The Personalities of Political Identity: Analyzing the Relationship Between the Myers-Briggs Indicator Traits and Identification with Political Liberalism and Conservatism

Kelly Li

Pasadena City College

Correspondence about this manuscript should be addressed to Kelly Li, Pasadena City College, Department of Social Sciences, 1570 E Colorado Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91106 (email: aspcc.kli@gmail.com). Additional notes on data collection and acknowledgements for any assistance provided by others should go here. In this case, the author thanks Professor David Jason Uranga of Pasadena City College for their guidance and support in the development of this manuscript.
Abstract

Previous studies recognize that political liberals tend to be more flexible and open to novelty, whereas political conservatives prefer clear answers and incline towards rigidness (Salvi et al., 2016). These preferences parallel personality characteristics found in the four Myers-Briggs Type Indicator trait dichotomies: Extroversion vs. Introversion, Sensing vs. Intuition, Thinking vs. Feeling, and Judging vs. Perceiving. Through original research, we expand on previous studies to investigate this parallelism in search for correlations between preferences of the four personality trait dichotomies and dispositions towards either political liberalism or conservatism.

Utilizing voluntary response sampling, Pasadena City College students within the Social Science Division were surveyed to identify their Myers-Briggs personality type and political liberalism or conservatism on a sliding scale of 1 to 10. 101 responses were analyzed to reveal that introverts were more liberal on average than extroverts with a significance level at $\alpha = .1$ and that precieviers were more liberal on average than judgers with a significance level at $\alpha = .05$, while the traits of Sensing, Intuitive, Thinking and Feeling did not exhibit statistically significant results.

Although this study’s statistical significance is limited to Pasadena City College students, the results remain applicable to other student populations possessing similar demographics. Through our research, we show a plausible correlation between certain Myers-Briggs personality traits and identification with political liberalism or conservatism. This revelation sparks a curiosity to utilize Myers-Briggs personality assessments as a universal indicator for political identity; however, further studies are required to determine a conclusive relationship.
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Introduction

When it comes to the factors that determine an individual’s political affiliation, there seem to be an endless multitude of factors that contribute to its determination. A person’s age, income bracket, education, ethnicity have come to be seen as factors that determine political affiliation (NCBI, 2013). However, personality traits remain an infrequently discussed influencing factor contribution to the development of an individual’s political preferences. If personality traits dictate certain behaviors and actions, the question arises that it may also dictate political opinions and voting patterns. In a general sense, people may categorize those seen as introverted, logical, structural thinkers as more conservative due to their reserved social beliefs and fiscal conservatism. In contrast, those seen with traits of openness and compassion may be categorized as more liberal due to their support of nontraditional stances and policies promoting general welfare over individualistic success. Utilizing the Meyer-Briggs Personality Type Indicator, a forced self report questionnaire based on Carl Jung’s personality theory, we develop a comprehensive research survey to collect data from Pasadena City College Social Science Division students. An analysis is made regarding whether or not the personality indicators of extraversion, Introversion, Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, Thinking, Judging, or Perceiving have any prediction value on the political identity of individuals.

Literature Review

Many studies have been conducted on the correlations between personality and political ideology. When analyzing the effects of the Myers-Briggs personality traits of Extraversion and Introversion, several studies have suggested that characteristic traits similar to Extroversion and
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Introversion are determinants to political identity. Drawn from previous studies, data sets show that individuals inclined to express extraversion are more likely to define themselves as politically liberal, while individuals inclined towards introversion are more likely to identify as politically conservative. Research conducted in 2019 suggests that individuals with an enhanced negativity bias, meaning that they reacted more strongly toward negative stimuli than positive stimuli, possess an inclination towards political conservatism. (Norris et al., 2010). A study done by John Hibbing of the University of Nebraska also reveals a similar relationship: political conservatives display a negativity bias when presented with threatening and disgusting stimuli (Hibbing et al., 2014). Similarly, results from a 2004 study by Van Schuerbeek and his colleagues indicate the personality trait of harm avoidance to correlate positively with both the left and right amygdala responses to fearful stimuli (Schuerbeek et al., 2004), suggesting a negativity bias in individuals possessing the trait of harm avoidance. This is significant as the personality trait, harm avoidance, is a biologically inherited trait incorporating the personalities of introversion, inflexibility, and low novelty seeking individuals (Kassinen V et al., 2001). It displays a strong negative correlation with extraversion and also possesses a weak negative correlation with the extravert characteristics: openness and conscientiousness (De Fruyt F et al., 2000), suggesting that the traits of harm avoidance closely align with the traits of introversion. From these studies, it is revealed that individuals displaying the traits for harm avoidance are inclined to display the negativity bias found in political conservatives. Thus, it can be hypothesized that individuals inclined towards introversion are also more likely to identify with political conservatism. In a recent study done in 2018 by researchers of the Baylor College of Medicine, evidence was produced to show that liberals and conservatives respond differently to positive and negative stimuli, with liberals generally displaying less of a negativity bias.
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compared to conservatives. Meanwhile, a research conducted at Stanford University in 2002, discovered that the amagadale of individuals with traits of extraversion were more likely to react to positive stimuli (Canli T et al., 2004). Since the above studies suggest that liberals are less reactive to negative stimuli and a component of extraversion can be characterized by an openness to novelty (i.e. introversion), it can be hypothesized that individuals who are more inclined towards extraversion are also more likely to also identify with political liberalism.

