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Faith and Publicness in Contemporary Japan: from the analysis of JGSS-2000-2003

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The purpose of the presentation

- To examine whether religiousness is associated with membership to voluntary associations, in Japan – a non-Western society that has a small Christian population

※JGSS-2003 was not used because of methodological reasons.

Outline

1. Introduction
2. Theoretical discussion and Expectations
3. Data and Variables
4. Results
5. Summary and Discussion

Introduction

- Publication concerning religious social capital and civic participation has grown substantially.
- ⇒especially focusing on voluntary association membership
- ⇒limited to Western Christian societies
- ⇒We need to systematically research this topic in non-Western non Christian societies.
- Japan is the ideal country
- ⇒A Small Christian population, frequent attendance at religious services etc are rare.

Theoretical discussion and hypothesis

- Religious consciousness effect

  Altruistic consciousness embedded in religious values promotes participation in social activities and the importance of belonging to a community.

- Religious network effect

  Tight networks embedded in religious groups, such as regular religious attendance and social support in churches, promote mobilization for social activities. Those who are religious also have interactions with other religious people in churches and gain mobilization through these interactions.

(Ruiter & De Graaf 2006,2010)

Dose religious network theory apply to all religions?

- Requirements of Religious network effect

  religious attendance, participation to collective religious actions, interactions with religious people

  ⇒These requirements can also be found in religions which require believers to attend church regularly and belong to religious groups that generate those network effects.

  ⇒ Religions which do not attach importance to these collective activities such as Buddhism and Shintoism, do not tend to generate this effect

Religious landscape in Japan

①Traditional Religions

—Traditional Buddhism・Shintoism・Folk Religion

New year ceremony Funeral

②Non-traditional Religions

—Christianity・New Religious Movements

Monthly religious event

Social activities held by believers

Expectations

- *(1) Compared to non-religious people, those who believe in new or Christian religions will report higher frequency of belonging to voluntary associations.*
- *(2) On the other hand, there will be no difference in voluntary association membership between non-religious people and those who believe in Buddhist or other traditional religions.*

3.Data and Variables

- Data
  - ・Japanese General Social Surveys（JGSS）

    Accumlated data sets of JGSS-2000,JGSS-2001 and JGSS-2002
  - ・Cases：8636
  - ・Sample area ：Nationwide Japan
  - ・Sample population ：

    Men and women 20-89 years of age living in Japan
  - ・Sampling Method：Two-stage stratified random sampling
  - ・Investigator：

    Institute of Regional Studies at Osaka University of Commerce

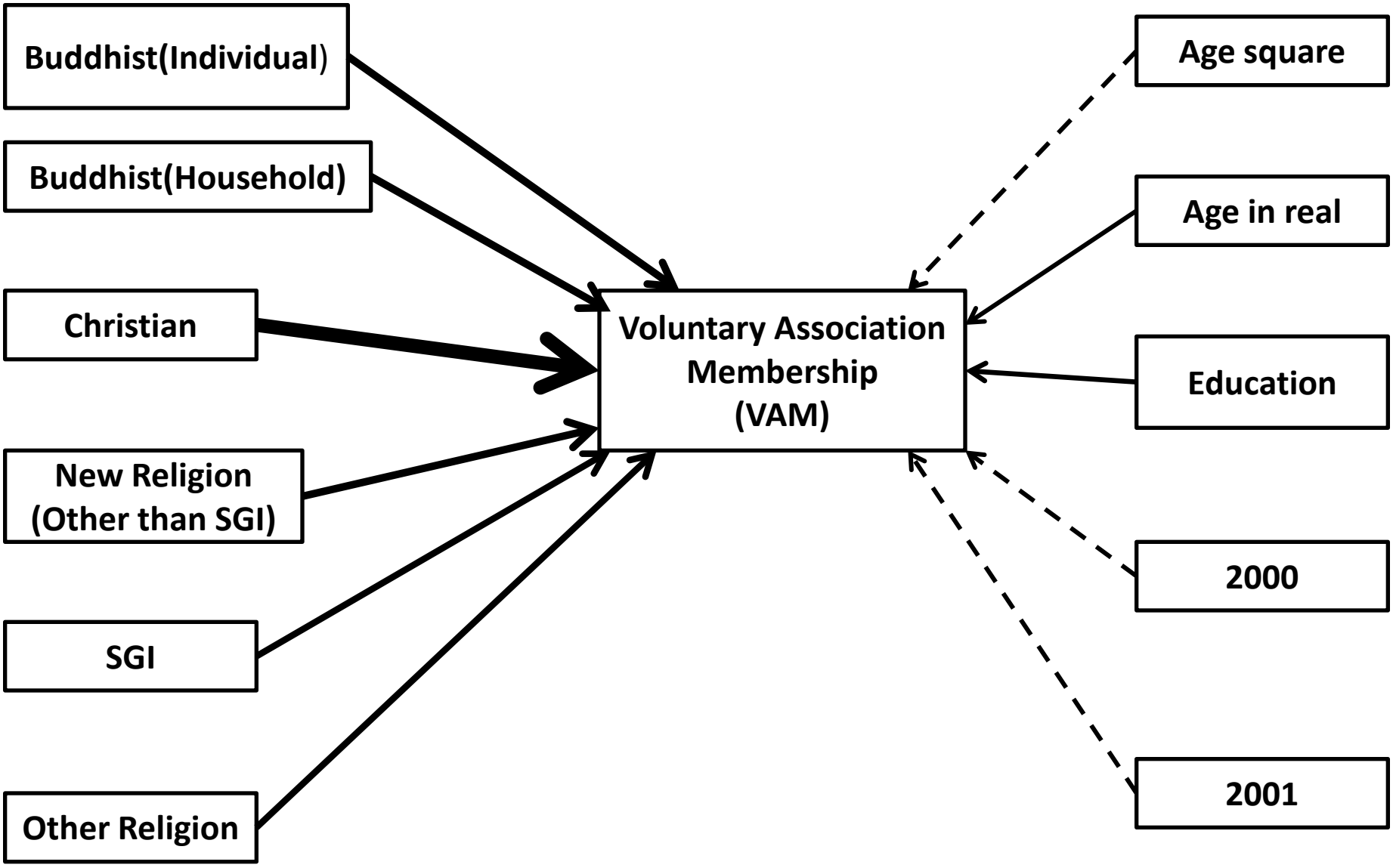
    Institute of Social Science at the University of Tokyo
  - ・Website： http://jgss.daishodai.ac.jp/

