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# The impact of the citizenship activity 'Jeunes & Politiek' on the level of political interest and trust of Brussels' diverse youth

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# Today

Can a project-based civic learning activity transform young people's political interest and trust toward politicians?

Are there any differences amongst students depending on their educational track?

- The school as a place of political socialization
- The citizenship activity 'Jeunes & Politiek'
- The experimental design
- First results

### The School as a Place of Political Socialization

- Schools: a preferential but sometimes underexploited place
  - Transition from teenage years to adulthood
  - Young people's involvement in public affairs questioned
  - Various initiatives putted in places in schools around the world

# Typologies of Citizenship Learning Activities

- A variety of approaches (Claes & Hooghe, 2017)
  - ⇒ Direct forms → better knowledge, indirect effects on interest & trust
  - ♦ Indirect forms → better level of political trust
- Lack of researches over the effectiveness of these kind of activities
- Discussion Open classroom climate Transmission from adults

### Jeunes & Politiek

- 2 experimentations
- Target: young people that will vote for the first time
- 60 classes (± 1300 pupils) from
   Brussels' secondary school (French- and Dutch-speakers)
- Control group
- Scientific goals
- Societal goals



### Jeunes & Politiek

- Each class works on a specific political issue of the Brussels' Region, in 3 phases:
  - Phase 1 : Getting informed
  - Phase 2: Exchange with other classes and politicians
  - Phase 3 : Express yourself publicly
- Democracy, soft mobility, public transportation, employment, housing, malls & trade, ecological transition, motorway enlargement...

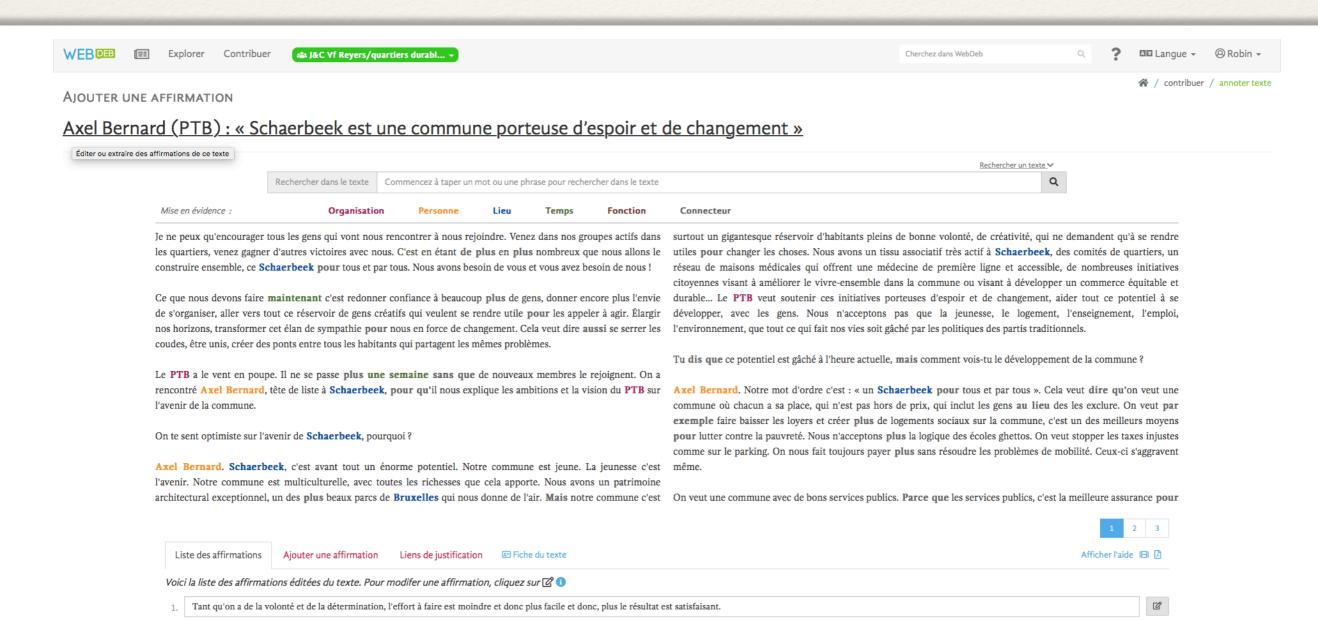
# 1 – Getting Informed



Chaque culture présente des mœurs dont on peut en retirer le meilleur et donc créer une société plus juste.

