

Is religious diversity really growing ?

Results from the 2nd National Congregation Study Switzerland (NCSS2)

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Introduction

- Religious diversity and its effects : a central theme in the sociology of religion (Berger 1967 ; Finke & Stark 1988 ; Voas, Crockett & Olson 2002 ; Beckford 2014)
- Two type of religious diversity measures
- Most congregational-level studies point to an increase in religious diversity

Introduction

- NCS 2 features:
 - Comprehensive
 - Across all religions
 - National scope
 - Longitudinal
 - 1st wave : 2008
 - 2nd wave : 2020

Core questions of the presentation

1. How many congregations have been born, stayed, and disappeared in the different religious traditions?
2. How has the resulting congregational religious diversity evolved since 2008?

Methodology of the census

- Definition of "congregation" by Chaves (2004) provided precise counting criteria
- Additional rules (Stolz & Monnot 2018)
- Expert checks

Data

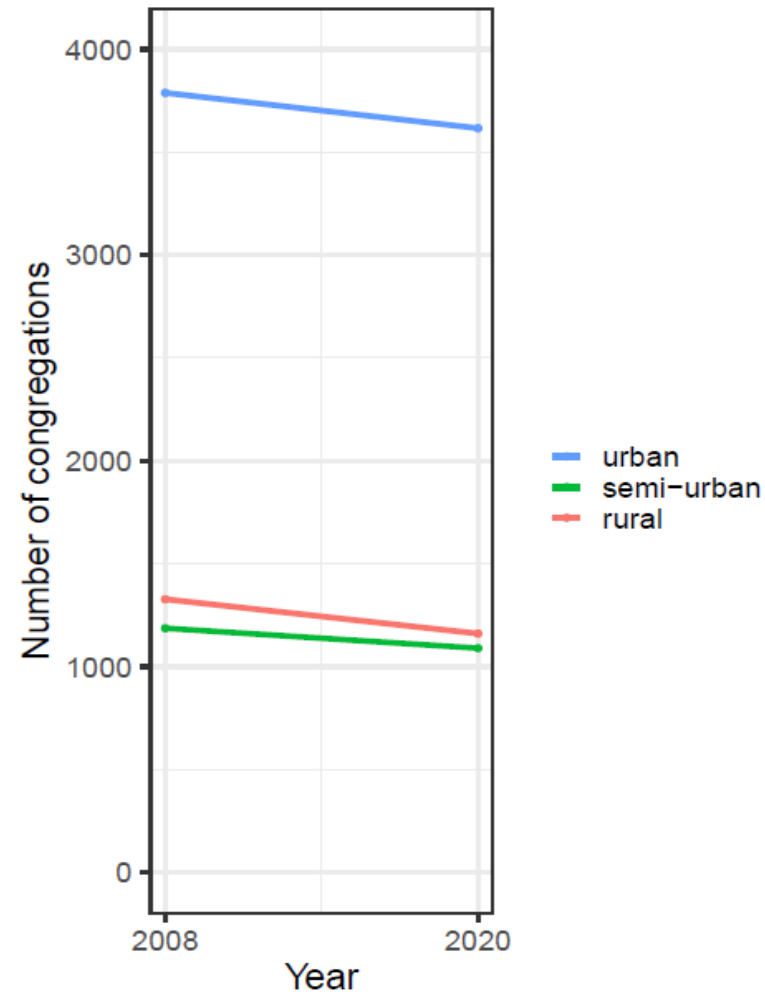
1. Census 2008
2. Census 2020

Decline in the number of congregations

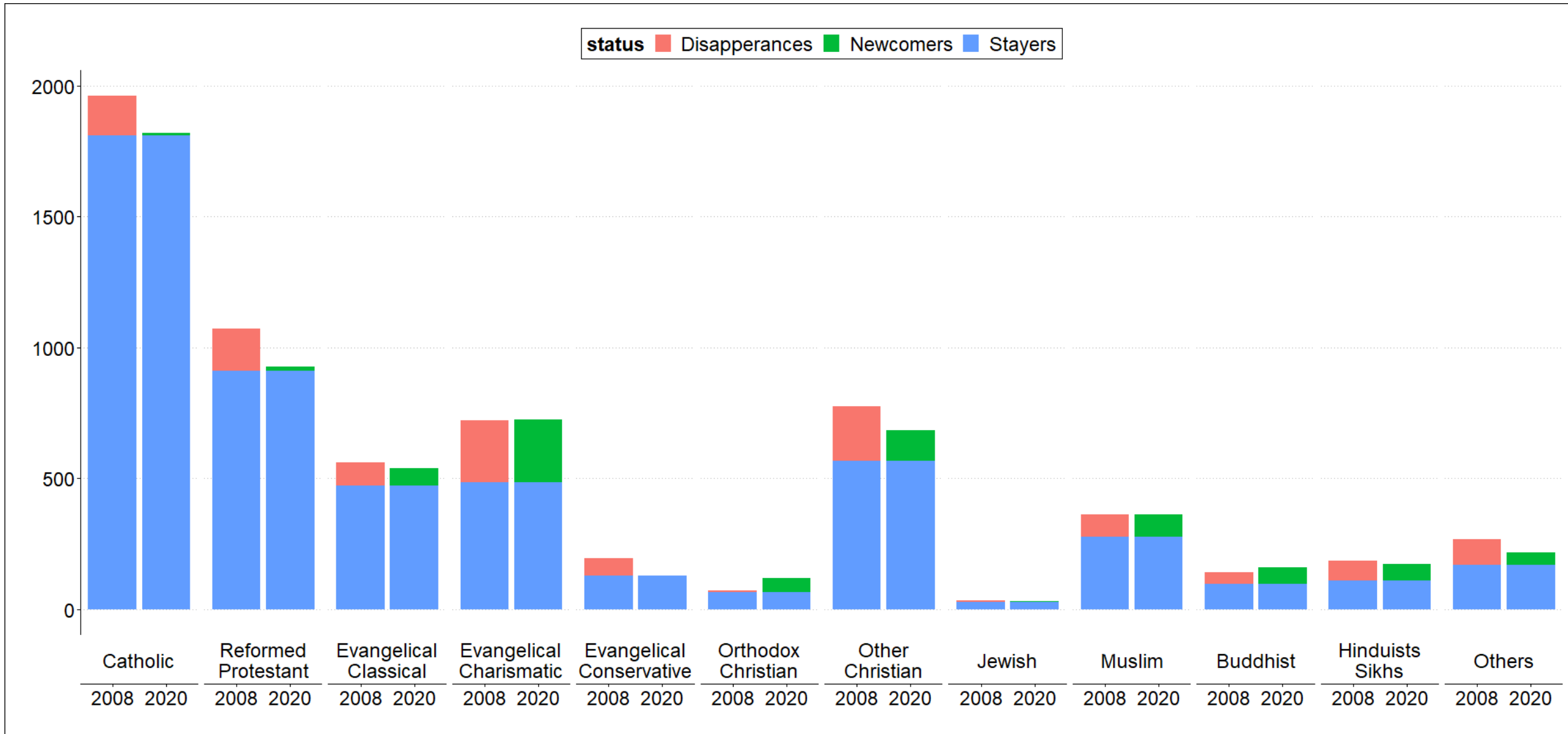
N congregations

2008: **6341**

2020: **5885**



Number of congregation by 'status' and year



Definition and measure of religious Diversity

- Congregational religious diversity = the co-existence of local religious groups of different religious traditions in a given territory
- Measuring diversity : 1 – Herfindahl-Hirschman Index

$$Diversity = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^n x^2$$

- n = number of groups,
- x = percentage of the groups belonging to religious traditions/denominations i

Measures of religious Diversity (details)

