

# Multilevel Economic Perceptions and Attributions of Responsibility

---

Colchester, June 20th, 2009

Thorsten Faas  
University of Mannheim

Email: [Thorsten.Faas@uni-mannheim.de](mailto:Thorsten.Faas@uni-mannheim.de)

BES Fellows Conference  
June 19-21, 2009

## Standard Indicators in Economic Voting

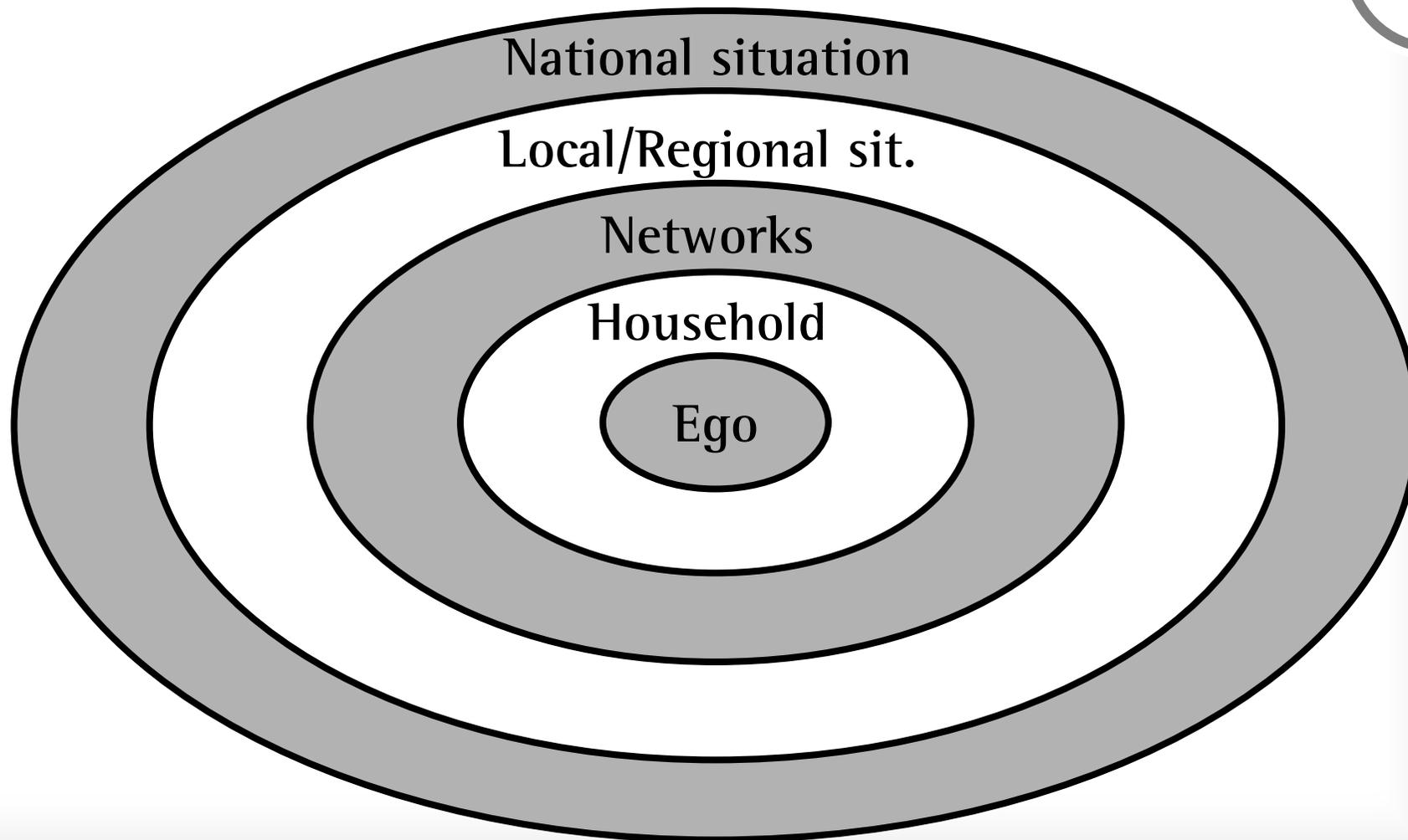
---

1

- How does the financial situation of your household now compare with what it was 12 months ago?
- How do you think the general economic situation in this country has changed over the last 12 months?
- How do you think the financial situation of your household will change over the next 12 months?
- How do you think the general economic situation in this country will develop over the next 12 months?

