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Examining Links between the Dark Triad,  
HEXACO Personality Traits, Motivation and  
Success of Members of Political Youth  
Organizations

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**Examining Links between the Dark Triad, HEXACO Personality Traits, Motivation and Success of  
Members of Political Youth Organizations**

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### **Abstract**

Politicians, who act responsibly, who are hard-working and non-selfish, while being goal-oriented are indispensable for democratic societies in a polarized world with multilevel challenges threatening not only economic success, healthcare systems and the environment but even democracy itself. It could have devastating results, if parties in democratic systems would promote selfish politicians with malevolent personality traits, who only act on their own benefit, while overseeing public interest. This study aims to examine whether the Dark Triad (namely narcissism, Machiavellism and psychopathy) predicts political success (operationalized as sociopolitical control), when investigating a sample of young people engaged in political youth organizations in Germany. Furthermore it tests how work motivation interplays with these relationships. Results show that young politicians who score high on narcissism, Machiavellism and psychopathy are likely also scoring high in sociopolitical control. However self-determined work motivation does not moderate this link. Strengths and limits of the study as well as implications for future research and theory building were discussed.

*Keywords:* Dark Triad, narcissism, Machiavellism, psychopathy, politics, success, motivation

### **Examining Links between the Dark Triad, HEXACO Personality Traits, Motivation and Success of Members of Political Youth Organizations**

In the recent years German politics were on a shift due to the election of the social democratic party in the Bundestagswahl 2021, ending the 16 years government of Angela Merkels christian democrats. Meanwhile, the society had several debates about the trustworthiness and reliability of politicians (Schwäbische Zeitung, 2021). This loss of trust was fostered through several scandals in managing the Covid-19 pandemic in Germany (Lobbycontrol, 2021), through corruption (parliamentarians receiving money from the Republic of Azerbaijan in order to vote in their favor (BBC, 2021; Deutsche Welle, 2021)) and as politicians were taking personal and financial advantages out of the pandemic (the German “mask scandal”, where parliamentarians were getting commissions from ordering masks from companies paying unusual prices (Deutsche Welle, 2021)) et cetera, leaving citizens questioning the moral standards and the character of their representatives. There are studies indicating that this kind of scandals can affect attitudes towards political institutions and the political process (Bowler & Karp, 2004).

There are studies stating that high feelings of civic duty are negatively linked to successful careers among politicians (Baumann, 2009). Due to this and previously stated mixed feelings of the German society towards politicians it seems worthwhile to examine if there are malevolent personality traits, that are linked to political success. Three popular personality traits specifically considered as negative are called the Dark Triad (namely narcissism, Machiavellianism and psychopathy (Paulhus & Williams, 2002)). The question arises if these traits are associated with political success and could therefore offer an explanation from the perspective of personality psychology for the frequency of corruption scandals and perceived immoral actions in politics.

Although some politicians are career changers in German politics, it seems like that many of them are recruited out of the parties youth organizations or were active in its structures before getting elected into political offices. There are no studies examining how many parliamentarians were active in these organizations before they were either elected or too old to continue to be a

member, but the fact that the new elected Bundestag is the youngest in decades (Spiegel, 2021) – shows that the influence of young people and their organizations is getting stronger over the years. 127 out of 735 parliamentarians were aged 35 or younger at the time they were elected (bundestag.de, 2021) and most of them are likely also member of the youth organization of their party. Another indication for the huge influence of youth organizations on German politics is the news coverage of Kevin Kühnert, the former chairman of the Jusos (the youth organization of the social democrats), who is said to be the mind behind the election of Saskia Esken and Norbert Walter-Borjahn as chairmen of the social democratic party in Germany in 2019 (Frankfurter Allgemeine, 2021a, Frankfurter Allgemeine 2021b). He is said to play an influential role in the social democratic party since this (Tagesschau, 2021), resulting in his election as the general secretary of the social democratic party in December 2021 (Vorwärts, 2021).

This study aims to investigate in a sample of young people, who are engaging in political youth organizations, if the Dark Triad personality traits of narcissism and Machiavellianism are positively linked to sociopolitical control (SPC; this is the present study's operationalization of political success) and if psychopathy is a negative predictor. Its goal is to examine if these relationships are moderated by intrinsic work motivation, i.e. if the link between these traits is stronger if the work of the young people in politics is self-determined. Engaging in political parties is mostly voluntary in Germany and therefore requiring resources that could be invested in potentially (financially) more beneficial ways. Being self-determined should foster investing time and energy in this activity. The study also analyzes whether psychopathy is negatively linked to SPC and if this relationship is moderated by less self-determined work motivation, as this could further lower the invested resources in order to be successful within a party. The present study will also exploratively investigate the relationships between the HEXACO personality traits, sociopolitical control and possible moderating effects of work self-determination.

### **Dark Triad**

The Dark Triad is a model assuming that there are three distinct socially undesirable personality traits, namely narcissism, Machiavellianism and psychopathy (Paulhus & Williams, 2002). Narcissism is characterized by perceived grandiosity, entitlement and egocentrism, while Machiavellianism is associated with strategic manipulation and callousness and psychopathy is marked by callousness, high impulsivity, thrill-seeking and criminal behavior and is associated with low empathy and low anxiety (Paulhus & Williams, 2002; Paulhus & Williams, 2011). All three personality traits are described as non-pathologic (Paulhus & Williams, 2002). The traits of narcissism and psychopathy are defined as subclinical, there are also clinical concepts of these traits, i.e. the narcissistic and the anti-social personality disorders (APA, 2013; Barelds & Dijkstra, 2021; Kacel, Ennis & Pereira, 2017; Paulhus & Williams, 2002; Thompson, Ramos & Willett, 2014). Paulhus and Williams (2002) found that all three traits are overlapping, having moderate inter-correlations and sharing links to disagreeableness, but that they are still distinct constructs.

Subclinical narcissism as a construct was first described by Raskin and Hall (1979) as they tried to distinct a subclinical version of narcissism from the DSM personality disorder, when creating the Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI). There are many sources supporting the distinction between subclinical and clinical narcissism (e.g. Morf & Rhodewalt, 2001; Paulhus & Williams, 2002). The main attribute of the construct measured by the NPI is grandiosity (Miller & Campbell, 2008). This grandiosity is said to foster entitlement and sometimes even aggression (Bushman & Baumeister, 1998; Bushman, Bonacci, van Dijk, & Baumeister, 2003; Jones & Paulhus, 2010). Self-attributed leadership or authority as well as other entitlement are the main factors in two-factor solutions of narcissism (Kubarych, Deary, & Austin, 2004). Jones and Paulhus (2013) state that the grandiose definition of narcissism is used in the conception of the Dark Triad instead of others. They differentiate between the ego-reinforcement motivation behind narcissism and the instrumental and material gain as motives behind Machiavellianism and psychopathy (Jones & Paulhus, 2013).

