### Faith in the Faithful

Religious Practice and Social Networks in Rural South India



Eleanor A. Power

London School of Economics & Political Science





#### Religion as a Hard-to-Fake Sign of Commitment

WILLIAM IRONS

## Signaling, Solidarity, and the Sacred: The Evolution of Religious Behavior

RICHARD SOSIS AND CANDACE ALCORTA

Anthropologists have progress in the anthrop Geertz<sup>2</sup> had pronounce ers have turned their at have shaped the human to be resurrecting this ke which focuses on ultim advances in neuropsychow ritual, trance, medidevelopment.<sup>20–26</sup> This tion of the proximate review these literatures evolutionary processes explanation of religion.

Many challenges

The evolution of costly displays, cooperation and religion: credibility enhancing displays and their implications for cultural evolution

Joseph Henrich\*

#### The Ties That Bind Us

Ritual, Fusion, and Identification

by Harvey Whitehouse and Jonathan A. Lanman

Abstract

This paper lays out an evolumutilation, animal sacrifice and learning and historical processes influence the cognitive processe cultural learners can both avoid belief commitment by attending he expresses verbally. Part II exareveals the conditions under wipractices. Part III explores how interlocking belief-practice comigroup beneficial ideologies, high

Most social scient cohesion. The syst regarding the natu findings of the social social

Social scientists have

The cultural evolution of prosocial religions

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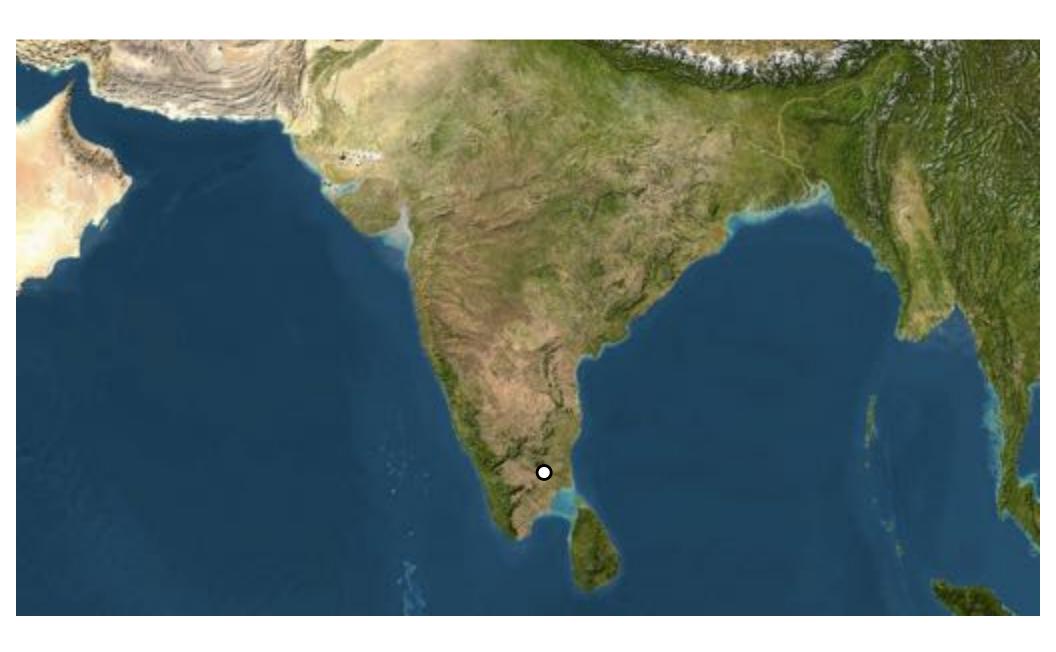
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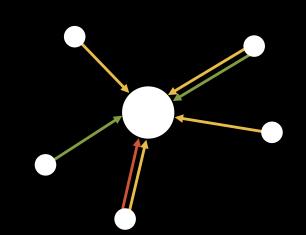






