

**Out of the Dark –  
Psychological Perspectives on People’s Fascination with True Crime**

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**Abstract**

The success of the true crime media genre narrating real-life crime stories reflects an avid human curiosity about tales of violence. Yet, despite popular speculations on the “who” and “why” of true crime consumption, psychological research on this phenomenon is lacking. This study presents a large-scale behavioral investigation of interest in true crime and provides first empirical insights into characteristics and motives of true crime consumers, but also well-being correlates of true crime consumption. In a sample of  $n = 307$  to 571 participants, we a) confirm a robust gender difference in true crime consumption in favour of women, and b) find associations of true crime consumption with demographics (income, education), safety perceptions (preparedness to avoid victimization), personality (morbid curiosity, agreeableness), aggression, well-being, and emotion regulation (acceptance, cognitive reappraisal). Additionally, c) we show that these true crime consumption links partly differ by gender. Finally, d) in multiple regression models, gender, income, morbid curiosity, victimization perceptions, narcissism, and emotion regulation via acceptance, reappraisal, and positive re-focusing emerged as unique predictors of true crime consumption and associated motives. Our investigation offers novel perspectives on negative human information seeking, which may fuel future research on (media) violence, threat coping, and creative emotion regulation.

**Keywords:** true crime; violence; media consumption; victimization; morbid curiosity; emotion regulation; gender differences

## Introduction

People's fascination with violence, tragedy, and death resides among the oddest, but also oldest human interests. The fact that people purposefully seek out and consume tales of murder, horror, and serial killers (see Vicary & Fraley, 2010) is best exemplified in popular media consumption. Here, the "true crime" genre – narrations of real-life criminal cases involving murder, sexual assault, kidnappings, or torture in books, TV shows, movies, or podcasts – has become a 21<sup>st</sup> century media juggernaut, growing year by year. Public surveys further underline that true crime consumers are not a negligible minority, as 50% of Americans reportedly enjoy true crime stories (Orth, 2022), and 34% of US podcast listeners regularly engage with true crime content (Shearer et al., 2023). Interestingly, while people's fascination with murder is a popular topic in media and journalism research (Boling, 2023; Boling & Hull, 2018; Vitis & Ryan, 2023), psychological research on the characteristics and motives of true crime consumers, but even more importantly, potential effects of true crime on people's behavior and well-being, is almost non-existent. But why should this be of broader interest to manifold areas of psychological research instead of just being a niche topic of media psychology? In this paper, our goal is to present novel and intriguing research possibilities around people's interest in true crime by reporting a large-scale comprehensive behavioural investigation of true crime consumption. In the following, we discuss four perspectives meant to underline the merit of true crime research for different psychological fields along with underlining motivations for the present study.

### Why is true crime consumption interesting to psychological research?

#### *True crime and morbid curiosity as aspects of negative information seeking*

While modern digital media has led to a surge in true crime content, people have been fascinated by murder and violence for centuries. The pressing question is why humans deliberately expose themselves to highly negative information and even enjoy being scared, sad, or unsettled, as this seems at odds with the idea that human information seeking is inherently reward driven (Hanich et al., 2014; Martin, 2019; Niehoff & Oosterwijk, 2020). This has sparked research interest in morbid curiosity as curiosity for various negative content, like watching videos of gruesome traffic accidents or medical procedures, going to haunted houses, detailed news coverage of war or sickness (Niehoff et al., 2023; Oosterwijk, 2017; Scrivner, 2021; Zuckerman & Litle, 1986), or even, an interest in dangerous individuals (Harrison & Frederick, 2020). A behavioral experiment by Oosterwijk (2017) showed that people chose engagement with intense negative social images (e.g., a violent social conflict) over engagement with more graphic but also neutral images, underlining that people are especially curious about dangers, risks, and horrors originating from other humans, which aligns with the fascination with true crime. Worth noting, current theories on morbid curiosity do not interpret this as enjoyment of the suffering of others (Carlevari et al., 2024). Instead, negative information is thought to have potent

informational value, either in terms of adaptive world building (what is reality like), increasing preparedness for potential dangers, or reducing uncertainty about the likelihood or impact of aversive events (Niehoff & Oosterwijk, 2020; Scrivner, 2021). Still, engaging with negative content may be costly (negative emotions, stress, pathology) and so far, little is known about how cost-benefit analyses may work in this regard. In sum, morbid curiosity is still rather neglected in models of human decision making (Oosterwijk, 2017; Oosterwijk et al., 2020). We believe that understanding causes and consequences of true crime consumption fits into the general framework of understanding the attraction and behavioral modulatory power of negative information, and thus targets novel aspects of human decision making in the digital age.

*True crime as a novel perspective on the violent media – aggression link*

After decades of research, there is still remarkable disagreement regarding the effects of violent media on aggression, violence, and antisocial behavior in real-life (Bushman & Anderson, 2023; Quandt et al., 2015). A large body of cross-sectional and longitudinal studies have found positive effects of violent media use on various aspects of aggression (Anderson et al., 2010; Burkhardt & Lenhard, 2022; Krahé & Möller, 2010). Others have delivered null-findings or suggest that effects of violent media are substantially diminished if aspects like trait aggression, domestic violence, stress, or antisocial personality are taken into account (Ferguson et al., 2014, 2015; DeCamp & Ferguson, 2017; Sauer et al., 2015). In the face of global violence prevention goals, it is interesting that aggression research to date has not considered the immersive and popular, nature of true crime environments as possible stimulants of aggressive cognition and behavior: Not only is the violence and suffering depicted in true crime formats based on true events (even if exaggerations and sensationalism are possible), it is often also meticulously described from a close perspective and thus, includes detailed scripts of human violence. Proposed psychological mechanisms for the violent media – aggression link may thus also apply to true crime consumption: Repeated exposure to tales of murder and violence may prime aggressive concepts in memory, increase physiological arousal, or lead to emotional habituation and desensitization to the suffering of others, including reduced empathy and less prosocial behavior (Anderson & Bushman, 2002; Bushman & Huesmann, 2012; Krahé & Möller, 2010). Alternatively, following the selection hypothesis, violent people may be drawn to violent content (Huesmann et al., 2003), which hints at investigating adjacent personality traits like the dark triad of narcissism, Machiavellianism, and psychopathy (e.g., for research on identification with dark fictional characters, see Kjeldgaard-Christiansen et al., 2021). In sum, true crime studies may open up a new universe of researching aggression, hostility, and dark personality in more natural, self-selected environments.

*True crime and insights into gender differences – the female threat coping perspective*

While most true crime consumption associations are still speculative, research has established that the vast majority of true crime consumers are women (Boling, 2023; Boling & Hull, 2018; McDonald et al., 2021; Vicary & Fraley, 2010; Vitis & Ryan, 2023). In percentages, 70% of true crime book reviews on Amazon are written by women (Vicary & Fraley, 2010), and over 75% up to 93% of true crime podcast listeners are female (Boling & Hull, 2018; McDonald et al., 2021), although men consume more podcasts overall (Benesch, 2012). This may seem contradictory, given that women are generally less prone to physical aggression and violence than men (Archer, 2004), and also report greater fear of crime and victimization (May et al., 2010; Rader et al., 2020). So why are women drawn to violent true crime content, especially if it confronts them with their fears? One prominent theory suggests that female true crime consumption is driven by defensive vigilance, as women seek information and knowledge about anxiety-eliciting, dangerous situations to better anticipate, prevent, or circumvent real-life dangers, most prominently, physical violence from men (McDonald et al., 2021; Vicary & Fraley, 2010). Research on crisis and risk communication shows that women conduct more risk information seeking than men (Lachlan et al., 2021; Manierre, 2015), which may join into the need for uncertainty reduction and link back to morbid curiosity. Given the often-reported gender differences in coping styles (McLean & Anderson, 2009; Tamres et al., 2002), true crime consumption may be of relevance as gender-specific threat coping strategy. Yet the big question is if this strategy is effective, or if there are drawbacks to mental health as have been discussed for the mixed use of both adaptive and maladaptive coping strategies (Nolen-Hoeksema & Aldao, 2011; Perchtold et al., 2019; Tamres et al., 2002). Given that women report more feelings of fear and anxiety, with the female prevalence for developing anxiety disorders twice as high as in men (Bandelow & Michaelis, 2015; McLean & Anderson, 2009), true crime research may contribute insights into gender differences in coping with threat and adversity from a women's health perspective (see Oram et al., 2017).

#### *New training avenues – (Real-life) horror as creative emotion regulation*

In recent years, emotion regulation research has devoted significant attention to the question how adaptive emotion regulation can be trained with appealing, motivating, and personalized tools (Cohen & Ochsner, 2018; Perchtold-Stefan et al., 2023; Torous et al., 2021). In this respect, researchers have addressed the idea that horror media (horror movies, games, haunted houses) may possess therapeutic potential as training grounds for building emotion regulation skills that may generalize from low-cost simulated anxiety experiences to adaptive real-life anxiety management (Martin, 2019; Miller et al., 2024; Scrivner et al., 2021; Scrivner & Christensen, 2021). Building on mechanisms of exposure and cognitive behavioral therapy, engagement with fictional horror is believed to help increase emotional clarity, help tolerate negative somatic experiences (bodily anxiety symptoms), and provide immersive practice opportunities for cognitive reappraisal of anxiety-provoking stimuli (Miller et al., 2024; Scrivner & Christensen, 2021). While this benefit model of fictional horror is still fairly

theoretical, a study by Scrivner et al. (2021) showed that stress experience during the first outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic was significantly decreased in fans of horror films with contagion/infection themes who had mentally simulated such scenarios many times, thus reporting greater preparedness in reality. Indeed, there may be similar learning and resilience-building opportunities in true crime consumption. It is plausible that some individuals deliberately or automatically use true crime stories for emotion regulation purposes, especially regarding fear of violence. The open question is, if and for whom this could be adaptive, and under which circumstances. Altogether, the potential emotion regulation properties of true crime consumption open up a whole array of novel research questions centered around a more personalized approach to emotion regulation (see Doré et al., 2016).

### The present study

As illustrated above, there is a plethora of research opportunities around true crime consumption; however, empirical studies are scarce. The goal of the present study is to provide a first comprehensive investigation that links true crime consumption to demographics, personality traits, safety perceptions, aggression, well-being, and emotion regulation. We target two major research questions:

- 1) Who engages in true crime consumption (demographics, personality) and why (motives)?

Previous studies found higher true crime consumption in women than men (Boling & Hull, 2018; Vicary & Fraley, 2010). Accordingly, we consider gender a major factor in explaining true crime consumption, but also extend our analyses to other demographic aspects including age, education, living area, income, and relationship status. While true crime fans are generally considered to be female and young (McDonald et al., 2021; Vitis & Ryan, 2023), to the best of our knowledge, no previous study has examined the impact of demographics on true crime consumption alongside well-being and personality. Regarding motives for true crime consumption, literature offers a wide variety including entertainment, boredom, or convenience (Boling & Hull, 2018), evidence gathering and crime solving (Vitis & Ryan, 2023), and for women specifically, defensive vigilance (McDonald et al., 2021), trauma processing and regaining control over negative experiences from victimization (Boling, 2023).

In this study, we follow up on these motives by using the True Crime Consumption and Motivations questionnaire by McDonald et al. (2021), which distinguishes *defensive vigilance* (consumption for learning about dangers and preparedness), *excitement* (consumption for entertainment and the thrill of the taboo), and *authenticity* (consumption because true crime is real and provides information on psychology and justice). Additionally, we created four items focused on the potential motive of *emotion regulation* (consumption in order to cope with negative feelings).

We also tested relationships between true crime consumption and trait *morbid curiosity* to see how much of true crime consumption can be explained by the general tendency to seek information about negative content (bodily harm, violence, minds, or the supernatural, Scrivner, 2021). A few

studies have linked morbid curiosity and sensational interests to lower agreeableness, lower conscientiousness, and higher sensation seeking (Egan et al., 1999; Powell et al., 2022; Zuckerman & Litle, 1986). While some speculate that there is a dark personality core to people's fascination with murder (Broll, 2020; Tamborini et al., 1987), research on personality correlates of true crime consumption is practically non-existent. To provide first insights, we explored relationships of true crime consumption with the *Big 5* (neuroticism, extraversion, openness, agreeableness, conscientiousness) and the *dark triad* (narcissism, Machiavellianism, psychopathy).

2) What are behavioral, emotional, and well-being correlates of true crime consumption?

Next to motives and personalities, there is the pressing question whether there are negative outcomes to repeated or intensive engagement with true crime stories. Using the framework of the cultivation theory asserting that heavy television consumption cultivates a worldview closer to television than reality (Gerbner et al., 1986; see Romer et al., 2014), studies have suggested that frequent consumption of crime-related media increases perceptions of crime risk in their environment, as well as fear of crime itself (Callanan & Rosenberger, 2015; Romer et al., 2014). Frequent immersion in true crime stories may have a similar negative effect on perceived likelihood of victimization, and by extension, lower emotional well-being. In the present study, we tested links between true crime consumption and *safety perceptions* (e.g., perceived likelihood of victimization) as well as several *well-being* indicators including stress, anxiety, resilience, and depressive symptoms to explore whether there may be negative health outcomes associated with fascination for true crime. Following the idea that constant exposure to real, detailed accounts of violence embedded in true crime stories may be linked to hostile and cognition and behavior (e.g., Bushman & Anderson, 2023), we also tested relationships to different aspects of *aggression* (e.g., verbal, physical; Buss & Perry, 1992).

At the same time, engagement with horror content may provide training opportunities to increase self-management and emotion regulation skills in the face of aversive stimuli, leading to more adaptive responding in daily life (Miller et al., 2024; Scrivner et al., 2021; Scrivner & Christensen, 2021). To gain first insights into possible emotion regulation benefits of true crime consumption, we examined relationships to habitual *emotion regulation strategies* (e.g., acceptance, rumination; Garnefski & Kraaij, 2007), as well as individuals' capacity to generate different cognitive reappraisals for anxiety-eliciting situations (Perchtold et al., 2019; Perchtold-Stefan et al., 2023).

In light of the novelty of our research questions, we opted for the simple yet informative statistical approach to first compute correlations between total true crime consumption, consumption of specific formats (e.g., books, podcasts) and consumption motives with all mentioned variables of interest (Pearson's correlations, Kendall's Tau). Second, we tested for basic gender differences in true crime consumption (t-tests, repeated measures ANOVA) and further used moderation analyses to determine whether associations of true crime consumption with variables of interest varied by gender. Third, we

computed multiple regression models to provide a comprehensive picture on which combination of variables best explains unique variance in true crime consumption and associated motives.

## Methods

### *Participants*

Data from two studies and three stages of data collection are included. All study variables and sample characteristics are summarized in detail in Table 1. Project 1 includes an online assessment via LimeSurvey at as part of a larger research project<sup>1</sup>, in which  $n = 167$  individuals participated. This assessment happened ~4 months prior to the following stages (Oct to Nov 22) and is regarded as a pilot project. Project 2 included two stages of data collection: At stage 2, another LimeSurvey was run with  $n = 404$  participants, followed by in person-testing session at stage 3 with  $n = 307$  participants. Stages 2 to 3 largely overlapped in time (Mar to Aug 23). In total, data from  $n = 571$  participants is analyzed; however, not all data is available from all participants. Stages 2 and 3 include the same participants<sup>2</sup>. This study was approved by the authorized local ethics committee (GZ. 39/134/63 ex 2021/22 and GZ. 39/4/63 ex 2022/23). All participants gave written informed consent. Data and analysis scripts are available on the Open Science Framework, <https://osf.io/phx9d>.

[Insert Table 1 about here]

### *Questionnaires and tests*

Detailed descriptive statistics for all questionnaires are reported in supplementary material SM1.

#### *True Crime Consumption ( $n = 571$ )*

The True Crime Consumption and Motivations Scale (McDonald et al., 2021) assesses frequency (8 items; 1 = never to 5 = very frequently; e.g., “*I watch true crime television shows*”) and motives for true crime consumption (1 = strongly disagree, 7 = strongly agree) in terms of defensive vigilance (8 items; “*I watch/read or listen to true crime so I can learn how to defend myself against attacks*”), excitement (5 items, “*I like true crime because it is exciting and thrilling*”), and authenticity (4 items, “*True crime is enjoyable because it involves real situations and stories*”). Additionally, we created four items that parse an emotion regulation motive (“*I watch/read or listen to true crime to learn how to*

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<sup>1</sup>This study was part of a larger data collection focused on healthy living, and also including measures of physical fitness, eating habits, lifestyle factors, and creativity, which are however, unrelated to the present investigation.

<sup>2</sup>Although we rely on different sample sizes for different analyses in this manuscript, more information can be gained by not reducing our amount of data to one final sample size ( $n = 307$ ) in which all data is available for all participants. Ultimately, our separate analyses clusters reflect distinct research questions (e.g., links of true crime consumption to gender, emotion regulation, etc.) of an entirely novel research field in psychology, which benefits from an integrated, single-manuscript approach to advance future research.

**Table 1.**

*Overview of study stages, demographic information, and utilized measurements (n = 571)*

				Participant information		Variables			
		N	Gender	Age	Demographics				
Project 1	Stage 1	167	87 women 80 men	M = 25.45 SD = 8.52 Min = 18 Max = 70	None other		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ True crime consumption</li> <li>▪ Morbid curiosity</li> <li>▪ Depressive symptoms</li> <li>▪ Trait anxiety</li> <li>▪ Aggression</li> </ul>		
Project 2	Stage 2	404	307 women 97 men	M = 28.16 SD = 10.31 Min = 18 Max = 74	<b>Education:</b> < 1% compulsory 5.4 % apprenticeship 56.2% Highschool 22.8 % Bachelor 13.1% Master 2 % PhD	<b>Living area:</b> 82.4 % urban/city 17.6 % suburban/country	<b>Relationship status:</b> 38.9 % single 61.1% relationship	<b>Medical diagnosis</b> 83.9% no 16.1% yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ True crime consumption</li> <li>▪ Likelihood of victimization</li> <li>▪ Morbid curiosity</li> <li>▪ Big-5 personality</li> </ul>
	Stage 3	307	240 women 67 men	M = 27.73 SD = 10.09 Min = 18 Max = 73	<b>Education:</b> < 1% compulsory 4.6 % apprenticeship 56.7% Highschool 23.5 % Bachelor 12.7% Master 2 % PhD	<b>Living area:</b> 84.4 % urban/city 15.6 % suburban/country	<b>Relationship status:</b> 40.1 % single 59.9% relationship	<b>Medical diagnosis</b> 85.7% no 14.3% yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Depressive symptoms</li> <li>▪ Trait anxiety</li> <li>▪ Aggression</li> <li>▪ Dark triad</li> <li>▪ Habitual emotion regulation</li> <li>▪ Cognitive reappraisal capacity</li> </ul>
Total		571	394 women 177 men	(Stage 2 and 3 overlap in participants)					

*cope with my negative feeling*”, “... to see my own problems from a different perspective”, “... to deal with negative bodily arousal”, “... to allow better threat coping in real life”). See Table A in SM1.

#### *Morbid Curiosity (n = 571)*

The Morbid Curiosity Scale (Scrivner, 2021) is a 24-item measure for trait morbid curiosity as the motivation to learn about dangerous or threatening phenomena. Four subscales distinguish curiosity for violence (6 items, e.g., *“I am curious about what a battle looked like in the Middle Ages”*), curiosity for bodily harm (6 items, *“I am curious what the deadliest toxin in the world would do to the body”*), curiosity for minds (6 items, *“I would be interested in watching a documentary on motives behind real murders”*), and paranormal curiosity (6 items, *“I find the Occult interesting”*). See Table A in SM1.

#### *Trait anxiety (n = 478)*

Trait anxiety was assessed with the trait subscale of the State-Trait-Anxiety-Inventory (Spielberger, 1983). Participants respond how they generally feel on scale of 1 = almost never to 4 = almost always (20 items, e.g., *“I am tense”* or *“I am worried”*). See Table B in SM1.

#### *Perceived Stress (n = 478)*

The Perceived Stress Scale (German version: Klein et al., 2016) measures perceived stress in terms of unpredictability, lack of control, and overload with 10 items ranging from 0 = never to 4 = very often. Two subscales measure perceived helplessness (6 items; *“How often have you been upset because of something that happened unexpectedly?”*) and perceived self-efficacy (4 items, *“...how often have you felt that you were on top of things?”*). A total score was calculated, with higher scores indicating higher stress. See Table B in SM1.

#### *Depressive symptoms (n = 478)*

The Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale (CES-D, German version; Hautzinger & Bailer, 1993) assesses frequency of depressive symptoms over the past week (20 items, e.g., *“I was bothered by things that usually don’t bother me”*), rated from 0 (rarely or never) to 3 (most or all the time). See Table B in SM1.

#### *Aggression (n = 478)*

The short version of the Buss-Perry-Aggression Questionnaire (Bryant & Smith, 2001) explores aggression on four subscales: physical aggression (3 items; e.g., *“Given enough provocation, I may hit another person”*), verbal aggression (3 items, e.g., *“I can’t help getting into arguments when people disagree with me”*), hostility (3 items, e.g., *“I wonder why sometimes I feel so bitter about things”*) and anger (3 items, e.g., *“I have trouble controlling my temper”*). Additionally, a total aggression score was calculated. See Table B in SM1.

#### *Detailed demographic information (n = 404)*

Level of education, income, general living area, relationship status, and presence of a psychiatric/medical diagnosis were assessed (see Table 1).

#### *Safety perceptions (n = 404)*

Safety perceptions related to true crime consumption were assessed with the Perceived Likelihood of Victimization Scale from Kerestly et al. (2021). The scale measures perceived likelihood of victimization (8 items, e.g., “*I worry that I will be a victim of a violent crime*”), personal safety (8 items, e.g., “*When I walk alone at night, I feel incredibly vulnerable to attack*”), and preparedness to avoid victimization (8 items, e.g., “*I am prepared to avoid dangerous situations*”). See Table C in SM1.

#### *Resilience (n = 404)*

The Brief Resilience Scale (Smith et al., 2008) assesses individuals’ ability to recover from stress despite adversity. The 5 items (e.g., “*I tend to bounce back quickly after hard times*”) are rated from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree. See Table C in SM1.

#### *Big-5 personality traits (n = 404)*

Neuroticism (e.g., “*I see myself as someone who gets nervous easily*”), extraversion (e.g., “*...is outgoing, sociable*”), openness (e.g., “*...has an active imagination*”), agreeableness (e.g., “*...is generally trusting*”), and conscientiousness (e.g., “*...does a thorough job*”) were measured with the 10-item short version of the Big Five Inventory (Rammstedt & John, 2007; 2 items per domain). Items are rated on a scale from 1 = not true at all to 5 = completely true. See Table C in SM1.

#### *Dark triad traits (n = 307)*

The Short Dark Triad (Jones & Paulhus, 2014) measures the dark triad personality traits of narcissism (9 items, e.g., “*People see me as a natural leader*”), Machiavellianism (9 items, e.g., “*It’s not wise to tell your secrets*”), and psychopathy (9 items, e.g., “*People who mess with me always regret it*”) on 5-point scales from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree. See Table D in SM1.

#### *Habitual emotion regulation (n = 307)*

The short version of the Cognitive Emotion Regulation Questionnaire (Garnefski & Kraaij, 2006) was used to assess nine habitual strategies people use when dealing with negative emotions (2 items per strategy): self-blame (“*I feel that I am the one who is responsible*”), acceptance (“*I think that I have to accept the situation*”), rumination (“*I am preoccupied with what I think or feel*”), positive re-focusing (“*I think of something nice instead of what has happened*”), planning (“*I think about a plan of what I can do best*”), positive reappraisal (“*I think I can learn something from the situation*”), perspective

taking (“*I tell myself that there are worse things in life*”), catastrophizing (“*I keep thinking about how terrible it is*”), and other-blame (“*I feel that others are responsible*”). See Table D in SM1.

#### *Cognitive reappraisal capacity (n = 307)*

The Reappraisal Inventiveness Test (RIT; for anxiety version see Perchtold et al., 2019) tests the spontaneous capacity for generating multiple different reappraisals for negative emotion situations (maximum performance approach). Participants were confronted with four anxiety-eliciting situations (e.g., *walking through a dark park alone at night*) and had 3 min per item to write down different re-interpretations to downregulate their negative feelings. Answers are scored for reappraisal fluency (number of non-identical reappraisals) and flexibility (categorial difference between reappraisal ideas) according to the category scheme of the RIT (see Perchtold et al., 2019; Perchtold-Stefan et al., 2023). See Table D in SM1 for descriptive statistics and intra-class correlations for the two RIT raters.

#### **Statistical analysis**

In a first step, basic relationships between true crime consumption (total score, different formats, motives) and other study variables at each stage were tested with Pearson’s correlations, Kendall’s Tau-b correlations, or independent sample t-tests ( $n = 571$ : gender, age, morbid curiosity;  $n = 478$ : anxiety, stress, depressive symptoms, aggression;  $n = 404$ : demographics, safety perceptions, BIG-5 personality;  $n = 307$ : dark triad, habitual emotion regulation; cognitive reappraisal capacity). For analyses of different true crime consumption motives (defensive vigilance, excitement, authenticity, emotion regulation), partial correlations controlled for total amount of true crime consumption. To give a comprehensive overview of variable associations and their respective strength, we plotted significant correlations using the network analysis feature in JASP (JASP 0.18.1.0 for Windows, JASP Team, Amsterdam, the Netherlands; Estimator: correlation; Correlation method: cor, Threshold Method: significant, missing values: exclude pairwise). The resulting network plots are used for illustrative purposes only, but serve to depict important associations.

In a second step, we applied more detailed tests to examine gender difference in true crime consumption and associated motives by means of a repeated measure ANOVA. Moreover, we examined gender differences in true crime associations by running moderation analyses with the SPSS macro Process (v4.1) set to model 1 (Hayes & Preacher, 2014), using simple slopes analyses with 5000 bootstraps to illustrate possible interaction effects across different levels of the moderator gender (women = 0, men = 1). For simplicity, true crime consumption was always defined as criterion (Y), though due to the cross-sectional nature of our data, this does not suggest nor establish causality. Moderation analyses for true crime motives were controlled for total true crime consumption.

