



# POLITICAL ECONOMY AND GLOBAL ARTS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

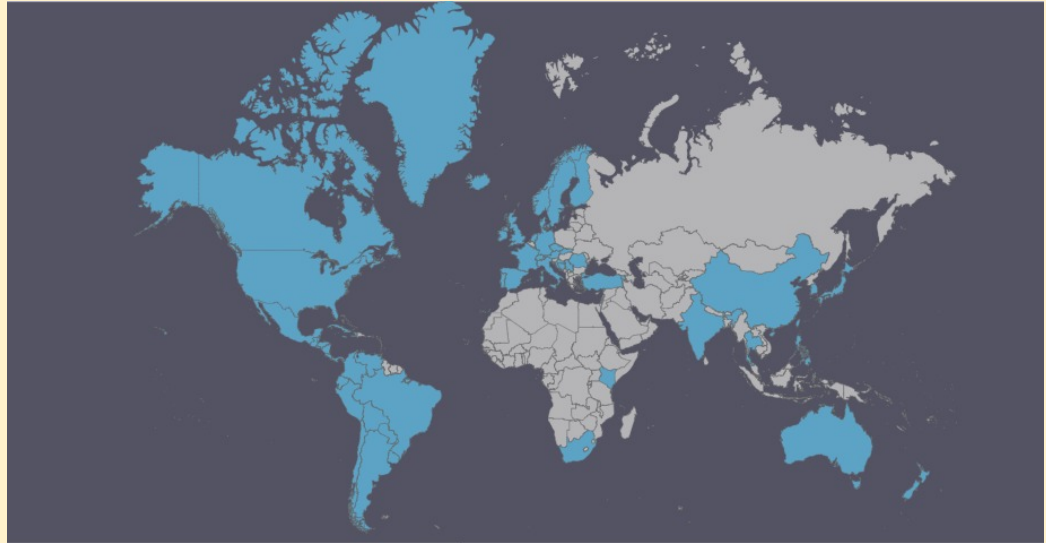
## A Comparative Analysis of Youth Orchestras in Venezuela and Chile

