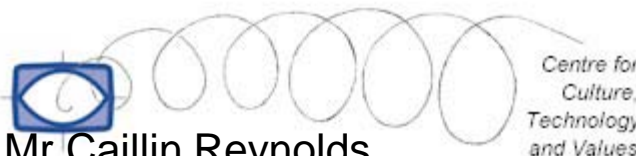
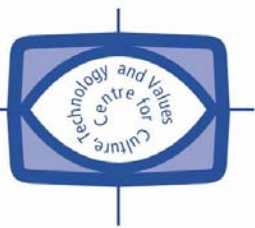


For whom the bell tolls

*Changing patterns of religious faith
and practice in Ireland, 1981 -2008*

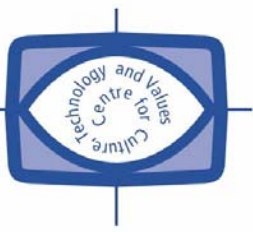
Dr. Michael J. Breen, Dr. Eamonn Conway, Mr Caillin Reynolds
Centre for Culture, Technology & Values, University of Limerick, Ireland





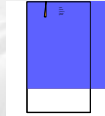
Overview

- European Values Survey (EVS): a large-scale, cross-national, and longitudinal survey research program on basic human values
- Conducted in 1981, 1990, 1999 and most recently in 2008.
- Topic Areas include:
 1. Religious denomination
 2. Religious practice
 3. Importance of religion
 4. Traditional beliefs
 5. Morality
 6. Faith in the church



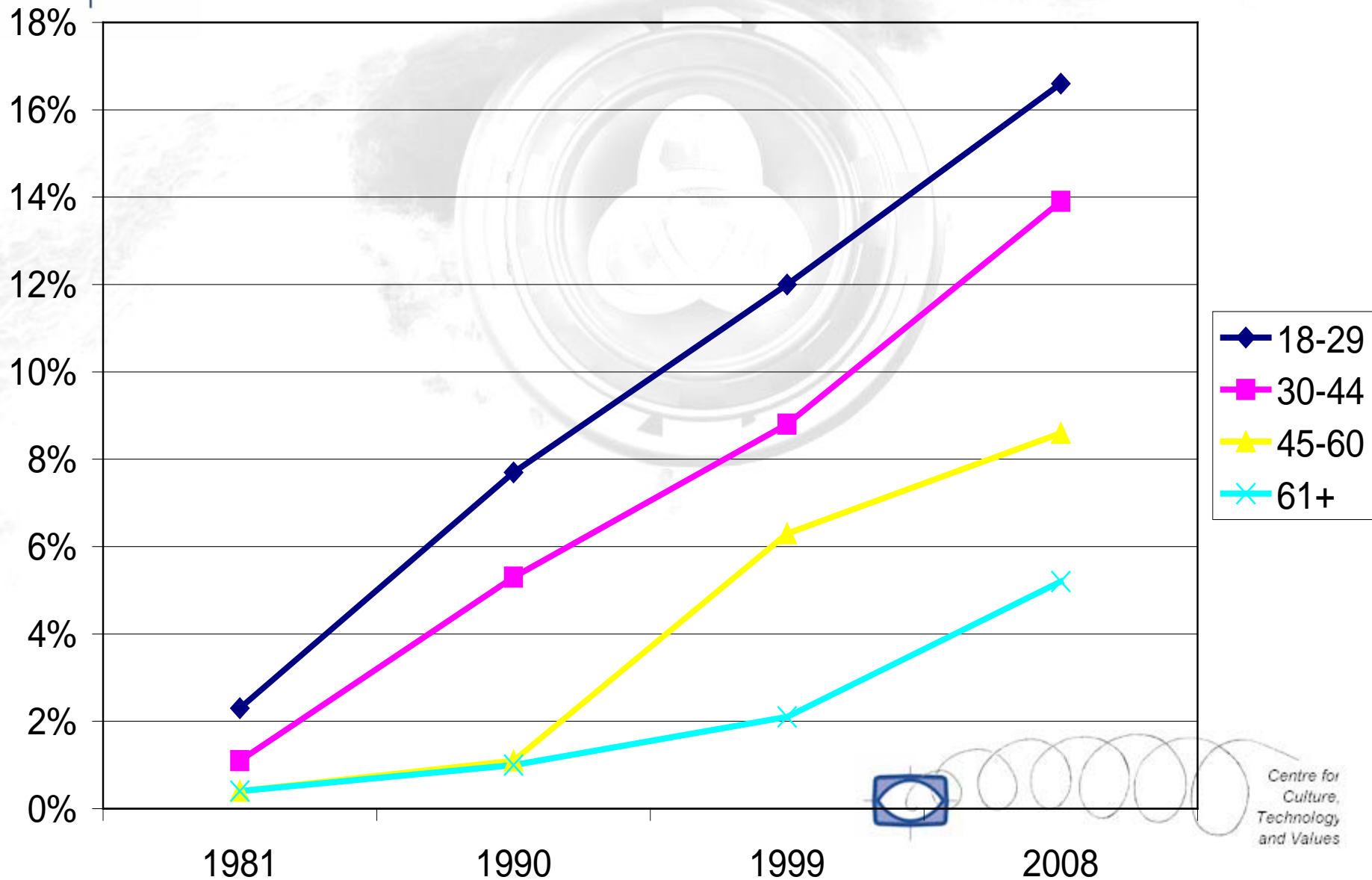
Religious Denomination

- 96.3% of Irish people who belong to a religious denomination are Roman Catholic.
- 3.9% belong to the Church of Ireland.
- Others make up just 2% of those belonging a religious denomination.



