

On the diffusion of popular international given names in Western countries

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fashion now dominates given names

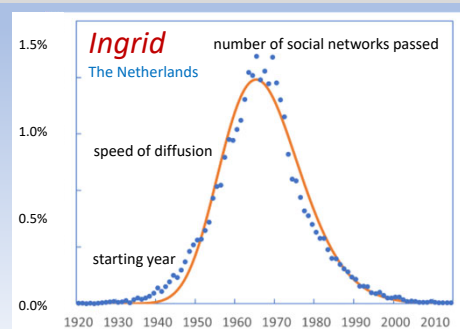
- massive since about 1960
- **new** names arrive (and disappear)
- although new?

fashion in naming

parents are influenced / inspired by

- the own social environment
- (social) media - from everywhere

diffusion model (by word of mouth)



starting year of popular fashionable names

The Netherlands, more than 10,000 name bearers

boys	girls	
1920 Robin	1920 Mariska	top year between 1970-2000
1925 Luuk	1920 Marjolein	
1925 Roy	1925 Jessica	
1927 Remco	1927 Fleur	
1944 Milan	1930 Tamara	
1945 Danny	1934 Merel	
1946 Wesley	1936 Kim	
1948 Kevin	1937 Chantal	
1949 Jeffrey	1941 Wendy	
	1945 Anouk	
	1946 Amber	
	1948 Britt	
	1953 Melissa	
	1955 Mandy	
	1955 Cindy	
	1958 Romy	

starting year of popular fashionable names

The Netherlands, more than 10,000 name bearers

boys	girls	
1920 Robin	1920 Mariska	Dutch names
1925 Luuk	1920 Marjolein	
1925 Roy	1925 Jessica	
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1944 Milan	1930 Tamara	
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1946 Wesley	1936 Kim	
1948 Kevin	1937 Chantal	
1949 Jeffrey	1941 Wendy	
	1945 Anouk	
	1946 Amber	
	1948 Britt	
	1953 Melissa	
	1955 Mandy	
	1955 Cindy	
	1958 Romy	

open source data from National Statistics

long-term international data

issues

- starting year of data (availability of historic time series)
- names of lower frequency (not given for reasons of privacy)
- counts (percentage is computable)
- ranks less useful for comparison

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open source data

		minimum annual frequency
• The Netherlands (by name)	1790-2020	n>4
• France	1880-2020	n>2
• Norway	1880-2020	n>3
• USA	1880-2020	n>4
• Belgium / Flanders (Dutch)	1995-2020	n>4
• Belgium / Wallonia (French)	1995-2020	n>4
• Scotland	1974-2019	n>=1
• England and Wales	1996-2020	n>2