Richard Christie selected statements from Machiavelli's books which lead to the conceptualization of the construct of Machiavellianism, describing a manipulative personality with a

cynical view on the world and being callous (Christie & Geis, 1970; Jones & Paulhus, 2013). Jones and Paulhus (2009) also mention the military strategist Sun Tzu, referring to planning, coalition formation and reputation building, which are important to distinguish Machiavellianism and psychopathy (Jones & Paulhus, 2011b). Psychopathy is described as more impulsive, resulting in abandoning friends and family and disregarding the own reputation (Jones & Paulhus, 2011b). Machiavellians on the other hand are strategic, try to plan, build alliances and want to have a good reputation (Jones & Paulhus, 2011b). This is also statistically proven as Jones & Paulhus (2011a) show. All in all Machiavellianism is in most sources described as manipulative, callous and strategic (Jones & Paulhus, 2011b).

According to Cleckley (1976) there are two factors describing psychopathy, namely callousness and impulsivity (Cleckley, 1976; Jones & Paulhus, 2013). Psychopathy was defined in clinical, criminal and non-pathologic contexts (Hicks et al., 2007; Jones & Paulhus, 2013; Thompson, Ramos & Willett, 2014). Psychopaths seem to be not strategically planning, but using their callousness for short-term rewards in a rather impulsive way, even accepting damage on their long-term interests (Jones & Paulhus, 2011a; Jones & Paulhus, 2013). This can, combined with other traits such as thrill seeking or recklessness, foster criminal behavior (Hare & Neumann, 2008; Jones & Paulhus, 2013). Jones and Paulhus (2013) describe impulsivity as the most important factor to differentiate between Machiavellianism and psychopathy.

All in all it can be said, that all three personality traits of the Dark Triad, to some extent, share tendencies towards self-promotion, callousness, aggressive behavior and a socially malevolent character (Paulhus & Williams, 2002).

### **The Dark Triad and Sociopolitical Control**

Sociopolitical control (SPC) is an important part of the intrapersonal aspect of psychological empowerment (PE) a theoretical framework, developed from Paulhus and Christies (1981) Spheres of Control (SOC) model (Holden et al., 2005; Peterson et al., 2006; Zimmerman, 1990; Zimmerman & Zahniser, 1991). SPC refers to the individuals perception of abilities and competence in political and



social systems and its capability in organizing groups and people (Peterson et al., 2006; Zimmerman & Zahniser, 1991). Although sociopolitical control is a variable describing ones self-rated and perceived capability to influence their community and social environment, it seems logically consistent that people, who feel high rates of sociopolitical control, are likely to actually be more successful in the political field. It is therefore used in the present study as an operationalization for political success. Sociopolitical control contains two factors: leadership competence and policy control (Peterson et al., 2006). Ones perceived abilities related to human management are described by leadership competence (Smith & Propst, 2001; Zimmerman & Zahniser, 1991), whereas policy control is defined by the perceived capability of influencing decision making of people in power (Itzhaky & York, 2003; Zimmerman & Zahniser, 1991).

#### ***Potential Positive and Negative Outcomes of the Dark Triad Traits and Possible Links to Political Success***

It is questionable if there are “objective” measurements of being successful within parties. Instead of this, success within a party can be described as influencing and leading people towards a desired political direction or opinion (sociopolitical control is used in the present study as an operationalization for this). The Dark Triad traits of narcissism and Machiavellianism could, according to the previous stated literature have a link to SPC.

Narcissism has links to success on the individual level within organizations (LeBreton, Shiverdecker & Grimaldi, 2018; Spurk, Keller & Hirschi, 2016) and Machiavellianism is associated with the drive of controlling others by strategic planning and building alliances (Jones & Paulhus, 2011b), which could be related to political success. These links could be even stronger when having self-determined motivation. Narcissists, who are self-determined should have even better results regarding perceived SPC, when being intrinsic motivated being engaged in politics and putting more resources in (mostly) voluntary work within a political party. Machiavellians, as they try to gain control over people by definition (Jones & Paulhus, 2011b), should also profit from being self-determined motivated, as this could be a driving factor for their engagement, too. Having less

motivation should also weaken the link between these two traits and SPC, as they would use their resources for gaining success and profit in other areas of life.

The other way around it is hypothesized for psychopathy. As psychopaths are short-term focused and impulsive (Jones & Paulhus, 2011a; Jones & Paulhus, 2013) it is not likely that people scoring high on that trait gain sociopolitical influence, when contradicting their long-term goals for short-term incentives and as they do not pay attention to relationships with others for getting these incentives. As described before, relationships and alliances may be an important factor for political success. The contrary relationship between the both variables, psychopathy and SPC, could be even stronger, when people scoring high on psychopathy are not motivated intrinsically, as this could lead to less time and resources invested to achieve more political success.

Plais and Pruyers (2017) examined how the Dark Triad and HEXACO personality traits predict the perceived political qualification and the personal ambition to run for offices. They found out that scores high in openness to experience and extraversion were related to political ambition and that the Dark Triad factors of narcissism and Machiavellianism are related to the perceived qualification for a political career (Plais and Pruyers, 2017). Fazekas and Hatemi (2021) showed that narcissism is positively related to political participation. Río, Ramos-Villagrasa and Barrada (2019) also indicated that narcissism and Machiavellianism were positively linked to task performance, while psychopathy is negatively linked. Task performance is described by the authors as “behaviors directly related to job description” (Rio, Ramos-Villagrasa and Barrada, 2019), which is likely a factor for political success, when working and participating in a political party.

Regarding legislation success, results from ten Brinke et al. (2016) indicated that low Dark Triad scores are related to better results, which is in line with the theory they had, that these results rely on good cooperation between parliamentarians, which is not likely to happen when people score high on Dark Triad traits. A study from Neumann et al. (2020) also showed that getting elected (which they stated is competition related) is positively linked to Dark Triad personality traits, whereas better performance in the legislation process is negatively linked. Ten Brinke et al. (2015)

found that people scoring high in psychopathy had more monetary gains, when success favors competition, while it was the opposite effect when success depends on cooperation.

The only study found regarding possible links between at least one variable the Dark Triad and sociopolitical control is a master thesis submitted at Perdue University, in which no significant link between Machiavellianism and sociopolitical control was found (Ansari, 2020). Other constructs of the Dark Triad were not examined. Another paper from Paulhus (1984) suggests that Machiavellianism has a negative relationship to sociopolitical control. However the definition of sociopolitical control by Paulhus and Christie (1981) is used there. This concept of sociopolitical control is described as conflict between ones individual goals and the political and social system, e.g. if one is part of a demonstration, boycotts a product to lower the price, or writes a letter to a parliamentarian. Perceived control in this sphere is defined by them as sociopolitical control, which is a different definition than the one used in this paper. However Paulhus (1984) also states that Machiavellianism has a link to Interpersonal Control. Paulhus (1984) differentiated both factors with the Spheres of Control Model (Paulhus & Christie, 1981), which states that there is a perceived locus of control which can be structured in four different spheres in the perspective of the individuum, namely the self, the achievement, the interpersonal and the sociopolitical sphere of control. However there might be a link between Machiavellianism and perceived sociopolitical control regarding people engaged in political parties, i.e. if the Machiavellian person has people with political power in their interpersonal sphere of control.

