

A globe of the Earth is shown in the background, slightly out of focus. The text is overlaid on the globe. The globe shows continents in various colors and oceans in blue. The text is white and centered on the globe.

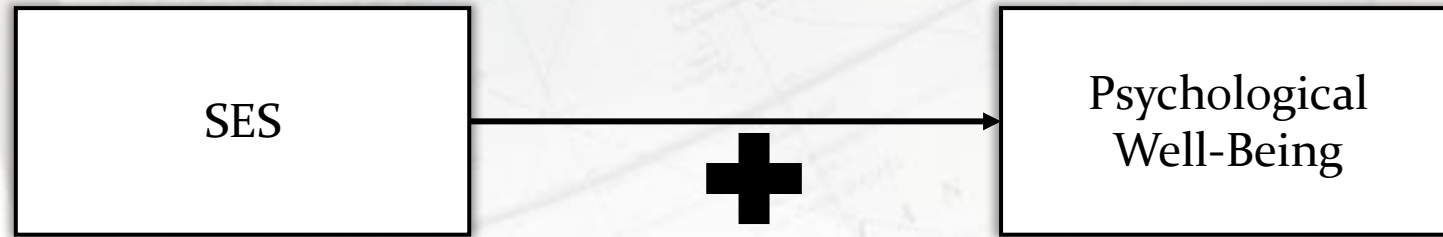
# Blessed be ye poor: An open and citizen-focused approach to study cultural religiosity

Open Science Day

Jana Berkessel & Anne Wendelken

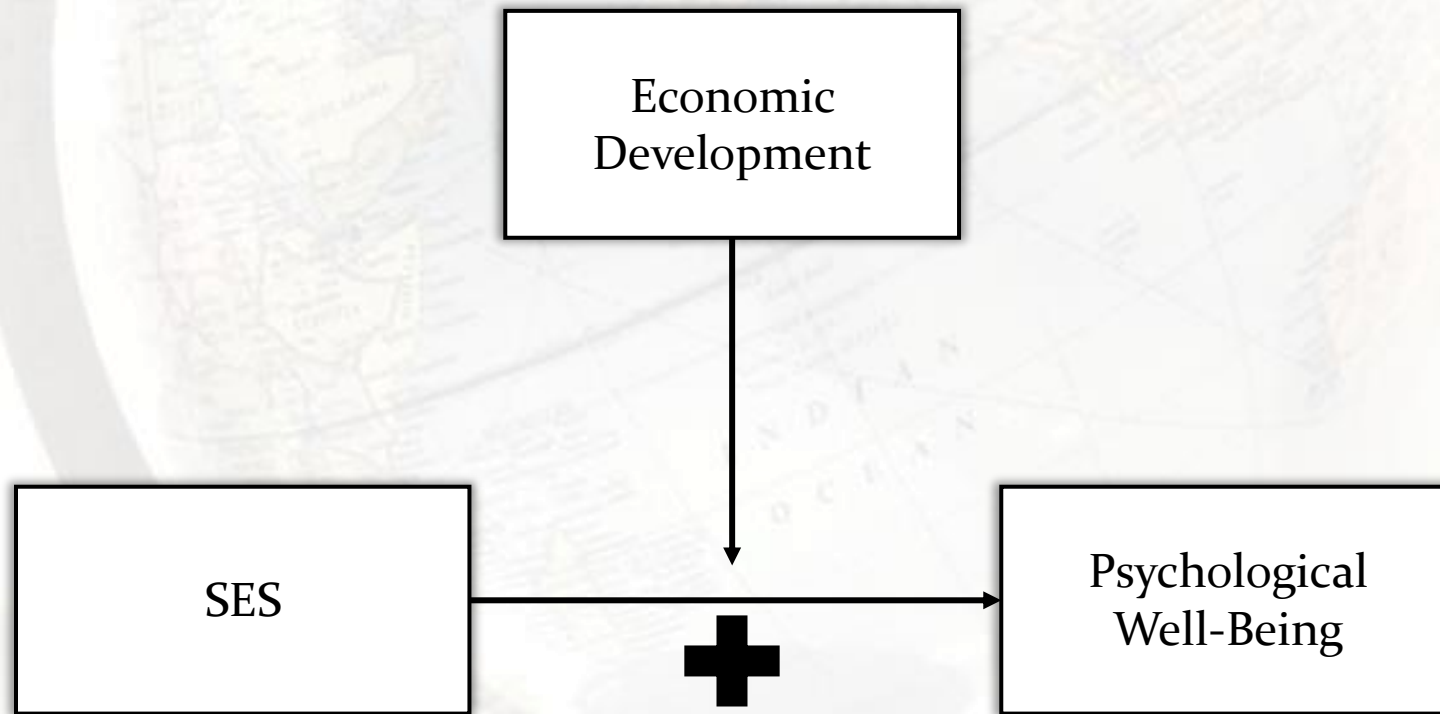
Universität Mannheim

# SES & Psychological Well-Being



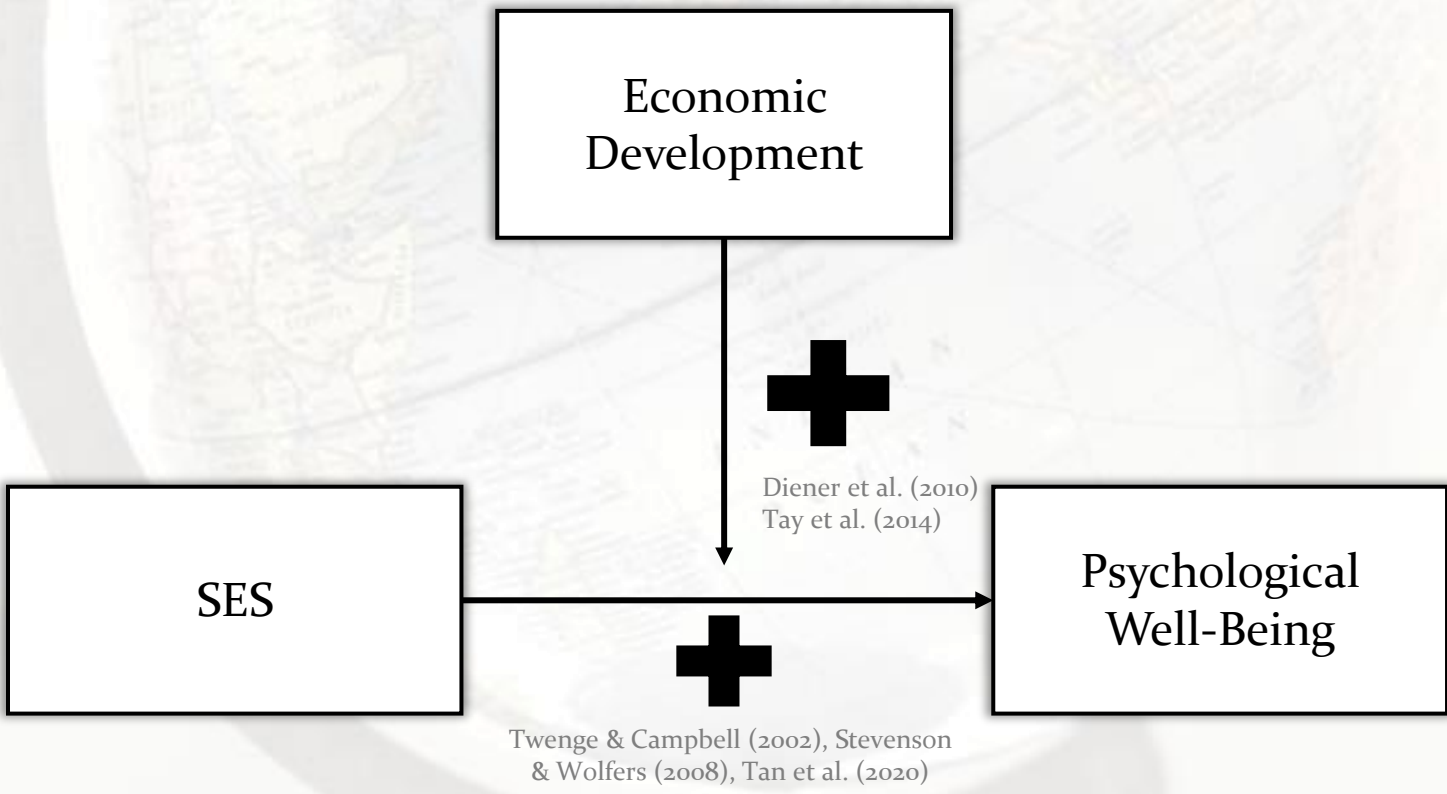
Twenge & Campbell (2002), Stevenson  
& Wolfers (2008), Tan et al. (2020)

