



IACCP Regional Conference June 30 – July 3th, Istanbul, Turkey
Symposium : Family Values and Intergenerational Relationships across Cultures:
Perspectives from the Value-of-Children Study

Religiosity, Family Orientation, and Life Satisfaction

A Cross-Cultural Developmental Approach

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Importance of Religiosity for individuals

Since the seminal work of Willam James in 1905, the link between religiosity and happiness have been investigated

Religion may be considered as a cultural system (Geertz, 1973), a toolbox where individuals draw what is appropriate for them

It provides a framework for

- social behavior
- social norms
- sense of life one of the resources for individual well-being (Ferriss, 2002),
- as well as an authority that sustains family values, roles and cohesion (Chatters & Taylor, 2006)

Importance of Religiosity for individuals

However the function of religiosity appears to be complex, multifaceted and also context-related

Link with well-being is

- Mediated through marital satisfaction, social support
- Context related

Religious people are happier in religious context

Links with values is related to

- Church – State relationship
- Proportion of Protestant in the country

Importance of Religiosity at adolescence

Much of the research has been devoted to

- the analysis of the moral role of religiosity
- and of the protective role against distress and risk-behaviors

(King & Furrow, 2004; Wong, Rew, & Slaikeu, 2006)

Few studies have examined the influence of religiosity on life satisfaction, and little is known about how religiosity may shape adolescents' family orientation (Regnerus & Burdette, 2006)

Aim of this study

In a paper (to appear in JCCP, Dec 2011), we have investigated the role of religiosity on the life satisfaction of adolescents

Across four countries, we have examined

- ✓ the mediated role of family orientation between religiosity and life satisfaction
- ✓ And the moderated of the cultural and religious context for the association between religiosity, family orientation, and life satisfaction

The aim of the present communication is 3-fold

- ✓ to present these results
- ✓ to examine this process at adult age with mothers
- ✓ to examine the family dynamic about religiosity, family orientation and life satisfaction in terms of transmission and generational gap between adolescents and their mother

Country contexts

France, Germany, Poland and USA

All are western countries with

- Christian historical background
- The guarantee of the freedom of conscience and faith
- No official religion
- High level or good level of affluence

They differ on

- Church – State relationships
- Family policies
- The number of believers and diversity of faith

	Catholics	Protestants	Non-believers
France	51		42
Germany	31	33	29
Poland	90		
USA	24	51	16

Participants & procedure

Mother-Adolescents pairs

France	N = 172
Germany	N = 270
Poland	N = 348
USA	N = 287

Data come from the Value of Children international study
Trommsdorff & Nauck, 2005

Measures

Religiosity

1 question

« How much your religious beliefs are important for you ? »

Family Orientation

10 questions from 2 scales

5 from the Family Relationship Values scale (Georgas et al. 2006)

« One should maintain good relationships with one's relatives »

5 from the family version of Interdependence scale (Singelis, 1994)

« I often have the feeling that my relation with my family is more important than my own accomplishments »

Satisfaction with life :

2 questions

« All things considered, how satisfied are you with life as a whole these days? »

« How much are you satisfy with your family ? »

Results : Dynamic within the family

❑ Transmission across generations

For all dimensions and culture : correlations are positive

❑ Generational distance

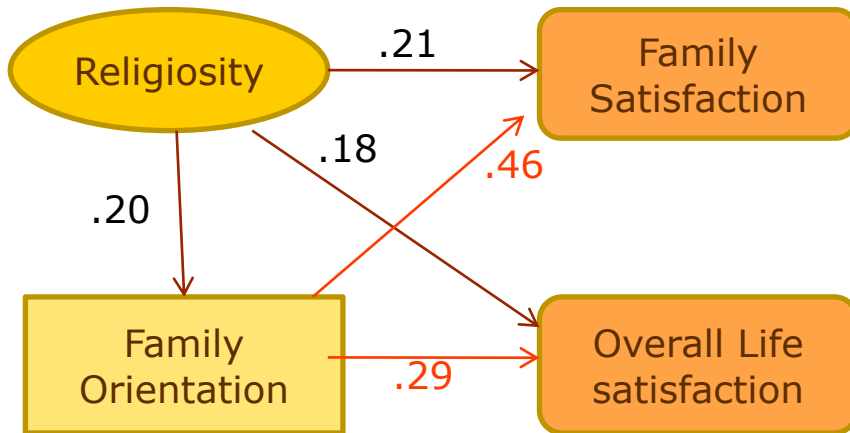
- For religiosity and family orientation
Mothers > Adolescents

- For family satisfaction
Mothers > Adolescents
in all countries, except in France

