

Identities in Belgium

Lieven De Winter

Catholic Universities of Louvain

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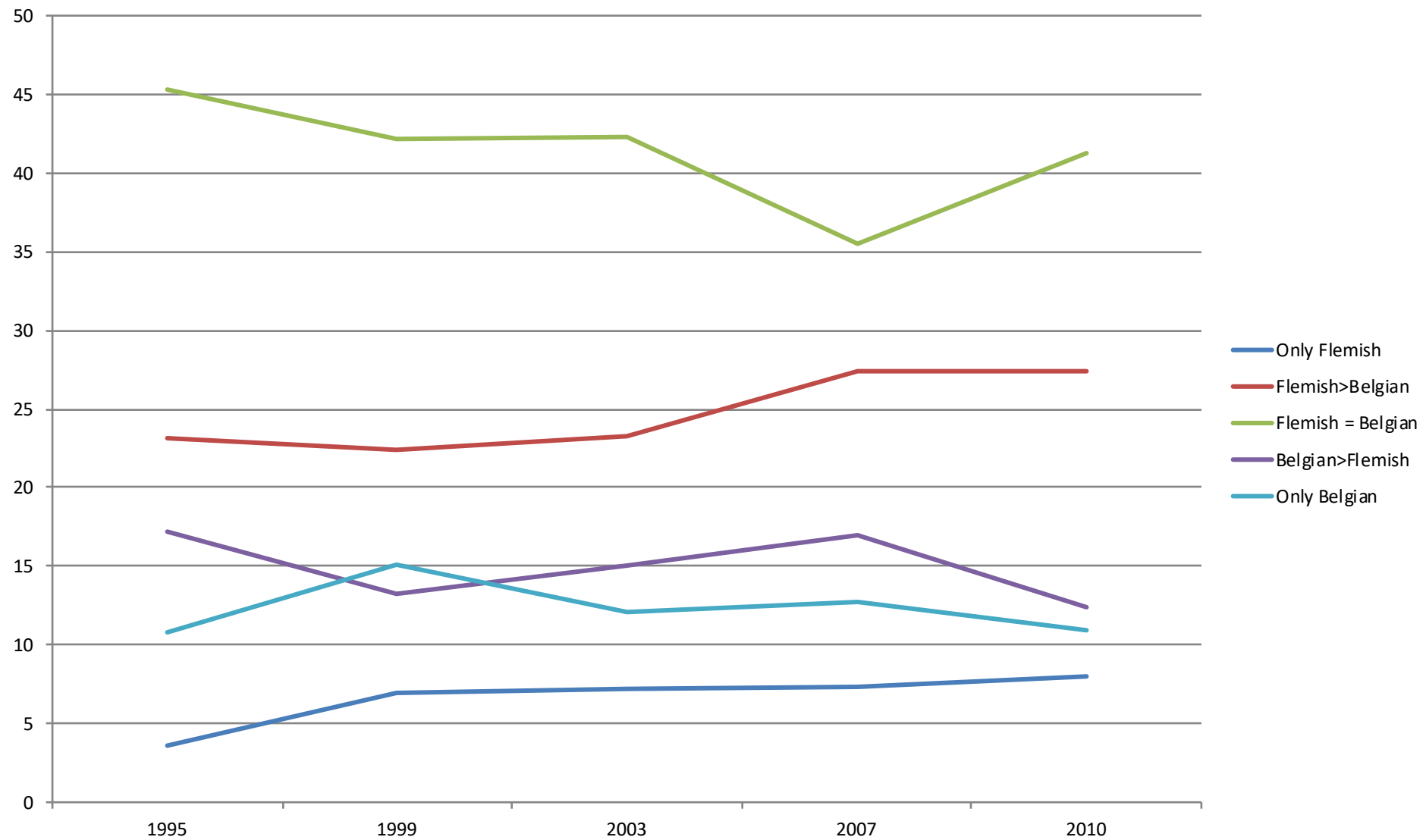
Two main traditions of territorial identity measurement in Belgium