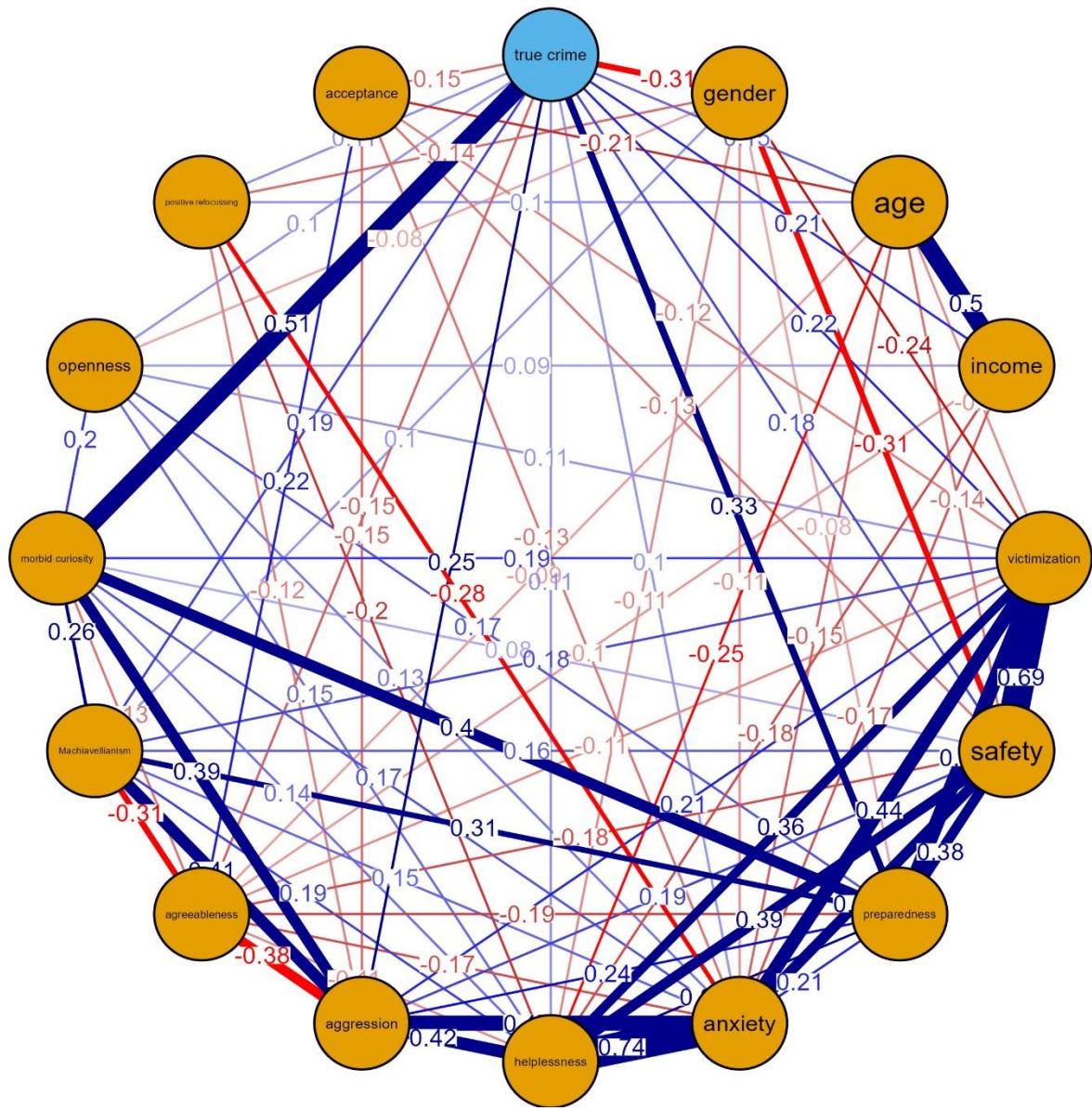
In a third step, multiple regression models were run to determine which variables explained unique variance in total true crime consumption as well as true crime consumption motives, including all variables that initially showed significant correlations with these criteria ( $p < .05$ ). Only individuals with all required data were entered ( $n = 307$ ). Statistical assumptions for the multiple regression models (i.e., ratio of cases to independent variables, normality, independence of errors, homoscedasticity, linearity, and absence of multicollinearity) were met.

Given the partly exploratory nature of our analyses and the lack of previous studies on true crime consumption, we chose to apply a significance level of  $p < .05$  (two-tailed) for all analyses without using any potentially too conservative corrections that may increase the likelihood of type II errors.

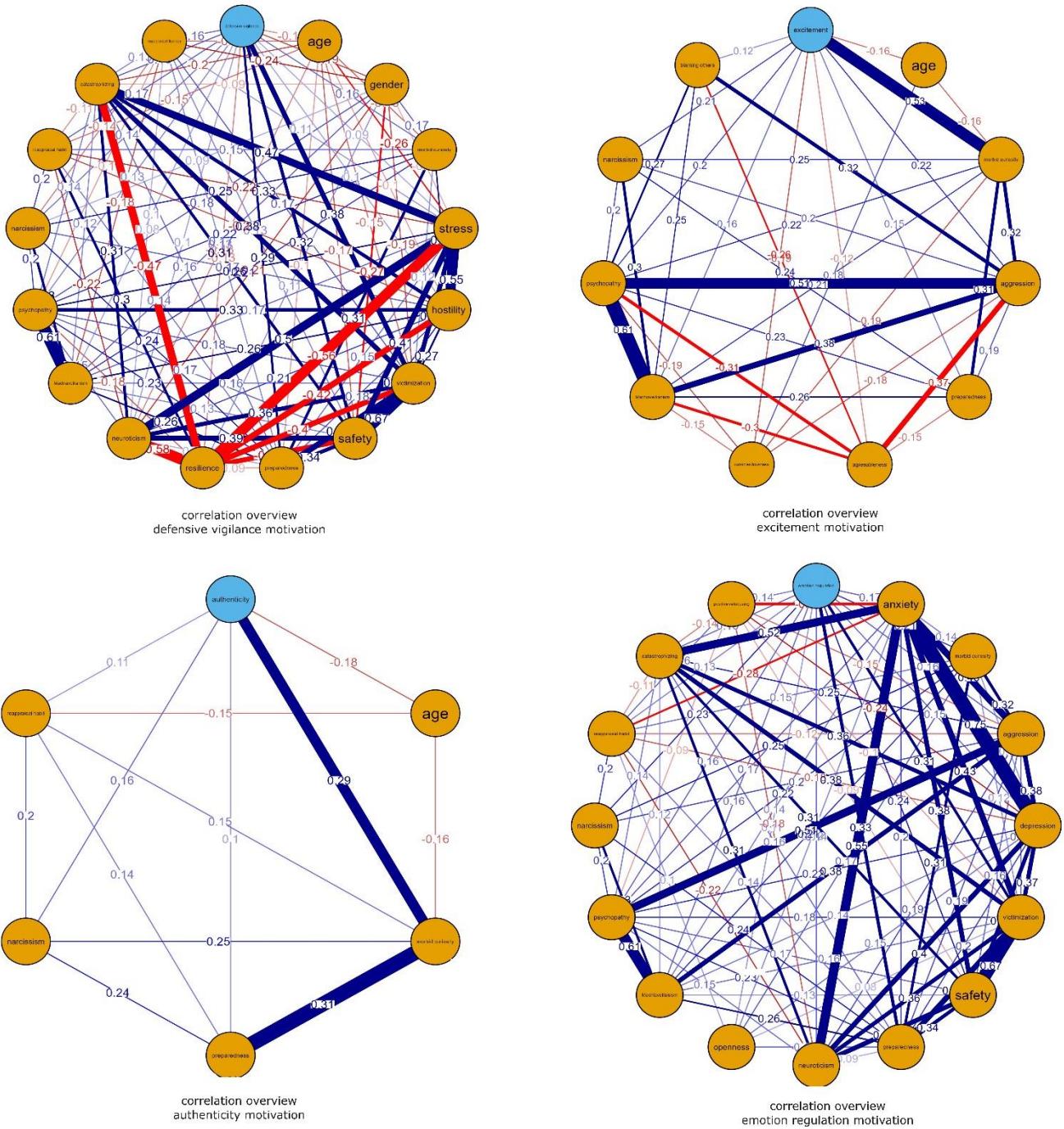
## RESULTS

Detailed correlational tables for all variable associations are reported in supplementary material SM1. Correlations of true crime consumption with gender, age, and morbid curiosity include  $n = 571$  participants (see Table E in SM1), correlations with trait anxiety, perceived stress, and aggression include  $n = 478$  (Table F in SM1), correlations with other demographics, safety perceptions, resilience, and BIG-5 personality include  $n = 404$  (Table G in SM1), and correlations with the dark triad, emotion regulation strategies, and cognitive reappraisal capacity include  $n = 307$  participants (Table H in SM1).

Figures 1 and 2 summarize correlational results for all stages of data collection, illustrating variable relationships with total true crime consumption and true crime consumption motives.



**Figure 1.** Correlational overview for total true crime consumption (blue). Only variables showing significant correlations with total true crime consumption are depicted. Blue lines show positive associations, red lines show negative associations. Some variable names have been abbreviated: true crime = total true crime consumption; victimization = perceived likelihood of victimization; safety = personal safety; preparedness = preparedness to avoid victimization; aggression = total aggression; positive re-focusing: CERQ emotion regulation; acceptance: CERQ emotion regulation strategy.



**Figure 2.** Correlational overview for true crime consumption motives (blue). Only variables showing significant correlations with the motives are depicted. Blue lines show positive associations, red lines show negative associations. Correlations are controlled for total true crime consumption. Some variable names are abbreviated: aggression = total aggression; victimization = perceived likelihood of victimization; safety = personal safety; preparedness = preparedness to avoid victimization; positive re-focusing: CERQ strategy; acceptance: CERQ strategy; blaming others = CERQ strategy; reappraisal habit = CERQ strategy.

## Details on correlational and basic t-test analyses

Women reported significantly more total true crime consumption than men ( $t_{569} = 7.82, p < .001$ ,  $d = 0.71$ ). This gender difference emerged for all true crime formats (books:  $t_{569} = 5.44, p < .001, d = 0.50$ ; podcasts:  $t_{569} = 7.53, d = 0.68$ ; TV:  $t_{569} = 6.44, d = 0.58$ ; movies:  $t_{569} = 4.99, d = 0.45$ ; news:  $t_{569} = 5.15, d = 0.47$ ). Intercorrelations between true crime formats were moderate, except for TV and movie consumption being highly correlated at  $r = .83$  ( $p < .001$ ).

Total true crime consumption showed a small positive correlation with age ( $r = .15, p < .001$ ), driven by true crime book ( $r = .19, p < .001$ ) and news consumption ( $r = .17, p < .001$ ). When controlling for total true crime consumption<sup>3</sup>, age was negatively correlated with the motives of defensive vigilance ( $r = -.12, p = .003$ ), excitement ( $r = -.16, p < .001$ ), and authenticity ( $r = -.18, p < .001$ ).

Total true crime consumption positively correlated with morbid curiosity ( $r = .51, p < .001$ ), with correlations highest for curiosity for minds ( $r = .68, p < .001$ ), and lowest for curiosity for violence ( $r = .17, p < .001$ ). Correlational patterns were similar for different true crime formats, except for podcast consumption, which was not related to curiosity for violence ( $r < .01, p = .951$ ). Morbid curiosity was strongly linked to the true crime consumption motive of excitement ( $r = .53, p < .001$ ), and showed smaller correlations with other motives ( $r's$  from .16 to .29,  $p's < .001$ ). See Table E in SM1.

Total true crime consumption showed a small positive correlation with trait anxiety ( $r = .10, p = .028$ ), driven by TV consumption ( $r = .10, p = .024$ ). Trait anxiety also positively correlated with the emotion regulation motive ( $r = .17, p < .001$ ). See Table F in SM1).

Total true crime consumption showed a significant positive correlation with the helplessness subscale of the perceived stress scale ( $r = .11, p = .017$ ). This correlation was driven by TV and movie consumption ( $r's$  from .11 to .13,  $p's < .005$ ). Total perceived stress and the helplessness subscale showed small positive correlations with defensive vigilance ( $r's$  from .09 to .11,  $p's < .046$ ), excitement ( $r's$  from .10 to .11,  $p < .041$ ), and emotion regulation motives ( $r's$  from .17 to .19,  $p's < .001$ ).

Total true crime consumption showed a small positive correlation with total aggression ( $r = .25, p < .001$ ), present for all subfacets of aggression ( $r's$  from .11 to .24, all  $p's < .018$ ). Correlations with physical aggression were driven by true crime TV ( $r = .15, p < .001$ ) and movie consumption ( $r = .17, p < .001$ ). Only hostility was positively linked to true crime podcast consumption ( $r = .10, p = .033$ ). The excitement and emotion regulation motive exhibited the strongest correlations with aggression ( $r's$  from .11 to .22), while the defensive vigilance motive only showed a small positive association with hostility ( $r = .10, p = .032$ ). See Table F in SM1.

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<sup>3</sup> All correlations with true crime motives are controlled for total true crime consumption. For the sake of brevity, this information is omitted from the text.

Independent sample t-tests showed that people with a history of mental health problems scored higher on the true crime excitement motive ( $t_{402} = 2.30, p = .045$ ). True crime book, TV, and movie consumption were higher in suburban and rural areas compared to urban areas (books:  $t_{402} = -2.47, p = .036$ ; TV:  $t_{402} = -2.59, p = .023$ ; movies:  $t_{402} = -2.33, p = .045$ ). True crime podcast consumption was correlated with higher education ( $r = .10, p = .016$ ). Additionally, total true crime consumption positively correlated with income ( $r = .13, p < .001$ ).

Total true crime consumption positively correlated with perceived likelihood of victimization ( $r = .22, p < .001$ ), feeling less safe ( $r = .18, p < .001$ ), and preparedness to avoid victimization ( $r = .33, p < .001$ ). TV, movie, and news consumption specifically were linked to higher perceived likelihood of victimization ( $r$ 's from .14 to .23) and feeling less safe ( $r$ 's from .16 to .18). Motives of defensive vigilance and emotion regulation correlated with lower safety ( $r$ 's from .24 to .38, see Table G in SM1). Excitement ( $r = .15, p = .003$ ) and authenticity correlated with more preparedness ( $r = .10, p = .044$ ).

Total true crime consumption positively correlated with BIG-5 openness ( $r = .11, p = .035$ ), driven by book consumption ( $r = .14, p = .004$ ) and negatively correlated with agreeableness ( $r = -.15, p = .002$ ), driven by book, podcast, and TV consumption ( $r$ 's from -.10 to -.16). Neuroticism was positively linked to podcast consumption ( $r = .12, p = .014$ ), as well as to defensive vigilance ( $r = .10, p = .041$ ) and emotion regulation motivation ( $r = .14, p = .004$ ). Agreeableness and conscientiousness were negatively linked to the excitement motive ( $r$ 's from -.12 to -.19,  $p$ 's < .013). Openness was linked to higher emotion regulation motivation ( $r = .11, p = .030$ ). See Table G in SM1).

Total true crime consumption positively correlated with Machiavellianism ( $r = .18, p < .001$ ), driven by TV ( $r = .16, p = .004$ ) and movie consumption ( $r = .20, p < .001$ ). All dark triad traits positively correlated with defensive vigilance ( $r$ 's from .10 to .14), excitement ( $r$ 's from .14 to .20), and emotion regulation motivation ( $r$ 's from .16 to .23). Only narcissism was linked to authenticity ( $r = .16, p = .004$ ).

Total true crime consumption negatively correlated with the emotion regulation strategy of acceptance ( $r = -.14, p = .018$ ) and positively correlated with positive re-focussing ( $r = .11, p = .046$ ). Planning was positively linked to movie consumption only ( $r = .14, p = .011$ ). Reappraisal was positively linked to defensive vigilance ( $r = .17, p = .003$ ), authenticity ( $r = .11, p = .047$ ), and emotion regulation motivation ( $r = .13, p = .021$ ). Catastrophizing was also positively linked to defensive vigilance ( $r = .18, p = .002$ ) and emotion regulation motivation ( $r = .16, p = .005$ ). Positive re-focussing was further linked to emotion regulation motivation ( $r = .14, p = .015$ ).

As cognitive reappraisal capacity was negatively correlated with age (fluency:  $r = -.17, p = .005$ ; flexibility:  $r = -.16, p = .005$ ), age was controlled in all correlations. True crime podcast consumption showed a small positive correlation with reappraisal fluency ( $r = .14, p = .020$ ) and reappraisal flexibility

( $r = .12, p = .037$ ). Reappraisal fluency was also positively correlated with defensive vigilance motivation ( $r = .14, p = .018$ ). See Table H in SM1.

### **Gender differences in and gender moderation effects on true crime consumption**

In a repeated measures ANOVA, controlling for gender and amount of total true crime consumption, authenticity emerged as the strongest motive for true crime consumption, followed by defensive vigilance, excitement, and emotion regulation ( $F_{3,566} = 40.14, p < .001, \eta^2 = 0.18$ ). Women reported a stronger motive of defensive vigilance ( $p < .001$ ) and at trend level, emotion regulation ( $p = .079$ ), with no significant gender differences found for excitement ( $p = .108$ ) or authenticity ( $p = .225$ ;  $F_{3,566} = 10.85, p < .001, \eta^2 = 0.05$ ). See Figure 3 for an illustration of all gender differences.

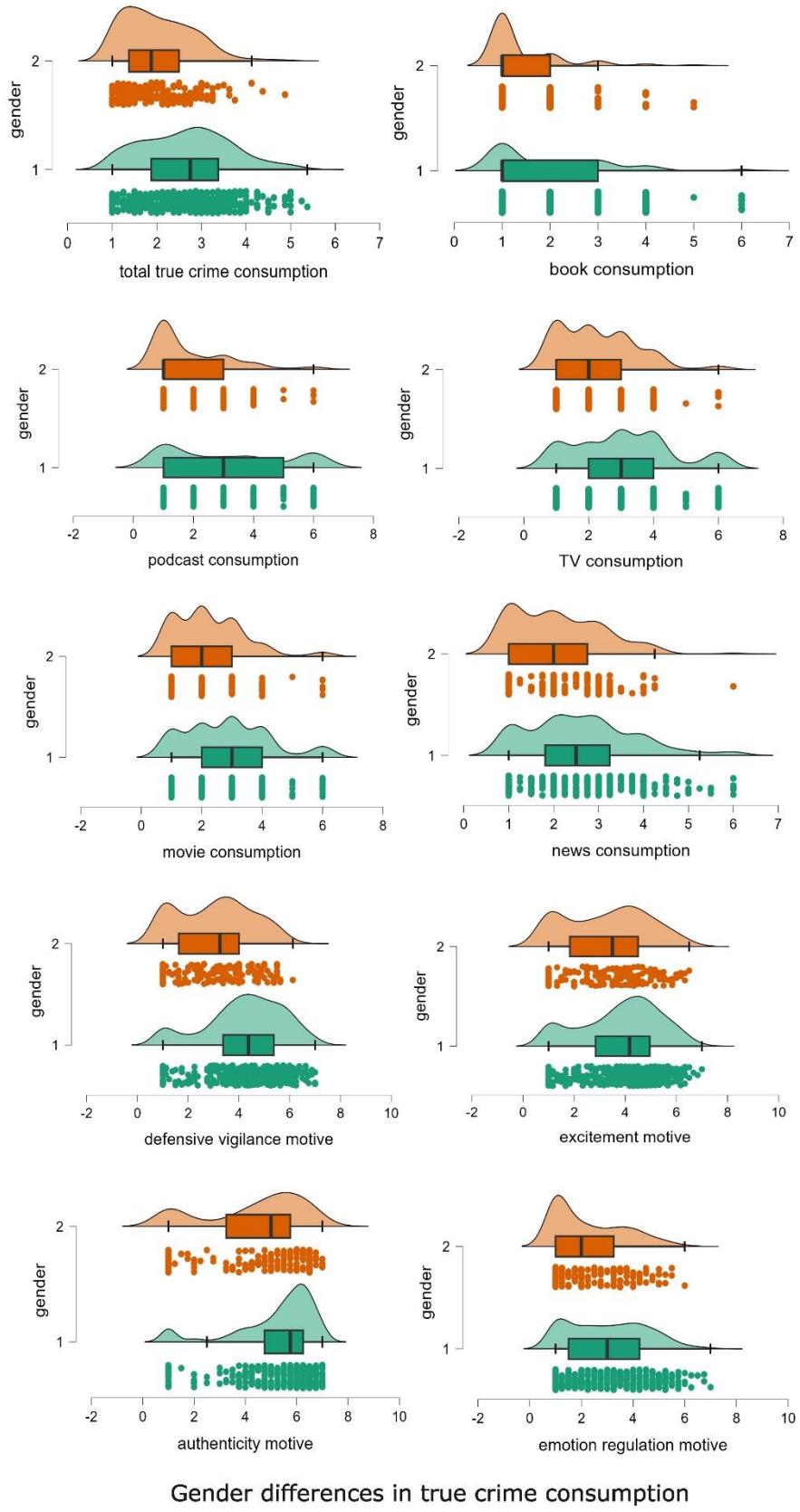
Details of all subsequent moderation analyses are reported in supplementary material SM2.

### *Effect of gender on links of true crime consumption with morbid curiosity*

Moderation analyses for total true crime consumption revealed a significant interaction of gender x curiosity for bodily harm ( $B = -0.13, p = .029$ ): the link between total true crime consumption and bodily harm was stronger in women ( $B = 0.30, p < .001$ ) than in men ( $B = 0.16, p = .002$ ). Follow-up analyses revealed that this gender difference was even more pronounced for podcast ( $B = -0.25, p = .039$ ) and movie consumption ( $B = -0.21, p = .023$ ), where a positive link to bodily harm was only present in women but not men (see Table A in SM2).

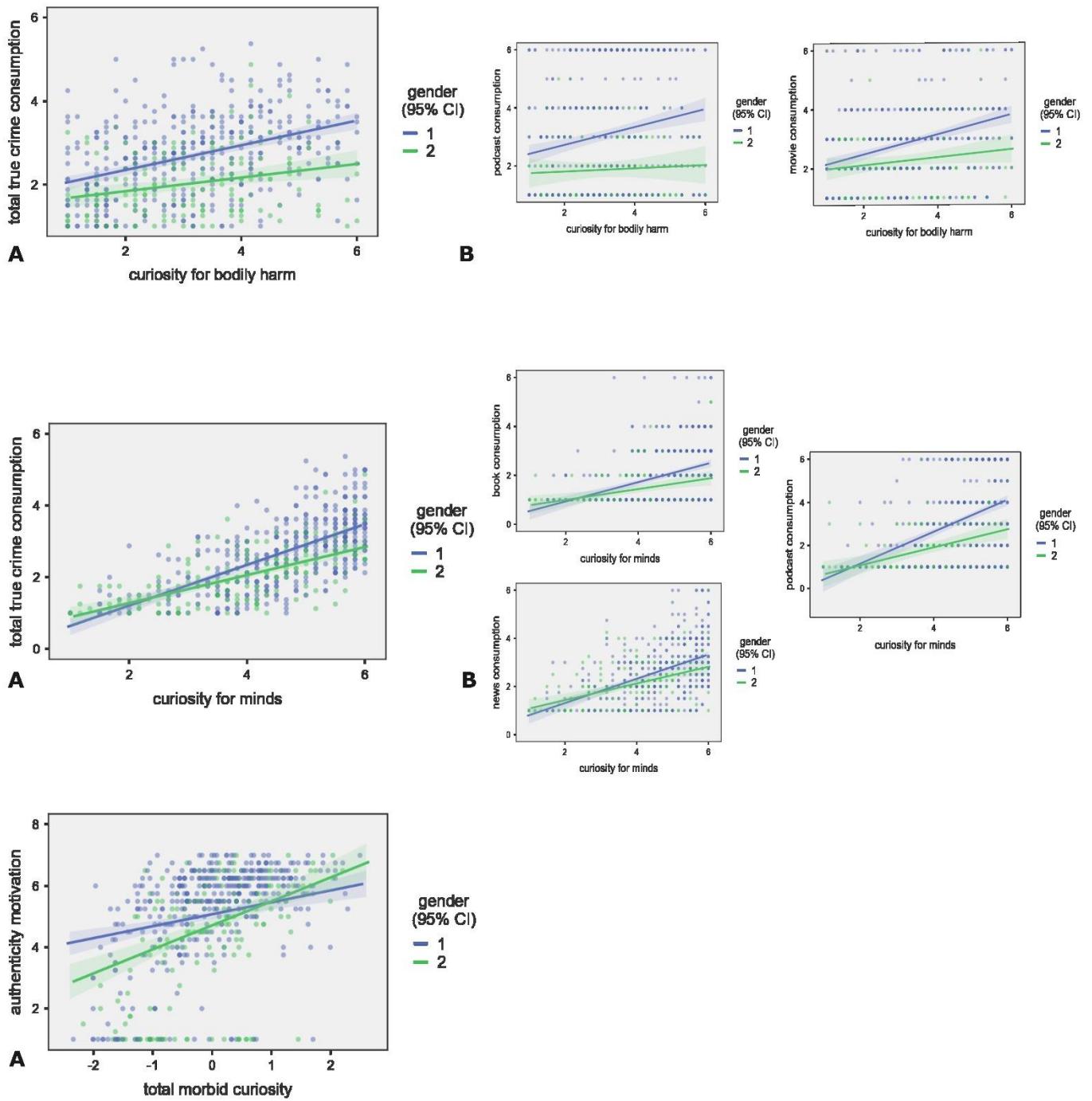
A similar moderation effect emerged for curiosity for minds ( $B = -0.18, p < .001$ ), showing a stronger link between total true crime consumption and minds in women ( $B = 0.57, p < .001$ ) than in men ( $B = 0.39, p < .001$ ). Follow-up analyses revealed that this gender difference was present for book ( $B = -0.17, p = .023$ ), podcast ( $B = -0.32, p = .007$ ), and news consumption ( $B = 0.15, p = .034$ ).

Moderation analyses for the authenticity motive revealed a significant interaction of gender x total morbid curiosity ( $B = 0.39, p = .002$ ), showing that the link between authenticity and morbid curiosity was stronger in men ( $B = 0.78, p < .001$ ) than in women ( $B = 0.39, p < .001$ ). This association was present for curiosity for bodily harm ( $B = 0.20, p = .035$ ), violence ( $B = 0.30, p = .003$ ), and minds ( $B = 0.21, p = .023$ ). See Table A in SM2 for details and Figure 4.



