

GEFÖRDERT VOM



Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung

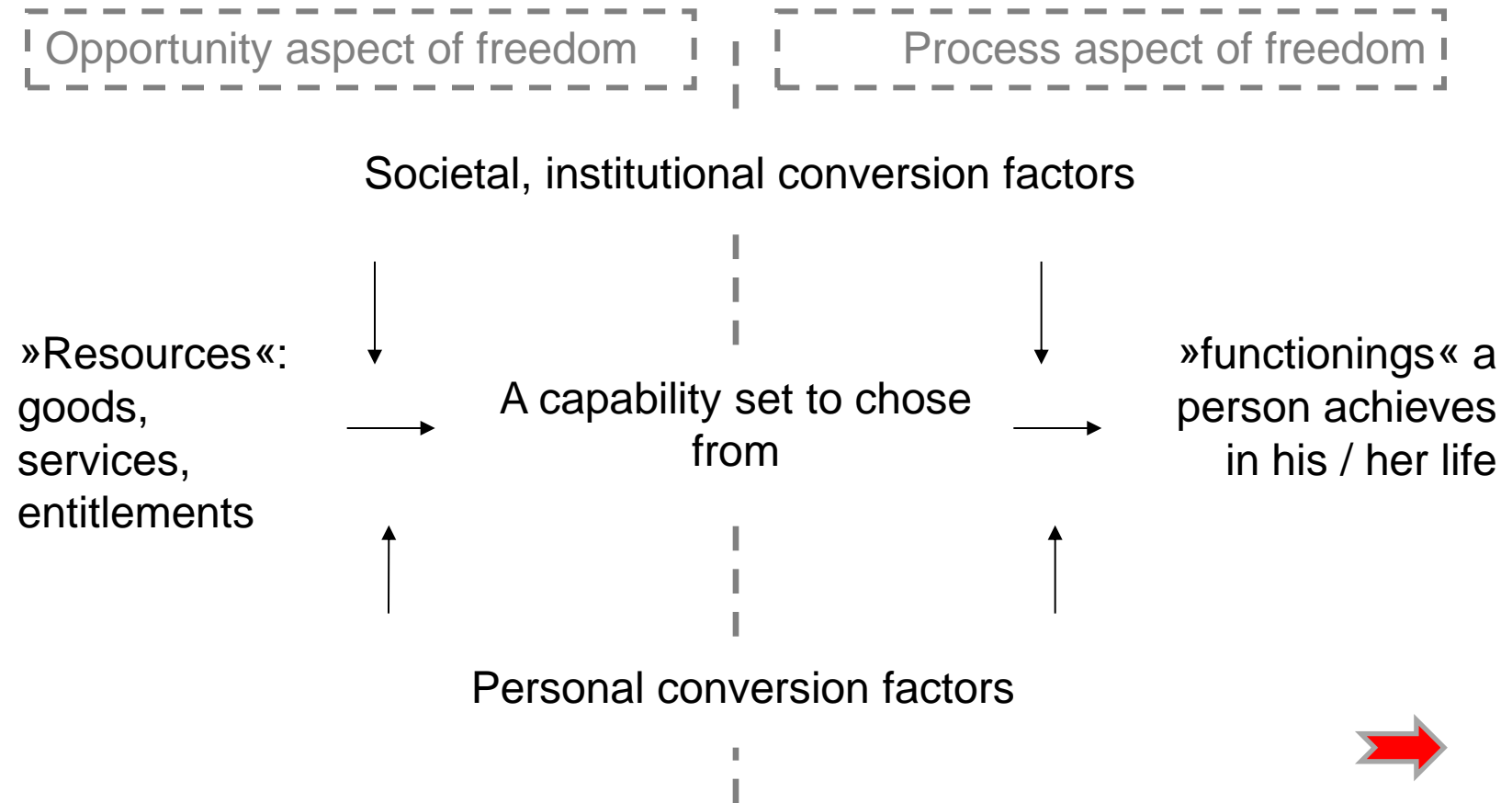
■ Ortrud Leßmann, Peter Bartelheimer Capability, participation and precarity as concepts in socio-economic reporting

SASE 2015 at LSE, London
Mini-Conference »Inequality of what?«

■ The Agenda of Socioeconomic Reporting for Germany (soeb)

