

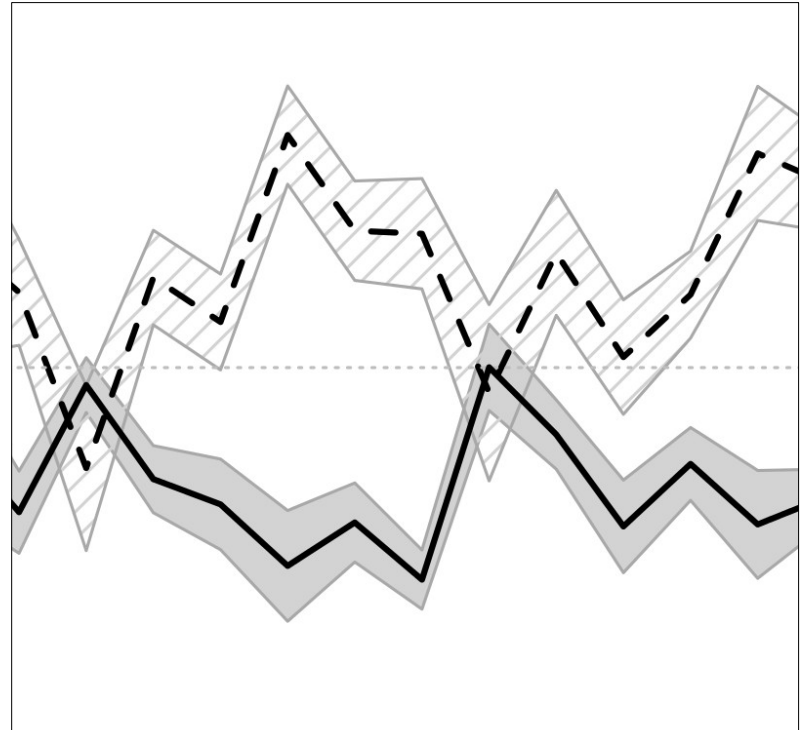
The Politicisation of Immigration in Switzerland: The Importance of Direct Democracy

Didier Ruedin

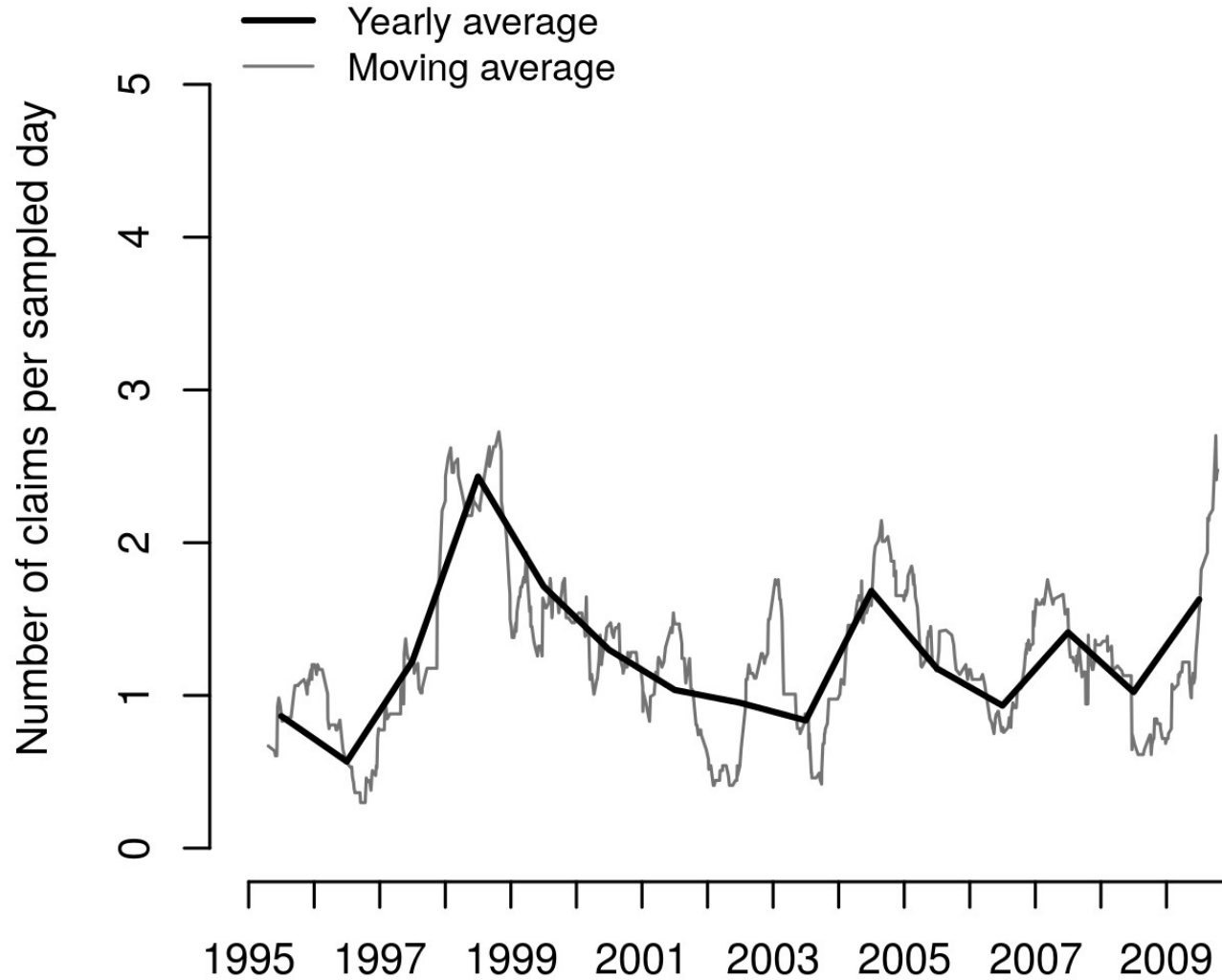
University of the Witwatersrand &
University of Neuchâtel

