Why Do Young Baptists in Norway Avoid Right-Winged Politics?

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(very short) **Norwegian (religious) History**

- **Reformation 1536/37**
  - Political decision
  - State church
  - Homogenic society
- **Hans Nielsen Hauge (1771-1824)**
  - Revivalist
  - Prayer houses
  - Legacy: Remain in the Church
- **Religious freedom**
  - Dissenting law 1845
  - State-church end 2012
Norwegian Baptist History

- Frederick L. Rymker (1819-1884)
  - Danish sailor
  - Baptized in New York 1845
  - Commissioned by American Baptists
  - 1860 the first Baptist Church in Norway

- Baptist Union of Norway
  - Supported by BMS 1870-1892
  - Established 1879
  - Theological education 1910
  - Today: 104 Churches
    - 7,000 members
    - 12,000 with “children”
From mono- to multicultural

- Waves of migration
  - Vietnam, Sri Lanka and Burma
- Multicultural strategy
  - Resources
  - People
  - Structure
- Changed culture
  - Growing
  - Younger
  - Worship style
  - Theology
Key Question

*How does the religiosity of young Norwegian Baptists affect their social values and support for Christian political parties?*

- Religiosity
  - Church attendance, faith and the role of the Bible
- Social values
  - Environment and migration
  - Abortion, Cohabitation and same-sex relations
Politics in Norway

• Multi-party system
  • 9 different parties in the parliament
  • Often coalition government

• Overall strong support for the welfare state

• Christian parties
  • Christian votes for all the parties
  • Christian Democratic Party (center, center/right)
  • Konservativ/Christian Party (right-wing)
Religiosity

- **Importance of faith for how they live their life** (measured importance from 1-5)
  - Baptist youth: 4,32 (mean)
  - Evangelical youth in general: 4,47 (mean)

- **Attendance**: (from 1 to 9)
  - Baptist youth: 6,73
  - Evangelical youth in general: 7,19

- **Importance of Bible for how they live their life** (measured importance from 1-5)
  - Baptist youth: 4,13
  - Evangelical youth in general: 4,31
Relationship ethics

- Same-sex (negative)
- Cohabitation (Problematic)
- Abortion (wrong)
Social issues

Migration (No treath)

Environment (reduce)
Voting

- The Christian Party
- Progress
- Conservative
- Christian Democratic
- Liberal
- Centre
- Labour
- Green
- Socialistic Left
- Red

Legend:
- Young in Norway
- Young Evangelicals
General Conclusion

• They are ethical conservative towards abortion, same-sex relations and cohabitation, though there is an opposition strongest in the last two.
• They are political liberal when it comes to migration
• They are uncertain about the environment
• Politically
  • They avoid left politics because of abortion
  • They avoid right politics because of migration
What is special about Baptist Youth

• Free churches (including Pentecostals and Mission Covenant) are a bit less involved in church, a bit less conservative and a bit less supportive for the CDP

• Baptist are the most divided group, they have among the highest number of:
  • “Highly committed” youth
    • Very involved in church, several days per week
    • Reads the Bible (often in pears) on daily basis
    • Tend to be ethical conservative
  • “hang arounds” youth
    • Engaged in the fellowship: Primarily youth groups and camps
    • Worship as source of theology
    • Tend to be ethical liberal
#kompetansendutrenger

#livetpåhlt