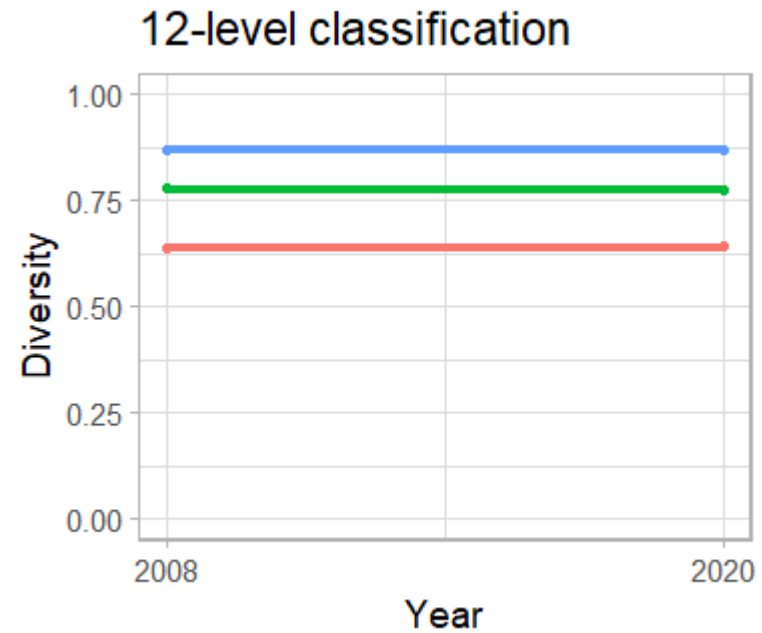
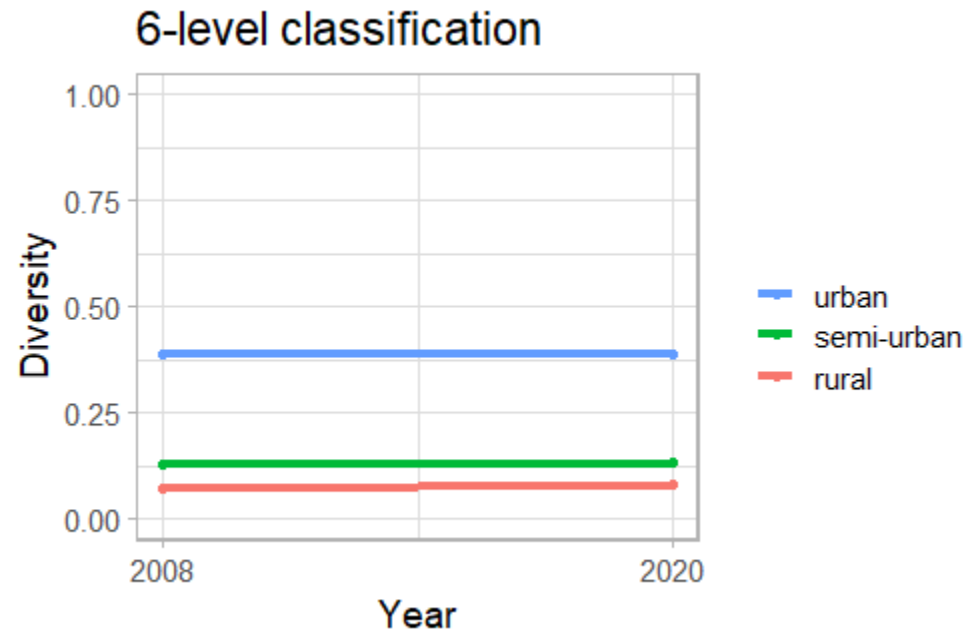
- Diversity scores
 - Computed on 2 years
 - Computed on 2 levels
 - Computed with 4 different religious classifications

Diversity scores (2008 VS 2020)