*Support and Opposition to Migration in
Portugal*

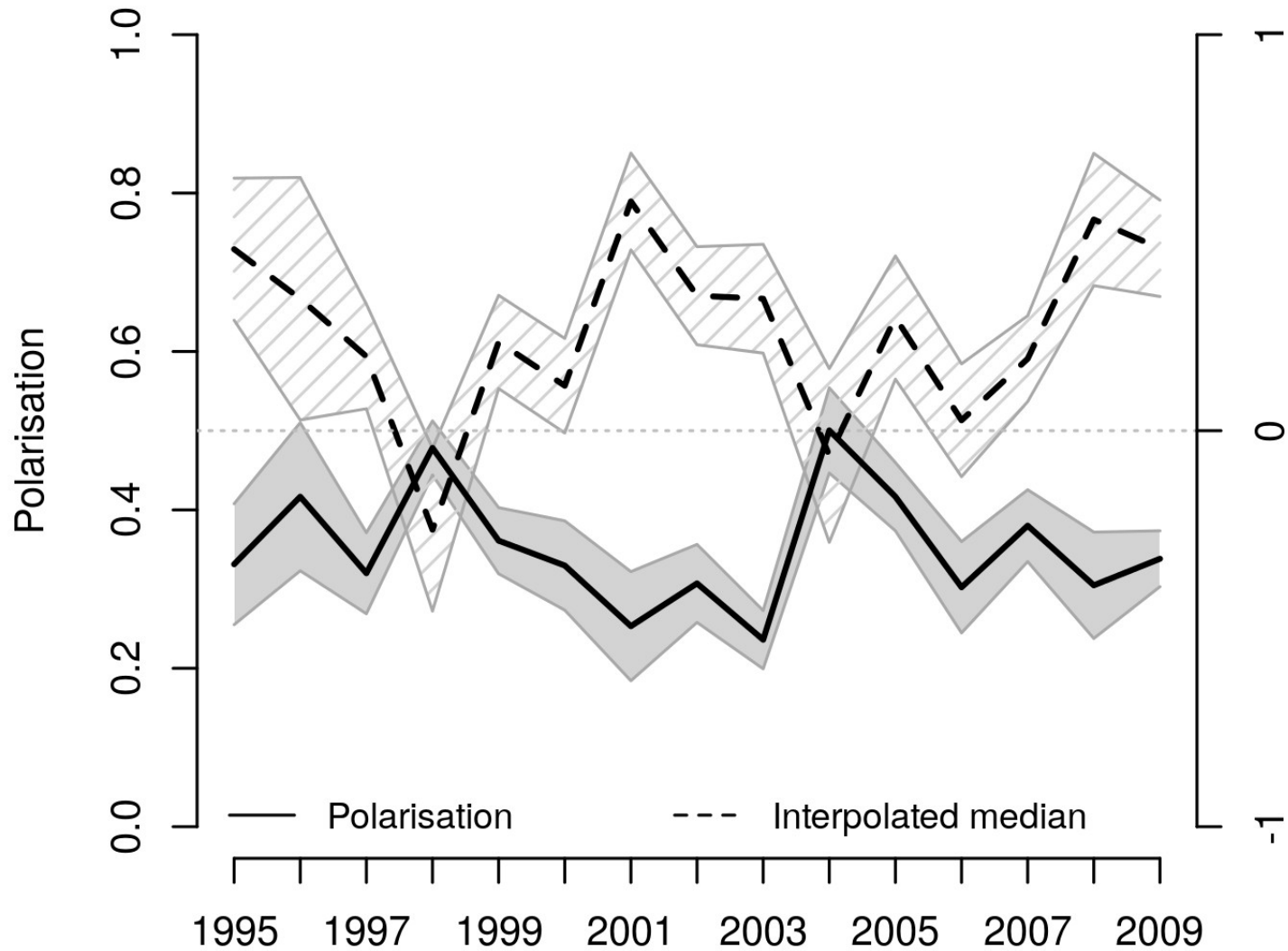
