

Project Title: Minority Representatives in Political Representation: A Content Analysis in the Case of the Netherlands

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Project summary: This study investigates to what extent, and in what respects, minority representatives contribute to democratic plurality. This project is administered based on three research questions: 1. What are the impacts of coming from a minority background in bringing a supportive approach to the rights and liberties of minorities in the national parliament? 2. What are the impacts of coming from a minority background in bringing a supportive approach to the rights and liberties of other politically disadvantaged groups and/or those who completely lack such representation? 3. What are the impacts of different levels of representation – i.e. national and regional – in political representations of immigrant minorities by representatives of minority origin? What are the similarities and differences in the works of minority and non-minority MPs in all these realms? What is the role of political ideology, ethnic background, and gender in explaining these differences? We conduct a mixed methods approach bringing qualitative and quantitative approaches together. The Dutch case has been particularly selected for the traditional value given to group representation and rising discussions on immigrant minorities. The Netherlands has the highest percentage of minority representatives in Western democracies and provides full access to parliamentary records.