

# Islamic Political and Economic Liberalism in Minority Setting in the South Caucasus

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# Presentation Overview

## ① Research Question and Literature

Research Question

Previous Research

## ② The Case of Muslim Azerbaijanis in Azerbaijan and Georgia

## ③ Theory and Hypotheses

Theory

Hypotheses

## ④ Data and Analysis

Data

Analysis

## ⑤ Conclusion and Future Research

## ⑥ Appendix

## Islam and political and economic preferences

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- Others say that Islam is associated with greater economic and political liberalism (**chen2007religion**; **masoud2014counting**)

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- Still other scholars show that no clear connection between Muslims' piety and economic liberalism (redistribution) exists (**pepinsky2010piety**)

# Muslim Religiosity and Social Attitudes

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- Muslim religiosity has no effect on support for democracy (**tessler2002islamic**)
- The empirical linkage between religion and attitudes toward economic redistribution or inequality is hard to tease out (**pepinsky2010piety**)
- However, the link between religion and support for government provision for the poor is stronger in Muslim-majority countries than it is among Christian majority populations (**scheve2006religion**; **stegmueller2012support**)

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- In Egypt, where religious communities have had opportunities to engage in private and charitable social services, the support for state distributive policies has been significantly higher than in Tunisia where similar communities have not had such opportunities for private social service provision
- Members of Christian communities in authoritarian states with Muslim majorities have less favorable attitudes toward democracy than Muslim members of those states (**belge2015minorities**)

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- Both Azerbaijan and Georgia display tendencies of implementing repressive practices regarding Muslims
- In Azerbaijan, the state tries to co-opt Islamic leaders into the construct “Traditional Islam”
- In Georgia, the influential Georgian Orthodox Church is associated with Georgian nationalism and repression of minorities

- Under repressive regimes, the political behavior of religious Muslims will be best explained by demographic factors

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- Religious Muslims will seek the optimal survival strategy depending on their assessment of state policies and the anticipation of possible changes

# Hypotheses on Economic Liberalism

In Muslim-minority context (i.e., Azerbaijanis in Georgia)

Religious Muslims will seek greater economic liberalization

Muslim-majority context (i.e., Azerbaijanis in Azerbaijan)

Religious Muslims will seek lower economic liberalization

# Hypotheses on Political Liberalism

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- 2010–2013 Caucasus Barometer survey data from the Caucasus Research Resource Centers

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- N – 7,286. Muslim-majority: 6,773 (93%); Muslim-minority: 513 (7%)

# Dependent Variables

## Economic Liberalism

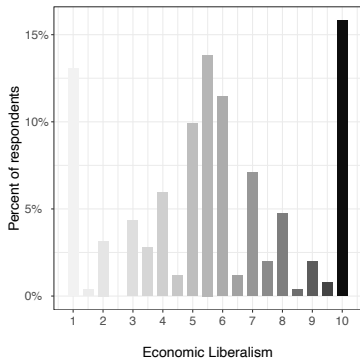
Support for private ownership of enterprises and competition: 1 to 10

## Political Liberalism

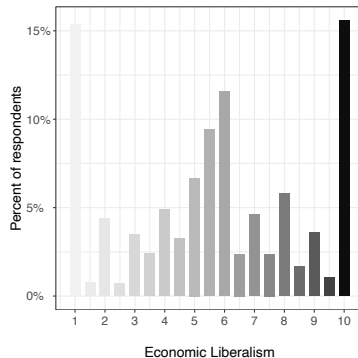
Government as a parent vs government as an employee: 1 to 4



# Distributions of Economic Liberalism by Country

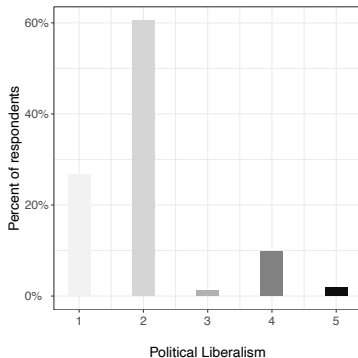


(a) Distribution of Economic Liberalism. Azerbaijanis in Georgia.

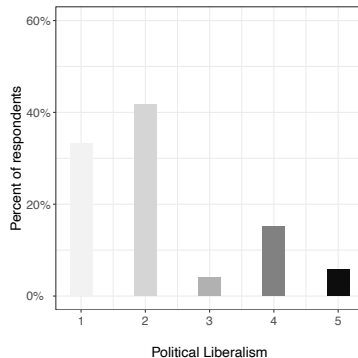


(b) Distribution of Economic Liberalism. Azerbaijanis in Azerbaijan.

