

The Influence of Societal Challenges on Anti-Democratic Attitudes: Results from the 3rd Wave of the Study “People in Germany”

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MOTRA - Monitoring System & Transfer Platform Radicalisation

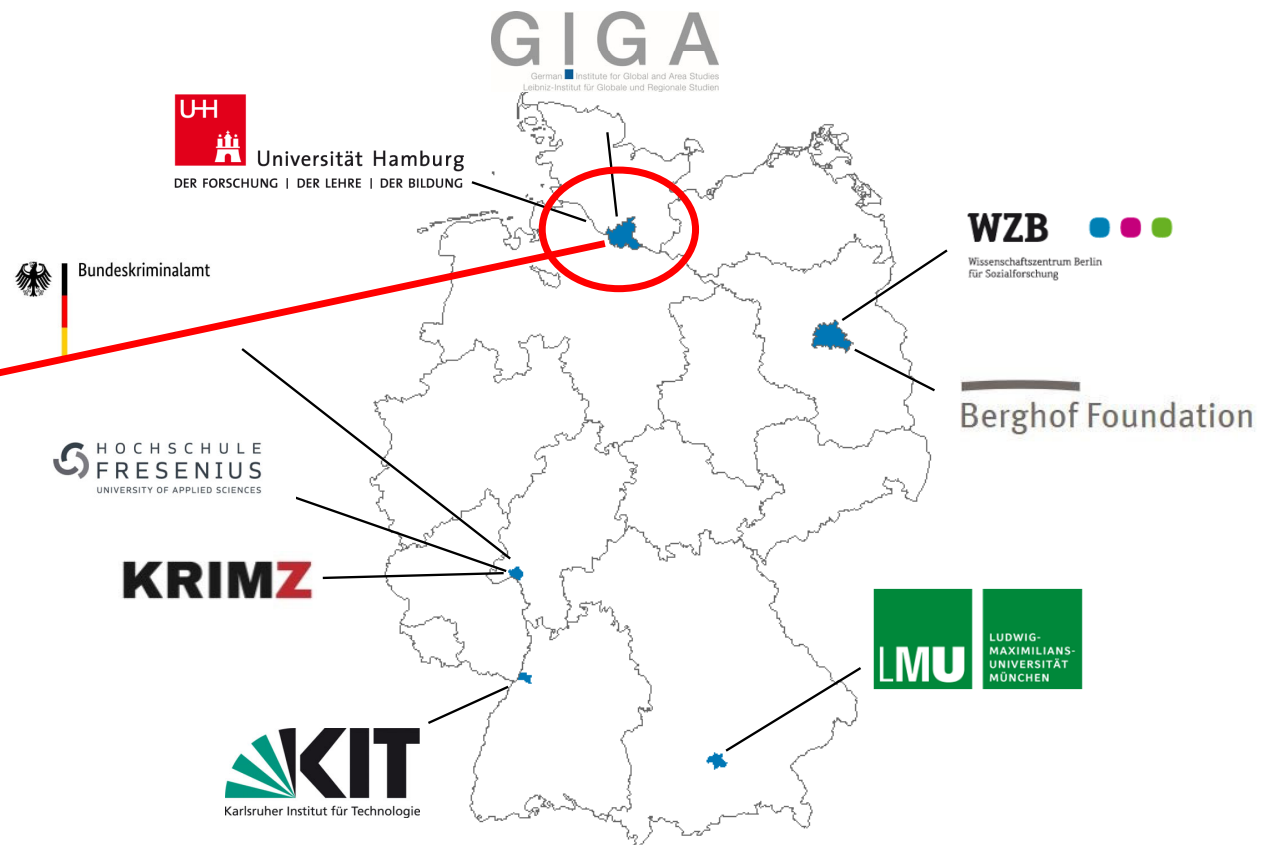
German research consortium
funded by the Federal Ministry of
Education and Research and the
Federal Ministry of the Interior and
Community.

