

# Is There Really a Backlash Against Multiculturalism Policies?

New Evidence from the Multiculturalism Policy Index

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*Abstract:* In much of the western world, and particularly in Europe, there is a widespread perception that multiculturalism has ‘failed’ and that governments who once embraced a multicultural approach to diversity are turning away, adopting a strong emphasis on civic integration. This reaction, we are told, “reflects a seismic shift not just in the Netherlands, but in other European countries as well” (Joppke 2007). This paper challenges this view. Drawing on an updated version of the Multiculturalism Policy Index introduced earlier (Banting and Kymlicka 2006), the paper presents an index of the strength of multicultural policies for European countries and several traditional countries of immigration at three points in time (1980, 2000 and 2010). The results paint a different picture of contemporary experience in Europe. While a small number of countries, including most notably the Netherlands, have weakened established multicultural policies during the 2000s, such a shift is the exception. Most countries that adopted multicultural approaches in the later part of the twentieth century have maintained their programs in the first decade of the new century; and a significant number of countries have added new ones. In much of Europe, multicultural policies are not in general retreat. As a result, the turn to civic integration is often being layered on top of existing multicultural programs, leading to a blended approach to diversity. The paper reflects on the compatibility of multiculturalism policies and civic integration, arguing that more liberal forms of civic integration can be combined with multiculturalism but that more illiberal or coercive forms are incompatible with a multicultural approach.

At first glance, we seem to be witnessing a pervasive backlash against multiculturalism in many countries, especially in Europe. The widespread perception is that multiculturalism has failed – “utterly failed” according to Chancellor Merkel – and that it is time for a sharp change in direction. Many commentators worry that multiculturalism has nurtured what Germans call *Parallelgesellschaften* or parallel societies. The British prime minister is one of these, arguing that “Under the doctrine of state multiculturalism, we have encouraged different cultures to live separate lives, apart from each other and apart from the mainstream (Cameron 2011). Trevor Phillips put it more pithily: under the baleful influence of multiculturalism, Britain is “sleep walking to segregation” (Phillips 2005; also Home Office 2001). More specifically, multiculturalism is blamed for: the residential ghettoization and social isolation of immigrants; poor economic integration of immigrants; poor educational outcomes for their children; high dependence on welfare; the perpetuation of illiberal practices amongst immigrant groups, often involving restricting the rights and liberties of girls and women; political radicalism, especially among Muslim youth; and so on.

Current debates also suggest that Europe is rejecting multiculturalism in favour of an alternative approach to diversity, commonly referred to as civic integration. This alternative approach is seen as being based on sharply different premises: the active integration of immigrants into the economic, social and political mainstream; a “muscular” defence of liberal democratic principles, to borrow the words of the British prime minister; insistence that newcomers acquire the language of the host country, and learn about its history, norms and institutions; and the introduction of written citizenship tests and loyalty oaths. Implicitly if not explicitly, civic integration is presented as if it is incompatible at some deep level with a multicultural approach.

Not everyone shares this analysis of the fate of multiculturalism. Some commentators dispute that multiculturalism has failed, and suggest to the contrary that countries which embraced multiculturalism have fared better on several indicators of immigrant integration than countries that rejected multiculturalism (eg., Bloemraad 2006). On this view, the retreat from multiculturalism is premature, regrettable and likely counter-productive. Others go further, and argue that multiculturalism has neither failed nor retreated, but remains fully in place, albeit hidden by changing political rhetoric. On this view, politicians no longer use the word “multiculturalism”, preferring terms such as “diversity policies”, but the policies adopted under the multicultural heading remain alive and well. In this view, “policies and programs once deemed ‘multicultural’ continue everywhere” (Vertovec and Wessendorf 2010: 21). This in turn raises further disagreements about how multiculturalism policies relate to civic integration policies. Does the increased adoption of civic integration policies entail a retreat from multiculturalism policies (Joppke 2004, 2007, 2010), or can the two sets of policies be coherently combined (Modood 2007, 2012)?

In short, we see a series of inter-related disagreements: have multiculturalism policies failed? has there been a retreat from multiculturalism policies? are civic integration policies incompatible with multiculturalism policies?