Gender differences in true crime consumption

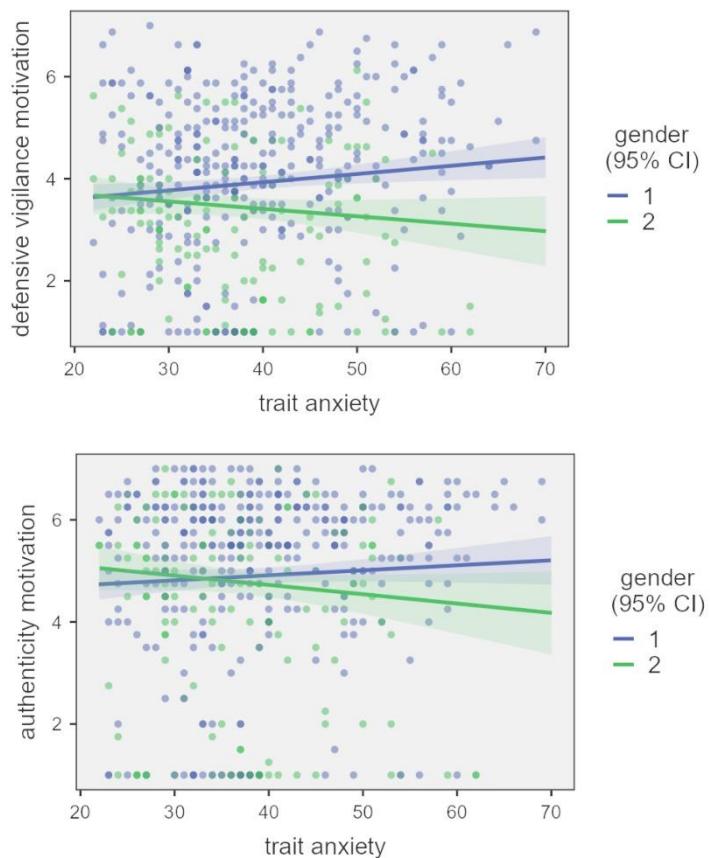
**Figure 3.** Gender differences in true crime consumption. Green bar = women (1), orange bar = men (2). N = 571. Analyses for true crime motives are controlled for total true crime consumption.



**Figure 4.** Moderation analyses for true crime consumption and morbid curiosity. Blue lines are women (1), green lines are men (2). A) illustrates main analyses with total true crime consumption and authenticity, B) illustrates follow-up analyses with true crime formats.  $N = 571$ . Analyses for true crime motives controlled for total true crime consumption.

### *Effect of gender on links of true crime consumption with trait anxiety*

Moderation analyses for the defensive vigilance motive revealed a significant interaction of gender x trait anxiety ( $B = -0.03, p = .011$ ): a positive link between defensive vigilance and trait anxiety only emerged for women ( $B = 0.02, p = .010$ ), but not men ( $B = -0.01, p = .153$ ). A significant moderation effect also emerged for the authenticity motive ( $B = -0.03, p = .049$ ): for women, the link between authenticity and trait anxiety was positive, for men, negative; however, neither slope was significant (women:  $B = 0.01, p = .189$ ; men:  $B = -0.02, p = .133$ ). See Table B in SM2 and Figure 5.



**Figure 5.** Moderation analyses for true crime consumption and anxiety. Blue lines are women (1), green lines are men (2).  $N = 478$ . Analyses for true crime motives controlled for total true crime consumption

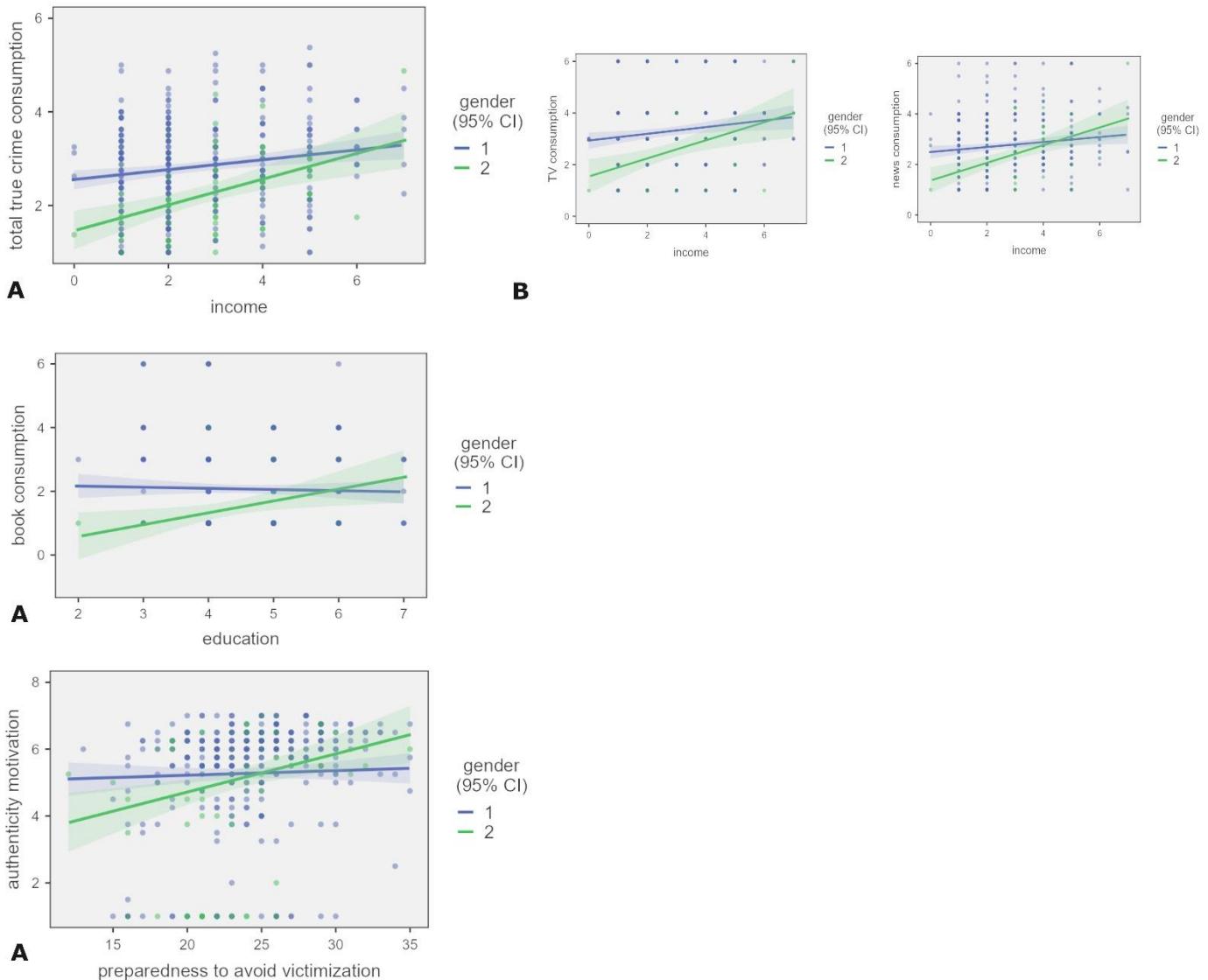
### *Effect of gender of links of true crime consumption with income, education, and safety perceptions*

Moderation analyses for total true crime consumption showed a significant interaction effect of gender x income ( $B = 0.17, p = .003$ ): Income was more strongly linked to true crime consumption in men ( $B = 0.28, p <.001$ ) than in women ( $B = 0.11, p = .001$ ). This effect was driven by TV consumption ( $B = 0.22, p = .067$ ) and news consumption ( $B = 0.25, p = .008$ ). See Table D in SM2 and Figure 6.

Moderation analyses for true crime book consumption showed a significant interaction effect of gender x education ( $B = 0.41, p = .015$ ): Education was positively linked to book consumption in men only ( $B = 0.37, p = .014$ ), but not in women ( $B = -0.04, p = .612$ ). See Table D in SM2 and Figure 6.

Moderation analyses for authenticity showed a significant interaction of gender x preparedness ( $B = 0.10, p = .014$ ): The Authenticity motive was linked to higher preparedness to avoid victimization in men ( $B = 0.11, p = 0.02$ ), but not in women ( $B = 0.01, p = .486$ ). See Figure 6. Similar effects emerged for news consumption and the emotion regulation motive, which were more strongly linked to perceived victimization men; yet analyses failed to reach statistical significance (see Table E in SM2).

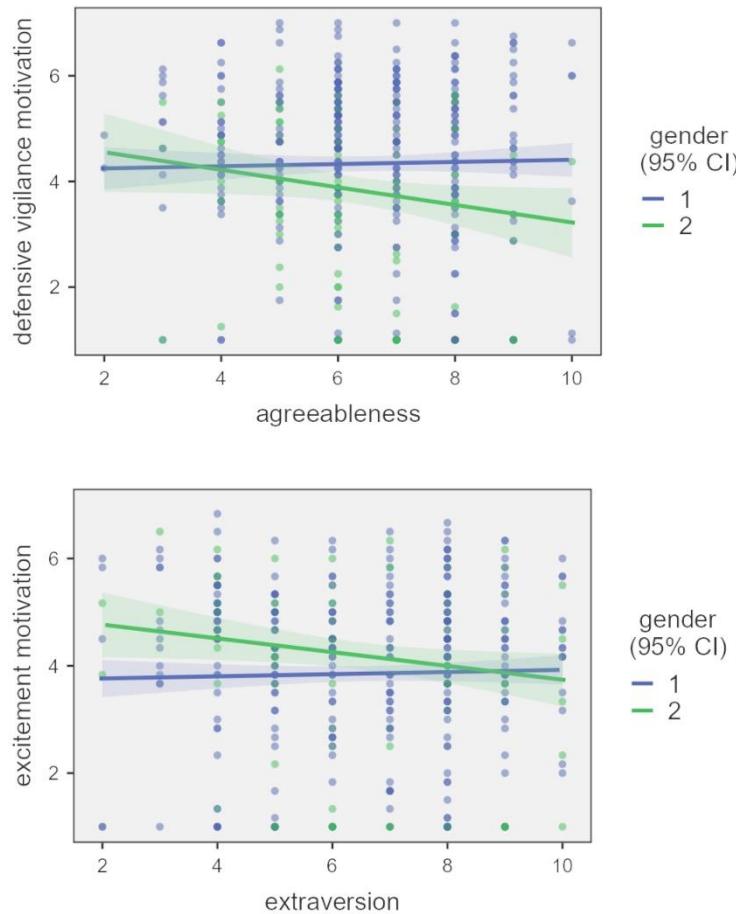
[Insert Figure 6 about here]



**Figure 6.** Moderation analyses for true crime consumption, income, education, and preparedness to avoid victimization. Blue lines are women (1), green lines are men (2).  $N = 404$ . Analyses for true crime motives are controlled for total true crime consumption.

Moderation analyses for defensive vigilance motivation showed a significant interaction effect of gender x agreeableness ( $B = -0.19, p = .044$ ): Defensive vigilance motivation was negatively linked to agreeableness only in men ( $B = -0.17, p = .046$ ), but not in women ( $B = 0.02, p = .631$ ). Moderation analyses for the excitement motive showed a significant interaction effect of gender x extraversion ( $B$

$= -0.15, p = .037$ ): Excitement as a true crime consumption motive was negatively linked to extraversion only in men ( $B = -0.13, p = .038$ ), but not women ( $B = 0.02, p = .564$ ). See Figure 7 and Table F in SM2.



**Figure 7.** Moderation analyses for true crime consumption and Big-5 personality. Blue lines are women (1), green lines are men (2).  $N = 404$ . Analyses for true crime motives controlled for total true crime consumption.

#### *Effect of gender on links of true crime consumptions with the dark triad and emotion regulation*

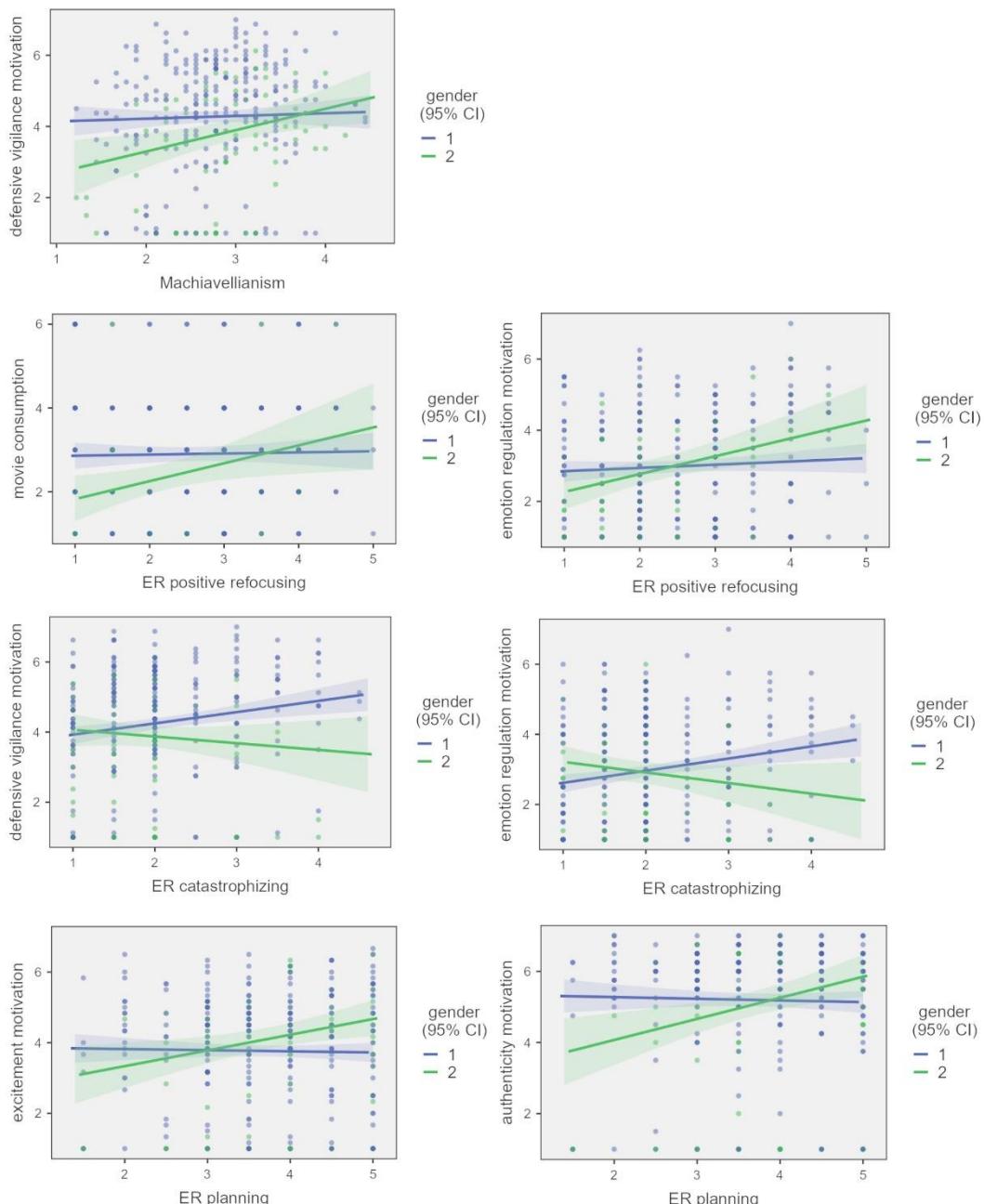
Moderation analyses for the defensive vigilance motive revealed a significant interaction effect of gender x Machiavellianism ( $B = 0.50, p = .041$ ): Machiavellianism was positively linked to defensive vigilance in men ( $B = 0.60, p = .005$ ), but not women ( $B = 0.10, p = .439$ ; Table G in SM2 and Figure 8).

Moderation analyses for movie consumption showed a significant interaction effect of gender x positive re-focussing ( $B = 0.42, p = .039$ ): Movie consumption was linked to positive re-focussing only in men ( $B = 0.43, p = .016$ ), but not women ( $B = 0.02, p = .796$ ). A similar interaction effect emerged for the emotion regulation motive ( $B = 0.41, p = .031$ ). See SM2 and Figure 8.

Moderation analyses for the defensive vigilance motive revealed a significant interaction effect for gender x catastrophizing ( $B = -0.51, p = .017$ ): Defensive vigilance was positively linked to catastrophizing only in women ( $B = 0.33, p < .001$ ), but not in men ( $B = -0.18, p = .355$ ). Another

interaction effect emerged for the emotion regulation motive ( $B = -0.45, p = .037$ ), which was negatively linked to catastrophizing in men ( $B = -0.36, p = .065$ ), but not in women ( $B = 0.09, p = .328$ ).

Moderation analyses for the excitement motive revealed a significant interaction effect of gender x the emotion regulation strategy of planning ( $B = 0.50, p = .008$ ): Excitement was positively linked to planning only in men ( $B = 0.47, p = .006$ ), but not women ( $B = -0.04, p = .679$ ). A significant interaction also emerged for the authenticity motive ( $B = 0.69, p = .001$ ): Authenticity was positively linked to planning only in men ( $B = 0.64, p = .001$ ), but not women ( $B = -0.05, p = .623$ ). See SM2 and Figure 8.



**Figure 8.** Moderation analyses for true crime consumption, Machiavellianism, and CERQ emotion regulation strategies. Blue lines are women (1), green lines are men (2).  $N = 404$ . Analyses for true crime motives controlled for total true crime consumption. ER = emotion regulation.

## Comprehensive data analysis by multiple regression models

Only variables with basic significant correlations ( $p < .05$ ) to total true crime consumption or true crime consumption motives were entered into the multiple regression models. Morbid curiosity and aggression were entered as total scores if all their subscales showed significant correlations with the criterion variables. True crime motives were modelled since they presented diverging associations with the examined traits.

### *Explaining overall true crime consumption (n = 307)*

In total, the model explained 35% of variance in true crime consumption ( $R^2 = .35$ ,  $F_{14,306} = 11.11$ ,  $p < .001$ ). Gender ( $sr = -.23$ ,  $p < .001$ ), income ( $sr = .12$ ,  $p = .014$ ), total morbid curiosity ( $sr = .34$ ,  $p < .001$ ), preparedness to avoid victimization ( $sr = .08$ ,  $p = .081$ ), and the emotion regulation strategy of acceptance ( $sr = -.09$ ,  $p = .051$ ) explained unique variance in true crime consumption (see Table 2).

*Table 2.* Multiple regression model for total true crime consumption

	Total True Crime Consumption						
	$R^2$	$r$	$p$	$sr$	$p$	$CI\ LL$	$CI\ UL$
Gender		-.27	<.001	-.24	<.001	-0.835	-0.363
Age		.08	.149	.05	.339	-0.006	0.016
Income		.14	.012	.12	.014	0.018	0.159
Total morbid Curiosity		.43	<.001	.34	<.001	0.299	0.526
Total aggression		.20	<.001	.04	.349	-0.012	0.034
Trait anxiety		.09	.103	-.02	,703	-0.014	0.009
Likelihood of victimization	$.35$	.22	<.001	.03	.578	-0.015	0.028
Personal safety		.19	.002	<.01	.998	-0.026	0.026
Preparedness		.32	<.001	.09	.069	-0.002	0.051
Big-5 openness		.10	.068	-.03	.560	-0.062	0.034
Big-5 agreeableness		-.12	.035	<.01	.992	-0.063	0.063
Dark triad Machiavellianism		.18	.001	.03	.502	-0.104	0.212
ER: Acceptance		.11	.045	-.10	.036	-0.198	-0.007
ER: Positive re-focusing		.11	.046	.07	.173	-0.029	0.163

Note. ER = emotion regulation,  $n = 307$

### *Explaining the defensive vigilance motive*

The model explained 56% of variance in defensive vigilance ( $R^2 = .56$ ,  $F_{15,291} = 24.79$ ,  $p < .001$ ). Controlling for total true crime consumption ( $sr = .44$ ,  $p < .001$ ), only perceived likelihood of

victimization ( $sr = .14, p < .001$ ) and preparedness to avoid victimization ( $sr = .09, p = .023$ ) explained unique variance in the defensive vigilance motive of true crime consumption (see Table 3).

*Table 3.* Multiple regression model for defensive vigilance motivation

	Defensive vigilance motivation						
	R <sup>2</sup>	r	p	sr	p	CI LL	CI UL
True crime consumption		.65	<.001	.44	<.001	0.759	1.079
Gender		-.27	<.001	-.03	.438	-0.484	0.210
Age		-.09	.101	-.05	.249	-0.021	0.005
Morbid curiosity		.40	<.001	.04	.283	-0.078	0.265
Aggression: hostility		.18	.002	-.06	.157	-0.137	0.022
Likelihood of victimization		.44	<.001	.14	<.001	0.027	0.088
Personal safety		.38	<.001	.02	.574	-0.026	0.047
Preparedness	.56	.46	<.001	.09	.023	0.006	0.082
Big-5 neuroticism		.12	.031	-.04	.371	-0.110	0.041
Dark triad: Machiavellianism		.19	<.001	-.02	.617	-0.317	0.189
Dark triad Psychopathy		.15	.009	.04	.273	-0.162	0.571
Dark triad: Narcissism		.13	.025	.05	.194	-0.112	0.550
ER: Positive reappraisal		.09	.099	.07	.065	-0.008	0.268
ER: Catastrophizing		.15	.010	.04	.337	-0.085	0.248
Cognitive reappraisal fluency		.18	.002	.05	.195	-0.030	0.147

Note. ER = emotion regulation; n = 307

#### *Explaining the excitement motive*

The model explained 60% of variance in excitement ( $R^2 = .60, F_{11,295} = 40.91, p < .001$ ). Controlling for total true crime consumption ( $sr = .39, p < .001$ ), only morbid curiosity ( $sr = .36, p < .001$ ) explained unique variance in the excitement motive of true crime consumption (see Table 4).

*Table 4.* Multiple regression model for excitement motivation

	Excitement motivation						
	R <sup>2</sup>	r	p	sr	p	CI LL	CI UL
True crime consumption		.63	<.001	.39	<.001	0.611	0.892
Age	.56	-.10	.092	-.06	.116	-0.022	0.002
Morbid curiosity		.67	<.001	.36	<.001	0.625	0.936

Total aggression	.30	<.001	.01	.744	-0.025	0.034
Preparedness	.30	<.001	-.06	.135	-0.056	0.008
Big-5 agreeableness	-.15	<.001	-.04	.275	-0.127	0.036
Big-5 conscientiousness	-.14	.028	-.02	.532	-0.092	0.048
Dark triad: Machiavellianism	.24	<.001	-.02	.644	-0.289	0.179
Dark triad Psychopathy	.21	<.001	.03	.476	-0.224	0.479
Dark triad: Narcissism	.18	<.001	.06	.098	-0.047	0.553
ER: Blame others	.08	.147	.04	.275	-0.080	0.278

Note. ER = emotion regulation;  $n = 307$

#### *Explaining the authenticity motive*

The model explained 45% of variance in authenticity ( $R^2 = .45, F_{6,306} = 40.37, p < .001$ ). Controlling for total true crime consumption ( $sr = .46, p < .001$ ), age ( $sr = -.15, p < .001$ ), and morbid curiosity ( $sr = .17, p < .001$ ) explained unique variance in the authenticity motive of true crime consumption (see Table 5).

Table 5. Multiple regression model for authenticity motivation

Authenticity motivation							
	$R^2$	$r$	$p$	$sr$	$p$	CI LL	CI UL
True crime consumption		.60	<.001	.46	<.001	0.799	1,162
Age		-.15	.011	-.15	<.001	-0.041	-0.011
Morbid curiosity		.48	<.001	.17	<.001	0.209	0.602
Preparedness	.45	.27	<.001	-.03	.562	-0.052	0.028
Dark triad: Narcissism		.16	.010	.07	.088	-0.050	0.709
ER: Positive reappraisal		.06	.300	.03	.544	-0.107	0.202

Note. ER = emotion regulation;  $n = 307$

#### *Explaining the emotion regulation motive*

The model explained 47% of variance in emotion regulation ( $R = .69, R^2 = .47, F_{16,290} = 16.15, p < .001$ ). Controlling for total true crime consumption ( $sr = .35, p < .001$ ), perceived likelihood of victimization ( $sr = .09, p = .041$ ), preparedness to avoid victimization ( $sr = .09, p = .041$ ), narcissism ( $sr = .10, p = .026$ ), and positive re-focussing ( $sr = .15, p < .001$ ) explained unique variance in the emotion regulation motive of true crime consumption (see Table 6).

Table 6. Multiple regression model for emotion regulation motivation

Emotion regulation motivation							
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	<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	<i>r</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>sr</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>CI LL</i>	<i>CI UL</i>
True crime consumption		.57	<.001	.35	<.001	0.506	0.828
Morbid curiosity		.41	<.001	.08	.065	-0.010	0.343
Trait anxiety		.19	<.001	.03	.452	-0.016	0.036
Depressive symptoms		.15	.011	-.02	.637	-0.031	0.019
Total Aggression		.26	<.001	.04	.369	-0.019	0.051
Likelihood of victimization		.36	<.001	.09	.041	0.001	0.065
Personal safety		.27	<.001	<.01	.888	-0.034	0.040
Preparedness	.47	.42	<.001	.09	.041	0.081	0.424
Big-5 Neuroticism		.17	.004	.05	.293	-0.040	0.133
Big-5 Openness		.16	.006	.03	.555	-0.049	0.092
Dark Triad: Machiavellianism		.23	<.001	-.01	.803	-0.293	0.227
Dark Triad: Psychopathy		.18	.002	.02	.637	-0.308	0.503
Dark Triad: Narcissism		.21	<.001	.10	.026	0.048	0.730
ER: Reappraisal		.08	.168	.07	.127	-0.032	0.255
ER: Catastrophizing		.14	.014	.02	.567	-0.129	0.234
ER: Positive Re-focusing		.18	.002	.15	<.001	0.108	0.384

Note. ER = emotion regulation; *n* = 307

## Discussion

In this study, we provide first empirical insights about 1) who engages in true crime consumption (demographics, personality) and why (motives), and 2) behavioral and emotional correlates of true crime consumption to help guide future research questions. Note that due to our cross-sectional investigation, all proposed directional interpretations must be considered speculative for now.