Emma L. Strother

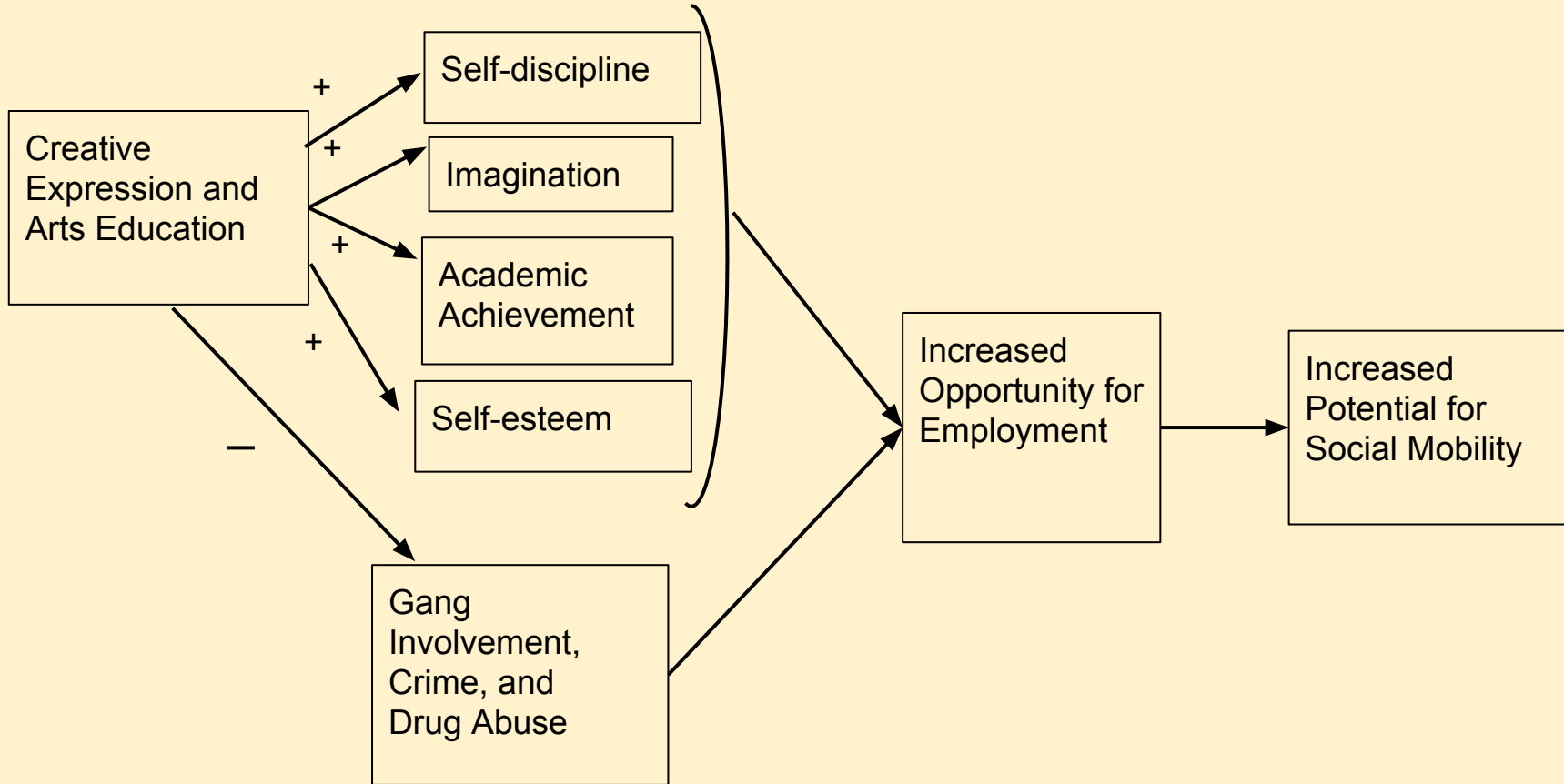
# Research Puzzle

## Public Arts Programs...

- Inspired 241 projects in 55 countries
- Engaged over 5 million youth in 2013
- Impacted the UN Millennium Development Goals
- Garnered support from the World Bank, IADB, and UNHCR
- Earned funding from 55.4% of US grantmakers in 2013



# Public Arts Program Logic



# Research Question

---

To what extent does political-economic context influence the implementation of public arts programs?



# Intellectual Context

## Debates on the Arts and Social Change

---

- Social Consequences of Arts Training
- Arts Education and Economic Development
- Arts Programs and Politics

*Writing about music is generally designed to look as if it is working from causes to effects, but it is better understood as working backward from valued belief to reasons for believing it.*

-Nicholas Cook

“Writing on Music or Axes to Grind: Road Rage and Musical Community,” *Music Education Research*

# The Gap in Our Knowledge

---

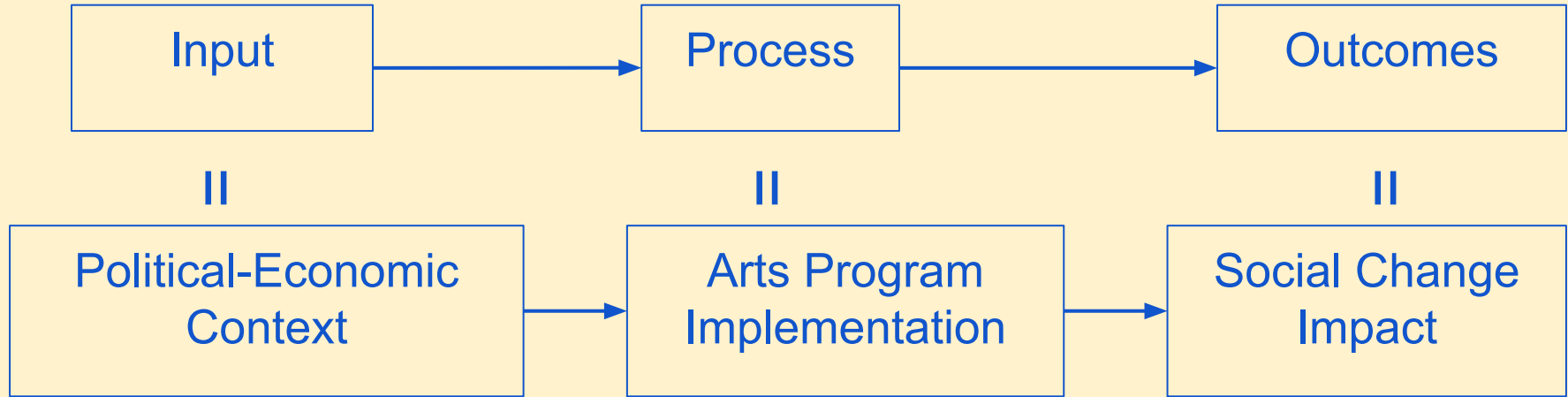
Social  
change  
impact of  
public arts  
programs

