

# The Four Basic Dimensions of Religiousness Scale – 4BDRS

(Saroglou et al., 2020, *JCCP*)

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## Introduction

This scale measures **four basic dimensions** of religiousness:

*believing*, *bonding*, *behaving*, and *belonging*.

The four dimensions refer respectively to **four components and functions** of religion:

*Beliefs/meaning*, *emotions/rituals*, *morality/norms*, and *community/identity*

## Items and measurement

The **12 items** are presented below, in **page 2**.

Three items measure each dimension, i.e. by order: *meaning-beliefs (1-3)*, *emotions-ritual (4-6)*, *morality-norms (7-9)*, and *community/tradition (10-12)*.

For each individual, thus **four scores** (means) are computed.

If desirable, the 12 items together (mean) can also compose a global index of religiousness.

The four dimensions are importantly inter-correlated, especially if administered in a sample from the general population including both believers and non-believers, and thus may predict similar outcomes (then, the 12 items can also be used to form a global index of religiousness). The distinctiveness between the four dimensions appears more clearly when predicting certain outcomes, and, in particular when controlling for common variance, i.e. global pro-religious or not attitude, especially in samples that are not very small in size.

## Citations

To **cite the scale**:

Saroglou, V., Clobert, M., Cohen, A. B., Johnson, K. A., Ladd, K. L., Van Pachterbeke, M., Adamovova, L., Brandt, P.-Y., Çukur, C. S., Hwang, K.-K., Miglietta, A., Motti-Stefanidi, F., Muñoz-García, A., Murken, S., Roussiau, N., & Tapia Valladares, J. (2020). [Believing, bonding, behaving, and belonging: The cognitive, emotional, moral, and social dimensions of religiousness across cultures](#). *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*, 51(7-8), 551-575.

Synthesis of main findings: see **page 3**

To **cite the theorization** on which the scale is based:

Saroglou, V. (2011). [Believing, bonding, behaving, and belonging: The big four religious dimensions and cultural variation](#). *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*, 42, 1320-1340.

See also: Saroglou, V. (2014). [Conclusion: Understanding religion and irreligion](#). In V. Saroglou (Ed.), *Religion, personality, and social behavior* (pp. 361-391). New York, NY: Psychology Press.

