

Family and Sexual Norms in
Central Asia and post-Soviet
countries. Evidence from the 6th
wave of the WVS.

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Rationale

- Turmoil, civil wars, armed conflicts, economic downturns happened after political transit in the most countries of the former USSR after the dissolution of the Soviet Union
- How did this insecurity influence value patterns especially concerning family attitudes?

Research Question

- What happens to values in the countries that have experienced major perturbations? Do they lose their vector of modernization and become more conservative, or it influences only one generation, and then the process returns to its path?

Theory and Previous Research

- E. Durkheim – “Suicide”: anomie and normlessness
- P. Sorokin – “Sociology of Revolution”
- R. Inglehart & C. Welzel. Revised modernization theory

Research on Islam, Gender Equality and Family Norms

Rigid gender attitudes, the highest levels of gender inequality

- a) “Oil curse” discourse – Michael Ross, Gelman & Marganiia.
- b) Counter - arguments on post-Soviet countries’ data – P. Jones Loung & E. Weintal)
- c) Due to Islamic cultural legacy (Inglehart & Norris)
- d) Patriarchal values as an anti-modernisation force in Islam (Welzel & Alexander)

Hypotheses

- People who live in more **secure conditions** have more liberal attitudes towards sexual liberalization and family behavior than those who live in insecure conditions.
- Those who consider themselves as **religious** persons are far more conservative than atheists. We also think that higher levels of **anomie** are associated with less rigid norms about sexual behavior within family.
- Islamic legacy is a cultural barrier on the path towards gender egalitarianism, and the populations of **Muslim countries** are more conservative in terms of family norms than citizens of the states which are not predominantly Muslim.

Data and Methods

- 8 countries of the former USSR
- We plan to add countries of former Yugoslavia when the full dataset is released
- Linear regression modeling
- Factor analysis for all indices, rotation – promax, method: maximum likelihood estimation

Countries included in analysis

- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Belarus
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Russia
- Ukraine
- Uzbekistan

Sexual norms and family behavior - DV

Justification of:

- Pre-marital sex
- Abortion
- Divorce

Cronbach's Alpha 0.81 (very consistent)

Often 2 other variables are included in this index: justification of prostitution and homosexuality, but in some countries of Central Asia there was no variation on these two, thus, they were excluded.

Index of religiosity - IV

- Whenever religion and science in conflict, religion is always right
- The only acceptable religion is my religion
- I consider myself as a religious person

Cronbach's Alpha 0.62

Anomia - IV

Justification of:

- Claiming government benefits to which you are not entitled
- Avoiding a fare on public transport
- Stealing property
- Cheating on taxes if you have a chance
- Someone accepting a bribe in the course of their duties

