

# Religion and Civic Integration: Cross-national comparison of Muslim immigrant youth in Europe

UCRC Migration Conference  
Rethymno GREECE

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### CILS\_Belgium Researchers



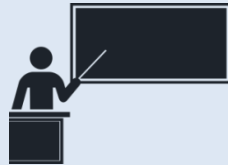
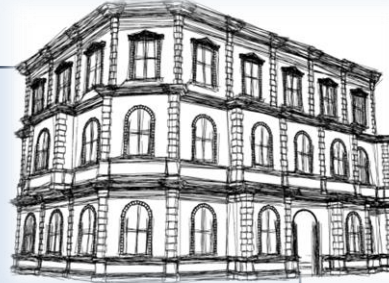
### International Partners CILS4EU:



# Children of Immigrants Longitudinal Study: CILS4EU+CILS\_B wave 1 data

## 5 countries:

Belgium (FL)  
Germany (W)  
Sweden  
Netherlands  
Britain (EN)



**n=1385 classes in n=550 schools**  
stratified random samples with 1/4  
<10%, 10-30%, 31-60%, > 60% immigrant  
origin students

## **N=24.000** youngsters:

2000 Muslim immigrant,  
7000 non-Muslim immigrant,  
15.000 non-immigrant majority  
(mean age =14)

# Ethnic Diversity = Multiple National Origins



How inclusive of *Muslim* immigrant minorities are national identities in Europe?

Is there evidence of a *religious* boundary excluding Muslim immigrants?

# Religion as Symbolic Boundary

Lurie's NewsCartoon



Earthquake

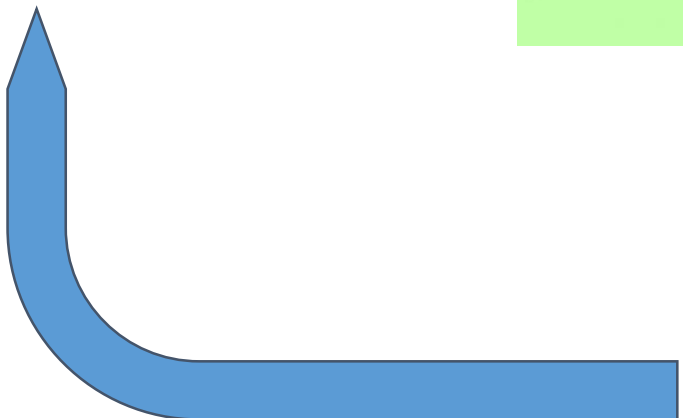
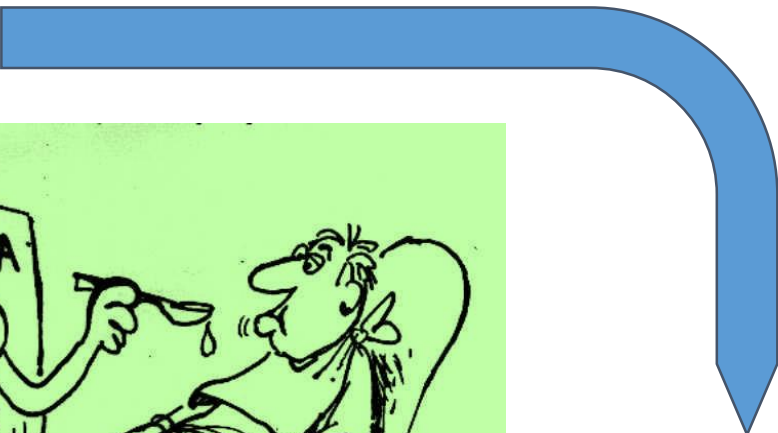


# Approach: Boundary Making

**MACRO**



**MACRO-CONSTRAINTS**



**MICRO-MECHANISMS**



**MICRO**

# Boundary Making: Macro-constraints

## COUNTRY DIFFERENCES IN RELIGIOUS BOUNDARIES

- SOCIAL STRATIFICATION
  - # degrees of 'Muslim disadvantage'
- INSTITUTIONAL ORDER
  - # degrees of religious accommodation
- PUBLIC PREJUDICE
  - # levels of religious discrimination

References: Fleischmann & Phalet (2011) in *Ethnic and Racial Studies*; Phalet, Fleischmann & Stojicic (2012) in Crul et al, eds, *The European Second Generation Compared*. Amsterdam U Press.



