



# French climate movement

## Defeat of victory?

Gala Kabbaj

Copenhagen, March, 2022

# Two media discourses on the climate movement

Rise of the climate movement against the « manufactured sluggishness »  
of public policies September 2018

- « A CITIZEN MOVEMENT BEYOND POLITICAL DIVIDES »

from September 2018 to January 2019

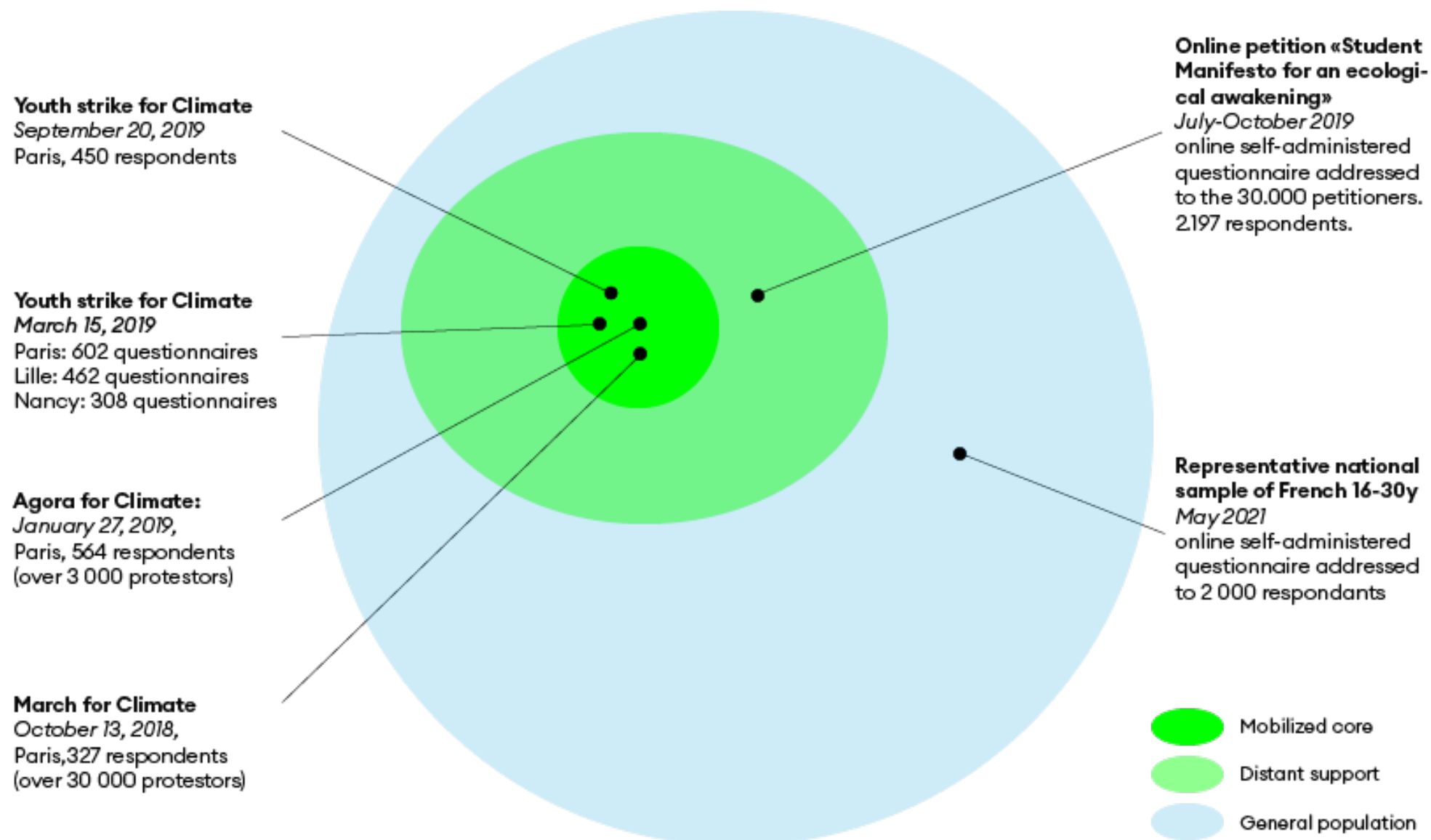
- « A GENERATIONAL MOBILIZATION »

mainstream discourse since January 2019

→ Sociologically and politically limited visions

- overlooking the social origins of participants
- minimizing the role of ideological orientations in the movement's structuration

## Three years studying the French climate movement: different times, different publics



# **1 – Who are the climate activists?**

# Dominance of the executive workforce


March for climate - October 13, 2018


- Important over-representation of management and higher intellectual occupations
- Three overrepresented sectors :