When looking at the dichotomy of Sensing vs. Intuition and Judging vs. Perceiving, the method in which someone absorbs and processes information has been shown in previous studies to suggest a correlation with an individual’s political identity. It can be drawn from previous studies that political liberals and conservatives process information differently with those differences being found within two different neural circuits. A 2016 study at Northwestern University gave conservative and liberal college students word problems to solve and identified the liberal and conservative participant’s recurring preferences for problem solving. Participants identifying as liberals solved significantly more problems via insight than in a step-by-step analytic fashion, while conservatives relied on step-by-step analysis over insight to arrive at the same answer (Salvi et. al., 2014). It was also found that conservatives have more structured and persistent cognitive styles (Salvi et. al., 2014). It was concluded that liberals are more flexible and tolerant of complexity and novelty, whereas conservatives are more rigid and prefer clear and concrete answers. The identification of these traits emphasizes that political orientation reflects differences in both cognitive styles and problem-solving strategy, suggesting that personality possesses a high likelihood of being a potential influencing factor to political identity. When analyzing its relevance to our study, the various Myers-Briggs personality traits are compared to the parallel characteristics found in the cognitive styles and problem-solving
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strategies identified with the liberal and conservative participants of the Northwestern study. Liberal participants who had utilized insight as a problem solving strategy, possess characteristics of the Intuition trait, while the conservative participants’ preference for step-by-step analysis is a prominent characteristic trait categorized under Sensing. When analyzing the traits of Judging vs. Perceiving, the characteristics of the Judging trait include a preference for structured and conclusive decision making processes, similar to those portrayed by conservative participants. In reference to the Myers-Briggs personalities, the Perceiving trait is adaptable and flexible to information, paralleling the study’s conclusion of liberals being more flexible and tolerant of ambiguity. From an artistic angle, studies from the 1980s show that conservatives prefer more simple paintings, familiar music, and unambiguous texts and poems, while liberals enjoy more cubist and abstract art (Jost T et. al, 2003). This outlines the Myers-Briggs personality differences between the Intuition and Sensing dichotomy while also defining characteristics that separate the Judging and Perceiving dichotomy. Individuals with the Intuition trait prefer to find patterns, meaning, and abstract theories to generate many possibilities from information received, similar in concept to the liberal’s preference for cubist and abstract art. In comparison, those with the Sensing trait tend to be more practical and prefer data gathered in a literal and concrete manner, parallel to the simple paintings preferred by conservatives. In relation to Judging vs. Perceiving, those with the Judging trait prefer to find concrete and indisputable solutions, similar to how conservatives prefer paintings with universally agreed interpretations as well as unambiguous texts and poems. Perceivers, on the other hand, are open and flexible to information as they analyze all aspects before making conclusions, often leaving decisions open for future adaptations. This parallels liberals’ preference for abstract art that would require adaptable, flexible thinking and decision making to
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allow for subjective interpretations. Another study done in 2010 by Michael D. Dodd examined whether gaze cue effects could be moderated by political temperament, contingent on the idea that conservatives, when compared to liberals, portray stronger tendencies of individualism and are less likely to be influenced by external factors. The scientists measured this by having participants watch a certain point on a computer screen and wait for a ball to show up in the frame. Before the ball appeared, a distracting human face with eyes that looked around would pop up on the screen. The participants were tested in terms of how much their gaze wandered from the focus point on the screen. This test of joint attention and focus found that liberals were significantly more likely to be distracted by the popup, whereas most conservatives showed no such effect to it (Dodd et. al., 2011). Similarity, the liberals who did not focus on the center point can be attributed to the trait of Intuition, as they tend to look for patterns, impressions, and meanings, and absorb information in a non concrete way. In comparison, the Sensing trait focuses more on concrete facts and details, which are more aligned with the conservatives’ attention fixed habits as conducted by the 2011 study. Since those with different styles of processing information can be categorized by the Myers-Briggs trait, a hypothesis can be drawn for further study that liberals will tend to be more reliant on the Intuition trait than conservatives, while conservatives will show greater tendencies for the Sensing trait than liberals. Similarly, another hypothesis can be drawn that conservatives will align more often with the Judging trait over the Perceiving trait, and that liberals will find themselves to identify more often with Perceiving over Judging.

To analyze the possibility of a relationship between the Myers-Briggs personality type of Thinking or Feeling and Judging or Perceiving in relation to liberalism or conservatism, an analysis is done in regards to the self described characteristics of liberals and conservatives. A
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Pew Research Center’s 2014 study found that liberals were more likely than conservatives to describe themselves as compassionate, trusting, upbeat, and optimistic, and conservatives were more likely to identify themselves as people of honor, duty, religion, and proud to be American, (Pew Research Center, 2014). In relation to our study, the self-descriptions offered by liberals correspond to the Myers-Briggs Feeling trait, as compassion and trust are key markers of the personality. Meanwhile in accordance with the research, characteristics of the conservatives’ self-described traits echoes the description for the Myers-Briggs trait of Judging, as characters of the trait include preferring firm decisions, laws, and rules, echoing the ideas of honor and duty. Additionally, a 1980 study of US high school students found that conservative students were more likely to describe themselves as responsible, organized, successful, and ambitious, while liberal students described themselves as loving, tender, or mellow (Eisenberg-Berg et. al., 1980). From this study, an alignment can be made from the descriptions of conservative students as responsible, organized, and ambitious to the Myers-Briggs personality trait of Judging, as Judgers display characteristics of a strong work ethic as outlined by the 1980 study. Meanwhile, the traits described by liberals of loving, tender, or mellow can be matched with the Myers-Briggs personality trait of Feeling, as characteristics of compassion and a consideration of other people’s feelings are attributed to this trait. In accordance with these two studies, a hypothesis can be made that conservatives will resonate more with the Myers-Briggs trait of Judging over Perceiving, while liberals will resonate more with the Myers-Briggs trait of Feeling over Thinking.

Through previous research conducted, a pattern emerges that indeed, conservatives and liberals have different preferences, thinking and decision making styles, and self describe with recurring characteristics. This pattern, as demonstrated by the mentioned studies, can be found in
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the different neurological paths that liberals and conservatives take in dictating their actions and attitudes. If that is indeed the case, the same idea is explored in terms of personality and its relationship to political identity, and more specifically, the universally recognized traits as described by the Myers-Briggs Personality Type Indicator. This study will further attempt to find a further relationship between the Myers-Briggs personality traits of Extraversion vs. Introversion, Sensing vs. Intuition, Thinking vs. Feeling, Perceiving vs. Judging and its correlation with the liberal or conservative identity of individuals.

Hypothesized Correlations

With the information arrived at from previous studies on personality psychology, cognitive science, and political identity, this study’s hypothesis will be created on the basis of the following correlations. In reference to the Meyers Briggs personality traits based on Carl Jung’s *Theory of Personality Types*, those who display the traits of Extraversion over Introversion, Intuition over Sensing, Feeling over Thinking, or Perceiving over Judging will possess a disposition to identify as political liberals, while those who display the traits of Introversion over Extraversion, Sensing over Intuition, Thinking over Feeling, or Judging over Sensing will possess a disposition to identify as political conservatives. Factors such as age, sex, and an individual’s belief that their personality is the largest contributing factor to the development of their political identity will be controlled for participants, tested for significance, and compared to analyze the possible differences that these factors might have on the relationship between Myers-Briggs personality trait preferences and political identity.
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Terms/Variables

Myers-Briggs Personality Traits

The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator was created using Carl Jung’s theory of psychological type, a categorization of six different characteristics of personality. This psychological categorization was created to categorize people in terms of their primary modes of psychological function based on Carl Jung’s idea that there are varying attitudes and functions of consciousness. The six categories are separated into two personality attitudes: Extraversion and Introversion, and four modes of functioning: Thinking, Feeling, Intuition, and Sensing. As introduced by Carl Jung, these six categories are separated into three dichotomies with characteristics at polarizing ends: Extraversion v.s. Introversion, Thinking v.s. Feeling, and Intuition v.s. Sensing. As added by Isabel Briggs Myers, an additional mode of functioning, Judging v.s. Perceiving, is included into this study as a fourth dichotomy personality type.