- **A network of research institutions and data centers, funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Science**
 - Work in progress: 3rd Report (2013 – 2016)
- **Direct and multidimensional measures of individual welfare**
 - Participation – A German rendering of capability as normative reference
- **A broader socioeconomic approach to reporting**
 - Mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion linking production to unequal individual welfare outcomes in German capitalism
 - Transformation of socioeconomic model changes interplay of (welfare) state, firms and households as sectors of welfare economics
- **To monitor inequality calls for sociological concepts of stratification**
 - Graded social positions: multidimensional profile of collective areas («zones») of participation, precarity and disaffiliation (R. Castel)

■ Basic model of participation in soeb



■ **Capability, participation and UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD)**

■ **Capability is not easily translated into German**

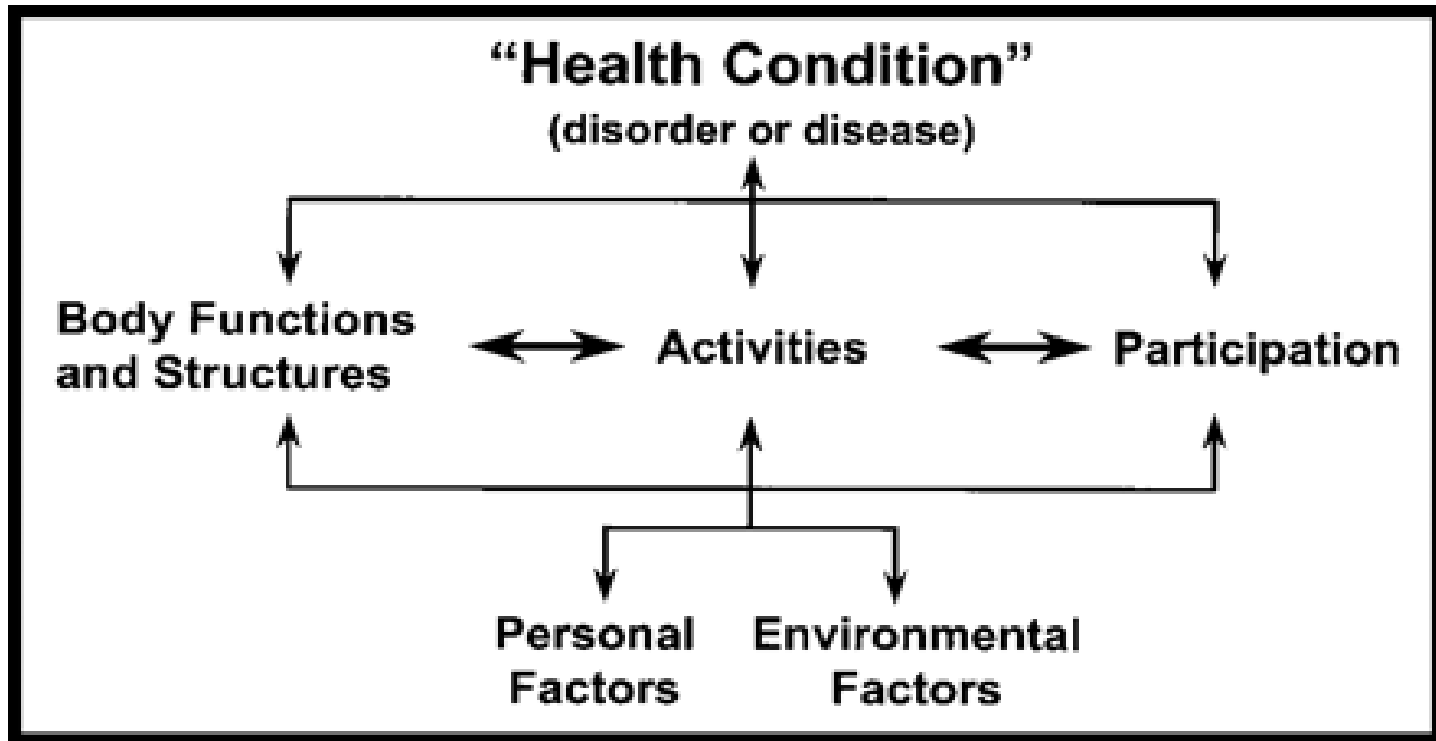
- Concept of »life situations« as a native German paradigm of direct welfare measurement
- »Teilhabe« (participation) as a common, albeit vague normative reference in German political discourse

