

1                      Personality and political beliefs across the lifespan

2                      Sarah Dimakis<sup>1</sup>, Meghan Siritzky<sup>1</sup>, & Jamie Yellowtail<sup>1</sup>

3                                      <sup>1</sup> University of Oregon

4                                      Author Note

5                      This project was completed as part of the EDLD Introduction to Data Science class  
6                      at the University of Oregon.

7                      Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Sarah Dimakis,  
8                      University of Oregon, Eugene, OR. E-mail: [sdimakis@uoregon.edu](mailto:sdimakis@uoregon.edu)

## Abstract

9

10 Here is where we will write our abstract.

11 *Keywords:* keywords

12 Word count: X

## Personality and political beliefs across the lifespan

## Methods

## Participants

## Material

**Personality** To assess participant personality traits, respondents completed the Ten Item Personality Inventory (Gosling, Rentfrow, & Swann Jr, 2003). Participants were asked to indicate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with statements describing themselves (e.g. “Extraverted, enthusiastic”; “Critical, quarrelsome”). Respondents rated each statement on a 7-point likert scale (1 = Strongly Disagree to 7 = Strongly Agree). Responses were coded such that higher values reflected greater identification with the personality trait .

**Social and Economic Conservatism** To assess participant levels of conservatism, respondents completed the 12-item Social and Economic Conservatism Scale (Everett, 2013). Participants were asked to indicate the extent to which they feel positively or negatively about twelve distinct issues (eg. Abortion; Patriotism). Respondents rated each issue on a 100-point scale (0 indicates greater negativity and 100 indicates greater positivity). Responses were coded such that higher values reflected greater levels of conservatism.

## Procedure

## Data analysis

We used R (Version 3.6.1; R Core Team, 2019) and the R-packages *MBESS* [R-MBESS], *dplyr* (Version 0.8.3; Wickham et al., 2019), *forcats* (Version 0.4.0; Wickham, 2019a), *ggplot2* (Version 3.2.1; Wickham, 2016), *here* (Version 0.1; Müller,

2017), *janitor* (Version 1.2.0; Firke, 2019), *knitr* (Version 1.25; Xie, 2015), *papaja* (Version 0.1.0.9842; Aust & Barth, 2018), *psych* (Version 1.8.12; Revelle, 2018), *purrr* (Version 0.3.2; Henry & Wickham, 2019), *readr* (Version 1.3.1; Wickham, Hester, & Francois, 2018), *rio* (Version 0.5.16; Chan, Chan, Leeper, & Becker, 2018), *stringr* (Version 1.4.0; Wickham, 2019b), *tibble* (Version 2.1.3; Müller & Wickham, 2019), *tidyr* (Version 1.0.0; Wickham & Henry, 2019), *tidyverse* (Version 1.2.1; Wickham, 2017), *viridis* (Version 0.5.1; Garnier, 2018a, 2018b), and *viridisLite* (Version 0.3.0; Garnier, 2018b) for all our analyses.

## Results

In order to understand the relation between conservatism and personality, we first looked at Big Five personality trait (Openness to Experience, Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Agreeableness, and Emotional Stability) scores across the spectrum of Social Conservatism (Table 1) and Economic Conservatism (Table 2) scores.

To see whether there were significant relations between Social Conservatism and the Big Five, we then ran a multiple regression predicting Social Conservatism from the Big Five personality traits. A significant regression equation was found ( $F(5, 125) = 5.051, p < .001$ ), with an adjusted  $R^2$  of 0.135 (Table 2). Thus, personality traits taken together explained 13.48% of variance in Social Conservatism scores. Participants' predicted Social Conservatism scores were equal to  $25.82 - 3.73(\text{Openness to Experience}) + 0.07(\text{Conscientiousness}) + 1.56(\text{Extraversion}) + 3.93(\text{Agreeableness}) + 4.30(\text{Emotional Stability})$ . Agreeableness and Emotional Stability were significant predictors of Social Conservatism.

To see whether there were significant relations between Economic Conservatism and the Big Five, we then ran a multiple regression predicting Economic Conservatism from the Big Five personality traits. No significant regression equation was found ( $F(5, 125) = 2.207, p = .058$ ) (Table 3). Thus, personality traits taken together did not significantly

61 explain variance in Economic Conservatism scores. However, Openness to Experience was  
62 a significant predictor of Economic Conservatism.