As described before there was not much research done regarding possible relationships between the Dark Triad traits and SPC, or other terms of success in the fields of politics. The present study is trying to fill this gap, proposing that there are positive links between narcissism and Machiavellianism and SPC and a negative relationship of psychopathy and SPC. The present study is also examining if there is a moderating role of motivation.

Despite this there are many studies regarding the possible links between the Dark Triad personality traits and positive and negative outcomes at the workplace. Present research suggests

that there are negative effects of these traits on the organizational level. Baysinger et al. (2014) for example found psychopathy has links to more dysfunctional interactions within groups. Kaiser et al. (2015) found links between high scores of the Dark Triad and extreme, ineffective leadership behaviors. Additionally links between psychopathy and counterproductive workplace behavior were found by Scherer et al. (2013).

On the other hand research suggests that there are positive links between the Dark Triad (especially narcissism and Machiavellianism) and success on the individual level. LeBreton, Shiverdecker and Grimaldi (2018) for example show that narcissists are more likely to become leaders within organizations. Narcissism also seems to have links to salary and Machiavellianism to leadership position and career satisfaction (Spurk, Keller & Hirschi, 2016). In the study of Spurk, Keller and Hirschi (2016) it was also found that psychopathy is negatively linked to all three outcome variables.

### **The Moderating Role of Motivation**

The self-determination theory (SDT) is a theory about the motivation of people doing things, whether these are extrinsic or intrinsic motivated and fulfilling and about the need for autonomy, as well as competence and relatedness (Deci & Ryan, 2000; Deci & Ryan, 2008; Sheldon and Prentice, 2019). It was first introduced by Deci and Ryan in 1985 (Deci & Ryan, 1985; Deci & Ryan, 2008). The theory tries to explain nearly every kind of motivated behavior. Sheldon and Prentice (2019) summarize that early attempts started in the 1970s, when researchers examined that small rewards could lead to lower motivation of people doing tasks in experiments. The theory evolved and nowadays there are six subtheories about basic psychological needs, different types of motivation and others (Sheldon and Prentice, 2019).

Parts of the self-determination theory (i.e. the organismic integration theory (OIT); e.g. Ryan and Connell, 1989; Sheldon & Prentice, 2017) propose that all behaviors have a so called "Perceived Locus of Causality" (PLOC) which refers to which extent a behavior is perceived to be driven by autonomy. This so called relative autonomy continuum (RAC; Ryan and Connell, 1989; Sheldon &

Prentice, 2019), consists of five forms of motivated behavior and amotivation: Amotivation is on one side of the spectrum and describes the least amount of motivation. Extrinsic forms of motivation (from least to most internal locus of control) are external regulation, introjected regulation, identified regulation and integrated regulation. On the opposite side of the spectrum there is intrinsic motivation. Intrinsic motivation is the type of motivation with the most internal locus of control in the model, which “expresses the basic growth and negentropic tendencies of living systems” (Sheldon & Prentice, 2019) and which is “prototypically autonomous or self-determined behavior” (Sheldon & Prentice, 2019).

Moderating effects of motivation on behavior were found among others by Fernet, Guay and Senécal (2004). They found that job control only has a positive effect on the link between job demands on perceived accomplishments, when employees motivation is self-determined (Fernet, Guay & Senécal, 2004). Another study by Parker, Jimmieson and Amiot (2010) came to similar results. Dysvik and Kuvaas (2010) found a moderating effect of intrinsic motivation on the link between perceived job autonomy and work performance. Zhang and Gheibi (2015) argue that intrinsic motivation moderates the effect of knowledge integration on creativity in the work context. In 2020, van den Hee, van Hooft and van Vianen found moderating effects of autonomous motivation on the link between personality attributes and behavior in the job searching context.

Even though there are many studies relating forms of motivation, performance and success (primarily in the work context (e.g. Baard, Deci & Ryan, 2004; Deci, Olafsen & Ryan, 2017), the author did not find studies linking this concept to political success or SPC in particular. It seems that there is a gap in research, which the present study tries to fill. The present study hypothesizes a moderating role of intrinsic motivation on the relationship between narcissism and Machiavellianism on the one hand and SPC on the other hand. Additionally it proposes a moderating role of motivation on the other side of the spectrum (amotivation and rather extrinsic motivated behavior) on a presumed link of psychopathy to low SPC.

**Exploratory: HEXACO Personality Traits and (Political) Success**

In the present study there is also attention paid to the explorative question whether HEXACO traits correlate with SPC and whether these possible links are moderated by motivation. The HEXACO personality model was proposed by Lee and Ashton (2004) and consists of six personality traits: honesty-humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, and openness to experience (Lee & Ashton 2004). The HEXACO model is able to outperform the popular Big Five model, for example in the explanation of antisocial behavior and self-serving behavior, such as work delinquency, narcissism, Machiavellianism and psychopathy (de Vries, 2013). Honesty-humility also seems to be a predictor of values and social-political attitudes (de Vries, 2013). Hilbig and Zettler (2009) showed in a study that people scoring high in honesty-humility made more fair decisions and were more collaborative, when investigating economic gaming behavior. Other findings suggest that low honesty-humility correlates with hierarchy orientation (Lee et al., 2010). Additionally Lee et al. (2013) found that high scores of the Dark Triad as well as low scores in honesty-humility predict high scoring in social dominance orientation and desire for power.

There are several studies examining the role of HEXACO personality traits for success in different job related fields. High extraversion and low emotionality for example seem to predict success in job interviews as Bourdage et al. show in 2020. There is also evidence that conscientiousness is a factor predicting task performance in a wide field of achievement contexts (e.g. O'Connor & Paunonen, 2007). Task performance seems also to be positively linked with extraversion, agreeableness and openness to experience (Fish, 2018). Honesty-humility seems to be positively correlated with supervisor ratings of overall job performance (Johnson, Rowatt & Petrini, 2011), task- and contextual performance (Peddoem, 2008). While honesty-humility predicted the performance measure of team facilitation and support in a study from Templer (2018), it seems that employees with low honesty-humility view themselves as politically skilled and were rated better in terms of task performance and team facilitation from their supervisors, compared with other employees scoring better in the honesty-humility dimension.

### **The Present Study**

The present study examines the potential relationships between Dark Triad personality traits and sociopolitical control, as an operationalization of political success and whether this links are moderated by work motivation. Members of German political youth organizations aged from 18 to 35 were answering the Short Dark Triad (SD3), the Sociopolitical Control Scale Revised (SPCS-R), the Work Extrinsic and Intrinsic Motivation Scale (WEIMS) and, for explorative reasons, the Brief HEXACO Inventory (BHI) in an online survey.