Lisbon, 31 October 2016



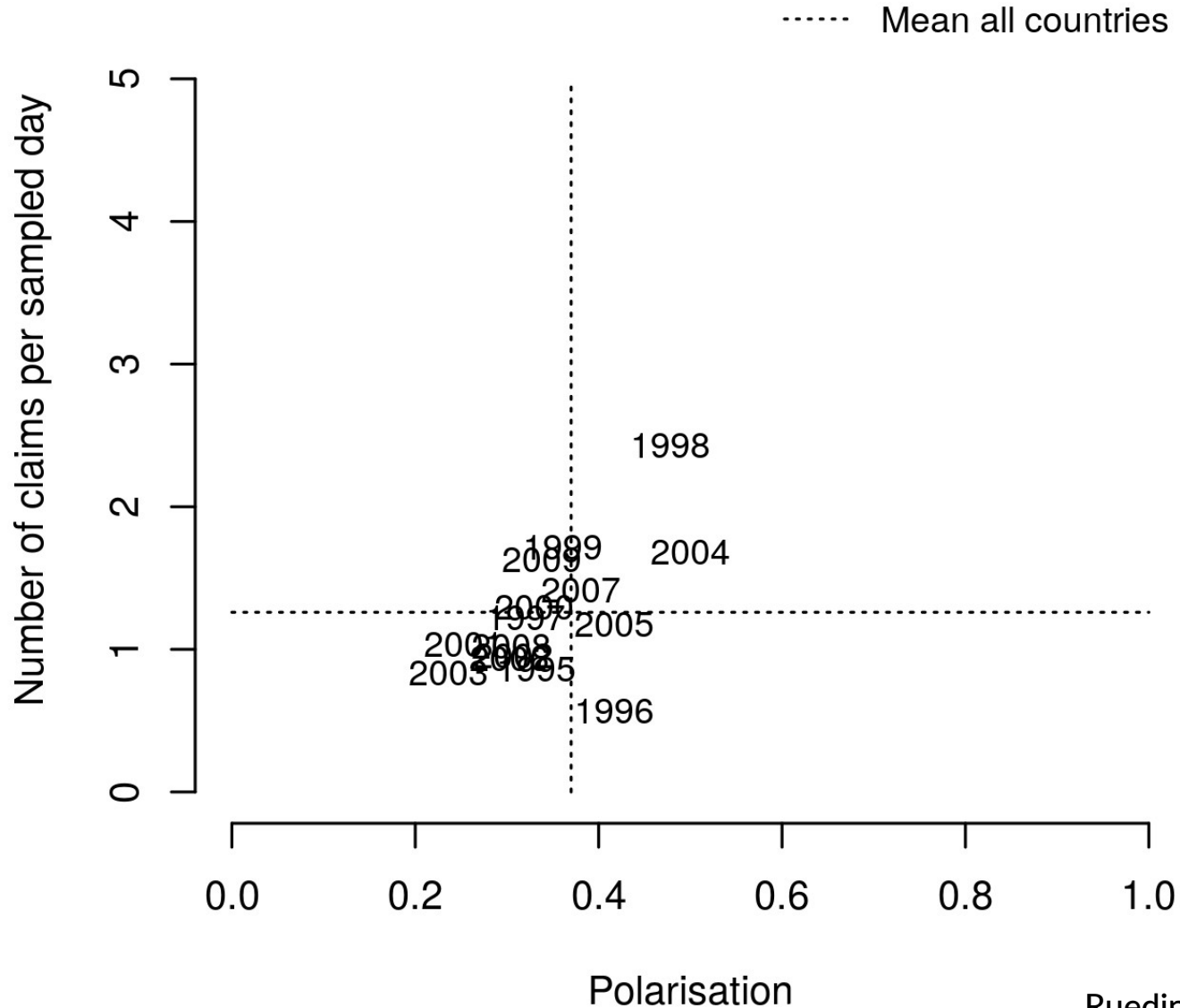
There is no clear overall trend in salience



