

Does Ramadan have an effect on Muslim students' moral integrity and responses to Trolley Dilemmas? A study in the United Arab Emirates

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Abstract : Background: Ramadan is a time of intense religious salience in the Islamic world. Apart from ritual engagement, it also is a time for reflection on devotion and shared humanity. This prompts an important question: does Ramadan have an effect on moral integrity and decision-making? Methods: The present study seeks to answer that question. A group of Muslim students in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) were assessed on moral integrity and responses to the two classical versions of the Trolley Dilemma (Spur and Footbridge), both during and after Ramadan. Results: Results came out showing that Ramadan has no significant effect on participants' moral integrity. However, there is an effect on responses to Trolley Dilemmas. During Ramadan, there is a difference between responses to Spur and Footbridge, whereas after Ramadan there is no such difference. Conclusion: It is concluded that Ramadan has some effect on participants' moral behavior, but it is also countered by the UAE's increased secularization in recent decades.

Keywords : Ramadan, ethics, religion, morality, United Arab Emirates

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