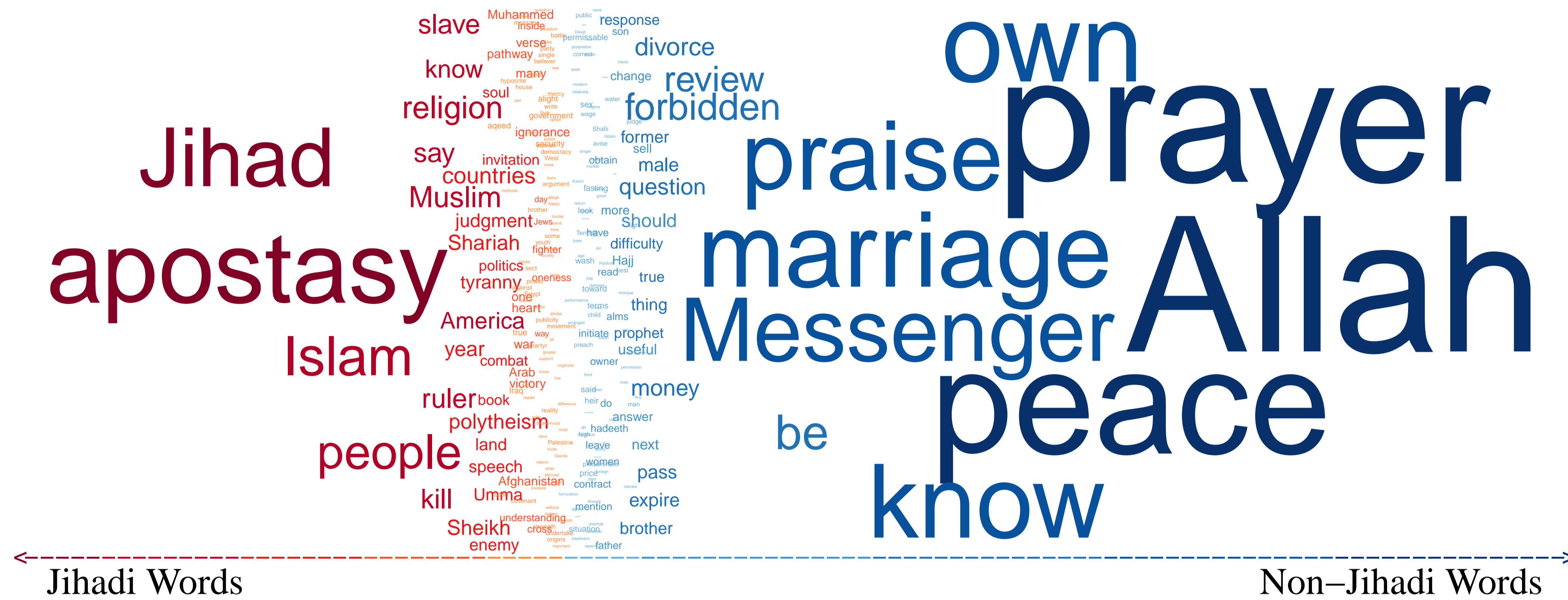


# Using Text to Measure Jihadi Ideology among Islamic Clerics

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**ONE LINER:** I use a naïve Bayes classifier to measure the expressed Jihadi ideology of Islamic clerics using the text of their fatwas (Islamic legal rulings).

