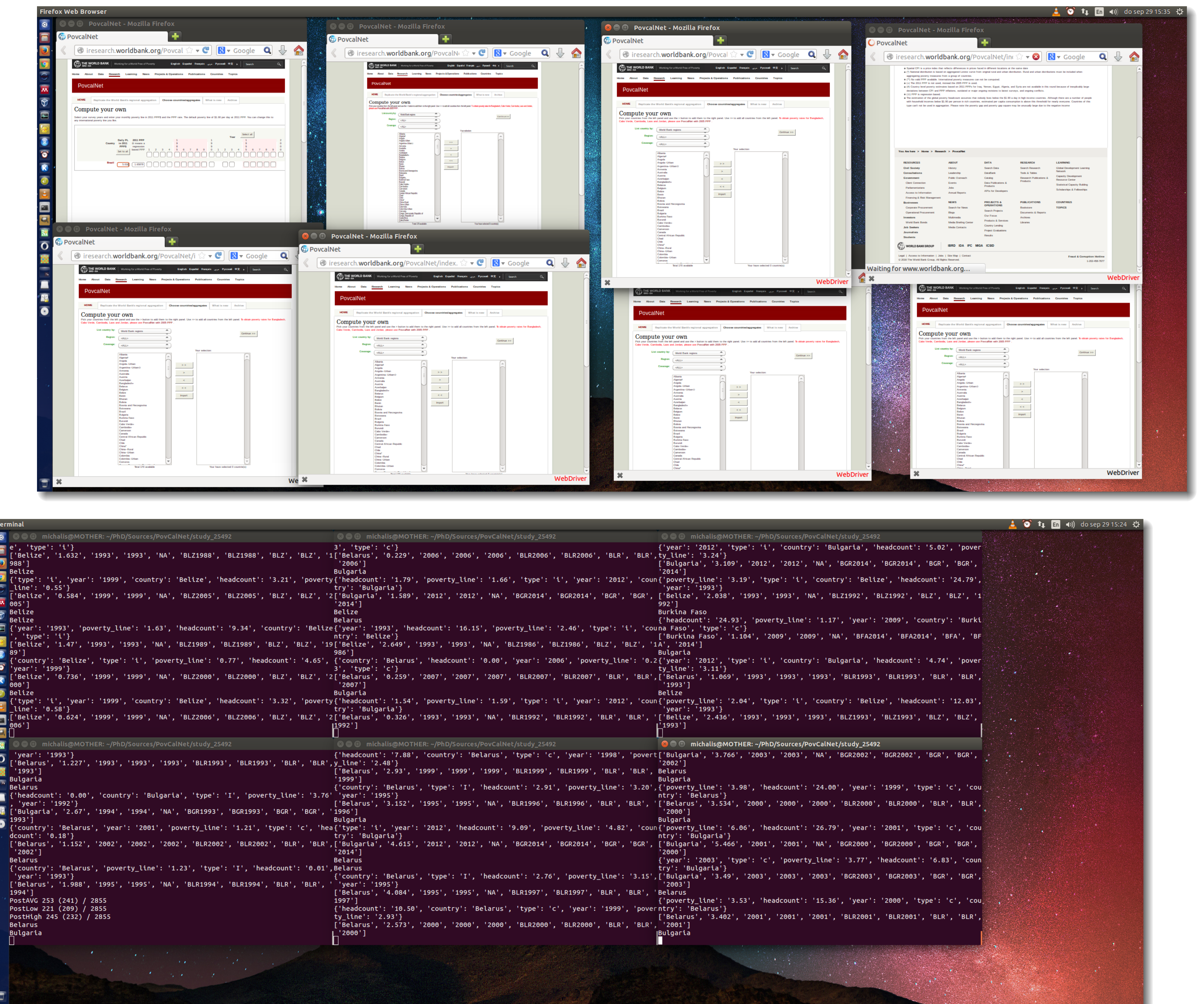# GLOBAL POVERTY

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CONTRIBUTION

The problem of measuring global poverty consistently is addressed using a family of bare bones consumption baskets (BBB). This methodology pinpoints equivalent levels of welfare, both internationally and intertemporally. Naturally, in calculating poverty rates the household consumption distributions are needed. However, those are not made available by the World Bank that collects them. To overcome this problem the python script from Dykstra et al 2014 has been updated to read-in a list of poverty lines and fetch the poverty rate on a per country/year combination.

