

Religious and ethnic neighbourhood profiles in Vienna 1971 - 2011: A comparison of two dimensions of urban diversity

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Extended Abstract

International immigration is a key driver of population growth in many large Western European cities. Figures from Statistics Austria show that in 2011, almost a third of Vienna's population was foreign-born. The influx of people of different social, ethnic, cultural and religious background affects the composition of urban populations in ways that go beyond the conventional disaggregation by age, sex and ethnicity. However, the literature on urban segregation and diversity is dominated by the ethnic dimension, while only little attention has been paid to the changing religious landscapes of cities. Within this context, the WIREL project (WI for Wien/Vienna and REL for Religion) – funded by WWTF (Vienna Science and Technology Fund) – aims to determine the role that religion plays in shaping the social and demographic structure of the population of Vienna in the past, present and future.

This paper focuses on recent changes in the religious composition of the population of Vienna, and how these changes relate to recent waves of international immigration. We draw on data from the decennial census rounds 1971 to 2011 to develop a set of indicators of segregation and residential diversity that capture the mix of different groups in small-scale urban areas to examine the religious and ethnic composition of Vienna's population. Since information on religion was not collected any longer in the Austrian census after 2001, we produced estimates of the religious distribution for 243 neighbourhoods in Vienna. Within this context, we aim to answer the questions as to whether the city's neighbourhoods are more segregated or diversified by religion or by ethnicity, how the patterns changed over time, and how these two dimensions affect each other. The results reveal different types of segregated and mixed (i.e. diversified) neighbourhoods along both dimensions of urban diversity. Within the WIREL project, the analysis of religious and ethnic neighbourhood profiles allows us to assess the impact of residential segregation and diversity in terms of social cohesion, group-specific norms and values, as well as intergenerational transmission of demographic behaviour.

Background

This work is part of the WIREL project (WI for Wien/Vienna and REL for Religion – funded by WWTF, Vienna Science and Technology Fund), which aims to determine the role that religion plays in shaping the social and demographic structure of the population of Vienna in the past, present and future. WIREL investigates changes that can be observed in the religious distribution of the population within Vienna and the different demographic forces that have been shaping this religious composition at the city level, namely, migration, differential fertility, and religious mobility. These findings will be used in the evaluation of the potential for the future evolution of these forces and the resulting religious landscape of Vienna over the coming decades (Goujon and Bauer, 2013).

International migration and secularization have been the main forces shaping Vienna's changing religious landscape. As a result of on-going secularisation, the share of Roman Catholics in the city decreased from almost 80 per cent in 1971 to less than 50 per cent in 2001, when religion was surveyed for the last time in the Austrian census. The increasing influx of international migrants further diversified the religious composition of Vienna by adding new religions (e.g. Muslims) and increasing the share of other religions (e.g. Christian Orthodox). For this reason, we analyse residential patterns of religion and ethnicity over time and investigate to which extent these two dimensions of urban diversity affect each other.

