

## Research Methods in the Sociology of Religion

### Qualitative Research

Kraus, R. (2014). Transforming spirituality in artistic leisure: How the spiritual meaning of belly dance changes over time. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 53(3): 459-478.

Read the article and answer the following questions:

1. What are the author's research questions?
2. How does the author define the difference between dwellers and seekers?
3. What is the research design? Why is this design suitable given the research questions?
4. What sampling method did the author use and how many belly dancers participated in the study?
5. How was the data collected?
6. What methods did the author use to analyze the data?
7. What were four themes that the author found in analyzing the data?
8. What is one implication of this study for the sociology of religion?
9. What is one thing that you learned from this article that you did not know before?

### Quantitative Research

Perry, S. (2014). More like us: How religious service attendance hinders interracial romance. *Sociology of Religion* 75(3): 442-462.

Read the article and answer the following questions. Please note that you are not expected to understand OLS or logistic regression. I will explain Table 1 and 2. If you do not understand other stats, assume that what the author says about the stats is correct.

1. What are the (key) independent variables (there are two, or you could say one is an intervening variable)? What is the dependent variable?
2. What is the predicted relationship (or hypotheses) between the independent and dependent variable?
3. In a sentence or two, describe the sample. What does "probability sample" mean?
4. What is the theory? In other words, why does the author think the independent variables have a causal influence on the dependent variable? (Hint: it has something to do with "embeddedness in a religio-cultural community").
5. How did the author measure the (key) independent variables and the dependent variable (hint: they are measured by one question each)?
6. Were the (four) hypotheses supported?
7. The author admits to limitations in this study in conclusion/discussion section. What are they?