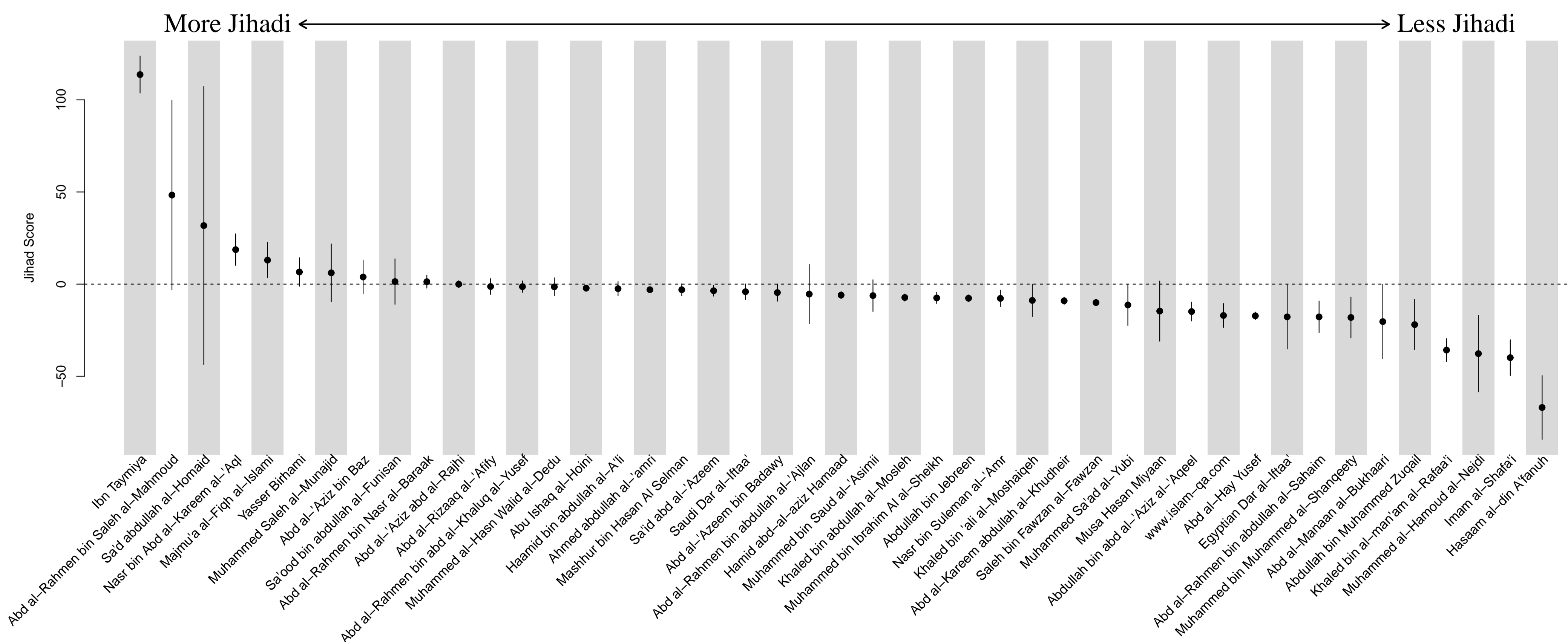
Take these words...



Train this modified naïve Bayes classifier...<sup>1</sup>

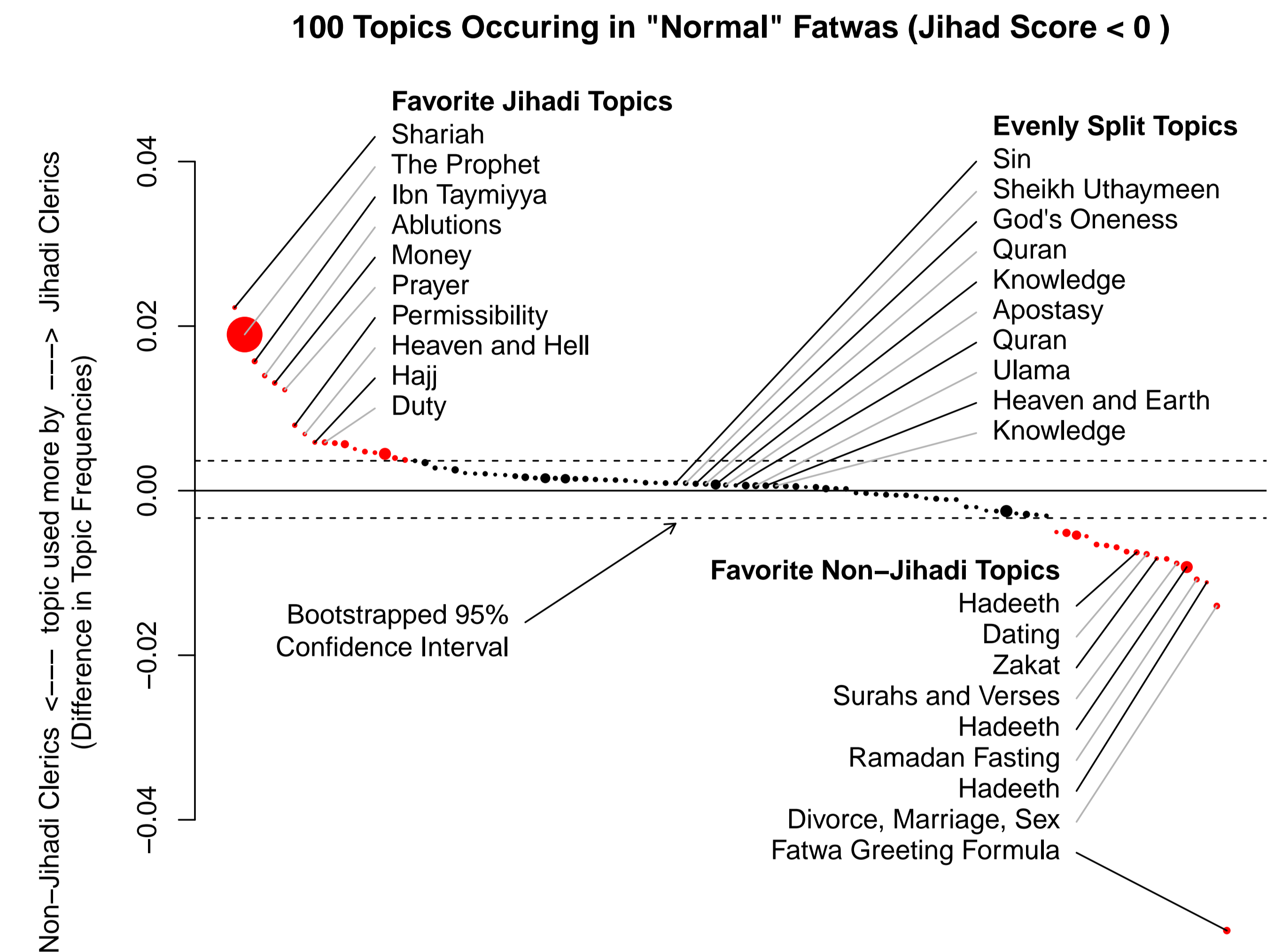
$$Jihad\ Score = \sum_i \log \frac{P(w_i|J)}{P(w_i|J')}$$

