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## Predictors of Racial Prejudice: A Meta-Analysis of the Influence of Religion and Political Orientation

Kristin Broussard  
*University of Northern Iowa*

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# Predictors of Racial Prejudice: A Meta-Analysis of the Influence of Religion and Political Orientation

Kristin A. Broussard  
Helen C. Harton  
University of Northern Iowa

Presented at the 2015 UNI Graduate Symposium

# Social Identities

- ◉ Social identities can promote: (Tajfel & Turner, 1979)
  - > Ingroup cohesion
  - > Social exclusion
  - > Intergroup competition
- ◉ Important social identities for Americans
  - > 83.1% of Americans religiously affiliated (Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, 2008)
  - > 36% of Americans identify with highly partisan politics (Pew Research Center, 2014)

# Religion and Racial Prejudice

- Constructs related to racial prejudice:
  - > Religious fundamentalism (Hill, Terrell, Cohen, & Nagoshi, 2010; Kirkpatrick, 1993; Laythe et al., 2002)
  - > Religious ethnocentrism (Altemeyer, 2004; Rowatt, Franklin, & Cotton, 2005)
  - > Religious identity (Jacobson, 1998; Perkins, 1992)
  - > Religiosity (Johnson et al., 2012)
- “Us” vs. “Them” mentality (Altemeyer, 2003)
  - > Generalized from religious exclusivity
  - > Moral inferiority of outgroups

# Political Orientation and Racial Prejudice

- Constructs related to racial prejudice:
  - > Social Dominance Orientation (Jost & Thompson, 2000; Kteily, Sidanius, & Levin, 2011; Quist & Resendez, 2002)
  - > Right-Wing Authoritarianism (Cohrs, Maes, Moschner, & Kielmann, 2007; von Collani & Grumm, 2009; Whitley, 1999)
  - > Political Conservatism and Orientation (Brandt & Reyna, 2014; Henry & Sears, 2002; Jost, Glaser, Kruglanski, & Sulloway, 2003; McFarland, 2010; Sears & Henry, 2003)
- Ideological Motivations
  - > Protestant Work Ethic (PWE; Weber, 1958)
  - > System Justification (Jost & Banaji, 1994)
  - > Justification-Suppression Model (JSM; Crandall & Eshleman, 2003)

# What is meta-analysis?

- Statistical procedure to assess the magnitude of an effect across multiple studies
- Benefits:
  - > Better estimate than single study
  - > Quantify research
  - > Replication
  - > Resolves some NHST issues

# How does it work?

Effect size:

- “objective and standardized measure of the magnitude of an observed effect” (Field, 2005)
- Independent from sample size
- Main types of effect size for meta-analysis:
  - > Pearson's correlation coefficient  $r$
- Calculate effect sizes across studies

# Purpose

- Prior meta-analyses:
  - > Have not compared religion & political orientation effects
  - > Tend to have moderate-to-large publication bias
- Current meta-analysis:
  - > Religious constructs and Political Orientation constructs
  - > Assess region of country & data year
  - > Inclusion of unpublished data
  - > Estimate intercorrelation of religion and political orientation
- Research Question:
  - > Which group identity (i.e., political orientation or religion) has the greatest effect on racial prejudice?



