



НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫЙ ИССЛЕДОВАТЕЛЬСКИЙ  
УНИВЕРСИТЕТ

# Religion and Redistribution Preferences across Europe

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# What affects redistribution?

- Differences in welfare-regimes in European countries
  - Structural factors (e.g. economic development)
  - Individual-level factors (e.g. income)

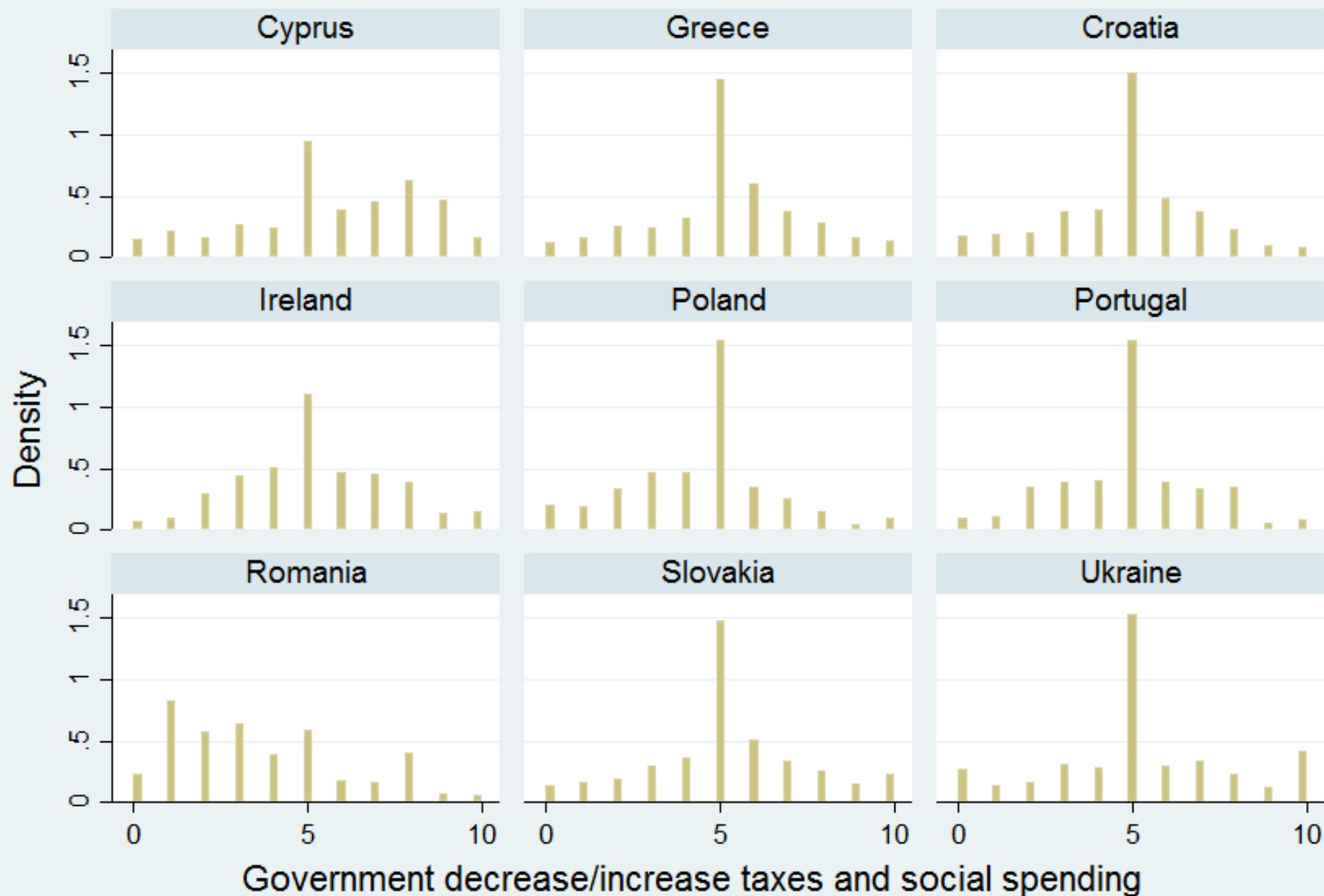


# Share of Actively Religious Population

№	Country	Actively Religious (%)
1	Poland	70.42
2	Ireland	59.81
3	Cyprus	48.76
4	Portugal	48.31
5	Slovakia	45.6
6	Croatia	44.78
7	Romania	43.16
8	Greece	39.67
9	Ukraine	31.4
10	Slovenia	27.6
11	Spain	26.57
12	Holland	21.48
13	Switzerland	21.26
14	Latvia	18.49

