



HEXACO, social worldviews and socio-political attitudes: A mediation analysis

Luigi Leone*, Marta Desimoni, Antonio Chirumbolo

Department of Social and Developmental Psychology, "Sapienza" University of Rome, Italy

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 30 April 2012

Received in revised form 9 July 2012

Accepted 10 July 2012

Available online 4 August 2012

Keywords:

Hexaco model of personality

Authoritarianism

Social Dominance

Social worldviews

Structural equation modeling

ABSTRACT

The Dual Process Model of Ideology and Prejudice states that 'dangerous world' and 'competitive jungle' beliefs shape Right Wing Authoritarianism (RWA) and Social Dominance Orientation (SDO), respectively. We investigated whether the associations of the HEXACO personality traits with SDO and RWA were mediated by these beliefs. Study 1 (297 Italian participants) investigated mediation at the general factor level. Study 2 (344 US participants) focused on the components of Honesty and Humility and of Openness-culture and Openness-curiosity. Personality associations with SDO were mostly mediated by Competitive Jungle beliefs, whilst personality associations with RWA were mostly unmediated. At the level of narrow trait components, different effects for Honesty and Humility and for Openness-culture and Openness-curiosity were revealed.

© 2012 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

1. Introduction

In the last few years there has been renewed interest in the dispositional basis of political preferences (e.g., Jost, 2009). The associations between personality and social attitudes, such as ideology and prejudice, are conceived as stemming from individuals' quest for ideological postures that best fit their dispositional repertoire (Jost, 2009). Two socio-political attitudes have been considered pivotal in channeling dispositional effects across a wide array of political criteria: Social Dominance Orientation (SDO) (Pratto, Sidanius, Stallworth, & Malle, 1994) and Right Wing Authoritarianism (RWA) (Altemeyer, 1996).

SDO and RWA are conceived to reflect different personality dispositions and motivations (Duckitt, Wagner, du Plessis, & Birum, 2002). Meta-analytical evidence considering the Big Five framework suggests that RWA is mostly associated with lower Openness, whereas SDO is mainly related to lower Agreeableness (Sibley & Duckitt, 2008). However, broad personality traits are generally not considered as proximal associates of RWA and SDO, and it has been proposed instead that social worldviews are more proximal correlates of SDO and RWA (Duckitt et al., 2002). These worldviews are defined as beliefs about what others are like, how they can be expected to behave and how one should behave in response to others' actions (Duckitt & Sibley, 2010). RWA is traced back to a view of the world as an unpredictable and dangerous place (dangerous world beliefs). For this reason RWA is considered to provide

individuals holding a dangerous world belief with the reassuring shelter of convention and tradition. SDO, in turn, is traced back to a Machiavellian view of the world as a competitive jungle where individuals compete ruthlessly to prevail. Competitive jungle beliefs should activate motives related to domination and superiority and thus fit well with SDO (Duckitt et al., 2002).

Worldviews have been investigated as potential mediators of trait relationships with socio-political attitudes. It has been hypothesized that the proximal effects of competitive jungle beliefs would mediate the association between Agreeableness and SDO and that dangerous world beliefs mediate the association between Openness and RWA (Sibley & Duckitt, 2009; Van Hiel, Cornelius, & Roets, 2007). Research findings have revealed that competitive jungle beliefs mediate the association of Agreeableness with SDO (total mediation in Van Hiel et al., 2007; partial mediation in Sibley & Duckitt, 2009). Openness instead appeared linked to RWA in a mainly direct fashion (Sibley & Duckitt, 2009; Van Hiel et al., 2007).

1.1. HEXACO traits and worldview beliefs

Dispositions related to defecting versus cooperative strategies, fairness, sincerity and low drive for status appear to be crucial in favoring the adoption/rejection of ideological orientations related to group equality/inequality. In the Big Five framework, some such dispositions are represented by Agreeableness (modesty, altruism and compliance), but arguably in an insufficient degree, whilst other dispositions such as sincerity and fairness are not adequately considered (Sibley, Harding, Perry, Asbrock, & Duckitt, 2010).

Dispositions related to group equality/inequality are aptly represented within the HEXACO model of personality (Ashton & Lee,

* Corresponding author. Address: Dipartimento di Psicologia dei Processi di Sviluppo e di Socializzazione, Via dei Marsi, 78, 00185 Roma, Italy. Tel.: +39 06 49917921; fax: +39 06 49917652.

E-mail address: luigi.leone@uniroma1.it (L. Leone).

2007). The HEXACO model adds a sixth basic dimension of Honesty–Humility to the basic traits covered by the Big Five model: this additional dimension comprises the facets of sincerity, fairness, greed avoidance, and modesty (Ashton & Lee, 2007). The Humility-related components (i.e. greed avoidance and modesty) appear well equipped to summarize the personality dispositions crucial in shaping a general preference for equal vs. hierarchical social relations with other groups and individuals. Conversely, the Honesty-related components (i.e. sincerity and fairness) appear influential in fostering social relations based on trust and reciprocity that are incompatible with a Social Dominance Orientation. Thus, the features of Honesty–Humility appear to fit well with low SDO and make Honesty–Humility the main correlate of SDO (Lee, Ashton, Ogunfowora, Bourdage, & Shin, 2010; Leone, Chirumbolo, & Desimoni, 2012; Sibley et al., 2010). Honesty–Humility also reflects a tendency to be uninterested in possessing lavish wealth, luxury goods, signs of high social status and privileges (Ashton & Lee, 2007). This implies a lower motivation in terms of competitiveness to acquire social or material advantages. Thus, one could expect negative associations with competitive jungle beliefs, and that competitive jungle mediates the association of Honesty–Humility with SDO.

