



IS INSTITUTIONAL CONFIDENCE IN CANADA DECLINING? A LONGITUDINAL ANALYSIS

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Novembre 2016



Presentation Outline



- Introduction
 - The relevance of studying institutional confidence
 - The current state of research in Canada
- Methodology
 - Multilevel analysis
 - The construction of the dependent variable
 - Descriptive statistics and graphs
- The results
 - Base models
 - Multilevel models with interaction effects
- Conclusion



The relevance of studying institutional confidence?

The role of confidence?

- Many sociologists have argued that institutional confidence is essential to the functioning of modern institutions.
- “... *the nature of modern institutions is deeply bound up with the mechanisms of trust in abstract system.*” p. 83
- “... the real repository of trust is in the abstract system, rather than the individual who in specific contexts “represent” it...” p. 85 (Giddens 1990)

A crisis in confidence?

- Since the seventies, there has been a growing concern for a potential crisis of institutional confidence.
- However, despite the abundance of research aiming at validating the decline thesis, the data have yet to confirm it. (Ladd 1976) (Listhaug and Wiberg 1995) (Norris 2012)
 - Data availability
 - Few points of measure in time



The current state of research in Canada?

- Most studies mobilize indicators of institutional confidence
 - To evaluate possible structural changes in Canadian society (Nevitte 1996) (Nevitte 2002)
 - To assess the quality of the relationship of the citizen to governmental agencies (Zussman 1997) (Zussman 2011) (Crête, Pelletier et coll. 2006) (Crête, Pelletier et coll. 2007)
- Two longitudinal analysis of institutional confidence in Canada
 - One rely on 6 surveys covering 21 years (1974 to 1995) (Guppy and Davies 1999)
 - The other also rely on 6 surveys and cover a 26-year period (1974 to 2000). (Roberts 2005)



The search for institutional confidence questions

- Various data sources providing institutional confidence questions
 - the Gallup Reports, the Environics research group, the World Value Surveys, The Association of Religion of Data Archives, the Canadian election study, Statistics Canada, Listening to Canadians project, the International Social Survey Program, God in Society in North America Project and the America Barometers.
- Institutional confidence question pertaining to various institutions
 - the church, the public school, the educational system, the teachers, the justice system, judges and lawyers, the Supreme Court, major, corporation, private enterprise, big industry, the banking system, the House of Commons, the Parliament, political parties, national government, federal government, provincial government, political elite, the press, the media, the journalists, the mass media, the news media, the army and the police.
- Questions using different formulations
 - How much confidence do you have in...?
 - How much trust do you have in...?
 - How confident in their ability to make a real contribution to society? etc.
- Questions asked offering different number of possibility for choice answers
 - 3 choices of answers, 4 choices of answers, 5 choices of answers, 7 choices of answers



Multilevel analysis



Level 1

The questions of institutional confidence grouped by institutions

1,184,112 questions of institutional confidence

Level 2

The individuals

194,947 respondents

Level 3

The surveys

63 surveys between 1974 and 2014

Construction of the dependent variable (1)

Number of answers possibilities redistributed on a scale from 1 to 7.

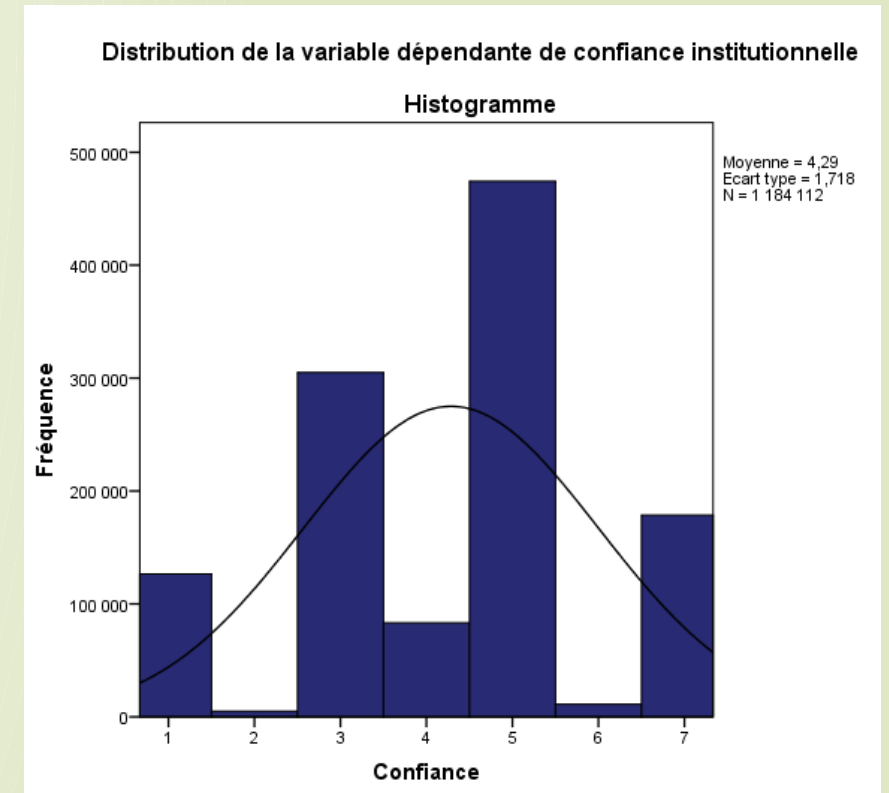
3 choices of answers	4 choices of answers	5 choices of answers	7 choices of answers
1	1	1	1
			2
	2	2	3
2		3	4
	3	4	5
			6
3	4	5	7

