



Irish values in flux

The shifting sands of Irish religious, social,
and cultural values since 1981

The European Values Study

- The European Values Study is a pan-European survey project currently finalising its fourth wave.
- Previous survey waves took place in 1981, 1990, and 1999.
- The purpose of the study is to chart changing values and attitudes across Europe.
- It examines, *inter alia*, religious, social and cultural values and attitudes.
- These are the focus of this paper.



(Non) Belief in God

Wave 1	1981	2.9%
Wave 2	1990	2.4%
Wave 3	1999	4.5%
Wave 4	2008	8.2%



(Non) Belonging

Wave 1	1981	-
Wave 2	1990	3.9%
Wave 3	1999	9.3%
Wave 4	2008	11.4%



Church attendance

		Weekly or More	Less	Rarely
Wave 1	1981	82.4%	10.6%	6.9%
Wave 2	1990	80.9%	14.3%	4.8%
Wave 3	1999	56.9%	29.3%	13.9%
Wave 4	2008	44.3%	30.9%	24.8%



Importance of God [1 - 10]

Wave 1	1981	7.88
Wave 2	1990	7.93
Wave 3	1999	7.41
Wave 4	2008	7.22



Church Answers...

		Moral Problems	Family Problems	Spiritual Needs	Social Problems
Wave 1	1981	56.4%	52.4%	72.7%	-
Wave 2	1990	42.1%	35.9%	70.6%	33.3%
Wave 3	1999	30.1%	27.2%	63.8%	26.7%
Wave 4	2008	40.0%	32.5%	63.5%	29.8%