№	Country	Actively Religious (%)
15	Britain	18.44
16	Germany	18.19
17	Hungary	16.97
18	Russia	16.43
19	Bulgaria	16.28
20	Belgium	15.81
21	Finland	13.08
22	France	11.7
23	Czech	10.39
24	Sweden	10.33
25	Denmark	10.32
26	Norway	9.96
27	Estonia	8.69

# Redistribution preferences in highly religious countries



# Redistribution preferences in non-religious countries

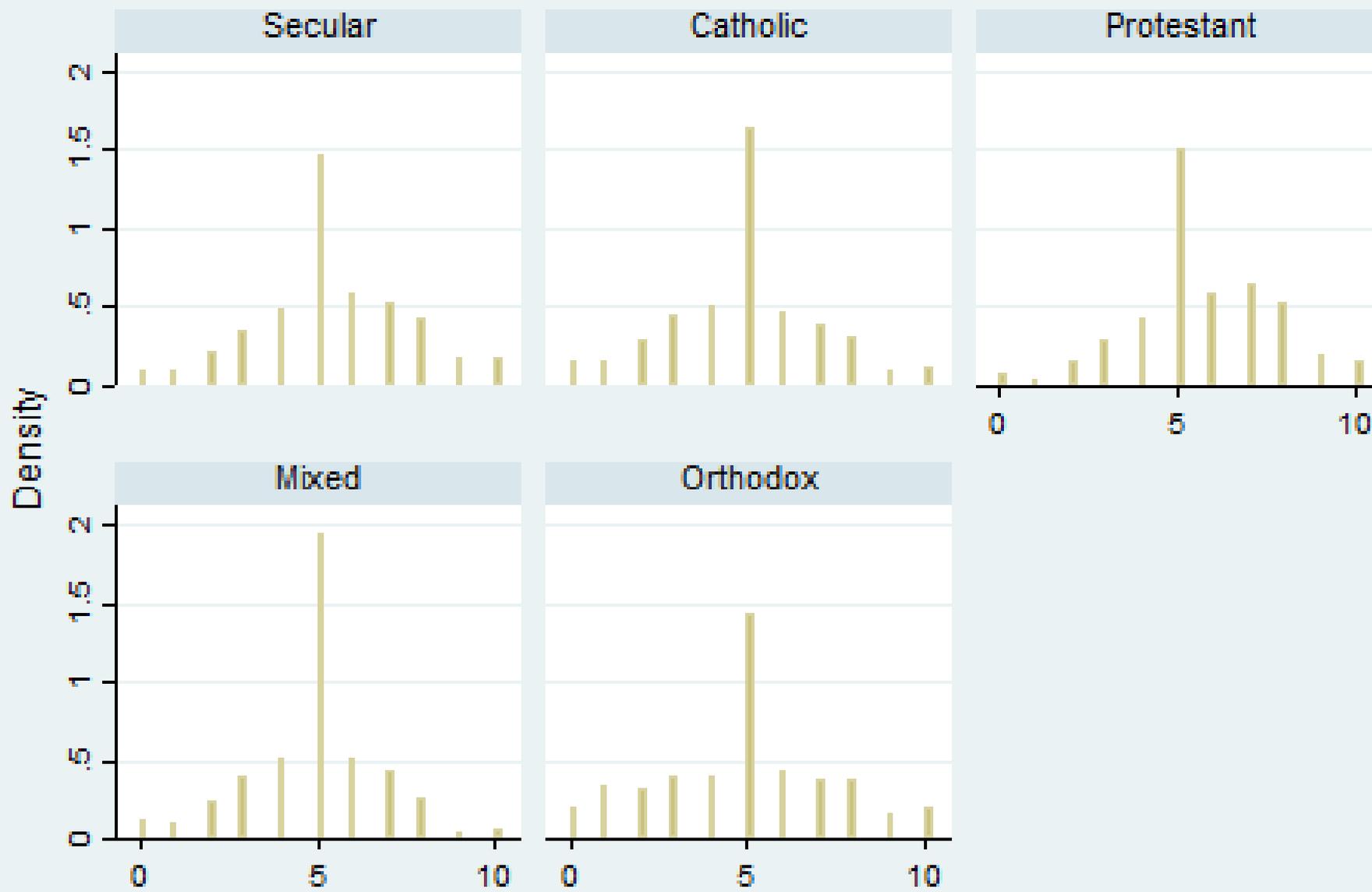




НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫЙ ЦЕНТР ЧЕЛОВЕЧЕСКИХ ПРАВОС И СВОБОДЫ