Table 1.1					
The effect of the number of answers choice					
Intercept	3.974030		3.953697		3.768066
Nbr of choices of answers					
3 answers	-0.935422	***	-0.531460	***	-0.901839
4 answers(référence)					
5 answers	0.072751		-0.234901		-0.444434
7 answers	0.041470	***	0.067240		-0.184420
linear time			0.002030	***	0.001761
square time					0.000014
Déviante	4408673		4408667		4408650
Paramètres	7		8		9

Tableau 1.2					
The effect of the number of answers choice					
Intercept	3.335358		3.830463		3.924905
Nbr of choices of answers					
interval varia	0.154416	***	0.025597		-0.038074
linear time			0.002031	***	0.001846
square time					0.000011
Déviante	4408675		4408663		4408655
Paramètres	5		6		7

Construction of the dependent variable (2)

- The institutions
 - Religion
 - School system
 - Unions
 - Justice
 - Economic
 - Politic
 - Media
 - Army
 - Police



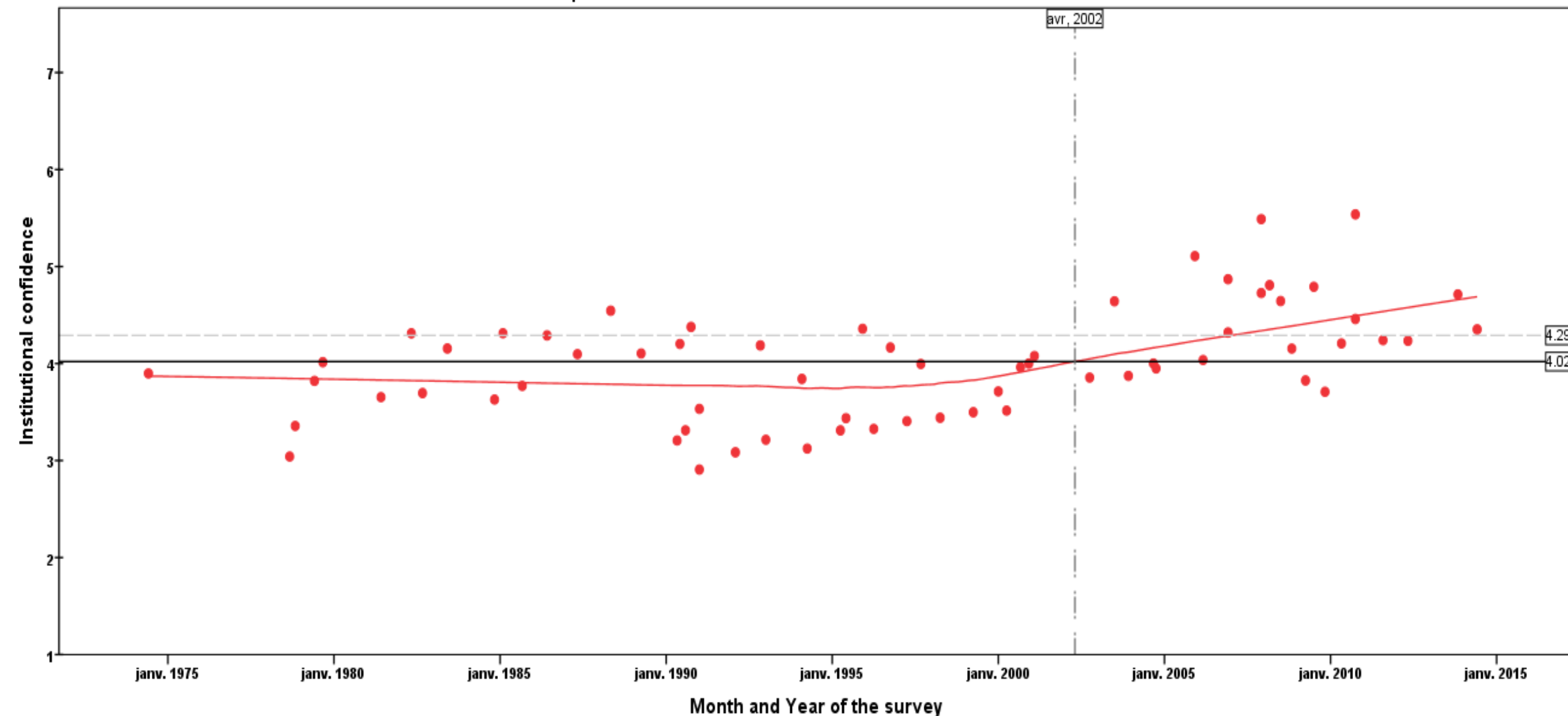
Composition of the dependent variable

Table 2.1

Institution	Average declared confidence	Standard deviation	Time period covered by surveys	Number of responses obtained	Number of surveys
Police	5,30	1,47	1982 à 2014	133 685	28
Éducation	4,77	1,50	1974 à 2013	107 815	32
Army	4,69	1,71	1982 à 2014	34 201	22
Justice	4,46	1,65	1974 à 2014	165 675	48
Économic	4,45	1,59	1974 à 2013	305 288	49
Religion	4,04	1,91	1974 à 2011	51 870	34
Média	3,93	1,56	1974 à 2014	87 708	41
Politic	3,57	1,67	1974 à 2014	246 935	58
Unions	3,11	1,72	1974 à 2011	50 935	36
Total	4,29	1,72	1974 à 2014	1 184 112	63