### Gender differences, motives of true crime consumption, and other demographic correlates

As expected, women in our study reported more true crime consumption than men (see Boling & Hull, 2018; McDonald et al., 2021; Vicary & Fraley, 2010). This gender difference was present for all true crime formats, most prominently podcasts. It is unlikely that this effect originates from gender differences in general media consumption, as men usually consume more podcast and news (Benesch, 2012; Tobin & Guadagno, 2022). Research suggests that women's perceived victimization risks (see Rader et al., 2020) and the related desire to gain knowledge on how to prevent attacks in real-life may explain their fascination with true crime (McDonald et al., 2021; Vicary & Fraley, 2010). In support, we found the true crime consumption motive of defensive vigilance higher in women compared to men. Though fear of crime is not linked to actual victimization risk (Johansson & Haandrikman, 2023; Sutton

& Farrall, 2005), the subjective burden of fear is linked to reduced quality of life (Alfaro-Beracoechea et al., 2018), which gives relevance to the question how true crime worlds may alter personal safety perceptions (see below). At a trend, women also reported a stronger emotion regulation motive for engaging with true crime content relevant to their fears. The idea that recreational horror provides critical learning opportunities about dangers and thus serves as a training ground for building emotion regulation skills is one of the proposed benefits of engaging with frightening media (Scrivner et al., 2021, 2022; Scrivner & Christensen, 2021). Accordingly, it may also hold for true crime. Overall, the most endorsed motive for true crime consumption in our study was authenticity (see McDonald et al., 2021), comprising aspects of mystery, justice, but also the relevance of true crime stories. While this does not negate other possible motives of entertainment or voyeurism (Boling & Hull, 2018), it suggests that these are not the main drivers for true crime interest. Fittingly, Carlevari et al. (2024) examined motives for people's engagement with the suffering of others and found low endorsement of sensation seeking and entertainment, with knowledge preparedness motives dominating instead.

True crime consumption also positively correlated with age (driven by book and news consumption), education (driven by podcasts) and income (driven by TV, movies, and news). As most of our sample was aged 20 to 35, our age effect does not contradict a young true crime audience (Harrison & Frederick, 2022; Vitis & Ryan, 2023), though future studies should investigate potentially different true crime format preferences for different age groups. The education and income effects (which were stronger for men) may be interpreted in different ways, e.g., education is linked to more risk information seeking, which may increase true crime interest (Gutteling & de Vries, 2017), yet they may also simply reflect greater media access with higher socio-economic status. Future studies need to contrast true crime consumption with other media genres (e.g., sports, science, education) to understand the specificity of these effects.

### **True crime consumption and safety perceptions**

True crime consumption showed significant links to safety perceptions, with the largest effect found for preparedness to avoid victimization that later also explained unique variance in true crime consumption and motives. Thus, true crime consumption may increase real-life protective behavior (e.g., not walking home alone at night) and subjective feelings of being prepared, or true crime consumption may be part of the tools and behaviours cautious people exercise to avoid victimization (Kerestly, 2021). Whether this greater subjective preparedness can be considered adaptive is an open question. In general, studies support the idea that frequent exposure to crime-media (TV, news) cultivates overestimated victimization risks and greater fear of crime (Morgan et al., 2015; Romer et al., 2014; Smolej & Kivivuori, 2006). We find similar links in our study, as true crime consumption correlated with higher perceived likelihood of victimization, and lower personal safety. Interestingly, while gender differences in true crime consumption and fear of victimization may suggest a stronger

link of the two in women (Jackson, 2009), we found stronger links in men. Though speculative, since women perceive themselves generally more vulnerable to attack and crime, and thus may operate more on an abstract risk of victimization, true crime stories may not necessarily alter their perceptions of subjective, personal risk. However, for men, with a general tendency to discount risks and higher perceived physical capabilities, true crime may more strongly reduce the illusion of invulnerability and thus, elevate personal concerns (see Smith & Torstensson, 1997). Likewise, May et al. (2010) reported that women's fear of crime was more predicted by cognitive risk perceptions (e.g., neighbourhood situation), while men's fear was more predicted by previous victimization. Yet, future studies need to differentiate fear of crime as a general concern from a specific, personal worry (Chadee et al., 2007).

### **Personality correlates of true crime consumption**

Morbid curiosity was the strongest correlates of true crime consumption, indicating that a general tendency to seek information about dangers (Scrivner, 2021; Oosterwijk, 2017) may also steer people towards true crime content. Correlations were highest for curiosity for dangerous minds, and lowest for curiosity for violence (which was unrelated to podcast consumption). This matches our previous ideas that true crime consumption may not be (primarily) driven by a sensationalist interest in violence, but by the desire to gain information to prepare for dangerous social situations (Oosterwijk, 2017). Links between morbid curiosity and true crime consumption were generally stronger for women than for men. This has implications for the idea that morbid curiosity is used for uncertainty reduction (Niehoff & Oosterwijk, 2020), following the logic that people prefer knowing about the (worst case) impact of a negative event (victimization, death) over not knowing, with intolerance of uncertainty also linked to anxiety and depression (Carleton et al., 2012). With some studies suggesting that women have a lower tolerance for uncertainty (Eaton et al., 2012; Panchyshyn et al., 2023; but see Carleton et al., 2012) and conduct more risk information seeking than men (Lachlan et al., 2021; Manierre, 2015), this may explain a stronger link between morbid curiosity and true crime engagement.

Among the Big-5, true crime consumption positively correlated with openness and negatively with agreeableness. While openness as the desire for aesthetic experiences and variety is linked to greater interest in various media contents (Rentfrow et al., 2011), research also found specific links to complex nonfiction content (Manolika, 2023), which matches the true crime genre. In our study, people higher in openness also scored higher on the motive of using true crime for emotion regulation, which suggests a certain creativity in coping with negative emotions. Previous studies also found lower agreeableness linked to sensational media interests (e.g., Egan et al., 1999; Powell et al., 2022) and longer engagement with negative media stimuli (Bresin & Robinson, 2015). This supports the idea that agreeable people would rather avoid unpleasant true crime content, while less agreeable people would seek it out as an attitude-consistent environment. Yet, the agreeableness scale of our utilized short Big Five Inventory showed poor internal consistency ( $\alpha = .20$ ), which complicates interpretations

(for similar issues, see Greitemeyer, 2015). Neuroticism was exclusively linked to true crime podcast consumption. Other studies reported that people high in neuroticism consume more crime-related news (Kaspar & Fuchs, 2021), likely due to their greater need to feel prepared for danger (see Schmitt et al., 2005). Yet, by comparison, neurotic individuals may find more preparedness in true crime podcasts than news, due to the greater variety and personalizability of the podcast genre.

Machiavellianism was the only dark triad trait linked to true crime consumption in basic correlations. Previous studies linked Machiavellianism to liking dark fictional characters as they may resonate with own darker attitudes (Black et al., 2019; Kjeldgaard-Christiansen et al., 2021). While this may suggest that such individuals consume true crime because they identify with criminals and enjoy the misfortunate of victims, this link may be more complex. Studies also reported that Machiavellianism was linked to an equal preference for heroes and villains in darker stories (Brodie & Ingram, 2021), while others found no links to Schadenfreude in situations in which there was nothing to gain from others' misfortune (James et al., 2014). Instead, Machiavellianism may be linked to lower imaginative resistance to dark, morally deviant worlds (Black et al., 2019): While moral concerns may deter others from engaging with true crime, Machiavellians' cynical view of humanity and low morality may reduce such inhibitions. Moreover, Machiavellianism is linked to lower animal reminder disgust (the animal nature of humans; Meere & Egan, 2017), which is a major theme of true crime stories. Yet, it is also proposed that elevated self-related concerns in Machiavellianism correlate with higher victim sensitivity, which may increase interest in true crime with the goal of preventing disadvantage in real-life (Czibor et al., 2017; Schmitt et al., 2005). Still, when controlling for other traits, Machiavellianism did not explain unique variance in true crime consumption or motives, likely due to overlaps with trait morbid curiosity (Scrivner, 2021). Instead, narcissism emerged as a unique predictor of emotion regulation, excitement, and authenticity motives, at least at a trend. As most dark triad traits showed positive correlations with true crime consumption motives, it seems that dark personalities may see various merits in true crime in terms of self-defence, self-entertainment, and self-regulation.

### True crime consumption and aggression

True crime consumption positively correlated with self-reported aggression, which matches the socialization hypothesis that exposure to violent media may normalize violence, bias hostile mindsets, and desensitize to others' suffering (Bushman & Anderson, 2023; Bushman & Huesmann, 2014; Fanti et al., 2009). However, given our cross-sectional design, restrictions to this interpretation apply. First, it is also plausible that people higher in trait aggression and hostile biases more often select violent media content as it matches their mindsets (selection hypothesis; Breuer et al., 2015; Huesmann et al., 2003), which may be one of several routes to true crime consumption. Second, our results may cause alarm that people who consume true crime stories may more likely commit these crimes themselves. Critically however, even in studies supporting socialization effects of aggression, these

effects are small to moderate at best, and are mostly reported for mild forms of aggression (see Delhove & Greitemeyer, 2021; Krahé & Möller, 2010). Additionally, our seemingly problematic links of true crime consumption with aggression are rivalled by links to adaptive constructs like emotion regulation (see below). Third, some studies also found links between consumption of non-violent media and aggression (Burnay et al., 2022; Delhove & Greitemeyer, 2021; also see Krahé & Möller, 2010). Thus, there is the possibility that individuals who feel understimulated or unable to regulate emotions by themselves, show a higher frequency of (maladaptive) media consumption, and it is higher general but not necessarily *violent* media consumption that relates to aggression (Delhove & Greitemeyer, 2021). However, as we did not assess general media consumption, future studies need to scrutinize this assumption. Fourth, our obtained aggression links differed markedly for different true crime formats and motives. While links to physical aggression only originated from true crime TV and movies, podcasts were barely associated with aggression, only showing small links to hostility. Similarly, among true crime motives, defensive vigilance and authenticity appeared unrelated to aggression, while excitement and emotion regulation showed stronger associations. Thus, substantial variance of true crime links to behavior may be explained by the specific formats of true crime with different portrayals of violence. We did not observe any gender effects, not even for specific subscales of physical vs. verbal aggression (see Archer, 2004). In general, this matches previous findings that potential pathways from violent media consumption to aggression or vice versa hold for both genders (Bushman, 2016; Krahé & Möller, 2010). However, as aggression is a multifaceted construct, this finding should be followed up with measures other than aggression self-report (see Bushman, 2016).

### **True crime, well-being, and emotion regulation**

True crime consumption was positively linked to stress and anxiety. One line of studies suggests that (excessive) watching of negative news (e.g., Covid-19, terror) increases stress in consumers (Bendau et al., 2021; Nellis & Savage, 2012), with some probing critical thresholds for daily consumption (Bendau et al., 2021). While we did not assess duration of daily true crime exposure, our findings offer insights into the relevance of true crime formats. Matching results for aggression, correlations with stress/anxiety were driven by TV and movie consumption, but not podcasts or books, suggesting a different mental health impact for different types of exposure (see Romito & Grassi, 2007). Although speculative, true crime podcast and books may feature more empathic, victim-focused narrations, while TV and movies more strongly rely on sensationalized, violent, and voyeuristic elements. In this regard, Boling (2023) notes that true crime podcasts may serve a therapeutic purpose, as victimized women may find community support in working through their experiences with violence. Additionally, the impact of books and podcasts is likely moderated by one's imagination, providing more control over frightening narratives, compared to the detailed, intense visualizations on TV.

Alternatively, anxious people (especially those high in morbid curiosity) may purposefully seek out true crime content to alleviate stress, reduce uncertainty, and experience control, and use true crime worlds for emotion regulation (see Scrivner et al. 2021; Scrivner & Christensen, 2021). In line with this, we found stress and anxiety to be positively correlated with the emotion regulation and defensive vigilance motive. For trait anxiety, these links were stronger for women, suggesting that women may attribute more regulatory properties to true crime stories. While we cannot yet ascertain that these properties actually exist (but see Scrivner et al., 2022), we found stronger links to adaptive emotion regulation strategies than to maladaptive ones. True crime consumption was linked to lower acceptance of negative emotions, yet more use of positive re-focussing (in men), and most true crime consumption motives were linked to more use of cognitive reappraisal. Especially podcast consumption was linked to a higher capacity for cognitive reappraisal in a performance test (Perchtold et al., 2019). Defensive vigilance seemed to be the most ambivalent motive, showing links to more reappraisal but also more catastrophizing in women. For total true crime consumption, the diverging links to acceptance and cognitive reappraisal are interesting, as both are treated as adaptive due to their reduction of physiological arousal, and decrease in negative and increase in positive affect (Hofmann et al., 2009; Troy et al. 2018; Wolgast et al., 2011), though some studies find reappraisal to be more effective than acceptance (e.g., Goldin et al., 2019). In total, the present findings fit the idea of true crime consumption as active mood management, as people who are less willing to accept negative emotions as they are (like fear of crime) instead try to reappraise their fears in relevant environments (see Scrivner & Christensen, 2021). Perchtold-Stefan et al. (2023) also showed that anxious people benefited most from cognitive reappraisal trainings that directly targeted their specific fears, while less benefits resulted from training with general anxiety items. What strengthens this idea of true crime as a unique training ground for anxiety reappraisal is that apart from reappraisal habits, positive links were observed for higher reappraisal capacity on a performance test. Still, it may also be the case that better reappraisers engage more with true crime content because they are more able to handle its emotional impact. In summary, our study provides first evidence that true crime consumption is linked to coping with negative emotions.

### **Study strengths, limitations, and future directions**

In this first empirical, detailed psychological investigation of people's fascination with true crime, we examined potential relationships to a wide variety of variables to gain insights into possible adaptivity or maladaptivity of true crime engagement. There are drawbacks of this approach in terms an inflated risk of false positives due to liberal significance thresholds, and the impracticality of detailed sensitivity analyses (moderation, mediation) due to manuscript length and complexity. However, we believe that restricting our focus to only one construct per study (e.g., only aggression, only well-being) would increase premature isolated speculations on the true crime phenomenon. Since our main aim

was to identify motives, traits, and behaviours of critical interest to future true crime research, we considered it more feasible to report even correlations of low magnitude instead of dismissing them based on too conservative statistical corrections. Nonetheless, most of our effect sizes were small, and larger effects only emerging for gender, morbid curiosity, and preparedness to avoid victimization. Overall, our main regression model only explained 35% of variance in total true crime consumption, indicating that despite the broad sampling of variables, other constructs may better explain people's fascination with true crime, like need for cognition (Tsfati & Cappella, 2005), need for affect (Bartsch et al., 2010), justice sensitivity, prior victimization (Boling, 2023), or empathy (Scrivner, 2024). Notably, correlates of true crime consumption may depend on the format and consumption motives. Podcast consumption was mostly unrelated to negative traits and behaviours (stress, anxiety, aggression, dark triad), instead showing links to adaptive emotion regulation, while TV and movie consumption were accompanied by aggression, stress, anxiety, dark personality, and lower safety perceptions. Similarly, consuming true crime for excitement yielded the most antagonistic profile due to links with aggression, the dark triad, blaming others, and disagreeableness, while the authenticity motive appeared rather neutral, with most pronounced links to preparedness to avoid victimization. Defensive vigilance and emotion regulation motives both showed the strongest and most consistent links to well-being, safety perceptions, and emotion regulation, albeit in positive as well as negative directions. In sum, while our insights are only preliminary in hinting at different adaptivity of certain motives and contents, future studies should use amount, format, and more differentiated motives and contents of true crime consumption as critical distinguishers of true crime effects. Finally, some subscales of our short self-report measures had unsatisfactory reliability (Big-5 agreeableness; CERQ rumination), which is why findings should be replicated with existing longer measures.

## Conclusion

True crime mesmerizes people, yet psychological research into this unique interest is scarce. In this study, we provide novel empirical insights into the true crime phenomenon by reporting manifold associations to aspects of demographics, personality, aggression, safety perceptions, well-being, and emotion regulation. Overall, women report significantly more true crime consumption than men, along with higher motives of defensive vigilance and emotion regulation. In addition to gender, morbid curiosity, preparedness to avoid victimization, income, and lower acceptance of negative emotions best explained general true consumption, with other associations emerging for different consumption motives. In the future, experimental and longitudinal designs are needed to scrutinize potential psychological roads to and effects of true crime consumption, which are likely a complex combination of consumption motives, type of content, victimization perceptions, curiosity-associated traits, and emotion regulation skills. For now, our study takes the first of many steps in understanding potential psychological impacts of one of the most prominent contemporary media genres.

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**Supplementary Material SM1 for**  
**Perchtold-Stefan et al. Out of the Dark – Psychological Perspectives on People’s**  
**Fascination with True Crime**

Descriptive statistics for all tests and questionnaires

**Table A.**

*Descriptive statistics on true crime consumption and morbid curiosity (n = 571)*

	M	SD	Min	Max	Skew	Kur	$\alpha$
<b>True Crime Consumption and Motivations</b>							
Total consumption	2.48	0.98	1	5.58	0.39	-0.43	.86
Book consumption	1.79	1.12	1	6	1.43	1.69	-.*
Podcast consumption	2.70	1.85	1	6	0.70	-0.93	-.*
TV consumption	2.85	1.47	1	6	0.52	-0.39	-.*
Movie consumption	2.67	1.35	1	6	0.70	0.08	-.*
News consumption	2.45	1.15	1	6	0.67	0.22	.93
Defensive vigilance motivation	3.87	1.60	1	7	-0.31	-0.76	.92
Excitement motivation	3.65	1.58	1	7	-0.28	-0.95	.88
Authenticity motivation	4.96	1.75	1	7	-1.19	0.35	.89
Emotion regulation motivation	2.78	1.49	1	7	0.39	-0.94	.89
<b>Morbid Curiosity Scale</b>							
Total morbid curiosity	3.34	0.96	1	5.83	0.01	-0.47	.92
Violence	2.75	1.24	1	6	0.23	-0.87	.87
Bodily Harm	3.15	1.32	1	6	0.48	-0.58	.87
Minds	4.40	1.23	1	6	-0.69	-0.27	.90
Supernatural	3.05	1.31	1	6	0.36	-0.67	.87

**Note.** M = mean, SD = standard deviation; Min = minimum, Max = maximum; Skew = Skewness; Kur = Kurtosis;

$\alpha$  = Cronbach alpha

**Table B.***Descriptive statistics on anxiety, stress, depressive symptoms, and aggression (n = 478)*

	M	SD	Min	Max	Skew	Kur	$\alpha$
<b>Trait anxiety</b>	38.88	9.98	22	69	0.58	-0.27	.87
<b>Perceived stress</b>							
Total score	25.62	5.91	10	42	0.35	-0.07	.85
Perceived helplessness	15.87	4.09	6	28	0.40	0.05	.81
Perceived self-efficacy	9.75	2.47	4	17	0.11	-0.00	.72
<b>Depressive symptoms</b>	13.25	8.49	0	44	1.03	0.96	.72
<b>Aggression</b>							
Total aggression	4.99	1.23	3	10.5	0.90	1.14	.80
Physical aggression	3.65	1.22	3	12	2.87	10.80	.63
Verbal aggression	5.59	1.79	3	11	0.86	0.27	.67
Hostility	5.01	1.82	3	11	0.88	0.19	.65
Anger	5.70	1.99	3	12	0.65	0.15	.72

**Note.** M = mean, SD = standard deviation; Min = minimum, Max = maximum; Skew = Skewness; Kur = Kurtosis;

$\alpha$  = Cronbach alpha

**Table C.***Descriptive statistics on safety perceptions, resilience, and Big-5 personality traits (n = 404)*

	M	SD	Min	Max	Skew	Kur	$\alpha$
<b>Safety perceptions</b>							
Likelihood of victimization	17.84	6.03	8	35	0.48	-0.33	.76
Personal safety	21.35	5.04	9	39	0.31	0.33	.75
Preparedness to avoid victimization	24.09	4.08	12	35	0.10	0.08	.60
<b>Resilience</b>	<b>19.96</b>	<b>4.85</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>-0.42</b>	<b>-0.33</b>	<b>.85</b>
<b>Big-5 Personality</b>							
Neuroticism	6.28	1.92	2	10	-0.01	-0.79	.66
Extraversion	6.57	2.00	2	10	-0.24	-0.89	.82
Openness	7.50	1.94	2	10	-0.71	-0.17	.68
Agreeableness	6.45	1.61	2	10	-0.19	-0.37	.20
Conscientiousness	7.04	1.65	3	10	-0.17	-0.50	.60

**Note.** M = mean, SD = standard deviation; Min = minimum, Max = maximum; Skew = Skewness; Kur = Kurtosis; $\alpha$  = Cronbach alpha

**Table D.**

*Descriptive statistics on the dark triad, habitual emotion regulation, and cognitive reappraisal capacity (n = 307)*

	M	SD	Min	Max	Skew	Kur	α
<b>Dark triad</b>							
Narcissism	2.80	0.41	1.44	4	-0.03	0.00	.67
Machiavellianism	2.77	0.65	1.22	4.44	-0.05	-0.30	.77
Psychopathy	2.32	0.44	1.11	3.78	0.19	-0.05	.65
<b>Habitual emotion regulation</b>							
Self-blame	2.56	0.95	1	5	0.55	-0.42	.76
Acceptance	3.87	0.99	1	5	-0.58	-0.35	.82
Rumination	3.02	0.90	1	5	0.02	-0.66	.46
Positive refocusing	2.51	0.98	1	5	0.36	-0.61	.81
Planning	3.68	0.92	1	5	-0.36	-0.53	.67
Positive reappraisal	3.70	0.99	1	5	-0.48	-0.58	.71
Perspective taking	3.39	1.04	1	5	-0.18	-0.72	.80
Catastrophizing	2.06	0.84	1	4.5	0.14	0.13	.76
Other-blame	1.87	0.69	1	5	1.58	0.14	.72
<b>Cognitive reappraisal capacity</b>							
Reappraisal fluency	21.38	6.05	6	36			>.99
Reappraisal flexibility	11.34	3.54	4	22.5			.97

**Note.** M = mean, SD = standard deviation; Min = minimum, Max = maximum; Skew = Skewness; Kur = Kurtosis;

α = Cronbach alpha; ICC = intraclass-coefficient, two-way random, consistency, single measures

*Table E. Correlational matrix of true crime consumption, gender, age, and morbid curiosity*

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1 True Crime Consumption Total																
2 True Crime: Books	.56**	--														
3 True Crime: Podcasts	.54**	.26**	--													
4 True Crime: TV	.78**	.48**	.40**	--												
5 True Crime: Movies	.77**	.44**	.31**	.83**	--											
6 True Crime: News	.87**	.33**	.23**	.49**	.52**	--										
7 Gender	-.31**	-.22**	-.30**	-.26**	-.21**	-.21**	--									
8 Age	.15**	.19**	-.05	.09*	.10*	.17**	-.03	--								
9 Defensive Vigilance Motive	.66**	.36**	.46**	.58**	.54**	.51**	-.35**	-.12*	--							
10 Excitement Motive	.66**	.41**	.48**	.61**	.59**	.46**	-.18**	-.16*	.65**	--						
11 Authenticity Motive	.62**	.34**	.45**	.61**	.57**	.42**	-.24**	-.18*	.74**	.77**	--					
12 Emotion regulation Motive	.54**	.34**	.31**	.51**	.47**	.41**	-.23**	-.02	.71**	.59**	.59**	-				
13 MC Bodily Harm	.36**	.22**	.18**	.29**	.28**	.31**	-.03	<.01	.08	.34**	.12**	.32**	-			
14 MC Violence	.17**	.09*	<.01	.17**	.21**	.16**	.40**	-.10*	-.01	.41**	.14**	.20**	.48**	--		
15 MC Minds	.68**	.40**	.47**	.60**	.57**	.50**	-.30**	<.01	.24**	.47**	.46*	.45**	.42**	.25**	--	
16 MC Supernatural	.32**	.17**	.14**	.33**	.34**	.24**	-.13**	-.04	.17**	.30**	.16**	.20**	.42**	.39**	.43**	--
17 MC - Total	.51**	.30**	.26**	.46**	.47**	.41**	-.01	-.06	.16**	.53**	.29**	.43**	.79**	.71**	.70**	.76**

**Note.** \*\* p <.01, \* p <.05; point-biserial correlations for gender; partial correlations for links between true crime motives and morbid curiosity controlled for total true crime consumption; MC = Morbid Curiosity

*Table F. Correlational matrix of true crime consumption, gender, well-being, and aggression*

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1 Total True Crime Consumption	--																			
2 True Crime: Books	.56**	--																		
3 True Crime: Podcasts	.54**	.26**	--																	
4 True Crime: TV	.78**	.48**	.40**	--																
5 True Crime: Movies	.77**	.44**	.31**	.83**	--															
6 True Crime: News	.87**	.33**	.23**	.49**	.52**	--														
7 Gender	-.31**	-.22**	-.30**	-.26**	-.21**	-.21**	--													
8 Defensive Vigilance Motive	.66**	.36**	.46**	.58**	.54**	.51**	-.35**	--												
9 Excitement Motive	.66**	.41**	.48**	.61**	.59**	.46**	-.17**	.65**	--											
10 Authenticity Motive	.62**	.34**	.45**	.61**	.57**	.42**	-.24**	.74**	.77**	--										
11 Emotion regulation Motive	.54**	.34**	.31**	.51**	.47**	.41**	-.23**	.71**	.59**	.59**	--									
12 Trait Anxiety	.10*	.06	.07	.10*	.08	.07	-.11*	.08	.07	.02	.17**	--								
13 Total Perceived Stress	.08	.03	.06	.11*	.11*	.05	-.11*	.09*	.09*	.06*	.17**	.77**	--							
14 Perceived helplessness	.11*	.03	.07	.13*	.13*	.07	-.11*	.16**	.15**	.13**	.22**	.74**	.94**	--						
15 Perceived self-efficacy	.03	.02	.02	.03	.05	<.01	-.07	.04	.05	.03	.09	.62**	.83**	.60**	--					
16 Depressive symptoms	.02	-.02	-.04	.06	.03	.04	-.04	.05	.09	.01	.15**	.75**	.73**	.70**	.59**	--				
17 Physical Aggression	.11*	.07	.04	.15**	.17**	.05	.12**	<.01	.20**	.03	.16**	.16**	.16**	.15**	.14**	.17**	--			
18 Verbal Aggression	.12**	.12**	.02	.13**	.11*	.09*	.08	-.06	.16**	.05	.09	.19**	.19**	.20**	.12**	.16**	.27**	--		
19 Hostility	.24**	.18**	.10*	.24**	.24**	.18**	-.03	.10**	.16**	.06	.06	.62**	.55**	.52**	.46**	.51**	.24**	.35**	--	
20 Anger	.23**	.12**	.08	.23**	.24**	.19**	-.09	<.01	.11*	.04	.20**	.32**	.28**	.31**	.16**	.21**	.36**	.49**	.35**	--
21 Total aggression	.25**	.18**	.09	.27**	.27**	.19**	.01	.01	.22**	.07	.11*	.37**	.47**	.42**	.31**	.42**	.58**	.76**	.70**	.80**

