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Pluralism in Canada: Black Canadian Lives Matter? Attitudes on Racial Inequalities in Canada

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Black Canadian Lives Matter?

White Anxiety and Attitudes on Racial Inequalities in Canada

Ruth Dassonneville and Nadjim Fréchet

May 13, 2022

2022 C-Dem Forum

Research puzzle

Research Puzzle



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- White identity is an important subject of study in the United States (see Jardina, 2019; 2021; Schildkraut, 2017; Valentino and Sears, 2005)

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- Evaluation of its effect on political attitudes and vote choice alike

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- Strongly associated with voting for the Bloc Québécois, Catholicism and Protestantism (as opposed to agnostics/atheists)
- Like for Jardina in the US case, Beauvais and Stolle don't necessarily find a strong relation between white identity and racial resentment in Canada
- Or that white identity does not correlate as much with voting Conservative while - (Indigenous resentment correlates with voting Conservative and not significantly with voting for the Bloc Québécois)

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- Some studies in the US suggest it might be a better explanation
- We delve into it by evaluating the opinion of white Canadians about systemic racism and on measures to tackle inequality between black Canadians and the rest of the population

Research questions

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- 2: Who is anxious? - Sociodemographic factors associated with self-perceived discrimination among Whites in Canada

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- 2: Who is anxious? - Sociodemographic factors associated with self-perceived discrimination among Whites in Canada
- 3: What are the consequences of white anxiety on measures to counter inequalities (in this case between black Canadians and the rest of the population) or on opinion on systemic racism in Canada (and to some extent on vote choice)?

Why Black Canadians?

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- Higher unemployment rates than the rest of the population. Exceptionally high third generation black Canadians (8-12% for all generations while lower than 8% for the rest of the population in 2016)
- The annual salary was around 41000\$ for black men in 2015, while the rest of the population was 56000\$.

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- Basically, many socioeconomic indicators that would justify state intervention with policies to correct inequalities between Blacks and the rest of the population
- And that could trigger opposition from White voters, like in the United States, against measures to correct inequalities or systemic racism overall

Why Black Canadians?



Data

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- Module in the 2021 Canadian Election Study (CES)

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- n=2005, with 1688 white respondents

Independent variable

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- IV: In your opinion, how much discrimination is there in Canada today against each of the following groups?: White people (Schildkraudt, 2017)

Dependent variables

- DV's: Questions on attitudes related to black racial inequalities (or ways to correct them) in Canada (inspired by the American Election Study)

Dependent variables: Police and racial justice

- Question: On the following scale where 1 means "fairly" and 7 "unfairly", how do you think the police treats Black people compared to White people in Canada?

Dependent variables: Government intervention

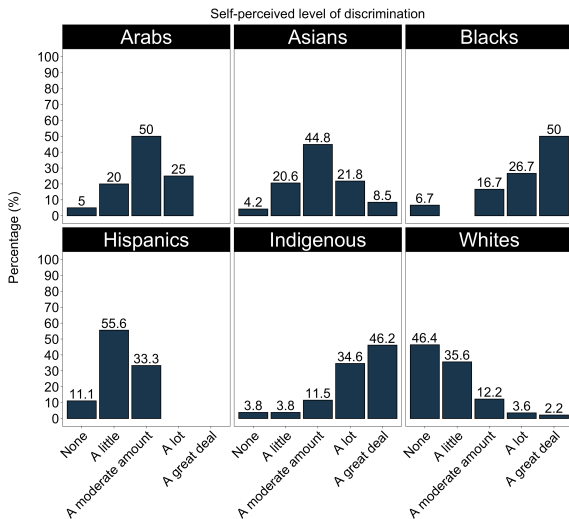
- Question: Some people feel that the government in Ottawa should make every effort to improve the social and economic position of Black people. Others feel that the government should not make any special effort to help Black people. And, of course, some other people have opinions somewhere in between. Where would you place yourself on the following scale?

Dependent variables: Imposition of quotas

- Question: Personally, do you think we should impose quotas so that there are more Black people in politics/in public service?

White anxiety in Canada: Is there
white anxiety in Canada?