This study contains three hypotheses (see Figure 1), proposing a moderating effect of motivation (represented by the Work Self-Determination Index, an index derived from the Work Extrinsic and Intrinsic Motivation Scale (WEIMS), picturing all scores on a motivational continuum (from least to most intrinsic motivated) on the link between Dark Triad personality traits (independent variable) and sociopolitical control (dependent variable).

1. Narcissism is positively linked to high sociopolitical control, moderated by a high work motivation index, meaning that the relationship between narcissism and SPC is stronger for those who are intrinsically motivated.
2. Machiavellianism is positively linked to high sociopolitical control, moderated by a high work motivation index. This also means that the relationship between Machiavellianism and SPC is proposed to be stronger when people are intrinsically motivated.
3. Psychopathy is negatively linked to high perceived sociopolitical control and this is moderated by a low work motivation index. High psychopathy therefore is supposed to be linked to low SPC, especially when people are less intrinsically motivated.

### ***Exploratory***

In exploratory research HEXACO traits are included into the analysis, testing whether they are linked to the other variables. A special focus will be on their relationship with SPC and also whether motivation has a moderating effect on these potential links.

## **Methods**

### Participants and Procedure

The sample consists of members of political youth organizations mainly located in Hamburg and northern Germany, focusing on the organizations of the “Jusos Hamburg” (“Jungsozialisten”, social democrats), the “Grüne Jugend Hamburg” (greens), the “Julis Hamburg” (“Junge Liberale”, liberals) and the “Junge Union Hamburg” (conservatives) who were asked beforehand to promote the study on their official social media channels. Youth organizations of the far right (“Junge Alternative Hamburg”) and far left (“Linksjugend/SOLID Hamburg”) and other smaller parties, who are not represented in the federal parliament were not asked to participate officially, but members of them were accepted in the survey. For additional information about these youth organizations and their mother parties see appendix A. There was no compensation offered for participating in the study.

The uncleaned sample contains people aged from 14 to 43, even though there was a disclaimer asking for people being at least 18 years old and not older than 35. Participants younger than 18 years and older than 35 years were filtered in the later analysis during the data cleaning. The top age limit is set due to the typical age limit within youth organizations in Germany which is 35. The sample contains 171 people before data cleaning, 76 participants did not complete the survey and were not included into the analysis, which means that only 55.56% of all people, who started the questionnaire completed it. Also 6 participants were excluded due to age reasons (they were younger than 18 or older than 35 years old), which means that in the end the cleared sample contains 89 people.

57 persons in the cleaned sample identified themselves as male (64.04%), 31 as female (34.83%) and one participant as diverse (1.12%). Five people graduated from middle school (“Mittlere Reife”; 5.62%), 3 got a college entrance qualification (“Fachhochschulabschluss”; 3.37%) and 81 participants received a highschool qualification (“Allgemeine Hochschulreife”; 91.01%). 59 participants are members of the “Jusos” (66.29%), 4 of the “Junge Union” (4.49%), 15 of the “Grüne Jugend” (16.85%), one person of the “Linksjugend/ SOLID” (1.12%), one of the “Junge Alternative”



(1.12%) and nine persons were members of other non-specified youth organizations (10.11%). Participants had to fill in an online questionnaire taking approximately 10 to 15 minutes of time. They had to confirm the informed consent beforehand.

### **Instruments**

This study contains four questionnaires (the Short Dark Triad (SD3) the Brief HEXACO Inventory (BHI), the Work Extrinsic and Intrinsic Motivation Scale (WEIMS) and the Sociopolitical Control Scale Revised (SPCS-R). Additionally some demographic questions were asked (age, gender, highest educational qualification). In the following, all scales used are described, i.e. what and how many items they include, sample items and relevant statistical measures conducted, such as e.g. intercorrelations or reliability.

#### ***Short Dark Triad (SD3)***

The Short Dark Triad (SD3) measure was developed by Jones and Paulhus (2013) to measure the three socially undesired personality traits narcissism, Machiavellianism and psychopathy with 27 items (9 per trait). The participants have to rate the items on a five-point Likert scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). Another popular test constructed for measuring the Dark Triad traits is the Dirty Dozen (DD) by Jonason & Webster (2010), which contains twelve items but is often criticized as too short (Lee et al., 2013; Miller et al., 2012; Rauthmann, 2013). This was also mentioned by Jones and Paulhus (2013). As the SD3 has a better correlation (.68 upwards) towards the longer measures of the Dark Triad than the DD (from .46 to .56 (Jones and Paulhus, 2013)) it was decided to stick on the slightly more comprehensive instrument. A sample item for Machiavellianism of the German version, which was used in the present study, is "Es ist nicht klug seine Geheimnisse zu verraten." („It's not wise to tell your secrets" (Jones & Paulhus, 2013)). Guttman's Lambda 2 (Guttman, 1945) was used as a measure for reliability in the present study, as it has several advantages compared to Cronbachs Alpha, including that it is more robust, as Sijtsma shows it in 2009. Guttman's Lambda 2 for the Dark Triad variables in the present study are .81 for Machiavellianism, .70 for narcissism and .77 for psychopathy. This is also similar and at times better

than in the study of Malesza et al. (2017) where Cronbachs Alpha scores were used to elaborate internal consistency (narcissism  $\alpha = .73$ , psychopathy  $\alpha = .72$ , Machiavellianism  $\alpha = .78$ ).

### ***Sociopolitical Control Scale Revised (SPCS-R)***

The Sociopolitical Control Scale Revised (SPCS-R) originates from the Sociopolitical Control Scale, developed by Zimmerman and Zahniser in 1991. It is a short instrument, which measures the perceived capabilities of a person in the social and political systems they are in (Peterson et al., 2006; Zimmerman & Zahniser, 1991) with 17 items that are answered on a four-point Likert-scale ranging from 1 (not at all) to 4 (five times or more). Sociopolitical control includes self-perceptions about the ability of organizing a group (leadership competence) and about influencing local policy decisions (policy control) and it is perceived as a very important element of psychological empowerment (Holden et al., 2005). Cronbachs Alpha found by Peterson et al. (2006) are .78 for leadership competence and .81 for policy control. Kanafa-Chmielewska tested reliability among three samples and found Cronbach's alpha between .80 and .85 (2014). For the translated Sociopolitical Control Scale Revised, used in the present study, the Lambda 2 coefficients are .80 for leadership competence and .65 for policy control, as measured in the present study. "Es macht einen Unterschied wen ich wähle, weil derjenige, der gewählt wird, meine Interessen repräsentiert" is a sample item of the translated test („It makes a difference who I vote for because whoever gets elected will represent my interests" (Peterson et al., 2006). The SPCS-R, the WEIMS and the BHI were translated into German by Katharina Palme (M.A.) and peer reviewed by the author of the present study.

