



Religiosity and Political Participation across Europe

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Existing research shows that...

- o Religion can determine individual preferences
 - o Economic (redistribution, cooperation)
 - o Political (party choice, ideology)
 - o Social (moral issues)

Existing research shows that...

Religion can affect preferences through:

- o Religious doctrines (or political theologies) that prescribe the normative behavior of the individual
 - o Beliefs
 - o Community structure and its specifics – modes of behavior

Existing research shows that...

Religion can affect preferences through:

- o Religious involvement – social mechanism – following the norms of the community
 - o Participation as a habit
 - o Social capital

It can affect political participation too!

o European countries: culturally close but showing great variance in political participation

o Political agenda, political regime

o Religion?

o State-Church relation

o **Can religiosity account for cross-country variance in political participation?**

Levels of PP in Europe

PP additive index:

1. Voting
2. Petitions
3. Work for NGOs
4. Work for parties
5. Demonstrations
6. Contacting politicians
7. Wearing symbolics
8. Boycotts

Countries by predominant religion	PP-Index means
Orthodox	1.07
Muslim-Orthodox	1.19
Catholic	1.43
Jewish	1.47
Muslim	1.51
Secular	1.69
Catholic-Protestant	1.70
Protestant	2.36

PP Index is an additive index of 8 types of political actions performed by the individual in 2012. It varies from 0 to 7.

Countries by predominant religions

Orthodox:

- Russia
- Ukraine
- Bulgaria
- Cyprus

Protestant:

- Denmark
- Finland
- Iceland
- Norway

Catholic-Protestant:

- Switzerland
- Germany
- Hungary
- UK
- Netherlands

Secular:

- Estonia
- Sweden
- Czech

Catholic:

- Belgium
- Spain
- France
- Ireland
- Latvia
- Poland
- Portugal
- Slovenia
- Slovakia

Levels of PP among followers

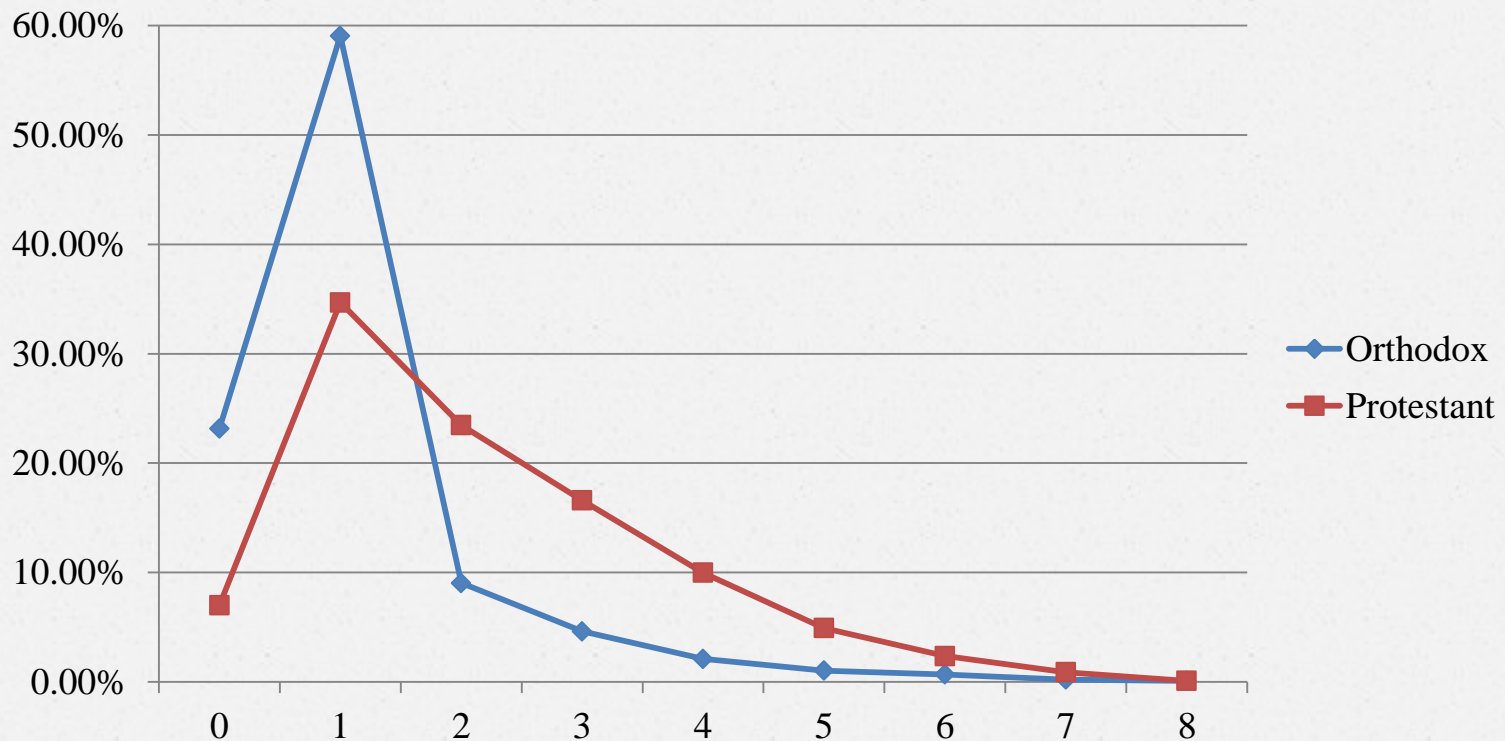
o In different countries

o Minorities and majorities

Religious Tradition	PP Index means
Orthodox	1.11
Muslim	1.25
Catholic	1.39
Other Christian	1.40
Jewish	1.60
Non-affiliated	1.66
Eastern religions	1.74
Other Non-Christians	1.79
Protestant	2.17