Later version of this script has now allowed for extracting the entire distribution from the World Bank and deals with the inconsistencies found in the dataset provided by Dykstra et al.

SCRAPING DISTRIBUTIONAL DATA FROM THE WORLD BANK

BARE BONE BASKETS FAMILY

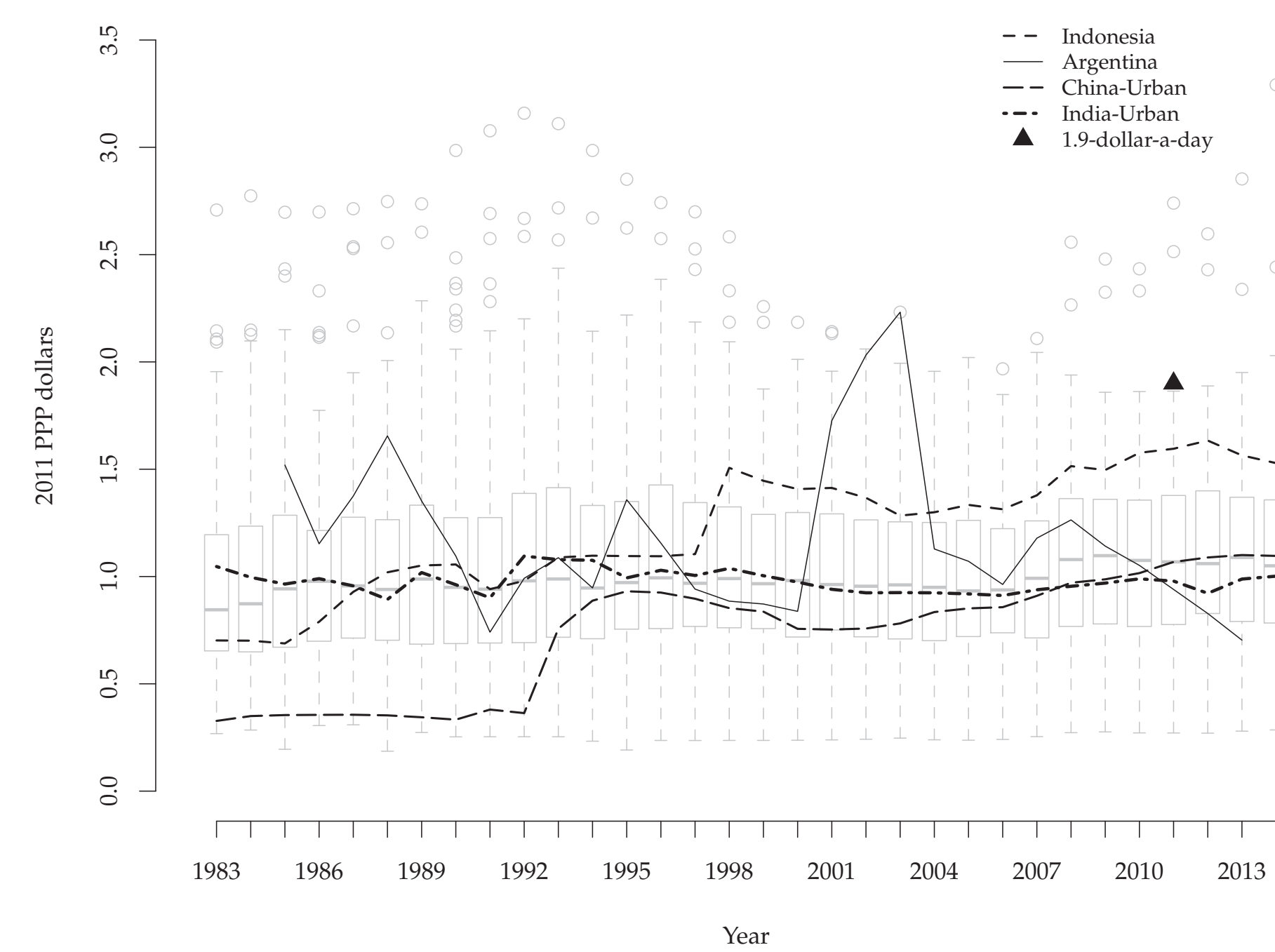| Item	Unit/Year	BBB	BBPlus	BCS
Energy Target	kcal	MDER	MDER	MDER
Minimization	-	cheapest bundle	mean of 2 cheapest bundles	mean of 3 cheapest bundles
Main staple	kg		based on kcal/protein target*	
Beans or peas	kg	LP	20 at minimum	40 at minimum
Meat or fish	kg	3 or 6	6 or 12	12 or 24
Butter or oil or ghee	kg	3	6	12
Sugar	kg	2	4	8
Linen (applied)	share	8% ± 2%	8% ± 2%	WBGC
Lamp oil	liter	1.3	via fuel	WBGC
Soap	kg	1.3	1.3	WBGC
Candles	kg	1.3	1.3	WBGC
Fuel	mbtu	f(T)	f(T)	WBGC
Cooking	mbtu	MDER	MDER	WBGC
Housing	mark-up	5% ± 2%	5% ± 2%	WBGC
Health, Education, Water	%	-	WBGC	WBGC
Additional shares**	%	-	-	WBGC

