



# **INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY AND LIFE SATISFACTION IN MIDDLE-AGED DAUGHTERS AND MOTHERS IN POLAND AND USA**

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# Goals

- Concept of intergenerational solidarity
- Identifying different dyadic structures of solidarity based on relevant components
- Cultural differences of solidarity patterns (Poland – USA)
- Effects of solidarity on well-being and cross-cultural similarities and differences
- Explorative study

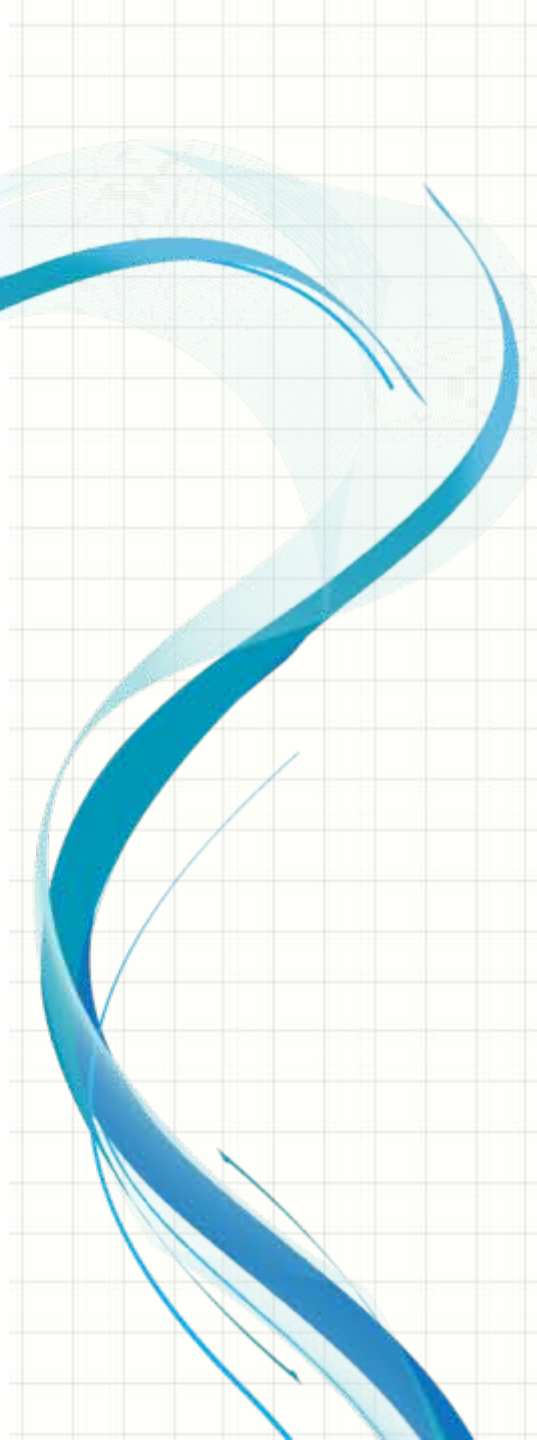
# Intergenerational Solidarity

Early conceptualization

- ❖ Associational
- ❖ Affectional
- ❖ Consensual solidarity

(Black & Bengtson, 1974)

Single higher-order construct of three interrelated dimensions (Bengtson & Roberts, 1991)



Empirical studies (e.g., Atkinson, Kivett and Campbell, 1986; Bengtson & Schrader, 1982) led to the following conclusions:

- These three components do not represent one dimension
- Solidarity is not a simple linear composite of association, affect, and consensus
- However, these three components are theoretically interrelated





Changes in the components followed (Bengtson, 1991):

- Replacement of **consensus** with **normative solidarity**;
- **Relationship between normative, affection and association** were assumed to be relevant

