



# Inequality and Happiness

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MAKE  
AMERICA  
GREAT AGAIN!

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# What is a Great Society? (President Trump, Jan 20, 2017)

“Together, We will make America **strong** again.

We will make **wealthy** again.

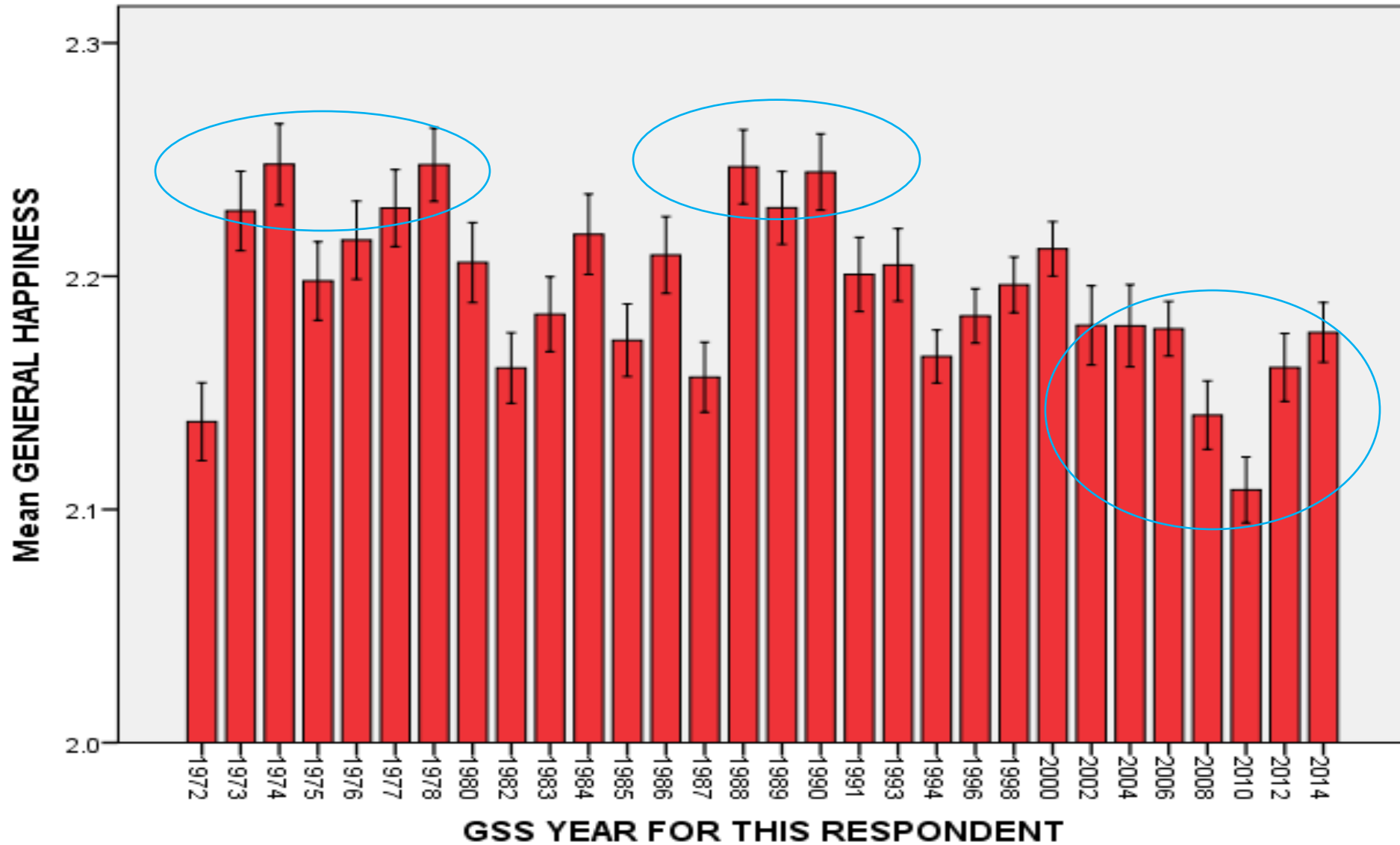
We will make America **proud** again.

We will make America **safe** again.

And yes, together, we will make America **GREAT** again!”

