

## **Quick Report:**

### **Using feeling thermometer ratings about religious groups to predict two-party vote choice in the 2020 U.S. presidential election**

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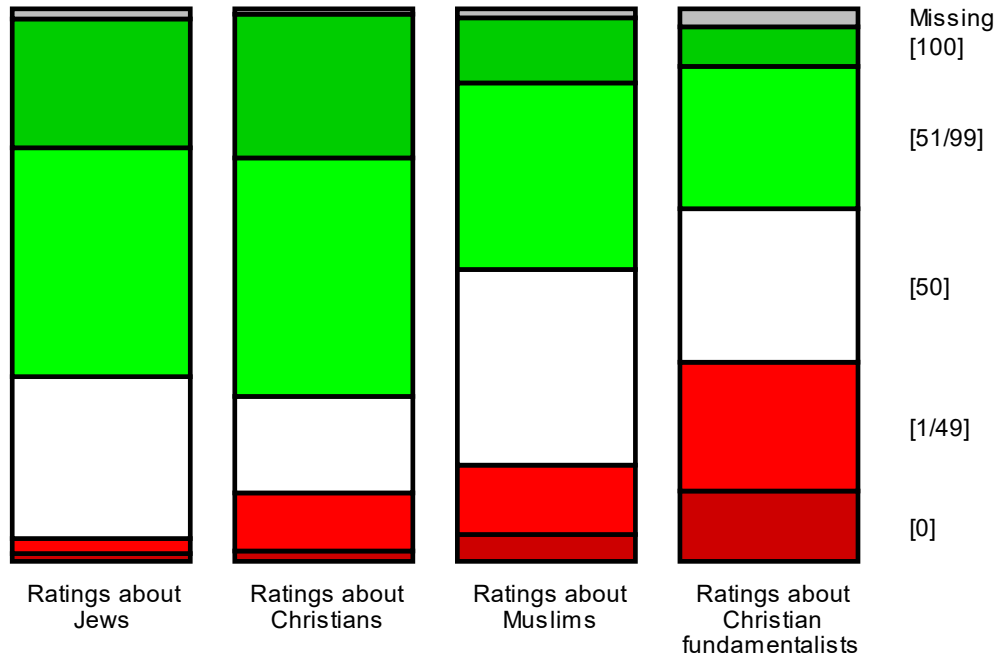
Data are from the American National Election Studies (ANES) 2020 Time Series Study (2021), conducted in a pre-election wave from 18 Aug 2020 through 17 Sept 2020 and a post-election wave from 8 Nov 2020 through 4 Jan 2021. Reported responses are weighted to reflect characteristics of the adult citizen population living in the United States, based on the initial release weight variables in the dataset.

The outcome variable is reported two-party vote choice in the 2020 U.S. presidential election, coded 1 for Donald Trump, 0 for Joe Biden, and missing for all other observations.

The main predictors are based on participant 0-to-100 feeling thermometer ratings about Jews, Christians, Muslims, and Christian fundamentalists, in which the feeling thermometer ratings were described such that ratings between 50 and 100 "mean that you feel favorable and warm toward the person", ratings between 0 to 50 "mean that you don't feel favorable toward the person and that you don't care too much for that person", and a rating of 50 would be used "if you don't feel particularly warm or cold toward the person".

To better isolate the association with the outcome due to cold ratings from the association with the outcome due to warm ratings and to better estimate outcomes at the extreme ratings, participant responses were placed into one of six categories: a rating of 0, a rating from 1 through 49, a rating of 50, a rating from 51 through 99, a rating of 100, and a missing value for a participant who received the feeling thermometer item but did not provide a response from 0 through 100.

Figure 1 reports weighted percentages of participants in each category, for each religious group asked about: Jews, Christians, Muslims, and Christian fundamentalists.