**Note.** \*\* p <.01, \* p <.05, point-biserial correlations for gender, partial correlations for links between true crime motives and well-being controlled for total true crime consumption

*Table G: Correlational matrix of demographics, safety perceptions, and Big-5 personality traits*

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1 Total True Crime Consumption	--																							
2 True Crime: Books	.56**	--																						
3 True Crime: Podcasts	.49**	.20**	--																					
4 True Crime: TV	.75**	.47**	.31**	--																				
5 True Crime: Movies	.74**	.41**	.23**	.81**	--																			
6 True Crime: News	.86**	.32**	.16**	.44**	.47**	--																		
7 Gender	-.27**	-.22**	-.29**	-.22**	-.16**	-.15**	--																	
8 Defensive Vigilance Motive	.62**	.32**	.42**	.52**	.48**	.47**	-.30**	--																
9 Excitement Motive	.60**	.38**	.41**	.55**	.53**	.39**	-.09	.61**	--															
10 Authenticity Motive	.58**	.33**	.41**	.56**	.52**	.37**	-.20**	.74**	.76**	--														
11 Emotion Regulation Motive	.54**	.34**	.31**	.51**	.47**	.41**	-.23**	.71**	.59**	.59**	--													
12 Mental health problems	-.02	.01	<.01	<.01	-.05	<.01	.04	.02	-.10	.01	-.13*	--												
13 Relationships	.09	.06	.03	.10	.08	.07	-.06	.03	.02	.06	<.01	.14**	--											
14 Living area	.09	.12*	-.02	.13**	.12*	.06	-.08	-.05	-.06	-.09	-.01	.01	.02	--										
15 Education	.09	.05	.13*	<.01	<.01	.08	-.09	<.01	-.06	-.04	-.04	.11*	.05	-.13**	--									
16 Income	.21**	.13*	.07	.17**	.15**	.19**	.02	.10	.13*	.10	<.01	.05	.11**	.11**	.34**	--								
17 Likelihood of victimization	.22**	.05	.08	.14**	.14**	.23**	-.24**	.38**	.01	.07	.31**	-.11*	-.04	-.14**	<.01	-.06	--							
18 Personal safety	.18**	.04	.03	.18**	.16**	.17**	-.31**	.32**	-.02	.08	.24**	-.11*	.09	-.07	-.11*	-.08	.69**	--						
19 Preparedness	.33**	.20**	.17**	.27**	.27**	.26**	-.08	.29**	.15**	.10*	.33**	-.11*	.01	-.03	.01	-.02	.45**	.38**	--					
20 Resilience	-.03	-.03	.02	-.02	.02	-.05	.11*	-.13**	.02	<.01	-.21**	.31**	.12*	.03	.06	.12*	-.40**	-.38**	-.09	--				
21 Big5 Neuroticism	.08	<.01	.12*	.06	-.02	.07	-.23**	.10*	-.03	.05	.14**	-.27**	-.07	-.01	-.06	-.18**	.37**	.39**	.11*	-.58**	--			
21 Big5 Extraversion	-.06	.01	-.10*	.05	.05	-.09	-.01	-.05	-.03	.05	-.06	.06	.05	-.01	.05	.05	-.21**	-.20**	-.07	.25**	-.35**	--		
22 Big5 Openness	.11*	.14**	.02	.08	.08	.08	-.08	.07*	.07	<.01	.11*	-.21**	-.15**	-.03	.07	.09	.11*	.01	.17**	.06	.06	<.01	--	
23 Big5 Agreeableness	-.15**	-.16**	-.10*	-.15**	-.10	-.09	-.04	<.01	-.12*	-.05	-.04	-.02	-.04	<.01	-.04	-.10*	-.11*	-.18**	-.19**	-.16**	-.16**	.28**	<.01	--
24 Big5 Conscientiousness	.04	.12*	-.07	-.15**	<.01	.06	-.15**	.06	-.19*	-.02	.01	.04	.12*	.04	.13**	.13**	-.02	<.01	.04	-.06	-.06	.13*	-.01	.07

*Note.* \*\* p <.01, \* p <.05; Pearson's correlations, Point-biserial correlations for gender, living area, mental health problems, and relationships, Kendall's Tau-b correlations for education and income, partial correlations for links between true crime motives, safety perceptions and personality controlled for total true crime consumption

*Table H: Correlational matrix of the dark triad, habitual emotion regulation, and cognitive reappraisal capacity*

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1 Total True Crime Consumption	--																								
2 True Crime: Books	.56**	--																							
3 True Crime: Podcasts	.52**	.21**	--																						
4 True Crime: TV	.74**	.44**	.31**	--																					
5 True Crime: Movies	.72**	.40**	.24**	.82**	--																				
6 True Crime: News	.86**	.33**	.22**	.43**	.44**	--																			
7 Gender	-.27**	-.24**	-.27**	-.20**	-.15**	-.17**	--																		
8 Age	.08	.20**	-.10	.02	.05	.11	-.01	--																	
9 Defensive Vigilance Motivation	.64**	.36**	.44**	.52**	.47**	.49**	-.27**	-.10	--																
10 Excitement Motivation	.63**	.39**	.44**	.59**	.57**	.42**	-.08	-.10	.60**	--															
11 Authenticity Motivation	.60**	.33**	.43**	.57**	.54**	.39**	-.17**	-.15*	.74**	.76**	--														
12 Emotion regulation motivation	.57*+	.35**	.32**	.49**	.47**	.43**	-.16**	-.03	.73**	.58**	.59**	--													
13 Machiavellianism	.18**	.07	.05	.16**	.20**	.15**	.11	.02	.10	.16*	.07	.16**	--												
14 Psychopathy	.08	<.01	.01	.12*	.11	.07	.15**	-.06	.13*	.20**	.09	.16**	.61**	--											
15 Narcissism	.03	.01	-.08	.10	.13*	.01	.08	-.03	.14*	.21**	.16*	.23**	.30**	.21**	--										
16 CERQ Acceptance	-.14*	-.01	-.02	-.05	-.06	-.17**	.04	-.21**	.07	.05	.07	-.05	<.01	-.11	.11	--									
17 CERQ Rumination	-.02	<.01	-.07	.01	-.03	.01	-.07	-.21**	.06	<.01	-.01	.07	.03	.08	.08	.18**	--								
18 CERQ Reappraisal	-.05	-.09	-.06	.03	.04	-.06	-.03	-.15**	.17**	.06	.11*	.13*	.01	-.08	.20*	.30**	.12*	--							
19 CERQ Self-Blame	.05	.09	-.08	.03	.06	.07	.07	-.06	.04	.04	<.01	.09	.14*	.11	.14*	.12*	.25**	.01	--						
20 CERQ Positive Refocussing	.11*	.11	.01	.07	.09	.11	-.14*	.11	.02	-.05	-.03	.14*	-.03	-.08	.03	-.08	-.10	.15**	-.09	--					
21 CERQ Planning	.06	.03	.01	.10	.14*	.01	.01	.06	.11	.05	.06	-.05	-.03	-.08	.07	.13*	.07	.35**	.10	.19**	--				
22 CERQ Relativizing	.05	.09	-.02	.08	.06	.03	-.06	.11	.08	<.01	.07	.06	.09	-.02	.18**	.19**	-.09	.36**	.08	.24**	.20**	--			
23 CERQ Catastro- phizing	.02	-.03	-.05	.02	.01	.05	-.10	-.20**	.18**	-.01	.09	.16**	.13*	.14*	.02	.01	.39**	-.11*	.20**	-.13*	-.01	-.12*	--		
24 CERQ Blame others	-.02	-.09	-.11*	-.05	-.01	.06	.11	-.09	.03	.12*	.04	.03	.24**	.27**	.04	-.04	.12*	-.09	-.09	.08	<.01	-.05	.28**	--	
25 Reappraisal fluency	.08	<.01	.15**	.07	.03	.05	-.26**	-.17**	.14*	-.02	<.01	.11	-.16**	-.09	-.14*	.02	.09	.01	-.02	.07	.08	-.05	.13*	.05	--
26 Reappraisal flexibility	.01	<.01	.13*	.04	-.03	-.04	-.18**	-.16**	.09	<.01	.04	.08	-.17**	-.07	-.06	.07	.17**	.03	<.01	.07	.02	-.04	.03	.05	.57**

**Note.** \*\* p <.01, \* p <.05; partial correlations for links between true crime motives, dark triad traits and habitual emotion regulation controlled for total true crime consumption; partial correlations for links between true crime motives and cognitive reappraisal capacity controlled for total true crime consumption and age.

## Supplementary Material SM2 for

### Perchtold-Stefan et al. Out of the Dark – Psychological Perspectives on People’s Fascination with True Crime

\*Significant interaction effects highlighted in blue

*Moderation analyses with gender*

Table A. Moderation results for morbid curiosity

Models	R <sup>2</sup>	B	P	LLCI	ULCI	Simple Slopes
<b>Total true crime consumption</b>						
Gender		-0.26	.326	-0.780	0.259	
Total Morbid Curiosity	.36	0.55	<.001	0.473	0.635	
Gender x Total Morbid Curiosity		-0.11	.140	-0.263	0.037	
Gender		-0.22	.286	-0.623	0.183	
Bodily harm	.23	0.30	<.001	0.233	0.360	
Gender x Bodily harm		-0.13	<b>.029</b>	-0.253	-0.013	Women: B = 0.29, p < .001; Men: B = 0.16, p = .002
Gender		-0.56	.014	-1.006	-0.116	
Violence	.21	0.32	<.001	0.243	0.401	
Gender x Violence		-0.13	.061	-0.259	0.006	Women: B = 0.32, p < .001; Men: B = 0.20, p < .001
Gender		0.47	.040	0.021	0.918	
Minds	.48	0.56	<.001	0.507	0.630	
Gender x Minds		-0.18	<b>&lt;.001</b>	-0.281	-0.073	Women: B = 0.57, p < .001; Men: B = 0.39, p < .001
Gender		-0.59	.004	-0.983	-0.195	
Supernatural	.17	0.21	<.001	0.142	0.276	
Gender x Supernatural		<0.01	.971	-0.122	0.126	
<b>Book Consumption</b>						
Gender		-0.04	.900	-0.728	0.641	
Total Morbid Curiosity	.14	0.39	<.001	0.281	0.496	
Gender x Total Morbid Curiosity		-0.14	.154	-0.343	0.054	
Gender		-0.08	.739	-0.580	0.412	
Bodily harm	.10	0.22	<.001	0.143	0.298	
Gender x bodily harm		-0.14	.062	-0.287	0.007	Women: B = 0.22, p < .001; Men: B = 0.08, p = .206
Gender		-0.45	.105	-0.992	0.094	
Violence	.09	0.23	<.001	0.129	0.322	
Gender x Violence		-0.09	.252	-0.256	0.067	
Gender		0.44	.179	-0.202	1.082	
Minds	.18	0.39	<.001	0.307	0.482	
Gender x Minds		-0.17	<b>.023</b>	-0.322	-0.024	Women: B = 0.39, p < .001; Men: B = 0.22, p < .001
Gender		-0.39	.109	-0.866	0.088	
Supernatural	.07	0.14	.001	0.055	0.217	

Gender x Supernatural	-0.04	.648	-0.185	0.115	
<b>Podcast Consumption</b>					
Gender		-0.37	.521	-1.487	0.755
Total Morbid Curiosity	.16	0.58	<.001	0.397	0.749
Gender x Total Morbid Curiosity		-0.25	.138	-0.571	0.079
Gender		-0.39	.340	-1.204	0.416
Bodily Harm	.13	0.31	<.001	0.182	0.436
Gender x Bodily harm		-0.25	<b>.039</b>	-0.494	-0.013
					Women: $B = 0.31, p < .001$ ; Men: $B = 0.06, p = .590$
Gender		-0.74	.103	-1.630	0.150
Violence	.12	0.29	<.001	0.131	0.446
Gender x Violence		-0.22	.101	-0.486	0.043
Gender		0.63	.224	-0.385	1.637
Minds	.26	0.74	<.001	0.606	0.881
Gender x Minds		-0.32	<b>.007</b>	-0.557	-0.089
					Women: $B = 0.74, p < .001$ ; Men: $B = 0.42, p < .001$
Gender		-1.27	.001	-2.051	-0.494
Supernatural	.10	0.13	.061	-0.006	0.259
Gender x Supernatural		0.04	.744	-0.204	0.286
<b>TV Consumption</b>					
Gender		-0.52	.216	-1.342	0.303
Total Morbid Curiosity	.28	0.74	<.001	0.606	0.864
Gender x Total Morbid Curiosity		-0.08	.493	-0.322	0.155
Gender		-0.20	.538	-0.831	0.434
Bodily harm	.15	0.36	<.001	0.263	0.462
Gender x Bodily harm		-0.19	<b>.045</b>	-0.380	-0.004
					Women: $B = 0.36, p < .001$ ; Men: $B = 0.17, p = .036$
Gender		-0.92	.009	-1.604	-0.230
Violence	.16	0.42	<.001	0.295	0.539
Gender x Violence		-0.10	.329	-0.306	0.103
Gender		0.33	.381	-0.410	1.072
Minds	.37	0.73	<.001	0.630	0.832
Gender x Minds		-0.15	.085	-0.322	0.021
					Women: $B = 0.72, p < .001$ ; Men: $B = 0.58, p < .001$
Gender		-0.77	.012	-1.366	-0.174
Supernatural	.16	0.33	<.001	0.232	0.435
Gender x Supernatural		0.02	.808	-0.164	0.211
<b>Movie Consumption</b>					
Gender		-0.07	.868	-0.836	0.705
Total Morbid Curiosity	.26	0.71	<.001	0.586	0.828
Gender x Total Morbid Curiosity		-0.15	.181	-0.376	0.071
Gender		0.07	.829	-0.528	0.659
Bodily harm	.12	0.34	<.001	0.243	0.430
Gender x bodily harm		-0.21	<b>.023</b>	-0.381	-0.029
					Women: $B = 0.34, p < .001$ ; Men: $B = 0.13, p = .084$
Gender		-0.62	.057	-1.260	0.019
Violence	.14	0.42	<.001	0.306	0.532

Gender x Violence		-0.12	.207	-0.312	0.068	
Gender		0.45	.211	-0.256	1.155	
Minds	.33	0.66	<.001	0.564	0.756	
Gender x Minds		-0.14	.099	-0.301	0.026	Women: $B = 0.66, p < .001$ ; Men: $B = 0.52, p < .001$
Gender		-0.22	.449	-0.771	0.342	
Supernatural	.14	0.35	<.001	0.259	0.448	
Gender x Supernatural		-0.09	.305	-0.267	0.083	
<b>News Consumption</b>						
Gender		-0.27	.431	-0.950	0.405	
Total Morbid Curiosity	.21	0.51	<.001	0.401	0.613	
Gender x Total Morbid Curiosity		-0.07	.484	-0.266	0.126	
Gender		-0.29	.260	-0.787	0.213	
Bodily harm	.14	0.28	<.001	0.207	0.364	
Gender x Bodily harm		-0.07	.364	-0.217	0.080	
Gender		-0.44	.117	-0.993	0.111	
Violence	.12	0.31	<.001	0.209	0.404	
Gender x Violence		-0.12	.158	-0.282	0.046	
Gender		0.48	.136	-0.150	1.106	
Minds	.26	0.50	<.001	0.419	0.590	
Gender x Minds		-0.16	<b>.034</b>	-0.303	0.012	Women: $B = 0.50, p < .001$ ; Men: $B = 0.37, p < .001$
Gender		-0.52	.038	-1.003	-0.029	
Supernatural	.09	0.18	<.001	0.097	0.263	
Gender x Supernatural		0.02	.796	-0.133	0.173	
<b>Defensive Vigilance Motivation</b>						
Gender		-0.77	.046	-1.521	-0.013	
Total Morbid Curiosity	.50	0.27	<.001	0.133	0.404	
Gender x Total Morbid Curiosity		0.05	.673	-0.172	0.266	
Covariate: True Crime		0.88	<.001	0.758	0.998	
Gender		-0.61	.027	-1.155	-0.069	
Bodily harm	.48	0.009	.052	-0.001	0.182	
Gender x Bodily harm		0.02	.799	.141	0.183	
Covariate: True Crime		0.98	<.001	0.869	1.091	
Gender		-1.00	.001	-1.603	-0.416	
Violence	.48	0.06	.275	-0.049	0.172	
Gender x Violence		0.11	.206	-0.06	0.289	
Covariate: True Crime		0.99	<.001	0.882	1.101	
Gender		-0.55	.135	-1.276	0.172	
Minds	.50	0.27	<.001	0.148	0.369	
Gender x Minds		0.02	.777	-0.144	0.193	
Covariate: True Crime		0.80	<.001	0.670	0.935	
Gender		-0.22	.408	-0.728	0.296	
Supernatural	.49	0.18	<.001	0.092	0.270	
Gender x Supernatural		-0.10	.216	-0.261	0.059	
Covariate: True Crime		0.97	<.001	0.961	1.073	
<b>Excitement Motivation</b>						

Gender		-0.39	.249	-1.047	0.272
Total Morbid Curiosity	.60	0.74	<.001	0.626	0.862
Gender x Total Morbid Curiosity		0.10	.315	-0.093	0.289
Covariate: True Crime		0.69	<.001	0.589	0.798
Gender		0.17	.532	-0.354	0.684
Bodily harm	.51	0.33	<.001	0.243	0.417
Gender x Bodily harm		-0.02	.780	-0.176	0.132
Covariate: True Crime		0.94	<.001	0.832	1.04
Gender		-0.60	.029	-1.146	-0.062
Violence	.56	0.46	<.001	0.363	0.564
Gender x Violence		0.05	.580	-0.156	0.206
Covariate: True Crime		0.91	<.001	0.812	1.102
Gender		0.25	.456	-0.406	0.904
Minds	.58	0.63	<.001	0.513	0.737
Gender x Minds		0.02	.779	-0.131	0.175
Covariate: True Crime		0.60	<.001	0.475	0.716
Gender		0.25	.333	-0.253	0.748
Supernatural	.50	0.29	<.001	0.202	0.376
Gender x Supernatural		-0.01	.858	-0.171	0.142
Covariate: True Crime		0.99	<.001	0.888	1.096
<b>Authenticity Motivation</b>					
Gender		-1.62	<.001	-2.474	-0.762
Total Morbid Curiosity	.45	0.39	<.001	0.236	0.543
Gender x Total Morbid Curiosity		0.39	<b>.002</b>	0.145	0.642
Covariate: True Crime		0.83	<.001	0.691	0.962
Gender		-0.82	.012	-1.452	-0.184
Bodily harm	.40	0.08	.136	-0.026	0.188
Gender x Bodily harm		0.20	<b>.035</b>	0.014	0.391
Covariate: True Crime		1.03	<.001	0.899	1.158
Gender		-1.42	<.001	-2.106	-0.737
Violence	.42	0.12	.061	-0.006	0.249
Gender x Violence		0.31	<b>.003</b>	0.106	0.512
Covariate: True Crime		1.01	<.001	0.881	1.133
Gender		0.84	.033	-1.613	-0.068
Minds	.52	0.61	<.001	0.476	0.741
Gender x Minds		0.21	<b>.023</b>	0.029	0.389
Covariate: True Crime		0.55	<.001	0.407	0.690
Gender		-0.18	.551	-0.787	0.420
Supernatural	.41	0.17	.002	0.066	0.276
Gender x Supernatural		0.01	.884	-0.174	0.202
Covariate: True Crime		1.02	<.001	0.892	1.143
<b>Emotion regulation motivation</b>					
Gender		-0.05	.914	-0.853	0.764
Total Morbid Curiosity	.33	0.38	<.001	0.235	0.525

Gender x Total Morbid Curiosity		-0.08	.482	-0.319	0.151
Covariate: True Crime		0.60	<.001	0.471	0.727
Gender		-0.08	.785	-0.660	0.499
Bodily harm	.32	0.19	<.001	0.096	0.291
Gender x Bodily harm		-0.06	.518	-0.229	0.116
Covariate: True Crime		0.70	<.001	0.578	0.815
Gender		-0.28	.391	-0.908	0.355
Violence	.32	0.23	<.001	0.136	0.370
Gender x Violence		-0.08	.420	-0.264	0.110
Covariate: True Crime		0.70	<.001	0.580	0.813
Gender		-0.18	.666	-0.968	0.619
Minds	.31	0.19	.007	0.051	0.323
Gender x Minds		<0.01	.977	-0.182	0.188
Covariate: True Crime		0.64	<.001	0.495	0.786
Gender		0.15	.587	-0.404	0.703
Supernatural	.31	0.19	<.001	0.090	0.283
Gender x Supernatural		-0.12	.177	-0.292	0.054
Covariate: True Crime		0.73	<.001	0.616	0.846

Table B. Moderation results for trait anxiety, perceived stress, and depressive symptoms

Models	R <sup>2</sup>	B	P	LLCI	ULCI	Simple Slopes
<b>Total true crime consumption</b>						
Gender		-0.17	.637	-0.891	0.546	
Trait anxiety	.11	0.01	.045	<0.001	0.0194	
Gender x Trait anxiety		-0.01	.184	-0.031	0.006	
Gender		-0.54	.183	-1.333	0.254	
Total stress	.11	0.01	.238	-0.007	0.026	
Gender x total stress		<0.01	.784	-0.035	0.027	
Gender		-0.53	.149	-1.247	0.190	
Helplessness	.11	0.02	.107	<0.001	0.043	
Gender x Helplessness		-0.01	.745	-0.05	0.038	
Gender		-0.63	.087	-1.353	0.092	
Self-efficacy	.10	<0.01	.890	-0.036	0.042	
Gender x Self-efficacy		<0.01	.938	-0.076	0.070	
Gender		-0.68	<.001	-0.997	-0.355	
Depression	.10	<0.01	.860	-0.011	0.013	
Gender x Depression		<0.01	.896	-0.019	0.022	
<b>Book Consumption</b>						
Gender		0.01	.979	-0.843	0.866	
Trait anxiety	.06	0.01	.175	-0.004	0.019	
Gender x Trait anxiety		-0.02	.189	-0.037	0.007	
Gender		-0.10	.833	-1.044	0.842	
Total stress	.06	0.01	.571	-0.014	0.025	

Gender x total stress		-0.02	.336	-0.055	0.019
Gender		-0.36	.411	-1.214	0.497
Helplessness	.05	<0.01	.818	-0.025	0.031
Gender x Helplessness		-0.01	.647	-0.066	0.041
Gender		0.10	.823	-0.758	0.953
Self-efficacy	.06	0.03	.332	-0.023	0.069
Gender x Self-efficacy		-0.07	.125	-0.154	0.019
Gender		-0.52	.007	-0.904	-0.142
Depression	.06	<0.01	.622	-0.017	0.010
Gender x Depression		<0.01	.846	-0.027	0.022

#### Podcast Consumption

Gender		-0.99	.158	-2.374	0.387
Trait anxiety	.09	0.01	.376	-0.010	0.027
Gender x Trait anxiety		<0.01	.850	-0.039	0.032
Gender		-1.16	.136	-2.679	0.365
Total stress	.09	0.01	.603	-0.023	0.040
Gender x total stress		<0.01	.970	-0.058	0.060
Gender		-1.12	.112	-2.500	0.260
Helplessness	.09	0.02	.414	-0.026	0.064
Gender x Helplessness		<0.01	.998	-0.089	0.086
Gender		-1.23	.082	-2.611	0.157
Self-efficacy	.09	<0.01	.910	-0.079	0.071
Gender x Self-efficacy		0.01	.900	-0.131	0.149
Gender		-1.37	<.001	-1.981	-0.753
Depression	.09	-0.02	.159	-0.038	0.006
Gender x Depression		0.02	.400	-0.026	0.056

#### TV Consumption

Gender		0.06	.915	-1.041	1.161
Trait anxiety	.08	0.02	.023	0.002	0.032
Gender x Trait anxiety		-0.02	.124	-0.050	0.006
Gender		-0.35	.577	-1.560	0.870
Total stress	.07	0.02	.061	-0.001	0.049
Gender x total stress		-0.02	.475	-0.064	0.030
Gender		-0.56	.314	-1.663	0.536
Helplessness	.08	0.04	.029	0.004	0.076
Gender x Helplessness		-0.01	.709	-0.082	0.056
Gender		-0.25	.662	-1.353	0.861
Self-efficacy	.07	0.03	.394	-0.034	0.086
Gender x Self-efficacy		-0.06	.312	-0.169	0.054
Gender		-0.69	.006	-1.182	-0.199
Depression	.07	0.01	.225	-0.007	0.029
Gender x Depression		-0.01	.610	-0.040	0.023

#### Movie Consumption

Gender		0.03	.960	-0.988	1.039
Trait anxiety	.05	0.01	.075	-0.001	0.026
Gender x Trait anxiety		-0.02	.231	-0.042	0.010

Gender		-0.39	.495	-1.503	0.728
Total stress	.05	0.02	.056	-0.001	0.045
Gender x total stress		-0.01	.748	-0.051	0.036
Gender		-0.55	.286	-1.558	0.461
Helplessness	.06	0.04	.037	0.002	0.068
Gender x Helplessness		<0.01	.984	-0.064	0.063
Gender		-0.26	.623	-1.271	0.762
Self-efficacy	.05	0.03	.271	-0.024	0.086
Gender x Self-efficacy		-0.03	.511	-0.138	0.068
Gender		-0.60	.009	-1.057	-0.152
Depression	.05	<0.01	.655	-0.013	0.020
Gender x Depression		<0.01	.941	-0.028	0.030

#### News Consumption

Gender		-0.13	.783	-0.982	0.741
Trait anxiety	.06	0.01	.160	-0.003	0.020
Gender x Trait anxiety		-0.01	.331	-0.033	0.011
Gender		-0.58	.231	-1.532	0.370
Total stress	.05	0.01	.645	-0.015	0.024
Gender x total stress		<0.01	.930	-0.035	0.039
Gender		-0.41	.351	-1.271	0.452
Helplessness	.05	0.01	.317	-0.014	0.043
Gender x Helplessness		-0.01	.769	-0.06	0.046
Gender		-0.85	.053	-1.718	0.010
Self-efficacy	.05	-0.01	.576	-0.060	0.034
Gender x Self-efficacy		0.03	.473	-0.055	0.119
Gender		-0.56	.005	-0.940	-0.172
Depression	.05	<0.01	.645	-0.011	0.017
Gender x Depression		<0.01	.943	-0.024	0.026

