

dEconomics 1450r
Religion and Political Economy
Reading List

Spring 2024
Wednesdays 3-5:30 pm
Littauer Center M16

Robert J. Barro
Rachel M. McCleary

Book for the course: *The Wealth of Religions*, Princeton University Press, 2019.

January 24: Overview and methodological approaches to the study of religion and political economy; cross-country data on religiosity.

The Wealth of Religions, Ch. 1.

McCleary, Rachel M. and Robert J. Barro. "Religion and Economy." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 20, 2 (Spring 2006), 49-72.

Iannaccone, Laurence R. "Introduction to the Economics of Religion." *Journal of Economic Literature* 36, 3 (September 1998), 1465–1496.

Iannaccone, Laurence, Rodney Stark and Roger Finke. "Rationality and the Religious Mind." *Economic Inquiry* 36, 3 (July 1998), 373-389.

Data Sources

Todd M. Johnson and Brian Grim, eds. *World Religion Data Base*. Available through Harvard.

Todd M. Johnson and Gina Zurlo, eds. *World Christian Data Base*. See worldchristiandatabase.org.

World Values Survey; waves around 1981, 1990, 1995, 2001, 2005, 2012, 2017-2020.
See worldvaluessurvey.org.

International Social Survey Programme; religion waves around 1991, 1998, 2008, 2018.
See issp.org and gesis.org/issp. (The U.S. counter-part is the *General Social Survey* or GSS.)

Fox, Jonathan and Shmuel Sandler. *Religion & State (RAS) Data Set*. See thearda.com.

Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA), at thearda.com.

Pew Research Center, Washington, D.C., has religion data and studies. See pewresearch.org.

January 31, February 7, 14: What Determines Religiosity?

Guest speaker: February 7, Gina Zurlo, Harvard Divinity School.

Iannaccone, Laurence. "Looking Backward: A Cross-National Study of Religious Trends," unpublished, George Mason University, 2003 (later called "Looking Backward: A Century of Multi-Nation Religion Statistics").

The Wealth of Religions, Ch. 2.

Smith, Adam. *The Wealth of Nations* (handout online).

Weber, Max. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. Tans. Talcott Parsons with a forward by R.H. Tawney (London, Allen & Unwin, 1930).
Part I: Chapter III, "Luther's Conception of the Calling," pp. 85-92;
Part II: Chapter IV A "Calvinism," pp. 98-128," IV B "Methodism," 139-142.

Etzrodt, Christian. 2008. "Weber's Protestant Ethic Thesis, the Critics, and Adam Smith." *Max Weber Studies* 8, 1 (January 2008): 49-79.

McKinstry, Sam and Ying Yong Ding. 2013. "Alex Cowan & Sons, LTD., Papermakers, Penicuik: A Scottish Case of Weber's Protestant Work Ethic." *Business History* 55, 5 (2013): 729-731.

McCleary, Rachel and Robert Barro. "Religion and Political Economy in an International Panel." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 45, 2 (June 2006), 149-175.

Frank, Raphaël and Laurence R. Iannaccone. "Religious Decline in the 20th Century West: Testing Alternative Explanations." *Public Choice* 159 (2014), 385-414.

Shocks, such as natural disasters, financial crises, and religious scandals influence religiosity.

Chaney, Eric. "Revolt on the Nile: Economic Shocks, Religion, and Political Power." *Econometrica* 81, 5 (2013), 2033-53.

Chen, Daniel L. "Club Goods and Group Identity: Evidence from Islamic Resurgence during the Indonesian Financial Crisis." *Journal of Political Economy*, 118, 2 (April 2010), 300-354.

Belloc, Marianna, Francesco Drago, and Roberto Galbiati. "Earthquakes, Religion, and Transition to Self-Government in Italian Cities." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 131, 4 (July 2016), 1875-1926.

Anderson, Robert Warren, Noel D. Johnson, and Mark Koyama, "Jewish Persecutions and Weather Shocks: 1100-1800." *Economic Journal*, 127 (September 2015), 924-958.