Schaerbeek est dotée d'un énorme potentiel de par sa jeunesse.

#### <u>WebDeb.be</u> – *The shared memory of debates*



# 2 – Exchange





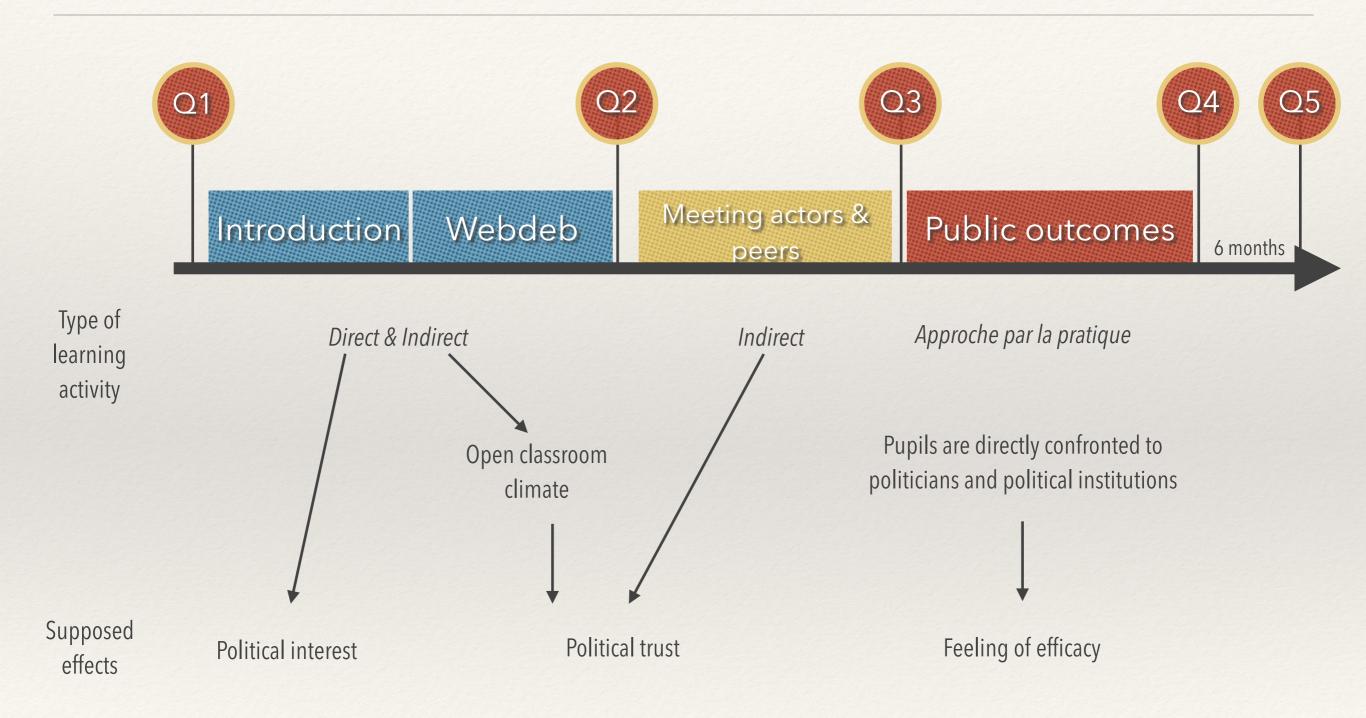
# 3 – Express Yourself



# 3 – Express Yourself



# The Experimental Design



# Hypotheses

- H1: The activity increases the values of political interest of the pupils
- H2 : The activity increases the values of trust toward politicians

# The Experimental Design

#### Questionnaires

- 4 waves (+1 in six months)
- PAPI self-administered
- Collected by teachers or members of the research team
- Control group
- Control variables
- Schools: 60 classes
  - Voluntary participation but selection by the research team :
    - Representativeness of Brussels' education characteristics
    - Both communities, various networks and sociodemographic

