

**Managing socio-cultural factors and their impact on the electoral behavior of the university elite: A field study – a sample of professors from universities in eastern Algeria**

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**Abstract:** Electoral behavior has received increasing attention from researchers and scholars, in political science and political sociology alike. Elections are the legitimate means to achieve governance and the peaceful transfer of power, by respecting the popular will, and they are the matters that constitute the essence of democratic governance, which is a popular demand and a slogan raised by political systems, whether democratic or totalitarian.

**Key words:** 1-Impact 2-Socio-demographic factors 3-Electoral behavior 4-University elite 5-Power

### **Introduction**

Political behavior in general, and electoral behavior in particular, have garnered increasing interest from researchers in the social and political sciences. This is because elections are the legitimate means of accessing power and ensuring peaceful alternation of authority, as they enshrine the principle of popular sovereignty through respect for the popular choices expressed at the ballot box. The interpretations and explanatory models of electoral behavior vary: some link it to economic factors, others attribute it to social factors, and still others associate it with geographical factors, etc.

It is within this context that this research paper comes, aiming to determine the relationship between the socio-cultural factors of an important social category, namely the academic elite, and the extent of the influence of these factors on the electoral behavior of the academic elite. This research paper seeks to answer a main question: **What is the impact of socio-cultural factors on the electoral behavior of the academic elite in Algeria?**

This main question includes three sub-questions:

a- Is there a statistically significant relationship between academic specialization and the electoral behavior of the academic elite?

b- Is there a statistically significant relationship between religious practice and the electoral behavior of the academic elite?

c- Is there a statistically significant relationship between social origin and the electoral behavior of the academic elite?

**Study Hypotheses:** To answer the study's questions, we relied on one main hypothesis, which in turn branches into three sub-hypotheses.

**Main Hypothesis:**

There is a statistically significant relationship between socio-cultural factors and the electoral behavior of the academic elite.

This main hypothesis includes three sub-hypotheses:

1. There is a statistically significant relationship between the academic specialization of the academic elite and their electoral choices.
2. There is a statistically significant relationship between religious practice and the electoral behavior of the academic elite.
3. There is a statistically significant relationship between social origin and the electoral behavior of the academic elite.

**Study Sample:** The researcher used a purposive sample in selecting the research elements.

**Importance of the Study:**

**Objectives of the Study:** The current study aims to achieve a set of objectives, the most important of which are listed below:

1. To identify the attitudes of the academic elite towards elections in Algeria.
2. To identify the various factors influencing voters' decisions in light of the most important theoretical approaches explaining electoral behavior.
3. To reveal the most important characteristics of the electoral phenomenon in Algerian society.

**Study Methodology:** Methodology refers to the method the researcher follows in answering the questions of the research problem. The current study adopted the descriptive method, which is appropriate for the nature of the topic as well as the study's objectives.

**Study Boundaries:** The spatial or geographical boundaries of the current study were represented in a group of universities in eastern Algeria.

**Study Boundaries (continued):** As for the temporal boundaries, this study was conducted during the period from July 2020 to January 2021.

**Data Collection Tools:**

The current study relied on a set of tools dictated by the specific nature and circumstances of this particular research. The researcher used the questionnaire as the sole tool for collecting

data related to the research topic. Due to the research sample being distributed across the national territory, the difficulty of travel and long distances, in addition to the health conditions related to the "Corona" pandemic, the researcher relied on the electronic questionnaire, which is the appropriate tool for this situation. The questionnaire included 25 questions distributed across four axes, which are:

### **1- Defining Concepts**

**1-1- Concept of Electoral Behavior:** Electoral behavior refers to the political stance taken by a voter during an electoral event, whether they participate in those elections by voting for a party or a candidate, or merely participate symbolically by casting a blank ballot, or even abstain from participating. The behavior of the voter or eligible citizen may not be limited to these two forms of stances; they may also oppose and obstruct the electoral process by preventing others from going to the polls in one way or another. The subject of electoral behavior has received a great deal of attention in studies and research across various fields of knowledge, especially in political science and political sociology. Electoral behavior is defined as a political concept referring to the set of stances and positions taken by the electorate during a specific electoral event. This behavior may be positive, manifested by voters going to the polls and casting their votes, or negative, manifested by abstaining from voting, or by not registering on the electoral rolls and having no desire to obtain a voter card in the first place (Abbasi, 2007).

