### Creative Destruction and Subjective Well-Being

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Schumpeterian growth theory: main ideas

- growth results from quality-improving innovations
- Innovations result from profit-motivated (R&D) investments
- innovations induce turnover and obsolescence (creative destruction)

# Introduction (1)

- Schumpeterian growth theory delivers distinctive predictions on:
  - The relationship between growth and industrial organization
  - 2 The relationship between growth and firm dynamics
  - The relationship between growth and development with the notion of appropriate institutions
  - The relationship between growth, inequality, and social mobility
  - Interview of the second sec

# Introduction (2)

• Here we use Schumpeterian growth theory to shed light on the question:

 $\longrightarrow$  Does innovation-led growth increase or decrease (subjective) well-being?

# Introduction (3)

 The existing empirical literature on happiness and income looks at how various measures of subjective well-being relate to income or income growth

 $\rightarrow$  e.g see Easterlin (1974), Blanchflower and Oswald (2004), Di Tella et al (2007), Deaton (2008), Wolfers and Stevenson (2013), Deaton and Stone (2013)

 $\longrightarrow$  However, none of these contributions looks into the determinants of growth and at how these determinants affect well-being

# Introduction (4)

This paper is a first attempt at filling this gap
 — we look at how Schumpeterian creative destruction with its
 resulting flow of entry and exit of firms and jobs, affects subjective
 well-being differently for different types of individuals and in different
 types of labor markets and sectors.

# Introduction (5)

• In the first part of the paper we develop a simple Schumpeterian model of growth and unemployment to organize our thoughts and generate predictions on the potential effects of turnover on life satisfaction

 $\longrightarrow$  In the model a higher rate of turnover has both a direct and an indirect effect on life satisfaction.

 $\longrightarrow$  *Direct effect*: more turnover translates into a higher probability of becoming unemployed: this tends to reduce life satisfaction.

 $\longrightarrow$  *Indirect effect*: a higher rate of turnover implies a higher growth externality: this enhances life satisfaction.

# Introduction (6)

- Overall effect of turnover is thus ambiguous and depends upon labor market, sectoral and individual characteristics
  - $\longrightarrow$  Higher turnover increases life satisfaction more the more generous the local unemployment insurance policy.
  - $\longrightarrow$  Higher turnover increases life satisfaction more in areas dominated by faster-growing sectors
  - $\longrightarrow$  Higher turnover increases life satisfaction more for more forward-looking or for less risk-averse individuals.

# Introduction (7)

- In the second part of the paper we test the predictions of the model

   — by regressing subjective well-being on creative destruction, using
   variations across US Metropolitan areas
  - $\longrightarrow$  in event studies using German individual level longitudinal data and the Hartz reforms

# Introduction (8)

 In the cross-section, our main finding is that the effect of the turnover rate on life satisfaction is unambiguously positive when we control for unemployment and less so if we do not control for unemployment. This finding holds:

# Introduction (9)

• The event studies show that

 $\longrightarrow$  job to job transitions have a positive effect on life satisfaction  $\longrightarrow$  job to unemployment transitions have a negative effect, but less so in more flexible labor markets and for younger individuals

## Introduction (10): Related literature

• Literature on growth, job turnover and unemployment: e.g see Davis, Haltiwanger, and Schuh (1996), Mortensen and Pissarides (1998), and Aghion and Howitt (1998)

 $\longrightarrow$  we contribute to this literature by looking at the counteracting effects of innovation-led growth on subjective well-being

 Literature on income and well-being: e.g see Easterlin (1974), Blanchflower and Oswald (2004), Senik(2005), Di Tella et al (2007), Deaton (2008), Stevenson and Wolfers (2008), Deaton and Stone (2013)

 $\longrightarrow$  we contribute to this literature by putting firm and job turnover on the RHS of the regression equations and by disentangling the various effects of turnover-driven growth on life satisfaction

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### Outline

#### Introduction

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- Oross-section analysis
- 4 Longitudinal analysis
- Sonclusion

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# Model (1)

- Multi-sector Schumpeterian growth model
- Innovations generate endogenous obsolescence of firms and jobs
- Workers in obsolete firms join the unemployment pool until they are matched to a new firm

