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Alexander Kalgin, PhD

Associate professor,  
National Research University Higher School of Economics, School of Public Administration

[akalgin@hse.ru](mailto:akalgin@hse.ru), [kalgin.research@gmail.com](mailto:kalgin.research@gmail.com)

## For Faith and Country: religiosity and public sector employment in Russia

### Abstract

This study attempts to assess the link between religiosity and the government career preference in Russia. I use two large-scale surveys (HSE's RLMS and European Social Survey) to demonstrate a strong link between employment in government and declared religiosity. Based on ESS data the link is 6 times stronger for Russia than for other European states. I also use primary data from a student survey from a Russian university (N=804) to show that religiosity is positively linked with declared government career preference among students. The link between religiosity and government career preference is partially mediated by public service motivation (PSM). Religious people also tend to trust the government more than non-religious people. These findings indicate that religion is an important factor in choosing a career in government and that its importance in Russia has been growing. The underlying mechanism of this link requires further investigation.