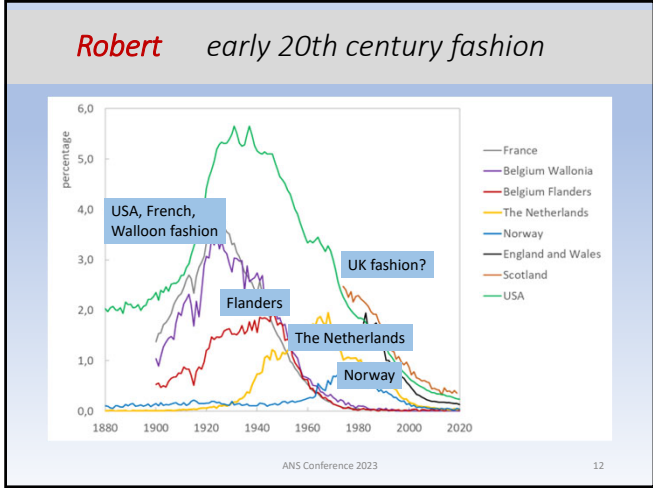
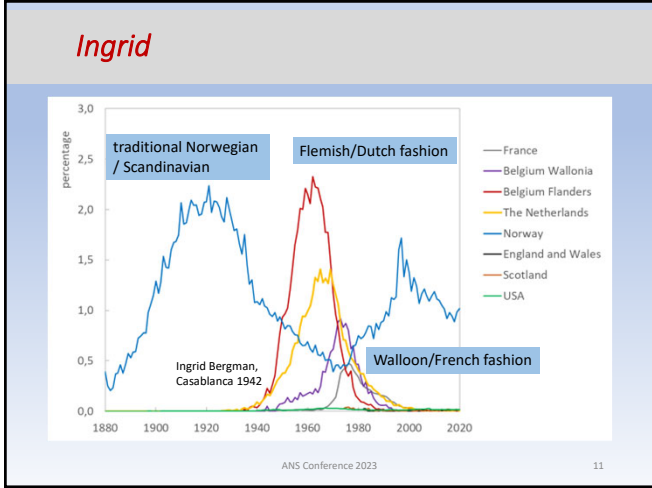
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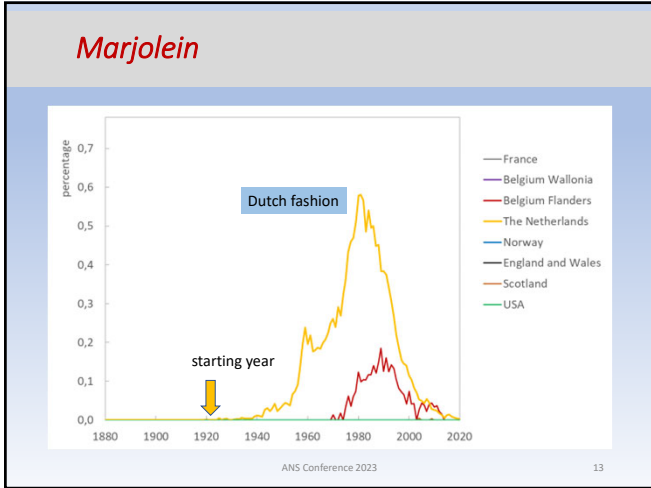


international long-term statistics (this study)

• The Netherlands	1790-2020	n>=1
• France	1880-2020	n>2
• Norway	1880-2020	n>3
• USA	1880-2020	n>4
• Belgium / Flanders (Dutch)	1900-2020	n>4
• Belgium / Wallonia (French)	1900-2020	n>4
• Scotland	1974-2019	n>=1
• England and Wales	1982-2020	n>2

