

Introduction – Project (1)



Social determinants of health:
Sweden-Brazil exchange
program and Sweden-Brazil
comparisons

- Institutional Grants Programme support from the Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education (STINT);
- Main Swedish partner (head applicant) Johan Fritzell, CHES, Stockholm University /Karolinska Institutet;
- Main Brazilian partner Antonio Ponce de Leon, Instituto de Medicina Social, Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro.

Introduction – Project (2)



Overall objective

- Of STINT institutional grants programme:
 - Strengthen Swedish research and higher education by means of international cooperation.
- Of our programme:
 - Develop collaboration and exchange between researchers in Brazil and Sweden.

Introduction – Project (3)



Research topics and activities

- **Topics**
 - Income inequality, segregation and health;
 - Work environment and health;
 - Methodological developments.
- **Planned activities**
 - Session at the World Congress in Epidemiology, Porto Alegre, September 2008;
 - Workshop, presentation of on-going research doctoral students, Rio de Janeiro, December 2008;
 - Workshop, advanced methodology course, Stockholm, August/September 2009;
 - Student exchange (current and forthcoming).

Comparing inequalities and effects of inequalities in Brazil and Sweden

- Two vastly different countries, not least for example in terms of
- Economic level and population size (but very similar population density)

but

- perhaps equally important vastly different in terms of economic (income) and social inequality.

Cross-national comparisons: Analytical strategies

- Most similar cases approach (Lijphart 1975); mostly followed in comparative welfare state research.

vs.

- Most different cases approach.

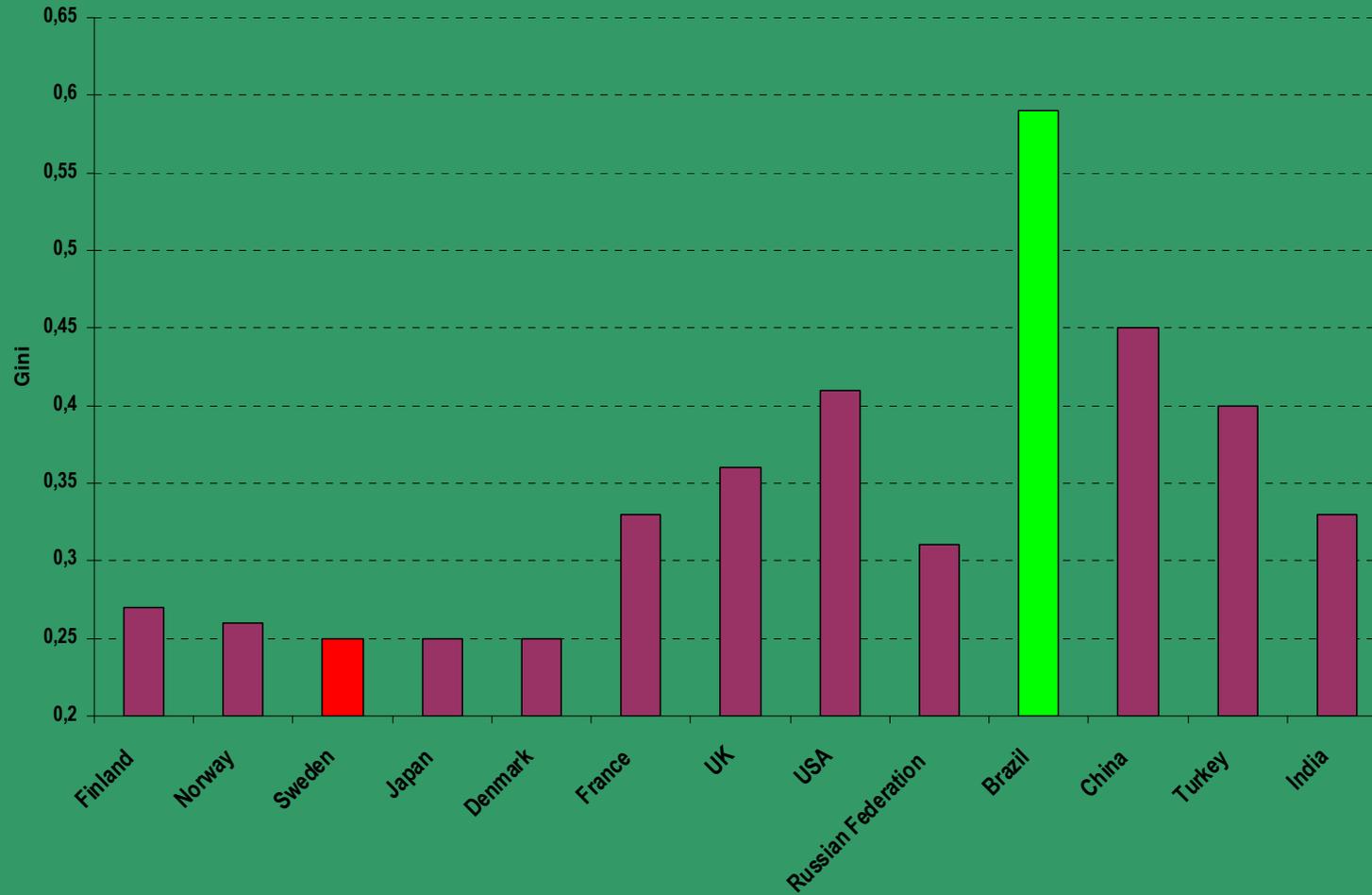
Cross-national comparisons: Analytical strategies

“establishing the generality of relationships and the limits of generality” (Kohn 1989);

If we find similar relationships our interpretation can ignore specific (historical, cultural, economical etc.) circumstances.

