

Fatalistic beliefs and traffic violation behavior among drivers in Africa and Europe: A six-country comparative study

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Background

What is fatalism?

Or

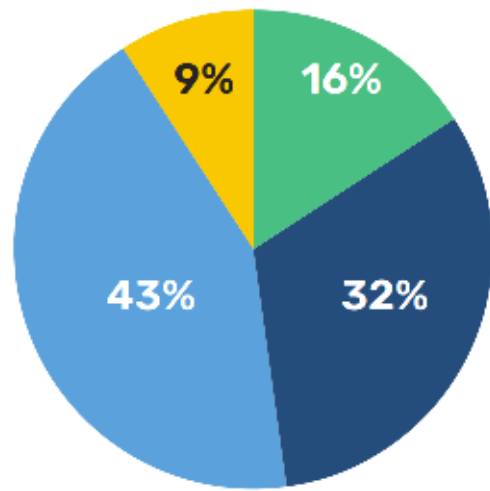
Fatalistic belief?

Background

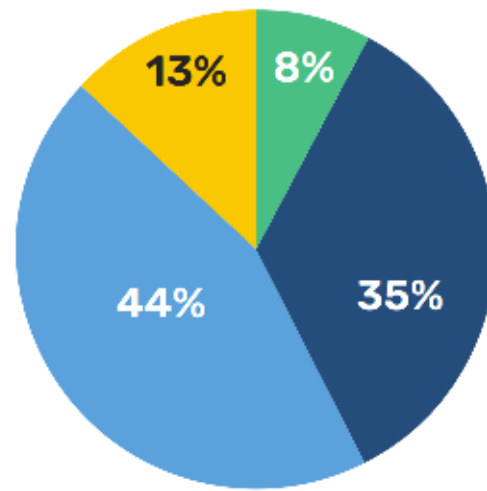
Common fatalistic phrases linked to road crashes and unsafe driving

- If it's your time, it's your time
- What will be, will be
- You cannot escape your fate
- Even careful drivers get accidents
- It happens when it is meant to happen

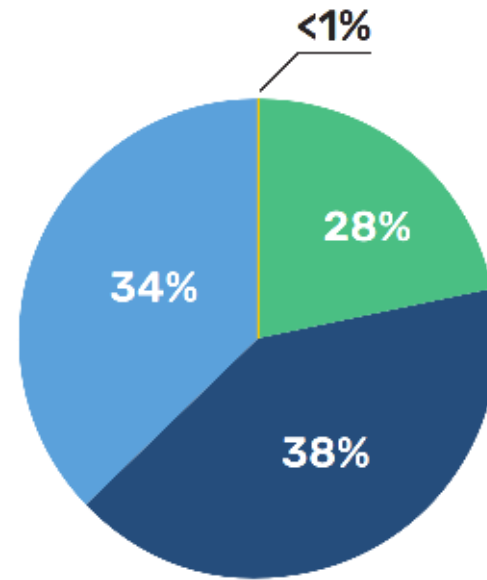
■ High-income ■ Upper middle-income ■ Lower middle-income ■ Low-income



