Religiosity and tolerance of behavior that is disapproved by religions:

the effect of primary religious socialization (based on European Values Study)

Prutskova Elena
St.Tikhon's Orthodox University (Moscow)

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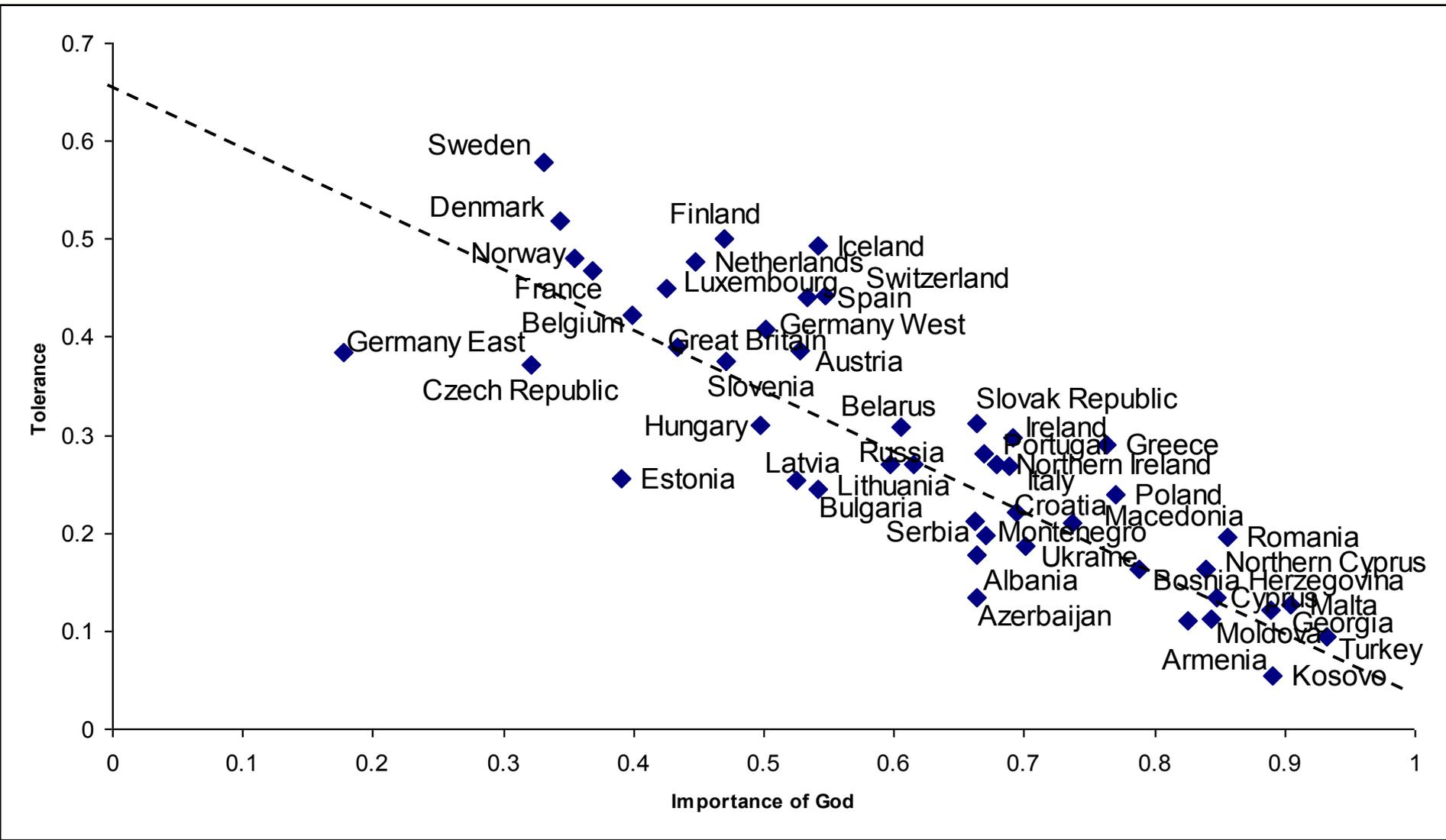
Variables construction

Tolerance of behavior that is disapproved by religions: "Please tell me for each of the following whether you think it can always be justified, never be justified, or something in between… homosexuality, abortion, divorce, euthanasia, suicide, having casual sex, prostitution" (0-never justified, 1-always justified)