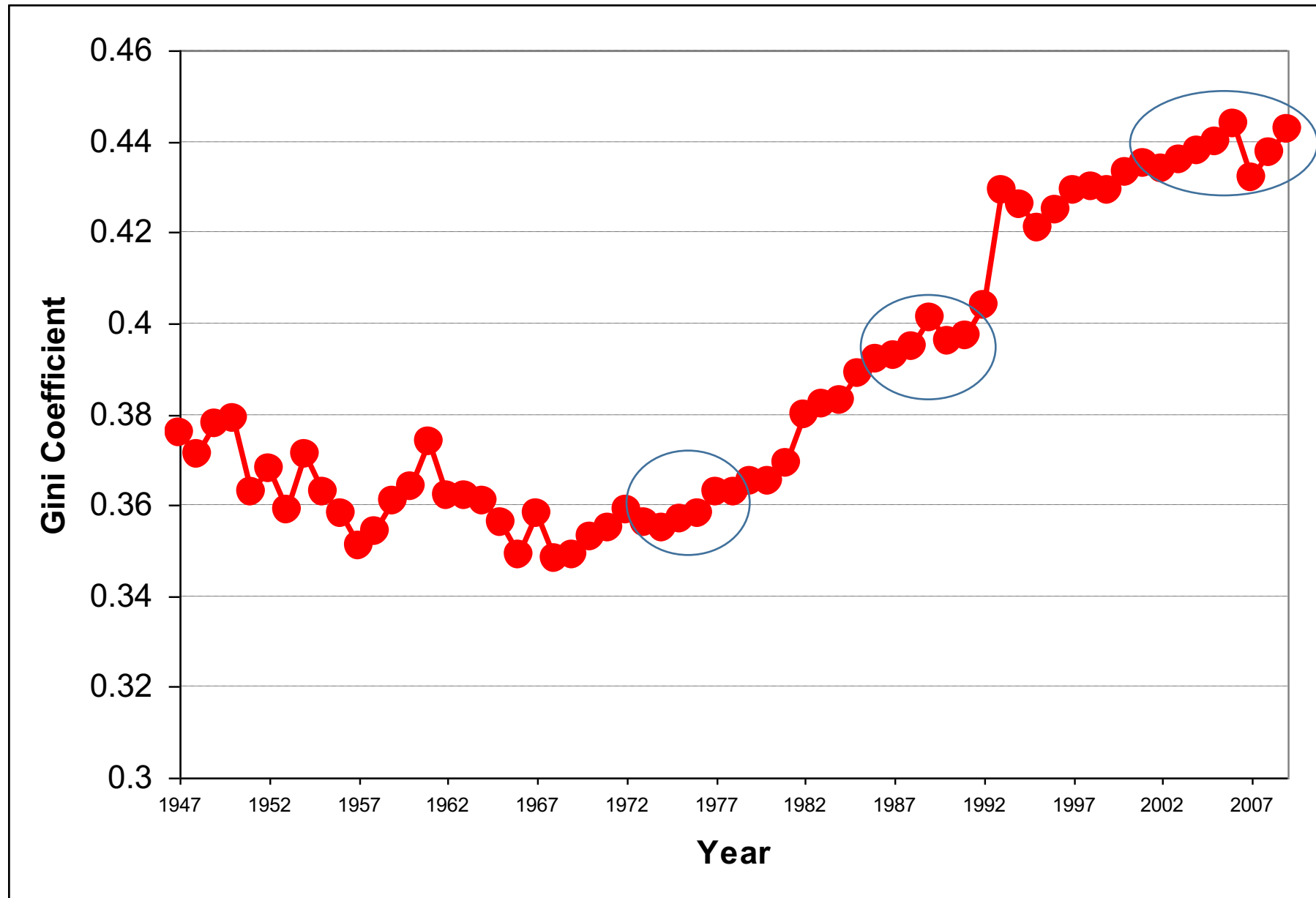


# When Were Americans Happiest?



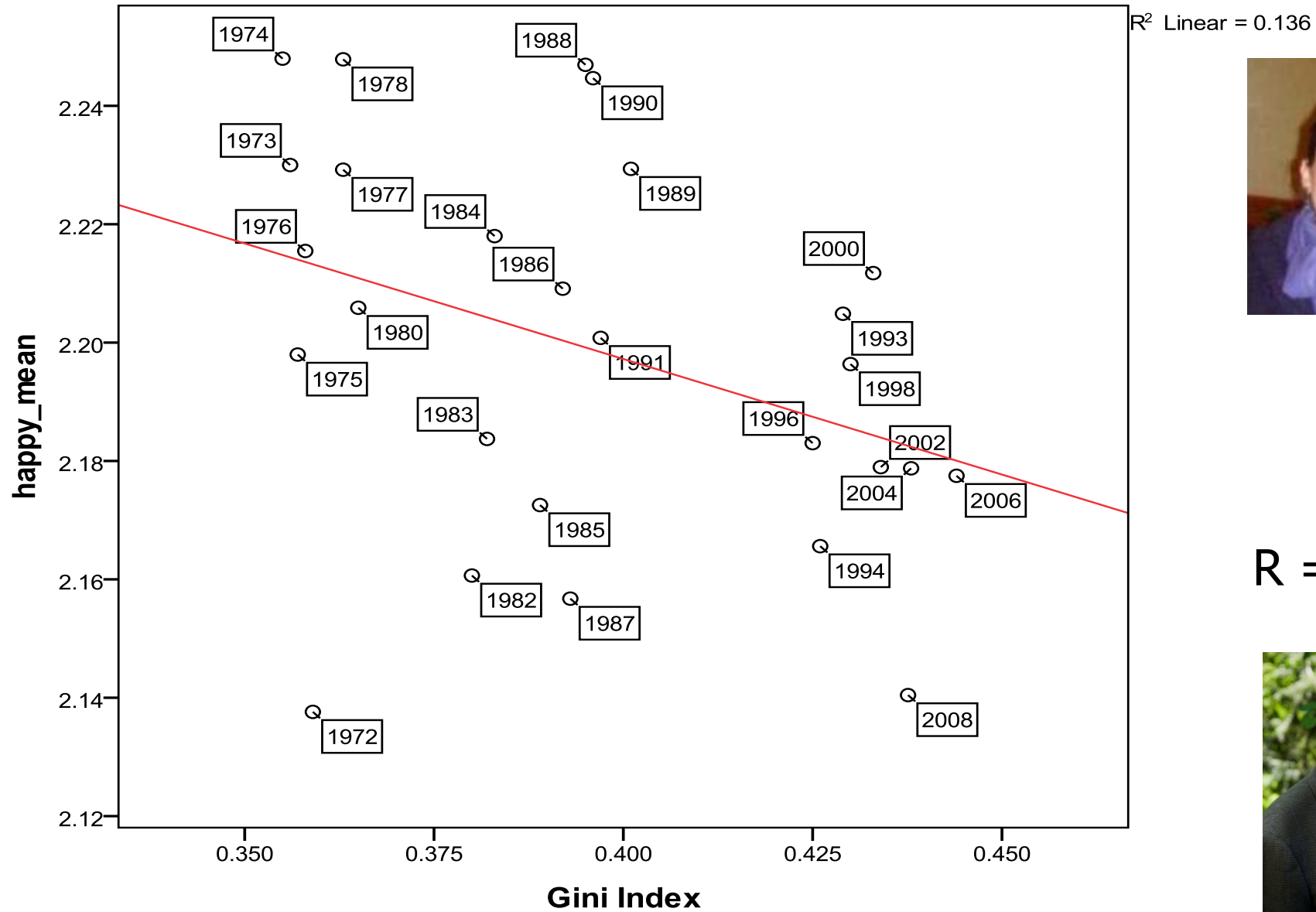
Error bars: +/- 1 SE