- Moreno question (in B since 1995)
- Hierarchical question (in B since 1979)
- Less used alternatives:
 - Frequency and strength of territorial identity feelings (VANDEKEERE, DOUTRELEPONT et JACQUEMAIN (1990, 1994).
 - Use of 11 points scale for each identity (regional, federal, European; Partirep2)

The Moreno question

- *"Laquelle de ces affirmations correspond le plus à votre vision de vous-même:" 1) Je me sens uniquement wallon(ne); 2) Je me sens plus wallon(ne) que belge; 3) Je me sens aussi bien wallon(ne) que belge; 4) Je me sens plus belge que wallon(ne) ; 5) Je me sens uniquement belge"; 6) Je ne sais pas.*

Evolution 1995-2014 Flanders



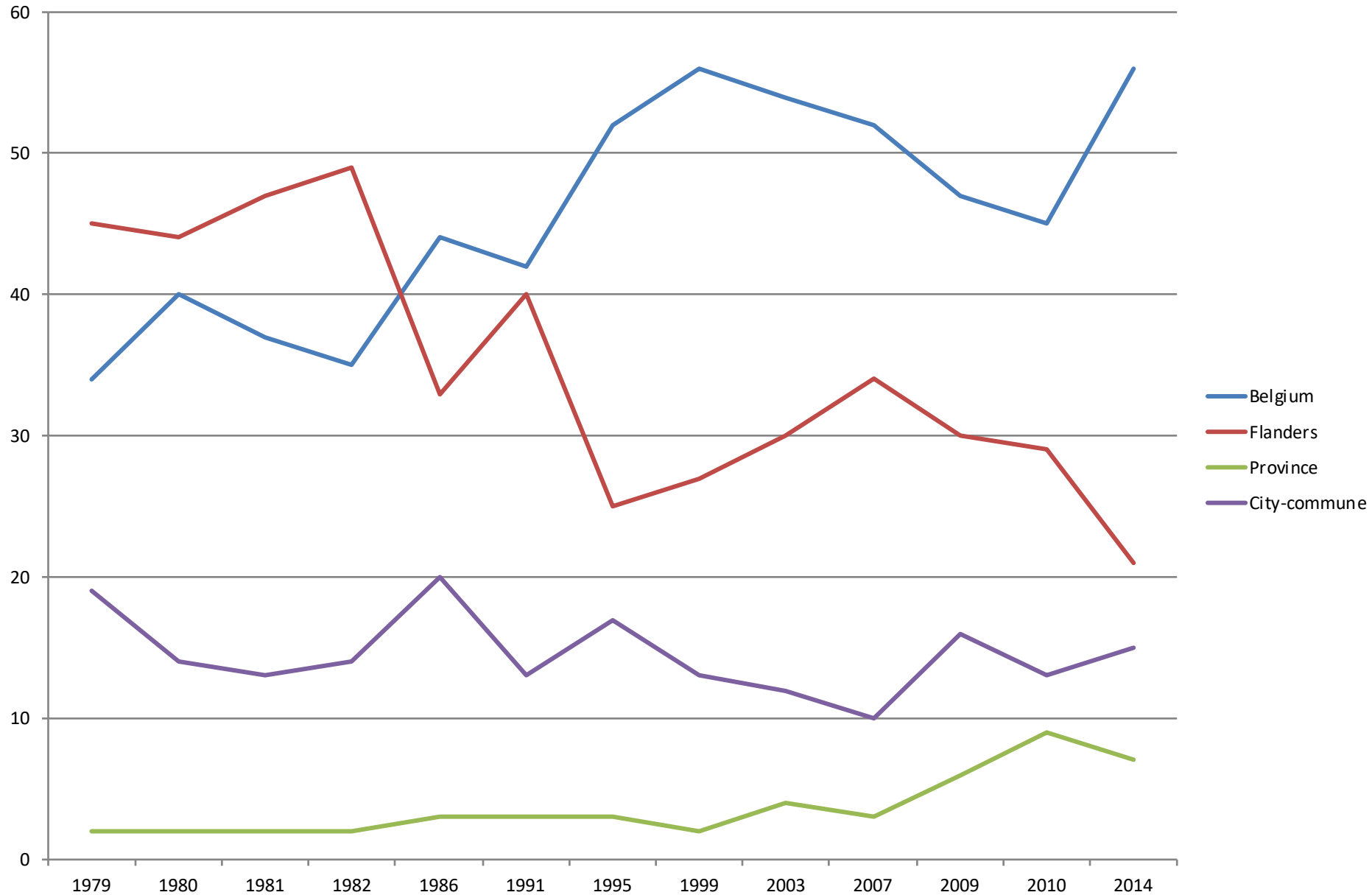
Problems with Moreno

- Confronts only 2 identities, quid importance of European, local, provincial identities?
- Difficult to apply to francophones in multipolar Belgium: bruxellois, german-speaking community ???