The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, as developed by Isabel Briggs Myers in 1942 with her mother, Katharine Briggs, utilizes an introspective self reported questionnaire to analyze how people perceive the world, come to conclusions, and make decisions. Derived from Carl Jung’s eight dichotomotic personality types, it adds an additional mode of function: Judging v.s. Perceiving, to further analyze the decision making components of an individual’s personality. The goal of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator is to develop a sorting instrument to assist in the identification of an individual’s psychological type preferences and contribute to understanding possible origins of an individual’s thoughts, decisions, and actions.
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The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator Test indicates an individual’s personality preferences in four dimensions:

- Where they focus their energy – Extraversion (E) or Introversion (I)
- The manner in which they perceive information – Sensing (S) or Intuition (N)
- How they process information and come to decisions – Thinking (T) or Feeling (F)
- Their method of implementing decisions – Judging (J) or Perceiving (P)

**Neris Type Explorer®**

The Myers-Briggs personality test used in this study is the Neris Type Explorer®. The reason for selecting this personality test is due to its high accessibility: this test is listed as the first google search result for “Myers-Briggs personality test,” and participating in this test comes at no cost to the users. These factors ensure a higher probability that participants sampled from convenience sampling would have already utilized or would be more likely to utilize the Neris Type Explorer® to determine their Myers-Briggs personality type, providing for a greater sample size. Additionally, the usability and popularity of this test also increases the significance of this study’s applications.

The Neris Type Explorer®, based on Carl Jung’s personality theory, is a forced self-report questionnaire consisting of 93 questions categorizing individuals into an arrangement of five dichotomies: Extraversion vs. Introversion, Sensing vs. Intuition, Thinking vs. Feeling, Perceiving vs. Judging, Assertive vs. Turbulent. For the purpose of providing the greatest sample size by being inclusive to the most number of participants, the last personality aspect: Assertive vs. Turbulent, will not be included in the analysis due to the majority of the population surveyed
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having general knowledge of their identification within the first four personality aspects: Extraversion vs. Introversion, Sensing vs. Intuition, Feeling vs. Thinking, Perceiving vs. Judging, but being generally unknowledgeable of their identification with either Assertive or Turbulent personality traits. The Meyers-Briggs Personality questionnaire asks self reported questions and forces the participant to choose amongst a varying degree of agreeability with its questions. The quiz is composed of questions such as: “You enjoy vibrant social events with lots of people” and “You are still bothered by the mistakes you made a long time ago” and asks the participant to agree or disagree with the statement on a gradient scale from very strongly disagree to very strongly agree, with neutral as an option.

Ex. “You enjoy vibrant social events with lots of people”

Strongly Agree. Agree, Slightly Agree, Neutral, Slightly Disagree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree

The test’s 93 questions asks participants to decide between a gradient scale of agreement to disagreement with neutral as an option for the dichotomies of Introversion vs. Extraversion, Sensing vs. Intuition, Thinking vs. Feeling, and Judging vs. Perceiving. An individual is then scored based on their net preference for the two polar opposite characteristics of each dichotomy. For those with a net preference for Extraversion, Sensing, Thinking, or Judging, the overall MBTI® score is subtracted from 100. For those with a net preference for Introversion, Intuition, Feeling, and Perceiving, the overall MBTI® score is added to 100. The test then calculates the total score for the 16 personality letters: E/I, S/N, T/F, P/J, and the preferences from each of the four dichotomies are added together to create a four letter code. For example, if an individual scores high in traits of Introversion, Sensing, Thinking, and Perceiving, their Myers-Briggs personality type would be “ISTP.”
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**Independent Variable: The Four Personality Aspects and Eight Personality Preferences as Defined by the Neris Type Explorer®**

The purpose of this study is to analyze the effects of varying Myers-Briggs personality traits on the development of an individual's political liberal or conservative identity. The hypotheses are made on the basis that a participant's preference between the four Myers-Briggs trait dichotomies can be utilized as determinant of the participant’s inclination towards either political liberalism or conservatism. Thus, the independent variable of this study will be the eight personality preferences, or the four trait dichotomies, as defined by the Neris Type Explorer®.

The first personality aspect is **Mind**; it shows how we interact with our surroundings and respond to the external world. It is composed of two personality preferences: Extraversion and Introversion.

**Extraversion:** Extraverts tend to be more “outward-turning,” are more action-orientated, focus their energy externally, enjoy frequent social interaction, and often feel energized after spending time with other people.

**Introversion:** Introverts have tendencies to be more “inward-turning,” focus their energy internally, are thought-orientated, enjoy more meaningful rather than more frequent social interactions, and often feel recharged following time spent alone.
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The second personality aspect is Energy; it determines how we see the world and process information. It is composed of two personality preferences: Sensing and Intuition.

**Sensing:** Those who belong to the sensing category prefer to focus on facts and details, enjoy hands-on experiences, and tend to describe themselves as “practical.” Data and facts are gathered in a literal, concrete fashion. These people place great value on what they can learn from their own sense and are grounded in reality.

**Intuition:** Intuitors tend to reason from first principles and hunches and place great importance on the underlying meaning and patterns of information received. They will generate a variety of possibilities from information gathered. Those who belong to the Intuition category focus their attention on patterns, different possibilities, and abstract theories.

The third personality aspect is Nature; it determines how we cope with emotions, and make decisions based on information gathered from either sensing or intuitive means. It is composed of two personality preferences: Thinking and Feeling.

**Thinking:** Thinkers utilizes means of reasoning such as logic, evidence, and verifiable experience. They place great value on facts, objective data, and tend to be impersonal when making decisions, relying on objective logic to come to conclusions. Their greatest concern is “How does this help?”

**Feeling:** Feelers place value on personal reasoning over impersonal methods. Value emotions when accessing a situation, and are likely to consider other people’s emotions when arriving at a conclusion. They tend to be caring, compassionate, and warm to those both within and outside their immediate vicinity. Their greatest concern is “Who does this help?”
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The fourth personality aspect is **Tactics**, which reflects our approach to work and planning and the way in which people develop and deal with their attitudes towards the external world. It is composed of two personality preferences: Judging and Perceiving.

**Judging:** Judgers tend to have a strong worth ethic, and prefer structure and firm decisions. They arrive at decisions quickly, and once they do, tend to move on without leaving issues open ended. Often, they may feel agitated if a decision becomes “reopened,” as they place great emphasis on getting things done. They are dependent upon standard, laws, and rules with the ultimate goal of maximizing results and fairness.

**Perceiving:** Perceivers tend to be more open, flexible, and adaptable. They prefer to react to their environment rather than control them, and often like to leave questions open for as long as possible to analyze all aspects before coming to a conclusion, often acting spontaneously. Perceivers are more impulsive and can be subject to feeling overwhelmed by the array of options, but rarely make permanent mistakes.