# Model (2)

- The economy is populated by infinitely-lived and risk-neutral individuals of measure one, and they discount the future at rate ρ = r.
- The final good is produced according to:

$$\ln Y_t = \int_{j \in \mathcal{J}} \ln y_{jt} dj$$

where  $\mathcal{J} \subset [0,1]$  is the set of active product lines, with measure  $J \in [0,1]$  invariant in steady state

• Each intermediate firm produces using one unit of labor according to the following linear production function,

$$y_{jt} = A_{jt}I_{jt}$$
,

where  $l_{jt} = 1$  is the labor employed by the firm, and the same in all sectors

# Model (3)

- An innovator in sector j at date t will move productivity in sector j from  $A_{jt-1}$  to  $A_{jt} = \lambda A_{jt-1}$
- The innovator is a new entrant, and entry occurs in each sector with Poisson arrival rate x which we take to be exogenous
- Upon entry in any sector, the previous incumbent firm becomes obsolete and its worker loses her job and the entering firm posts a new vacancy
- Production in that sector resumes with the new technology when the firm has found a new suitable worker.
- Thus the measure of inactive product lines is equal to the unemployment rate

$$u_t = 1 - J_t$$
,

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where u denotes the equilibrium unemployment rate.

# Model (4)

#### Let

$$m(u_t, v_t) = u_t^{lpha} v_t^{1-lpha}$$

denote the arrival rate of new matches between firms and workers, where  $u_t$  denotes the number of unemployed at time t and  $v_t$  denotes the number of vacancies.

• The flow probability for each unemployed worker to find a suitable firm is

$$m(u_t, v_t) / u_t$$

• The flow probability for any new entrant firm to find a suitable new worker is

$$m(u_t, v_t) / v_t$$

• Finally, we assume that in each intermediate sector where a worker is currently employed, the worker appropriates fixed of ex post surplus whereas the complementary fraction accrues to the employer.



• Our proxy for life satisfaction is the average present value of an individual employee, namely:

$$W_t = u_t U_t + (1 - u_t) E_t,$$

where:

- 2
- $\bigcup$   $U_t$  is the net present value of an individual who is currently unemployed  $E_t$  is the net present value of an individual who is currently employed.



• Asset equations:

$$\rho E_t - \dot{E}_t = w_t + x(U_t - E_t)$$
$$\rho U_t - \dot{U}_t = b_t + (m(u_t, v_t)/u_t)(E_t - U_t)$$

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- We assume Nash-bargaining within each firm
- This, together with logarithmic production technology, implies that:

$$w_t = rac{eta}{1+eta} Y_t.$$

And we take

 $b_t = bY_t$ 

# Solving the model (1): Equilibrium unemployment

- Our focus is on steady state in which
  - $\longrightarrow$  all aggregate variables grow at the same constant rate g
  - $\longrightarrow$  aggregate unemployment u and the number of vacancies remain constant
- In steady state, the flow out of unemployment must equal the flow into unemployment:

$$m(u,v)=(1-u)x.$$

• In addition, the number of sectors without an employed worker is equal to the number of sectors with an open vacancy, that is:

$$u = v$$
.

• Therefore:

$$u=(1-u)x$$

or

$$u = \frac{x}{1+x}$$

## Solving the model (2): Steady state growth

• The growth rate of the economy is equal to

$$g = f \ln \lambda$$
,

where f denotes the flow of sectors in which a new innovation is being implemented

• This flow is simply equal to the rate at which new firm-worker matches occur:

$$f = m$$

• Using the fact that in steady-state equilibrium we have:

$$m=u=\frac{x}{1+x},$$

we get the equilibrium growth rate:

$$g = \frac{x}{1+x} \ln \lambda.$$

Solving the model (3): Equilibrium life satisfaction

 Recall that our proxy for life satisfaction is the average present value of an individual employee, namely:

$$W = uU + (1-u)E_s$$

where:

$$rE - \dot{E} = \beta \pi Y + x(U - E)$$
  
$$rU - \dot{U} = bY + (m(u, v)/u)(E - U)$$

Solving the model (4): Equilibrium life satisfaction

Now use the fact that in steady state we have:

$$\dot{E} = gE$$
 and  $\dot{U} = gU$ ,  
 $m/u = 1$   
 $u = x/(1+x)$ 

Solving the model (5): Equilibrium life satisfaction

• We then end up with:

$$W = \frac{Y}{r-g} \left[ \beta \pi - \frac{xB}{1+x} \right]$$

where

$$g = rac{x}{1+x} \ln \lambda.$$

and where

 $B\equiv\beta\pi-b.$ 

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## Solving the model (6):