can *only* be measured by  
specific, static outcomes.

How political-  
economic context  
shapes the dynamic  
process of public  
arts program  
implementation.

# My Argument

## New Arts for Social Change Context Framework



*National government **control** over institutions, prioritization of **social welfare**, and competition for **public funding** shapes a public arts program's social goals, daily operations, and definition of success. In turn, this process of **implementation** influences how we interpret a program's **social change** impact.*

# Research Design

## Case Selection

Venezuela 1974-2015

(FMSB, El Sistema)

Chile

1964-2015

(COLA, FOJI)

Similar Cases

	Democracy	Decreasing Democracy / Dictatorship
Free Market	Venezuela, Pre-Chávez Chile, Post-Pinochet	Chile, Pinochet Dictatorship
Socialism	Chile, Pre-Pinochet	Venezuela, Chávez+

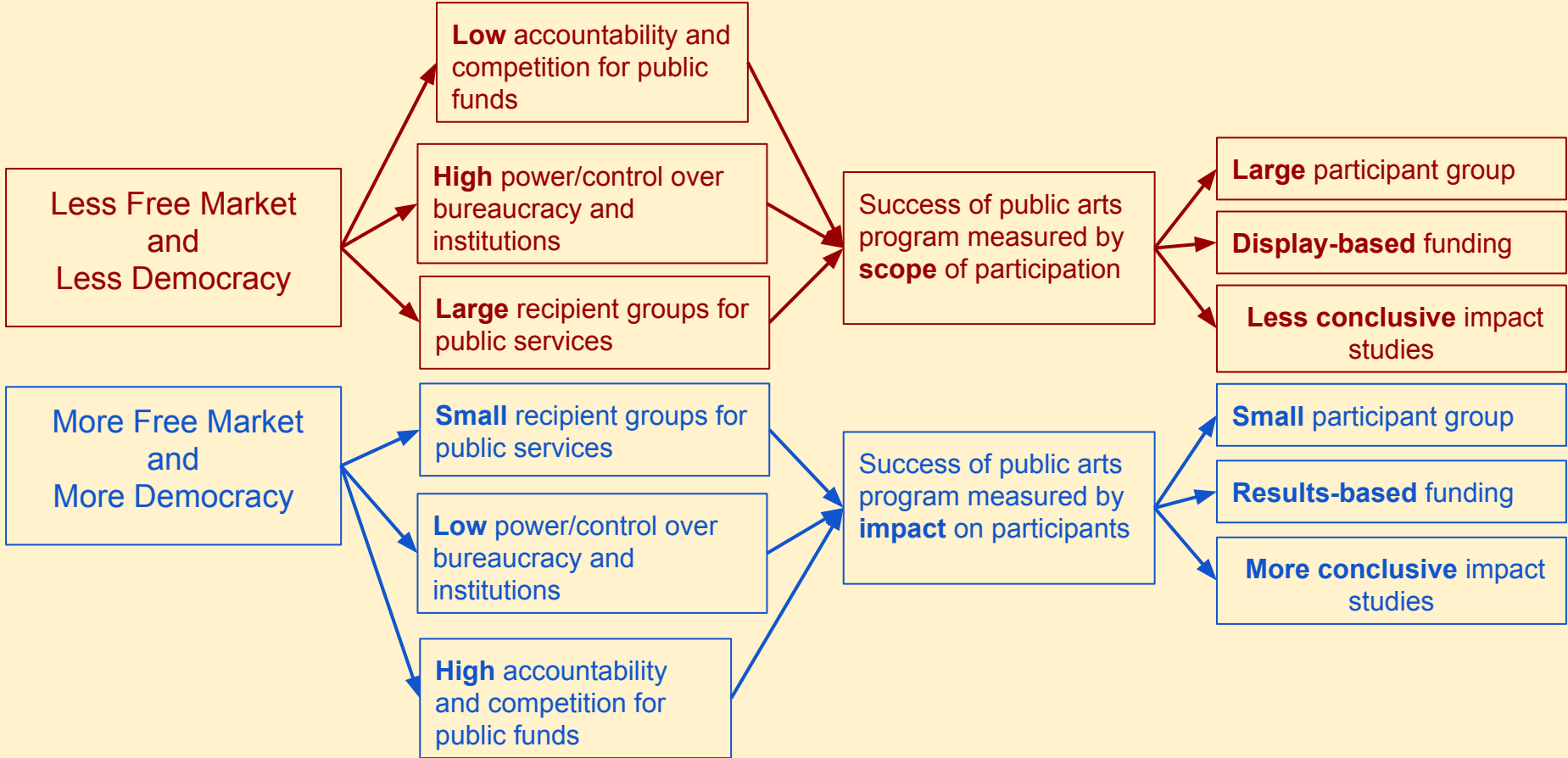


# Research Design

## Approach

<b>Variable:</b>	<b>Independent (Input):</b> Political-Economic Context of Arts Program	<b>Intervening (Process):</b> Arts Program Implementation	<b>Dependent (Output):</b> Arts Program Social Impact
<b>Conceptualization:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Government control over institutions</li><li>-Competition and accountability in public funding</li><li>-National prioritization of social welfare</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Social mission</li><li>-Daily operations</li><li>-Definition of success</li></ul>	Our knowledge on the extent to which public arts programs affect social change
<b>Operationalization:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Numerical democracy and economy scores</li><li>-National government spending and policies</li><li>-Discourse and decisions of politicians regarding social welfare</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Textual analysis: founding documents, mission statements, speeches, and interviews</li><li>-Observations of rehearsals and performances</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Discussion of program impact</li><li>-Findings from impact studies</li></ul>