**Education and Research**

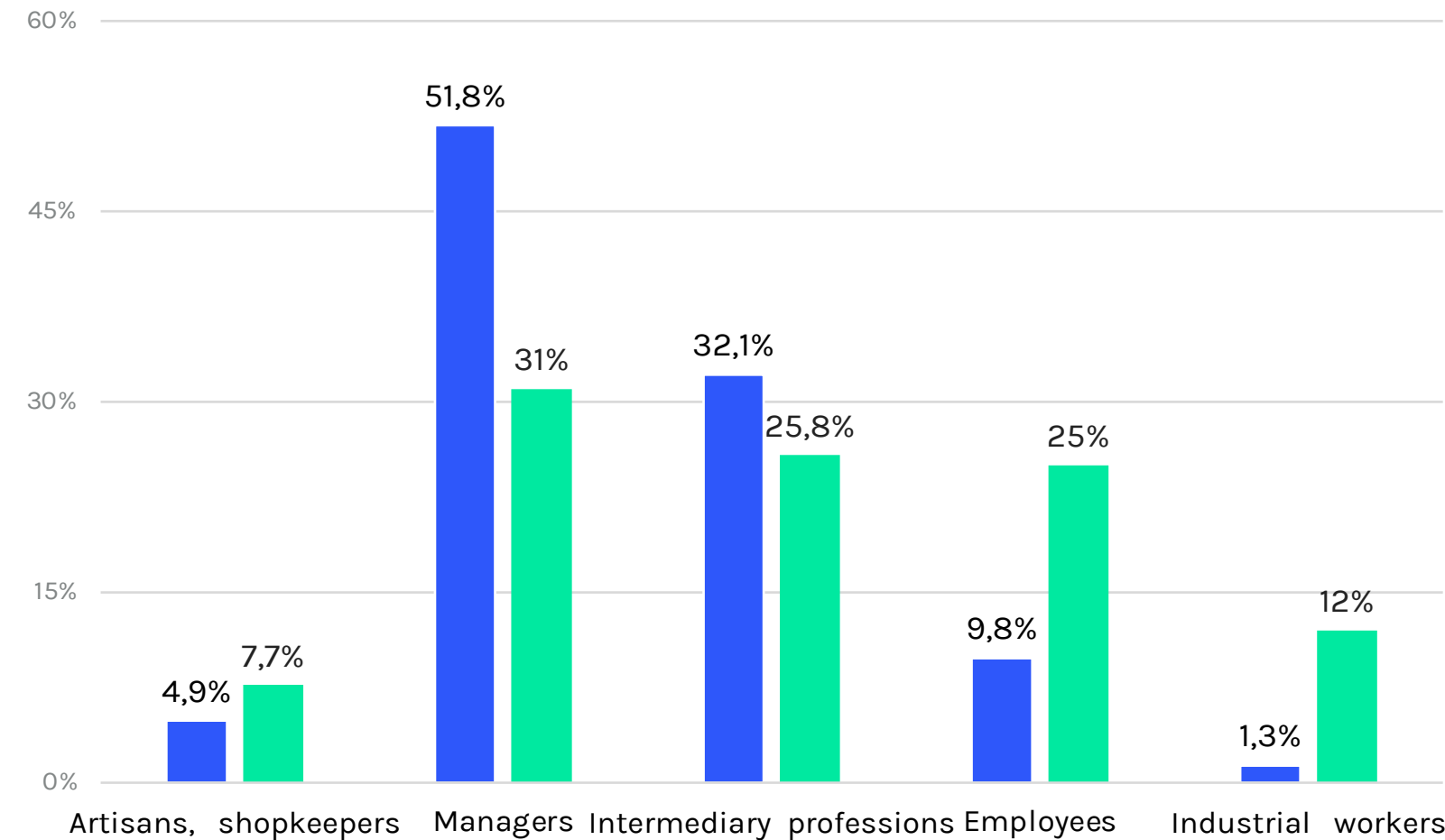
**Healthcare**

**Culture**

 Climate active participants

 Ile-de-France active population

Socio-professional categories of active participants in October 13's demonstration



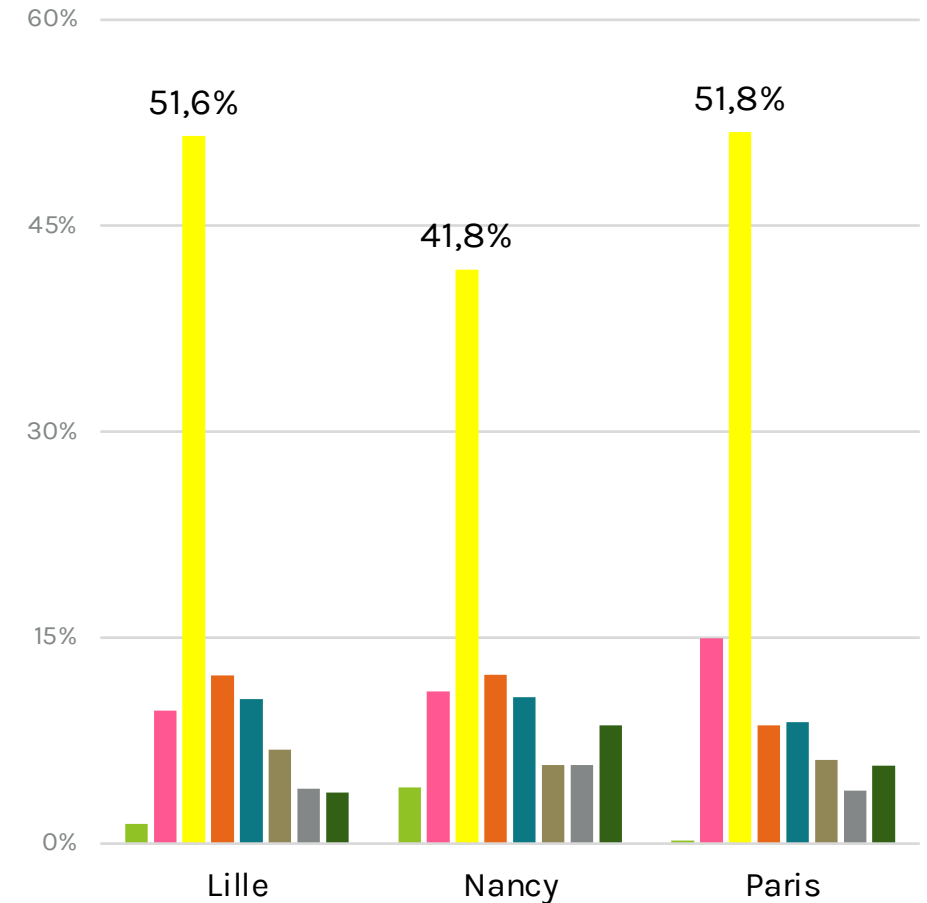
# Upper class youths

Strike for climate - March 15, 2019

- 50% of protesters' fathers have managing or high intellectual occupation.
- Protestors have very high educational level
- Social uniformity between the youth strike for climate and previous intergenerational climate protests