<https://www.motra.info>

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

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

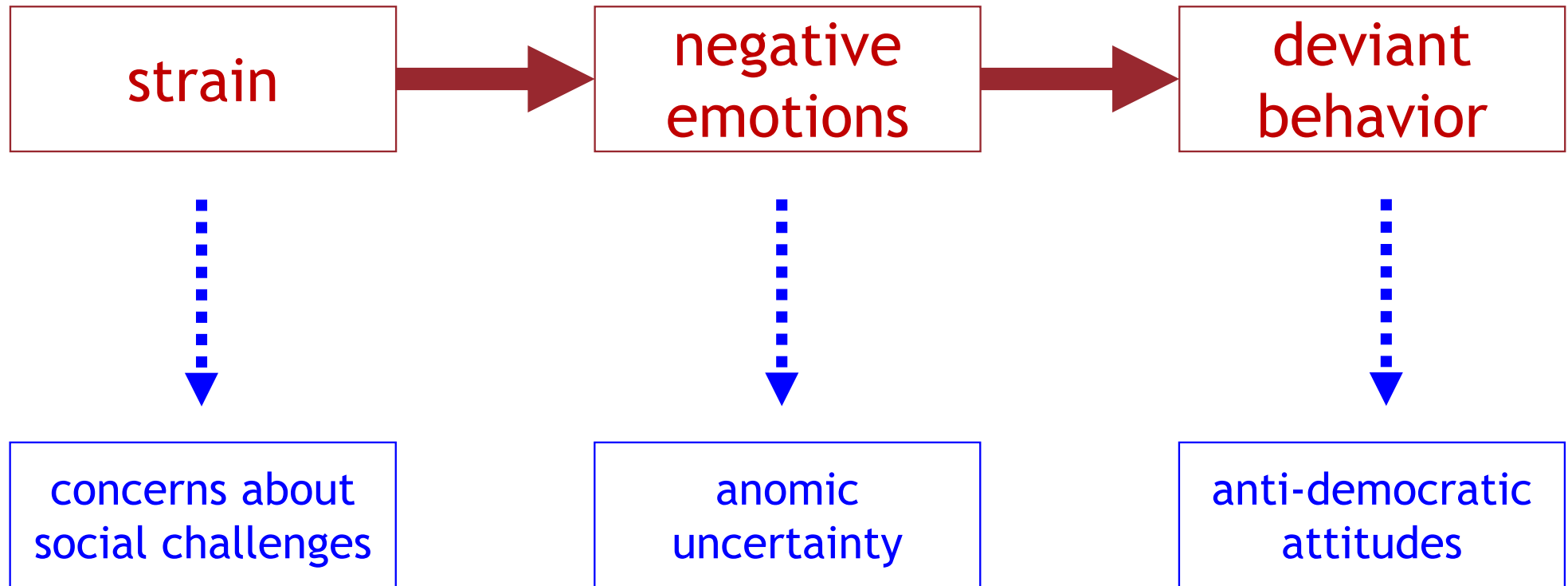
Method:

- Annually repeated, representative surveys of persons aged 18+ living in Germany.
- Sample of general population (n ≈ 2000) with oversamples of Muslims (n ≈ 1000) and non-Muslim Migrants (n ≈ 1000).
- 3rd Wave conducted in Spring 2023 (n=3990)

Theoretical Background

- *General Strain Theory (Agnew 2006)*
 - *postulates the relationship between strain, negative emotions and deviant behaviour*
 - *names possible factors that make deviant behaviour more likely*
- *We try to:*
 - *applicate the GST to political, anti-democratic attitudes (instead of deviant behavior)*
 - *identify relevant strains to explain anti-democratic attitudes*
 - *examine the significance of uncertainty and fear as a precursor to the typical negative emotion of anger*
 - *identify possible moderators*

Application of the theoretical Model



Measures

Level of concern due to:

- number of refugees entering into our country
- economic crises leads to more poverty
- Corona pandemic will continue for a long time
- Germany could be drawn into military conflicts
- life is no longer affordable because of inflation

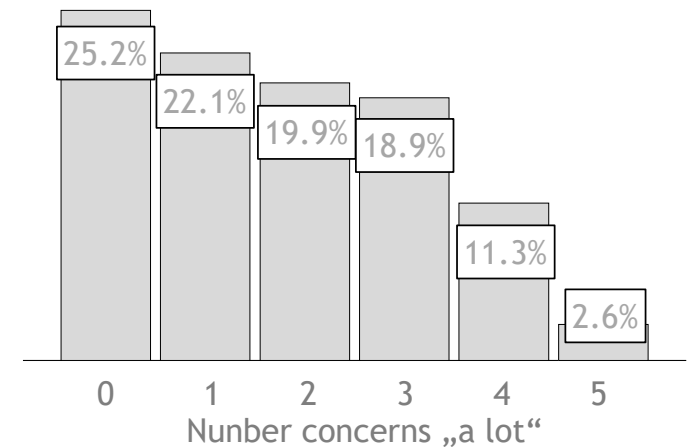
(1) *not at all*, (2) *not much*, (3) *slightly*, (4) *a lot*

⇒ Sum of answers with „a lot“ (min = 0 to max = 5)

concerns about
social challenges

anomic
uncertainty

anti-democratic
attitudes



Measures

Level of Agreement:

- These days, everything has become so uncertain. You have to be ready for anything.
- Looking at the events of the last few years makes you feel really insecure.
- Things today have become so difficult. You don't know what is going on.

