



## ***Generational Effects on Voter Turnout in Post-Communist Countries, 1990–2013***

Lukáš Linek ([lukas.linek@soc.cas.cz](mailto:lukas.linek@soc.cas.cz))

Ivan Petrušek ([ivan.petrusek@soc.cas.cz](mailto:ivan.petrusek@soc.cas.cz))

Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences



# Hypotheses

Socialization hypothesis based on impressionable years model

- Regime type
- Communist regime phase

Habitual voting hypothesis

- Pure habit of going to polls
- Habit with cognitive dimension



# Data

## Post-election surveys

- Czech Republic (1992–2013 – 7 surveys; N=10630)
- Hungary (1990–2010 – 6 surveys; N=7861)
- Poland (1991–2011 – 7 surveys; N=12618)
- Slovakia (1992–2012 – 6 surveys; N=6421)

## Variables

- Age (linear and quadratic)
- Sex
- Year of birth
- Year of data collection



# Modelling strategy

Identification problem in APC analysis “solved“ using:

- Linear and quadratic specification of age effects
- Different period grouping of the variables age, period and cohort
- Multi-level model – cross-classified random effects model

$$\text{logit}(\text{VOTE}_{ijk}=1) = \gamma_0 + \beta_1 \text{AGE}_{ijk} + \beta_2 \text{AGE}_{ijk}^2 + \beta_3 \text{FEMALE}_{ijk} + u_{0j} + v_{0k}$$

for  $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n_{jk}$  individual within cohort  $j$  and time period  $k$ ;

$j = 1, \dots, 15$  birth cohorts;

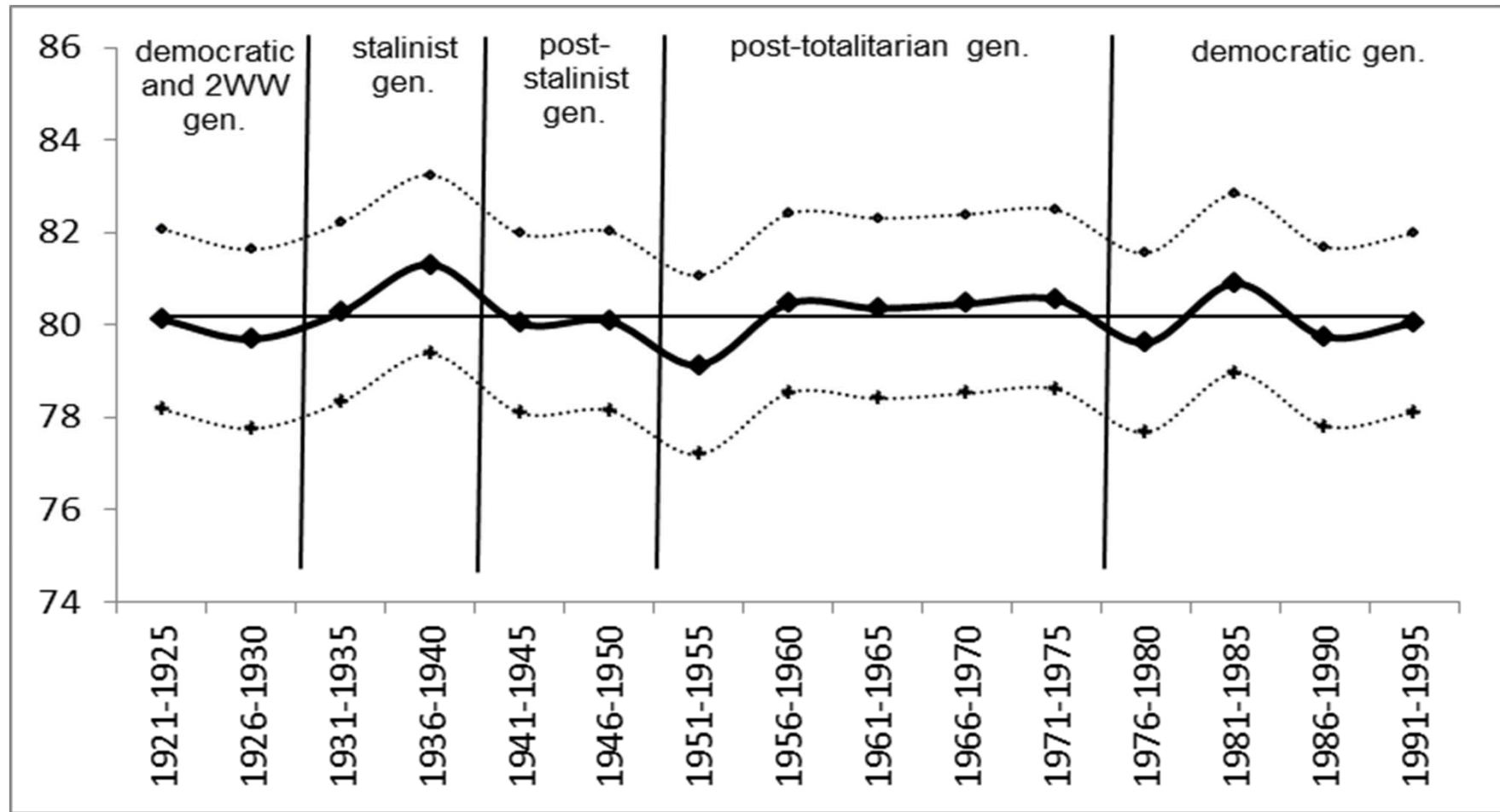
$k = 1, \dots, z$  time periods/election years