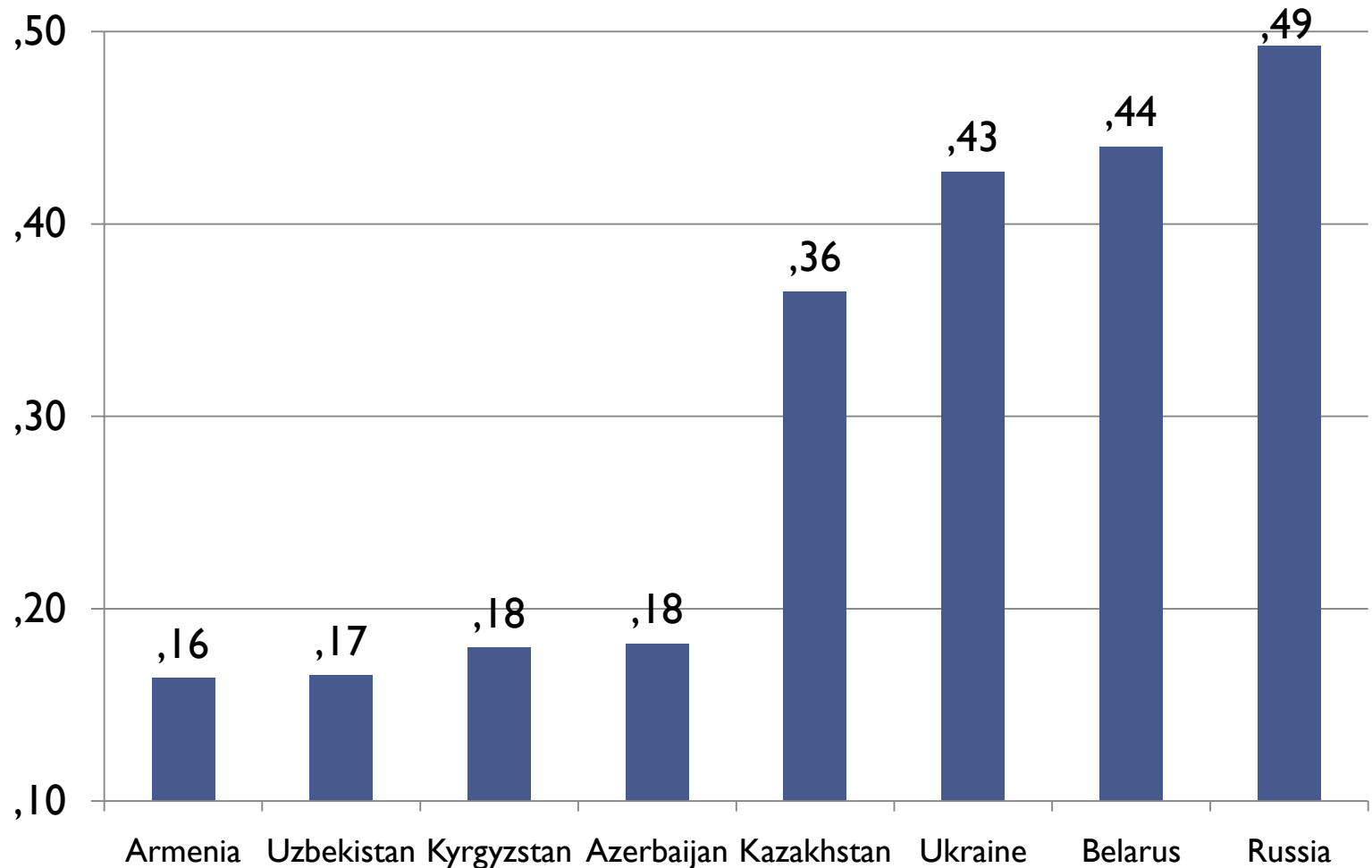
Cronbach's Alpha 0.79 (very consistent)

