



**INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH
SURVEY RESEARCH CENTER**

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**Third-Party Presence during Face-to-Face
Interviews: Predictors & Effect on Reporting
Sensitive Attitudes in Jordan and Turkey**

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Why do we care about interviewer privacy?

- Non-private interviews are common
 - USA & Western Europe: 21% - 59% (Anderson & Silver, 1987; Bulck, 1999; Moskowitz, 2004; Pollner & Adams, 1994; Pollner & Adams, 1997; Reuband, 1992; Silver, Abramson, & Anderson, 1986; Smith, 1997, Welkenhuysen-Gybels & Billiet, 2001, Zipp & Toth, 2002)
 - Outside the U.S. and W. Europe: 17% - 82% (Casterline and Chidambaram, 1984, Mneimneh, 2012)
- Large between-interviewer variation in interview privacy (Mneimneh, 2012)
 - True differences due to interviewer-level and respondent-level predictors
 - Measurement differences
- Effect on reporting sensitive information
 - Most literature looked at direct effects of third party presence
 - Results are mixed (Casterline and Chidambaram, Pollner and Adams, 1997, Aquilino, Wright, and Supple, 2000)
 - Recent work on whether the effect is moderated by respondent and cultural characteristics
 - High on social conformity needs (Mneimneh, Tourneau, Pennell, Heeringa, & Elliott, 2014)
 - Reside in middle and low income countries (Mneimneh, Tourneau, Pennell, Heeringa, & Elliott, 2014)

Quality of Interviewer Observations

- Campanelli, Sturgis, & Purdon (1997): <50% agreement rate between interviewer contact observations and validations from doorstep recordings
- Sinibaldi, Durrant, & Kreuter (2013): higher (87+%) agreement between housing structure interviewer observations and self-reports from the UK Census, but ...
 - Significantly varies by interviewer, housing type, survey disposition

Research Questions

Lack of empirical information on:

- Interviewer-level predictors
- Measurement quality of observations
- Effect of difference types of privacy measures on reporting sensitive information

Research Questions:

- Does interviewer reporting of third-party presence differ depending on time of measurement?
- What interviewer characteristics predict third-party presence and how does this vary by type of measurement?
- What effect does third-party presence have on sensitive attitudes and how does this vary by type of measurement?



Study Design

2nd wave of (panel) survey conducted in Turkey in 2016

- Stratified multi-stage area probability national sample
- 2,790 completed interviews; 56% response rate

1st wave of survey conducted in Jordan in 2016

- Stratified multi-stage area probability national sample
- 3,008 completed interviews; 81% response rate

Interviewers

- Partial interpenetration of interviewer assignment

Questionnaire

- Respondent: The majority of questions are on political and religious attitudes
- Interviewers: Methodology questionnaire (Jordan only)

Analytic Models: Predictors of 3rd Party Presence

- Dependent variables:
 - 3rd party presence recorded at **end of the religious items section**
 - 3rd party presence recorded at **end of the questionnaire**
- Main independent variables:
 - Interviewer sociodemographics, interviewer's attitudes about privacy in a survey (Jordan only)
- Control variables:
 - Respondent's sociodemographics
- Model:
 - Weighted binomial multi-level model (SAS GLIMMIX)
 - Respondent (level 1), interviewer (level 2), PSU (level 3)

Interviewer Attitude Measures

Generally, Jordan's society respects the privacy of the individual (Likert)

Family should respect the privacy of the individual (Likert)

It is difficult to ask for privacy during interviews in Jordan (Likert)

Like or dislike: Ask for privacy when conducting the interview (family members of interviewee should not be present during interview) (1 – 10 scale)

Which of the following statements reflect your feeling as an interviewer?

