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## Religious Orientation and Political Participation

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Poster Presentation P32

**RELIGIOUS ORIENTATION AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION**

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Churches and other religious groups have been the foundation for major social and political movements throughout American history (Djupe & Grant, 1999) and religious organizations show significantly higher levels of political participation as compared to other non-political organizations (Beyerlein & Chaves, 2003). This study will examine the relationship between religiosity and political participation among Illinois Wesleyan University students using the Religious Orientation Scale developed by Allport and Ross (1967). This scale measures religious motivation, separated into intrinsic and extrinsic religious orientation. Intrinsically oriented individuals are more motivated by the spiritual and belief aspects of religion, while extrinsically oriented individuals are more motivated by the personal and social benefits of belonging to a religion (Allport & Ross, 1967). While some researchers claim that the spiritual or dogmatic tenets of a religion may lead to increased political participation (Gorsuch & Ortberg, 1983), we hypothesized that the social network provided by religious organizations would better predict a relationship between religiosity and political participation.