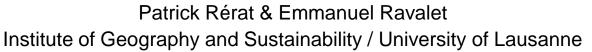
CYCLING IN THE SWISS CONSTITUTION

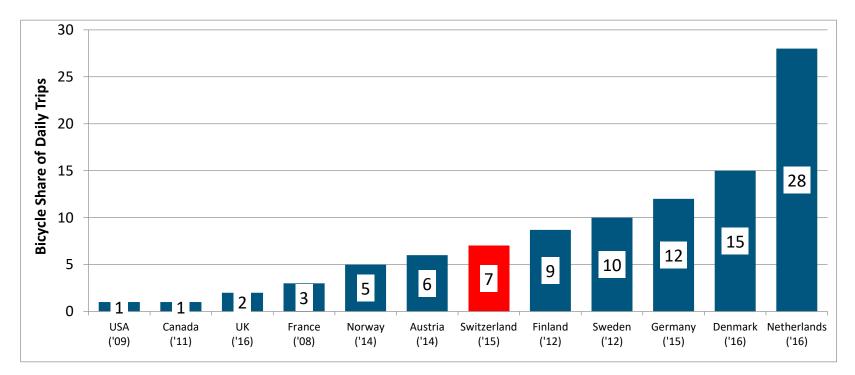
Who voted yes, who voted no, and why?







CYCLING IN SWITZERLAND



Source: Buehler Ralph (2018), Bicycling levels and trends in Western Europe and the USA in Rérat Patrick (ed.), La renaissance du vélo, GéoAgenda, 1.

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WHAT IS A FEDERAL POPULAR INITIATIVE?

- A way for citizens to request an amendment to the Federal Constitution (usually a specific draft article).
- An initiative committee needs to collect 100,000 signatures from people entitled to vote within 18 months.
- Actually: used as a way to put an issue on the political agenda.





THE BIKE INITIATIVE

- 2015: launch of an initiative to add the promotion of cycle paths in the constitution (Art. 88 on Footpaths and hiking trails)
- 2016/17: debates at the Government & Parliament
 - Counter-proposal without constraints (It supports and coordinates measures... => It may support and coordinate...)
 - Withdrawal of the initiative
 - Vote in September 2018





THE CAMPAIGN

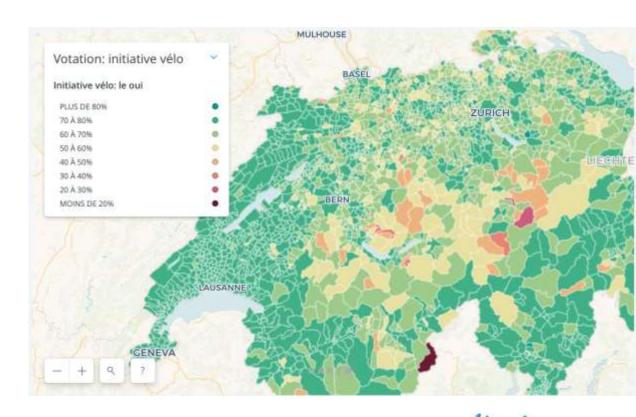
- Very broad coalition (parties, NGOs, including one of the car lobbies)
- All forms of cycling (utility, leisure, tourism, sport)
- Short campaign highlighting the large support and a consensual image of cycling
- No real in-depth debate
- Opponents not organized





RESULTS

- 73.6% said yes
- All 26 cantons said yes





RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Questions

- What characteristics explain the propensity to say yes/no?
- What where the main arguments?

Literature

- Image of cycling / cyclists
- Differences in terms of gender, age, socioeconomic status, residential context

Source

- VOTO phone survey (FORS) among 1,500 Swiss citizens
- Questions about the votes, the arguments, their characteristics

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WHO VOTED YES (MORE THAN AVERAGE)?





Age













WHO VOTED YES (MORE THAN AVERAGE)?





Age







Education







Residential context Linguistic region



THE ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR...

Safety for

















Congestion (74%)

















Environment and health (86%)*

















THE ARGUMENTS AGAINST...

No need (already excellent) (36%)

















Federalism (46%)

















Unfair for other modes (28%)



















CONCLUSION

Further analysis

- Open questions about the arguments
- Model at the scale of municipalities

Messages

- A big yes for cycling but based on a consensual and broad image
- Differences within the population not related to gender, age, class, residential context
- Main explanatory factors: the practice of cycling (automobility vs post-car system?) and the political leaning (ideology and values)