

The Relation Between Religion And Cooperation In The Common-Pool-Resource Dilemma:A Cross-Culture Study

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Various anthropologists have posited that religion can foster in-group solidarity and cooperation. While there is little consensus about how religion promotes cohesiveness. We conducted experiment I 2 (Priming Type: religion-related vs. religion-unrelated)×2(Nation: China vs. Indonesia) and experiment II 2(Priming Type: religion-related vs. religion-unrelated)×2(Nation: China vs. Indonesia)×2(Group: in-group vs. out-group) in the common-pool-resource dilemma to explore the three causes that religion influences cooperation: Attribution patterns, concepts of in-group or out-group and forgiveness. We found that ①people primed with the concept of religion are more cooperative, religion can foster cooperation②priming group tends to hold internal attribution, and that can foster cooperation ③when primed with the concept of religion, people are more likely to forgive the others while non-priming group prefers punishment.

Keywords: common-pool-resource dilemma, religion, cooperation