# Boundary Making: Micro-mechanisms

## INDIVIDUAL-LEVEL MEDIATORS OF RELIGIOUS BOUNDARIES

- **INDIVIDUAL RELIGIOSITY**
  - Religious identification, salience, practice
- **IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION**
  - Socio-economic, cultural, social integration
- **DISCRIMINATION**
  - perceived discrimination (ethnic, religious ...)

References: Fleischmann & Phalet (2011) in *Ethnic and Racial Studies*; Phalet, Fleischmann & Stojicic (2012) in Crul et al, eds, *The European Second Generation Compared*. Amsterdam U Press.

# Evidence of National Identification Gap

*Fleischmann, F. & Phalet, K. (2017). Religion and national identification in Europe: Comparing Muslim youth in B, UK, G, NL, SW. Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology.*

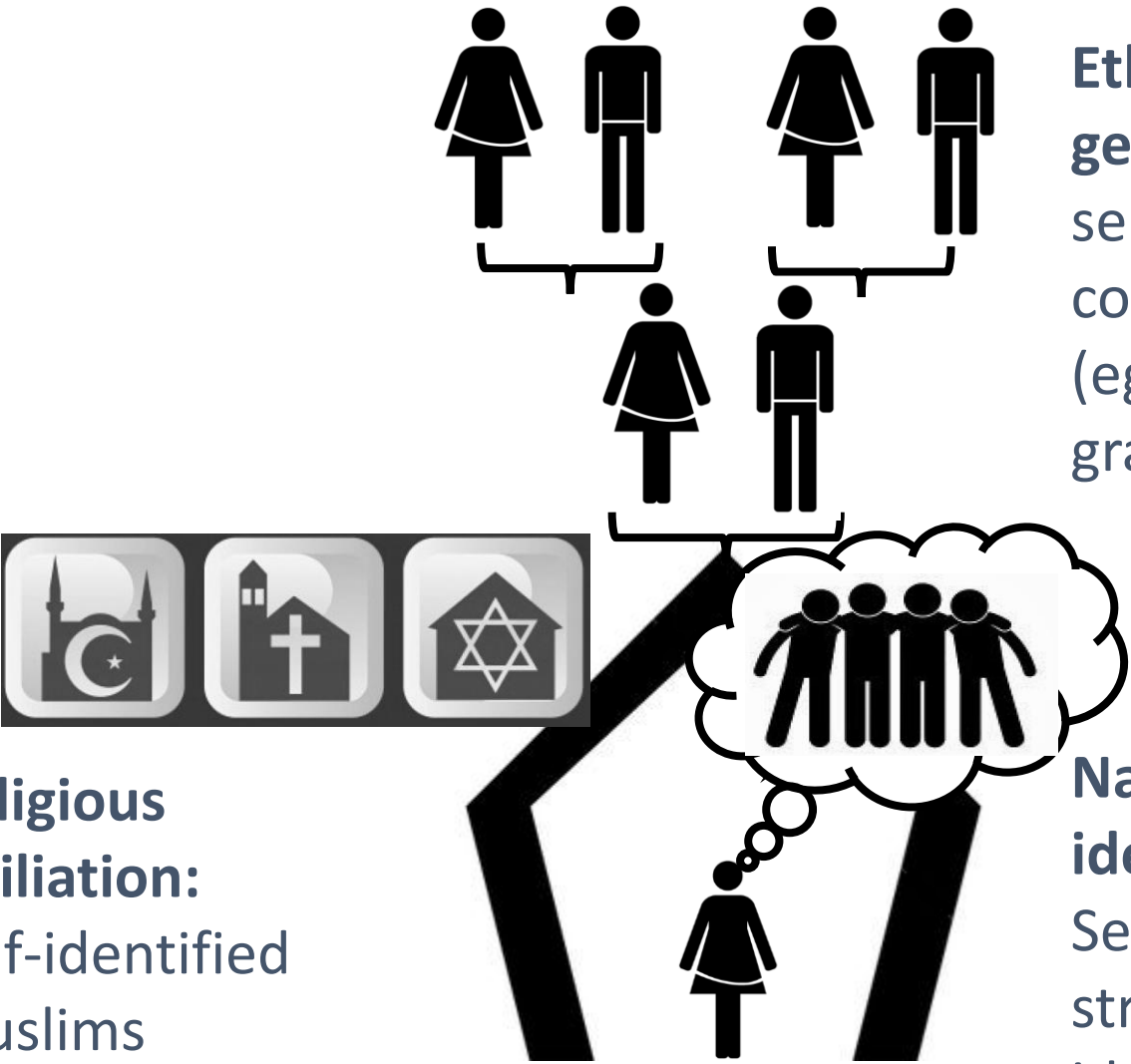
**Am I less (Belgian) than  
my (non-Muslim) peers?**