**Dependent Variable: Political Identity**

This study utilizes the preferences of individuals’ Myers-Briggs personality trait dichotomies to assess its influence on the development of individuals' political liberalism or conservatism. In this paper, the dependent variable, political identity, is defined as the political ideology or party with which an individual’s ideologies, values, and goals most align with. Typically, political identity is calculated by the political party an individual commonly supports. This could be by voting, by vocalized or internal personal preference, or by any other means.
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expressed internally or externally. The ultimate determination of an individual’s political identity, unlike the testable Myers-Briggs personality traits, lies within themselves.

**Liberalism:** Although the characteristics and definition of liberalism have changed over the course of history, liberalism is defined by modern-day terms as a political and moral philosophy characterized by innovation and reformation. Those who lean towards liberalism generally believe it is the government’s responsibility to ensure equality and the wellbeing of citizens across racial, social, and economic groups. They typically support government intervention of the economy and the provision of social services, while disagreeing with government regulation of private or social behaviors. Liberals tend to support abortion, affirmative action, gender equality, and longterm welfare. Those identifying with liberalism often consider themselves members of the Democratic Party and lean politically to the left.

**Conservatism:** Conservatism is defined as a political and moral philosophy characterized by a commitment to traditional values and an opposition to reformation. Those who lean towards conservatism generally believe the government should play a minor role in regulating the economy, encourage the promotion of the free market and competitive capitalism, and respect private property rights. They emphasize empowering individuals to solve their own problems, prefer a literal interpretation of the constitution, and support a strong national defense. On social issues, many conservatives oppose nontraditional unions (i.e. gay marriage) and abortion. Those identifying with conservatism often consider themselves members of the Republican Party and lean politically to the right.
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**Methodology**

To explore the idea that personality has an effect on political disposition, a study was conducted at Pasadena City College in Pasadena, CA surveying 101 Social Science Division students. This study surveys individuals who have taken the Neris Type Explorer® test to report which of the 16 Myers-Briggs personality types they are, their primary political affiliation, and the various influences on the development of their political identity. Pasadena City College students within the Social Science Division were surveyed and asked to identify their Myers-Briggs personality type and liberal or conservative identity on a sliding scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being most conservative, 10 being most liberal, and 5 being no preference. To adhere to this study’s goal of investigating the correlation between Myers-Briggs personality traits and specific political identities: political conservatism and liberalism, the survey utilizes the forced choice format to narrow down a participant’s primary political identity by asking the participant to choose amongst two options, liberal or conservative. The questions are designed with a sliding scale to determine a participant's degree of liberalism/conservatism with the goal of collecting numerical ordinal data for statistical analysis. A second question regarding the participant’s liberal or conservative identity is added as a forced choice type question with two options: “I identify as politically liberal” and “I identify as politically consvervative.” Participants who identified with neither were asked to choose the political identity (liberal or conservtaive) closest to their political beliefs. The purpose of this is to gauge specifically the liberal or conservative skew of the college in order to accurately deny or accept its application to the general U.S. population, as discussed in the Limitations of Survey Results. This survey limits other questions to one response by utilizing a multiple choice format, such as for the question of “Which Myers-Briggs Personality Type are you?” as each person, under the guidelines of Myers-Briggs,
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may only identify with one personality type. Additionally, the survey seeks to distinguish the correlation between those who believe personality is the largest contributing factor to the development of their political identity and those who do not agree with that sentiment to determine the effect of pre-existing beliefs on the hypothesized correlations. Participants were also asked to choose the most influential factor amongst an array of influencing factors to identify the strongest external influences on the development of their political identity. The purpose of this is to ensure that the skew of influencing factors (such as educational environment, media, etc.) are accounted for and reported on when determining the relevance of this study’s results in relation to the larger U.S. population, as discussed in Limitations of Survey Results. Designing the survey in this manner refocuses the study in adherence to the proposed hypotheses while including confounding factors of external influences, widening the scope of information collected when assessing the relationship of the Myers-Briggs personality types and political affiliation.

**Sampling Method:** The first sampling method used in this case was purposive sampling, where only students of Pasadena City College’s Social Science Division who have taken at least one political science class were surveyed. This was done to ensure that the survey responses would provide information-rich cases related to this study’s area of interest: political identity and personality, under the assumption that political science students, out of all other student types, possess the basic understanding and ability to identify with political liberalism, conservative, or neither. The second sampling method utilizes convenience sampling, where the distributor, professors of Pasadena City College Social Science Division and the author of this study, distributed the survey to those who were most likely to respond to a social science research survey. The survey also directly targeted students who would be motivated by the incentive of
extra credit, as extra credit was offered to students as an incentive for participating in the survey. All respondents contributed voluntarily.

**Control Variable:** To narrow down the scope of this study and to control for confounding factors attributed to a student’s area of study, this study’s survey controls for a certain type of student. The survey directly targets students within the Pasadena City College Social Science Division to those who have taken at least one political science class within Pasadena City College with the goal of exploring campus and department specific results. All of the respondents were students within the Pasadena City College Social Science Division.

**Additional Independent Variables:** To take into account the various contributing factors of participants’ identity and test the effects of those factors on the strength of the hypothesized correlations, participants were asked to identify their age and sex. In an attempt to determine whether or not belief that personality is a factor has an effect on the strength of correlation between Myers-Briggs trait dichotomies and political liberalism or conservatism, participants were asked to respond “yes” or “no.”

**Variable 1 (Hypotheses 5) - Sex:** In an attempt to eliminate confounding factors attributed to gender, participants were asked to identify their sex. A 2001 study done by Paul Costa researched 23,000 men and women from 26 cultures to find that there was indeed a pattern of personality differences between men and women. Women consistently rated themselves to be more agreeable and open to experience compared to men, who had identified themselves as more assertive and open to new ideas. In the same study, women have been found to score higher than men on the facets of esthetics and feelings (Costa et al., 2001). If different genders portray varying inclinations in different characteristic traits, it can be suggested that the strength of
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impact these characteristic traits have on political behavior might also be dependent on gender differences. By separating males and females, we are able to more accurately gauge any possible effects of gender on the strength of correlation between the four different Myers-Briggs trait dichotomies and political liberalism or conservatism.

Variable 2 (Hypotheses 6) - Age: In order to control for the effects of age, the responses from participants are organized into age clusters: [17-19], [20-29], [30+] in accordance to the respondents’ variance in age. The purpose of staifyinging the sample size into age is to lower the strength of possible confounding factors concerning individuals who have lived significantly more years than the average Pasadena City College Social Science Division student. Those who are outliers in age could potentially display trends decreasing the predictive correlation between personality and political identity, granted the possibility that older individuals are more heavily dependent upon their life experiences and less on their personality as the primary determining factor to the development of their political ideology. This analysis comes as a result of the phenomenon that older individuals are typically exposed at a greater frequency to a variety of influential factors, as opposed to younger individuals who possess a lower frequency of exposure to influential factors, thus younger individuals being more dependent upon the influences of personality as a determinant political ideology.

