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# Narrowing the Space between? Cross community relations in Northern Ireland

Dr Máire Braniff  
INCORE, Ulster University  
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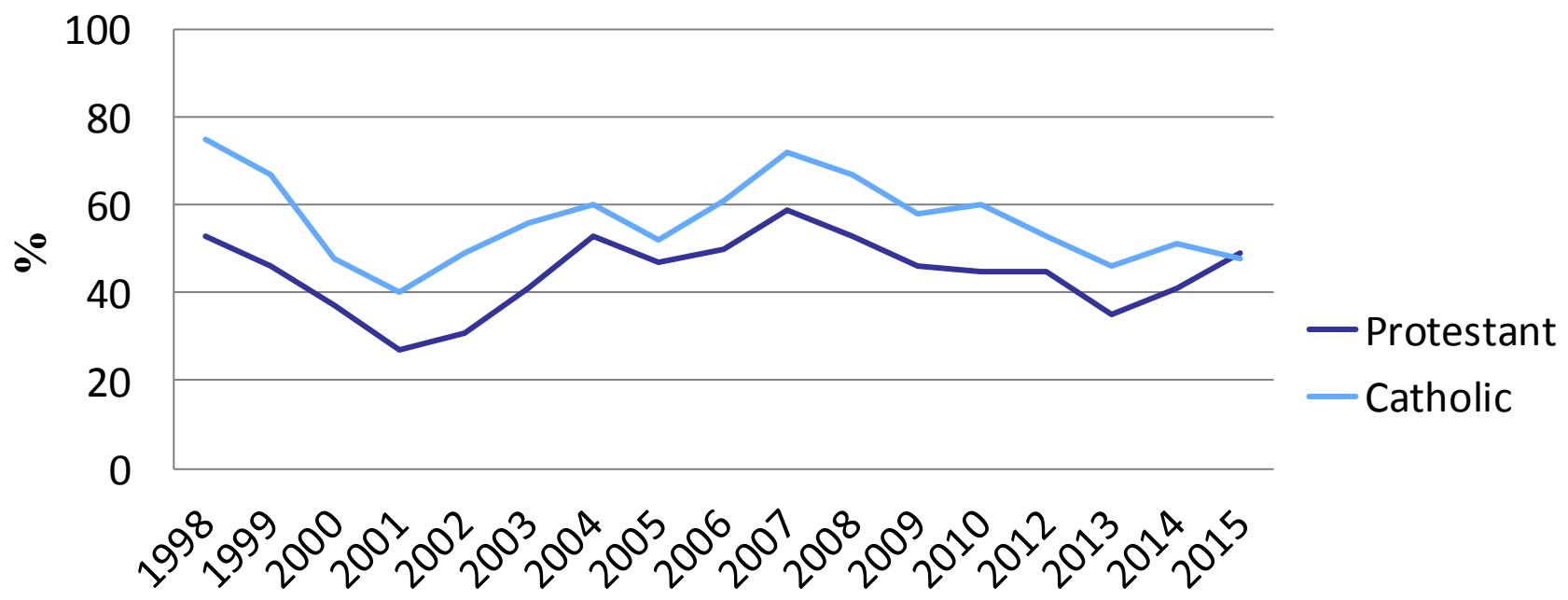
- Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (2015)
- Community Relations
  - Perceptions & Belonging
- Issues of Space
  - Contestation & Sharing

# Improving?

- 52% of people now feel that relations are better than five years ago
- Up from 45% in NILT 2014 Survey



## % believing that relations between Protestants and Catholics will be better in 5 years' time, by religion



- Strong sense of social cohesion within communities
- 87% feel they belong to their community
  - 9/10 Catholics and Protestants feel they belong
  - 74% of no-religion



# National Identity

	%		
	British	Irish	Northern Irish
Yes, definitely	58	41	57
Yes, probably	27	40	32
Probably not	10	9	6
Definitely not	5	8	4
Don't know	1	3	1



- T:BUC: ‘Our Shared Community’ (2013)
  - *to create a community where division does not restrict the life opportunities of individuals and where all areas are open and accessible to everyone.*



	%			
	Catholic	Protestant	No religion	All
A lot	8	12	10	10
A little	16	17	17	16
Not at all	68	67	59	66
Don't know	8	4	14	8

**Use of separate shops and services in local neighbourhood, according to community background**

	% feeling 'very' or 'quite' safe			
	Catholic	Protestant	No religion	All
GAA club (Gaelic Sports club)	90	55	64	70
Orange Hall	53	86	68	70
Catholic secondary school	96	84	86	89
Protestant secondary school	82	96	92	90