Index of violence acceptability - IV

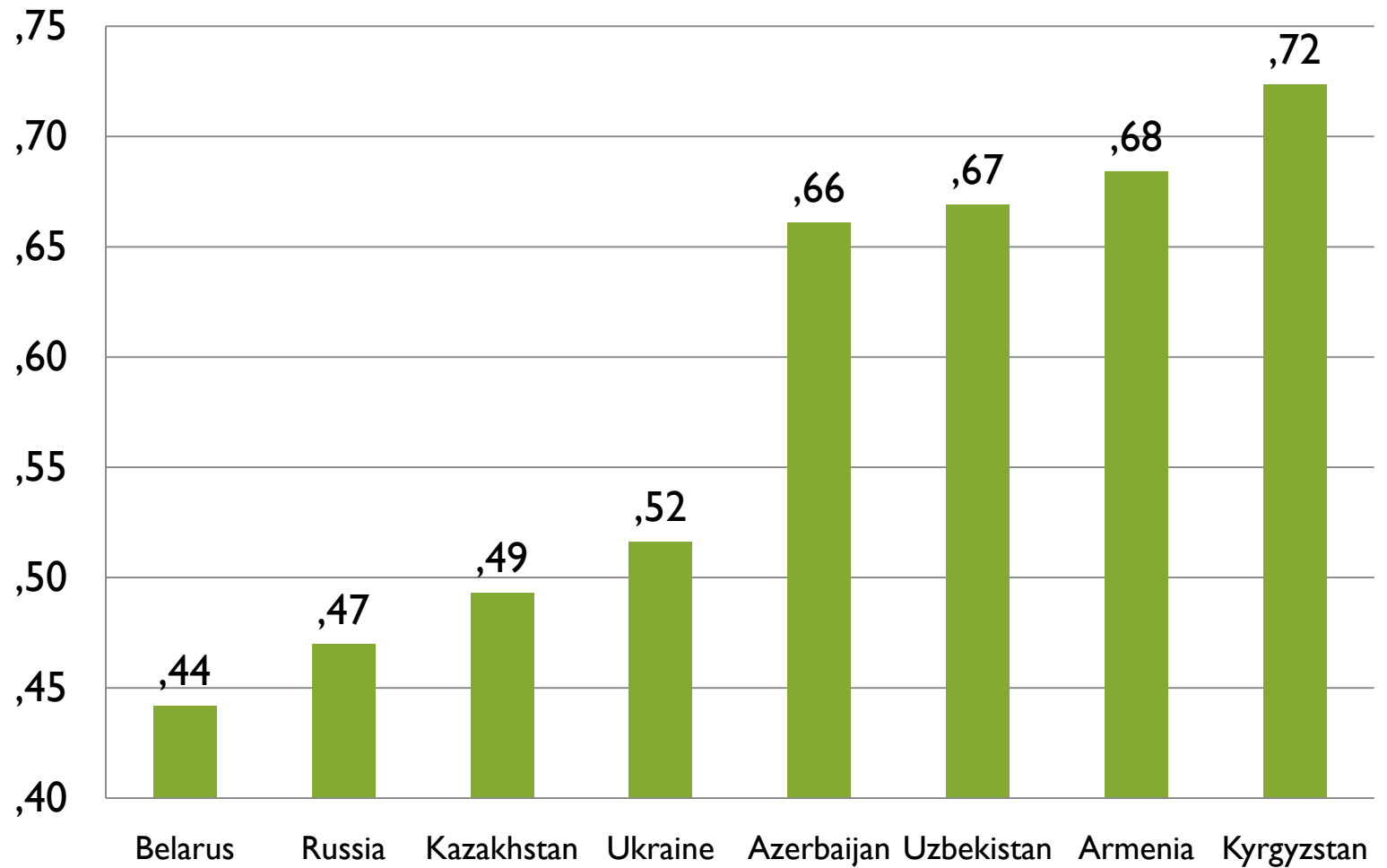
- Acceptable for a man to beat his wife
- Acceptable for parents to beat their kids
- Violence to other people

Cronbach's Alpha 0.8 (very consistent)

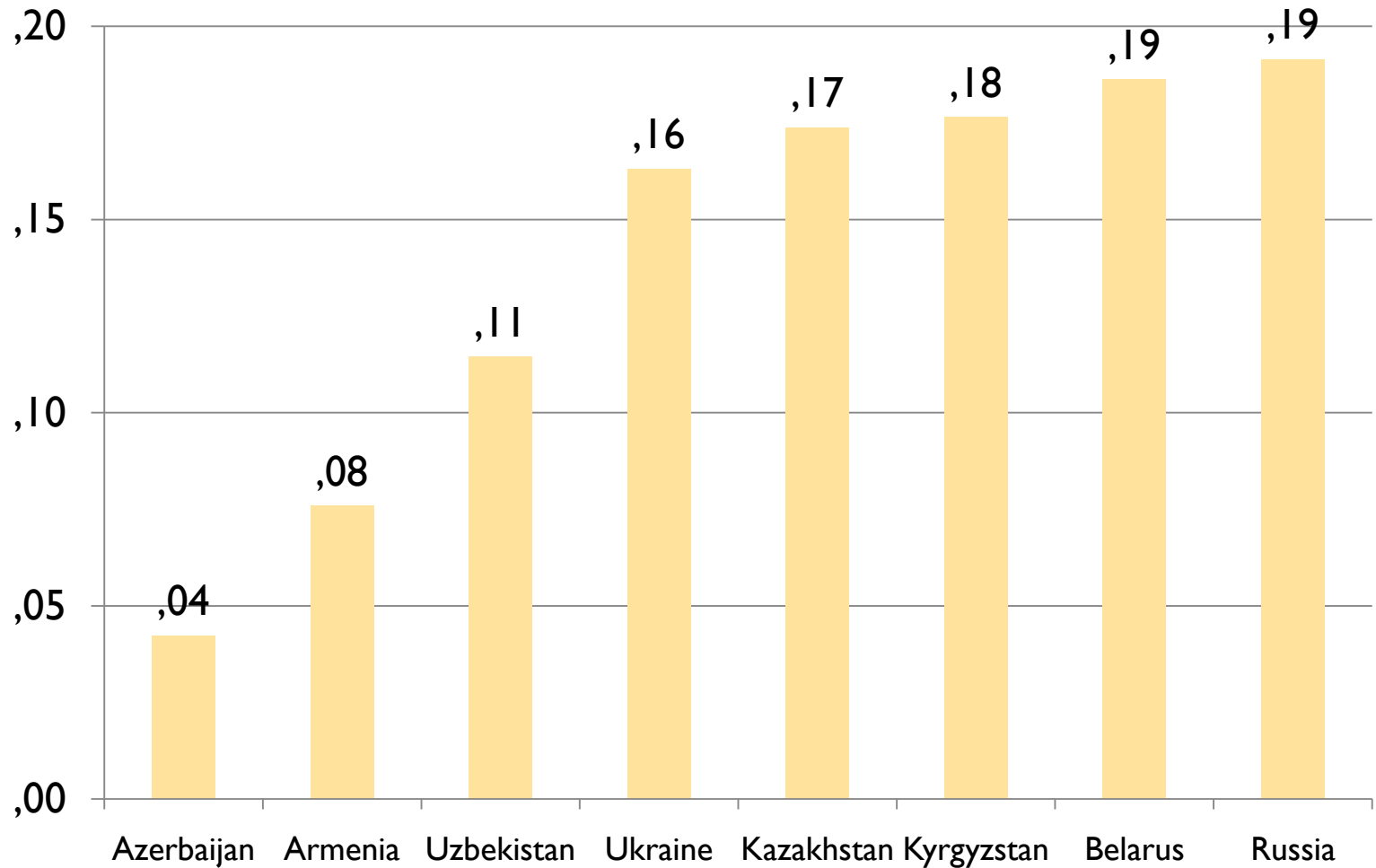
Justification of pre-marital sex, abortion & divorce (sexlib)