Variable 3 (Hypotheses 7) - Belief that Personality is the Largest Determinant in the Development of Political Identity: In order to prevent the effects of confounding variables from other influences other than personality in the development of an individual’s political identity, hypothesis 7 controls for the factor of an individual’s belief that their personality is the LARGEST determinant of their political identity. In hypotheses 7, the data from participants who answered “Yes” to the question: “Do you believe your personality is the largest contributing
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factor to the development of your political identity?” were analyzed separately from the data of participants who answered “No” to the question: “Do you believe your personality is the largest contributing factor to the development of your political identity?” Controlling for these variables allows for the data to display possible differences in the correlation of personality preferences to the development of political identity in two categories: those who believe that their personality is the LARGEST determinant of their political identity and those who disagree with that sentiment.

Variable 4 (Hypotheses 8-9) - Belief that Personality is a Determinant in the Development of Political Identity: In order to assess the differences in correlation strength between individuals who believed personality is the largest contributing factor to individuals who believe that their personality plays a role, however minor or major, in the development of their political identity, hypotheses 8 controls for the factor of an individual’s belief that their personality is a detriment of their political identity. In hypotheses 8, the data from participants who answered “Yes” to the question: “Do you believe your personality is an influencing factor to the development of your political identity?” were analyzed separately from the data of participants who answered “No” to the question: “Do you believe your personality is an influencing factor to the development of your political identity?”. Controlling for these variables in two sets of hypotheses allow for the data to display possible differences in the correlation of personality preferences to the development of political identity in two categories: those who believe that their personality is an influence on their political identity and those who disagree with that sentiment. To compare possible correlation differences between those with belief that personality has played a major role in the development of their political identity, hypothesis 9 will compare the differences between those who believe personality is the LARGEST determinant and those who just believe personality has influence to some degree.
Hypotheses

**Hypothesis 1:** Individuals who express the trait of Extraversion over the trait of Introversion will display an inclination towards liberalism, while those who express the trait of Introversion over the trait of Extraversion will display an inclination towards “conservatism,” and the data will show a statistically significant correlation between these variables.

**Hypothesis 2:** Individuals who express the trait of Sensing over the trait of Intuition will display an inclination towards conservatism, while those who express the trait of Intuition over the trait of Sensing will display an inclination towards liberalism, and the data will show a statistically significant correlation between these variables.

**Hypothesis 3:** Individuals who express the trait of Thinking over the trait of Feeling will display an inclination towards conservatism, while those who express the trait of Feeling over the trait of Thinking will display an inclination towards liberalism, and the data will show a statistically significant correlation between these variables.

**Hypothesis 4:** Individuals who express the trait of Perceiving over the trait of Intuition will display an inclination towards conservatism, while those who express the trait of Intuition over the trait of Sensing will display an inclination towards liberalism, and the data will show a statistically significant correlation between these variables.

**Hypothesis 5:** Females and males will differ in statistical significance amongst the four Myers-Briggs personality trait dichotomies when comparing the correlation values of the four dichotomies and political liberalism or conservatism.

**Hypothesis 6:** Individuals in the youngest age bracket, [17-19], will show a statistically more significant relationship and stronger correlation values between the Myers-Briggs personality
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trait preferences and political liberalism or conservatism, in accordance with the hypothesized expectations in hypotheses 1-4.

**Hypothesis 7:** Individuals who believe that their personality is the LARGEST influencing factor to the development of their political identity, compared to those who disagree with that sentiment, will show a statistically more significant relationship and stronger correlation values between the Myers-Briggs personality trait preferences and political liberalism or conservatism.

**Hypothesis 8:** Individuals who believe that their personality is an influencing factor to the development of their political identity, compared to those who disagree with that sentiment, will show statistically more significant relationship and stronger correlation values between the Myers-Briggs personality trait preferences and political liberalism or conservatism, due to their pre-existing beliefs that personality influences political identity.

**Hypothesis 9:** Individuals who believe that their personality is the LARGEST influencing factor to the development of their political identity, compared to those who disagree with that sentiment, will show statistically more significant relationships and stronger correlation values between the Myers-Briggs personality trait preferences and political liberalism or conservatism, due to their high level of agreement of pre-existing beliefs that personality influences political identity.
Findings

The survey utilized in this study collected participants’ responses of their political liberal or conservative identity on an interval scale of 1-10 for all responses of the four personality trait dichotomies: Extraversion vs. Introversion, Sensing vs. Intuition, Thinking vs. Feeling, and Perceiving vs. Judging. The ordinal data collected through this method was utilized in parametric statistic tests (t-test) to test the average liberalness and conservativeness of the eight personality traits. 101 participants were collected from Pasadena City College students within the Social Science Division. Separating genders, 48 (47.5%) of participants were male and 53 (52.5%) of participants were female. Stratifying by age, 46 (45.5%) of participants were between the ages of [17-19], 45 (44.6%) of participants were between the ages of [20-29], and 10 (9.9%) of participants were [30+] years old (see fig. 1). Analysing the distribution of Myers-Briggs personality trait preferences, 44 (43.6%) of participants identified as Extraverts, 57 (56.4%) of participants identified as Introverts, 30 (29.7%) of participants identified as Sensors, 71 (70.3%), of participants identified as Intuitors, 34 (33.7%) of participants identified as Thinkers, 65 (64.4%) of participants identified as Feelers, 51 (50.5%) of participants identified as Perceivers, and 50 (49.5%) of participants identified as Judgers (see fig. 2). In regards to the political skew of respondents, when choosing between political liberalism or conservatism, 79 (78.2%) of participants identified as liberals and 22 (21.8%) of participants identified as conservatives. When asked to rate their level of liberalism/conservatism on a scale of 1-10, with 1 being most conservative, 10 being least conservative, and 5 being neural, the average liberalness of all participants was 6.96, with the most conservative participant identifying as a 2 and the most liberal participant identifying as a 10 on the scale of conservativeness to liberalness (see fig. 3).
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**Figure 1:** Pie Chart of Pasadena City College Participants’ Age Distribution: Aged [17-19], Aged [20-29], Aged [30+]
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**Figure 2:** Pie Chart of Pasadena City College Participants' Myers-Briggs Personality Trait Preferences of the Four Trait Dichotomies: Extraversion vs. Introversion, Intuition vs. Sensing, Thinking vs. Feeling, and Perceiving vs. Judging.
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**Figure 3:** Histogram of Pasadena City College Participants’ Political Identity: Sliding Scale (1 Being Most Conservative, 10 Being Most Liberal, and 5 Being Neutral)
Results

Utilizing the sliding scale 1-10, with 1 being most conservative, 1 being least liberal, 10 being most liberal, 10 being least conservative and 5 being Neutral, ordinal data was collected and tested by statistical t-tests to analyze average liberalness and conservativeness. Due to the scale being introduced with conservatism at the lowest end (1), and liberalism at the highest end (10), the following analysis will utilize the scale (1-10) on the bases of average liberalism, and conversely, average conservatism.