**1-2- Concept of the Academic Elite:** In its general sense, the elite refers to a group of individuals who occupy positions of influence and control in a society. The term also refers to the highest category in a field of competition, as the select group or elite includes those who are prominent and outstanding compared to others. Thus, it refers to a political elite, an elite in the workplace, an elite in art or sports, a scientific elite, an economic elite, and other fields (El Tayeb, 2007).

It is considered that (Pareto) was the first to introduce the concept of the elite into sociological studies. He views the elite as consisting of all individuals who demonstrate a certain kind of aptitude in their field or in other activities, meaning they possess qualities that distinguish them from others. Included within the elite is everyone who achieves remarkable success through their work compared to others (Al Suwaidi, 1990).

**1-3- Socio-Cultural Factors:** These refer to a set of elements represented primarily in: education, sectarian affiliation, social affiliation, religious affiliation, ethnic affiliation, religious practice, academic level, etc.

### **2-Explanatory Models of Electoral Behavior:**

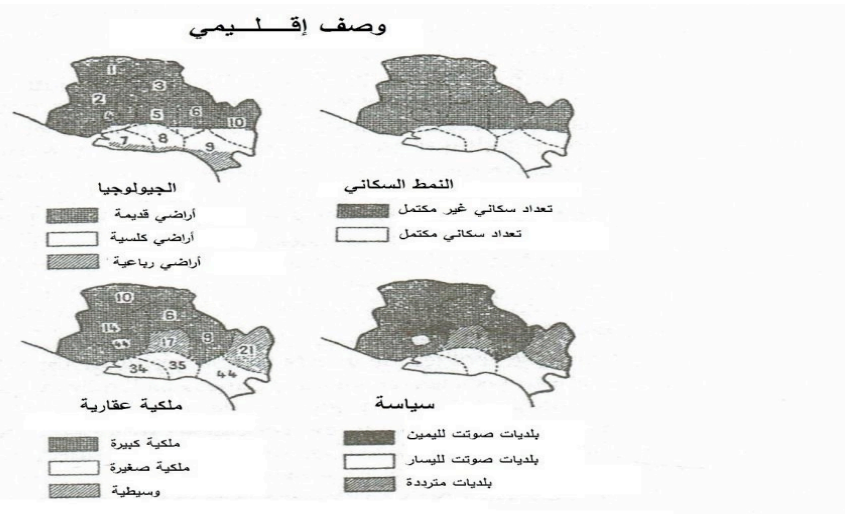
In the humanities, as is the case in the physical sciences, we call an "explanatory model" any verbal or mathematical construct aimed at describing and measuring the relationships between certain variables and the phenomenon to be explained. Concerning electoral behavior, researchers since the beginning of the twentieth century have sought to understand voter

behavior and identify the motives behind the voter's electoral stance. Several interpretations emerged, differing according to the theoretical backgrounds of their proponents, which are known as the explanatory models of electoral behavior. Among the most important models that sought to understand and explain electoral behavior, we mention the following:

### 2-1 The Geographical Model

The studies conducted by the Frenchman André Siegfried, particularly his book *The Political Table of Western France in the Third Republic* (1913), are considered pioneering works in the field of electoral sociology. This model is based on the environmental characteristics of the voter. In his study, the researcher relied on what are known as "heavy variables" (*variables lourdes*), which are primarily linked to geography. These variables include: the geology of the land or soil (granite or limestone), the nature of settlement patterns (concentrated or dispersed population), the land ownership system (large estates or smallholdings), and religious practice (weak or strong). Siegfried emphasizes the close connection between human geography and political stance, stating: "One cannot observe political personality, nor even conceive or understand it, outside the conditions and circumstances of the environment in which people live" (Siegfried, 2010).

