

# **Making regional citizens? Drivers and effects of subnational immigrant integration policies**

*Special Issue introductory article (Regional Studies)*

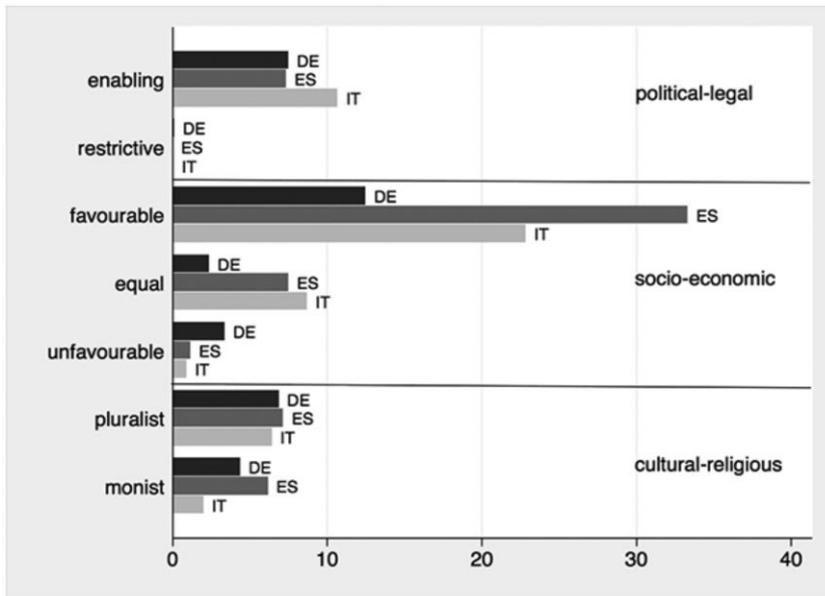
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## Point of departure

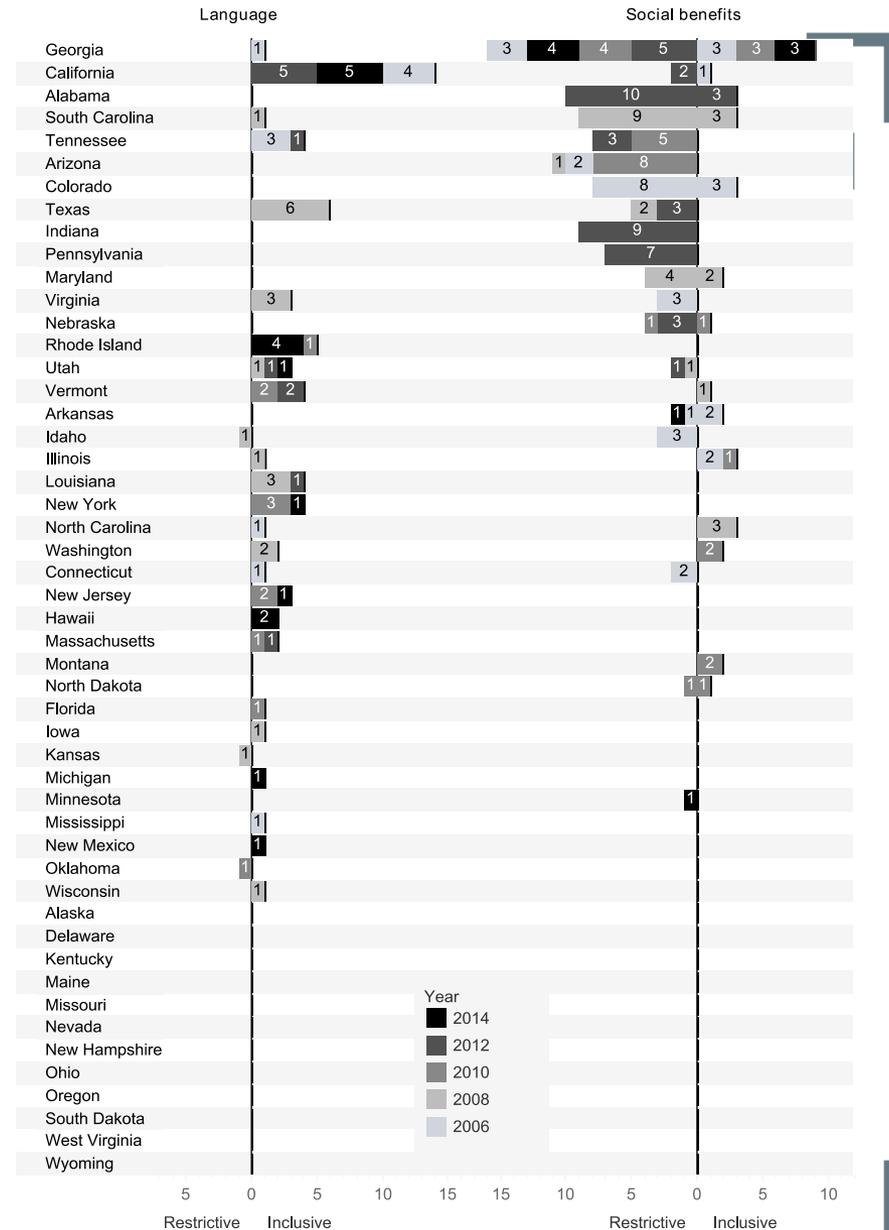
- The rescaling of social policy to the sub-national level (Vampa, 2016, p. 2) has turned immigrant integration into a major competence of regional authorities
- Across the globe, decentralization reforms have decisively increased regional authority over policy areas directly related to steering processes of immigrant integration

