

Varieties and breeding grounds of populism. Theories and explanations



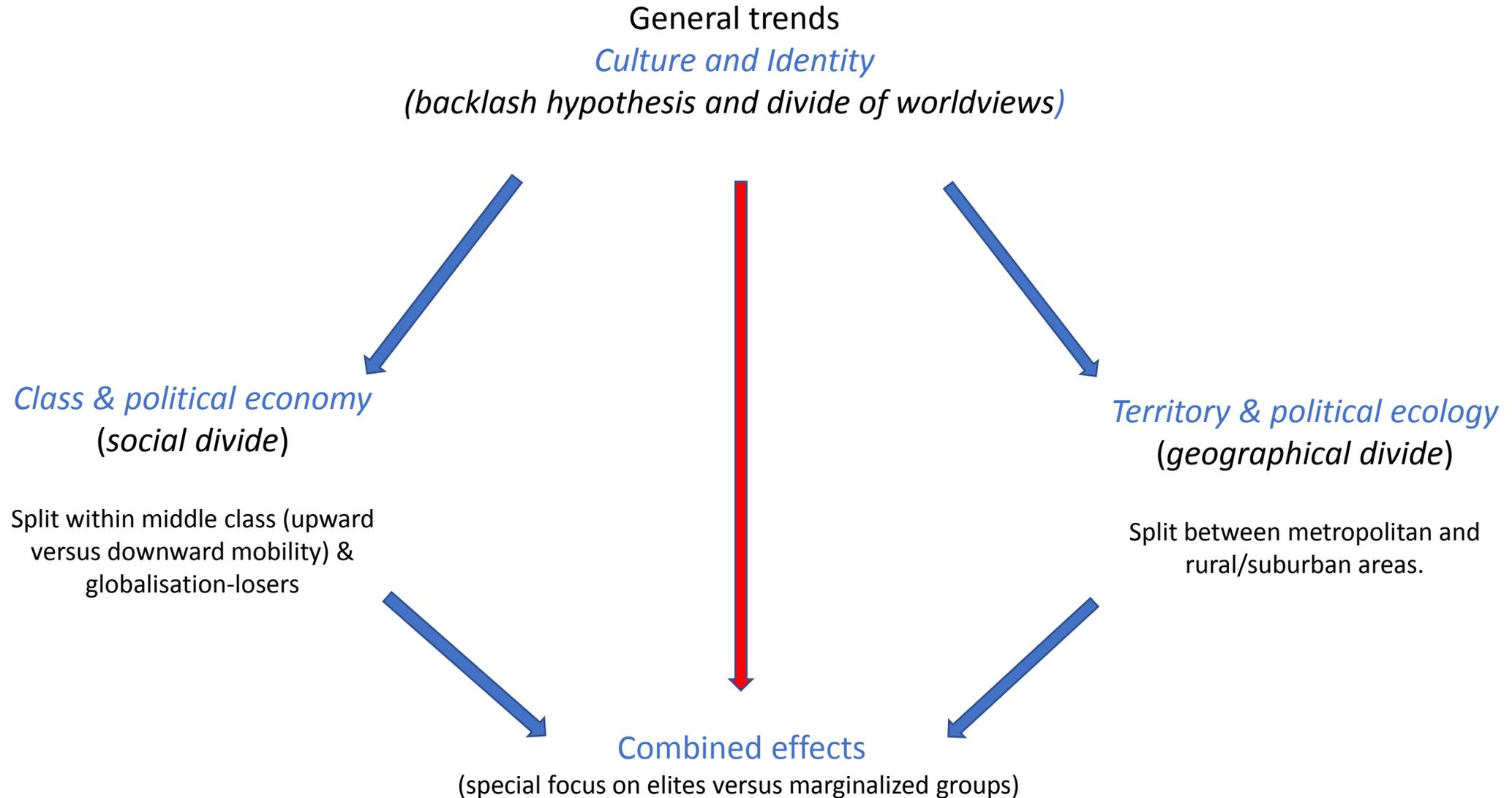
Prepared for public hearing (July 11, 2019) on EESC own initiative opinion on

