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## Introduction

- Research investigating the relationship between Locus of Control (LoC) and participation in religious practices has shown mixed results:
  - Positive relation between participation in religious practices and internal LoC<sup>1</sup>
  - Negative relation between religiosity and internal LoC<sup>2</sup>
  - Positive relation between religiosity and external LoC<sup>2</sup>
  - Religiosity is not related to external LoC<sup>3</sup>
- However little research has examined how LoC is related to views of God's control (a potential external control), how these LoCs are related to religious participation, and if these relationships vary depending on religious affiliation.

## Participants

- **Study 1** ( $N = 372$ ; undergraduates at public university)
  - Religiously Non-Affiliated ( $n = 123$ ; 56.9% female)
  - Roman Catholic ( $n = 147$ ; 76.2% female)
  - Protestant Christian ( $n = 102$ ; 59.8% female)
  - Age<sub>overall</sub>  $M = 19.18$ ,  $SD = 1.594$
- **Study 2** (undergraduates at religiously affiliated college)
  - Protestant Christian ( $n = 35$  - preliminary; 91.4% female)
  - Age<sub>overall</sub>  $M = 19.63$ ,  $SD = .843$

## Procedure

### Internal Locus of Control<sup>4</sup>

- Participants asked about how much control they viewed themselves as having in a variety of situations
- Items on a 5-point Likert scale [-2] *definitely no* to [+2] *definitely yes* and averaged

