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Annotation 1

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Fischer, Ronald, Rohan Callander, Paul Reddish, and Joseph Bulbulia

2013 How do Rituals Affect Cooperation? *Human Nature* 24(2):115-125.

The article examined the relationship between collective rituals and prosociality among a sample of people in Wellington, New Zealand. The researchers operationalize prosociality in two ways: reported attitudes towards others and decisions made in a game. Fischer et al analyzed nine types of rituals for their use of synchrony and sacred attribution, and drew conclusions about these rituals' effects on prosociality. The study's data collection methods were multifaceted, using both observational and reported data to examine the psychological state of participants.

To analyze the data, researchers used both regression and variance analyses. Fischer et al found that there was a significant relationship between synchronized ritual activities and prosociality, that rituals that involved synchronized behaviors promoted entitativity or a sense of unity, trust, and perception of sacred values. Where I feel the article fell short was making a clear connection between the findings of the regression and variance analyses. The researchers used two separate measures of prosociality, but did not clearly outline how these measures compared. While their conclusions seem to draw upon both sets of data, Fischer et al to not explicitly state how the data was synthesized. The researchers were careful, however, to note the limitations of their research.