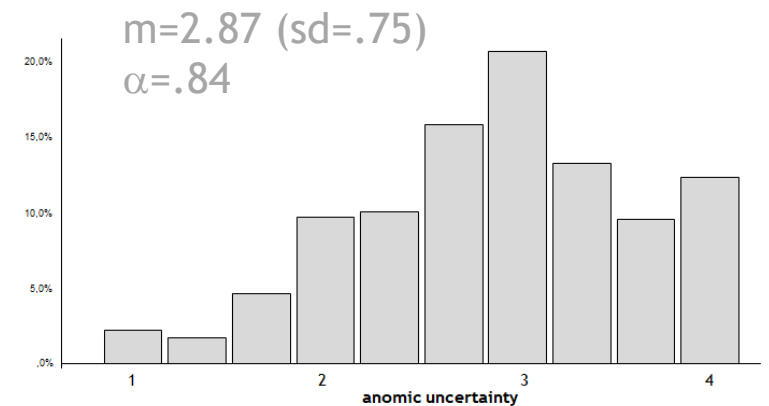
(1) Strongly disagree to (4) Completely agree

⇒ mean (min = 1 to max = 4)

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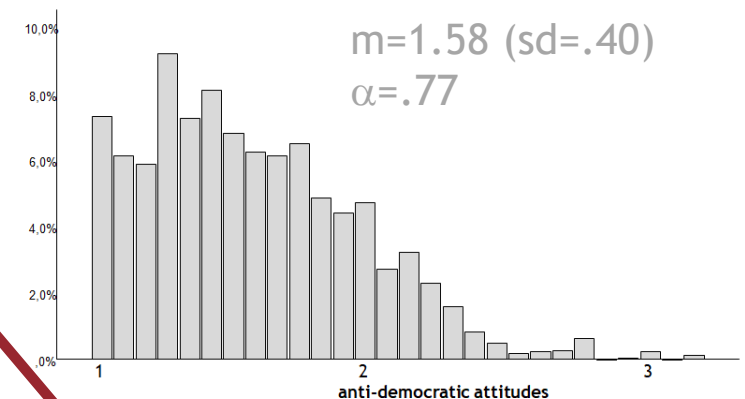
Measures

Rejection of:

- rights of freedom (opinion, assembly, press, speech)
- equal treatment (color, gender, religion, nationality)
- constitutional principles (regular elections, opposition, checks & balances, parliamentarism)

(1) *Strongly disagree* to (4) *Completely agree*

⇒ mean (min = 1 to max = 4)



