

Drawings of Belgium. What does the size of Flanders & Wallonia tell us?

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Context

- Divided Belgium
 - Consociational democracy
 - State reforms (from unitary to (con)federal state)
- Linguistic Tensions
 - Boundaries of the BHV-Electoral District
 - Degree of Autonomy in Financial/Fiscal matters

Assumptions

- Two common assumptions about the dynamics of Belgian federalism
 - Saliency of Institutional Reform & future of Federation
 - Opinions about the future of Belgian federalism differ in N < > S

Mental Map as Alternative

- Mental maps: mental representation of space or object
- Scientific use: Consistent mental representations of environment, people use *"to understand/know the environment (...)* in effect *'representation of objects and their associations, involving generic and motivational information'"* (Kitchin 1994)

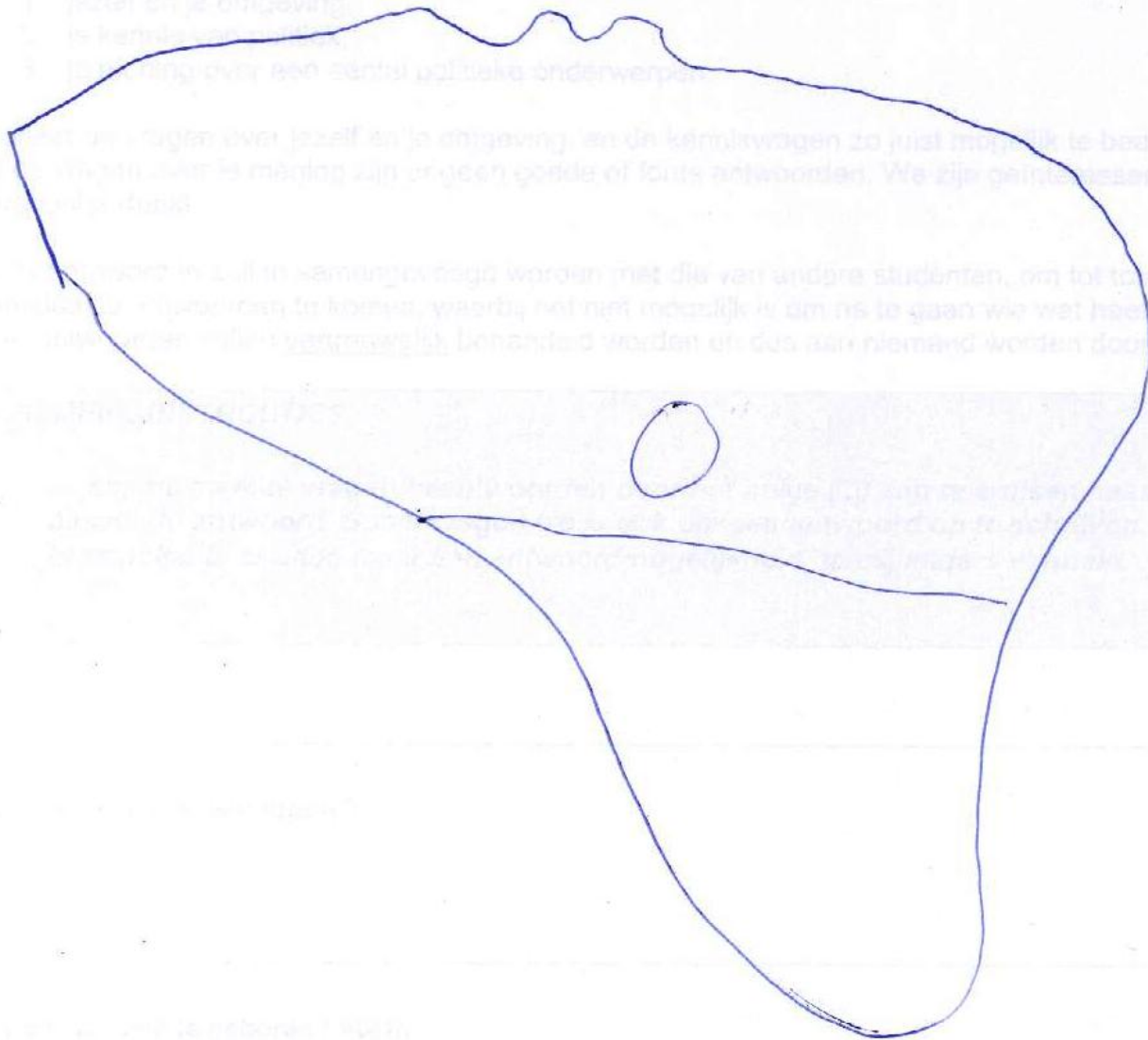
Data collection

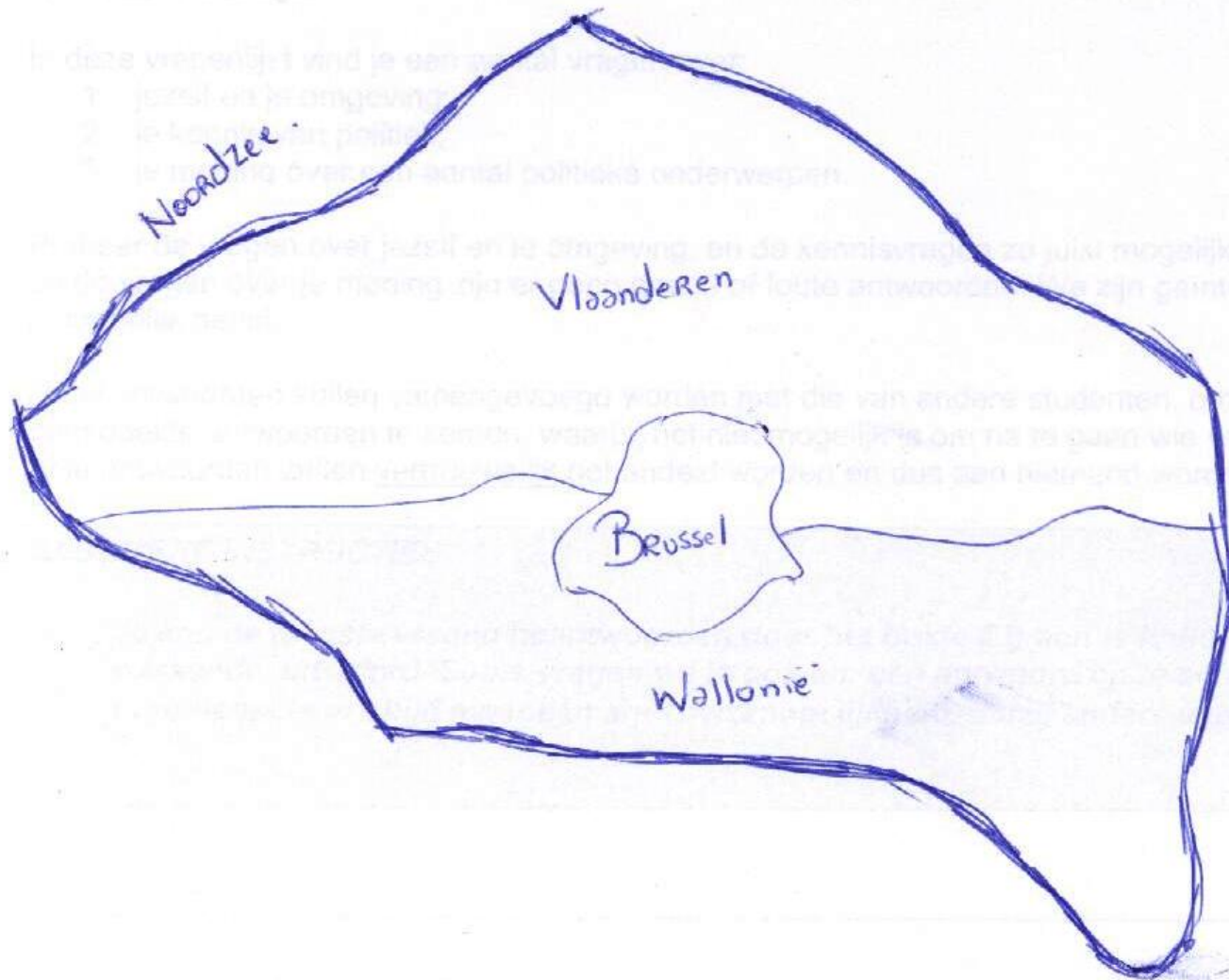
- “Draw Belgium” on Blanc front sheet – 5 minutes + Questionnaire
- 5200 students from 10 Universities & 13 University Colleges (2345 NL – 2921 FR)
- Short Survey
 - Socio-demographics
 - Pol. Knowledge, Interest in Pol., Preferred distribution of Power, how different are Fr & FL speakers, should Fr – FL live in 1 country?, Politicians to blame?, identity, party preference