In order to get a handle on these debates, it is important to be able to measure multiculturalism policies. One reason for the persistence and vehemence of these disagreements is that both scholars and politicians are making sweeping generalizations about the rise and fall of multiculturalism, and its success or failure, without systematic cross-national measurement of which multiculturalism policies have in fact been adopted in which countries.

In the hope of generating a more informed and careful debate, we have devised a “Multiculturalism Policy Index”, which tracks the evolution of multiculturalism policies across 21 OECD countries. In our previous work, we have used this index in order to test certain alarmist claims about the negative effects of multiculturalism. We have found, for example, contrary to much speculation, that multiculturalism policies have not had a negative effect on the strength of the welfare state (Banting and Kymlicka 2006). Other scholars have used the Index to show that multiculturalism policies have not had a negative effect on social capital, social cohesion, educational attainment or civic participation (Wright and Bloemraad 2012; Kesler and Bloemraad 2010; Berry et al 2006; Crepaz 2006).

In this paper, however, our focus is not primarily on the effects of multiculturalism policies, but on the prior and more basic question: namely, have these policies in fact been in retreat, or is the shift more at the rhetorical than policy level? In particular, has the rise of civic integration policies come at the expense of multiculturalism policies, or are the two co-existing?

Drawing on new evidence from the Index, we challenge the standard narrative about the decline of multiculturalism in two ways. First, we argue that the retreat from multiculturalism in Europe is more complete at the level of discourse than policy. While there has been a retreat from multiculturalism policies in a few countries, this is not the dominant pattern. The larger picture in Europe is one of stability and expansion of multicultural policies in the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Second, the persistence and even growth of multiculturalism policies are not inherently incompatible with civic integration. Multiculturalism programs are being ripped out to make room for civic integration programs in the Netherlands. But once again, this is not the norm. In many countries, civic integration programs are being layered over multicultural initiatives introduced in earlier decades, producing what can be thought of as a multicultural version of civic integration. To be sure, there are limits to the compatibility of multiculturalism policies and civic integration. Some countries are embracing more obligatory, even illiberal versions of civic integration (Joppke 2007, 2010), which are incompatible with a multicultural support for diversity. But more liberal and voluntary approaches to civic integration can clearly be combined with a multicultural approach, and remain a policy option in the European context.

The paper develops this argument in four sections. The first section draws on neo-institutionalist theories of change to provide a framework for thinking about the policy trajectory in contemporary Europe. The second section introduces the Multiculturalism Policy Index, and draws on evidence from the Index to assess the strength and evolution of MCPs in Europe. Section three then turns to integration policies. Here we are interested in the relationship between

civic integration and multiculturalism policies, exploring the extent to which civic integration is compatible with a multicultural approach to diversity. The final section pulls the threads of the story together.

## **Theoretical framework**

As Freeman reminds us, “No state possesses a truly coherent incorporation regime... Rather one finds sub-system frameworks that are weakly, if at all, co-ordinated”; and, he continues, “immigrants are mostly managed via institutions created for other purposes” (Freeman, 2004: 946, 948). This paper focuses on change in two components of the incorporation regime which are normally developed with immigrants in mind: diversity policies and integration policies. These programs represent only part of the larger regime, and a complete analysis would have to include immigration policy, labour market policies, and the structures of the welfare state (Koopmans 2010; Banting 2010). The view presented here is therefore a partial one. Nevertheless, the debate over these two components has been intense and, as we shall see, the patterns are revealing of the complexity of change in Europe.

How can we make sense of the evolution of these two components of integration regimes? The new institutionalism literature offers considerable potential here. Early contributions to this literature highlighted the importance of path dependency and the resilience of policy structures (Pierson 1994, 1996), but this approach has increasingly been supplemented with interpretations of the ways in which institutions and policies change over time. In this context, two broad theories of institutional change have emerged. One interpretation sees a process of ‘punctuated equilibrium’, in which a pattern of long continuity suddenly gives way to a sharp burst of radical change, which in turn locks in a new trajectory that persists for a long time. In Pempel’s words, “path-dependent equilibrium is periodically ruptured by radical change, making for sudden bends in the path of history” (1998: 3; also Tuohy 1999). Many interpretations of the shift in Europe from multiculturalism to civic integration have this flavor. After a period of growing multiculturalism, Europe is undergoing a radical transition to a new and different trajectory.