# **Question 1: Identification gap**

**Are Muslim immigrant youth less identified with their country of residence than other youth?**

# Ethnic, Religious, National Identities



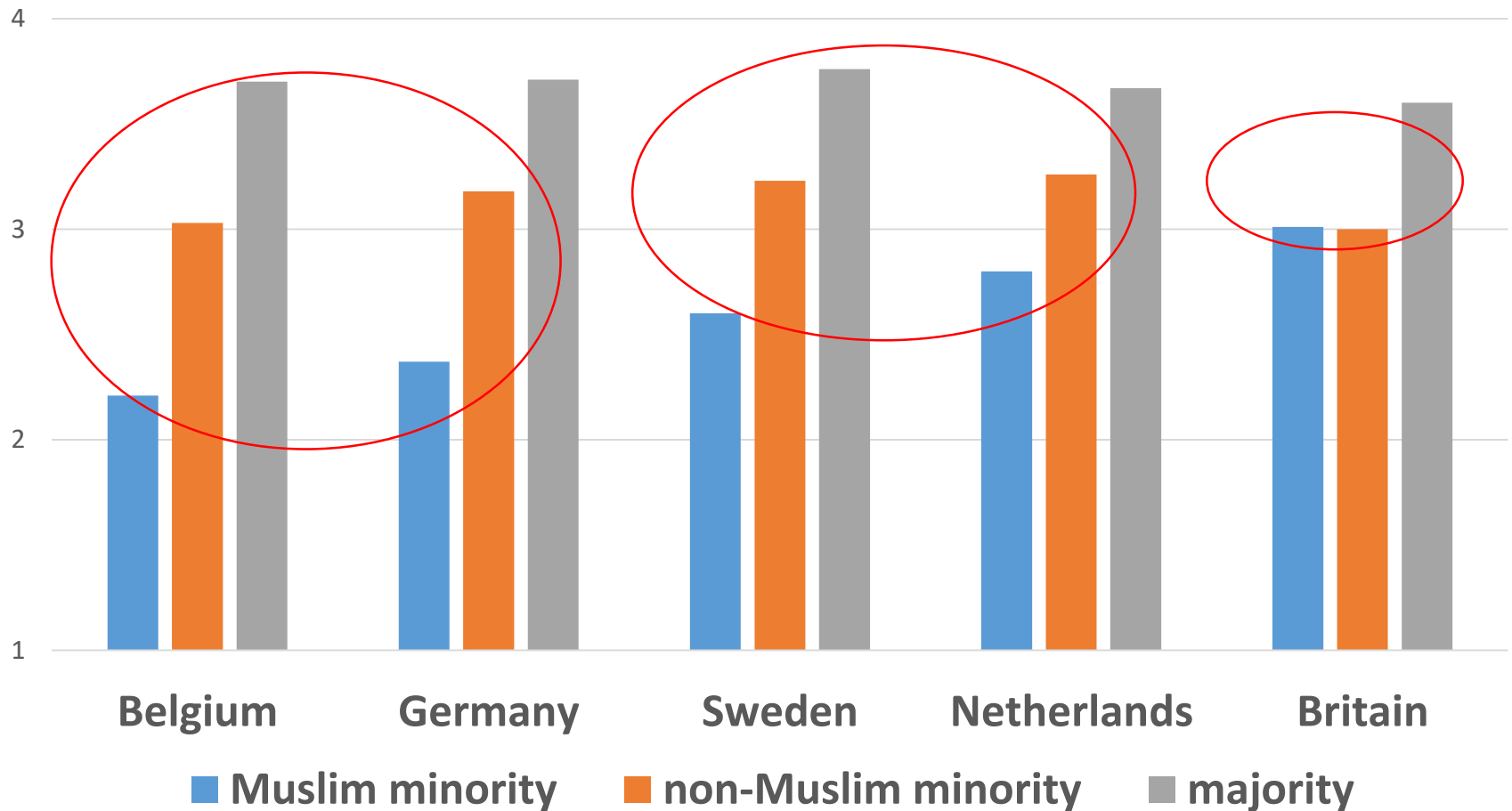
**Ethnic ancestry & generational status:**  
self-reported countries of birth (ego, parents & grandparents)