■ **Participation and inclusion as a new rights-based political agenda**

- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD): »full and effective participation (>Teilhabe<) and inclusion in society«
- Participation as a social human right
- Shift of focus towards social structures restricting or enabling participation of individuals and groups with conditions of disadvantage
 - Disability results from interaction of persons and their environment

■ **Striking similarity between capability and UN CRPD concept**

■ Basic model in International Classification of functioning, disability and health (ICF)



■ Participation in ICF / UN CRPD and *soeb* – comparison of the concepts

■ Common ground

- Target: claims to equality address active and self-determined conduct of life in society
- Disadvantage (impairment): results from interaction of personal and structural factors
- Normative reference to established societal standards for ways of life

■ Differences in construction of »conversion«

- ICF: scope for »conversion« of body functions and structures
- *soeb*: scope for »conversion« of resources and entitlements

■ Differences in emphasis

- *soeb*: welfare effects enhanced by freedom of choice
- ICF, UN CRPD: strategies for more inclusive structures and institutions

■ Patterns of participation and precarity

■ Participation in what? Domains and patterns of participation

- Inclusion via labor market, social networks, social rights (Castel)
- Shared norms of participation – pattern of participation:

■ Emergence of a zone of precarity

- socio-economic transformation,
 - stable und at-risk patterns of participation coexist
- Shared norms of participation become less accessible to many
- Binary distinction of poor / non-poor, inclusion / exclusion falls short
- Which life domains determine graded social positions?

■ Where and how to draw fault lines

- »Zoning« requires two cutoff points in any observed domain / dimension

■ Precarity: Domains and determinants

■ What determines participation

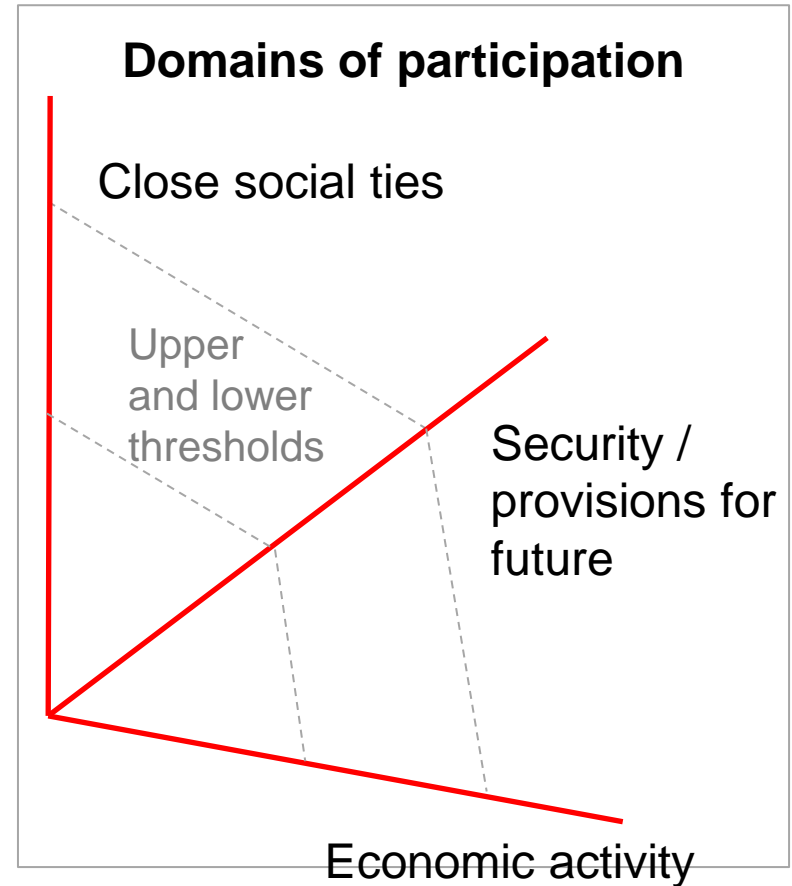
- Unequal resources
Unequal conversion factors