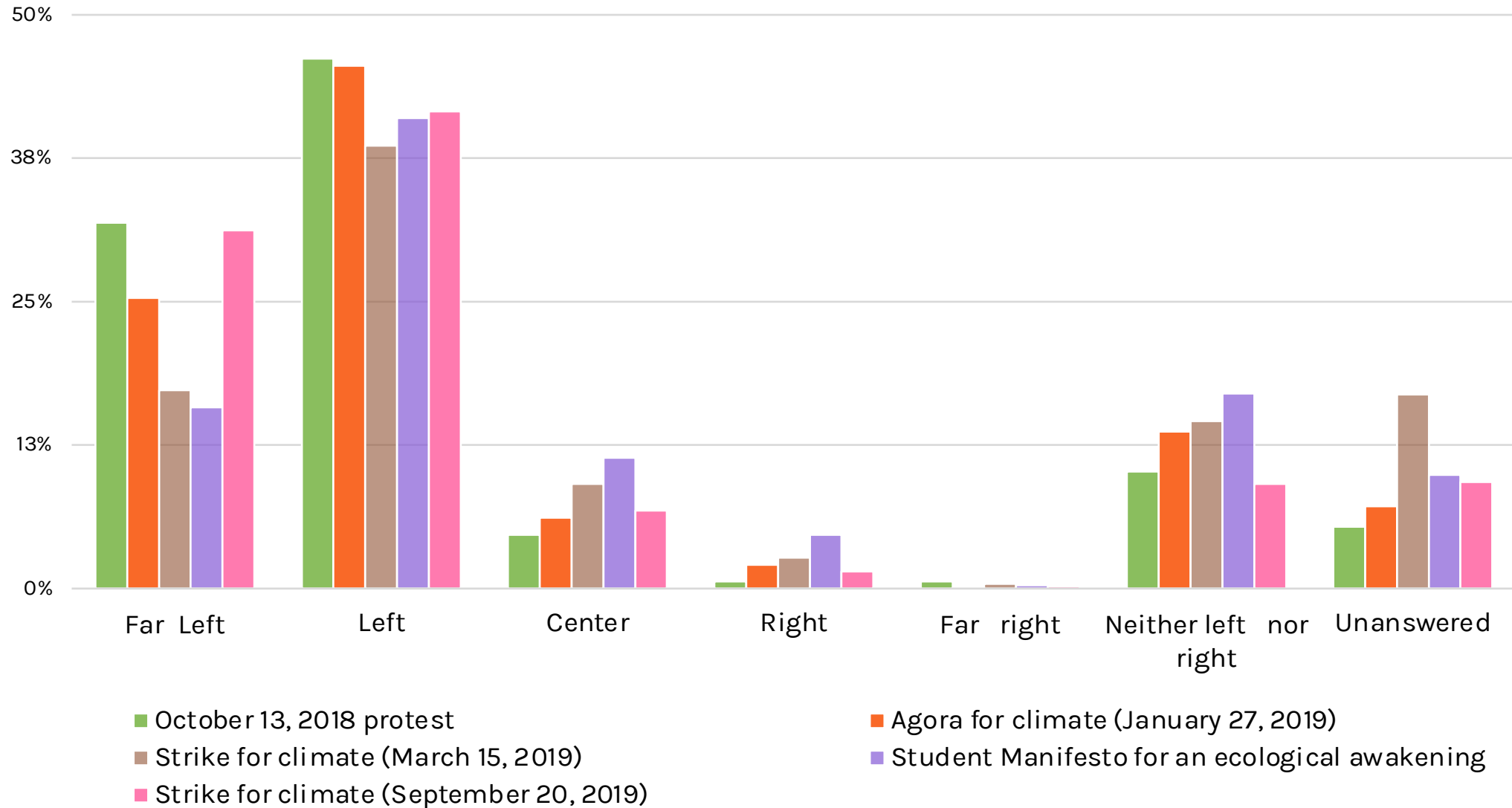
■ Farmer  
■ Artisan, shopkeeper  
■ Manager  
■ Intermediary professions  
■ Employees  
■ Industrial workers  
■ Non applicable  
■ Inactive