### Reputation

- Hardworking
- Physically strong
- Influential
- Good advice
- Generous
- Good character
- Devout
- Ritual knowledge



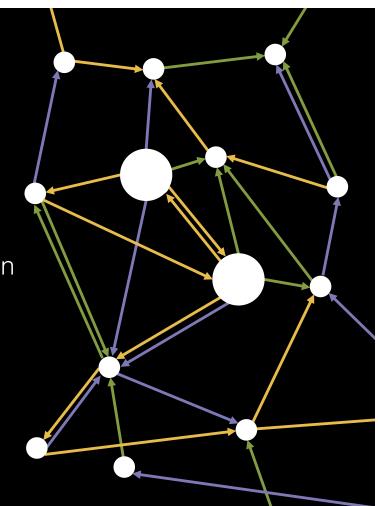
Hardworking: 4

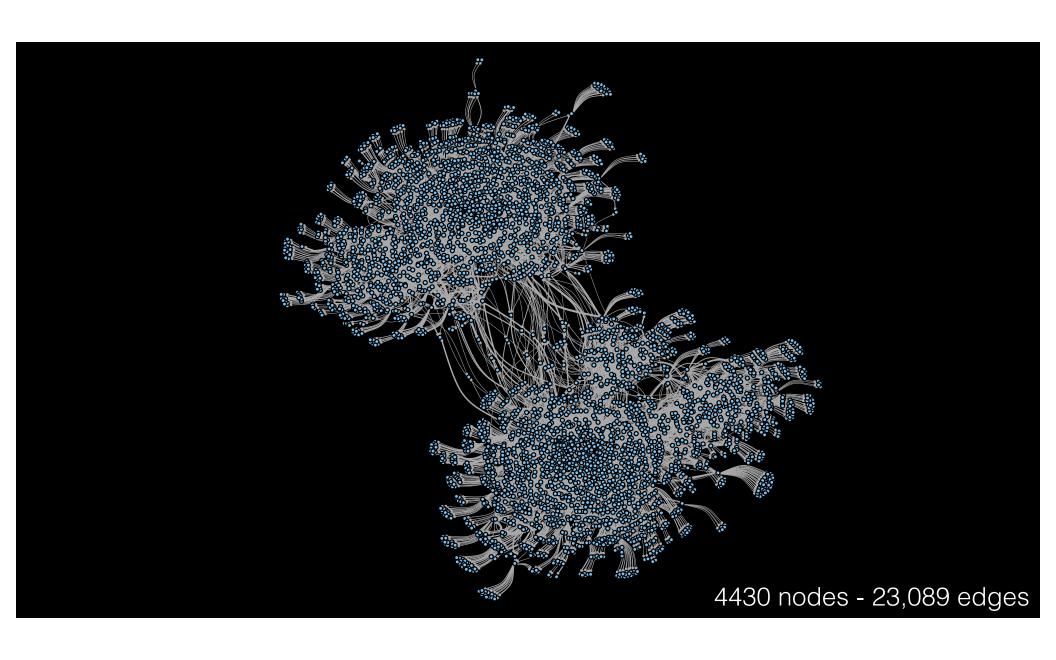
Generous: 2

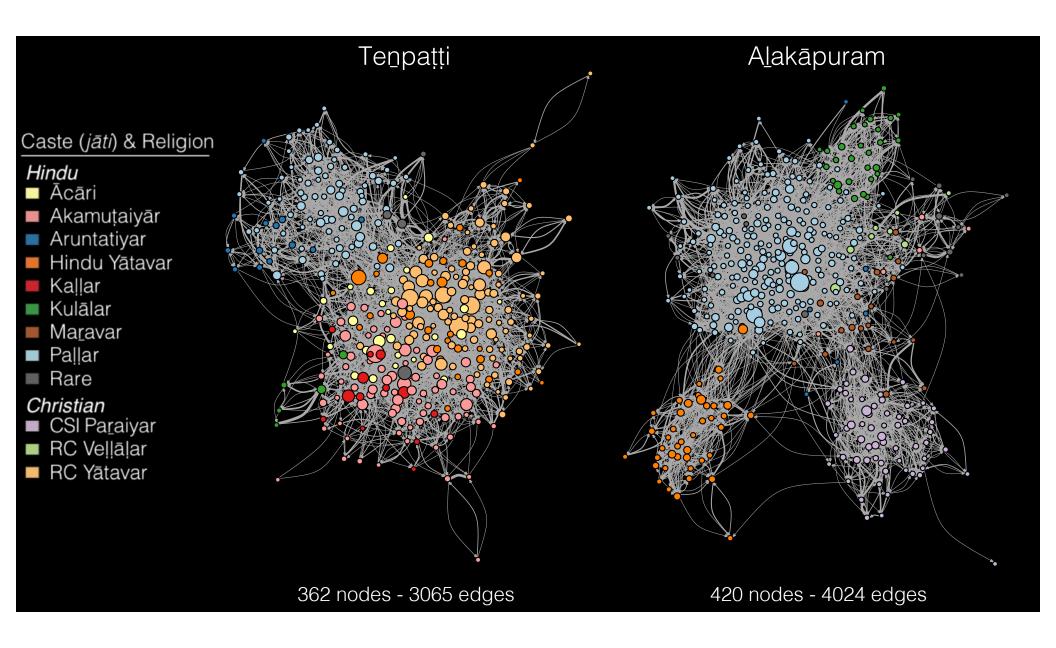
Influential: 1

### Social Support

- Emotional support & companionship
  - Close friends, conversation partners
- Behavioral assistance
  - Borrow items, run errands, help watching children