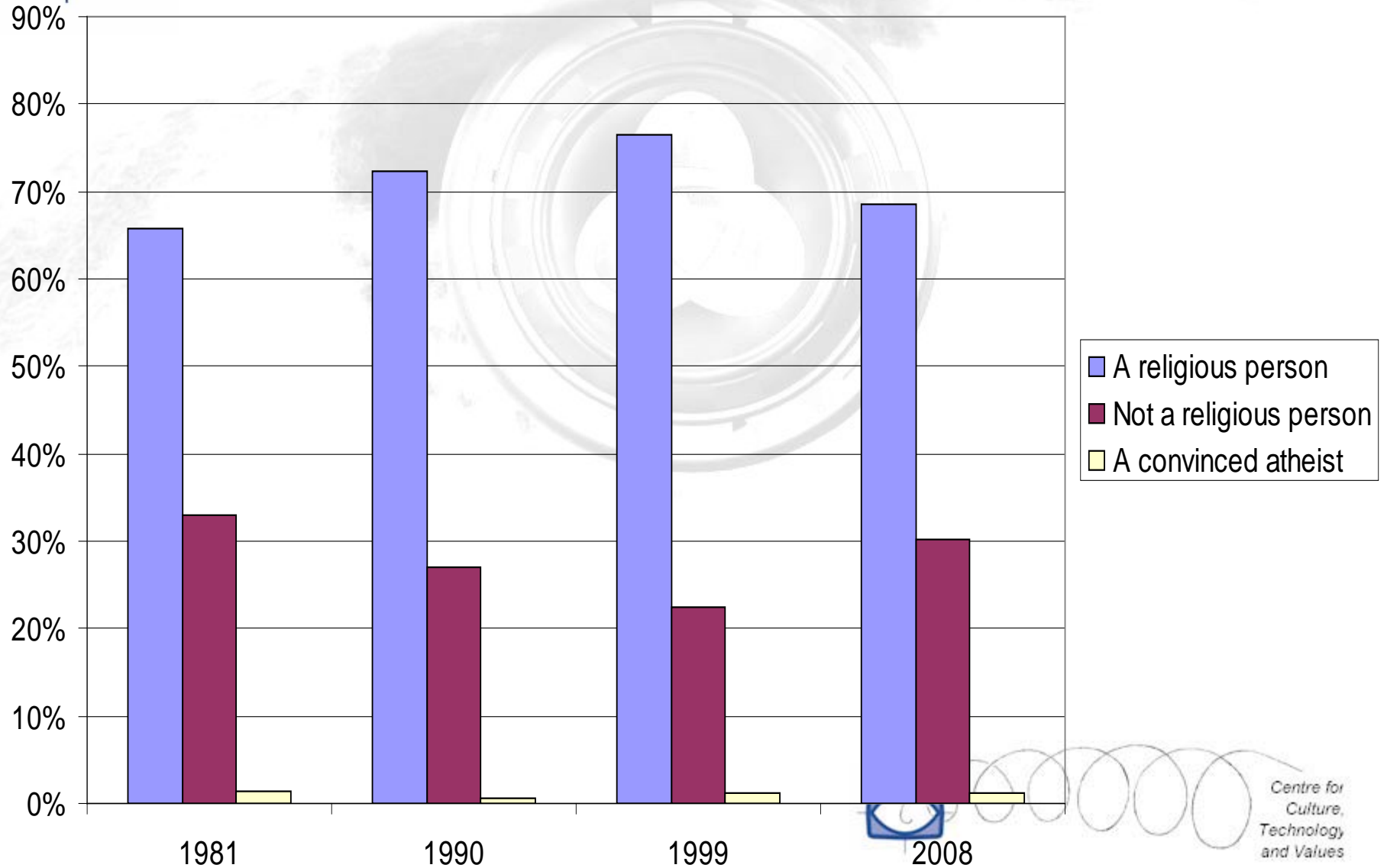


% Within age group not belonging to a Religious Denomination



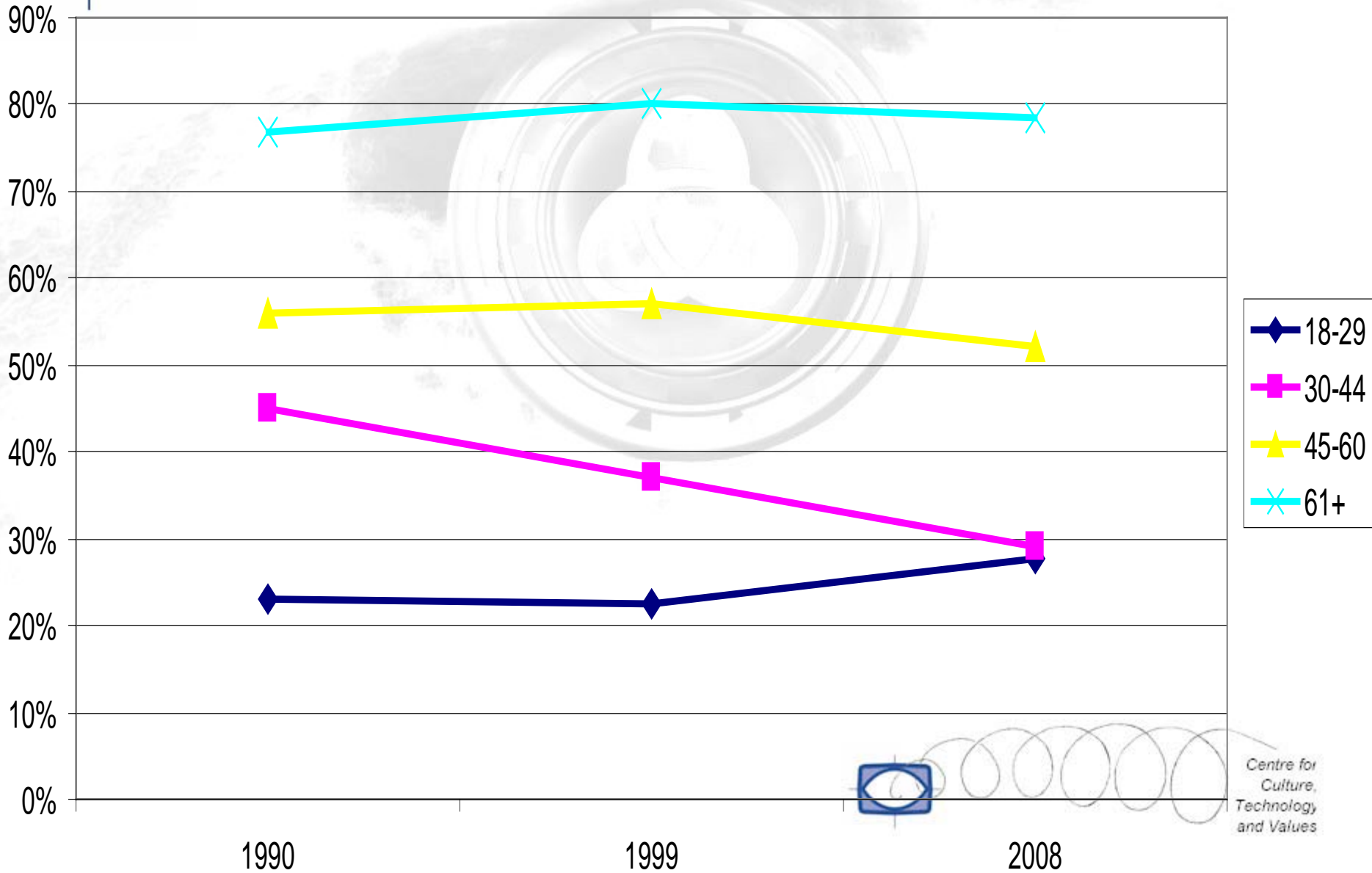


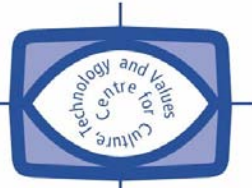
Self-definition as religious or atheistic