A second interpretation of institutional change anticipates more evolutionary processes. This approach assumes that policies and institutions are the subject of ongoing political contestation, and evolve through steady incremental adaptation (Thelen 2004). Within this tradition, Hacker (2004) argues that much change takes place, even in the context of stability in formal programs, through processes of drift, conversion and layering. Drift occurs when policy-makers choose not to alter programs in response to changing external circumstances, allowing them to fade into marginality or take on new and unanticipated roles. Conversion occurs when existing policies and institutions are actively redirected to new purposes through often obscure administrative adjustments by officials on the ground. Finally, layering occurs when new governments simply work around existing programs which are supported by vested interests, laying new policies on

top of old policies, adding new institutions to old ones (Schickler 2001). This conception of change assumes that each new generation does not start with a blank slate. They adapt and build on an existing base. Understanding the evolution of immigrant integration, according to this perspective, requires the mindset of an archaeologist.

What then are the patterns of change in multiculturalism policies and integration policies in Europe? Are we witnessing a sudden bend in the path of European history? Or is change occurring primarily through an evolutionary process marked by drift, conversion and, above all, layering?

### **The Multiculturalism Policy Index and Multiculturalism in Europe**

The Multiculturalism Policy Index is designed to monitor the evolution of multiculturalism policies across 21 Western democracies and to provide this information in a standardized format that enables comparative research and contributes to the understanding of state-minority relations. The project actually provides three indices, one each of three types of minorities: one index relating to immigrant groups, one relating to historic national minorities, and one relating to indigenous peoples. To capture change over time, the Index provides all three indices at three points in time: 1980, 2000, and 2010.<sup>1</sup>

The Multiculturalism Policy Index is based on a specific understanding of the phenomenon under study. There is no universally-accepted definition of “multiculturalism policy”, and no hard and fast line that would sharply distinguish multiculturalism policies (MCPs) from closely related policy fields, such as anti-discrimination policies, citizenship policies and integration policies. Different countries (or indeed different actors within a single country) are likely to draw this line in different places. Any list of MCPs is likely, therefore, to be controversial, and perhaps arbitrary at the edges.

However, we believe that there was a recognizable “multiculturalist turn” across the Western democracies in the last few decades of the 20<sup>th</sup>-century. Historically nation-states have been distrustful of minority ethnic political mobilization, which they stigmatized as disloyal, backward, and balkanizing. The history of state-minority relations throughout most of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries is one of constant pressure for assimilation, combined with animosity towards, if not prohibition of, minority political mobilization. Starting in the 1960s, however, we see a shift towards a more multicultural approach to state-minority relations. The public expression and political mobilization of minority ethnic identities is no longer seen as an inherent threat to the state, but is accepted as a normal and legitimate part of a democratic society. In many cases,

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<sup>1</sup> The full Multiculturalism Policy Index for 21 countries, together with an explanation of the index, scores for each component of the index, and the documentation on which the scoring is based, can be accessed at [www.queensu.ca/mcp](http://www.queensu.ca/mcp)

these mobilizations were not just tolerated, but were politically effective. Across the Western democracies, we see a trend towards the increasing recognition of minority rights, whether in the form of land claims and treaty rights for indigenous peoples; strengthened language rights and regional autonomy for substate national minorities; and accommodation rights for immigrant-origin ethnic groups. We call all of these “multiculturalism policies”.

This term covers a wide range of policies, but what they have in common is that they go beyond the protection of the basic civil and political rights guaranteed to all individuals in a liberal-democratic state, to also extend some level of public recognition and support for minorities to express their distinct identities and practices. The rise of MCPs therefore goes beyond the broader politics of civil rights and non-discrimination. Until the 1950s and 1960s, many Western states explicitly discriminated against certain racial or religious groups, denying them the right to immigrate or to become citizens, or subjecting them to discrimination or segregation in access to public education, housing or employment. This sort of explicit state-sanctioned discrimination has been repudiated, and most countries have also adopted measures to tackle discrimination by non-state actors such as private employers or landlords. The adoption of such anti-discrimination measures is often discussed as a form of multiculturalism or minority rights, since minorities are the beneficiaries.

