What do respondents mean when they indicate to be "citizens of the world"?
Using probing questions to elucidate international differences in cosmopolitanism

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Overview

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- Data and methods

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Measurement of cosmopolitan attitudes

Measurement of cosmopolitan attitudes

- Different measures
- Indirect measure: Broad array of pertinent attitudes (e.g. towards foreigners)
- Direct measure: Do you feel as a citizen of the world?
- Different variants in different surveys
- Considerable doubt with regard to the validity of measurement

Data and methods

Data

- Panelists from non-random online access panels

- Spain, Denmark, Hungary, (western & eastern) Germany, Canada (English speaking, only), and the United States

- Ca. 250 respondents per country/region targeted

- Citizens of the respective countries

- Quotas for age (18-30, 31-50, 51-65), gender, and education (lower education vs. higher education)

- Data were collected in October 2011

Data

- "People might think of themselves as being European/North American, [citizen of country] or inhabitant of a specific region to different extents. Some people say that with globalization, people are becoming closer to each other as 'citizens of the world'. Thinking about this, to what extent do you personally feel you are…

- ... inhabitant of your region?

- ... [citizen of country]?

- ... European/North American?

- ... a citizen of the world?"

  [to a great extent / somewhat / not really / not at all // can't choose]

Data

- After the cosmopolitan item, a category-selection probe followed on a separate screen:
- "Please tell us why you feel [to a great extent / somewhat / not really / not at all] that you are a citizen of the world".

Quantitative results

Means of closed item across countries

	Web survey (2011)	Eurobarometer (2009)
Spain	2.3	2.3
Denmark	1.8	2.0
Hungary	1.6	1.4
Western Germany	1.8	1.7
Eastern Germany	1.6	1.5
Canada	1.9	--
United States	1.8	--

Other means and item non-response

- Means for the other geographical units (region, country, Europe) also very similar between Eurobarometer and Web survey across European countries

- Item non-response much higher in Web survey than in the Eurobarometer (face-to-face) but the cosmopolitan item has highest item non-response among the geographical units analyzed for the large majority of countries in both the Eurobarometer and the Web survey

Categorization of open answers

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"Problematic" answers

- *Non-response answers* (include explicit "don't knows", refusals, incomprehensible answers, etc.)

- *Other answers* (which could not easily be integrated into the category schema, "It's a too wide-ranging term for me")

- *Reference to previous answer* ("same as above")

Categorization of open answers

(Mostly) **Reasons for high scores of cosmopolitanism**

- *Geographical reference* (use of the fact of living on this planet as a reason to feel as a world citizen, "Because everyone born on this planet is a part of the world")

- *Facilitated border crossing* (reference to open borders and the opportunity to travel anywhere at any time)

Categorization of open answers

- *Transnational experiences* (being an immigrant, travel experiences in the past, living in a multicultural place)

- *Openness* ("Because I can imagine to live in different parts of the world")

- *Ancestry and relatives* (ancestry from another country or relatives in other countries, "My ancestry is half German, half British, and I have relatives all over the world")

- *Friends* (in other countries or from other ethnic groups, "I know many people from all over the world (especially thanks to going to a very multicultural private school)")

Categorization of open answers

- *Technology* (technology and new ways of communication, "Because with the way technology is nowadays, we are able to interact with people all over the world. it makes the world seem closer and can bring people together")

- *Globalization* (global interests, caring about a global world, interrelations and dependency, "There is no longer the option to just be from one state or region. What is done locally does have impact on the global economy ...")

- *Common sharings* (more similarities than differences, common goals, "I feel … we are all human beings and should treat each other as if there are more similarities among us … than differences")

Categorization of open answers

(Mostly) **Reasons for low scores of cosmopolitanism**

- *No transnational experiences* ("I have never traveled the world")

- *Lack of openness* (including exclusive identification with own country or world region "I am a citizen of the United States first. I am proud to be an American")

- *No ancestry and relatives* (from another country or relatives in other countries, "My bloodline has always been the same continent and nowhere else")

- *No friends* (in other countries or from other ethnic groups)

Categorization of open answers

- *Non-globalization* (lack of interconnectedness, lack of representation, country's unimportance in a global perspective, "Because I don't have a say or vote around the world")

- *Differences* (cultural, regional, ethnical, religious, etc. differences between peoples or countries, "The world will never be one country. Other countries have different views and methods that do not necessarily agree with my beliefs. There will always be differences between the geographical locations of the world")

Categorization of open answers

- Multiple coding was possible
- However, non-response and "Other" are only coded if none of the other codes apply.

Quantitative results from probing

	Spain	Denmark	Hungary	West Germany	East Germany	Canada	U.S.
"Problematic" answers							
Non-response answers	26	34	24	27	28	22	16
Other answers	5	5	4	6	9	7	9
Reference to previous answer	4	7	4	3	4	1	3
Reasons for high scores							
Geographical reference	22	6	8	11	8	13	14
Facilitated border crossing	3	3	4	4	2	0	0
Transnational experiences	4	8	6	5	5	8	7
Openness	9	8	11	8	7	4	6
Ancestry and relatives	1	0	0	0	0	4	1
Friends	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
Technology	0	4	2	5	2	3	2
Globalization	5	15	5	4	4	8	7
Common sharings	6	2	2	4	3	5	5
Reasons for low scores							
No transnational experiences	5	4	19	9	13	8	16
Lack of openness	8	9	9	12	11	16	19
No ancestry and relatives	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
No friends	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-globalization	3	3	10	4	6	5	3
Differences	5	6	4	10	12	7	6

Quantitative results from probing

- High number of "problematic answers"
- *Geographical reference* might partially be trivial
- *Facilitated border crossing* absent in North America
- *Transnational experience* and its absence important (the latter particularly in Hungary, Eastern Germany, and the U.S.)
- *Ancestry and relatives* and *friends* and their absence rarely mentioned (*ancestry and relatives* only in Canada)

Quantitative results from probing

- *No openness* (in the sense of exclusive identification with country/world region) predominantly in North America

- Country differences in some categories, such as *geographical reference, openness*, *technology, globalization*, *common sharings, differences,* hard to explain

Conclusions

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- High item non-response with closed question and difficulties to come up with (useful) probing answers demonstrate the difficulty of the cosmopolitan item and might cause bias in the data

- *Geographical reference* might also indicate problems

- Country differences in argumentation patterns could partly be expected, e.g. in the case of *facilitated border crossing* or *absence of transnational experience*

- Other similarities and differences are harder to account for

Thank you!!!