

## The RELTRAD Method for Classifying Protestant Denominations

The code for the RELTRAD method of categorizing religious affiliation appears below in SPSS, SAS, and STATA formats. While the code is written for the categories available in the General Social Survey, applying the logic of the RELTRAD method to other datasets should be straightforward. While we do not require permission to use the RELTRAD method, we do ask that individuals who use RELTRAD in their papers include the citation for the article in which we developed the scheme:

Steensland, Brian, Jerry Z. Park, Mark D. Regnerus, Lynn D. Robinson, W. Bradford Wilcox, and Robert D. Woodberry. 2000. "The Measure of American Religion: Toward Improving the State of the Art." *Social Forces*, 79 (1): 291-318.

[NOTE (3/6/02): This is a slightly revised version of the original syntax posted in 2000. Brian Starks helpfully pointed out (1) that our original version double-counted blacks in the ABC in both the mainline (xml) and black Protestant (xbp) categories; and (2) that our placement of four smaller denominations (Grace Reformed, Hungarian Reformed, United Brethren in Christ, and Northern Baptist) in the syntax did not match our placement in the Appendix of our paper.]

=====

SPSS code for RELTRAD:

\* The following code breaks down religious groups by Protestant, Catholic,  
\* etc.

```
COMPUTE xaffil = 0 .  
IF (relig eq 1) xaffil = 1.  
IF any(relig,11,13) xaffil = 1.  
IF (relig eq 2) xaffil = 4.  
IF (relig eq 3) xaffil = 5.  
IF (relig eq 4) xaffil = 9.  
IF (relig eq 5) xaffil = 6.  
IF any(relig,6,7,8,9,10,12) xaffil = 6.
```

```
VALUE LABELS xaffil 1 'prot' 4 'cath' 5 'jew' 6 'other' 9 'nonaf'.
```

\* The following code breaks down religious groups by evangelicals, black  
\* Protestants, mainline, liberal and conservative nontraditional,  
\* and Protestant nondenomination/no denomination.

```
compute xbp = 0.
```

\* Following are black sectarians.

IF any(other,7,14,15,21,37,38,56,78,79,85,86,87,88,98,103,104,128,133) xbp = 1.

\* Following are historically black churches.

IF (denom=12 or denom=13 or denom=20 or denom=21) xbp = 1.

\* Following are black Methodists (e.g., AME).

IF ((denom=23 or denom=28) and race = 2) xbp=1.

\* Following are black Baptists.

IF ((denom=18 or denom=15 or denom=10 or denom=11 or denom=14) and race=2) xbp = 1.

IF (other=93 and race=2) xbp = 1.

\* Evangelicals.

compute xev = 0.

\* Following two commands put sectarians into evangelical.

IF any(other,2,3,5,6,9,10,12,13,16,18,20,22,26,27,  
28,32,34,35,36,39,42,43,45,47,51,52,53,55,57,63,65,66,67,68,69,  
76,77,83,84,90,91,92,94,97,100,101,102,106,107,108,109,  
110,111,112,115,117,118,120,121,125,127,129,131,132,134,135,  
138,139,140,146) xev = 1.

IF any(other,24,31,41,116,122,124) xev = 1.

\* Following puts conservative Methodists into evangelical.

IF ((denom=23) and race ne 2) xev=1.

\* Following puts conservative Lutherans into evangelical.

IF any(denom,32,33,34) xev = 1.

\* Following puts conservative Presbyterians into evangelical.

IF (denom=42) xev=1.

\* Following puts white conservative Baptists into evangelical.

IF ((denom=18 or denom=15 or denom=10 or denom=14) and race ne 2) xev = 1.

IF (other=93 and race ne 2) xev=1.

\* A few black protestants overlapped with evangelical. So we removed them from  
\* evangelical.

IF (xbp=1) xev=0.

\*Mainline Protestants.

compute xml = 0.

IF any(other,1,8,19,23,25,40,44,46,48,49,50,54,70,71,72,73,81,89,96,99,105,119,148)  
xml = 1.

IF any(denom,22,30,31,35,38,40,41,43,48,50) xml = 1.

\* Following are white generic Methodists into mainline.