# SES & Psychological Well-Being

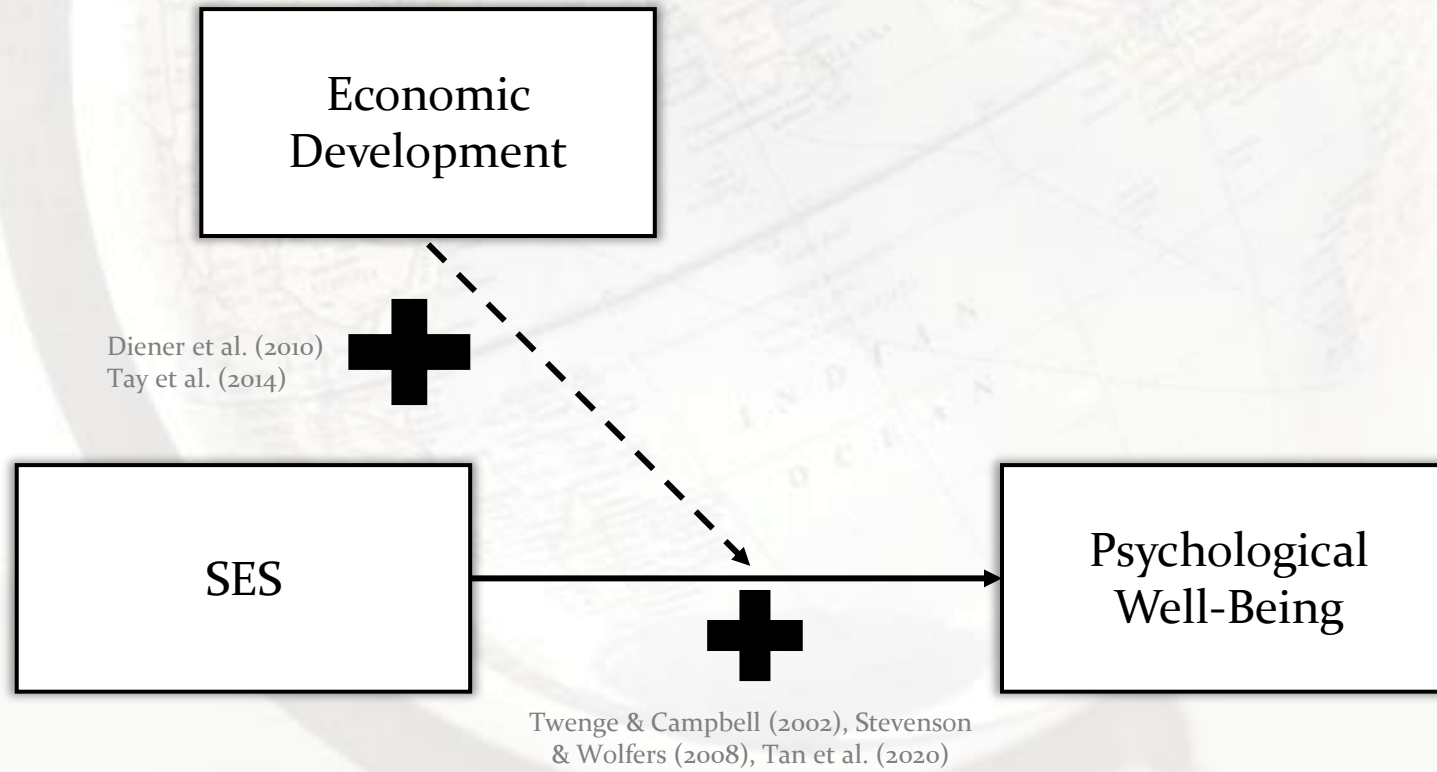


Twenge & Campbell (2002), Stevenson  
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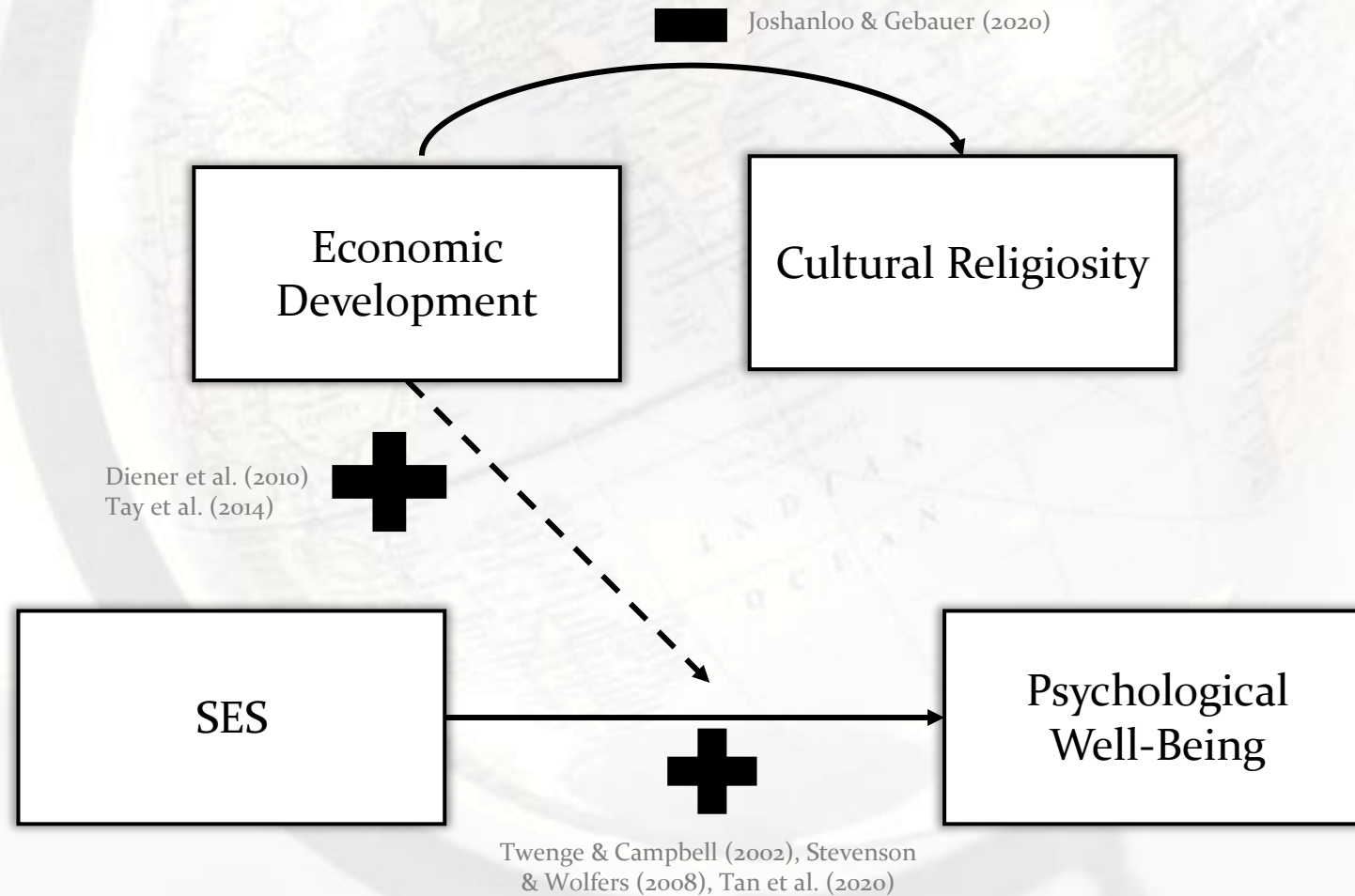
# SES & Psychological Well-Being