# Religion matters?

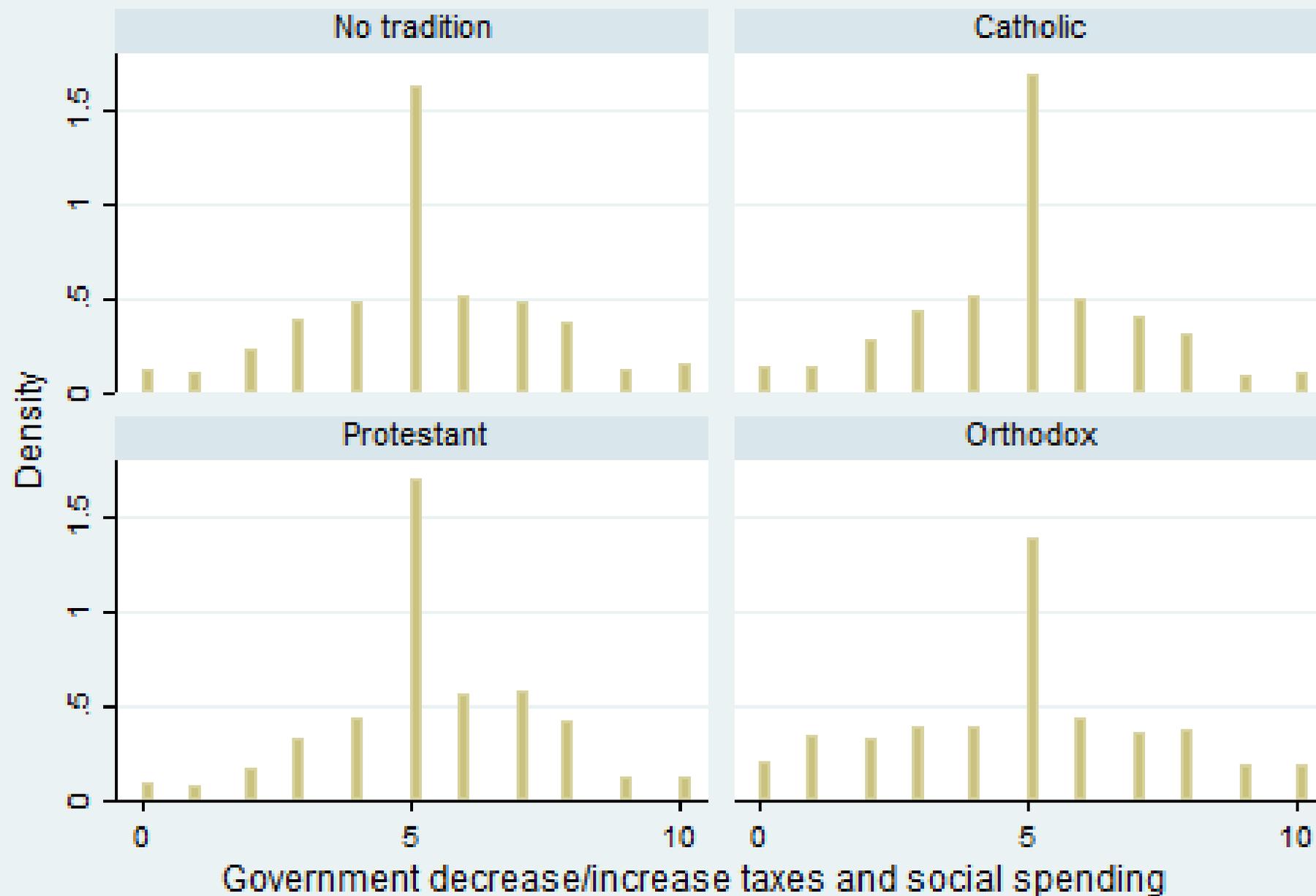
# Redistribution preferences in countries with different predominant religions



Government decrease/increase taxes and social spending

Graphs by Predominant religion

# Redistribution preferences for different religious groups



## **How religiosity affects redistribution preferences in Europe?**

1. How religion can shape individual redistribution preferences?
2. Through which mechanisms religion can affect redistribution preferences?

