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The Relationship between Maladaptive Personality and Right Wing Ideology

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Abstract

The present research investigates the relationship between right wing ideology and maladaptive personality as measured by the Dimensional Assessment of Personality Pathology-Basic Questionnaire (DAPP-BQ) in an adult sample (N=225). Analogous to previous studies, Openness to Experience was significantly related to right wing ideology. Conscientiousness was only modestly related to right wing ideology, but its maladaptive equivalent—Compulsiveness—was significantly related to right wing ideology. A significant relationship was also found for maladaptive Disagreeableness. The other personality traits were only modestly related to political ideology. The implications of the relationship between right-wing ideology and adaptive and maladaptive Openness and Conscientiousness are discussed.

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Neither the correlation nor the regression analysis shows " Agreeableness " related to RWA beliefs. However, few previous studies have shown " Neuroticism " linked to RWA beliefs, though this does fit with Van Hiel et al.'s (Van Hiel et al., 2004) conception of the RWA beliefs being associated with maladaptive personality traits. The second study shows that Right-Wing Authoritarians tend to be Closed to Experience, Conscientious, Neurotics.

Personality, Emotional and Self-Assessed Intelligence and Right Wing Authoritarianism

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Adrian Furnham

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The broad-bandwidth Big-Five personality trait, Openness to Experience, has drawn attention for its role in the cognitive processes underlying authoritarian attitudes and prejudice (e.g., Kruglanski & Webster, 1996; Van Hiel, Mervielde, & De Fruyt, 2004). Openness to Experience, relative to the other four Big-Five personality dimensions, may operate as a seize and freeze mechanism; a tendency to be more amenable to stereotype-consistent information, and then resistant to potentially alternative evidence.

Seize and freeze: Openness to Experience shapes judgments of societal threat

