

# Acceptance of Autocracy in Germany in Times of Multiple Crises: Results from the 4<sup>th</sup> Wave of the Study “People in Germany”

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**MiD**  
*Menschen in Deutschland*

**JuMiD**  
*Junge Menschen in Deutschland*

**MiDInt**  
*Menschen in Deutschland: International*



# The Study „People in Germany“ (*Menschen in Deutschland* MiD)

# MiD

*Menschen in Deutschland*

<https://www.mid.uni-hamburg.de>

## Research Interest:

Analyses of prevalence, social distribution, risk factors and time trends of:

- political extremist attitudes (anti-democratic, right-wing extremism, Islamism)
- intolerance and group-related prejudices
- attitudes towards politically motivated violence

## Method:

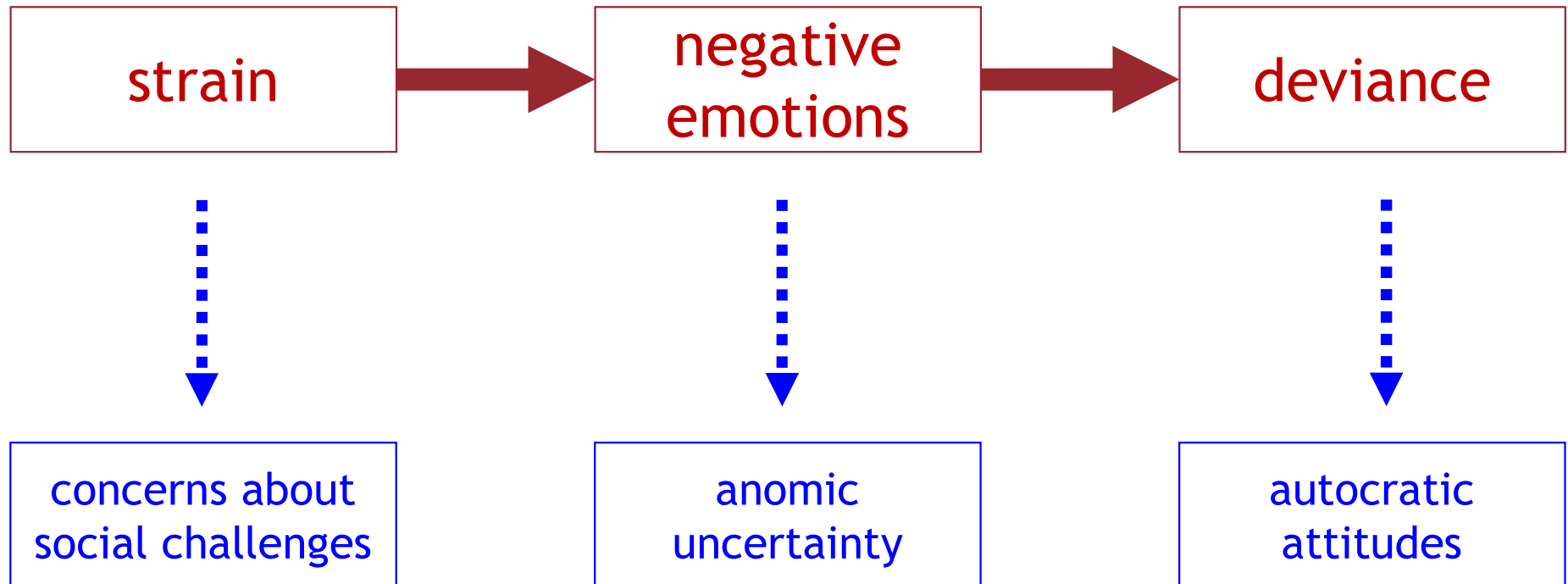
- Annually repeated, representative surveys of persons aged 18+ living in Germany.
- Sample of general population ( $n \approx 2000$ ) with oversamples of Muslims ( $n \approx 1000$ ) and non-Muslim Migrants ( $n \approx 1000$ ).
- 4<sup>th</sup> Wave conducted in Spring 2024 ( $n=4386$ )