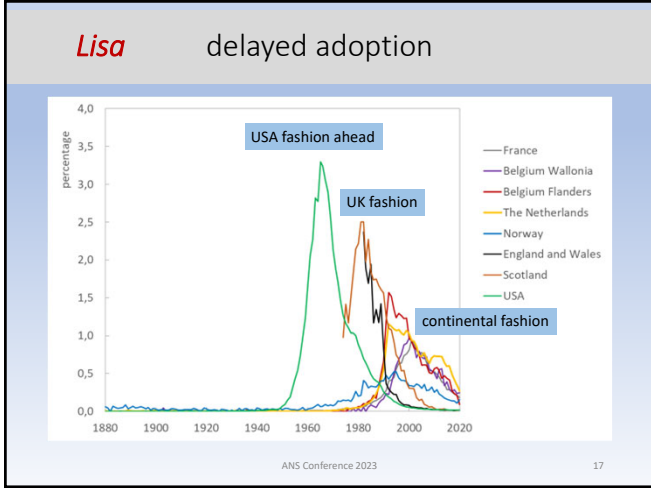
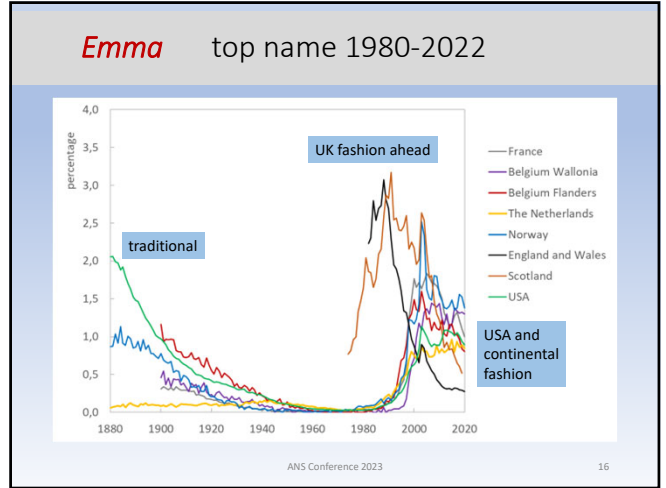
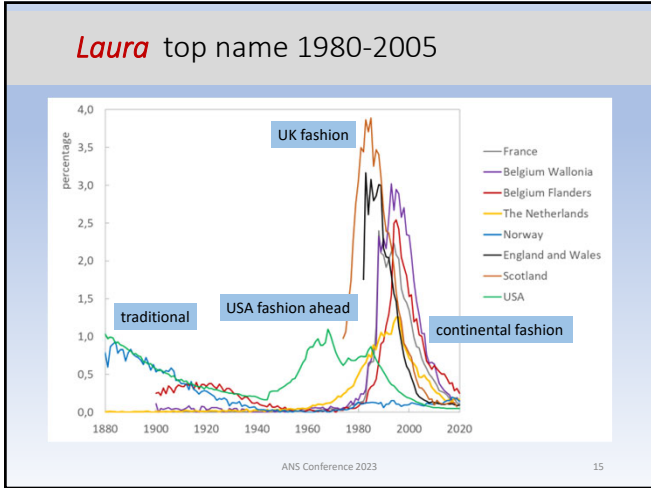
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