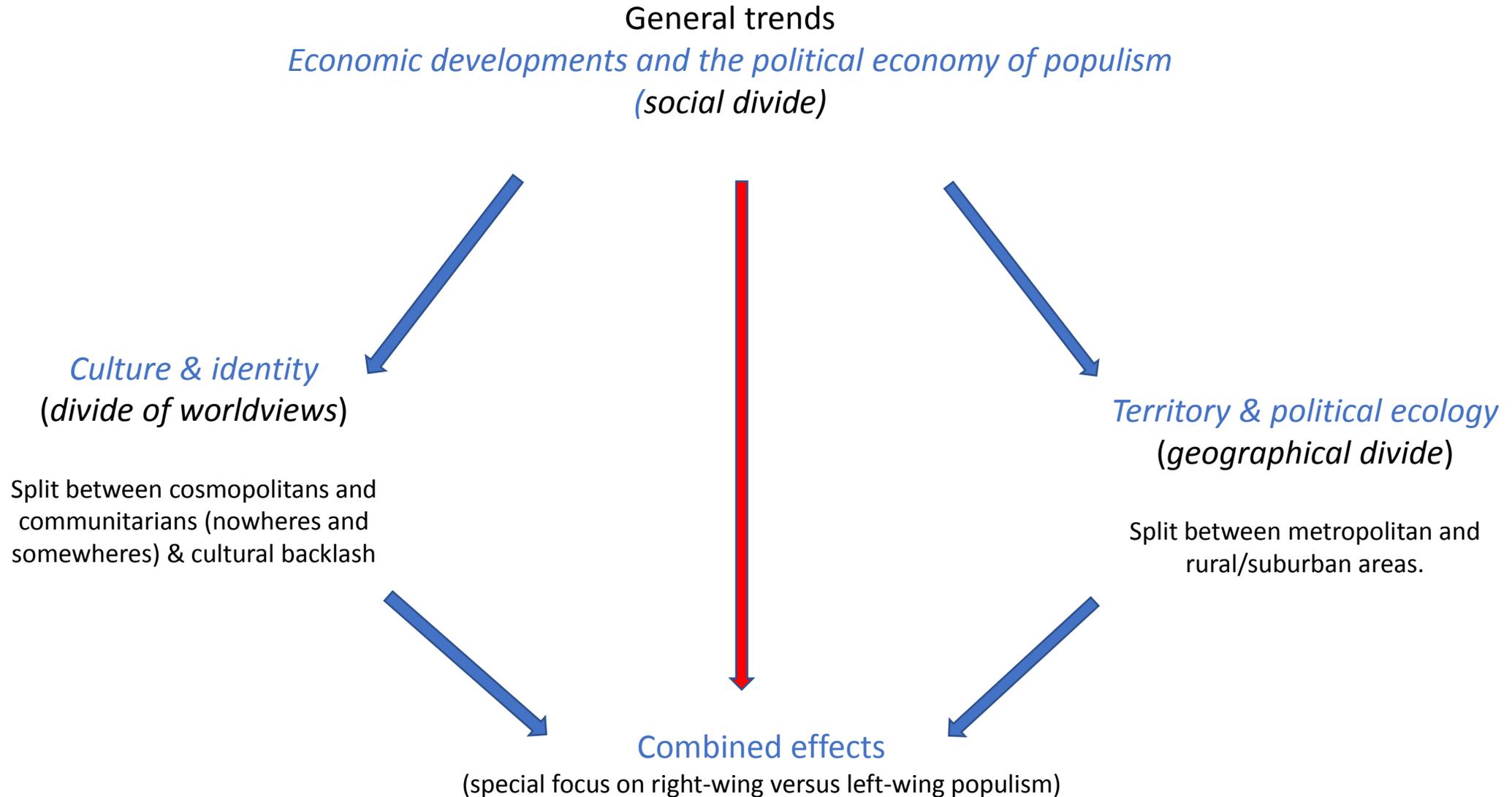
Populism and fundamental rights - suburban and rural areas

JRG,Berlin, 08/07/2019



- Explanations of populism vary - they are as multifaceted as are the root causes lying behind the phenomenon.
- Even if the development is particularly pronounced in rural and suburban areas, it is a general trend embracing all countries (of the EU) and metropolitan areas as much as remote places and peripheries.
- Distinguishing between three major analytical approaches:
 - The first sees populism as a trend essentially rooted in *cultural change and change of identities (backlash hypothesis)*.
 - The second sees populism as a result of economic developments triggering different responses to decline and precarity that depend on the specific *political economies* of countries (welfare systems and labour market institutions).
 - The third includes both of the two former explanations, but argues that these themselves need to be understood as secondary effects of a more encompassing development, namely the *crisis of neoliberal forms of governance*.