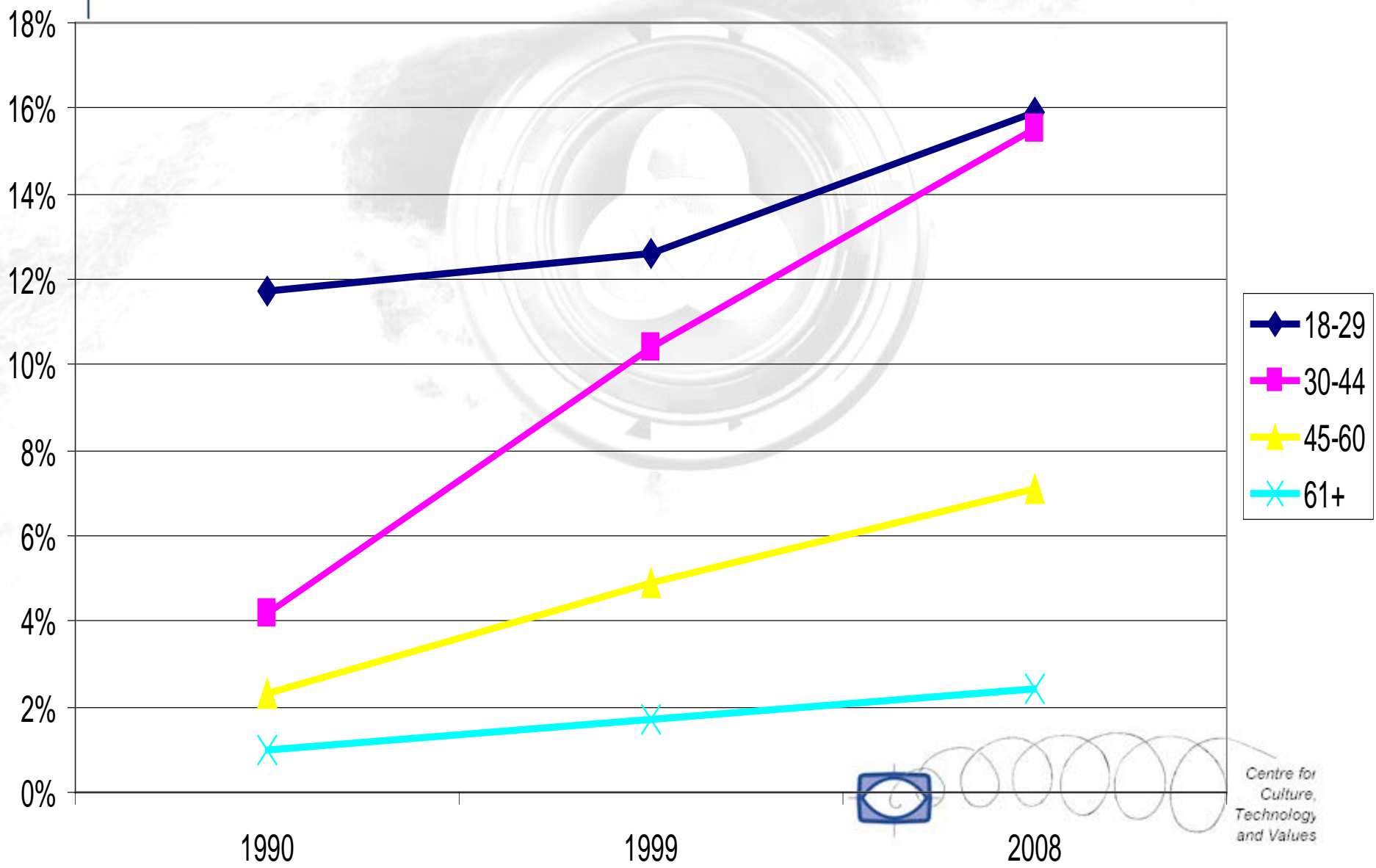


% Within age group who Pray Everyday or Often



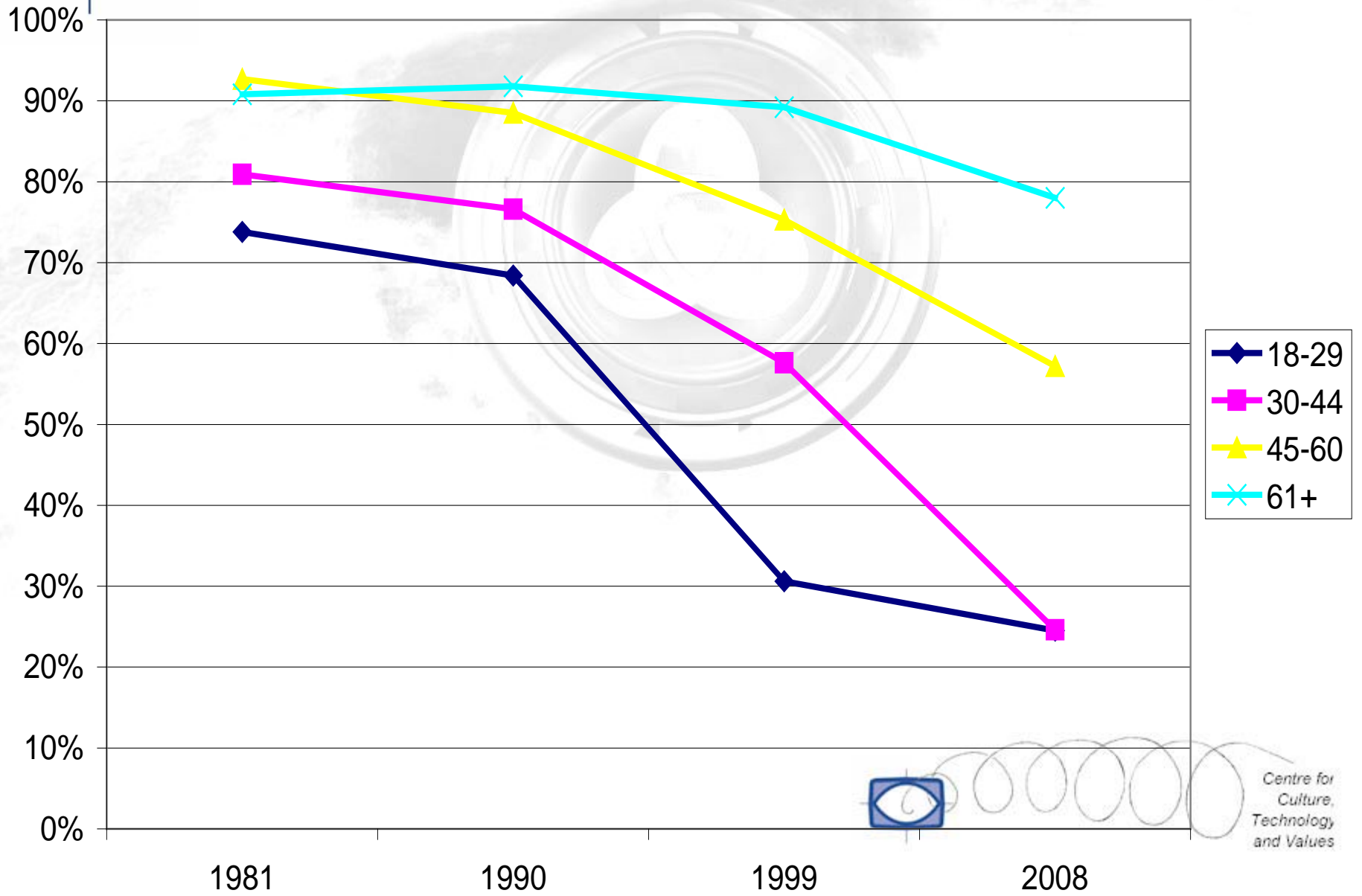


% Within age group who Never Pray



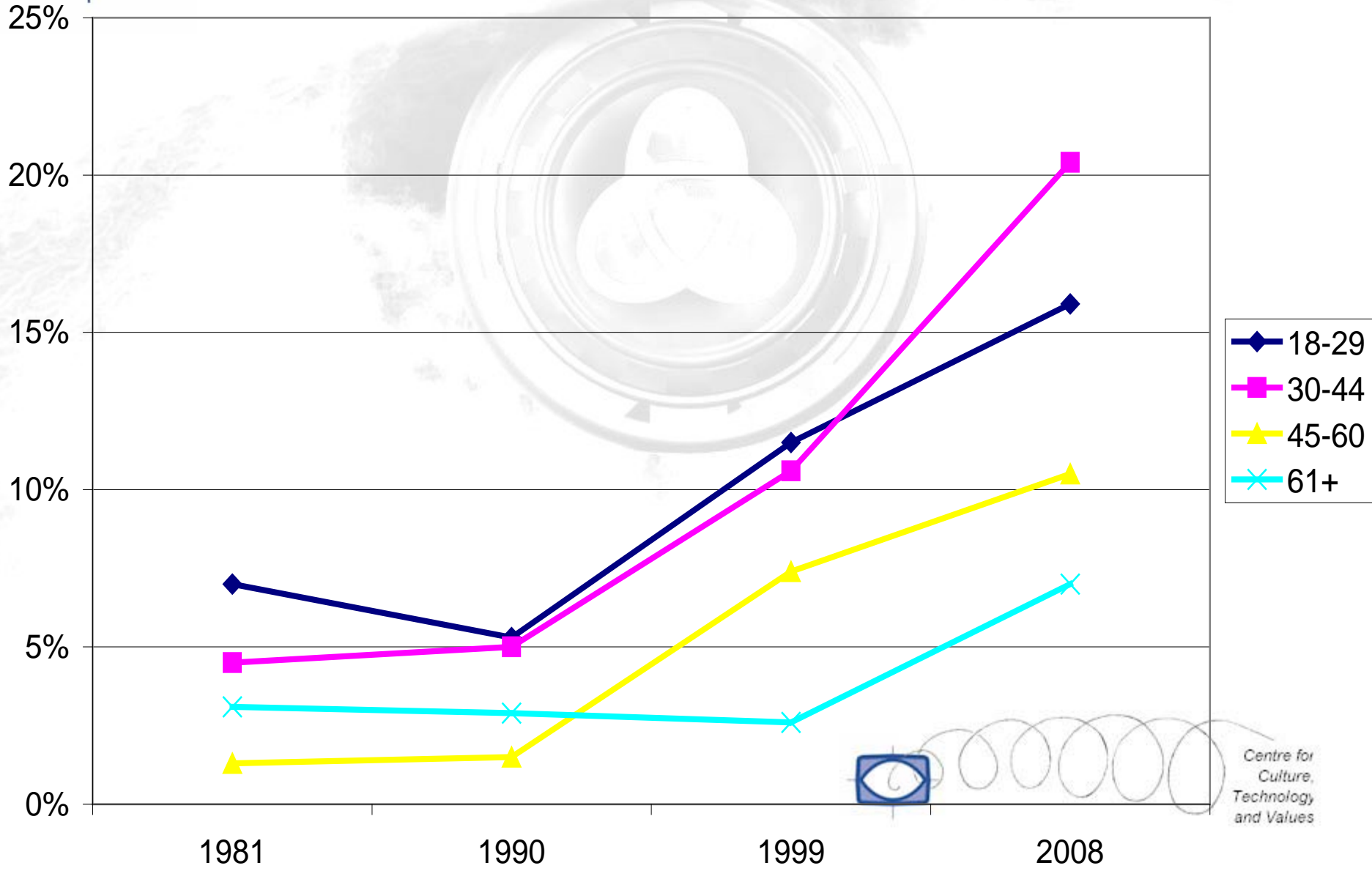


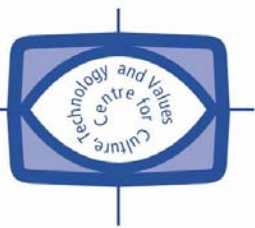
% Within age group who attend service once a week or more



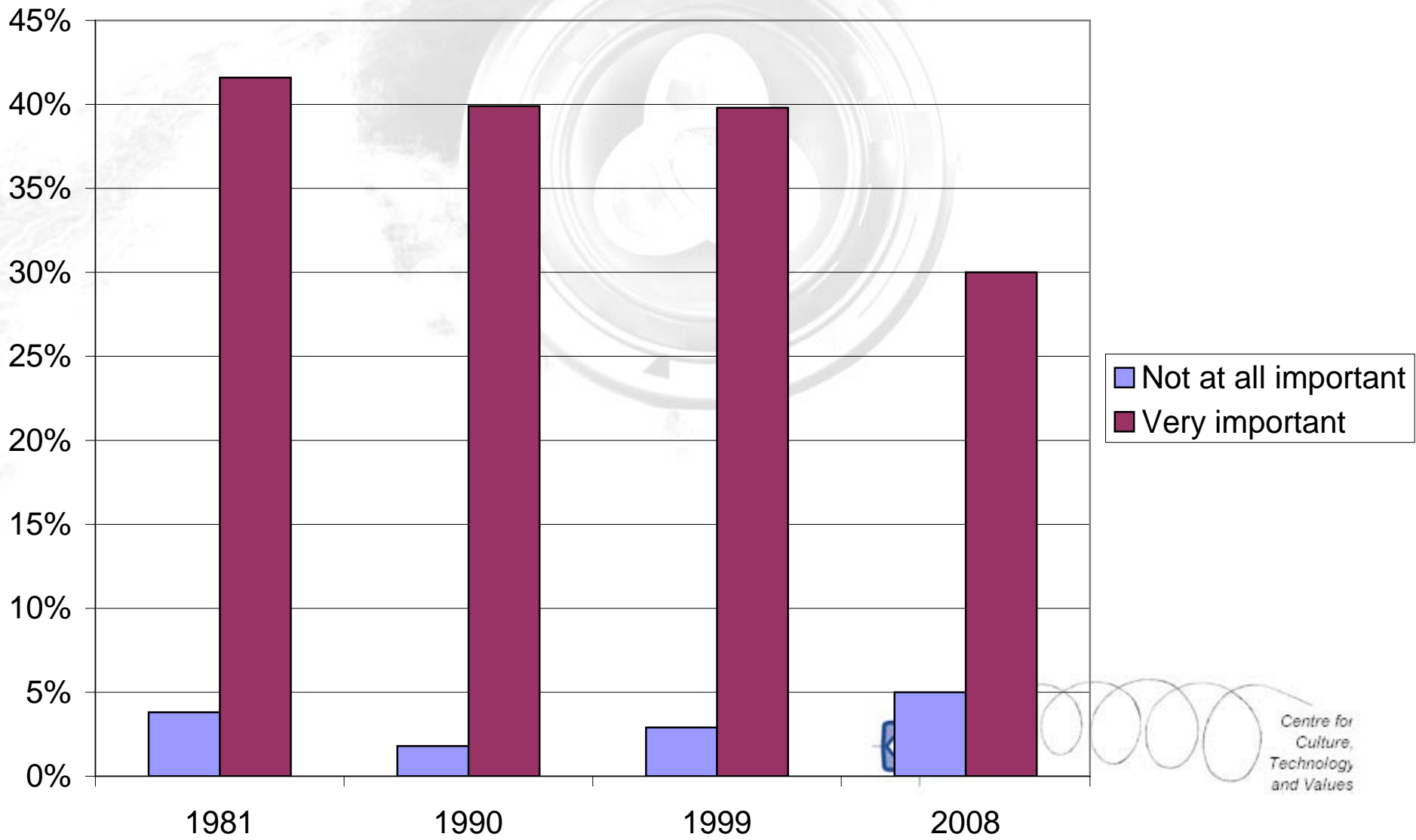


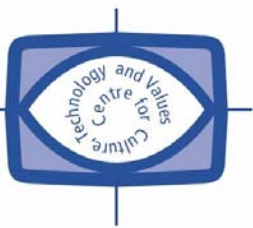
% Within age group who never attend religious service