This model was also not supported by empirical studies

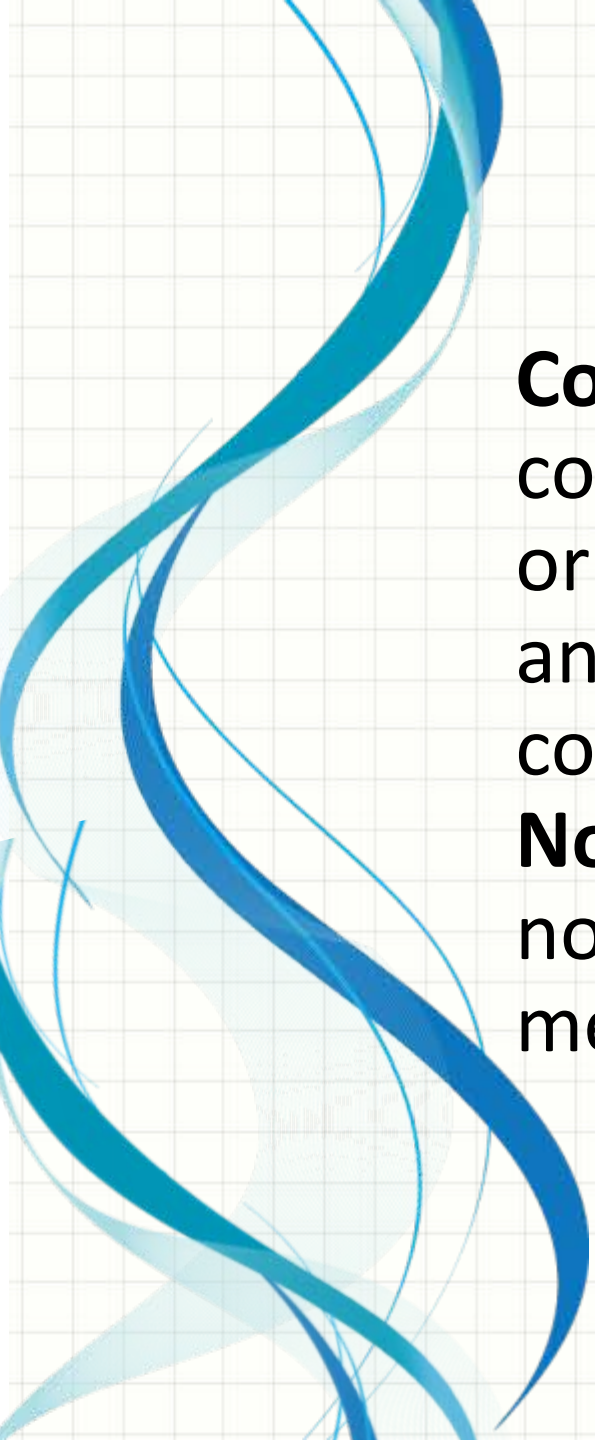


**A closer look at the five components**

**Affectional solidarity** – the degree of positive sentiments present in the relationship (trust, fairness, affection, warmth)

**Associational solidarity** – frequency of contact (frequency of intergenerational interaction, formal and ritualistic contacts and informal contacts)

**Functional solidarity** – financial and instrumental support



## A closer look at the five components

**Consensual solidarity** degree of consensus or conflict in beliefs or orientations, external to the family and as well to perceived subjective consensus.

**Normative solidarity** – level of shared norms of familism held by family members (value similarity)



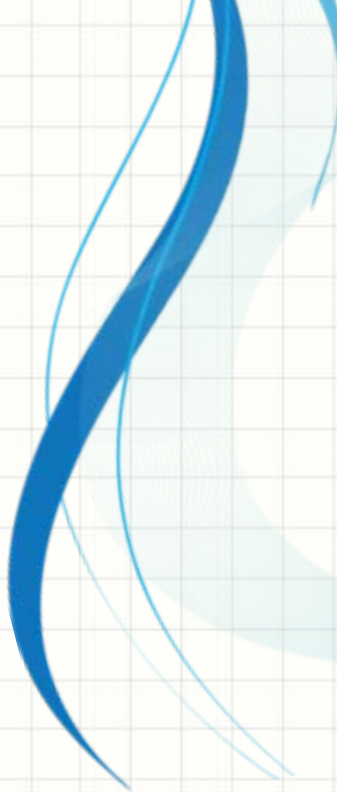
# Ambivalence

Alternative concept contrasting the solidarity model: Ambivalence (Luescher & Pillemer, 1998)

Solidarity must be complemented with other concepts, especially conflict (Bengtson, Rosenthal, & Burton, 1996)

Consensus covers partly conflict but was seen as conflict about themes external to family





# Typology

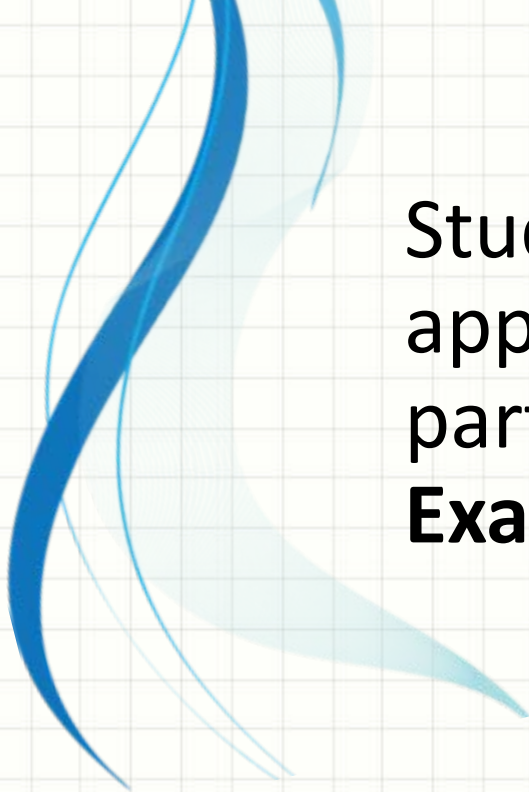
Not linear – but theoretically related

“Develop typologies that represent ambivalent family types those that are inconsistent on dimensions of solidarity and trace the transitions over time”

(Bengtson, Giarrusso, Mabry, & Silverstein, 2002, p. 575)


First idea for a person-centered view

and complementary perspective with ambivalence

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of a thick blue wavy line and a lighter blue, semi-transparent wavy shape behind it.

Studies using a regression approach led to inconsistent and partly confusing results.