Variables

- Dependent Variable：Voluntary Association Membership
  whether respondents are member of at least one of five secular organizations
- Independent Variables：
  Religious Affiliation：
  Buddhist（Individual）, Buddhist（Household）,Christian SGI, New Religion(other than SGI), Other Religion Non-Religion
- Control Variables：
  Age, Sex, Education, Urban or rural, Marital Status Employment Status, Research Year

※For more detail, please see appendix.

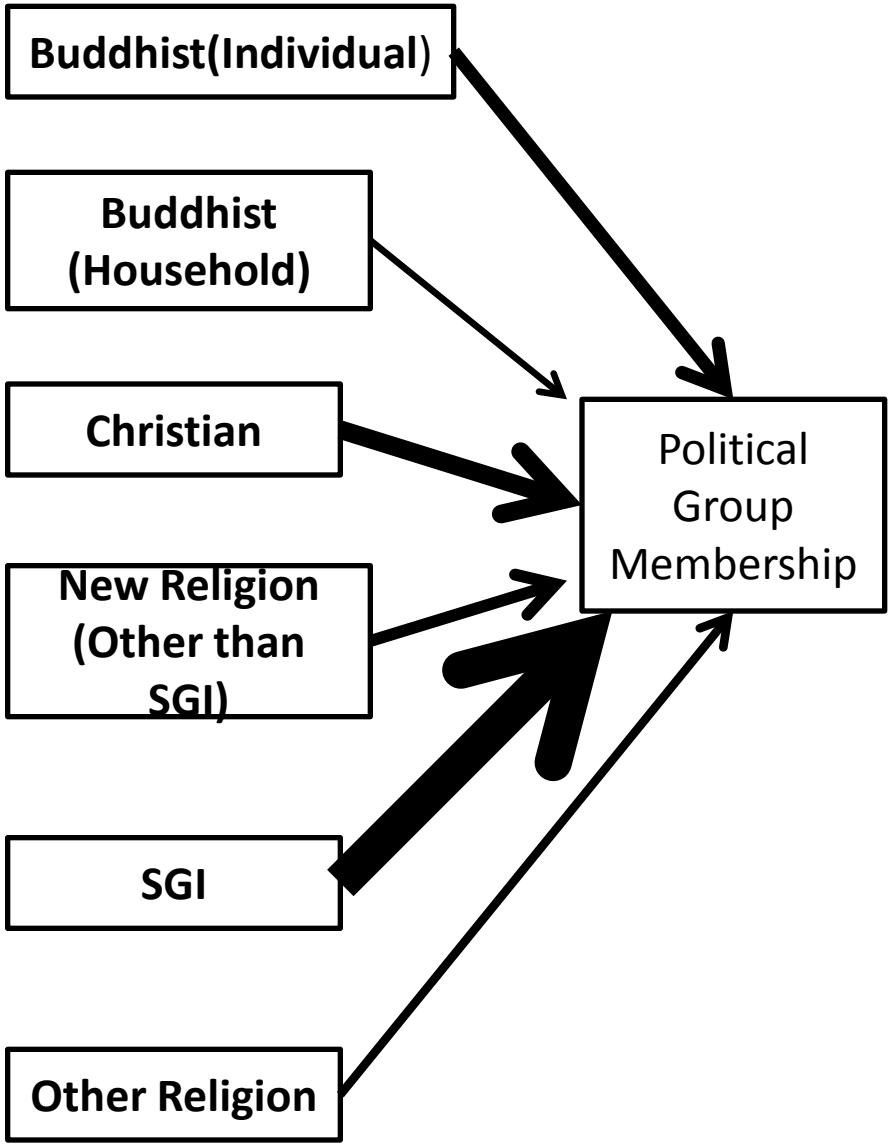
4. Results① Binary Logistic Regression Analysis on VAM