As we are using the term, however, multiculturalism is not just about ensuring the non-discriminatory application of laws, but about changing the laws and regulations themselves to better reflect the distinctive needs and aspirations of minorities. For example, the logic of anti-discrimination required extending the vote to Aboriginal individuals in Canada in 1960, but it was a different logic that extended rights of self-government to Aboriginal communities in the 1980s, through the devolution of power to Aboriginal councils. Similarly, the logic of anti-discrimination requires that Sikhs be hired based on merit in the police force, but changing police dress codes so that Sikhs can wear a turban is a positive accommodation. Self-government rights for Aboriginals and accommodation rights for Sikhs are paradigm examples of multiculturalism, since the relevant policies are being deliberately redefined to fit the aspirations of members of minority groups. While the adoption of positive MCPs has been more controversial than anti-discrimination, we see a clear trend across the Western democracies towards the strengthening of both anti-discrimination and MCPs since the 1960s.

The MCP Index is based on a range of public policies that are seen, by both critics and defenders, as emblematic of multiculturalist turn. Each of our policy indicators is intended to capture a policy dimension where liberal-democratic states faced a choice about whether or not to take a multicultural turn and to become more accommodating and supportive of minorities. The eight indicators used to build the MCP Index for immigrant minorities are:

- (1) constitutional, legislative or parliamentary affirmation of multiculturalism, at the central and/or regional and municipal levels;
- (2) the adoption of multiculturalism in school curriculum;

- (3) the inclusion of ethnic representation/sensitivity in the mandate of public media or media licensing;
- (4) exemptions from dress-codes, either by statute or by court cases;
- (5) allowing of dual citizenship;
- (6) the funding of ethnic group organizations to support cultural activities;
- (7) the funding of bilingual education or mother-tongue instruction;
- (8) affirmative action for disadvantaged immigrant groups.

On each indicator, countries are scored as 0 (no such policy), 0.5 (partial) or 1.0 (clear policy). The component scores are then aggregated, producing a country score ranging from 0 to 8.<sup>2</sup>

One point deserves note. Not all group-based policies are multiculturalism policies. Only policies designed to legitimate and support ethnic differences count. Group-based policies designed to exclude or marginalize minorities do not. Interestingly, some old programs of exclusion have been converted over time into instruments of recognition and inclusion. As Karen Schönwälder notes in the case of Germany, mother-tongue education, where it does occur, was not introduced “as a minority right but in order to enable guest worker children to reintegrate in their countries of origin. The fact that it continues to exist after this policy has been abandoned demonstrates the persistence of once-established structures as well as the continuing demand for such classes, but it is probably also due to the support of ‘multiculturalist’ officials and teachers” (Schönwälder 2010: 160). This is a classic case of conversion of an old program to new purposes by local officials highlighted by Hacker.

The results of the Multiculturalism Policy Index for European countries are presented in Table 1. The evidence is clear. A large number of European countries adopted some level of multiculturalism policies over the last three decades, and there has not been a general retreat since 2000. There has been a significant reduction in the Netherlands, and modest ones (from a low base) in Denmark and Italy. But the last decade has also seen a strengthening of multiculturalism policies in a number of countries, including Belgium, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. In other countries, the scores have increased marginally or remained stable. Overall, the record of multicultural policy in Europe is one of modest strengthening; as Table 1 indicates, the average score for European countries rose from 0.7 in 1980 to 2.1 in 2000 and 3.1 in 2010.

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<sup>2</sup> In addition to the composite scores, separate scores for each of these eight indicators are available for all 21 countries at three points in time (1980, 2000, 2010) at [www.queensu.ca/mcp](http://www.queensu.ca/mcp)



Yet something clearly has changed at the policy level, most noticeably a proliferation of “civic integration” policies. The persistence of MCPs alongside new civic integration policies implies that the two can somehow co-exist. But what precisely is the relationship between MCPs and the shift to civic integration?

