Doing research on transnational activity and European identity using Eurobarometer surveys: prospects and challenges
Overview

1. The DFG Research Unit Horizontal Europeanization

2. Our research
   a) Stratification of transnational activity
   b) European identity/ sense of community
   c) Europeanization of Practices and Attitudes

3. Prospects

4. Challenges

5. Summary
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Subproject 4
The New Europeans: Cross-border Interactions and Transnational Identities

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Emanuel Deutschmann
Jacobs University Bremen

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Jacobs University Bremen

Cross-border Interactions
Activities/Practices: Travel to other European countries | studying abroad | partner from abroad | following international news | etc.

Transactionalist Theory
(Karl Deutsch 1957)

Transnational Identities
Attitudes: European Identity | European Sense of Community
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Stratification of Transnational Activity

Dataset: Special EB 73.3 “New Europeans”


Table 1. Items used for the transnationalism index.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Lived abroad: You have lived for reasons other than study or work for at least three consecutive months in another country than (OUR COUNTRY).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Studied abroad: You have attended school or studied for at least half an academic year in another country than (OUR COUNTRY).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Worked abroad: You have worked (including volunteering and traineeships) for at least three consecutive months in another country than (OUR COUNTRY).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Foreign language: You are fluent in at least one other language than (INTERVIEW LANGUAGE).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bi-national partnership: You live or have lived with a partner of a different citizenship than your own.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Friends from abroad: You have close friends in (OUR COUNTRY) who have moved here from abroad.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Friends abroad: You have close friends who live in another country than (OUR COUNTRY).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Relatives abroad: You have close relatives (brothers, sisters, children, parents) who live in another country than (OUR COUNTRY).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Foreign food: You regularly eat food at home that is typical of another country than (OUR COUNTRY).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Foreign news, culture, sports: You regularly follow news, cultural life or sports from another country than (OUR COUNTRY).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Holidays abroad: You regularly spend your holidays/weekends in one particular country other than (OUR COUNTRY).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Property abroad: You own real estate property/properties in another country than (OUR COUNTRY) (not timesharing).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Obtained from EB 73.3, QB6.
Socioeconomic status, standard of living and transnational activity
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Attachment to other European countries

Dataset:
Special EB 73.3 “New Europeans”
DV: QB10a/b

"Which country other than (OUR COUNTRY) do you feel the most attached to?"

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# Europeanization of Practices and Attitudes

## TABLE 1. Domains studied and data sources for the three reference frames

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Nation</th>
<th>Europe</th>
<th>World</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Practices</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mobility</td>
<td>Having moved to…</td>
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<td>Traveling</td>
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<td>EB66.1</td>
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<td>Family relations</td>
<td>Having a family member living in…</td>
<td>Guesstimate</td>
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<td>Consumption</td>
<td>Purchase of goods and services from…</td>
<td>EB69.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attitudes</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest culture</td>
<td>Interest in arts and culture of…</td>
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<td>Identity</td>
<td>Personal feeling of being…</td>
<td>EB71.3</td>
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<td>Solidarity</td>
<td>Feeling concerned about living conditions of…</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mobility intention</td>
<td>Intention to move to…</td>
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<td>EB70.1</td>
<td>EB70.1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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Prospects

• Accessibility
• Coverage
  a) Over space
  b) Over time
• Availability of transnational activity and identity data
• Network data
• Possibilities for over-time comparisons
Prospects

• Accessibility
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Prospects

• Accessibility

• Coverage
  a) Over space
  b) Over time

• Availability of transnational activity and identity data

• Network data

• Possibilities for over-time comparisons
Coverage

Eurobarometer
EU 27+
twice a year since 1973

EU Cross
6 countries (Denmark, Germany, Italy, Romania, Spain and the United Kingdom)
One shot
Availability of transnational activity and identity data

• Not available for other world regions
• Not available in World Values Survey or ISSP
• EB questions as a model for EUCROSS questionnaire formulation

→ Dialogue with EUCROSS on how to improve EB questions
Network data

Dataset:
Special EB 73.3 “New Europeans”
DV: QB10a/b

"Which country other than (OUR COUNTRY) do you feel the most attached to?"
### European Identity

“In the near future do you see yourself as ... ?