- Counteracting effects of turnover on life satisfaction:
  - For given growth rate g, more turnover:
    - ★ increases probability that currently employed workers will lose their job

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e Higher turnover increases the growth rate g which in turns acts positively on life satisfaction due to a *capitalization* effect.

## Solving the model (6):

- Counteracting effects of turnover on life satisfaction:
  - For given growth rate g, more turnover:
    - ★ increases probability that currently employed workers will lose their job
    - ★ increases probability that currently unemployed workers will find a new job.

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e Higher turnover increases the growth rate g which in turns acts positively on life satisfaction due to a *capitalization* effect. Solving the model (7): First proposition

#### Proposition

A higher turnover rate x increases life satisfaction W more the lower the discount rate  $\rho$ , i.e.

$$rac{\partial^2 W}{\partial x \partial 
ho} < 0$$

And life satisfaction increases with turnover when  $\rho < \frac{\beta \pi \ln \lambda}{B}$ , and it decreases with turnover otherwise. Moreover, life satisfaction increases more with creative destruction (i.e with x) when the unemployment benefit is more generous. i.e:

$$\frac{\partial^2 W}{\partial x \partial b} > 0.$$

### Extension: Exogenous job destruction (1)

- In our baseline model, the only source of job destruction, as well as job creation, was new entry.
- Now assume instead that each job can also be destroyed at the rate  $\phi$ .
  - Upon this shock, worker joins the unemployment pool and the product line becomes idle.
  - When a new entrant comes into this product line at the rate x, it first posts a vacancy in which case then the same product line moves from "idle" into "vacant" state.
  - When a vacant product line finds a suitable worker, the product line enter into "production state". Similarly, if a new entrant enters into a actively producing line, then the worker joins the unemployment pool and the new firm posts a vacancy as in the previous model.

### Extension: Exogenous job destruction (2)



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### Extension: Exogenous job destruction (3)



### Other extensions

- Risk aversion
- Endogenous entry
- Transitional dynamics

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# Data (1)

• The data on job turnover and creative destruction

 $\longrightarrow$  come from the Business Dynamics Statistics, which provides, at the metropolitan (MSA) level, information on job creation and destruction rates as well as on the entry and exit rates of establishments

 $\longrightarrow$  these rates are computed from the whole universe of firms as described in the Census Longitudinal Business Database

 We also use the Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) data from the Census, which provides information on hires, separations, employment, and thus turnover, also at the MSA level but with detailed industry breakdown.

# Data (2)

- From BDS database we look at:
  - job creation (destruction)
    - $\rightarrow$  job creation (destruction) rate = sum of all employment gains (losses) from expanding (contracting) establishments from year t-1 to year t including establishment startups (shutting down), divided by average employment between t-1 and t

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job turnover rate (sum of job creation rate and job destruction rate)
establishment turnover rate



- The data on subjective well-being comes from:
- the Gallup Healthways Wellbeing Index survey, which asks each day several distinct questions on subjective well-being to 1,000 randomly selected individuals. It starts in 2008.
- the Behavioral Risk Factor and Surveillance System, which started asking a "life satisfaction" question in 2005.
  - Both have very large sample size: pprox 350,000 respondents / year

# Data (4)

- To proxy for subjective well-being in Gallup-Healthways, we use
  - the current Cantril ladder constructed based on the question "Imagine a ladder from 0 to 10[...]on which step of the ladder would you say you personally feel you stand at this time?"
  - the anticipated Cantril ladder based on the question "What level of the ladder do you anticipate to achieve in five years?"
  - We also investigate how creative destruction affects a measure of individuals "worry", based on binary answers to the question "Did you experience worry during a lot of the day yesterday?"

