To:

Editor in Chief

Religious Journal

**Mr. Busro Busro,**

Nijmegen, March 25, 2023

*Manuscript: Employing Social Network Analysis and Religious Identity to Predict Political Participation during Covid-19*

Dear editor,

Please find enclosed a submission to the *Religious Journal (Journal of Religious and Cross-cultural Studies* entitled ‘*Employing Social Network Analysis and Religious Identity to Predict Political Participation during Covid-19* by Tery Setiawan, Muhammad AS Hikam, Antonius Suhartomo, Sefty Meliana Tamba, Elkana William Hasibuan, Azzizah Mulia Kusumaningrini Kartodirdjo, Syafira Fauzia and Thariq Auliya Arrazaq.

We consider *Religious Journal* an excellent outlet for our study, because of the wide scope and enthusiasm of interdisciplinary approaches of the journal. We believe that this contribution will be an important addition to the journal’s earlier published papers on the socio-political condition following the Covid-19 pandemic.

Our study focused on the investigation of political participation, particularly on the intention to vote in the 2024 Indonesian general election, using a combination of social network analysis and religious identity approach. Employing a mixed-method data collection, online and offline, we successfully gathered 314 randomized participants from various big cities in Indonesia. Here, we find no evidence to support the notion that individuals’ social network characteristics, especially the frequency of interaction and engaging in socio-political discussions with their network members, are related to their intention to vote in the 2024 Indonesian general election. However, we find that offline political participation is positively related to the participants’ intention to vote in 2024 election, whereas religiocentrism is also found to be strongly associated with the participants’ intention to vote, although negatively. In line with the growing importance of religious identity after the fall of Suharto in 1998, we argue that the lack of integrity and progress in social change from the current and previous governments may be the driver that push people to turn to a more conservative and religious worldview of election. Overall, the findings suggest social identity and individuals’ past political participation play a pivotal role in determining their future participation in the 2024 general election during the Covid-19 pandemic.

This manuscript has not been published and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. We also confirm that the research conducted for this manuscript is in accordance with the general ethical guidelines in psychology and other social science disciplines.

All authors listed contributed equally to the formulation of the manuscript setup as well as writing it. Finally, we have no competing interests to declare.

Thank you for receiving our manuscript and considering it for review.

Yours sincerely,



Tery Setiawan

on behalf of all authors

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