Switzerland as a whole

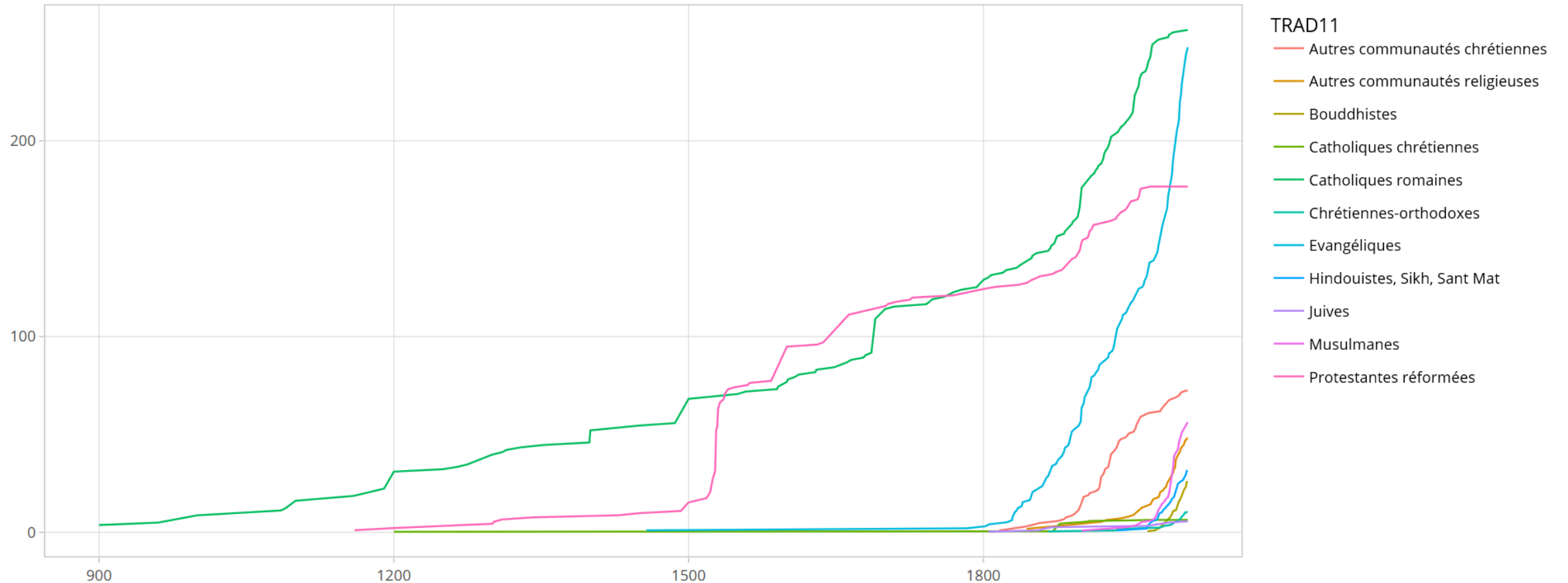
<i>year</i>	<i>Trad6</i>	<i>Trad12</i>	<i>Trad16</i>	<i>Trad35</i>
2008	0.28	0.83	0.84	0.86
2020	0.29	0.84	0.84	0.86

Diversity scores (2008 VS 2020)