# Data (5)

- To proxy for subjective well-being in the BRFSS, we use the Life satisfaction question : "In general how satisfied are you with your life?"
- The possible answers are "Very satisfied" (1), "Satisfied" (2) "Dissatisfied" (3), "Very dissatisfied" (4)
- We recoded them so that an increase in the variable means an increase in subjective well-being

### Summary statistics - subjective well-being

	Mean	Standard deviation	Min	Max
Current ladder (Gallup)	6.78	1.95	0	10
MSA-level averages	6.78	0.14	6.15	7.51
Anticipated ladder (Gallup)	8.05	1.99	0	10
MSA-level averages	8.05	0.15	7.42	8.48
Worry (Gallup)	0.32	0.47	0	1
MSA-level averages	0.32	0.02	0.22	0.40
Life satisfaction (BRFSS)	3.37	0.63	1	4
MSA-level averages	3.37	0.05	3.14	3.58

### Summary statistics -creative destruction

(2005-2010 averages)	Mean	Standard deviation	Min	Max
Job turnover (BDS)	0.29	0.035	0.18	0.43
Job creation rate (BDS)	0.15	0.015	0.08	0.22
Job destruction rate (BDS)	0.14	0.017	0.09	0.22
Unemployment rate (BLS)	0.065	0.015	0.03	0.24

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### Results outline

MSA-level regressions

 $\longrightarrow$  across year averages to mirror the steady-state analysis of the model

Individual-level regressions

 $\longrightarrow$  rich set of controls for individual determinants of well-being

Robustness

 $\longrightarrow$  alternative database and Bartik-type measure for creative destruction

- Interactions
  - $\longrightarrow$  with state-level (unemployment insurance) policy
  - $\longrightarrow$  with MSA-level sectoral composition
  - $\longrightarrow$  with individual characteristics

### MSA-level analysis

 We regress time-average of SWB on corresponding time averages of turnover with and without control for time average of MSA-level unemployment

## Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Results 1/4

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
VARIABLES	Current ladder - Gallup data (2008-2011)				
Unemployment	-2.678***		-3.428***		-2.421***
rate	(0.566)		(0.580)		(0.550)
Job turnover		0.526	1.303***		
		(0.368)	(0.370)		
Job creation				6.454***	4.809***
rate				(1.106)	(0.980)
Job destruction				-4.482***	-2.080***
rate				(0.774)	(0.700)
Observations	363	363	363	363	363
R-squared	0.139	0.014	0.212	0.190	0.265

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## Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Results 2/4

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
VARIABLES	"How satisf	fied are yo	u with your l	life?" - BRFS	S(2005-2010)
	1		1 00-1444		1
Unemployment	-1.790***		-1.92/***		-1.599***
rate	(0.251)		(0.244)		(0.249)
Job turnover		0.0306	0.228***		
		(0.103)	(0.0767)		
Job creation		. ,	. ,	1.936***	1.166***
rate				(0.325)	(0.307)
Job destruction				-2.240***	-0.964**
rate				(0.423)	(0.432)
Observations	364	364	364	364	364
R-squared	0.282	0.001	0.307	0.174	0.344

## Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Results 3/4

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
VARIABLES	Anticipated ladder - Gallup (2008-2011) -				
Unemployment	-0.499		-1.872***		-1.274**
rate	(0.529)		(0.469)		(0.513)
Job turnover	. ,	1.961***	2.385***		. ,
		(0.291)	(0.319)		
Job creation				5.332***	4.467***
rate				(0.896)	(0.884)
Job destruction				-0.887	0.377
rate				(0.741)	(0.875)
Observations	363	363	363	363	363
R-squared	0.004	0.167	0.220	0.218	0.236

## Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Results 4/4

(5)
0.427***
(0.0913)
<b>、</b>
-0.169
(0.170)
0.334**
(0.148)
( -)
363
0.194

One standard deviation increase in job turnover has an effect on subjective well-being equivalent to :