But there are more “economic situations”

2



Which information do voters receive, (accept) and sample?  
How do they process economic information?

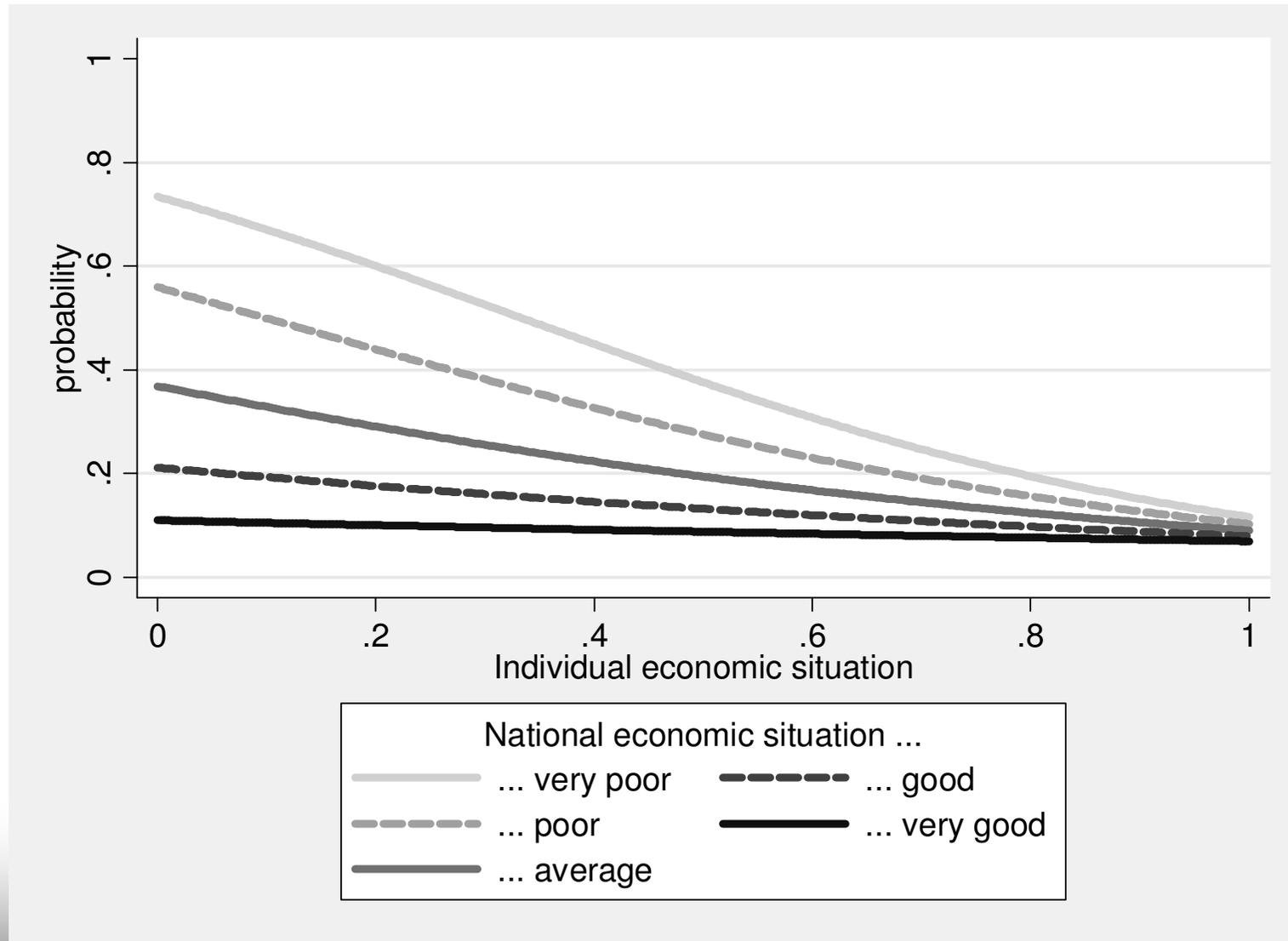
## Why would this be linked to politics?