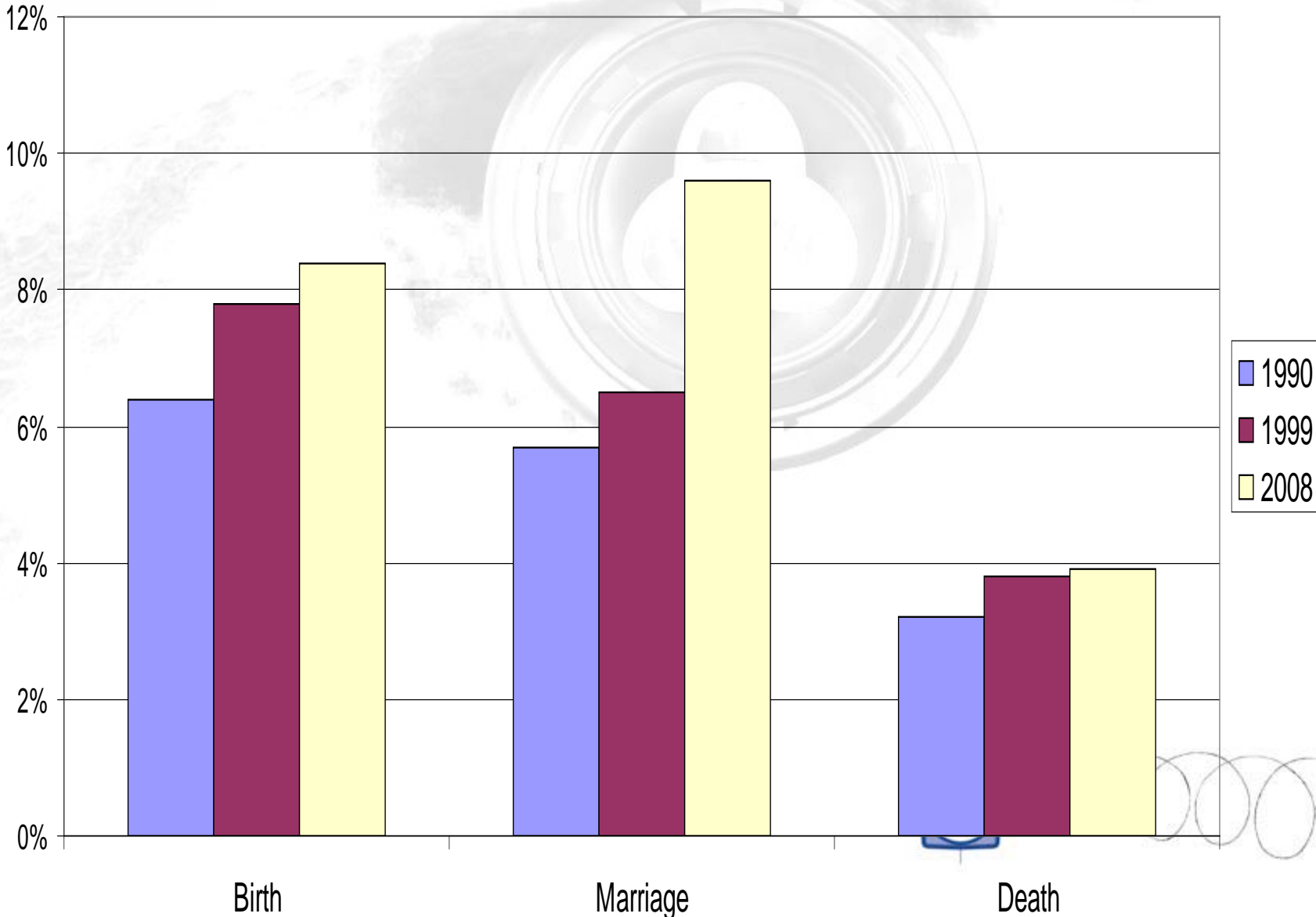


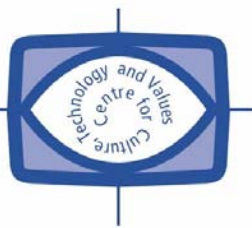
Importance of God



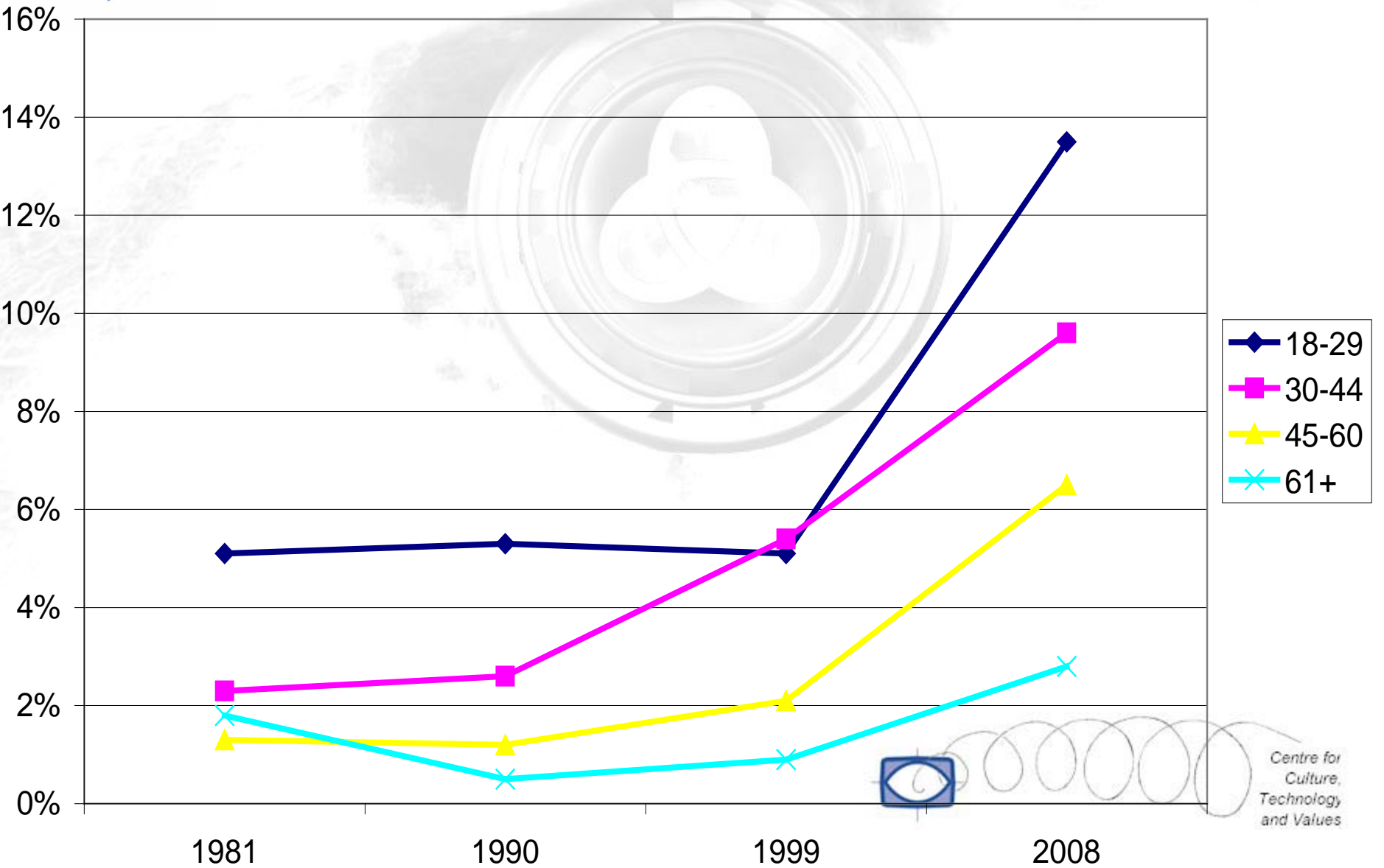


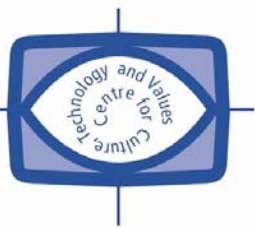
Importance of Religious Services