IF ((denom=28) and race ne 2) xml=1.

\* Following are white American Baptist USA into mainline.

IF ((denom=11) and race ne 2) xml=1.

\* Catholics.

compute xcath = 0.

IF (other=123) xcath = 1.

IF (xaffil=4) xcath = 1.

\* Jews.

compute xjew = 0.

IF (xaffil=5) xjew = 1.

\* Adherents of other religions.

compute xother = 0.

IF (xaffil=6 and xev ne 1) xother = 1.

\* Following puts conservative nontraditionals into other.

IF any(other,33,58,59,60,61,62,64,113,114,130,145) xother = 1.

\* Following puts liberal nontraditionals into other.

IF any(other,11,17,29,30,74,75,80,82,95,136,141) xother = 1.

\* Unaffiliateds/Nonaffiliateds.

```
compute xnonaf = 0.  
IF (xaffil=9) xnonaf = 1.
```

```
* NOTE: THE FOLLOWING DEALS WITH NO-DENOM AND  
* NON-DENOM PROTESTANTS.
```

```
compute xprotdk = 0.  
IF (denom=70) xprotdk = 1.
```

```
* Following removes no-denoms/non-denoms who attend less than once a month  
* and puts those who attend more in evangelical.
```

```
DO IF (attend>3 and attend ne 9).  
compute xprotdk2=xprotdk.  
END IF.  
If (xprotdk2=1) xev = 1.
```

```
* Following does RELTRAD.
```

```
compute reltrad = 0.  
IF (xev = 1) reltrad = 1.  
IF (xml = 1) reltrad = 2.  
IF (xbp = 1) reltrad = 3.  
IF (xcath = 1) reltrad = 4.  
IF (xjew = 1) reltrad = 5.  
IF (xother = 1) reltrad = 6.  
IF (xnonaf = 1) reltrad = 7.  
RECODE  
reltrad (0=SYSMIS) .  
value labels reltrad 1 'evangelical'  
2 'mainline'  
3 'black protestant'  
4 'catholic'  
5 'jewish'  
6 'other faith'  
7 'nonaffiliated'.
```

```
execute.
```

```
=====
```

```
SAS code for RELTRAD:
```

```
/* The following code breaks down religious groups by Protestant, Catholic, etc. */
```

```
xaffil=0;
if relig=1 then xaffil=1;
if relig=11 or relig=13 then xaffil=1;
if relig=2 then xaffil=4;
if relig=3 then xaffil=5;
if relig=4 then xaffil=9;
if relig=5 then xaffil=6;
if relig in(6,7,8,9,10,12) then xaffil=6;
```

```
/* VALUE LABELS xaffil 1='prot' 4='cath' 5='jew' 6='other' 9='nonaf' */
```

```
/* The following code breaks down religious groups by evangelicals, black Protestants,
mainline, liberal and conservative nontraditional, and Protestant
nondemonination/no denomination. */
```

```
xbp=0;
```

```
/* Following are black sectarians. */
```

```
if other in(7,14,15,21,37,38,56,78,79,85,86,87,88,98,103,104,128,133) then xbp=1;
```

```
/* Following are historically black churches. */
```

```
if denom=12 or denom=13 or denom=20 or denom=21 then xbp=1;
```

```
/* Following are black methodists - could be AME, for instance. */
```

```
if denom=23 and race=2 then xbp=1;
```

```
if denom=28 and race=2 then xbp=1;
```

```
/* Following are black baptists. */
```

```
if denom in(18,15,10,11,14) and race=2 then xbp=1;
```

```
if other=93 and race=2 then xbp=1;
```

```
/* Evangelicals */
```

```
xev=0;
```

```
/* Following two commands put sectarians into evangelical. */
```

```
if other in(2,3,5,6,9,10,12,13,16,18,20,22,26,27,28,32,34,35,36,39,
42,43,45,47,51,52,53,55,57,63,65,66,67,68,69,76,77,83,84,90,91,92,
94,97,100,101,102,106,107,108,109,110,111,112,115,117,118,120,
21,125,127,129,131,132,134,135,138,139,140,146) then xev=1;
```

```

if other in(24,31,41,116,122,124) then xev=1;

/* Following puts conserv methodists into evangelical */

if (denom=23) and (race^=2) then xev=1;

/* Following puts conservative lutherans into evangelical. */

if denom in(32,33,34) then xev=1;

/* Following puts conserv presbyterians into evangelical. */

if denom=42 then xev=1;

/* Following puts white Baptists into evangelical. */

if denom in(18,15,10,14) and (race^=2) then xev=1;
if (other=93) and (race^=2) then xev=1;

/* A few black protestants overlapped with evangelical. So we excised them from
evangelical. */

if xbp=1 then xev=0;

/* Mainline Protestants */

xml=0;
if other in(1,8,19,23,25,40,44,46,48,49,50,54,70,71,72,73,81,89,96,99,105,119,148) then
xml=1;
if denom in(22,30,31,35,38,40,41,43,48,50) then xml=1;

/* Following are white generic Methodists and white affiliates of the American Baptist
Churches in the USA into mainline. */

if (denom=28) and (race^=2) then xml=1;
if (denom=11) and (race^=2) then xml=1;

/* Catholics */

xcath=0;
if other=123 then xcath=1;
if xaffil=4 then xcath=1;

/* Jews */