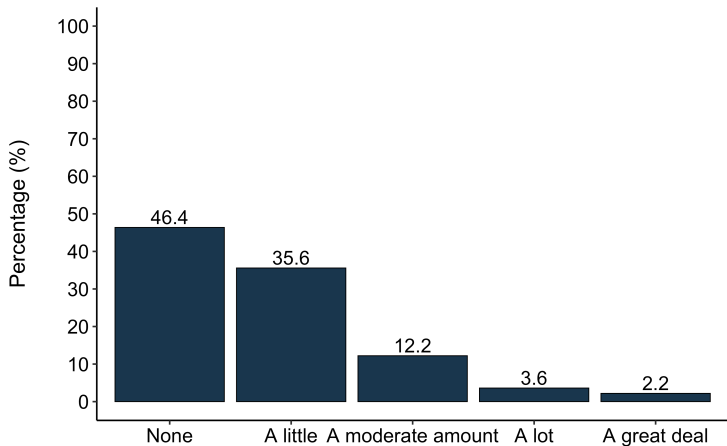
White anxiety in Canada: Is there white anxiety in Canada?



Source: 2021 Canadian Election Study (n=1943)

White anxiety in Canada: Is there white anxiety in Canada?

Perceived discrimination against white people in Canada



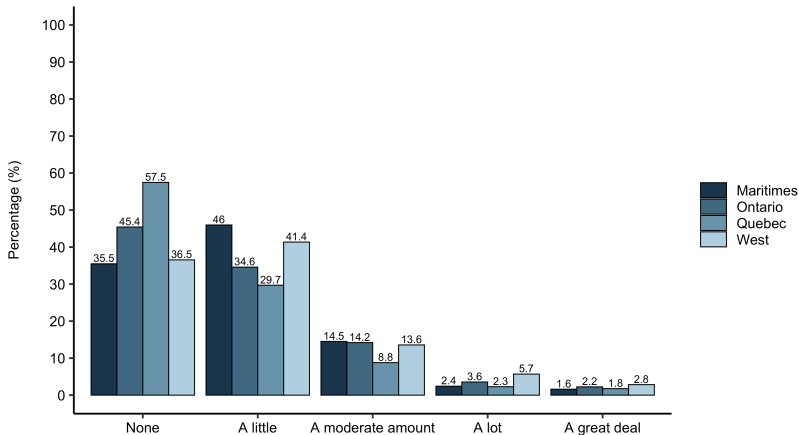
Source: 2021 Canadian Election Study (n=1686)

Note: All respondents are white

Who is anxious:
Sociodemographic factors

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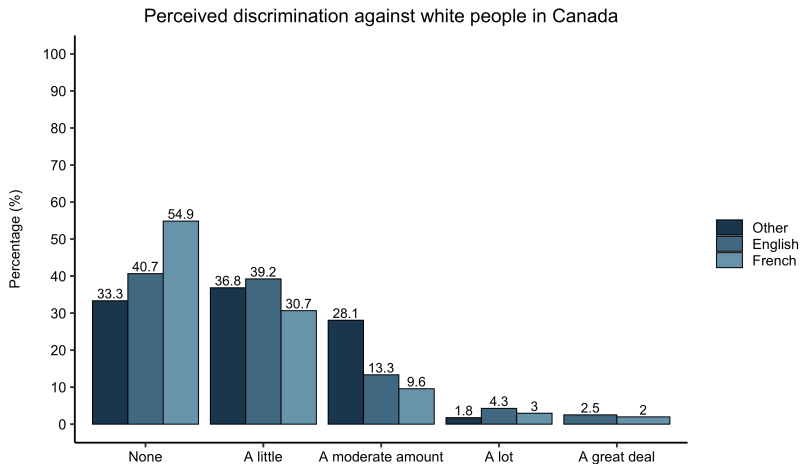
Perceived discrimination against white people in Canada



Source: 2021 Canadian Election Study (n=1685)

