



# **MODERNIZATION AND IRRELIGION: A STUDY OF SOUTH KOREA'S CHANGING RELIGIONS LANDSCAPE**

**UNDERGRADUATE THESIS**

*“Submitted As One of The Requirements*

*To Obtain S.Sos (Sarjana Sosial)”*

**By:**

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**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS STUDY PROGRAM**

**CIKARANG**

**SEPTEMBER, 2023**

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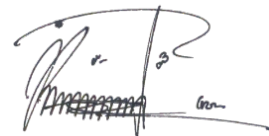
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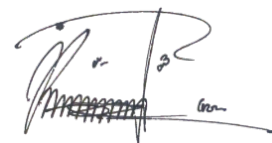
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The Panel of Examiners declare that the thesis entitled "Modernization and Irreligion: A Study of South Korea's Changing Religions Landscape" that was submitted by Iron N. Biantoro majoring in International Relations from the Faculty of Humanities was assessed and approved to have passed the Oral Examinations on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023.



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# ABSTRACT

**Iron N. Biantoro, International Relations 2020, President  
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***Thesis Title: "Modernization and Irreligion: A Study of South  
Korea's Changing Religions Landscape"***

This thesis explores the rise of irreligion in South Korea, a trend that has become more prominent in recent years. The research aims to understand the factors contributing to this shift in the religious landscape and the potential implications on the country's political dynamics. The study will use a multidisciplinary approach, incorporating sociological, cultural, and political perspectives, to examine the complex web of influences that have led to the decline in religious adherence and the rise of irreligion. Qualitative and research methods will be employed, including data analysis, literature study, and multimedia study. The research aims to provide valuable insights into the evolving religious landscape of South Korea and how these factors may influence the country's political dynamics within the use of modernization theory. The study contributes to the broader discourse on the interplay between modernization, religion, and societal transformation in a rapidly changing global context.

**Keywords:** South Korea, Irreligion, Modernism



## ABSTRAK

**Iron N. Biantoro, Hubungan Internasional 2020, President  
University**

***Judul Skripsi: "Modernisasi dan Ketidakberagamaan: Studi  
tentang Perubahan Lanskap Agama di Korea Selatan"***

Studi ini ini mengeksplorasi kebangkitan agama di Korea Selatan, yang merupakan sebuah tren yang telah menjadi lebih menonjol dalam beberapa tahun terakhir. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk memahami faktor-faktor yang berkontribusi terhadap pergeseran lanskap agama dan implikasi potensial terhadap dinamika politik negara tersebut. Penelitian ini akan menggunakan pendekatan multidisipliner, yang menggabungkan perspektif sosiologis, budaya, dan politik, untuk memeriksa jaringan pengaruh yang kompleks yang telah menyebabkan penurunan ketaatan terhadap agama dan meningkatnya ketidaktaatan terhadap agama. Metode kualitatif dan penelitian akan digunakan, termasuk analisis data, studi literatur, dan studi multimedia. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk memberikan wawasan yang berharga tentang lanskap keagamaan yang berkembang di Korea Selatan dan bagaimana faktor-faktor ini dapat mempengaruhi dinamika politik negara dalam penggunaan teori modernisasi. Penelitian ini berkontribusi pada wacana yang lebih luas tentang interaksi antara modernisasi, agama, dan transformasi masyarakat dalam konteks global yang berubah dengan cepat.

**Kata Kunci:** Korea Selatan, Ketidakberagamaan, Modernisasi

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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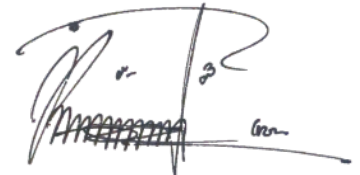
I am very grateful to my supervisor, Mr. Muhammad Sigit Andhi Rahman, for his directions, advices, suggestions, and motivation, for patiently guiding me in this difficult educational research task as well as for providing an excellent atmosphere to conduct this research. I would like to thank all the lecturers and staff of the International Relations study program for all the support and valuable knowledge during my studies.

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Finally, I would like to thank all those unwritten people who also have helped and provided their support and love to me during this thesis.

Jakarta, September 7, 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Iron N. Biantoro'. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'I' and 'N'. Below the signature, there is a horizontal line.

Iron N. Biantoro

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