**Example with well-being**



**RELATIONS BETWEEN  
SOLIDARITY DIMENSIONS AND  
LIFE SATISFACTION**

# Functional solidarity and well-being

- ❖ Positive effect but can also be negative if too much and unbalanced
- ❖ Mutual support – positive (Ferraro & Su, 1999; Kim & Kim, 2003)
- ❖ Receiving support – negative (Oeztop, Sener, Gueven, & Dogan, 2009; Pyke & Bengtson, 1996; Silverstein et al., 1996)
- ❖ No effect on well-being (Umberson, 1992; Ingersoll-Dayton, Morgan, & Antonucci, 1997; Merz et al., 2009)
- ❖ Support is psychologically beneficial at moderate levels but harmful at high levels (Silverstein, Chen, & Haller, 1996)



# Affectional solidarity and well-being

## **Most powerful predictor**

(Merz et al., 2009; Katz, Lowenstein, Phillips, & Daatland, 2005)

Applies for this study as well!

Other components (normative solidarity, associational solidarity) did not explain any variance in well-being

Theoretically not related? - Maybe



## TYOLOGY – PERSON-CENTERED APPROACH

Idea for person-centered view was taken up by Silverstein, Gans, Lowenstein, Giarrusso, and Bengtson (2010).

Emotional relationships can be positive and negative

**Affection and conflict** were used to look for clusters in 6 nations



## **TYOLOGY – PERSON-CENTERED APPROACH**

### **Latent class analysis**

Four clusters

Amicable: high in affection low in conflict

Detached: low in both

Disharmonious: high in conflict low in affect

Ambivalent: high in both



## TYOLOGY – PERSON-CENTERED APPROACH

New perspective:

Person-centered view does not only apply for affectual solidarity and conflict but also to the other components.

**Approach: All five components may create different types of dyadic solidarity**

Affectual – Associational – Functional –  
Consensual - Normative



# Values and structural conditions in Poland and USA

- **Similarities**

Strong family-orientation

Religiosity (Sabatier et al., 2011)

- **Differences**

Emotional interdependence

Interdependent self-construal

Less mobility

# Explorative study

Types can be hardly predicted based on theoretical concept

Examples:

- High in all components?
- Average levels in all components?

# Research Questions

- How many types of solidarity can be differentiated?
- Does the occurrence of solidarity types differ between Polish and US-American dyads?
- Do the solidarity types depend on structural conditions?
- Do the solidarity types predict well-being?

# Participants

		USA		Poland	
		Daughter	Mother	Daughter	Mother
N		263	82	503	575
age		42.9	67.0	43.0 (5.34)	68.1 (7.72)
religion	catholic	20%		96%	
	protestant	70%			
Urban		100%		64%	

	home	Neighbor- hood	Same village/town	Other part of country
US	2.3	24.8	46.4	24.3
Poland	14.8	34.5	25.9	17.7

Chi-square (4) = 5.31, ns.



# Solidarity Components

**Affectual:** mean of intimacy and admiration for mother and daughter

**Consensual:** mean of conflict (mother and daughter)

**Associational:** contact frequency (ordinal)

**Functional:** giving support by mother – giving support by daughter

**Normative:** similarities of family values

# Reliability of Solidarity Components

	Solidarity Components					Well-Being
	Aff	Cons	Assoc	Funct	Norm	
Items	6	3	1	6	5	6
Daughter	.78	.91	--	.81	.64	.68
	.78	.87		.75	.71	.71
Mother	.83	.88	--	.84	.62	.81
	.85	.80		.84	.70	.71

First Value – USA; second value - Poland

# Latent Cluster Analysis (LCA)

- Stable estimation of clusters
- Estimation of number of clusters based on information criteria (AIC, BIC)
- Comparison of cluster solutions
- Mixed scale types (nominal, ordinal, and interval data)
- Testing for similarity of patterns across groups
- Bootstrapping method as reliability indicator

