

Abstract

The socio-economic modernization has affected the socialization process of societies and thus the citizens' beliefs. In response to the social and institutional demand, citizens in more modernized societies have adopted a unique pattern of the five dimensions of social beliefs, which are general beliefs about how the world functions. They have high scores in social complexity but low scores in cynicism, reward for application, spirituality and fate control. The present study aims at investigating the linkages between different societal forces and citizen differences in social beliefs across 36 national groups. The social welfare state was found to be able to predict the beliefs in reward for application and spirituality. The degree of urbanism was found to have predictive power over the belief in spirituality and fate control. These findings enable researchers to build nomological networks between societal factors and the five dimensions of social beliefs so that the underpinnings of the national differences in social beliefs will be unpackaged.