#### Defensive Vigilance

##### Motivation

Gender		0.71	.131	-0.210	1.626
Trait anxiety	.48	0.02	.010	0.004	0.028
Gender x Trait anxiety		-0.03	<b>.011</b>	-0.054	-0.007
Covariate: True Crime		1.04	<.001	0.928	1.158
Gender		0.41	.429	-0.607	1.426
Total stress	.48	0.03	.019	0.004	0.046
Gender x total stress		-0.03	.089	-0.074	0.005
Covariate: True Crime		1.05	<.001	0.936	1.167
Gender		0.26	.590	-0.668	1.173
Helplessness	0.48	0.04	.008	0.011	0.071
Gender x Helplessness		-0.05	.125	-0.103	0.013
Covariate: True Crime		1.05	<.001	0.931	1.162
Gender		0.21	.654	-0.716	1.140
Self-efficacy	.48	0.03	.235	-0.020	0.081
Gender x Self-efficacy		-0.07	.141	-0.164	0.023
Covariate: True Crime		1.06	<.001	0.942	1.173

Women:  $B = 0.02, p = .010$ ;  
Men:  $B = -0.02, p = 0.153$

Women:  $B = 0.03, p = .019$ ;  
Men:  $B = -0.01, p = .594$

Gender		-0.24	.256	-0.661	0.176
Depression	0.48	0.01	.125	-0.003	0.027
Gender x Depression		-0.02	.212	-0.043	0.010
Covariate: True Crime		1.06	<.001	0.942	1.173

#### Excitement Motivation

Gender		1.02	.031	0.092	1.939
Trait anxiety	.47	0.02	.016	0.003	0.028
Gender x Trait anxiety		-0.02	.070	-0.046	0.002
Covariate: True Crime		1.14	<.001	1.020	1.252
Gender		0.58	.263	-0.439	1.602
Total stress	0.47	0.02	.027	-0.517	0.045
Gender x total stress		-0.02	.447	-0.055	0.024
Covariate: True Crime		1.14	<.001	1.026	1.258
Gender		0.37	.435	-0.557	1.292
Helplessness	0.47	0.04	.019	0.006	0.066
Gender x Helplessness		-0.01	.713	-0.069	0.047
Covariate: True Crime		1.14	<.001	1.022	1.254
Gender		0.70	.139	-0.228	1.634
Self-efficacy	0.46	0.04	.136	-0.012	0.086
Gender x Self-efficacy		-0.05	.257	-0.148	0.040
Covariate: True Crime		1.15	<.001	1.033	1.265
Gender		0.37	.087	-0.053	0.784
Depression	.47	0.02	.027	0.002	0.032
Gender x Depression		-0.01	.295	-0.041	0.012
Covariate: True Crime		1.15	<.001	1.033	1.264

#### Authenticity Motivation

Gender		0.93	.094	-0.159	2.024
Trait anxiety	.40	0.01	.189	-0.005	0.024
Gender x Trait anxiety		-0.03	<b>.049</b>	-0.056	-0.001
Covariate: True Crime		1.13	<.001	0.994	1.269
Gender		0.49	.427	-0.718	1.695
Total stress	.40	0.02	.109	0.005	0.045
Gender x total stress		-0.02	.313	-0.071	0.023
Covariate: True Crime		1.14	<.001	0.999	1.273
Gender		0.27	.628	-0.823	1.363
Helplessness	.40	0.04	.065	-0.002	0.069
Gender x Helplessness		-0.03	.482	-0.093	0.044
Covariate: True Crime		1.13	<.001	0.994	1.268
Gender		0.52	.357	-0.583	1.614
Self-efficacy	.40	0.02	.442	-0.036	0.083
Gender x Self-efficacy		-0.07	.235	-0.178	0.044
Covariate: True Crime		1.14	<.001	1.004	1.278
Gender		0.13	.609	-0.366	0.625
Depression	.40	0.001	.400	-0.010	0.025

Gender x Depression		-0.02	.215	-0.051	0.012
Covariate: True Crime		1.14	<.001	1.005	1.279
<b>Emotion regulation motivation</b>					
Gender		0.14	.767	-0.810	1.098
Trait anxiety	.34	0.02	.001	0.009	0.035
Gender x Trait anxiety		-0.01	.521	-0.032	0.016
Covariate: True Crime		0.83	<.001	0.709	0.949
Gender		0.45	.397	-0.598	1.505
Total stress	.35	0.04	<.001	0.018	0.062
Gender x total stress		-0.02	.243	-0.065	0.017
Covariate: True Crime		0.83	<.001	0.714	0.953
Gender		0.24	.627	-0.715	1.186
Helplessness	.35	0.06	<.001	0.030	0.093
Gender x Helplessness		-0.03	.409	-0.085	0.035
Covariate: True Crime		0.83	<.001	.708	0.946
Gender		0.45	.363	-0.518	1.413
Self-efficacy	.33	0.06	.029	0.006	0.110
Gender x Self-efficacy		-0.06	.188	-0.162	0.032
Covariate: True Crime		0.85	<.001	0.726	0.966
Gender		-0.09	.662	-0.529	0.336
Depression	.34	0.02	.003	0.036	0.039
Gender x depression		-0.01	.644	-0.034	0.021
Covariate: True Crime		0.84	<.001	0.725	0.964

Table C. Moderation results for aggression

Models	R <sup>2</sup>	B	P	LLCI	ULCI	Simple Slopes
<b>Total true crime consumption</b>						
Gender		-0.66	<.001	-0.833	-0.495	
Total aggression	.17	0.05	<.001	0.034	0.066	
Gender x Total aggression		-0.02	.238	-0.055	0.014	
Gender		-0.69	<.001	-0.867	-0.517	
Physical aggression	.13	0.12	<.001	0.054	0.193	
Gender x Physical		-0.05	.503	-0.180	0.088	
Gender		-0.44	.145	-1.025	0.151	
Verbal aggression	.12	0.09	.001	0.035	0.144	
Gender x Verbal		-0.04	.393	-0.141	0.056	
Gender		-0.26	.322	-0.768	0.253	
Hostility	.16	0.14	<.001	0.092	0.194	
Gender x Hostility		-0.08	.114	-0.175	0.019	
Gender		-0.63	.022	-1.163	-0.090	
Anger	.15	0.10	<.001	0.053	0.146	
Gender x Anger		0.01	.985	-0.091	0.093	

<b>Book Consumption</b>					
Gender		-0.56	<.001	-0.759	-0.350
Total aggression	.09	0.04	<.001	0.021	0.059
Gender x Total aggression		-0.04	.054	-0.082	0.001
					Women: $B = 0.05, p <.001$ Men: $B = 0.01, p = .491$
Gender		-0.57	<.001	-0.780	-0.363
Physical aggression	.07	0.11	.009	0.027	0.193
Gender x Physical		-0.13	.125	-0.285	0.035
Gender		-0.02	.954	-0.718	0.677
Verbal aggression	.08	0.12	<.001	0.050	0.179
Gender x Verbal		-0.10	.102	-0.214	0.019
Gender		-0.14	.661	-0.753	0.478
Hostility	.09	0.13	<.001	0.066	0.189
Gender x Hostility		-0.08	.173	-0.198	0.036
Gender		-0.22	.503	-0.869	0.427
Anger	.07	0.07	.013	0.016	0.128
Gender x Anger		-0.06	.328	-0.167	0.055
<b>Podcast Consumption</b>					
Gender		-1.14	<.001	-1.479	-0.808
Total aggression	.09	0.03	.043	0.001	0.064
Gender x Total aggression		<0.01	.925	-0.072	0.065
Gender		-1.17	<.001	-1.504	-0.827
Physical aggression	.09	0.13	.060	-0.005	0.263
Gender x Physical		-0.12	.360	-0.379	0.138
Gender		-1.09	.061	-2.230	0.048
Verbal aggression	.09	0.04	.420	-0.062	0.148
Gender x Verbal		-0.01	.913	-0.202	0.180
Gender		-1.05	.042	-2.053	-0.039
Hostility	.09	0.09	.067	-0.007	0.194
Gender x Hostility		-0.02	.862	-0.208	0.174
Gender		-1.44	.008	-2.486	-0.384
Anger	.09	0.04	.416	-0.053	0.129
Gender x Anger		0.07	.535	-0.123	0.237
<b>TV Consumption</b>					
Gender		-0.81	<.001	-1.070	-0.552
Total aggression	.14	0.08	<.001	0.054	0.103
Gender x Total aggression		-0.01	.807	-0.059	0.046
Gender		-0.87	<.001	-1.139	-0.604
Physical aggression	.10	0.21	<.001	0.106	0.318
Gender x Physical		0.03	.772	-0.174	0.234
Gender		-0.65	.160	-1.547	0.256
Verbal aggression	.09	0.13	.002	0.047	0.214
Gender x Verbal		-0.04	.662	-0.185	0.118
Gender		-0.42	.289	-1.209	0.361
Hostility	.12	0.21	<.001	0.126	0.283

Gender x Hostility		-0.07	.341	-0.221	0.077
Gender		-0.97	.018	-1.819	-0.174
Anger	.11	0.14	<.001	0.070	0.213
Gender x Anger		0.05	.527	-0.095	0.186
<b>Movie Consumption</b>					
Gender		-0.60	<.001	-0.839	-0.362
Total aggression	.12	0.07	<.001	0.049	0.094
Gender x Total aggression		-0.02	.580	0.062	0.035
Gender		-0.66	<.001	-0.905	-0.416
Physical aggression	.08	0.21	<.001	0.112	0.306
Gender x Physical		0.03	.774	-0.160	0.215
Gender		-0.57	.178	-1.403	0.260
Verbal aggression	.06	0.09	.016	0.017	0.171
Gender x Verbal		-0.01	.906	-0.148	0.131
Gender		-0.32	.382	-1.045	0.401
Hostility	.10	0.18	<.001	0.106	0.250
Gender x Hostility		-0.05	.467	-0.188	0.086
Gender		-0.27	.476	-1.027	0.480
Anger	0.10	0.16	<.001	0.095	0.226
Gender x Anger		-0.05	.468	-0.177	0.081
<b>News Consumption</b>					
Gender		-0.55	<.001	-0.756	-0.345
Total aggression	.09	0.04	<.001	0.024	0.063
Gender x Total aggression		-0.03	.237	-0.067	0.017
Gender		-0.57	<.001	-0.778	-0.355
Physical aggression	.06	0.08	.058	-0.003	0.165
Gender x Physical		-0.04	.590	-0.206	0.117
Gender		-0.29	.417	-0.999	0.415
Verbal aggression	.07	0.08	.013	0.018	0.148
Gender x Verbal		-0.05	.425	-0.167	0.070
Gender		0.03	.917	-0.653	0.587
Hostility	.09	0.14	<.001	0.073	0.197
Gender x Hostility		-0.10	.092	-0.219	0.017
					Women: $B = 0.14, p < .001$ ; Men: $B = 0.03, p = .505$
Gender		-0.52	.114	-1.169	0.126
Anger	.08	0.10	.001	0.040	0.152
Gender x Anger		<0.01	.971	-0.109	0.113
<b>Defensive Vigilance Motivation</b>					
Gender		-0.47	<.001	-0.713	-0.234
Total aggression	.47	0.01	.494	-0.014	0.030
Gender x Total aggression		-0.02	.655	-0.056	0.036
Covariate: True Crime		1.05	<.001	0.925	1.166
Gender		-0.48	<.001	-0.724	-0.241

Physical aggression	.48	0.01	.758	-0.077	0.106
Gender x Physical		0.09	.295	-0.081	0.267
Covariate: True Crime		1.05	<.001	0.937	1.171
Gender		-0.30	.444	-1.063	0.466
Verbal aggression	.47	-0.02	.595	-0.090	0.052
Gender x Verbal		-0.03	.679	-0.155	0.101
Covariate: True Crime		1.07	<.001	0.948	1.183
Gender		-0.11	.761	-0.778	0.569
Hostility	.48	0.09	.008	0.024	0.163
Gender x Hostility		-0.08	.242	-0.204	0.052
Covariate: True Crime		1.02	<.001	0.899	1.137
Gender		-0.32	.371	-1.033	0.387
Anger	.47	0.01	.881	-0.058	0.067
Gender x Anger		0.03	.677	-0.146	0.095
Covariate: True Crime		1.06	<.001	0.940	1.178

#### Excitement

#### Motivation

Gender		0.12	.326	-0.117	0.352
Total aggression	.49	0.05	<.001	0.030	0.074
Gender x Total aggression		-0.02	.382	-0.065	0.025
Covariate: True Crime		1.07	<.001	0.952	1.188
Gender		0.09	.467	-0.150	0.326
Physical aggression	.48	0.18	<.001	0.086	0.266
Gender x Physical		0.07	.416	-0.100	0.242
Covariate: True Crime		1.11	<.001	0.997	1.228
Gender		0.60	.119	-0.156	1.356
Verbal aggression	.48	0.13	<.001	0.059	0.200
Gender x Verbal		-0.08	.194	-0.211	0.043
Covariate: True Crime		1.12	<.001	1.000	1.232
Gender		0.50	.143	-0.170	1.173
Hostility	.48	0.12	.001	0.055	0.193
Gender x Hostility		-0.07	.276	-0.198	0.057
Covariate: True Crime		1.09	<.001	0.975	1.212
Gender		0.44	.226	-0.271	1.143
Anger	.47	0.08	.011	0.019	0.143
Gender x Anger		-0.05	.448	-0.167	0.074
Covariate: True Crime		1.12	<.001	0.998	1.235

#### Authenticity

#### Motivation

Gender		-0.15	.291	-0.435	0.131
Total aggression	.40	0.03	.122	-0.006	0.047
Gender x Total aggression		-0.01	.661	-0.066	0.042
Covariate: True Crime		1.11	<.001	0.967	1.252
Gender		-0.15	.297	-0.438	0.134
Physical aggression	.40	0.03	.581	-0.078	0.138
Gender x Physical		0.08	.473	-0.131	0.281
Covariate: True Crime		1.13	<.001	0.996	1.273

Gender		0.20	.663	-0.703	1.104
Verbal aggression	.40	0.06	.143	-0.021	0.147
Gender x Verbal		-0.06	.422	-0.213	0.089
Covariate: True Crime		1.13	<.001	0.988	1.265
Gender		0.09	.817	-0.707	0.895
Hostility	.40	0.06	.125	-0.018	0.147
Gender x Hostility		-0.05	.539	-0.200	0.105
Covariate: True Crime		1.11	<.001	0.971	1.255
Gender		-0.04	.936	-0.873	0.805
Anger	.40	0.03	.380	-0.041	0.107
Gender x Anger		-0.02	.817	-0.159	0.126
Covariate: True Crime		1.13	<.001	0.987	1.268
<b>Emotion regulation motivation</b>					
Gender		-0.24	.056	-0.486	0.006
Total aggression	.35	0.04	<.001	0.021	0.066
Gender x Total aggression		-0.01	.700	-0.057	0.038
Covariate: True Crime		0.78	<.001	0.657	0.905
Gender		-0.24	.058	-0.494	0.008
Physical aggression	.33	0.09	.062	-0.005	0.185
Gender x Physical		0.08	.349	-0.095	0.267
Covariate: True Crime		0.827	<.001	0.705	0.949
Gender		0.22	.594	-0.580	1.012
Verbal aggression	.33	0.07	.074	-0.007	0.142
Gender x Verbal		-0.08	.265	-0.209	0.058
Covariate: True Crime		0.83	<.001	0.709	0.953
Gender		-0.14	.698	-0.830	0.556
Hostility	.36	0.15	<.001	0.074	0.216
Gender x Hostility		-0.02	.795	-0.149	0.114
Covariate: True Crime		0.76	<.001	0.654	0.899
Gender		-0.14	.718	-0.872	0.601
Anger	.34	0.08	.033	0.006	0.135
Gender x Anger		-0.01	.882	-0.135	0.116
Covariate: True Crime		0.81	<.001	0.691	0.937

Table D. Moderation results for demographics

Models	R <sup>2</sup>	B	P	LLCI	ULCI	Simple Slopes
<b>Total true crime consumption</b>						
Gender		-0.61	<.001	-0.821	-0.396	
Mental health	.08	<0.01	.974	-0.243	0.251	
Gender x mental health		0.59	.059	-0.021	1.195	Women: B = -0.14, p = .331 Men: B = 0.45, p = 1.03
Gender education	.08	-0.57	<.001	-0.781	-0.353	
Gender x education		0.08	.122	-0.022	0.187	
		0.17	.207	-0.096	0.441	

Gender		-0.62	<.001	-0.821	-0.409	
income	.13	0.15	<.001	0.086	0.205	
Gender x income		0.17	<b>.027</b>	0.020	0.319	Women: $B = 0.11, p = .001$ Men: $B = 0.28, p <.001$
Gender		-0.59	<.001	-.805	-0.377	
Living area	.08	0.17	.157	-0.067	0.415	
Gender x Living area		-0.15	.646	-0.765	0.475	
Gender		-0.58	<.001	-0.795	-0.370	
relationship	.08	0.14	.129	-0.042	0.330	
Gender x relationship		0.13	.561	-0.302	0.557	
<b>Book Consumption</b>						
Gender		-0.61	<.001	-0.864	-0.340	
Mental health	.05	0.07	.643	-0.233	0.377	
Gender x mental health		-0.08	.843	-0.826	0.675	
Gender		-0.55	<.001	-0.815	-0.290	
Education	.06	0.06	.343	-0.066	0.190	
Gender x education		0.41	<b>.015</b>	0.080	0.737	Women: $B = -0.04, p = .612$ Men: $B = 0.37, p = .014$
Gender		-0.61	<.001	-0.872	-0.355	
Income	.07	0.11	.004	0.036	0.183	
Gender x income		0.14	.146	-0.049	0.327	
Gender		-0.60	<.001	-0.859	-0.335	
Living area	.06	0.30	.049	0.001	0.591	
Gender x Living area		-0.48	.218	-1.235	0.282	
Gender		-0.58	<.001	-0.845	-0.321	
Relationship	.05	0.10	.386	-0.128	0.330	
Gender x relationship		0.27	.310	-0.255	0.802	
<b>Podcast Consumption</b>						
Gender		-1.32	<.001	-1.752	-0.890	
Mental health	.09	0.08	.759	-0.423	0.580	
Gender x mental health		0.83	.186	-0.402	2.067	
Gender		-1.27	<.001	-1.170	-0.833	
Education	.09	0.23	.035	0.016	0.439	
Gender x education		-0.04	.882	-0.583	0.501	
Gender		-1.31	<.001	-1.736	-0.877	
Income	.09	0.10	.117	-0.025	0.220	
Gender x income		-0.09	.569	-0.402	0.221	
Gender		-1.33	<.001	-1.760	-0.891	
Living area	.08	-0.22	.385	-0.707	0.273	
Gender x Living area		-0.22	.737	-1.474	1.043	
Gender		-1.28	<.001	-1.716	-0.851	
Relationship	.08	0.02	.910	-0.356	0.399	
Gender x relationship		0.47	.294	-0.405	1.338	
<b>TV Consumption</b>						
Gender		-0.76	<.001	-1.100	-0.431	

Mental health	.05	-0.10	.621	-0.484	0.289	
Gender x mental health		0.81	.095	-0.142	1.761	Women: $B = -0.29, p = .186$ Men: $B = 0.52, p = .230$
Gender		-0.76	<.001	-1.09	-0.421	
Education	.05	-0.04	.601	-0.208	0.121	
Gender x education		0.01	.950	-0.408	0.435	
Gender		-0.77	<.001	-1.099	-0.447	
Income	.09	0.18	<.001	0.090	0.276	
Gender x income		0.22	.067	-0.060	0.477	Women: $B = 0.13, p = .013$ , Men: $B = 0.35, p = .001$
Gender		-0.74	<.001	1.072	-0.406	
Living area	.06	0.41	.033	0.033	0.785	
Gender x Living area		-0.45	.358	-1.417	0.514	
Gender		-0.712	<.001	-1.050	-0.385	
Relationship	.06	0.25	.093	-0.042	0.539	
Gender x relationship		0.42	.218	-0.249	1.091	
<b>Movie Consumption</b>						
Gender		-0.51	.001	-0.827	-0.201	
Mental health	.03	-0.15	.411	-0.517	0.212	
Gender x mental health		0.60	.188	-0.295	1.499	
Gender		-0.51	.002	-0.824	-0.190	
Education	.03	-0.02	.853	-0.170	0.140	
Gender x education		0.05	.817	-0.350	0.444	
Gender		-0.52	.001	-0.832	-0.212	
income	.05	0.14	.002	0.056	0.232	
Gender x income		0.08	.473	-0.143	0.307	
Gender		-0.50	.002	-0.815	-0.186	
Living area	.04	0.35	.054	-0.005	0.704	
Gender x Living area		-0.45	.330	-1.362	0.459	
Gender		-0.49	.002	-0.803	-0.175	
relationship	.03	0.19	.166	-0.081	0.468	
Gender x relationship		0.15	.652	-0.488	0.779	
<b>News Consumption</b>						
Gender		-0.42	.002	-0.679	-0.156	
Mental health	.03	0.03	.832	-0.272	0.338	
Gender x mental health		0.63	.100	-0.119	1.392	
Gender		-0.37	.007	-0.627	-0.100	
Education	.03	0.11	.103	-0.022	0.236	
Gender x education		0.24	.157	-0.092	0.569	
Gender		-0.43	.001	-0.680	-0.171	
Income	.08	0.16	<.001	0.086	0.232	
Gender x income		0.25	<b>.008</b>	0.066	0.436	Women: $B = 0.10, p = .015$ , Men: $B = 0.35, p < .001$
Gender		-0.39	.004	-0.655	-0.127	
Living area	.03	0.14	.362	-0.160	0.437	
Gender x Living area		0.11	.780	-0.657	0.874	

Gender		-0.40	.003	-0.659	-0.134
Relationship	0.03	0.15	.209	-0.083	0.377
Gender x relationship		-0.07	.790	-0.602	0.458

<b>Defensive Vigilance Motivation</b>					
Gender		-0.51	.001	-0.801	-0.223
Mental health	0.43	0.07	.654	-0.250	0.398
Gender x mental health		0.16	.698	-0.643	0.960
Covariate: True Crime		1.00	<.001	0.870	1.128
Gender		-0.52	.001	-0.806	-0.225
Education	.43	-0.02	.579	-0.159	0.116
Gender x education		-0.08	.640	-0.437	0.269
Covariate: True Crime		1.00	<.001	0.876	1.133
Gender		-0.50	.001	-0.793	-0.215
Income	.43	-0.03	.534	-0.107	0.056
Gender x income		0.10	.360	-0.108	0.297
Covariate: True Crime		1.01	<.001	0.874	1.139
Gender		-0.49	.001	-0.785	-0.206
Living area	.43	-0.17	.307	-0.481	0.152
Gender x Living area		0.47	.249	-0.334	1.286
Covariate: True Crime		1.01	<.001	0.881	1.137
Gender		-0.50	.001	-0.785	-0.208
Relationship	0.43	0.07	.597	-0.179	0.310
Gender x relationship		0.17	.546	-0.388	0.737
Covariate: True Crime		1.00	<.001	0.869	1.126
<b>Excitement Motivation</b>					
Gender		0.33	.025	0.041	0.617
Mental health	.40	-0.32	.049	-0.647	-0.001
Gender x mental health		0.43	.297	-0.374	1.222
Covariate: True Crime		1.03	<.001	0.907	1.164
Gender		0.31	.040	0.014	0.595
Education	.40	-0.08	.263	-0.216	0.059
Gender x education		-0.17	.339	-0.525	0.181
Covariate: True Crime		1.05	<.001	0.922	1.180
Gender		0.33	.028	0.035	0.615
Income	.40	-0.01	.914	-0.086	0.077
Gender x income		0.09	.393	-0.115	0.292
Covariate: True Crime		1.04	<.001	0.907	1.173
Gender		0.33	.028	0.036	0.618
Living area	0.40	-0.17	.289	-0.489	0.150
Gender x Living area		0.16	.705	-0.657	0.970
Covariate: True Crime		1.05	<.001	0.920	1.178
Gender		0.33	.026	0.040	0.619
Relationship	0.39	0.06	.625	-0.184	0.306
Gender x relationship		-0.09	.757	-0.653	0.476

Covariate: True Crime		1.05	<.001	0.912	1.170
<b>Authenticity</b>					
<b>Motivation</b>					
Gender		-0.12	.469	-0.453	0.209
Mental health	.35	0.03	.895	-0.346	0.396
Gender x mental health		-0.27	.557	-1.191	0.642
Covariate: True Crime		1.04	<.001	0.894	1.189
Gender		-0.15	.377	-0.481	0.182
Education	.35	-0.07	.366	-0.230	0.085
Gender x education		-0.13	.512	-0.538	0.268
Covariate: True Crime		1.05	<.001	0.897	1.192
Gender		-0.13	.436	-0.462	0.200
Income	.35	-0.02	.623	-0.116	0.070
Gender x income		0.14	.238	-0.093	0.371
Covariate: True Crime		1.04	<.001	0.888	1.190
Gender		-0.14	.413	-0.469	0.193
Living area	.36	-0.33	.073	-0.692	0.031
Gender x Living area		0.186	.694	-0.740	1.111
Covariate: True Crime		1.05	<.001	0.902	1.195
Gender		-0.13	.441	-0.459	0.200
Relationship	0.35	0.16	.273	-0.123	0.435
Gender x relationship		-0.25	.437	-0.897	0.388
Covariate: True Crime		1.03	<.001	0.886	1.180
<b>Emotion regulation motivation</b>					
Gender		-0.10	.529	-0.408	0.210
Mental health	.29	-0.47	.009	-0.812	-0.120
Gender x mental health		-0.17	.694	-1.027	0.684
Covariate: True Crime		0.82	<.001	0.680	0.956
Gender		-0.15	.359	-0.458	0.166
Education	.28	-0.08	.282	-0.229	0.067
Gender x education		-0.19	.332	-0.566	0.192
Covariate: True Crime		0.825	<.001	0.687	0.964
Gender		-0.13	.448	-0.432	0.191
Income	.28	<-0.01	.959	-0.090	0.086
Gender x income		0.03	.800	-0.190	0.247
Covariate: True Crime		0.82	<.001	0.673	0.959
Gender		-0.10	.526	-0.413	0.211
Living area	.28	<-0.01	.980	-0.345	0.336
Gender x Living area		0.481	.279	-0.392	1.355
Covariate: True Crime		0.82	<.001	0.681	0.958
Gender		-0.11	.473	-0.424	0.197
Relationship	0.28	-0.01	.920	-0.277	0.250
Gender x relationship		0.20	.526	-0.410	0.802
Covariate: True Crime		0.82	<.001	0.677	0.954

