

# Democracy Rankings as Indicators

Alex Liu, Ph.D.

Director of the RM Institute

Pasadena, CA 91801

Alex@ResearchMethods.org

Nov. 2004

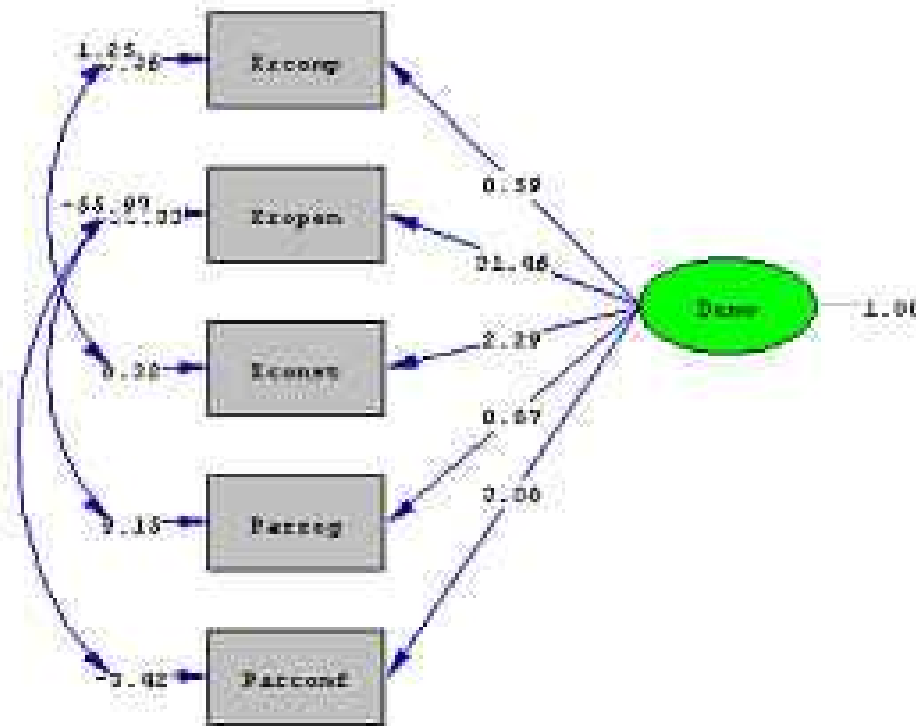
# The Research Idea

- Many organizations such as the Freedom House provide a democracy ranking for all the countries in the world.
- Many scholars use these rankings as the measurement of democracy – thousands research of using these rankings as democracy measures have been done in the past.
- As these rankings are produced by a group of scholars through coding limited information, we argue these rankings can NOT be used as measures of democracy.
- However, these rankings do reflect how democratic a country is that they can be used as indicators to construct a democracy measure.

# Hypothesis

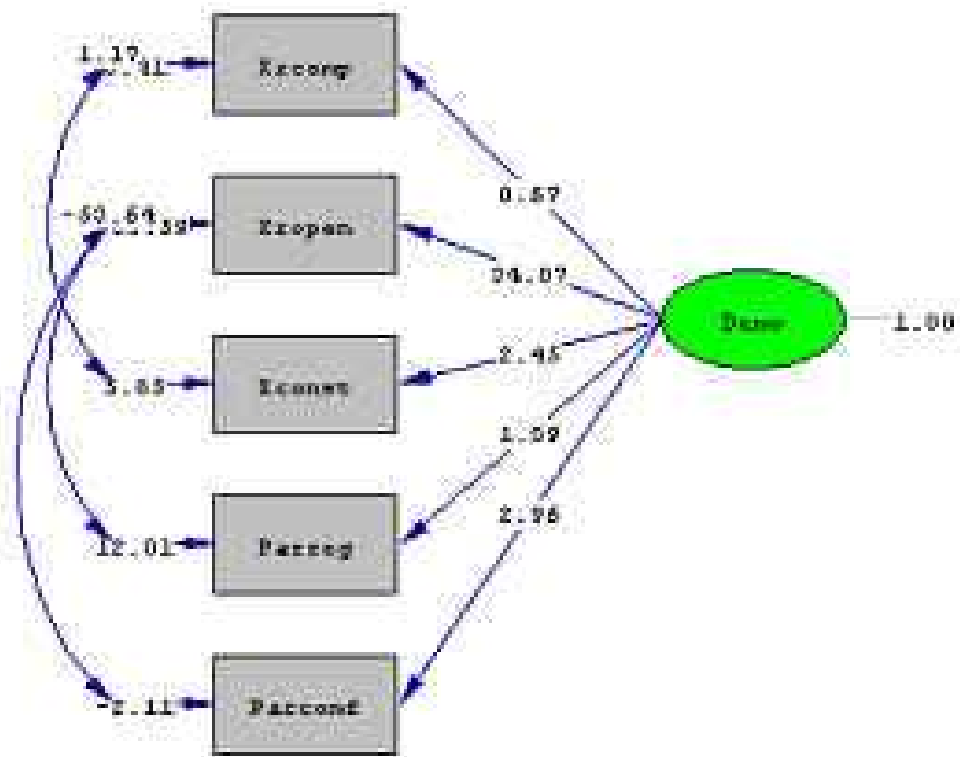
- Using rankings as indicators of democracy fits the reality better than using a single ranking as a measurement of democracy.
- Democracy is a latent variable.