**Religious affiliation:**  
Self-identified Muslims

**National identification:**  
Self-reported strength of identification

# Gross Differences in National Identification

National Identification of Muslim immigrant minorities (vs. other minority & majority youth) in B, G, SW, NL, UK





# Demographic Measures

- **Gender, Age**
- **Ethnic Ancestry** (if 10%+ of Muslims in country)
  - Turkish in B, NL, G, SW
  - Moroccan in B NL, ex-Yugoslav in G, SW
  - Pakistani, Indian in UK, Iraqi in SW
- **Generation**
  - 4+ (=majority), 3rd, 2nd, 1rst (ego, parent and/or grandparent foreign-born?)
- **Human Capital**
  - Parental Education: 'both less than full secondary' (ref) to 'both completed tertiary' (dummies)

**Table 1. Regressions of national identification on Muslim religious affiliation by country, controlling for generational status and ethnic ancestry**

	Belgium	England	Germany	Netherlands	Sweden
Intercept	3.67 (.020) ***	3.61 (.016) ***	3.67 (.017) ***	3.64 (.013) ***	3.75 (.014) ***
Muslim 1 <sup>st</sup> generation	-1.58 (.051) ***	-0.98 (.069) ***	-1.34 (.066) ***	-0.96 (.070) ***	-1.18 (.051) ***
Muslim 2 <sup>nd</sup> generation	-1.31 (.051) ***	-0.64 (.055) ***	-1.13 (.046) ***	-0.85 (.058) ***	-1.09 (.036) ***
Muslim 3 <sup>rd</sup> generation	-1.27 (.139) ***	-0.49 (.149) **	-1.11 (.107) ***	-0.55 (.258) *	-0.74 (.235) **
Non-Muslim 1 <sup>st</sup> gen.	-1.46 (.044) ***	-1.08 (.039) ***	-1.26 (.048) ***	-0.79 (.054) ***	-1.25 (.040) ***
Non-Muslim 2 <sup>nd</sup> gen.	-0.89 (.042) ***	-0.56 (.033) ***	-0.77 (.033) ***	-0.57 (.032) ***	-0.78 (.027) ***
Non-Muslim 3 <sup>rd</sup> gen.	-0.32 (.051) ***	-0.38 (.035) ***	-0.15 (.040) ***	-0.22 (.035) ***	-0.17 (.031) ***
4 <sup>th</sup> + generation (ref.)	0	0	0	0	0
Turkish	-0.09 (.054)	n.a.	-0.24 (.045) ***	0.07 (.064)	-0.19 (.056) **
Moroccan	-0.18 (.050) ***	n.a.	n.a.	0.06 (.062)	n.a.
Pakistani	n.a.	0.25(.060) ***	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Indian	n.a.	0.08 (.094)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Ex-Yugoslavian	n.a.	n.a.	-0.37 (.059) ***	n.a.	-0.06 (.041)
Iraqi	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-0.09 (.053)
West Asian	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0.11 (.096)	n.a.
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	.393	.205	.358	.191	.368

Are Muslim immigrant minorities less identified than other minority and majority youth?