Note: All respondents are white

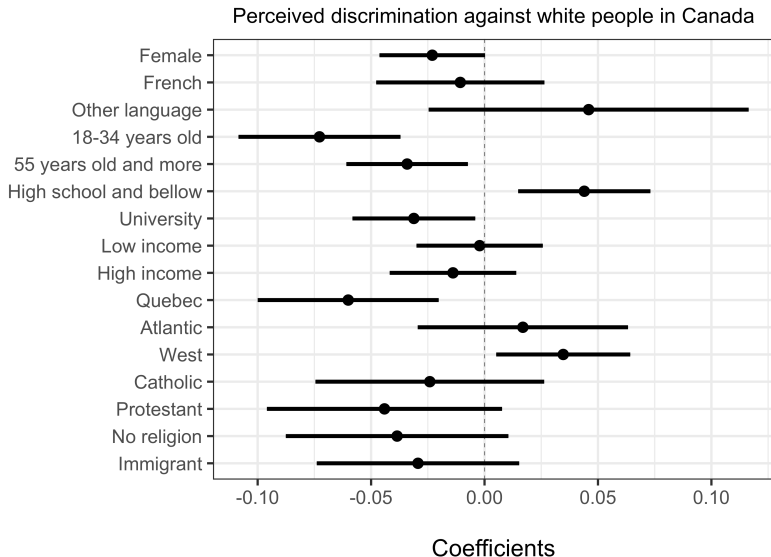
Who is anxious: Sociodemographic factors



Source: 2021 Canadian Election Study (n=1683)

Note: All respondents are white

Who is anxious: Sociodemographic factors

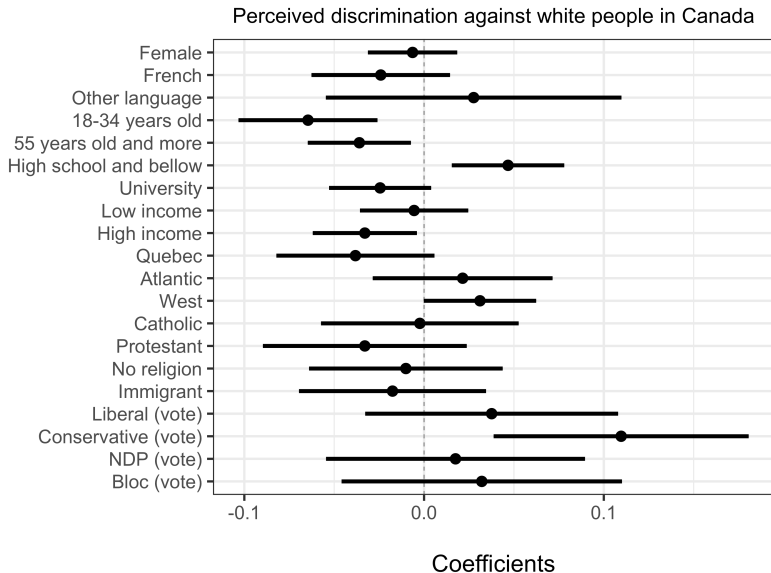


Source: 2021 Canadian Election Study (n=1548)

Method: Linear regression

Note: All respondents are white

Who is anxious: Sociodemographic factors

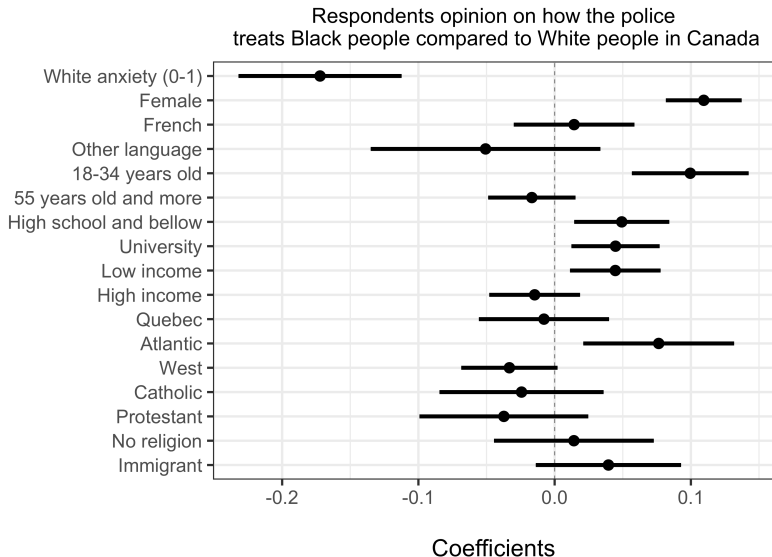


Source: 2021 Canadian Election Study (n=1146)