(Caponio and Jones-Correa 2018,  
Joppke and Seidle 2012, Spiro 2002)

# Point of departure II



Source: Zuber, SI contribution



Source: Filindra and Manatschal, SI contribution

## Research gap and contribution SI

- The Special Issue provides the first systematic, internationally comparative analysis of regional immigrant integration policy, its drivers, and outcomes
- Contribution and connection of two fields:
  - Migration research (neglect of regional level)
  - Territorial politics (neglect of migration in regional welfare state research)

## Structure SI

- Aim *introductory article*: theorise under which conditions regions produce in- or exclusive policies, and how these policies impact immigrant integration
- Confront theoretical expectations with findings from **7 original contributions**
  - Cross-regional (and cross-national) comparative analyses of subnational policies in five federations (Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, USA) and two decentralized unions (UK and Italy)
  - Cases represent heterogeneous immigration contexts (settler state, post-World War II immigration, recent immigration)
  - Combination of European cases with the US federation
- **Concluding essay**: to be written in spring 2019 by Michael Tatham

## Theoretical expectations I: Convergence

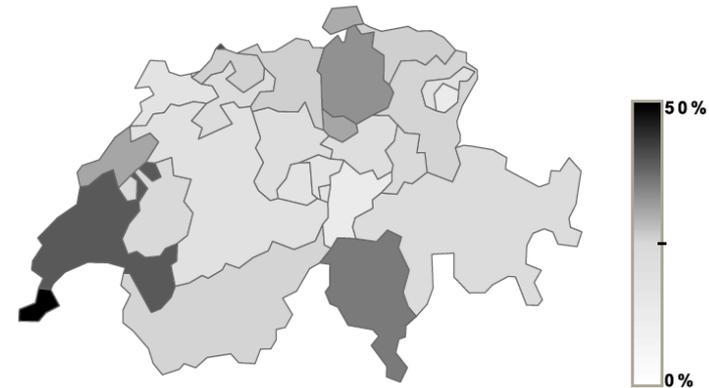
- Convergence due to regional pragmatism?
  - Inspired by local pragmatism thesis (Emilsson 2015) and regional welfare state research (Keating 2017):  
predominance of **social-economic** policies expected
- Regionalist politics?
  - Regions with strong peripheral identities mobilize also identitarian aspects of integration via the **cultural** policy dimension, in-/exclusive policies, depending on regional ideology (e.g. Wisthaler 2016, Hepburn 2011)

# Theoretical expectations II: Divergence

SFM

Switzerland

- Structural incentives?
  - Foreign born share
  - Urbanization
  - Regional gdp (economic interests)
- ...Or politics?
  - Multi-level party politics
  - Public attitudes
  - Historical legacy (e.g. minority nationalism)



Cantonal foreign born shares in percent; source: OFS, introductory article SI Manatschal et al.

(e.g. Koopmans et al. 2012, Manatschal 2012, Filindra 2018)

## Theoretical expectations II: Policy outcomes

- National migration research
  - Mixed results: Tendency for better integration outcomes with inclusive policies (e.g. Bloemraad 2006, Wright and Bloemraad 2012)
  - But also segregationist potential (see Koopmans 2010)
- Shortcoming of national studies: regional level closer to immigrants everyday lives and integration processes  
→ more adequate level to study policy outcomes  
(Kesler and Bloemraad 2012, Gundelach and Manatschal 2017)

# Contributions

Contribution	Convergence	Divergence	Outcomes
Piccoli (IT and ESP regions)	Left-wing gov. & history of solidarity → inclusive access to health care	Divergence explained by party ideology as well as presence of anti-imm. parties	
Zuber (IT, ESP and GER regions)	Regional dominance of soc.-econ. policies	Dito & regionalist parties	
Xhardez (BEL regions)	Policy convergence across regions (yet: restrictive turn)		
Wisthaler (UK regions)		Counter example: no divergence due to historical legacy	
Bennour (CH cantons)			Intention to naturalize higher in inclusive cantons
Filindra & Manatschal (US states)			Governor approval higher in inclusive, and lower in exclusive states; Voting propensity higher in exclusive states
Schmidtke (DE Länder)			Länder policies affect integration

## Concluding remarks

Contributions to this SI reveal bustling regional integration policy making activity

- Policy convergence: Predominance of socio-economic policies across (ordinary) regions (pragmatism and regional welfare states)
- Patterns of regional policy divergence, explained by party politics and historical legacy (minority regions)
- Regional integration policies shape individual prospects to become «citizens of the region»

## Concluding remarks II

### Additional findings

- Federalism is no necessary condition for subnational integration policy making activity/diversity
- Regions assume different roles: Policy innovators, gap fillers, mediators between levels of government, alternative loci of belonging

### What comes next?

- Research beyond post-industrialized democracies (e.g. subnational regions in Latin America, Asia)
- Additional integration policy fields (e.g. anti-discrimination, civic-political realm)
- Etc.