

# Introduction

## Course essentials

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Welcome

Welcome!

## What will I be doing in this course?

- ▶ 5 x article “peer” review reports of an assigned reading = 25%.
- ▶ 10 x class participation + engagement points = 10%.
- ▶ 1 x student led presentation = 10%.
- ▶ 1 x Grant application initial proposal = 15% “application inquiry” – or preliminary plan.
- ▶ 1 x “Grant application final grant = 40%

# Sign up

The screenshot shows a digital interface for managing student-led presentations. At the top, there are standard window control buttons (red, yellow, green) and a toolbar with icons for back, forward, search, and refresh. Below the toolbar, the title "Bb Student-led presentation – 21.1.PSYC423: Culture" is displayed.

The interface includes the Victoria University of Wellington logo and the university's name "VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON TE HERENGA WAKA".

The main content area displays the course information "21.1.PSYC423: Culture and Social Behaviour" and the presentation type "Student-led presentation".

A sidebar on the left lists course navigation links: "21.1.PSYC423: Culture and Social Behaviour", "Announcements", "PSYC423 Zoom room", and "VStream Videos".

At the top right, there are navigation tabs: "Build Content", "Assessments", "Tools", and "Partner Content".

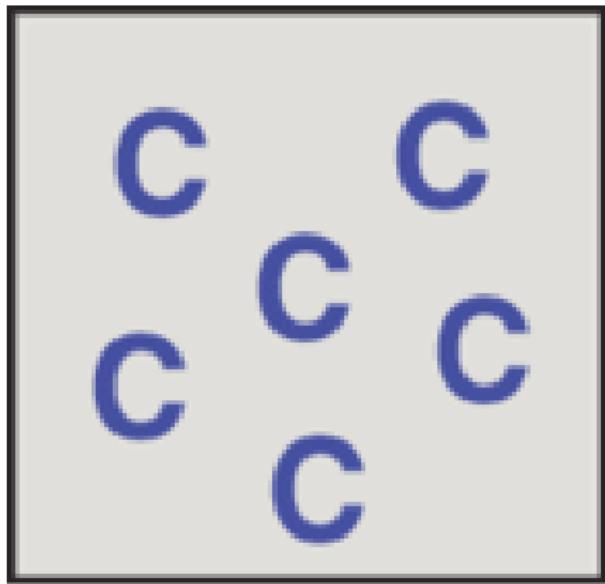
The central content area features a section titled "Presentation sign-up" with a file icon. It contains the instruction "Please indicate here when you want to present and facilitate discussion".

At the bottom, a note states: "Important note: There are 10 sessions. Once all slots are taken, you can no longer sign up."

## What is culture?

We define culture in a broadly to socially transmitted and acquired information information that affects and enables human cognition and behavior. That's not perfect. For example, its clear that birds, chimps, and other organisms have culture, however, this definition makes a start.

# What is evolution?



Mutation



## Why combine culture and evolution?

1. to clarify otherwise bewildering cultural diversity;
2. to unlock wisdom in culturally inherited systems;
3. to avoid cultural evolved inequality.

