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researchers are increasingly looking at the relationships between religion and intercultural communication researchers have explored how religion affects numerous communication traits and behaviors and have shown how religious communities perceive and enact religious beliefs religion human beings relation to that which they regard as holy sacred absolute spiritual divine or worthy of especial reverence worship moral conduct right belief and participation in religious institutions are among the constituent elements of the religious life do people who affiliate with the same religious traditions share cultural traits even across geographic distances and political boundaries to answer this question a team of researchers explored different cultures around the globe for evidence of common cultural traits across religious groups religion is a range of social cultural systems including designated behaviors and practices morals beliefs worldviews texts sanctified places prophecies ethics or organizations that generally relate humanity to supernatural transcendental and spiritual elements 1 although there is no scholarly consensus over what precisely const culture is seen as holding harmful practices such as fgm containing barriers to gender equality and being hostile or intolerant to other groups including other religious groups or religious minorities yet a key debate concerns the legitimacy of these assumptions about both culture and religion while still acknowledging that religion is a shared endeavor geertz focuses on religion s role as a potent cultural symbol elusive ambiguous and hard to define religion in geertz s conception is primarily a feeling that motivates and unites groups of people with shared beliefs it is common today to take the concept religion as a taxon for sets of social practices a category concept whose paradigmatic examples are the so called world religions of judaism christianity islam hinduism buddhism confucianism and daoism 1 in introducing this special issue we first consider six ways of thinking about how culture and religion relate to each other religion may be part of culture constitute culture include and transcend culture be influenced by culture shape culture or interact with culture in influencing cognitions emotions and actions as a tradition christianity is more than a system of religious belief it also has generated a culture a set of ideas and ways of life practices and artifacts that have been handed down from generation to generation since jesus first became the object of faith lori g beaman in this paper i focus on designations of our culture and heritage that defend practices and symbols of religious majorities i consider the entanglement of nationalist narratives secularity and the us in the claims of social actors and public discussions about culture and heritage what is understood as being religious shinto is a set of traditional japanese beliefs that can include the worship of gods and spirits known as kami though only 4 of adults in japan identify shinto as their religion fully 27 say they feel a personal connection to the shinto way of life in answers to a separate question 38 of japanese adults say they pray or offer respects a typology for the diverse kinds of research in the psychology of religion is proposed and cultural psychological approaches to the study of religion are shown to be indispensable for any comprehensive psychological analysis of religious phenomena and states of affairs religions that consist of the traditional customs and beliefs of particular ethnic groups refined and expanded upon for thousands of years often lacking formal doctrine some adherents do not consider their ways to be religion preferring other cultural terms religion can be a key factor in the cultural identity of many people influencing their behavior and traditions rituals sacrifices prayer art are one of the many ways people show their allegiance to a particular religion rejecting traditions based methods of teaching religion she proposes that religion should be studied through the lens of cultural studies with the following maxims in mind 1 religions are internally diverse 2 religions evolve and change and 3 religions are culturally embedded religion as culture or heritage has been mobilized in legal arguments against the removal of crucifixes and prayers from public spaces lori beaman 2020 shows in several detailed examples how this strategy reinstates privilege to majoritarian religions even in a society committed to secularism religion is a pervasive and significant cultural phenomenon so people who study culture and human nature have sought to explain the nature of religious beliefs and the reasons why religions exist in the first place how do the words religion and culture seem to overlap in meaning what are some words in other languages that seem to correspond to the word religion what is religion not what are some important questions that religions often seek to answer what are some different aspects of daily living that are often regulated by religious rules people do religious stuff all the time a commitment to gods myths and rituals has been present in all societies these practices and beliefs are diverse to be sure from aztec human sacrifice to christian baptism but they appear to share a common essence although all known societies have religious beliefs and practices religions vary greatly from society to society this module summarizes what cross cultural research tells us about predictors and possible explanations of religious variation

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