Political participation among followers of different religious traditions in 2012 (ESS)

PP Index for Protestants and Orthodox Christians (in percentages)



Data and methods

- ◌ Data: ESS 2012
- ◌ 27 countries
- ◌ Poisson regression models

Variables

- o Dependent – political participation
- o As an additive index and separately
 - o Association between components
 - o Voting is constrained – arranged by authorities

Explanatory Variables

◦ Religiosity

- Religious tradition
- Frequency of attending religious services (categorical – nonlinear association)
- Frequency of praying

Country specifics

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

Hypotheses

- o Religion affects PP, but differently in different countries.
- o Greater difference in PP between religious and non-religious people in countries where religious traditions were not interrupted and oppressed by the state than in countries with interrupted religious traditions
- o Differences in political participation between Europeans belonging to a major and minor confessions in their countries

VARIABLES	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Religious traditions (compared to the non-affiliated)					
Catholic	-0.058***	0.004			-0.058***
Protestant	0.008	0.054***			0.011
Orthodox	-0.137***	-0.085***			-0.133***
Jewish	0.268***	0.319***			0.280***
Muslim	-0.087***	-0.021			-0.070***
Religious behavior	0.020***		0.014***		
Attending religious services (categorical)					Yes
Constant	-0.400***	-0.405***	-0.422***	-0.414***	-0.410***
Observations	39,386	39,571	39,571	39,386	39,571

Robust standard errors in parentheses *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

VARIABLES	(5)
Religious traditions	Yes
Attending religious services (compared to "Never")	
Less often than on holy days	0.017
Only on special holy days	0.081***
At least once a month	0.119***
Once a week	0.160***
More than once a week	0.172***
Every day	0.207***
Constant	-0.410***
Observations	39,571

- Slight increase in chances to participate with the rise in religious activism

VARIABLES	(6)
Religious traditions dummy	Yes
Attending religious services	Yes
Countries by predominant religion (compared to "Secular")	
Catholic	-0.097***
Protestant	0.224***
Catholic-Protestant	-0.031**
Orthodox	-0.364***
Muslim	0.046
Orthodox-Muslim	-0.188***
SES	Yes
Constant	-0.345***
Observations	39,571

- Same full model controlling for predominant religion

VARIABLES	Catholic	Protestant	Catholic-Protestant	Orthodox	Muslim
Religious traditions (compared to the non-affiliated)					
Catholic	-0.079***	-0.249	-0.013	0.142*	0.082
Protestant	-0.048	-0.031	0.040*	0.373***	0.287
Orthodox	-0.473***	-0.242	-0.192	0.021	0.112
Jewish	-0.328*	-0.534**	-0.300	0.773	
Muslim	-0.386***	-0.213	-0.209**	0.090	0.161**
Eastern religions	-0.164	0.073	-0.007	0.143	0.829***
Attending religious services (compared to "Never")					
Less often than on holy days	-0.057**	0.004	0.047*	0.090**	0.014
Only on special holy days	-0.009	0.094***	0.091***	0.193***	0.062
At least once a month	0.076***	0.163***	0.132***	0.206***	0.044
Once a week	0.127***	0.301***	0.173***	0.190***	0.173*
More than once a week	0.230***	0.199***	0.145**	0.145*	-0.066
Every day	0.242***	0.795***	0.402**	0.135	0.183

VARIABLES	Catholic	Protestant	Orthodox	Jewish	Muslim
Attending religious services (compared to "Never")					
Less often than on holy days	0.012	0.027	0.133**	0.216***	0.017
Only on special holy days	0.078***	0.106***	0.231***	0.135**	0.074
At least once a month	0.171***	0.189***	0.232***	0.032	0.095
Once a week	0.216***	0.255***	0.257***	0.012	0.043
More than once a week	0.331***	0.292***	0.181*	-0.041	0.277***
Every day	0.438***	0.294	0.141	-0.048	0.244***
Observations	10,317	5,165	4,643	1,251	2,159

Outcomes

- The effect of religion on PP varies among countries
- Generally, for followers of all religious traditions regular attendance of religious services and praying increase chances to participate in politics.
- Differences between religious and non-religious people are less pronounced in the Orthodox countries

Next steps

- o Multi-level model
- o Compare Orthodox countries with different State-Church relations
- o Run separate models for representatives of all confessions belonging to minor and major religious groups
- o Run separate models for signing petitions and voting as examples of voluntary and obligatory types of PP

Thank you for your attention!

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