Hypothesis 1: More Likely Introverted = More Likely Conservative & More Likely Extraverted = More Likely Liberal

\[ H_0: x_I = x_E \]
\[ H_a: x_I < x_E \]

Under this null hypothesis, we assume that the average liberalness of introverts and Extraverts is equal. The alternative hypothesis is that the average liberalness of Extraverts is higher than that of Introverts, and conversely, that the average conservativeness of Introverts is higher than that of Extraverts.

\[ x_I = 7.16 \quad x_E = 6.59 \]
\[ x_I > x_E \]
\[ p = 0.09 \]
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In this case, Introverts are more liberal on average than Extraverts and Extraverts are more conservative on average than Introverts. This difference is statistically significant at \( \alpha = 0.1 \) Therefore, our hypothesis is REJECTED. Instead, the opposite is shown: there is a statistically significant relationship at \( \alpha = 0.1 \) (p-value = .09) for the Myers-Briggs personality trait dichotomy of Extraversion vs. Introversion in liberal and conservative inclination. Extraverts are more conservative on average than Introverts and Introverts are more liberal on average than Extraverts with a significance level at \( \alpha = 0.1 \) (p-value = .09) Thus, Hypothesis 1 is REJECTED.

**Hypothesis 2:** More Likely Sensing = More Likely Conservative, More Likely Intuition = More Likely Liberal

\[
H_0: x_S = x_N
\]

\[
H_a: x_S < x_N
\]

Under this null hypothesis, we assume that the average liberalness of Intuitors and Sensors is equal. The alternative hypothesis is that the average liberalness of Intuitors is higher than that of Sensors, and conversely, that the average conservativeness of Sensors is higher than that of Intuitors.

\[
x_S = 7.00 \quad x_N = 6.88
\]

\[
x_S > x_N
\]

\[
p = 0.39
\]
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In this case, Sensors are more liberal on average than Intuitors and Intuitors are more conservative on average than Sensors, though this difference is not statistically significant. Thus, **Hypothesis 2 is REJECTED.**

**Hypothesis 3:** More Likely Thinking = More Likely Conservative, More Likely Feeling = More Likely Liberal

\[ H_0: x_T = x_F \]

\[ H_a: x_T < x_F \]

Under this null hypothesis, we assume that the average liberalness of Thinkers and Feelers is equal. The alternative hypothesis is that the average liberalness of Feelers is higher than that of Thinkers, and conversely, that the average conservativeness of Thinkers is higher than that of Feelers.

\[ x_T = 7.06 \quad x_F = 6.84 \]

\[ x_T > x_F \]

\[ p = 0.31 \]

In this case, Thinkers are more liberal on average than Feelers and Feelers are more conservative on average than Thinkers, though this difference is not statistically significant. Thus, **Hypothesis 3 is REJECTED.**

**Hypothesis 4:** More Likely Judging = More Likely Conservative, More Likely Perceiving = More
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Likely Liberal

\[ H_0: x_J = x_P \]

\[ H_a: x_J < x_P \]

Under this null hypothesis, we assume that the average liberalness of Judgers and Perceivers is equal. The alternative hypothesis is that the average liberalness of Perceivers is higher than that of Judgers, and conversely, that the average conservativeness of Judgers is higher than that of Perceivers.

\[ x_J = 6.59 \quad x_P = 7.25 \]

\[ x_J > x_P \]

\[ p = 0.06 \]

As predicted, Perceivers are more liberal on average than Judgers and Judgers are more conservative on average than Perceivers. This difference is statistically significant at \( \alpha = 0.1 \). Thus, Hypothesis 4 is ACCEPTED.

Hypothesis 5: Factor 1, Gender: Female participants' statistically significant trait dichotomies will be different from male participants' statistically significant trait dichotomies.
When stratifying the data by gender, males display a significantly significant relationship in the Myers-Briggs trait dichotomy of Perceiving and Judging, while females display a significantly significant relationship in the Myers-Briggs trait dichotomy of Feeling v.s. Thinking. In males, Perceivers are more liberal on average than Judgers and Judgers are more conservative on average than Perceivers with a statistical significance at \( \alpha = 0.05 \) (p-value = 0.045). In females, Feelers are more liberal on average than Thinkers and Thinkers are more conservative on average than Feelers with a statistical significance at \( \alpha = 0.1 \) (p-value = 0.06). Thus, Hypothesis 5 is ACCEPTED.

**Hypothesis 6: Factor 2, Age:** The strength of the statistical correlation found in hypotheses 1-4 of participants in the younger age bracket [17-19] > (is greater than) the strength of the statistical correlation found in hypothesis 1-4 of participants in any other age bracket [20-29] or [30+].
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Age as categorized: [17 -19], [20-29] [30+]

When stratifying the 101 participants by age groups [17-19], [20-29], and [30+], the previous correlations seen in Hypothesis 1 and Hypothesis 4 are no longer statistically significant. No other relationships between Myers-Briggs trait preferences and liberal or conservative identity become statistically significant. Thus, **Hypothesis 6 is REJECTED.**

**Hypothesis 7: Variable 4, Participants who believe that personality has an influence on the development of their political identity:** The strength of the statistical correlation between Myers-Briggs trait preferences and liberalism or conservatism found in participants who believe
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that personality has an influence on the development of their political identity > (is greater than) participants who disagree with that sentiment.

