



N° 10 | 2007

Europe et identité Janvier 2007

Normativité des choix sociométriques et différences socio dynamiques dans la représentation sociale des relations entre nations européennes

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Édition électronique :

URL :

<https://cpp.numerev.com/articles/revue-10/1239-normativite-des-choix-sociometriques-et-differences-socio-dynamiques-dans-la-representation-sociale-des-relations-entre-nations-europeennes>

DOI : numerev_398

ISSN : 1776-274X

Date de publication : 08/01/2007

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Pour **citer cette publication** : GILIBERT, D., MORLOT, R., CASTEL, Ph. (2007) Normativité des choix sociométriques et différences socio dynamiques dans la représentation sociale des relations entre nations européennes. *Cahiers de Psychologie Politique*, (10). https://doi.org/10.34745/numerev_398

Normativity effects in sociometric choices and sociodynamic differences in the social representations of relations between European nationalities.

Exploring sociometric choices between 39 different nationalities within Europe, we identified a social representation of relationships between these nations. These choices (made by one's own nationality and supposedly made by others) enabled us to verify and understand a sociocentrism effect as well as a normative effect within the choices made by three nations (a French sample, a Polish one and a Czech one).

Within all samples, the subjects' nation centralized the higher number of links with others (emitted choices and received ones). However, this sociocentrism has a quite different meaning for each of the three examined representations. Within the French representation, the French (n=317) consider they would receive more choices than others, and they emit fewer choices than they receive, in a selective way toward who is supposed to choose them. Within the Polish representation, the Poles (=169) also consider they would receive more choices, but they emit their choices especially toward the western nationalities. As regards the Czech representation, the Czech nationality (n=327) is the only one which emits more choices than it receives and especially toward the western nationalities too.

Beyond this sociocentrism, a large consensus emerged: dominant nations were clearly identified as the most often chosen: Germany, England and other founder member nations of the European Community.... The choices of each sample was nearer this consensus than the other nationalities were supposed to be. The more a nationality was supposed to be near this consensus, the more it was likely to be chosen. A selected and valuable norm of choice emerged with which the members complied to choose their partners.