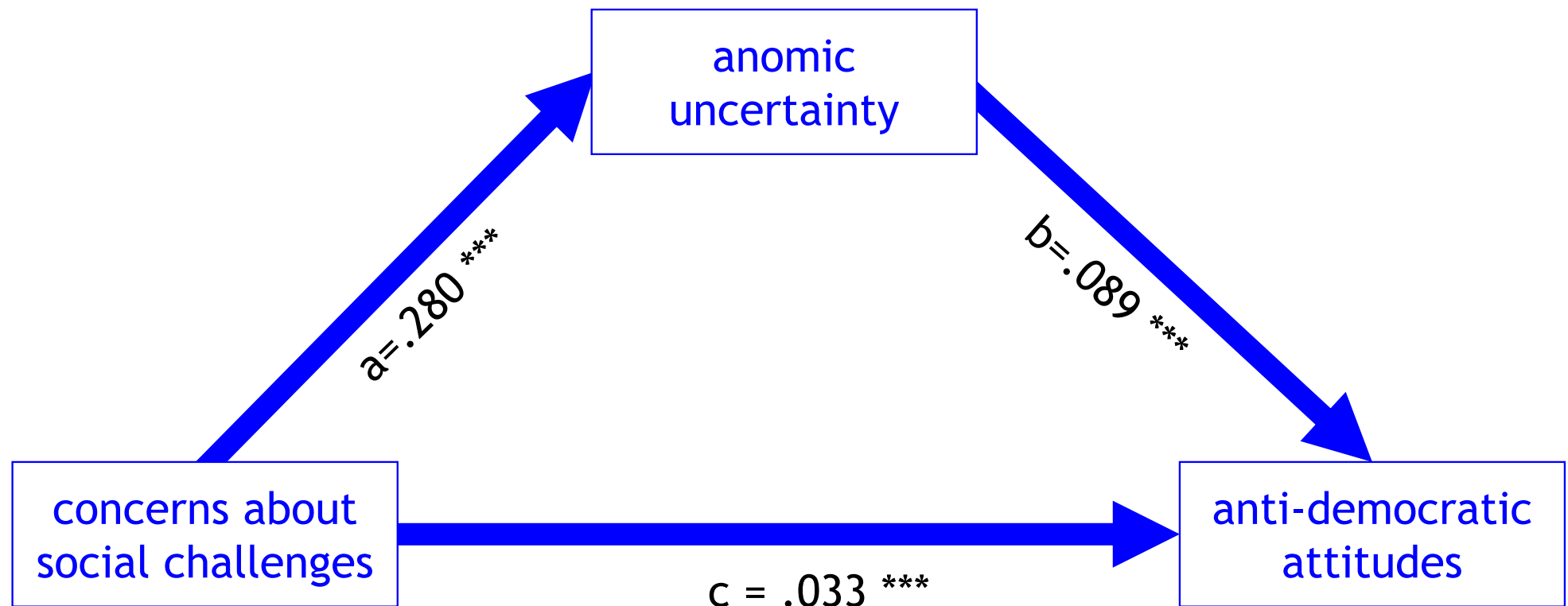
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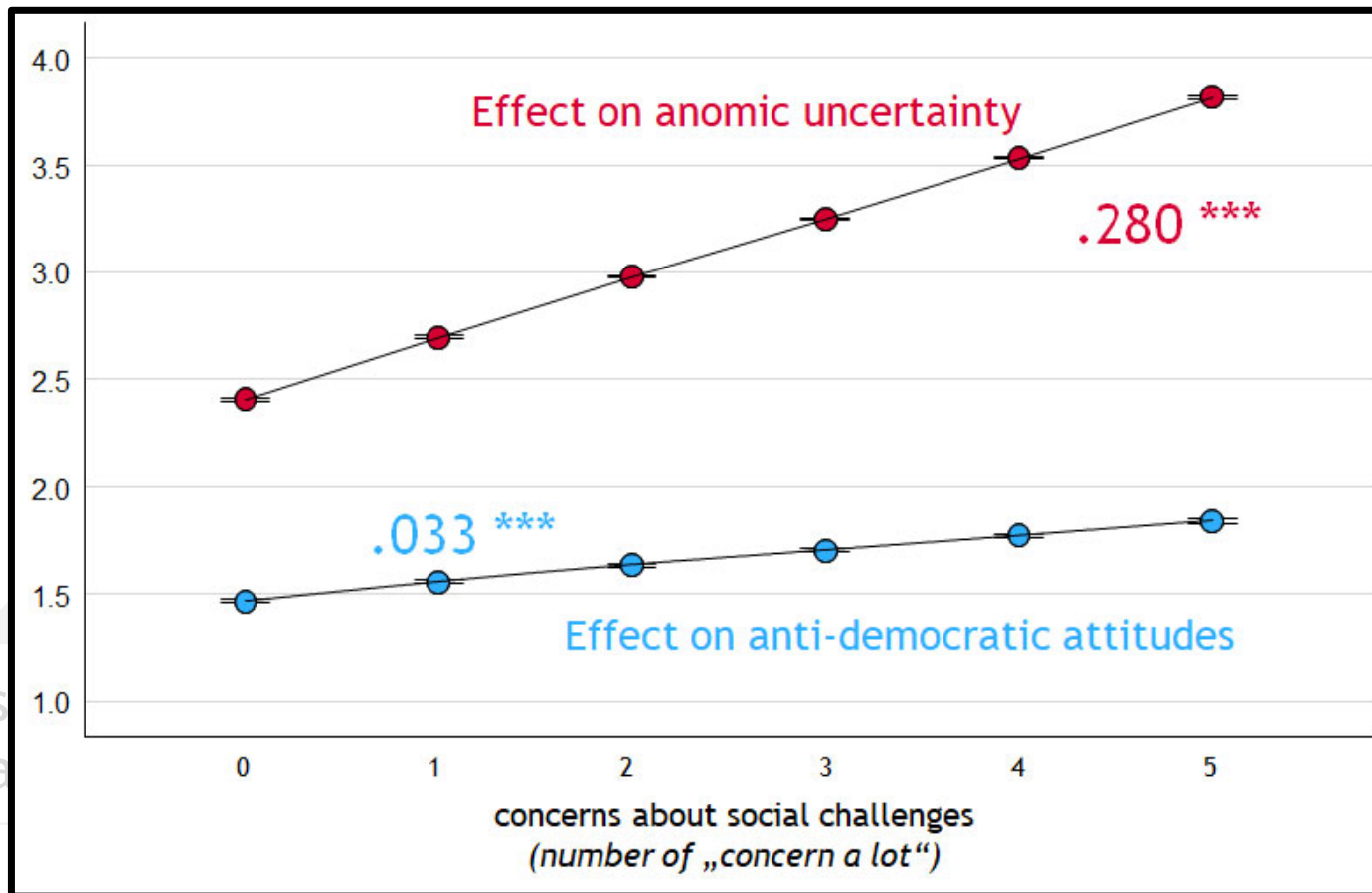
Test of Mediation

