

Subject/Title	Identifying Religious Status in Taiwan: An Inquiry of Irreligion
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Abstract	<p>Understanding the absence of religiosity is a new focus among researchers of the sociology of religion. The authors use data from the 2009 Taiwan Social Change Survey to explain the diversity associated with the lack of religiosity. Results indicate inconsistency in the numbers of people who describe themselves as non-religious but who still hold positive attitudes toward many religious beliefs, or who otherwise participate in religious activities. The evidence suggests that the survey item wording "What religion do you believe in now?" fails to identify existing variety in the lack of religiosity. In contrast, "How do you believe in religion?" allows a respondent to express either "religious indifference" or "anti-religion" opinions. Further, questions about "views of God" provide multiple categories of irreligion and multi-dimensional perceptions of God. The authors conclude that "How do you believe in religion?" and "views of God" represent two testable variables for identifying survey respondents' religious statuses.</p>
Keyword(s)	Religious status; religiosity; irreligion; views of god; ISSP