**Figure 01: The relationship between the geographical environment and political tendencies, or electoral voting.**



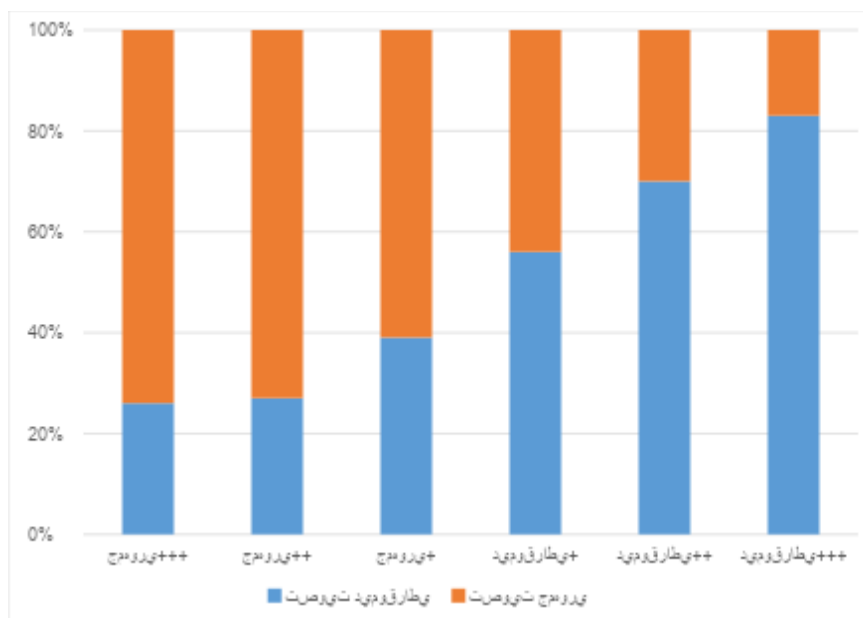
**Source:** André Siegfried, *Tableau politique de la France de l'Ouest sous la Troisième République*, p. 43.

According to Siegfried, a region with a granite-based terrain, low population density, dispersed inhabitants, large estates, and deeply rooted Catholicism—a hierarchical social structure dominated by the figure of the landowner and the priest—tends to vote for the Right. Conversely, a region with limestone-based terrain, high population density, concentrated inhabitants, smallholdings, and weak religious practice tends to vote for the Left. For the researcher, this geographical distribution of votes between the Right and the Left confirms the existence of what he called "political temperaments" (*les Tempéraments Politiques*), which consistently unify the positions of individuals, and particularly electoral positions (Mouchard,

2015). In this context, Siegfried states: "I have often observed through elections that political opinions are subject to a geographical distribution. Each part, or rather each tendency, has its own field: with a little focus, one distinguishes that there are geographical or economic regions, and political climates just as there are natural climates" (Siegfried, 2010). The following diagram illustrates this.

**2-2 The Sociological Model (Columbia University):** The origins and development of this theoretical approach to explaining electoral behavior go back to the American researcher Paul Lazarsfeld and his research team from the Bureau of Applied Social Research. This was achieved through a field study designed to understand the impact of the electoral campaign on the American voter during the presidential election between the Republican candidate Wendell Willkie and the Democratic candidate Franklin Roosevelt. They used a new research technique adapted from marketing, which involved conducting repeated interviews with voters. The study included a representative sample of 600 individuals in Erie County, Ohio (Mayer, 2014). The questions focused on the socio-cultural characteristics of the respondents, their political opinions, and especially their exposure to media, their newspaper readership (considering that newspapers were the most popular medium at the time), and their listening to radio, which was becoming widespread. This research was published in the book *The People's Choice: How the American Voter Makes Up His Mind in a Presidential Campaign* in 1944 (Mayer, 2014).

**Figure 02: The relationship between political predisposition and the electoral stance of the American voter.**



**Source:** Mayer, Nonna, *Sociologie des comportements politiques*, Paris, Armand Colin, 2014, p. 82.

This research team concluded that most respondents had already determined their electoral stance before the start of the electoral campaign. They remained faithful to their previous political choices and orientations, which were consistent with the values and behaviors of their

family, professional, and cultural environment. This indicates the existence of what is known as "political predisposition." According to these researchers, an individual thinks politically in the same way they exist socially (Mayer, 2014). The following figure illustrates the relationship between political predisposition and the voter's electoral stance during the 1940 American presidential election.