# The theory suggests that...

1. Religious traditions differ in attitudes towards redistribution (Brodman, 2009; Kahl, 2005, 2009; Manow, 2004; Cohen, 2002; Hudson and Coukos, 2005; Jordan, 2014)

*Protestants should be less supportive of redistribution than Catholics*

# The theory suggests that...

2. Religious people are less supportive of redistribution than non-religious (Scheve and Stasavage, 2006; Stegmueller, 2013; Arikan, 2013)

- Religion as a psychological buffer
- Religion as a substitution to the state
- Redistribution on the basis of morality or civic rights

*The more an individual attends religious services, the less she needs state redistribution*

# What causes differences in support for redistribution?

**Religious doctrine vs Degree of religiosity**



Differences in redistribution preferences between:



**Followers of different religious traditions**

!!!! Active believers are not equal to passive

**Religious and non-religious individuals**

!!! Social vs religious mechanism

- ESS 2008
- 27 European countries
  
- Pooled OLS
- Multi-level (coming soon...)

## **Attitudes towards redistribution**

“Many social benefits and services are paid for by taxes. If the government had to choose between increasing taxes and spending more on social benefits and services, or decreasing taxes and spending less on social benefits and services, which should they do?”

1 (decrease taxes) - 10 (increase taxes)

## Individual religiosity

- Affiliation (ascriptive religiosity)
- Attending religious services (active religiosity)
- *Combo!* “Active believer” = affiliation + attending services at least once a month



# Preliminary results

VARIABLES	(1)	(2)	(3)
<b>Religious tradition (Compared to "Protestant")</b>			
No tradition	-0.00 (0.05)		
Catholic	<b>-0.18**</b> (0.08)		
Orthodox	-0.19 (0.17)		
Religious attendance rate		<b>-0.03**</b> (0.02)	
<b>Active and passive believers (compared to "Active Protestant")</b>			
Passive Catholic			<b>-0.15**</b> (0.07)
Active Catholic			<b>-0.14*</b> (0.07)
Post-Communist State	<b>-0.29**</b> (0.11)	<b>-0.32**</b> (0.13)	<b>-0.29**</b> (0.11)

# Preliminary results

VARIABLES	(1) Post-Communist Countries	(2)	(3) Without Communist Experience	(4)
<b>Religious tradition (Compared to Non-Affiliated)</b>				
Catholic	<b>-0.21*</b> (0.11)		<b>-0.16**</b> (0.06)	
Protestant	-0.22 (0.13)		0.04 (0.05)	
Orthodox	-0.25 (0.24)		-0.07 (0.06)	
Religious attendance rate		-0.05 (0.04)		<b>-0.02*</b> (0.01)
Demographic Controls	Yes (0.00)	Yes (0.00)	Yes (0.00)	0.01*** (0.00)
Constant	2.55*** (0.18)	2.57*** (0.19)	2.84*** (0.09)	2.82*** (0.08)
Observations	12,582	12,570	21,684	21,720
R-squared	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01

Robust standard errors in parentheses

\*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

1. Differences both between religions and across the “religious – secular” divide, but unstable
2. *Catholics are less supportive of redistribution compared to Active Protestants and Atheists* – unstable effect, biased by current welfare-regime?
3. *Religious people are slightly less supportive of redistribution than non-religious* - more stable effect on redistribution preferences on regional subsamples, but insignificant in Post-Communist countries – biased by State-Church relations?

# What's next?

Multi-level modelling!

## **Individual-level variables:**

- Ideology

## **Contextual –level variables:**

- Religious polarization in the country
- Predominant religion
- Current welfare regime
- How the taxes are paid (directly or withdrawn)
- State-Church relations (financial, whether churches redistribute resources collected by the State)



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# Thank you!

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