**YES** a significant religious boundary is superimposed on ethnic boundaries ...

- In **ALL** countries **EXCEPT** England
- **NOT** restricted to major ethnic ancestry groups
- **NOT** restricted to first generation of immigrants proper

## **Question 2**

### **Macro-constraints**

**Do identification gaps reflect country differences in religious accommodation of Islam?**

# Religious Accommodation: Cross-national Comparison

**LATER & LESS COMPLETE  
ACCOMMODATION**

**=> NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION**

Muslim < non-Muslim  
immigrants & majority

**EARLIER & MORE COMPLETE  
ACCOMMODATION**

**=> NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION**

Muslim ~ non-Muslim  
immigrants & majority





## Table 2. Three-level OLS regression of national identification across 5 countries

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5
Intercept	3.59 (.020) ***	3.63 (.018) ***	3.73 (.031) ***	3.20 (.061) ***	2.50 (.067) ***
Muslim 1 <sup>st</sup> generation	-1.32 (.043) ***	-1.48 (.043) ***	-1.32 (.046) ***	-0.94 (.051) ***	-0.83 (.051) ***
Muslim 2 <sup>nd</sup> generation	-1.09 (.032) ***	-1.25 (.036) ***	-1.11 (.037) ***	-0.75 (.043) ***	-0.64 (.042) ***
Muslim 3 <sup>rd</sup> generation	-0.99 (.093) ***	-1.15 (.085) ***	-1.03 (.092) ***	-0.71 (.093) ***	-0.59 (.087) ***
Non-Muslim 1 <sup>st</sup> gen.	-1.18 (.032) ***	-1.20 (.033) ***	-1.12 (.034) ***	-0.77 (.040) ***	-0.67 (.038) ***
Non-Muslim 2 <sup>nd</sup> gen.	-0.71 (.021) ***	-0.72 (.021) ***	-0.66 (.020) ***	-0.43 (.023) ***	-0.34 (.021) ***
Non-Muslim 3 <sup>rd</sup> gen.	-0.24 (.018) ***	-0.24 (.018) ***	-0.23 (.018) ***	-0.19 (.017) ***	-0.16 (.017) ***
4+ generation (ref.)	0	0	0	0	0
Belgium	-0.20 (.042) ***	-0.14 (.042) **	-0.13 (.038) **	-0.10 (.037) **	-0.16 (.032) ***
England	0.11 (.027) ***	0.01 (.024)	0.02 (.025)	-0.05 (.027) *	-0.07 (.029) *
Germany (ref.)	0	0	0	0	0
Netherlands	0.13 (.024) ***	0.05 (.023) *	0.03 (.023)	0.04 (.023)	-0.05 (.023) *
Sweden	0.13 (.023) ***	0.08 (.023) ***	0.05 (.023) *	0.04 (.025)	0.03 (.023)
Muslim * Belgium		-0.17 (.068) *	-0.16 (.074) *	-0.22 (.072) **	-0.22 (.070) **
Muslim * England		0.67 (.058) ***	0.69 (.061) ***	0.64 (.066) ***	0.69 (.065) ***
Muslim * Netherlands		0.46 (.057) ***	0.48 (.056) ***	0.45 (.056) ***	0.57 (.057) ***
Muslim * Sweden		0.24 (.050) ***	0.22 (.051) ***	0.18 (.051) ***	0.20 (.050) ***
Religious salience			-0.05 (.010) ***	-0.03 (.009) ***	-0.02 (.009) *
Religious practice			0.00 (.010)	0.00 (.010)	0.01 (.009)
Prayer			-0.03 (.007) ***	-0.02 (.007) **	-0.02 (.007) **
Female			0.01 (.012)	0.01 (.012)	0.00 (.012)
Age (centered 0=14)			-0.03 (.009) **	-0.03 (.009) **	-0.01 (.009)
Parental educ. primary (ref)			0	0	0
One secondary			0.03 (.026)	0.03 (.026)	0.02 (.026)
Both secondary			0.09 (.020) ***	0.07 (.020) ***	0.04 (.020) *
One tertiary			0.08 (.023) **	0.06 (.024) **	0.03 (.023)
Both tertiary			0.11 (.023) ***	0.10 (.024) ***	0.05 (.023) *
Both missing			0.02 (.029)	0.02 (.028)	0.03 (.028)
Verbal ability test				-0.00 (.002) *	-0.01 (.002) **
Nat. language mastery				0.14 (.011) ***	0.13 (.011) ***
Other language at home				-0.40 (.024) ***	-0.33 (.023) ***
Share of majority friends					0.16 (.008) ***
Discrimination in school					-0.09 (.010) ***
Residential segregation					0.05 (.007) ***
Residual variance					
Individual level	.627	.620	.599	.577	.532
Class level	.017	.016	.012	.012	.012
School level	.023	.015	.014	.014	.010