## **Civic Integration**

Civic integration -- as defined by the Council of the European Union (2004) and summarized by Christian Joppke (2007) – emphasizes the importance of immigrants integrating more fully into the mainstream of society, and advances a number of core principles. First, employment is a key part of integration. Second, integration requires respect for the basic liberal-democratic values, such as the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and equalities such as gender equality, and the rule of law. Third, basic knowledge of the host society’s language, history and institutions is indispensable to integration. Fourth, anti-discrimination laws and policies are also essential to better integration.

A wide range of European countries – more in northern Europe than in southern Europe – have embraced an emphasis on integration at different stages of the immigration process — initial entry, renewed residency, and naturalization — and have implemented the approach through a range of tests, courses, and contracts. Sara Goodman (2010) has developed a statistical index of such civic integration policies across Europe (CIVIX), which shows a dramatic change from 1997, when such policies were largely absent, to 2009, when such policies were much more prevalent. According to the CIVIX scale, the average EU-15 country score was only 0.56 out of a possible 6.0 in 1997 but had risen to 2.3 by 2009.

So we see an interesting trend: a modest strengthening of MCPs and a significant increase in civic integration requirements. The question thus becomes whether these two policy strategies are compatible or whether they live in deep tension with each other, such that any attempt to combine them would be inherently unstable. To answer this question it is helpful to look beyond Europe to countries such as Canada and Australia. Both countries have adopted multiculturalism policies, as the bottom rows of Table 1 indicate, and both have long had strongly integrationist strategies for immigrants.

The Canadian model is best described as “multicultural integration”. The multiculturalism component of the incorporation regime is quite broad, reflecting most of the elements in the Index (Kymlicka 2007). But the Canadian policy regime has also long emphasized integration, including the primary components of the European model of civic integration. This integrationist intent animates the multiculturalism program itself: the original goals of the program, as promulgated in 1971, included not only support for cultural diversity, but also assistance for minorities to overcome barriers to wider engagement, promotion of intercultural exchange, and support for immigrants to acquire one of Canada’s official languages “in order to become full

participants in Canadian society” (Trudeau 1971: 8546). This integrationist impulse is powerfully reinforced by the immigration program, especially the settlement services offered to newcomers and the naturalization regime. The federal and provincial governments provide substantial adjustment assistance, as well as language training both at the basic level and at more advanced levels for immigrants having trouble acquiring occupational-specific language skills.<sup>3</sup> In addition, Canada has a long-standing tradition of encouraging newcomers to learn about the history, traditions and political institutions of the country. Applicants for citizenship must pass a written test of their ability to speak English or French and their knowledge of Canadian history, geography, political institutions and traditions.<sup>4</sup>

The Canadian model also provides a ‘muscular’ defence of liberal democratic principles. The Charter of Rights and Freedoms is entrenched in the constitution and trumps ordinary legislation, including the Multiculturalism Act. The Charter, together with federal and provincial human rights commissions, has protected newcomers from discrimination at the hands of majorities. For example, the Charter’s guarantee of freedom of religion has helped members of minority religions in several landmark cases concerning religious dress. But the individual rights and equality rights embedded in the Charter also stand as a barrier to the danger that multiculturalism might run amok. The Charter represents a legal frame which circumscribes the range of cultural traditions deemed legitimate, helping to ensure that accommodation of difference does not slide into a justification for discrimination or the denial of basic equalities, such as the equality of men and women (Eliadas, 2007; also Smith 2009).

The Canadian regime thus combines multiculturalism and integration. But two elements of the package are critical to this compatibility. First, the instruments of integration are voluntary. Language training and integration programs are provided by governments free of charge; and there is no linkage between participation in them and continued residency or access to social benefits. As we have seen, the only formal leverage is associated with naturalization. Second, the national identity which newcomers are invited to join celebrates diversity. The adoption of bilingualism and multiculturalism in the 1960s and 1970s represented a state-led redefinition of national identity, an effort to deemphasize the historic conception of the country as a British society and to build an identity more reflective of Canada’s cultural complexity. The adoption of a new flag, one without British or French symbols, was a reflection of this wider transition. As a result, there are fewer cultural barriers to a sense of belonging.