RESULTS

Bare bone minimum global absolute poverty follows a strikingly different trajectory as so far was thought of. The geographical footprint of this shows the dominance of Sub-Saharan Africa in this type of poverty.
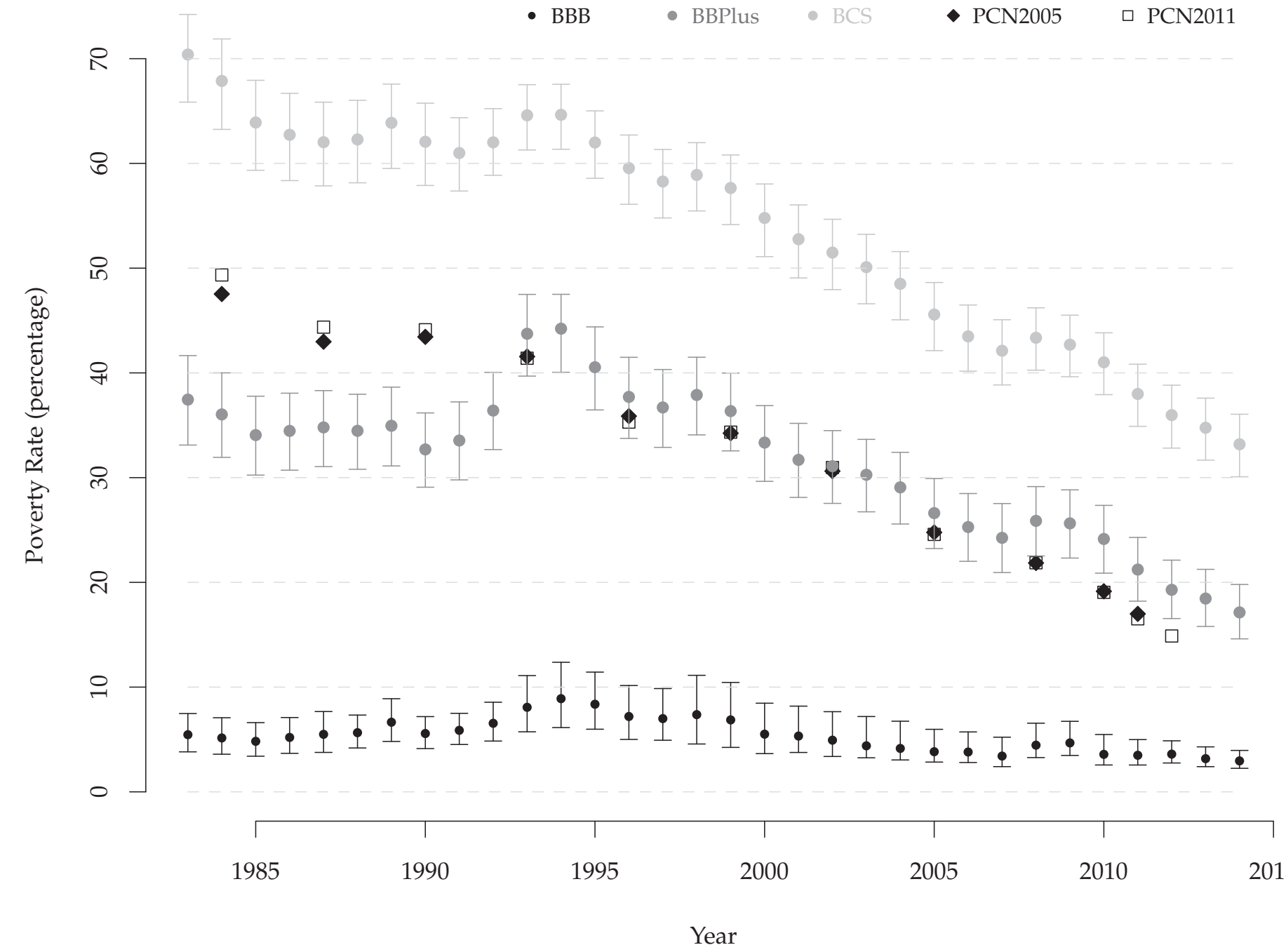
Comparing with the Bank's results, and even in the case of the BBPlus baskets that produces similar point estimates, the variance is much lower in the BBB methodology (Bank's variance for 1990 is 44.12% [19.49, 58.48] and