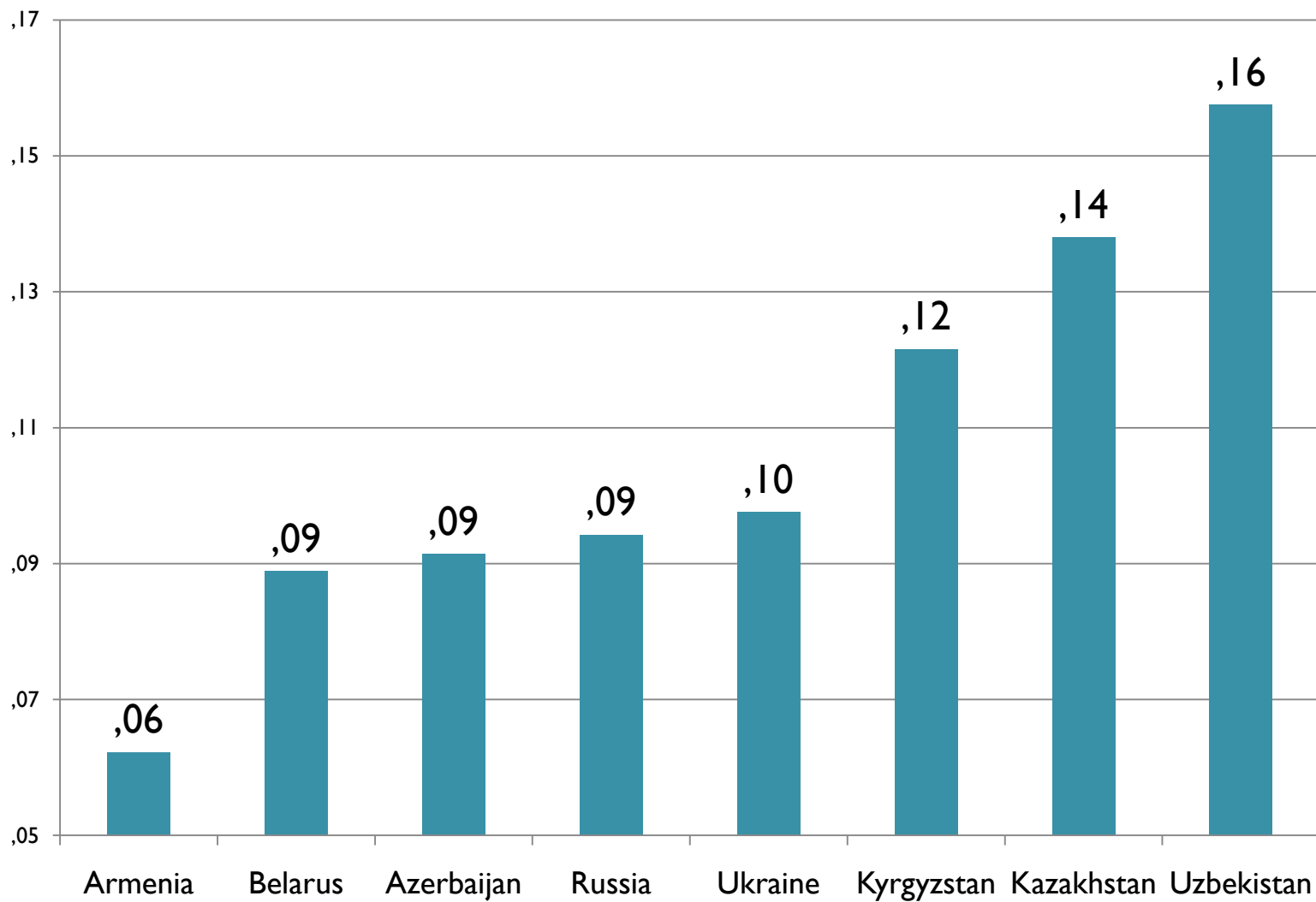
Religiosity level (mean)



