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**ABSTRACT**

“Islamic Extremism and Religiosity: A Multidimensional Model of Religiosity for Muslims in the United States”

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There is a growing recognition that Islamic identity is complex. While some theologians attempt to sharply delineate who is and who is not Muslim, people with a wide range of beliefs and practices consider themselves Muslim. This diversity in religiosity has been well studied in Christian communities; however, until recently, lack of large scale data on Muslims has hampered attempts to establish a model of Muslim religiosity. This paper uses the national survey of American Muslims conducted in 2007 by the Pew Center to develop a model of religiosity, which is both well grounded in contemporary theories about religiosity and organically developed for the American Muslim community. The model examined in this paper is based on the commonly used five-dimensional scale of religiosity introduced by Glock and Stark. Although the survey does not offer questions to explore their *transcendence* dimension, each of the four remaining dimensions were examined. The ritual practice and religious belief dimensions are found to be well modeled by confirmatory factor analysis. In contrast, Muslims seem to have a distinctive relationship with religious knowledge when compared to Christian populations, on which Glock and Stark’s model were tested. Although seven questions from the survey represent the consequential dimension rather well, regression analysis shows that opinions about topics which are viewed in secular political terms, such as Al Qaeda, are not correlated with religiosity. These findings suggest that American Muslims see religious belief, ritual practice, and non-ritual commitment as distinctive aspects of being Muslim. Many Muslims have stronger commitments to some aspects more than others.