

# 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 ...

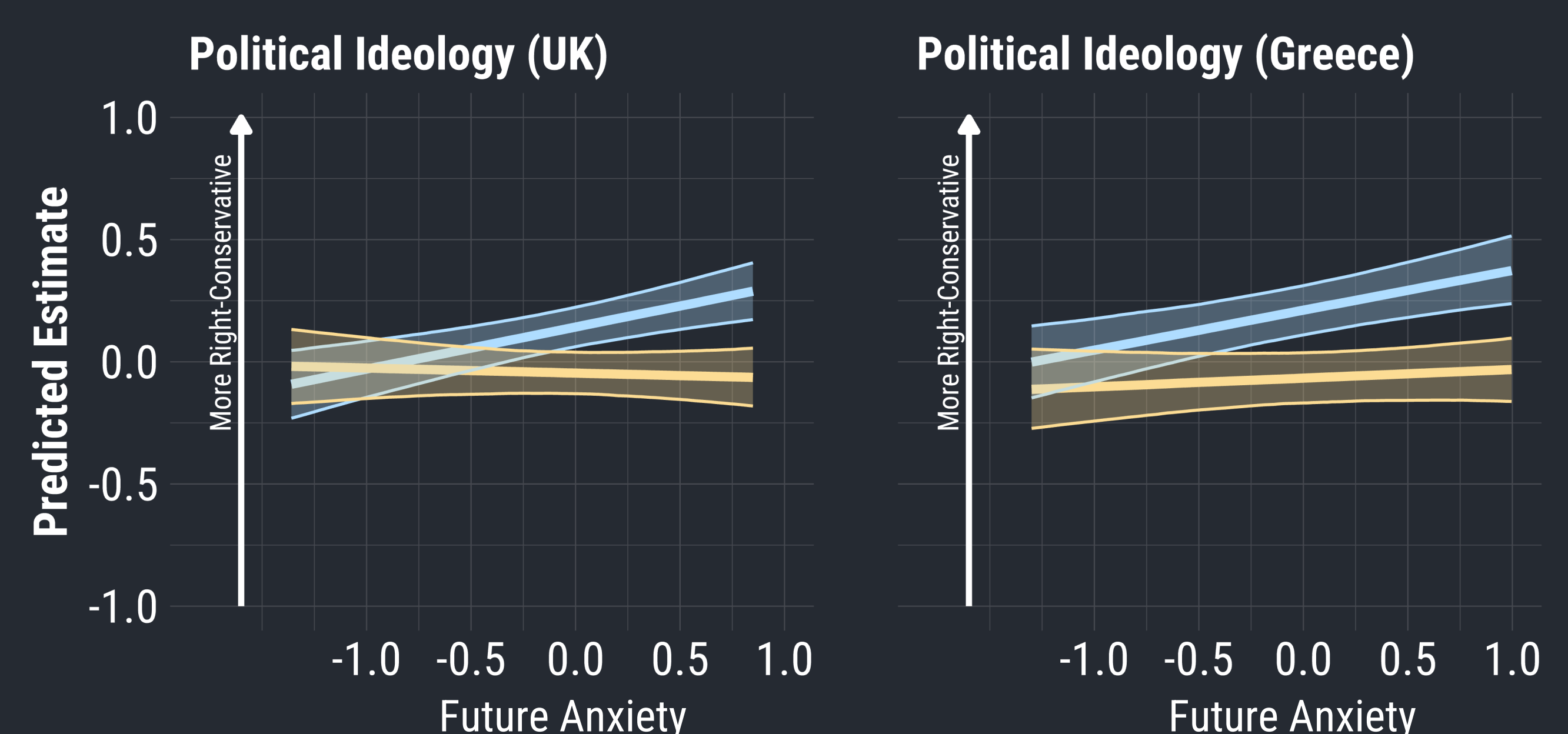
- **Higher** support for democracy: 95% CI [.23, .35]
- **Higher** political participation: 95% CI [.15, .28]

But no association with ...

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

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

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



### 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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