# Findings



## Democracy

## Decreasing Democracy / Dictatorship

Free Market

### Venezuela, Pre-Chávez

- Arts Program
- Domestic alternative to European orchestras
- Caracas
- Funding from CONAC

### Chile, Post-Pinochet

- Results-based funding
- Rigorous impact studies
- Geographic tension
- Cooperation with traditional institutions
- Higher education scholarships
- CNCA and private sector funding

### Chile, Pinochet Dictatorship

- Threat of Jorge Peña Hen
- Slander
- Resignation
- Execution

Socialism

### Chile, Pre-Pinochet

- Social inclusion=universal access to music education**
- Community focus
- Class barriers and socioeconomic discrimination
- Extra-musical impact
- Education and Defense Ministry funding

### Venezuela, Chávez+

- Social inclusion=more participants**
- Display-based funding discourages rigorous impact studies
- Resources to performances
- Parallel Musical Careers
- Competition, hierarchy, salaries
- Funding from the Office of the President

# Conclusions

- Visionary individuals often shape public arts programs
- Public arts programs can be purposed to meet political goals
- We need to rethink universalist approaches to public policy and social change



# Implications for Theory and Practice

## Context Matters

- Creative mitigation of global inequality
- Reassess standardized plans

*Perhaps the principle and lasting value of El Sistema... is putting the idea of social action through music on the international public agenda.*

-Geoffrey Baker  
*El Sistema: Orchestrating Venezuela's Youth*

# Further Research

My new Arts for Social Change Context Framework...

- Unpacks complexities
- Understands relationships between program goals, operations, and impact
- Accounts for changes in national context and individual actors
- Must be tested in other cases

SISTEMA GLOBAL  
Friends of El Sistema Worldwide