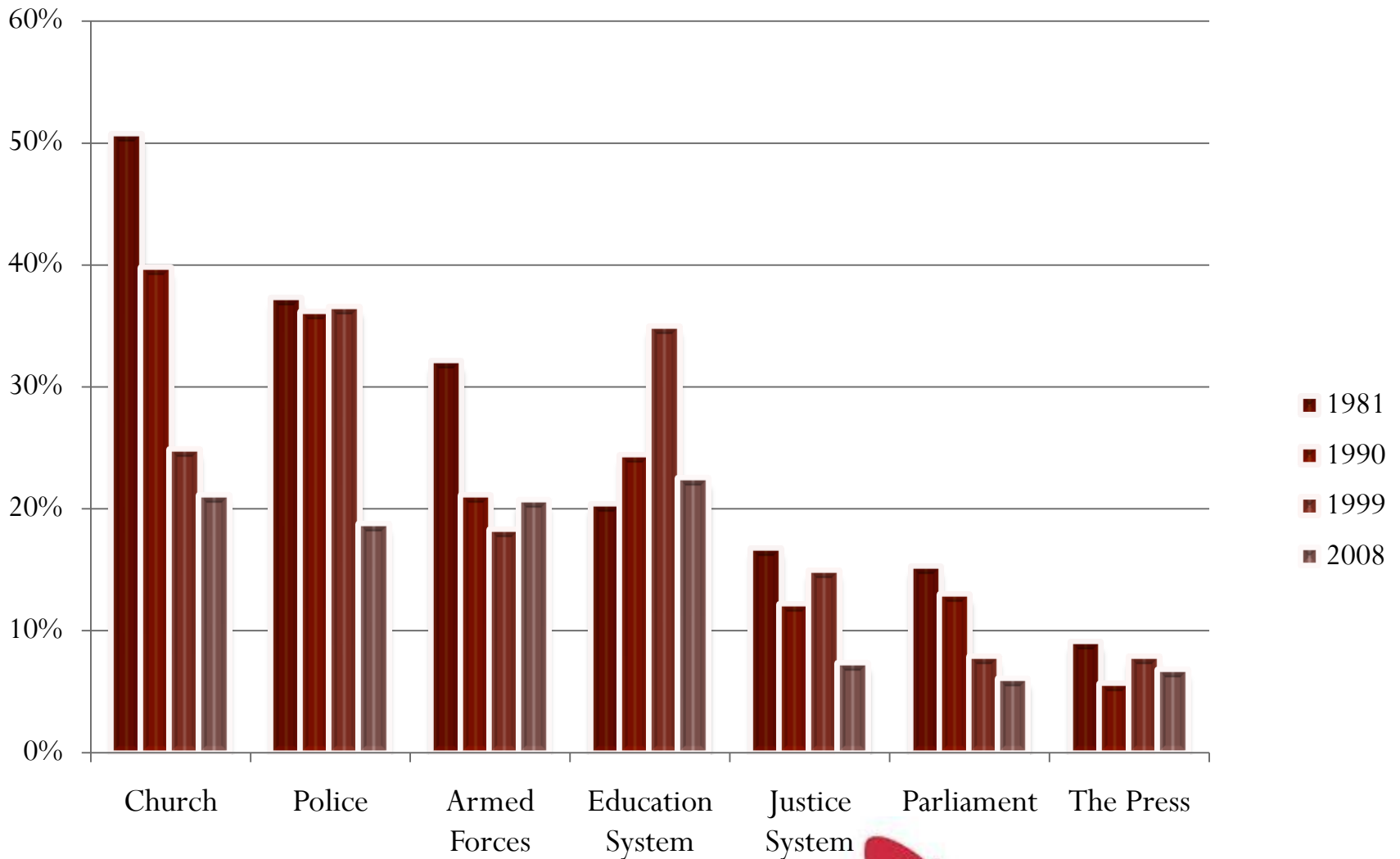


Believe in ...

		Life after death	Heaven	Hell	Sin
Wave 1	1981	84.6%	89.3%	60.5%	89.8%
Wave 2	1990	83.3%	89.5%	52.6%	86.6%
Wave 3	1999	79.2%	85.3%	53.3%	85.7%
Wave 4	2008	74.2%	79.8%	52.9%	78.0%



Institutional Confidence: A Great Deal



Moral Justification [1-10]

		Abortion	Divorce	Euthanasia	Suicide	Homosexuality	Adultery
Wave 1	1981	1.70	3.21	2.14	3.32	3.29	2.95
Wave 2	1990	2.36	4.13	2.56	3.97	5.08	3.18
Wave 3	1999	2.91	4.80	3.31	1.94	5.10	2.98
Wave 4	2008	3.15	5.23	3.52	2.15	5.08	1.85



Importance of ... [lo - hi]

		FAMILY	FRIENDS	LEISURE TIME	POLITICS	WORK	RELIGION
Wave 1	1981	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wave 2	1990	1.11	1.52	1.89	2.97	1.47	1.72
Wave 3	1999	1.10	1.42	1.75	2.88	1.70	2.06
Wave 4	2008	1.11	1.27	1.54	2.75	1.71	2.14



Concerned with... [lo - hi]

	Immediate family	People neighbourhood	People own region	Fellow countrymen	Europeans	Human kind	Elderly	Unemployed	Immigrants	Sick and disabled
Wave 3	1.69	2.52	2.76	2.81	3.30	2.79	1.70	2.44	2.95	1.74
Wave 4	2.93	3.34	3.44	3.32	3.72	3.11	2.28	2.81	3.40	2.25



Tolerance

	Drug Addicts	Criminal Record	Heavy Drinkers	Emotionally unstable	Aids	Muslims	Homosexuals	Immigrants/ Foreign Wkrs	Jews	Different Race
Wave 1	-	43.9%	33.3%	22.8%	-	13.4%	-	5.8%	-	7.2%
Wave 2	64.4%	51.7%	34.1%	30.0%	34.6%	13.6%	33.2%	5.1%	6.4%	5.9%
Wave 3	66.1%	55.6%	36.3%	24.9%	22.8%	13.5%	26.9%	12.3%	10.9%	12.1%
Wave 4	77.4%	65.9%	41.7%	34.2%	28.2%	22.7%	19.1%	14.1%	10.9%	10.0%



Attitudes to work (10=strong agree)

humiliating receiving
money without working

people turn lazy
not working

work is a duty
towards society

Wave 3

2.81

2.63

2.50

Wave 4

2.59

2.54

2.26



Volunteerism 1

	Welfare	Church	Cultural	Unions	Political parties	Local Politics	Human Rights
Wave 1	7.31%	7.48%	1.89%	1.64%	1.89%	2.60%	0.58%
Wave 2	6.90%	6.80%	4.00%	1.10%	2.20%	3.56%	1.30%
Wave 3	3.75%	7.61%	4.45%	1.68%	1.68%	3.08%	1.78%
Wave 4	8.40%	18.00%	11.50%	3.30%	6.40%	9.80%	1.80%



Volunteerism 2

	Environment	Professional Assoc	Youth	Sport	Women	Peace	Health
Wave 1	1.40%	1.31%	7.07%	7.00%	1.90%	0.20%	2.30%
Wave 2	0.60%	1.20%	4.80%	13.34%	2.57%	0.79%	2.77%
Wave 3	0.89%	3.06%	4.64%	10.19%	2.24%	0.50%	2.53%
Wave 4	5.40%	5.30%	10.10%	21.90%	6.00%	1.80%	9.30%



Reflections

- Over time Ireland has become:
 - Less overtly religious but not much less spiritual
 - More liberal on a wide variety of measures
 - More civic minded with higher volunteerism
 - Somewhat less caring but remaining 'family first'
 - Less tolerant socially and economically



European *Values* Study



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