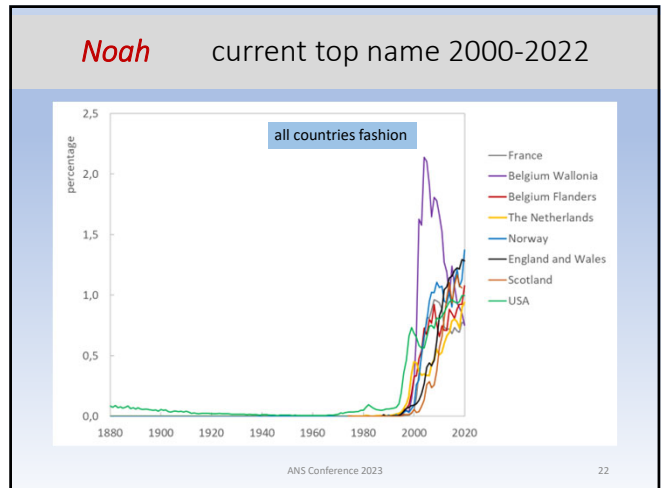
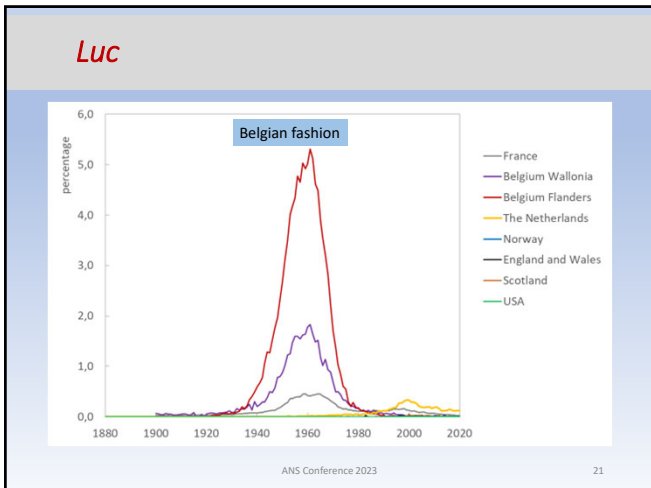
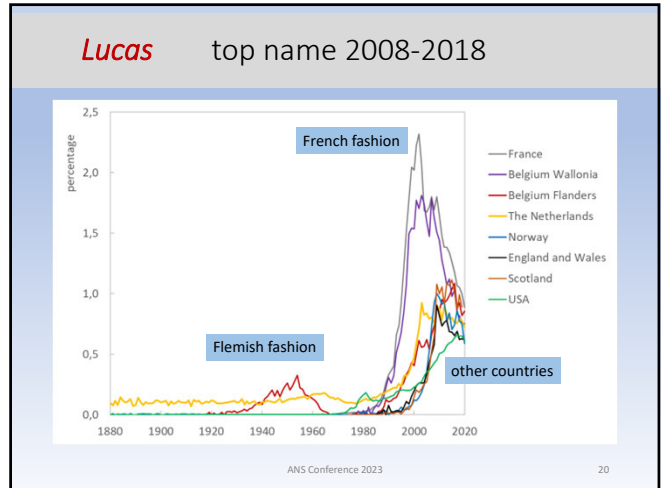
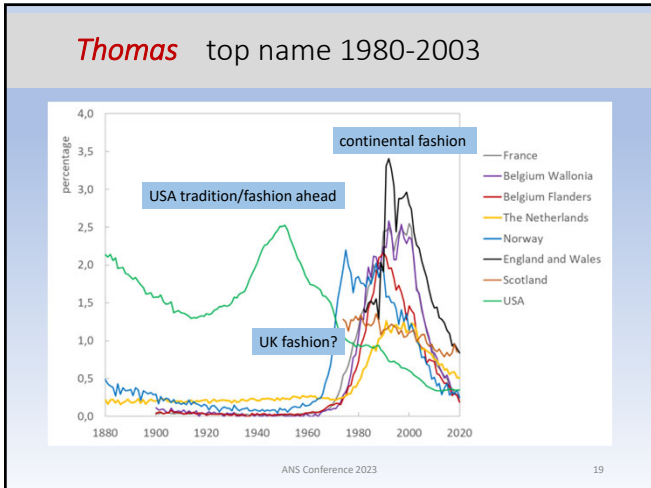
top names for girls