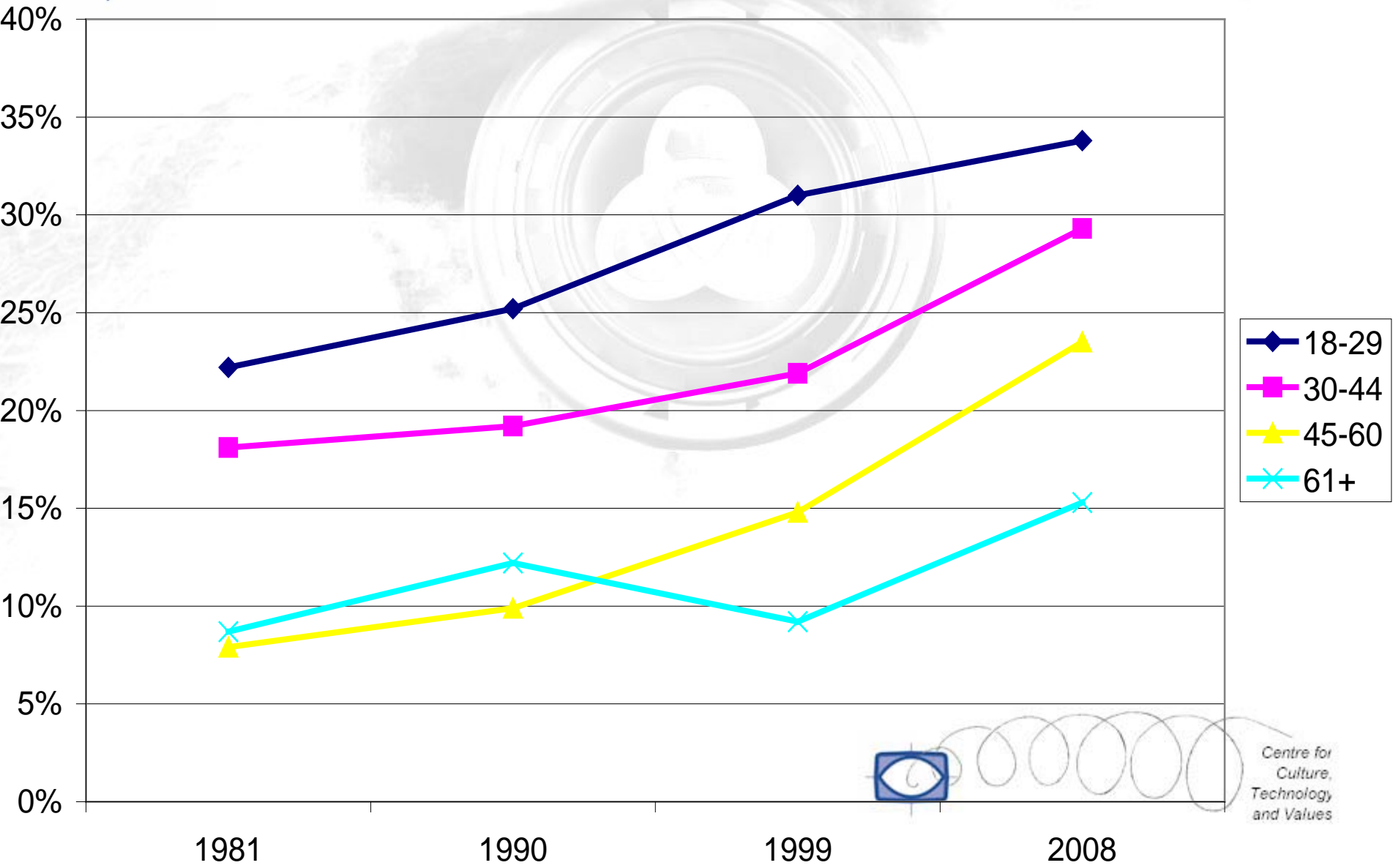


% Within age group who do not believe in God



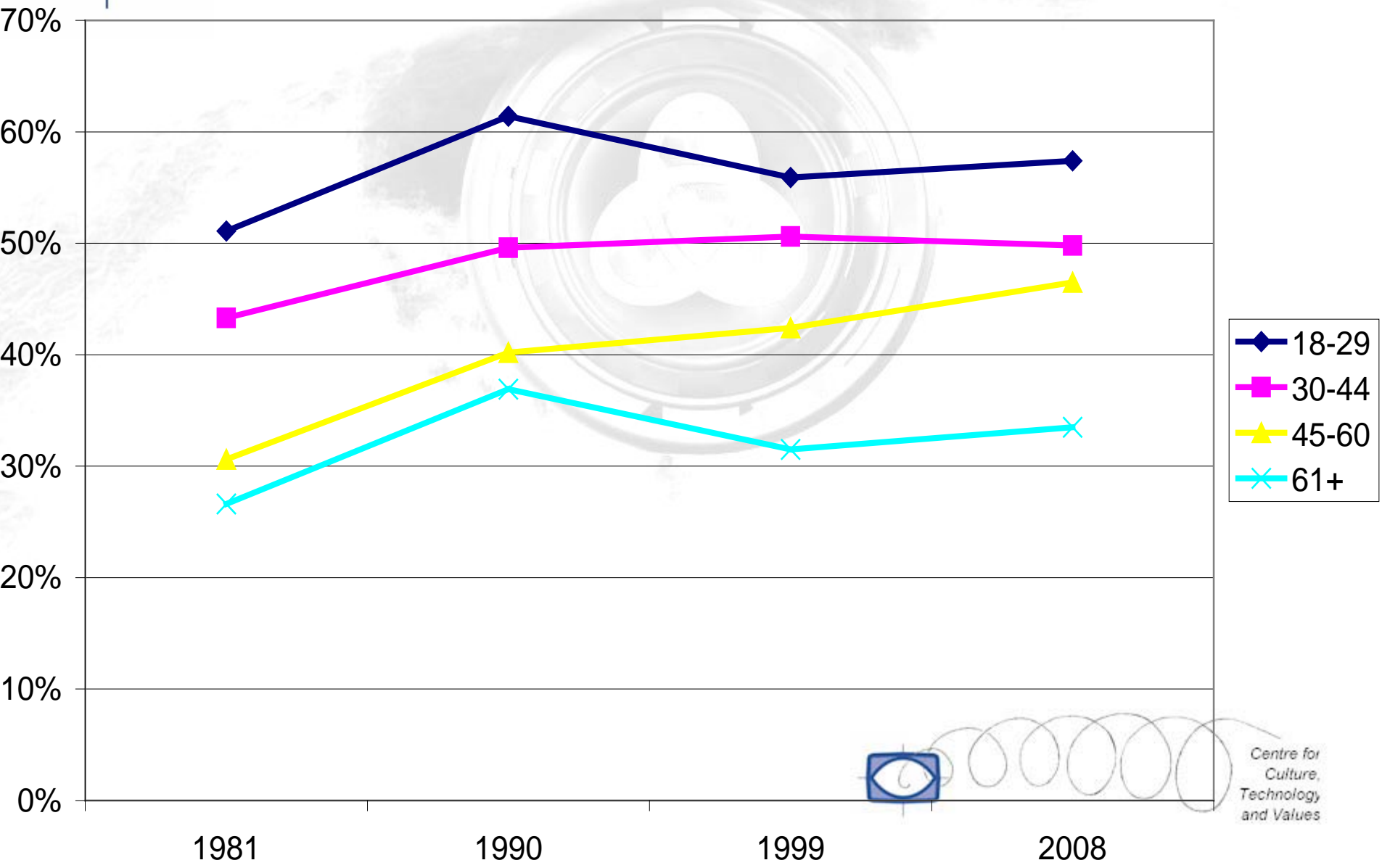


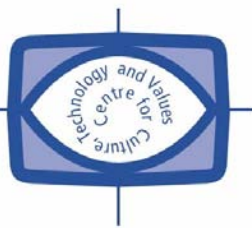
% Within age group who do not believe in Life after Death