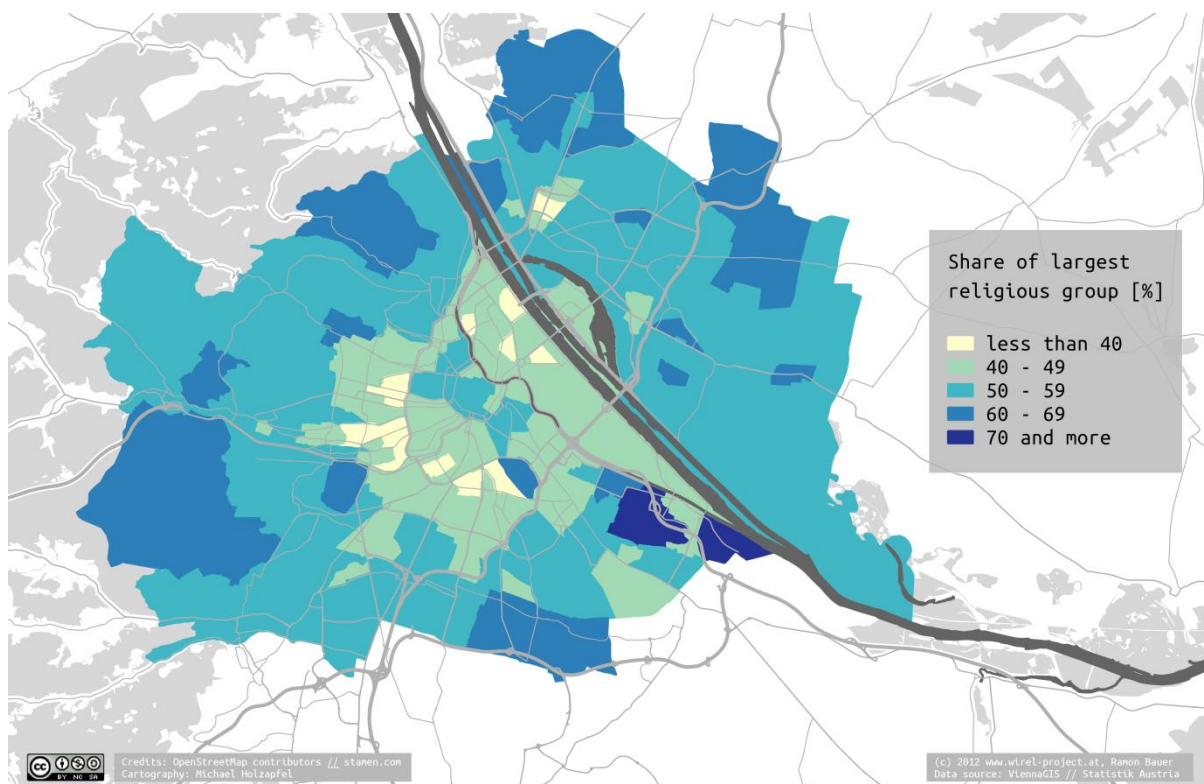
Besides migration and secularisation, the extent of fertility differentials by religious affiliation as well as exogamy could play major roles in determining future religious compositions (Kaufmann, 2010). Hence, when projecting population size and religious composition, it is necessary to consider not only demographic processes (fertility, mortality and migration), but also the processes of religious mobility/exits (i.e. secularisation), as well as contacts within and between different religious groups (i.e. social cohesion). The analysis of residential patterns by religion and ethnicity will contribute new evidence to the storyline of the WIREL projection scenarios by identifying patterns and trends of residential segregation and mixing. Both affect social cohesion by fostering the potential for either within or between group contacts. In turn, residential segregation and mixing have an impact on partnership and family formation. Consequently, residential concentrations suggest persistent demographic differentials of minority groups, while mixed neighbourhoods would rather facilitate demographic convergence towards the host society.

Data and methods

We use data from the decennial census rounds 1971 to 2011 provided by Statistics Austria to develop a set of indicators of segregation and residential diversity that capture the mix of different groups in small-scale urban areas at the level of census districts (with a median population size of roughly 5,800 people). For religion, we use six categories that were surveyed in the Austrian census between 1971 and 2001. In 2011, when the Austrian census was changed to a register-based system, information on religion was not collected anymore. For that reason and based on the WIREL reconstruction of the population of Vienna by religion at the city level in 2011 (Goujon and Bauer, 2013b), we will produce estimates of the religious distribution for 243 neighbourhoods in 2011.

Since the Austrian census does not explicitly survey ethnicity, we have to draw on other characteristics to capture Vienna's migrant population, i.e. citizenship and country of birth (by ten country groups). While citizenship was included in all census rounds between 1971 and 2011, the information about country of birth was not collected before 2001. In order to investigate similarities and differences of residential patterns over time by religion and ethnicity, we compare population by religion and citizenship over the period 1971 to 2001. The 2001 census is the only point in time for which all three characteristics studied (religion, citizenship, and country of birth) were at hand. Extending the time series from 2001 to 2011, we take a closer look on the relationship between both available dimensions of migration characteristics, i.e. citizenship and country of birth. Taking into account the estimates of small-area religious distributions in 2011 as well as the identified similarities and differences in religious and ethnic neighbourhood profiles between 1971 and 2001, we aim to approximate the residential patterns by religion in 2011.

Map 1: Religious diversity in Vienna, 2001



We use traditional measures of segregation and mixing, considering various dimensions of residential segregation such as evenness (e.g. index of dissimilarity, location quotient) and exposure (e.g. index of isolation, diversity index). However, these global indicators either measure segregation or mixing. In order to reveal different types of neighbourhoods, we consider new classification methods that consider both residential segregation and mixing (i.e. diversity). Within this context, we apply different rule-based classification methods elaborated by Poulson, Johnston and Forrest (2001), Brimicombe (2007), and Wright, Holloway and Ellis (2011). The approach of Brimicombe's typology, which considers relative measures and hence allows comparisons over time, is central for our analysis of neighbourhood profiles in Vienna since 1971.

Expected results

Preliminary results reveal different types of segregated and mixed (i.e. diversified) neighbourhoods in Vienna along both dimensions of urban diversity, as well as a trend towards more mixing. Comparing residential patterns by religion and ethnicity using rule-based classification methods enables us to identify similarities and differences, as well as changes over time. Within the WIREL project, the analysis of religious and ethnic neighbourhood profiles allows us to assess the impact of residential segregation and diversity in terms of social cohesion, group-specific norms and values, as well as intergenerational transmission of demographic behaviour. The findings of the spatial analysis will add new evidence to the WIREL projection scenarios that aim to provide different development paths of the future population size and religious composition of Vienna.

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