# Overall results

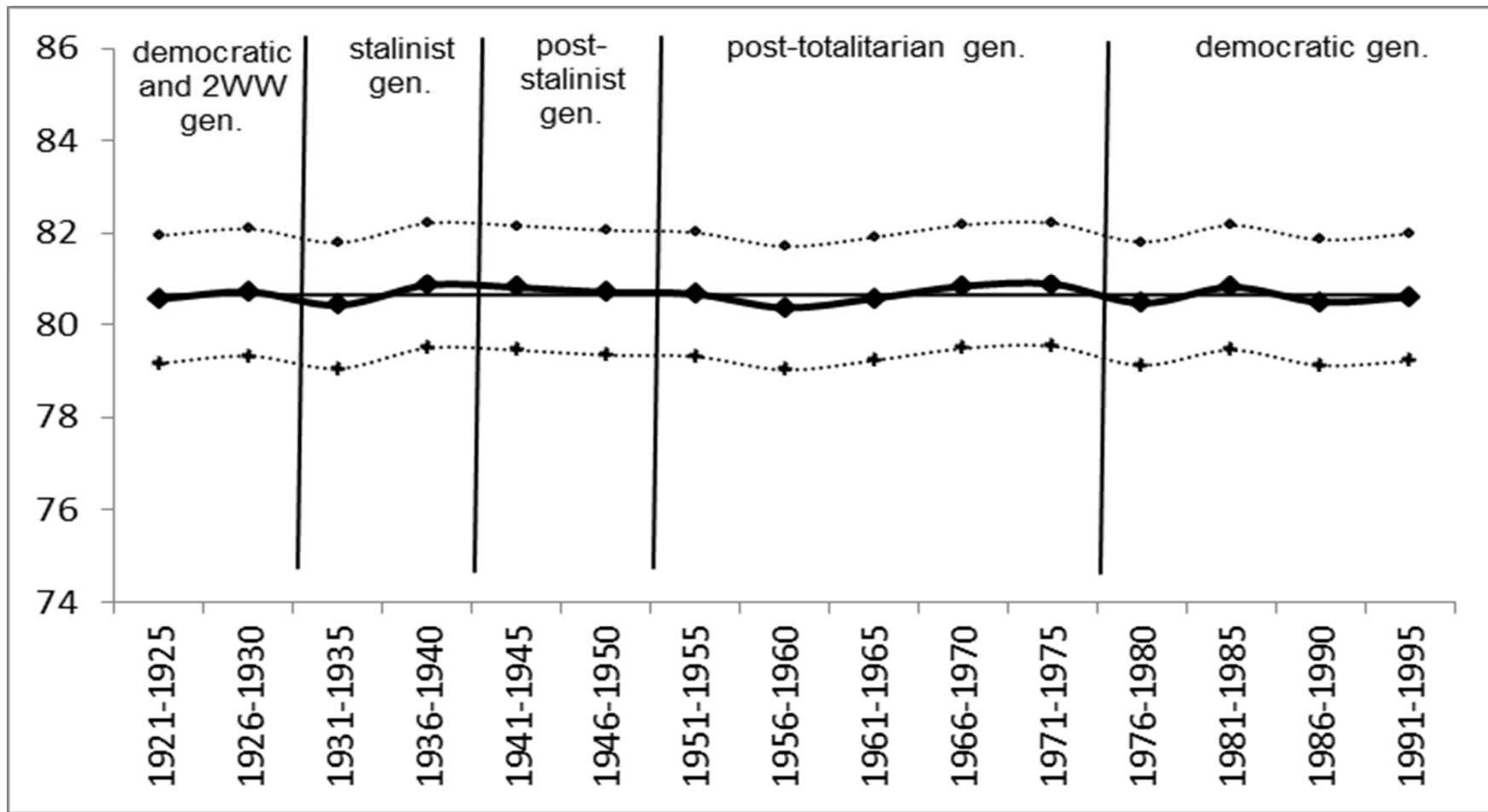
<b>Fixed effects</b>	<b>CZ</b>		<b>SLO</b>		<b>HUN</b>		<b>POL</b>	
intercept	1.40		1.43		1.09		0.76	
age	0.02 ***		0.01 ***		0.01 ***		0.02 ***	
age squared	-0.00 ***		-0.00 ***		-0.00 ***		-0.00 ***	
female	-0.12 **		-0.05		-0.04		-0.30 ***	
<b>Variance components</b>								
Cohort	0.047		0.028		0.051		0.173 ***	
Period	0.617 ***		0.457 **		0.367 **		0.331 ***	