# Income Inequality in the U.S.(1946-2008)





# Growing Income Inequality and its Unhappiness?

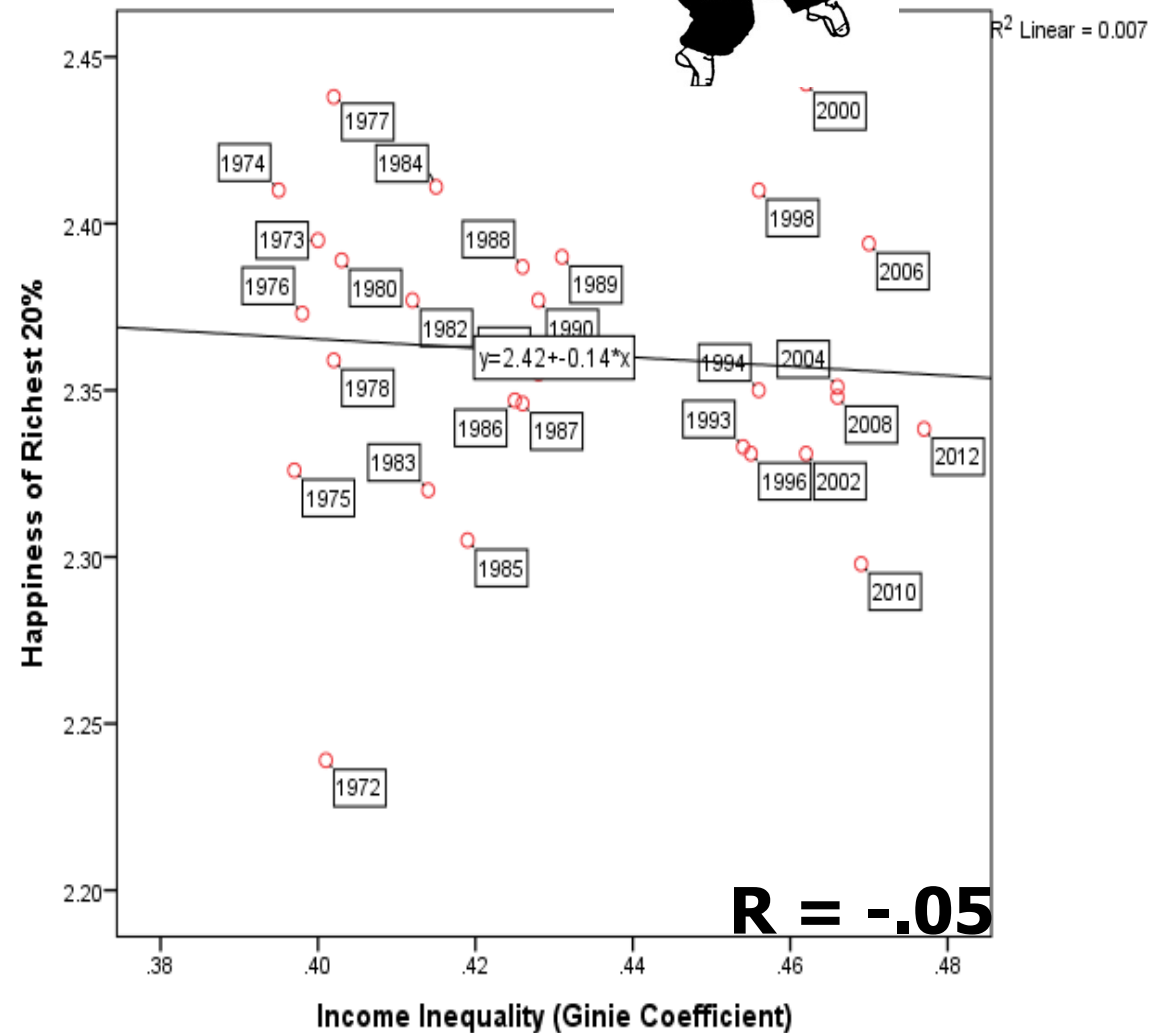
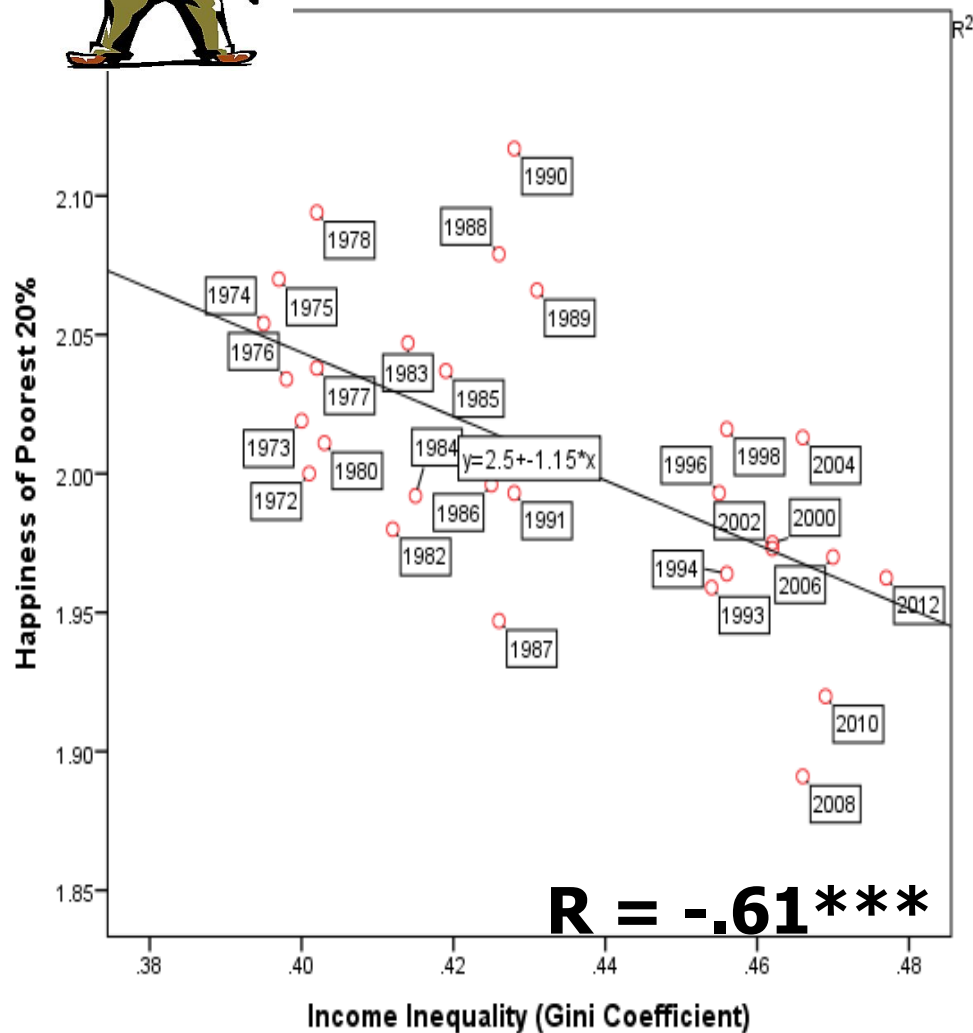


