

Adolescent and Adult Religion

Overview

- Influences on Religiosity
- Doubt
- Apostasy
- Main hypothesis of Chapter 5
 - Socialization has an overwhelming impact on religious beliefs, ideas, behaviors, and commitments.

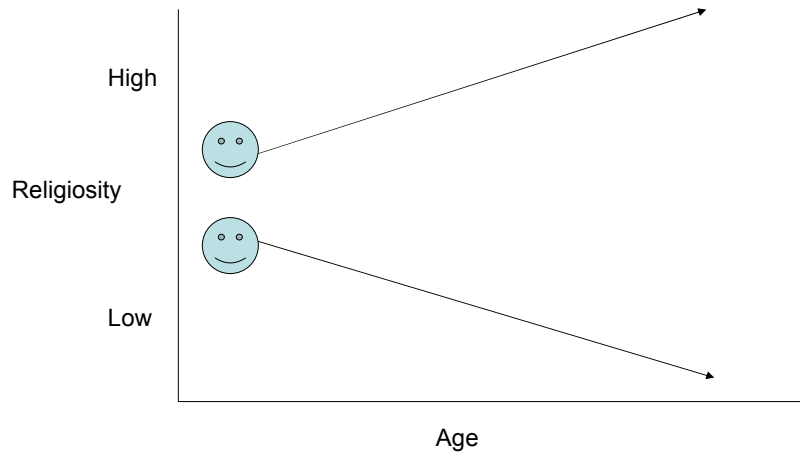
Influences on Religiosity

- Parents
 - Mother is primary
 - Father is also important
- Peers
 - Somewhat mixed results

Influences on Religiosity

- Education in general
 - College is a time of transition
- Other influences
 - Religious body, organization
 - Polarization hypothesis
 - Gender roles

Polarization Hypothesis



Influences on Religiosity

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Doubt

- Writing exercise:
 - What messages did you get about doubt from parents, friends, and religious organizations?
- The range of religious doubt
- What relates to doubting?
 - Less religious behaviors and beliefs

Doubt

- What relates to doubting?
 - Psychological symptoms
 - Greater depression and stress
 - Lower self esteem
 - Less optimism
 - Poorer relationship with parents
 - Poorer adjustment to college
 - All significant, but modest relationships

Doubt

- What relates to doubting?
 - May be related to positive psychological development.
 - Doubting may be related to (and may even stimulate) cognitive development
 - Doubting (measured by Quest) is related to helping behavior and less prejudice

Doubt

- Secret doubts
 - Hidden Observer
 - One third of conservative religious students indicate they have had secret doubts.

Apostasy

- Definition
- What predicts apostasy?
 - De-emphasis on religion in the home
 - Poorer relationship with parents
 - Intellectual orientation
- When does it occur?
 - Typically in early adulthood (16-25 year olds)

Apostasy

- Return to religion?
 - Marriage and family
 - Age
 - Research mostly inconclusive

Apostasy

- Amazing Apostates and Believers
 - Apostates
 - Questioned early and wanted answers
 - Willing to intellectually challenge religion
 - Believers
 - Experienced emotional conversion
 - Often dealing with a personal struggle