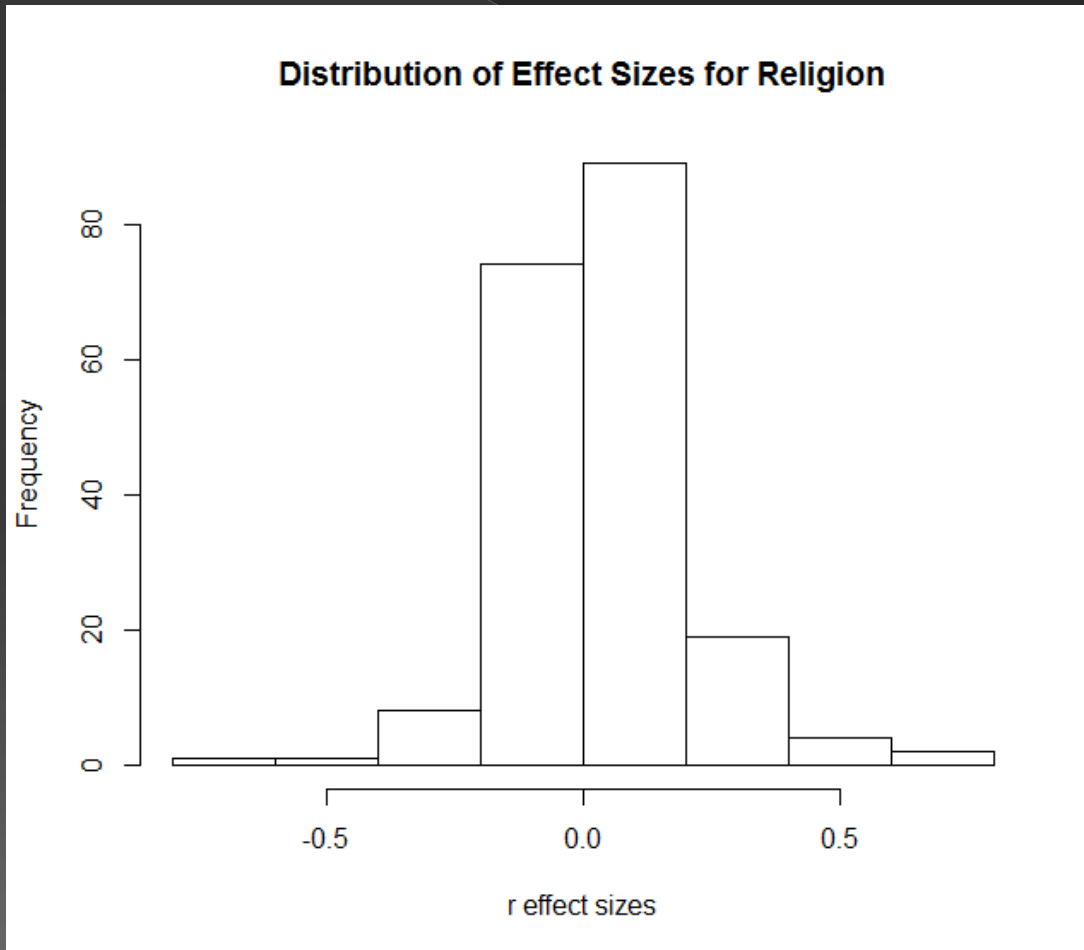
# Method: Inclusion Criteria

- U.S. samples
- Anti-Black prejudice/racism
- Religion:
  - > Religious fundamentalism
  - > Religious ethnocentrism
  - > Religious identity/religiosity
- PO:
  - > SDO
  - > RWA
  - > Political conservatism
  - > Political orientation
- Published 1964-2014
- Searches: PsycINFO, Google Scholar, unpublished data requests and databases

# Collection Summary

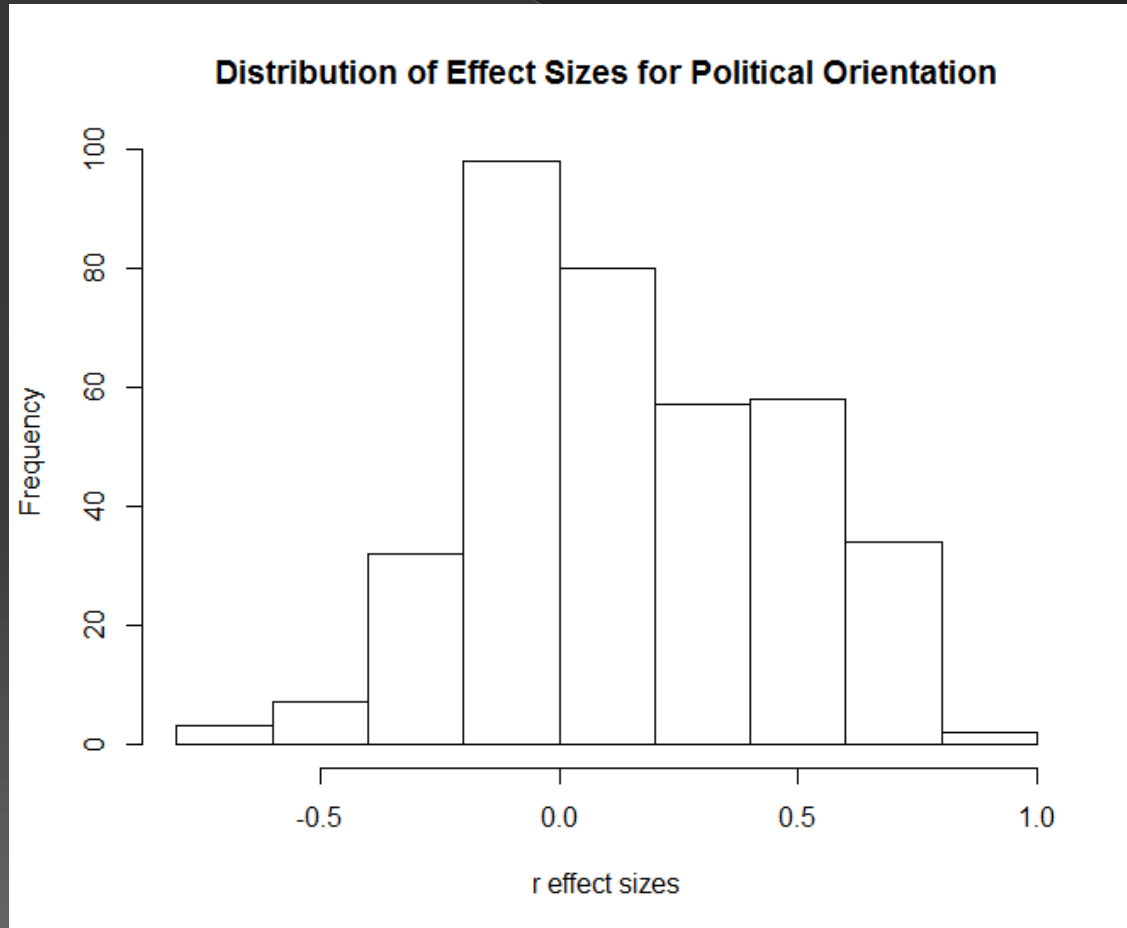
- Total of 446 independent samples; 569 effect sizes
- Methodological Information:
  - > Scale/measure
  - > Sample sizes
  - > Sample population type
  - > Location
  - > Year of data collection
- Statistical Information:
  - > Reliabilities of measures
  - > Effect sizes/statistical values
- Interrater agreement = 88.6%