## Background: General Strain Theory (Agnew 2006)

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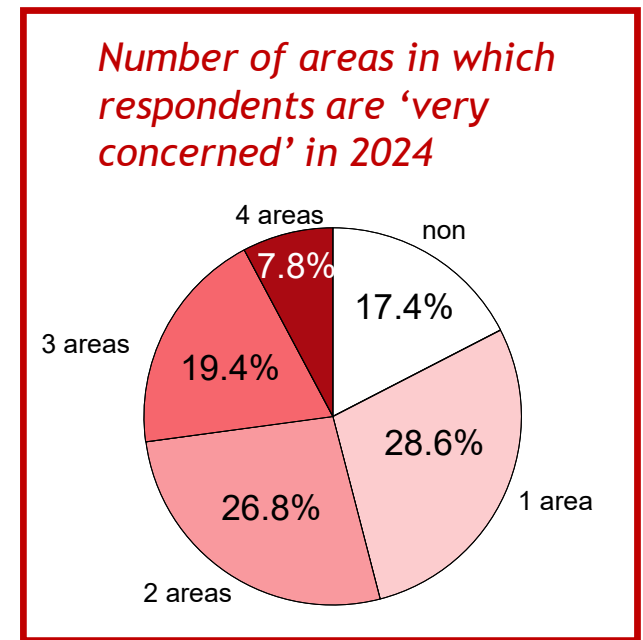
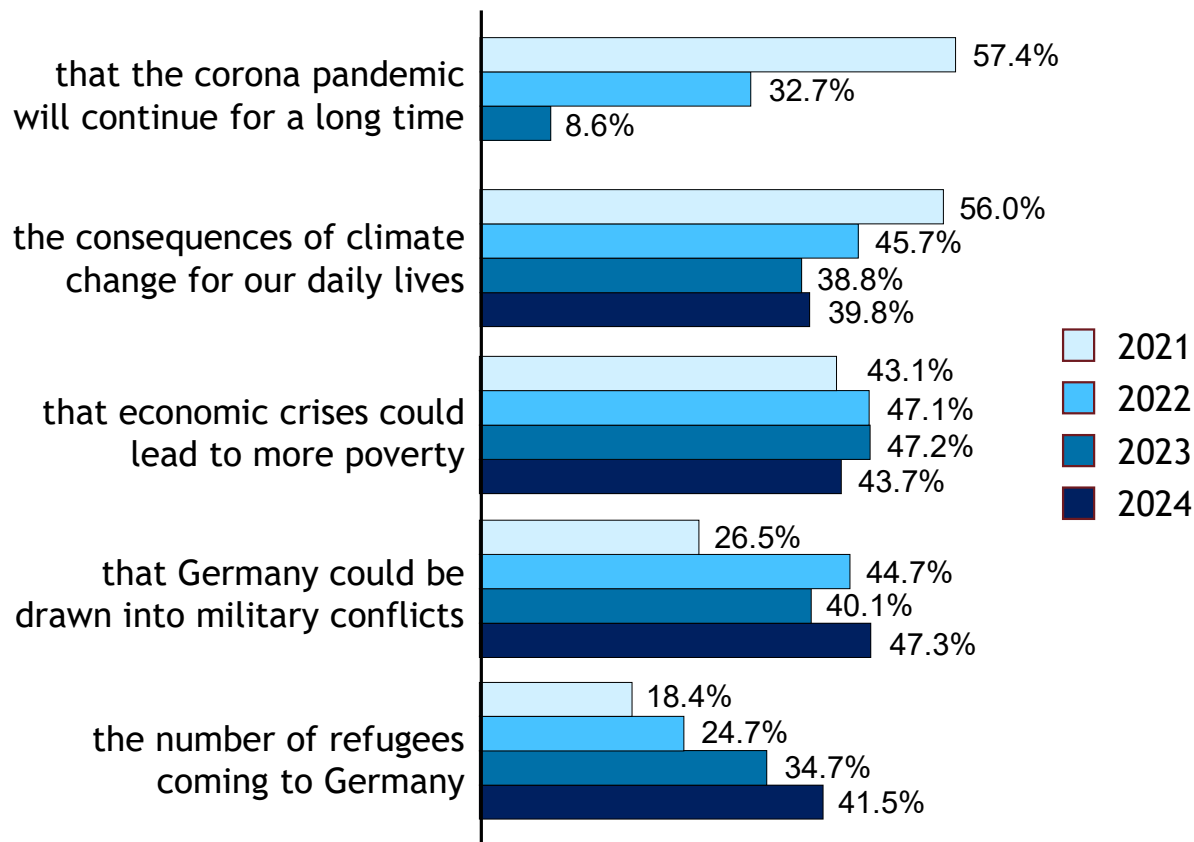
- *postulates the relationship between strain, negative emotions and deviant behaviour or attitudes*
- *strain leads to the development of negative emotions that need to be managed*
- *deviant behaviour or attitudes are one possible - albeit dysfunctional - coping strategy*
- *GST names possible factors that make deviant coping more or less likely*