The Australian case also reveals the compatibility of MCPs and civic integration. Learning English as the national language and respecting liberal values have always been core parts of their multiculturalism. James Jupp - who played a pivotal role in defining Australia's multiculturalism policy – has argued that multiculturalism in Australia “is essentially a liberal

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<sup>3</sup> Federal expenditures on these programs have grown dramatically over time, tripling in the last decade to an estimated \$1 billion in 2010-11 (Seidle 2010: Table 1).

<sup>4</sup> Knowledge of either English or French as a requirement for naturalization dates back to the Naturalization Act of 1914 (Pal 1993: 79).

ideology which operates within liberal institutions with the universal approval of liberal attitudes. It accepts that all humans should be treated as equals and that different cultures can co-exist if they accept liberal values” (Jupp 1996: 40). Thus the two countries that were the earliest and most long-standing adopters of multiculturalism policies have always had strong integration policies, focusing on employment, learning the national language and shared liberal values. Any argument that such multiculturalism policies are by definition incompatible with integration is simply at odds with history, as reflected in the original Canadian and Australian cases.

What is the pattern in Europe? Is the new emphasis on civic integration there also compatible with multicultural approach to diversity? Here the answer is more complex, as there is no simple “convergence” on a common model of civic integration. Christian Joppke has argued not only that there has been a wholesale retreat from multiculturalism, but also that distinct national models of dealing with immigrants are giving way to convergent policies of civic integration and anti-discrimination (Joppke 2004). The evidence discussed here suggests a different picture. The data show no evidence for convergence either on MCPs or on civic integration policies. On the contrary, European countries display greater divergence today than 15 or 30 years ago in both policy domains. As Table 1 indicates, the divergence in multiculturalism scores — the standard deviation — has increased from 1980 to 2010.<sup>5</sup> Similarly, according to Goodman’s Civic Integration Index, divergence in civic integration scores increased from 1997 to 2009 (Goodman 2010; also Mouritsen 2011).

Amid the diverse approaches, however, it is possible to discern different models of civic integration, some of which are much more easily combined with a multicultural approach than others. Compatibility depends on the two factors identified in the Canadian case: the level of pressure brought to bear on immigrants; and the openness of the national identity of the country to diversity.

In European discourse, the level of coercion is normally discussed in terms of the balance between rights and duties (Boervi 2010). Some countries have developed voluntary approaches, which emphasize immigrants’ right to integrate and provide supportive programs. But other countries have made integration a duty, establishing mandatory programs, and denying immigrants access to social rights or residency renewals if they fail to pass certain thresholds of integration. Combining this more illiberal version of civic integration with a strong multicultural strategy would seem very difficult, particularly if it is only or primarily immigrants whose rights are subject to tests of fulfilling duties.

The second factor concerns the definition of the national culture that immigrants are integrated into (coercively or voluntarily), and how open it is to the visible maintenance and expression of difference. Some countries are uneasy with the idea of their citizens holding multiple identities.

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<sup>5</sup> This result is confirmed by Koopmans’ index of Indicators of Citizenship Rights for Immigrants, which also shows a growing standard deviation along the multiculturalism dimension from 0.20 in 1980 to 0.31 in 2008.

In Germany and France, for example, naturalization requirements state that excessive attachment to the immigrants' home country or to his/her religion is grounds for refusing naturalization. In these cases, national identity is implicitly presented as having a zero-sum relationship with immigrants' prior identity. Immigrants are not invited to add a new identity to their old one. Rather, they must to relinquish their old identity. This implicit assumption that prior identities should be relinquished, or at least subordinated and hidden for public purposes, is reflected, for example, in dress codes, the prohibition on dual citizenship, or the stringency of naturalization tests. While most countries have some form of language test as a requirement of citizenship, some countries set this bar much higher than others. Some countries require immigrants to acquire close to native-born proficiency in language and cultural knowledge. Such policies are arguably aiming at full assimilation, while preventing incompletely integrated immigrants from gaining citizenship. By contrast, some countries set the bar much lower, requiring only a good-faith effort on the part of the immigrant, and far less than native-born proficiency, with the result that immigrants become citizens (and hence start to change society) before they are assimilated.<sup>6</sup> In this sense, citizenship tests are not inherently incompatible with multiculturalist commitments. On the contrary, citizenship tests are simply one more domain in which countries exhibit their commitment (or lack of commitment) to multiculturalism.