Bottan, Nicolas L. and Ricardo Perez-Truglia. "Losing my Religion: The Effects of Religious Scandals on Religious Participation and Charitable Giving." *Journal of Public Economics* 129 (September 2015), 106-119.

February 21: Religion and Economic Growth

The Wealth of Religions, Ch. 3.

Barro, Robert and Rachel McCleary. "Religion and Economic Growth across Countries." *American Sociological Review* 68, 5 (October 2003), 760-781.

Basten, Christoph and Frank Betz. "Beyond Work Ethic: Religion, Individual, and Political Preferences." *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* 5, 3 (August 2013), 67-91.

Heldring, Leander, James A. Robinson, and Sebastian Vollmer. "The Long-Run Impact of the Dissolution of the English Monasteries." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 136, 4 (November 2021), 2093-2145.

McCleary, Rachel M. "Salvation, Damnation, and Economic Incentives." *Journal of Contemporary Religion* 22, 1 (January 2007), 49-74.

First paper due February 21 by end of day.

February 28: Religion and Human Capital Accumulation

Guest speaker: Emmanuelle Auriol, University of Toulouse.

Becker, Sascha O. and Ludger Woëßmann. "Was Weber Wrong? A Human Capital Theory of Protestant Economic History." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 124 (May 2009), 531-596. (You may wish to also read their article "Luther and the Girls: Religious Denomination and the Female Education Gap in Nineteenth Century Prussia." *Scandinavian Journal of Economics*, 110, 4 (December 2008), 777-805.)

Cantoni, David, Jeremiah Dittmar, and Noam Yuchtman. "Religious Competition and Reallocation: The Political Economy of Secularization in the Protestant Reformation," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 2018.

Botticini, Maristella and Zvi Eckstein. "From Farmers to Merchants, Conversions and Diaspora: Human Capital and Jewish History." *Journal of the European Economic Association* 5, 5 (September 2007), 885–926. You may wish to look also at their book *The Chosen Few: How Education Shaped Jewish History*, Princeton University Press, 2012.

Boppart, Timo, Josef Falkinger, Volker Grossmann, Ulrich Woitek, Gabriela Wüthrich. "Under What Conditions Does Religion Affect Educational Outcomes?" *Explorations in Economic History* 50, 2 (April 2013), 242-266.

Boppart, Timo, Josef Falkinger, and Volker Grossmann. "Protestantism and Education: Reading (the Bible) and Other Skills." *Economic Inquiry* 52, 2 (April 2014), 874-895.

Arold, Benjamin W., "Evolution vs. Creationism in the Classroom: The Lasting Effects of Science Education," October 2023, forthcoming, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.

Auriol, Emmanuelle, Julie Lassebie, Amma Panin, Eva Raiber, and Paul Seabright. "God Insures Those who Pay? Formal Insurance and Religious Offerings in Ghana." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 135, 4 (November 2020).

Squicciarini, Mara. "Devotion and Development: Religiosity, Education, and Economic Progress in 19th Century France." *American Economic Review* 110, 11 (November 2020), 3454-3491.

March 6: Islam and Economy

The Wealth of Religions, Ch. 4.

Kuran, Timur. "Why the Middle East is Economically Underdeveloped: Historical Mechanisms of Institutional Stagnation." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 18, 3 (Summer 2004), 71–90.

Chaney, Eric. "Religion and the Rise and Fall of Islamic Science." Unpublished, Harvard University, May 2016.

Campante, Filipe and David Yanagizawa-Drott. "Does Religion Affect Economic Growth and Happiness? Evidence from Ramadan." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 130, 2 (May 2015), 615-658.

Clingingsmith, David, Asim Ijaz Khwaja, and Michael R. Kremer. "Estimating the Impact of the Hajj: Religion and Tolerance in Islam's Global Gathering." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 124, 3 (August 2009), 1133-1170.

