

The Four Basic Dimensions of Religiousness Scale – 4BDRS

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

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 6**

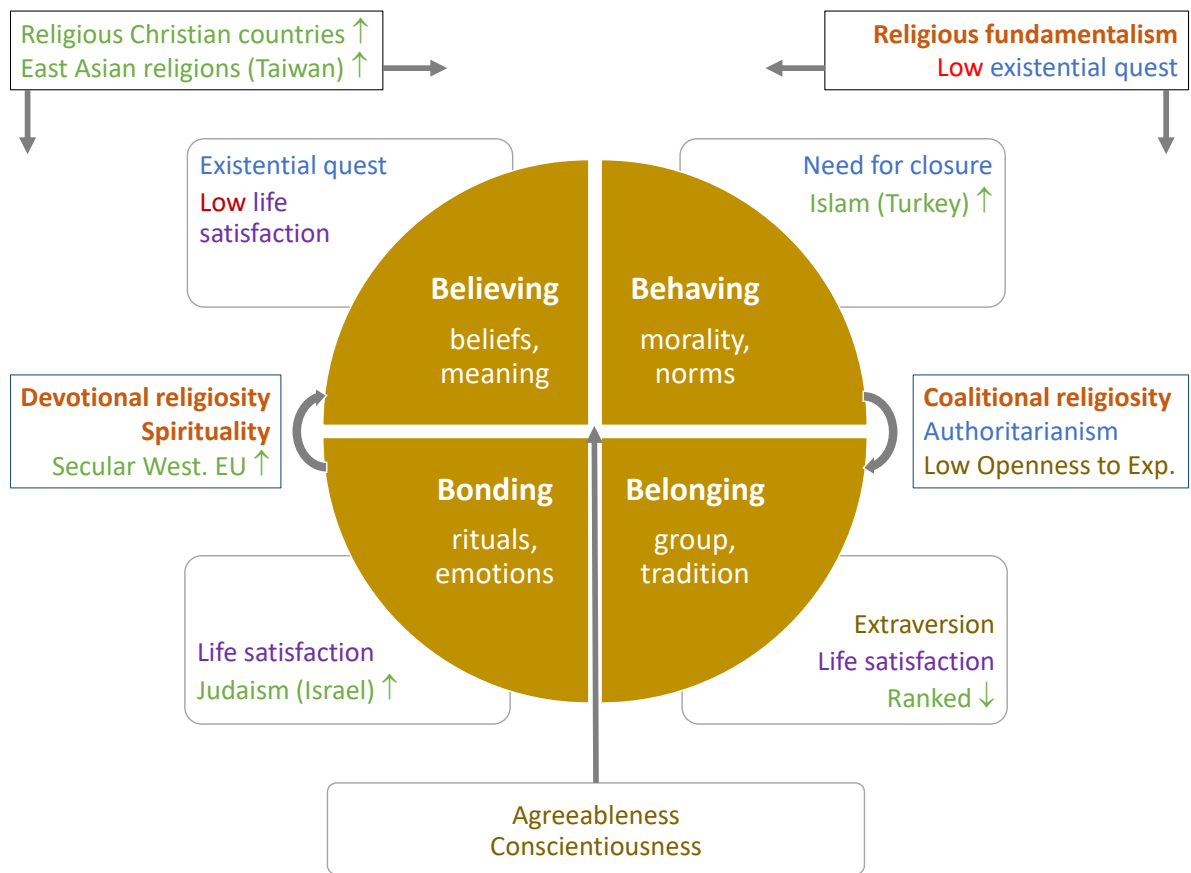
Items and Instructions

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.

	Totally disagree						Totally agree
1. I feel attached to religion because it helps me to have a purpose in my life	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2. It is important to believe in a Transcendence that provides meaning to human existence	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3. Religious beliefs have important implications for our understanding of human existence.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4. I like religious ceremonies	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5. Religious rituals, activities or practices make me feel positive emotion	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6. Religion has many artistic, expressions, and symbols that I enjoy	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7. I am attached to the religion for the values and ethics it endorses	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8. Religion helps me to try to live in a moral way	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9. When I've got a moral dilemma, religion helps me to make a decision	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10. In religion, I enjoy belonging to a group/community	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11. Belonging to a religious tradition and identifying with it is important for me	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12. 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.
- Aditya, Y., Martoyo, I., Adi Nurcahyo, F., Ariela, J., Amir, Y., & Pramono, R. (2022). Indonesian students' religiousness, comfort, and anger toward God during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Archive for the Psychology of Religion*, *44*(2), 91-110.
- Aditya, Y., Martoyo, I., Ariela, J., & Pramono, R. (2022). Religiousness and anger toward God: Between spirituality and moral community. *Religions*, *13*, 808.
- 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.
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- Giacomin, O., Janssen, F., Shinnar, R. S., Gundolf, K., & Shiri, N. (in press). Individual religious affiliation, religiosity, and entrepreneurial intentions among students in four countries. *International Small Business Journal*. Advance online publication.
- Kumar, S., & Voracek, M. (2022). The relationships of family income and caste-status with religiousness: Mediation role of intolerance of uncertainty. *Plos One*, 0273174.
- 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.
- Moroń, M. (2022). Basic dimensions of religiousness and dispositional forgiveness: The mediating role of religiously motivated forgiveness. *Annals of Psychology*, *25*(1), 5-25.

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- 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.
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- Tapia-V., A., & Domínguez Espinosa, A. d. C. (2019). Las 4 grandes dimensiones de la religiosidad, su relación con la personalidad y regulación emocional [The 4 big dimensions of religiousness its relationship with personality and emotional regulation]. *Revista de Psicología Social y Personalidad, 36*(2), 46-63.

Translations of the scale

Language	Translator	Alternative scholar to contact
Bulgarian	Radosveta Dimitrova Stockholm U	
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Greek	Frosso Motti-Stefanidi U of Athens	
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Indonesian	Yonathan Aditya U Pelita Harapan	Christella Ruslan U Pelita Harapan
Italian	Anna Miglietta U Torino	
Persian	Ahmad Daghigh Islamic Azad U Kashan	
Polish	Joanna Blogowska Polish Academy of Science	Piotr Szydłowski Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński U in Warsaw
Portuguese	Layrtthon Carlos de Oliveira Santos	Valdiney Veloso Gouveia U of Paraiba
Slovak	Lucia Adamovova Slovak Academy of Sciences	
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