Note that these two issues – coercive versus voluntary programs; closed versus open identities - are conceptually independent of each other. France may not have mandatory civic integration classes, but it has an assimilationist conception of national identity. Conversely, one could imagine a country that has coercive integration classes, but which has a more open conception of national identity. (Some British proposals to add new tests for residency permits might be an example: adding more coercion to the integration process, but retaining a relatively open conception of national identity). This second issue concerns the *content* of civic integration classes or of citizenship tests, rather than whether they are voluntary or mandatory.

The compatibility of multiculturalism policies and civic integration thus varies immensely from one country to another. Some countries (such as Denmark, Germany, and Austria) have adopted forms of integration that are highly compulsory and assimilationist. But since these are countries that never embraced multiculturalism in the first place, their new policies can hardly be considered as a retreat from multiculturalism (Kraus and Schönwälder 2006). By contrast, some countries with long-standing MCPs — like Sweden and Britain — have adopted forms of civic integration policies that are more voluntary and pluralistic. Other countries, such as Finland, also seem to be moving in this direction. We lose sight of these differences, and lose sight of important policy options, if we assume prematurely that civic integration entails a retreat from multiculturalism.

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<sup>6</sup> Silvia Adamo has highlighted this difference in comparing citizenship tests in Denmark and Canada (Adamo 2010). See also Paquet's account of the diverging goals of citizenship tests in Canada and the UK (Paquet 2012).

This analysis is confirmed by comparing countries' rankings on the CIVIX index and the MCP index, and examining the two ends of the CIVIX spectrum. At one end of the CIVIX spectrum, we have countries that adopt what Goodman describes as "prohibitive" citizenship strategies, based on coercive and assimilative civic integration policies. Not surprisingly, the countries that she categorizes in this way (e.g., Germany, Austria, Denmark) are also countries that score very low on our MCP Index. At the other end, we have countries that adopt what Goodman describes as "enabling" citizenship strategies, based on voluntary and open civic integration. Not surprisingly, these are also countries that have increased their MCP score since 2000 (e.g., Sweden, Finland). In between, we have a range of countries with intermediary forms and levels of both civic integration and MCPs. The same point can be made statistically by measuring the relationship between the MCP Index and the CIVIX index. Because Goodman's index measures the onerousness of integration requirements, with a high score connoting very tough requirements, one would expect that the two indices would be inversely related. That proves to be the case. The two series are strongly and negatively related, with a Pearson's correlation coefficient of  $-.461$  ( $p=.097$ ).

In short, the image of a pervasive retreat from multiculturalism and a pivot towards a common model of civic integration obscures the complexity of contemporary developments in Europe. It also obscures the fact that a form of multicultural integration remains a live option for Western democracies, both in the New World and in Europe.<sup>7</sup>

We stress this option, not simply for the sake of analytical completeness, but because we believe it is an option that warrants serious consideration, on both normative and empirical grounds. From a normative point of view, the combination of enabling civic integration and multicultural accommodation is the option most in line with fundamental liberal values of freedom and fairness. There are valid justifications for the state to promote civic integration, including promoting a common language and national identity. But these policies risk being oppressive and unfair to minorities if they are not supplemented by MCPs. Conversely, there are valid justifications for minorities to claim multicultural accommodations, but these policies may become unreasonable and destabilizing if they are not supplemented by civic integration policies.

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<sup>7</sup> To say that multicultural citizenship remains a salient option is not to say that we must or should advocate for the word *multiculturalism*. As is noted earlier, the "m word" is now virtually taboo in some countries and it may not be worth the effort to fight that semantic battle. What matters, in the end, is whether the underlying principles and policies of multiculturalism-as-citizenization are taken seriously, and in my view, those principles and policies can be enacted without the using the "m word." They could instead be adopted under the heading of "diversity policies" or "intercultural dialogue" or "community cohesion" or even "civic integration." On the other hand, perpetuating the demonizing of multiculturalism may simply play into the hands of xenophobes. To state that multiculturalism is against human rights, for example, is not just bad history and bad social science, it also risks licensing and legitimating anti-diversity views. It may not be possible to defend multicultural citizenship without countering some of the myths that surround the term "multiculturalism."