Table E. Moderation results for safety perceptions and resilience

Models	R <sup>2</sup>	B	P	LLCI	ULCI	Simple Slopes
<b>Total true crime consumption</b>						
Gender	.10	-0.46	<.001	-0.685	-0.230	
Victimization		0.03	<.001	0.012	0.043	
Gender x victimization		0.03	.151	-0.010	0.067	
Gender		-0.47	<.001	-0.705	-0.225	
Safety	.09	0.02	.026	0.003	0.040	
Gender x Safety		0.03	.216	-0.017	0.076	
Gender		0.07	<.001	0.051	0.094	
Preparedness	.17	-0.54	<.001	-0.745	-0.338	
Gender x Preparedness		<0.01	.897	-0.055	0.048	
Gender		-0.59	<.001	-0.806	-0.372	
Resilience	.07	<0.01	.948	-0.020	0.018	
Gender x Resilience		-0.02	.660	-0.058	0.037	
<b>Book Consumption</b>						
Gender		-0.56	<.001	-0.847	-0.279	
Victimization	.05	<0.01	.883	-0.018	0.021	
Gender x victimization		0.02	.440	-0.030	0.067	
Gender		-0.63	<.001	-0.926	-0.333	
Safety	.05	-0.01	.565	-0.030	0.017	
Gender x Safety		<0.01	.912	-0.060	0.054	
Gender		-0.57	<.001	-0.826	-0.307	
Preparedness	.08	0.05	<.001	0.024	0.078	
Gender x Preparedness		-0.02	.661	-0.080	0.051	
Gender		-0.62	<.001	-0.884	-0.350	
Resilience	.05	<0.01	.976	-0.023	0.024	
Gender x Resilience		0.03	.447	-0.036	0.081	
<b>Podcast Consumption</b>						
Gender		-1.26	<.001	-1.731	-0.794	
Victimization	.08	<0.01	.717	-0.026	0.038	
Gender x victimization		0.01	.764	-0.068	0.092	
Gender		-1.27	<.001	-1.758	-0.781	
Safety	.09	-0.02	.262	-0.060	0.016	
Gender x Safety		0.06	.210	-0.034	0.154	
Gender		-1.21	<.001	-1.643	0.786	
Preparedness	.11	0.07	.001	0.029	0.118	
Gender x Preparedness		0.07	.193	-0.036	0.179	
Gender		-1.36	<.001	-1.797	-0.920	
Resilience	.09	0.02	.260	-0.016	0.060	
Gender x Resilience		0.04	.450	-0.059	0.132	
<b>TV Consumption</b>						
Gender		-0.64	<.001	-0.996	-0.277	

Victimization	.06	0.02	.049	0.001	0.049
Gender x victimization		0.02	.539	-0.042	0.081
Gender		-0.57	.003	-0.948	-0.196
Safety	.06	0.04	.016	0.007	0.066
Gender x Safety		0.03	.495	-0.047	0.098
Gender		-0.67	<.001	-0.989	-0.340
Preparedness	.11	0.09	<.001	0.058	0.126
Gender x Preparedness		0.03	.469	-0.052	0.112
Gender		-0.78	<.001	-1.117	-0.438
Resilience	.05	<0.01	.892	-0.028	0.032
Gender x Resilience		0.04	.370	-0.040	0.108

#### Movie Consumption

Gender		-0.40	.020	-0.741	-0.063
Victimization	.04	0.03	.032	0.002	0.048
Gender x victimization		0.01	.651	-0.045	0.071
Gender		-0.38	.037	-0.732	-0.024
Safety	.04	0.03	.020	0.005	0.061
Gender x Safety		0.01	.872	-0.062	0.074
Gender		-0.42	.007	-0.728	-0.118
Preparedness	.09	0.09	<.001	0.056	0.120
Gender x Preparedness		0.04	.373	-0.042	0.112
Gender		-0.55	<.001	-0.873	-0.234
Resilience	.03	0.01	.353	-0.015	0.041
Gender x Resilience		0.04	.282	-0.031	0.108

#### News Consumption

Gender		-0.20	.161	-0.477	0.080
Victimization	.07	0.04	<.001	0.022	0.059
Gender x victimization		0.04	.091	-0.007	0.088
Gender		-0.22	.149	-0.512	0.078
Safety	.04	0.03	.006	0.010	0.056
Gender x Safety		0.04	.209	-0.020	0.093
Gender		-0.37	.005	-0.621	-0.109
Preparedness	.09	0.07	<.001	0.042	0.095
Gender x Preparedness		-0.04	.258	-0.102	0.027
Gender		-0.35	.001	-0.618	-0.086
Resilience	.03	-0.01	.368	-0.034	0.013
Gender x Resilience		-0.05	.068	-0.112	0.004

Women:  $B = 0.03, p = .004$ ,  
Men:  $B = 0.07, p = .001$

Women:  $B = <0.01, p = .863$ ,  
Men:  $B = -0.05, p = .051$

#### Defensive Vigilance Motivation

Gender		-0.25	.086	-0.539	0.035
Victimization	.50	0.08	<.001	0.057	0.096
Gender x victimization		0.03	.248	-0.020	0.077
Covariate: True Crime		0.92	<.001	0.797	1.040

Gender		-0.25	.119	-0.553	0.063
Safety	.48	0.07	<.001	0.050	0.098
Gender x Safety		0.01	.752	-0.049	0.068
Covariate: True Crime		0.96	<.001	0.836	1.083
Gender		-0.49	<.001	-0.767	-0.214
Preparedness	.48	0.09	<.001	0.064	0.122
Gender x Preparedness		0.04	.234	-0.027	0.108
Covariate: True Crime		0.87	<.001	0.744	1.002
Gender		-0.48	.001	-0.773	-0.190
Resilience	.43	-0.03	.027	-0.053	-0.003
Gender x Resilience		0.02	.519	-0.041	0.082
Covariate: True Crime		1.00	<.001	0.875	1.130

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### Excitement Motivation

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Gender		0.40	.012	0.088	0.705
Victimization	.40	0.01	.503	-0.014	0.028
Gender x victimization		0.03	.273	-0.023	0.081
Covariate: True Crime		1.03	<.001	0.901	1.162
Gender		0.42	.011	0.096	0.740
Safety	.40	0.01	.663	-0.019	0.031
Gender x Safety		0.04	.217	-0.023	0.100
Covariate: True Crime		1.04	<.001	0.906	1.165
Gender		0.35	.016	0.067	0.640
Preparedness	.41	0.05	.003	0.017	0.076
Gender x Preparedness		0.06	.107	-0.013	0.127
Covariate: True Crime		0.979	<.001	0.845	1.113
Gender		0.29	.053	-0.004	0.583
Resilience	.40	<.001	.788	-0.021	0.028
Gender x Resilience		0.05	.094	-0.009	0.114
Covariate: True Crime		1.05	<.001	0.917	1.173

Women:  $B = -0.01, p = .510$ ,  
Men:  $B = 0.04, p = .123$

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### Authenticity Motivation

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Gender		-0.02	.939	-0.364	0.337
Victimization	.36	0.02	.166	-0.007	0.403
Gender x victimization		0.04	.161	-0.017	0.101
Covariate: True Crime		1.02	<.001	0.866	1.163
Gender		-0.02	.925	-0.385	0.349
Safety	.35	0.02	.147	-0.007	0.050
Gender x Safety		0.03	.520	-0.047	0.092
Covariate: True Crime		1.02	<.001	0.876	1.171
Gender		-0.09	.608	-0.413	0.241
Preparedness	.37	0.04	.033	0.003	0.073
Gender x Preparedness		0.10	<b>.014</b>	0.021	0.180
Covariate: True Crime		0.99	<.001	0.835	1.141
Gender		-0.16	.363	-0.491	0.180

Women:  $B = 0.01, p = .486$ ,  
Men:  $B = 0.11, p = .002$

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Resilience	.35	<.001	.830	-0.025	0.031
Gender x Resilience		0.04	.351	-0.037	0.104
Covariate: True Crime		1.04	<.001	0.892	1.186
<b>Emotion regulation motivation</b>					
Gender		0.15	.336	-0.160	0.468
Victimization	.35	0.07	<.001	0.051	0.093
Gender x victimization		0.05	.078	-0.005	1.00
Covariate: True Crime		0.74	<.001	0.603	0.869
Gender		0.17	.332	-0.170	0.502
Safety	.32	0.07	<.001	0.040	0.092
Gender x Safety		0.04	.247	-0.026	0.101
Covariate: True Crime		0.78	<.001	0.641	0.911
Gender		-0.11	.453	-0.407	0.182
Preparedness	.35	0.11	<.001	0.079	0.142
Gender x Preparedness		0.02	.507	-0.048	0.096
Covariate: True Crime		0.66	<.001	0.525	0.800
Gender		-0.07	.676	-0.375	0.243
Resilience	.31	-0.06	<.001	-0.081	-0.029
Gender x Resilience		0.03	.372	-0.035	0.095
Covariate: True Crime		0.82	<.001	0.683	0.953

Table F. Moderation results for Big-5 personality

Models	R <sup>2</sup>	B	P	LLCI	ULCI	Simple Slopes
<b>Total true crime consumption</b>						
Gender		-0.58	<.001	-0.805	-0.350	
Neuroticism	.07	0.01	.795	-0.048	0.062	
Gender x Neuroticism		0.02	.778	-0.101	0.134	
Gender		-0.61	<.001	-0.813	-0.388	
Extraversion	.08	-0.02	.393	-0.076	0.030	
Gender x Extraversion		-0.03	.561	-0.138	0.075	
Gender		-0.61	<.001	-0.860	-0.363	
Openness	.08	0.04	.139	-0.013	0.094	
Gender x Openness		-0.03	.686	-0.154	0.101	
Gender		-0.63	<.001	-0.875	-0.384	
Agreeableness	.10	-0.08	.016	-0.143	-0.015	
Gender x Agreeableness		0.08	.361	-0.086	0.237	
Gender		-0.63	<.001	-0.880	-0.375	
Conscientiousness	.08	-0.02	.478	-0.082	0.038	
Gender x Conscientiousness		0.02	.817	-0.130	0.165	
<b>Book Consumption</b>						
Gender		-0.67	<.001	-0.953	-0.394	

Neuroticism	.05	-0.02	.580	-0.086	0.048
Gender x Neuroticism		-0.07	.350	-0.214	0.075
Gender		-0.60	<.001	-0.863	-0.340
Extraversion	.05	0.01	.676	-0.051	0.079
Gender x Extraversion		-0.04	.574	-0.169	0.094
Gender		-0.65	<.001	-0.960	-0.339
Openness	.07	0.07	.037	0.004	0.138
Gender x Openness		-0.07	.386	-0.230	0.089
Gender		-0.68	<.001	-0.982	-0.368
Agreeableness	.08	-0.11	.005	-0.193	-0.034
Gender x Agreeableness		0.11	.327	-0.101	0.302
Gender		-0.63	<.001	-0.940	-0.310
Conscientiousness	.07	0.07	.075	-0.007	0.143
Gender x Conscientiousness		0.01	.953	-0.179	0.190

#### Podcast Consumption

Gender		-1.25	<.001	-1.710	-0.789
Neuroticism	.09	0.07	.252	-0.046	0.176
Gender x Neuroticism		-0.02	.894	-0.254	0.222
Gender		-1.31	<.001	-1.736	-0.879
Extraversion	.09	-0.11	.035	-0.220	-0.008
Gender x Extraversion		0.05	.635	-0.163	0.267
Gender		-1.23	<.001	-1.744	-0.712
Openness	.07	<0.01	.967	-0.114	0.109
Gender x Openness		0.10	.481	-0.170	0.360
Gender		-1.30	<.001	-1.808	-0.786
Agreeableness	.08	-0.08	.244	-0.211	0.054
Gender x Agreeableness		-0.25	.144	-0.586	0.086
Gender		-1.31	<.001	-1.827	-0.785
Conscientiousness	.08	-0.10	.110	-0.225	0.023
Gender x Conscientiousness		-0.02	.907	-0.322	0.286

#### TV Consumption

Gender		-0.78	<.001	-1.132	-0.421
Neuroticism	.05	0.02	.699	-0.070	0.103
Gender x Neuroticism		-0.06	.556	-0.239	0.129
Gender		-0.753	<.001	-1.084	-0.421
Extraversion	.05	0.06	.139	-0.020	0.144
Gender x Extraversion		-0.11	.182	-0.280	0.053
Gender		-0.69	.001	-1.08	-0.294
Openness	.04	0.04	.339	-0.044	0.127
Gender x Openness		<.001	.997	-0.203	0.202
Gender		-0.73	<.001	-1.123	-0.346
Agreeableness	.06	-0.13	.014	-0.227	-0.026
Gender x Agreeableness		-0.02	.896	-0.272	0.238

Gender		-0.73	<.001	-1.126	-0.329
Conscientiousness	.04	-0.04	.358	-0.139	0.051
Gender x Conscientiousness		<0.01	.989	-0.234	0.231

#### Movie Consumption

Gender		-0.61	<.001	-0.945	-0.276
Neuroticism	.03	-0.02	.716	-0.096	0.066
Gender x Neuroticism		-0.11	.202	-0.285	0.060
Gender		-0.51	.002	-0.821	-0.195
Extraversion	.03	0.05	.217	-0.029	0.127
Gender x Extraversion		-0.06	.475	-0.214	0.100
Gender		-0.46	.012	-0.824	-0.102
Openness	.03	0.05	.258	-0.033	0.123
Gender x Openness		0.02	.846	-0.167	0.204
Gender		-0.50	.007	-0.854	-0.139
Agreeableness	.04	-0.09	.051	-0.186	<0.001
Gender x Agreeableness		0.07	.551	-0.164	0.307
Gender		-0.49	.009	-0.860	-0.127
Conscientiousness	.02	-0.02	.665	-0.107	0.068
Gender x Conscientiousness		<0.01	.977	-0.211	0.217

#### News Consumption

Gender		-0.33	.022	-0.607	-0.047
Neuroticism	.03	<0.01	.940	-0.065	0.070
Gender x Neuroticism		0.10	.188	-0.047	0.242
Gender		-0.41	.002	-0.669	-0.148
Extraversion	.03	-0.05	.142	-0.113	0.016
Gender x Extraversion		-0.02	.718	-0.155	0.107
Gender		-0.47	.003	-0.767	-0.164
Openness	.04	0.04	.204	-0.023	0.107
Gender x Openness		-0.06	.422	-0.218	0.092
Gender		-0.46	.003	-0.757	-0.160
Agreeableness	.05	-0.06	.167	-0.132	0.023
Gender x Agreeableness		0.18	.082	-0.022	0.370
Gender		-0.47	.003	-0.773	-0.161
Conscientiousness	.03	-0.02	.602	-0.092	0.054
Gender x Conscientiousness		0.04	.680	-0.141	0.216

Women:  $B = -0.09, p = .035$ ,  
Men:  $B = 0.08, p = .365$

#### Defensive Vigilance

##### Motivation

Gender		-0.48	.002	-0.785	-0.174
Neuroticism	.43	0.05	.161	-0.020	0.123
Gender x Neuroticism		-0.03	.769	-0.186	0.121
Covariate: True Crime		1.00	<.001	0.872	1.128
Gender		-0.52	.001	-0.803	-0.229
Extraversion	.43	-0.01	.791	-0.078	0.059

Gender x Extraversion		-0.11	.123	-0.248	0.030
Covariate: True Crime		0.99	<.001	0.865	1.122
Gender		-0.51	.001	-0.797	-0.218
Openness	.43	0.05	.162	-0.021	0.122
Gender x Openness		-0.06	.412	-0.199	0.082
Covariate: True Crime		0.99	<.001	0.865	1.122
Gender		-0.53	<.001	-0.820	-0.243
Agreeableness	.43	0.02	.631	-0.063	0.103
Gender x Agreeableness		-0.187	.044	-0.368	-0.005
					Women: $B = 0.02, p = .631$ Men: $B = -0.17, p = .046$
Covariate: True Crime		-0.01	.003	<0.001	0.004
Gender		-0.51	.001	-0.802	-0.211
Conscientiousness	.43	0.04	.299	-0.039	0.126
Gender x Conscientiousness		-0.06	.472	-0.235	0.109
Covariate: True Crime		1.00	<.001	0.875	1.132
<b>Excitement</b>					
<b>Motivation</b>					
Gender		0.30	.057	-0.009	0.606
Neuroticism	.39	<0.01	.922	-0.068	0.076
Gender x Neuroticism		-0.05	.563	-0.199	0.109
Covariate: True Crime		1.04	<.001	0.915	1.172
Gender		0.32	.029	0.033	0.608
Extraversion	.40	0.02	.564	-0.047	0.089
Gender x Extraversion		-0.15	.037	-0.288	-0.009
					Women: $B = 0.02, p = 0.564$ Men: $B = -0.13, p = .038$
Covariate: True Crime		1.04	<.001	0.908	1.165
Gender		0.34	.022	0.050	0.630
Openness	.40	0.05	.146	-0.019	0.127
Gender x Openness		-0.02	.814	-0.156	0.126
Covariate: True Crime		1.03	<.001	0.905	1.162
Gender		0.29	.050	<0.001	0.577
Agreeableness	.40	-0.07	.113	-0.150	0.016
Gender x Agreeableness		-0.11	.257	-0.286	0.077
Covariate: True Crime		1.01	<.001	0.883	1.142
Gender		0.27	.068	-0.020	0.564
Conscientiousness	.41	-0.14	.001	-0.224	-0.062
Gender x Conscientiousness		0.06	.457	-0.106	0.234
Covariate: True Crime		1.05	<.001	0.914	1.168
<b>Authenticity</b>					
<b>Motivation</b>					
Gender		-0.15	.392	-0.503	0.198
Neuroticism	.35	<0.01	.953	-0.080	0.085
Gender x Neuroticism		-0.04	.695	-0.211	0.161
Covariate: True Crime		1.04	<.001	0.891	1.185
Gender		0.30	.057	-0.009	0.606
Extraversion	.39	<0.01	.922	-0.068	0.076

Gender x Extraversion		-0.05	.563	-0.199	0.109	
Covariate: True Crime		1.04	<.001	0.915	1.172	
Gender		-0.14	.422	-0.467	0.196	
Openness	.35	<0.01	.977	-0.081	0.083	
Gender x Openness		-0.03	.749	-0.187	0.135	
Covariate: True Crime		1.04	<.001	0.890	1.185	
Gender		-0.16	.328	-0.494	0.166	
Agreeableness	.36	<-0.01	.929	-0.099	0.091	
Gender x Agreeableness		-0.19	.069	-0.400	0.015	Women: $B < 0.01, p = .930$ Men: $B = -0.20, p = .038$
Covariate: True Crime		1.02	<.001	0.869	1.167	
Gender		-0.13	.473	-0.462	0.214	
Conscientiousness	.45	-0.04	.479	-0.128	0.060	
Gender x Conscientiousness		0.06	.464	-0.139	0.254	
Covariate: True Crime		1.04	<.001	0.889	1.182	
<b>Emotion regulation motivation</b>						
Gender		<0.01	.986	-0.324	0.329	
Neuroticism	.29	0.09	.027	0.010	0.163	
Gender x Neuroticism		0.05	.559	-0.115	0.212	
Covariate: True Crime		0.812	<.001	0.675	0.949	
Gender		-0.13	.418	-0.437	0.182	
Extraversion	0.28	-0.03	.486	-0.10	0.048	
Gender x Extraversion		-0.06	.460	-0.206	0.094	
Covariate: True Crime		0.81	<.001	0.671	0.948	
Gender		-0.11	.471	-0.424	0.196	
Openness	.29	0.09	.023	0.012	0.166	
Gender x Openness		-0.07	.376	-0.219	0.083	
Covariate: True Crime		0.80	<.001	0.664	0.940	
Gender		-0.14	.366	-0.455	0.168	
Agreeableness	.28	-0.02	.708	-0.107	0.073	
Gender x Agreeableness		-0.10	.301	-0.299	0.093	
Covariate: True Crime		0.80	<.001	0.662	0.942	
Gender		-0.15	.358	-0.467	0.169	
Conscientiousness	.28	0.03	.583	-0.064	0.113	
Gender x Conscientiousness		-0.11	.280	-0.287	0.083	
Covariate: True Crime		0.82	<.001	0.892	0.958	

Table G. Moderation results for the dark triad

Models	R <sup>2</sup>	B	P	LLCI	ULCI	Simple Slopes
<b>Total true crime consumption</b>						
Gender		-0.63	<.001	-0.884	0.700	
Narcissism	.08	0.10	.434	-0.151	0.351	
Gender x Narcissism		0.15	.588	-0.397	0.700	

Multilevel Model Results					
		Beta	p-value	95% CI Lower	95% CI Upper
Gender		-0.69	<.001	-0.913	-0.424
Machiavellianism	.12	0.31	<.001	0.158	0.468
Gender x Machiavellianism		-0.07	.709	-0.420	0.286
Gender		-0.66	<.001	-0.910	-0.405
Psychopathy	.09	0.27	.023	0.038	0.503
Gender x Psychopathy		-0.09	.756	-0.633	0.462
<b>Book Consumption</b>					
Gender		-0.68	<.001	-0.988	-0.365
Narcissism	.06	0.05	.761	-0.266	0.364
Gender x Narcissism		0.252	.472	-0.437	0.940
Gender		-0.67	<.001	-0.978	-0.354
Machiavellianism	.07	0.18	.073	-0.017	0.379
Gender x Machiavellianism		-0.28	.218	-0.733	0.168
Gender		-0.64	<.001	-0.958	-0.321
Psychopathy	.25	0.10	.506	-0.194	0.393
Gender x Psychopathy		-0.42	.231	-1.110	0.269
<b>Podcast Consumption</b>					
Gender		-1.23	<.001	-1.736	-0.709
Narcissism	.07	-0.25	.336	-0.774	0.265
Gender x Narcissism		-0.15	.801	-1.280	0.989
Gender		-1.30	<.001	-1.811	-0.778
Machiavellianism	.07	0.24	.156	-0.092	0.563
Gender x Machiavellianism		0.06	.869	-0.683	0.808
Gender		-1.34	<.001	-1.962	-0.812
Psychopathy	.08	0.21	.405	-0.279	0.689
Gender x Psychopathy		0.61	.296	-0.532	1.742
<b>TV Consumption</b>					
Gender		-0.76	<.001	-1.148	-0.370
Narcissism	.06	0.38	.059	-0.015	0.771
Gender x Narcissism		0.60	.166	-0.252	1.465
Gender		-0.78	<.001	-1.168	-0.391
Machiavellianism	.07	0.42	.001	0.172	0.665
Gender x Machiavellianism		0.04	.885	-0.520	0.603
Gender		-0.78	<.001	-1.176	-0.380
Psychopathy	.06	0.49	.009	0.127	0.859
Gender x Psychopathy		-0.07	.878	-0.929	0.794
<b>Movie Consumption</b>					
Gender		-0.54	.003	-0.899	-0.188
Narcissism	.05	0.42	.025	0.051	0.770
Gender x Narcissism		0.63	.114	-0.153	1.418
Gender		-0.56	.002	-0.910	-0.200
Machiavellianism	.07	0.46	<.001	0.232	0.681

<b>News Consumption</b>					
Gender		-0.47	.002	-0.772	-0.170
Narcissism	.04	0.05	.725	-0.250	0.359
Gender x Narcissism		-0.04	.921	-0.699	0.632
Gender		-0.51	.001	-0.812	-0.215
Machiavellianism	.06	0.30	.002	0.114	0.493
Gender x Machiavellianism		0.07	.754	-0.500	0.362
Gender		-0.49	.002	-0.800	-0.185
Psychopathy	.04	0.24	.098	-0.044	0.522
Gender x Psychopathy		-0.16	.646	-0.820	0.510
<b>Defensive Vigilance Motivation</b>					
Gender		-0.40	.023	-0.739	-0.054
Narcissism	.44	0.49	.004	0.155	0.821
Gender x Narcissism		-0.38	.308	-1.104	0.350
Covariate: True Crime		1.04	<.001	0.894	1.193
Gender		-0.47	.008	-0.821	-0.127
Machiavellianism	.44	0.21	.060	-0.009	0.422
Gender x Machiavellianism		0.50	<b>.041</b>	0.022	0.979
					Women: $B = 0.10, p = .439$ Men: $B = 0.60, p = .005$
Covariate: True Crime		1.02	<.001	0.866	1.173
Gender		-0.52	.004	-0.866	-0.167
Psychopathy	.45	0.41	.010	0.101	0.724
Gender x Psychopathy		0.70	.060	-0.029	1.425
					Women: $B = 0.26, p = .152$ Men: $B = 0.96, p = .003$
Covariate: True Crime		1.03	<.001	0.876	1.178
<b>Excitement Motivation</b>					
Gender		0.34	.047	0.005	0.681
Narcissism	.43	0.59	.001	0.262	0.920
Gender x Narcissism		-0.21	.567	-0.927	0.509
Covariate: True Crime		1.08	<.001	0.935	1.230
Gender		0.31	.081	-0.038	0.654
Machiavellianism	.41	0.27	.015	0.052	0.482
Gender x Machiavellianism		0.07	.777	-0.409	0.546
Covariate: True Crime		1.05	<.001	0.899	1.205
Gender		0.28	.119	-0.071	0.625
Psychopathy	.43	0.50	.002	0.193	0.813
Gender x Psychopathy		0.10	.796	-0.628	0.818
Covariate: True Crime		1.06	<.001	0.914	1.212