Father's profession of demonstrators in the strike for cl



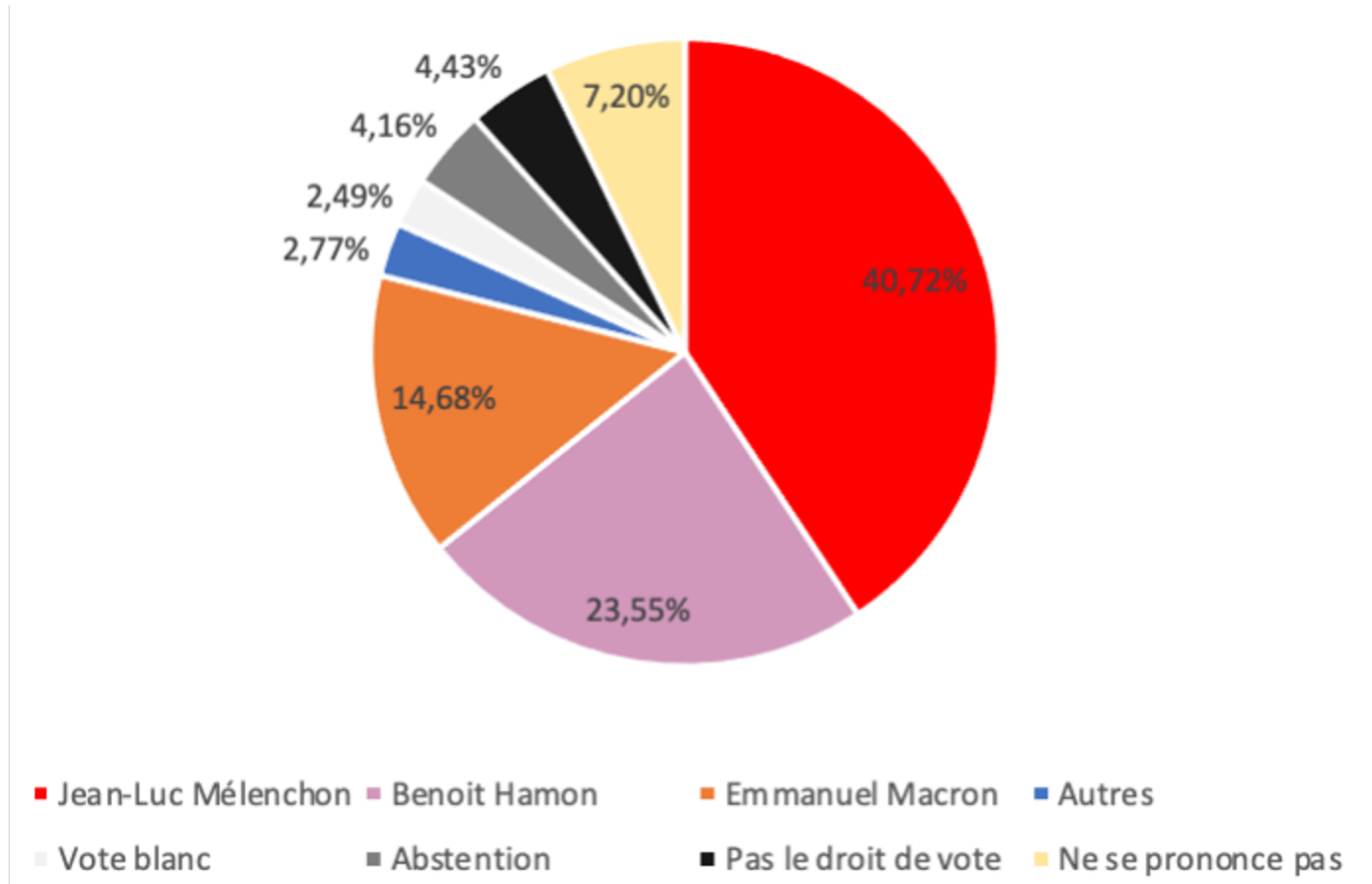
# Self-declared political positioning

Self-positioning on the left/right axis in all five samples