### ***Work Extrinsic and Intrinsic Motivation Scale (WEIMS)***

The Work Extrinsic and Intrinsic Motivation Scale (WEIMS) is a short measurement of work motivation, which contains 18 items and was introduced by Tremblay et al. 2009. Its theoretical background is based on the self-determination theory. The WEIMS has six subscales (amotivation, external regulation, introjected regulation, identified regulation, integrated regulation and intrinsic motivation), which are derived of the RAC (Ryan and Connell, 1989). The participants have to

respond to the items on a Likert-scale ranging from 1 (does not correspond at all) to 5 (corresponds exactly) to indicate how much the item is related to their reason to be involved at their work. Cronbachs alpha scores found by Trembley et al. (2009) are .87 for intrinsic motivation, .80 for integrated regulation, .70 for identified regulation, .76 for introjected regulation, .73 for external regulation and .75 for amotivation. The overall Cronbachs alpha is .84. (Trembley et al., 2009). The Guttman's Lambda 2 results in the present study for the translated version of the Work Extrinsic and Intrinsic Motivation Scale are .58 for intrinsic motivation, .63 for integrated regulation, .58 for identified regulation, .62 for introjected regulation, .71 for external regulation and .50 for amotivation. A sample item for the translated test is "Wegen dem Gehalt, das ich bekomme." ("For the income it provides me." (Trembley et al., 2009).

The WEIMS also provides the possibility to calculate the work self-determination index (W-SDI), which puts all scores together on a continuum picturing the underlying level of self-determination (Ryan & Connell, 1989) in order to examine whether participants have a self-determined or a non-self-determined profile of motivation (Trembley et al., 2009). The formula for calculating the W-SDI is:  $W-SDI = (+3 * \text{mean of intrinsic motivation scores}) + (+2 * \text{mean of integrated regulation scores}) + (+1 * \text{mean of identified regulation scores}) + (-1 * \text{mean of introjected regulation scores}) + (-2 * \text{mean of extrinsic regulation scores}) + (-3 * \text{mean of amotivation scores})$ . Therefore possible scores are between +24 and -24 (Trembley et al., 2009). The total score indicates whether the participants behavior is more self-determined (positive score) or less self-determined (negative score). Reliability and validity of self-determination indexes were tested, among others, by Fortier, Vallerand & Guay (1995) and Pelletier et al. (2004), who presented sufficient results.

### ***Brief HEXACO Inventory (BHI)***

The Brief HEXACO Inventory (BHI) is a short instrument to measure the six HEXACO personality traits (honesty-humility (H), emotionality (E), extraversion (X), agreeableness (A), conscientiousness (C), and openness to experience (O)), introduced by Lee and Ashton (2004). The BHI was published by de Vries in 2013. It contains 24 items, which have to be rated on a Likert-scale

from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). One mean of Cronbachs alpha found in a study by de Vries (2013) is .56. An item sample of the translated version is “Mir fällt es schwer zu lügen.” (“I find it difficult to lie”, which is referring to honesty-humility (de Vries, 2013). This is similar to the alpha reliabilities found by the Vries (2013), as he introduced the brief HEXACO inventory (which ranged from .44 to .72). In the BHI Lambda 2 estimated in the present study is .64 for agreeableness, .70 for extraversion, .54 for emotionality, .55 for honesty-humility, .51 for openness for experience and .53 for conscientiousness.

## Results

The analysis was conducted using RStudio (R Core Team, 2021). After data cleaning and calculating the work self-determination index, means and standard deviations, as well as Guttman’s lambda 2 (Guttman, 1945) for examining reliability, were computed. For the calculation of lambda 2, the R package “Lambda4” (Hunt, 2013) was installed. Correlations between all variables were computed using the “cor” function of RStudio. Then the hypotheses were tested with linear regression models. In the first linear regression analysis the standardized variables of the Dark Triad and the Work Self-Determination Index were included to see whether they predict SPC and whether the W-SDI has a moderating effect. In the second (exploratory) step HEXACO variables were included into the model of the linear regression analysis with standardized variables.

### Descriptives and Standard Deviations

Means and standard deviations were calculated, as shown in table 1. All following tables were created with the R package “apaTables” (Stanley, 2021).

### Testing the Hypotheses

To test the hypotheses, whether narcissism (hypothesis 1), Machiavellism (hypothesis 2) and psychopathy (hypothesis 3) predict SPC with the W-SDI functioning as a moderator linear models were formulated. For hypothesis 1 the model of narcissism, W-SDI and SPC as well as the interaction term narcissism\*W-SDI was conducted. For hypothesis 2 the model is Machiavellism, W-SDI and SPC

and the interaction term Machiavellism\*W-SDI. The third hypothesis was tested with the model consisting of psychopathy, W-SDI and SPC with the interaction term of psychopathy\*W-SDI. The models are confirmed when there is a significant effect ( $p < .05$ ). All models described were tested with standardized variables. For all interaction terms and models no significant effect was found (see table 1 and table 2). Therefore no hypothesis is supported.

### **Exploratory analysis**

For exploratory reasons correlations between all variables, including HEXACO (see table 1), as well as possible interaction effects with HEXACO traits as independent variables (table 3), were computed. One example would be the model consisting honesty-humility, W-SDI and SPC with the interaction term honesty-humility\*W-SDI. The same was done for the other HEXACO variables.

The Dark Triad variables were all correlating with each other, specifically narcissism and Machiavellianism (.45), narcissism and psychopathy (.46) and Machiavellianism and psychopathy (.58). There were also other correlations between Dark Triad variables and other variables found. Narcissism correlated with extraversion (.33), emotionality (-.30) and honesty-humility (-.45). Machiavellianism had correlative links to agreeableness (-.30) and honesty-humility (-.68). Correlations between psychopathy and other variables were found regarding agreeableness (-.49), extraversion (.37) and honesty-humility (-.57).

Other variables, like HEXACO and SPC, were found to have correlative links as well. This means sociopolitical control correlated with agreeableness (-.33) and with extraversion (.44). Additionally there was also a correlative link between the HEXACO variables emotionality and extraversion found (.30).

For all interaction terms and models no moderating effects of WSDI on the relationships between HEXACO and SPC were found.

## **Discussion**

The goal of the study was to test whether Dark Triad personality traits predict, moderated by motivation, political success, a term which is operationalized by sociopolitical control. In terms of narcissism and Machiavellianism it tested a positive link moderated by high work self-determination, for psychopathy it was a negative link moderated by low work self-determination. All hypotheses can not be seen as confirmed. However all three factors of the Dark Triad correlated with sociopolitical control significantly.