# Results: Religion Constructs



- 75 independent samples, 198 effect sizes
  - >  $T^2 = .43$
- Mean  $r = .04$
- Final Model: type of prejudice measure & type of religious construct
  - >  $T^2 = .006$ ,  $R^2 = .985$  (99%)
- Moderators:
  - > Year<sub>continuous</sub>:  $R^2 = -.006$ ,  $T^2 = .44$
  - > Year<sub>categorical</sub>:  $R^2 = -.01$ ,  $T^2 = .44$
  - > Region:  $R^2 = -.14$ ,  $T^2 = .50$

# Results: Political Orientation Constructs



- 136 independent samples, 371 effect sizes
  - >  $T^2 = .07$
- Mean  $r = .15$
- Final Model: type of prejudice measure & type of PO construct
  - >  $T^2 = .03$ ,  $R^2 = .827$  (83%)
- Moderators:
  - > Year<sub>continuous</sub>:  $R^2 = -.01$
  - > Year<sub>categorical</sub>:  $R^2 = -.007$
  - > Region:  $R^2 = .535$  (54%)
    - Midwest:  $r = .36$
    - West and South:  $r = .29$

# Religion vs. Political Orientation

Difference in effects:

- Religion and Racial Prejudice:  $r = .04$
- Political Orientation and Racial Prejudice:  $r = .15$ 
  - >  $p(\text{two-tailed}) < .001$

Including the intercorrelation effects:

- Correlation between Religion and PO:  $r_{xy} = .08$ 
  - >  $z = .003, p(\text{two-tailed}) = .98$

# Discussion: Religious Constructs

- Religion not related to anti-Black prejudice
  - > Inclusion of RWA or religious orientation
  - > Related to other types of prejudice (e.g., anti-gay, religious outgroups)
  - > Prior meta-analyses include other countries (McCleary et al., 2011) or other racial targets (Hall et al., 2004; McCleary et al., 2011)
  - > Prior meta-analyses have moderate to large publication bias

# Discussion:

## Political Orientation Constructs

- Political orientation constructs consistently correlated with anti-Black prejudice
  - Small effect: indicative of a *tendency*, not absolute
  - Conservatism ≠ greatly increased racial prejudice
- Possible Explanations
  - Justify opposition to racial policies and welfare (Gilens, 1996; Reyna et al., 2005)
  - Conservatism = resistance to change → conformity, social intolerance, endorsement of racial stereotypes (Hurwitz & Peffley, 1992)
  - System-justifying beliefs (Jost & Hunyady, 2005)

Thank you,  
Ariel Aloe

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