## Feeling of safety visiting specific premises

# Marking Space

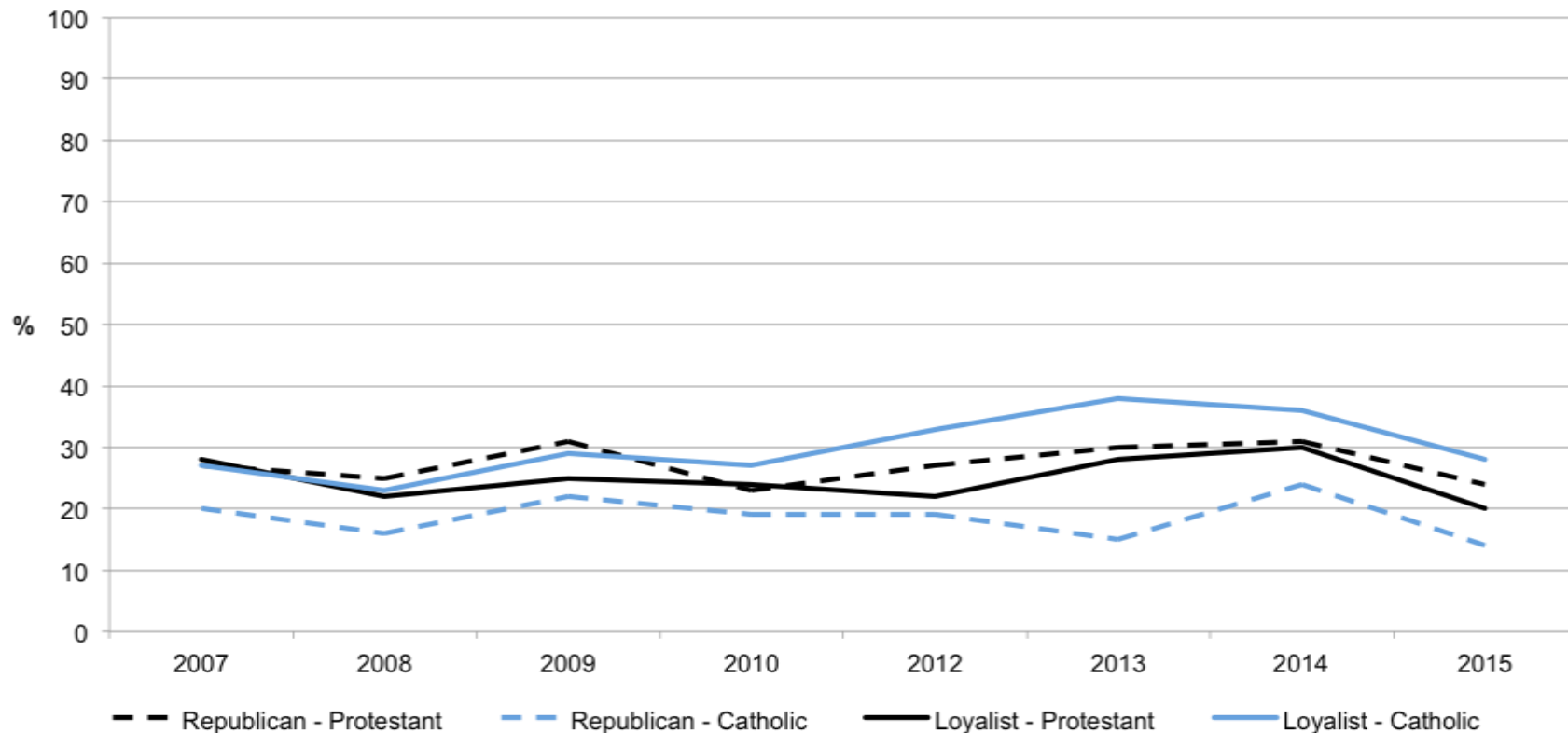


- Polarized response to flying of flags:
  - Majority of Protestants (52%) support flying of flags on lampposts versus 22% of Catholics
- *If flags appear on lampposts I would like them all taken down straight away even if this causes trouble*
  - 59% of Catholics
  - 43% of Protestants

	%			
	Catholic	Protestant	No religion	All
The Union flag should be flown from all public buildings all the time	2	40	25	22
The Union flag should be flown on designated days only from all public buildings	60	53	51	55
The Union flag should not be flown at all from any public building	31	3	13	15
Don't know	8	5	11	8

## Views on flying of the Union flag on public buildings, by religion

# Space & Murals



**% feeling annoyed by Republican and Loyalist murals, kerb painting and flags, by religion**

- 64 per cent of respondents agreed that *parading is a legitimate form of cultural celebration*
  - 81% Protestants
  - 63% No religion
  - 48% Catholics
- Just under one in three view parades as less confrontational



- Optimism is cautiously emerging:
  - 52% of respondents think that community relations are better than 5 years ago
  - 46% think that community relations will be better in 5 years' time.
- Over half of respondents support flying the union flag on public buildings on designated days only.
  - 40% of Protestants
- Two thirds of respondents agreed that *parading is a legitimate form of cultural celebration*

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