```

```
xjew=0;
if xaffil=5 then xjew=1;
```

```
/* Adherents of Other Religions */
```

```
xother=0;
if (xaffil=6) and (xev^=1) then xother=1;
```

```
/* Following puts conservative nontraditionals into other. */
```

```
if other in(33,58,59,60,61,62,64,113,114,130,145) then xother=1;
```

```
/* Following puts liberal nontraditionals into other. */
```

```
if other in(11,17,29,30,74,75,80,82,95,136,141) then xother=1;
```

```
/* Unaffiliateds/Nonaffiliateds */
```

```
xnonaf=0;
if xaffil=9 then xnonaf=1;
```

```
/* NOTE: THE FOLLOWING DEALS WITH NO DENOM NON DENOM
PROTESTANTS. */
```

```
xprotdk=0;
if denom=70 then xprotdk=1;
```

```
/* Following gets rid of no denoms/nondenoms who attend less than once a month and
puts those who attend in evangelical. */
```

```
xprotdk2=0;
if (attend>3) and (attend^=9) then xprotdk2=xprotdk;
if xprotdk2=1 then xev=1;
```

```
/* Following does reltrad */
```

```
reltrad=0;
if xev=1 then reltrad=1;
if xml=1 then reltrad=2;
if xbp=1 then reltrad=3;
if xcath=1 then reltrad=4;
if xjew=1 then reltrad=5;
if xother=1 then reltrad=6;
if xnonaf=1 then reltrad=7;
if reltrad=0 then reltrad=.;
```

```
/* Reltrad labels 1='evangelical'  
2='mainline'  
3='black protestant'  
4='catholic'  
5='jewish'  
6='other faith'  
7='nonaffiliated' */
```

```
run;
```

```
=====  
STATA code for RELTRAD (thanks to Brian Starks)
```

```
* The following code breaks down religious groups by Protestant, Catholic,*  
* etc.*
```

```
gen xaffil=relig  
recode xaffil 1=1 2=4 3=5 4=9 5/10=6 11=1 12=6 13=1 *=  
label def xaffil 1 prot 4 cath 5 jew 6 other 9 nonaf  
label values xaffil xaffil
```

```
* The following code breaks down religious groups by evangelicals, black*  
* Protestants, mainline, liberal and conservative nontraditional, *  
* and Protestant nondenomination/no denomination.*
```

```
* Black Protestants*
```

```
gen xbp=other  
recode xbp 7 14 15 21 37 38 56 78 79 85 86 87 88 98 103 104 128 133=1 *=0  
recode xbp 0=1 if denom==12  
recode xbp 0=1 if denom==13  
recode xbp 0=1 if denom==20  
recode xbp 0=1 if denom==21  
gen bl=race  
recode bl 2=1 *=0  
gen bldenom=denom*bl  
recode xbp 0=1 if bldenom==23  
recode xbp 0=1 if bldenom==28  
recode xbp 0=1 if bldenom==18  
recode xbp 0=1 if bldenom==15  
recode xbp 0=1 if bldenom==10  
recode xbp 0=1 if bldenom==11  
recode xbp 0=1 if bldenom==14  
gen blother=other*bl  
recode xbp 0=1 if blother==93
```

