Reconstruction of the forces shaping the religious composition:
Vienna from 1951 to 2011
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Outline

• Short presentation of WIREL
• Aim of the reconstruction
• Five (demographic) determinants of religion change i.e. fertility, mortality, migration, mobility, mixed marriages
• Future work
• Conclusions
The WIREL Project in short

- **WIREL** acronym for “Past, present and future religious prospects in Vienna 1950-2050”
- **Funding:** Vienna Science and Technology Fund
- **Duration:** July 2011- July 2014
- **Collaborators:** IIASA and VID
- **Our website:** [http://vidwirel.oeaw.ac.at](http://vidwirel.oeaw.ac.at)

Background

- The domination of the Roman Catholic Church in Austria has been slowly fading away.
- Progressing secularization
- Immigration of people belonging to other religions than Roman-Catholicism, with different fertility patterns
- Decline in the level of religiosity and beliefs.
Exacerbated situation in Vienna

Austria 2001

Vienna 2001

WP1. Study the past as a trajectory

- Main objective: Reconstruct the main demographic determinants – *internal and international migration, secularization, fertility, and mortality* – for all religious groups from 1950 to 2010
WP2. Deep analysis of the present

- Analysis of migration and secularization
- Transmission of religion from parents to children

- Residential mobility at district level
- Ethno-religious concentration and segregation

- Composition of births and parity by mother’s religion
- Disentangle religious, educational and migration differentials

- Changes in belonging, believing and religious practice
- Qualitative interview on the perception of beliefs

WP3. Project the future

- The findings of parts 1. and 2. will be used to prepare scenarios for the future evolution of these forces. Religious landscape of Vienna until the middle of the century
Aim of the reconstruction

- Arriving at a good base for the projections
- Understanding the determinants of change from a demographic perspective:
  - Fertility (+)
  - Mortality (little)
  - Migration (++)
  - Religious mobility (little) incl. Secularization (+++)

Proportions of five religious categories in the Viennese population 1951-2007

Sources: Censuses from 1951 to 2001 and authors’ estimates for 2007
2011 Population

Total fertility rates, Vienna, 1971-2010

Source: TFR Vienna from Statistics Austria ISIS, TFR denominations: estimates based on the total population, female population in childbearing ages, and the general fertility rate.
Age Specific Fertility Rates

Source: TFR Vienna from Statistics Austria ISIS, TFR denominations: estimates based on the total population, female population in childbearing ages, and the general fertility rate.

Religious mobility 1950-2011 (1)

Note: Net mobility until 1984; from 1984 onwards: net mobility = exit
Source: City of Vienna Statistical Yearbooks (1950-2008)
Religious mobility 1950-2011 (2)

Note: Net mobility until 1984; from 1984 onwards: net mobility = exit
Source: City of Vienna Statistical Yearbooks (1950-2008)

Entrance to religion, 1950-1984

Source: City of Vienna Statistical Yearbooks (1950-1984)
Share of women in religious mobility, 1950-2008

Source: City of Vienna Statistical Yearbooks (1950-2008)

At which age occurs the transition away from one’s religion?

Catholics (both sexes)

Protestants (both sexes)

Source: City of Vienna Statistical Yearbooks (1950-2008)
Estimated composition of net migration

Net number of international migrants to Vienna

Share of Europe in migration flows to Vienna

Note: Except Austrians; Source: Net flows by citizenship from the City of Vienna Statistical Yearbooks (1992-2010) and distribution by religion from the World Religion Database (2010).

Endogamy – Proportion marrying inside the religion, Catholic and Protestant

Source: City of Vienna Statistical Yearbooks (1950-2008)
Endogamy – Proportion marrying inside the religion, Muslim and Orthodox

Source: City of Vienna Statistical Yearbooks (1950-2008)

Divorces

Share of divorces by religion

Ratio of female to male divorces within religious denominations
Further work on the reconstruction

• **Transmission** of religion from parents to children: Compare annual birth totals by religion of mother and father with children’s religion in the census
• Check **recent estimates** of stocks provided by rel. communities against the 2001 census
• Make estimates for Muslims before 1971 and Orthodox before 1981
• **Back projections** of population by age, sex and religion from 1971 to 1961 and 1951

Conclusions

**Main forces of the past**

• Secularization (perdition effect)
• Migration (more restriction)

**Main forces of the present and future**

• Fertility
• Intensity
• Mixed marriages
• Transmission of religion from parents to children