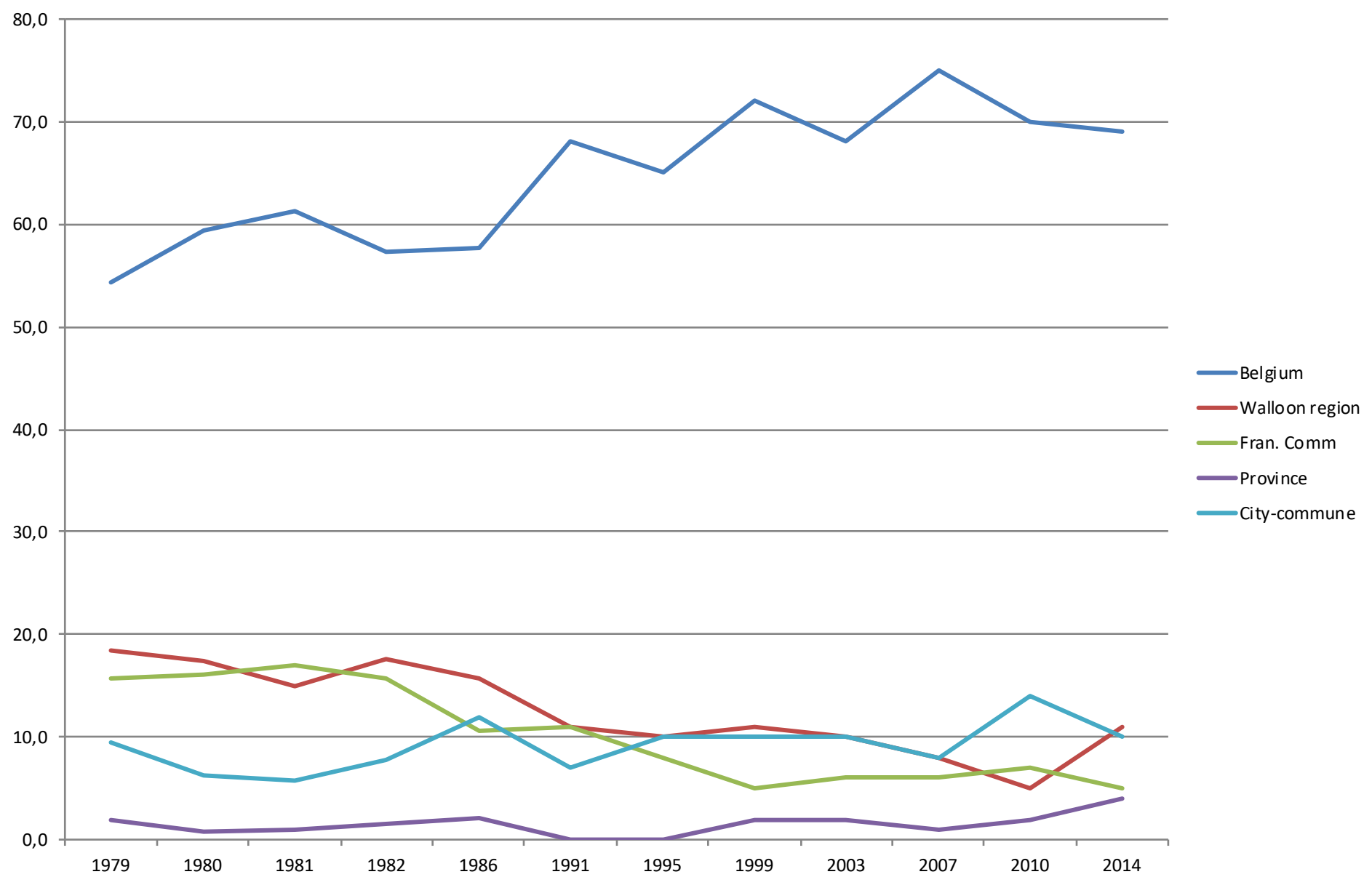
Hierarchical question: formulation

- PIOP-ISPO de 1999: "*A quoi avez-vous le sentiment d'appartenir en premier lieu? Et en deuxième lieu?*" Le répondant reçoit alors une carte où figurent plusieurs possibilités de réponses: 1) *à la Belgique*; 2) *à la communauté de langue française*; 3) *à la communauté / la région flamande*; 4) *à la communauté de langue allemande*; 5) *à la région wallonne* ; 6) *à la région bruxelloise* ; 7) *à votre province* ; 8) *à votre ville ou à votre commune* ; 9) *Ne sait pas*

Evolution 1979-2014 Flanders



Evolution 1979-2014 Wallonia



Problems with hierarchical question

- Long tradition (Regioscope 1979-1986), but with minor changes in formulation that can lead to large changes in outcome (cfr recency effect, Billiet, Loosveldt en Waterplas, 1984)
- Quid insertion Europe in traditional question (additional question in ISPO/PIOP; offered as 'full option » in partirep 2009-2014)

General problems with identity questions

- Contradiction between answers to Moreno and hierarchical question: ex. Moreno: more Flemish than Belgian, but in hierarchical question, first identification with Belgium, second with Flanders (see DE WINTER & FROGNIER, 1999)
- stable «structural» attitudes or volatile «snapshot» attitudes, depending on political conjuncture (politisisation of certain community issues, like Happart, BHV)
- Consequential attitudes or just ephemeral ones: do they affect actual behavior (vote) or wider set of attitudes (quid direction of causality of relation?)