## Application of the theoretical Model



# Do we face multiple Crisis?

*To what extent are you concerned about the following challenges and their possible impact on your life?  
(Proportion of respondents who are 'very concerned')*



# Anomic uncertainty

*To what extent do you agree with the following statements?*

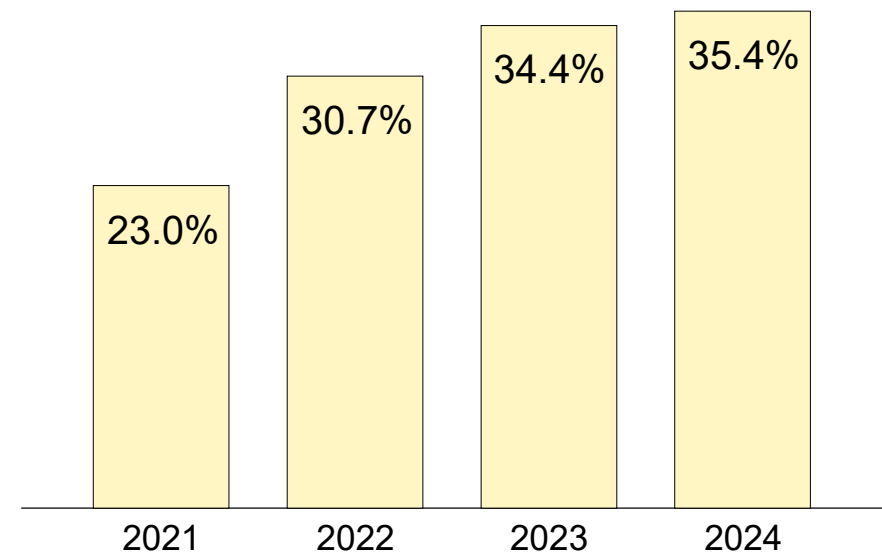
- These days, everything has become so uncertain that you have to be prepared for anything.*
- If you look at the events of recent years, you become really uncertain.*
- Things have become so difficult today that you no longer know what is going on.*

4-point Likert-Scale

- 1 = strongly disagree to 4 = strongly agree
- mean scale:  $m=2.8$  ( $sd=.7$ ),  $\alpha=.83$

Indicator:

- low: values  $\leq 2.0$
- middle: values  $>2.0$  to  $\leq 3.0$
- high: values  $>3.0$



*Proportion of respondents with high anomic uncertainty (values > 3.0)*

# Anomic uncertainty & correlation with number of concerns

*To what extent do you agree with the following statements?*

- These days, everything has become so uncertain that you have to be prepared for anything.*
- If you look at the events of recent years, you become really uncertain.*
- Things have become so difficult today that you no longer know what is going on.*

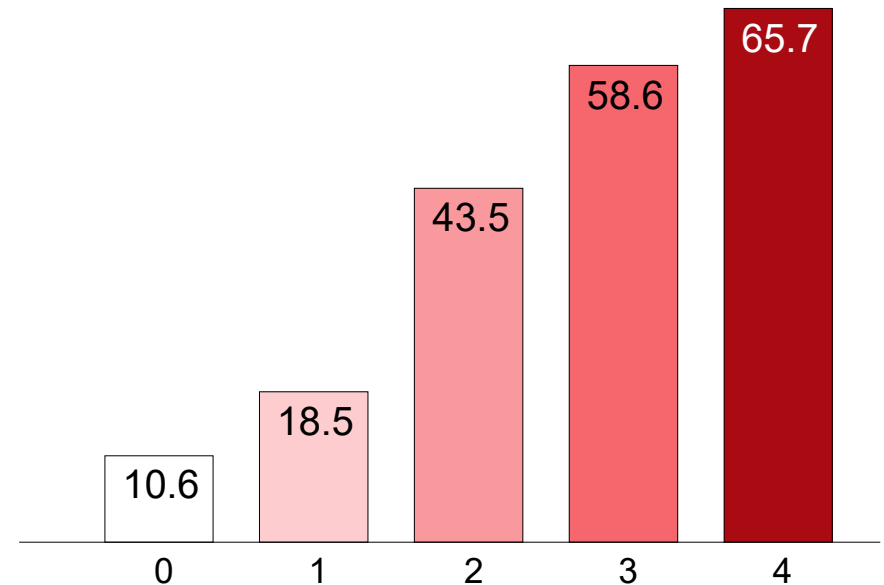
4-point Likert-Scale

- 1 = strongly disagree to 4 = strongly agree
- mean scale:  $m=2.8$  ( $sd=.7$ ),  $\alpha=.83$