Honesty–Humility may also be associated with RWA. However, the direction of this effect appears inconsistent across studies. Sibley et al. (2010) reported a positive association between Honesty–Humility and RWA. This association was explained by considering Honesty–Humility as dispositions consistent with an established interpretation of the norms governing interpersonal relationships, well-matched with the conventionalism and traditionalism reflected in RWA. However, Lee et al. (2010) found only a weak positive coefficient in one sample, along with weak negative correlations in another two samples. Finally, Leone et al. (2012) found a significant negative association between Honesty–Humility and RWA.

1.2. Specificity of facet-level effects

These inconsistent results might stem from divergent associations of Honesty and Humility components with RWA. If such divergent associations were reliable, the aggregate Honesty–Humility level of analysis would be misleading, and random sample and measurement errors could lead to contrasting results across samples.

Honesty could be positively associated with RWA because the trait represents a traditional norm governing the conventional and formal interpersonal exchanges favored by the classic conservative view of society (Sibley et al., 2010). Honesty may similarly be positively linked with dangerous world beliefs because individuals valuing traditional norms of courtesy and interpersonal dependability may show a heightened sensitivity to perceptions of the deterioration of such norms in today's less predictable social environment. Instead, Humility would be negatively associated with RWA, SDO and a competitive jungle worldview because Humility conveys an indifference for status and hierarchy that does not fit with the intrinsically hierarchical mind-set that permeates authoritarian attitudes. Finally, a negative association between Honesty and competitive jungle beliefs could be anticipated because the competitive jungle worldview emphasizes disregard for formal and dependable relationships among social actors.

A facet-level analysis could also shed light on the role of Openness. Recent evidence suggests that distinguishing between curiosity-related and culture-related facets of openness may reveal different patterns of associations with ideology (Leone et al., 2012; Onraet, Van Hiel, Roets, & Cornelis, 2011). In particular, it appears that the curiosity-related component is the one responsible

for the Openness-conservatism association (Sibley & Duckitt, 2012).

1.3. Present research

We present two studies to test whether competitive jungle and dangerous world beliefs mediate the association of the HEXACO personality traits with SDO and RWA. In Study 1 (Italian participants) we investigated mediation (through worldview beliefs) of the HEXACO general traits' associations with SDO and RWA. In Study 2 (US participants) we focused on Honesty–Humility and Openness only, conducting facet-level analyses in order to account for the contrasting findings on the association between the general Honesty–Humility factor and RWA, and to test the differential relations between openness-culture and openness-curiosity, worldviews and socio-political attitudes. To the best of our knowledge, no published study has connected the HEXACO traits with the worldviews discussed in the DPM, nor at the trait-level (Study1) or the facet-level (Study 2).

2. Study 1

2.1. Participants and procedure

Two-hundred-and-ninety-seven Italian individuals (158 men, 137 women, 2 missing information; $M_{\text{age}} = 38.65$ years; $SD = 15.43$, range = 18–85) participated in the study. Participants were recruited by means of a 'snowballing' procedure. Psychology students were offered course credits for recruiting mostly non-student adult individuals. Non-student adult respondents represented 74% of the sample (26% were undergraduates).

2.2. Measures

The HEXACO personality traits were measured using the 60-item HEXACO-PI-R (Ashton & Lee, 2009) to measure Honesty–Humility ($\alpha = .77$), Emotionality ($\alpha = .63$), Extraversion ($\alpha = .74$), Agreeableness ($\alpha = .66$), Conscientiousness ($\alpha = .69$) and Openness ($\alpha = .73$). Worldviews were measured using the 10-item Belief in a Dangerous World scale ($\alpha = .74$) and the 20-item Belief in a Competitive Jungle World scale ($\alpha = .87$) (Duckitt et al., 2002). Right Wing Authoritarianism was measured using Altemeyer's (1996) 30-item scale ($\alpha = .91$), while Social Dominance Orientation was measured using Pratto et al.'s (1994) 16-item scale ($\alpha = .86$).

3. Results and discussion

Zero-order correlations (Table 1) show that age correlated with Agreeableness, RWA and SDO (positively), and with Openness (negatively). Females scored higher than males in Honesty–Humility and Emotionality, and scored lower in Competitive jungle, RWA and SDO. SDO was significantly negatively correlated with all the HEXACO personality factors, except for Agreeableness. RWA was negatively related to Openness and positively to Agreeableness. Competitive jungle was strongly negatively associated with Honesty–Humility. Dangerous world was negatively associated with Honesty–Humility and Openness, and positively with Emotionality. RWA correlated moderately with both social worldviews, whilst SDO was only related with competitive jungle. RWA and SDO were substantially associated, as it is typically observed in Western Europe (Roccato & Ricolfi, 2005).

Mediation was investigated through Structural Equation Modeling (SEM). Recall though that the cross-sectional design employed is unsuitable for inferring causal conclusions. Latent variables were defined by three item parcels each. The following indices were

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/891323>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/891323>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)