63 To better understand the relation between social and economic conservatism, we  
64 examined the correlation between social and economic conservatism scores, and found it to  
65 be  $r = 0.65$ . Neither social nor economic extraversion were strongly correlated with any of  
66 the Big Five personality traits.

67

## Discussion

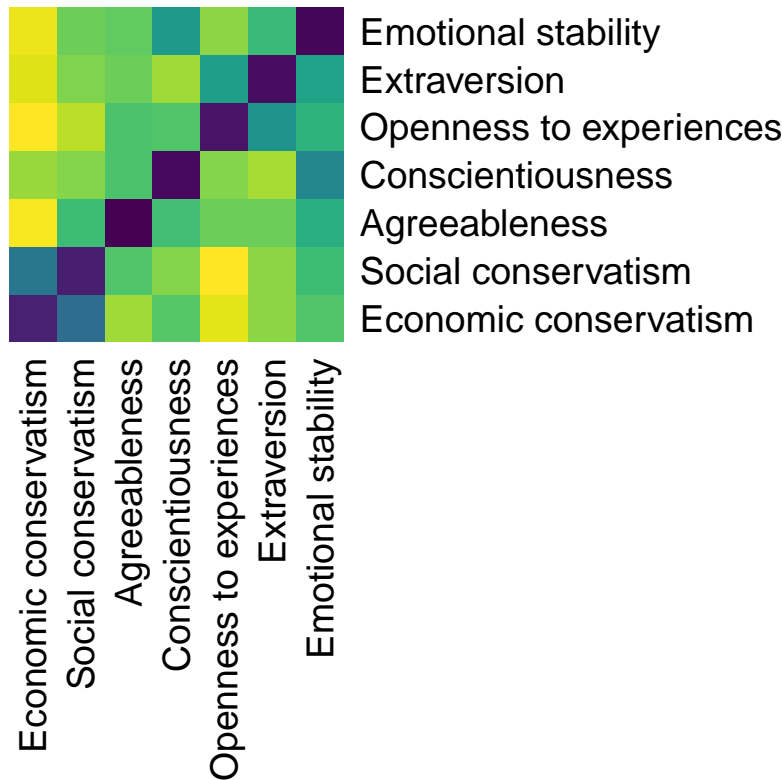
## References

- 68
- 69 `## Warning in readLines(file): incomplete final line found on 'r-`  
70 `## references.bib'`
- 71 Aust, F., & Barth, M. (2018). *papaja: Create APA manuscripts with R Markdown*.  
72 Retrieved from <https://github.com/crsh/papaja>
- 73 Chan, C.-h., Chan, G. C., Leeper, T. J., & Becker, J. (2018). *Rio: A swiss-army knife for*  
74 *data file i/o*.
- 75 Everett, J. A. (2013). The 12 item social and economic conservatism scale (secs). *PloS*  
76 *One*, 8(12), e82131.
- 77 Firke, S. (2019). *Janitor: Simple tools for examining and cleaning dirty data*. Retrieved  
78 from <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=janitor>
- 79 Garnier, S. (2018a). *Viridis: Default color maps from 'matplotlib'*. Retrieved from  
80 <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=viridis>
- 81 Garnier, S. (2018b). *ViridisLite: Default color maps from 'matplotlib' (lite version)*.  
82 Retrieved from <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=viridisLite>
- 83 Gosling, S. D., Rentfrow, P. J., & Swann Jr, W. B. (2003). A very brief measure of the  
84 big-five personality domains. *Journal of Research in Personality*, 37(6), 504–528.
- 85 Henry, L., & Wickham, H. (2019). *Purrr: Functional programming tools*. Retrieved from  
86 <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=purrr>
- 87 Müller, K. (2017). *Here: A simpler way to find your files*. Retrieved from  
88 <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=here>
- 89 Müller, K., & Wickham, H. (2019). *Tibble: Simple data frames*. Retrieved from  
90 <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=tibble>