The combination of civic integration and multiculturalism is mutually, normatively reinforcing: each helps to both justify and constrain the other.<sup>8</sup>

Of course, many critics of multiculturalism accept that multiculturalism is normatively desirable in principle, but argue that it has failed in practice. As Koopmans puts it, while there are “legitimate normative reasons” for multiculturalism, “we cannot simply assume that what is normatively justifiable will also be practically efficient” (Koopmans 2010: 5); and indeed he argues that it has been counterproductive. But as we discussed earlier, it is far from clear that multiculturalism has “failed” in practice. Preliminary evidence suggests that countries which combine enabling civic integration and MCPs are doing comparatively well on many dimensions, including levels of political participation, prejudice and far-right xenophobia, and trust and social cohesion.

## Conclusions

The mindset of an archaeologist is clearly helpful in analyzing changes in the incorporation regimes of Western democracies. Countries seldom eliminate the old when they establish the new. The more common pattern is for each generation to layer new programs, reflecting new concerns, over an existing program base. This interpretation of change helps to illuminate the contemporary field of diversity policies in Europe. The image of a pervasive backlash against multiculturalism obscures a more complex evolutionary reality in many countries. While there has been a retreat from multiculturalism policies in a few countries, this is not the dominant pattern. The larger picture in Europe is one of stability and expansion of multicultural policies in the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

In many European countries, efforts to strengthen civic integration are being layered over older programs recognizing and supporting diversity, generating a multicultural version of civic integration. In this context, a natural question is whether the two components of this accumulated package can be effectively integrated. Freeman’s reminder that incorporation regimes are never fully integrated is a salutary caution here; in part, democratic governments simply accept minor frictions between policies as one means of accommodating the conflicting pressures they face every day. Nevertheless, at some point contradictions matter. As we have seen, there is nothing inherently incompatible between multiculturalism and civic integration. More liberal and voluntary approaches to civic integration can be combined with a multicultural approach to form a potentially stable policy equilibrium. But there are limits to this compatibility. More coercive or illiberal versions of civic integration are incompatible with any meaningful conception of multicultural support for diversity. The balance between different conceptions of civic integration that is emerging will clearly be critical to the future of cultural diversity in Europe.

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<sup>8</sup> For a fuller defense of the idea that liberal-democratic principles support robust national integration policies supplemented and constrained by robust MCPs, see Kymlicka, (2001).

Our aim in this paper is not to defend the model of multicultural integration, but simply to insist that it must not be rendered invisible by the categories and indicators we use. In order to accurately identify and evaluate the full range of options available to Western policy-makers, we need indicators not only of anti-discrimination (MIPEX), civic integration such (CIVIX), citizenship (Howard 2006) and naturalization (Koning 2011), but also of multiculturalism. We hope that the MCP Index can contribute in this way to clarifying the policy choices we confront.

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Table 1. Multiculturalism Policies for Immigrant Minorities: 1980, 2000, 2010

	1980	2000	2010
Austria	0	1	1.5
Belgium	1	3	5.5
Denmark	0	0.5	0
Finland	0	1.5	6
France	1	2	2
Germany	0	2	2.5
Greece	0.5	0.5	2.5
Ireland	1	1.5	3
Italy	0	1.5	1
Netherlands	2.5	5.5	2
Norway	0	0	3.5
Portugal	1	2	3.5
Spain	0	1	3.5
Sweden	3	5	7
Switzerland	0	1	1
United Kingdom	2.5	5.5	5.5
European average	0.7	2.1	3.1
European standard deviation	1.03	1.76	2.00
Australia	4	8	8
Canada	5	7.5	7.5

Source: Multiculturalism Policy Index, [www.queensu.ca/mcp](http://www.queensu.ca/mcp).