

Debates on Secularism and Sense of Belonging among Racialized Immigrants in Quebec

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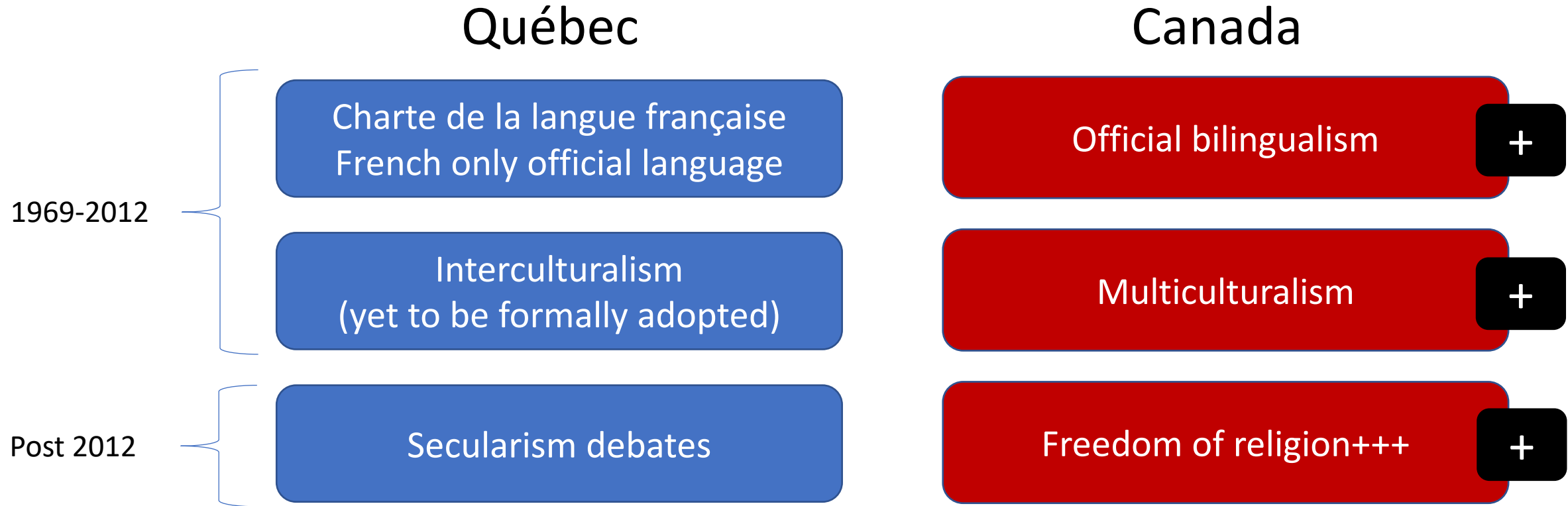
Context

- Question: Have debates on secularism had an impact on immigrants' sense of belonging in Quebec? And if so, how?
- Few studies on effects on minority groups
 - Exceptions: Magnan and Larochelle-Audet (2018); Tremblay et al. (2018); Doering and Peker (2022)
- Contribution of our study
 - Present evidence on the evolution of belonging during debates on secularism
 - Examine the effects of debates on secularism on religious minorities, but also on other minority groups

Hypotheses

- Debates on secularism more focused on religious minorities, and opposition legislative proposal was stronger among non-French-speaking communities
 - Hypothesis 1. Group-specific effects
 - Debates on secularism had a (negative) impact on belonging only among religious minorities (non-Christian) and non-Francophones
- But debates on secularism also prompted a broader questioning about QC's relationship with immigration and ethnocultural diversity
 - Hypothesis 2. Generalized effects
 - Debates on secularism had a (negative) impact on belonging among all minority groups in Quebec

Quebec & Canada: Two political communities in complementarity or competition?