- Financial assistance
  - Borrowing petty cash, bigger loans
- Guidance
  - Important matters, advice
- Vouched support
  - Help finding work, people in 'high positions,' aid if there is a problem







# Religiosity





குணம் kuṇam character



கர்மம் karmam action

# Are those who invest more in the religious life of the village seen as more devout? As more prosocial?

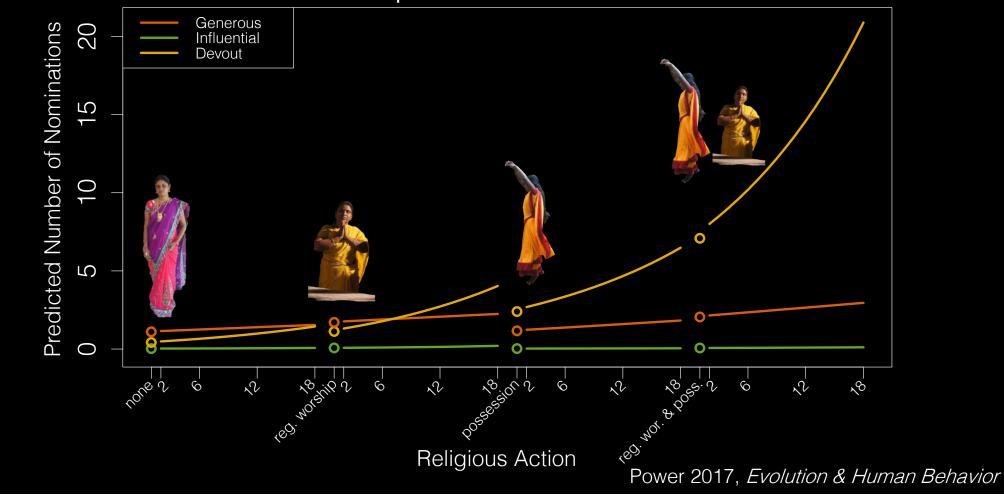
### Hurdle models predicting # of nominations

