

Facing a Dark Future?

Future Anxiety and Young People's Political Attitudes

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I. Background

- Times of **multiple crises**
 - Young people anxious about the future
 - Theory & Narrative → Right-wing ideology
- RQ: How is future anxiety related to young people's political attitudes?



II. Method

- Online survey of 16–21-year-olds
 - $N \approx 988$ from and $N \approx 997^*$ from
- Psychological & political measures**
 - Future Anxiety*
 - Authoritarian & Democratic Support
 - Ideological self-placement*
 - Political participation*

III. Main Results

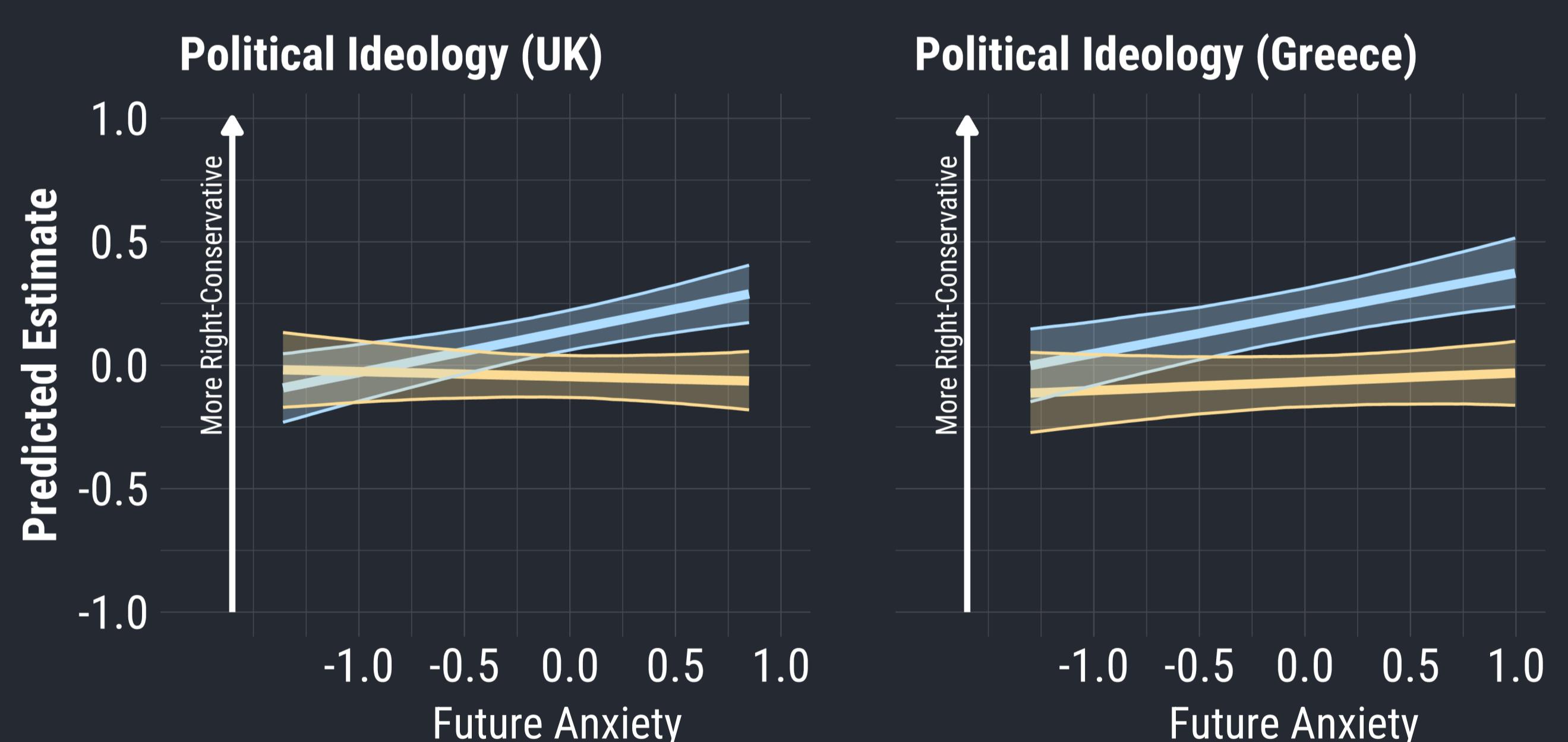
1. (UK) Future Anxiety correlates* with ...

- Higher support for democracy: 95% CI [.23, .35]
- Higher political participation: 95% CI [.15, .28]

But no association with ...

- Ideological self-placement: 95% CI [-.13, .01]
- Authoritarian support: 95% CI [-.05, .08]

2. (UK & GR) Future anxiety correlates with more right-conservative ideology in young men but not women



*Controlling for Gender, Age, Living standard, Education, Migration background

IV. Conclusion & Future Directions

- Anxiety about the future may encourage young people to engage with democratic values
- Future anxiety may be a key correlate of the growing **ideological divide** in youth
- Focus on youth:
 - Young generations affected by crises & potential to defend democratic values!
- Work in Progress: Younger Adolescents, Different **Crises** & Survey Experiment

Link to paper



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