Godly Governance

A Cross-National Examination of Religious Politics in Arab Muslim-Majority Countries

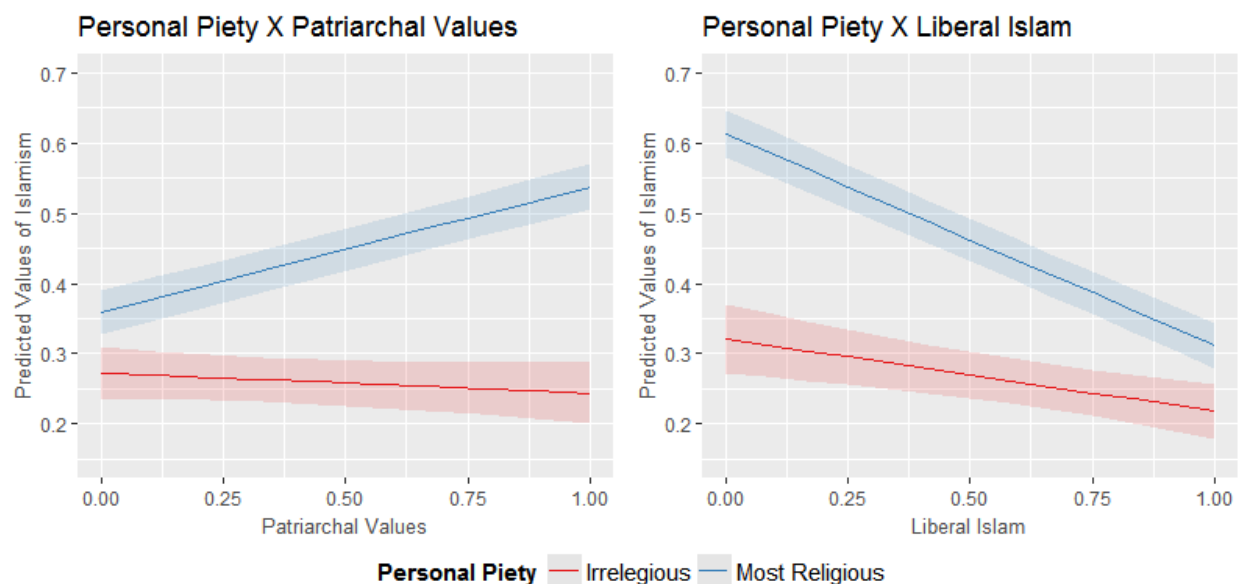*Fabio Votta*[*]

28 December 2017

Keywords: *Islamism, Religious Politics, MENA, Secularism, Multilevel Analysis*

This paper seeks to investigate Muslim support for religious governance in Arab Muslim-Majority countries, focusing on the role of personal piety. It does so by exploring the relevant literature and deriving hypotheses from it, which are subsequently tested by using survey data of the Arab Barometer (Wave III and IV).

The following analysis conducts hierarchical linear regression with the dependent variable ideological support for religious governance (Islamism). The analysis finds that religiosity indeed plays a major role in explaining support for religious governance, however this effect depends substantially on an individual's interpretation of their religion as well as the tendency to endorse patriarchal values.

The findings of the analysis suggest that further studies in the field should account for the multidimensional impact of religiosity and avoid essentialist explanations that inextricably link Muslim religiosity to the support for religious governance.

---

[*]Fabio Votta is a graduate Political Science student at the University of Stuttgart and is a tutor for statistics with R at the Department for Social Sciences. Contact: fabio.votta@gmail.comor on his website https://favstats.netlify.com