	Worship		Possession		Ritual		
	Zero	Count	Zero	Count	Zero	Count	Fest Boost
Devout	0.721	1.409	2.208	1.842	0.086	0.067	0.028
Has Ritual Knowledge	0.939	0.611	0.278	1.279	0.054	0.042	0.015
Influential	0.851	0.469	0.236	-2.762	0.025	0.090	-0.011
Strong	0.359	-0.167	0.090	0.534	0.064	-0.008	0.027
Hardworking	0.697	0.132	-1.155	0.215	0.136	0.012	0.017
Gives Good Advice	0.908	0.792	-0.620	0.196	0.040	0.051	0.017
Generous	0.606	0.482	0.478	0.541	0.043	0.012	0.012
Has Good Character	0.634	0.470	0.526	0.104	0.025	0.021	0.017

Also in the models: age, age<sup>2</sup>, gender, caste, count of resident consanguineous kin, household wealth, years of education, ever committee member, village dummy variable

Power 2017, Evolution & Human Behavior

Are those who invest more in the religious life of the village seen as more devout? As more prosocial?



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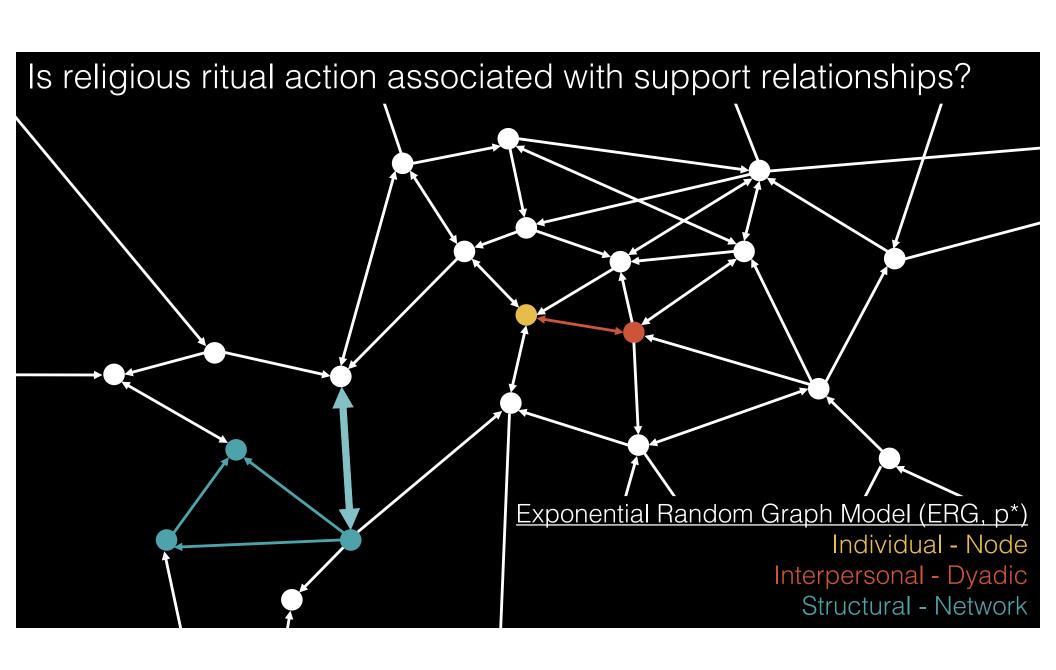
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### Is religious ritual action associated with support relationships?