# Electoral practices of the climate protestors

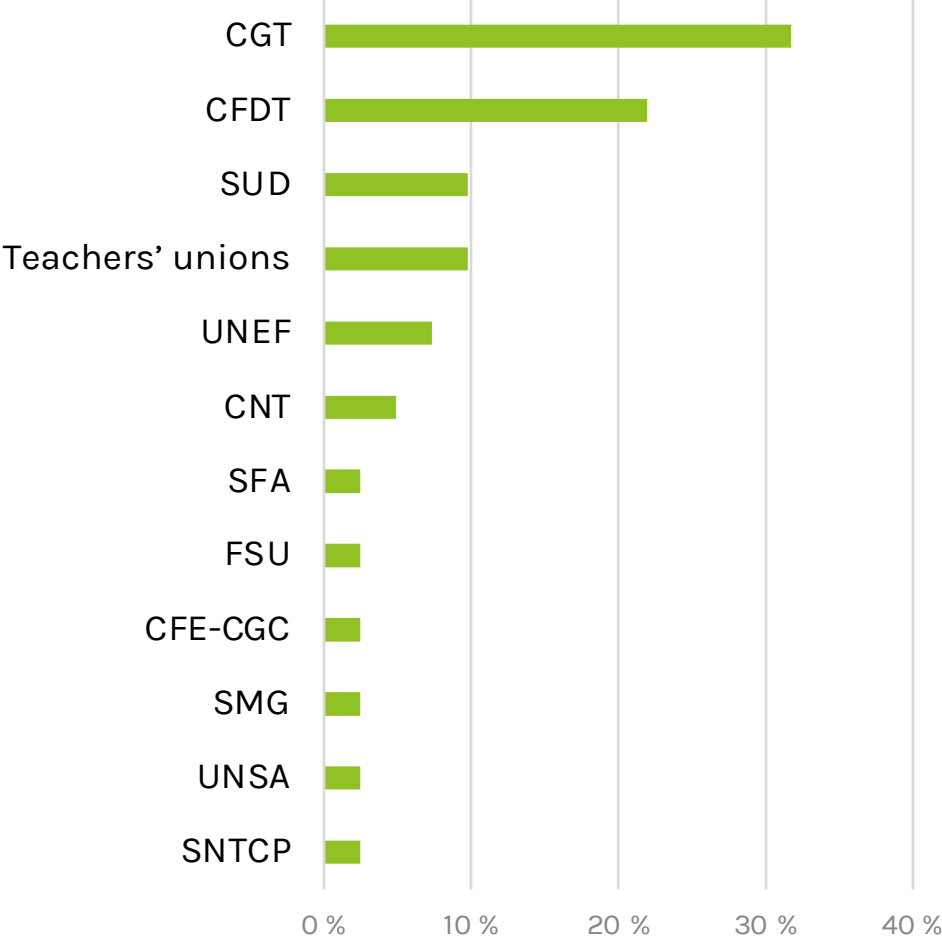
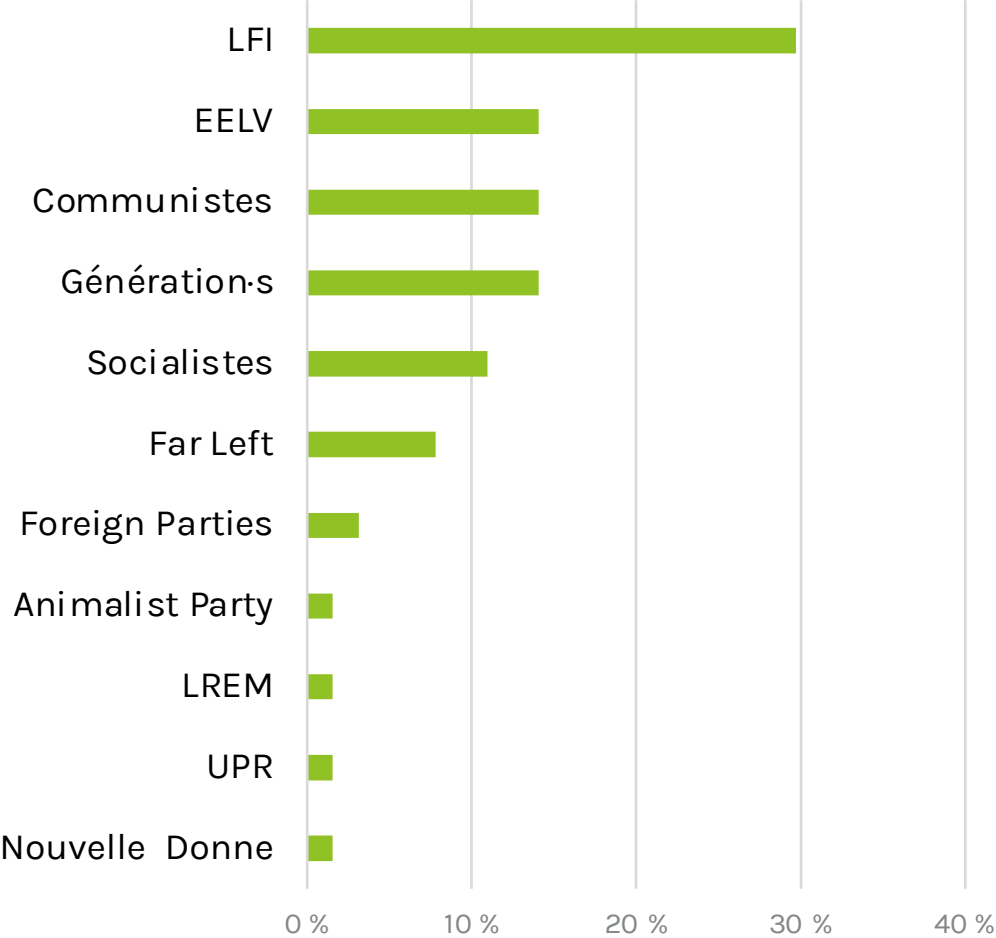
Vote at the 1st round of the 2017 Presidential election in the Oct 2018 protest