# Distributions of Political Liberalism by Country.



(c) Distribution of Political Liberalism. Azerbaijanis in Georgia.



(d) Distribution of Political Liberalism. Azerbaijanis in Azerbaijan.

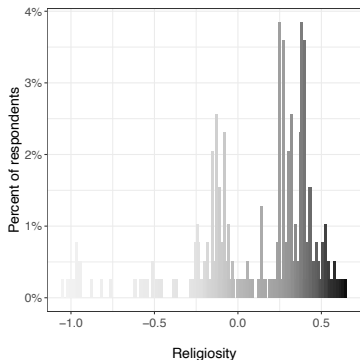
# Religiosity

- Religious services attendance, religious fasting, self-assessed religiosity, importance of religion to respondents, and trust in religious organizations

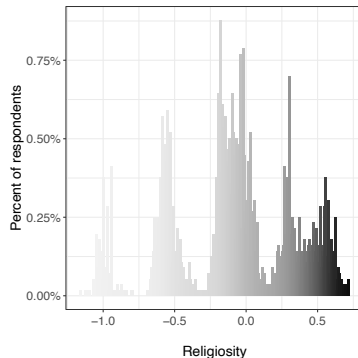
# Religiosity

- Religious services attendance, religious fasting, self-assessed religiosity, importance of religion to respondents, and trust in religious organizations
- Control variables: trust for the president of the country, age, gender, education, income level, type of settlement

# Distributions of Religiosity by Country.

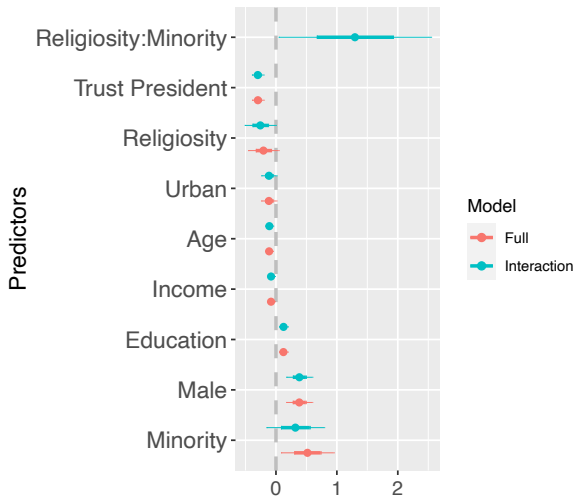


(e) Religiosity among Azerbaijani Muslims in Georgia.

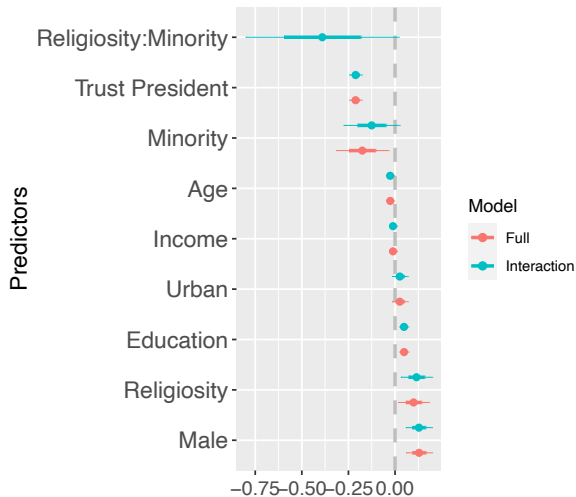


(f) Religiosity among Azerbaijani Muslims in Azerbaijan.

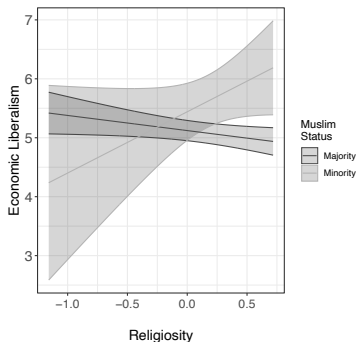
# Economic Liberalism and Islamic Religiosity in Minority Setting. OLS Models



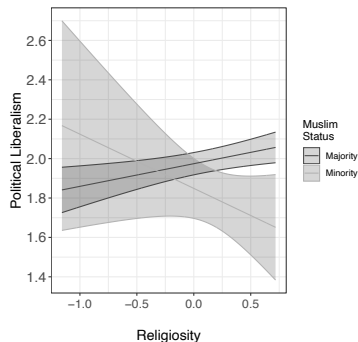
# Political Liberalism and Islamic Religiosity in Minority Setting. OLS Models



# Marginal Effects of Religiosity and Azerbaijani Muslim-Minority Status on Economic and Political Liberalism.



(g) Religiosity, Status, and Economic Liberalism



(h) Religiosity, Status, and Political Liberalism



# Conclusion and Future Research

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- The connection between Muslim religiosity and political economic preferences is highly contextual
- Repressiveness and demography appear to be significant factors associated with liberal attitudes
- The proposed relationships might hold in many other contexts, too
- How does the theory change when state repressiveness is low?