■ Individuals and households

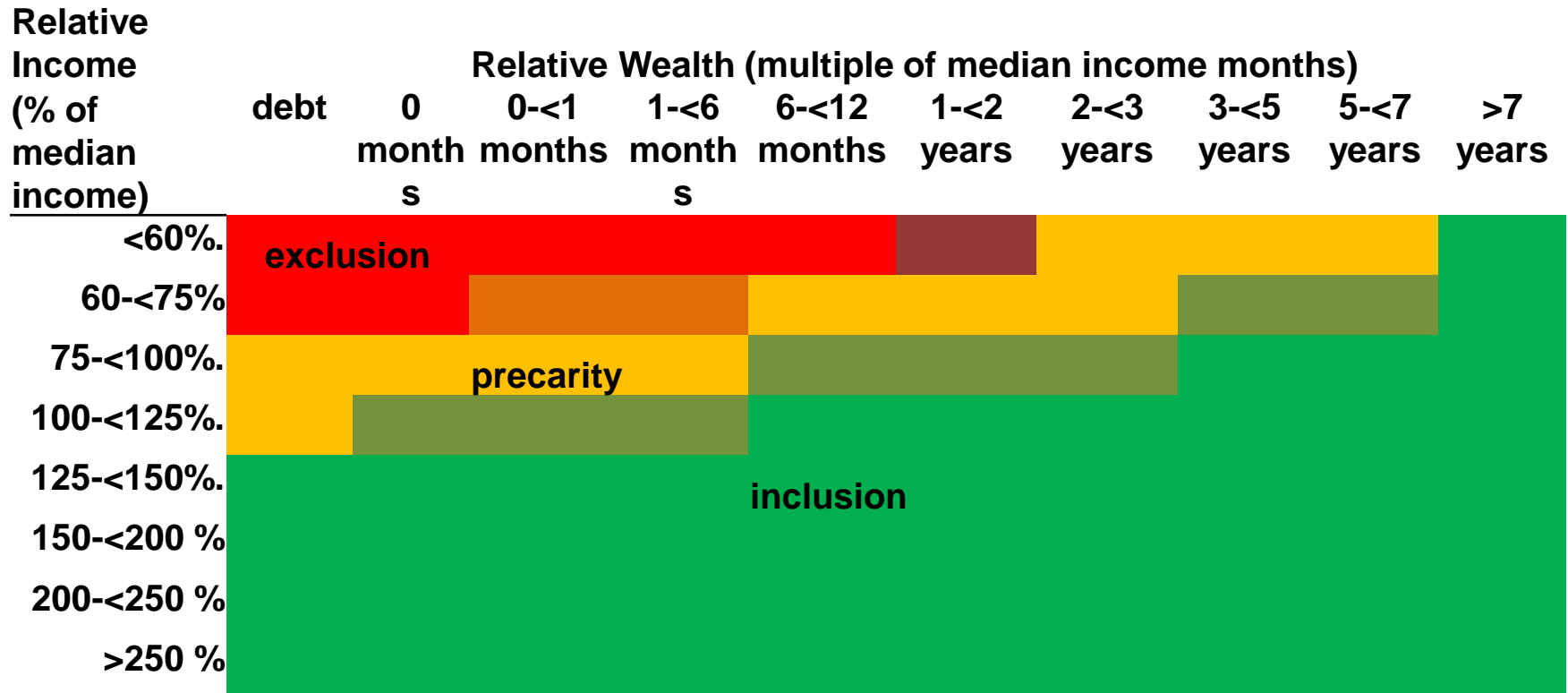
- Precarious employment need not translate into precarity for individuals
- Households provide ties and securities – they compensate or aggravate risk

■ Time effects matter

- Dynamic concept of precarity – individual life course and linked (family) lives



■ Example of operationalization: joint distribution of income and wealth



Goebel/Kottwitz 2015



■ More ...

■ <http://www.soeb.de>

- Reporting on the socioeconomic development in Germany

■ <http://ipa.hsu-hh.de/lessmann>

- Helmut-Schmidt-University Hamburg (HSU)
Institute for Employment and Labour Relations (IPA)

■ <http://www.sofi-goettingen.de>

- Soziological Research Institute (SOFI)
at the Georg-August University Göttingen