$R = -.37^*$



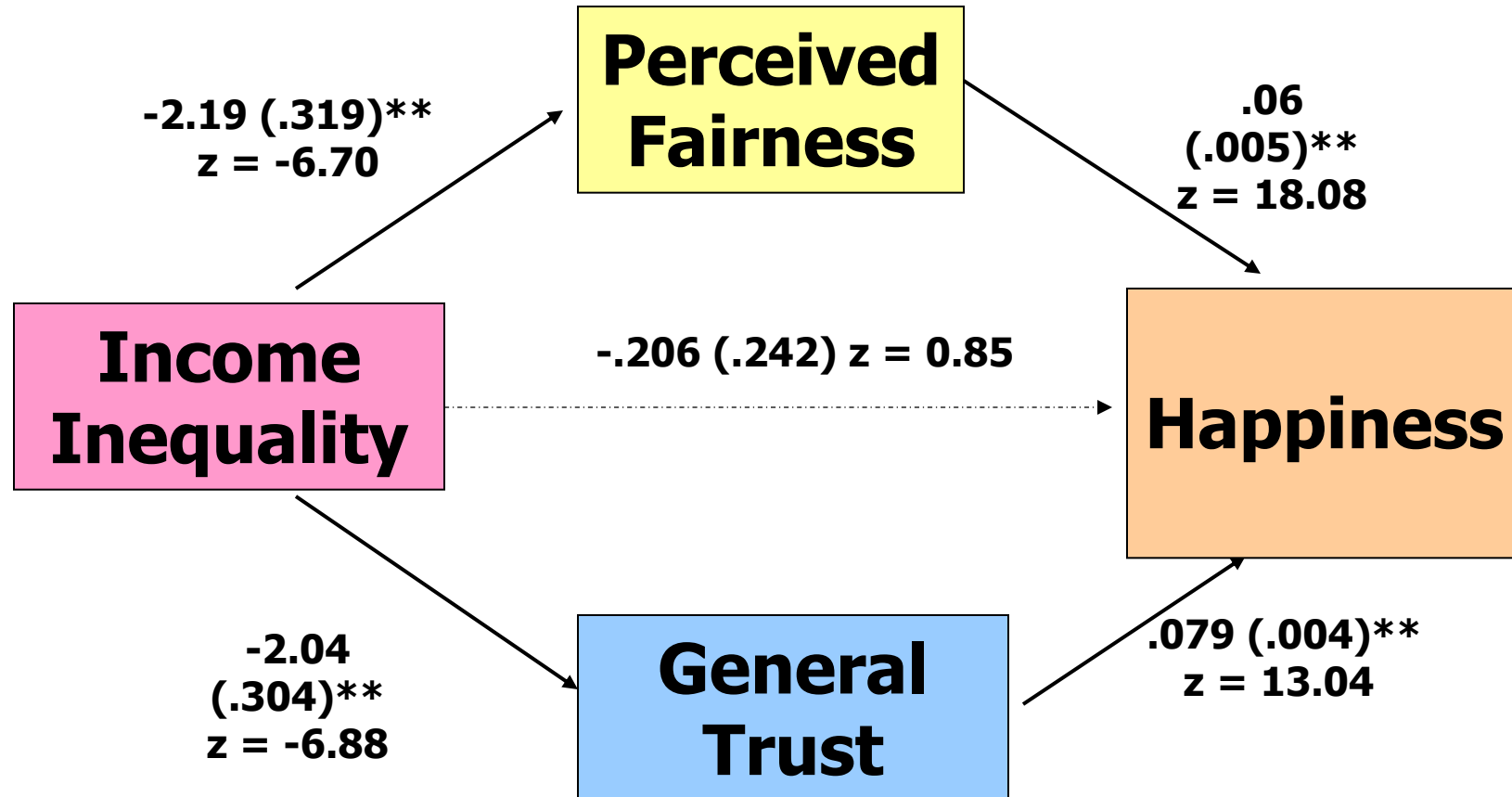
**Oishi, Kesebir, & Diener (2011, Psych Science)**

