

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

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Article

Why Are Conservative Young Evangelicals in Norway Avoiding Right-Wing Politics?

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HØYSKOLEN FOR
LEDELSE OG TEOLOGI

(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



(short) 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)

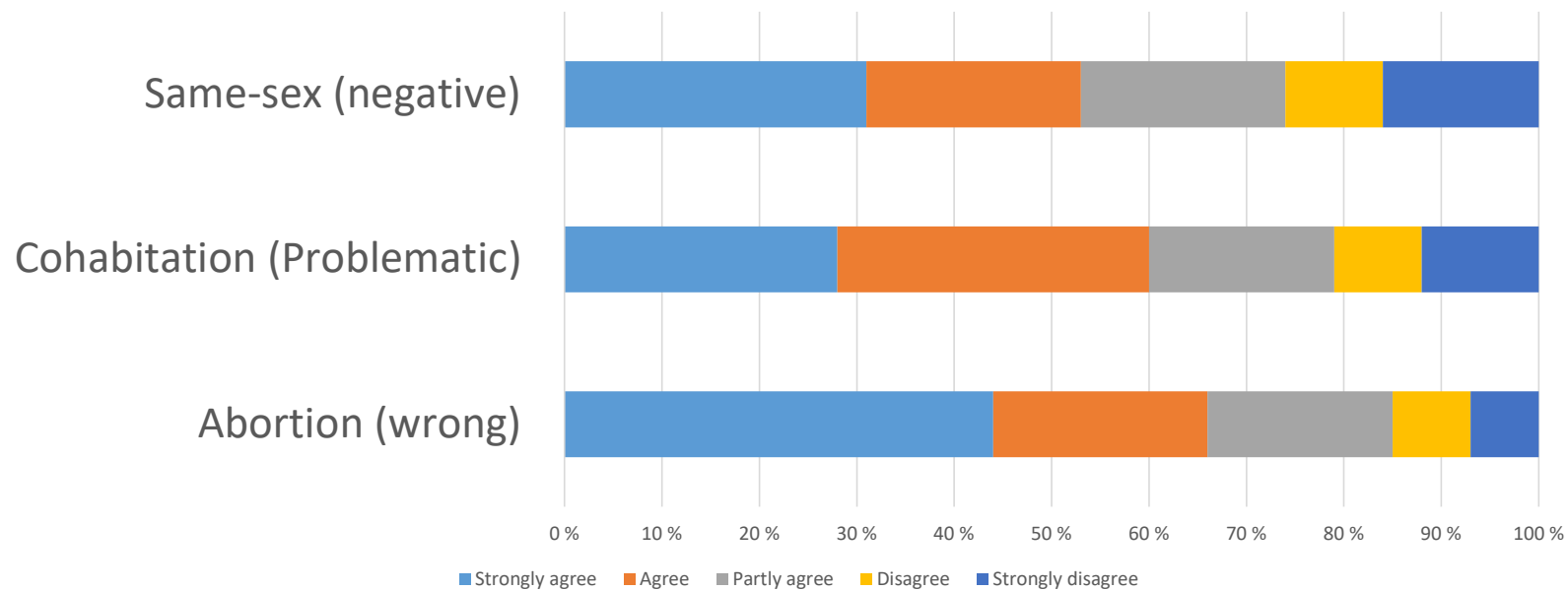


Religiosity

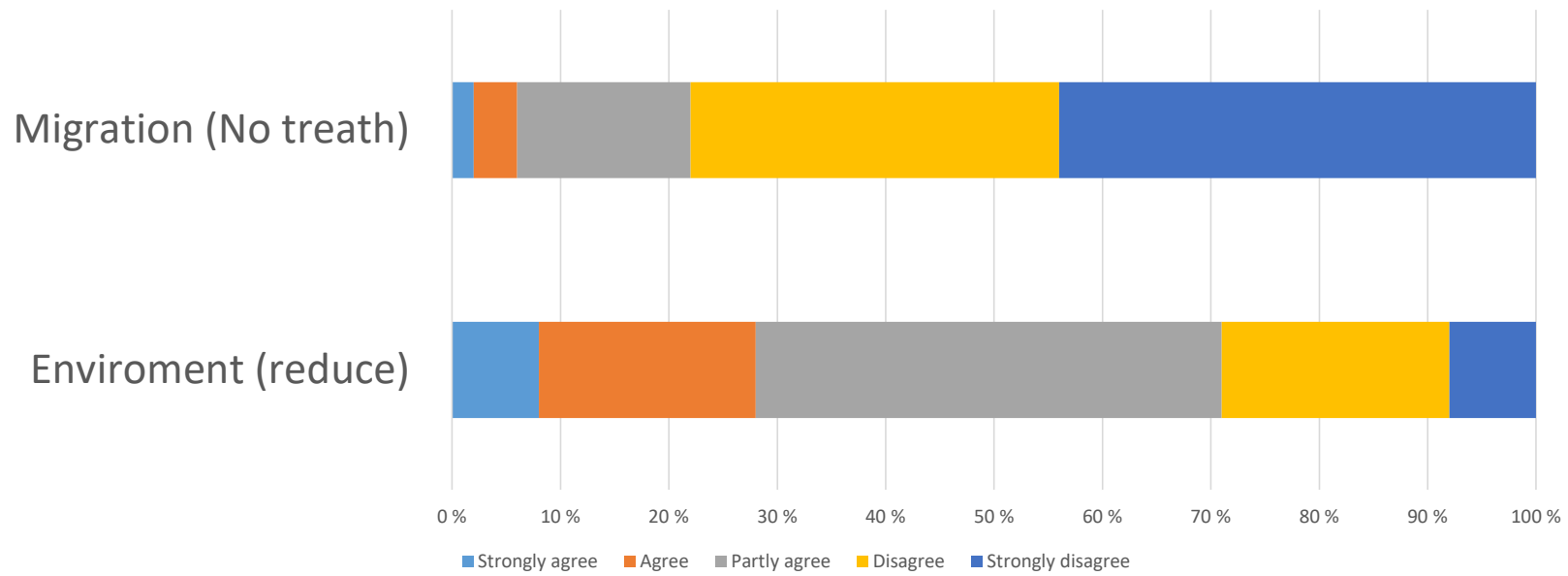
- **Importance of faith for how they live their life** (measured importance from 1-5)
 - Baptist youth: 4,32 (mean)
 - Evangelical youth in general: 4,47 (mean)
- **Attendance:** (from 1 to 9)
 - Baptist youth: 6,73
 - Evangelical youth in general: 7,19
- **Importance of Bible for how they live their life** (measured importance from 1-5)
 - Baptist youth: 4,13
 - Evangelical youth in general 4,31



