Support and Opposition to Migration

Didier Ruedin
University of the Witwatersrand &
University of Neuchâtel
Support and Opposition to Migration in Portugal
Lisbon, 31 October 2016
Four actor types politicizing migration

period: 1995 to 2009
Politicization = salience + polarization

Van der Brug et al. 2015
Stock of immigrants

Foreign-born population (in millions); Van der Brug et al. 2015
Share of immigrants

Percentage Foreign-born population; Van der Brug et al. 2015
Increasing concern over immigration

'Immigration' as one of three most important issues; Van der Brug et al.
More politicization where

more immigrants

immigrants make political claims

immigrants are culturally different

position on immigration coincides with other issues

new leaders

economic crisis

political system open to challengers
Changes over time

(all countries combined; Van der Brug et al. 2015)
Government actors are main claim-makers

- Austria
- Belgium-Flanders
- Belgium-Wallonia
- Ireland
- Netherlands
- Spain
- Switzerland-French
- Switzerland-German
- United Kingdom

Legend:
- Government actors
- Parties and legislative actors


In summary, country-specific factors and political leadership matter.

Government actors dominate claims-making.

Civil society actors (and journalists) as counter pole.

http://www.som-project.eu