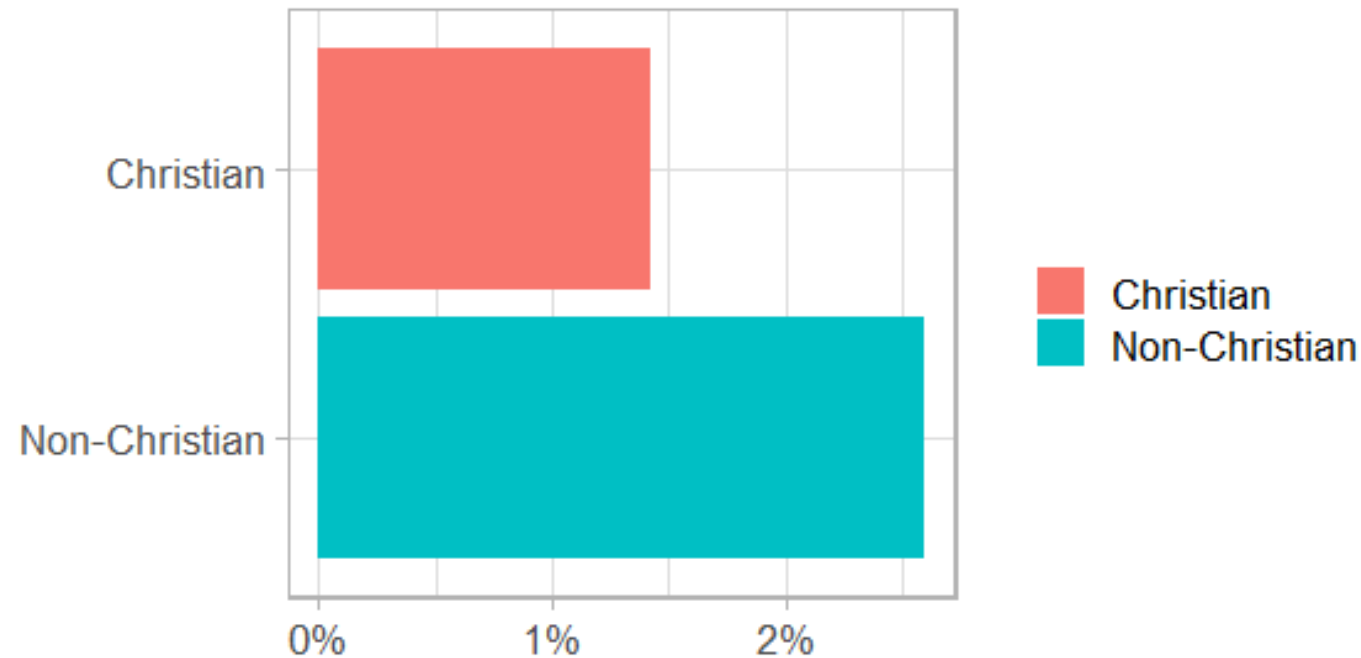
Diversity - Discussion

Number of survived congregations by year in 2020 (weighted)