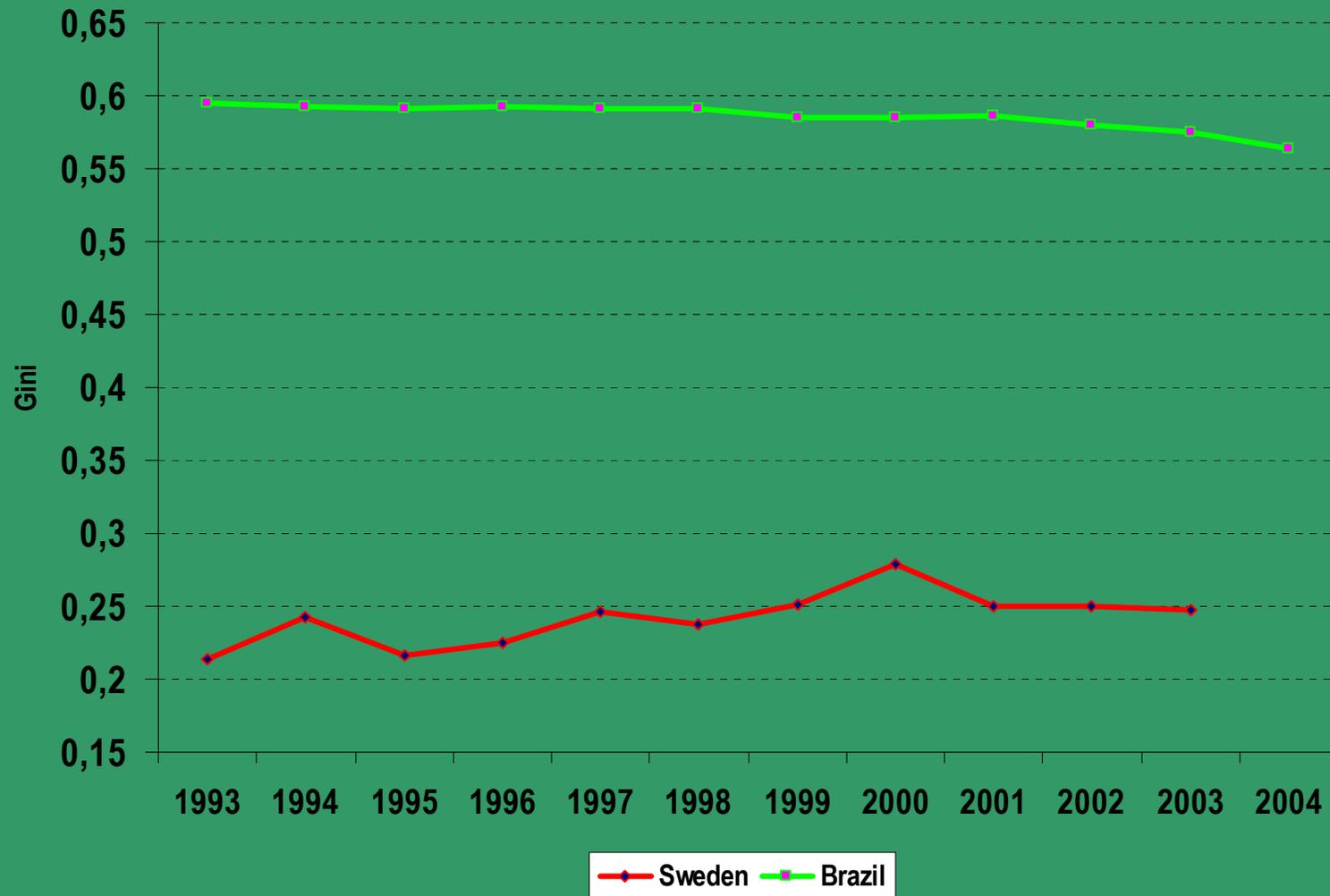
Income inequality, Gini

Source. Human Development Report 2005



Recent changes of income inequality in Brazil and Sweden

(Sources: Ferreira et al 2006; Fritzell, Palme 2006)



Income inequality and segregation

- Income inequality tends to be transformed into residential segregation everywhere, and this is not exception both in Brazil and in Sweden.
- Is residential segregation also of importance to population health by mediating the relation between income inequality and health?

Overall research questions

- Do we find associations between income inequality and mortality comparing larger metropolitan areas in Brazil and Sweden?
- Do we find that socio-economic segregation, the spatial expression of inequality, mediates these relationships?
- Do we get similar findings irrespective of the larger social context: High (Brazil) versus Low (Sweden) income inequality?

The Wilkinson idea

- ➔ In rich societies it is not wealth as such but how it is distributed that matters for health



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Socioeconomic segregation

⇒ The spatial expression of income inequality.

⇒ Definition of segregation:



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Earlier research

- ⇒ Much recent work on income, income distribution and health.
- ⇒ Little work on segregation and health.

“No studies that have considered the interaction between income inequality and income segregation and the effect on mortality”, Nancy Ross 2004



Why could segregation have an impact on health?

- ⇒ Social isolation hypothesis
- ⇒ Decline of social capital
- ⇒ Poor areas have less resources to invest in social infrastructure/public goods
- ⇒ More???



Presentations

- ⇒ Income Inequality, socioeconomic segregation, and associations to mortality in Brazil - Luciana Tricai Cavalini (UFF/RJ)
- ⇒ Socioeconomic residential segregation and association to mortality risks in Swedish urban areas - Maria Kölegård Stjärne (CHESS)
- ⇒ The association between oral health and income inequality, according to income levels - Roger Keller "Gaucho" Celeste (IMS/UERJ)