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



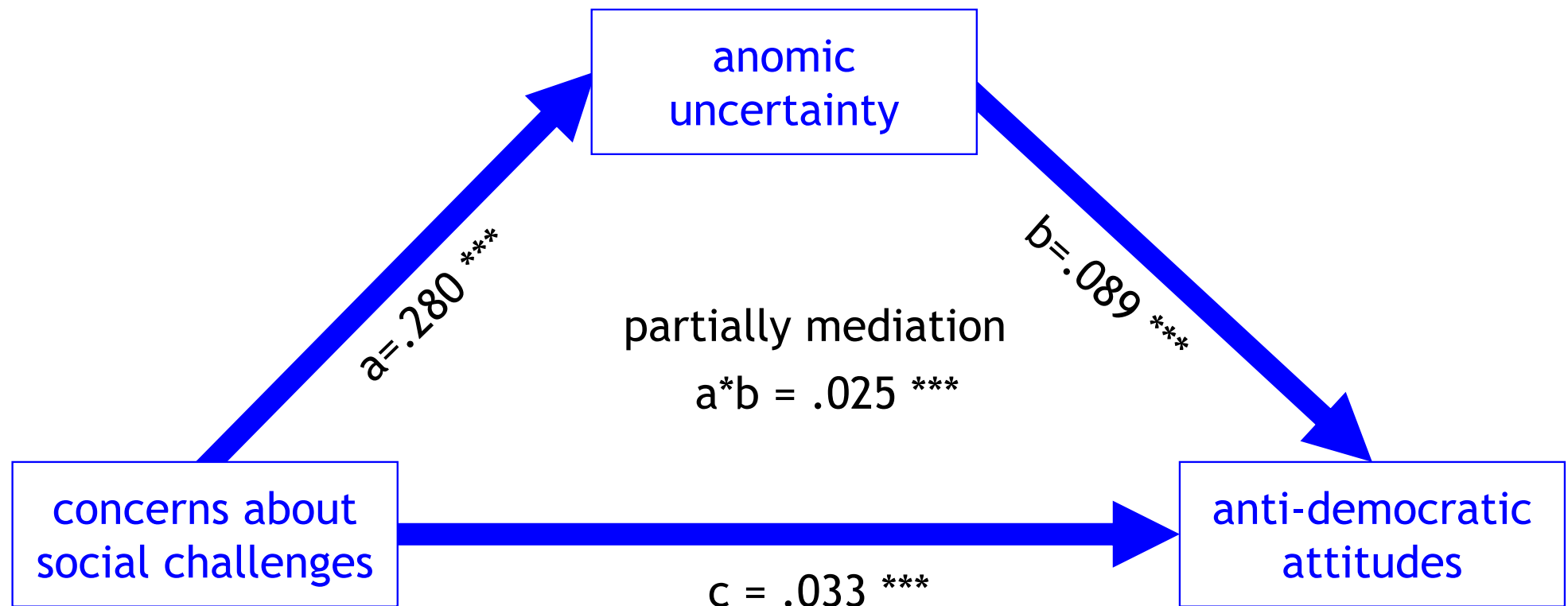
Test of Mediation

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



Test of Mediation

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



Test of Moderators I

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

Trust in state institutions (3 Items):

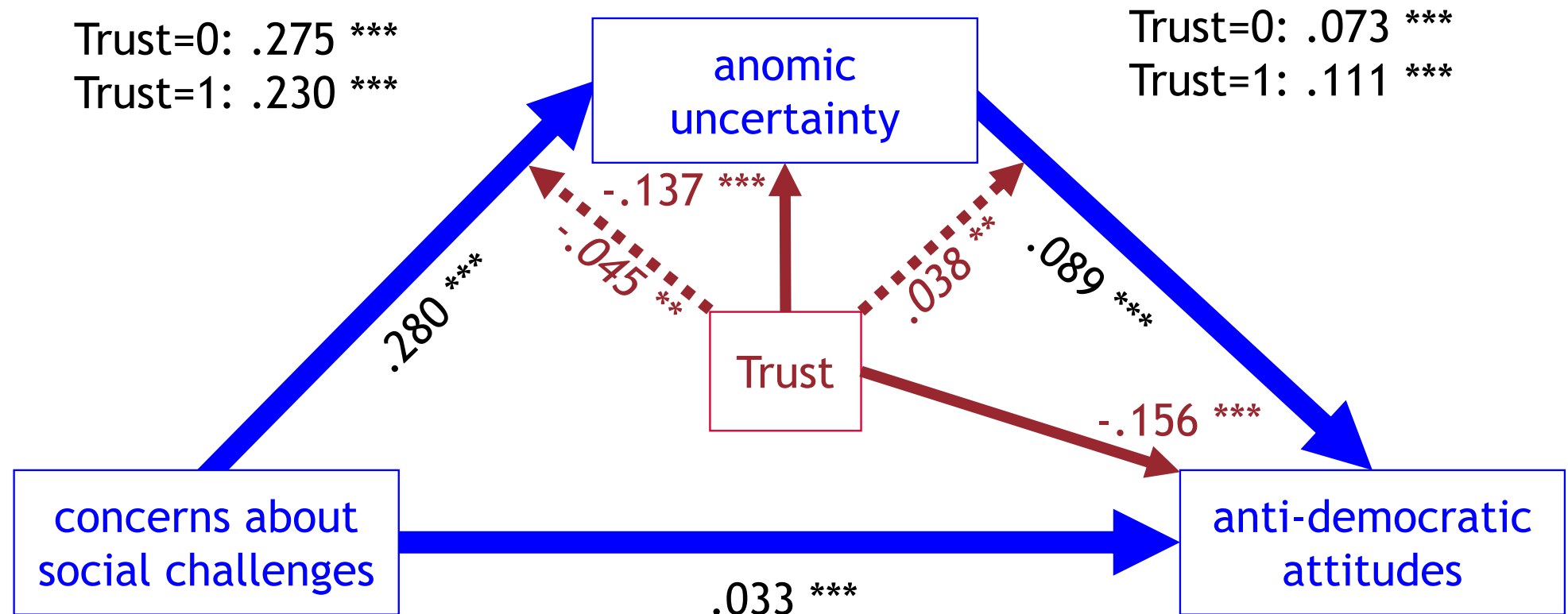
- Government, Parties, Public authorities
- (1) no confidence at all to (6) full confidence