Indicator:

- low: values  $\leq 2.0$
- middle: values  $>2.0$  to  $\leq 3.0$
- high: values  $>3.0$

*Proportion of respondents with high anomic uncertainty (values  $> 3.0$ ) in 2024*

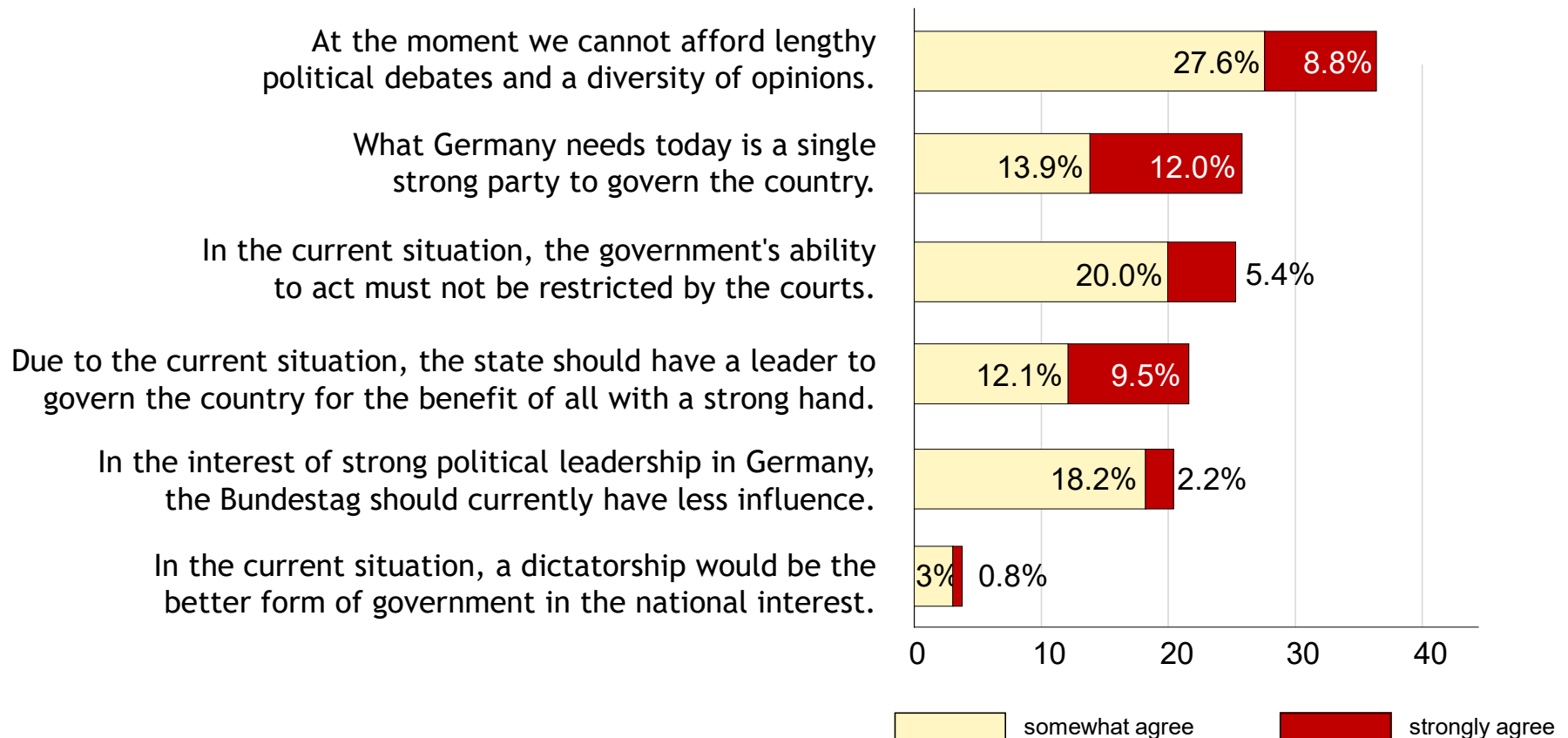


*Number of areas of social challenges in which respondents are 'very concerned' in 2024*



# Favouring autocratic structures

*Proportion of respondents in 2024 who 'somewhat' or 'strongly' agree with the following statements*