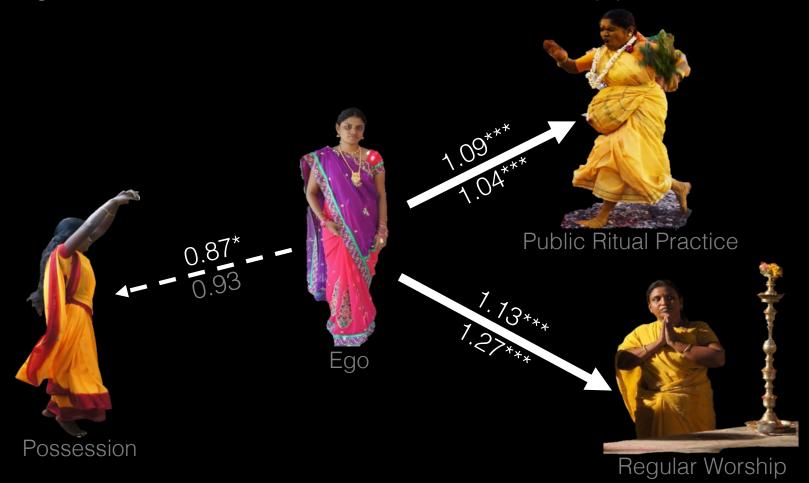
ERGMs predicting the likelihood of a supportive tie					
Religiosity	Estimate (SE)				
	A <u>l</u> akāpuram	Tenpaţţi			
Dogular Marabia	0.24***	0.12***			
Regular Worship	(0.06)	(0.04)			
December	-0.07	-0.14*			
Possession	(0.07)	(0.06)			
Weighted Public	0.01***	0.01***			
Religious Acts	(0.003)	(0.004)			

\*\*\* p<.001, \*\* p<.01, \* p<.05, † p<.10

Also in the model: node age, gender, caste, household wealth, and past or current committee membership; dyad gender homophily, dyad caste homophily, dyad kinship, dyad difference in the number of years of education, dyad distance between households, and dyad reciprocity (mutuality), GWESP

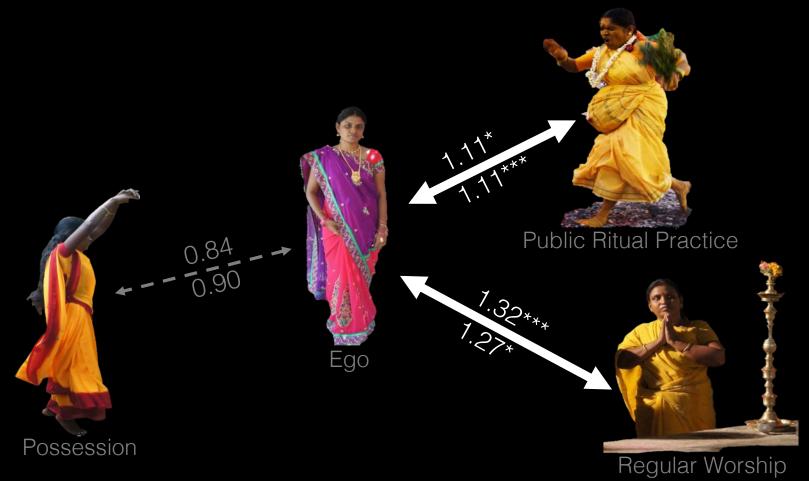
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Is religious ritual action associated with support relationships?



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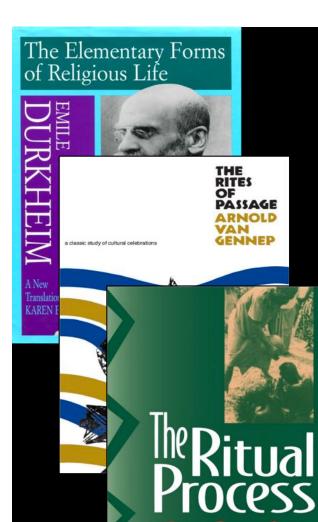
# Is religious ritual action associated with support relationships?