Note: Linear regression

Effect of white anxiety on systemic racism and policies

Effect of white anxiety: Systemic racism

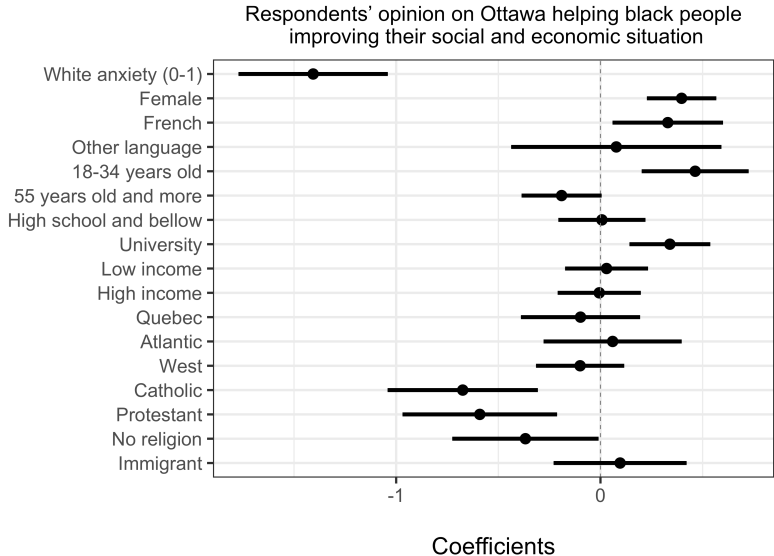


Source: 2021 Canadian Election Study (n=1548)

Method: Linear regression

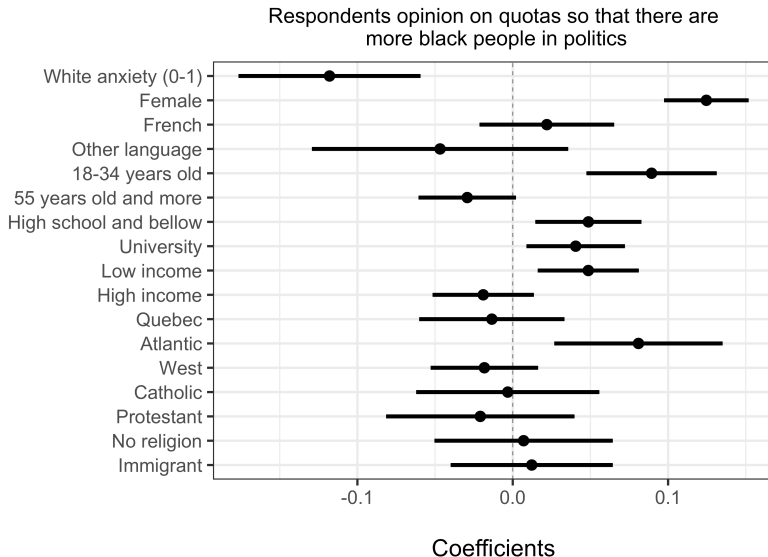
Note: All respondents are white

Effect of white anxiety: Government intervention



Source: 2021 Canadian Election Study (n=1547)
Method: Linear regression
Note: All respondents are white

Effect of white anxiety: Quotas

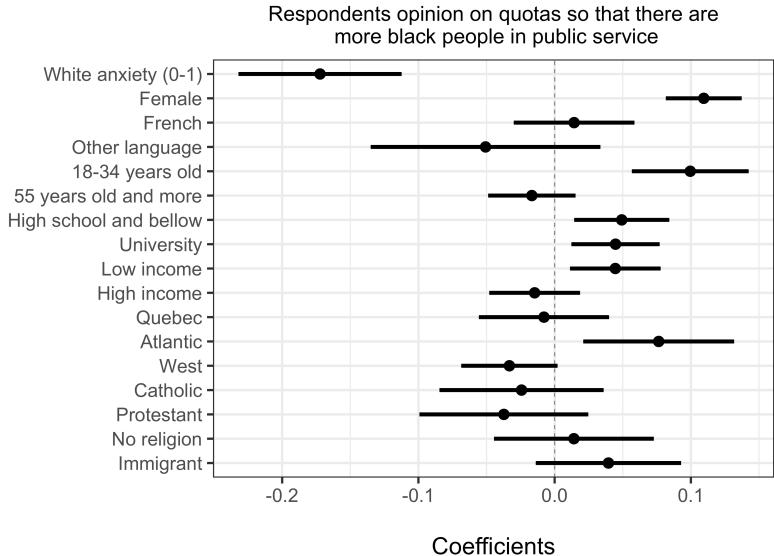


Source: 2021 Canadian Election Study (n=1548)