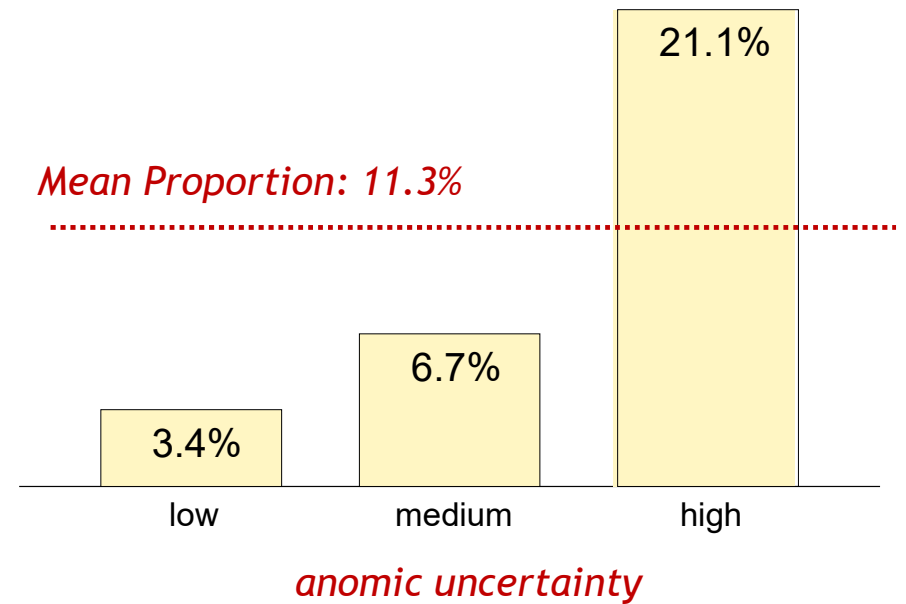
# Favouring autocratic structures & correlation with uncertainty

## *Favouring autocratic structures*

4-point Likert-Scale

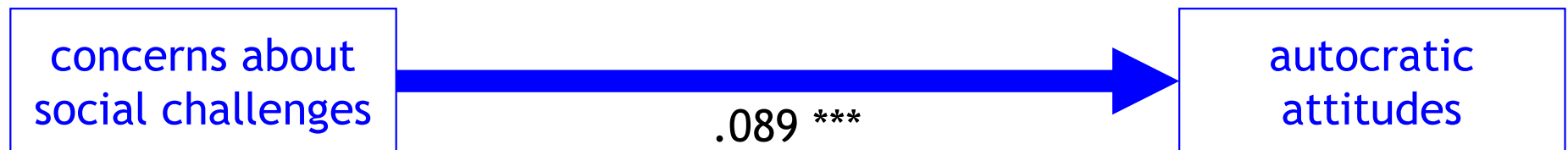
- 1 = strongly disagree to 4 = strongly agree
- mean scale:  $m=1.8$  ( $sd=.6$ )
- $\alpha=.78$
- **Percentage Agree (Values > 2.5): 11.3%**

*Proportion of respondents who agree with autocratic structures (values > 2.5) in 2024*