Participant’s response of *Yes* or *No* to the question: Do you believe your personality is a contributing factor to the development of your political identity?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Extraversion vs. Introversion</th>
<th>Sensing vs. Intuition</th>
<th>Thinking vs. Feeling</th>
<th>Perceiving vs. Judging</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Yes</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of participants</td>
<td>80</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(\bar{x}_E = 6.91)</td>
<td>(\bar{x}_N = 7.01)</td>
<td>(\bar{x}_F = 7.14)</td>
<td>(\bar{x}_j = 6.51)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(\bar{x}_I = 7.17)</td>
<td>(\bar{x}_S = 7.19)</td>
<td>(\bar{x}_T = 6.93)</td>
<td>(\bar{x}_p = 7.59)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(p = 0.28)</td>
<td>(p = 0.36)</td>
<td>(p = 0.34)</td>
<td>(p = 0.009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>No</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of participants</td>
<td>17*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(\bar{x}_E = 5.0)</td>
<td>(\bar{x}_N = 5.88)</td>
<td>(\bar{x}_F = 5.69)</td>
<td>(\bar{x}_j = 6.90)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(\bar{x}_I = 7.1)</td>
<td>(\bar{x}_S = 6.55)</td>
<td>(\bar{x}_T = 8.00)</td>
<td>(\bar{x}_p = 5.29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(p) not calculated</td>
<td>(p) not calculated</td>
<td>(p) not calculated</td>
<td>(p) not calculated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*too few people in the subsample to compute accurate significance tests.*

Participants who believe that their personality has influenced the development of their political identity show a statistical significance in the Myers-Briggs trait dichotomy of Judging vs. Perceiving, while participants who do not believe that their personality has had an influence did not display any statistically significant relationships. Of the participants who believe their personality has been influential, Perceivers are more liberal on average than Judgers and Judgers are more conservative on average than Perceivers with a statistical significance at \(\alpha = 0.05\) (p-value = 0.009). Thus, **Hypothesis 7 is ACCEPTED.**
Hypothesis 8: Variable 4, Participants who believe that personality has the LARGEST influence on the development of their political identity: The strength of the statistical correlation between Myers-Briggs trait preferences and liberalism or conservatism found in participants who believe that their personality has the LARGEST influence on the development of their political identity > (is greater than) participants who disagree with that sentiment.

Participant’s response of Yes or No to the question: Do you believe your personality is the LARGEST contributing factor to the development of your political identity?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Extraversion vs. Introversion</th>
<th>Sensing vs. Intuition</th>
<th>Thinking vs. Feeling</th>
<th>Perceiving vs. Judging</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$\bar{x}_E = 6.54$</td>
<td>$\bar{x}_N = 6.73$</td>
<td>$\bar{x}_F = 6.90$</td>
<td>$\bar{x}_J = 6.625$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N = 36</td>
<td>$\bar{x}_I = 7.26$</td>
<td>$\bar{x}_S = 7.70$</td>
<td>$\bar{T} = 7.13$</td>
<td>$\bar{x}_P = 7.30$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$p = 0.135$</td>
<td>$p = 0.09$</td>
<td>$p = 0.365$</td>
<td>$p = 0.17$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>$\bar{x}_E = 6.61$</td>
<td>$\bar{x}_N = 6.98$</td>
<td>$\bar{x}_F = 6.81$</td>
<td>$\bar{x}_J = 6.58$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N = 61</td>
<td>$\bar{x}_I = 7.09$</td>
<td>$\bar{x}_S = 6.65$</td>
<td>$\bar{T} = 7.00$</td>
<td>$\bar{x}_P = 7.21$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$p = 0.165$</td>
<td>$p = 0.27$</td>
<td>$p = 0.365$</td>
<td>$p = 0.11$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Participants who believe that their personality is the LARGEST influence on the development of their political identity show a statistical significance in the Myers-Briggs trait dichotomy of Sensing vs. Intuition, while participants who do not believe that their personality has had an influence did not display any statistically significant relationships. Of the participants who believe their personality has been the LARGEST influence, Sensors are more liberal on average than Intuitors and Intuitors are more conservative on average than Sensors with a statistical significance at $\alpha = 0.1$ (p-value = 0.09). Thus, Hypothesis 8 is ACCEPTED.
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Limitations of the Study

With the conclusion of the survey, 101 respondents were surveyed from Pasadena City College students within the Social Science Division and produced a total of 101 responses. Due to the limited scope in which this survey was conducted, limitations exist regarding the analysis and application of its results. To start, the scope of the sample size is limited to individuals enrolled within Pasadena City College’s Social Science Division, an educational institute with predominantly liberal political ideology. Additionally, the sample size of 101 conducted during a time of remote learning is not an adequately large enough sample to determine without doubt that it is representative of a larger population. These factors hinder the survey from being applicable to the larger United States population. Secondly, the survey utilized academic extra credit as an incentive, thus possibly receiving a majority of respondents from students who would be benefited by completing the survey. Due to the lack of study done to correlate motivated students willing to complete surveys for extra credit and the strength of their correlation between their personality traits and political affiliation, there is a possibility that this incentive has created a confounding factor that may skew the conclusions of this study. Thirdly, this study’s niche survey shows that the majority of respondents identified with political liberalism, as 78% of all participants identified themselves as liberals compared to the 22% of participants who identified themselves as conservatives. As of May 2020, a Gallup poll found that 31% of Americans identified as Democrats, 25% identified as Republican, and 40% as Independent (Gallop 2020). The distribution of Pasadena City College Social Science Division student’s political ideologies do not correspond with the distribution of the United States population, thus preventing the study from being applicable to the United State population as a whole, before further research can be conducted, or to any other population other than Pasadena.
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City College Students within the Social Science Division from which this sample size was collected. There was not a significant number of conservative respondents, as 22 (21.78%) of the respondents identified with conservatism compared to 79 (78.22%) of the respondents who had identified with liberalism. These differences may have potentially skewed the data to be in alignment with only the behavioral patterns of individuals identifying with liberalism. As a result of this liberal skew, this study’s predictive power and the statistical significant correlations between individuals’ Myers-Briggs personality traits and their tendency to identify as liberals or conservatives is weakened. Lastly, due to the predominantly liberal and democratic environment of Pasadena City College Students, and in particular those within the Social Science Department, students may be more affected by the political views of their peers and professors as shown by the 11.9% of respondents who singled out “educational environment,” including both peers and instructors, as the single most influential factor to the development of their political affiliation. Educational environment played a fundamental role in the development of 11.9% of participants' political identity providing a significant confounding factor in accordance with the 10% cutoff change-in-estimate criteria of confounding variables. With these confounding factors and limitations in mind, from this study, we may only draw conclusions that apply to students within Pasadena City College, students within the same geo-political area, and students within other school’s social science divisions with the understanding that further, more comprehensive studies, need to be conducted to determine this study’s contribution to the intersection between personality and politics.
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Conclusions

