

Resistance to places of worship, Conjoint experiment, May 2021 (#67146)

Author(s)

Eliska Schnabel (University of Illinois at Chicago) - eschna3@uic.edu

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1) Have any data been collected for this study already?

No, no data have been collected for this study yet.

2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?

Research question: Why people resist new places of worship?

Hypotheses:

- Respondents, especially those scoring high on the Muslim American resentment scale, will reject a mosque irrespective of the other attributes. Resistance will be even higher when the Mosque has traditional architecture.
- Hindu temple will be the second most resisted place of worship.
- A Christian church will be the least resisted.
- No strong expectations regarding the other places of worship.
- Place of worship with congregants living mostly out of town will be resisted more than places of worship whose congregants live inside the town.
- Places of worship with a high level of nuisance will be resisted more than places of worship with a low level of nuisance. Nuisance will be the highest when the place of worship is a large (fits 1000 worshippers) new construction in a residential area. Nuisance is the lowest when the place of worship is small (fits 100 worshippers), is in a business park, and is a former church.
- Respondents will resist the place of worship if the local government and neighbors oppose the place of worship. The chance of resistance will increase if the respondent's party controls the local government.
- If both local government and neighbors support the place of worship, the respondent will support it. Otherwise:
 - Respondent's party opposes/expresses concerns and neighbors support -> resistance
 - Respondent's party supports and neighbors oppose -> no resistance
 - Other than respondent's party controls the local government and:
 - Opposes the application/ expresses concerns and neighbors support -> not a strong expectation
 - Supports the application and neighbors oppose it -> resistance
 - The local government is nonpartisan and:
 - Opposes the application/ expresses concerns and neighbors support it -> resistance
 - Supports the application and neighbors oppose it -> not a strong expectation
 - Local government has not discussed the application yet and neighbors support -> support
 - Local government has not discussed yet, and neighbors oppose -> resistance
- If no neighbors are involved, respondents will follow the cues from the local government, no matter what party is in power

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.

1. Oppose (0) or support (1) a proposal for a new place of worship in the respondent's neighborhood
2. Contact local officials to express support or opposition to the new place of worship (likelihood of contacting local officials on a 5-point scale (definitely, probably, possibly, probably not, definitely not))

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?

This project employs a paired conjoint design. Respondents evaluate a pair of applications on ten pages (total of 20 hypothetical places of worship) and decide whether to support or reject each application individually. The respondents will be randomly assigned a proposal for a new place of worship with information on the proposed place of worship, congregants' place of residence, location of the place of worship, size, architecture, control of the local government, local elected officials attitudes, and neighbors' reaction.

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.

I will estimate the average marginal component effect (AMCE) of each attribute using a linear regression model and correct the standard errors for within-respondents clustering. I will control for gender, age (6 categories), race/ ethnicity (7 categories), education (8 categories), employment (8 categories), household income (6 categories), ownership of living quarters (3 categories), housing type (5 categories), state of residence, religion (14 categories), attendance of religious service (9 categories); urban or rural (3), social distance (5 point scale for Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Sikh, Mormon, Atheist); Muslim American resentment scale based on average answers to four questions (each question has a 7 point scale), protection of the environment (combined score from two questions), ideology (8 point scale), party identification (7 point scale).

I will also estimate the following average component interaction effects (ACIE):

Control of local government * local elected officials' attitudes

Local elected officials' attitudes * neighbors' reaction

The proposed place of worship * architecture

Interactions between respondents' background characteristics and attributes:

Party identification * control of local government * local elected officials' attitudes

Party identification * local elected officials' attitudes

Muslim American resentment * proposed place of worship

Social distance * proposed place of worship

Party identification * proposed place of worship

Religion * proposed place of worship

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.

I will exclude participants that finish the survey in less than 5 minutes

7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.

2000 respondents

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)