeneous working-class networks remain relatively unaffected by inequality levels. Moreover, the conditional association between class-based network homogeneity and social class is more evident in countries with low to moderate income inequality. These results align with prior cross-national research suggesting that the upper classes are more responsive to contextual levels of income inequality, which tends to narrow the class divide in redistributive preferences.

As stated above, the present research is developed on a comparative framework by using the ISSP 2017 Social Networks module for 31 developed and developing countries. Based on this cross-national design, I estimated multilevel regression models that control by an extensive set of micro variables and measures of national contexts. In doing so, our study accounts for national contexts to estimate the associations under examination and goes beyond those of traditional studies that only consider industrialized societies. Thus, the results of the present paper are representative of citizens’ redistributive preferences from diverse cultural and economic contexts.

I believe my findings and analysis perspective are appropriate for publication in the *European Sociological Review* (ESR) as my research covers political attitudes, class-based networks, and cross-national comparisons, all aspects that this journal considers relevant to be published. I also believe that my results have important implications for the study of social class and political attitudes from a comparative perspective. This is related to recent contributions that have been recently published in the ESR (Lindh et al., 2021; Paskov and Weisstanner, 2022; Lindh and Andersson, 2024). Here, my results show that citizens across different social classes are motivated to support redistribution according to how homogeneous their networks are in terms of class. In addition, how more nuanced political views are present as cross-class embeddedness is higher in personal networks might have political implications in terms of supporting collective solidarity within the welfare state framework. Finally, the role of income inequality in mitigating the interaction between network homogeneity and class confirms previous evidence on the class-attitude link but is now extended through the inclusion of class-based networks into the analysis.

In sum, my results show that there is space for policymakers who seek to understand the structural mechanisms within societies that nurture collective solidarity and cohesion. They might be interested in enhancing cross-class embeddedness that nuances the role of self-interest in political attitudes as a key factor in cooperation and solidarity. In addition, political attitudes, particularly redistributive measures that aim to reduce income inequality and enhance the opportunity structure, might be used as part of a discursive frame in reform processes in the labor market or the tax system. This could encourage either affirmative action policies for specific groups or broader changes for a more supportive welfare system.

Thank you very much for your consideration. Best regards,

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