Penn Master of Behavioral and Decision Sciences CLASS: BDS 501

Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me?

Investigating the effects of analytic thinking and self-efficacy on religiosity

MOTIVATION

- Religion is associated with positive outcomes such as well-being, satisfaction and pro-sociality. However, it is also associated with prejudice, hostility and armed conflict.
- With significant implications at both the individual and societal level, there has been growing interest in literature regarding religious beliefs and interventions that can modulate them.

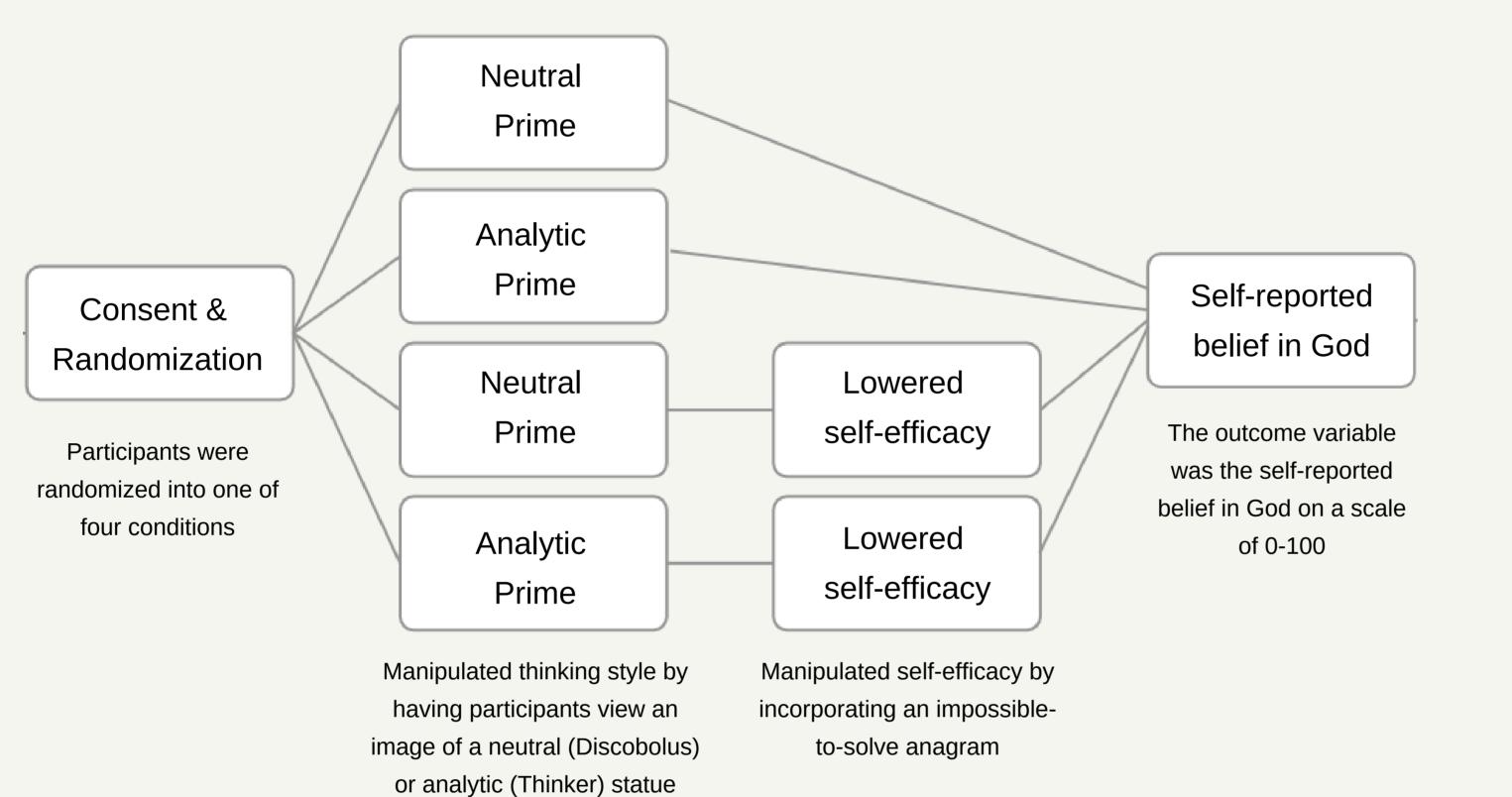
HYPOTHESES

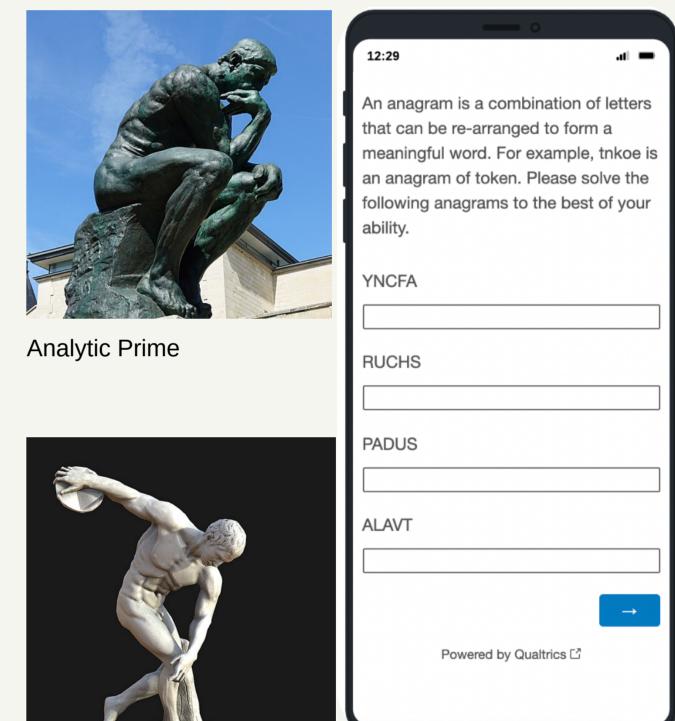
H1: Participants exposed to the analytic prime will have decreased religious beliefs.

H2: Participants given the impossible-to-complete anagram task will have increased religious beliefs.

EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN

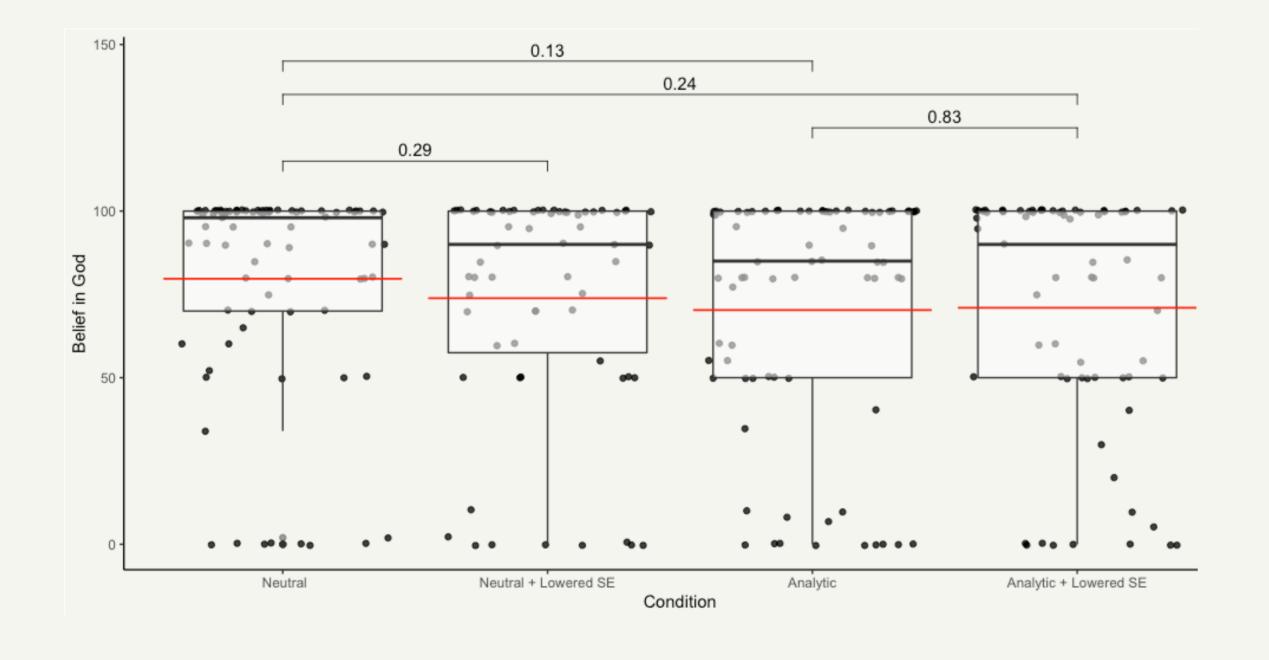
n = 283 MTurk participants





Task to lower self-efficacy

RESULTS



FINDINGS

• Neither cognitive priming nor self-efficacy significantly influences religiosity.

Neutral Prime

- We consider **our null findings** in the context of our design constraints, sample heterogeneity and limited statistical power.
- Further research is necessary to determine what effect, in any, thinking style and selfeficacy have on religiosity.

IMPLICATIONS

- We shed light on questions that may help reduce violence associated with religious bigotry, hate crimes, and terrorism.
- Our research can be extended to pursue the practical implications of addressing religious extremism.

REFERENCES

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