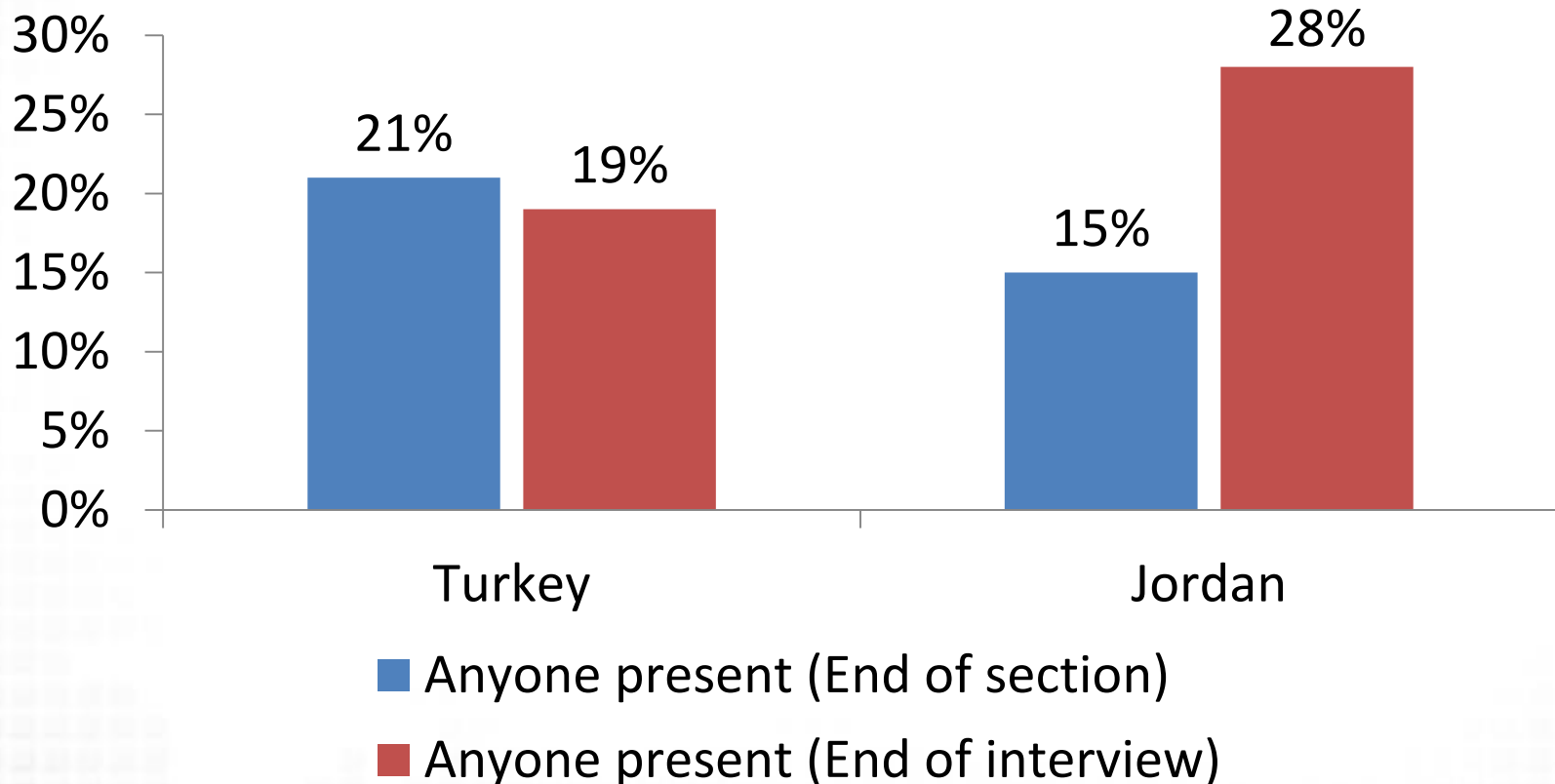
1. Better to conduct an interview with R in the presence of a family member even if answers not accurate
2. Better to postpone interview to wait for privacy, even if it results in a refusal