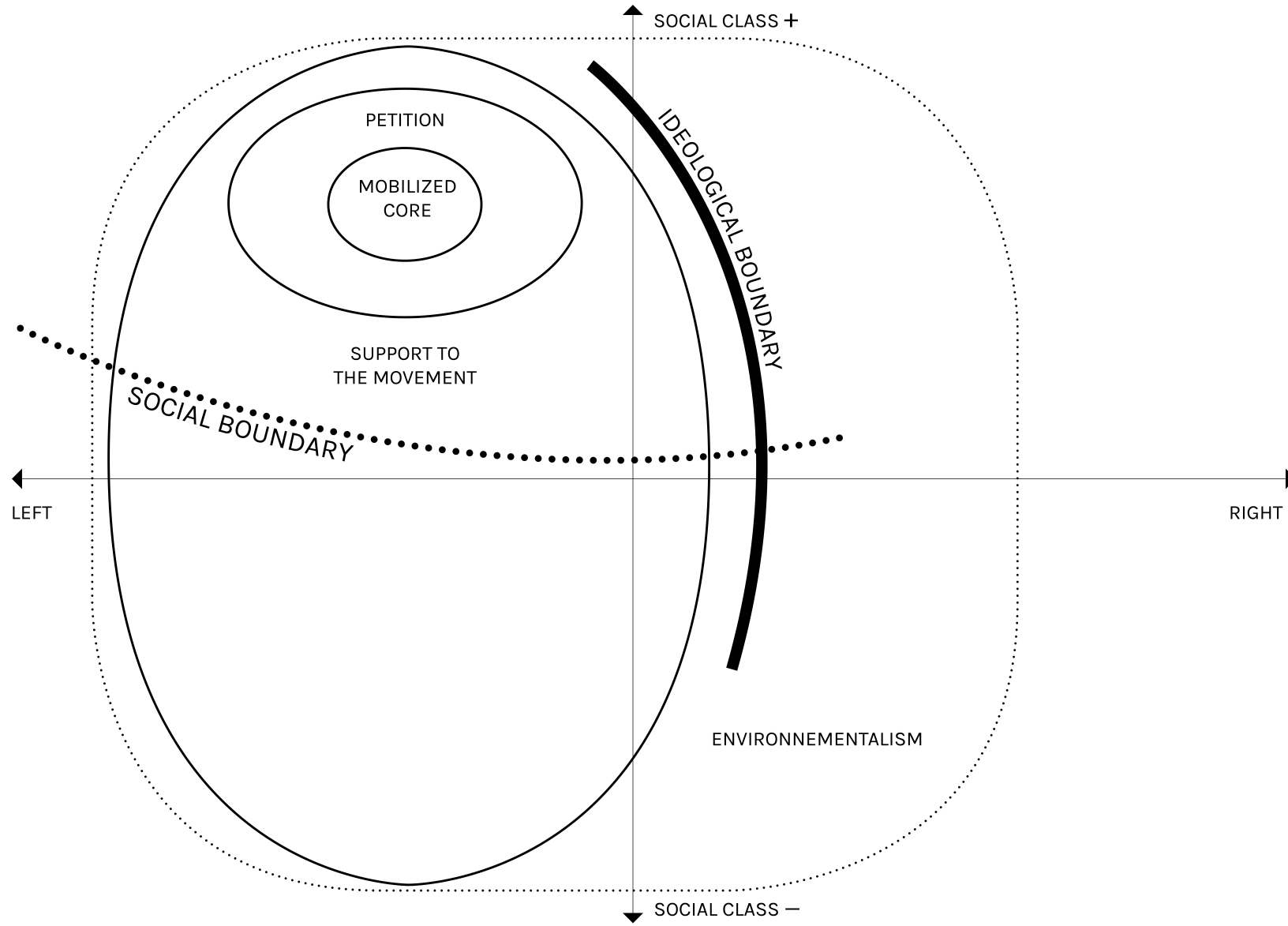


# Membership in political organisations / unions

March for climate 13th of October 2018: 27,7% of the sample declare a membership



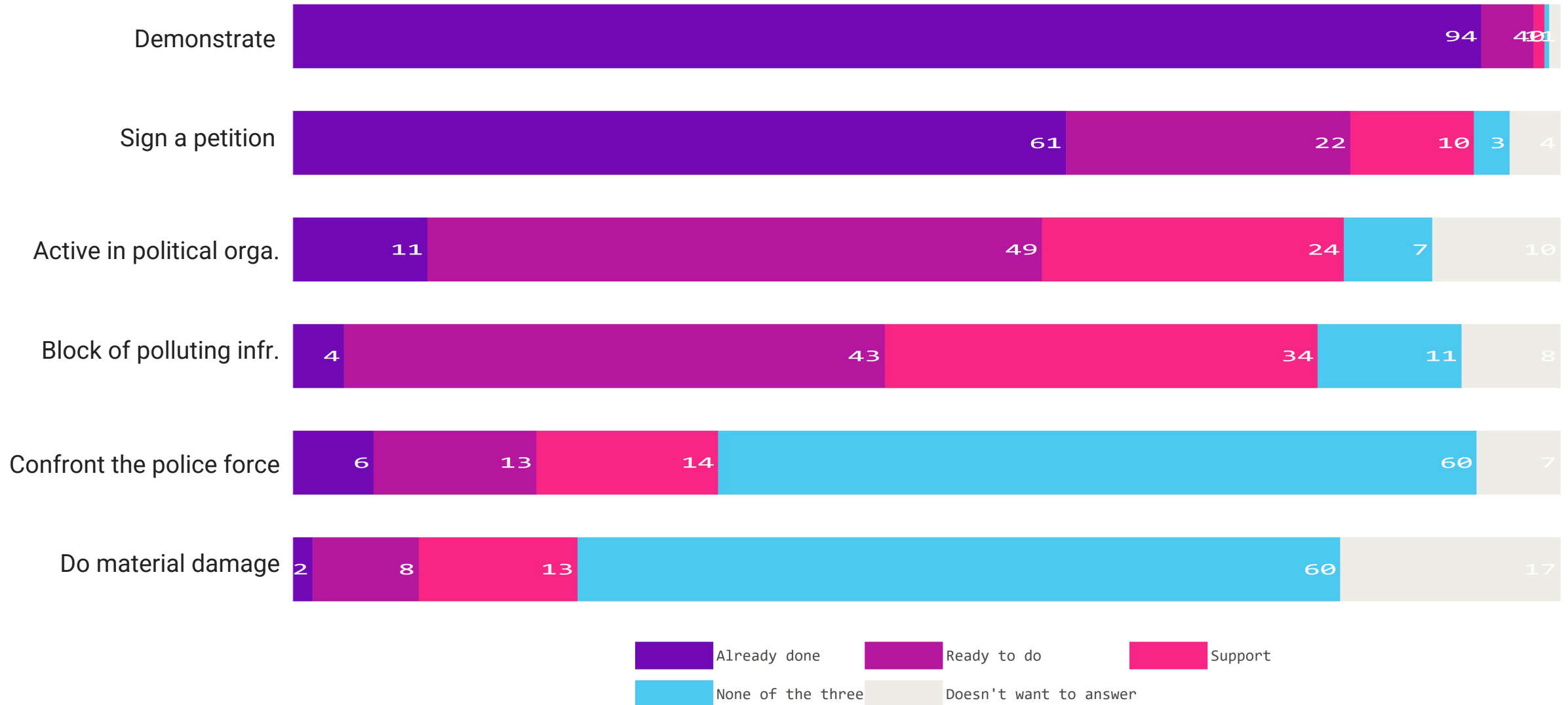
# What boundaries for the climate movement?