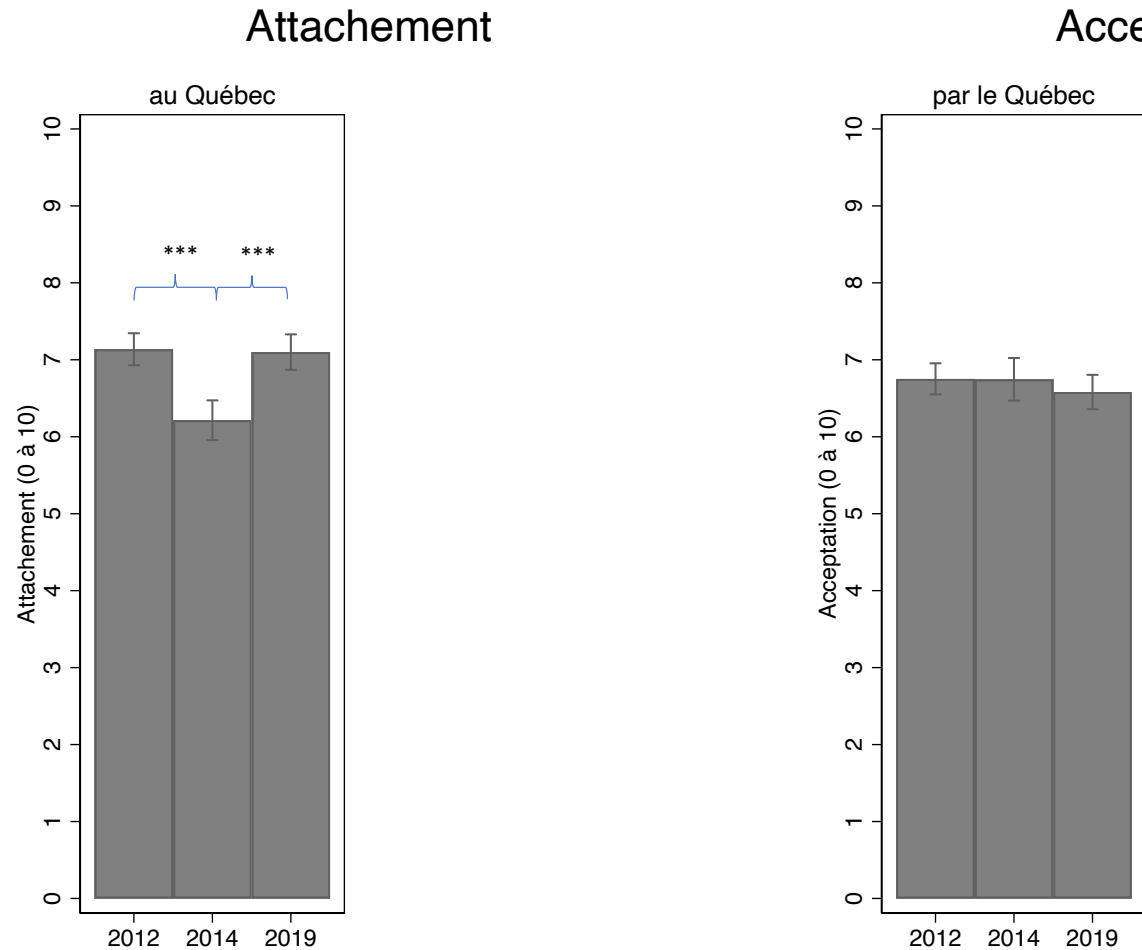
- A (seemingly) more flexible Canadian context of belonging
- If the "perceived welcomeness" of one community declines, belonging to the other could rise

Methods

- Study based on three surveys
 - 2012 - QC Visible Minority Election Study
 - 2014 - Provincial Diversity Project (visible minority segment in QC)
 - 2019 - Participatory strategies of immigrants in QC
- Three surveys with similar methodologies
 - Léger web panel, same recruitment, same questions
- Samples of racialized immigrants
 - 2012 (443); 2014 (315); 2019 (574)
- Sense of belonging
 - Belonging to Quebec and Canada, and the gap between the two
 - Attachment and sense of acceptance

Evolution of sense of belonging 2012 - 2019

Figure 1. Attachement et acceptation
chez les immigrants racisés (2012, 2014 et 2019)