# Fitting Demo Measure with 5 Ranking from Polity Data 1980



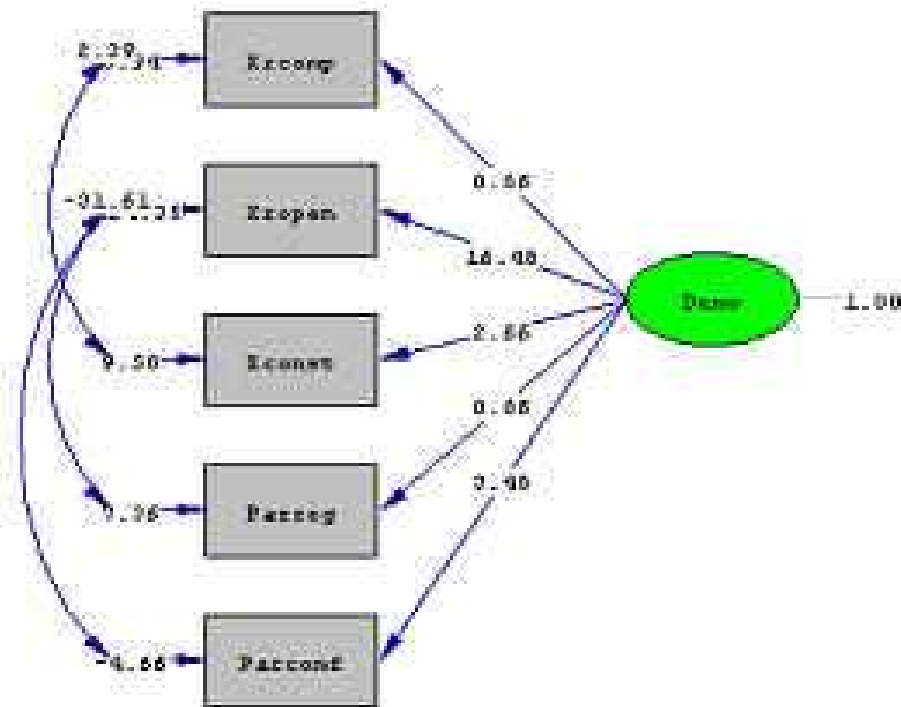
Chi-Square=7.05, df=2, P-value=0.02942, RMSEA=0.154

# Fitting Demo Measure with 5 Ranking from Polity Data 1985



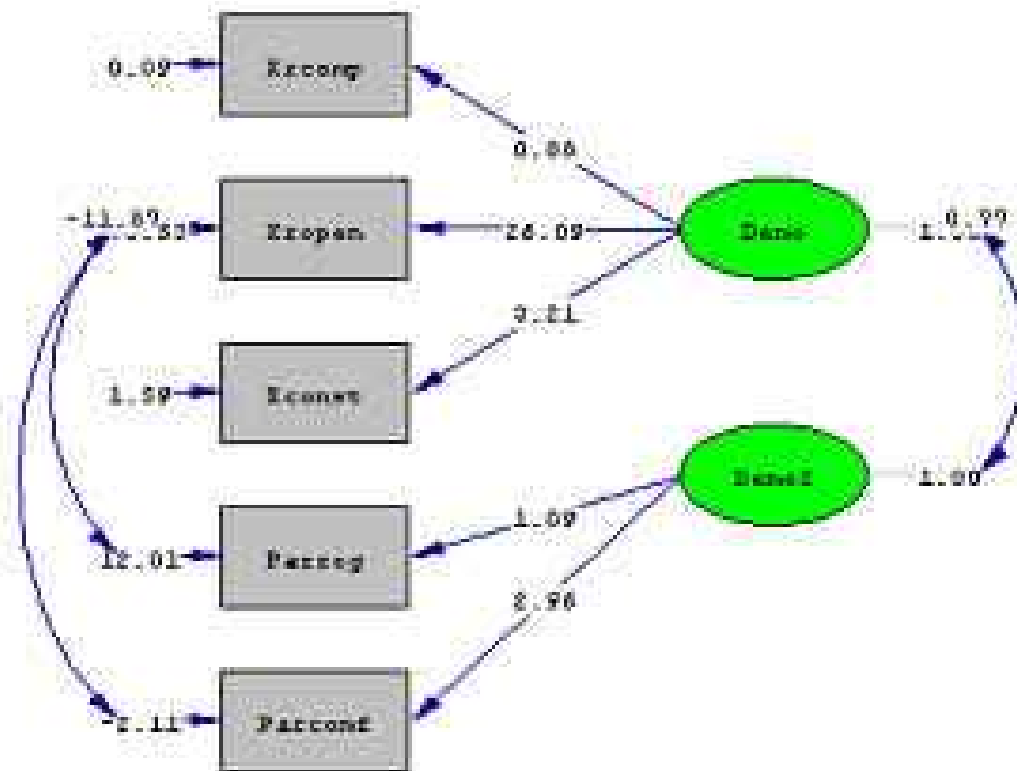
Chi-square=3.63, df=2, P-value=0.16250, RMSEA=0.086