Religions prominently display cultural variation



Variation of Warblers

*Eastern  
Wood  
Warblers*



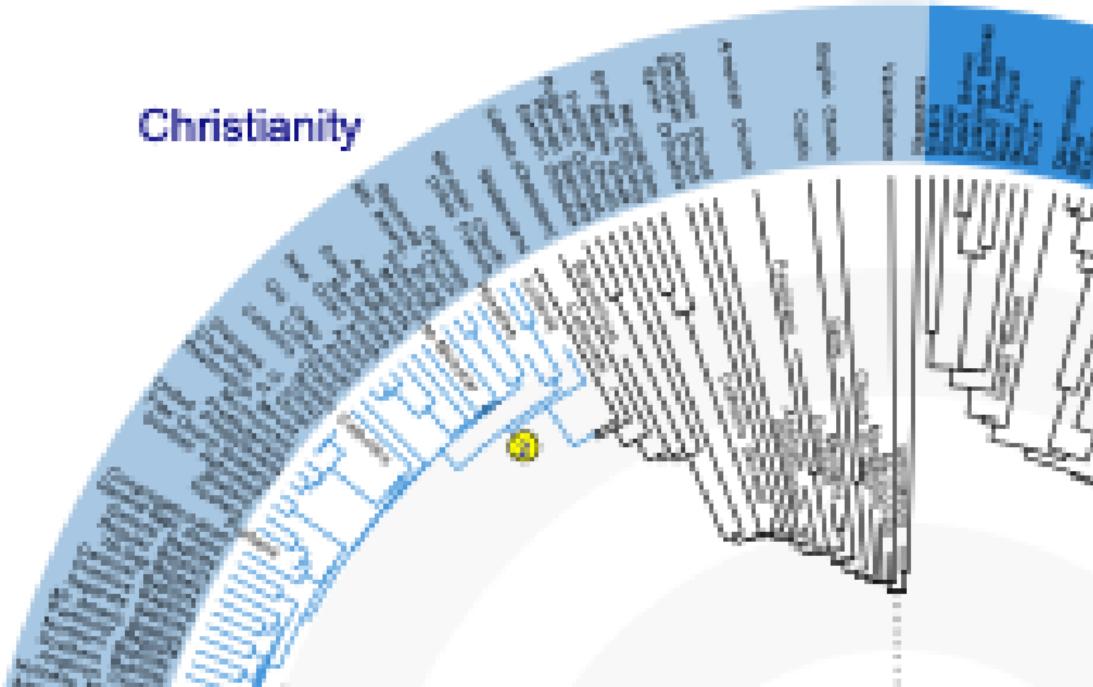
# Warbler Phylogeny

Eastern  
Wood  
Warblers



# Religion phylogeny

Christianity



# Why cost?



## Evolutionary Puzzle 2| Religion is ancient

# Darwin

*It is hardly possible for me even to recall to the reader, who may not be a practical geologist, the facts leading the mind feebly to comprehend the lapse of time . . . – Charles Darwin, *Origins of Species*, p.283*

# Darwin

*It strikes me that all our knowledge about the structure of our Earth is very much like what an old hen would know of the hundred-acre field in a corner of which she is scratching.*  
—Charles Darwin, *Life and Letters of Charles Darwin* vol 2,  
p.348)