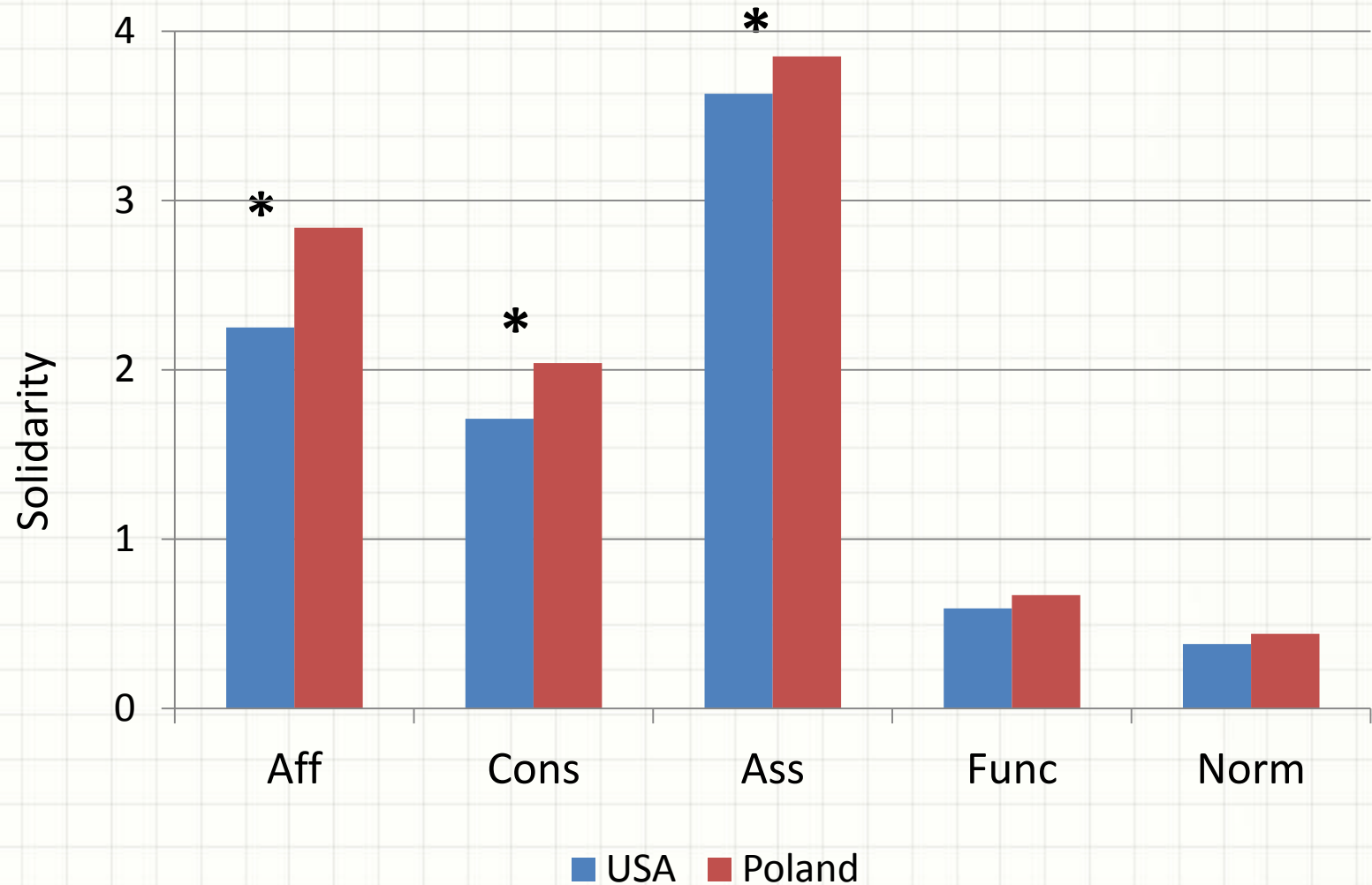
# Correlations Between Solidarity Components

	Solidarity Components				
	Aff	Cons	Assoc	Funct	Norm
Aff		.48***	.02	-.03	.08
Cons	.06		-.05	-.00	.20***
Assoc	.09	.14*		.18***	.01
Func	-.06	.06	.17		.02
Norm	.12	-.28*	-.09	-.13	

Poland – above diagonal

USA – below diagonal

# Country Differences in Solidarity Components





# Latent Cluster Analysis

	LL	BIC(LL)	Npar	Class.Err.
1-Cluster	-2725.22	5526.41	12	0.00
2-Cluster	-2574.83	5288.96	22	0.10
3-Cluster	-2533.74	5270.09	32	0.19
<b>4-Cluster</b>	<b>-2499.40</b>	<b>5264.72</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>0.22</b>
5-Cluster	-2475.00	5279.17	52	0.21
6-Cluster	-2455.29	5303.14	62	0.24

Comparison:

Bootstrap	-2LL Diff	p-value
4 clu vs. 5 clu	-5.76	.14
3 clu vs. 4 clu	68.68	.00

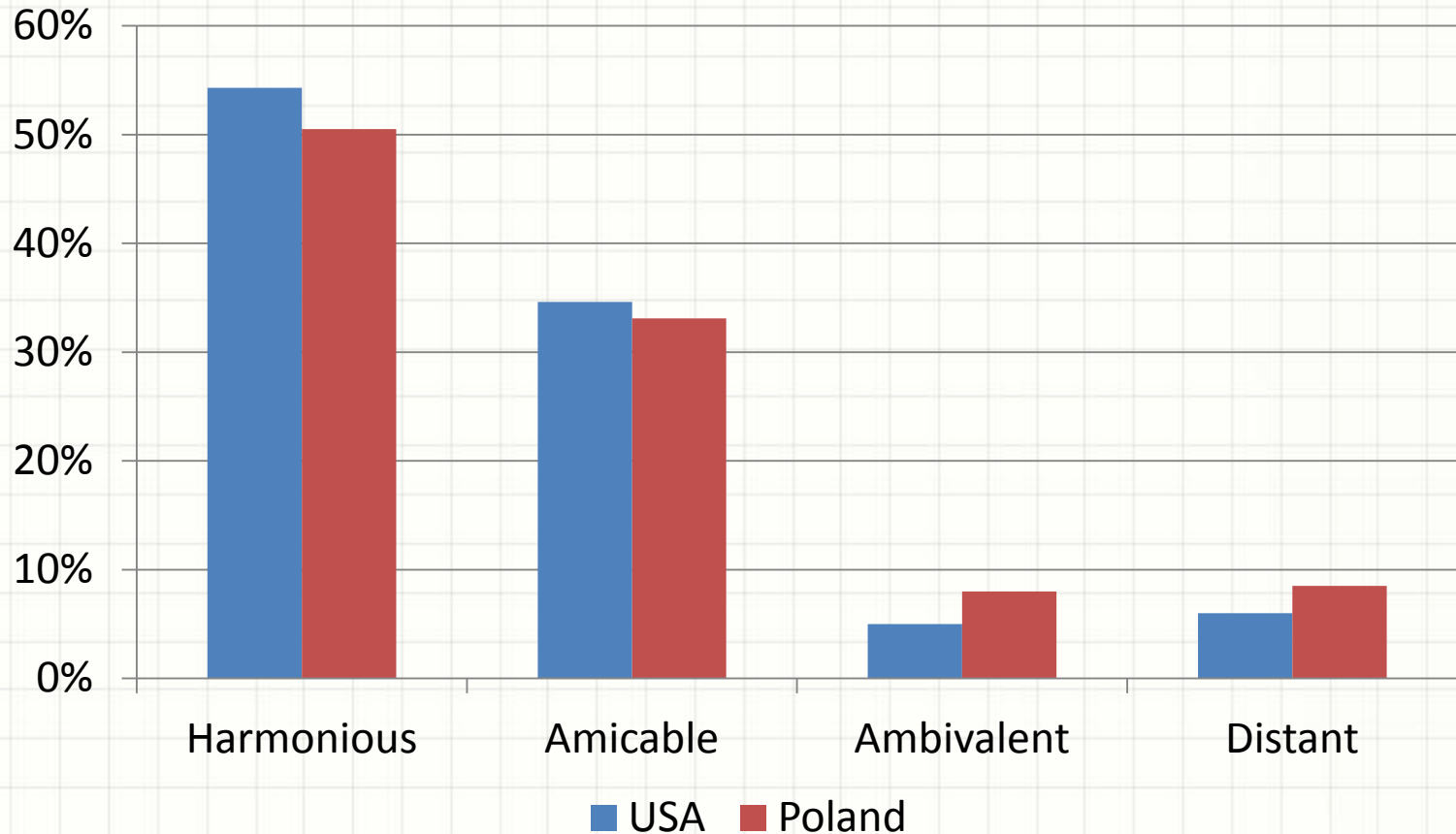
# Patterns of Solidarity

Solidarity Component	Harmonious	Amicable	Ambivalent	Distant
Cluster Size (%)	46.67	34.04	9.94	9.35
Affectual (+)	2.81	2.86	<b>3.02</b>	<b>2.65</b>
Consensual (-)	1.91	1.96	<b>2.71</b>	<b>1.65</b>
Functional (0)	-0.19	-0.10	<b>-0.02</b>	<b>-1.34</b>
Associational (+)	3.81	<b>3.66</b>	3.82	<b>4.90</b>
Normative (0)	<b>0.17</b>	0.59	<b>1.04</b>	0.45