## **2 – Acting for climate**

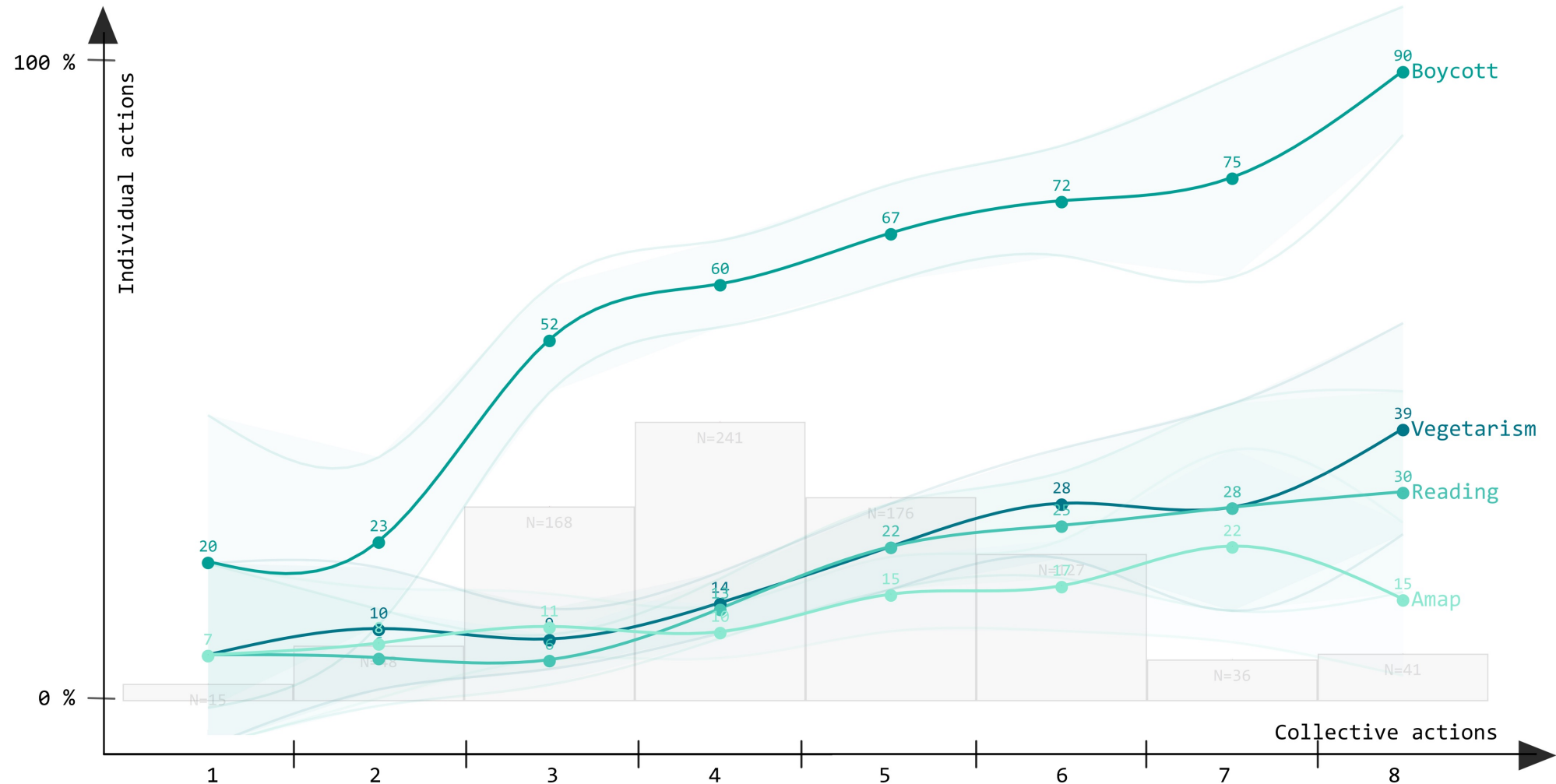
# What modalities of action ?