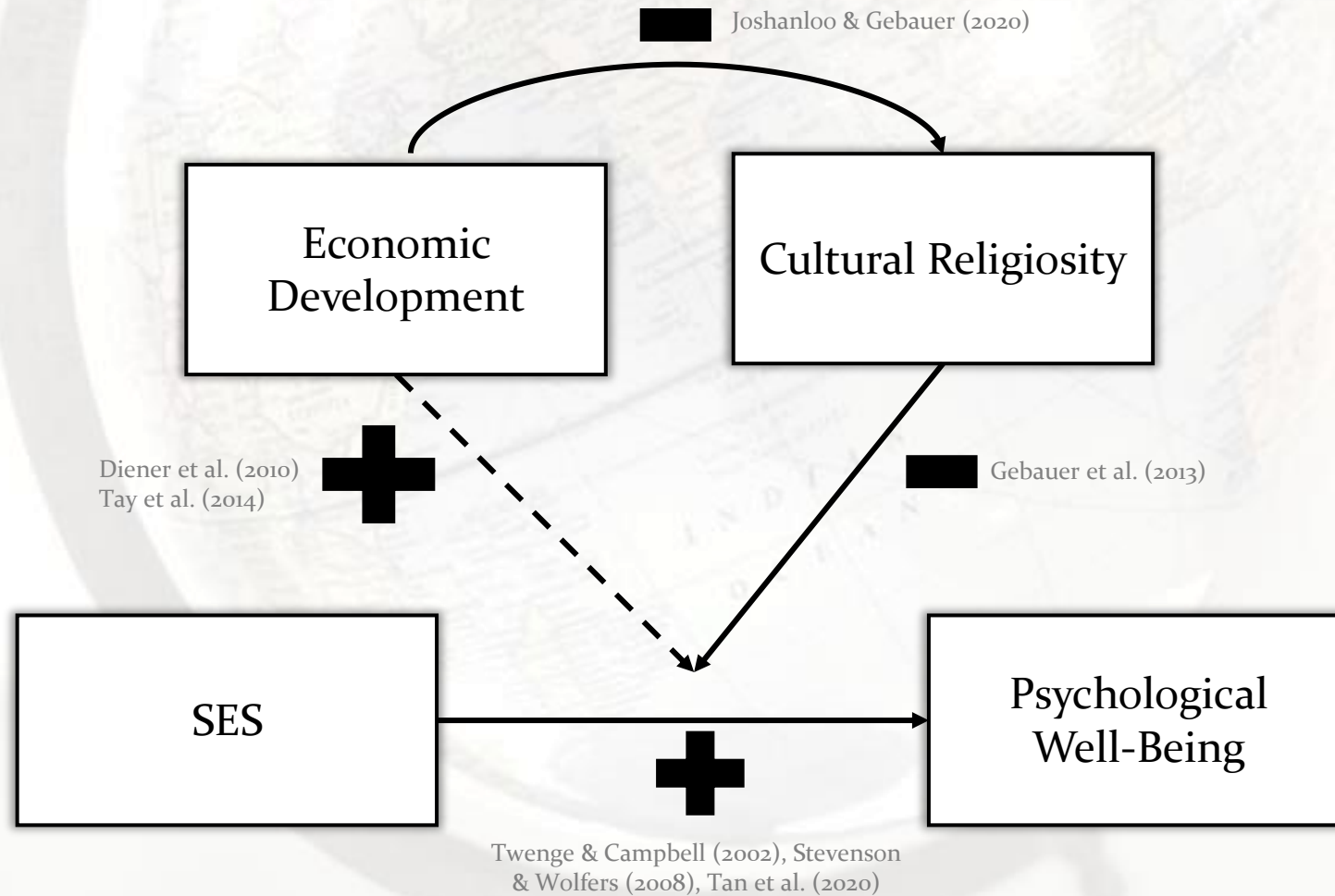
# SES & Psychological Well-Being



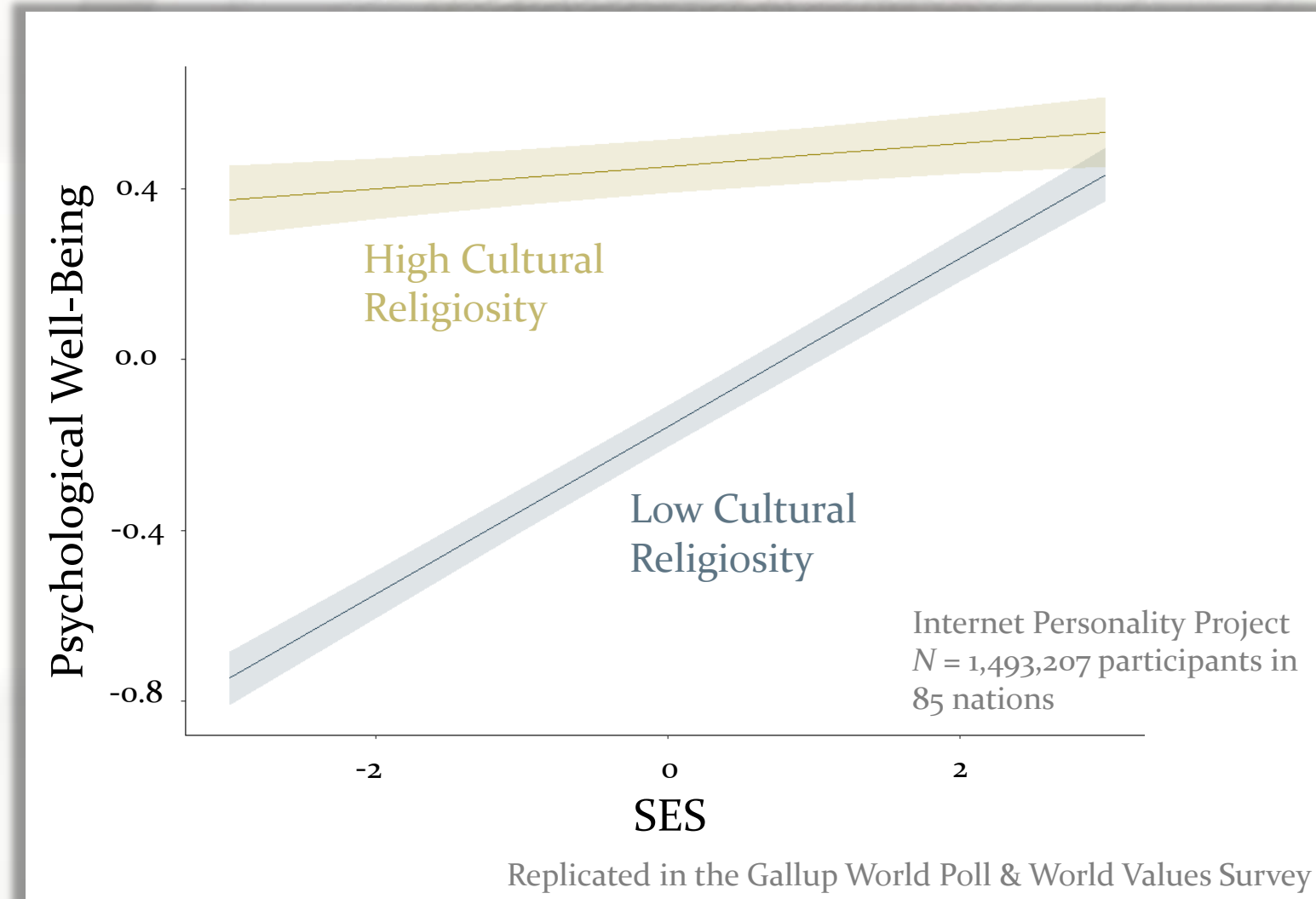
# SES & Psychological Well-Being



# SES & Psychological Well-Being

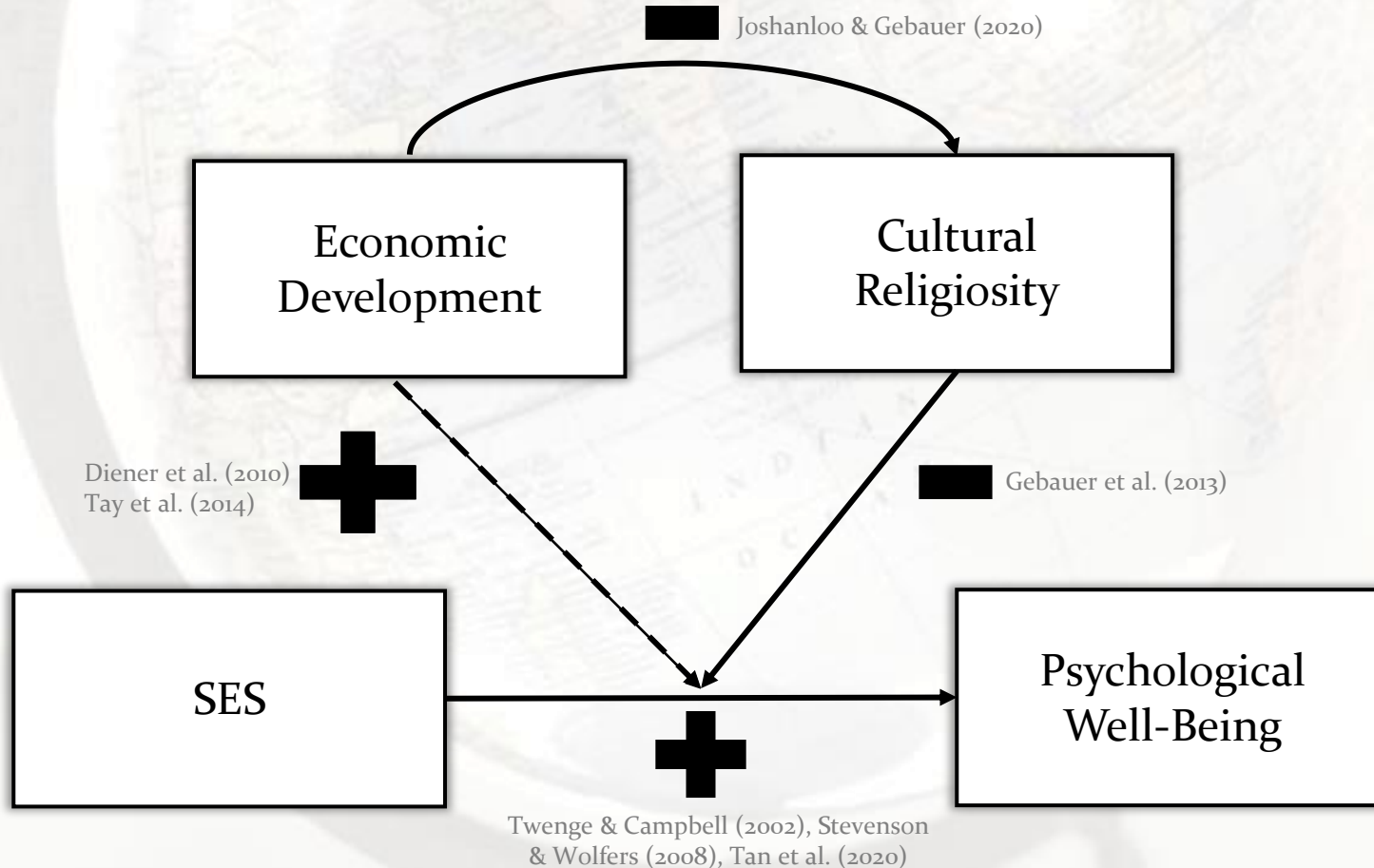


