**Religious Tolerance and the Implementation of Climate Change Policies: Analysis from the Perspective of Institutional Logic**

Lya Paola Sierra1, Felipe Serrano2, Sergio A. Barona3

1Corresponding author. Faculty of Economic and Administrative Sciences, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Cali, Colombia, 760031. Email: [lyap@javerianacali.edu.co](mailto:lyap@javerianacali.edu.co). ORCID: 0000-0002-8909-8977

2 Faculty of Economic and Administrative Sciences, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Cali, Colombia, 760031. Email: [felipe1214@javerianacali.edu.co](mailto:felipe1214@javerianacali.edu.co).

3 Faculty of Economic and Administrative Sciences, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Cali, Colombia, 760031. Email: [sergio.barona@javerianacali.edu.co](mailto:sergio.barona@javerianacali.edu.co). ORCID: 0000-0001-8390-6673.

**Highlights**

* We construct a cross-country index of religious tolerance.
* We study the link between this index and a climate change policy stringency index.
* Religious tolerance correlates with a country’s ability to adopt stricter climate change policies.
* We show that some aspects of religion can promote climate-change-focused policies.

**Abstract**

Religion, as an important dimension of culture, has been identified as having an impact on the effective implementation of strategies to halt climate change. However, there is no consensus on the direction of this effect. In this paper, we evaluate the impact of religion on the implementation of policies against climate change, focusing on religious tolerance as an internal logic of religion. For this purpose, we construct a religious tolerance index using data from the World Value Survey and, thereafter, we estimated an econometric model that evaluates its impact on the Climate Change Policy Stringency (CCPS) index, built by Sharma et al. (2021). Unlike other studies, our findings support the idea that there are aspects of religion, such as religious tolerance, that can contribute to a more effective implementation of climate-change-focused policies. Moreover, the evidence indicates that the higher a country's level of religious tolerance, the greater its capacity to adopt more stringent climate change policies.

**Keywords**

Climate change · Climate policy · Religion · Religious tolerance · Religion institutions

**JEL**

O13 · Q56 · Q58 · Z12