- a 1.2 percentage points (0.6 standard deviation) decrease in the unemployment rate for current well-being
- a 3.9 percentage points (2 standard deviations) decrease in the unemployment rate for anticipated well-being

### Individual-level analysis

• The specification at the individual level is:

$$SWB_{i,m,t} = \delta CD_{m,t} + \alpha U_{m,t} + \beta X_{i,m,t} + \varepsilon T_t + \epsilon_{i,s,t},$$

- Individual controls include : gender, ethnicity, detailed education and family status, age, age2
- Year and Month Fixed effect
- Standard errors clustered at the MSA level
- We restrict attention to working-age individuals (18-60 years old)

Individual level results 1/2 - Current ladder (Gallup)

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
VARIABLES	"Current ladder"				
Unemployment Rate	-2.446***		-2.878***		-2.530***
	(0.421)		(0.431)		(0.422)
Job turnover		0.254	0.752***		
		(0.246)	(0.230)		
Job creation rate				1.561***	1.044***
				(0.440)	(0.351)
Job destruction rate				-0.765***	0.211
				(0.289)	(0.268)
Month F.E.	х	х	x	x	x
Year F.E.	х	х	x	х	х
Observations	502,334	502,334	502,334	502,334	502,334
R-squared	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058

### Individual level results 2/2 - Anticipated ladder

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
VARIABLES	"Anticipated ladder"				
Unemployment Rate	0.108		-0.705**		-0.677**
	(0.357)		(0.307)		(0.307)
Job turnover		1.319***	1.441***		
		(0.154)	(0.151)		
Job creation rate				1.601***	1.516***
				(0.275)	(0.259)
Job destruction rate				1.099***	1.373***
				(0.230)	(0.218)
Month F.E.	Х	×	х	×	х
Year F.E.	Х	×	х	×	х
Observations	490,316	490,086	490,086	490,086	490,086
R-squared	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077

### Individual level analysis

One standard deviation increase in job turnover has an effect on

- current well-being, equivalent to
  - ► a 0.4 standard deviation decrease in the unemployment rate
  - a 0.06 standard deviation increase in log of total household's income
- anticipated well-being, equivalent to
  - ▶ a 3.4 standard deviations decrease in the unemployment rate
  - a 0.2 standard deviation increase in log of total household's income

### Robustness analysis

We use a predicted (Bartik-type) measure of job turnover
 — To neutralize variations of turnover driven by idiosyncratic local shocks that could have a direct effect on well-being

$$\widehat{CD}_{m,t} = \sum_{j} \omega_{j,m,2004} \times CD_{j,USA,t}$$

- ω<sub>j,m,2004</sub> is derived from the sectoral distribution of employment in MSA m in 2004
- CD<sub>j,USA,t</sub> are the nationwide measures of creative destruction for each sector of activity

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• We regress well-being on predicted creative destruction, controlling for  $(\omega_{j,m,2004})_j$ 

### Robustness to "predicted" measure of creative destruction

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
VARIABLES		"How	satisfied are	you with you	r life?"	
Job turnover	0.246***	0.145***				
(stable jobs)	(0.0517)	(0.0470)				
Predicted			0.884**			
turnover			(0.445)			
(stable jobs)						
Job turnover				0.223***	0.158***	
(all jobs)				(0.0341)	(0.0379)	
Predicted						0.622*
turnover						(0.320)
(all jobs)						
Unemp.	-0.808***	-0.728***	-0.757***	-0.883***	-0.717***	-0.754***
rate	(0.131)	(0.144)	(0.147)	(0.122)	(0.143)	(0.147)
Indiv.	х	x	х	x	x	x
controls						
Sectoral		х	х		х	х
comp. 2005						
Year F.E.	х	x	х	x	x	x
Month F.E.	х	x	х	x	x	x
Observations	837,897	834,671	837,557	837,897	834,671	837,557
R-squared	0.074	0.075	0.074	0.074	0.075	0.074

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#### Interactions

- At the state level: with the unemployment insurance policy in the state
- At the MSA level: with the type of sectors that dominate the MSA
- At the individual level: with individual characteristics