⇒ mean (1-6)=2.90, SD=1.10, $\alpha=.84$ ⇒ % >3.5 ⇒ 0/1 (1=29.4%)



Test of Moderators I

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



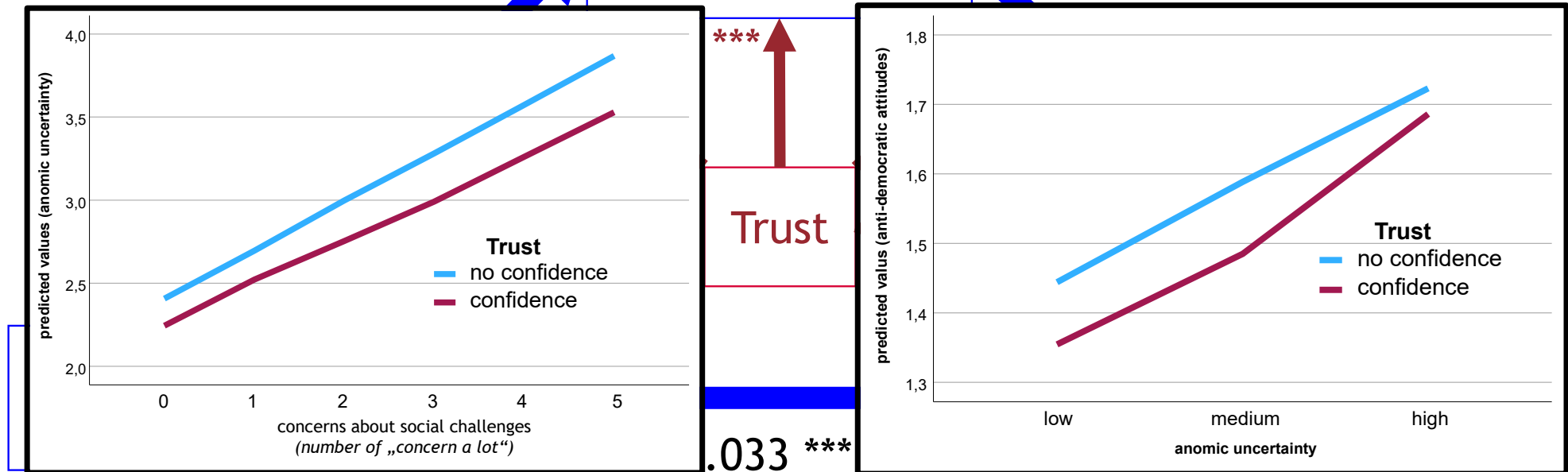
Test of Moderators I

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

Trust=0: .275 ***
Trust=1: .230 ***

anomic
uncertainty

Trust=0: .073 ***
Trust=1: .111 ***



Test of Moderators II

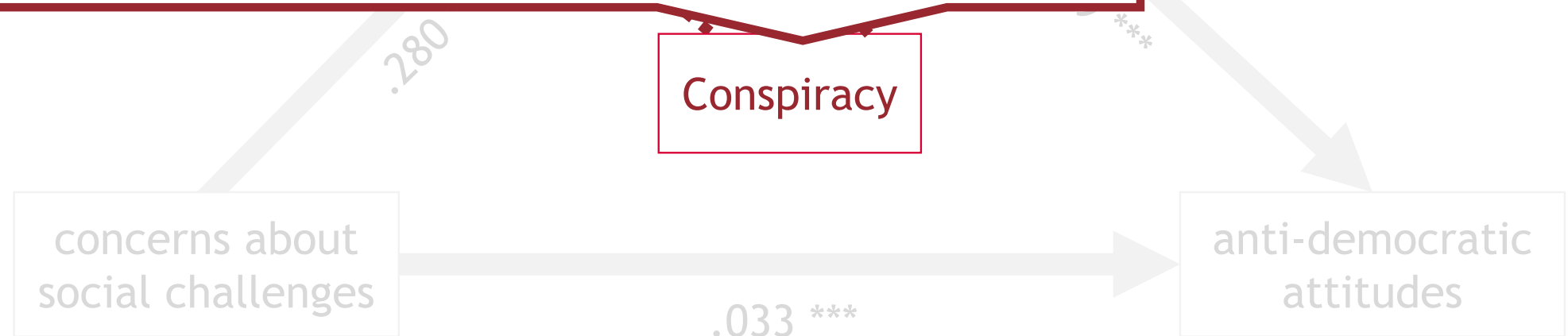
(weighted data, controlled for age, sex & education, unstandardized coefficients)

