

Female Political Competency and Social Dominance Orientation

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Abstract

The current study seeks to prove two hypotheses using a survey methodology: First, are there stereotyped policy areas in the spheres of some policies being considered more masculine, feminine or neutral. Secondly, If SDO is a valid measure of predicting competency of hypothetical female candidates both overall and in these spheres of policies. The survey was taken by 60 participants with 34 being usable for analysis, and used 15 policy area ranging from defense, to welfare for participants to rate the hypothetical female candidate in. Overall the results were mixed, a factor analysis was unable to be used to distinguish the separate policy areas due to sample size, but using hypothesized groupings of policies there was an overall negative trend as SDO increased, perceived competency decreased across all policy issues. Future research should look to correct the sample size issues to perform more powerful analysis, and look for differences in SDO's predictive power in the different policy areas.

Background

- As of March 2017 there are only currently fifteen female world leaders, with eight being the first female leader of their respective country²
- Female political leaders are stereotyped as more warm
 - This leads to females being considered more efficient in areas such as education and poverty issues, where male politicians are considered more competent in crime and defense policy⁴
 - This has been shown to do more with traits displayed by politicians^{1,4}
- Social Dominance Orientation has been used to predict prejudice against multiple groups⁵
- However current research in political psychology lacks a concrete set of policies which are considered more masculine, feminine, or neutral
- Social Dominance orientation has also not been used as a measure of predicting perceived competency of minority individuals in political power

Methods

Data from a survey distributed through my personal Facebook page where participants could opt in or out at anytime

Participants-

- 60 participants (34 excluded)
- 15 males, 2 females, 1 chose not to identify
- Mean age 25.5 (SD = 12.8)
- Prompt: "Kaitlyn Jones is a candidate running in 2017 for a government position in the state of Michigan for your preferred party. She has experience at the local level of government, and is hoping to make it to a more prestigious political position one day. Kaitlyn has been working for the past year on her campaign."

Measures

SDO-7³:

- 16 Items measuring endorsement of group based Hierarchy from 1-7 with 7 being strongly agree
- 8 reverse coded
- Higher scores indicate more endorsement of group based higherarcy

Competency scores for policy areas:

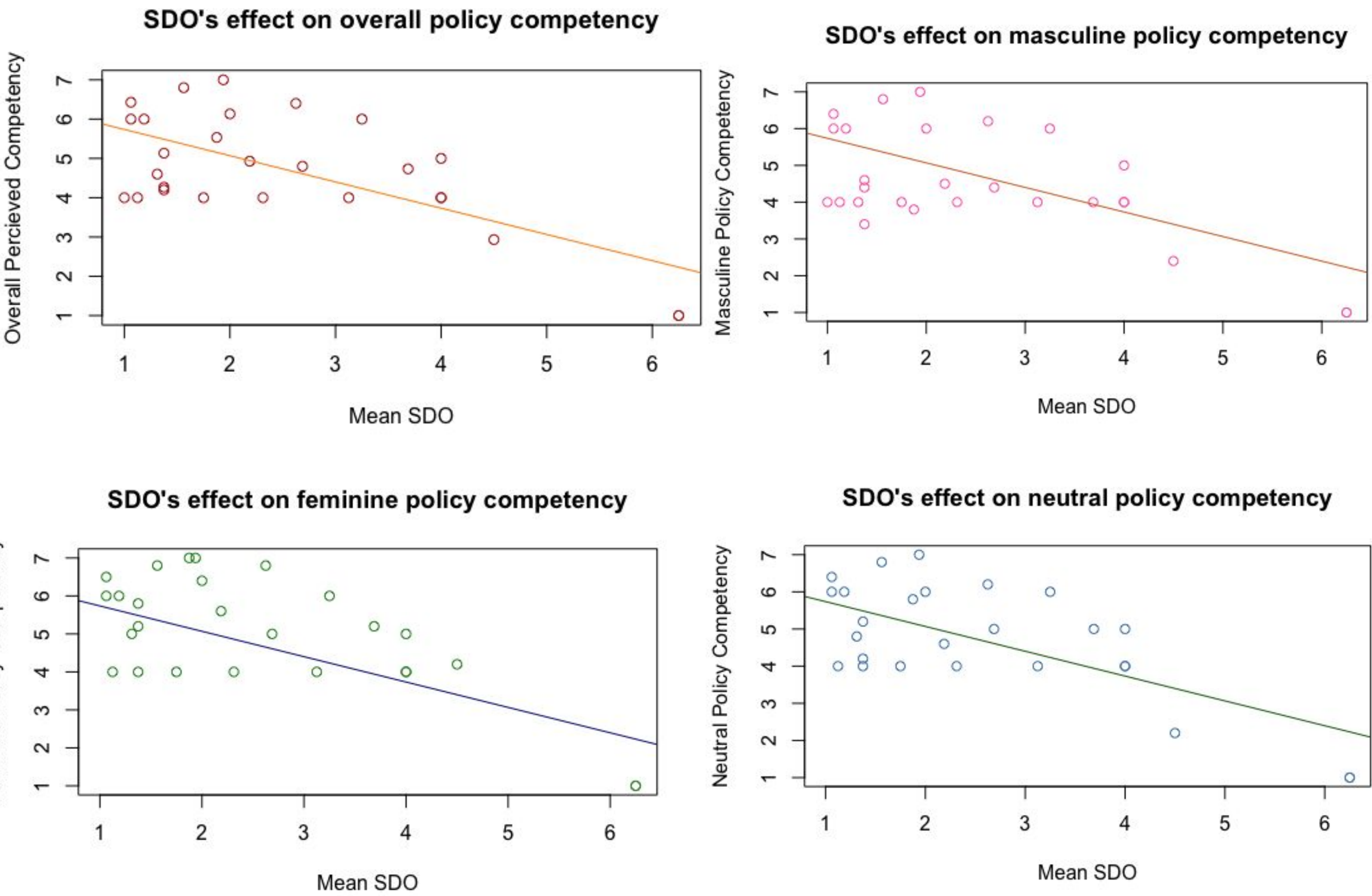
- 15 policy areas
- Done on a 1-7 scale with 7 being highly competent
- Policy examples: Education, Defense, Minimum Wage, Civil Rights

Research Questions

- Examine whether there are policies that can be stereotyped together as more masculine, feminine, or neutral policies**
- Examine If SDO predicts competency scores for female politicians**

Results – overall and group policy competency

Due to small sample size policy grouping by SDO was unable to be done, however regression analysis was performed on the hypothetical groupings of policies which all showed significant negative trends



Conclusions

- we were unable to run a factor analysis to group the policy areas into factors.
- SDO was shown to predict competency for the hypothetical female candidate, and as SDO increased policy competence across all areas decreased, demonstrating an overall negative relationship.

Future Research

- Examine if the policies are stereotyped in certain ways
- Test if SDO also may predict perceived competency for other minority political candidates
- Assess if there are differences between the relationship between SDO and different stereotyped grouped policies

Coefficients for regression analysis

Model	Beta	Standard Error	T-value	P-value
overall	-0.673	0.147	-4.552	.000
Masculine	-0.634	0.156	-4.098	.000
Feminine	-0.699	0.153	-4.791	.000
Neutral	-0.71	0.149	-4.943	.000

Primary References

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