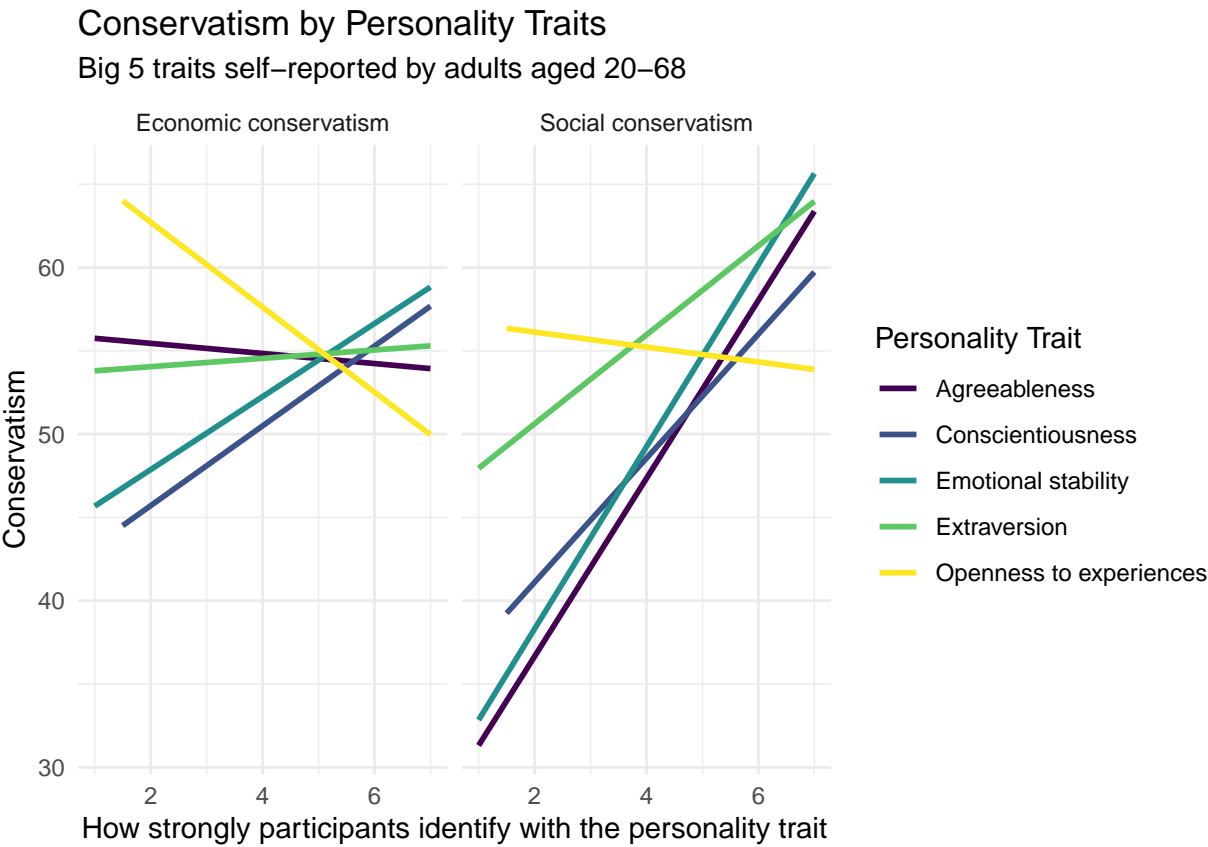
- R Core Team. (2019). *R: A language and environment for statistical computing*. Vienna, Austria: R Foundation for Statistical Computing. Retrieved from <https://www.R-project.org/>
- Revelle, W. (2018). *Psych: Procedures for psychological, psychometric, and personality research*. Evanston, Illinois: Northwestern University. Retrieved from <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=psych>
- Wickham, H. (2016). *Ggplot2: Elegant graphics for data analysis*. Springer-Verlag New York. Retrieved from <https://ggplot2.tidyverse.org>
- Wickham, H. (2017). *Tidyverse: Easily install and load the 'tidyverse'*. Retrieved from <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=tidyverse>
- Wickham, H. (2019a). *Forcats: Tools for working with categorical variables (factors)*. Retrieved from <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=forcats>
- Wickham, H. (2019b). *Stringr: Simple, consistent wrappers for common string operations*. Retrieved from <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=stringr>
- Wickham, H., François, R., Henry, L., & Müller, K. (2019). *Dplyr: A grammar of data manipulation*. Retrieved from <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=dplyr>
- Wickham, H., & Henry, L. (2019). *Tidyr: Tidy messy data*. Retrieved from <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=tidyr>
- Wickham, H., Hester, J., & François, R. (2018). *Readr: Read rectangular text data*. Retrieved from <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=readr>
- Xie, Y. (2015). *Dynamic documents with R and knitr* (2nd ed.). Boca Raton, Florida: Chapman; Hall/CRC. Retrieved from <https://yihui.name/knitr/>
- Call:corr.test(x = untidyeconomic\_conservatism, y = untidysocial\_conservatism)  
Correlation matrix [1] 0.65 Sample Size [1] 131 Probability values adjusted for multiple tests. [1] 0