# Results

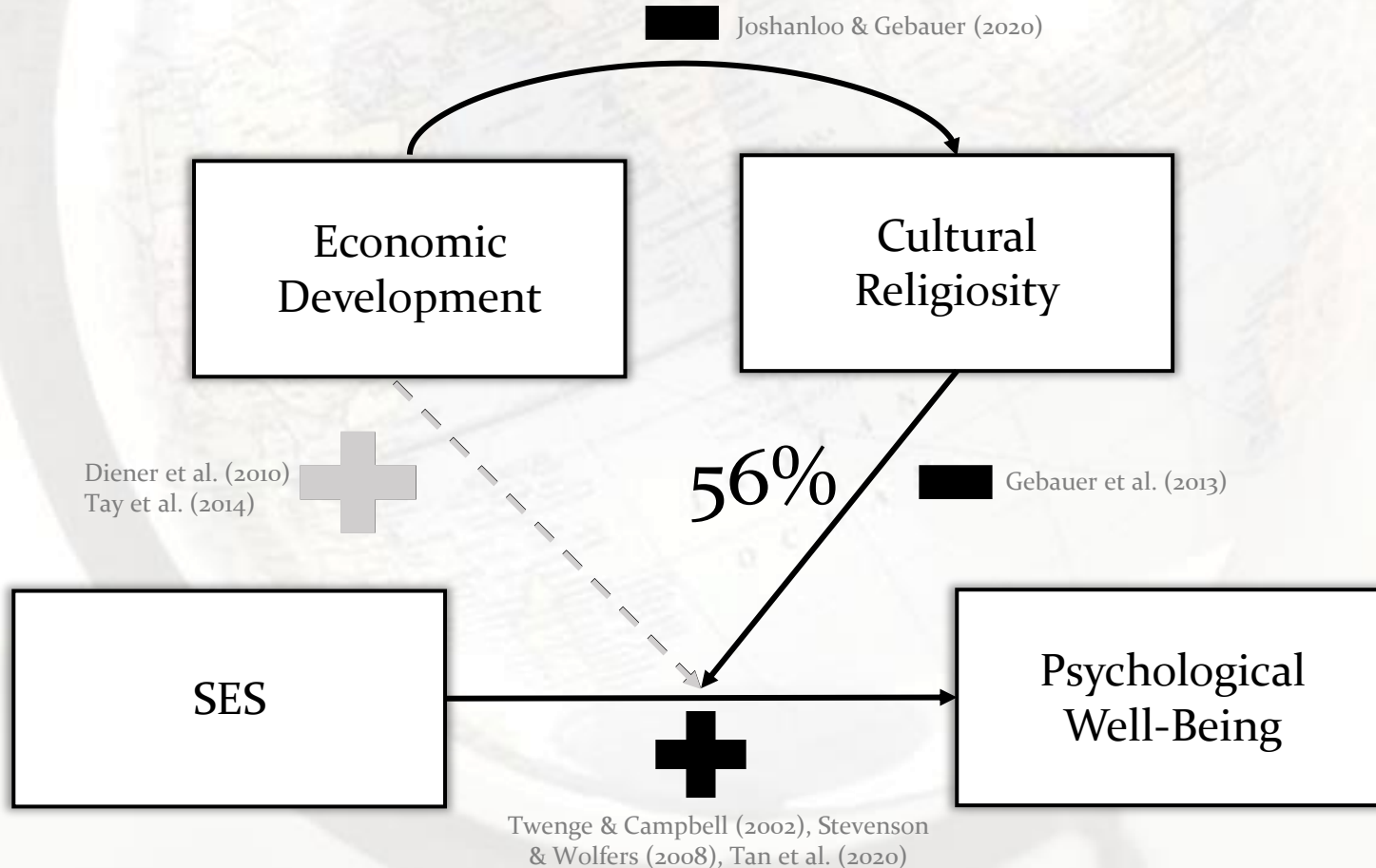




# SES & Psychological Well-Being



# SES & Psychological Well-Being



# CEC 9 Psychological Well-Being



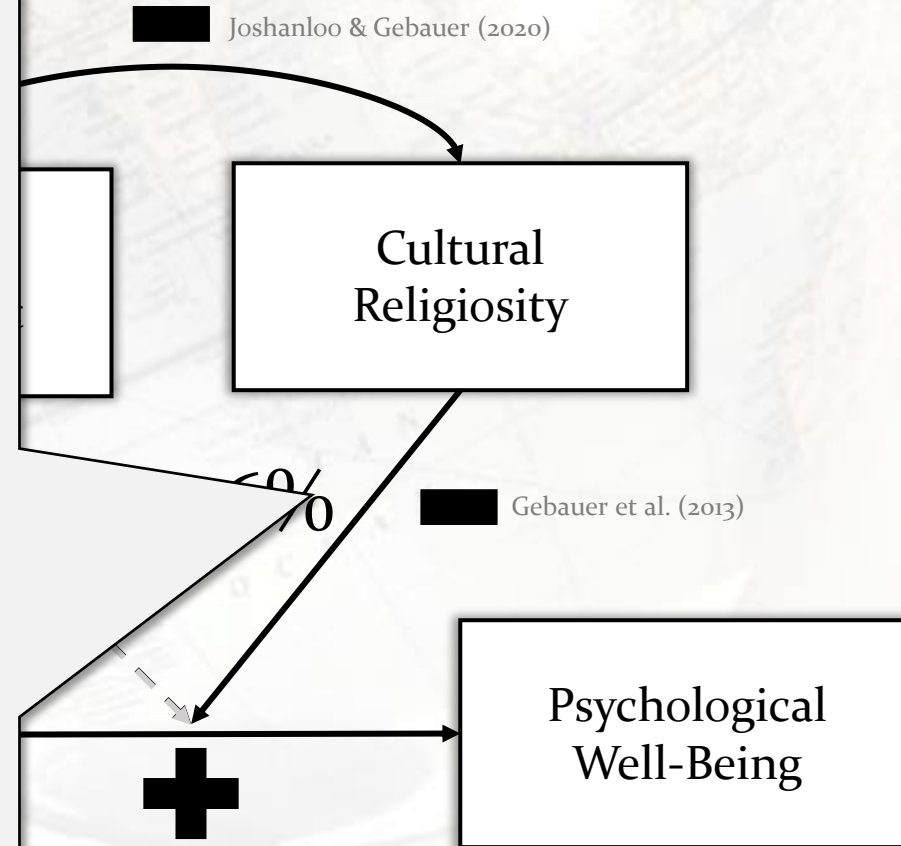
**Pakistan**

$r = -.003$  , 95% CI [-.04, .04]

