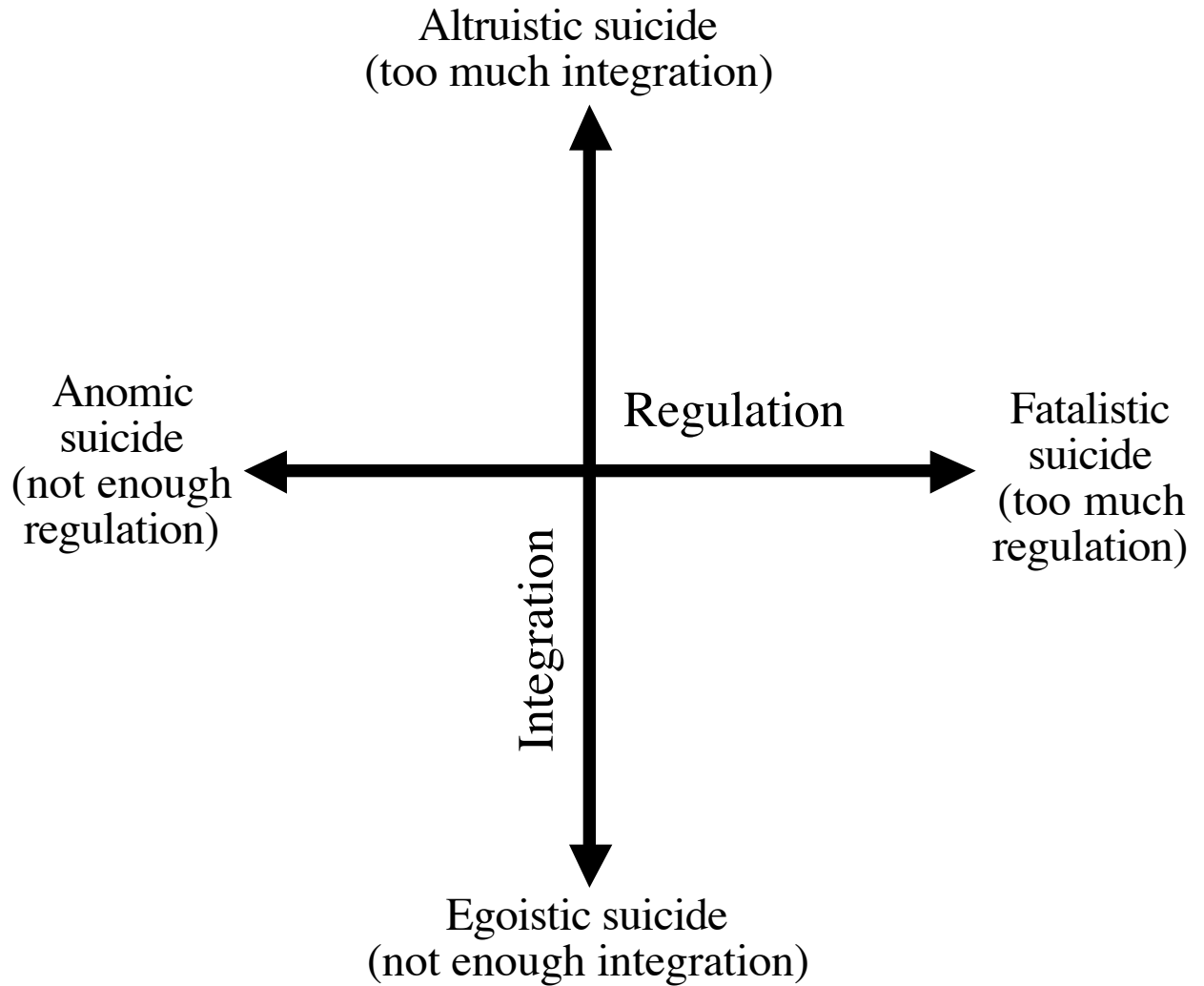


Durkheim's four types of suicide (after Pope 1976)



Using Durkheim's theory in research

Operationalizing types of suicide

Regulation: economic growth, unemployment.

Integration: family, religion, status integration

Studies have “lent considerable support to [Durkheim's] original findings” (Thorlindsson & Bjarnason 1998).

However, many have used group, rather than individual data.

Ecological fallacy: treating group data as though they were individual data

Are suicides in predominantly Catholic areas of Catholics, or of minority groups?

Other problems: meaning of official death records, conceptualizing & operationalizing integration and regulation

van Poppel, Franz and Lincoln H. Day. 1996. “A Test of Durkheim's Theory of Suicide— Without Committing the ‘Ecological Fallacy.’” *ASR* 61(3):500–507.

Analysis of Netherlands suicide data, 1905-1910

Catholics less likely than Protestants to be categorized “suicide,” but much more likely to be “sudden death” or “cause of death unknown or unspecified”

Conclusion: “The gap between Protestant and Catholic suicide rates in the Netherlands during the years 1905 through 1910 appears to be the result of nothing more mysterious than differences in how deaths to Catholics and deaths to Protestants were recorded.”

Thorlindsson, Thorolfur and Thoroddur Bjarnason. 1998. "Modeling Durkheim on the Micro Level: A Study of Youth Suicidality." ASR 63(1): 94-110.

Analysis of Youth in Iceland 1992 Project data (representative sample survey of 4,314 high school students)

Dependent variable: suicidality (suicide attempts & suicide ideation)