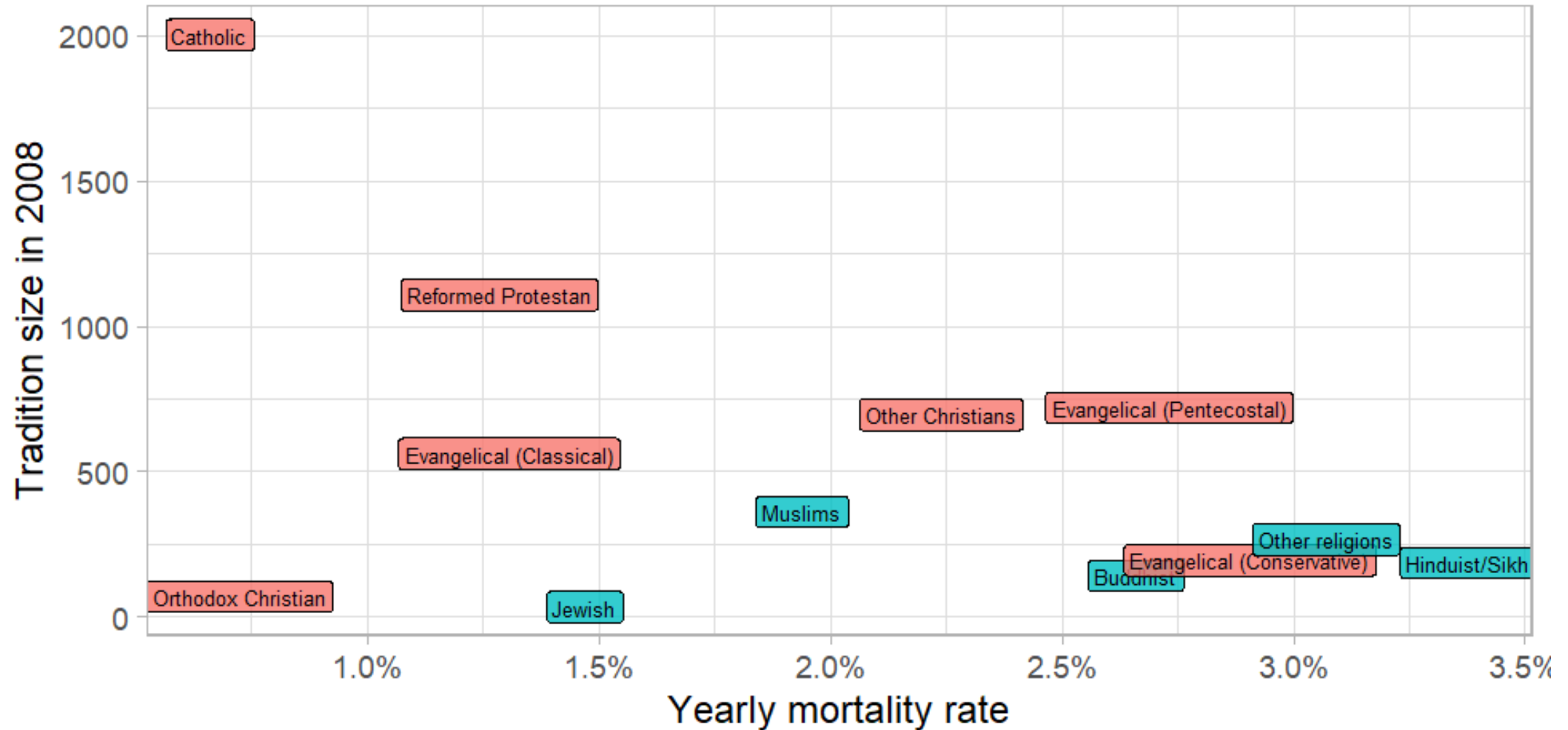


Diversity - Discussion

- Possible explanations for the gap between our results and cross-sectional studies



Diversity - Discussion



Conclusions

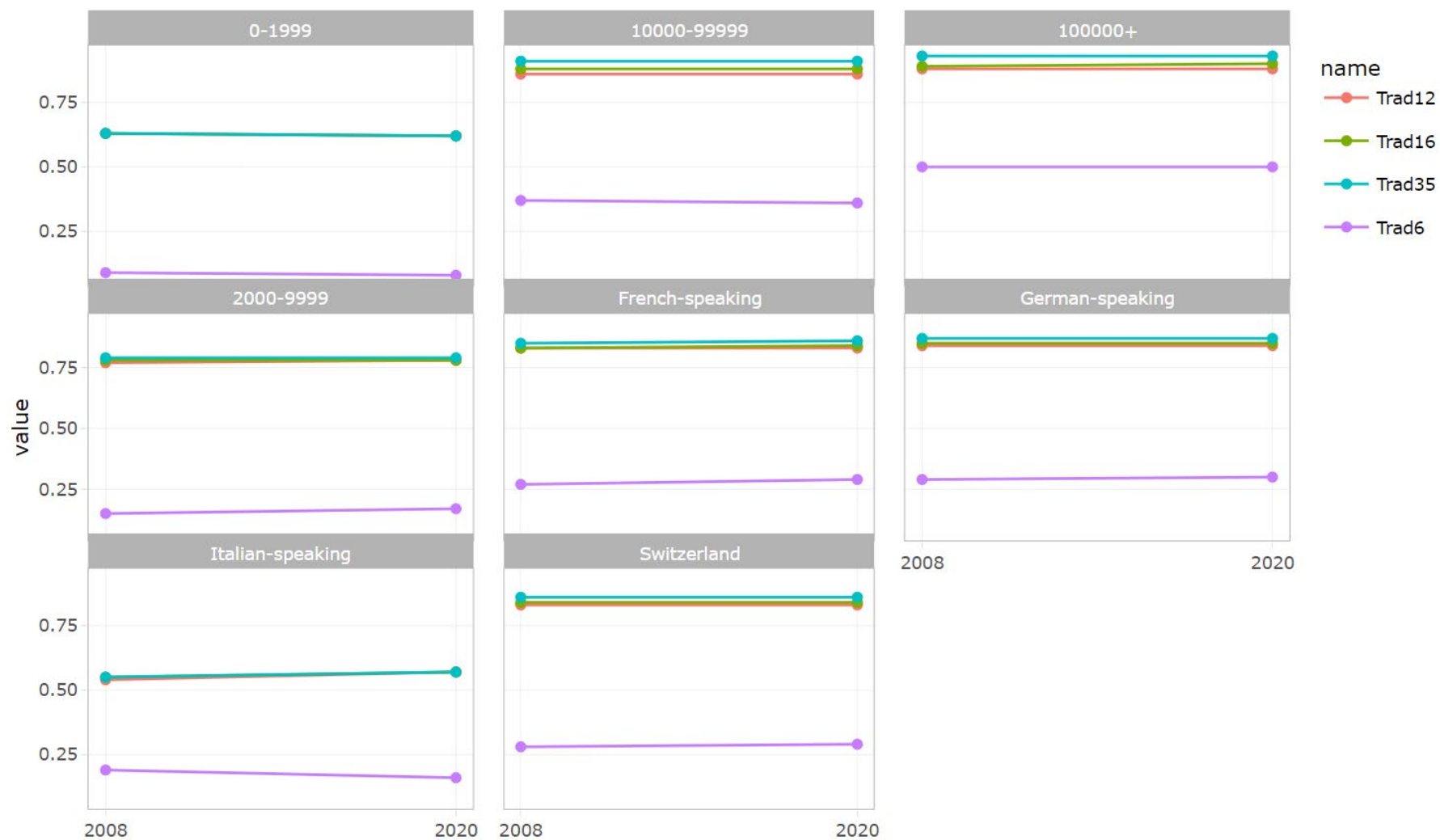
- We see a clear decline in the number of congregations in Switzerland.
- There seems not to be an increase, but an overall stability in congregational religious diversity in Switzerland since 2008.
- to assess precisely changes in diversity, longitudinal data may be necessary