# Income Inequality & Happiness of Poor and Rich



# Why is Income Inequality Bad?

**Indirect effect = -.161, S. E. = .026, z = -6.25, p < .01**



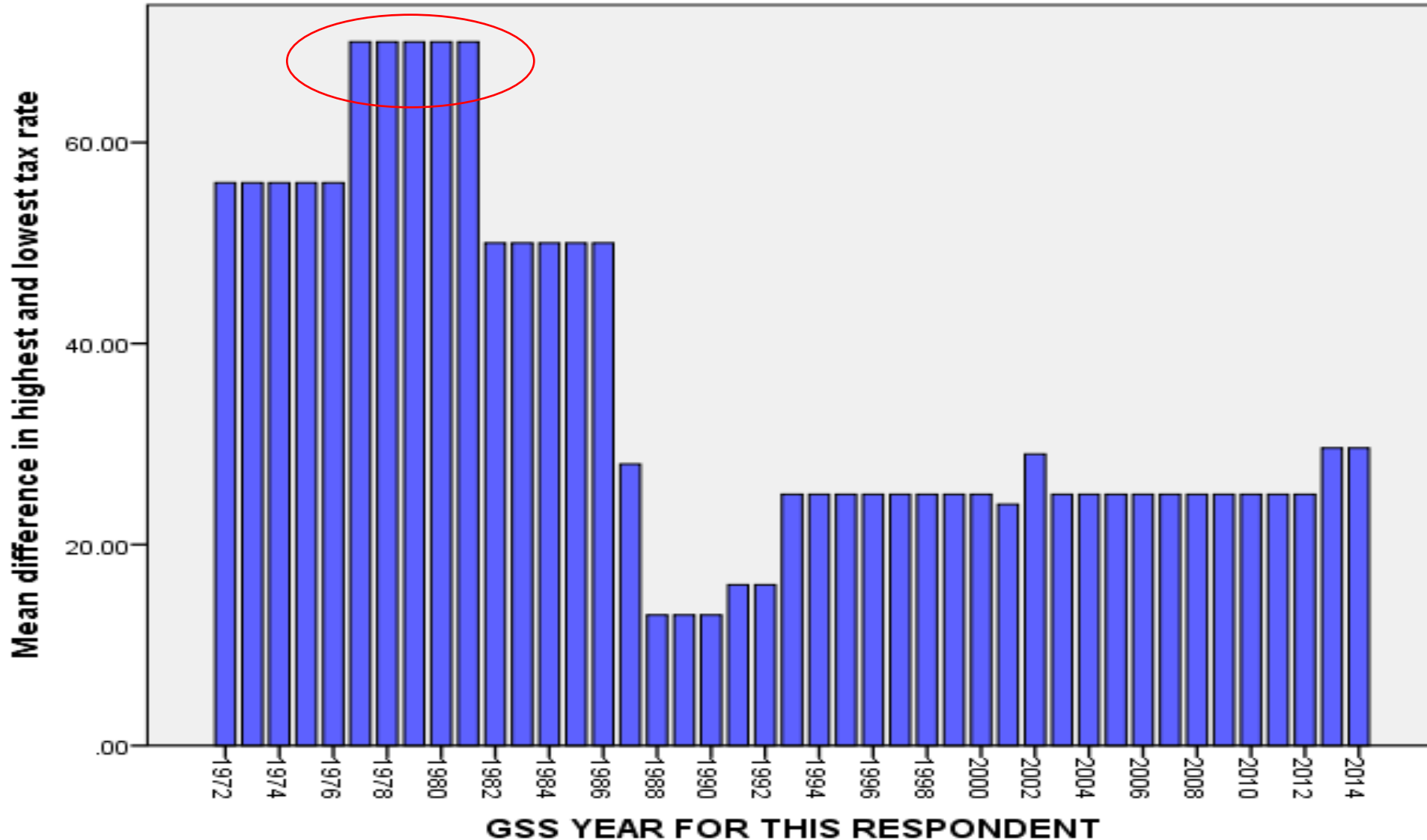
**Indirect effect = -.131, S.E. = .026, z = -5.08, p < .01**