### First Results

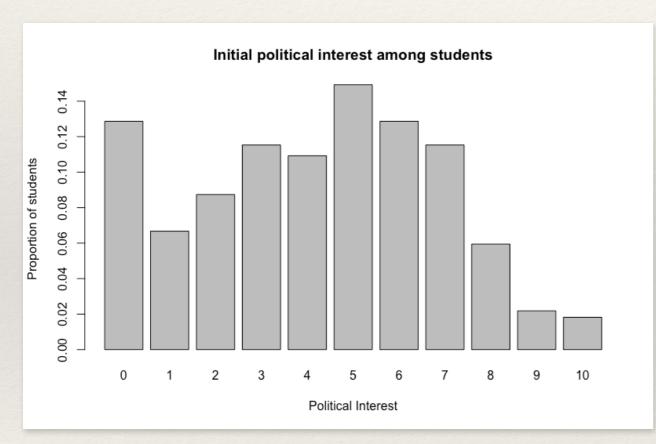
- Partial results : only from French-speaking schools
- Comparison Q1–Q4: before and after the learning activity

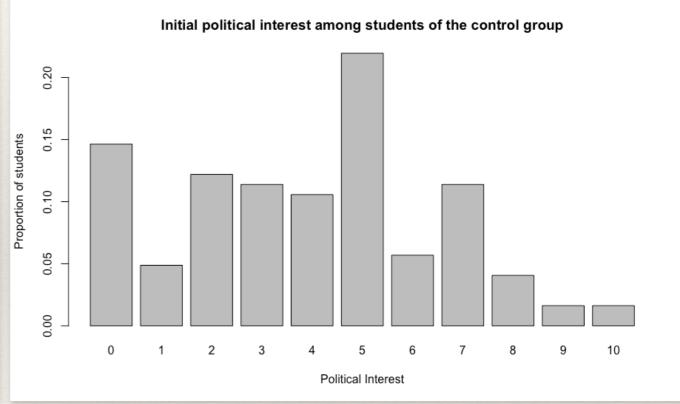
Distribution of the classes by community and by degree of participation

Participation	French-Speaking classes	Dutch-speaking classes		
Enrolled	52	8		
Full experiment	26			
Partial experiment	13	To be analysed		
Early drop-outs	14			

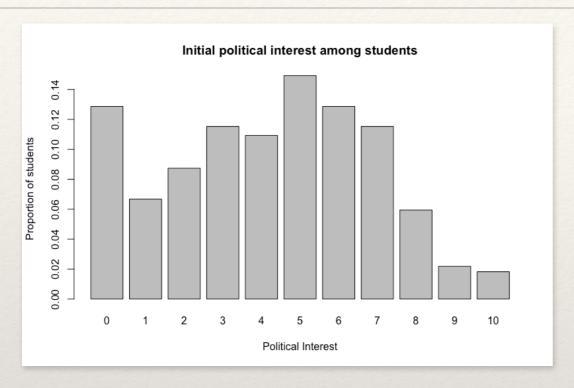
### Political Interest Q1

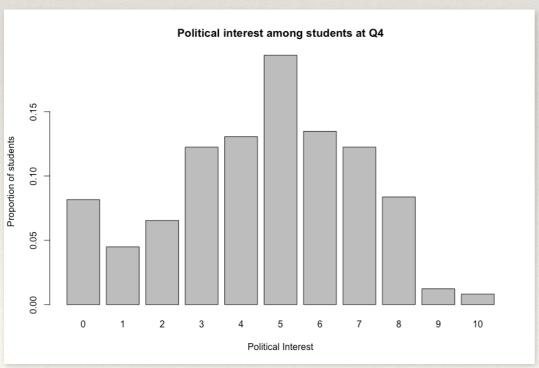
'How much do you give interest to politics in general?' – 0-10 scale