Through careful literature review, it is established that political liberals and conservatives utilize different cognitive styles and problem solving strategies, lending credibility to the discovery of statistically significant relationships between certain personality traits and political affiliation. This study makes its discoveries through investigations of the knowledge gap between popular personality tests, such as the Myers-Briggs, and their predictive power in identifying political identity. Introverts were more liberal on average than Extraverts and Extraverts are more conservative on average than Introverts. After statistical analysis, it seems that certain Myers-Briggs trait dichotomies indeed play a role in influencing political identity. Amongst all participants, Introverts are more liberal and less conservative on average than Extraverts while Perceivers are more liberal and less conservative on average than Judgers. The pattern of Extraverts’ inclination towards conservatism instead of liberalism was unanticipated due to the previous research presented in the Literature Review detailing similarities between neurological paths of Extraverts and liberals and those of Introverts and conservatives. The unanticipated results may be attributed to the liberal skew of the college. Those who develop contrasting political ideologies, in this case, conservatism, are more likely to be extraverted in neurological paths due to their socially incongruent political affiliations and behaviors, although further empirical research is required to substantiate either of these claims. The accepted hypothesis that Perceivers would be on average more liberal and less conservative than Judgers can be attributed to the findings of previous studies, such as the one conducted by Northwestern University in 2016 and the 1980s analysis of individual preferences of art and political identity, that demonstrated political liberals possessing the traits adaptability, flexibility to new information, and high tolerance of ambiguity, that parallel the defining characteristics of the
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Myers-Briggs Perceiving personality trait. When stratifying the data to differentiate between males and females, male Perceivers are more liberal and less conservative on average than male Judgers, while female Feelers are more liberal and less conservative on average than female Thinkers. The statistical significance between males and the entire sample did not change, however in females, the trait dichotomy of Perceiving vs. Judging no longer held a significant relationship. Instead, amongst females, the trait dichotomy of Feeling vs. Thinking displayed a statistical significance. This is likely due to women having been found to score higher than men on the facets of feelings (Costa et al., 2001), thus translating into the explanation for why the Feeling trait is of a larger influence on women compared to both men and other trait dichotomies under the “women” strata. It is noted that the claims in hypothesis 3, that the average liberalness of Feelers is higher than that of Thinkers and the average conservativeness of Thinkers is higher than that of Feelers, are accepted with the statified data of female respondents, implying that there is confirmation of a statistically significant relationship for at least the female sex.

Satisfying age groups into [17-19], [20-29], and [30+] year olds found no statistically significant results, suggesting that people across all ages experience the effect of personality on political identity similarly with no significant differences. However, this may be due to the uneven stratification of age, whose original intent was to separate teenage maturity from the young adult and mid adult years, although additional research is needed to confirm the validity of this method and the effect of age on personality and political identity. It is also further accepted that, as predicted, those who had beliefs of personality being a factor had at least one significant relationship compared to those who did not agree with that sentiment. It is likely that participants with the pre-existing beliefs of personality being a strong influence on the development of their political identities may unconsciously or consciously identify politically accordingly to their
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personalities, resulting in increased significant relationships under that category. Of the participants who believe their personality is the LARGEST influence on the development of their political identity, the results show that Sensors are more liberal on average than Intuitors and Intuitors are more conservative on average than Sensors. Stratifying the participants for belief that their personality is the LARGEST influence, the statistically significant trait dichotomy: Sensing and Intuition, rejects the earlier hypothesis given to the entire sample: Hypothesis 4. The hypothesis that the average liberalness of Intuitors will be higher than that of Sensors and, conversely, that the average conservativeness of Sensors will be higher than that of Intuitors is rejected under these conditions. Previous research as outlined in Literature Review points out that the behavioral and cognitive patterns of conservatives and liberals align with the Myers-Briggs traits of Sensing and Intuition, however this does not hold up under statistical analyses. The rejection of this explanation may be due to the limited sample size and the relatively small pool of conservatives sampled, however further research is needed to determine a definitive conclusion. Out of all the hypothesized relationships, under the stratification of those who believe that personality has an influence on political identity, the Judging trait’s correlation to conservatism and Perceiving trait’s correlation to liberalism remains the strongest with a significance at $\alpha = 0.05$ and a p-value = .009, while all other significance relationships show weaker correlations with significance at $\alpha = 0.1$ and p-values < .05. The data from this study shows that, indeed, there is a correlation between certain Myers-Briggs personality traits and political liberalism or conservatism, however, the levels and consistency of statistical significance do not prove to be enough to definitively conclude a relationship between Myers-Briggs personality traits and political identity as a whole. It is, however, enough to
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provoke discussions on the predictive power of personality and how it may be utilized to bridge political disagreement and foresee future governmental outcomes.

Applications

The discovery of correlations between certain Myers-Briggs personality trait dichotomies and political liberal and conservative identity, although limited to the students within Pasadena City College’s Social Science Division, opens up possibilities of conducting future studies in pursuit of detangling the nuances that hold key to validating the claims made in these hypotheses. To further the investigation of this study, a larger sample size representative of the United States population is needed. In pursuit of data applicable to the United States as a whole, a simple random sample amongst all 50 states must be conducted. Additionally, the simple random sample is suggested to be made specific to pursue an equal number of liberal and conservative participants in an attempt to eliminate the confounding factors of an unequal distribution of liberal or conservative respondents. This will ensure a decrease of the possibility of a liberal or conservative skewed study. To analyze the effects of age, gender, and belief that personality plays a major role in determining political identity, further research tailored to these specific conditions will be needed to boost the significance of results. Doing a simple random sample and then conducting analysis on an equal number of participants for each of the subcategories of age, gender, and pre-existing beliefs will prove necessary in decreasing the skew of over sampling any one of these categories, eliminating potential confounding factors. Adding additional controls for participants’ educational background, parents’ political ideologies, ethnicity, religion, income, and other major influencing factors of political identity
will further eliminate any additional confounding factors to isolate the independent variables and definitively determine personality trait’s predictive factor.

Understanding that certain political views stem from biological and psychological factors is significant in easing tensions between political disagreements and gridlock by reminding legislators and citizens alike to set aside emotion and utilize rationale in spite of their natural tendencies, prompting a greater possibility of bipartisian discussion and cooperation. Through discovering a confirmation that personality, without doubt, dictates political behavior, psychoanalysis and other personality assessments may be utilized to predict an individual’s political identity, and in turn, their political actions. This possibility allows for increased efficiency in international diplomacy and affairs by pre-determining probable political affiliations of foreign diplomats who have not identified themselves with an American political affiliation. Domestically, this prediction may increase efficiency and success rate in casual, business, and romantic encounters as a mention of the Myers-Briggs personality type preferences installs political identity assumptions that may either lead potential political discussions towards blossoming exchanges or be an early alarm to steer away from political discourse unfavorable to the other party. Additionally, the results from this study may invoke organizations currently relying on personality tests as an assessment of a personale’s fit to utilize the same tests as an identifier of people’s political affiliation, sparking concerns of privacy and political discrimination, especially in the workplace where such tests are becoming increasingly popular.

These questions spark possible discussions of negative consequences in determining definitive correlations in regards to the Myers-Briggs predictive power of an individual's political identity. Moral or immoral, the pursuit of a definitive conclusion will require further comprehensive research to solidify this intersection between personality and politics while curiosity calls for
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new methods of research to answer the age old question: are my political opinions just
personality? Next time you think politically, maybe think to yourself the same thing, is it just my
personality?
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