<b>Authenticity</b>					
<b>Motivation</b>					
Gender		-0.05	.787	-0.446	0.338
Narcissism	.38	0.59	.003	0.204	0.966
Gender x Narcissism		-0.46	.275	-1.295	0.370
Covariate: True Crime		1.10	<.001	0.927	1.270
Gender		-0.09	.248	-0.228	0.880
Machiavellianism	.37	0.14	.267	-0.109	0.391
Gender x Machiavellianism		0.33	.248	-0.228	0.880
Covariate: True Crime		1.09	<.001	0.908	1.263
Gender		-0.12	.570	-0.523	0.289
Psychopathy	.39	0.30	.105	-0.063	0.661
Gender x Psychopathy		0.38	.379	-0.466	1.221
Covariate: True Crime		1.09	<.001	0.916	1.264
<b>Emotion regulation motivation</b>					
Gender		-0.08	.662	-0.424	0.270
Narcissism	.36	0.73	<.001	0.397	1.071
Gender x Narcissism		-0.45	.228	-1.188	0.285
Covariate: True Crime		0.89	<.001	0.742	1.046
Gender		-0.15	.400	-0.508	0.203
Machiavellianism	.34	0.30	.008	0.079	0.521
Gender x Machiavellianism		0.41	.103	-0.083	0.900
Covariate: True Crime		0.86	<.001	0.702	1.017
Gender		-0.18	.324	-0.541	0.179
Psychopathy	.35	0.47	.004	0.149	0.790
Gender x Psychopathy		0.60	.118	-0.152	1.344
Covariate: True Crime		0.879	<.001	0.727	1.034

Table H. Moderation results for habitual emotion regulation

Models	R <sup>2</sup>	B	P	LLCI	ULCI	Simple Slopes
<b>Total true crime consumption</b>						
Gender		-0.62	<.001	-0.869	-0.374	
Self-Blame	.08	0.07	.191	-0.036	0.180	
Gender x Self-Blame		-0.13	.329	-0.380	0.128	
Gender		-0.61	<.001	-0.857	-0.366	
Acceptance	.10	-0.12	.023	-0.222	-0.017	
Gender x Acceptance		0.01	.916	-0.239	0.266	
Gender		-0.63	<.001	-0.875	-0.377	
Rumination	.07	-0.04	.496	-0.154	0.075	
Gender x Rumination		0.02	.896	-0.262	0.300	
Gender		-0.56	<.001	-0.809	-0.301	
Positive Refocusing	.09	0.08	.135	-0.025	0.184	
Gender x Refocusing		0.20	.142	-0.068	0.472	

Gender		-0.62	<.001	-0.869	-0.375
Planning	.08	0.06	.301	-0.053	0.169
Gender x Planning		-0.07	.637	-0.344	0.211
Gender		-0.62	<.001	-0.870	-0.376
Reappraisal	.08	-0.06	.271	-0.161	0.046
Gender x Reappraisal		0.06	.655	0.193	0.306
Gender		-0.62	<.001	-0.871	-0.376
Perspective taking	.08	0.04	.435	-0.060	0.139
Gender x Perspective taking		-0.10	.368	-0.320	0.119
Gender		-0.62	<.001	-0.869	-0.366
Catastrophizing	.08	-0.01	.891	-0.131	0.114
Gender x Catastrophizing		0.05	.751	-0.270	0.373
Gender		-0.64	<.001	-0.889	-0.390
Other blame	.08	<0.01	.956	-0.147	0.155
Gender x Other blame		0.18	.300	-0.157	0.508

#### Book Consumption

Gender		-0.68	<.001	-0.987	-0.367
Self-Blame	.07	0.13	.057	-0.004	0.266
Gender x Self-Blame		-0.06	.712	-0.377	0.258
Gender		-0.66	<.001	-0.968	-0.350
Acceptance	.06	-0.05	.462	-0.178	0.081
Gender x Acceptance		0.04	.807	-0.280	0.359
Gender		-0.67	<.001	-0.981	0.358
Rumination	.06	-0.04	.634	-0.178	.109
Gender x Rumination		-0.03	.889	-0.377	0.327
Gender		-0.62	<.001	-0.932	-0.293
Positive Refocusing	.06	0.10	.177	-0.041	0.222
Gender x Refocusing		0.10	.579	-0.243	0.435
Gender		-0.66	<.001	-0.973	-0.354
Planning	.06	0.04	.555	-0.097	0.1811
Gender x Planning		0.03	.877	-0.312	0.376
Gender		-0.67	<.001	-0.974	-0.357
Reappraisal	.07	-0.12	.079	-0.245	0.014
Gender x Reappraisal		0.12	.467	-0.196	0.426
Gender		-0.66	<.001	-0.965	-0.345
Perspective taking	.06	0.10	.134	-0.029	0.211
Gender x Perspective taking		-0.09	.536	-0.361	0.188
Gender		-0.67	<.001	-0.987	-0.358
Catastrophizing	.06	-0.07	.339	-0.229	0.079
Gender x Catastrophizing		0.04	.851	-0.364	0.441
Gender		-0.63	<.001	-0.944	-0.318
Other blame	.07	-0.11	.274	-0.295	0.084
Gender x Other blame		-0.13	.554	-0.542	0.291

<b>Podcast Consumption</b>					
Gender		-1.22	<.001	-1.737	-0.711
Self-Blame	.07	-0.14	.234	-0.359	0.088
Gender x Self-Blame		-0.04	.878	-0.567	0.485
Gender		-1.23	<.001	-1.746	-0.723
Acceptance	.07	-0.03	.799	-0.242	0.186
Gender x Acceptance		-0.24	.376	-0.763	0.289
Gender		-1.26	<.001	-1.776	-0.751
Rumination	.08	-0.19	.122	-0.421	0.050
Gender x Rumination		0.16	.587	-0.418	0.739
Gender		-1.23	<.001	-1.760	-0.703
Positive Refocusing	.07	-0.05	.641	-0.269	-0.166
Gender x Refocusing		0.18	.528	-0.380	0.740
Gender		-1.25	<.001	-1.758	-0.737
Planning	.07	0.03	.813	-0.202	0.257
Gender x Planning		-0.09	.752	-0.668	0.483
Gender		-1.26	<.001	-1.772	-0.751
Reappraisal	.08	-0.13	.236	-0.343	0.085
Gender x Reappraisal		-0.07	.775	-0.590	0.440
Gender		-1.26	<.001	-1.775	-0.750
Perspective taking	.07	-0.07	.486	-0.279	0.133
Gender x Perspective taking		-0.04	.878	-0.490	0.419
Gender		-1.31	<.001	-1.829	-0.795
Catastrophizing	.08	-0.18	.170	-0.430	0.076
Gender x Catastrophizing		-0.27	.420	-0.934	0.390
Gender		-1.21	<.001	-1.723	-0.693
Other blame	.08	-0.24	.130	-0.553	0.071
Gender x Other blame		0.02	.949	-0.663	0.708
<b>TV Consumption</b>					
Gender		-0.71	<.001	-1.100	-0.316
Self-Blame	.04	0.07	.430	-0.102	0.240
Gender x Self-Blame		-0.08	.702	-0.480	0.324
Gender		-0.69	<.001	-1.084	-0.304
Acceptance	.04	-0.06	.436	-0.228	0.099
Gender x Acceptance		-0.09	.662	-0.491	0.313
Gender		-0.72	<.001	-1.108	-0.322
Rumination	.05	-0.02	.872	-0.196	0.166
Gender x Rumination		-0.10	.658	-0.543	0.344
Gender		-0.61	.003	-1.01	-0.209
Positive Refocusing	.05	0.08	.370	-0.090	0.241
Gender x Refocusing		0.36	.106	-0.076	0.777
Gender		-0.71	<.001	-1.098	-0.322
Planning	.05	0.16	.074	-0.015	0.334
Gender x Planning		0.08	.733	-0.361	0.513

Gender		-0.69	<.001	-1.084	-0.304
Reappraisal	.04	0.03	.693	-0.131	0.196
Gender x Reappraisal		0.17	.386	-0.220	0.567
Gender		-0.70	.001	-1.092	-0.312
Perspective taking	.05	0.10	.208	-0.056	0.257
Gender x Perspective taking		-0.15	.381	-0.500	0.192
Gender		-0.73	<.001	-1.125	-0.333
Catastrophizing	.04	<0.01	.962	-0.198	0.189
Gender x Catastrophizing		-0.22	.386	-0.731	0.284
Gender		-0.72	<.001	-1.117	-0.329
Other blame	.05	-0.08	.523	-0.316	0.161
Gender x Other blame		0.33	.216	-0.194	0.855

#### Movie Consumption

Gender		-0.50	.007	-0.859	-0.140
Self-Blame	.03	0.10	.191	-0.052	0.261
Gender x Self-Blame		-0.01	.961	-0.378	0.359
Gender		-0.47	<.001	-0.832	-0.115
Acceptance	.03	-0.07	.364	-0.219	0.081
Gender x Acceptance		-0.10	.581	-0.473	0.265
Gender		-0.50	.006	-0.865	-0.143
Rumination	.03	-0.06	.513	-0.221	0.111
Gender x Rumination		-0.12	.559	-0.528	0.286
Gender		-0.37	.050	-0.734	0.001
Positive Refocusing	.04	0.11	.147	-0.040	0.263
Gender x Refocusing		0.42	.039	0.022	0.801
					Women: $B = 0.02, p = .796$
					Men: $B = 0.43, p = .016$
Gender		-0.49	.007	-0.845	-0.136
Planning	.04	0.22	.010	0.051	0.370
Gender x Planning		-0.01	.971	-0.406	0.391
Gender		-0.47	.001	-0.830	-0.114
Reappraisal	.03	0.05	.514	-0.100	0.200
Gender x Reappraisal		0.21	.250	-0.150	0.572
Gender		-0.48	.009	-0.840	-0.122
Perspective taking	.03	0.07	.348	-0.075	0.213
Gender x Perspective taking		-0.08	.632	-0.396	0.241
Gender		-0.50	.008	-0.859	-0.131
Catastrophizing	.02	-0.01	.880	-0.192	0.164
Gender x Catastrophizing		-0.07	.766	-0.537	0.396
Gender		-0.52	.005	-0.877	-0.154
Other blame	.03	<0.01	.993	-0.220	0.218
Gender x Other blame		0.31	.202	-0.169	0.794

#### News Consumption

Gender		-0.47	.002	-0.765	-0.167
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Self-Blame	.04	0.10	.127	-0.029	0.232
Gender x Self-Blame		-0.21	.188	-0.512	0.101
Gender		-0.46	.003	-0.753	-0.163
Acceptance	0.06	-0.19	.003	-0.310	-0.062
Gender x Acceptance		0.13	.420	-0.180	0.429
Gender		-0.46	.003	-0.766	-0.161
Rumination	0.04	-0.01	.925	-0.145	0.132
Gender x Rumination		0.06	.734	-0.282	0.399
Gender		-0.41	.010	-0.713	-0.097
Positive Refocusing	.04	0.10	.112	-0.024	0.230
Gender x Refocusing		0.15	.385	-0.182	0.472
Gender		-0.47	.002	-0.765	-0.167
Planning	.03	0.01	.919	-0.126	0.142
Gender x Planning		-0.13	.433	-0.471	0.203
Gender		-0.47	.002	-0.773	-0.174
Reappraisal	.04	-0.08	.238	-0.201	0.050
Gender x Reappraisal		<.01	.964	-0.295	0.309
Gender		-0.47	.002	-0.773	-0.173
Perspective taking	.03	0.03	.611	-0.089	0.152
Gender x Perspective taking		-0.11	.405	-0.379	0.153
Gender		-0.43	.005	-0.736	-0.129
Catastrophizing	.04	0.05	.505	-0.098	0.199
Gender x Catastrophizing		0.24	.234	-0.152	0.624
Gender		-0.51	.001	-0.811	-0.208
Other blame	.04	0.11	.219	-0.068	0.297
Gender x Other blame		0.22	.291	-0.186	0.617

#### Defensive Vigilance

#### Motivation

Gender		-0.38	.032	-0.726	-0.034
Self-Blame	.43	0.06	.416	-0.085	0.206
Gender x Self-Blame		-0.03	.848	-0.375	0.309
Covariate: True Crime		1.05	<.001	0.894	1.199
Gender		-0.36	.042	-0.697	-0.013
Acceptance	0.43	0.08	.246	-0.057	0.221
Gender x Acceptance		-0.30	<b>.086</b>	-0.637	0.042
Covariate: True Crime		1.07	<.001	0.913	1.216
Gender		-0.36	.040	-0.711	-0.017
Rumination	0.43	0.06	.426	-0.091	0.216
Gender x Rumination		-0.06	.764	-0.434	0.319
Covariate: True Crime		1.05	<.001	0.903	1.206
Gender		-0.32	.074	-0.673	0.031
Positive Refocusing	.43	0.02	.779	-0.121	0.162
Gender x Refocusing		0.25	.174	-0.112	0.616
Covariate: True Crime		1.04	<.001	0.890	1.194
Gender		-0.38	.030	-0.723	-0.038

Planning	.43	0.15	.054	-0.003	0.294
Gender x Planning		0.04	.846	-0.334	0.408
Covariate: True Crime		1.04	<.001	0.892	1.194
Gender		-0.35	.046	-0.688	-0.007
Reappraisal	0.44	0.20	.004	0.064	0.339
Gender x Reappraisal		-0.01	.956	-0.340	0.321
Covariate: True Crime		1.07	<.001	0.916	1.216
Gender		-0.37	.038	-0.709	-0.020
Perspective taking	.43	0.10	.155	-0.037	0.230
Gender x Perspective taking		-0.06	.687	-0.355	0.234
Covariate: True Crime		1.05	<.001	0.895	1.198
Gender		-0.38	.029	-0.721	-0.040
Catastrophizing	.45	0.22	.007	0.061	0.382
Gender x Catastrophizing		-0.51	.017	-0.935	-0.093
Covariate: True Crime		1.06	<.001	0.909	1.205
Gender		-0.38	.032	-0.732	-0.034
Other blame	.42	0.08	.416	-0.119	0.287
Gender x Other blame		-0.03	.905	-0.474	0.420
Covariate: True Crime		1.05	<.001	0.900	1.203

<b>Excitement Motivation</b>					
Gender		0.38	.033	0.031	0.720
Self-Blame	.41	0.04	.562	-0.102	0.188
Gender x Self-Blame		0.04	.828	-0.302	0.378
Covariate: True Crime		1.09	<.001	0.941	1.243
Gender		0.39	.025	0.050	0.734
Acceptance	.41	0.06	.371	-0.076	0.202
Gender x Acceptance		-0.11	.544	-0.444	0.234
Covariate: True Crime		1.11	<.001	0.952	1.255
Gender		0.37	.034	0.029	0.719
Rumination	0.41	<.01	.948	-0.147	0.158
Gender x Rumination		-0.15	.415	-0.529	0.219
Covariate: True Crime		1.10	<.001	0.944	1.245
Gender		0.38	.034	0.029	0.731
Positive Refocusing	.41	-0.04	.588	-0.180	0.102
Gender x Refocusing		0.03	.875	-0.334	0.392
Covariate: True Crime		1.10	<.001	0.945	1.248
Gender		0.38	.029	0.039	0.715
Planning	.42	0.07	.318	-0.072	0.221
Gender x Planning		0.50	<b>.008</b>	0.133	0.865
Women: $B = -0.04, p = .679$					
Men: $B = 0.47, p = .006$					
Covariate: True Crime		1.10	<.001	0.947	1.245
Gender		0.40	.023	0.054	0.739
Reappraisal	0.41	0.08	.238	-0.055	0.221
Gender x Reappraisal		<0.01	.975	-0.323	0.337
Covariate: True Crime		1.10	<.001	0.949	1.250

Gender		0.40	.021	0.061	0.747	
Perspective taking	.41	<.01	.984	-0.134	0.131	
Gender x Perspective taking		0.18	.236	-0.116	0.470	
Covariate: True Crime		1.10	<.001	0.948	1.249	
Gender		0.34	.055	-0.008	0.682	
Catastrophizing	.42	-0.01	.901	-0.173	0.152	
Gender x Catastrophizing		-0.45	<b>.037</b>	-0.878	-0.027	Women: $B = 0.09, p = 0.328$ Men: $B = 0.20, p = .065$
Covariate: True Crime		1.08	<.001	0.948	1.247	
Gender		0.34	.051	-0.001	0.689	
Other blame	.42	0.19	.065	-0.012	0.389	
Gender x Other blame		0.07	.742	-0.368	0.516	
Covariate: True Crime		1.09	<.001	0.941	1.241	
<b>Authenticity Motivation</b>						
Gender		-0.04	.844	-0.436	0.357	
Self-Blame	.36	<0.01	.981	-0.165	0.169	
Gender x Self-Blame		0.23	.256	-0.165	0.618	
Covariate: True Crime		1.11	<.001	0.939	1.287	
Gender		-0.02	.914	-0.416	0.373	
Acceptance	0.37	0.09	.238	-0.064	0.257	
Gender x Acceptance		-0.03	.891	-0.418	0.364	
Covariate: True Crime		1.12	<.001	0.947	1.297	
Gender		-0.03	.889	-0.426	0.370	
Rumination	.36	-0.02	.798	-0.199	0.153	
Gender x Rumination		-0.01	.957	-0.444	0.420	
Covariate: True Crime		1.11	<.001	0.933	1.281	
Gender		-0.04	.838	-0.447	0.363	
Positive Refocusing	.36	-0.05	.546	-0.213	0.113	
Gender x Refocusing		-0.03	.904	-0.440	0.393	
Covariate: True Crime		1.12	<.001	0.938	1.288	
Gender		-0.04	.851	-0.425	0.351	
Planning	.39	0.10	.229	-0.065	0.271	
Gender x Planning		<b>0.686</b>	<b>.001</b>	0.266	<b>1.107</b>	Women: $B = -0.05, p = .623$ Men: $B = 0.64, p = .001$
Covariate: True Crime		1.11	<.001	0.939	1.281	
Gender		<0.01	.999	-0.393	0.393	
Reappraisal	.37	0.16	.049	0.001	0.318	
Gender x Reappraisal		0.12	.525	-0.258	0.505	
Covariate: True Crime		1.12	<.001	0.945	1.290	
Gender		-0.02	.917	-0.417	0.375	
Perspective taking	.37	0.09	.235	-0.060	0.245	
Gender x Perspective taking		-0.09	.587	-0.431	0.245	
Covariate: True Crime		1.10	<.001	0.928	1.275	
Gender		-0.05	.792	-0.449	0.343	
Catastrophizing	.38	0.24	.022	0.036	0.444	

Gender x Catastrophizing	-0.52	<b>.036</b>	-1.013	-0.035	Women: $B = 0.24, p = .022$ Men: $B = -0.28, p = .209$
Covariate: True Crime	1.11	<.001	0.941	1.284	
Gender	-0.03	.889	-0.428	0.372	
Other blame	.36	0.09	.447	-0.143	0.323
Gender x Other blame	-0.10	.704	-0.611	0.413	
Covariate: True Crime	1.11	<.001	0.935	1.283	
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<b>Emotion regulation motivation</b>					
Gender	-0.06	.732	-0.417	0.293	
Self-Blame	.33	0.13	.101	-0.025	0.274
Gender x Self-Blame	0.07	.707	-0.284	0.418	
Covariate: True Crime	0.90	<.001	0.743	1.055	
Gender	-0.02	.909	-0.374	0.333	
Acceptance	0.33	-0.06	.403	-0.205	0.083
Gender x Acceptance	-0.23	.205	-0.577	0.124	
Covariate: True Crime	0.90	<.001	0.743	1.056	
Gender	-0.05	.802	-0.400	0.310	
Rumination	0.34	0.09	.253	-0.066	0.248
Gender x Rumination	-0.34	.083	-0.726	0.045	Women: $B = 0.17, p = .066$ Men: $B = -0.17, p = .316$
Covariate: True Crime	0.91	<.001	0.757	1.067	
Gender	0.09	.605	-0.264	0.452	
Positive Refocusing	.34	0.19	.009	0.049	0.336
Gender x Refocusing	0.41	<b>.031</b>	0.038	0.776	Women: $B = 0.10, p = .197$ Men: $B = 0.52, p = .003$
Covariate: True Crime	0.88	<.001	0.723	1.03	
Gender	-0.03	.878	-0.382	0.327	
Planning	.33	-0.07	.395	-0.220	0.087
Gender x Planning	0.01	.961	-0.374	0.393	
Covariate: True Crime	0.91	<.001	0.755	1.067	
Gender	-0.01	.970	-0.358	0.345	
Reappraisal	.34	0.17	.023	0.024	0.307
Gender x Reappraisal	0.17	.319	-0.168	0.514	
Covariate: True Crime	0.92	<.001	0.762	1.071	
Gender	-0.03	.909	-0.376	0.335	
Perspective taking	.32	0.07	.300	-0.065	0.210
Gender x Perspective taking	0.03	.858	-0.276	0.331	
Covariate: True Crime	0.91	<.001	0.749	1.061	
Gender	-0.06	.739	-0.410	0.291	
Catastrophizing	.36	0.35	<.001	0.169	0.530
Gender x Catastrophizing	-0.65	<b>.003</b>	-1.084	-0.220	Women: $B = 0.35, p < .001$ Men: $B = -0.30, p = .130$
Covariate: True Crime	0.91	<.001	0.762	1.065	
Gender	-0.04	.813	-0.403	0.316	
Other blame	.32	0.06	.605	-0.154	0.264
Gender x Other blame	0.01	.971	-0.452	0.469	

Covariate: True Crime	0.91	<.001	0.750	1.063
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Table I. Moderation results for cognitive reappraisal capacity

Models	R <sup>2</sup>	B	P	LLCI	ULCI	Simple Slopes
<b>Total true crime consumption</b>						
<b>Book Consumption</b>						
Gender		-0.60	<.001	-0.871	-0.328	
Fluency	.08	0.02	.645	-0.054	0.088	
Gender x Fluency		0.01	.914	-0.164	0.183	
Age		0.01	.133	-0.002	0.018	
Gender		-0.64	<.001	-0.898	-0.377	
Flexibility	.08	-0.03	.618	-0.150	0.089	
Gender x Flexibility		-0.03	.869	-0.335	0.283	
Age		0.01	.173	-0.003	0.017	
<b>Podcast Consumption</b>						
Gender		-0.67	<.001	-1.002	-0.332	
Fluency	.09	-0.03	.612	-0.110	0.065	
Gender x Fluency		0.02	.837	-0.191	0.236	
Age		0.02	<.001	0.009	0.035	
Gender		-0.66	<.001	-0.980	-0.338	
Flexibility	.09	-0.02	.814	-0.165	0.129	
Gender x Flexibility		0.03	.892	-0.355	0.407	
Age		0.02	<.001	0.010	0.035	
<b>TV Consumption</b>						
Gender		-1.18	<.001	-1.742	-0.623	
Fluency	.09	0.09	.250	-0.061	0.232	
Gender x Fluency		-0.02	.907	-0.378	0.336	
Age		-0.02	.117	-0.038	0.004	
Gender		-1.16	<.001	-1.692	-0.619	
Flexibility	.09	0.16	.194	-0.083	0.408	
Gender x Flexibility		0.16	.620	-0.476	-0.797	
Age		-0.02	.109	-0.038	0.004	
<b>Movie Consumption</b>						
Gender		-0.73	.001	-1.158	-0.297	
Fluency	.04	0.02	.784	-0.097	0.128	
Gender x Fluency		-0.07	.596	-0.348	0.200	
Age		<0.01	.678	-0.013	0.020	
Gender		-0.77	<.001	-1.182	-0.359	
Flexibility	.05	<0.01	.978	-0.192	0.186	
Gender x Flexibility		-0.31	.214	-0.798	0.180	
Age		<0.01	.672	-0.013	0.020	

Gender		-0.58	.003	-0.958	-0.204
Flexibility	.04	-0.10	.258	-0.273	0.073
Gender x Flexibility		-0.28	.218	-0.729	0.167
Age		0.01	.431	-0.009	0.021

#### **News Consumption**

Gender		-0.43	.012	-0.758	-0.101
Fluency	.04	0.01	.747	-0.072	0.100
Gender x Fluency		0.04	.683	-0.166	0.253
Age		0.01	.059	-0.001	0.024
Gender		-0.48	.003	-0.797	-0.168
Flexibility	.05	-0.07	.331	-0.216	0.073
Gender x Flexibility		0.05	.796	-0.324	0.422
Age		0.02	.093	-0.002	0.023

#### **Defensive Vigilance Motivation**

Gender		-0.36	.055	-0.726	0.007
Fluency	.46	0.09	.063	-0.005	0.182
Gender x Fluency		-0.15	.193	-0.377	0.076
True Crime		1.07	<.001	0.922	1.219
Age		-0.02	.003	-0.034	-0.007
Gender		-0.32	.079	-0.676	0.037
Flexibility	.45	0.09	.252	-0.066	0.250
Gender x Flexibility		0.02	.909	-0.384	0.431
Covariate: True Crime		1.08	<.001	0.927	1.225
Age		-0.02	.002	-0.036	-0.008

#### **Excitement Motivation**

Gender		0.37	.047	0.005	0.740
Fluency	.43	0.01	.872	-0.086	0.101
Gender x Fluency		-0.06	.617	-0.285	0.170
Covariate: True Crime		1.12	<.001	0.967	1.264
Age		-0.02	.001	-0.037	-0.009
Gender		0.4	.024	0.054	0.763
Flexibility	.43	0.04	.623	-0.118	0.196
Gender x Flexibility		-0.02	.950	-0.416	0.393
Covariate: True Crime		1.12	<.001	0.968	1.265
Age		-0.02	.001	-0.036	-0.009

#### **Authenticity Motivation**

Gender		-0.06	.779	-0.479	0.359
Fluency	.40	<.01	.983	-0.105	0.108
Gender x Fluency		-0.10	.461	-0.356	0.162
Covariate: True Crime		1.14	<.001	0.970	1.309
Age		-0.03	<.001	-0.049	-0.018
Gender		-0.08	.698	-0.482	0.323
Flexibility	.41	0.04	.663	-0.139	0.218
Gender x Flexibility		-0.40	.092	-0.857	0.064
Covariate: True Crime		1.14	<.001	0.971	1.308

Women:  $B = 0.13, p = .205$   
Men:  $B = -0.27, p = .204$

Age		-0.03	<.001	-0.048	-0.017
<b>Emotion regulation motivation</b>					
Gender		-0.02	.938	-0.397	0.368
Fluency	.34	0.09	.070	-0.007	0.188
Gender x Fluency		-0.13	.272	-0.370	0.105
Covariate: True Crime		0.91	<.001	0.759	1.069
Age		0.01	.254	-0.022	0.006
Gender		0.01	.945	-0.359	0.385
Flexibility	.33	0.11	.200	-0.057	0.272
Gender x Flexibility		-0.01	.968	-0.434	0.417
Covariate: True Crime		0.92	<.001	0.764	1.076
Age		-0.01	.190	-0.024	0.005