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

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

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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?

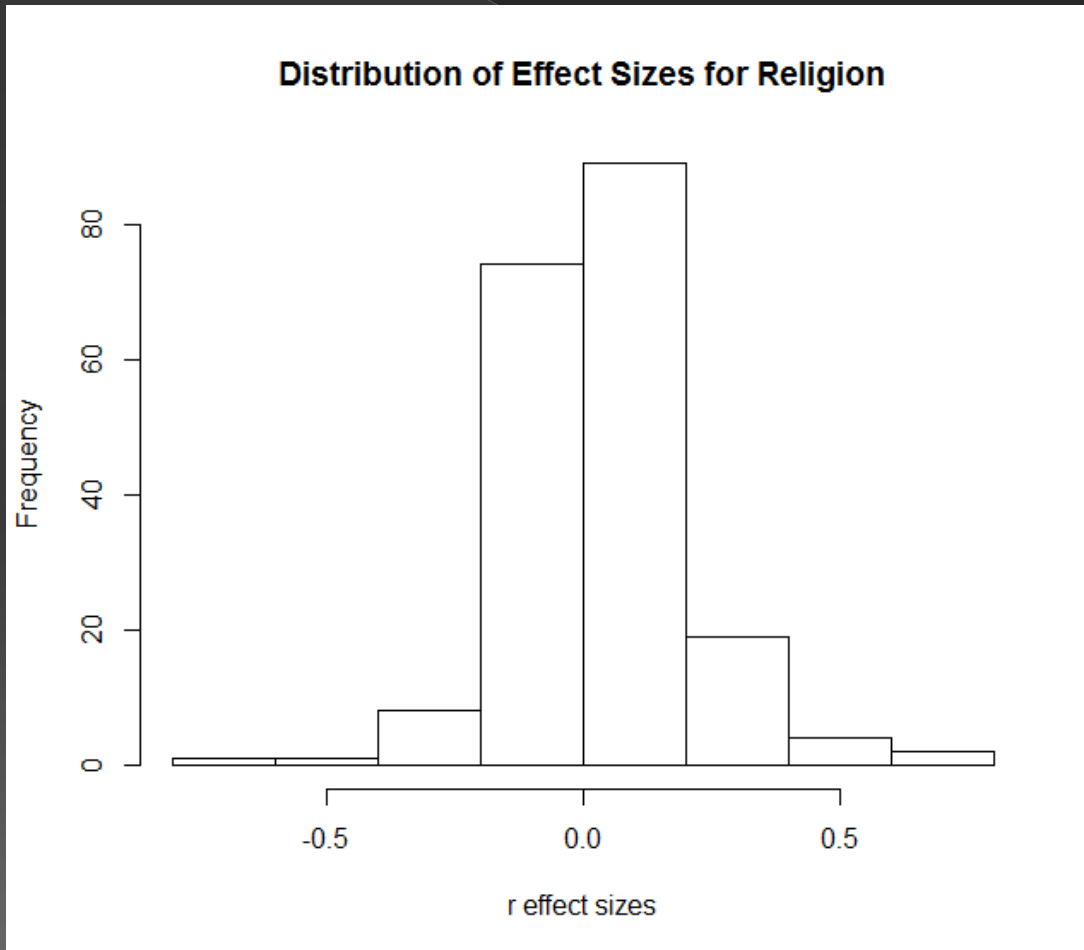
Method: Inclusion Criteria

- 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

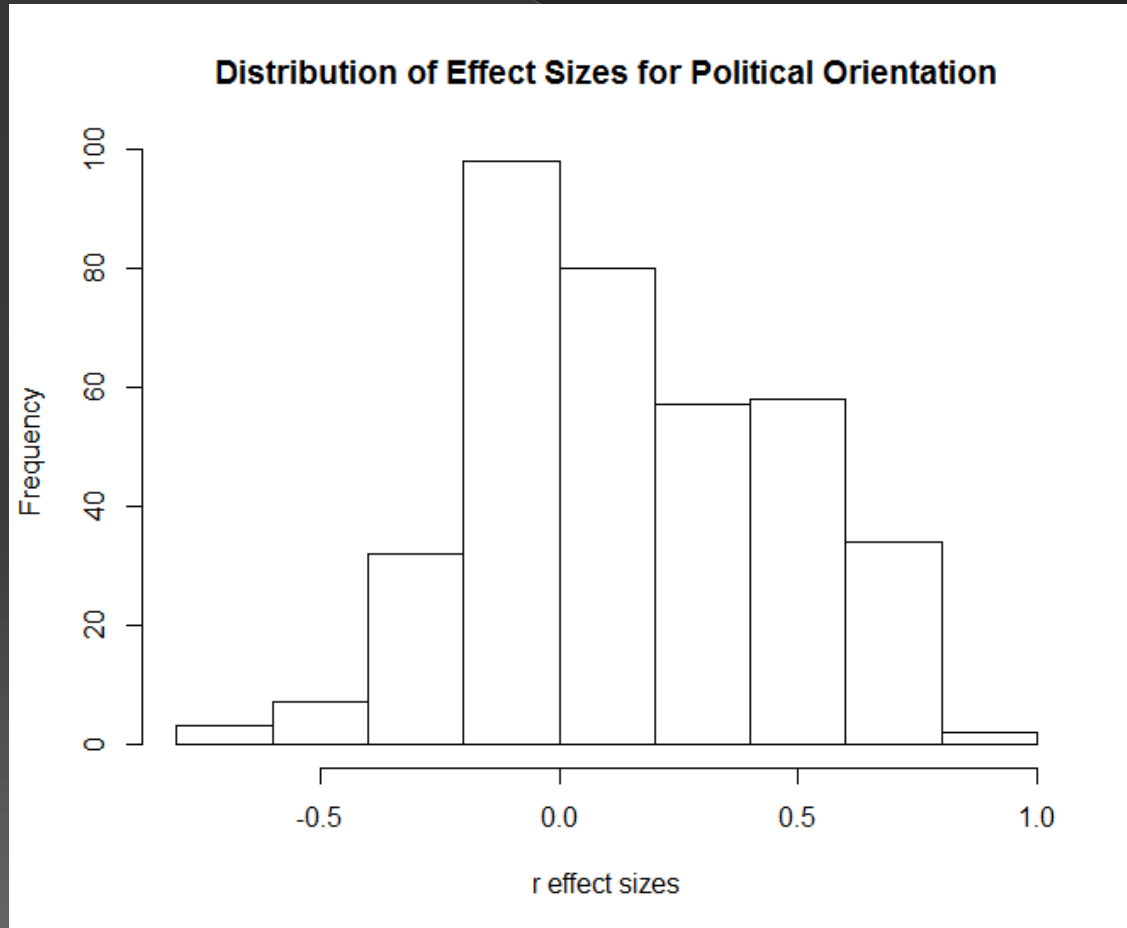
- Total of 446 independent samples; 569 effect sizes
- Methodological Information:
 - > Scale/measure
 - > Sample sizes
 - > Sample population type
 - > Location
 - > Year of data collection
- Statistical Information:
 - > Reliabilities of measures
 - > Effect sizes/statistical values
- Interrater agreement = 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_{continuous}: $R^2 = -.006$, $T^2 = .44$
 - > Year_{categorical}: $R^2 = -.01$, $T^2 = .44$
 - > 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_{continuous}: $R^2 = -.01$
 - > Year_{categorical}: $R^2 = -.007$
 - > 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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