Appendix 1

Table A3 Coding of religious tradition variables

Trad	Codings
Trad3:	Established Christian, non-established Christian, non-Christian.
Trad6:	Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu/Sikh, Other
Trad12:	(Roman) Catholic, Reformed Protestant, Evangelical (Classical), Evangelical (Charismatic), Evangelical (Conservative), Orthodox Christian, Other Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu/Sikh, Other.
Trad16:	(Roman) Catholic, Christ Catholic, Reformed Protestant, Evangelical (Classical), Evangelical (Charismatic), Evangelical (Conservative), Orthodox Christian, Messianic (e.g. Jehovah's Witnesses, Latter Day Saints, 7th Day Adventists), Neo-Apostolic, Other Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu/Sikh, Bahai, Other.
Trad35:	Roman Catholic, Christ Catholic, Reformed Protestant, Neo-Pietist, Independent Pietist, Anabaptist, Baptist, Methodist, Quaker, Salvation Army, Darbyist, Pentecostal and other charismatic, Other evangelicals, Lutherans, Anglicans etc., Neo-apostolic, Messianic (Jehovah's Witnesses, LSD etc.), Christian Orthodox, Christian Science, Other Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Sufi, Alevites, Bahai, Buddhist, Hindu, Neo-pagan, Sikh and Sant Mat, Neo-revelation, Theosophy, Spiritist and mediumnic groups, Scientology, Rosicrucian, UFO movements, Others