Resulting drawings

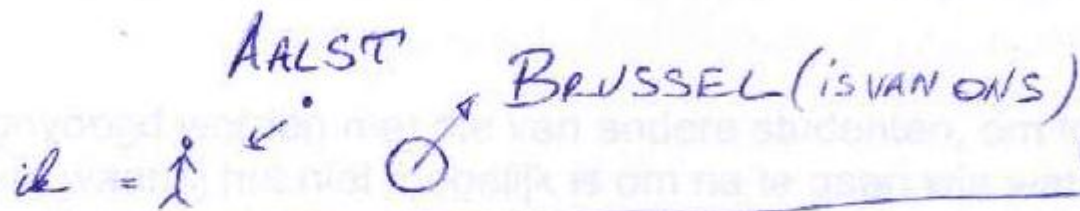
→ Wide variety of Drawings

- MAP
- MAP WITH OUTSIDE WORLD
- MAP WITH INTERNAL BOUNDARIES
 - PROVINCES
 - LANGUAGE BORDER
 - BRUSSELS





REPUBLIEK VLAANDEREN



Drawings of Belgium: 2 research questions

- **Q1: Does one's language explain one's drawing?**
 - Article *Territory, Politics, Governance*
 - Language does not explain but political knowledge and identity
- **Q2: Does the size of one's drawing matter?**
 - New measurements: the size of Wallonia and Flanders

The True Size of Africa

A small contribution in the fight against rampant *Immappancy*, by Kai Krause

Graphic layout for visualization only (some countries are cut and rotated)
But the conclusions are very accurate: refer to table below for exact data

COUNTRY	AREA x 1000 km ²
China	9.597
USA	9.629
India	3.287
Mexico	1.964
Peru	1.285
France	633
Spain	506
Papua New Guinea	462
Sweden	441
Japan	378
Germany	357
Norway	324
Italy	301
New Zealand	270
United Kingdom	243
Nepal	147
Bangladesh	144
Greece	132
TOTAL	30.102
AFRICA	30.221

In addition to the well known social issues of *illiteracy* and *innumeracy*, there also should be such a concept as *"immappancy"*, meaning *insufficient geographical knowledge*.

A survey with random American schoolkids let them guess the population and land area of their country. Not entirely unexpected, but still rather unsettling, the majority chose *"1-2 billion"* and *"largest in the world"*, respectively.

Even with Asian and European college students, geographical estimates were often off by factors of 2-3. This is partly due to the highly distorted nature of the predominantly used mapping projections (such as *Mercator*).