	The Netherlands	Flanders	Wallonia	France	Norway	England and Wales	Scotland	USA
1900-09	MARIA	MARIA	MARIE	MARIE	ANNA	MARY	MARY	MARY
1910-19	MARIA	MARIA	MARIE	MARIE	ANNA	MARY	MARY	MARY
1920-29	MARIA	MARIA	MARIE	MARIE	SOLVEIG	REBECCA	EMMA	ASHLEY
1930-39	MARIA	MARIA	MARIE	MARIE	BØRGE	REBECCA	EMMA	JESSICA
1940-49	MARIA	MARIA	MARIE	MARIE	ANNE	MARY	MARY	MARY
1950-59	MARIA	MARIA	MARIE	MARIE	ANNE	MARY	MARY	MARY
1960-69	MARIA	ANN	VERONIQUE	SYLVIE	ANNE	LISA	LISA	JENNIFER
1970-79	MARIA	TES	NATHALIE	SANDRINE	ANNE	SILIE	LAURA	NICOLA
1980-89	MARJA	SOTIE	STEPHANIE	AURELIE	IDA	SARAH	EMMA	JESSICA
1990	LAURA	SARAH	AURELIE	ELODIE	IDA	SARAH	EMMA	JESSICA
1991	LISA	JOLIE	LURA	MARINE	SILIE	REBECCA	EMMA	ASHLEY
1992	IRIS	JOLIE	LURA	YVONNE	IDA	REBECCA	EMMA	ASHLEY
1993	LISA	JOLIE	LURA	YVONNE	IDA	REBECCA	EMMA	JESSICA
1994	LAURA	LAURA	LURA	MANON	IDA	LAUREN	LAUREN	JESSICA
1995	LAURA	LAURA	LURA	MANON	IDA	REBECCA	LAUREN	JESSICA
1996	LAURA	LAURA	LURA	MANON	IDA	REBECCA	LAUREN	JESSICA
1997	SANNE	LAURA	LAURA	LEA	INGRID	CHLOE	EMMA	EMILY
1998	SANNE	LAURA	LAURA	LEA	IDA	CHLOE	CHLOE	EMILY
1999	SANNE	LAURA	LAURA	LEA	EMILIE	CHLOE	CHLOE	EMILY
2000	SANNE	AMBER	LAURA	LEA	IDA	CHLOE	CHLOE	EMILY
2001	SANNE	AMBER	LAURA	LEA	IDA	CHLOE	CHLOE	EMILY
2002	SANNE	AMBER	LAURA	LEA	IDA	CHLOE	CHLOE	EMILY
2003	SANNE	EMMA	LEA	EMMA	EMILY	EMMA	EMILY	EMILY
2004	SANNE	EMMA	LEA	EMMA	EMILY	EMMA	EMILY	EMILY
2005	SANNE	EMMA	LEA	EMMA	EMILY	EMMA	EMILY	EMILY
2006	SOPHIE	EMMA	LEA	EMMA	JESSICA	SOPHIE	EMILY	EMILY
2007	SANNE	EMMA	LEA	EMMA	JESSICA	SOPHIE	EMILY	EMILY
2008	SOPHIE	EMMA	LEA	EMMA	THEA	RUBY	SOPHIE	EMILY
2009	EMMA	EMMA	LEA	EMMA	EMMA	OLIVIA	SOPHIE	SOPHIE
2010	SOPHIE	MARIE	LEA	EMMA	THEA	GRACE	SOPHIE	ISABELLA
2011	EMMA	EMMA	LEA	EMMA	THEA	RUBY	SOPHIE	SOPHIA
2012	SOPHIE	EMMA	LEA	EMMA	THEA	RUBY	SOPHIE	SOPHIA
2013	SOPHIE	EMMA	LEA	EMMA	THEA	RUBY	SOPHIE	SOPHIA
2014	SOPHIE	EMMA	LEA	JADE	NORA	AMELIA	EMILY	EMMA
2015	EMMA	LOUISE	LEA	LOUISE	EMMA	AMELIA	EMILY	EMMA
2016	TESS	MILA	EMMA	EMMA	NORA	OLIVIA	OLIVIA	EMMA
2017	TESS	LOUISE	EMMA	EMMA	NORA	OLIVIA	OLIVIA	EMMA
2018	JUDE	MILA	EMMA	EMMA	EMMA	OLIVIA	OLIVIA	EMMA
2019	EMMA	OLIVIA	OLIVIA	EMMA	EMMA	OLIVIA	OLIVIA	EMMA
2020	EMMA	TORIJA	EMMA	JADE	NORA	OLIVIA	OLIVIA	EMMA