Strike for climate - March 15, 2019



# Individual changes vs systemic changes: an obsolete opposition

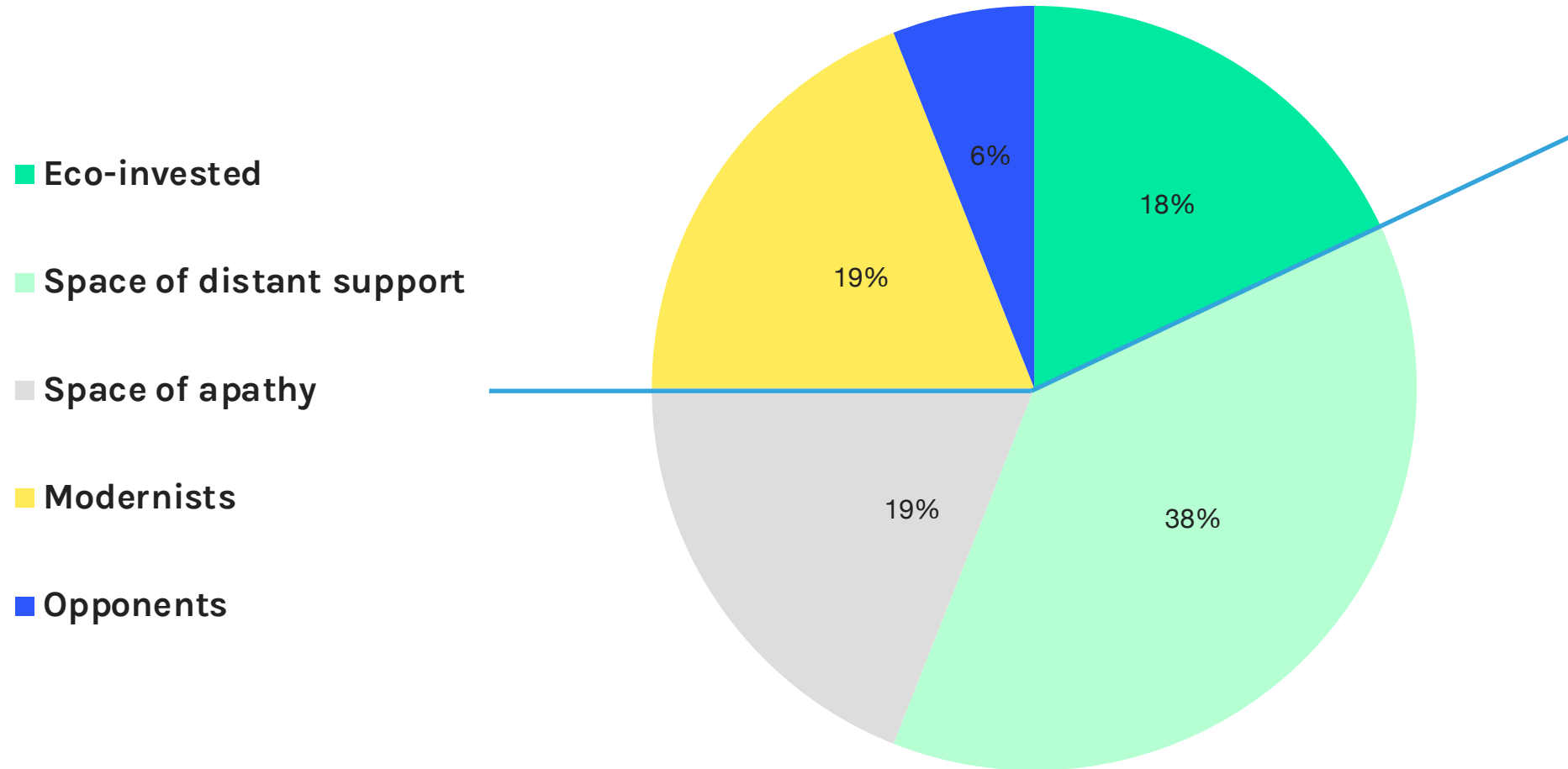
Strike for climate - March 15, 2019



## **3 – Ecology: beyond the movement**

# 16-30 years old: all ecologists?

National sample on the 16-30 years old – May 2021



# 16-30 years old: all ecologists?

## Part of the youth strucured by ecology 43%

### **Eco-invested — 18%**

53% of women

Strong anchorage in the reformist and radical Left

### **Modernists — 19%**

63% of men

Over-representation of active workers, of executive workforce and under-representation of industry workers

Strong anchorage in the center and Right

### **Opponents — 6%**

60 % of men

Over-representation of active workers and of industry workers

Strong anchorage in the Right and Far-Right

## Part of the youth not strucured by ecology 57%

### **Space of the distant support — 38%**

59% of women

Over-representation of highschoolers and students  
Under repretation of active workers and executive workforce

Low electoral participation and weak interest for politics

### **Space of apathy — 19%**

66% of women

Over-representation of the 17-18 years-old and students

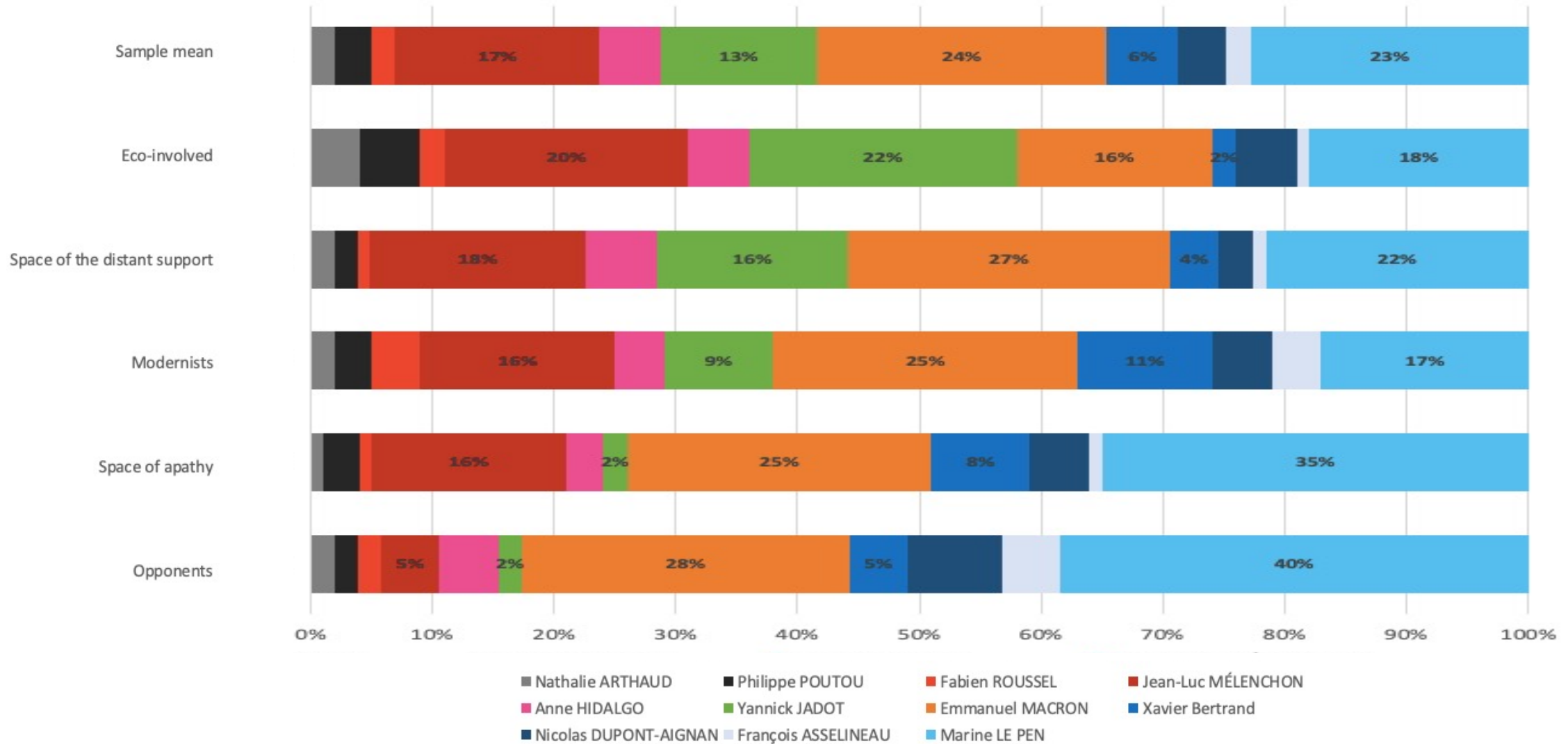
Under representation of executives and over-representation of industry workers

Low electoral participation and weak interest for politics



# Ecology: beyond political cleavages?

Voting intentions for the first round of the 2022 presidential elections



Expressed vote: 59% of the total sample

# Conclusions

- u Climate movement: a very specific sociology
- u The paradoxe of ecology
- u Convergence with other struggles: a condition for a political ecology