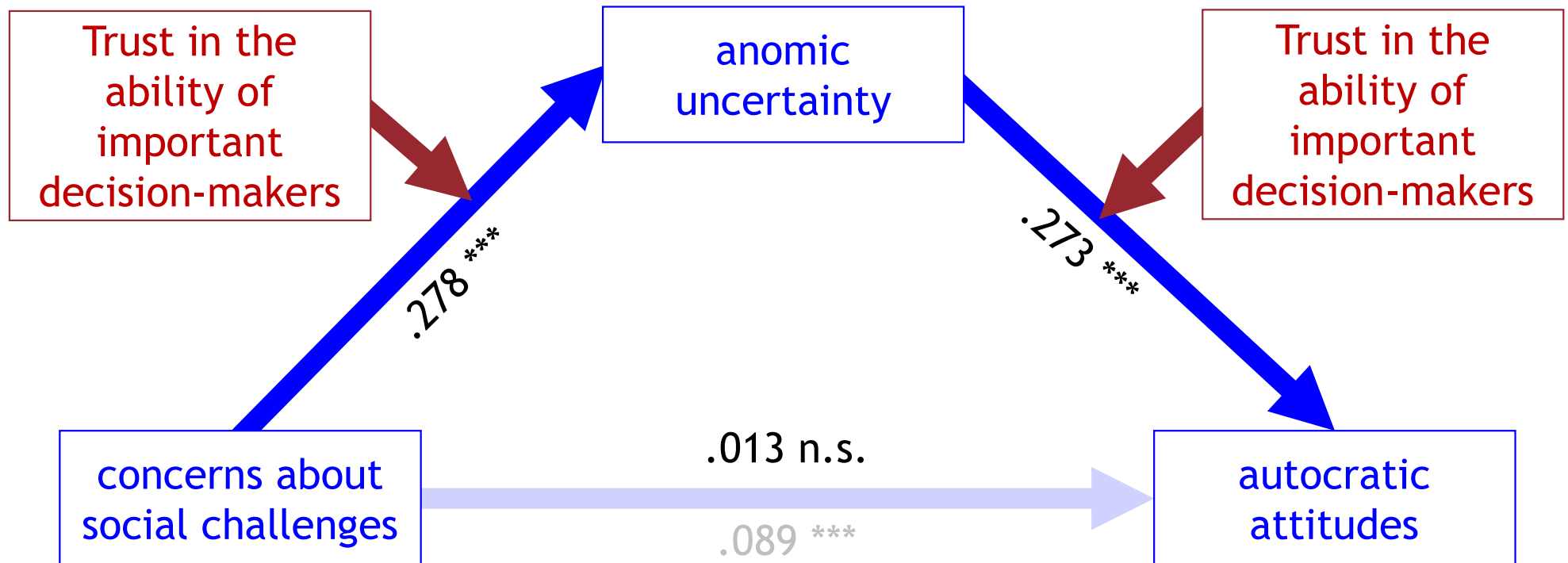
## Test of Mediation

*(weighted data 2024, controlled for age, sex & education, unstandardized coefficients)*



## Test of Mediation

(weighted data 2024, controlled for age, sex & education, unstandardized coefficients)



# Perception of the ability of important decision-makers

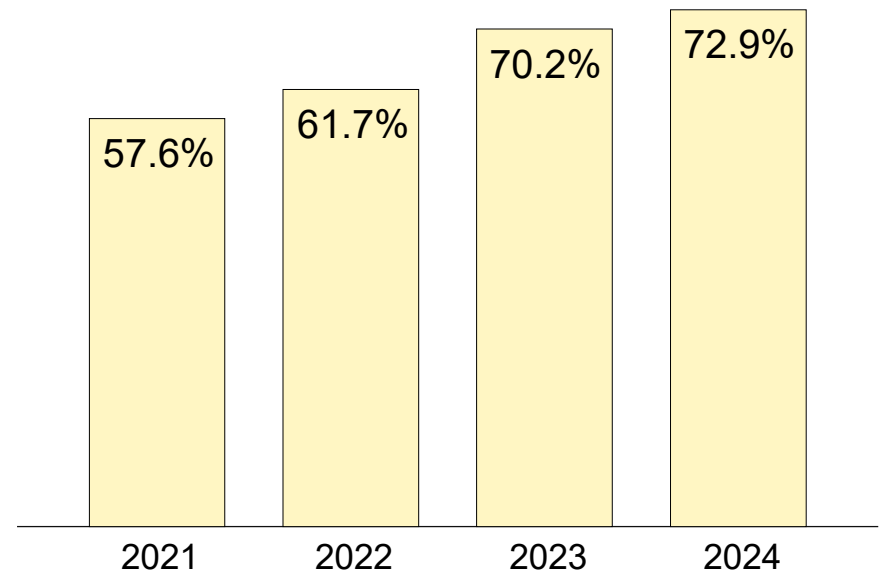
*Decision-makers in business, science and politics are also responsible for overcoming social challenges. How do you rate their actions? To what extent do you agree with the following statements?*

*The decision-makers in our country...*

- ...are not interested in the problems of ordinary people.*
- ...are unable to cope with the current social challenges.*
- ...often act against the interests of the population.*