---

3

- Attributions of responsibility as a crucial element
- Important ...
  - ... from an individual's point of view
  - ... but also from the point of view of the political system as a whole: what is government / politics responsible for?
- Studying such attributions – their determinants, but also their effects – as an important task for political science

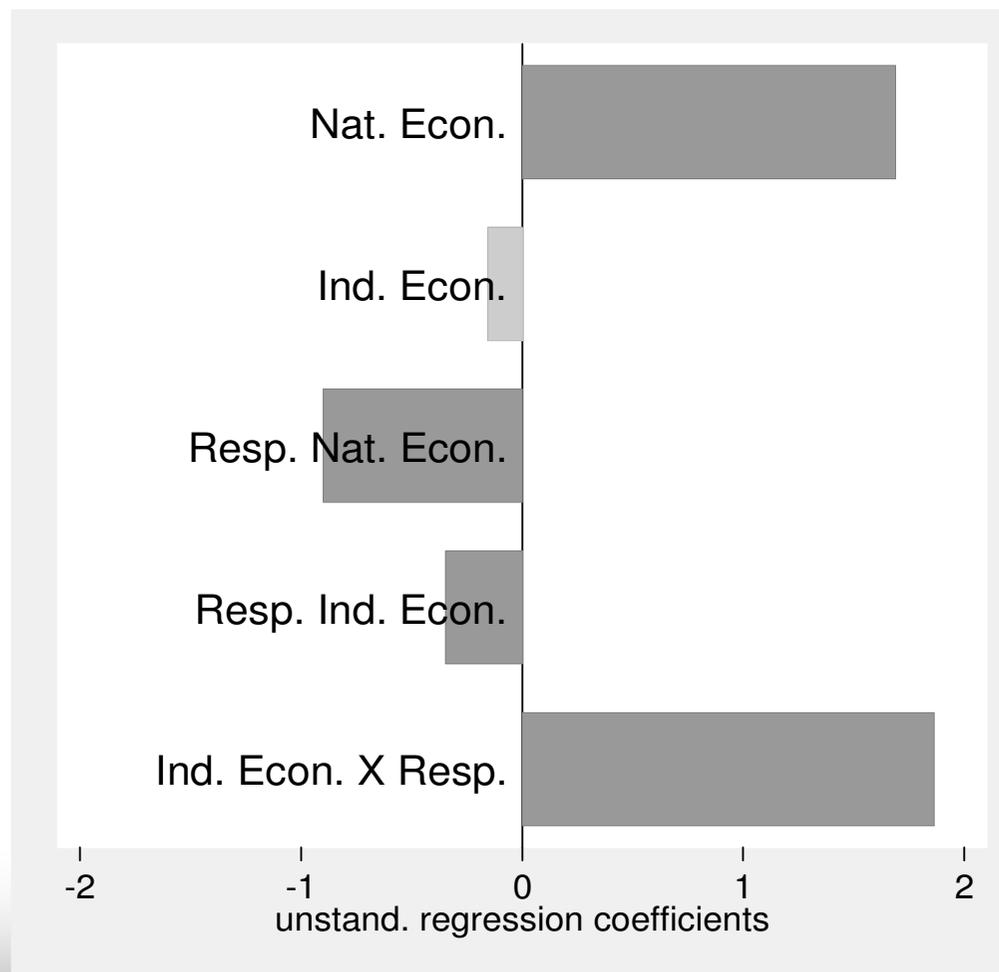
# Attributing Responsibility to Government ...



## ... and Its Effects (German Data, 2005 election)

5

Feelings towards Social Democrats by Economic Perceptions,  
controlled for Partisanship



## What is Needed?

---

6

- Economic Voting indicators for different layers (+ link variables to combine them with official statistics or geodata)
- Attributions of Responsibility (blame vs. control)
- What are the short-term and long-term dynamics of these?
- Comparative Research?