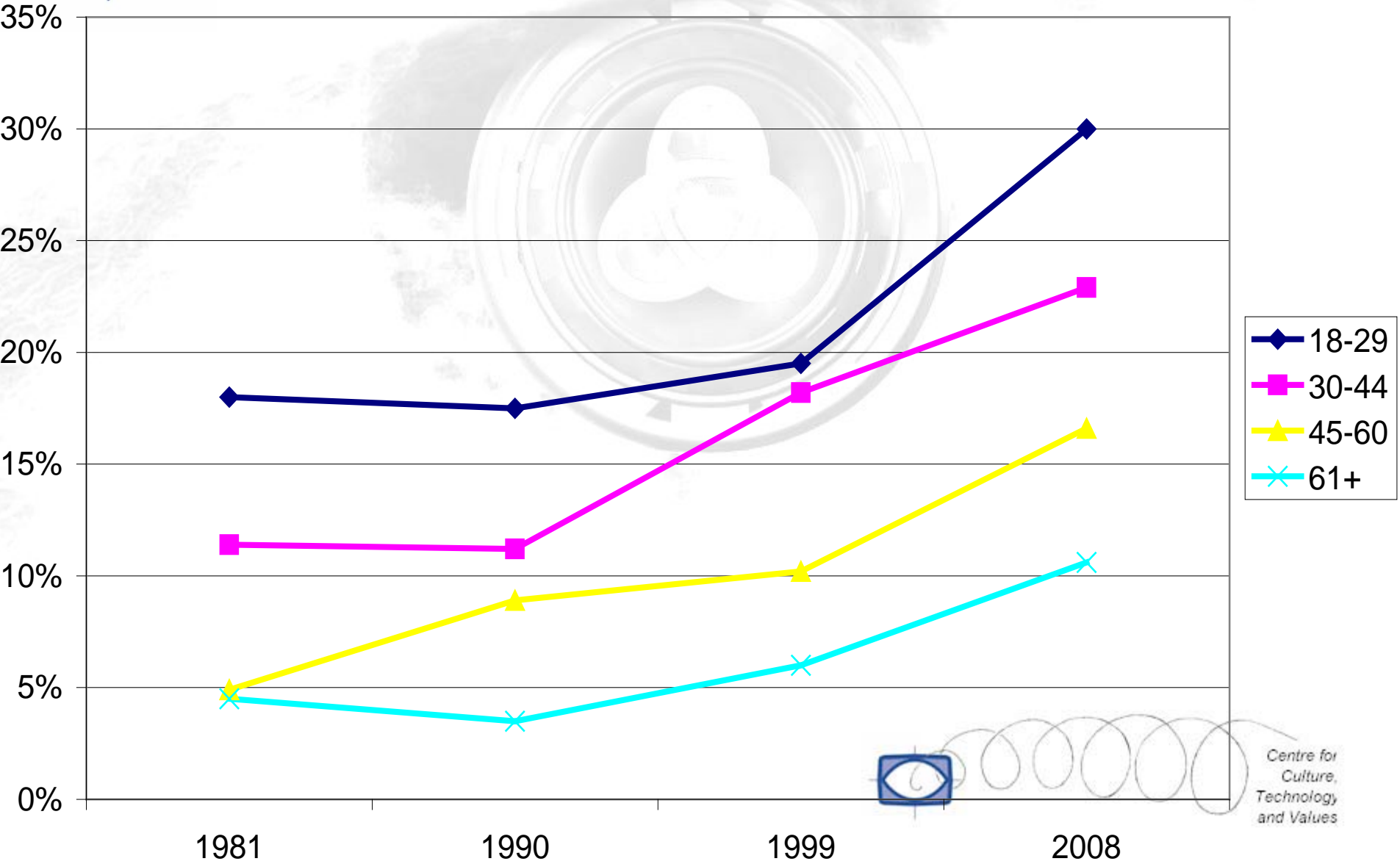


% Within age group who do not believe in Hell



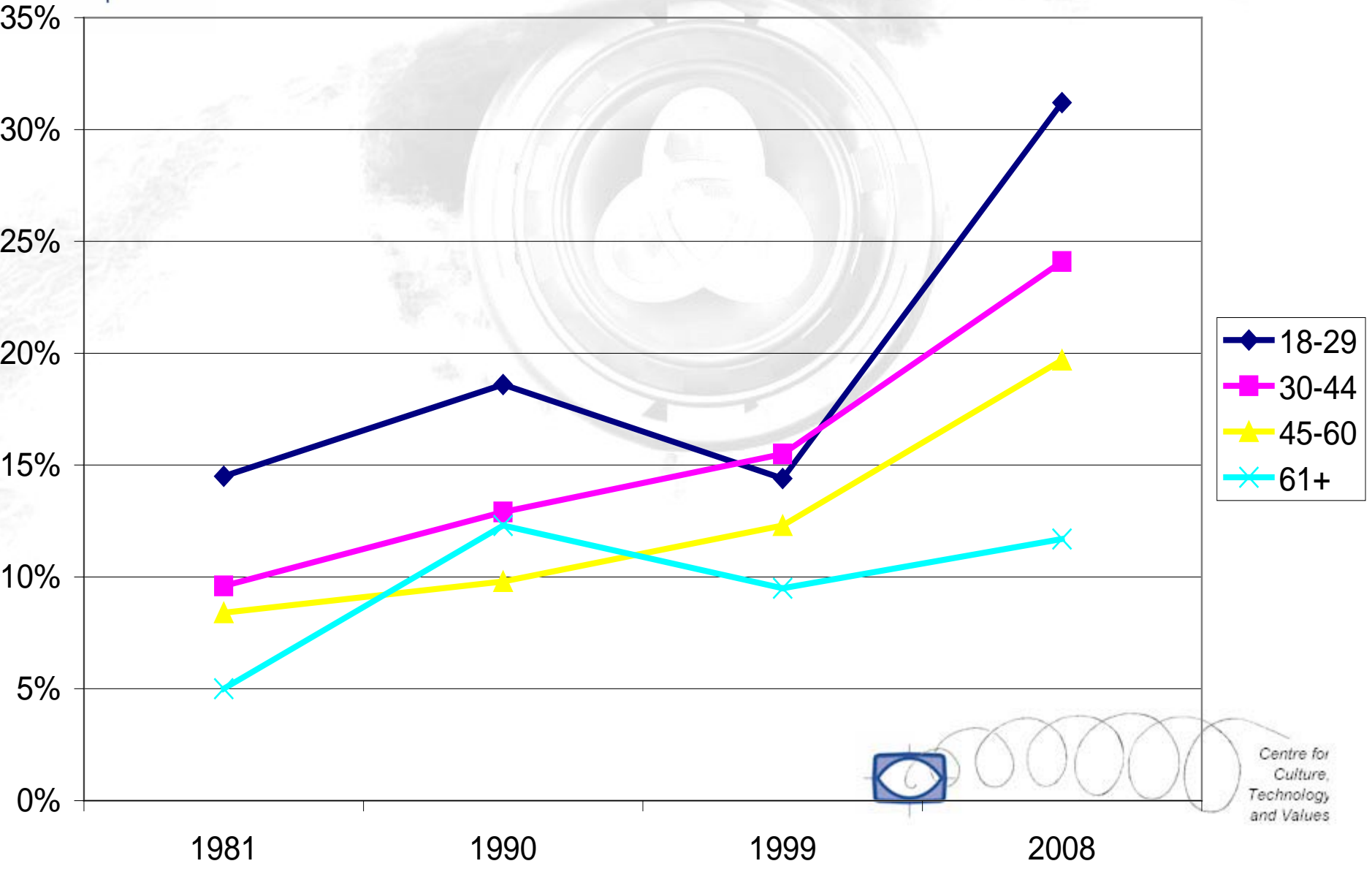


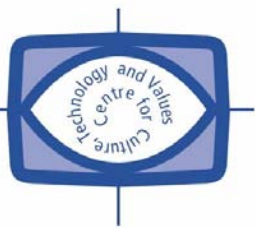
% Within age group who do not believe in Heaven



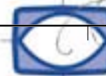
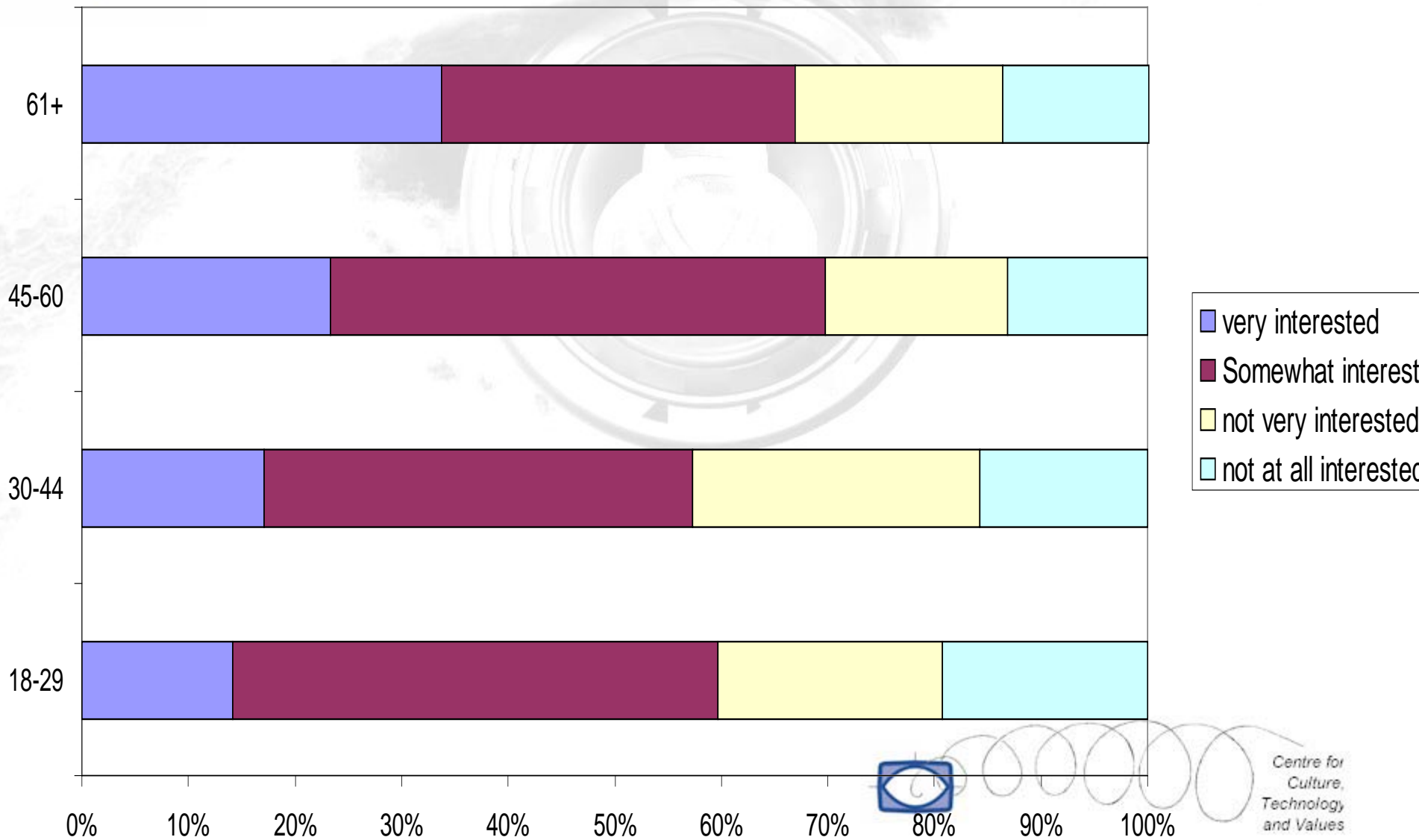


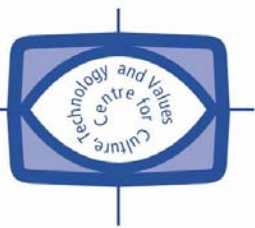
% Within age group who do not believe in Sin