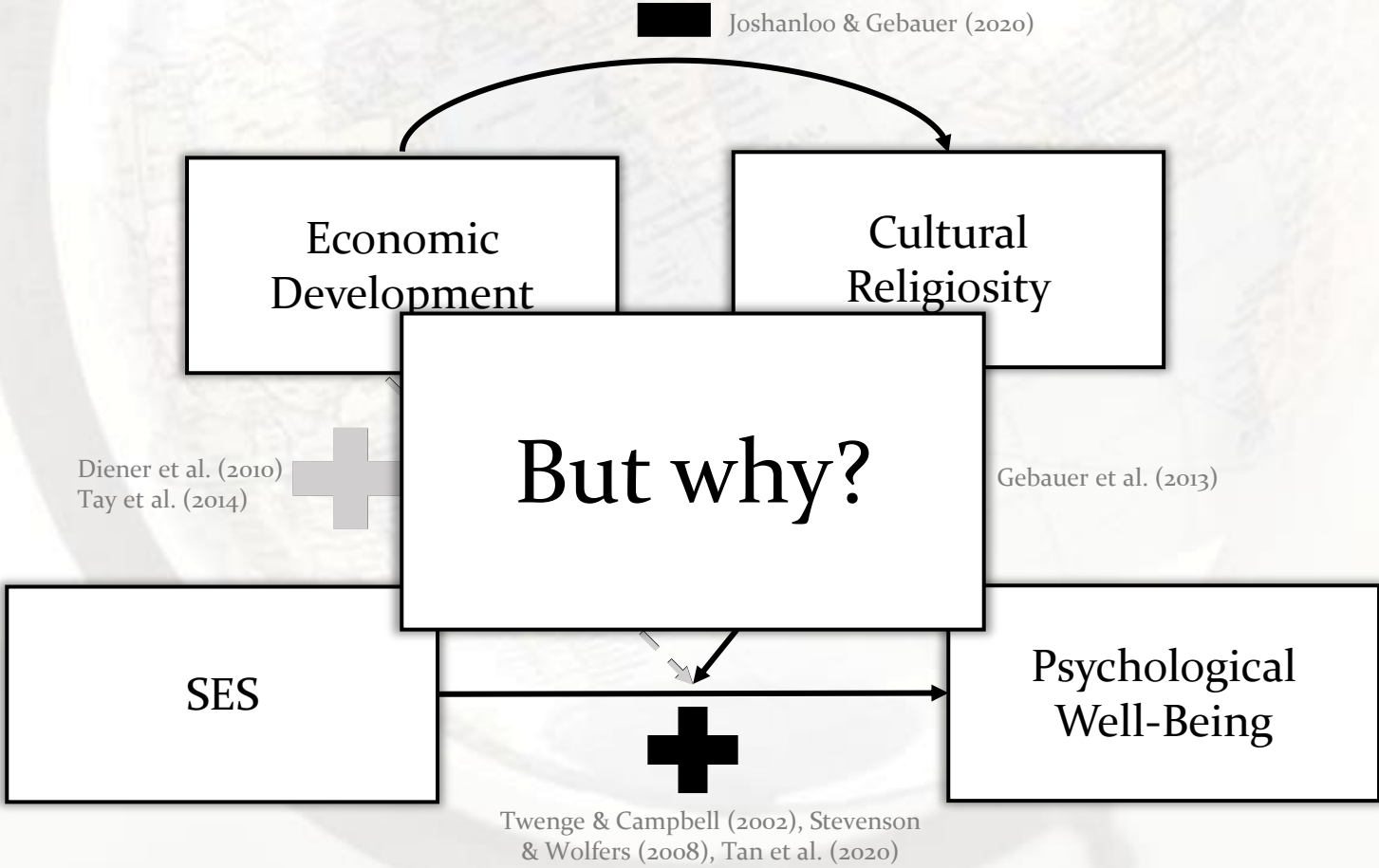


**Norway**

$r = .23$  , 95% CI [.21, .24]



# SES & Psychological Well-Being



# Open Science Grant

## Limitations of current approach:

1. Large-scale correlational data do not provide much insight into underlying processes
2. We have a very limited view on religiosity/religion/poverty...

→ Let's include people with different views/ religions/ backgrounds... in our research process!



# Open Science Grant

Work in  
Progress!



**Approach:** Citizen science

- 1. Exploratory approach:** Which processes could be underlying the buffering effect of religiosity?
- 2. Confirmatory approach:** Test potential processes in a lab study
- 3. Communicate findings:** Publish popular science article about our findings

# Open Science Grant

## Exploratory Study

- Online survey with closed & open-ended questions
- **Sample:** Uganda ( $N = 62$ ), Germany ( $N = 50$ ), USA ( $N = 14$ )
- **Duration:** around 20 minutes
- **Compensation:** Voucher lottery + donation to a Ugandan NGO
- **Sampling:** Promoted via personal contacts, social media, blogs, ...

# Open Science Grant

## Exploratory Study – Example Questions

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Has there been a time in your life where you have experienced financial difficulties

- Yes
- No

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Did your religious belief play a role in how this financially privileged situation affected how you felt?

- Yes
- No



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Do you think your general financial situation would have more or less of an effect on how you feel if you were less religious?

- My financial situation would have more of an effect
- My financial situation would have less of an effect
- My financial situation would have no effect

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[Dr. Jana Berkessel, U](#)

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What does your scripture say about wealth?

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# Open Science Grant

## Exploratory Study – Experience

„This survey has reminded me a lot about my religious beliefs, and for that am grateful.”

Participant from Uganda

“At the beginning I thought to myself, why are they asking financial questions I thought this was about religion, but I realized the connection. I've read lots of scriptures about the poor and the wealthy, but never really attached it to me and my own financial health. It was a bit eye opening.”

Participant from the USA

# Open Science Grant

## Exploratory Study – Our Experience

- Difficulties during data collection (especially in the USA)
- Critical German participants 😊
  - Questions too personal (?)
  - Wrong understanding of religiosity (?)

The questions about "wealth" and "poverty" show that you have not yet completely understood the principle of the two categories from a Christian point of view. In the bible/by Jesus Christ it is less about material wealth/material poverty than much more about "spiritual empowerment".