Conspiratory mindset (6 Items):

- Influence on political decisions by secret organisations, secret power or media
- Origin of the Coronavirus, Invasion of Ukraine, Climate change

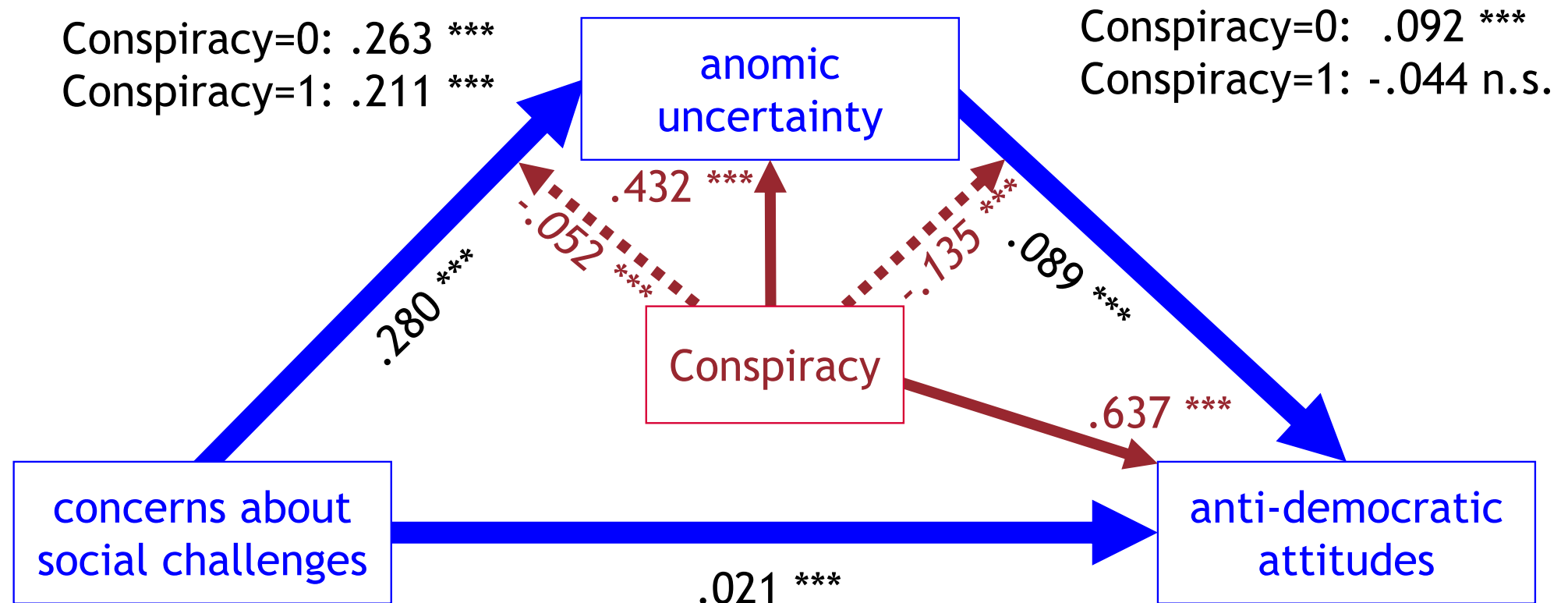
(1) Strongly disagree to (4) Completely agree

⇒ mean (1-4)=2.00, SD=.76, α =.88 ⇒ % >2.5 ⇒ 0/1 (1=23.5%)



Test of Moderators II

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



Test of Moderators II

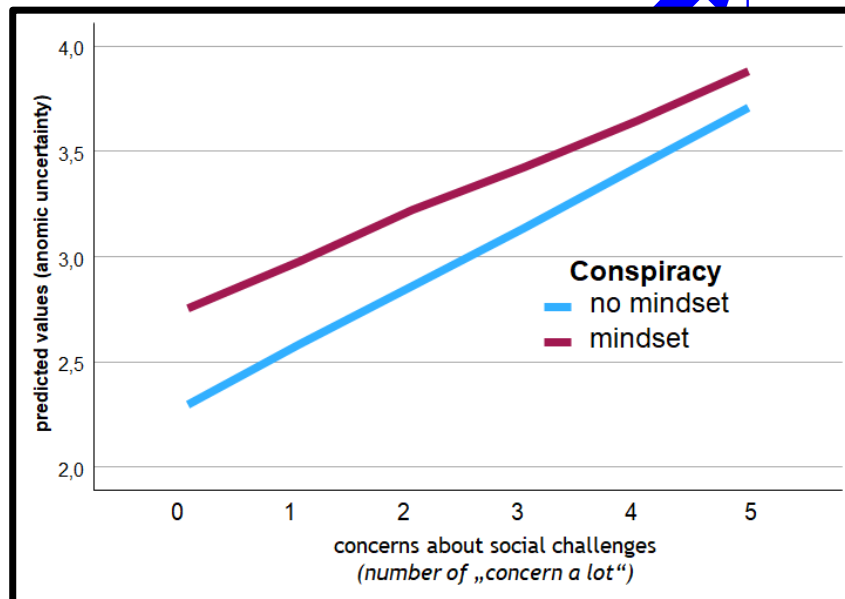
(weighted data, controlled for age, sex & education, unstandardized coefficients)

Conspiracy=0: .263 ***

Conspiracy=1: .211 ***

Conspiracy=0: .092 ***

Conspiracy=1: -.044 n.s.