Power 2017, Nature Human Behaviour



ஒற்றுமை o<u>rrumai</u> unity



Structure and Anti-Structure

with a Foreword by Roger D. Abrahams

Victor Turner

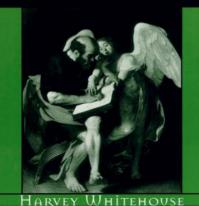


#### Why Strict Churches Are Strong<sup>1</sup>

The strength of strict churches is neither a historical coincidence nor a statistical artifact. Strictness makes organizations stronger and more attractive because it reduces the rading. It sereous out those who remain. Rational choice theory thus explains the success of sects, cults, and conservative denominations without recourse to elect, cults, and conservative denominations without recourse to theory also predicts differences between strict and fening groups distinguishes between effective and counterproductive demands, and demonstrates the need to adapt strict demands in response to social change.

Modes of Religiosity

A Cognitive Theory of Religious Transmission



#### Beyond Beliefs: Religions Bind Individuals Into Moral Communities

Jesse Graham<sup>1</sup> and Jonathan Haidt

Noneman.

Social psychologism have other followed other scientiss in treating religiously primarily as a set of beliefs held by individuals.

But, beliefs are only one faces of this complex and muldivinessional comments. The submars argue that social psychology can
be contribute to scholarship on religious by practice and be to contribute on scholarship on religious by practice and the state of the psychology can be social forwards a procession of the psychology of the psycho

#### The Ties That Bind Us Ritual, Fusion, and Identification

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Most solid sicretise enforce some version of the claim that participating in collectic ritalia promotes soliconic. To explorate for long and condustro of the claims, bowers, he have distinct, bowers as the respectively a long of the collection of the claim of the collection of the claim of the claim of the collection of the claim of the clai

BEHAVIORAL AND BRAIN SCIENCES (2016), Page 1 of 65

#### The cultural evolution of prosocial

### Monthly Worship



Annual Festival: Muļaippāri





Annual Festival: Vow Procession



### Are co-participants more likely to support one another?

Table 1: ERGM model results for (1) co-participation in the monthly worship and (2) coparticipation in the annual festival.

	Estimate	S.E.	Odds Ratio	p-value
1: Monthly Worship (No = 0	0.274	0.048	1.315	<.0001
2: Vow Procession (No = 0)	0.282	0.158	1.326	0.0739
$Mulaipp\bar{a}ri$ (No = 0)	0.130	0.111	1.138	0.2449

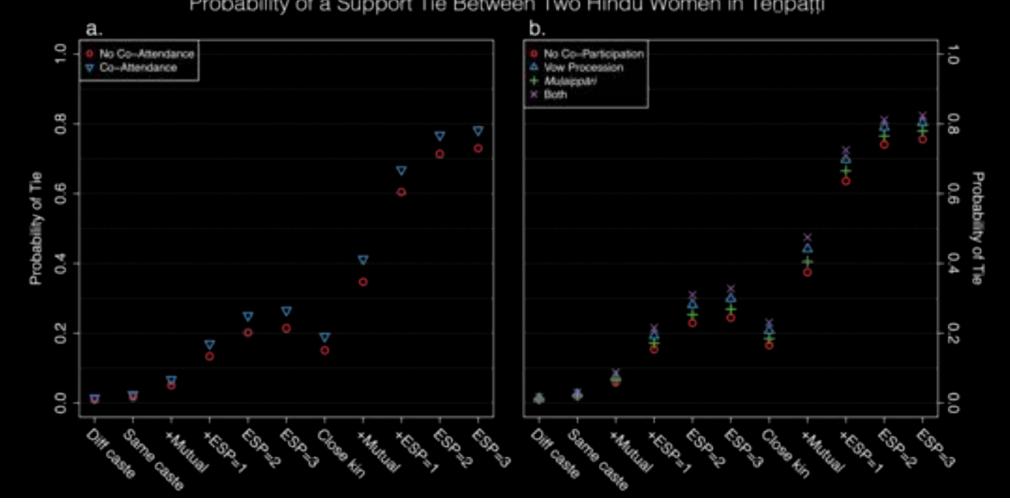
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# Are co-participants more likely to support one another?



### Are co-participants more likely to support one another?





# Thanks - **நன்றி**