**Oishi, Kesebir, & Diener (2011, Psych Science)**

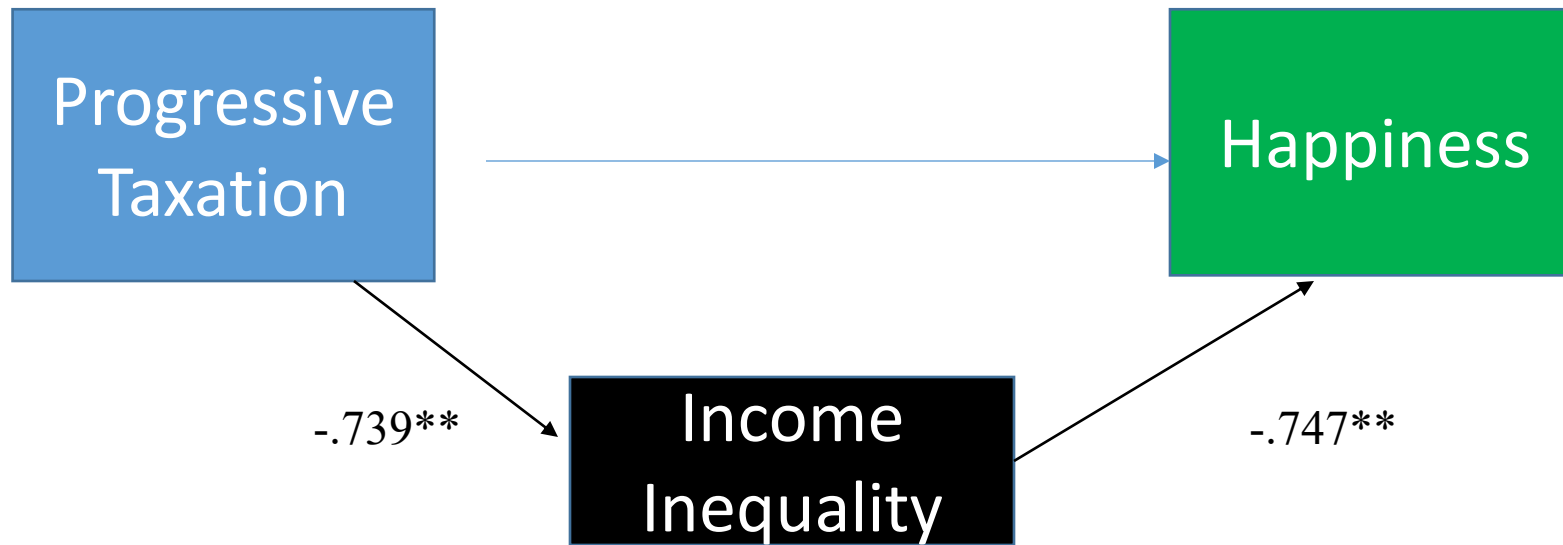


# But How to Reduce Income Inequality?

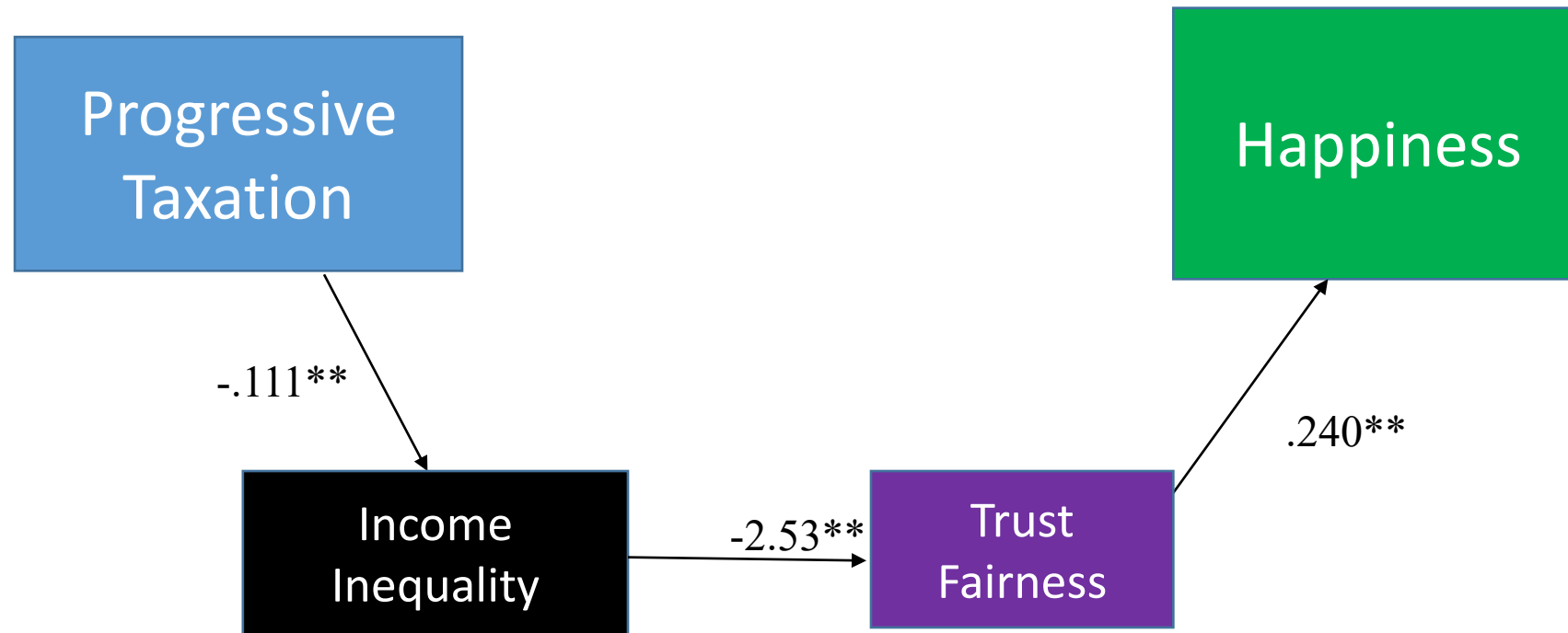
(Oishi, Kushlev, & Schimmack, 2018, American Psychologist)