*(NATIONALITY) only

*(NATIONALITY) and European

European and *(NATIONALITY)

European only”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eurobarometer</th>
<th>Fieldwork Month</th>
<th>Fieldwork Year</th>
<th>Question Number</th>
<th>Variable Name</th>
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<td>Q.33</td>
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<td>40</td>
<td>10-11</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Q.36</td>
<td>V88</td>
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<td>1994</td>
<td>Q.22</td>
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<td>1995</td>
<td>Q.23</td>
<td>V222</td>
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<td>1995</td>
<td>Q.25</td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>Q.17</td>
<td>V111-V113</td>
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<td>Q.10</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Q.32</td>
<td></td>
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<td>3-3</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Q.32</td>
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<td>GD5</td>
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<td>QC2</td>
<td></td>
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<td>5-6</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>QB3</td>
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<td>82.3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>QB3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Challenges

• Competition
• Lack of acceptance
  – General resistance
  – Class variable
• Lack of over-time consistency
• Lack of comprehensiveness
Challenges

• Competition
  • Lack of acceptance
    – General resistance
    – Class variable
  • Lack of over-time consistency
  • Lack of comprehensiveness
Challenges

• Competition
• Lack of acceptance
  – General resistance
  – Class variable
• Lack of over-time consistency
• Lack of comprehensiveness
General resistance – What a reviewer told us

“notoriously flimsy (but super convenient) Eurobarometer data”

“Countless researchers have shown repeatedly that Eurobarometer methods, questions, summaries and general framing, cannot be trusted and should never be used on their own, without proper triangulation with independently constructed research and non-standard survey instruments.”

“The authors should take this questionnaire they use themselves, and see whether these questions make any sense in the dumbed-down Eurobarometer terms they use—something they would have been forced to do if they were engaged in the genuine business of constructing a survey rather than simply piggy-backing on found data sets.”

“What sense is there in comparing Cyprus with Germany in a quantitative analysis of 27 countries, flattened of all genuine variation and social/geographical complexity? None at all, I would say. This is most feeble kind of "social science" licensed by this easy to use ready made Euro-data. In my view, an empirical paper based alone on a small handful of questions from one single Eurobarometer survey should never be published. But it is becoming the norm in our profession.”
Lack of acceptance – Class variable

Eurobarometer class scheme
(c14 respondent occupation scale)
self-employed | managers | other white collars | manual workers | House person | unemployed | retired | students

EGP class scheme
Higher service | Lower service | skilled manual | semi-unskilled manual | farm workers

Merge Special EB 73.3 “New Europeans” with Special EB 73.3 “Electromagnetic Fields”

Two-digit ISCO88 classification variable

Ganzeboom & Treiman 1996 conversion table
Lack of over-time consistency

Do you ever think of yourself not only as (nationality) citizen, but also as a citizen of Europe? Does this happen often, sometimes or never?  
EB 27 to 36, and 37.0

Thinking about this, to what extent do you personally feel you are ...  
1.European  
2.(NATIONALITY)  
3.Inhabitant of your region  
4.A citizen of the world  
EB 69.2, 71.3

In the near future do you see yourself as ... ?  
1.(NATIONALITY) only  
2.(NATIONALITY) and European  
3.European and (NATIONALITY)  
4.European only  
EB 37ff.

In the near future do you see yourself as ... ?  
1.(NATIONALITY) only  
2.(NATIONALITY) and European  
3.European only  
EB 61

In the near future do you see yourself as ... ?  
1.(NATIONALITY) only  
2.(NATIONALITY) and European  
3.European and (NATIONALITY)  
4.European only  
5.None (SPONTANEOUS)  
6.Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)  
EB 73.4 ff.

For each of the following statements, please tell me to what extent it corresponds or not to your own opinion...  
• You feel you are a citizen of the EU  
EB 73.4
Lack of comprehensiveness

• No non-European countries
  → possibility for cooperation with other members of the global barometer family?
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Summary

• EB is a great data source for doing research on transnational activity and European identity, easily accessible and with excellent coverage

• Challenges include the lack of acceptance and over-time-consistency

• Desirable: increased consistency, comprehensiveness and dialogue with other Barometers
Literature