There are a few possible explanations for these findings. Narcissists could see themselves as influential just because of their grandiose personality (Jones & Paulhus, 2013). Narcissism has also found to be related to task performance (Río, Ramos-Villagrasa & Barrada, 2019), to political participation (Fazekas & Hatemi, 2021) and to perceived qualification for a political career (Plais & Pruyers, 2017). Machiavellians sociopolitical control could also benefit from their drive of controlling and manipulating other people (Paulhus & Williams, 2002), which could likely be a factor of having sociopolitical control. Psychopaths in the end are also manipulative (Jones & Paulhus, 2011b; Paulhus & Williams, 2002) and could see themselves as high on SPC because of the results of their short-term focused manipulations (Jones & Paulhus, 2011a; Jones & Paulhus, 2013). In the end all three traits share some similarities (Paulhus & Williams, 2002), making it more likely that e.g. people scoring high on psychopathy may be also more narcissistic or Machiavelliastic, what could also explain the shared links.

Although no moderation effect of work self-determination could be found, results, as e.g. the correlations, suggest links between the Dark Triad personality traits and SPC. Relying on these results there could be the assumption that there are some personality traits, which makes it more likely for people to think that they have political influence or even makes it easier for them to actually gain sociopolitical power.

### **Theoretical Implications**

The study contributes to the wide field of research within personality psychology on the Dark Triad and fills a gap by attempting to link the Dark Triad personality traits to the concept of

sociopolitical control. The found correlations seem to be a promising start for further investigations regarding these links. Also, the field of research about political success and with samples containing political active people, especially people engaged in youth organizations, seems very limited. In this terms the study also enriches the knowledge about these seldom studied part of the population.

### **Strengths and Limitations**

The specified sample (members of political youth organizations), as well as the relatively seldom connection of traits found personality psychology (Dark Triad, HEXACO) and motivational psychology (RAC) and social psychology (SPC) can be seen as strengths of the study. Other products of the study, which are worth mentioning, are the translated questionnaires. They could be validated on a bigger sample size, as the reliability measurements of the present study suggest that the items were translated properly.

There are some limitations of the study, calling for further research, as there was little prior research on the specific topic. The whole study suffers from the small sample size, which could be caused by the length of the questionnaires and the missing of an incentive system such as a lottery, monetary incentives or something similar, which made it less attractive to complete the whole survey. A problem what participants often reported in communication afterwards was that they found the questions “exhausting” or “cruel” – what implicates that the items of the SD3 probably were too direct and obvious and what could also explain the high rate of drop outs. Therefore, one point to be seen critically too is that there were no variables examining whether the participants answered the questions honestly.

Another reason for the lack of participation is that the youth organizations (except the “Jusos Hamburg”) jumped off to promote the study on their social media sites, which was agreed on beforehand and forced the author to rely on personal networks and other forms of promotion (i.e. social media). This leads to the strong weight of the “Jusos” within the sample, which makes the study biased regarding an overrepresentation of left wing youth organizations. Therefore the

presented results have to be taken in account carefully and less as reliable to build on, but more as inspiration for future research.

### **Practical Implications**

The correlative links found in the study suggest that there are indeed arguments for an overrepresentation of malevolent personality traits in politically engaged people, who are more successful. It also supports the findings from Baumann (2009) that strong feelings of civic duty are negatively linked to successful careers among politicians. In practice this could lead to the election of politicians, whose decision making processes and general behavior is more likely influenced by these personality traits. Democratic societies who are aware of these biases, could seek for mechanisms to control decision making processes better and for ways of making participating in political processes more attractive to people with lower scores of the Dark Triad.

### **Conclusion**

The study suggests that there are indeed links between the Dark Triad personality traits and sociopolitical control. However, whether the motivation is self-determined or not, seems not to play a role within this relationship. A lesson what can be drawn is that there is not much research about political success and that factors fostering and hindering success of political participation need further investigation. An important role in this framework could be played by personality psychology, as all Dark Triad traits had links to sociopolitical control. To understand why this relationship exists and how to prevent malevolent personality traits and behavior that is influenced by them, to affect our daily life on a larger scale from the political stage seems utterly important for democratic societies in modern times.



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**Table 1***Means, standard deviations, and correlations with confidence intervals*

Variable	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. Agreeableness	2.78	0.70										
2. Extraversion	4.01	0.68	-.05									
3. Emotionality	2.99	0.77	.04	-.30**								
4. Honesty-Humility	3.61	0.76	.27*	.16	.21							
5. Openness to Experience	3.87	0.61	.10	.07	-.08	.13						
6. Conscientiousness	3.56	0.63	-.05	-.05	-.16	-.04	.18					
7. Machiavellism	3.05	0.68	-.30**	-.15	-.27**	-.68**	-.15	.06				
8. Narcissism	2.93	0.59	-.26*	.33**	-.30**	-.45**	-.01	-.03	.45**			
9. Psychopathy	2.30	0.67	-.49**	.04	-.21*	-.57**	-.13	-.03	.58**	.46**		
10. Sociopolitical Control	3.73	0.42	-.33**	.44**	-.28**	-.29**	.03	.05	.31**	.57**	.34**	
11. Work Self-Determination	5.10	4.24	.07	.22*	-.08	.12	.01	.08	-.11	.06	-.16	.20

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*Note. M and SD indicate mean and standard deviation. Marked with \* =  $p < .05$ ; marked with \*\* =  $p < .01$*

**Table 2***Regression results using scale (SPC) as the criterion (standardized variables)*

Predictor	<i>b</i>	<i>beta</i>	<i>sr</i> <sup>2</sup>	<i>r</i>	Fit
Intercept	-0.00				
Psychopathy	-0.13	-.13	.00	.34**	
Narcissism	0.74**	0.74	.15	.57**	
Machiavellism	-0.07	-.07	.00	.31**	
Work Self-Determination Index	0.07	0.07	.00	.20	
Work Self-Determination Index *	0.59	0.59	.02		
Psychopathy Work Self-Determination Index *	-1.01	-1.01	.03		
Narcissism Work Self-Determination Index *	0.52	0.52	.01		
Machiavellism)					
					<i>adjusted R</i> <sup>2</sup> = .37**

*Note. A significant b-weight indicates the beta-weight and semi-partial correlation are also significant. b represents unstandardized regression weights. beta indicates the standardized regression weights. sr<sup>2</sup> represents the semi-partial correlation squared. r represents the zero-order correlation. \* indicates  $p < .05$ . \*\* indicates  $p < .01$ .*

**Table 3***Regression results using scale (SPC) as the criterion (standardized variables)*

Predictor	<i>b</i>	<i>beta</i>	<i>sr</i> <sup>2</sup>	<i>r</i>	Fit
Intercept	-0.00				
Psychopathy	0.00	0.00	.00	.34**	
Narcissism	0.23	0.23	.01	.57**	
Machiavellism	-0.01	- 0.01	.00	.31**	
Work Self-Determination Index	1.25	1.25	.00	.20	
Emotionality	-0.18	- 0.18	.01	-.28**	
Honesty-Humility	-0.22	- 0.22	.01	-.29**	
Agreeableness	0.05	0.05	.00	-.33**	
Extraversion	0.50**	0.50	.05	.44**	
Openness to Experience	0.01	0.01	.00	.03	
Conscientiousness	0.25	0.25	.01	.05	
Work Self-Determination Index *	0.08	0.08	.00		
Psychopathy Work Self-Determination Index *	0.02	0.02	.00		
Narcissism Work Self-Determination Index *	0.33	0.33	.00		
Machiavellism Work Self-Determination Index *	0.47	0.47	.01		
Emotionality Work Self-Determination Index * Honesty-Humility	0.23	0.23	.00		