**2-3 The Psychological Model (University of Michigan):** After the Second World War, and in parallel with the research of the Columbia school, researchers at the University of Michigan's Survey Research Center, led by Angus Campbell, Philip Converse, Warren Miller, and Donald Stokes, developed a new model to explain electoral behavior. This model posits that the determining factor lies not in the voter's social or religious affiliation, but rather in the affective attachment to a particular party (Meshri, 2010).

Proponents of this model emphasize that partisanship is the main factor influencing the voter's perception of their political choice and their final decision when entering the polling station, because it (partisanship) reflects the psychological feeling of the individual voter through attraction and belonging to a specific party. Furthermore, this party identification is acquired at an early stage in the individual's life (Al-Sudairi, 2012).

These researchers also agreed on eliminating the idea of *social determinism* put forward by the Columbia school. For them, voting, before being a political act, is the product of a field of psychological forces.

Based on the above, it can be said that electoral preferences according to the Michigan model are the product of a set of psychological determinants, and the key variable here is party identification, meaning the voter's emotional attachment to one of the parties. This party identity is formed during childhood; children are influenced by the party identity of their parents. In this regard, statistics confirm that 79% of individuals whose parents both identified with the Democratic Party have the same partisan attachment, and 71% of children whose parents both identified with the Republican Party retain this parental partisan orientation (Jean-Yves Dormagen, 2015).

**2-4 The Economic Model (Rational, Strategic):**

Anthony Downs and his book *An Economic Theory of Democracy* (1957) are considered the true foundation of the economic or rational model. With it emerged the idea of the rational voter and the strategic voter (Downs, 2013). In this context, Downs states: "...In short, we want to know what form of political behavior is rational" (Downs, 2013). The researcher believes that candidates present programs and promises, which are in fact offers of positive projects, such as: reducing taxes, strengthening and expanding social protection, reducing unemployment, achieving economic growth, and other political offers desired by the voter. The latter always seeks to maximize their benefit as much as possible. Downs expresses this idea by saying: "The government must discover a relationship between its actions and citizens' votes. In our model, this relationship is derived from the postulate that citizens act rationally in politics... Each citizen votes for the party which he believes will provide him with more benefits than any other." This model can be illustrated through the following equation:

$$E(U_{At+1}) - E(U_{Bt+1})$$

Where:

- **U** represents the expected or anticipated utility (benefit) by the voter.
- **A** represents the party in power.
- **B** represents the opposition party, i.e., the party out of power during that period.
- **t+1** represents the upcoming electoral term.
- **E** represents the expected or anticipated value.

If the result of this equation [ $E(U_{At+1}) - E(U_{Bt+1})$ ] is positive, the voter will vote for the party in power. If the result is negative, they will vote for the opposition party (the one out of power).

If the result equals zero, it means they will abstain from voting.

If the result of this equation is positive, the voter will vote for the party in power. If the result is negative, they will vote for the opposition party (the one out of power). If the result equals zero, it means they will abstain from voting.

In this context, Gordon Tullock, in his book *The Market Politics*, emphasizes the idea of the similarity between the voter and the consumer, stating: "Voters and consumers are essentially the same people. Mr. Martin consumes and votes. Whether he is in a shopping center or a polling center, he will remain the same person. There is no justification for believing that his behavior will be different depending on the place where he is" (Mouchard, 2013).

### 3. Field Component:

#### -3-1 Study Population and Sample:

**A- Study Population:** The study population concerns permanent university professors in a group of universities in eastern Algeria.

**B- Study Sample:** In this study, the researcher relied on a purposive sample, which is a non-probability sample. The electronic questionnaire was sent to email addresses (email, Messenger) available to the researcher, belonging to a group of university professors who represent a research population with shared characteristics, in some universities in eastern Algeria. This sample was selected on this basis.

**-3-2 Data Collection Tools:** In the data collection process for the current study, the researcher relied on the questionnaire. It consists of 25 questions, distributed across four axes: The first axis relates to the respondent's personal data; the second axis relates to the academic specialization and electoral behavior of the university professor; the third axis relates to religious practice and the electoral behavior of the university professor; and the fourth axis relates to social origin and the electoral behavior of the academic elite.

#### **Validity and Reliability of the Questionnaire:**

After the researcher finished preparing the initial version of the questionnaire, it was necessary to subject it to validity and reliability tests.