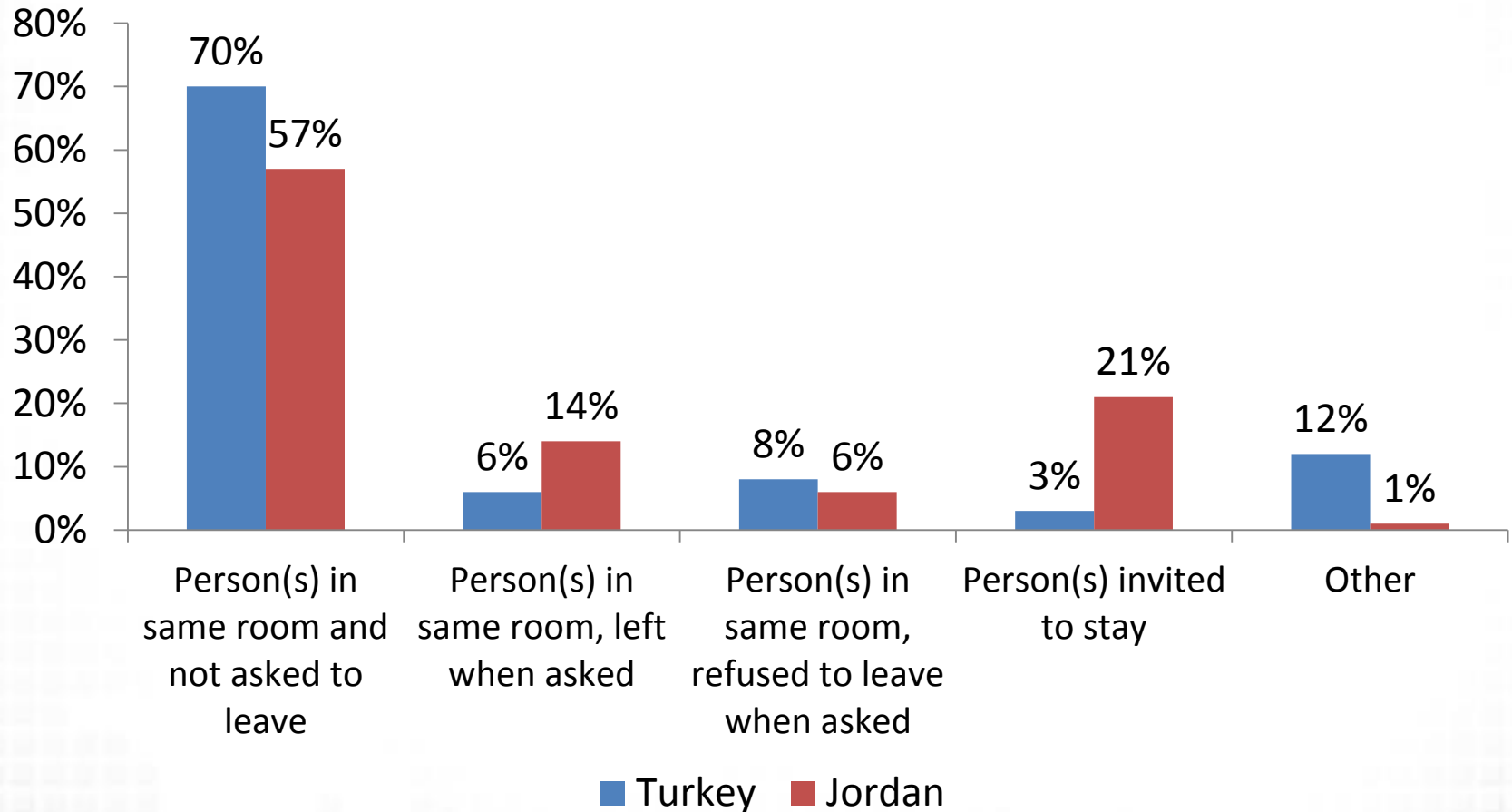
Analytic Models: Reporting Sensitive Religious Attitudes

- Dependent variables:
 - Frequency of mosque attendance
 - Frequency of prayer
 - Importance of God
 - Self-described religiosity
 - Religious intolerance
 - Nature of deity
 - Literalism
- Main independent variables:
 - 3rd party presence recorded **at end of the religious items** section and **at end of the questionnaire**
- Control variables:
 - Respondent's sociodemographics
- Model:
 - Weighted linear and binomial multi-level models (SAS GLIMMIX)
 - Respondent (level 1), interviewer (level 2), PSU (level 3)

Frequency of Third-Party Presence Recorded at End of Interview vs. End of Section



Situation Leading to Third-Party Presence Measured at end of interview



Research Question #1

Does interviewer reporting of third-party presence differ depending on time of measurement?

	TURKEY		
	End of interview		
Religion Section	No	Yes	Total
No	1901	140	2041
Yes	188	351	539
Total	2089	491	2580

	JORDAN		
	End of interview		
Religion Section	No	Yes	Total
No	2148	406	2554
Yes	3	451	454
Total	2151	857	3008

Research Question #2

What interviewer characteristics predict third-party presence and how does this vary by type of measurement?

Predictors of Third-Party Presence (β , S.E.)

