

Abstract

Broadly defined political ideology: Liberalism, Conservatism and Right-wing authoritarianism – often perceived as identical, are concepts dominantly used by researchers as descriptors of two distinct groups of people. However, this ideological understanding stems from overly generalized conclusions of current research:

Empirically defined Social and Economic dimension of ideology is better described by two negatively correlated factors than one broad conservatism factor. Social and Economic conservatism and Authoritarianism are rather distinct concepts with specific personality and demographic correlates. Social and Economic ideology is – in part contrary to expectations – mostly predicted by Openness to Experience, Extraversion and Emotional stability. Economic conservatism differs from other ideological dimensions being mostly predicted by Income and Education. Social conservatism differs from Authoritarianism being predicted by Age. Moreover, in contrast with Authoritarianism, Economic and Social conservatism are both connected to unique opposite interactions of Income and Openness to Experience.

Keywords

Social and economic ideological dimensions, Authoritarianism, Personality predictors