

CATHOLIC MEDIA, RELIGIOUS FEARS, AND EU ATTITUDES IN IRELAND

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Slide 1

H1

Definition norface?

Artikel die schon erschienen sind?

namen überprüfen

Englische Schreibweise?

Veröffentlichung Database

Hinrichsen, 3/26/2009

Theory: Religion and EU attitudes

- Generally, religious people are more in favor of the EU and European integration (e.g. Nelsen and Guth, 2005; Nelsen, Guth and Fraser, 2001)
- Generally, Catholics are more positive towards European integration than Protestants (e.g. Scheuer and van der Brug (2007); Nelsen and Guth, 2005)
- People with a higher news media use tend to be more positive towards European integration
- Other factors influencing EU attitudes are: Income, education, sex, age, political knowledge, EU knowledge,

Theory: Religion, religious media, and political attitudes

- A higher salience of religious issues in newspaper coverage about the EU can prime religious predispositions to have more an impact on EU attitudes (Hinrichsen et al., forthcoming).
- Correspondingly, links between religion beliefs to social and political attitudes are stronger for those issues that are discussed more often (Wald, 1989).
- Religious people turn to religious media outlets also for orientation: The most important reason being „the need to get a biblical position on political and moral issues“ (Alexander, 1994).
- Hollander (1998) found that turning to religious television programming can prime the importance of religion in the formation and maintenance of political attitudes, especially for those topics that often have been linked by religious leaders to religious values.
- Wuthnow (1983) argues that in the United States the growth of the Christian right has been stimulated in part by fears of challenges to their core beliefs and a need to tie religious beliefs to public policy.



Research interest

- Does the use of Alive! The catholic monthly newspaper stimulate fears of challenges to religious religious beliefs by EU policies?
- Does the intensity of threat perceptions of different dangers by EU policies depend on their proximity to religious values?
- Does the intensity of threat perceptions of different dangers by EU policies depend on the de facto responsibility of the EU regarding the issue?
- What impact do higher threat perceptions of Christian values being endangered by EU policies have on the support of EU integration?
- In how far is the impact of Alive! reading on the intensity of the different threat perception issues mirrored in their affect on support of EU integration?



STUDY

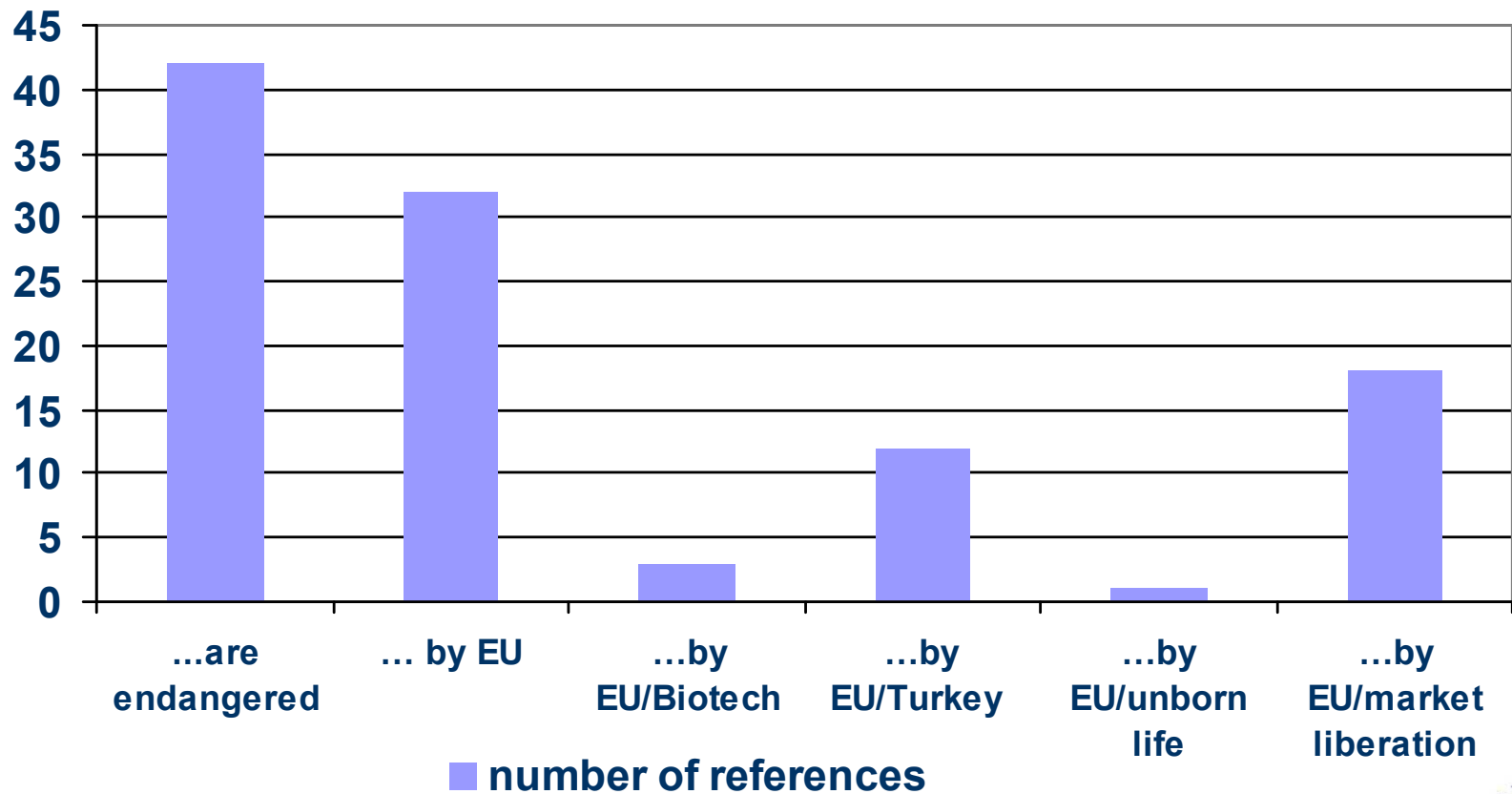
- Survey:

Representative online survey in Ireland: n=1457

- Content analysis:

11 issues of a *Alive!* Catholic monthly newspaper

Content analysis: Christian ethics and values being endangered by



Results

- Issues which the EU is not responsible for are not often covered by Alive!: Laws on biotechnology and the protection of unborn life.
- Issues which the EU is responsible for are more often covered by Alive!: Market liberation and the accession of Turkey.
- The greatest number of articles deals with Christian values and ethics generally being endangered
- The second greatest number of articles deals Christian ethics and values being in one way or another endangered by the EU and its policies.

EFFECTS OF ALIVE! READING ON THREAT PERCEPTION OF CHRISTIAN VALUES BEING ENDANGERED BY THE EU

	Christian ethics and values are endangered	...by the EU	...by EU/biotech	...by EU/Turkey	...by EU/ unborn life	...by the EU/ market liberation
Church attendance	,036 (,028)	,018 (,028)	,007 (,028)	,005 (,028)	,082** (,028)	,000 (,028)
Alive! Catholic monthly magazine	,003 (,028)	,113*** (,028)	,052(*) (,028)	,099*** (,028)	,007 (,028)	,103*** (,028)

Control variables: Age, Sex, Living Area, Income, Education, EU Knowledge, Political Ideology, Religious Denomination

Results

- Reading Alive! does not affect the general perception that Christian ethics and values are endangered.
- Reading Alive! does lead its readers to believe that generally Christian ethics and values are in one way or another endangered by EU policies or the European integration process.
- There are **hardly effects** on the threat perception of those issues less often covered in Alive! and that the EU is not responsible for: the protection of unborn life and laws on biotechnology. Concerning the protection of unborn life not reading Alive! but going to church attendance more often turns out to have a significant effect.
- There are **highly significant** effects on the threat perception of those issues often covered in Alive! and the EU is responsible for: the accession of Turkey and market liberation policies.



Threat perception of Christian values being endangered and their effect on support for European integration

Church attendance	-,016 (,028)
Alive! reading	,145*** (,035)
I am afraid Christian ethics and values are endangered by the EU.	-,062* (,030)
...Christian ethics and values are endangered by the EU politics regarding biotechnology.	-,097** (,029)
...Christian ethics and values are endangered by the EU politics regarding the possible accession of Turkey.	-,082* (,029)
...Christian ethics and values are endangered by the EU politics regarding the protection of unborn life.	-,079* (,028)
...Christian ethics and values are endangered by the EU politics regarding market liberation policies.	-,088* (,030)

Control variables: Age, Sex, Living Area, Income, Education, EU Knowledge, Political Ideology, Religious Denomination



Results

- Generally reading Alive! leads to a positive evaluation of European integration.
- All the threat perceptions that Christian ethics and values are endangered by EU policies lead to significant more negative evaluations of European integration.