# Why Progressive Taxation?



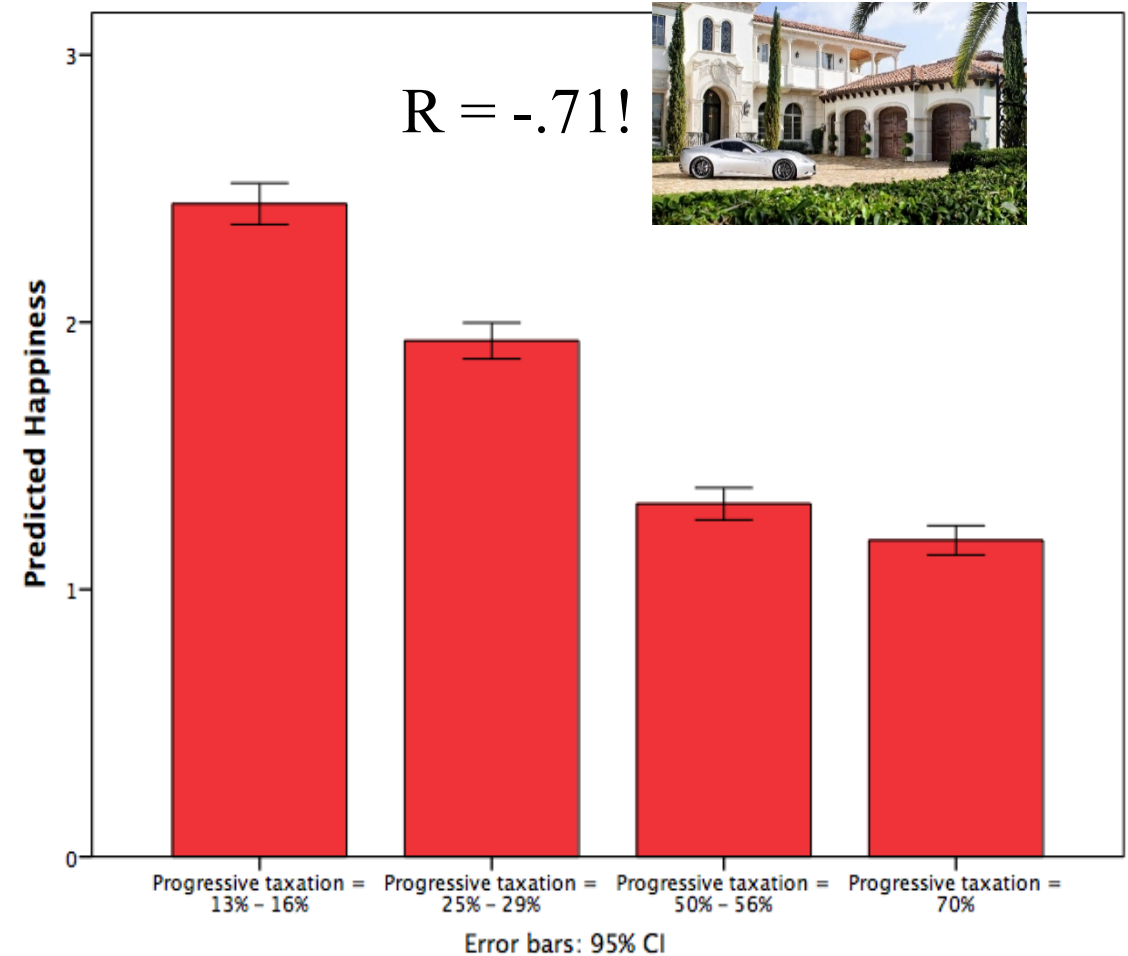
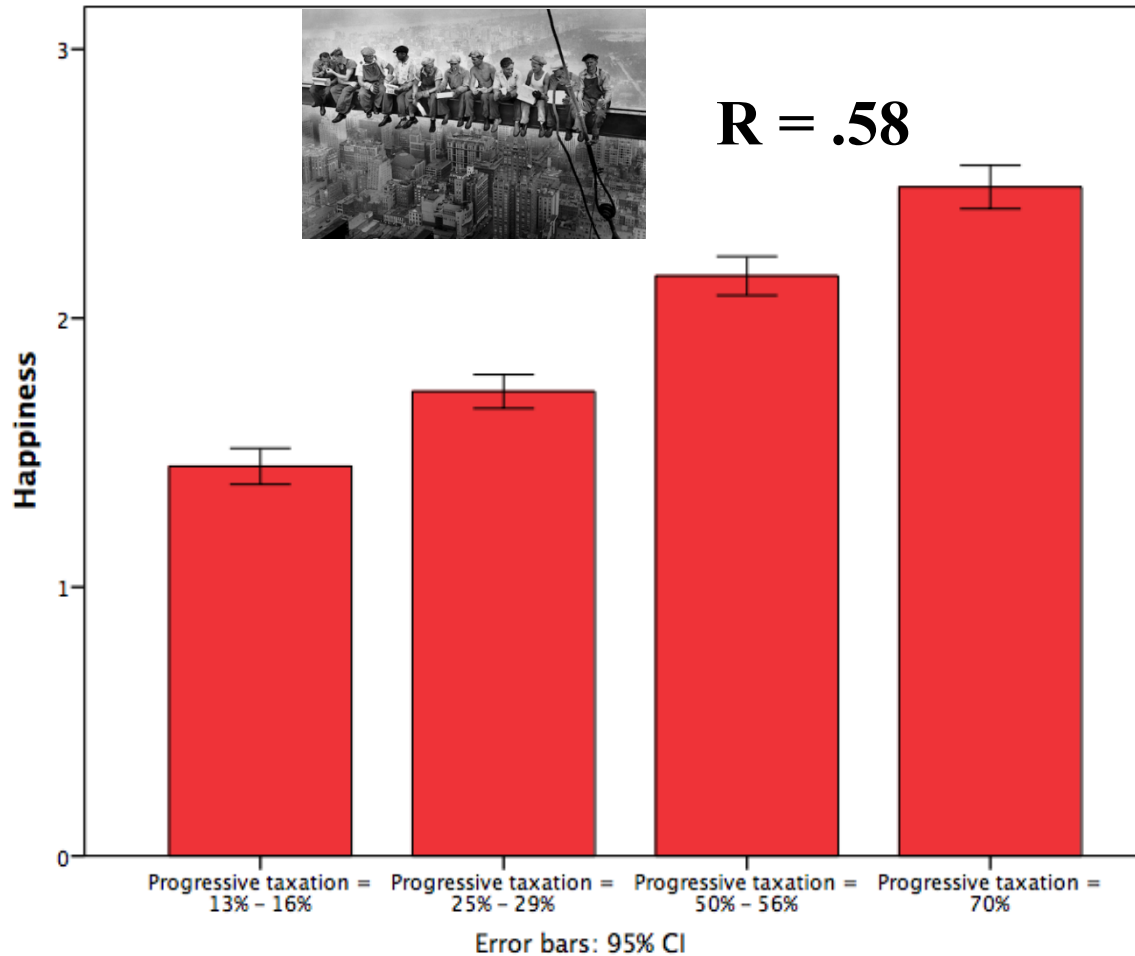
# Why Progressive Taxation? A Psychological Mechanism