\* Evangelical Protestants\*

```
gen xev=other
recode xev 2 3 5 6 9 10 12 13 16 18 20 22 24 26 27 28 31 32 34 35 36 39 41 42 43 45 47
51 52 53 55 57 63 65 66 67 68 69 76 77 83 84 90 91 92 94 97 100 101 102 106 107 108
109 110 111 112 115 116 117 118 120 121 122 124 125 127 129 131 132 134 135 138
139 140 146=1 *=0
recode xev 0=1 if denom==32
recode xev 0=1 if denom==33
recode xev 0=1 if denom==34
recode xev 0=1 if denom==42
gen wh=race
recode wh 1=1 2=0 3=1
gen whdenom=denom*wh
recode xev 0=1 if whdenom==23
recode xev 0=1 if whdenom==18
recode xev 0=1 if whdenom==15
recode xev 0=1 if whdenom==10
recode xev 0=1 if whdenom==14
gen whother=other*wh
recode xev 0=1 if whother==93

recode xev 1=0 if xbp==1
```

\* Mainline Protestants\*

```
gen xml=other
recode xml 1 8 19 23 25 40 44 46 48 49 50 54 70 71 72 73 81 89 96 99 105 119 148=1
*=0
recode xml 0=1 if denom==22
recode xml 0=1 if denom==30
recode xml 0=1 if denom==31
recode xml 0=1 if denom==35
recode xml 0=1 if denom==38
recode xml 0=1 if denom==40
recode xml 0=1 if denom==41
recode xml 0=1 if denom==43
recode xml 0=1 if denom==48
recode xml 0=1 if denom==50
recode xml 0=1 if whdenom==11
recode xml 0=1 if whdenom==28
```

\* Catholics\*

```
gen xcath=other
recode xcath 123=1 *=0
```

```
recode xcath 0=1 if xaffil==4
```

```
* Jews*
```

```
gen xjew=0
```

```
recode xjew 0=1 if xaffil==5
```

```
* Adherents of other religions.*
```

```
gen xother=other
```

```
recode xother 11 17 29 30 33 58 59 60 61 62 64 74 75 80 82 95 113 114 130 136 141
```

```
145=1 *=0
```

```
gen noxev=1-xev
```

```
gen noxevxaf=noxev*xaffil
```

```
recode xother 0=1 if noxevxaf==6
```

```
* Unaffiliateds/Nonaffiliateds.*
```

```
gen xnonaff=xaffil
```

```
recode xnonaff 9=1 *=0
```

```
* NOTE: THE FOLLOWING DEALS WITH NO-DENOM AND *
```

```
* NON-DENOM PROTESTANTS.*
```

```
gen xprotdk=denom
```

```
recode xprotdk 70=1 *=0
```

```
recode xprotdk 1=0 if attend==0
```

```
recode xprotdk 1=0 if attend==1
```

```
recode xprotdk 1=0 if attend==2
```

```
recode xprotdk 1=0 if attend==3
```

```
recode xprotdk 1=0 if attend==9
```

```
recode xprotdk 1=0 if attend==.
```

```
recode xev 0=1 if xprotdk==1
```

```
* Following does RELTRAD.*
```

```
gen reltrad=0
```

```
recode reltrad 0=7 if xnonaf==1
```

```
recode reltrad 0=6 if xother==1
```

```
recode reltrad 0=5 if xjew==1
```

```
recode reltrad 0=4 if xcath==1
```

```
recode reltrad 0=3 if xbp==1
```

```
recode reltrad 0=2 if xml==1
```

```
recode reltrad 0=1 if xev==1
```

```
recode reltrad 0=.
```

```
label def reltrad 1 "evangelical" 2 "mainline" 3 "black protestant" 4 "catholic" 5 "jewish"  
6 "other faith" 7 "nonaffiliated"  
label values reltrad reltrad
```