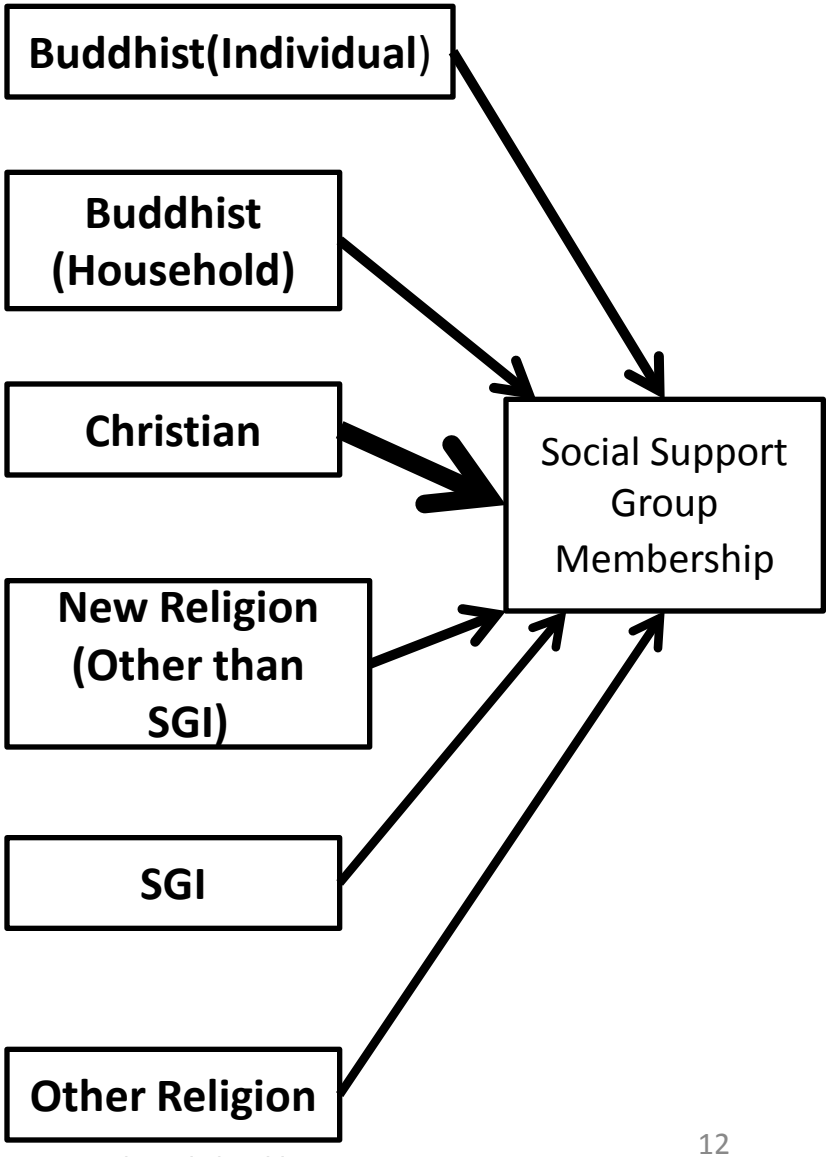
※ Lines width= strength of the relationships Solid lines=positive relationship
Dashed lines =negative relationship

Results② Political ＆Volunteer organization

①Political organization



②Volunteer organization



※Lines width= strength of the relationships Solid lines=positive relationship Dashed lines =negative relationship

Short Summary

- All religious affiliations are positively related

  —even though controlling for socio-demographics

  —especially political and social service group

- As for expectations

  —Support second part

  (Christian and New Religion)

  —Reject first part(Buddhist, Other religion)

⇒religions supposed not to have significant relationship have significant relationship。