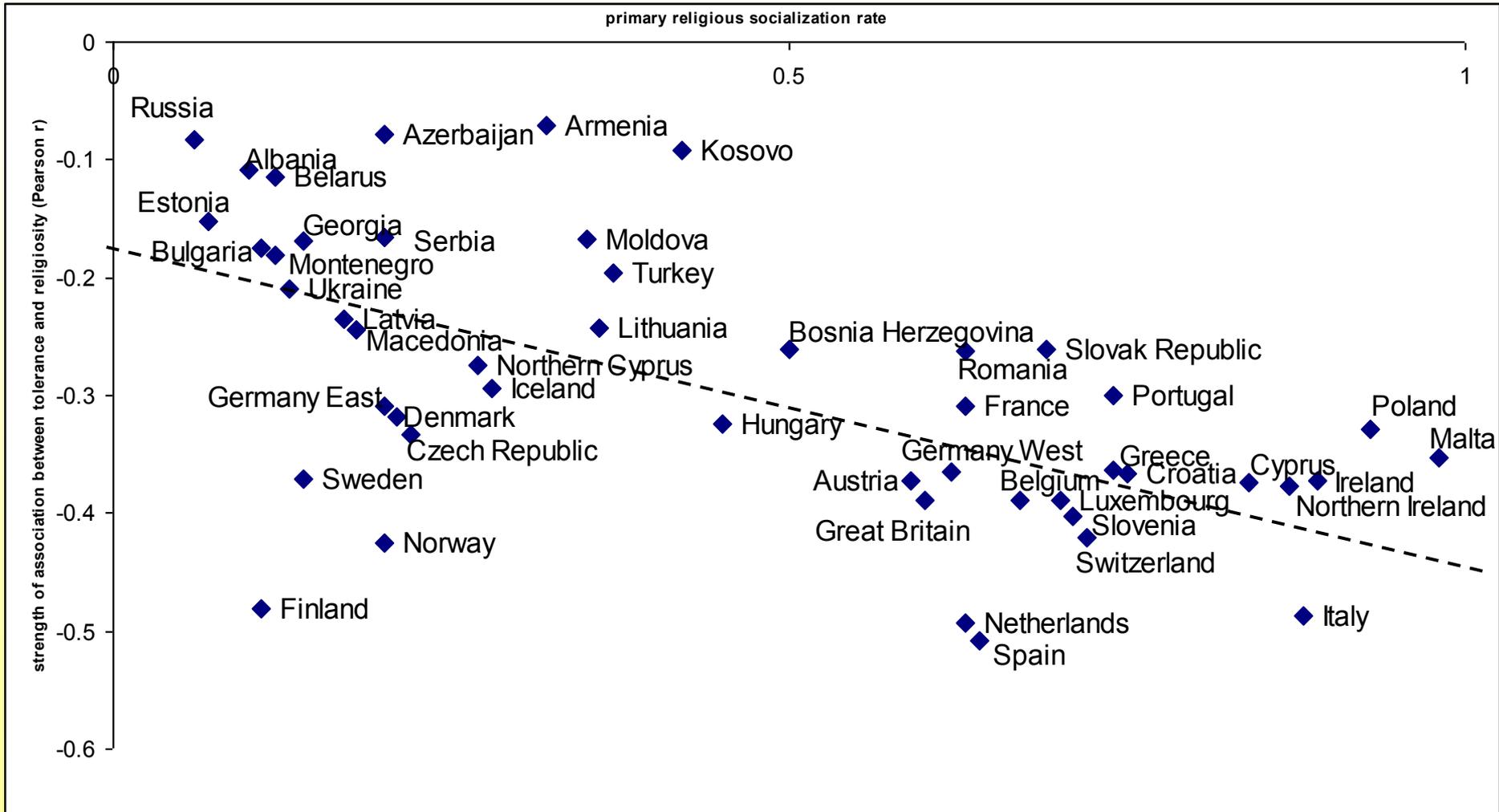**Religiosity:** How important is God in your life? (1-very important, 0-not at all important)

Religious incongruence: "Do you belong to a religious denomination? (yes/no)". "Which, if any, of the following do you believe in? … God (yes/no).

Primary Religious Socialization: "Apart from weddings, funerals and christenings, about how often did you attend religious services when you were 12 years old?" (1- "once a month or more often" / 0-"less often or never").

Association between religiosity and approval of behavior disapproved by religions

