

Exploring the Public Effects of Religious Communication on Politics

Though not all people are religious believers, religion has played important historic roles in developing political systems, parties, and policies—affecting believers and non-believers alike. This is particularly true in the United States, where scholars have devoted considerable attention to a variety of political phenomena at the intersection of religious belief and identity, including social movements, voting behavior, public opinion, and public policy. These outcomes are motivated by “identity boundary-making” among the religiously affiliated. The contributors to this volume examine two main factors that influence religious identity: the communication of religious ideas and the perceptions of people (including elites) in communicating said ideas.

Exploring the Public Effects of Religious Communication on Politics examines an array of religious communication phenomena. These include the media’s role in furthering religious narratives about minority groups, religious strategies that interest groups use to advance their appeal, the variable strength of Islamophobia in cross-national contexts, what qualifies as an “evangelical” identity, and clergy representation of religious and institutional teachings. The volume also provides ways for readers to think about developing new insights into the influence religious communication has on political outcomes.

Brian Calfano is Professor of Political Science and Journalism at the University of Cincinnati.

“The intersection of religion and political communication is an understudied area . . . this book is timely and important.”
—Rebecca A. Glazier, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

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Brian Calfano, Editor

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