- Is this a new cleavage/dimension, vis-à-vis traditional cleavages (left/right; denominational, GAL/TAN; etc) and how does it relate to these cleavages (crosscutting or overlapping)

«Associations» «effects» and (fictive) determinants of territorial identities

- We can presume that feeling Belgian vs Flemish/walloon is a relatively stable attitude, that in general does not change every year, moment, etc, although specific events, experiences, party/campaign messages may provoke short term change. Territorial/national identity is probably mostly the effect of socialisation: by family, school, peers, personal experiences, medium term political agenda ('Leuven Vlaams'), etc.
- But in any case, identity can be presumed to be more stable than the current snapshot evaluation of different government institutions in terms of trust, satisfaction with policy output, and subsidiarity preferences

- identity \rightarrow attitudes
- attitudes \rightarrow attitudes
- identity $\leftarrow \rightarrow$ attitudes
- identity ---?– attitudes, «spurious, additive, intervention and interaction» effect i.e. on dependent of third variables

Moreno: Socio-demographics

We start from a null hypotheses reg. socio-demographic background variables: no logical direct link (but probably as covariates of real determinants) apart from:

- Age: generational effect? (generations socialized in polarised periods, old people attached to *la Belgique à papa*?)
- Income and profession: winners & losers from more Flemish autonomy/independence (ethnoliberalism)
- (socialisation through) contacts with people from other community
- church involvement (historical links Fl.mvt –lower clergy?)

