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Abstract

This paper examines the relationship between religion and home bias. A simple theoretical framework suggests that countries interacting via their representative individual might show a certain degree of religion enhanced international altruism that is associated with a lower home bias. We report a first attempt at testing these predictions using data from a survey on religious attitudes and individuals' preferences over consumption of home versus foreign goods and services that we designed and carried out in universities of 15 countries. Our preliminary evidence seems to suggest that religious openness (i.e. an open and tolerant attitude towards religion and other religions) and home bias may be negatively correlated. This seems to provide some support to the hypothesis that religious openness enhances trust and altruism and, hence, has a pro-trade effect.