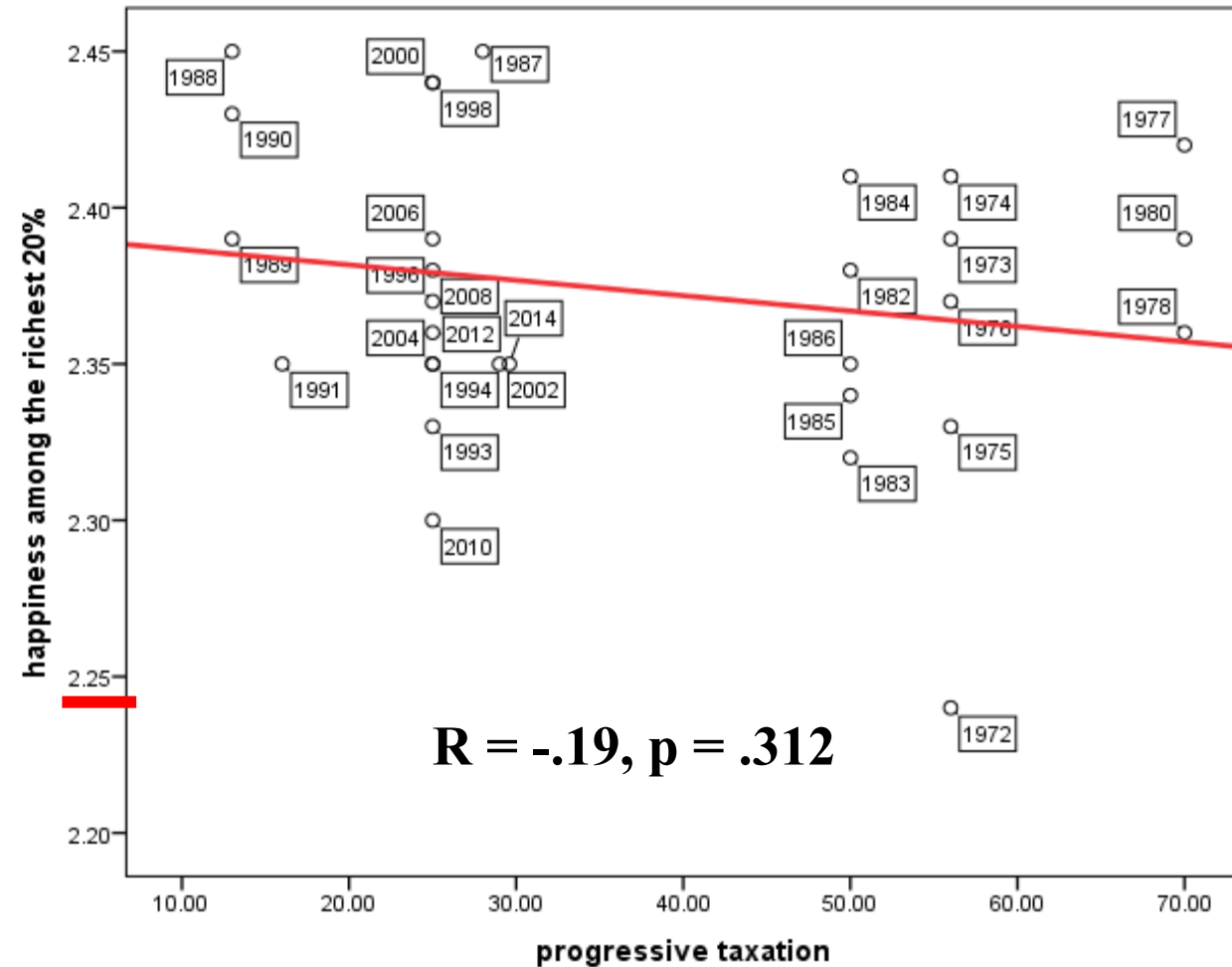
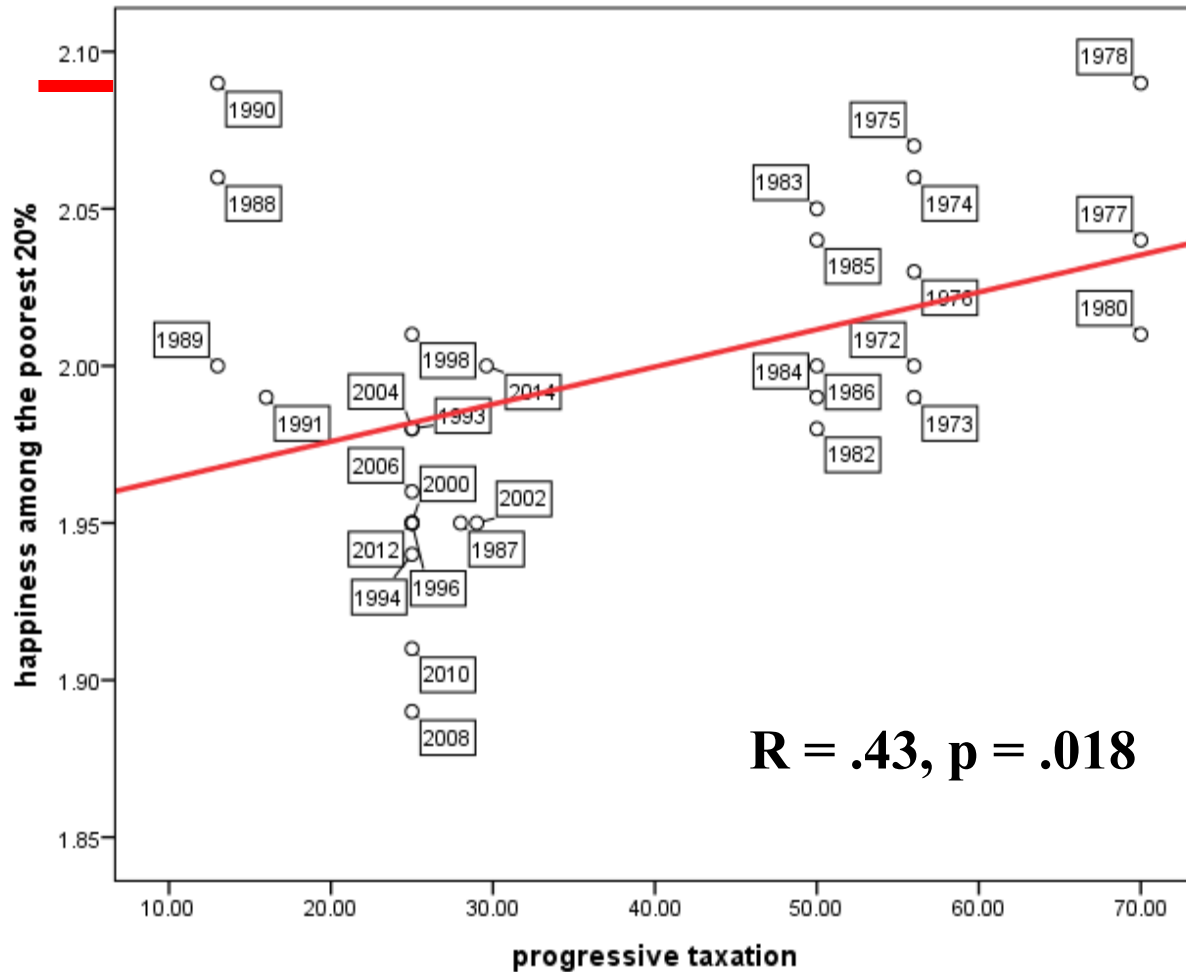
**Indirect Effect,  $z = 5.08, p < .001$**

# Why Against Progressive Tax?

## Predicted Happiness of the Poor & the Rich



# Actual Happiness of the Poor and the Rich



# Thanks!



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