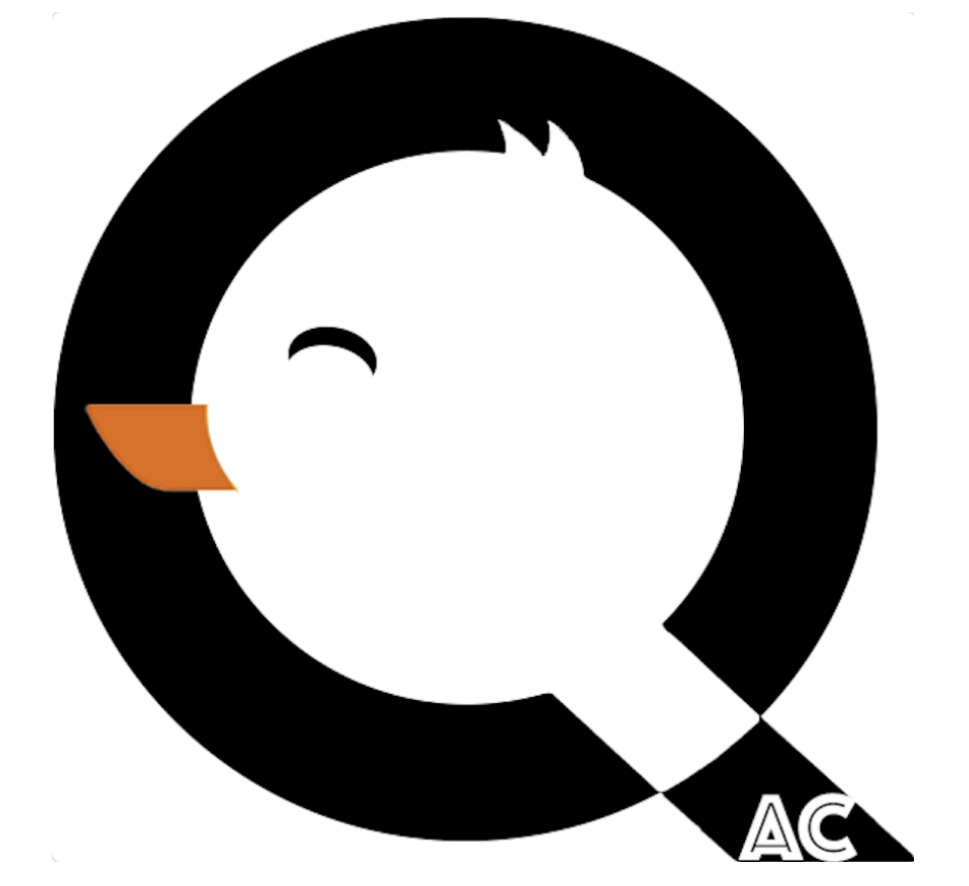




The Association Between Strength of Spirituality and Racist Attitudes

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Introduction

- The relationship between religiosity and racist attitude has been studied:
 - College students who are more religiously liberal are more likely to acknowledge white privilege and express enthusiasm in working towards an antiracist society (McConnell & Todd, 2015)
 - Religiosity creates in-group vs out-group conditions, which are conducive to racist attitudes (Hall et al., 2009)
 - More literal readings of religious texts make one more likely to be racist (Duriez & Hutsebaut, 2000)
- Few studies look at spirituality and racism

Research Questions

- Are Americans who self describe as spiritually strong less likely to want to live in a neighborhood with 50% Black people?
- Does this relationship differ between different racial groups?

Methods

Sample

- Respondents (n=3,986) were drawn from the General Social Survey (GSS) of 2024, a nationally representative sample of non-institutionalized adults in the U.S. who speak either English or Spanish.

Measures

- Participants' **strength of spirituality** were measured with the question "To what extent do you consider yourself a spiritual person?" 1 (not spiritual at all) to 5 (very spiritual).
- Participants' **racial attitudes** were measured with the question "Please tell me whether you would be very much in favor of living in a neighborhood where half of your neighbors were black?" 1 (strongly opposed) to 5 (strongly favored).
- Religious affiliation and Race (White, Black, Other) were included in the analysis.

Results

Bivariate

- Chi-Square analysis showed that an increase in spirituality **was** significantly associated an increase in comfortability with living in a 50% Black neighborhood ($p = .0006$) (Fig 1).