The End

# Economic Liberalism and Islamic Religiosity in Minority Setting. OLS Models.

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4
Intercept	5.59*** (0.05)	5.58*** (0.05)	7.23*** (0.44)	7.21*** (0.44)
Religiosity	-0.42*** (0.12)	-0.47*** (0.12)	-0.21 (0.12)	-0.26** (0.13)
Minority		-0.03 (0.23)	0.52** (0.22)	0.32 (0.24)
Religiosity:Minority		1.18* (0.63)		1.30** (0.63)
Trust President			-0.30*** (0.05)	-0.30*** (0.05)
Male			0.38*** (0.11)	0.38*** (0.11)
Age			-0.11*** (0.03)	-0.11*** (0.03)
Education			0.12*** (0.04)	0.12*** (0.04)
Income			-0.08** (0.03)	-0.08** (0.03)
Urban			-0.12* (0.06)	-0.11* (0.06)
R <sup>2</sup>	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03
Adj. R <sup>2</sup>	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03
Observations	3923	3923	3762	3762

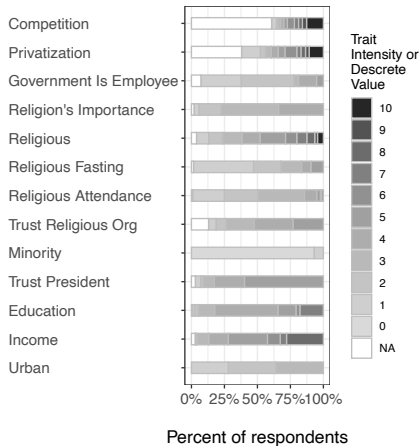
\*\*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \*\* $p < 0.05$ ; \* $p < 0.1$

# Political Liberalism and Islamic Religiosity in Minority Setting. OLS Models.

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4
Intercept	2.17*** (0.02)	2.19*** (0.02)	2.95*** (0.15)	2.96*** (0.15)
Religiosity	-0.01 (0.04)	0.02 (0.04)	0.10** (0.04)	0.12*** (0.04)
Minority		-0.19*** (0.07)	-0.18** (0.07)	-0.13* (0.08)
Religiosity:Minority		-0.42** (0.21)		-0.39* (0.21)
Trust President			-0.21*** (0.02)	-0.21*** (0.02)
Male			0.13*** (0.03)	0.13*** (0.03)
Age			-0.03** (0.01)	-0.03** (0.01)
Education			0.05*** (0.01)	0.05*** (0.01)
Income			-0.01 (0.01)	-0.01 (0.01)
Urban			0.03 (0.02)	0.03 (0.02)
R <sup>2</sup>	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.04
Adj. R <sup>2</sup>	-0.00	0.00	0.04	0.04
Num. obs.	5621	5621	5384	5384

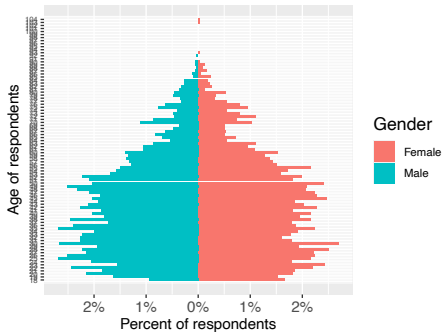
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# Distributions of Used Variables.

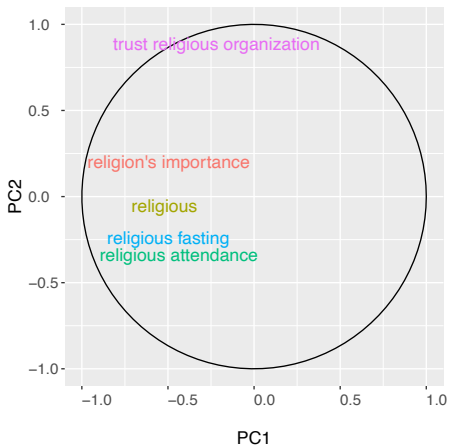




# Distributions of Gender and Age.



# Loading Plot.



# Scree Plot.

