



Anton de Kom University of Suriname

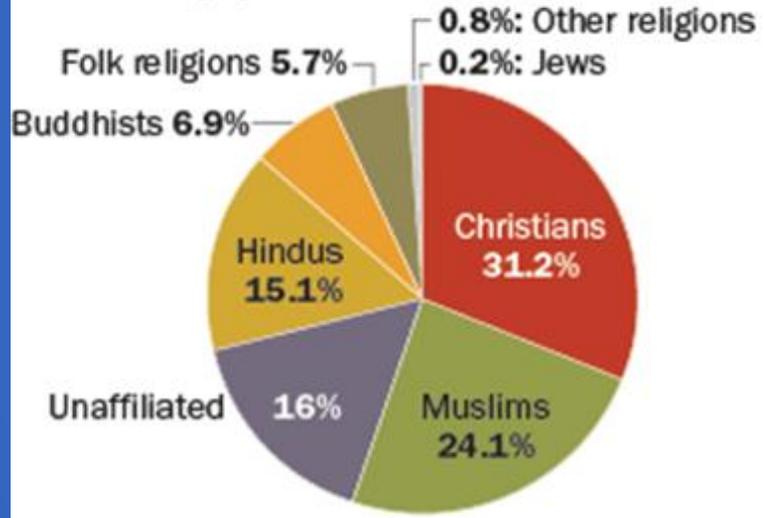
COMPARATIVE MIXED METHODS DESIGN: A STUDY ON INTERRELIGIOUS RELATIONS IN SURINAME & GUYANA

R. Kirtie Algoe

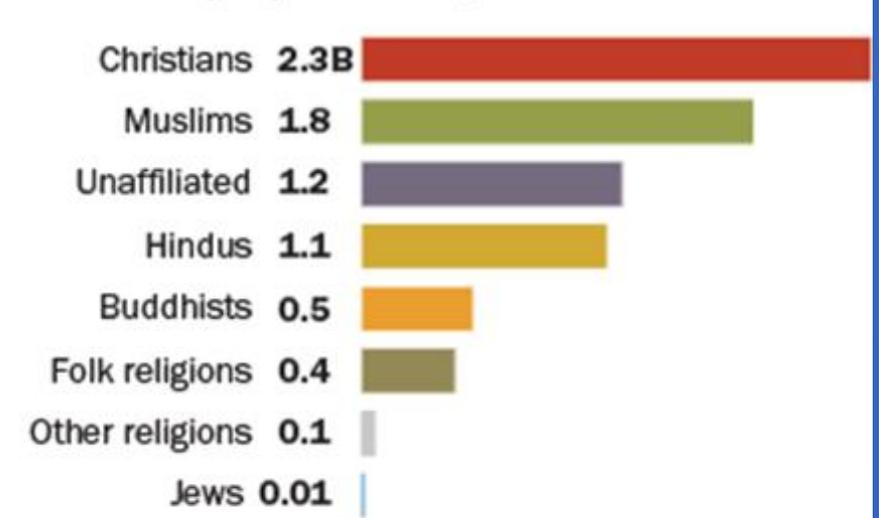


Context (1)

% of world population



Number of people in 2015, in billions



Source: Pew Research Center demographic projections. See Methodology for details.
"The Changing Global Religious Landscape"

Context (2)

- ▣ Many regions with C, H, M faced extreme violence
 - Reychler (1997) listed 24 world's largest armed religious conflicts 20th century
 - Mostly involved C, H, M
- ▣ Not the case in the Caribbean

“In this confrontational world, the Caribbean exists as a zone of peace. Peace that is overlooked”

Barriteau (2006, p. 12)

Context (3)

- Practical experiences
- Debates on religious diversity
- Our studies and findings
- Importance of comparative approach

RQ and Objective

What were the responses of Hindus and Muslims to Christian dominance in Suriname and Guyana from 1950 to 2014?