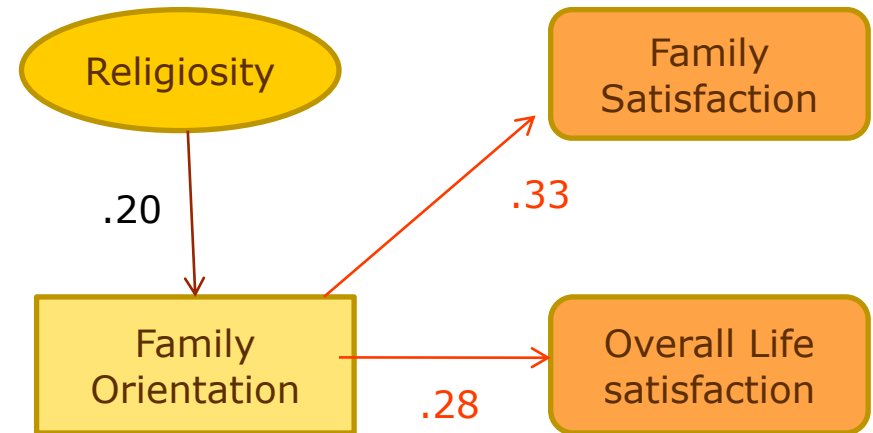
- For overall life satisfaction
Mothers > Adolescents
in USA only,
there are no differences in other countries

Results : Importance of religiosity for Adolescents

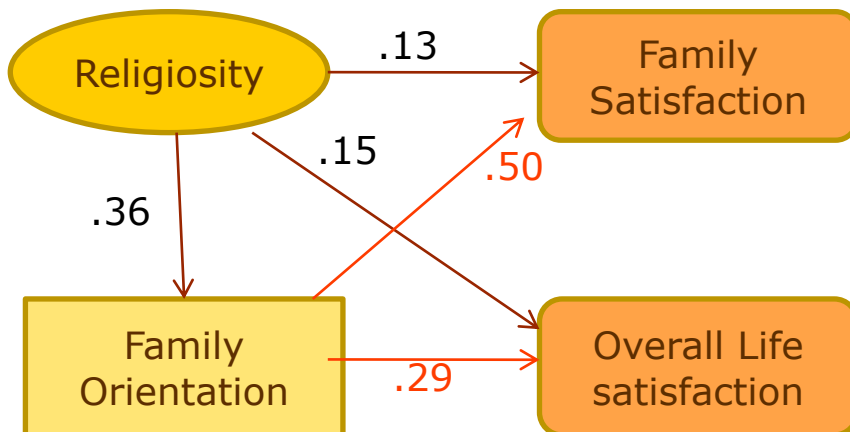
France



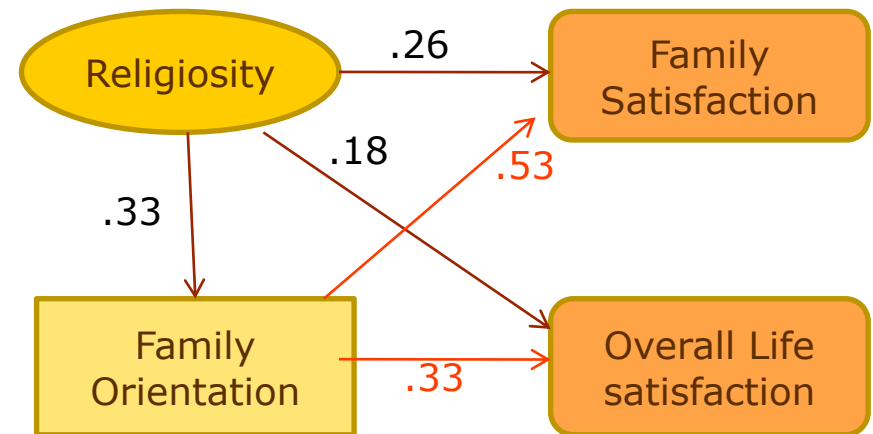
Germany



Poland



USA



Results Importance of religiosity for Adolescents (Cont.)

A Multi-Group Structural Equation Modeling (to appear in JCCP, dec 2011) precises these links. It indicates :

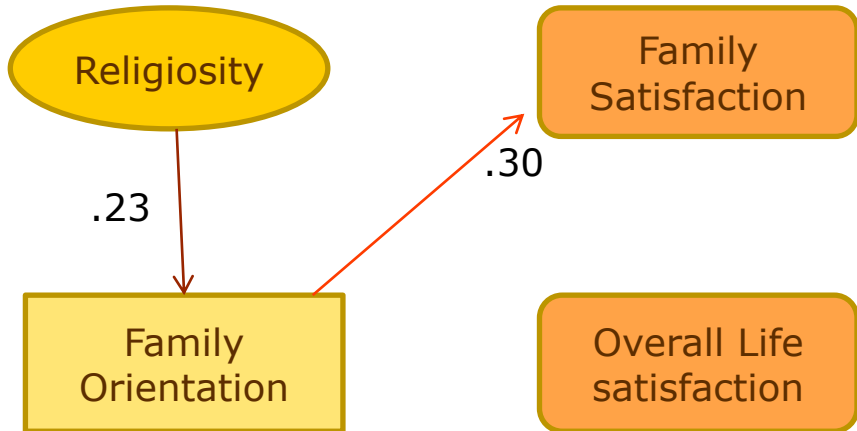
The mediation role of family orientation between subjective religiosity and life satisfaction in all cultures