Estimate Jihad scores for 45 clerics using 8,552 of their fatwas...

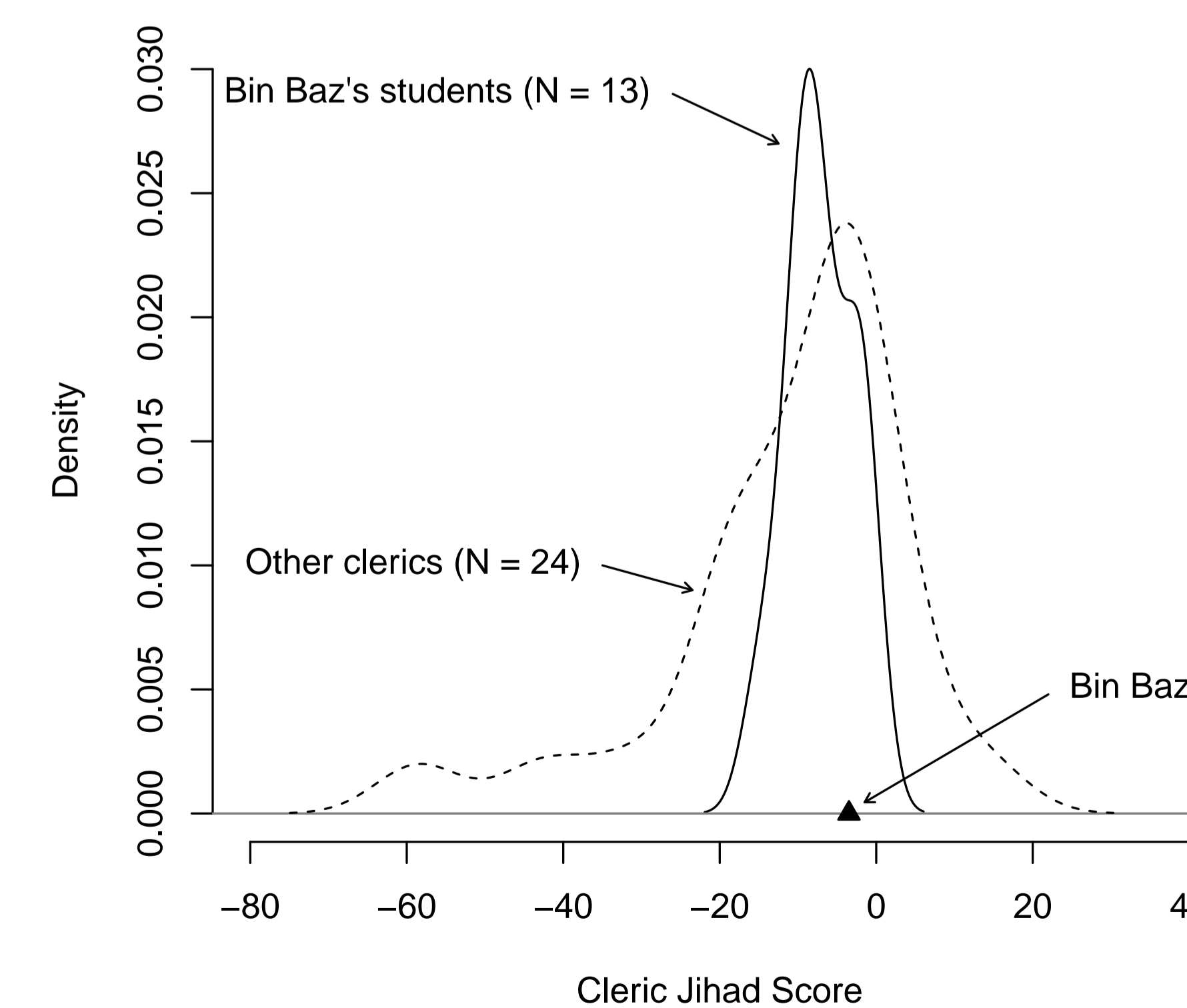


Findings:

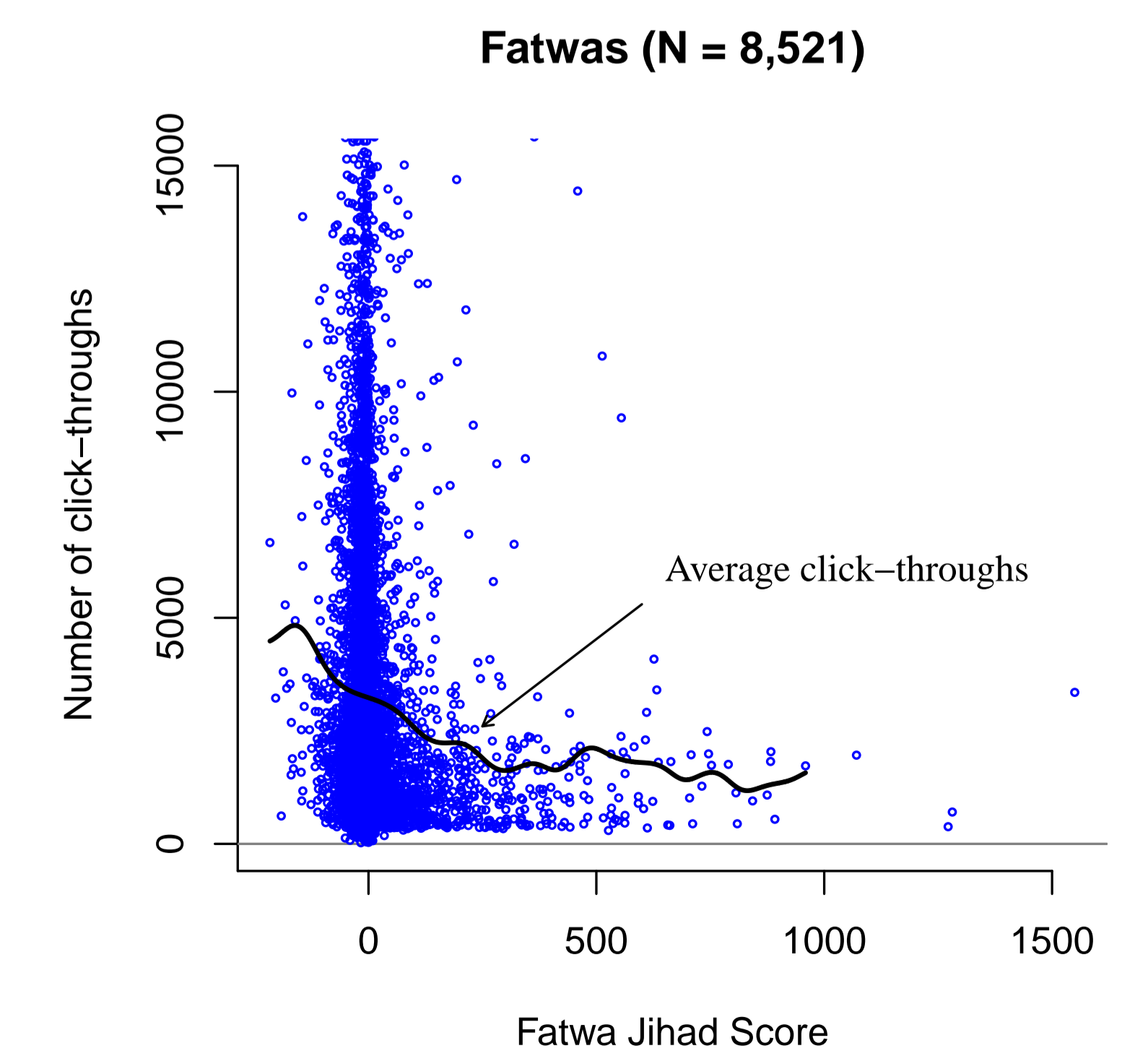
1. Jihadi ideology is embedded in broader religious beliefs



2. Jihadi ideology is conditioned by cleric social networks



3. Jihadi fatwas are not inherently popular



<sup>1</sup>This adaptation is proposed and tested by Nick Beauchamp, 2011. Text-Based Scaling of Legislatures: A Comparison of Methods with Applications to the US Senate and UK House of Commons. Working paper.