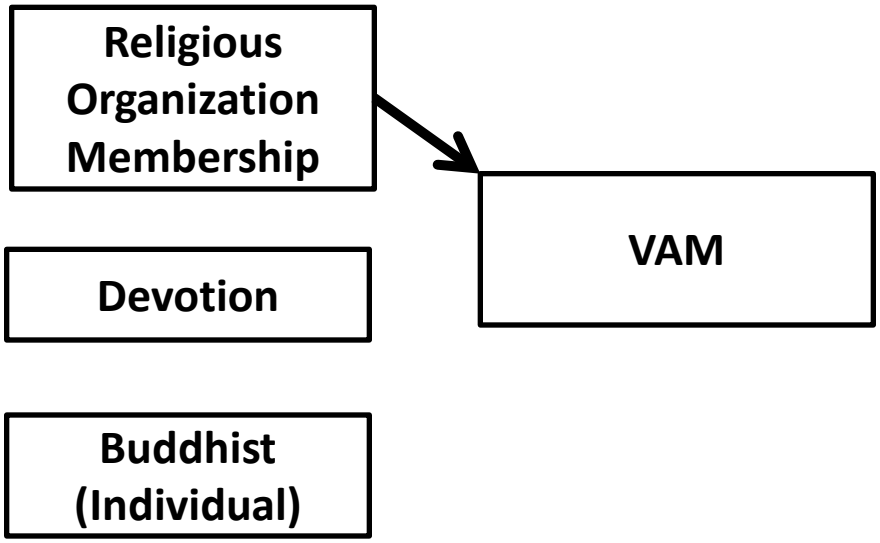
Why related (Buddhist)？

- ①Network effect？
- ②Consciousness effect？

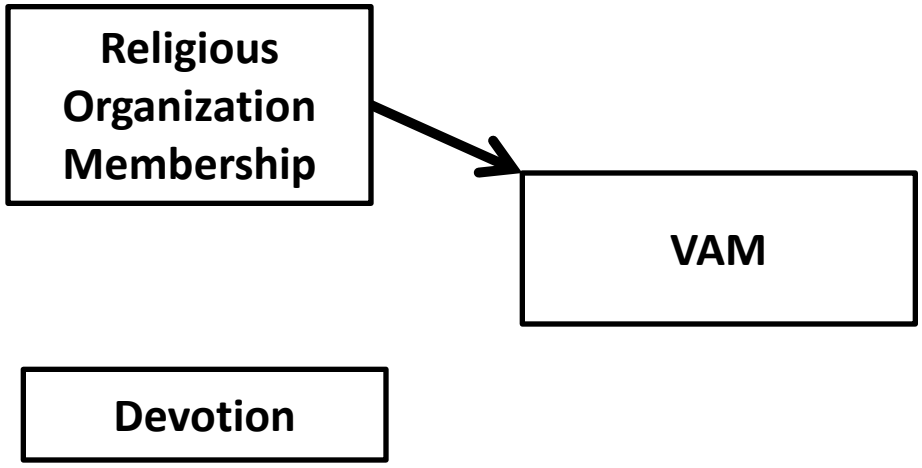
⇒Supplement analysis

Results③ Analysis on sample including only Buddhist

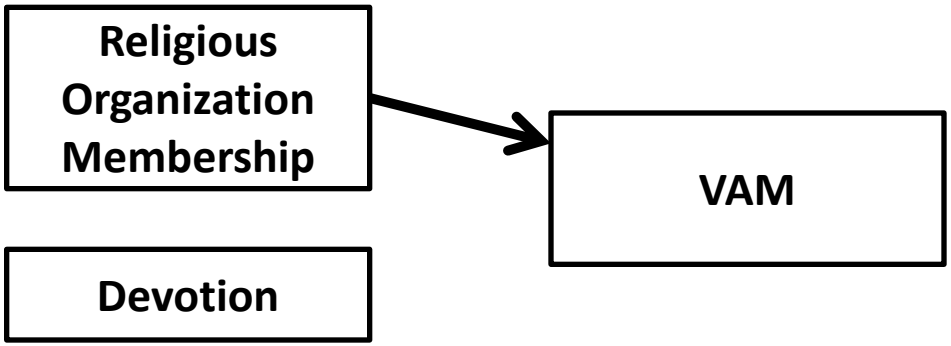
①Sample：Buddhist (Both)



②Sample：Buddhist(Household)



③Sample：Buddhist(Individual)



Lines width= strength of the relationships Solid lines=positive relationship Dashed lines =negative relationship

5. Summary and Discussion

・Summary

①Japanese who have a religious affiliation are more likely than those who do not have any religious affiliations to report that they are a member of a voluntary association.

②This finding was found even though I controlled for socio-demographic variables.

③The religious affiliations which were not supposed to be significantly correlated with voluntary association membership actually were significantly correlated.

④As for Buddhist, not devotion but religious group membership had significant positive effect on voluntary association membership.

- Study limitations

  ①limitation of included religious variables

  ②unable to examine causational relationships

- Contribution

  This study reveals important connections between religion and voluntary association membership in Japan. This study also presents new data concerning Japanese voluntary associations, and this is the only study that addresses this topic quantitatively.

Thank you for your kind attention!

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