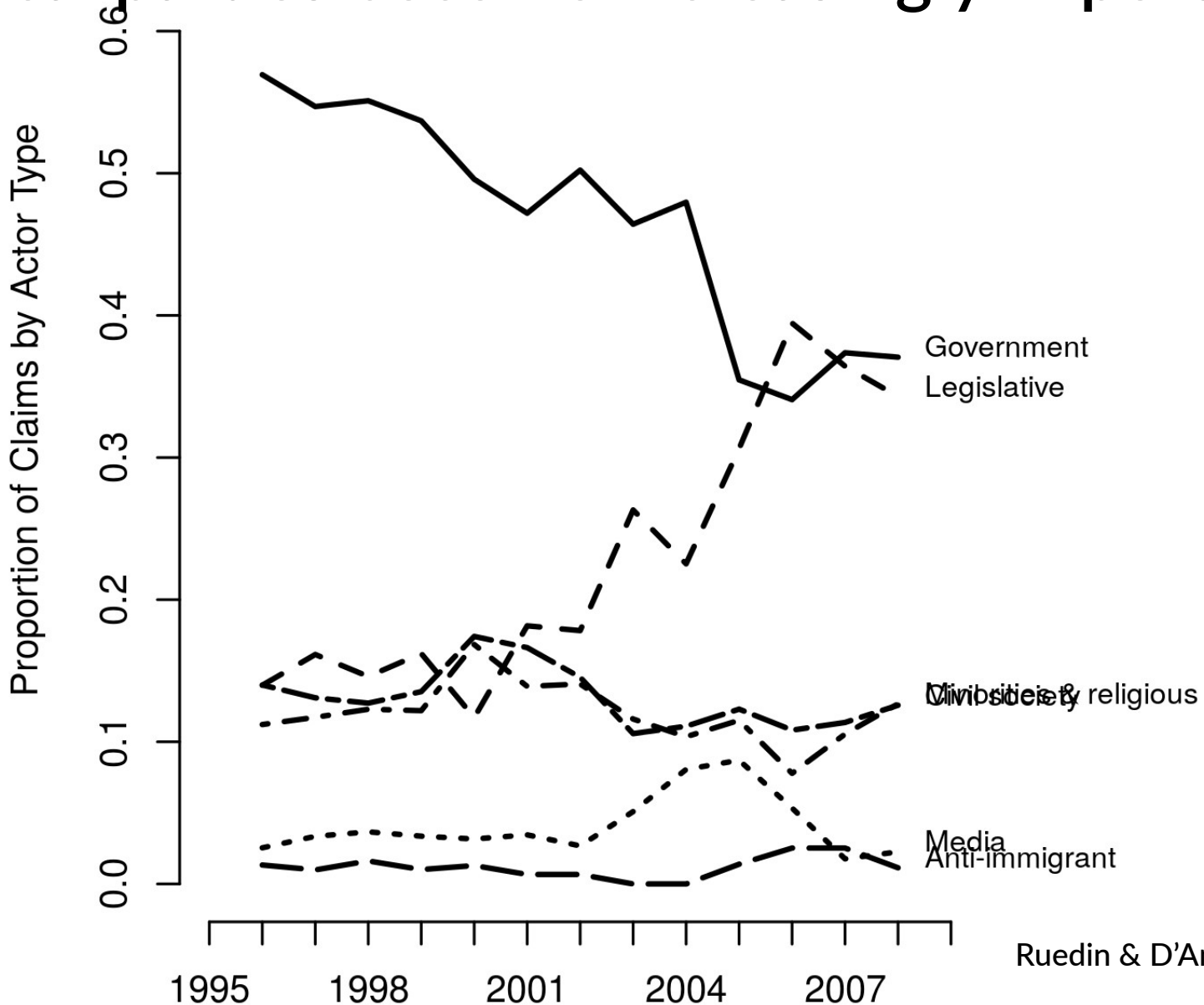
The debate is often positive and not polarized