**Other publications**: For other **publications** having used the scale, see **page 4**

**Translations**: For existing [translations](#) of the scale in other languages, see **page 5**

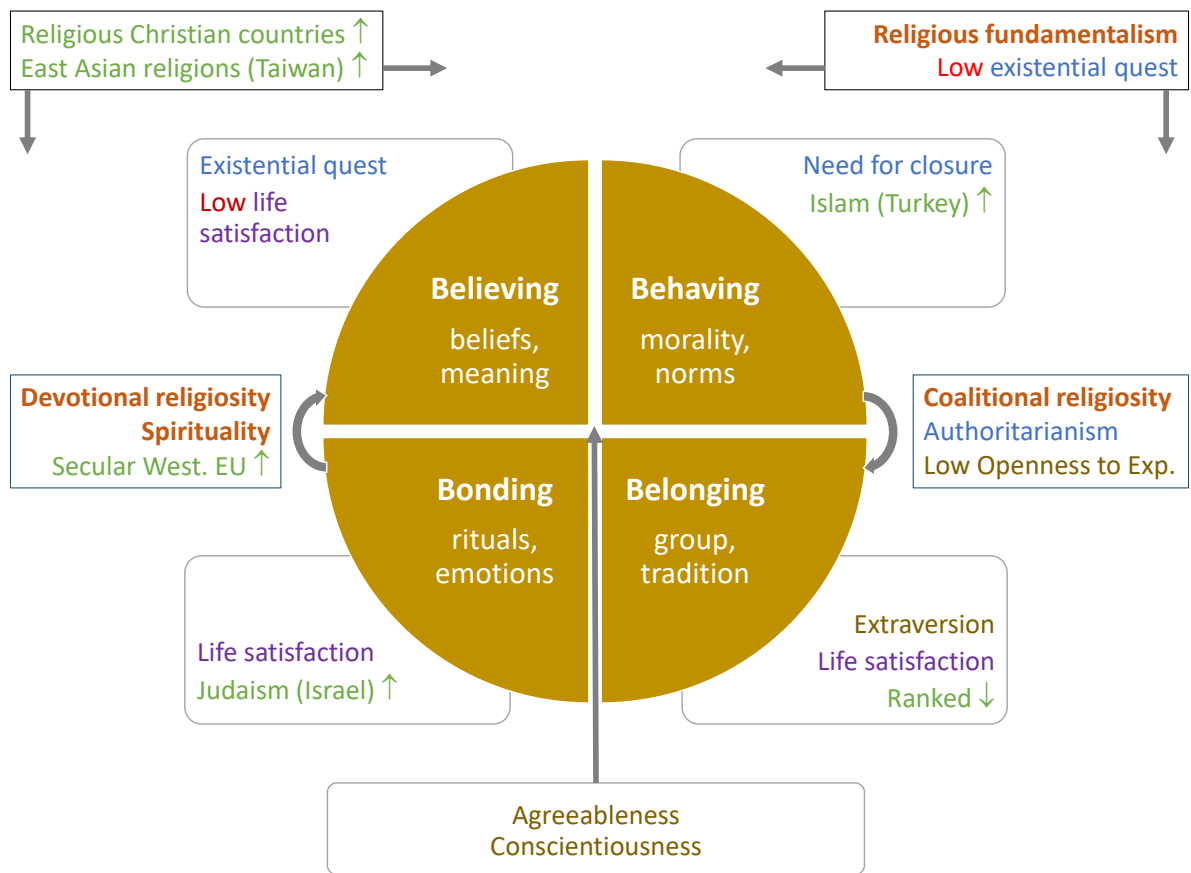
### Items and Instructions

You may be interested or not in religion for a variety of reasons. Please try to be as specific as possible in your answers to the following questions dealing with the reasons they eventually make you to be interested or not on religion.

	<b>Totally disagree</b>						<b>Totally agree</b>
<b>1.</b> I feel attached to religion because it helps me to have a purpose in my life	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>2.</b> It is important to believe in a Transcendence that provides meaning to human existence	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>3.</b> Religious beliefs have important implications for our understanding of human existence.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>4.</b> I like religious ceremonies	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>5.</b> Religious rituals, activities or practices make me feel positive emotion	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>6.</b> Religion has many artistic, expressions, and symbols that I enjoy	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>7.</b> I am attached to the religion for the values and ethics it endorses	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>8.</b> Religion helps me to try to live in a moral way	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>9.</b> When I've got a moral dilemma, religion helps me to make a decision	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>10.</b> In religion, I enjoy belonging to a group/community	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>11.</b> Belonging to a religious tradition and identifying with it is important for me	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>12.</b> Referring to a religious tradition is important for my cultural/ethnic identity	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

### Synthesis of the main findings

(as in Saroglou et al., 2020, *JCCP*, study; Figure 3)



### Other published work having used the scale

- Aditya, Y., Martoyo, I., Adi Nurcahyo, F., Ariela J., & Pramono, R. (2021). Factorial structure of the four basic dimensions of religiousness (4-BDRS) among Muslim and Christian college students in Indonesia. *Cogent Psychology*, *8*(1): 1974680.
- Clobert, M., Saroglou, V., Hwang, K.-K., & Soong, W.-L. (2014). East Asian religious tolerance: A myth or a reality? Empirical investigations of religious prejudice in East Asian societies. *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*, *45*, 1515-1533.
- Clobert, M., Saroglou, V., & Hwang, K.-K. (2017). East Asian religious tolerance versus Western monotheist prejudice: The role of (in)tolerance of contradiction. *Group Processes and Intergroup Relations*, *20*, 212-236.
- Cohu, M., Maisonneuve, C., & Testé, B. (2018). Construction et validation de l'échelle de mesure des croyances relatives à la laïcité [Construction and validation of a measure of beliefs relative to "laïcité"]. *Psychologie Française*, *63*, 337-356.
- Daghigh, A., DeShong, H. L., Daghigh, V., Niazi, M., & Titus, C. E. (2019). Exploring the relation between religiosity and narcissism in an Iranian sample. *Personality and Individual Differences*, *139*, 96-101.
- Deak, C., & Saroglou, V. (2015). Opposing abortion, gay adoption, euthanasia, and suicide: Compassionate openness or self-centered moral rigorism? *Archive for the Psychology of Religion*, *37*, 267-294.
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- Dimitrova, R., & Domínguez Espinosa, A. d. C. (2017a). Factorial structure and measurement invariance of the Four Basic Dimensions of Religiousness Scale among Mexican males and females. *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality*, *7*, 231-238.
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- Kumar, S., Ranjeeta J., & Reena S. (2021). Confirmatory factor analysis and measurement invariance testing of the Four Basic Dimensions of Religiousness Scale in India. *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality*, *13*(1), 53-62.
- Ruslan, R., Ariela, J., & Handayani Sutanto, S. (2020). The influence of religiosity to marriage satisfaction among parents of children with Down syndrome. *Jurnal Psikologi Ulayat: Indonesian Journal of Indigenous Psychology*, *7*, 99-110.
- Sorgente, A., Iannello, N. M., Musso, P., Inguglia, C., Lanz, M., Antonietti, A., & Villani, D. (2021). The Utrecht-Management of Identity Commitments Scale (U-MICS): Psychometric properties of its adaptation to the religious domain of identity. *European Journal of Psychological Assessment*. Advance online publication.
- Tapia, J., Rojas, M., y Villalobos, M. (2013). Fundamentalismo religioso entre jóvenes universitarios de Costa Rica: Conservadurismo político y espiritualidad sin religión. *Revista de Ciencias Sociales*, *139*(I), 115-135.

### Translations of the scale

Language	Translator	Alternative scholar to contact
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Hebrew	Sonia Roccas Open U of Israel	<a href="#">Ariel Knafo-Noam</a> Hebrew U Jerusalem
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