Level of Anomia (mean)



Justification of violence



Results – I. General Trends

- Women are more supportive of sexual liberalization.
- Younger people are more liberal in terms of family behavior (except for Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan & Uzbekistan, where age is non-significant).
- Education is significant for Armenia and Uzbekistan only.
- Anomia correlates positively with sexual liberalization (except for Ukraine, where it is non-significant).
- Violence correlates positively with sexual liberalization (except for Russia, where it is non-significant). It explains large proportion of variance for Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Results II – Grouping on safety

Kyrgyzstan,
Kazakhstan

- **Unsecure** conditions lead to more liberal views
- Sexual liberalization correlates negatively with religiosity

Russia, Ukraine,
Armenia

- **Safer** conditions lead to **more liberal** views
- Sexual liberalization correlates negatively with religiosity

Belarus,
Azerbaijan
Uzbekistan

- Relationship between safety and sexual liberalization **depends on** level of **religiosity**

Results – III. Middle Asia

Uzbekistan

- People with college degree are less liberal than those who finished school and those who have university degree. ✓
- Older people are more liberal than younger generations.
- **Non-religious** people are more conservative if they live in secure conditions.
- **Religious** people are more liberal when their conditions of life are safe.

Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

- No conditional effect between religiosity and security indices.
- Those who live in secure conditions are less liberal than those who live under harsh conditions.

Results – IV. Effects of religiosity

- Belarus & Azerbaijan

- For *religious* people safety correlates with conservatism on sexual behavior (like in Middle Asia)
- For *non-religious*: in Belarus – non sig.
in Azerbaijan – higher safety leads to more liberal attitudes

- Uzbekistan (effects are opposite to Azerbaijan)

- *Religious* people – those who are in safer conditions are more liberal.
- *Non – religious* follow the Middle Asian trend

Following Steps

- After the official release of the 6th wave of the WVS we plan to add data on Yugoslavia to compare liberalization process in these 2 regions that experienced major turmoil in the past years.

Whole sample regression model. $R^2 = 0.26$

Variable	Estimate	St.error	T-value	Significance
Intercept	0.37	0.01	27.3	***
Gender(female)	0.04	0.00	7.2	***
Age 18-24 - baseline	...	...	...	...
Age 25-34	0.02	0.01	2.4	*
Age 35-44	0.01	0.01	1.3	
Age 45-54	0.01	0.01	1.0	
Age 55+	0.01	0.01	1.7	.
Education_1 (school) - baseline	...	...	...	...
Education_2 (vocational)	0.05	0.01	4.4	***
Education_3 (tech.)	0.02	0.01	1.6	
Education_4 (higher)	0.05	0.01	4.6	***
Religiosity	-0.38	0.01	-37.3	***
Anomia	0.38	0.02	24.1	***
Violence	0.26	0.01	17.2	***

Safety index has opposite effects in different countries, hence in is insign. in general model.