Iyigun, Murat, "Luther and Suleyman." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 123, 4 (November 2008), 1465-1494.

Binzel, Christine and Jean-Paul Carvalho. "Education, Social Mobility and Religious Movements: the Islamic Revival in Egypt." *Economic Journal* 127, 607 (December 2017), 2553-2580.

Michalopoulos, Stelios, Alireza Naghavi, and Giovanni Prarolo, "Trade and Geography in the Spread of Islam." *Economic Journal* (October 2017), 1-32.

Bazzi, Samuel, Gabriel Koehler-Derrick, and Benjamin Marx. "The Institutional Foundations of Religious Politics: Evidence from Indonesia." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 35, 2 (May 2020), 845-911.

March 13: Spring break

March 20: Church and State, State Religion

The Wealth of Religions, Ch. 5.

Smith, Adam. *The Wealth of Nations* (online handout).

Barro, Robert J. and Rachel M. McCleary. "Which Countries Have State Religions?" *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 7, 1 (November 2005), 1331-1370.

Ekelund, Robert, Robert Hébert, and Robert Tollison. "An Economic Analysis of the Protestant Reformation." *Journal of Political Economy* 110 (June 2002), 646-671.

Second paper due March 20 by end of day.

March 27: State Regulation of Religion, Religious Competition

Guest speaker: Sascha Becker, University of Warwick.

Froese, Paul and Steven Pfaff. "Replete and Desolate Markets: Poland, East Germany, and the New Religious Paradigm." *Social Forces* 80, 2 (December 2001), 481-507. You may also look at Froese's book, *The Plot to Kill God: Findings from the Soviet Experiment in Secularization*, University of California Press, 2008.

Gruber, Jonathan and Daniel Hungerman. "The Church versus the Mall: What Happens When Religion Faces Increased Secular Competition?" *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 123, 2 (May 2008), 831-862.

Barro, Robert, Jason Hwang, and Rachel McCleary, "Religious Conversion in 40 Countries." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 49 (March 2010), 15-36.

Barro, Robert J. and Rachel M. McCleary. "Saints Marching In, 1590-2012." *Economica* 83 (July 2016), 385-415.

April 3: The Club Model

The Wealth of Religions, Ch. 6.

Iannaccone, Laurence R. "Sacrifice and Stigma: Reducing Free-riding in Cults, Communes, and Other Collectives." *Journal of Political Economy* 100, 2 (April 1992), 271-291.

McCleary, Rachel and Leonard W.J. van der Kuijp. "The Market Approach to the Rise of the Geluk School, 1419-1642." *The Journal of Asian Studies* 69, 1 (February 2010), 149-180.

Berman, Eli. *Radical, Religious, and Violent: The New Economics of Terrorism*. (MIT Press, 2009), Chs. 3, 4.

Abramitzky, Ran. "Lessons from the Kibbutz on the Equality-Incentives Trade-off," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 123, 3 (Winter 2011), 185-208. You may also look at his book *The Mystery of the Kibbutz: Egalitarian Principles in a Capitalist World*, Princeton University Press, 2018.

Krueger, Alan B. and Jitka Maleckova. "Education, Poverty, Political Violence and Terrorism: Is There a Causal Connection?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 17, 4 (Fall 2003), 119-144.

April 10, 17, 24: Student Presentations

Guest speaker: April 17, Timur Kuran, Duke University.

Written versions of final paper are due at the end of reading period.

Requirements and Grading

Class participation: 20%.

First two papers: 40% (8 to 10 pages each). The papers will be written on topics to be discussed in class. The papers are to be analytical in nature, rather than purely descriptive or historical.

Final paper: 40%, 15-20 pages and short presentation in class.

Office Hours

Robert J. Barro:

Office Littauer Center 218

Tuesdays: 2-3, and by appointment.

Rachel M. McCleary:

Office Littauer Center M-14

Tuesdays: 2-3, and by appointment.

Teaching Fellow: Edgard DeWitte

Section time and location to be arranged.

Contact Information

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