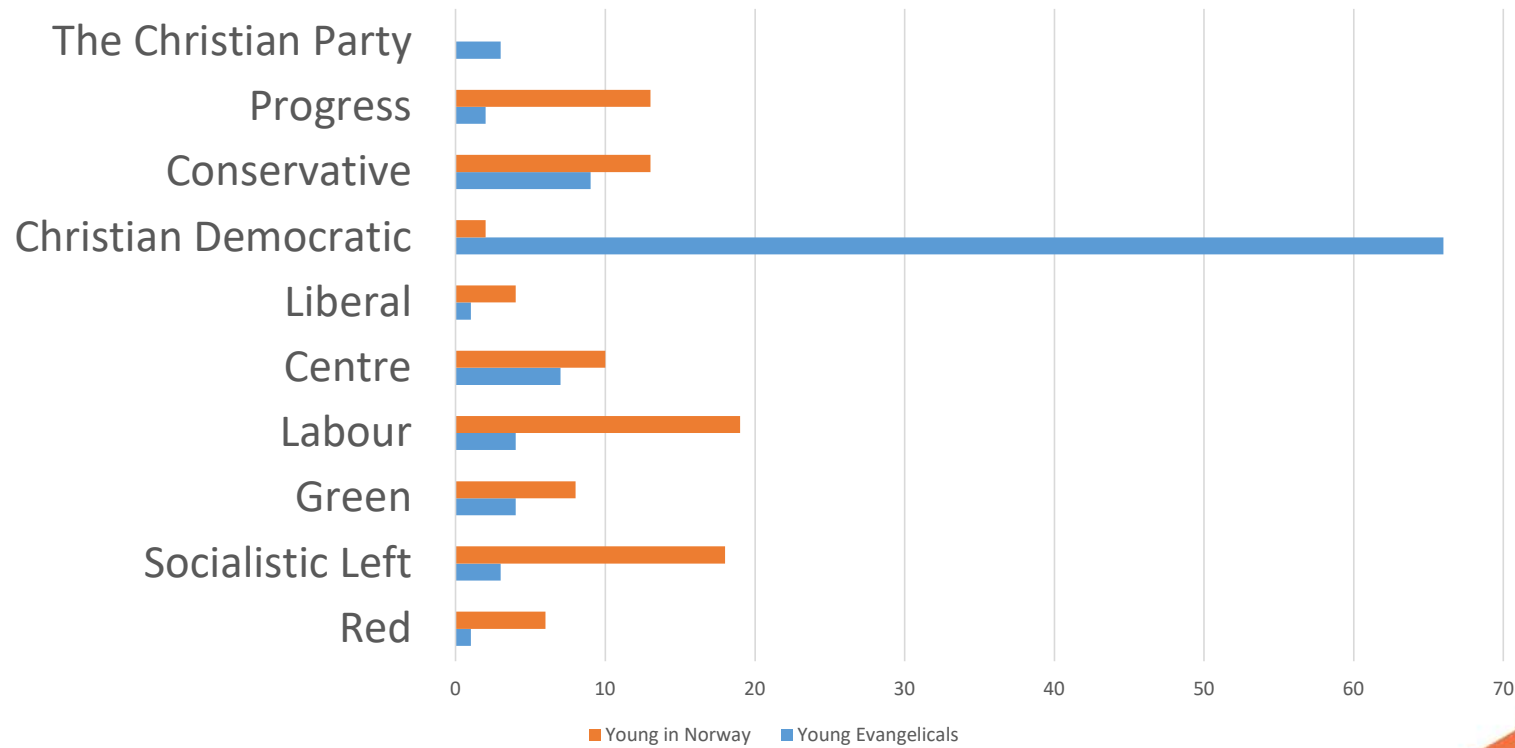
Relationship ethics



Social issues



Voting



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 pairs) 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



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