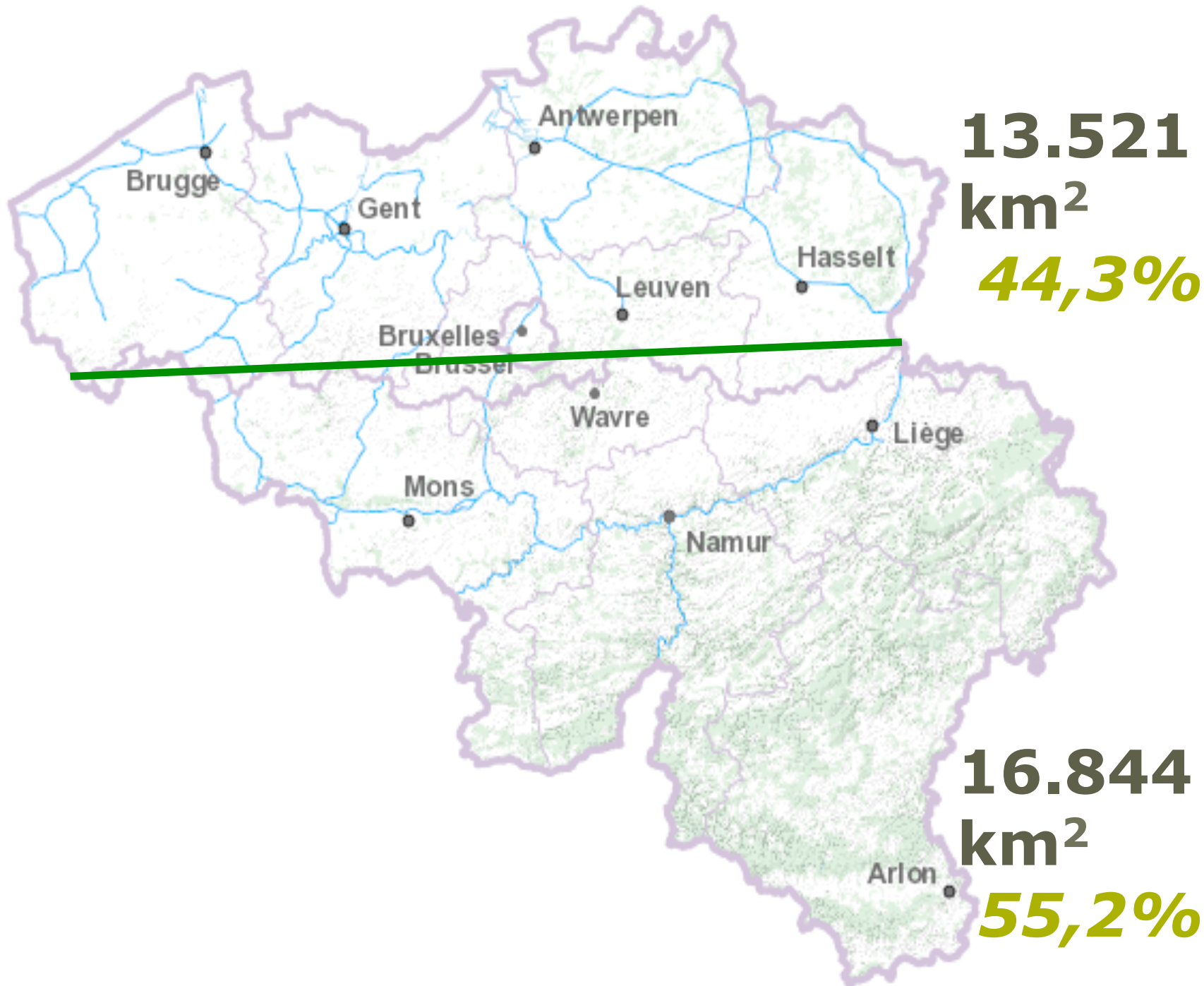
A particularly extreme example is the worldwide misjudgement of the true size of *Africa*. This single image tries to embody the massive scale, which is larger than the *USA*, *China*, *India*, *Japan* and *all of Europe*.....combined!

Top 100 Countries

Area in square kilometers, Percentage of World Total
Sources: Britannica, Wikipedia, Almanac 2010