Method: Linear regression

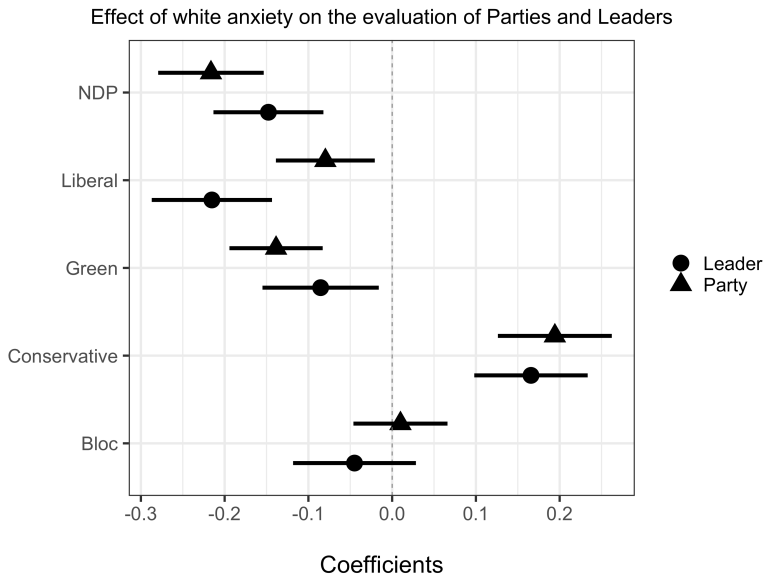
Note: All respondents are white

Effect of white anxiety: Quotas



Source: 2021 Canadian Election Study (n=1548)
Method: Linear regression
Note: All respondents are white

Some other results: Party leaders and party evaluation



White anxiety

- A plurality of Whites think there is no discrimination against them

White anxiety

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- But a majority of them think there is some degree of discrimination against them

Who is anxious

- Conservatives, lower educated, Westerners

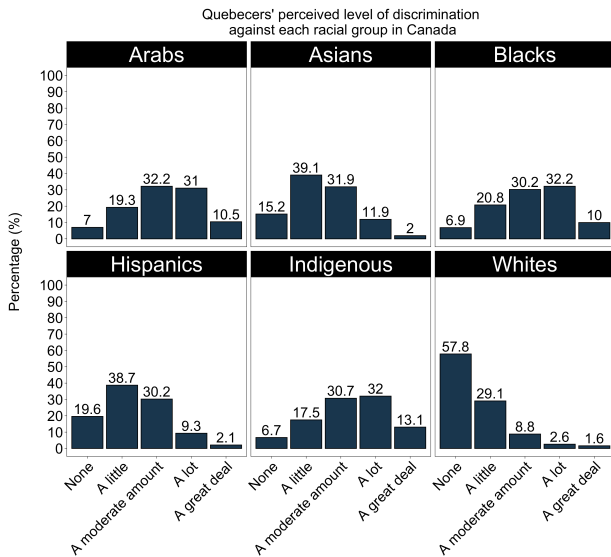
Who is anxious

- Conservatives, lower educated, Westerners
- The case of Quebec?

Who is anxious

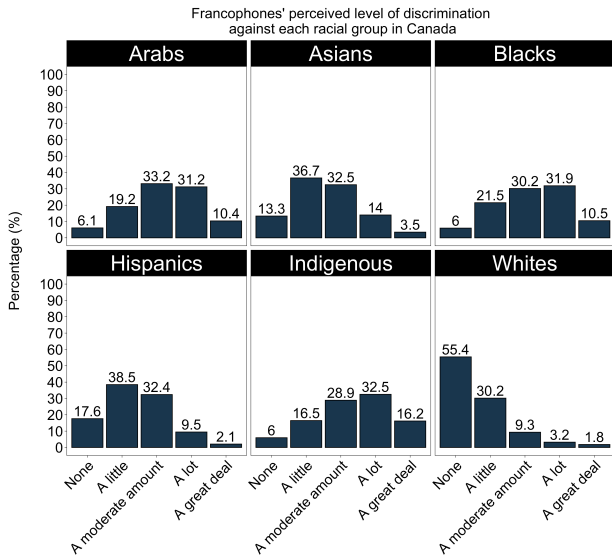
- Conservatives, lower educated, Westerners
- The case of Quebec?
- Not on the same level as their Premier?

