

[Summary]

Cross-National Comparison of the Structure of Religious Consciousness: A Methodological Examination of Survey Analysis Focusing on “Factor Analysis” and “Smallest Space Analysis”

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ABSTRACTS

This Paper is a sequel of my former papers entitled “Concept, Measurement and Analysis of Religiosity: Survey Results from Eight Countries” (Kwansei Gakuin University School of Sociology Journal, No.125 and No.128).

In my former papers, I analyzed a data set of the Religious Consciousness Survey in Eight Countries (India, Turkey Japan, the United States of America, Italy, Taiwan, Thailand, and Russia). This survey was conducted online through a research company panel in 1915, and was financially supported by Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (Kiban-Kenkyu (A) No.25244002). The method of data analysis used was Smallest Space Analysis (SSA) developed by Louis Guttman.

On the basis of my former papers, the purpose of this paper is to make the comparison of “Smallest Space Analysis” with other statistical method of data analysis. To put it concretely, I develop the methodological discussions on advantages and disadvantages of “Smallest Space Analysis” and “Factor Analysis” using the data set of the Religious Consciousness Survey in Eight Countries.

As a result, I illustrate the utility of combining the different statistical methods—in the current case, “Factor Analysis” and “Smallest Space Analysis”—, which is called “multi-methods approach”, in the survey analysis.