Red: lowest value

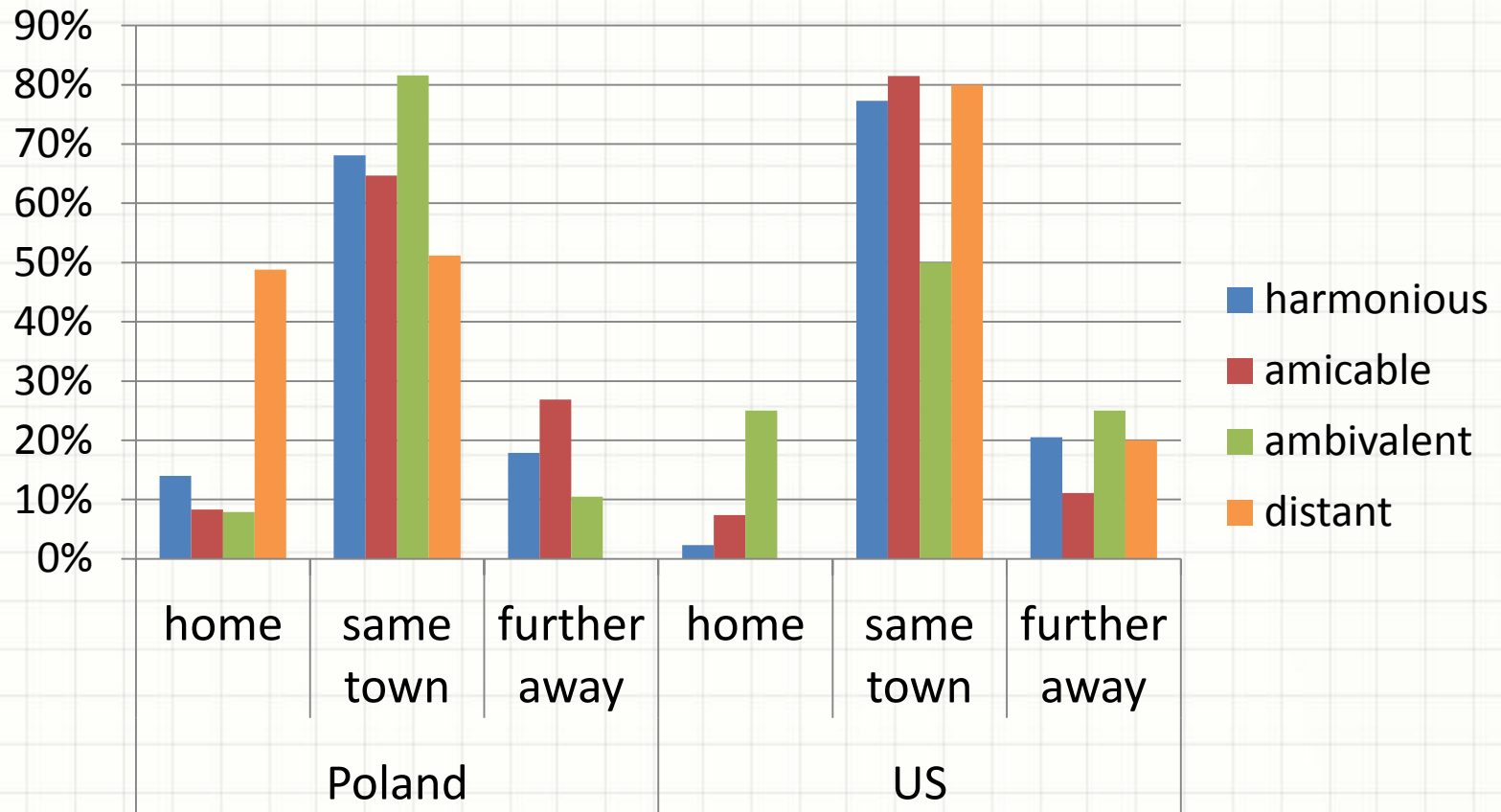
Green: highest value

# Distributions of Solidarity Clusters



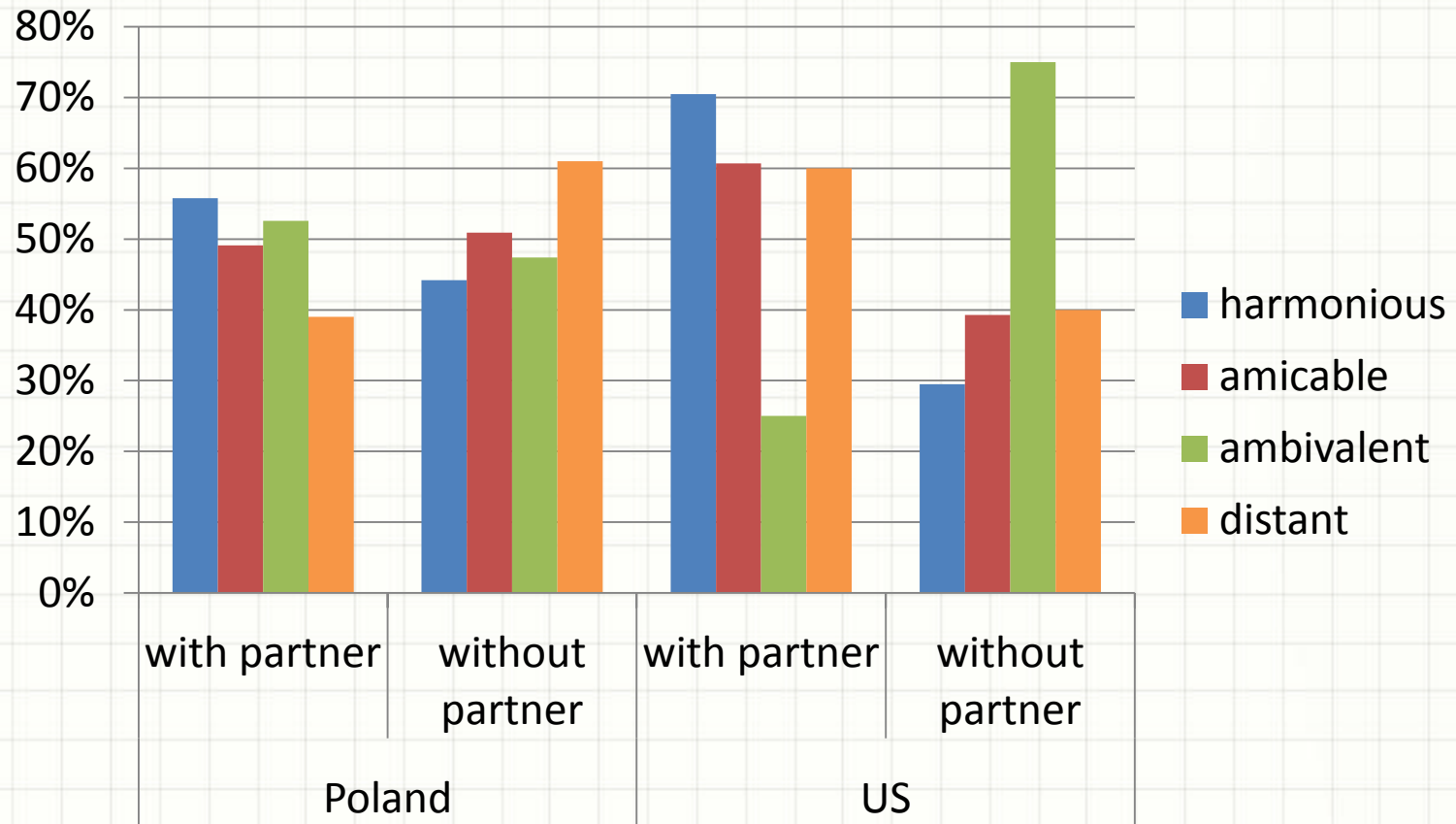
Chi-square (3) = 1.53, ns