Notes: \*\*\* less than 0.001; \*\* less than 0.01; \* less than 0.05.

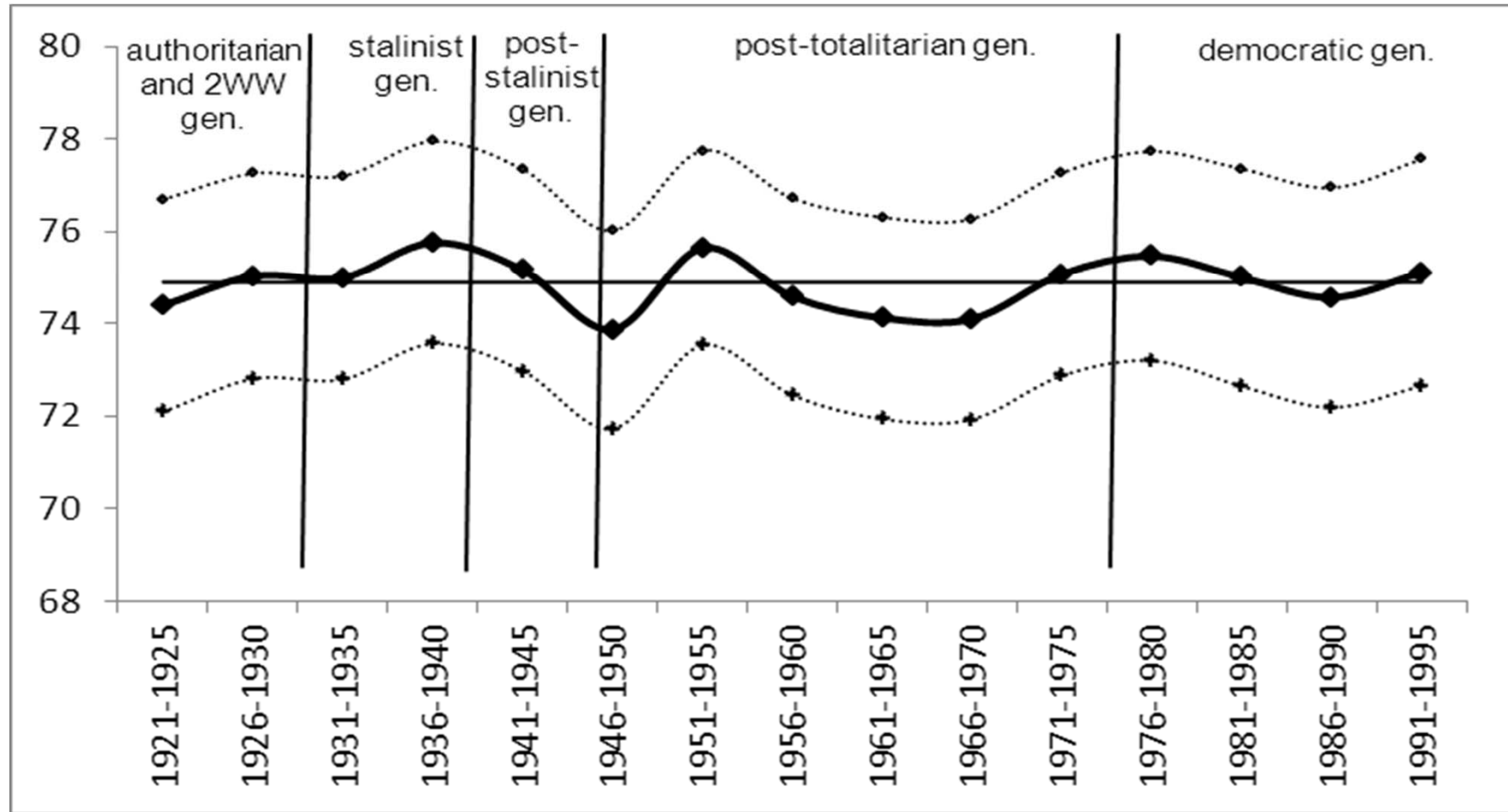
# Generational effects - CZ



# Generational effects - SLO

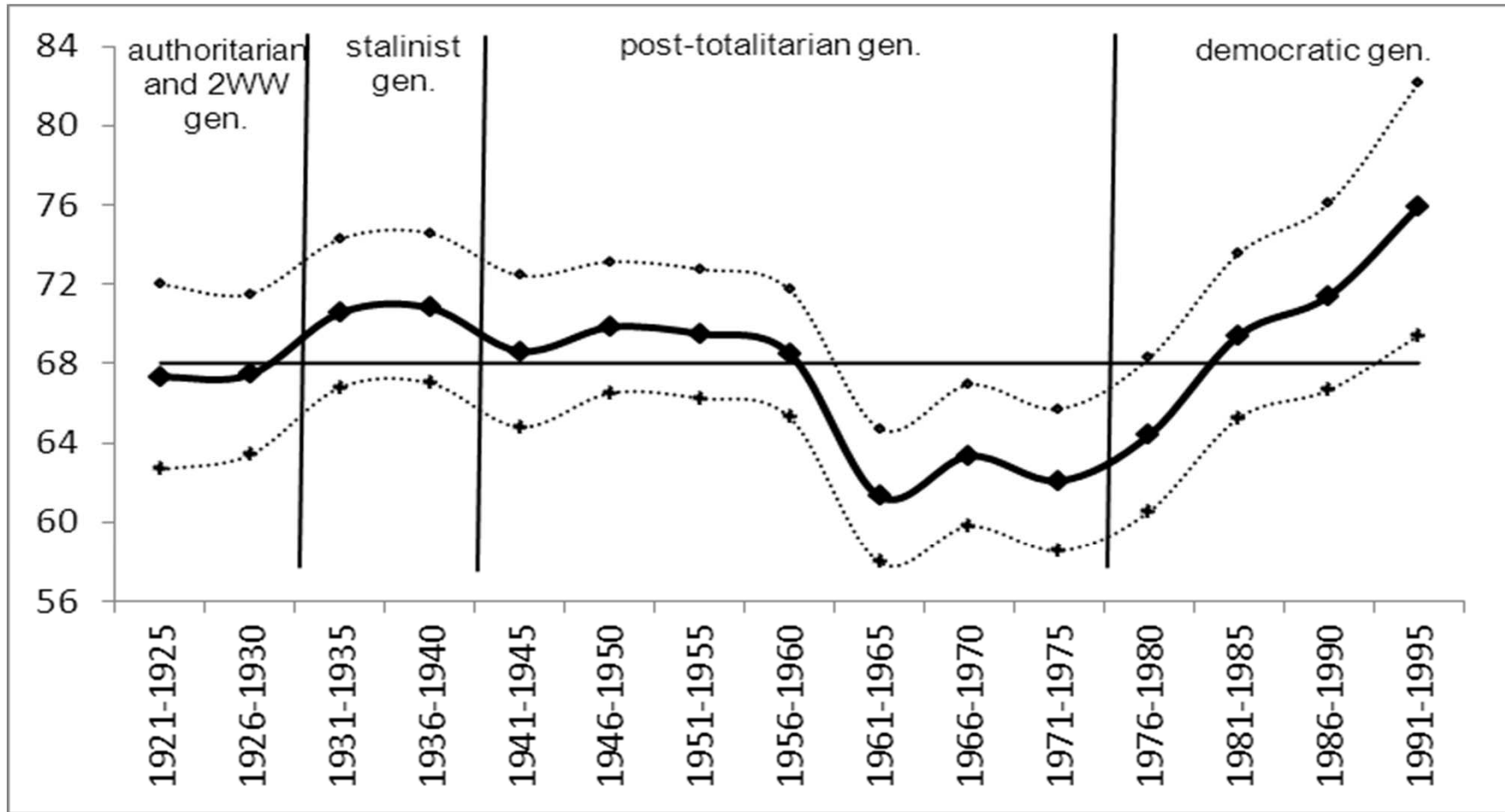


# Generational effects - HUN





# Generational effects - POL





# Conclusion

- Strength of generational effects varies across countries
  - No uniform pattern of generational effects on voter turnout
- No support for hypotheses
- Generational effects are much weaker than in Western Europe and have a different direction
  - The case of Poland highlights the importance of special and historical events