### Interactions: MSA-level

- For each MSA, we use the sectoral shares to compute the predicted value of productivity growth or outsourcing threat
- Following Autor et al. (2013) we proxy outsourcing by growth of imports in a given sector between 1991 and 2007
- The measure of productivity comes from the NBER-CES Manufacturing database: for each sector, we average annual productivity growth over 2005-2009 (the data stops in 2009)

Interactions: MSA-level

• The specification is:

 $SWB_{i,m,t} = \delta CD_{m,t} + \gamma CD_{m,t} * Above median_{m,t} \\ + \theta Above median_{m,t} \\ + \alpha U_{m,t} + \beta X_{i,m,t} + T_t + \epsilon_{i,s,t},$ 

- Above median is either in terms of predicted productivity growth or in terms of predicted outsourcing threat
- We use the same Bartik-type approach as before
- Individual controls include : gender, ethnicity, detailed education and family status, age, age2; year and month fixed effects; standard errors clustered at the MSA level

### Interactions with productivity growth

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
VARIABLES		Life satisfacti	on (BRFSS)	
Above median * Job turnover	0.190**	0.160**		
	(0.0755)	(0.0757)		
Above median * Job creation			0.267**	0.278***
			(0.106)	(0.106)
Above median * Job destruction			0.0661	0.00111
			(0.113)	(0.114)
Job turnover	0.0727	0.139**		
	(0.0611)	(0.0617)		
$Job_creation$			0.293***	0.183**
			(0.0927)	(0.0930)
$Job_{-}destruction$			-0.149	0.0973
			(0.0966)	(0.101)
Above median TFP growth	-0.0603***	-0.0551**	-0.0542**	-0.0496**
	(0.0215)	(0.0215)	(0.0214)	(0.0215)
$Unemployment_Rate$		х		х
Indiv controls	х	х	x	х
Year and Month F.E.	x	x	×	x
Observations	707,362	707,362	707,362	707,362
R-squared	0.073	0.074	0.073	0.074

### Interactions with outsourcing threat

	"How satisfied are you		
VARIABLES	with your li	fe?"(BRFSS)	
Above median * Job turnover	-0.113*		
	(0.0661)		
Job turnover	0.236***		
	(0.0446)		
Above median * Job destruction		-0.183*	
		(0.100)	
Job destruction rate		0.188**	
		(0.0810)	
Above median * Job creation rate		-0.0566	
		(0.0906)	
Job creation rate		0.279***	
		(0.0696)	
Outsourcing above median	х	x	
Unemployment Rate	х	х	
Individual controls	х	х	
Year and Month F.E.	х	х	
Observations	852,125	852,125	
R-squared	0.074	0.074	

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### Event studies 1/2

- German Socio-Economic Panel :
  - Sample includes approx. 12,000 households and 20,000 adult persons
  - Households interviewed every year since 1984
- Many questions on subjective well-being
  - ▶ We rely on answers to the same Cantril ladder used in Gallup
  - ► The mean (7) and standard deviation (1.8) of this variable are similar to those in the Gallup data

### Event studies 2/2

- We look for a given individual at the evolution of its subjective well-being around
  - Job to job transitions
  - Job to unemployment transitions









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- Conclusion

# Conclusion (1)

- We have analyzed the relationship between turnover-driven growth and subjective well-being, using both:
  - US Metropolitan level turnover and well-being data
  - @ German individual longitudinal data

# Conclusion (2): Summary of results

#### • "Theory works", namely:

- The overall effect of turnover (creative destruction) on subjective well-being is unambiguously positive when we control for MSA-level unemployment, less so if we do not
- Creative destruction has a more positive effect on anticipated life satisfaction than on current life satisfaction
- Oreative destruction increases "worry", but less so if control for unemployment
- Creative destruction has a more positive effect on subjective well-being in MSAs dominated by sectors that are faster-growing or outsource less
- Negative effect of transition from job to unemployment on subjective well-being, is mitigated in more flexible labor markets

## Conclusion (3): Extensions

- Compare more systematically the determinants of (per capita) GDP growth with the determinants of life satisfaction
- 2 Look at other individual characteristics or characteristics of labor market (training systems, availability of vocational education,..) which should also impact on the effects of turnover on subjective well-being

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