116 To see confidence intervals of the correlations, print with the short=FALSE option

Correlation Heatmap







118

119 ““

Table 1

*Mean Personality Trait Scores by Social Conservatism Score*

personality_trait	Social Conservatism Score				
	[0-19]	[20-39]	[40-59]	[60-79]	[80-100]
Agreeableness	4.67	5.20	4.88	5.76	5.90
Conscientiousness	5.37	5.44	5.32	5.84	6.03
Emotional stability	4.07	4.38	4.82	5.50	5.57
Extraversion	2.73	3.16	3.57	3.90	3.72
Openness to experiences	4.93	5.40	5.43	5.25	5.12

*Note.* Personality trait scores reported on a 1-7 scale.

Table 2

*Mean Personality Trait Scores by Economic Conservatism Score*

personality_trait	Economic Conservatism Score				
	[0-19]	[20-39]	[40-59]	[60-79]	[80-100]
Agreeableness	6.14	5.21	5.29	5.40	5.43
Conscientiousness	5.50	5.31	5.60	5.77	6.00
Emotional stability	4.29	4.67	5.09	4.85	5.62
Extraversion	2.79	3.67	3.61	3.42	3.50
Openness to experiences	6.43	5.44	5.12	5.05	5.21

*Note.* Personality trait scores reported on a 1-7 scale.

Table 3

*Regression Table Predicting Social Conservatism From Big-Five Personality Traits.*

Predictor	<i>b</i>	95% CI	<i>t</i> (125)	<i>p</i>
Intercept	25.82	[0.07, 51.58]	1.98	.049
Openness to experiences	-3.73	[-7.50, 0.04]	-1.96	.052
Conscientiousness	0.07	[-3.98, 4.11]	0.03	.974
Extraversion	1.56	[-1.42, 4.55]	1.04	.302
Agreeableness	3.93	[0.69, 7.17]	2.40	.018
Emotional stability	4.30	[0.70, 7.91]	2.37	.020

*Note.* Residual standard error: 25.13 on 125 degrees of freedom.

Multiple R-squared: 0.168, Adjusted R-squared: 0.135. F(5,

125): 5.051, p-value: 0.0003.

Table 4

*Regression Table Predicting Economic Conservatism From Big-Five Personality Traits.*

Predictor	<i>b</i>	95% CI	<i>t</i> (125)	<i>p</i>
Intercept	56.54	[34.71, 78.37]	5.13	< .001
Openness to experiences	-3.79	[-6.98, -0.59]	-2.35	.021
Conscientiousness	1.78	[-1.65, 5.20]	1.03	.307
Extraversion	0.61	[-1.92, 3.14]	0.48	.632
Agreeableness	-1.13	[-3.88, 1.61]	-0.82	.415
Emotional stability	2.34	[-0.71, 5.39]	1.52	.131

*Note.* Residual standard error: 21.3 on 125 degrees of freedom.

Multiple R-squared: 0.081, Adjusted R-squared: 0.044.  $F(5, 125)$ :

2.207, *p*-value: 0.058.

Table 5

*Correlation Matrix for Conservatism and Big Five Personality Traits*

	Economic conservatism	Social conservatism	Agreeableness	Conscientiousness	Openness to experiences	Extraversion	Emotional stability
Economic conservatism	1						
Social conservatism	0.65	1					
Agreeableness	-0.02	0.29	1				
Conscientiousness	0.14	0.18	0.28	1			
Openness to experiences	-0.15	-0.02	0.2	0.18	1		
Extraversion	0.02	0.17	0.2	0.12	0.44	1	
Emotional stability	0.16	0.33	0.35	0.54	0.28	0.42	1