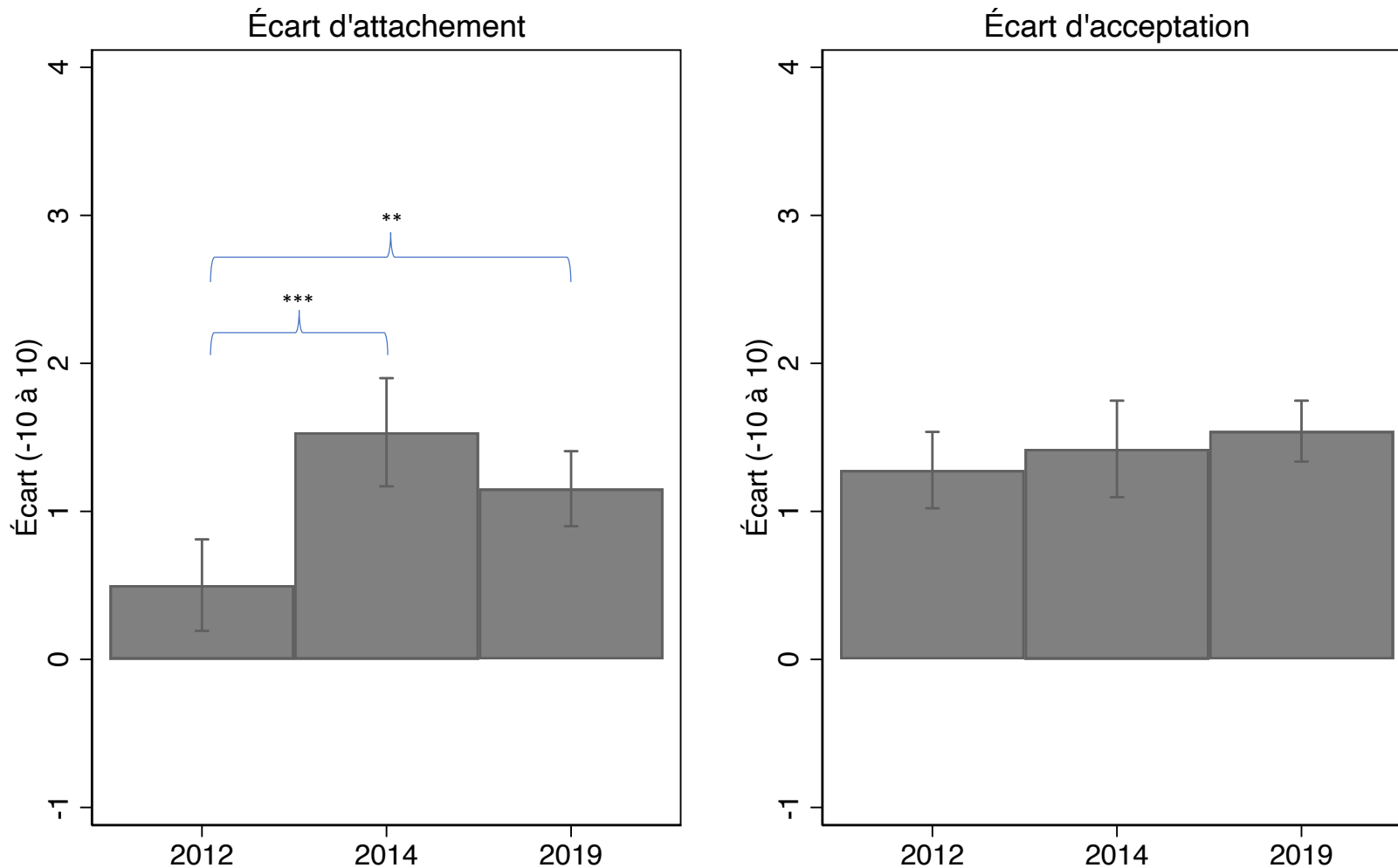
Différences statistiquement significatives à $p < .001$ (***), $p < .01$ (**) et $p < .05$ (*)

No objective
decline in
attachment to
Quebec

but an increase in
attachment to
Canada

No movement in
relation to
acceptance

Figure 2. Écarts d'attachement et d'acceptation CAN-QC chez les immigrants racisés (2012, 2014 et 2019)



Écarts prédits dérivés des analyses multivariées présentées dans le Tableau 1.
Différences statistiquement significatives à $p < .001$ (***) , $p < .01$ (**) et $p < .05$ (*)