Appendix 2.1

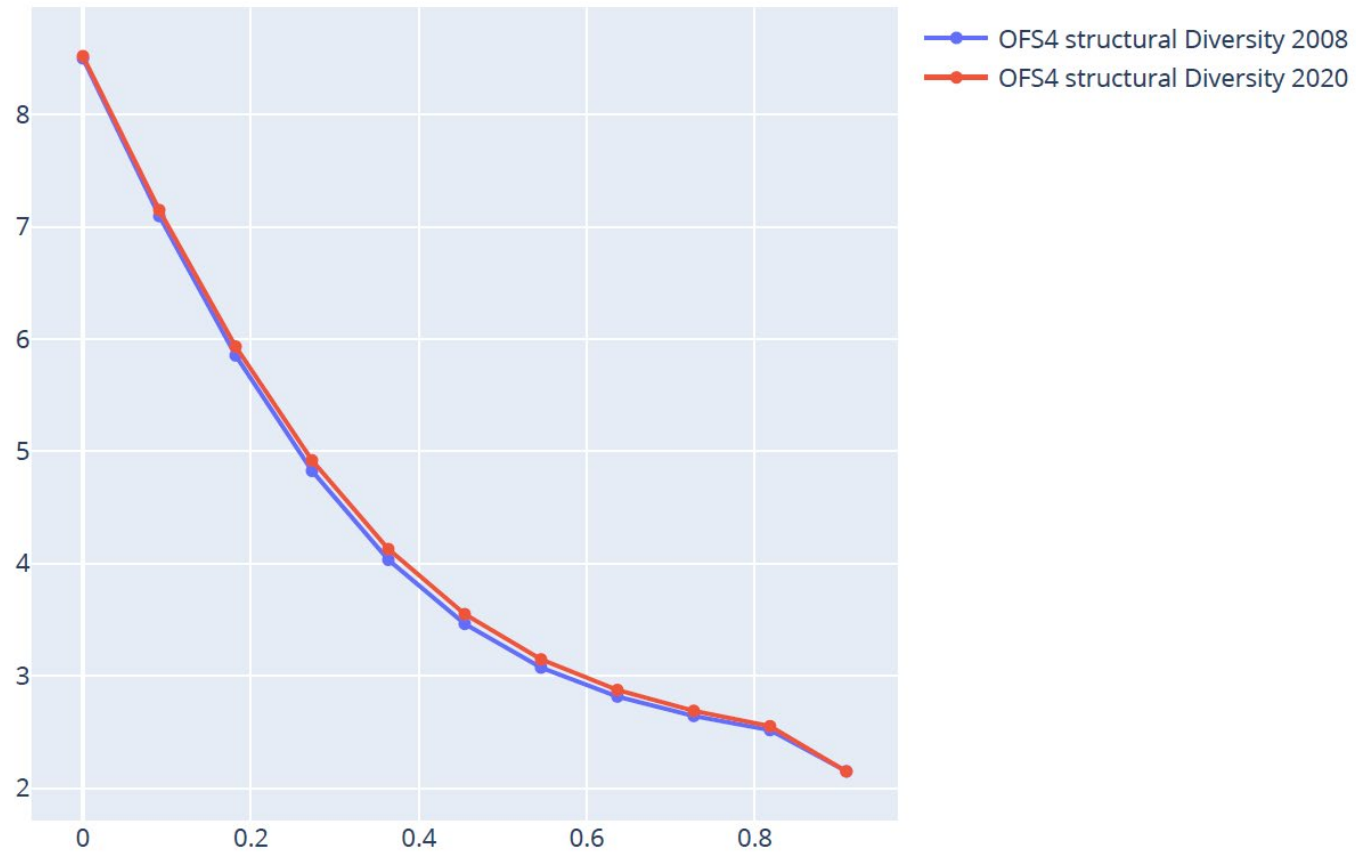


Appendix 2.2

Table A4: Diversity scores according to different religiosity classifications

<i>year</i>		<i>Trad6</i>	<i>Trad12</i>	<i>Trad16</i>	<i>Trad35</i>
2008		0.28	0.83	0.84	0.86
2020		0.29	0.84	0.84	0.86
community size					
2008	0-1999	0.09	0.63	0.63	0.63
2008	2000-9999	0.15	0.78	0.78	0.79
2008	10,000-99,999	0.37	0.86	0.88	0.91
2008	100,000+	0.50	0.88	0.89	0.93
2020	0-1999	0.08	0.62	0.62	0.62
2020	2000-9999	0.17	0.78	0.78	0.79
2020	10,000-99,999	0.36	0.87	0.89	0.91
2020	100,000+	0.50	0.88	0.90	0.93
language region					
2008	German-speaking	0.29	0.85	0.86	0.87
2008	French-speaking	0.27	0.83	0.83	0.85
2008	Italian-speaking	0.19	0.54	0.55	0.55
2020	German-speaking	0.30	0.84	0.85	0.87
2020	French-speaking	0.30	0.83	0.84	0.86
2020	Italian-speaking	0.16	0.57	0.57	0.57

Appendix 3 : Leinster method



Appendix 5