Graph 1.1

Temporal evolution of institutional confidence in Canada

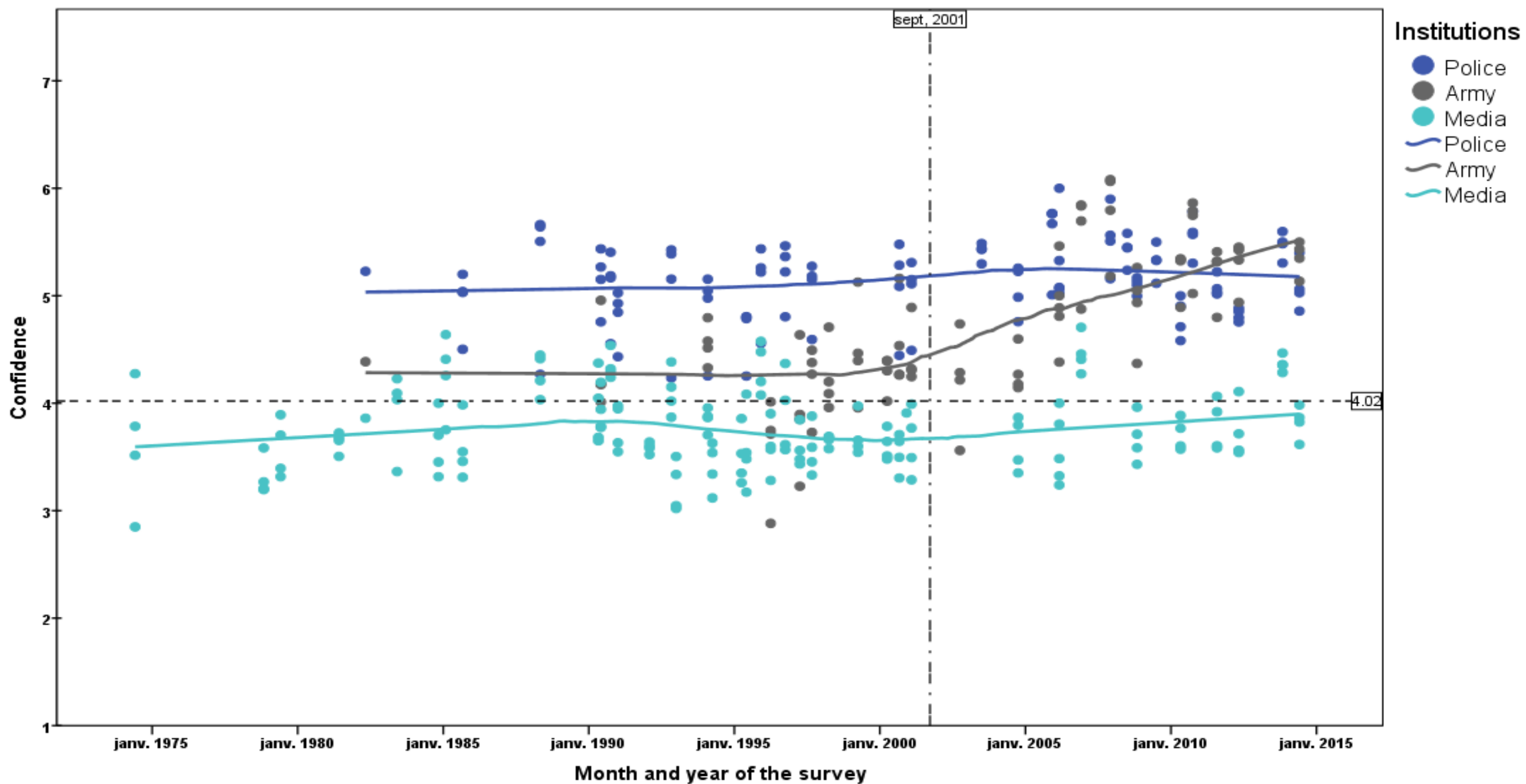


4.29 is the average declared institutional confidence by the number of respondents to each question.

4.02 is the average declared institutional confidence by surveys.