The relative balance of CAN-QC attachment changes between 2012 and 2019

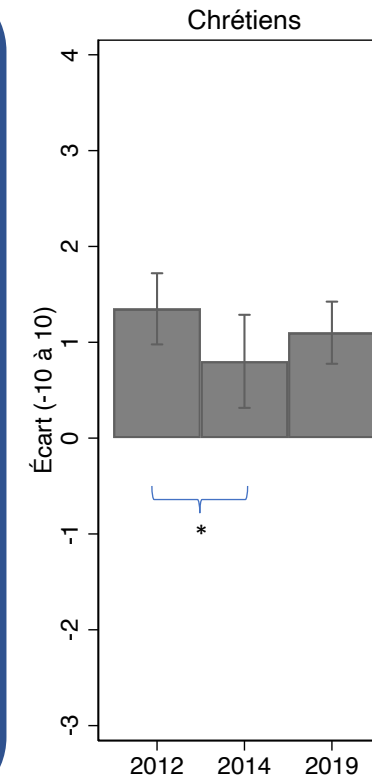
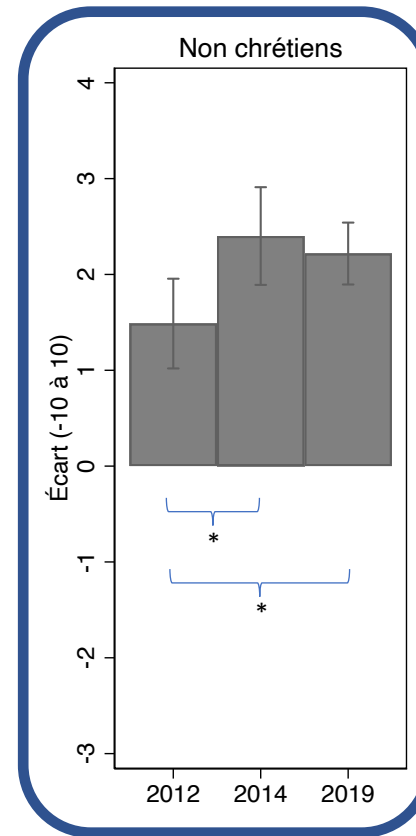
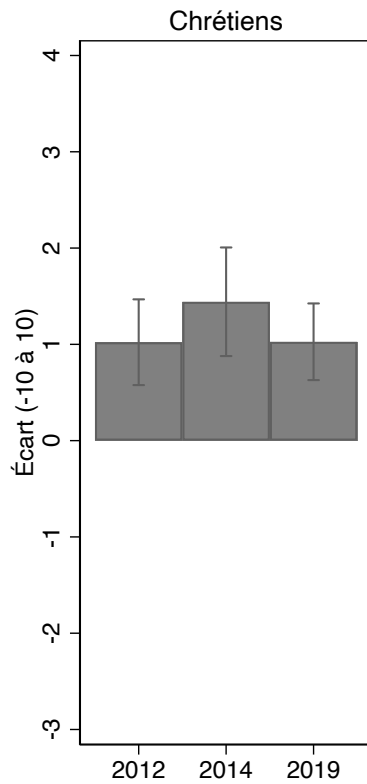
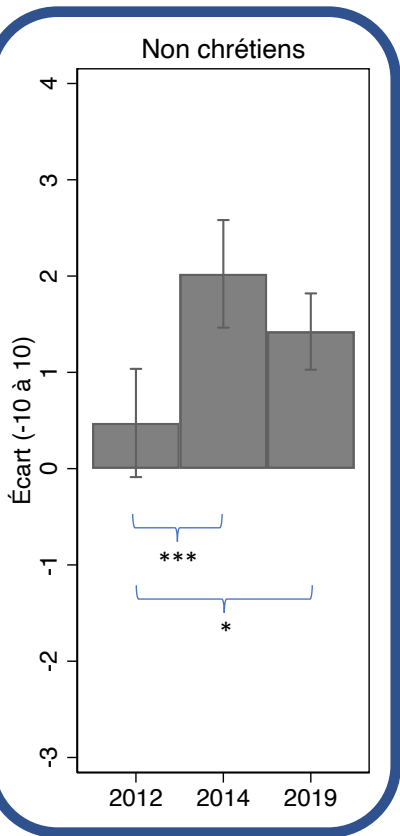
Is this change confined to certain groups or generalized to all racialized immigrants?