# Do country differences in religious accommodation matter?

**YES** Muslim-non-Muslim Identification gap is larger in B than in G and smaller in UK, NL and SW than in G

Country differences are **NOT** likely due to ...

- differential selection/timing of Muslim immigration (controls for human capital & generational status)
- socio-demographic composition of Muslim samples (controls for age, gender, ethnic ancestry ...)

# **Question 3**

## **Micro-mechanisms**

**Are identification gaps mediated by individual religiosity, social integration, or perceived discrimination?**

# Religiosity Measures

- **Religious Affiliation**

- Christian
- Muslim
- Other
- None

- **Religious Salience**

- ‘How important is religion to you?’ 1-4

- **Religious Practice**

- ‘How often do you visit a religious meeting place?’ 1-5
- ‘How often do you pray?’ 1-6

# Integration & Discrimination Measures

- **Language**

- Verbal ability test (synonym or antonym vocabulary test)
- Language mastery (self-report, 4 items, 1-5, alpha = .89)
- Ethnic language use (yes/no)

- **Social Integration (vs. segregation)**

- Majority friends ('How many of your friends ...?' 1-5)
- Majority neighbors ('How many people in your neighborhood ...?' 1-5)

- **Discrimination**

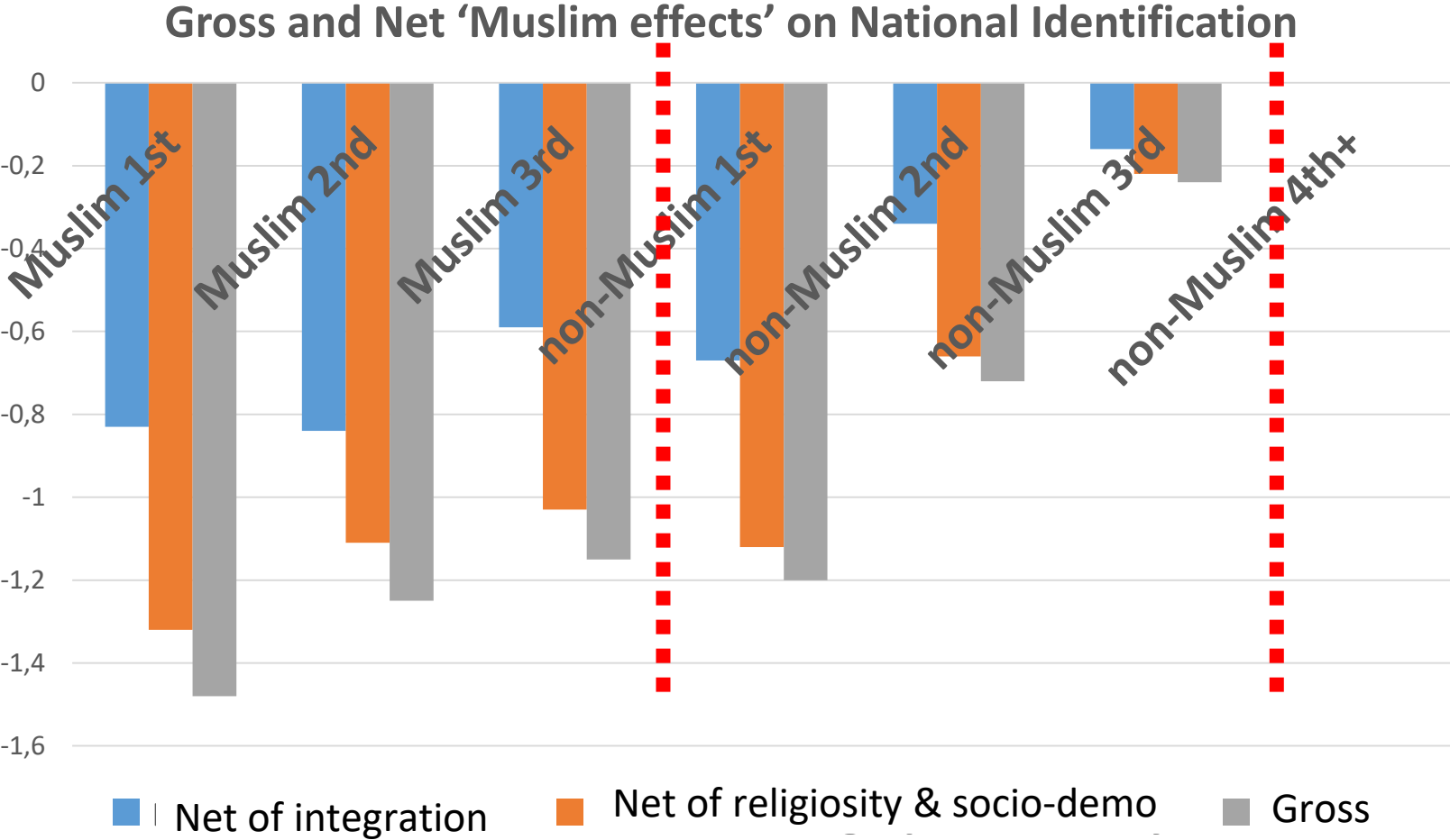
- Personal discrimination ('How often do you experience ... in school?' 1-4)