Moreno Flanders 2014: socio-demos

	Spearman rho	Êta ²
Gender		ns
Age (date de naissance)	ns	
Age 6 categories (WALL 25-34 > B)	ns	ns
Age 3 categories	ns	
Level of education 4 cat	ns	ns
Profession (V8 Profession (VL: homemakers B>reg	ns	0.019**
Professionally active/inactive (avoir un travail ou non) V6		ns
Income (11 categories)	ns	ns
Leisure spent in other region	ns	
Visit friends other region	-0.121***	
Shopping other region	-0.081**	
Use of media other region	-0.158***	
Religion (chris > FL than rest)		0.028***
Frequency attending religious services	ns	
Church involvement	-0.106***	0.019*

Moreno (Fl. 2014): general political attitudes

- Null-hypotheses: confirmed for most vars

Moreno (Fl. 2014): general political attitudes

Political interest	ns	
Knowledge	ns	
Conventional political participation	ns	
Soft unconventional political participation	ns	
Hard unconventional political participation	-0.138***	
Internal political efficacy	ns	
External political efficacy	0,067*	

Moreno (Fl. 2014): bilevel political attitudes

- Hypotheses: relatively strong link as identity feelings, measured by moreno and hierarchival question, are probably determinants of these): « bilevel » political attitudes

Moreno (Fl. 2014): bilevels vars

	rho
Trust parliament regional	-0,123***
Trust executive regional	-0,154***
Trust parliament federal	0.108***
Trust executive federal	0,232***
Decision making by Belgian level 8 policies	0.130***
Decision making by regional level 8 policies	-0.159***
Satisfaction democracy en B	-0,077*
Satisfaction policies regional executive	-0,093**
Satisfaction policies federal I executive	0,232***

Relation with attitudes cleavages FL

	Spearman rho	$\hat{\eta}^2$
Religion (chris > FL than rest)		0.028***
Frequency attending religious services	ns	
Church involvement	-0.106***	0.019*
Xenophobia	0.194***	
Left-Right scale	-.0267**	
Gvt control vs freedom enterprise	-0.104***	
Environment vs economy	-0.085**	
EU integration	0.111***	
Who decides: B vs reg?	0.295***	

Moreno Wallonia 2014: socio-demos

	Spearman rho	Êta ²
Gender		ns
Age (date of birth)		ns
Age 6 categories (WALL 25-34 > B, «generation NVA»?)		ns
Age 3 categories		ns
Level of education 4 cat	0.072*	ns
Profession		ns
Professionally active/inactive		ns
Income	ns	ns
Leisure spent in other region	-0.190***	
Visit friends other region	-0.164***	
Shopping other region	-0.201***	
Use of media other region	0.100**	

Moreno (Wall. 2014): general political attitudes

	Spearman an rho	Êta ²
Political interest	ns	
Knowledge	ns	
Conventional political participation	ns	
Soft unconventional political participation	ns	
Hard unconventional political participation	0.071*	
Internal political efficacy	ns	
External political efficacy	ns	

Moreno (Wall. 2014): territorial vars

	Spearman rho	Êta ²
Trust parliament regional	-0.071*	
Trust executive regional	-0.092**	
Trust parliament federal	ns	
Trust executive federal	ns	
Decision making by Belgian level 8 policies	ns	
Decision making by regional level 8 policies	-0.077**	
Satisfaction democracy en B	ns	
Satisfaction policies regional executive	ns	
Satisfaction policies federal executive	ns	