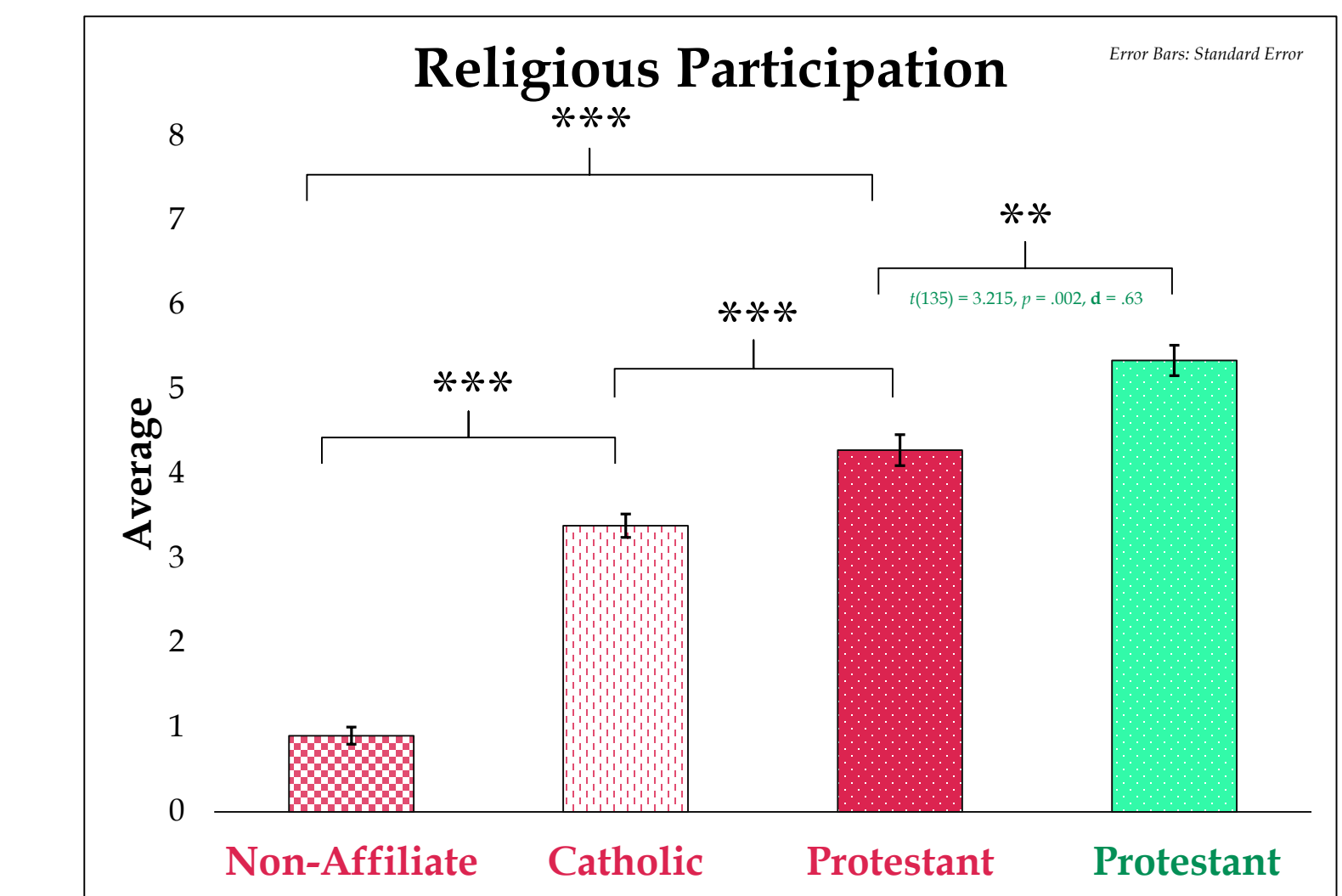
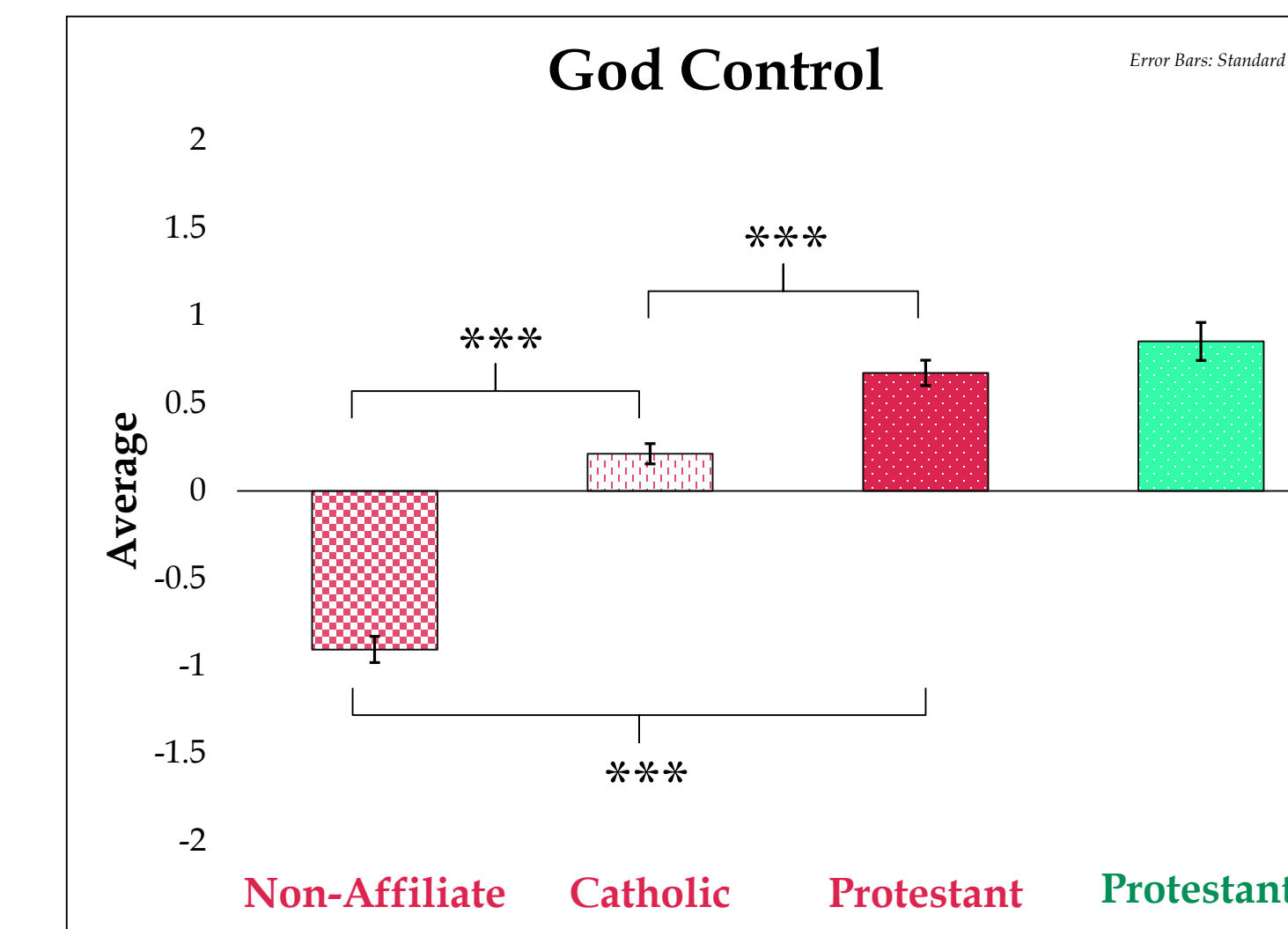
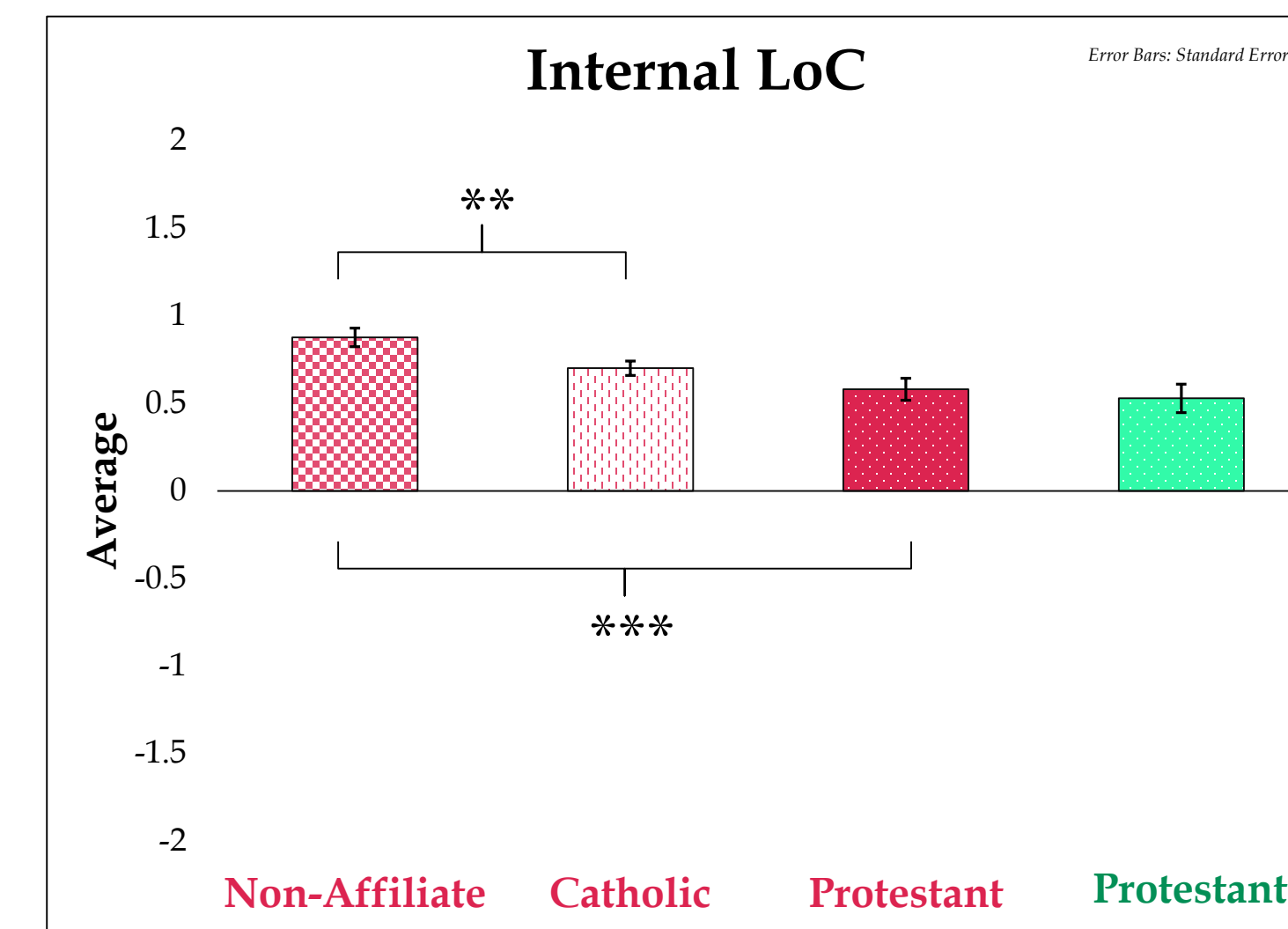
### God Control<sup>5</sup>