Armenia. $R^2 = 0.22$

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Significance
Intercept	0.15	0.045	3.3	***
Safety	0.09	0.026	3.5	***
Religiosity	-0.15	0.03	-4.7	***
Gender (female)	0.04	0.01	3.4	***
Education 1 (school) - baseline	...	...	...	...
Education 2	0.03	0.025	1.26	
Education3	-0.009	0.02	-0.36	
Education 4 (higher)	0.08	0.02	3.24	**
Age (cont.)	-0.0008	0.0003	-2.5	*
Anomia	0.16	0.05	3.3	**
Violence	0.4	0.06	7.8	***

Azerbaijan. $R^2 = 0.20$

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Significance
Intercept	-0.16	0.068	-2.32	*
Gender (female)	0.033	0.01	2.8	**
Safety	0.48	0.09	5.55	***
Religiosity	0.34	0.09	3.74	***
Anomia	0.14	0.06	2.2	*
Violence	0.51	0.04	12.04	***
safety: religiosity	-0.63	0.12	-5.25	***

Belarus. $R^2 = 0.19$

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Significance
Intercept	0.5	0.07	7.3	***
Gender (female)	0.05	0.01	3.5	***
Age (cont.)	-0.002	0.0004	-5.7	***
Safety	0.08	0.08	1.0	
Religiosity	-0.05	0.12	-0.4	
Anomia	0.27	0.045	5.9	***
Violence	0.2	0.05	4.03	***
safety: religiosity	-0.33	0.15	-2.15	*

Kazakhstan. $R^2 = 0.17$

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Significance
Intercept	0.5	0.08	6.1	***
Gender (female)	0.05	0.01	3.35	***
Religiosity	-0.5	0.14	-3.36	***
Anomia	0.3	0.05	6.5	***
Violence	0.3	0.04	6.8	***
Safety	-0.2	0.09	-2.1	*
Safety: religiosity	0.34	0.2	2.02	*

Kyrgyzstan. $R^2 = 0.40$

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Significance
Intercept	0.3	0.05	6.32	***
Safety	-0.006	0.02	-0.27	
Religiosity	-0.3	0.06	-5.11	***
Age	-0.003	0.001	-3.02	**
Anomia	0.3	0.03	9.34	***
Violence	0.5	0.03	16.7	***
Religiosity: age	0.004	0.001	2.82	**

Russia. $R^2 = 0.16$

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Significance
(Intercept)	0.44	0.036	12.2	***
Safety	0.14	0.03	4.75	***
Religiosity	-0.3	0.03	-10.3	***
Age (cont.)	-0.0009	0.0003	-2.5	*
Gender (female)	0.05	0.013	3.5	***
Anomia	0.42	0.037	11.3	***

Ukraine. $R^2 = 0.10$

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Significance
Intercept	0.6	0.027	22.58	***
Religiosity	-0.22	0.03	-6.26	***
age	-0.002	0.0004	-5.36	***
violence	0.27	0.05	5.81	***

Uzbekistan. $R^2 = 0.38$

	Est	st.error	T-value	
Intercept	0.4	0.07	5.9	***
educ2	-0.05	0.018	-2.8	**
educ3	-0.06	0.018	-3.28	**
educ4	0.01	0.02	0.6	
religindex	-0.4	0.1	-4.6	***
safety	-0.25	0.08	-3.1	**
anomia	0.2	0.03	6.6	***
violence	0.53	0.02	20.17	***
Safety: religindex	0.35	0.11	3.1	**

Factor analysis

- Loadings: Factor1 Factor2 Factor3
- Anomia_bribe 0.728
- Anomia_taxcheat 0.742
- Anomia_steal 0.667
- Anomia_fare 0.599
- Anomia_govern 0.653
- Violence_people 0.541
- Violence_parents 0.774
- Violence_wife 0.847
- Divorce 0.941
- Abortion 0.643
- Sex before marriage 0.714

Factor Correlations:

	Factor1	Factor2	Factor3
Factor1	1.000	0.237	0.393
Factor2	0.237	1.000	0.503
Factor3	0.393	0.503	1.000