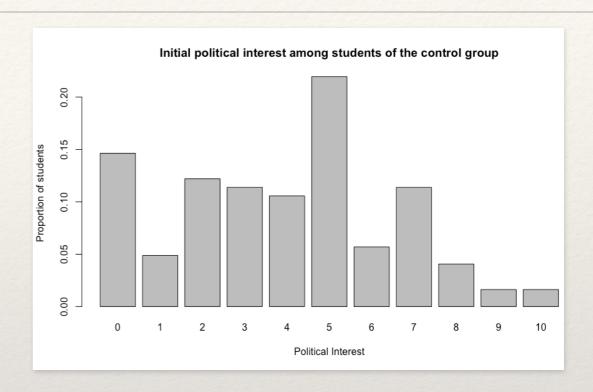


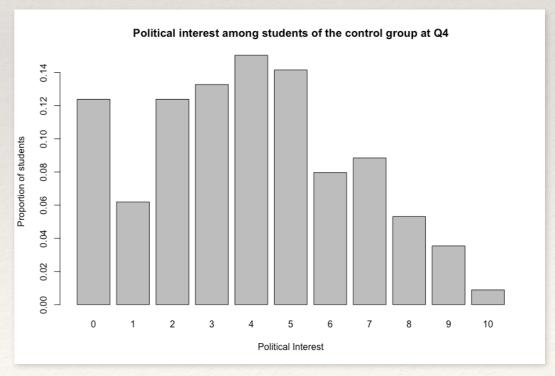


### Political Interest Q1 & Q4





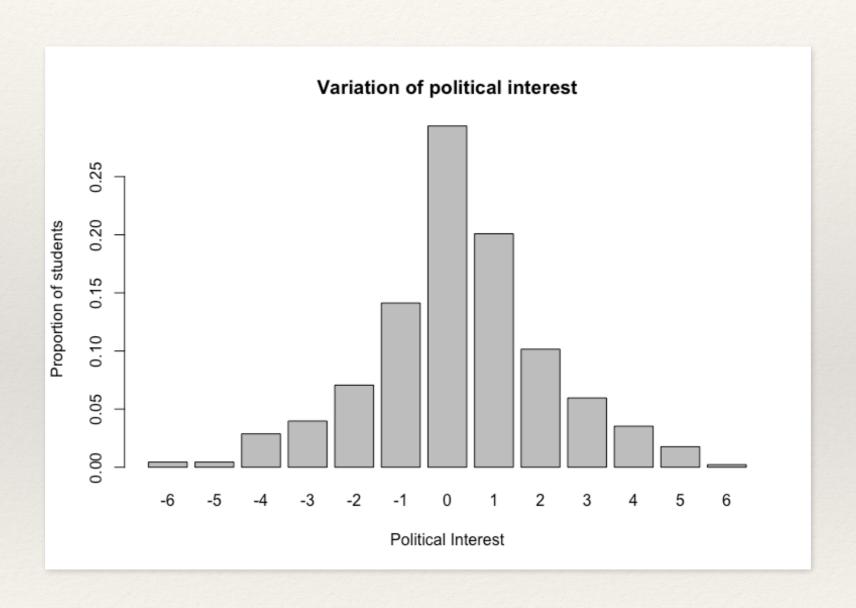




### **Political Interest**

	Participants	n	Control group	n	t-test between groups
Mean at Q1	4.20	824	3.92	123	Not significant difference (p-value = 0.267)
Mean at Q4	4.56	490	3.94	113	Significant difference (p-value = 0.021)
t-test between waves	Significant difference (p-value = 0.004)		Not significant difference (p-value = 0.741)		

## **Political Interest**



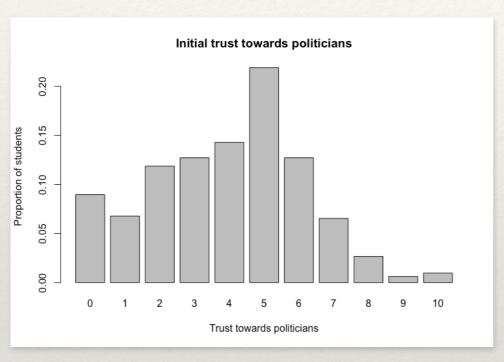
# A Difference According Educational Tracks?