top names for boys

	The Netherlands	Flanders	Wallonia	France	Norway	England and Wales	Scotland	USA
1900-09	JOHANNES	PETRUS	JOSEPH	JEAN	JOHAN	JOHN	JOHN	JOHN
1910-19	JOHANNES	ALBERT	ALBERT	JEAN	ARNE	ROBERT	ROBERT	ROBERT
1920-29	JOHANNES	MARCEL	JEAN	JEAN	ARNE	HARRY	JACK	ROBERT
1930-39	JOHANNES	ROGER	JEAN	JEAN	ARNE	HARRY	JACK	JAMES
1940-49	JOHANNES	WILLY	JEAN	JEAN	JAN	JAN	JACK	JAMES
1950-59	JOHANNES	MARC	JEAN	JEAN	JAN	JAN	JACK	JAMES
1960-69	JOHANNES	PATRICK	PHILIPPE	PHILIPPE	JAN	MICHAEL	MICHAEL	MICHAEL
1970-79	JOHANNES	BART	FREDERIC	CHRISTOPHER	JAN	MICHAEL	MICHAEL	MICHAEL
1980-89	JOHANNES	TOBY	NICOLAS	JULIEN	THOMAS	CHRISTOPHER	DAVID	MICHAEL
1990	KEVIN	KEVIN	KEVIN	KEVIN	THOMAS	CHRISTOPHER	DAVID	MICHAEL
1991	KEVIN	KEVIN	KEVIN	KEVIN	ANDRÁS	DANIEL	DAVID	MICHAEL
1992	KEVIN	THOMAS	THOMAS	KEVIN	MARTIN	DANIEL	DAVID	MICHAEL
1993	KEVIN	THOMAS	THOMAS	KEVIN	MARTIN	THOMAS	ANDREW	MICHAEL
1994	KEVIN	THOMAS	THOMAS	KEVIN	MARTIN	THOMAS	ANDREW	MICHAEL
1995	THOMAS	THOMAS	THOMAS	KEVIN	MARTIN	THOMAS	ANDREW	MICHAEL
1996	TIM	THOMAS	NICOLAS	THOMAS	MARTIN	JACK	JACK	JACOB
1997	THOMAS	THOMAS	NICOLAS	THOMAS	MARTIN	JACK	JACK	JACOB
1998	THOMAS	ROBBE	NICOLAS	THOMAS	MARTIN	JACK	JACK	JACOB
1999	TIM	JONAS	NICOLAS	THOMAS	MARTIN	JACK	JACK	JACOB
2000	THOMAS	ROBBE	NICOLAS	THOMAS	MARTIN	JACK	JACK	JACOB
2001	THOMAS	ROBBE	THOMAS	THOMAS	MARTIN	JACK	JACK	JACOB
2002	THOMAS	ROBBE	THOMAS	THOMAS	MARTIN	JACK	JACK	JACOB
2003	THOMAS	ROBBE	THOMAS	THOMAS	MARTIN	JACK	JACK	JACOB
2004	SEM	MILAN	NOAH	ENZO	MARTIN	JACK	LEWIS	JACOB
2005	DAAN	MILAN	NOAH	ENZO	TOMAS	JACK	LEWIS	JACOB
2006	SEM	MILAN	NOAH	ENZO	JONAS	JACK	JACK	JACOB
2007	SEM	MILAN	NATHAN	ENZO	JONAS	JACK	LEWIS	JACOB
2008	DAAN	KEVIN	NATHAN	LUCAS	EMIL	JACK	JACK	JACOB
2009	DAAN	LARS	NATHAN	LUCAS	EMIL	OLIVER	JACK	JACOB
2010	SEM	LOUIS	NATHAN	NATHAN	EMIL	OLIVER	JACK	JACOB
2011	DAAN	LUCAS	NATHAN	LUCAS	EMIL	OLIVER	JACK	JACOB
2012	DAAN	LUCAS	NATHAN	LUCAS	EMIL	HARRY	JACK	JACOB
2013	SEM	LUCAS	HEDO	OLIVER	EMIL	OLIVER	JACK	JACOB
2014	DAAN	LUCAS	HEDO	OLIVER	EMIL	OLIVER	JACK	JACOB
2015	EMIL	LUCAS	HEDO	GABRIEL	WILLIAM	OLIVER	JACK	JACOB
2016	DAAN	LUCAS	GABRIEL	GABRIEL	WILLIAM	OLIVER	JACK	JACOB
2017	SEM	EMIL	GABRIEL	GABRIEL	WILLIAM	OLIVER	JACK	JACOB
2018	LUCAS	ARTHUR	GABRIEL	GABRIEL	EMIL	OLIVER	JACK	JACOB
2019	NOAH	ARTHUR	GABRIEL	GABRIEL	EMIL	OLIVER	JACK	JACOB
2020	NOAH	EMIL	GABRIEL	LEO	EMIL	OLIVER	JACK	JACOB