	Jordan				Turkey			
	Religion Section		End of Interview		Religion Section		End of Interview	
Intercept	-4.052	2.113	-2.200	2.103	0.474	1.624	0.600	1.365
R Age	-0.001	0.011	0.008	0.009	0.004	0.004	0.005	0.004
R Female	-0.428	0.145	-0.605	0.126	0.011	0.138	0.011	0.131
R Med Edu	-0.057	0.255	-0.255	0.219	-0.385	0.128	-0.228	0.122
R Hi Edu	-0.592	0.314	-0.473	0.265	-0.635	0.197	-0.773	0.187
R Class	0.252	0.113	0.221	0.097	0.086	0.071	-0.139	0.068
R Urban	0.305	0.259	0.319	0.224	-0.091	0.255	-0.246	0.230
I Exp Hi	0.926	1.361	-0.366	1.244	-3.991	1.583	-2.603	1.322
I Exp Low	0.759	1.632	0.441	1.531	-3.024	1.706	-1.580	1.429
I Age	0.022	0.038	0.013	0.039	0.035	0.018	0.017	0.015
I Educ	0.083	0.828	-0.165	0.831				
I Male					-0.626	0.393	-0.542	0.334
I Male*R Female					0.860	0.214	0.714	0.202
Family respect	-0.660	0.790	-0.676	0.782				
Society respect	0.212	0.845	0.072	0.850				
Difficult to ask	0.252	0.806	0.663	0.806				
Better postpone	-0.247	0.692	-0.352	0.680				
Like asking	-0.014	0.126	0.080	0.127				

$p < .05$ $p < .01$

Research Question #3

What effect does 3rd party presence have on sensitive attitudes, and how does this vary by type of measurement?

Predictors of Sensitive Attitudes (β , S.E., p -value)

	Jordan			Turkey		
Frequency of prayer						
Religion section	-0.407	0.176	0.021	-0.046	0.125	0.711
End of interview	-0.362	0.148	0.015	-0.068	0.118	0.568
Mosque attendance						
Religion section	-0.252	0.156	0.108	0.223	0.145	0.123
End of interview	-0.061	0.129	0.635	0.103	0.134	0.441
Self-described religiosity						
Religion section	-0.007	0.135	0.961	0.281	0.140	0.045
End of interview	0.120	0.111	0.281	0.064	0.127	0.614
Importance of God						
Religion section	-0.692	0.249	0.005	0.468	0.186	0.012
End of interview	-0.426	0.227	0.061	0.285	0.171	0.095
Intolerance						
Religion section	0.018	0.027	0.519	0.068	0.032	0.037
End of interview	0.03	0.022	0.174	0.094	0.031	0.003
Nature of deity						
Religion section	0.025	0.019	0.186	0.122	0.03	<.0001
End of interview	0.015	0.015	0.337	0.074	0.029	0.01
Literalism						
Religion section	0.035	0.02	0.084	0.075	0.033	0.024
End of interview	0.015	0.016	0.375	0.064	0.032	0.042

Discussion

- Rates of presence of a 3rd party is similar in Turkey and Jordan
- Interviewers/Respondents rarely asked a 3rd party to leave; asking occurred in 14% of interviews in Turkey, 20% of interviews in Jordan
- When asked to leave, 57% cooperated in Turkey, 30% cooperated in Jordan
- Reporting of 3rd party presence differs depending on time of recording in both countries
 - Greater difference in rates between sections in Jordan
 - Greater error in rates between sections evident in Turkey
 - Data in both countries show that recording presence only at the end of the interview may result in measurement error

Discussion, con't

- Interviewer sociodemographic characteristics do not predict 3rd party presence in Jordan
- Experienced interviews are less likely to have a 3rd party present, regardless of time of measurement, in Turkey
- Male interviewers, interviewing female respondents, are more likely to have a 3rd party present, regardless of time of measurement, in Turkey
- 3rd party presence is associated with reduced reporting of religiosity in Jordan, increased reporting of religiosity in Turkey, but is item dependent

Implications

- Practical
 - Increase interviewers' awareness and understanding of effects of 3rd party presence, especially when collecting sensitive attitudinal measures
 - Include section-specific measures
- Research
 - Additional analyses to understand predictors of 3rd party presence
 - Need to explore interaction effects in models predicting sensitive attitudes
 - Collect data on details of 3rd party presence at section level to understand the mechanism of the effect

Limitations

- 3rd party presence is a self-reported measure of the interview context and is subject to measurement error
- No random interpenetration of interviewers
- Little variation in interviewer characteristics in Jordan



Thank you!
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