

Relations among Moral Foundations, Personality, Right Wing Authoritarianism, Social Dominance, and Political Orientation Differ by Gender

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INTRODUCTION

Inclination toward right-wing politics is a function of many personality and individual factors, including predisposed moral foundations (care/harm, fairness, authority, loyalty, and purity/sanctity), dark triad traits (psychopathy, narcissism, and Machiavellianism), social dominance orientation, and right-wing authoritarianism. The present research examines how relations among these measures differ as a function of gender in a US sample.

METHODS

- 226 participants completed an anonymous on-line survey administered via mTurk that included:
- the Moral Foundations Questionnaire (MFQ-30; Graham, Haidt, & Nosek, 2008)
 - the Short Dark Triad (D3; Jones & Paulhus, 2014) questionnaire
 - a measure of Right-Wing Authoritarianism (RWA; Duckitt, Bizumic, Krauss, & Heled, 2010)
 - a Social Dominance Orientation (SDO) questionnaire (SDO7; Ho et al., 2015)
 - an adapted version of the Perceived Leadership Integrity Scale (PLIS; Craig & Gustafson, 1998) to assess perceptions of Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump
 - several other personality measures, and 2016 US presidential vote choice.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Moral Foundations & Dark Triad

We found that the binding moral foundations (authority, loyalty, sanctity/purity) were generally positively related to dark triad measures of Machiavellianism and Narcissism, but only in males.

Table 1 Correlations between Moral Foundations and Dark Triad Measures							
		Machiavellianism		Narcissism		Psychopathy	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Care/Harm		-0.01	-0.17	0.01	0.02	-0.16	-0.15
Fairness/Reciprocity		0.01	0.06	-0.13	0.13	-0.14	0.06
Loyalty/Betrayal		.248**	-0.07	.271**	0.10	0.18	0.08
Authority/Subversion		.293**	0.00	0.14	0.13	0.06	0.03
Purity/Degradation		.251**	-0.03	-0.03	0.14	0.09	-0.03

** p ≤ 0.01 (2-tailed). * p ≤ .05 (2-tailed)

Moral Foundations & Social Dominance, Authoritarianism

Moral foundation scores were also significantly associated with right-wing authoritarianism and social dominance orientation, and this pattern varied somewhat by gender.

Table 2										
Correlations Between Moral Foundations and Right-Wing Authorianism (RWA) and Social Dominance Orientation (SDO)										
	SDO		SDO		RWA		RWA Tradition		RWA	
	Dominance		Antiegalitarian		Authoritarian				Authoritarian	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Care/Harm	-.352**	-0.159	-.383**	-0.132	-0.014	0.017	-0.053	0.092	-0.083	-0.060
Fairness/Reciprocity	-.536**	-.262**	-.565**	-.412**	-.266**	-0.146	-.274**	-0.143	-.213*	-.183*
Loyalty/Betrayal	.342**	.368**	.364**	.251**	.538**	.641**	.588**	.569**	.562**	.602**
Authority/Subversion	.393**	.384**	.401**	.281**	.722**	.747**	.661**	.668**	.646**	.677**
Purity/Degradation	.397**	.380**	.367**	.275**	.679**	.608**	.736**	.782**	.670**	.619**
** p ≤ 0.01 (2-tailed). * p ≤ .05 (2-tailed)										

** p ≤ 0.01 (2-tailed). * p ≤ .05 (2-tailed)

Moral Foundations and Voting in 2016 Election

Logistic regression showed that for males, Care/Harm was significantly negatively related to the likelihood of voting for Donald Trump, while Purity/Degradation was significantly negatively related to the probability of a vote for Trump.

For females, Fairness/Reciprocity was significantly negatively related to voting for Trump, while Authority/Subversion was significantly positively linked to voting for Trump.

Table 3 Logistic Regression of Moral Foundations with Voting for Clinton (1) or Trump (2)			
Gender	Foundation	B	Odds Ratio
Male	Harm/Care*	-0.935	0.393
	Fairness/Reciprocity	-0.098	0.907
	Loyalty/Betrayal	0.515	1.674
	Authority/Subversion	-0.013	0.987
	Purity/Degradation**	1.21	3.353
Female	Harm/Care	-0.267	0.766
	Fairness/Reciprocity**	-1.36	0.257
	Loyalty/Betrayal	0.194	1.214
	Authority/Subversion*	1.116	3.051
	Purity/Degradation	-0.119	0.888

** p ≤ 0.01 (2-tailed). * p ≤ .05 (2-tailed)

Dark Triad & Social Dominance, Authoritarianism

Narcissism, Machiavellianism, and psychopathy were positively related to right-wing authoritarianism, social dominance orientation, and preference for Leadership qualities, especially in males.

Table 4 Correlations Between D3 Measures, Social Dominance, Right-Wing Authoritarianism, and Leadership Perception														
	SDO		SDO		RWA		RWA		RWA		Trump Leadership Perception		Clinton Leadership Perception	
	Dominance		Antiegalitarian		Authoritarian		Tradition		Authoritarian					
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Machiavellianism	.318**	.178*	.269**	0.138	.262**	-0.036	.266**	-0.095	.422**	-0.049	.252**	-0.050	-.356**	-0.041
Narcissism	.355**	0.174	.249**	0.043	.200*	-0.015	.295**	0.047	.296**	0.014	.205*	0.073	-0.063	.204*
Psychopathy	.339**	.287**	.311**	0.150	0.116	-0.001	.211*	0.036	.295**	0.050	.230*	0.072	-.274**	-0.092

** p ≤ 0.01 (2-tailed). * p ≤ .05 (2-tailed)

CONCLUSION

The current results help clarify the pattern of relations between moral foundations, personality, right-wing political views, and voting. These results also highlight how relations among these characteristics differ for males and females.

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