

Slomczynski, Kazimierz M. and Katarzyna M. Wilk. 2002. „Who Still Likes Socialism and Why? Time Variation of Political Opinions in Poland.” *International Journal of Sociology* 32(3):64-77.

Abstract:

In Poland, ten years after the collapse of the socialist (communist) system, about one-third of the adult population expressed positive attitudes toward the past system. In this article, we attempt to analyze the determinants of positive assessment of socialism and its changes through time. We use the data from a panel survey, conducted in Poland in 1987-88, 1993, and 1998, among adult men and women (N = 1,760). Results suggest that, although the overall proportion of persons providing positive assessments of socialism is relatively stable over time, different people make this assessment at the time of each data collection. Generally, those who are winners in the transition – managers, experts, owners, and supervisors – are likely to shift from a positive to a negative assessment of socialism. In contrast, those who are losers in the transition – farmers, unemployed, and retirees and pensioners – are likely to shift from a negative to a positive assessment of socialism. These findings support the self-interest and rational-choice theories.