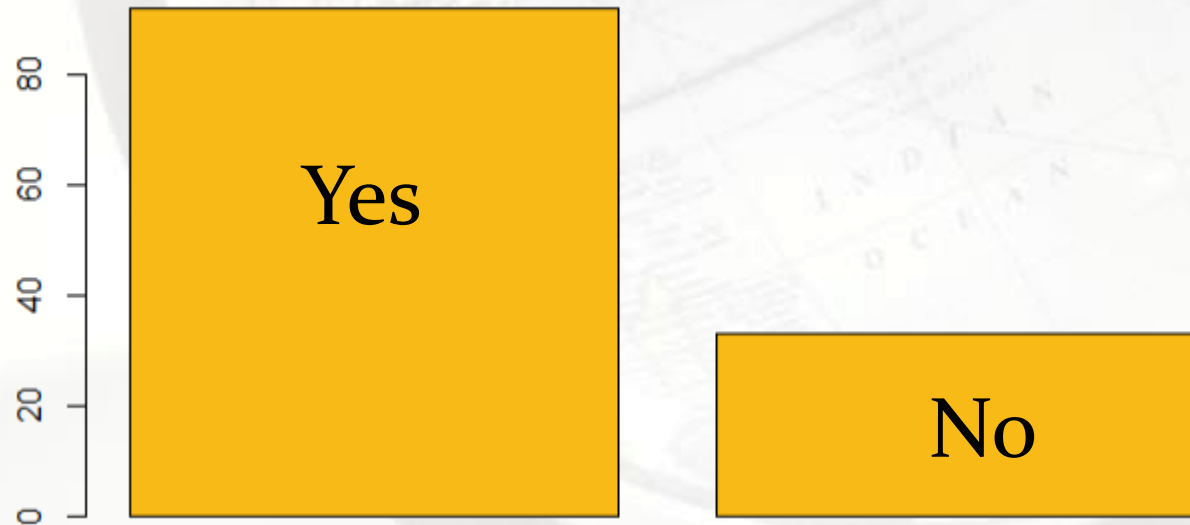
Participant from Germany

# Open Science Grant

**Note:** Example for financially difficult situation – repeated with privileged and current situation!

## Preliminary Findings

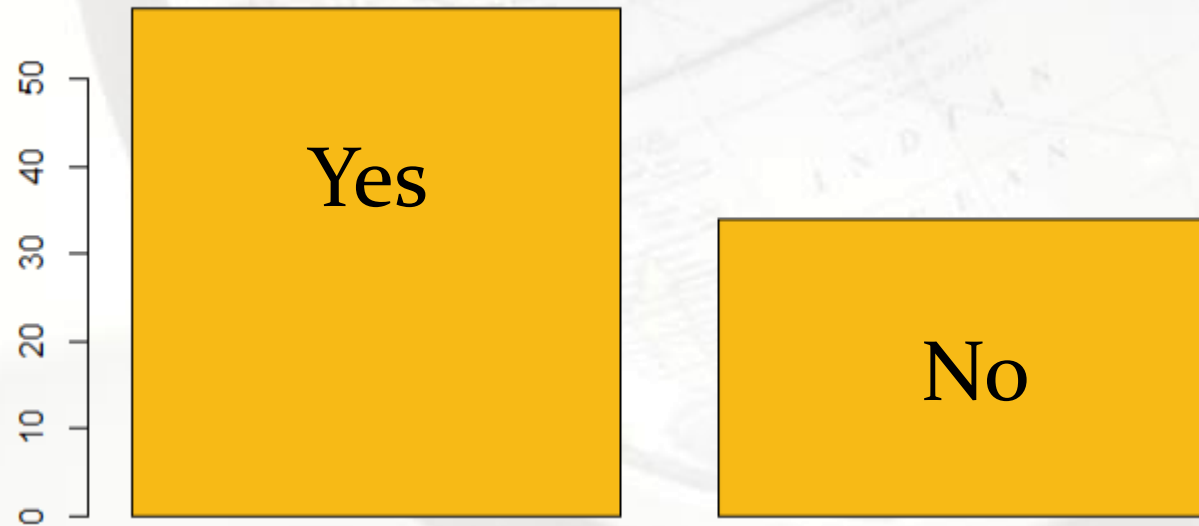
I have been in a financially difficult situation



# Open Science Grant

## Preliminary Findings

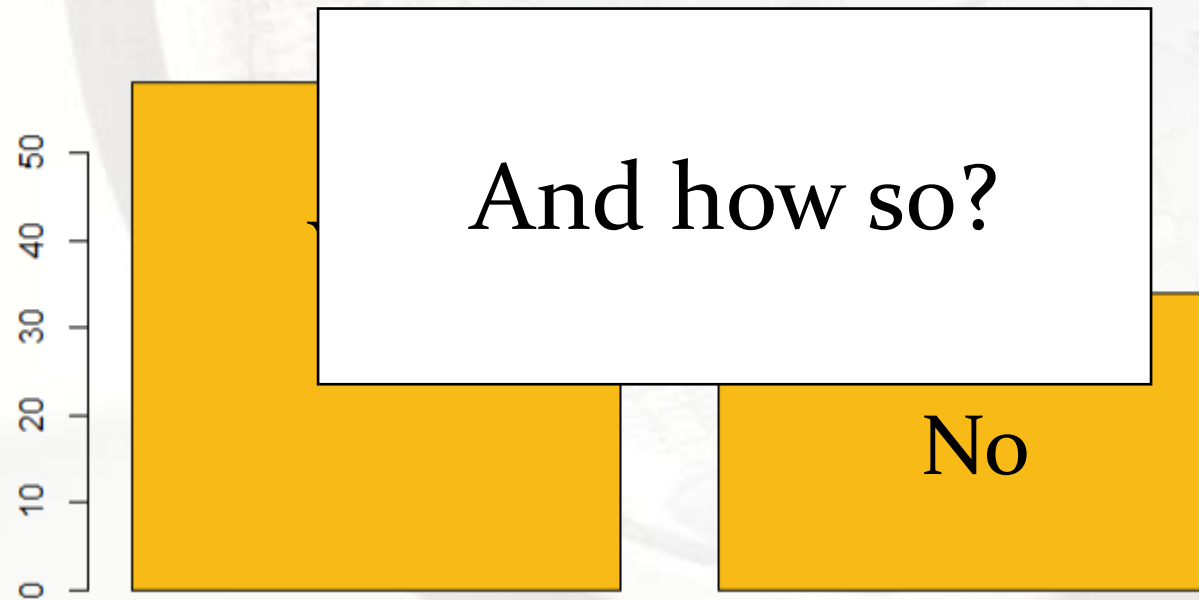
This financially difficult situation affected how I felt



# Open Science Grant

## Preliminary Findings

This financially difficult situation affected how I felt

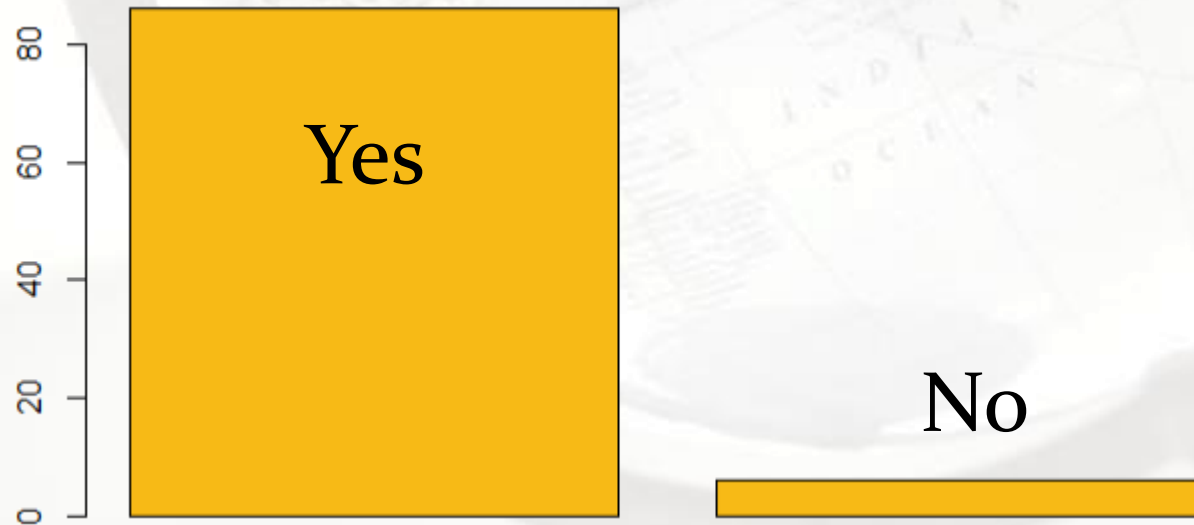




# Open Science Grant

## Preliminary Findings

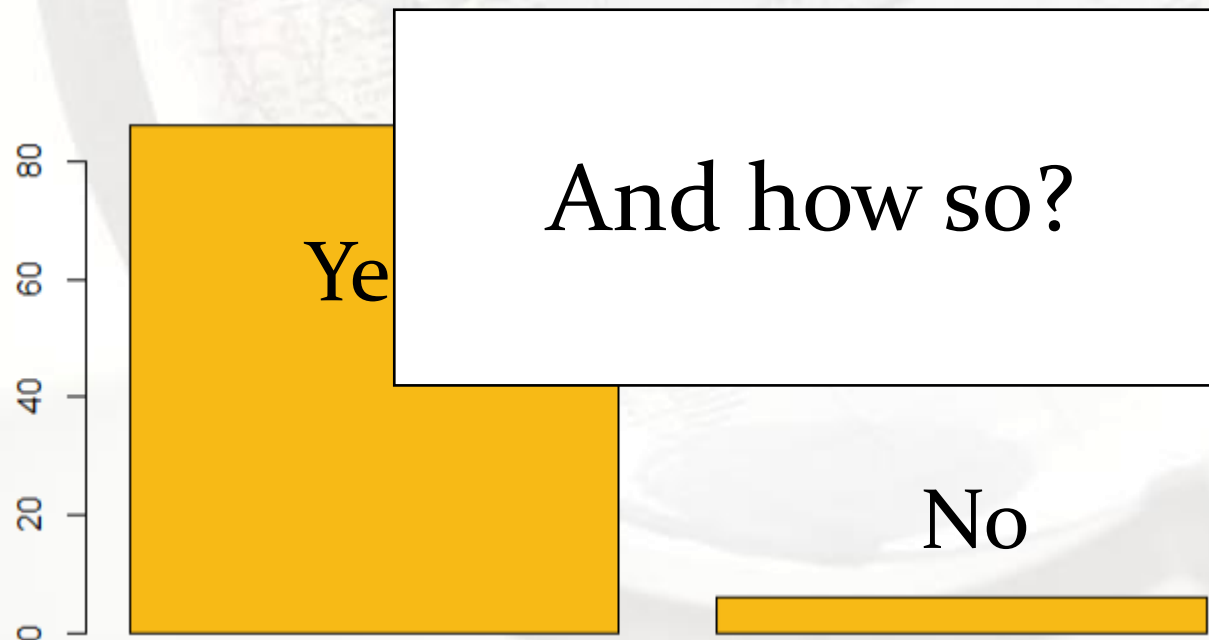
My religious beliefs affected how this financially difficult situation affected how I felt