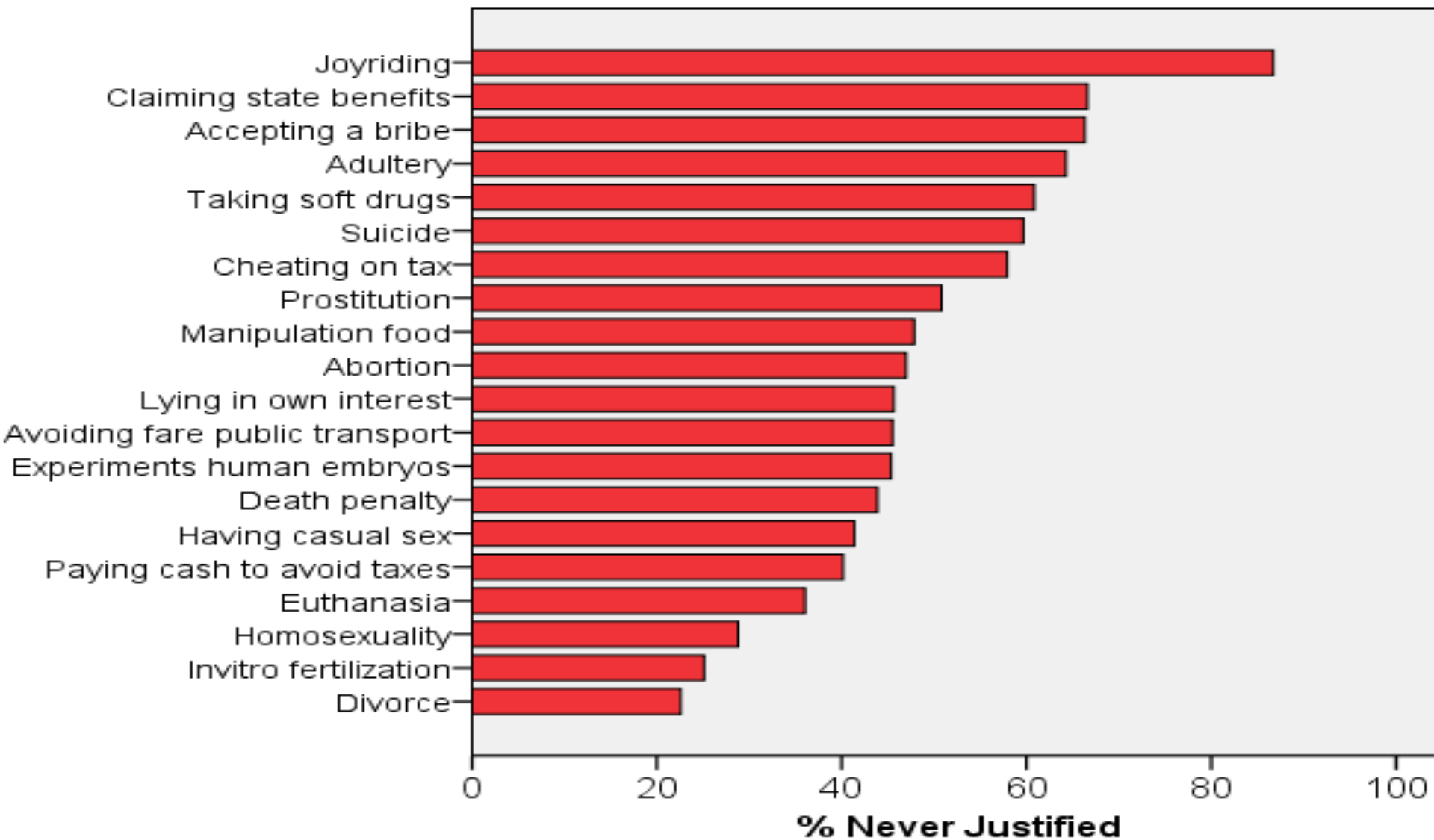


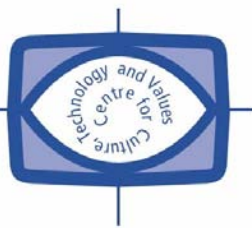
Spirituality



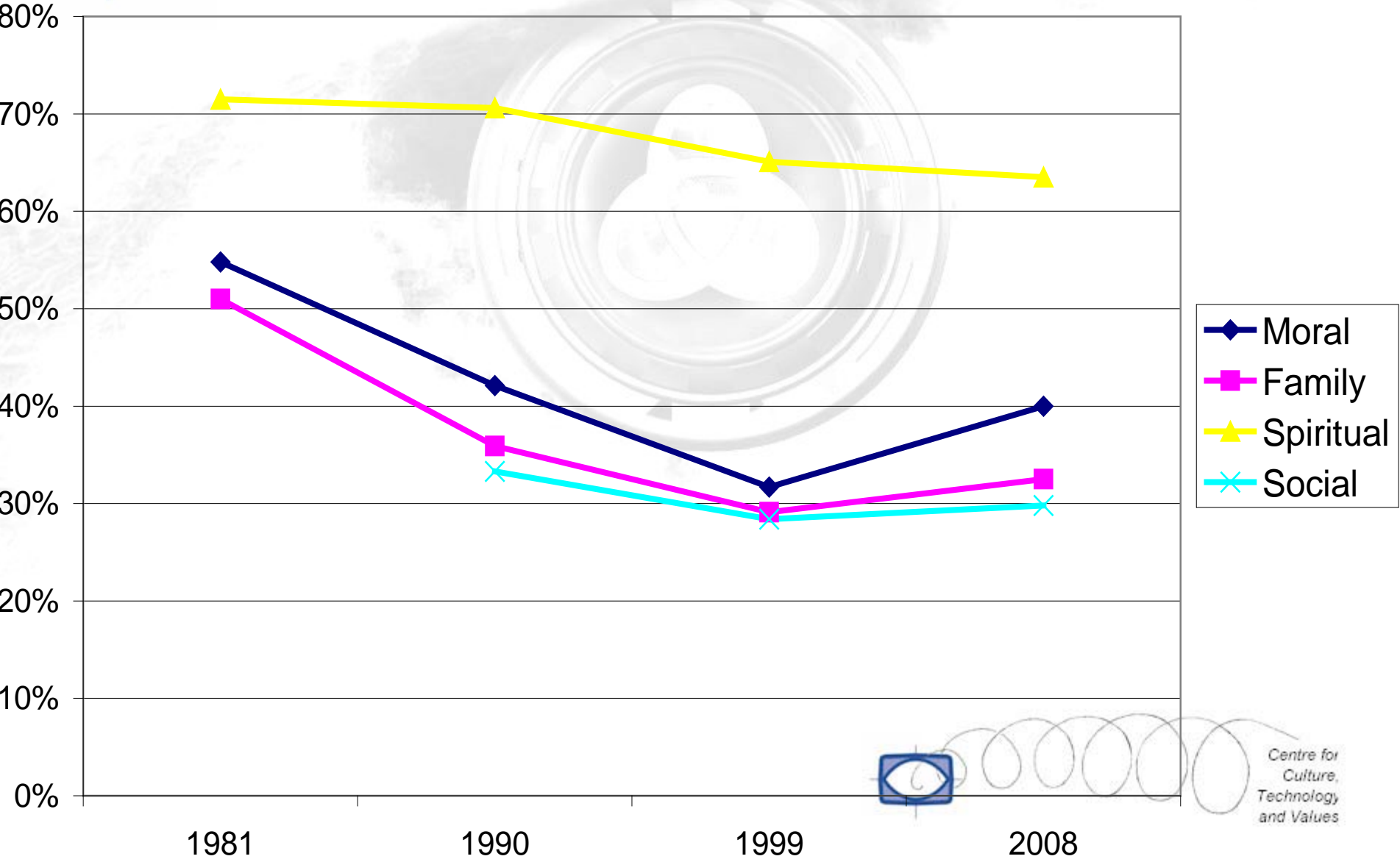


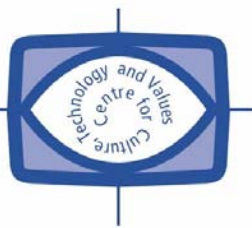
Morality



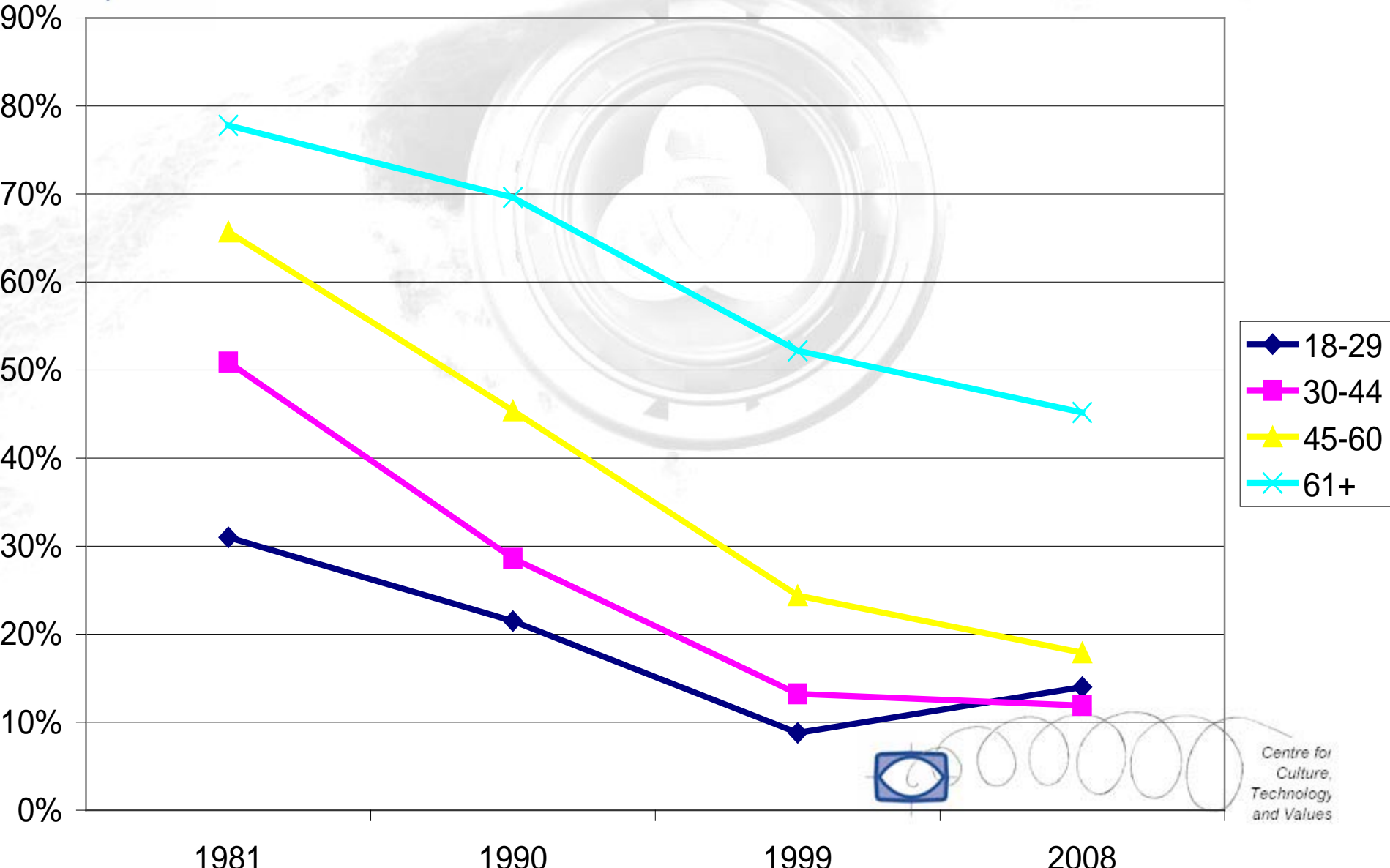


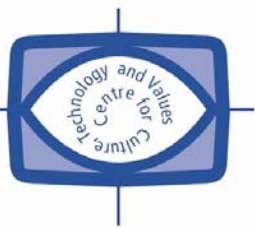
Church Answering the Problems of Everyday Life?