# Proximity and Solidarity Types



Poland: Chi-square (6) = 55.64,  $p < .001$

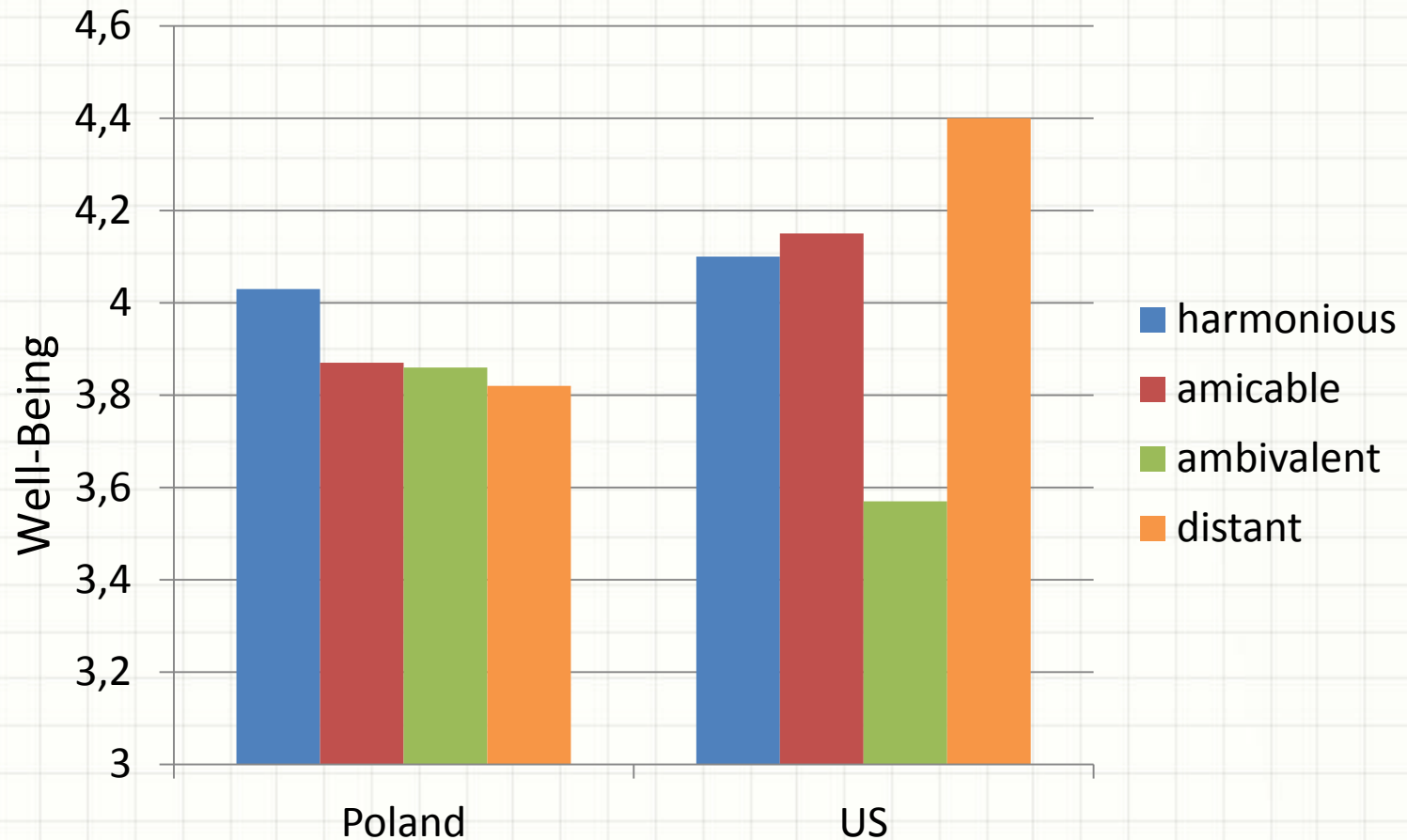
# Mother's Partner Status and Solidarity Types