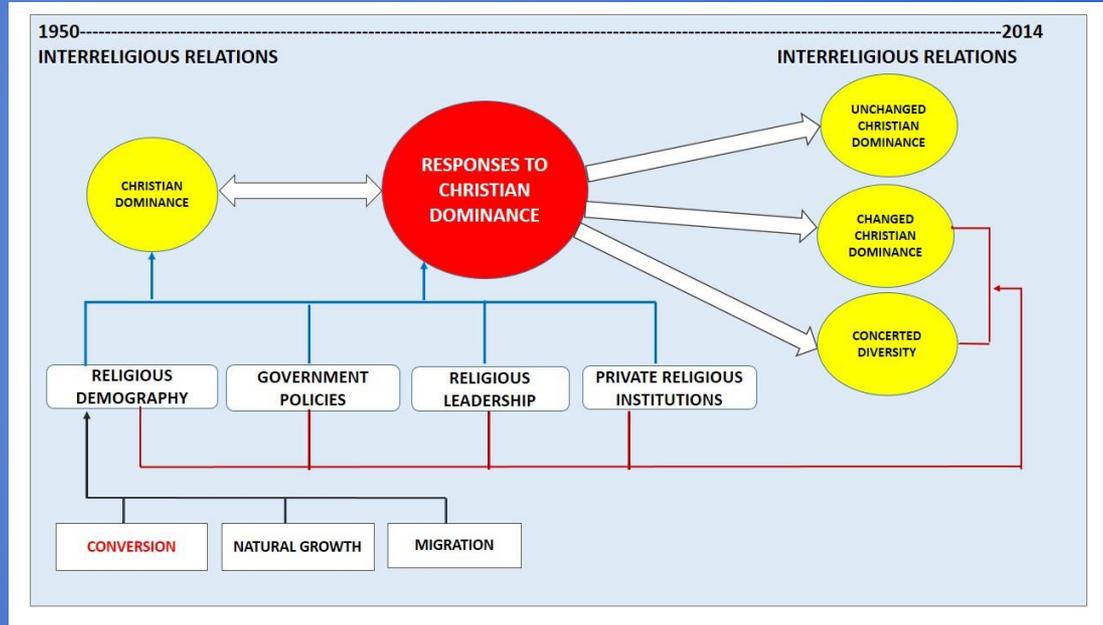
Objective: to develop a conceptual framework on interreligious relations for Caribbean societies

Generate Research Design

1. Theoretical scope

2. RD possibilities

- Case study
- Comparative
- Mixed methods



Generate Research Design

3. Iterative process

- Discuss aims of study & connection with research design
- Role of theoretical innovation
- Practical issues
 - Time
 - Costs
 - Availability of data, persons

Decision Criteria

- Relevance RQ & Research Aims
 - Comparison
 - Methodological 'toolkit': concrete steps to collect and analyze data: **equally important as comparison**
- **theoretical innovation**

Dilemma

How I coped with it

Solution: Combine comparative & mixed method

Result: Comparative mixed method design

Comparing

- Advantages:
 - of comparing cases is the strengthening of theory development (Ragin, 1987)
 - of comparative design is that it provides a methodological framework for comparing variables of interest in a particular study (C. Ragin, 2007; C. C. Ragin, 1987).
 - goes beyond the classical distinction of qualitative and quantitative research which is required for understanding a certain phenomenon.

- Comparative studies have proven to contain a larger added value for in depth understanding of multi-religious societies than non-comparative ones (Bouma & Singleton, 2004). Particularly in the field of religious studies non-comparative studies do not provide insight in 'what promotes and what hinders the emergence of harmonious inter-religious relations', while this is possible by comparing societies (ibid, p. 5).

Mixed Methods

- essential to enable the qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis which were required for the comparison of Suriname and Guyana
- advantage of providing ways to integrate qualitative and quantitative methods into a single study to address the research questions (Creswell & Clark, 2011)
- sequential explanatory form of mixed methods design
 - quantitative analyses are followed up with qualitative analyses

Comparative mixed methods design

- ▣ Studies not usually use this term
- ▣ Only one (Miller, 2012)
- ▣ Often one particular design where the principles of other one are included
 - a comparative design that uses various methods (Lor, 2011),
 - or a mixed methods design that involves a comparative approach (De Bosscher, Shibli, van Bottenburg, De Knop, & Truyens, 2010).
- ▣ selecting one not appropriate; principles of both methodologically equally important

Application research design (1)

1. Comparative part

In line with existing literature (complexities, confounding variables etc.)

2. Mixed Method part

statistical analyses → basis for qualitative research. Difference at neighborhood level

Application research design (2)

- Data were first collected in Suriname, followed by Guyana for logistical and methodological reasons
 - author lives in Suriname and therefore had the opportunity to 'test' the case study design there
 - data collection in Suriname served as a basis to modify the research design for Guyana.
 - As Yin (1989) argues, the case study design is not fixed. It can develop along the process when new insights are obtained.
- This study modified the comparative mixed methods research design not only after the case study in Suriname, but also during and after the case study of Guyana. Such modification was necessary to deal with problems of data collection and analyses.

Final Remarks

- No fixed path in the world of methodology of social sciences (many speakers)
- Messy, but beautiful (keynote 16 jan)
- You never know everything... (panel RMG)
- Dare to differ; take risks and share experiences

Contact

kirtie.algoe@gmail.com

kirtie.algoe@uvs.edu

+5978661908