**First: Validity of the Questionnaire:** There are two types:

- The first type concerns the extent to which the questionnaire matches what it measures and the population it is applied to. For this purpose, the initial version of the

questionnaire was presented to a group of expert and specialized arbitrators to benefit from their observations and guidance regarding the appropriate form of the questionnaire. Some statements were deleted, and others were corrected, in line with the research objectives.

- The second type concerns the internal consistency validity of the questionnaire's statements, meaning the extent of consistency between each statement of the questionnaire and its respective axes. Then, the researcher calculates the Pearson correlation coefficient between the score of each statement comprising an axis and the total score of that axis, which uses a positive or negative sign.

**Table 1: Pearson correlation coefficient for the statements of the first axis.**

Axis Title	Statement Number	Correlation Coefficient
Academic Specialization and Electoral Behavior	08	0.85
	09	0.82
	10	0.845
	11	0.71
	12	0.70
	13	0.53
<i>(Correlation is statistically significant at the 0.05 level)</i>		

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher based on the results of SPSS.

**From Table (01)**, it is evident that all statements of the first axis (Academic Specialization and Electoral Behavior) have a positive correlation. All these statements also came out as statistically significant at the significance level (0.05), which confirms the existence of internal consistency validity among the statements of the first axis.

**Table No. 2: Pearson correlation coefficient for the statements of the second axis.**

Axis Title	Statement Number	Correlation Coefficient
Religious Practice and Electoral Behavior	14	0.81
	15	0.79
	16	0.88
	17	0.76
	18	0.74
	19	0.69
<i>(Correlation is statistically significant at the 0.05 level)</i>		

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher based on the results of SPSS.

It is evident from Table No. (02) that all statements of the second axis (Religious Practice and Electoral Behavior) have a positive correlation with the axis in which they are contained. All these statements also came out as statistically significant at the significance level (0.05), which confirms the existence of internal consistency among the statements of the second axis.

**Table 3: Pearson correlation coefficient for the statements of the third axis.**

Axis Title	Statement Number	Correlation Coefficient
Social Origin and Electoral Behavior	20	0.83
	21	0.78
	22	0.80
	23	0.75
	24	0.72
	25	0.68
<i>(Correlation is statistically significant at the 0.05 level)</i>		

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher based on the results of SPSS.

It is evident from Table No. (03) that all statements of the third axis (Social Origin and Electoral Behavior of the University Professor) have a positive correlation with the axis to which they belong. Furthermore, all statements came out as statistically significant at the significance level (0.05), which confirms the existence of internal consistency among the statements of this axis.

**Second: Reliability of the Questionnaire:**

The reliability of the questionnaire refers to the possibility of obtaining the same results if it were redistributed to the same research sample. Among the most prominent methods used to measure the reliability level of the questionnaire is Cronbach's Alpha coefficient. It is used to measure the degree of reliability in terms of the internal consistency of the questionnaire's statements. For the questionnaire to have acceptable reliability, the Cronbach's Alpha coefficient should equal the required average (0.7) or be greater than it. The closer the reliability coefficient is to one (1), the more reliable the questionnaire is. Conversely, if the reliability coefficient is less than (0.6), this indicates a lack of reliability in the data, necessitating the reformulation of the statements in another way and redistributing them.

Concerning the current study, the reliability of the questionnaire was verified. After that, the researcher calculated the Cronbach's Alpha coefficient value for each axis separately. The results were as follows:

**Table 4: Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient Values for the Study Axes**

Axis	Axis Title	Number of Statements	Correlation Coefficient
First Axis	Academic Specialization and Electoral Behavior	06	0.84
Second Axis	Religious Practice and Electoral Behavior	07	0.60
Third Axis	Social Origin and Electoral Behavior of the University Professor	05	0.88
<b>Total</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>0.83</b>

*(Correlation is statistically significant at the 0.05 level)*

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher based on the results of SPSS.

From the data in Table No. (04), it is evident to us that most of the Cronbach's Alpha coefficient values for all axes of the questionnaire are greater than or close to the required average (0.6). Regarding the reliability coefficient for the questionnaire as a whole, it reached (0.83), which is a value higher than the required average. This indicates the reliability of the questionnaire's questions and their suitability for analyzing the study's data. As for answering the questionnaire's items, boxes were placed in front of each item, which consisted of several answers: Always, Often, Sometimes, Rarely, Never.