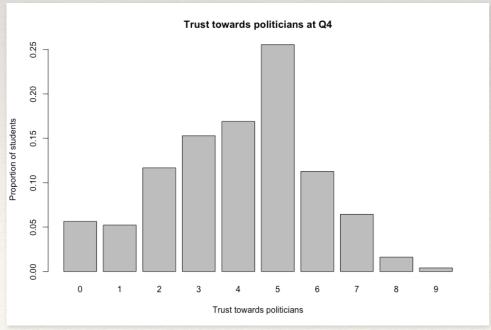
<b>Educational track</b>	General	Vocational (Technical)	t-tests	
Mean (Q1)	4.41	3.58	Significant difference	
Median	5	3		
Sd	2.63	2.56		
Delta Q4-Q1	+0.28	+0.267		

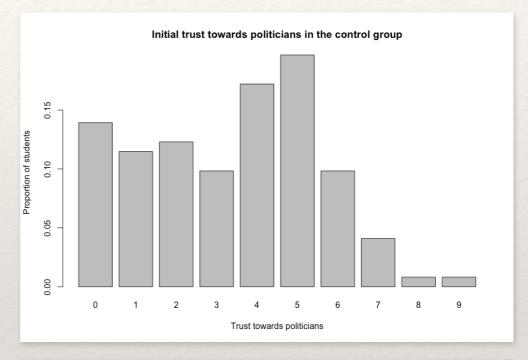
- Different levels of interest between educational tracks
- Similar effect of the experiment
- The experiment slightly increase levels of interest (H1 confirmed)

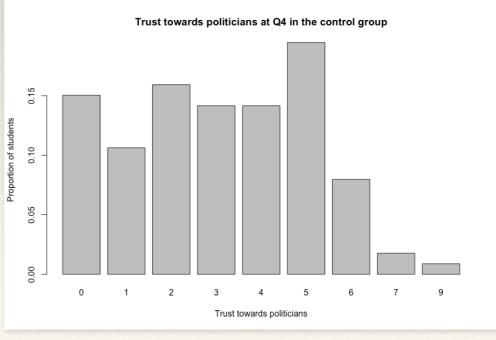
### Political Trust Q1 & Q4

'On a scale from 0 to 10, can you evaluate your trust towards... politicians?'





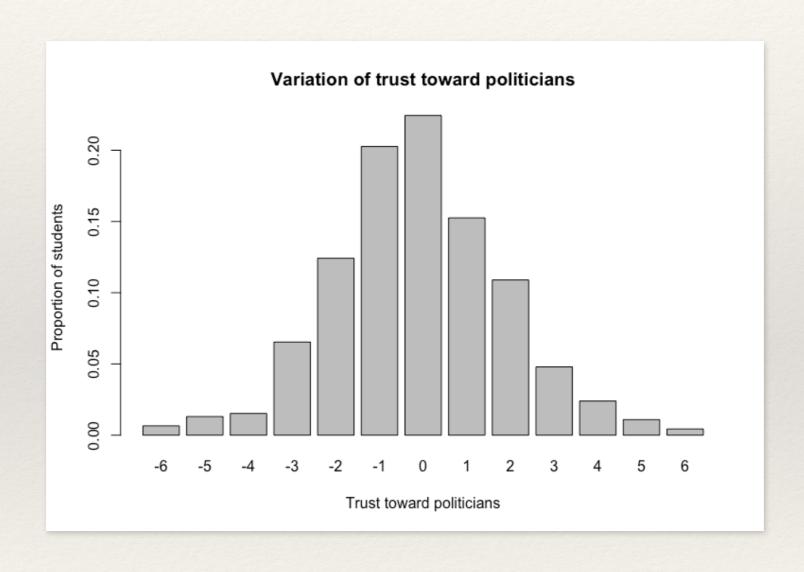




### Trust in Politicians

	Participants	n	Control group	n	t-test between groups
Mean at Q1	3.94	826	3.34	122	Significant difference (p-value = 0.05)
Mean at Q4	3.98	497	3.07	113	Significant difference (p-value < 0.01)
t-test between waves	Not significant difference (p-value = 0.187)		Not significant difference (p-value = 0.067)		

### Trust in Politicians



# A Difference According Educational Tracks?

<b>Educational track</b>	General	Vocational (Technical)	t-tests	
Mean (Q1)	4.04	3.73	Not significant difference	
Median	4	4		
Delta Q4-Q1	-0.10	-0.29		

No significant variation of trust values (H2 not confirmed)

### Conclusions

- 'Jeunes & Politiek' has effects on levels of interest
- 'Jeunes & Politiek' has no clear effect on level of trust toward politicians
- There are differences between pupils depending on their educational track
- 'Jeunes & Politiek' seems to have similar effects on pupils of different educational tracks

### Contacts

Thank you

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