Now insert “governance”!

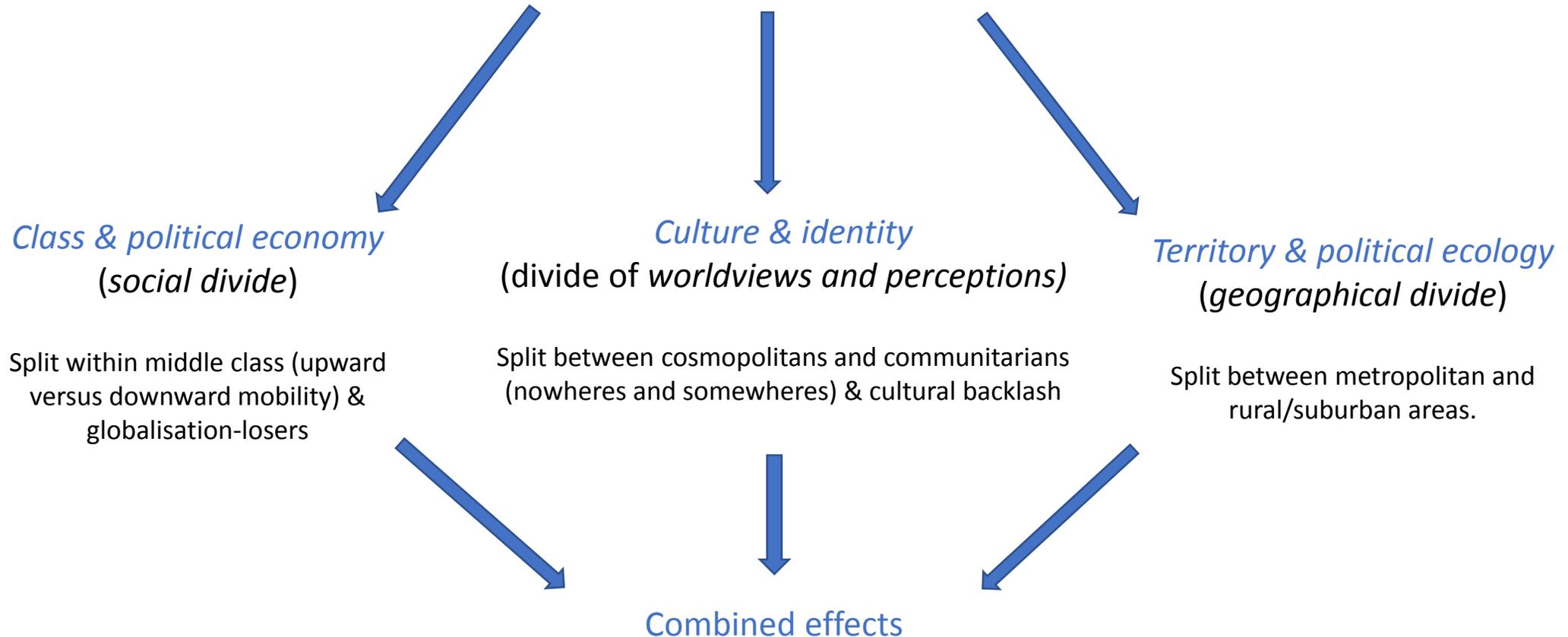


The Crisis of Neoliberal Governance: Globalization *cum* commodification



General trends

*Restructuring of relations between the State, the Market,
and the Community (Civil Society)*





Au lieu de conclusion

- Considering the multifaceted nature of populism in all of the above accounts, it is no easy task to insulate those of its manifestations that can unambiguously be ascribed to territory alone.
- Economic developments and cultural change apart, the most obvious space-related factors are: insufficient material (transport, education, public services, employment, schools, hospitals, etc.) and immaterial infrastructures (networks, associations, traditional forms of belonging, etc.).
- Efforts to combat populism in rural and suburban areas aiming at an improvement of these infrastructures are important but inadequate. The totality of potential causes would need to be considered.