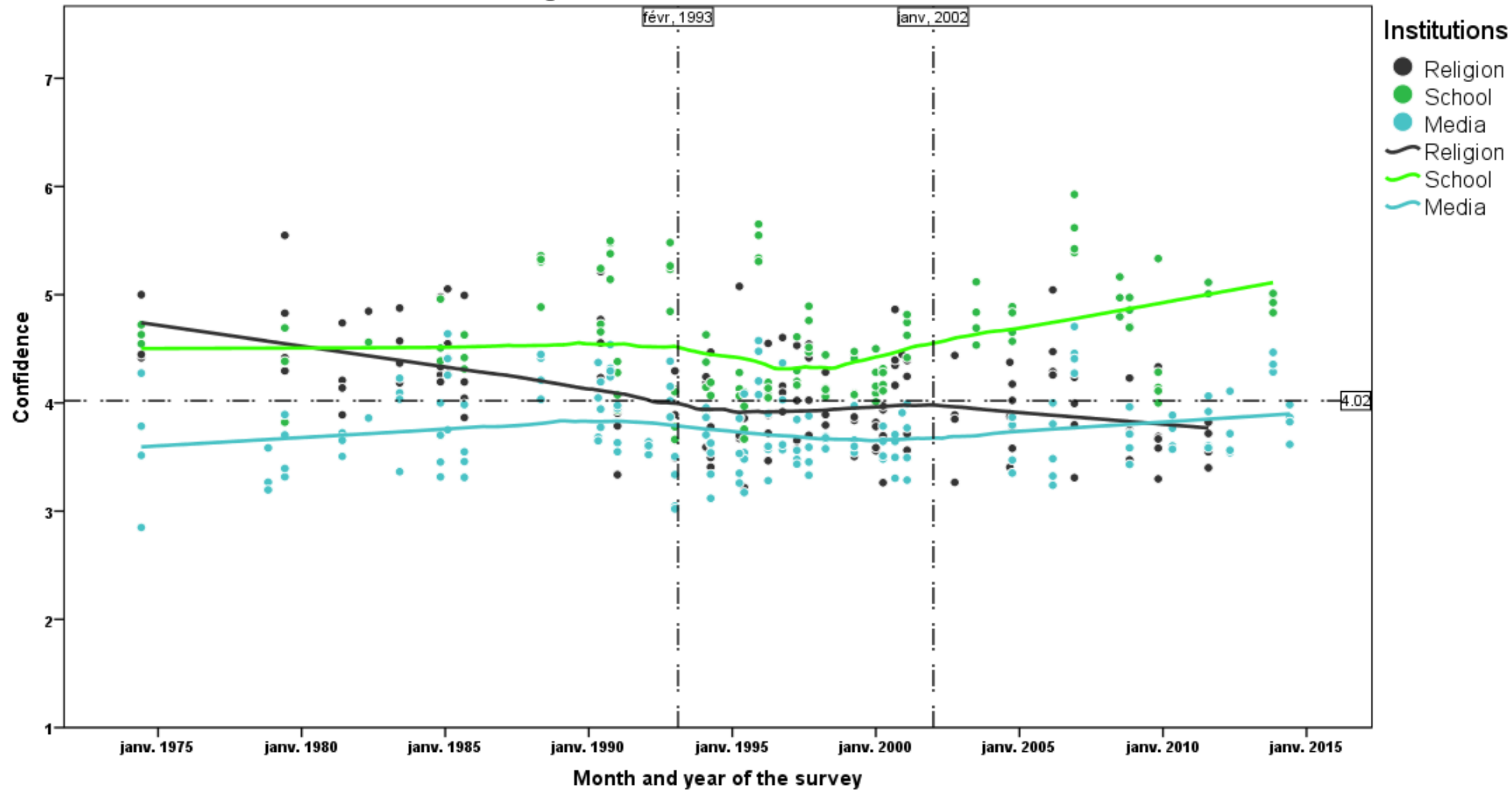
Graph 2.1

Average declared confidence in institutions



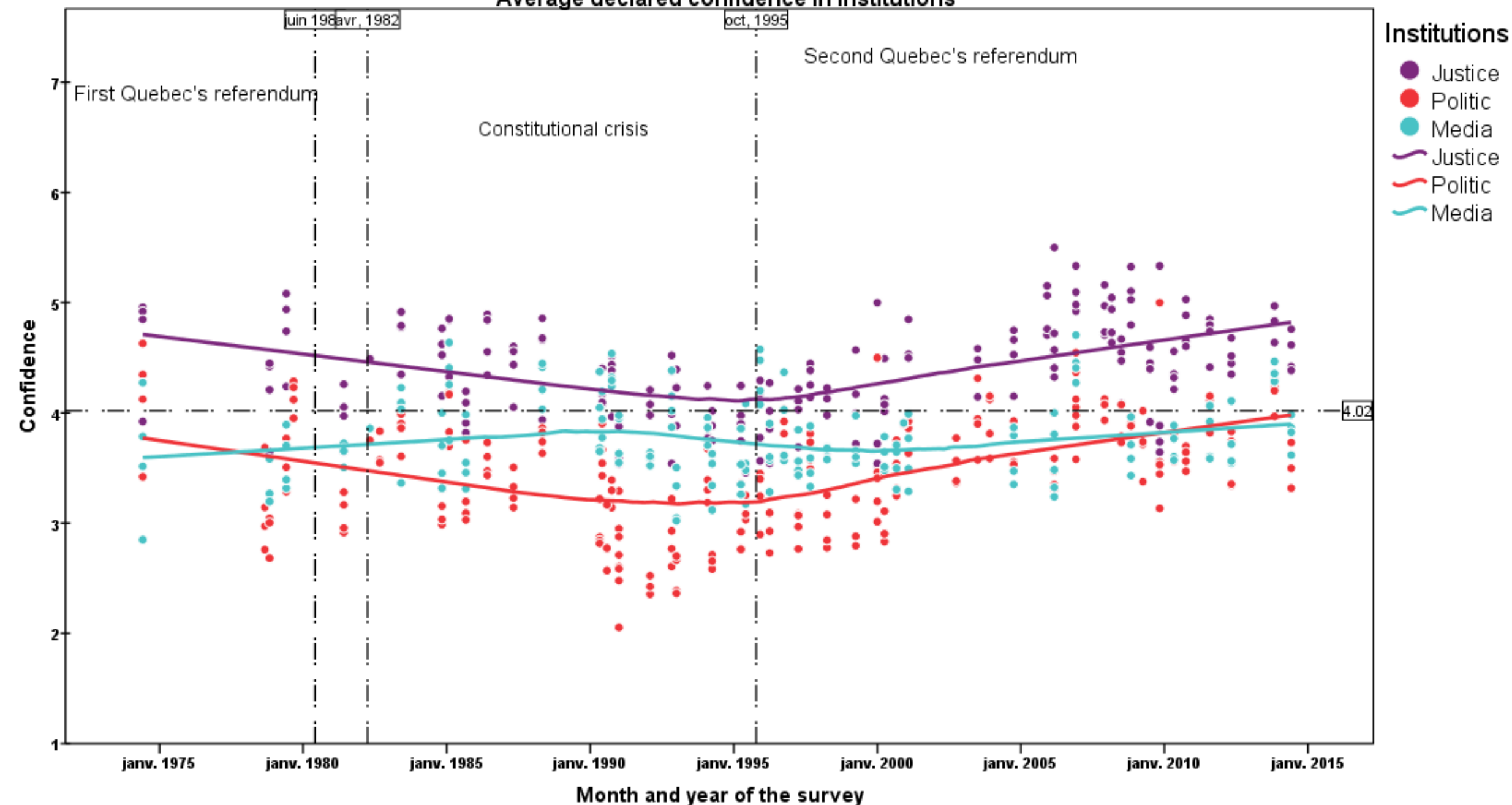
Graph 2.2

Average declared confidence in institutions



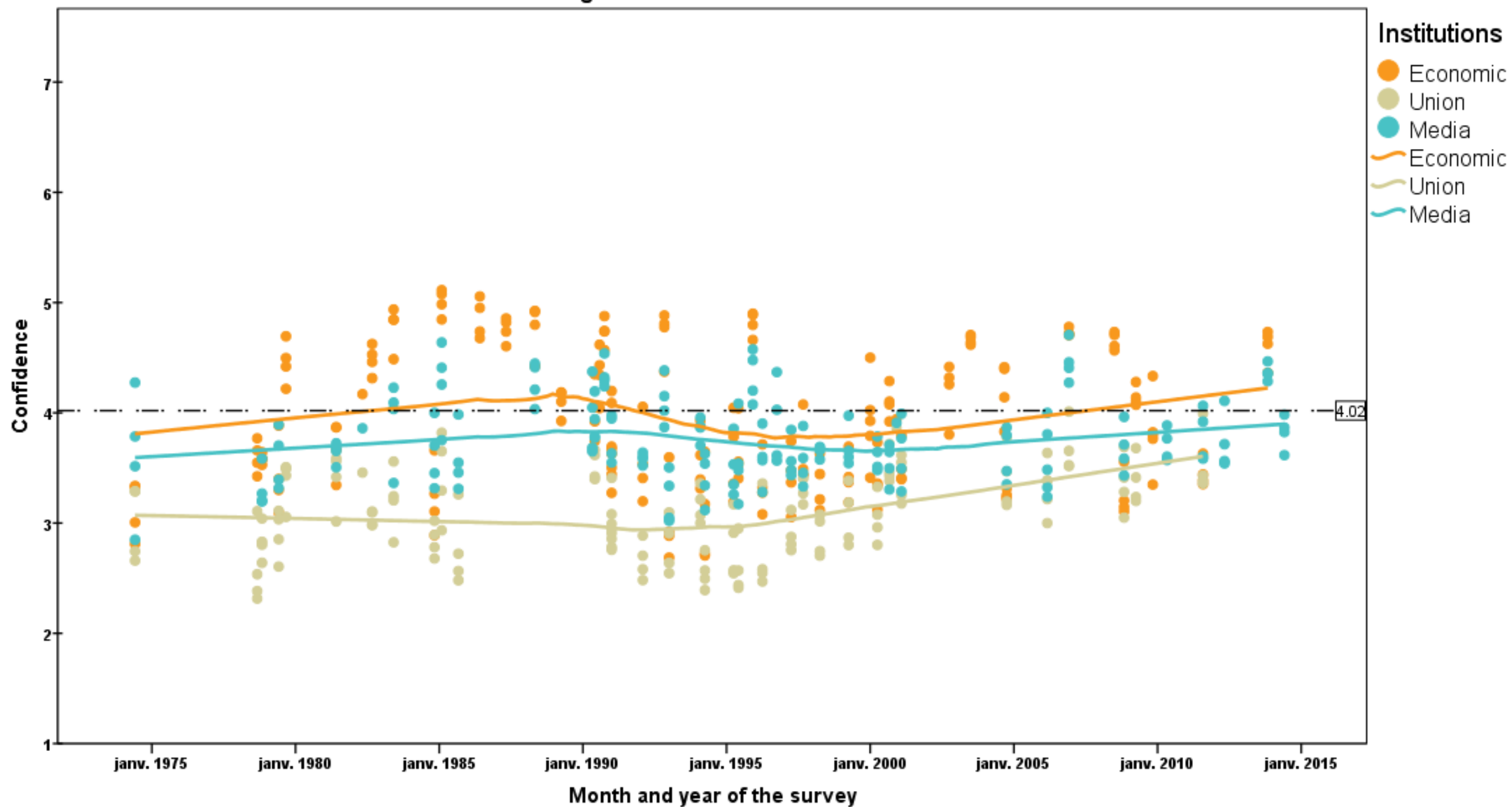
Graph 2.3

Average declared confidence in institutions



Graph 2.4

Average declared institutional confidence



Composition of the independent variables

Level 2: the individuals

- ▶ Canada divided in 4 regions
 - ▶ Maritimes
 - ▶ Québec
 - ▶ Ontario
 - ▶ Western Canada (*reference category*)
- ▶ Age category of the respondent
 - ▶ Young (moins de 35 ans)
 - ▶ Actifs (*reference category*)
 - ▶ Seniors (plus de 60 ans)
- ▶ Gender of the respondent
 - ▶ Women
 - ▶ Men (*reference category*)

Level 3: the surveys

- ▶ Time
 - ▶ Linear time (in month) centered
 - ▶ Square time centered
 - ▶ Example:
June 1974 temps= -240 months
June 2014 temps= 240 months
- ▶ Formulation of the question
 - ▶ Formulation A
How much confidence do you have in...?
 - ▶ Versus the other formulations