# Open Science Grant

## Preliminary Findings

My religious beliefs affected how this financially difficult situation affected how I felt

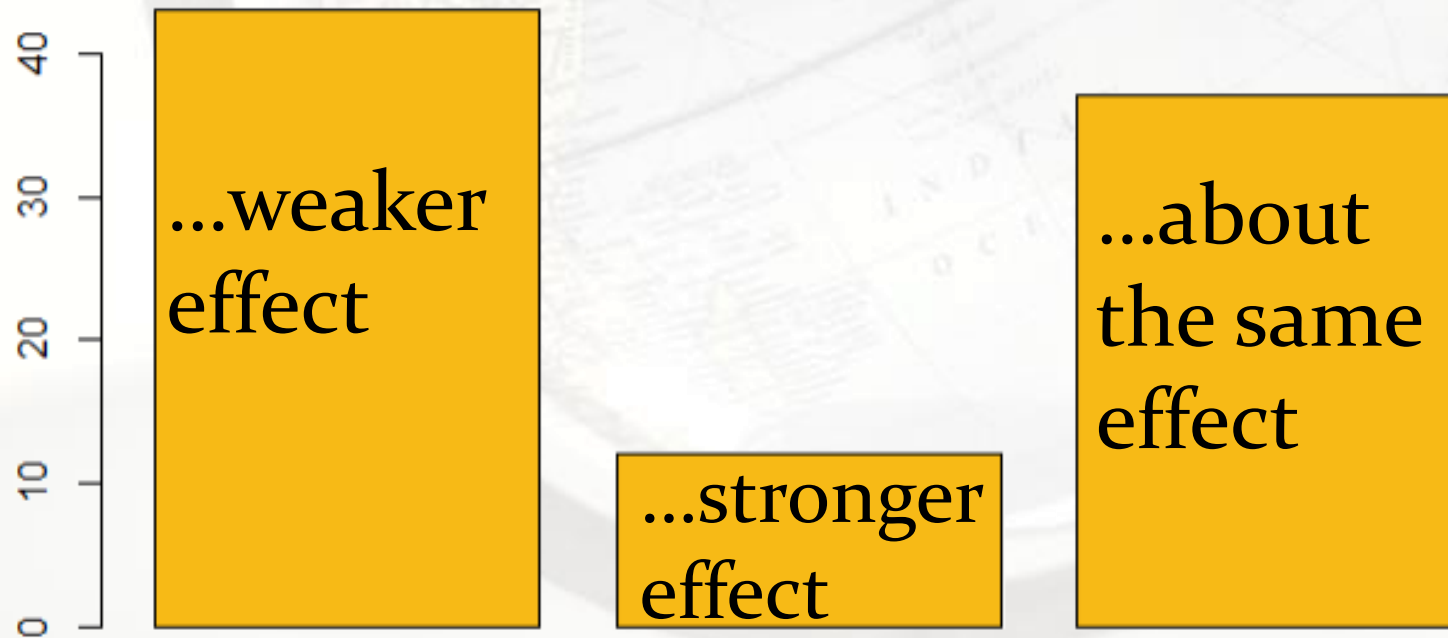




# Open Science Grant

## Preliminary Findings

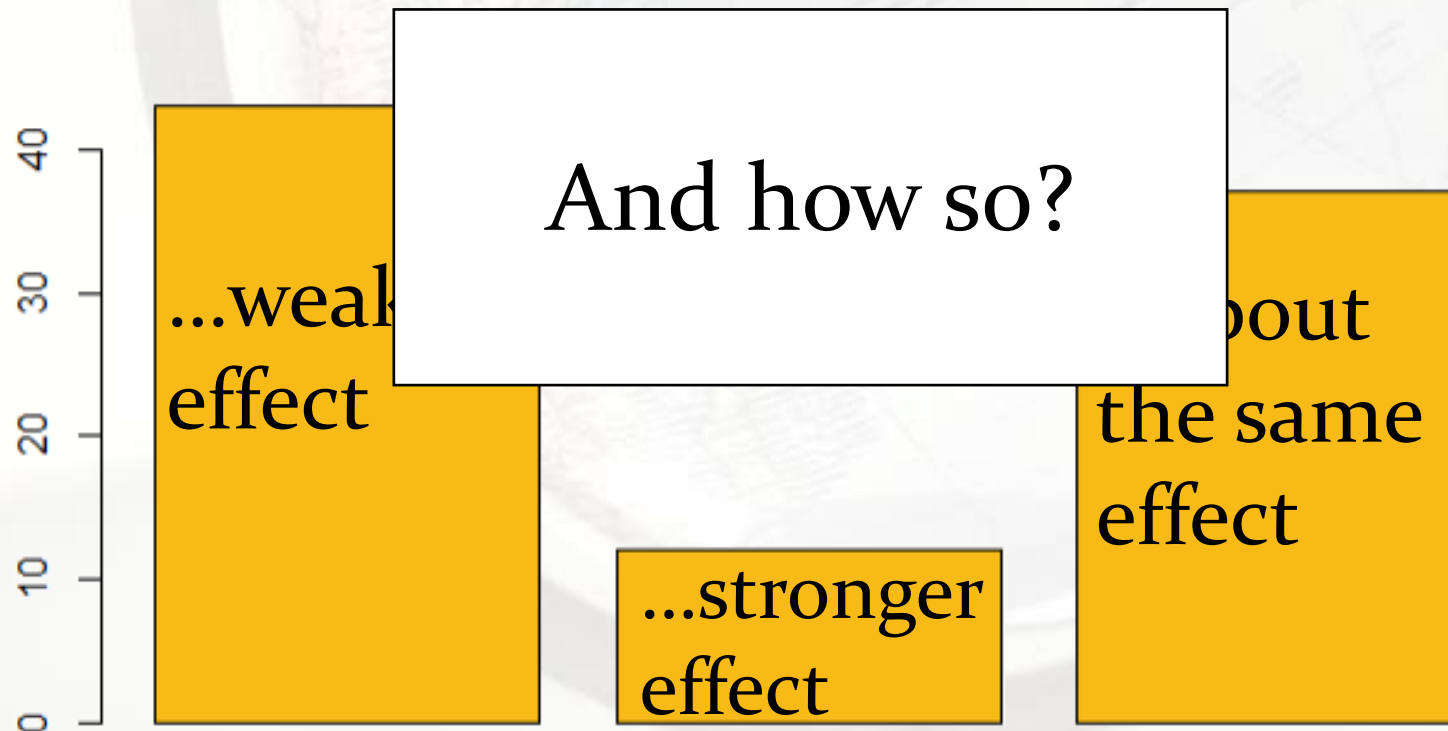
If I were more religious, my financial difficulties would have had a...



# Open Science Grant

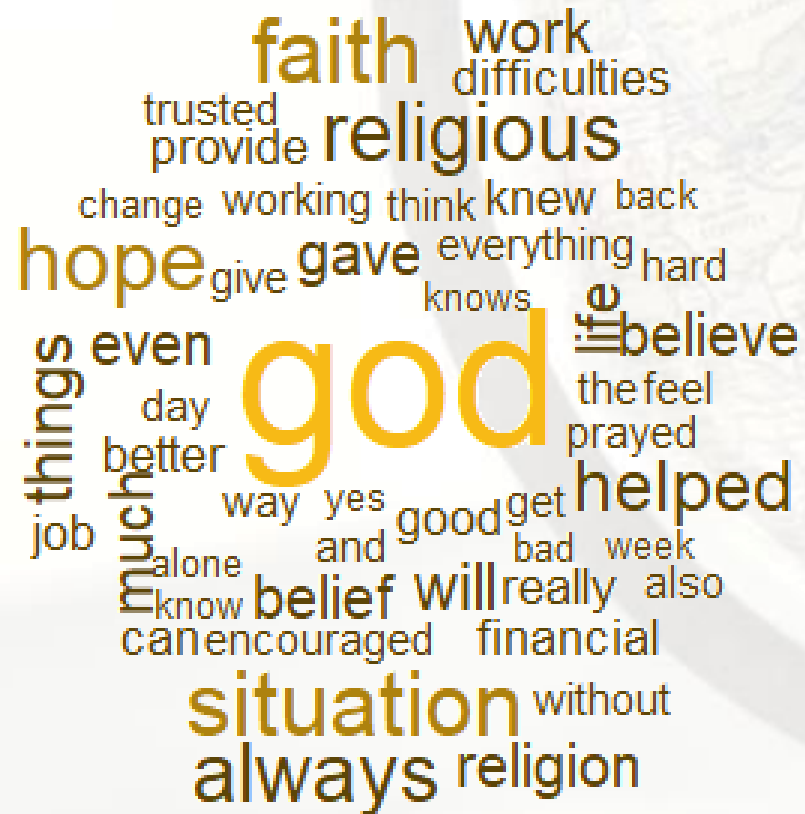
## Preliminary Findings

If I were more religious, my financial difficulties would have had a...



