A Transatlantic Secular Divide? The Representation of Religion in EU and US Foreign Policy

Codebook and description of data

Steps in the research process

1.) Collection of all EU and US foreign policy documents (2001-2015)
   - with explicit reference to one of the six countries (Central African Republic, CAR; Indonesia; Lebanon; Nigeria; Tanzania; the Philippines) in the title of the document (or if document is explicitly on that country),
   - retrieved from websites of the EU (EUR-Lex, Council of the European Union, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the European Commission's press database, and the European Parliament) and of the US (White House [WH], Department of State [DoS], and Congress)
   - in the Excel spreadsheets these collections are called *EU all* and *US all*, there is one Excel document for each country

2.) Identification of all documents which mention religion
   - based on the following list of 34 keywords: relig*, secul*, atheis*, faith, confession, belief [the latter three only if used in the context of religion], pray [only if used to describe events in the country, not if, for example, an American speaker added that he/she prays for the country], christ*, cathol*, evangel*, protestant*, church, islam, muslim/moslem, sunni, shia/shii, mosque, sharia, orthodox, hindu*, buddh*, jew*, juda*, *semit*, druze, monk, nun, cleric/clerg*, priest, imam, temple, pope, bishop, synagogue
   - in the Excel spreadsheets these collections are called *EU with* and *US with*

3.) Coding of the documents with explicit reference to religion – the coding is included in the Excel worksheets *EU with* and *US with* (for the coding rules see below).

4.) Analysis
   - in the Excel spreadsheets the analysis is done in the document called *comp_analysis* that includes four worksheets:
      - *comp 1*: analysis of prominence (per country, and separately for specific EU and US institutions and differentiating between documents that mention religion only once or twice within one sentence and those that include more references to religion) – calculation of shares of documents with references to religion;
      - *comp 2*: representation of religion as problem or resource, also separately for the time periods 2001-2008 and 2009-2015 – calculation of shares of documents that represent religion primarily as problem or primarily as resource;
      - *comp 3*: representation of Islam (I) and Christianity (C) in a more positive and in a more critical sense, also separately for two time periods (2001-2008 and 2009-2015) – calculation of share of documents with more positive and more critical representations of Islam and Christianity;
      - *comp 4*: contexts in which religion is mentioned in the documents (security [sec], human rights [hr], development [dev], democracy/democratization [democr]) – calculation of share of documents according to context

Coding

H1: prominence of religion
- 1: document mentions religion only once or twice within one sentence
- 2: document mentions religion more often than that

H2: representation of religion in general
- 0: document mentions religion in a neutral way, or includes the same number of positive and critical references to religion
- 1: document includes more critical references to religion (religion as problem)
- 2: document includes more positive references to religion (religion as resource)

H3 Islam: representation of Islam
- 0: document does not include any references to Islam
- 1: document includes more critical than positive references to Islam
- 2: document includes more positive than critical references to Islam
- 3: document mentions Islam in a neutral way, or includes the same number of critical and positive references

H3 Christianity: representation of Christianity
- 0: document does not include any references to Christianity
- 1: document includes more critical than positive references to Christianity
- 2: document includes more positive than critical references to Christianity
- 3: document mentions Christianity in a neutral way, or includes the same number of critical and positive references

H4: contexts
- sec: security (e.g. terrorism, conflict, etc.)
- hr: human rights (e.g. women's rights, harsh punishment, etc.)
- dev: development (e.g. education, health, humanitarian aid, etc.)
- democr: democracy/democratization (e.g. elections, civil society development)
- coop / ir: cooperation / international relations (e.g. diplomatic relations, state visits, etc.)
- other

H4 1: primary context (context that appears most often in the document)
H4 2: secondary context (context that appears second often in the document)
H4 3: context that appears third often in the document

contexts neg: negative contexts in which religion is mentioned in the document (e.g. terrorism, violence, etc.)
contexts pos: positive contexts in which religion is mentioned in the document (e.g. inter-faith dialogue, reconciliation, etc.)