# Table 3. Multi-level multi-group models of national identification in 5 countries

	Belgium	England	Germany	Netherlands	Sweden
Intercept	2.22 (.021) ***	2.92 (.158) ***	2.36 (.011) ***	2.59 (.013) ***	1.56 (.011) ***
Muslim 1 <sup>st</sup> generation	-1.10 (.110) ***	-0.52 (.043) ***	-0.52 (.043) ***	-0.29 (.085) **	-0.52 (.043) ***
Muslim 2 <sup>nd</sup> generation	-0.80 (.090) ***	-0.16 (.039) ***	-0.45 (.037) ***	-0.16 (.039) ***	-0.45 (.037) ***
Muslim 3 <sup>rd</sup> generation	-0.87 (.218) ***	-0.11 (.085)	-0.32 (.089) ***	-0.11 (.085)	-0.11 (.085)
Non-Muslim 1 <sup>st</sup> gen.	-1.00 (.103) ***	-0.71 (.062) ***	-0.56 (.038) ***	-0.30 (.074) ***	-0.56 (.038) ***
Non-Muslim 2 <sup>nd</sup> gen.	-0.50 (.059) ***	-0.26 (.024) ***	-0.26 (.024) ***	-0.26 (.024) ***	-0.39 (.031) ***
Non-Muslim 3 <sup>rd</sup> gen.	-0.15 (.016) ***	-0.15 (.016) ***	-0.15 (.016) ***	-0.15 (.016) ***	-0.15 (.016) ***
4 <sup>+</sup> generation (ref.)	0	0	0	0	0
Religious importance	-0.06 (.022) **	0.02 (.014)	-0.04 (.013) **	-0.01 (.013)	-0.03 (.011) **
Religious attendance <sup>o</sup>	0.00 (.005)	0.01 (.005)	0.01 (.005)	0.01 (.005)	0.01 (.005)
Prayer	-0.02 (.005) **	-0.02 (.005) **	-0.02 (.005) **	-0.02 (.005) **	-0.02 (.005) **
Female	0.09 (.032) **	-0.07 (.030) *	-0.03 (.021)	-0.04 (.022)	0.00 (.021)
Age (centered 0=14) <sup>o</sup>	0.00 (.005)	0.01 (.005)	0.01 (.005)	0.01 (.005)	0.01 (.005)
Parental educ. primary (ref.)	0	0	0	0	0
One secondary <sup>o</sup>	0.00 (.005)	0.00 (.005)	0.00 (.005)	0.01 (.005)	0.01 (.005)
Both secondary	-0.01 (.051)	-0.00 (.026)	0.09 (.030) **	0.06 (.029)	0.04 (.028)
One tertiary	0.13 (.043) **	-0.12 (.037) **	0.12 (.042) **	0.03 (.036)	-0.00 (.028)
Both tertiary	0.07 (.043)	-0.11 (.035) **	0.14 (.045) **	0.02 (.041)	0.06 (.028) *
Both missing <sup>o</sup>	0.00 (.005)	0.00 (.005)	0.01 (.005)	0.01 (.005)	0.01 (.005)
Verbal ability	-0.02 (.004) ***	-0.02 (.005) ***	-0.01 (.003) *	-0.01 (.002) **	0.01 (.002) **
Host-country language mastery	0.09 (.015) ***	0.13 (.026) ***	0.19 (.017) ***	0.15 (.012) ***	0.32 (.015) ***
Other language at home	-0.28 (.059) ***	-0.23 (.043) ***	-0.52 (.032) ***	-0.26 (.034) ***	-0.32 (.032) ***