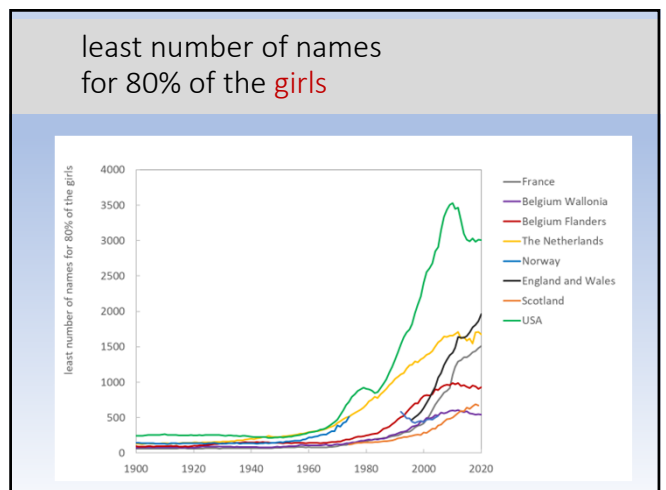
general developments

annually between 1880-2020

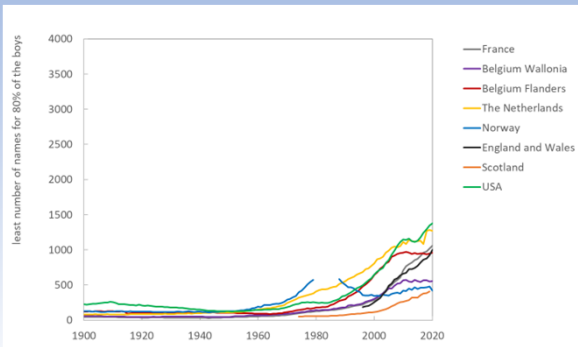
- least number of names for 80% of the children
- popularity (%) of the top name

small number needed for 80% > high popularity of top name
high number needed for 80% > lower popularity of top name

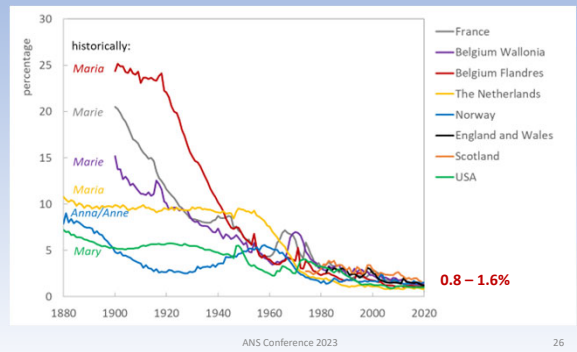
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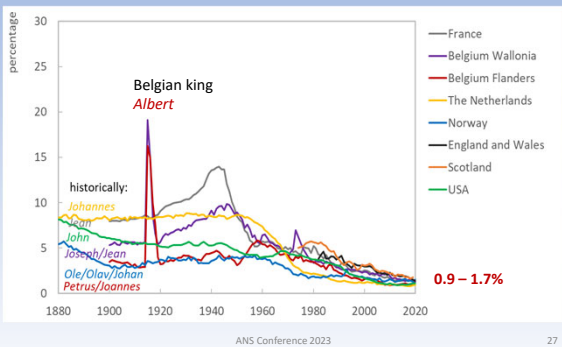
least number of names for 80% of the boys



popularity of top name for girls



popularity of top name for boys



in conclusion

- simultaneous developments across Western Europe
 - from tradition to fashion
- national and international preferences
 - national: cultural identity
 - international: multidirectional
- plea for co-operation:
 - more open source data [long term statistics]
 - from more countries
 - with joint research