Group-specific or generalized effects?

Figure 3: Sense of belonging Canada-Quebec gap, by religion

Écart d'attachement

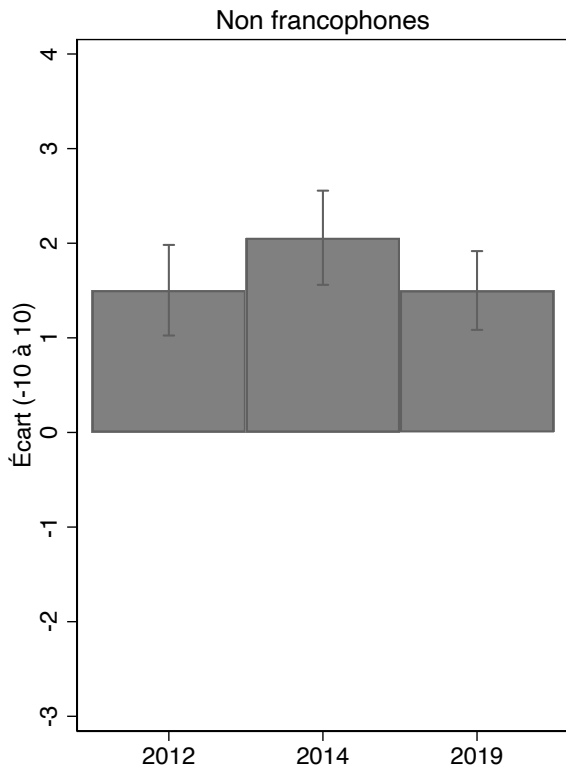
Écart d'acceptation



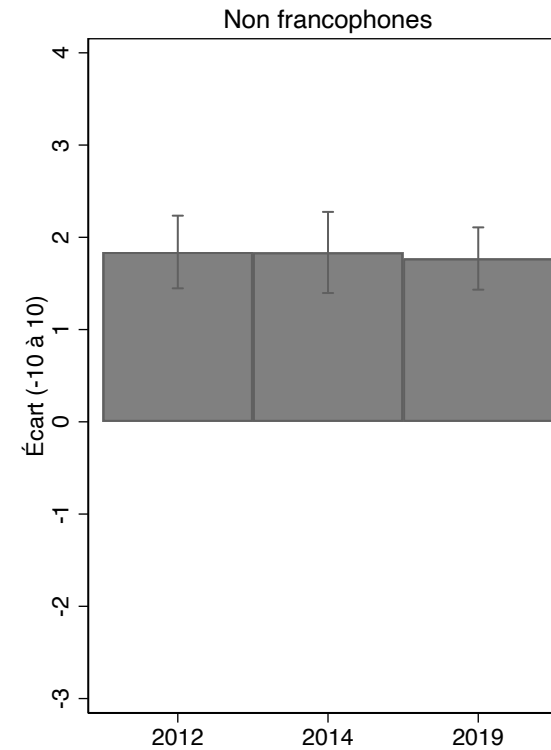
Écarts prédits dérivés des analyses multivariées présentées dans le Tableau 2.
Différences statistiquement significatives à $p < .001$ (***), $p < .01$ (**) et $p < .05$ (*)
Analyses contrôlant pour le profil sociodémographique.

Figure 4: Sense of belonging Canada-Quebec gap, by language

Écart d'attachement



Écart d'acceptation



Écarts prédits dérivés des analyses multivariées présentées dans le Tableau 2.
Différences statistiquement significatives à $p < .001$ (***) , $p < .01$ (**) et $p < .05$ (*)
Analyses contrôlant pour le profil sociodémographique.

Sense of belonging in Quebec from 2012 to 2019: The Key Findings

- No objective decline in belonging to Quebec, but relative decline to Canada
 - Increasing gap favouring Canada among non-Christians
 - New and emerging gap favouring Canada (non-religious, Francophones)
- Increased perception that Canada is more flexible than Quebec
 - Quebec loses ground to Canada among minority groups in competition for primary allegiance
- Generalized more than group-specific effects for for Bills 60 and 21
- Circumstantial rather than causal evidence?

Merci!