Switzerland is a (surprisingly) typical case



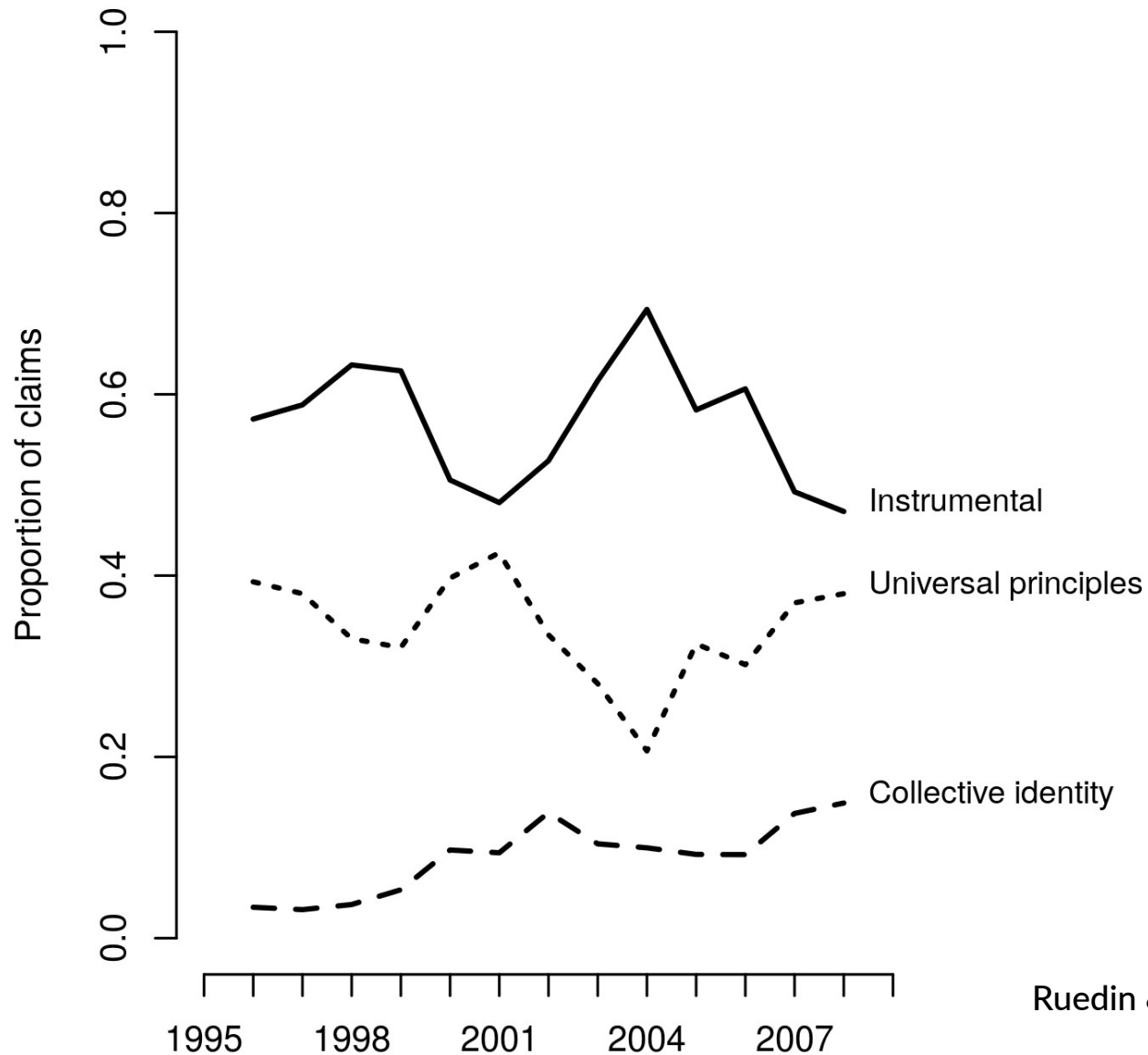
Government actors dominate claims but political parties become increasingly important



The right-wing Swiss People's Party is not the only party making claims

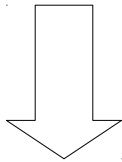
CH	Total	N	Position
SVP (Schweizerische Volkspartei)	38%	98	-0.71
FDP (Freisinnig-Demokratische Partei Schweiz)	15%	38	0.25
CVP (Christlichdemokratische Volkspartei der Schweiz)	15%	38	0.25
SPS (Sozialdemokratische Partei der Schweiz)	22%	56	0.25
Schweizer Demokraten	3%	7	-
N	256	237	

Instrumental frames and human rights dominate the debate



In summary, direct democracy influences the politicization of immigration in Switzerland

Parties and government
dominate claim-making



Direct democracy to keep
the issue on the agenda

