



# CHARITY: THE EFFECT OF RELIGIOSITY AND POLITICAL AFFILIATION IN AN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

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# Research Question/ Topic and Expectations

- Effect of political affiliation and religiosity on charitable giving.
- Does the political affiliation and level of religiosity in the university's students affect their willingness to partake in charity?
- Can political affiliation be an indicator of their level of religiosity?
- The expectation was to find the same results as the previous research. That was not the case.



# Literature Review

- Religiosity is related to donations; religious involvement has a positive relationship with prosociality (de Abreu et al. 2015) (Heineck 2017).
- Republicans give more charity than Democrats; counties with higher proportion of people voting Republican reported higher charitable contributions (Margolis & Sances 2017) (Paalberg et al. 2018).
- Conservatives tended to be more religious while liberals were spiritual; Republicans reported higher rates of religiosity than Democrats and Independents; no evidence that conservatives are more charitable than liberals (Hirsh et al 2013)(Ozmen et al 2018)(Yen & Zampelli 2014).



# Sampling

- ▶ Students of the University of Texas at Dallas.
- ▶ Convenience sample for the sake of efficiency and time.



# Hypotheses

- H1: UTD students who have a higher level of religiosity will be more charitable than UTD students with a lower level of religiosity.
- H2: UTD students who identify as conservative are more religious than UTD students who identify as liberal.
- H3: UTD students who identify as more conservative politically, are less likely to give to charity than UTD students who consider themselves more liberal politically.



# Operationalization

- Political Affiliation: Not the belief in a specific political party, but whether a person is more conservative, or liberal in their beliefs
- Religiosity: How much a person partakes in any religious activity, practice or ritual. This concept is not trying to identify the faith of a person, but much rather the intensity of their participation of that particular faith.
- Charitability: The amount/level of charity that a person partakes in



# Discussion

- H1: UTD students who have a higher level of religiosity will be more charitable than UTD students with a lower level of religiosity.
- Not supported.
- H2: UTD students who identify as conservative are more religious than UTD students who identify as liberal.
- Supported.
- H3: UTD students who identify as more conservative politically, are less likely to give to charity than UTD students who consider themselves more liberal politically.
- Not supported (Not significant enough, though it was approaching significance).



# Interesting Findings

- H1 gave results that went against what the previous research stated. The sample of UTD students surveyed were very liberal, and had high levels of charitability.
- Religiosity acted as mediator for political affiliation. When regression was run with political affiliation and control variables, it was very significant, but as soon as Religiosity was added, the significance disappeared and the regression coefficient saw a significant drop (0.088 to 0.027).
- Control variables had a suppressive effect on political affiliation and religiosity.





# Limitations

- Not a large enough sample.
- Not a representative sample:
  - Very Liberal
  - Low level of Religiosity
  - High level of Charitability



# Policy Implications

- Since the research was on charity, there are not many ways to increase it since it is money you voluntarily give up.
- Donations are already considered tax deductibles.
- These results can help those who ask for donations better target those who are more willing to give.