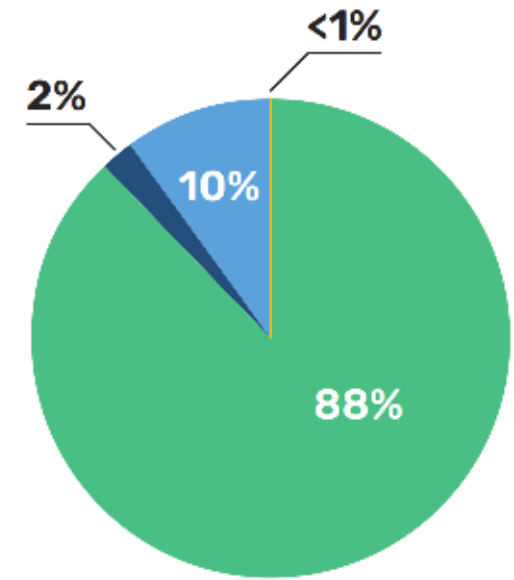
Population



Estimated road fatalities



Powered vehicles



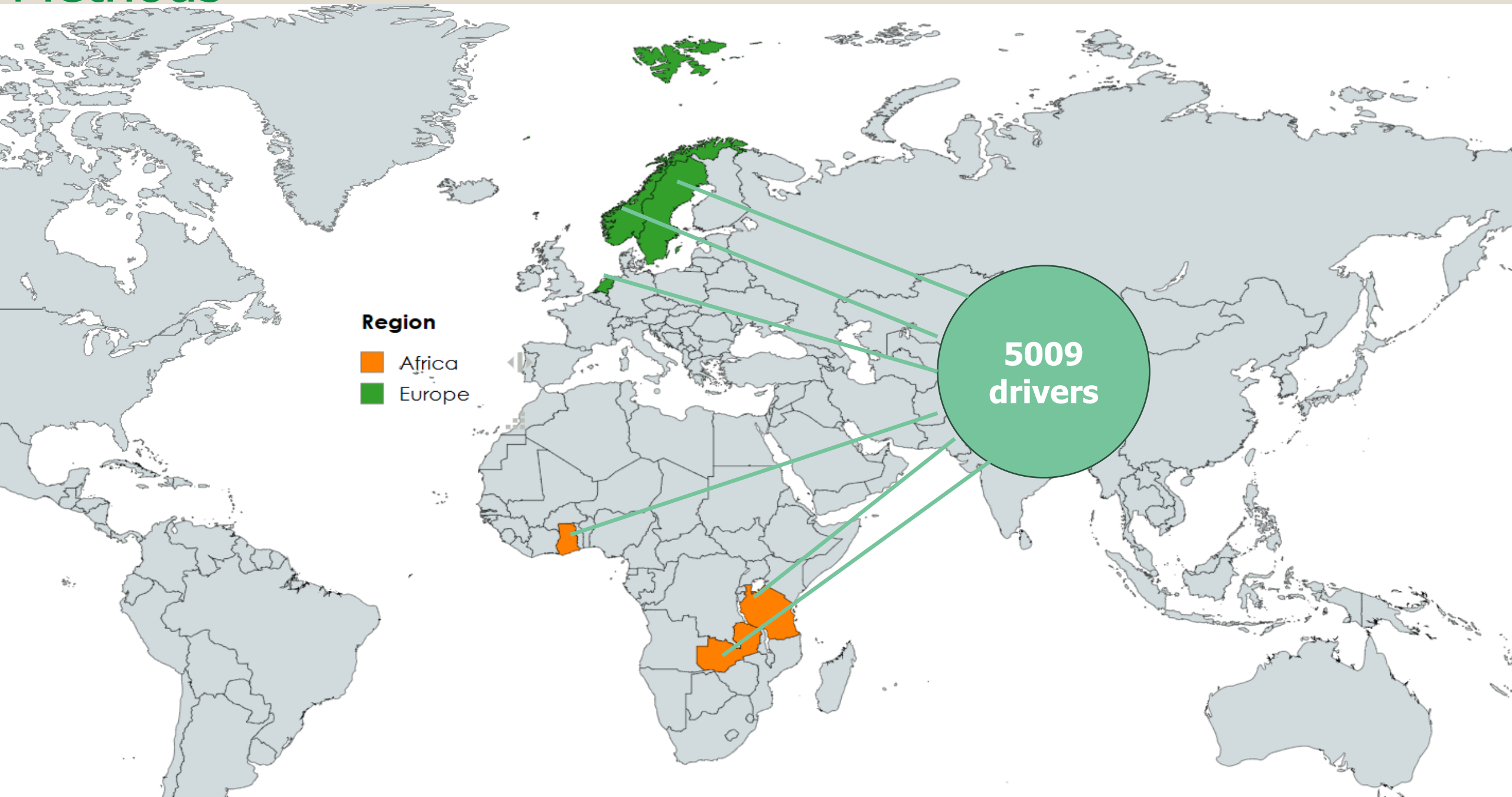
Paved roads^a

^a Excludes expressways

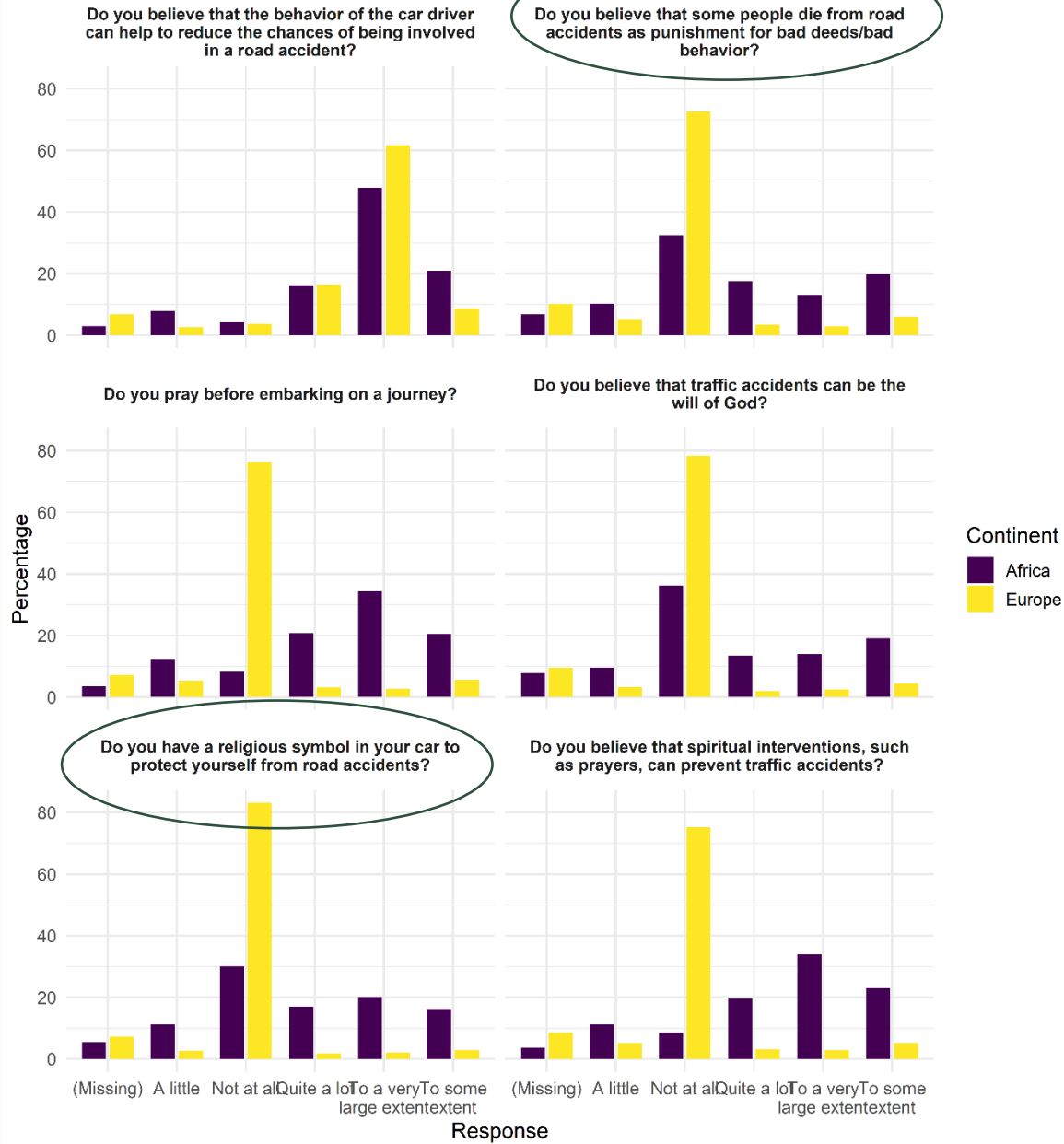
Objectives

- Compare the prevalence of fatalistic beliefs among African and European car drivers
- Compare traffic violation behaviors among African and European car drivers
- Examine the relationship between fatalistic beliefs and traffic violation behavior