Main takes



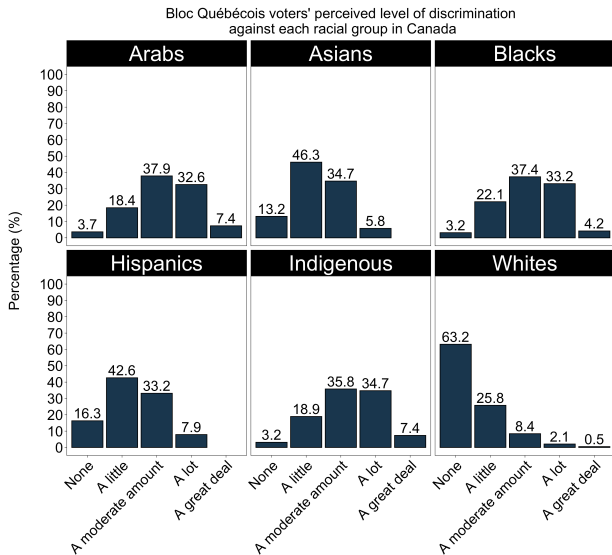
Source: 2021 Canadian Election Study (n=612)

Main takes



Source: 2021 Canadian Election Study (n=772)

Main takes



Source: 2021 Canadian Election Study (n=190)

Who is anxious

- White anxiety as a strong effect on opinions on systemic racism and measures to counter inequalities

Who is anxious

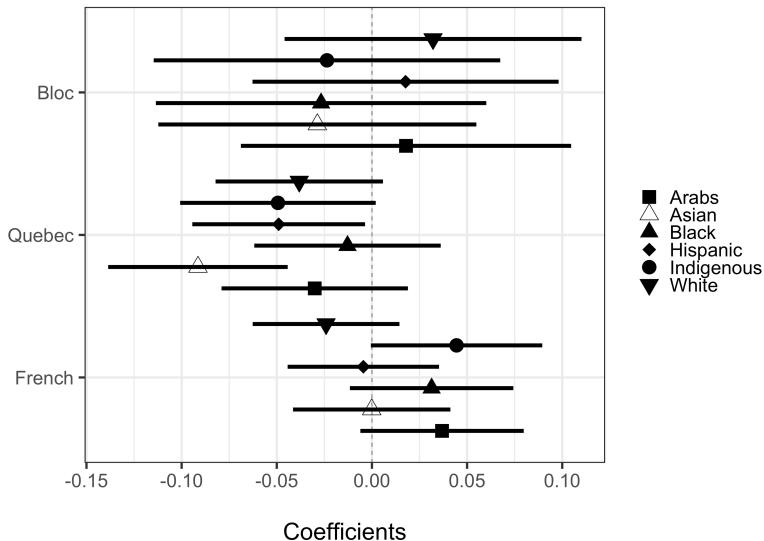
- White anxiety as a strong effect on opinions on systemic racism and measures to counter inequalities
- Possible new cleavage in Canadian politics?

Merci !
Thank you !

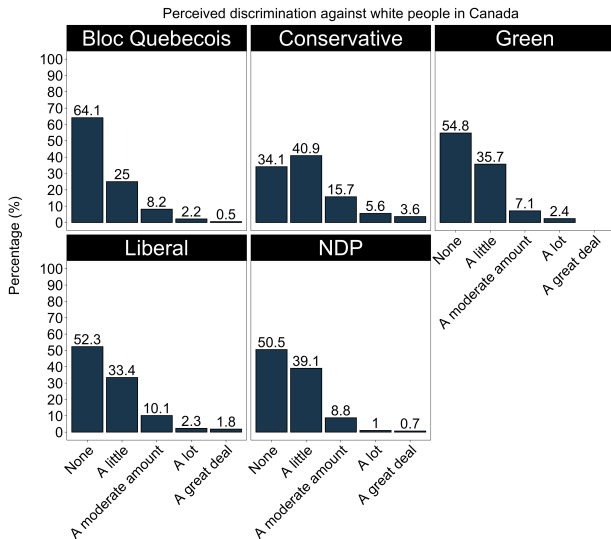
Appendix - spare graphs

Appendix - spare graphs

Evaluation of racial discrimination of each group in Canada



Appendix - spare graphs



Source: 2021 Canadian Election Study (n=1370)

Note: All respondents are white

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