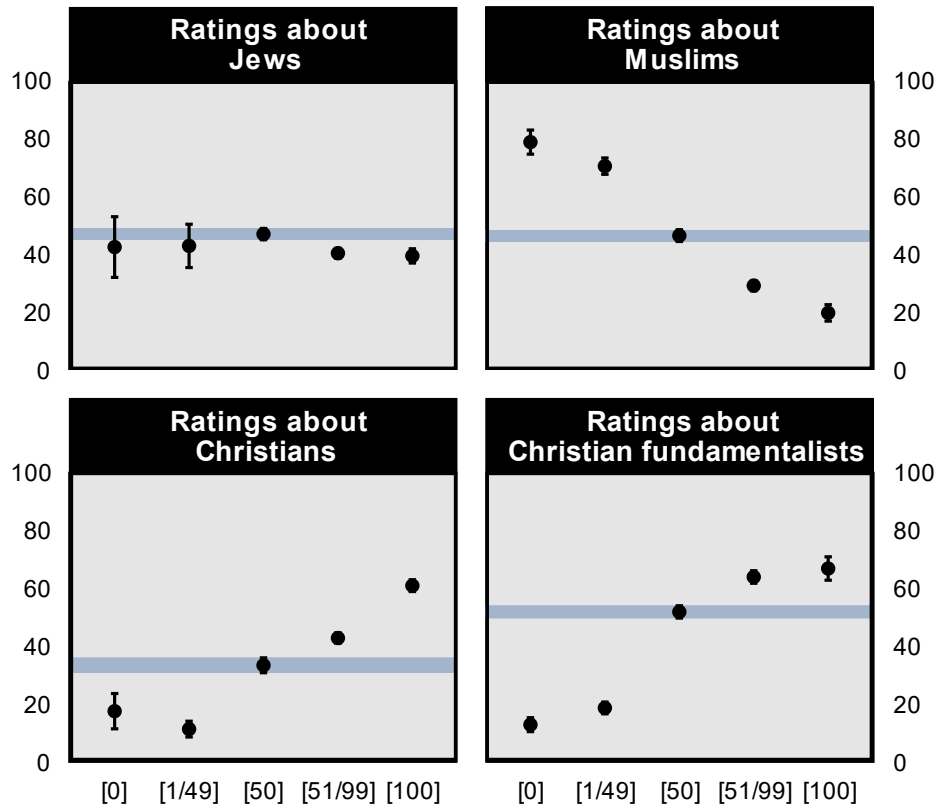
**Figure 1. Percentages of ratings in the indicated category**

Note: The figure reports the percentage of participants in the indicated category of ratings about the indicated group, based on 0-to-100 feeling thermometer ratings. Sample sizes were 7,439 for ratings about Jews, Christians, and Muslims, and 7,440 for ratings about Christian fundamentalists. Data analysis was conducted in Stata 15 (StataCorp 2017), and the figure was produced in R (R Core Team 2018) using ggplot2 (Wickham 2016).

Percentages from 0 through missing are:

for Jews:	1%	3%	29%	41%	23%	2%
for Christians:	2%	10%	17%	43%	26%	1%
for Muslims:	5%	13%	35%	34%	12%	2%
for Christian fundamentalists:	13%	23%	28%	26%	7%	3%