Share of majority friends	0.26 (.017) ***	0.08 (.013) ***	0.15 (.012) ***	0.14 (.012) ***	0.14 (.011) ***
Discrimination in school	-0.10 (.008) ***	-0.10 (.008) ***	-0.10 (.008) ***	-0.10 (.008) ***	-0.10 (.008) ***
Residential segregation	0.10 (.019) ***	0.05 (.015) ***	0.04 (.012) **	0.02 (.009) *	0.04 (.010) ***
Residual variance					
Individual level	.878	.454	.523	.393	.354
Class level	.021	.002	.007	.008	.004
School level	.009	.012	.003	.003	.002

# Religiosity, Integration & Discrimination: Germany as an Example



# Are identification gaps mediated by individual religiosity, integration or discrimination?

**YES** in all countries we explain national identification:

- individual religiosity, social integration & discrimination **ALL** significantly mediate the immigrant non-immigrant gap
- **ONLY** religiosity & social integration mediate **Muslim** non-Muslim gap in national identification
- **AND** countries still differ after taking into account individual religiosity, integration & discrimination:
  - Pos net gap in UK!
  - No net gap in NL & SW
  - Sign net gaps remain in G & B

Conclusion: Mind the gap!

National identities in Europe are least  
inclusive of *Muslim* (vs. other)  
immigrant minorities

# 3 Take-home Messages: Immigrant Religion & Civic Integration

Cross-national evidence of a *religious* boundary excluding Muslim immigrants from national identities

→ **Psychological measures of self-identification reveal national identification gaps at a young age -- with implications for the education of future citizens**

Institutional accommodation (macro) and individual integration measures (micro) both explain part of the identification gap

→ **Need for interdisciplinary multi-level approaches of immigrant integration and citizenship**

Country differences in size of the gaps between Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden and England

→ **Cross-national comparison can challenge historically rooted and often highly politicized exclusionary definitions of the national identity**

**Thank you!**

**Questions? Comments?**



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