for 2012 14.88% [4.63, 26.63]). On the highest level of the poverty type the gaps with the traditional narrative remain. In none of the BBB based poverty lines UN's MDG1 is achieved by 2014, even as a point estimate.
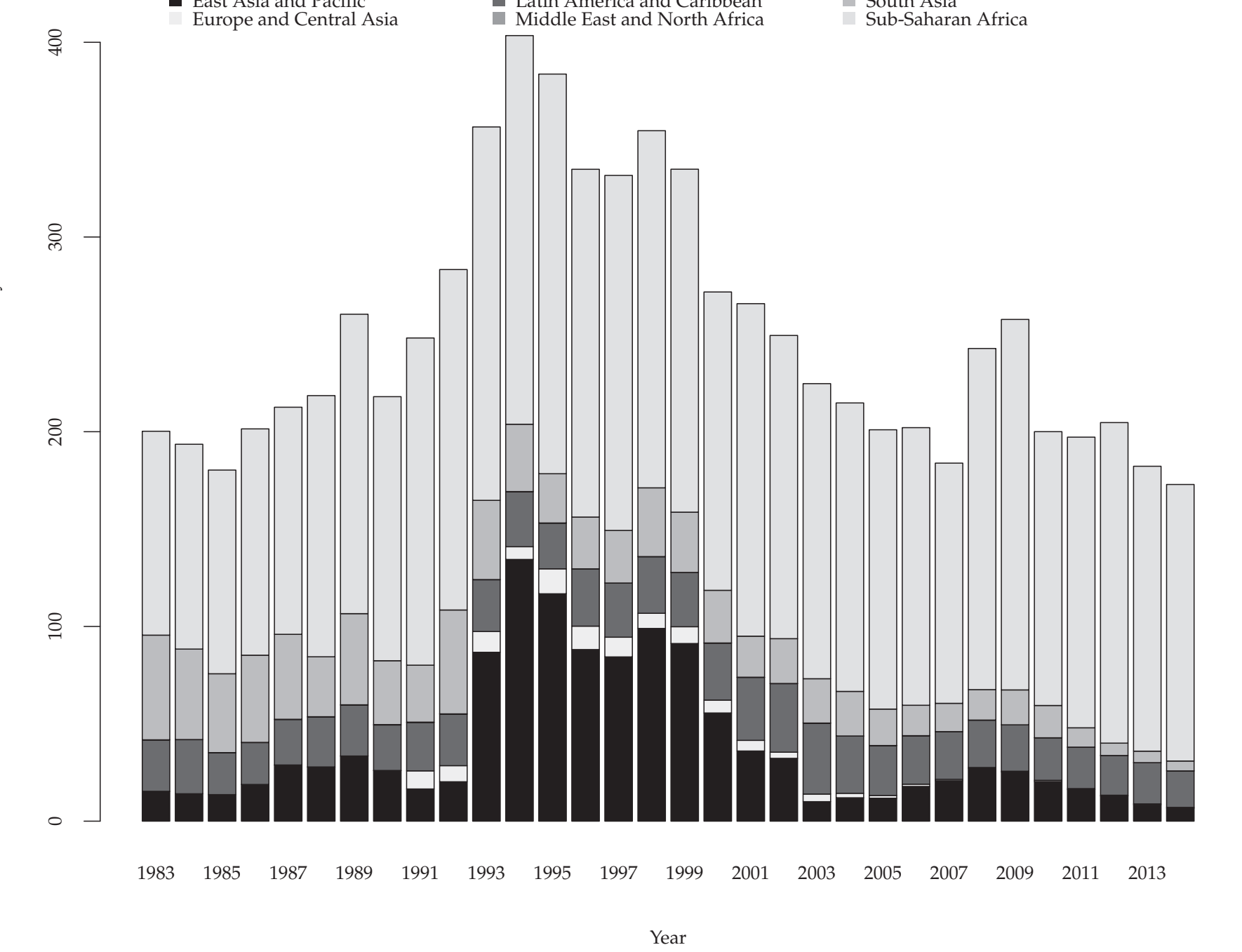
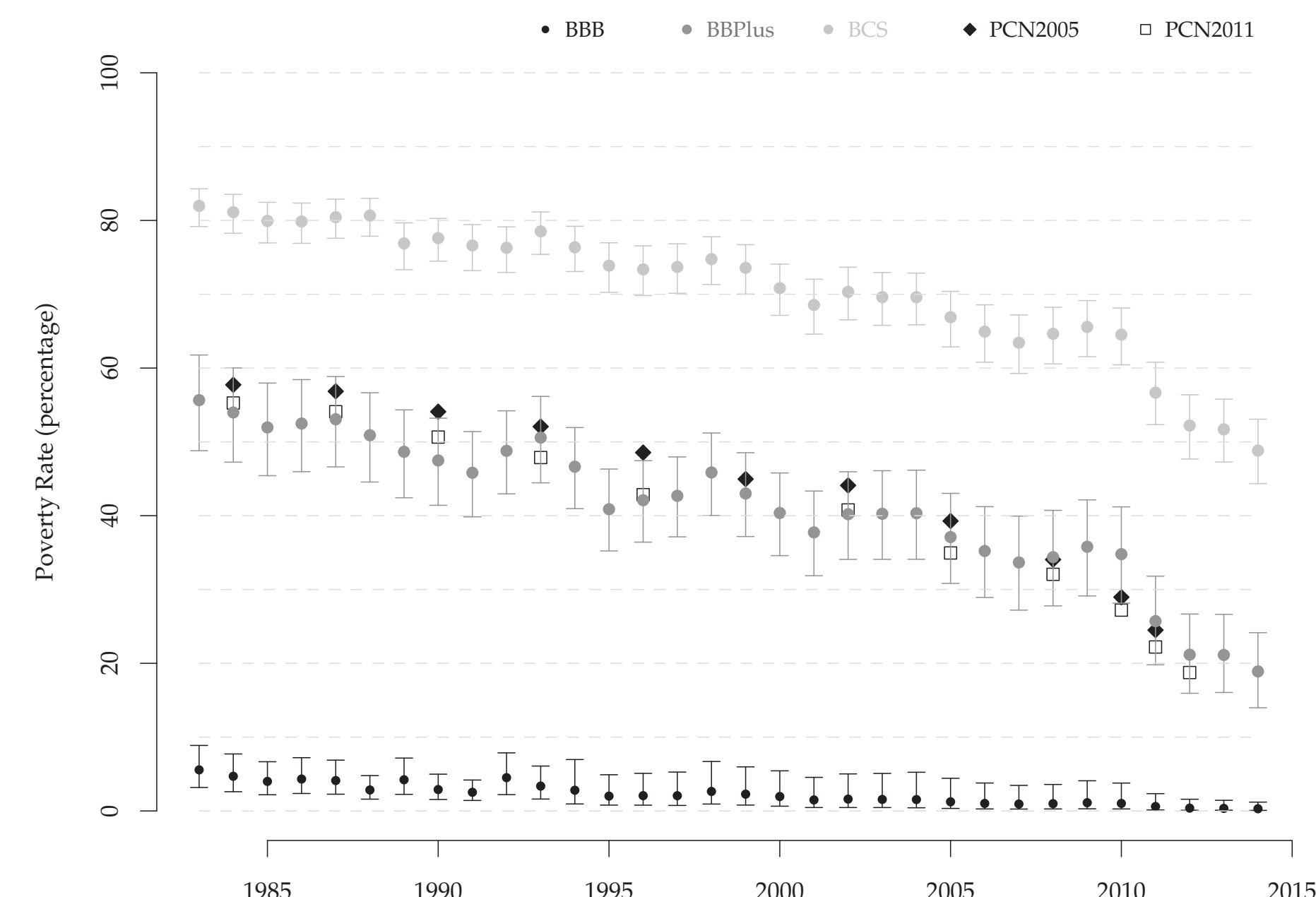### Welfare