4-point Likert-Scale

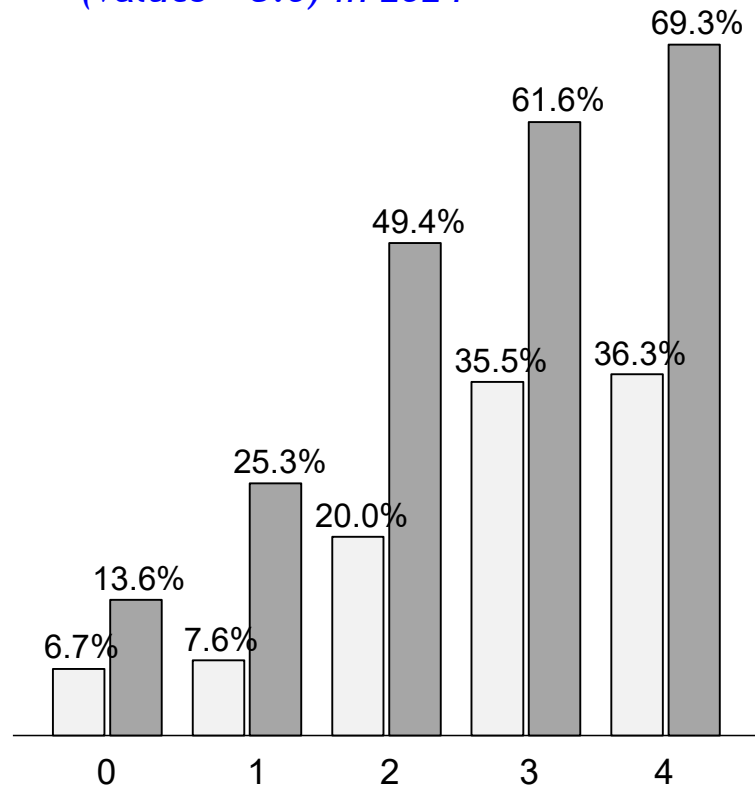
- 1 = strongly disagree to 4 = strongly agree
- mean scale:  $m=3.0$  ( $sd=.7$ ),  $\alpha=.89$



*Percentage of respondents who consider important decision-makers as incompetent (values > 2.5)*

## Bivariate effects of (in)competence of decision-makers

*Respondents with high anomic uncertainty  
(values > 3.0) in 2024*

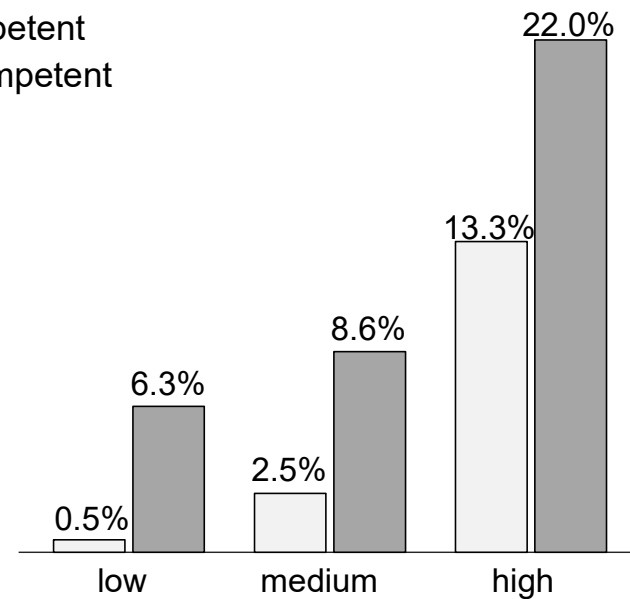


*Number of areas of social challenges in which  
respondents are 'very concerned'*