Poland: Chi-square (3) = 3.61, ns



# Daughters' Wellbeing and Solidarity Types

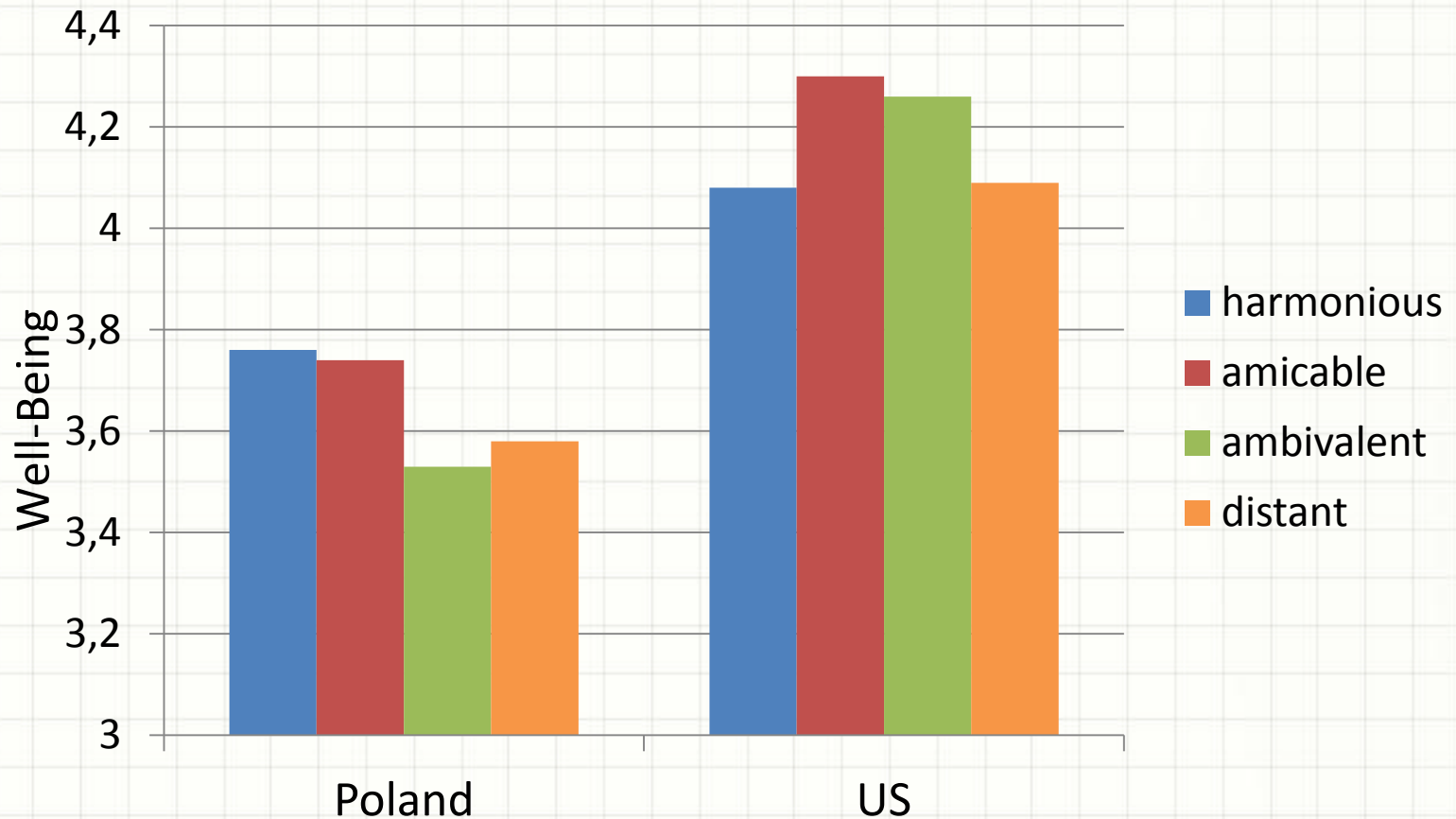


Country:  $F(1, 553) = 2.56, p = .11$

Cluster:  $F(3, 553) = 2.14, p = .09$

Country x Cluster:  $F(3, 553) = 2.53, p = .06$

# Mothers' Well-being and Solidarity Types



Country:  $F(1, 553) = 22.85, p = .0001$

Cluster:  $F(3, 553) = .80, p = .50$

Country x Cluster:  $F(3, 553) = 1.13, p = .34$

# Conclusions

1. Person-centered approach: more adequate methodological approach for concept and related assumptions
2. Clusters represent dyadic structure across five components
3. Main results:
  - 3a) Four main types of solidarity  
two types occurred often, two types more rarely (10% each) – pos/neg

# Conclusions

Distant/ambivalent not so frequent:  
Ambivalence not so relevant?

3b) No difference in occurrence rates  
across the two countries

3c) Cultural differences:

Polish mothers living with daughter and  
without partner are mostly characterized  
by distant solidarity,

American mothers more by ambivalent  
solidarity

# Conclusions

## **3d) Well-Being**

US: Daughters of distant solidarity dyads had higher life satisfaction than

daughters of ambivalent solidarity dyads

Does the distant pattern have positive qualities?

3e) Poland: Mothers of harmonious and amicable types are more satisfied than mothers of distant/ambivalent types



# Conclusions

## **Outlook**

Confirmation of similar structures with other samples, with other cultures.

Confirmation of predictability of the different types of solidarity.



**THANKS!**