Consistent Poverty Lines
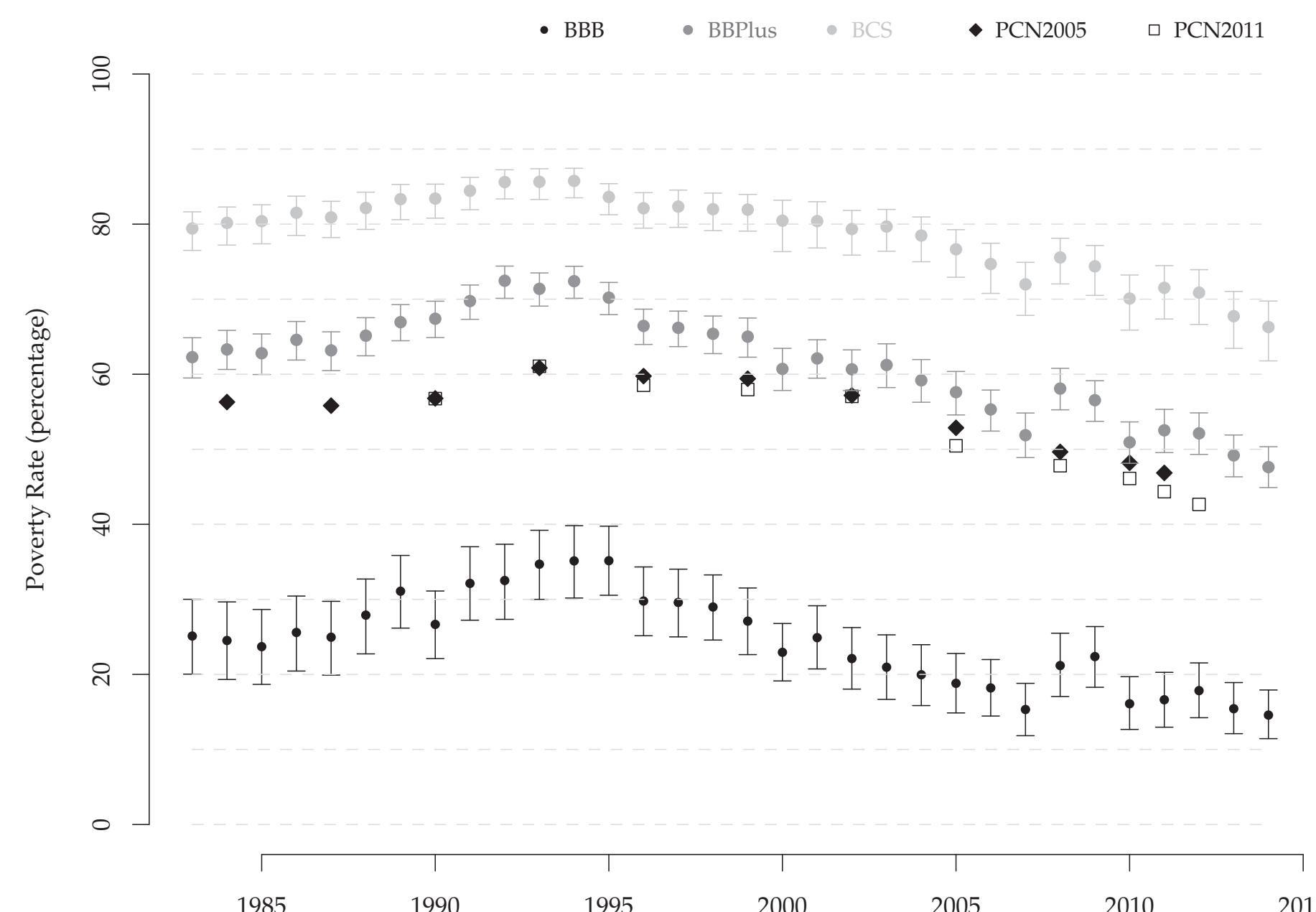

Global Poverty

Global Geography of Poverty

South Asia

Sub-Saharan Africa

China