	AREA km ²	%	
1	Russia	17.098.242	11,50
2	Canada	9.964.670	6,70
3	China	9.596.961	6,40
4	United States	9.629.091	6,40
5	Brazil	8.514.877	5,70
6	Australia	7.892.024	5,20
7	India	3.287.283	2,30
8	Argentina	2.780.400	2,00
9	Kazakhstan	2.724.900	1,80
10	Sudan	2.505.813	1,70
11	Algeria	2.381.741	1,60
12	Congo	2.344.858	1,60
13	Greenland	2.166.066	1,50
14	Saudi Arabia	2.149.690	1,40
15	Mexico	1.964.375	1,30
16	Indonesia	1.860.360	1,30
17	Libya	1.759.540	1,20
18	Iran	1.628.750	1,10
19	Mongolia	1.564.100	1,10
20	Peru	1.285.216	0,86
21	Chad	1.284.000	0,86
22	Niger	1.267.000	0,85
23	Angola	1.246.700	0,85
24	Mali	1.240.192	0,83
25	South Africa	1.221.037	0,82
26	Colombia	1.141.748	0,76
27	Ethiopia	1.104.300	0,74
28	Bolivia	1.096.581	0,74
29	Mauritania	1.025.520	0,69
30	Egypt	1.002.000	0,67
31	Tanzania	945.087	0,63
32	Nigeria	923.768	0,62
33	Venezuela	912.050	0,61
34	Namibia	824.116	0,55
35	Mozambique	801.590	0,54
36	Pakistan	796.095	0,53
37	Turkey	783.562	0,53
38	Chile	756.102	0,51
39	Zambia	752.612	0,51
40	Myanmar	676.578	0,45
41	Afghanistan	652.090	0,44
42	Somalia	637.657	0,43
43	France	632.834	0,43
44	C. African Rep	622.984	0,42
45	Ukraine	603.500	0,41
46	Madagascar	587.041	0,39
47	Botswana	582.000	0,39
48	Kenya	580.367	0,39
49	Yemen	527.968	0,35
50	Thailand	513.120	0,34
51	Spain	505.992	0,34
52	Turkmenistan	488.100	0,33
53	Cameroon	475.442	0,32
54	Papua New Guinea	462.840	0,31
55	Uzbekistan	447.400	0,30
56	Morocco	446.550	0,30
57	Sweden	441.370	0,30
58	Iraq	438.317	0,29
59	Paraguay	406.752	0,27
60	Zimbabwe	390.757	0,26
61	Japan	377.930	0,25
62	Germany	357.114	0,24
63	Rep o.s. Congo	342.000	0,23
64	Finland	338.119	0,23
65	Vietnam	331.212	0,22
66	Malaysia	330.803	0,22
67	Norway	323.802	0,22
68	Côte d'Ivoire	322.463	0,22
69	Poland	312.685	0,21
70	Oman	309.500	0,21
71	Italy	301.336	0,20
72	Philippines	300.000	0,20
73	Burkina Faso	274.222	0,18
74	New Zealand	270.467	0,18
75	Gabon	267.668	0,18
76	Western Sahara	266.000	0,18
77	Ecuador	256.369	0,20
78	Guinea	245.857	0,17
79	United Kingdom	242.900	0,16
80	Uganda	241.038	0,16
81	Ghana	238.539	0,16
82	Romania	238.391	0,16
83	Laos	236.800	0,16
84	Guyana	214.969	0,14
85	Belarus	207.600	0,14
86	Kyrgyzstan	199.951	0,13
87	Senegal	196.722	0,13
88	Syria	185.180	0,12
89	Cambodia	181.035	0,12
90	Uruguay	176.215	0,12
91	Suriname	163.820	0,11
92	Tunisia	163.610	0,11
93	Nepal	147.181	0,10
94	Bangladesh	143.998	0,10
95	Tajikistan	143.100	0,10
96	Greece	131.957	0,09
97	Nicaragua	130.373	0,09
98	North Korea	120.538	0,08
99	Malawi	118.484	0,08
100	Eritrea	117.600	0,08
TOP 100 TOTAL		132.622.524	89,34





