

Islamic Religiosity's impact on political (dis)engagement or gender & sexuality attitudes among Muslim citizens in the Netherlands and Europe

Aim

To develop and empirically test theoretical expectations regarding the multi-dimensional, context-dependent impact of Islamic religiosity on political (dis)engagement *or* attitudes towards gender equality & (homo)sexuality.

Background

The literature on political engagement and support for gender+ equality often theorizes Islam as a mono-dimensional force, while we actually do know it is not. However, we do not understand *how* a more complex impact takes shape: which dimensions of Islamic religiosity matter most, or under what conditions these influences manifest themselves as a barrier to or driver of integration and inclusion. There the core question of both this PhD project (and the VIDI project it is part of) is: ***How do Islamic religiosity's dimensions affect the socio-political views and behaviors of Muslim citizens in contemporary Dutch and other European societies?***

To provide an answer, this project builds on classic sociology in assuming that religion consists of sets of values and social customs which translate to behavior and attitudes. However, building on the sociology of religion and in-depth studies of Islam, it will theorize how different dimensions of Islamic religiosity can have a different impact, and how religiosity's impact is shaped by interactions between the Muslim citizens' agency, their social network and intersectional position, and the structure they are embedded in.

The PhD project will focus on either (a) attitudes towards gender equality and sexuality or (b) certain subdimensions of political (dis)engagement: support for, feeling part of, or participation in democratic politics. The PhD project runs parallel to a postdoc project and the project leader's work, who will focus on the other outcomes.

Research design

Four core empirical elements are included: combining, synchronizing and analyzing existing European (I) and Dutch (II) survey data on Muslim citizens using (multilevel) regression models. Documenting these data is part of the project. Next, the team conducts about 40 in-depth interviews in the Netherlands (III) to explain unexpected outcomes and generate new moderating factors. Last, a new survey is conducted among the Dutch Muslim population to systematically test the new insights (IV).

Given the research design, not only demonstratable skills in quantitative social sciences are required, but also some enthusiasm about or experience in mixed-method or qualitative research. Good command of English is necessary; comprehension of at least one of the following languages is preferred: Arabic, Dutch, or Turkish.

Literature

Norris, P., & Inglehart, R. (2012). Muslim integration into Western cultures: Between origins and destinations. *Political Studies*, 60(2), 228-251.
Smidt C., Kellstedt, L. & Guth, J. (2009). The Oxford Handbook of Religion and American Politics. First Chapter 1 (pp3-42). Oxford UP.

Project initiators

Niels Spierings (project leader; daily supervisor), Ellen Verbakel (promotor), to be hired postdoc

(daily supervisor).

Location

Radboud University, Nijmegen