Canada divided by 4 regions

Western
Canada

Maritimes



Multilevel models												
Model 0		Model 1		Model 2		Model 3		Model 4		Model 5		
Intercept	4.007		3.808997		3.816536		3.630573		3.493373		3.516136	
Level 1												
The institutions												
Politic			-0.331388	***	-0.331382	***	-0.331394	***	-0.331378	***	-0.331381	***
Justice			0.406247	***	0.406372	***	0.406327	***	0.406318	***	0.406317	***
Army			0.852650	***	0.852734	***	0.852631	***	0.852627	***	0.852622	***
Police			1.204736	***	1.204294	***	1.204230	***	1.204226	***	1.204229	***
School system			0.730485	***	0.730943	***	0.730921	***	0.730929	***	0.730931	***
Religion			0.339464	***	0.339306	***	0.339281	***	0.339293	***	0.339296	***
<i>Média (reference)</i>												
Economy			0.373750	***	0.373806	***	0.373801	***	0.373815	***	0.373815	***
Unions			-0.573678	***	-0.573291	***	-0.573224	***	-0.573280	***	-0.573283	***
Level 2												
Canada regions												
Maritimes					0.185948	***	0.185893	***	0.185885	***	0.185886	***
Québec					0.044872		0.044844		0.044827		0.044830	
Ontario					0.092350	**	0.092311	**	0.092294	**	0.092296	**
<i>Western Canada (reference)</i>												
Age groups of respondants												
Young					0.051311	***	0.051409	***	0.051438	***	0.051441	***
<i>Actifs (reference)</i>												
Seniors					0.191658	***	0.191665	***	0.191637	***	0.191637	***
Gender of respondants												
Women					0.069150	***	0.069144	***	0.069143	***	0.069145	***
Level 3												
Effect of time												
Linear time							0.001093	**	0.000765	*	0.000780	*
Square time									0.000009	***	0.000009	***
Formulation of the question effect												
Formulation A											-0.026171	
Variance												
Confidence meas	2.0388	67.2%	1.8001	67.2%	1.8000	67.5%	1.8000	68.0%	1.8000	68,5%	1.8000	68,5%
Respondants	0.6802	22.4%	0.7182	26,8%	0.7082	26.6%	0.7082	26,7%	0.7083	27%	0.7083	27%
Surveys	0.3138	10.3%	0.1569	5,9%	0.1563	5,9%	0.1376	5,1%	0.1196	4,5%	0.1194	4,5%
Total	3.0328		2.6751		2.6646		2.6458		2.62782		2.62771	
Deviance	4408680		4283586.93		4281743.89		4281735.632		4281726.57		4281726.503	
Parametres	4		12		18		19		20		21	