# Open Science Grant

## Preliminary Findings



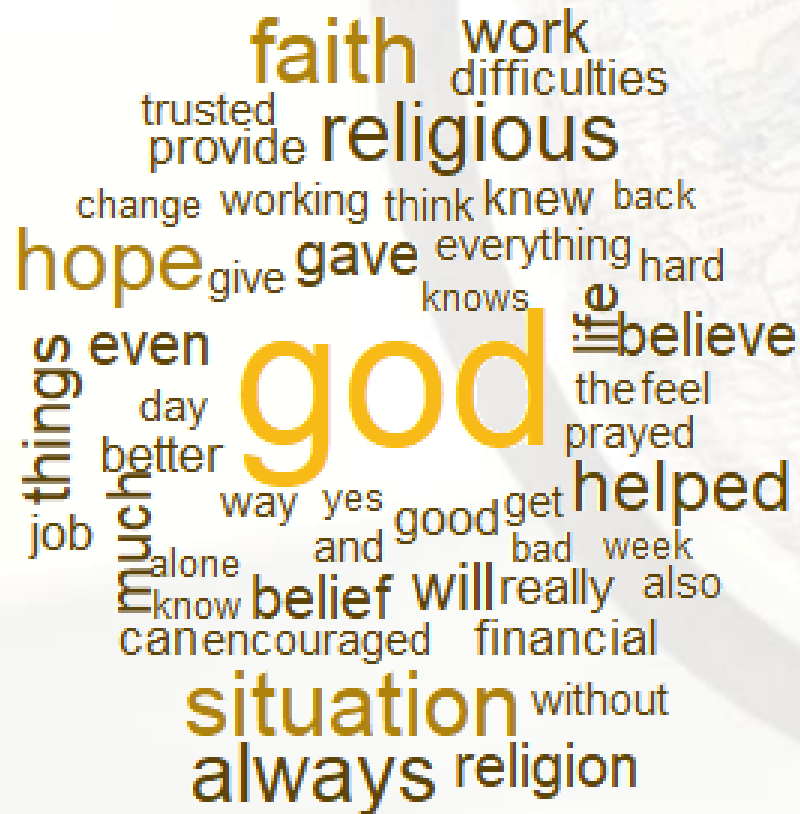
# Open Science Grant

## Preliminary Findings

“Whenever I could go to church I felt comforted and therefore it really impacted a lot on how I felt”

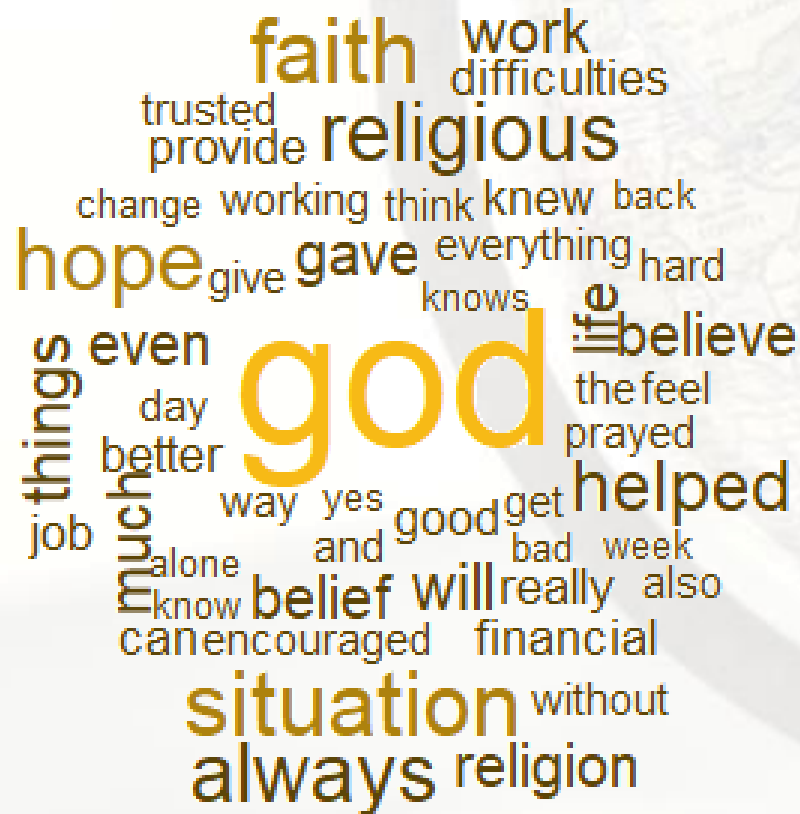
Participant from Uganda

Structure & Community



# Open Science Grant

## Preliminary Findings



“Whenever I could go to church I felt comforted and therefore it really impacted a lot on how I felt”

Participant from Uganda

Structure & Community

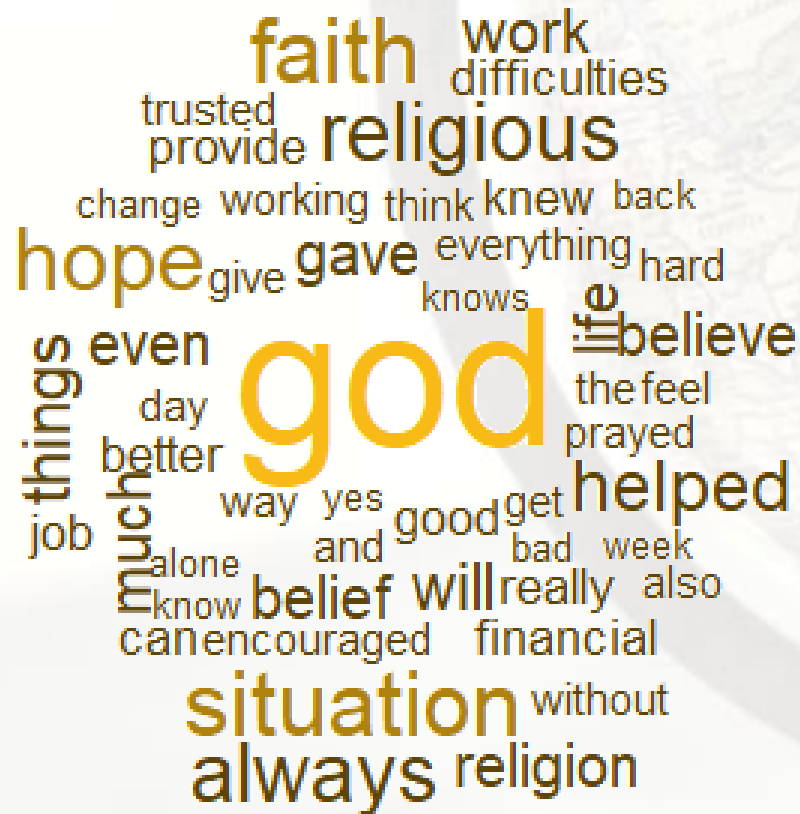
“My faith puts the importance of material wealth into perspective.”

Participant from Germany

Faith & Norms

# Open Science Grant

## Preliminary Findings



“Whenever I could go to church I felt comforted and therefore it really impacted a lot on how I felt”

Structure & Community

Participant from Uganda

“My faith puts the importance of material wealth into perspective.”

Faith & Norms

Participant from Germany

“I knew God would provide, so I didn't despair, and I wasn't as depressed as I might have been.”

Hope & Optimism

Participant from the USA

# Open Science Grant

## Preliminary Findings

“Whenever I could go to church I felt comforted and therefore it really impacted a lot on how I felt”

Structure & Community

Participant from Uganda

“My faith puts the importance of material wealth into perspective.”

Faith & Norms

Participant from Germany

“I knew God would provide, so I didn't despair, and I wasn't as depressed as I might have been.”

Hope & Optimism

Participant from the USA

I knew they would help with the mortgage and food if I needed it and they did help with counseling. Anonymous members of my congregation dropped off gift cards to help with Christmas [ ]”

Practical Support

Participant from the

# Open Science Grant

- 1. Exploratory approach:** Which processes could be underlying the buffering effect of religiosity?
  - ✓ **Relevance:** Participants perceive that their religious beliefs affect the well-being consequences of one's financial situation
  - ✓ **Potential processes:** Structure & community, faith & norms, hope & optimism, practical support...
  - ➔ **Next step:** Systematic (qualitative) analysis
- 2. Confirmatory approach:** Test potential processes in a lab study
- 3. Communicate findings:** Publish popular science article about our findings





Thank you!



Open Science Office

