



Religion and Human Rights Publications

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Book Chapters

Religion, personality and human rights

Francis, L. J., & Robbins, M. (2013). Religion, personality and human rights: An empirical study among adolescents in England and Wales distinguishing between religious identity and textual authority among Christians and Muslims. In J A van der Ven & H-G Ziebertz (Eds.), *Human rights and the impact of religion* (pp. 97-118). Leiden: Brill. ISBN 978 90 04 25135 9.

Abstract

The connection between religion and human rights is a matter of both theoretical and practical importance of special relevance within religiously diverse societies. The international empirical survey initiated and co-ordinated by Professor Johannes A van der Ven from Radboud University Nijmegen provides an invaluable opportunity to examine the attitudes of young people to major themes of human rights and to test empirically theories regarding the connection between religion and human rights among young people growing up within religiously diverse contexts. Set within this international project the present study draws on data provided by young people in England and Wales to examine the comparative power of three factors to predict individual differences in attitudes towards human rights, namely personal factors, psychological factors, and religious factors.

Attitudes toward human rights and religiosity among adolescents in England and Wales

Francis, L. J., & Robbins, M. (2016). Attitudes toward human rights and religiosity among adolescents in England and Wales: Replicating and extending a study in Turkey. In H.-G. Ziebertz & E. H. Ballin (Eds.), *Freedom of religion in the twenty-first century: A human rights perspective on the relationship between politics and religion* (pp. 105-129). Leiden: Brill. ISBN 978 9004 296 77 0.

Abstract

This study replicates and extends in the different cultural context of England and Wales the study reported by Ok and Eren (2013) among Turkish adolescents. Replication involved applying three scales concerned with human rights (Scale of Socio-economic Rights, Scale of Civil Rights, and Scale of Permissions to Lift the Right to Life), two scales concerned with religiosity (Religious Saliency Scale, and Interreligious Openness Scale), and three control variables (sex, age, and political preference). Extension involved adding the Eysenckian three dimensional model of personality as a further control variable, and adding religious affiliation to distinguish between Christian, Muslim and religiously unaffiliated adolescents. The data draw attention to the different relationship between religion and human rights in the two different cultural contexts.

Key words: Religion, human rights, adolescents, personality

Women's socio-economic rights and religion among Christian, Islamic, and non-religiously affiliated students in England and Wales

Francis, L. J., Robbins, M., & McKenna, U. (2016). Women's socio-economic rights and religion among Christian, Islamic, and non-religiously affiliated students in England and Wales. Collected edition. In H.-G. Ziebertz & E. H. Ballin (Eds.), *Freedom of religion in the twenty-first century: A human rights perspective on the relationship between politics and religion* (pp. 239-256). Leiden: Brill. ISBN 978 9004 296 770.

Abstract

This study explores the association between self-assigned religious affiliation (Christian, Muslim, and unaffiliated) and attitudes toward women's socio-economic rights among a sample of 1,058 students between the ages of 14 and 18 years in England and Wales, after taking into account personal factors, home environment factors, psychological factors, and religious factors. While religious saliency and interreligious openness both predicted a more positive attitude toward women's socio-economic rights, after taking these attitudinal factors into account self-assigned religious affiliation (both Christian and Muslim) predicted a less positive attitude toward women's socio-economic rights. This finding highlights the fallacy of discussing self-assigned religious affiliation independently of distinguishing the religious saliency of such affiliation.

Keywords: *Religion, human rights, adolescents, personality*

Attitude toward political rights and religious affiliation, experience, saliency and openness

Francis, L. J., McKenna, M., & Robbins, M. (2018). Attitude toward political rights and religious affiliation, experience, saliency and openness: An empirical enquiry among students in England and Wales. In C. Sterkens & H.-G. Ziebertz (Eds.), *Political and judicial rights through the prism of religious belief* (pp. 1-21). Cham, Switzerland: Springer. 978 3 319 77352 0.

Abstract

This study explores the association between attitude toward political rights, self-assigned religious affiliation (Christian, Muslim, and unaffiliated), religious experience, religious saliency and interreligious openness among a sample of 1,058 students between the ages of 14 and 18 years in England and Wales, after taking into account personal factors, psychological factors, and home environment factors. While religious saliency and interreligious openness both predicted a more positive attitude toward political rights, after taking these attitudinal factors into account self-assigned religious affiliation (both Christian and Muslim) predicted a less positive attitude toward political rights. Before taking religious saliency and interreligious openness into account self-assigned religious affiliation as Muslim showed a positive effect and self-assigned religious affiliation as Christian showed no effect. This finding highlights the fallacy of discussing self-assigned religious affiliation independently of distinguishing the religious saliency and style of such affiliation.

Keywords: *Religion, human rights, adolescents, personality*

Freedom of religion and freedom of religious clothing and symbols in school

Francis, L. J., Village, A., McKenna, U., & Penny, G. (2018). Freedom of religion and freedom of religious clothing and symbols in school: Exploring the impact of church schools in a religiously diverse society. In H.-G. Ziebertz & C. Sterkens (Eds.), *Religion and civil human rights in empirical perspective* (pp. 157-175). Dordrecht: Springer. ISBN 978 3 319 59285 5.

Abstract

The Young People's Attitudes to Religious Diversity Project was established to compare the attitudes of students (13- to 15-years of age) educated within the state-maintained sector in church schools (Catholic, Anglican, joint Anglican and Catholic) and in schools without a religious foundation. Data provided by 2,385 students recruited from England, Wales and London who self-identified as either 'no religion' or as Christian demonstrated that personal factors (especially sex), psychological factors (especially psychoticism) and religious factors (especially personal prayer) were all significantly related to attitude toward freedom of religious clothing and symbols in school. After controlling for sex and for individual differences in personality and in religiosity, students attending church schools hold neither a more positive nor a less positive attitude toward freedom of religious clothing and symbols in school (according to various religious traditions), compared with students attending schools without a religious foundation.

Keywords: Church schools, religious diversity, freedom of religion, school effectiveness, multi-level analysis

Religion, human rights and matters of life and death: Exploring attitude toward abortion and euthanasia among adolescents in England and Wales

Francis, L. J., McKenna, U., & Sahin, A. (2019). Religion, human rights and matters of life and death: Exploring attitude toward abortion and euthanasia among adolescents in England and Wales. In H.-G. Ziebertz & F. Zacaria (Eds.), *Euthanasia, death penalty and religion in the rights to life and its limitations: International empirical research* (pp. 139-159). Cham, Switzerland: Springer. ISBN 978 3 319 98772 9.

Articles

Muslim attitude toward freedom of religious clothing and symbols in schools within the UK

Francis, L. J., & McKenna, U. (2017). Muslim attitude toward freedom of religious clothing and symbols in schools within the UK: The effect of religious and theological factors. *Religione e Società*, 32, 50-58. ISSN 0394 9397.

Abstract

Understanding variations in public attitudes toward freedom of religious clothing and symbols in school is a matter of concern within both the social scientific study of religion (concerned with religious factors) and empirical theology (concerned with theological factors). Drawing on data provided by 335 13- to 15-year-old Muslim students from England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, this study tests the power of religious factors and theological factors to explain variance within the Scale of Attitude toward Freedom of Religious Clothing and Symbols in School (SAFORCS). Regression analyses demonstrate that theological factors account for significant additional variance, after religious factors have been taken into account. In this regard understanding Muslim students' theological understanding is as important as understanding their religious practice.

Keywords: social scientific study of religion, empirical theology, religious diversity, social inclusivity.