

# **Religiosity and Political Participation across Europe**

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- European countries: culturally close but showing great variance in political participation
  - Political agenda, political regime
  - Religion?
  - State-Church relation
- Existing studies suggest that there is a difference in political participation between followers of different religious traditions, between religious and non-religious people.
- **But can religiosity account for cross-country variance in political participation?**

# How religiosity can affect political participation?

1. Religious doctrines (or political theologies) that prescribe the normative behavior of the individual
  - Beliefs
  - Community structure and its specifics – modes of behavior
2. Religious involvement – social mechanism – following the norms of the community
  - Participation as a habit
  - Social capital

# Data and methods

- Different sources of data: ESS, WVS
  - To check robustness in time
- Data on different modes of political participation and different dimensions of religiosity
- Multi-level model?

# Variables

- Dependent – political participation
  - Voting
  - Attending demonstrations
  - Signing petitions
  - Contacting politicians
  - Working for political party/NGO
  - Boycotting goods
  - Wearing symbols
- As an additive index and separately
  - Association between components
  - Voting is constrained – arranged by authorities

# Explanatory Variables

- Religiosity
  - Religious tradition
  - Frequency of attending religious services (categorical – nonlinear association)
  - Frequency of praying
  - Importance of religion
  - Belonging to a prevailing religious tradition
- Alternatives:
  - Beliefs? How to measure them?  
How to make beliefs comparable between different religious traditions?
  - Degree of religiosity? Fundamentalism, literal perception of sacred texts.

# Country specifics

1. Communist experience
2. Interrupted religious tradition
3. State-Church relations experience
4. Predominant religion
5. Regions of Europe

What else?

Excluded: marital status, party preferences (another wide field of research)

# Hypotheses

1. Religion affects political participation, but differently in different countries.
2. Atheists are more likely to participate than those belonging to a religious tradition
3. Religious involvement is positively linked to political participation.
4. Countries with interrupted religious tradition religion?
5. Different modes of participation of those who belong to predominant religious tradition and those who belong to a minor religious group.



Thank you for your attention!  
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