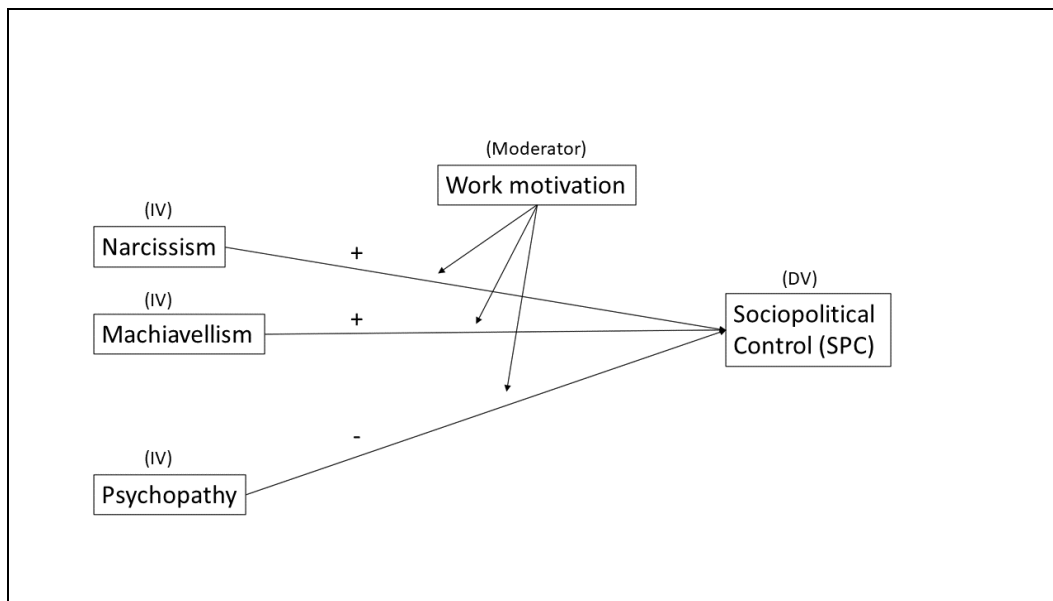
Work Self-Determination Index *	-0.78	-	0.78	.01
Agreeableness Work Self-Determination Index *	-0.83	-	0.83	.01
Extraversion Work Self-Determination Index * Openness to Experience	0.23	0.23		.00
Conscientiousness Work Self-Determination Index *	-0.96	-	0.96	.01

*adjusted*  
 $R^2 =$   
.42\*\*

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*Note. A significant b-weight indicates the beta-weight and semi-partial correlation are also significant. b represents unstandardized regression weights. beta indicates the standardized regression weights.  $sr^2$  represents the semi-partial correlation squared. r represents the zero-order correlation. \* indicates  $p < .05$ . \*\* indicates  $p < .01$ .*



**Figure 1***Research model*

*Note. IV = independent variable; DV = dependent variable.*

### Appendix A: Political parties in Germany

Germany is a federal parliamentary republic consisting of sixteen federated states and with a population of more than 83 million people. There are several political parties in Germany. Currently represented in the German federal parliament (“Bundestag”) are seven parties, listed by the number of votes in the 2021 election:

- The Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD), one of the traditional major parties in Germany, is a social democratic party and was part of the federal government under chancellor Merkel. After the election 2021 they have the most seats in the parliament, now leading the following government with chancellor Olaf Scholz. The youth organization calls itself “Jungsozialisten” (Jusos), which means young socialists.
- The Christian Democratic Union (CDU) is a conservative party and got the most seats in the parliament in the 19<sup>th</sup> legislative period. Former chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel is a member of the CDU. The party lost seats in the election 2021 making it the second biggest party in the 20<sup>th</sup> legislative period parliament. The CDU is deeply connected with the Christian Social Union (CSU) in Bavaria and the youth organization of both parties is called “Junge Union” (JU).
- Alliance 90/ The Greens (GRÜNE) is a green political party, which was in opposition in the 19<sup>th</sup> legislative period. They won seats in the election, receiving their best outcome of their history and are represented in the current government. Their youth organization is called the “Grüne Jugend”.
- The Free Democratic Party (FDP) is a liberal party and part of the opposition in the 19<sup>th</sup> legislative period, but joined in the government together with the SPD and Alliance 90/ The Greens in the next period, as they won seats in the election 2021. The youth organization of the liberals calls itself “Junge Liberale” (Julis).

- The Alternative for Germany (AfD) is a nationalist and right wing party in Germany, firstly represented in the Bundestag since the election 2017. This was the first time a right wing extremist party is represented in the parliament since 1945. They lost seats in the 2021 election and their youth organization has the name “Junge Alternative” (JA).
- The Christian Social Union (CSU) in Bavaria is a conservative party, only running for elections in the federal state of Bavaria, being deeply connected with the CDU, which is running in the other 15 federal states. The CSU was also part of the governmental coalition of the 19<sup>th</sup> legislative period, but lost seats in the election 2021. They share the youth organization “Junge Union” (JU) with the CDU.
- The Left (DIE LINKE) is a democratic socialist party in opposition. In 2021 they lost seats in the parliament and are in opposition. Their youth organization is the “Linksjugend Solid”.

**Appendix B: Work Extrinsic and Intrinsic Motivation Scale – German translation**

Bitte geben Sie anhand der folgenden Skala an, inwieweit die folgenden Aussagen den Gründen entsprechen, warum Sie sich gegenwärtig in Ihrer Arbeit einbringen.

1=stimme überhaupt nicht zu, 2=stimme nicht zu, 3=neutral (stimme weder zu noch bin ich dagegen), 4= stimme zu, 5=stimme sehr zu

1. Weil dies die Art von Arbeit ist die ich gewählt habe, um einen gewissen Lebensstil zu erlangen
2. Wegen dem Gehalt, das ich bekomme.
3. Ich stelle mir selbst diese Frage, ich scheine nicht in der Lage zu sein, die wichtigen Aufgaben, die mit dieser Arbeit verbunden sind, erledigen zu können.
4. Weil es mir sehr viel Vergnügen bereitet neue Dinge zu lernen
5. Weil meine Arbeit zu einem fundamentalen Teil von mir geworden ist
6. Weil ich in diesem Job erfolgreich sein will, ansonsten würde ich mich für mich selbst schämen.
7. Weil ich diese Art von Arbeit gewählt habe, um meine Karriereziele zu erreichen
8. Wegen der Befriedigung, die ich erlange, wenn ich interessante Herausforderungen annehme
9. Weil mir meine Arbeit die Möglichkeit gibt Geld zu verdienen
10. Weil meine Arbeit ein Teil von der Art ist wie ich mein Leben führen will
11. Weil ich sehr gut sein will in dieser Arbeit, ansonsten wäre ich sehr enttäuscht.
12. Ich weiß nicht warum, wir sind mit sehr unrealistischen Arbeitsbedingungen konfrontiert
13. Weil ich ein „Gewinner“ im Leben sein will
14. Weil es die Art von Arbeit ist, die ich gewählt habe, um bestimmte wichtige Ziele zu erreichen

15. Für die Zufriedenheit die ich spüre, wenn ich erfolgreich schwierige Aufgaben erledige
16. Weil diese Art von Arbeit mir Sicherheit gibt
17. Ich weiß nicht, es wird zu viel von uns erwartet
18. Weil diese Arbeit ein Teil meines Lebens ist.

