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The Link of the Moral Foundations to the Sociopolitical Beliefs of Right-Wing Authoritarianism (RWA) and Social Dominance Orientation (SDO)

Each individual perceives the world differently. These unique perceptions affect individuals' beliefs about both the social and political worlds. For example, a person may believe in overall fairness for individuals regardless of color, gender, or religion. This individual would then be more likely to view affirmative action as a personally salient political issue. Affirmative action provides increased opportunities (i.e. education) for those individuals who have been denied the opportunities in the past, attempting to correct past discrimination. This personally salient policy provides the individual with the chance to promote their belief of fairness. This research project aids in establishing a link between individuals' beliefs about the social world and applying those beliefs to personally salient aspects of the political domain. The two sociopolitical beliefs of right wing-authoritarianism (RWA) and social dominance orientation (SDO) provide one important linkage. Individuals high in RWA tend to view the world as dangerous and threatening, leading to preferences for conformity and obedience to authority (Weber & Federico 2007). Individuals high in SDO tend to view the world as marked by hierarchical relationships where one group has the legitimate authority to dominate another (Sidanius & Pratto 1999), leading to their "competitive jungle" orientation (Weber & Federico 2007). This legitimization of hierarchy results from the arbitrary superiority of the dominant group over the dominated group. Since individuals high in RWA and SDO view the social world in their particular manners ("dangerous world" or "competitive jungle"), it seems probable that these individuals would have more specific perceptions of the moral world. Therefore, I predict that these sociopolitical beliefs determine how important individuals hold the moral foundations of *purity, authority, in-group relations, harm, and fairness* (Haidt & Joseph (2006). Consistent with the theoretical prediction that people high in RWA value "conformity, tradition, security and social control," (Weber & Federico 2007, 394), we find that people high in RWA place more importance on the moral foundations *purity, authority, and in-groups relations* (N=288). Furthermore our results show a negative relationship between SDO and the moral theme of *fairness*, coinciding with their tendencies towards control over others (Sidanius & Pratto 1999). The next phase of this research focuses on the connection between the individual's relevant moral tendencies and their voting behaviors. By discovering this connection, we will be able to better predict voting behaviors on the basis of worldviews and their related moral foundations.

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