

## Expert Survey: Summarizing Expert-Provided Debate Topics into Meta-Topics

### Protocol (v2.1)

Apply the following protocol to the list of debate topics provided by expert survey participants to

(a) identify meta-topics contained in the list; and

(b) categorize expert-provided topics into these meta-topics.

1. Experts participating in the survey were asked to provide titles, keywords, and descriptions of project-relevant public debates in the country within their respective knowledge domain.
2. Debates were described to experts as project-relevant if they related to the actual or desirable public role of religion in societal life of the target country (i.e., topics on any kind of influence that religion or religious practices, institutions, and ideas may have on public life, especially with regards to politics, developments, activities, and events) in the studied countries during the studied time period (from August 2015 until July 2016).
3. For purposes of identifying meta-topics and classifying mentioned topics into these meta-topics in this project, a topic is defined as a coherent structure of meaning occurring in the form of public discourses. Specific events may be embedded into discourses thus defined.
4. Based on the expert provided descriptions, group all relevant topics into categories (“meta-topics”) by country.
5. Make sure that categories are defined such that the resulting category system consists of categories that are *exhaustive* (cover all provided debates) and *disjunct* (are mutually exclusive).
6. Make sure that each category is defined such that it accurately summarizes the expert-provided descriptions of all topics grouped into it.
7. Make sure that each category is defined such that it reflects all relevant expert responses, including any topic descriptions and keywords provided by them.
8. Make sure that each category is fully independent from any single event that may be related to the role of religion in public society.
9. If for an expert-provided topic neither the expert-provided description nor the expert-provided keywords refer to the actual or desirable public role of religion in societal life, exclude the topic from the list of categories.
  - **Example from Lebanon:** *“Trash epidemic: due to political dysfunction and lack of public services, the Greater Beirut area has suffered from domestic refuse – garbage that has overflowed from street dumpsters and overwhelmed city dumps causing disastrous impact on health, sanitation, and economy.”*
  - **Example from Switzerland:** *“New Swiss law on the expansion of digital data monitoring.”*

10. If an expert-provided topic is related to the actual or desirable public role of religion in societal life but there is no recognizable reference to the relevant country, exclude the topic from the list of categories.
  - **Example from Germany:** *“Religion in US presidential campaign*
  
11. If for an expert-provided topic both the expert-provided description and the expert-provided keywords are vague and their internal connection is unclear, exclude the topic from the list of categories.
  - **Example from Germany:** *“Instrumentalizing religion” Keywords: fear of life, disappointed personal hopes*