The religious context moderates the links of religiosity and both family orientation and life satisfaction

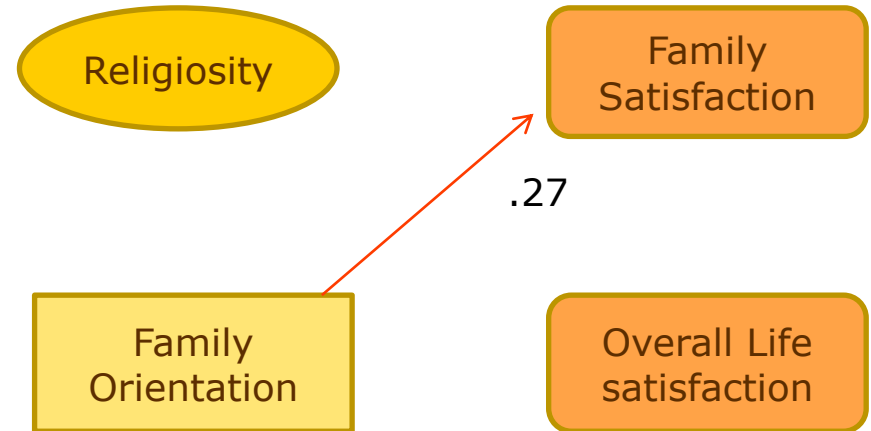
The links are stronger in the two high religious countries (Poland and the US) compared to Germany, one of the two secular countries, but the results in France lied in between

Results : Importance of religiosity for Mothers

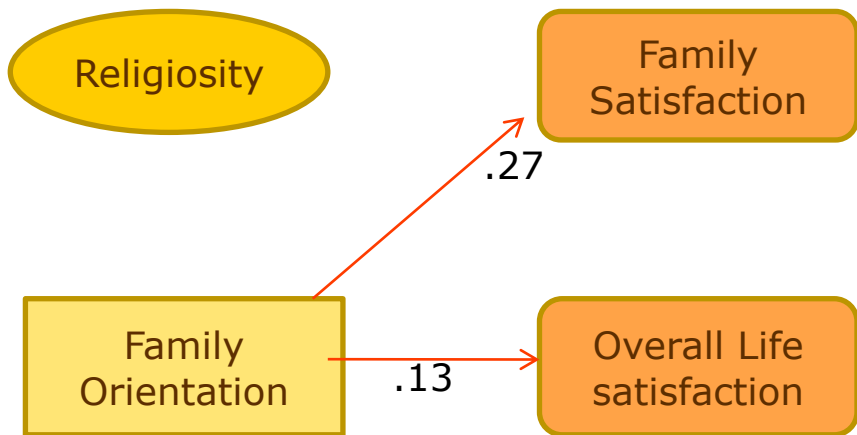
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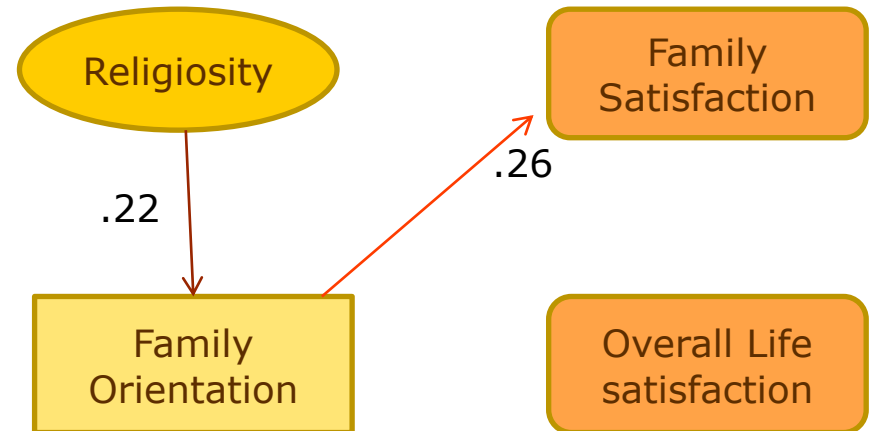
Germany



Poland



USA



In sum

Despite a good convergence between mothers and adolescents on religiosity and family values (with a higher endorsement of mothers), the link between religiosity and life satisfaction mediated by family orientation and moderated by religious national context is observed only at adolescent age

This presentation enlightened the role of religiosity at adolescence. A developmental period characterized by an intense striving for meaning, ideological hunger, as well as a desire for autonomy and connectedness

During the period of renegotiation of values and relationships, religion contributes to the endorsement of family orientation and the internalization of family orientation may provide a sense of security and in consequence enhance life satisfaction.