# Timeline



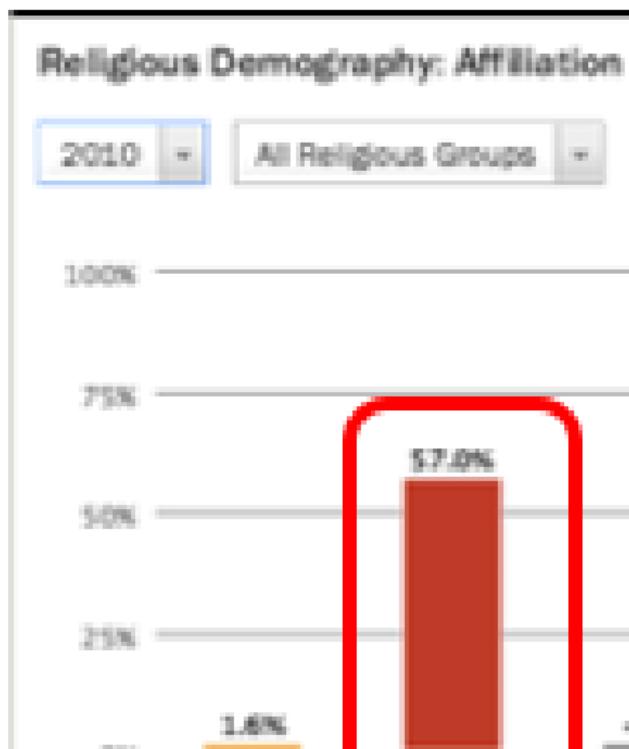
## Evolutionary Puzzle 3 | Growth

**Projected change in the u**

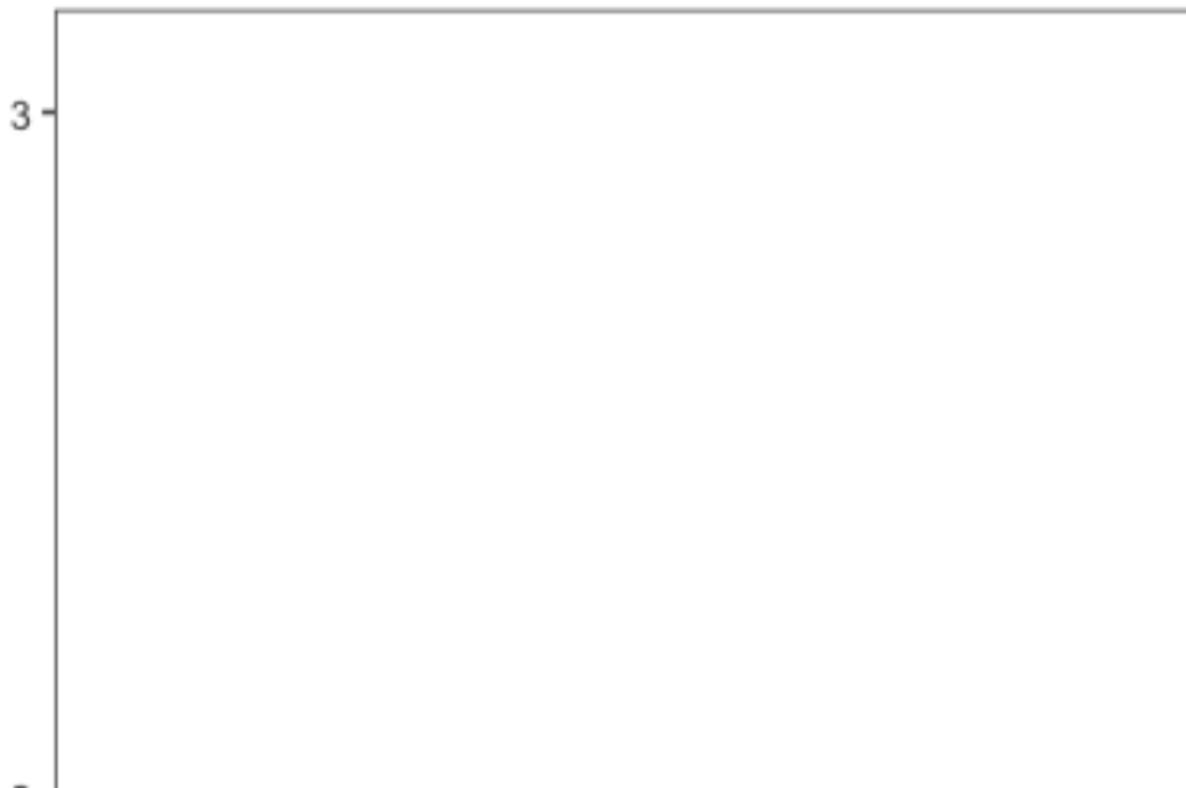
*While the unaffiliated are projec*

New Zealand forecast

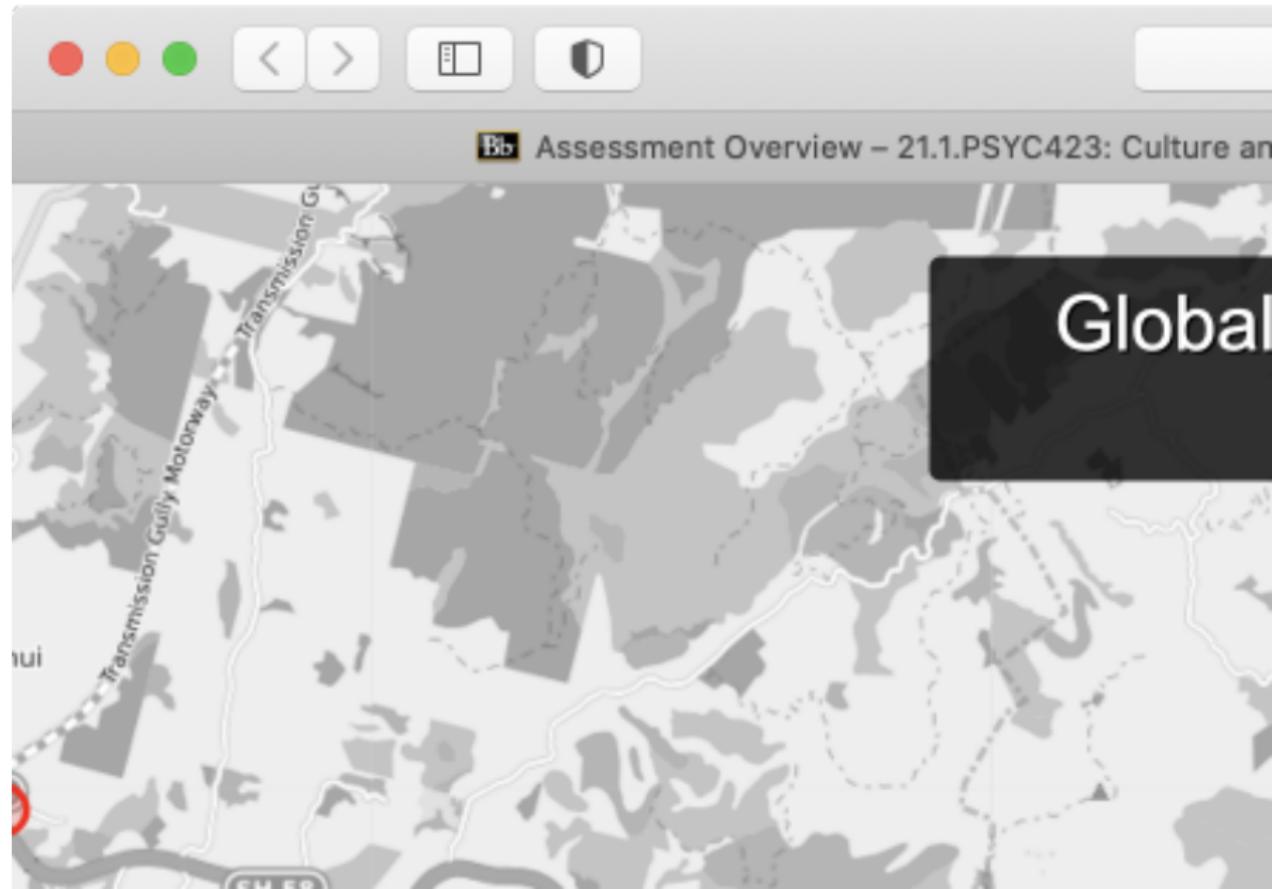
## Measured NZ 2010



## Expected number of children by religious identity

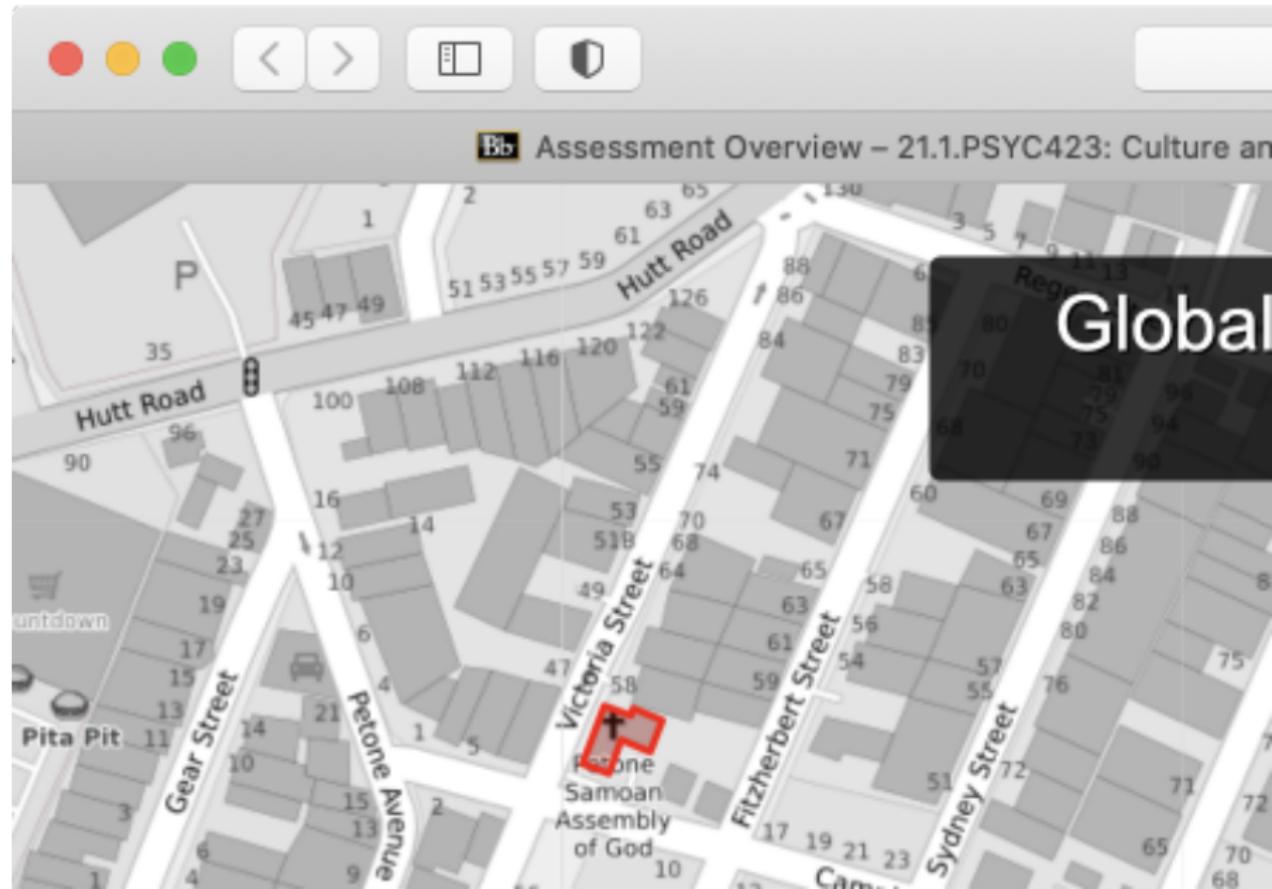


# Hutt



Bb Assessment Overview – 21.1.PSYC423: Culture am

# Petone





## Summary

- ▶ Culture and evolution
- ▶ Case of religion
- ▶ Cost Puzzle
- ▶ Endurance Puzzle
- ▶ Ubiquity Puzzle
- ▶ Also, religion is still prominent, and perhaps will be increasingly so.

# Help

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## Links

D-PIACE

Pulotu

Database of Religious History

Seshat

Cultural diversity at the Al Noor Mosque

Cultural diversity in New Zealand as recorded by the New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study

Global church map