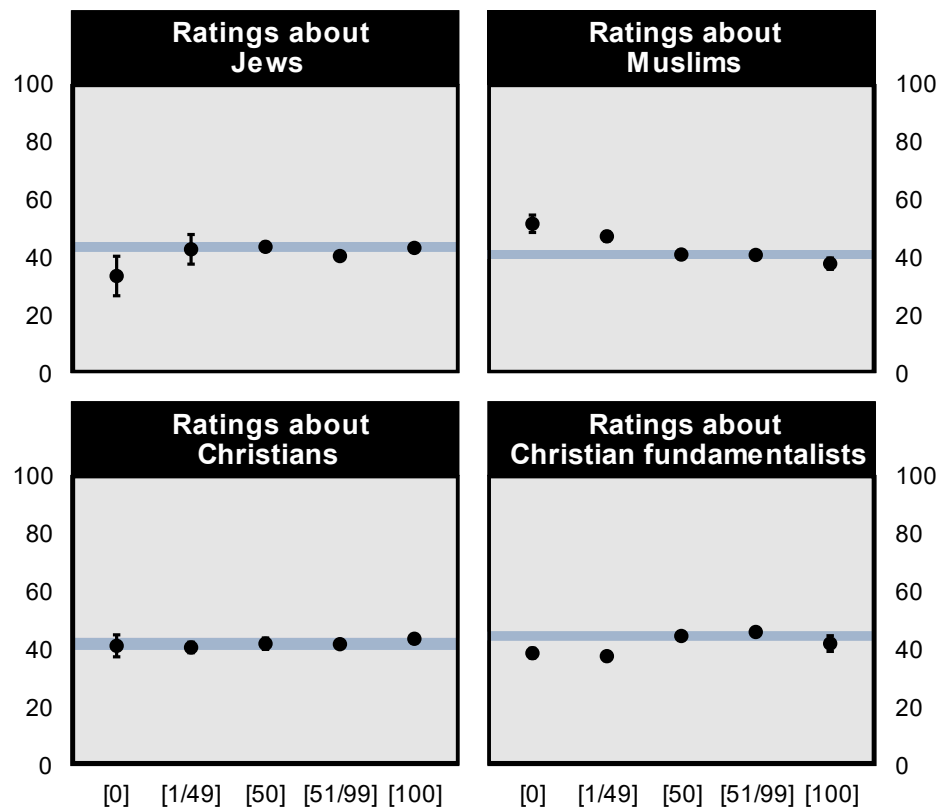
Figure 2 reports results from four OLS regressions predicting two-party vote choice in the 2020 U.S. presidential election, using categorical ratings about Jews, Muslims, Christians, or Christian fundamentalists (one set of ratings per regression), plus categorical controls for participant gender, race/ethnicity, age group, education, marital status, and household income. The blue shade indicates the width of the 83.4% confidence interval for the estimate at 50, to highlight the comparison of this estimate with the estimates for the colder categories or the warmer categories.



**Figure 2. Predicted 2020 U.S. two-party presidential vote choice for Donald Trump**

Note: The figure reports point estimates and 83.4% confidence intervals for the predicted probability of a reported two-party vote for Donald Trump, for the indicated category of ratings about the indicated group, based on 0-to-100 feeling thermometer ratings. OLS regressions included categorical predictors for ratings about only the indicated religious group, plus categorical controls for participant gender, race/ethnicity, age group, education, marital status, and household income. Sample sizes were 6,067 for each regression. Data analysis was in Stata 15 (StataCorp 2017), and the figure was produced in R (R Core Team 2018) using ggplot2 (Wickham 2016).

Figure 3 reports results from an OLS regression predicting two-party vote choice in the 2020 U.S. presidential election, using categorical ratings about Jews, Muslims, Christians, and Christian fundamentalists, plus categorical controls for participant gender, race/ethnicity, age group, education, marital status, household income, self-reported partisanship, and self-reported political ideology, and a linear control for racial resentment.



**Figure 3. Predicted 2020 U.S. two-party presidential vote choice for Donald Trump**

Note: The figure reports point estimates and 83.4% confidence intervals for the predicted probability of a reported two-party vote for Donald Trump, for the indicated category of ratings about the indicated group, based on 0-to-100 feeling thermometer ratings. OLS regressions included categorical predictors for ratings about all four of these religious groups, plus categorical controls for participant gender, race/ethnicity, age group, education, marital status, household income, self-reported partisanship, and self-reported political ideology, plus a linear predictor for racial resentment. Sample size was 5,995 for the regression. Data analysis was in Stata 15 (StataCorp 2017), and the figure was produced in R (R Core Team 2018) using ggplot2 (Wickham 2016).

## References

- American National Election Studies. 2021. ANES 2020 Time Series Study Preliminary Release: Combined Pre-Election and Post-Election Data [dataset and documentation]. March 24, 2021 version. [www.electionstudies.org](http://www.electionstudies.org)
- R Core Team. 2018. R: A language and environment for statistical computing. R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria. URL <https://www.R-project.org/>
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- Wickham, Hadley. 2016. ggplot2: Elegant graphics for data analysis. Springer-Verlag New York.