### Testing the Hypotheses

#### A- Testing the First Hypothesis:

- There is a statistically significant relationship between the academic specialization of university professors and their electoral choices.

**Table 5: Academic Specialization and Electoral Behavior**

Statements	Mean	Standard Deviation	T-Statistic	Significance Level
08- The nature of secondary education specialization influences the electoral behavior of the academic elite.	3.3087	1.37004	2.751	0.007
09- University academic specialization contributes to shaping the electoral behavior of the university professor.	2.4228	1.24760	-5.647	0.000
10- The electoral behavior of the academic elite is related to mathematical thinking.	2.6846	1.35610	-2.839	0.005
11- The academic degree (educational level) influences the electoral behavior of the academic elite.	3.4899	1.53173	3.904	0.000

Statements	Mean	Standard Deviation	T-Statistic	Significance Level
12- The curricular content of previous educational stages influences the electoral behavior of the university professor.	2.550	1.4353	-3.824	0.000
13- The nature of scientific research requires staying away from politics.	2.0268	1.13272	-10.487	0.000

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher based on SPSS outputs.

It is evident from Table No. (05) that the most accepted item among the sample individuals is item No. (11), as the majority of the sample individuals moderately agree that there is a relationship between the academic specialization of university professors and electoral choices. This is because the mean falls within the range [3.4 - 4.6], and it is statistically significant as the significance level equals 0.000, which is less than 0.05. Item No. (8) comes with a low level of agreement, as the mean falls within the range [2.6 - 3.4], and it is statistically significant because the significance level equals 0.007, which is less than 0.05. It is followed by item No. (10) with a low level of agreement, as it falls within the range [2.6 - 3.4], and it is statistically significant because the significance level equals 0.005, which is less than 0.05. Meanwhile, the sample individuals reject item No. (13), which states that the nature of scientific research requires staying away from politics. We observe from the table that the mean falls within the range [1.8 - 2.6], and it is statistically significant because the significance level is less than 0.05. It is followed by item No. (9), through which the respondents reject linking the university academic specialization of professors to electoral behavior, as the mean came within the range [1.8 - 2.6], and it is statistically significant because the significance level equals 0.000, which is less than 0.05. It is followed by item No. (12), through which the sample individuals deny the influence of the curricular content of previous educational stages on the electoral behavior of university professors, as the mean falls within the range [1.8 - 2.6], and it is statistically significant because the significance level equals 0.000, which is less than 0.05.

In general, it can be said that there is a tendency among the sample individuals towards accepting the hypothesis stating that there is a statistically significant relationship between the academic specialization of university professors and electoral choices. The quantitative data in the above table show that the strong statements closely related to this hypothesis were accepted by most respondents, which confirms the validity of the first hypothesis.

#### **B- Testing the Second Hypothesis:**

- There is a relationship between the religious practice of the academic elite and electoral behavior.

**Table 06: Religious Practice and Electoral Behavior**

Statements	Mean	Standard Deviation	T-Statistic	Significance Level
14- Elections are a Western phenomenon unsuitable for Islamic societies.	2.0604	1.25864	-9.112	0.000
15- There is no democratic rule in Islam.	3.8188	1.41924	7.042	0.000
16- Elections are the most appropriate solution for peaceful alternation of power in Arab countries.	3.9530	1.29623	8.975	0.000
17- Voting is a national duty when necessary.	4.2013	1.21910	12.029	0.000
18- Voting is a duty for everyone if there are threats to the country's security.	2.3154	1.47542	-56.664	0.000
19- In voting, there is obedience to the ruler (Wali al-Amr).	2.2752	1.44661	-6.116	0.000
20- Fatwas (religious edicts) of scholars regarding participation in elections must be followed.	3.8121	1.60813	6.164	0.000

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher based on SPSS outputs.