- Participants asked about how much control they viewed God as having
- Items on a 5-point Likert scales [-2] *definitely no* to [+2] *definitely yes* and averaged

### Religious Participation

- Participants reported how frequently they engaged in public and private religious practices, attended religious events, and received formal religious instruction
- Answers coded as [0] *never* to [8] *multiple times a day* and averaged

## Results



Religiously Non-Affiliated			
	Internal LoC	God Control	Religious Participation
Internal LoC	--		
God Control	$r(120) = -.363^{***}$	--	
Religious Participation	$r(120) = -.177^{\dagger}$	$r(120) = .384^{***}$	--

Protestant Christian			
	Internal LoC	God Control	Religious Participation
Internal LoC	--		
God Control	$r(100) = -.156$	--	
Religious Participation	$r(100) = -.227^*$	$r(100) = .540^{***}$	--

Roman Catholic			
	Internal LoC	God Control	Religious Participation
Internal LoC	--		
God Control	$r(145) = -.069$	--	
Religious Participation	$r(145) = -.164^*$	$r(145) = .495^{***}$	--

Protestant Christian			
	Internal LoC	God Control	Religious Participation
Internal LoC	--		
God Control	$r(33) = -.074$	--	
Religious Participation	$r(33) = -.141$	$r(33) = .245$	--

## Summary of Results & Discussion

- Non-Affiliates had significantly higher levels of internal LoC than Catholics and Protestants and significantly lower levels of both God's control and religious participation than Catholics and Protestants.
- For Non-Affiliates, holding views that one is in control of one's own life was negatively related to views that God has a high control over one's life.
- For Catholics and Protestants, internal LoC was negatively related to religious participation, contradicting previous research demonstrating a positive relationship while supporting other research that found a negative relationship.<sup>1,2</sup>
- However, views of God's control was positively related to religious participation, suggesting that participation in religious practices might result in a higher attribution of control to the agent toward whom those practices are directed (i.e., God).

## Contact

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