Multivariate

- Controlling for religion, there is still a significant relationship between strength of spirituality and racist attitudes
- Logistic regression analyses showed that those who are stronger in spirituality are likely to be more comfortable living with Black people (Beta 0.0697, $p = .003$) (Fig. 2).
- Race significantly moderates the relationship between strength of spirituality and desire to live in a Black neighborhood (For black people (OR 0.5329, $p=0.000$,) (Fig. 2)

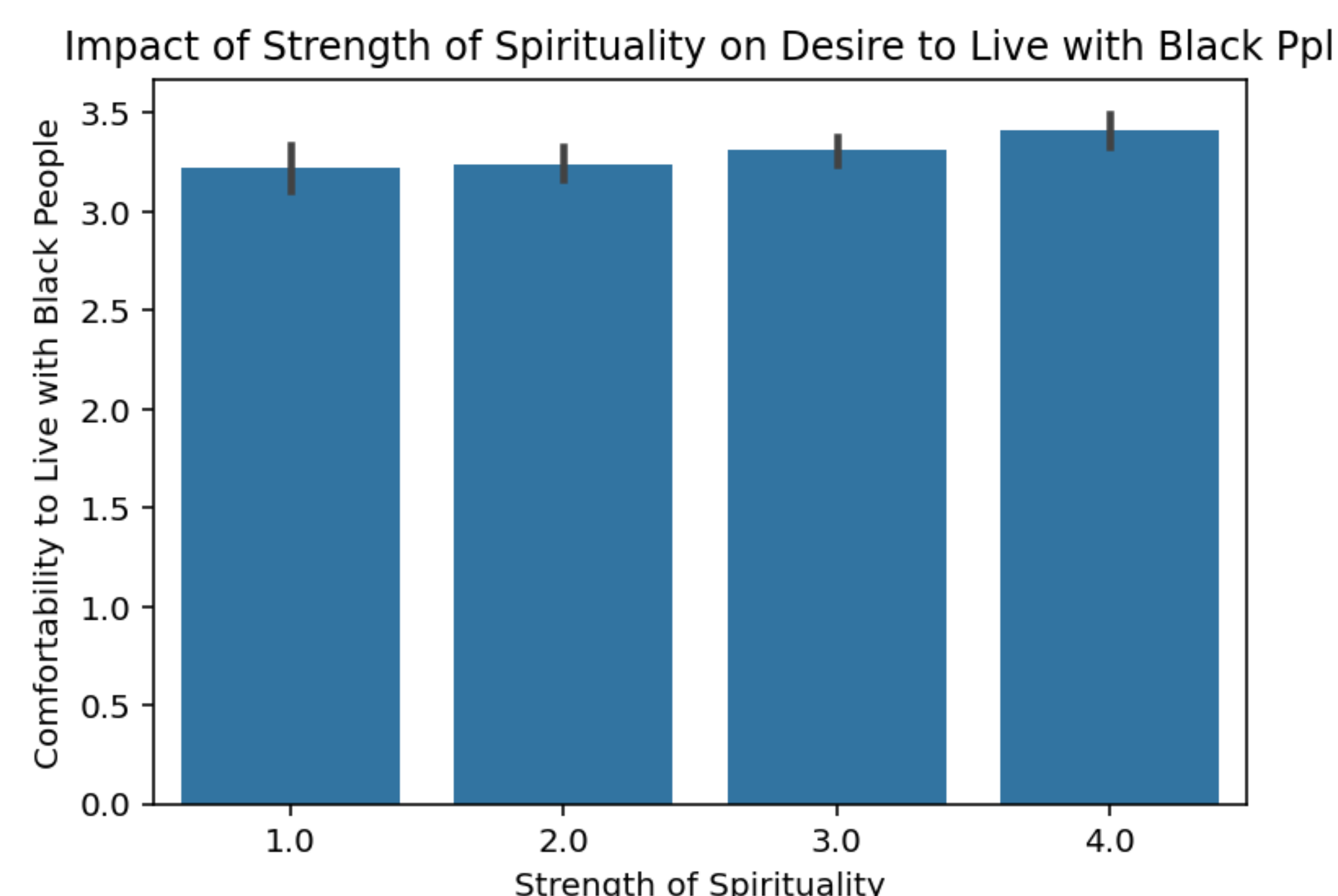


Figure 1: The Association Between Strength of Spirituality and Racist Attitudes

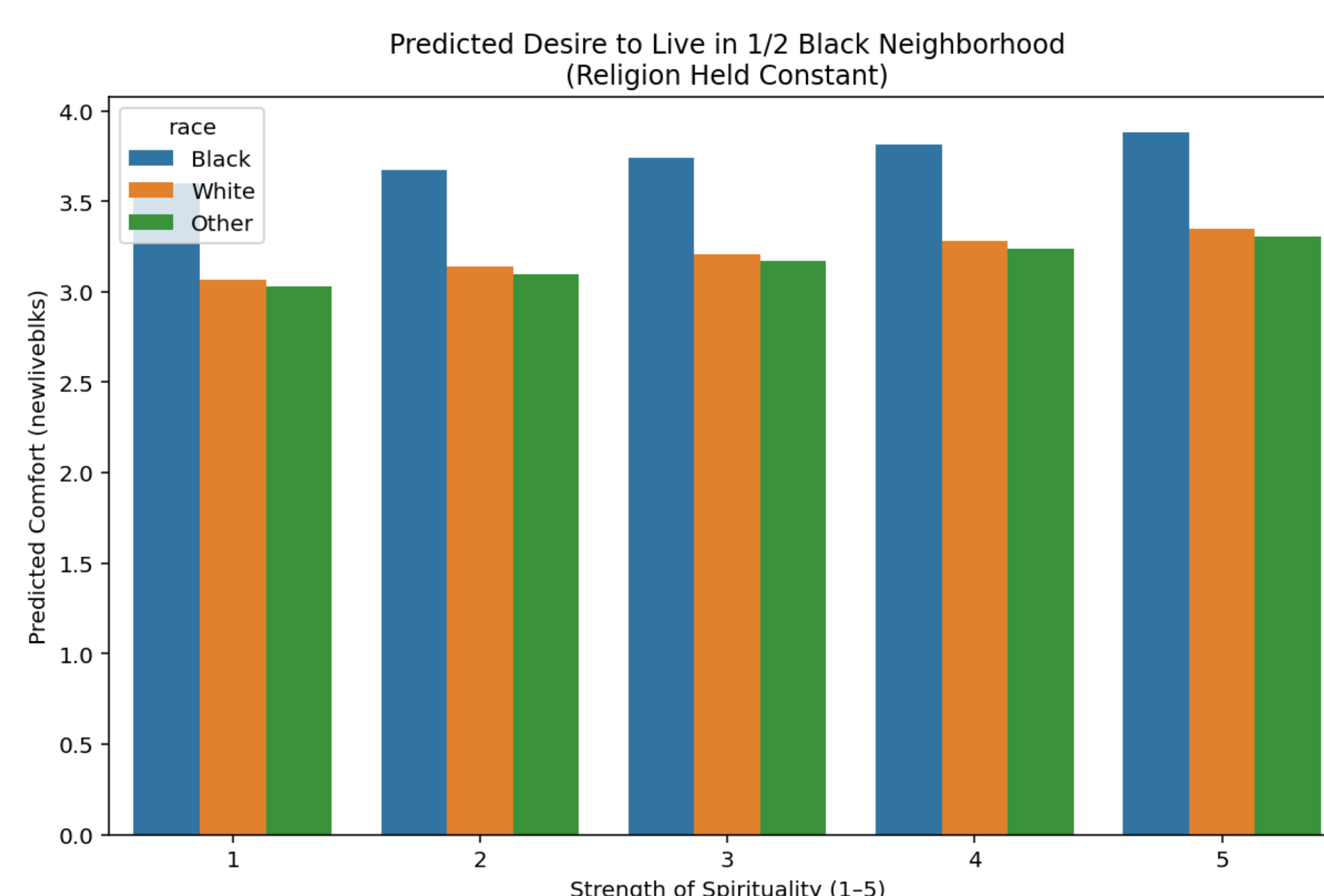


Figure 2: The Moderation of Race on the Association Between Strength of Spirituality and Racist Attitudes

Discussion

- As one's strength of spirituality increases, so does their desire to live in a neighborhood with 50% Black people.
- This statistically significant relationship is moderated by race, and is not confounded by religion
- Future research is needed to determine the role of other covariates (e.g. age)
- This shows that those with weaker spirituality (more likely white people) represent an important subset that could be targeted for prejudice intervention programs.

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