**Historical church competition predicts religiosity in the 2000s:**

**the case of the Netherlands**

In the beginning of the 20th century there were more than 1,000 municipalities in the Netherlands. This number had been reduced to around 400 in the 21th century. To fit historical municipalities to the present-day NUTS units the codebook “Repertorium van Nederlandse gemeenten 1812-2006” (Van der Meer & Boonstra, 2006) was used. This codebook lists all historical names of the Dutch municipalities and all historical changes of their borders. For instance, such changes are listed as “merging with another municipality” or “emergence from another municipality”. Very rarely municipalities shifted to another country (Belgium or Germany) and had to be excluded from the analysis. The twelfth Dutch province Flevoland was established in 1986. There are several municipalities within this new province that existed in 1909 and subordinated to other provinces (for instance, such municipalities as Warffum or Urk). These municipalities were merged and labeled as Flevoland. The initial number of regions in the ESS data is 40. However, since the historical data on the Zuidwest-Drenthe region were limited, the latter was merged with Zuidoost-Drenthe, hence yielding 39 sub-regions for the final analysis.

We merge high-quality historical register data from 1909 provided by the Historical Ecological Database (HED) with recent survey data from the European Social Survey (2002, 2004, 2006 and 2008). In the period 2002-2008 the Dutch sample was based on so-called COROPS corresponding to the NUTS-3 units. This design allows us to analyze 39 Dutch subregions, which are historically meaningful and sufficient in number for the multilevel statistical models that we apply.

1. “cvs\_hhi.csv”. Data from the Dutch statistical office. Herfindahl index for religious concentration in 2008 at the level of regions.
2. “hinl.utrecht.csv". Historical data based on HED and HISCI Netherlands (HISCI stands for Historical International Standardized Community Indicators). The latter data was developed by a group of researchers in the Utrecht University in 2015 (Antonie Knigge, Wiebke Schulz, Richard Zijdeman). In this case, most is proprietary data that we cannot give away for public use, and for which an interested researcher needs to obtain permission him/herself, which we trust will be given.
   1. “secul1909.csv” – data on the percentage of secular individuals, based on the same source.
3. “ess\_merged\_final analysis.sav”. The European Social Survey (2002, 2004, 2006 and 2008).
4. Visualisations are based on the GIS data: Huijsmans, D.P., IISG-LINKS Dataset Historische Nederlandse Toponiemen Spatio-Temporeel 1812–2012, Release 2013.2, 2013.