13.521

km²

44,3%

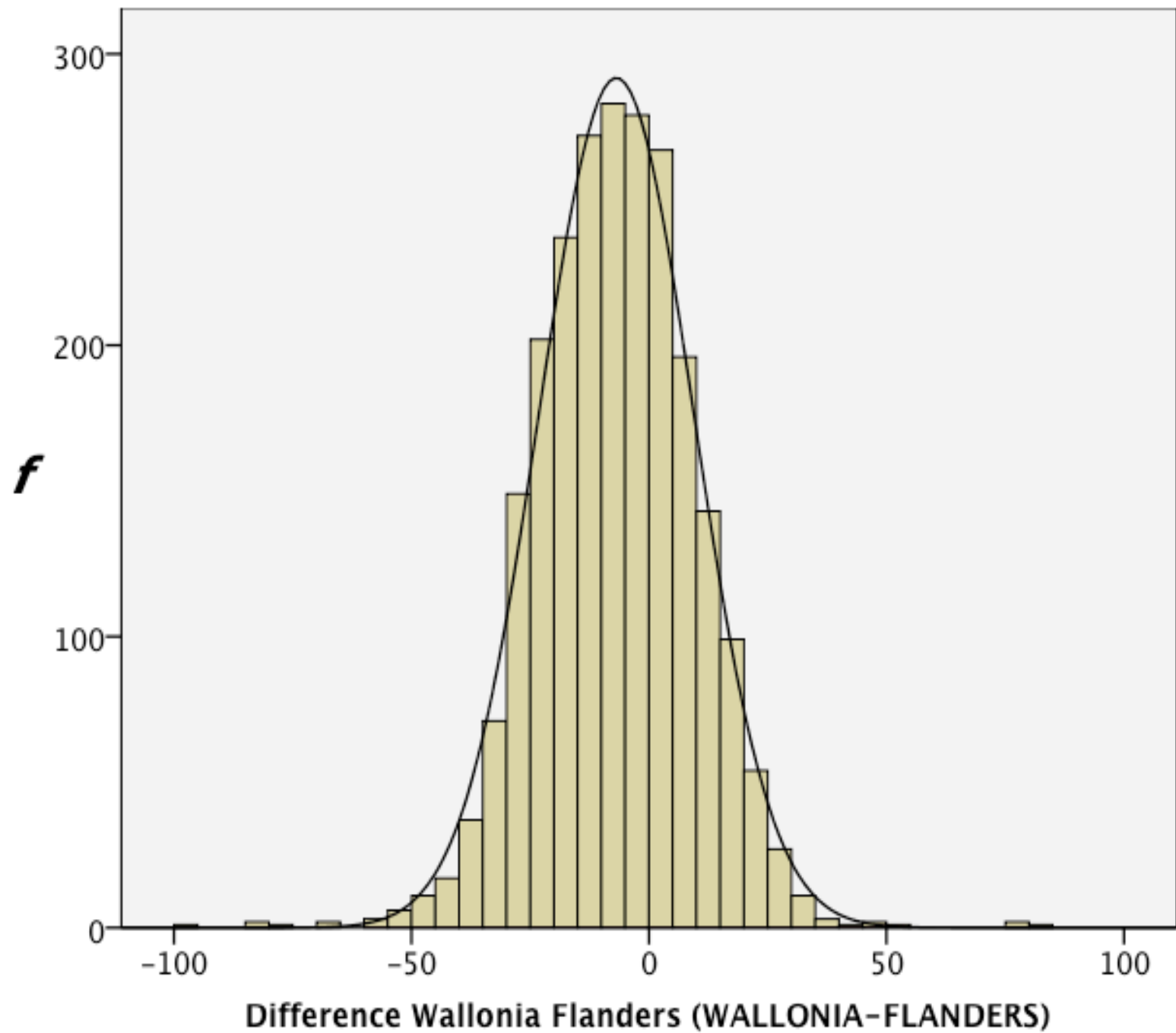
16.844

km²

55,2%

DO WE SEE OBJECTIVE DIFFERENCES IN MENTAL SURFACE?

Relative size	<i>f</i>	%
Flanders bigger	1.573	66,0%
Wallonia bigger	805	33,8%
Same size	5	0,2%
Total	2.383	



Differences according to language group

	FLEMISH	FRENCH	TOTAL
Flanders bigger	66,9%	52,1%	58,7%
Same Size	12,0%	12,9%	12,5%
Wallonia Bigger (approx. correct)	11,4%	16,7%	14,3%
Wallonia much bigger	9,7%	18,4%	14,5%
	100%	100%	100%

Patterns in identification

IDENTIFICATION	N	%
1 NONE	264	11,1
2 FLEMISH	190	8
3 FRENCH SPEAKING	122	5,1
4 BELGIAN	391	16,5
5 BE + FL	541	22,8
6 BE + FR	645	27,2
7 B+FL+FR	221	9,3
	2.374	100

Differences in drawing size

IDENTIFICATION	% Drawing Wall. Bigger
1 NONE	32,6%
2 FLEMISH	26,3%
3 FRENCH SPEAKING	40,2%
4 BELGIAN	36,3%
5 BE + FL	25,9%
6 BE + FR	37,8%
7 B+FL+FR	40,3%
	33,7%

Differences in drawing size

	None	FL	FR	Be	B+FL	B+FR	B+FL +FR	Total
Flanders bigger	61%	66%	54%	57%	66%	54%	52%	59%
Same Size	11%	13%	11%	11%	13%	14%	14%	13%
Wallonia Bigger*	16%	10%	17%	15%	12%	15%	15%	14%
Wallonia much bigger	13%	11%	18%	17%	9%	17%	19%	15%
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Other explanatory variables?

Size Wallonia = Bigger	Exp (B)	Sig
WOMEN	0,95	0,545
POLITICAL KNOWLEDGE (scale)	0,97	0,083
BELGIAN NAT.	1,03	0,868
From Brussels	1,10	0,398
Dutch-Language	0,53	0,000
Nagelkerke R ²	3,5%	-
N	2.380	

Conclusions

- Systematic differences in relative size Flanders vs Wallonia
- Significant effect of language, but... modest explanatory power
- Flanders is drawn bigger by most respondents of both language groups

→ Flanders drawn bigger = perceived bigger?