# Fitting Demo Measure with 5 Ranking from Polity Data 1990



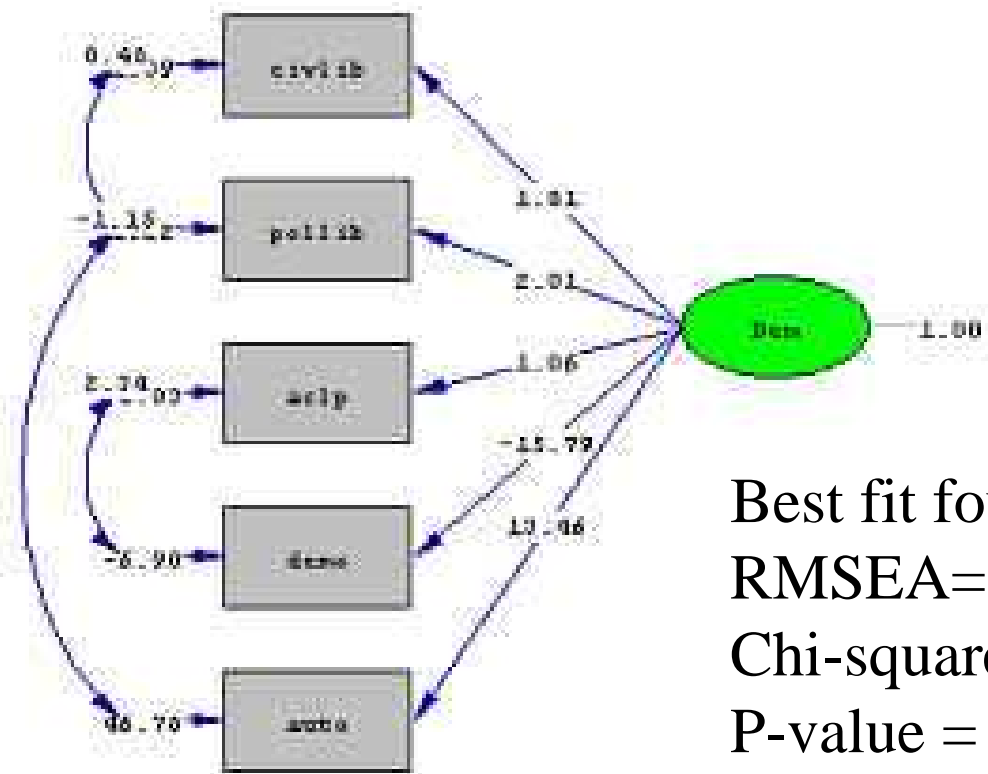
Chi-Square=3.39, df=2, P-value=0.18368, RMSEA=0.085

# Fitting Two Demo Measures with 5 Rankings from Polity Data 1985



Chi-Square=3.63, df=2, P-value=0.16250, RMSEA=0.086

# Fitting Demo Measure with 5 Ranking from 3 Different Groups



Best fit found here:  
RMSEA=0  
Chi-square/df = .05  
P-value = .95

Chi-square=0.10, df=2, P-value=0.95034, RMSEA=0.000

# Comments

- When we use the rankings provided by ACLP, Polity and Freedom House as our indicators, our model fits our data the best.
- If using only rankings from Polity, the model fits our data worse than using rankings from 3 group.
- Any ranking provided by any single group may not measure democracy completely. But, if we combine all the available rankings, we may reach a best measurement of democracy.