*Respondents who agree with autocratic structures  
(values > 2.5) in 2024*

*Decision-makers seen as*

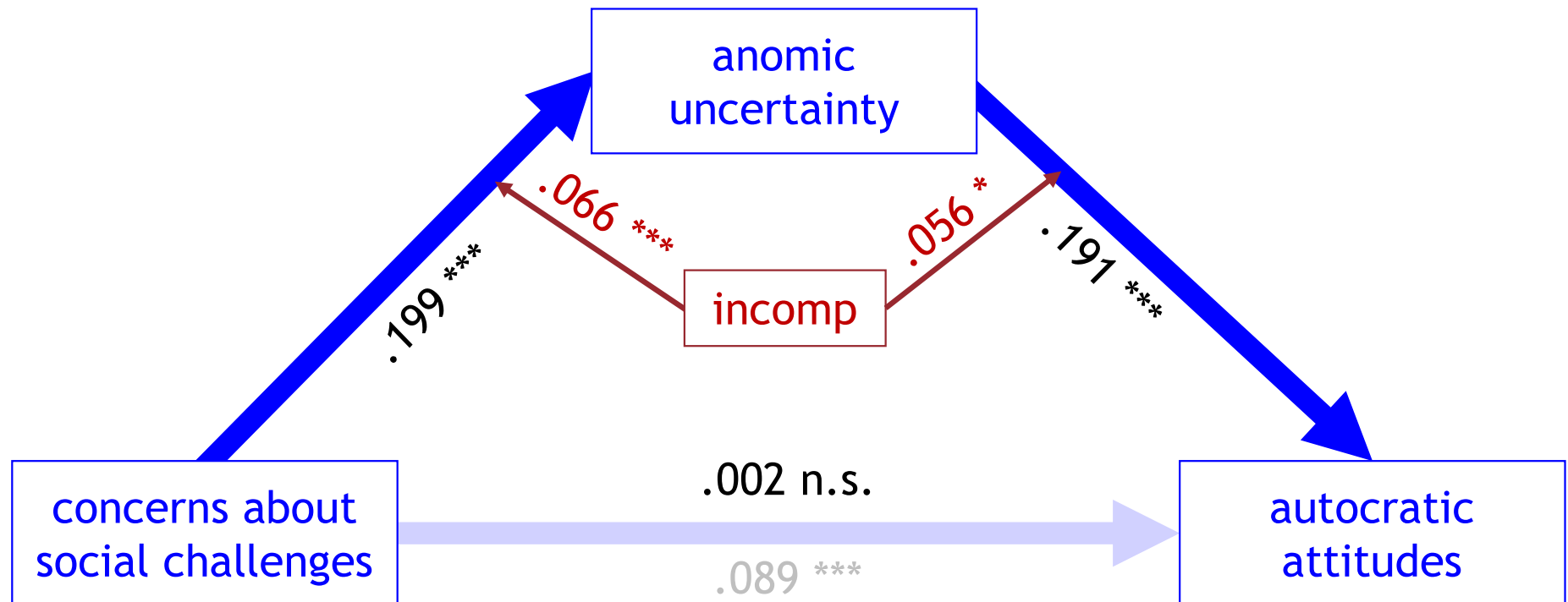
competent  
incompetent



*anomic uncertainty*

## Test of Moderation of perception of (in)competence

(weighted data 2024, controlled for age, sex & education, unstandardized coefficients)



## Summary

- The greater the number of problems people worry about, the greater their anomic uncertainty. It does not matter what kind of problems there are.
- In case of high anomic uncertainty, people want simple and quick solutions, they are more willing to give up important democratic principles to get them and to accept autocratic structures.
- The effect of social challenges on autocratic attitudes is fully mediated by their anomic uncertainty.
- The perception of important decision-makers as unable and/or unwilling to solve the problems that lie ahead:
  - increase the anomic uncertainty even more
  - and intensifies the effects on anomic uncertainty and on autocratic attitudes
- But even the perception of the decision-makers as competent does not protect from the acceptance of autocratic structures.



*Thank you for your attention!*

Study „MiD“

<https://www.mid.uni-hamburg.de/en/startseite.html>

Research Consortium MOTRA

<https://www.motra.info/>

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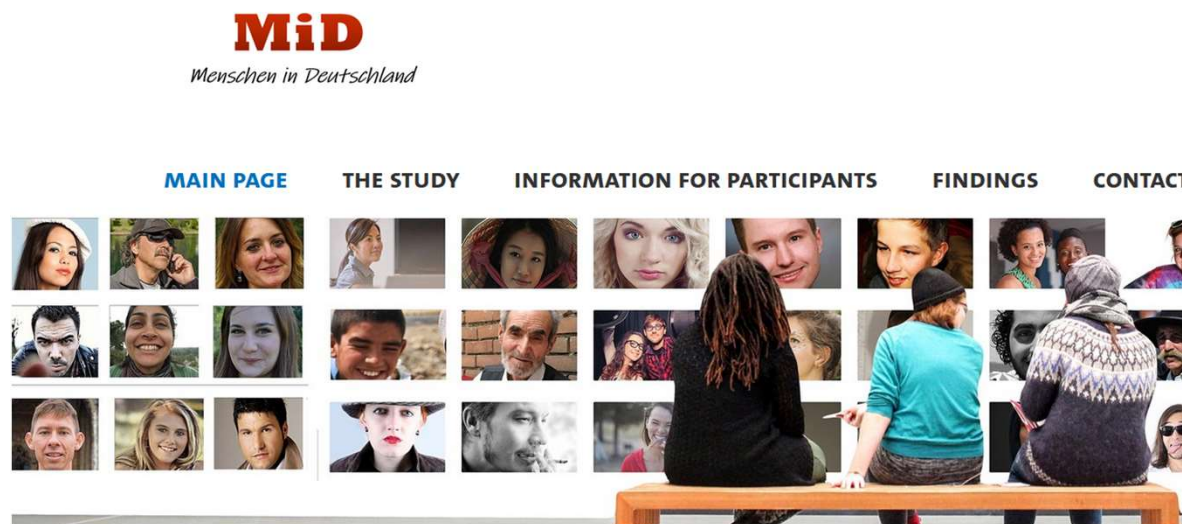
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# Homepage of the Study „People in Germany“



<https://www.mid.uni-hamburg.de/en/startseite.html>