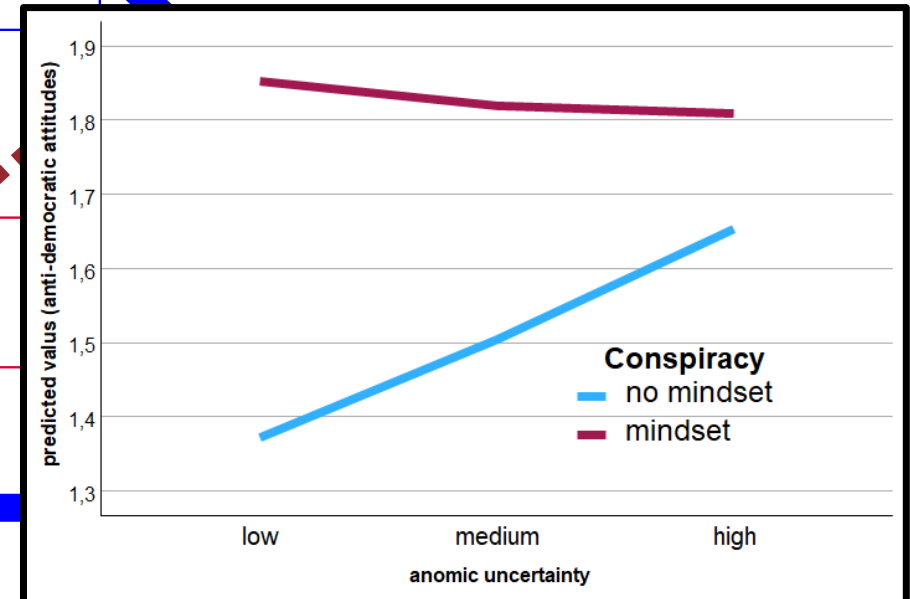


anomic
uncertainty

2 ***

Conspiracy

.021 ***



Summary

- The effect of social challenges on anti-democratic attitudes is partially mediated by anomic uncertainty.
- Trust in state institutions:
 - reduce the effects on anomic uncertainty and on anti-democratic attitudes
 - moderates the effects on both sides of the mediation model
 - does not protect in case of high anomic uncertainty!
- A conspiratory-mindset:
 - increase the effects on anomic uncertainty and on anti-democratic attitudes
 - moderates the effects on both sides of the mediation model
 - For people who believe in conspiracy theories, the extent of anomic uncertainty has no effect (no mediation). They have anti-democratic attitudes - regardless of the level of anomic uncertainty.
- Next steps:
 - Analysis of other strains and moderators
 - Authoritarian attitudes and nationalism as dependent variable

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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Research Report and Homepage of the Studie MiD

Research Report No. 1

"People in Germany 2021"

First wave of the German national representative survey:
Methodology, survey design and sampling

Rebecca Endtricht, Diego Farren, Katrin Brettfeld,
Jannik M.K. Fischer & Peter Wetzels



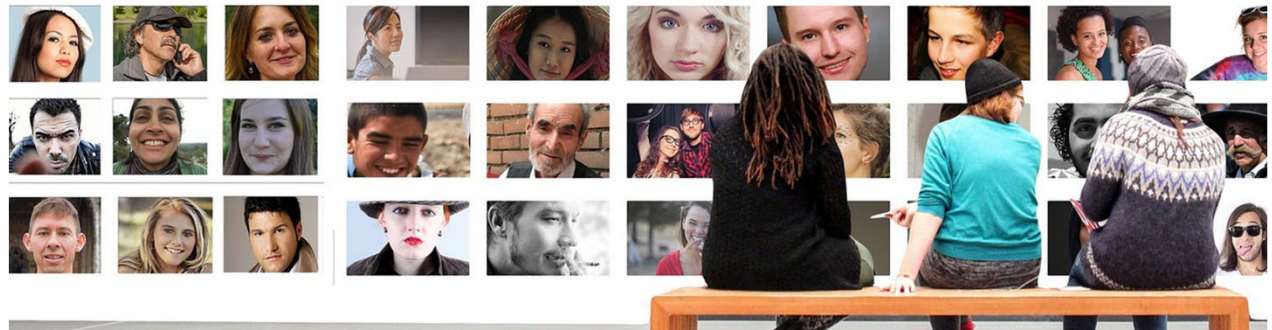
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THE STUDY

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

FINDINGS

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<http://doi.org/10.25592/uhhfdm.12244>