Relation with attitudes cleavages WAL

	Spearman rho	Êta ²
Religion		0.022**
Frequency attending religious services	ns	
Church involvement	ns	0.014*
Xenophobia	ns	
Left-Right scale	ns	
Gvt control vs freedom enterprise	0.074*	
Environment vs economy	0.081**	
EU integration	ns	
Who decides: B vs reg?	0.063*	

Hierarchical question

- Similar hypotheses as for Moreno

Hierarchical Q Fl 2014: socio-demos

	Spearman rho	Êta ²
Gender		ns
Age (date de naissance)	ns	
Age 6 categories	ns	ns
Age 3 categories		ns
Level of education 4 cat	0.099**	0.017**
Profession (VL: homemakers B>reg)		0.027**
Professionally active/inactive		ns
Income (11 categories)	0.105**	ns
Leisure spent in other region	ns	
Visit friends other region	ns	
Shopping other region	ns	
Use of media other region	ns	
Religion (chris > FL than rest)		0.029**
Frequency attending religious services	ns	
Church involvement ??	0.080*	0.019*

Hierarchical Q FI 2014: general political attitudes

	Spearman rho
Political interest	0.126***
Knowledge	0.136***
Conventional political participation	ns
Soft unconventional political participation	-0.184*
Hard unconventional political participation	ns
Internal political efficacy	0.115**
External political efficacy	ns

Hierarchical Q FI 2014: bilevels vars

	Spearman rho
Trust parliament regional	-0,115***
Trust executive regional	-0,123***
Trust parliament federal	-0.115***
Trust executifve federal	-0,131***
Decision making by EU level 8 policies	ns
Decision making by Belgian level 8 policies	-0.159***
Decision making by regional level 8 policies	0.174***
Satisfaction democracy en B	ns
Satisfaction policies regional executive	ns
Satisfaction policies federal l executive	-0,248***

Hierarchical Q Wall 2014: socio-demos

VARIABLES	Spearman rho	$\hat{\epsilon}\eta^2$
Level of education 4 cat	0.072*	ns
Profession		ns
Professionally active/inactive		ns
Income (11 categories)	ns	ns
Leisure spent in other region	ns	
Visit friends other region	ns	
Shopping other region	ns	
Use of media other region	ns	
Religion		ns
Frequency attending religious services	ns	
Church involvement	ns	0.021*

Hierarchical Q Wall 2014: general political attitudes

	Spearman rho
Political interest	ns
Knowledge	0.114**
Conventional political participation	ns
Soft unconventional political participation	ns
Hard unconventional political participation	ns
Internal political efficacy	ns
External political efficacy	ns

Hierarchical Q Wall 2014: bilevels vars

	Spearman rho
Trust parliament regional	ns
Trust executive regional	ns
Trust parliament federal	ns
Trust executive federal	ns
Decision making by Belgian level 8 policies	ns
Decision making by regional level 8 policies	0.103**
Satisfaction democracy en B	0.074*
Satisfaction policies regional executive	ns
Satisfaction policies federal I executive	-0.075*

Relation with attitudes cleavages WALL

	Spearman rho	$\hat{\eta}^2$
Religion		0.022**
Frequency attending religious services	ns	
Church involvement	ns	0.014*
Xenophobia	ns	
Left-Right scale	ns	
Gvt control vs freedom enterprise	-0.085*	
Environment vs economy	0.081**	
EU integration	ns	
Who decides: B vs reg?	ns	

Conclusion

- Flemish vs Belgian identity seems to be very cross-cutting with main other cleavages
- But also very cross-cutting with main general political attitudes
- Relations with attitudes that are related to Belgian or Flemish levels are strong, but direction of causality goes probably from identity → 'level attitudes'
- Territorial/national identity is probably mostly the effect of socialisation: by family, school, peers, personal experiences, medium term political agenda ('Leuven Vlaams'), etc.

→ MORE RESEARCH ON ORIGINS OF IDENTITY