Methods



Distribution of fatalism items by continent



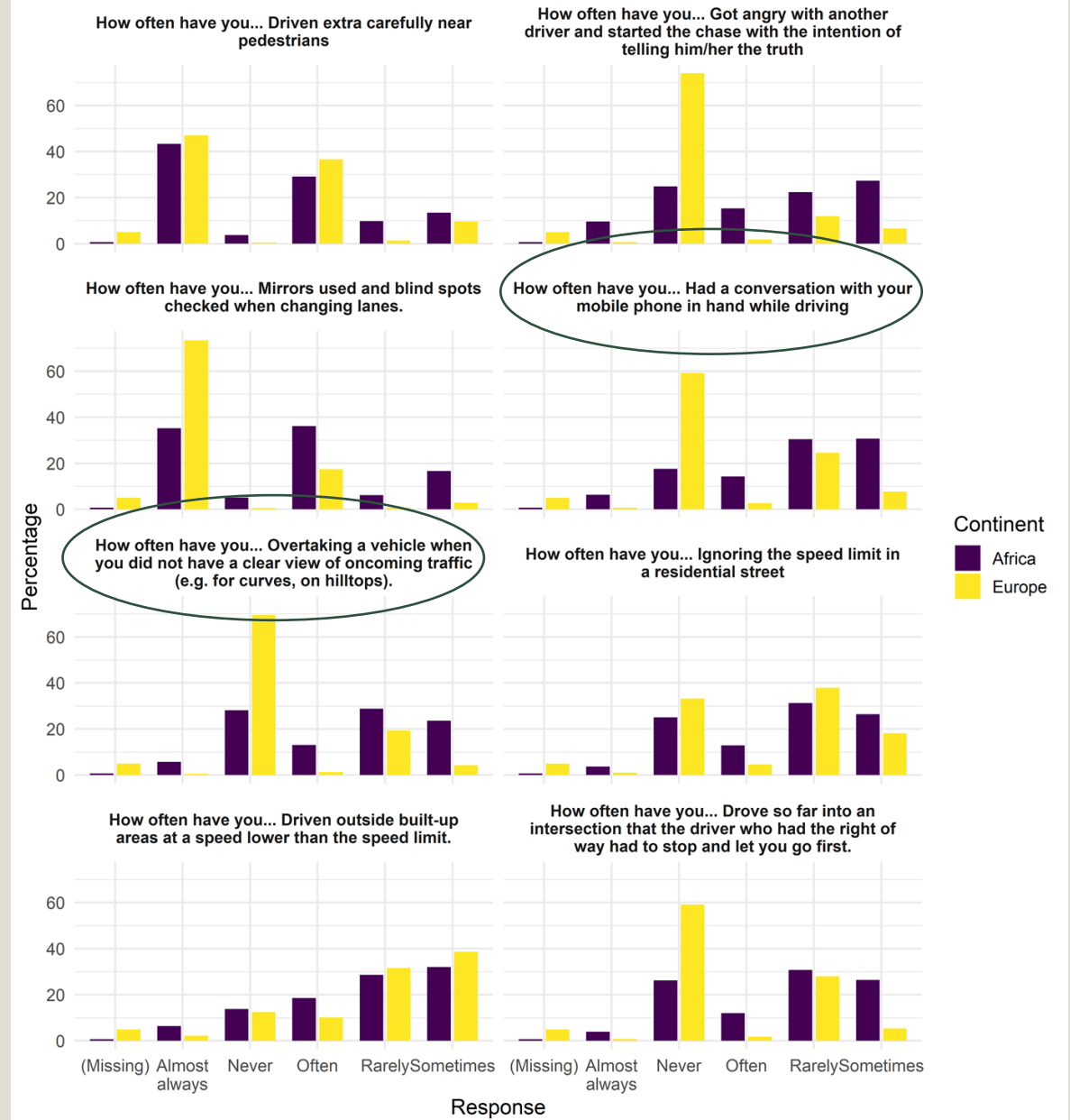
Distribution of DBQ items by continent



Distribution of fatalism items by continent



Distribution of DBQ items by continent



Results

Three mixed effect models, one story

Predictor	Model 1: Fatalism (country random)	Model 2: + Continent	Model 3: + Interaction
Intercept	1.520 (12.43)	1.715 (12.61)	1.755 (12.57)
Fatalism	0.276 (29.33)***	0.275 (29.16)***	0.263 (23.77)***
Europe	—	-0.388 (-2.06)*	-0.471 (-2.41)*
Fatalism × Europe	—	—	0.044 (2.10)*

Conclusion

1. Fatalistic beliefs about road crashes are considerably more prevalent among African than European drivers and are robustly associated with riskier self-reported driving behavior across both regions.
2. Because fatalism may weaken drivers' sense of personal control and the perceived value of safe behavior, it represents a potentially modifiable target for road-safety interventions in African and similar settings.

Recommendation

Community Engagement

- Faith campaigns
- Community leadership

Systemic Integration

- Driver training
- Enforcement policies

Behavioral Studies

- Fatalism research
- Longitudinal designs

Cross-border Analysis

- Transfer caution
- Income comparisons

Thank you!

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