

Religion, Adversity and Free Trade in Latin America

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Abstract:

Membership and participation in religious communities provide some support for the faithful to help them when coping with hard times, and thereby, it increases their support for policies that entail side effects, such as free trade. Hypotheses are tested through multilevel models using the 2010 LAPOP surveys conducted in 23 Latin American countries and an inequality measure, the Gini index at the national level. I find evidence that suggests a positive relationship between Catholicism and religiosity on support for free trade.

Key Words: *Free trade, Religion, Catholi church.*

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