Table No. (06) shows that the most accepted items among the sample individuals are item No. (17), as the majority of the sample individuals moderately agree that voting is a national duty when necessary, because the mean falls within the range [3.4 - 4.6], and it is statistically significant as the significance level equals 0.000, which is less than 0.05. Item No. (16) comes with a moderate level of agreement, as the mean falls within the range [3.4 - 4.6], and it is statistically significant because the significance level equals 0.000, which is less than 0.05. Then comes item No. (15), where respondents moderately agree that there is no democratic rule in Islam, because the mean falls within the range [3.4 - 4.6], and it is statistically significant because the significance level equals 0.000, which is less than 0.05. This is followed by item No. (20), where the sample individuals moderately agree on the necessity of following scholars' fatwas regarding participation in elections, as the mean falls within the range [3.4 - 4.6], and it is statistically significant because the significance level equals 0.000, which is less than 0.05. Meanwhile, the sample individuals rejected the remaining items (14, 18, 19) because the means for these items all fell within the range [1.8 - 2.6], and they are statistically significant because all significance levels equal 0.000, which is less than 0.05.

Since the general trend of the sample individuals' positions was mostly positive towards the second hypothesis, it can be said that this hypothesis, which states that there is a relationship between the religious practice of the academic elite and electoral behavior, has been validated. This means there is a statistically significant relationship between the religious practice of the academic elite and their electoral behavior.

**C- Testing the Third Hypothesis:**

- There is a relationship between the social origin of university professors and electoral behavior.

**Table 7: Social Origin and Electoral Behavior of the University Professor**

Statements	Mean	Standard Deviation	T-Statistic	Significance Level
21- The family influences the electoral behavior of the university professor.	2.5235	1.34859	-4.313	0.000
22- The educational level of the parents influences the electoral behavior of the university professor.	2.6711	1.47704	-2.718	0.007
23- The political tendencies of the family contribute to shaping the electoral behavior of the university professor.	2.8456	1.41290	-1.334	0.184
24- The party affiliations of the university professor are determined by the family.	2.6174	1.39302	-3.352	0.001
25- Family relationships contribute to determining the electoral behavior of the university professor.	2.5973	1.43282	-3.431	0.001

**Source:** Prepared by the researcher based on SPSS outputs.

It is evident from Table No. (07) that the most accepted items among the sample individuals is item No. (23), as most respondents agree to a low degree that the political tendencies of the family contribute to shaping the electoral behavior of the university professor, because the mean falls within the range [2.6 - 3.4], and it is statistically significant as the significance level equals 0.184, which is less than 0.05. It is followed by item No. (22) with a low level of agreement, as the mean falls within the range [2.6 - 3.4], and it is statistically significant because the significance level equals 0.007, which is less than 0.05. Then comes item No. (24), where respondents agree to a low degree that the family is what determines the party affiliations of the university professor, because the mean falls within the range [2.6 - 3.4], and it is statistically significant because the significance level equals 0.001, which is less than 0.05. Meanwhile, the sample individuals rejected items (21 and 25) because their means fell within the range [1.8 - 2.6], and they are statistically significant because the significance levels for both are less than 0.05. Since the general trend of the respondents' positions was positive towards the third hypothesis, which states that there is a relationship between the social origin of university professors and electoral behavior, which is less than 0.05. Meanwhile, the sample individuals rejected items (21 and 25) because their means fell within the range [1.8 - 2.6], and they are statistically significant because the significance levels for both are less than 0.05. Since the general trend of the respondents' positions was positive towards the third hypothesis, which

states that there is a relationship between the social origin of university professors and electoral behavior, it has been validated. This means proving the existence of a statistically significant relationship between the social origin of the academic elite and their electoral behavior.

### **Conclusion:**

Based on all the foregoing, it can be said that electoral behavior is a complex process in which several factors intersect, and is not the product of a single factor alone. This is because the voter is a social being by nature, meaning that their behaviors cannot be subject to fixed mathematical laws. The electoral act cannot be subject to the principle of determinism, as it is a social phenomenon in its essence. Given that the social phenomenon is characterized by complexity and change, electoral decisions or behaviors, being human behaviors, are also characterized by complexity and change. The voter is a human being who influences and is influenced by the social, economic, and political circumstances to which they belong. In this context, the current study has shown a clear influence of socio-cultural factors on electoral behavior. This study demonstrated the existence of a statistically significant relationship between the religious practice of the academic elite and their electoral behavior. The study also confirmed the existence of a statistically significant relationship between the social origin of the academic elite and their electoral behavior. This confirms the role of these socio-cultural factors in directing the electoral behavior of the academic elite in Algeria.

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