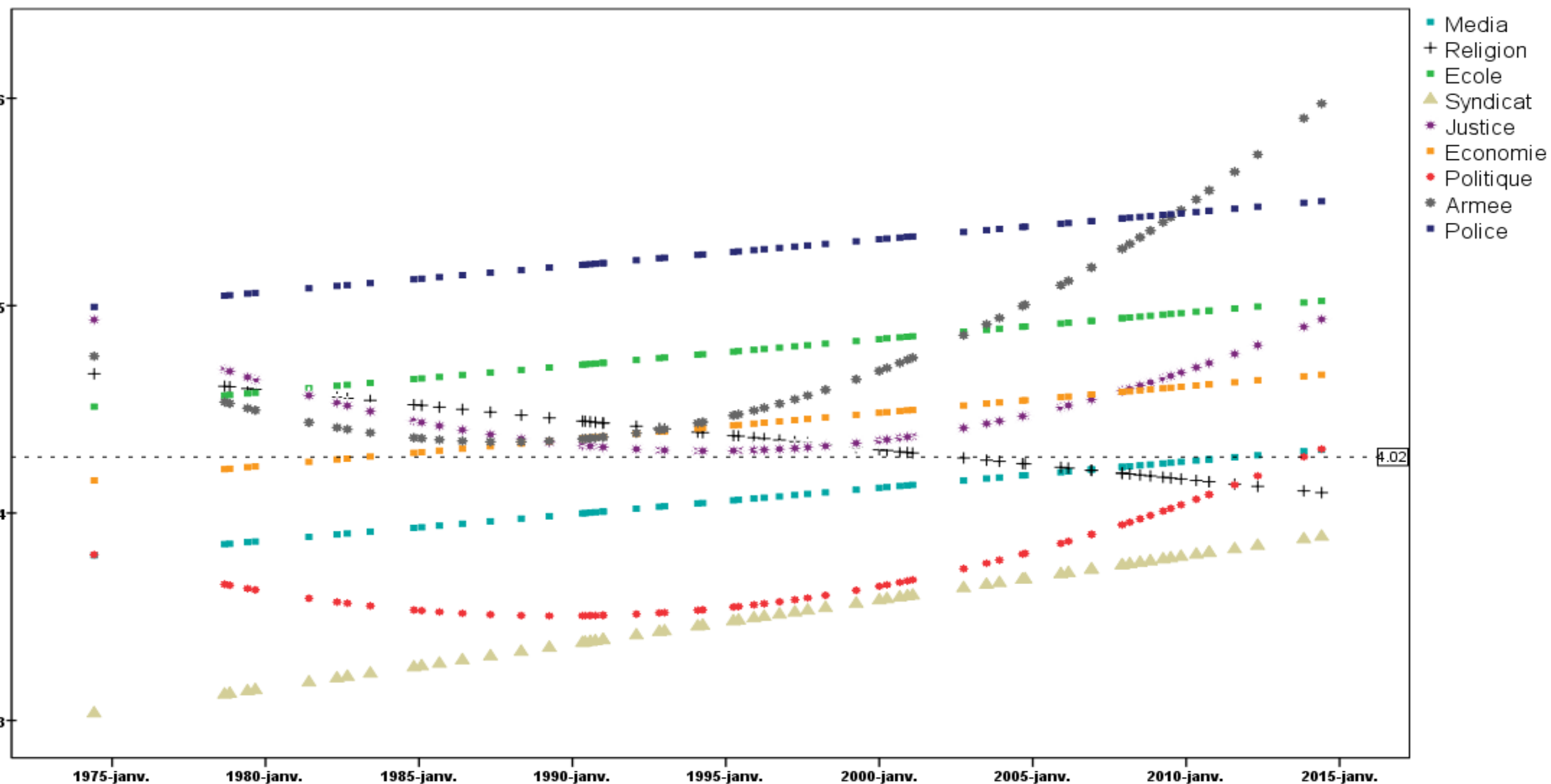
Table 3.2

Table 3.2							Level 2																
Multilevel model with interaction effects Institutions*time							Canada's region																
	Model 4		Model 6		Model 7		Model 8		Maritimes	0.185885	***	0.185929	***	0.185876	***	0.185900	***						
Intercept	3.493373		3.511292		3.567666		3.658199		Québec	0.044827		0.044710		0.044872		0.044906							
Level 1									Ontario	0.092294		**	0.092220		**	0.092254		**					
Institutions									Western Canada (reference)														
Politic	-0.331378	***	-0.376998	***	-0.490113	***	-0.515044		Age group of respondants														
*time			0.000719		*	0.000020				Young									0.051371		***		
*square time					0.000008		**	0.000009		***	0.051568		***	0.051413		***	0.051371		***				
Justice	0.406318	***	0.423703	***	0.274916	***	0.249229		Actifs (référence)														
*time			-0.000087		-0.001081		**	-0.001056		***	Seniors									0.191477		***	
*square time					0.000010		***	0.000011		***	Gender of respondants												
Army	0.852627	***	0.520907	***	0.417969	***	0.393151		***	Women									0.069112		***		
*time			0.003411		***	0.001433		*	0.001477		***												
*square time					0.000015		***	0.000016		***	Level 3												
Police	1.204226	***	1.237096	***	1.199580	***	1.197739		***	Effet of time													
*time			-0.000224		-0.000023						Linear time									0.001039		**	
*square time					0.000000						Square time									0.000009		***	
School system	0.730929	***	0.780521	***	0.770500	***	0.717572		***														
*time			-0.000461		-0.000384																		
*square time					0.000000						Variance												
Religion	0.339293	***	0.366133	***	0.341863	***	0.334441		***	Confidence measur									1.8000		68,5%		
*time			-0.001923		***	-0.002272		***	-0.002254		***	Respondants									0.7083		27%
*square time					0.000001						Surveys									0.1196		4,5%	
Media (reference)																							
Economy	0.373815	***	0.386913	***	0.398381	***	0.361683		***														
*time			-0.000162		0.000044						Total									2.62782			
*square time					-0.000002															2.6184			
Unions	-0.573280	***	-0.568001	***	-0.554916	***	-0.589906		***										2.6157				
*time			0.001134		***	0.000683		*	0.000714		*	Deviance									4281726.567		
*square time					-0.000002						Parametres									20			

Graph 3.1

Modelling of institutional confidence through time

Illustration of the multilevel model with interaction effects (Institutions*Time)





Limitations

- Difficulty in evaluating the house effect
- The effect of the target
 - For example, the institutional elite vs the institutional operators (journalists or teachers)
- The amount of explained variance is low
 - Especially at the individual level

Conclusion

- **No decline** was detected between 1974 and 2014 **except for religion**
- We observed a **decline** of institutional confidence for **political and justice institutions** that culminated in the mid-1990 and was followed by an **upturn** around the aftermath of the “end” of the **constitutional crisis**.
- Since the **beginning of 2000**, **institutional confidence in Canada is rising**, not declining.



Any questions?

Thank you!

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