Strength of association between religiosity and tolerance of behavior disapproved by religions with respect to primary religious socialization rate
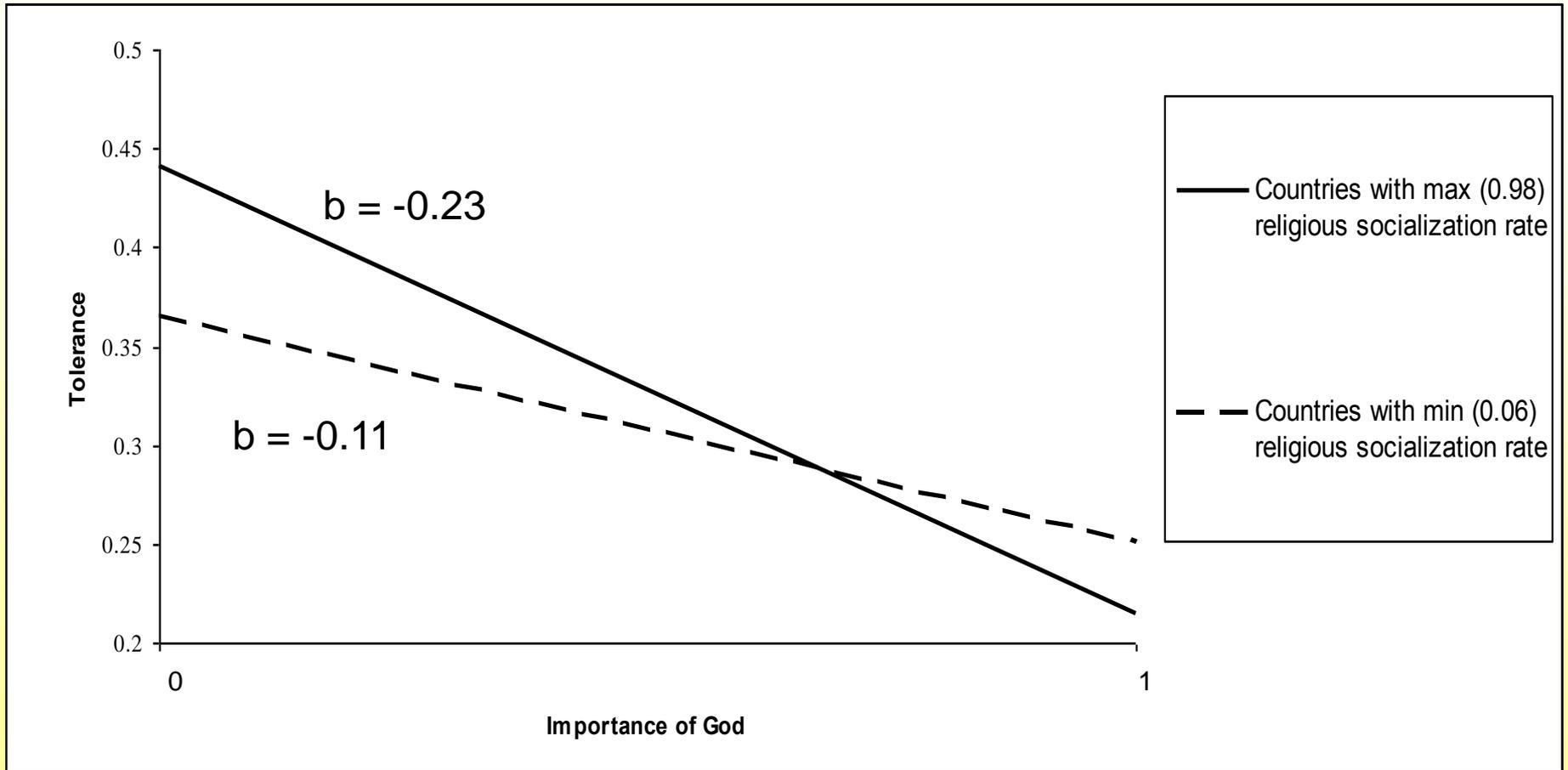
Multilevel regression model (b coefficients)

Intercept	0.36***
Importance of God	-0.11***
Primary religious socialization rate	0.083*
Interaction effect	-0.12***
Religious incongruence	0.014**
Gender	-0.011***
Age	-0.0017***
Education level	0.11***
Income level	0.069***
R^2 – individual level (46898 resp.)	*0.26*
R^2 – country level (48 regions)	*0.45*

***p<=0.001, **p<=0.01, *p<=0.05; HLM7; Restricted Maximum Likelihood; Convergence: 18 iterations; the pseudo R2 is calculated according to the simplified formula of Snijders&Bosker (1994).

Borders for the regression slope change

Conclusions

The strength of relationship between religiosity and tolerance varies considerably from country to country.

The strength of relationship between religiosity and tolerance of behavior disapproved by religions, is largely dependent on the presence or absence of the primary religious socialization. if an individual lives in a society where the mechanism of primary religious socialization works (relatively high % of people, who attended religious services in childhood regularly), then the negative connection between religiosity and tolerance of behavior, disapproved by religions, is stronger.

if religion is assimilated early, it can have a significant influence on values and norms. The absence of the primary socialization is an important factor explaining the absence (or very weak) relationship between religiosity and values in post-socialist countries, where early religious socialization was virtually absent, and the mass coming to faith in recent decades has not resulted in corresponding norms and values change.

Thank you for attention!