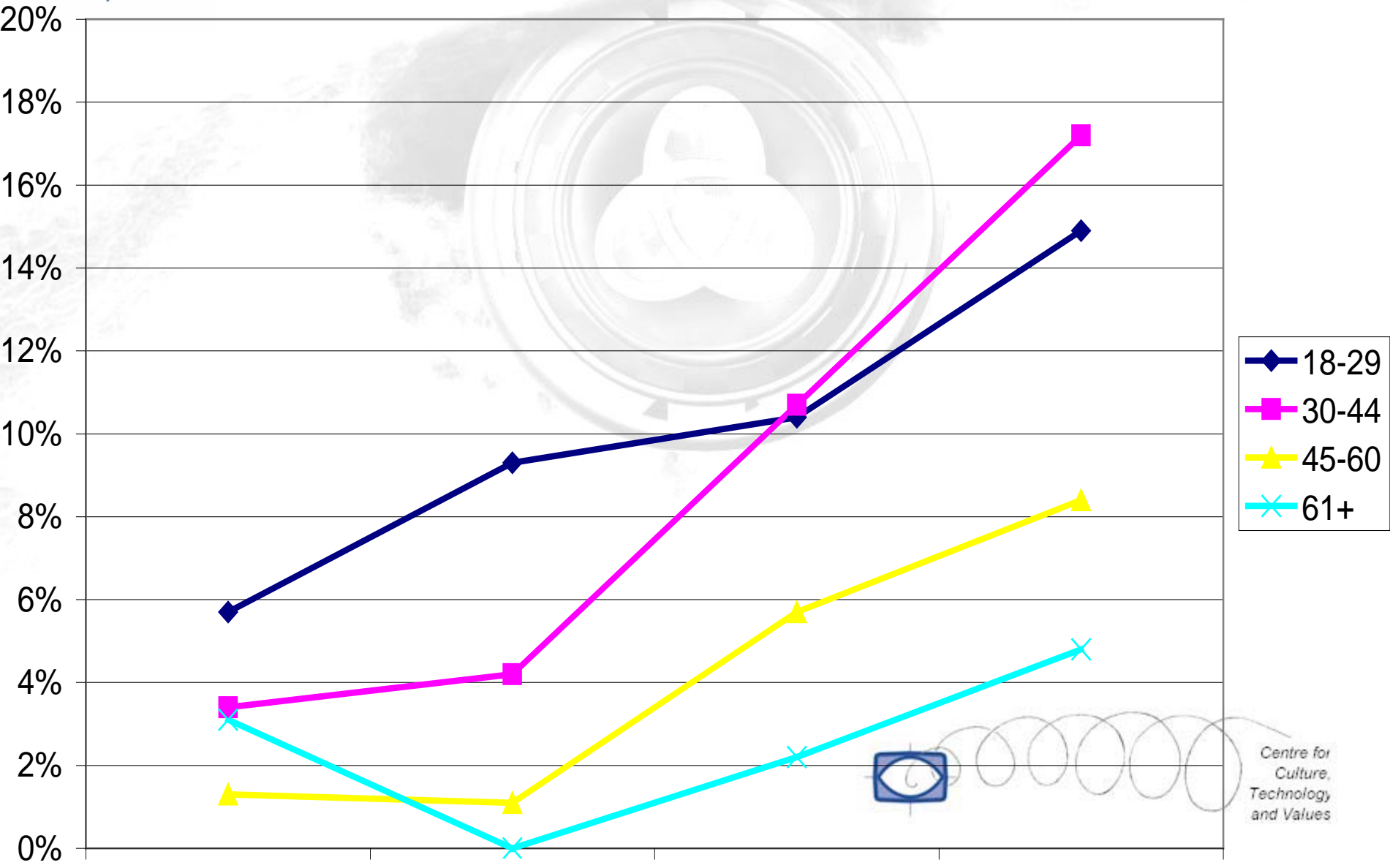


% Within Age: A Great Deal of Confidence in Church



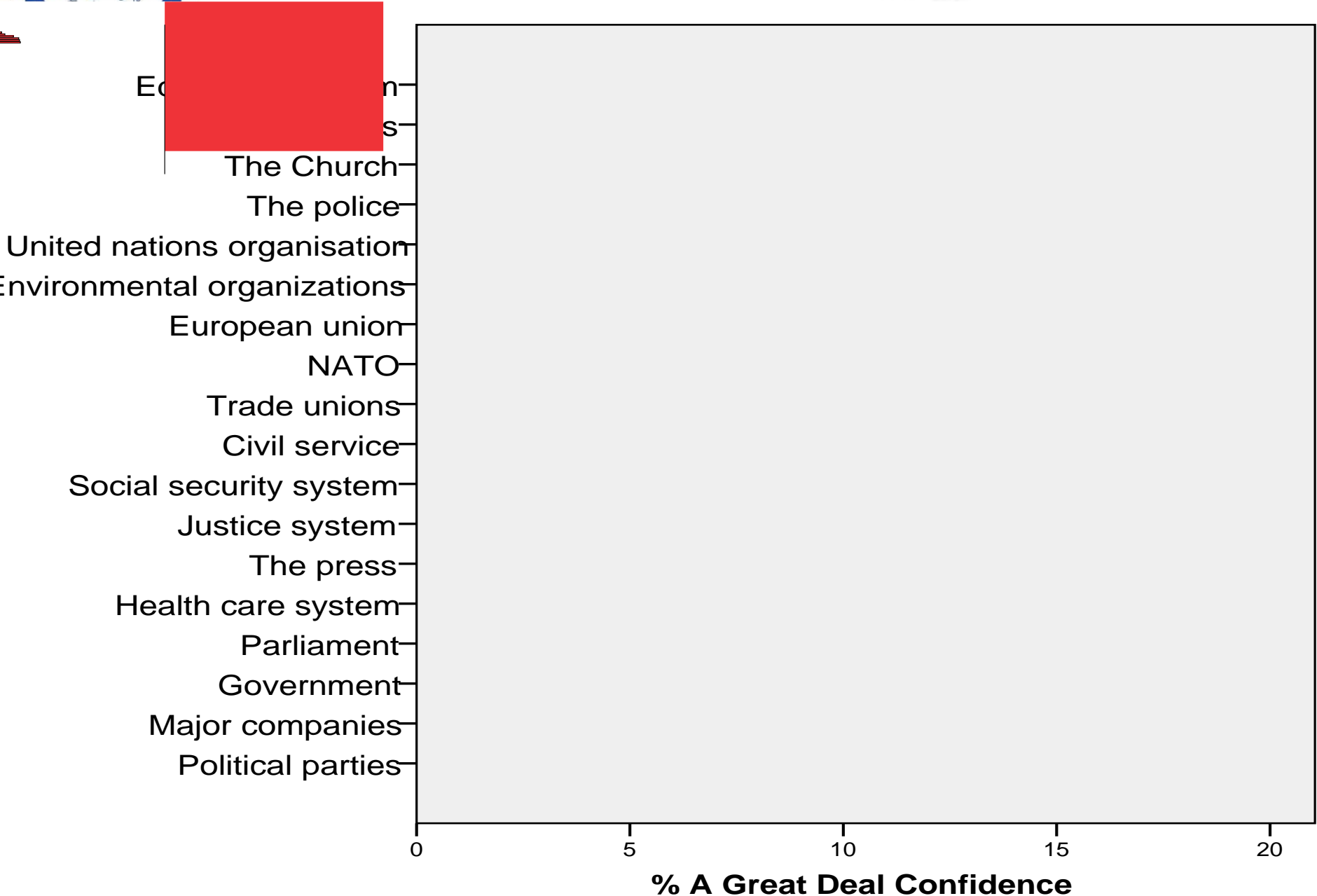


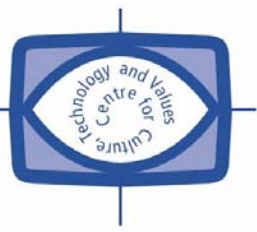
% Within age group: None at all Confidence in Church





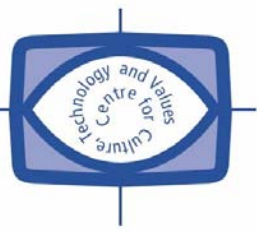
A Great Deal of Confidence





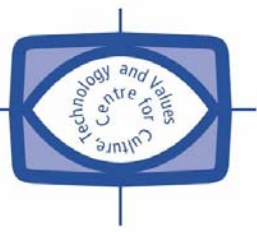
Conclusions 1

- Religious practice has decreased
- Spirituality remains strong
- Significant age differences have become more marked
- The importance of the institutional churches is diminished/diminishing
- There are important implications for society



Conclusions 2

- Health, educational and social care institutions were often run by the institutional churches on a voluntary basis. The future is unclear.
- There are social ramifications to a loss of religiosity in society
- What are the alternatives to religious practice and religious faith?
- Where does spirituality fit in



Conclusions 3

- Morality and ethics?
- Religion as private?
- Relationship of faith to public policy, if any?
- Implications for education