**Appendix C: Brief HEXACO Inventory – German translation**

Anweisungen: Bitte geben sie an inwieweit sie den folgenden Aussagen zustimmen. Verwenden sie hierfür folgende Antwortkategorien: 1=stimme überhaupt nicht zu, 2=stimme nicht zu, 3=neutral (stimme weder zu noch bin ich dagegen), 4= stimme zu, 5=stimme sehr zu

1. Ich kann mir ein Gemälde für lange Zeit ansehen.
2. Ich stelle sicher, dass die Dinge am richtigen Platz stehen.
3. Ich bleibe unfreundlich gegenüber jemandem, der gemein zu mir war.
4. Niemand redet gerne mit mir
5. Ich habe Angst Schmerzen zu empfinden
6. Mir fällt es schwer zu lügen
7. Ich finde Wissenschaft langweilig
8. Ich schiebe komplizierte Aufgaben so lange wie möglich auf
9. Ich äußere mich oft kritisch
10. Mir fällt es leicht auf Fremde zuzugehen
11. Ich bin unbesorgter als andere
12. Ich würde gerne wissen, wie ich auf unehrlichem Weg viel Geld machen kann
13. Ich habe eine rege Fantasie
14. Ich arbeite sehr genau
15. Ich tendiere dazu anderen schnell zuzustimmen
16. Ich rede gerne mit anderen
17. Mir fällt es leicht Schwierigkeiten allein zu überwinden
18. Ich will berühmt sein
19. Ich mag Leute, die ungewöhnliche Ideen haben
20. Ich tue oft Dinge ohne wirklich darüber nachzudenken

21. Selbst wenn ich schlecht behandelt werde bleibe ich ruhig
22. Ich bin selten heiter
23. Ich muss während trauriger oder romantischer Filme weinen
24. Mir steht eine besondere Behandlung zu

**Appendix D: Sociopolitical Control Scale – German translation**

1=stimme überhaupt nicht zu, 2=stimme nicht zu, 3=neutral (stimme weder zu noch bin ich dagegen), 4= stimme zu, 5=stimme sehr zu

1. In Gruppen bin ich häufig der Anführer
2. Ich bevorzuge es zu führen als geführt zu werden
3. Ich übernehme gerne die Führungsrolle in Gruppenprojekten.
4. Für gewöhnlich kann ich Leute gut organisieren, um Dinge zu erledigen
5. Für gewöhnlich folgen andere meinen Ideen
6. Mir fällt es sehr leicht vor einer Gruppe zu reden
7. Ich arbeite lieber daran ein Problem selber zu lösen als abzuwarten ob sich jemand anderes damit beschäftigt.
8. Ich probiere gerne neue Dinge aus, die mich herausfordern
9. Ich mag es mich politisch zu engagieren, weil ich so viel Mitspracherecht wie möglich im politischen Prozess haben möchte
10. Jemand wie ich kann wirklich verstehen was in der Politik und Regierung vor sich geht
11. Ich habe das Gefühl ein ziemlich gutes Verständnis über die wichtigen politischen Probleme zu haben, die unsere Gesellschaft betreffen.
12. Leute wie ich sind grundsätzlich hoch qualifiziert, um im politischen Prozess und bei politischen Entscheidungen in unserem Land zu partizipieren.
13. Es macht einen Unterschied wen ich wähle, weil derjenige, der gewählt wird, meine Interessen repräsentiert
14. Es gibt viele Wege für Leute wie mich ein Mitspracherecht bei dem was unsere Regierung tut zu haben
15. Es ist mir wichtig bei lokalen Initiativen aktiv teilzunehmen



16. Die meisten Amtsträger würden auf mich hören
17. Die meisten der lokalen Wahlen sind wichtig und man sollte dort wählen gehen.

**Appendix E: Short Dark Triad (translated to German by Malesza, Ostazewski, Büchner &  
Kaczmarek (2017))**

Machiavellianismus

1. Es ist nicht klug seine Geheimnisse zu verraten.
2. Um mich durchzusetzen, neige ich dazu geschickte Manipulationen zu benutzen.
3. Was immer es auch kostet, du musst die wichtigen Personen auf deine Seite bringen.
4. Vermeide direkten Streit mit anderen, da sie in der Zukunft hilfreich für dich sein könnten.
5. Es ist klug, Informationen nachzugehen, die du später gegen Personen einsetzen kannst.
6. Um es jemandem heimzuzahlen solltest du auf den richtigen Zeitpunkt warten.
7. Es gibt Dinge, die du vor anderen Menschen verbergen solltest, um dein Ansehen zu wahren.
8. Stell sicher, dass deine Pläne dir und nicht anderen nützen.
9. Die meisten Menschen können manipuliert werden.

Narzissmus

1. Menschen sehen in mir den geborenen Anführer.
2. Ich hasse es im Mittelpunkt der Aufmerksamkeit zu stehen.
3. Viele Gruppenaktivitäten neigen ohne mich dazu, langweilig zu sein.
4. Ich weiß, dass ich besonders bin, da es mir alle ständig sagen.
5. Ich mag es mit wichtigen Leuten bekannt gemacht zu werden.
6. Ich fühle mich verlegen, wenn mir jemand ein Kompliment macht.
7. Ich wurde schon mit berühmten Personen verglichen.
8. Ich bin ein durchschnittlicher Mensch.
9. Ich beharre darauf, den Respekt zu bekommen, den ich verdiene.

Psychopathie

1. Ich mag es mich an Autoritäten zu rächen.
2. Ich meide gefährliche Situationen.
3. Rache muss schnell und kalt serviert werden.
4. Menschen sagen oft, dass ich außer Kontrolle sei.
5. Es stimmt schon, dass ich gemein zu anderen sein kann.
6. Menschen bereuen es immer, wenn sie sich mit mir anlegen.
7. Ich bin noch nie mit dem Gesetz in Konflikt gekommen.
8. Ich genieße es Sex mit Personen zu haben, die ich kaum kenne.
9. Ich würde alles sagen, um zu bekommen, was ich will.