

## Role of personality traits on gaining political trust: An Exploratory Analysis

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## Introduction

### Background

The present study aims at the exploratory factor analysis of trust among Australian Politicians. In order to measure the trust among politicians, the study employs psychometric properties such as self-interest, benevolence, competence and integrity of the politicians. The study assesses the trusting behaviour using experimental set up recruiting undergraduate students of Swinburne University, Australia. Culture and society has immense effect on human mental health which is remarkably enhanced through communication. Trust is important ingredient of the cooperative behaviour of the community. Over the past decade, there is a steady decline of political trust among Australian community. This decline is observed to be strongly related to the dissatisfaction among citizens on the functioning of political institutions. (Voortman, 2009). The study hypothesise that there is a role of personality traits of individuals participating in the politics that is responsible for gaining trust among the citizens. Study conducted by (Ben, 2016) stresses that most of the empirical research literature analysing political trust relies on the key indicators of trust whose validity is generally limited.

### Rationale

According to (Marien and Hoogh, 2011) people's feeling of trust towards government have been observed as the propensity to pay taxes. Given these effects, the levels of trust among politicians in developed democracies are quiet less than developing nations. Yet our grounds for concern are largely based on accepting that the conventional empirical indicators of political trust, based on questions fielded on opinion surveys, provide an accurate way of measuring the concept. In fact, the profile and salience of political trust as a topic has not been matched by considered and careful empirical measurement of the concept.

Attempts made up to fifty years ago to develop robust measures of support for the political system (eg. Agger et al, 1961; Finifter, 1970; Craig et al, 1990) have generally not been followed up. While considerable effort has been devoted to devising measures of trust in other fields most notably in organisational studies (McEvily and Tortoriello, 2011) and risk

management (Earle, 2010) –studies of trust in the political sphere have tended to rely, usually uncritically, on a set of primitive and well-worn indicators. However, these indicators suffer from well-known methodological weaknesses, which undermine their ability to serve as robust measurement instruments. There is thus a substantial gap between, on the one hand, the contemporary interest in and importance attached to, political trust and, on the other hand, the rigour in the way the concept is measured. The weakness of existing indicators of political trust has been noted by a number of scholars. For example, having identified the propensity of researchers to gauge trust through simple single-item survey questions, Gershtenson and Plane (2011). Given the importance of political trust, the rationale is to analyse the efficient measure of political trust among Australian population.

## Research framework

Exploring the relationship with the personality factors on the political trust to assess the influence of the psychometric factors that is responsible for the trust building on the politicians.

### Objectives

The chief objective of this study is to evaluate the theoretical testing using exploratory research design. The theme of the research is how personality traits of the electorate person influences the people trust. The role of personality traits of politicians in gaining trust has not yet been researched much. (Mondak & Halperin, 2008). It is believed that satisfaction of these citizens towards the government performance increases the political trust among the electorate person. Satisfied people will not demand more from the government and consequently trust the government as it will meet their future expectations during the elections.

### Aim

The main aim of the study is to explore the relationship between personality traits and trust held by the citizens on the politicians.

### Research question

The research question of the study is

“what is the ultimate relationship among personality factors and the political trust exhibited by people on politicians”?

Hypothesis

The research hypothesis of this study includes

H0a: Personality factors does not have any effect on gaining political trust

H1a: There is a close relationship between personality factors of politicians and political trust

H0b: Self-interest have no positive effect on political trust

H1b: There is a significant relationship between self-interest and political trust

H0c: Populism plays promising role in gaining political trust

H1c: There is a significant relationship between populism and political trust

### Factorial validity of the construct

In order to answer the research problem, three important factors were chosen for the measurement. They are Big Five Personality traits namely agreeableness, neuroticism, extraversion, openness and conscientiousness, populism and self-interest on the political trust. The above items selected for the scale are chosen from the published research work (Akkerman et al, 2014; Mullins et al, 2006; Yamagishi & Yamagishi, 1994) and thus can be confirmed to possess construct validity for fitness of data for the current research.

### Literature Review

This research study sheds light on different dynamics of political trust by hypothesising from an independent factor named as personality traits. (Mondak & Halperin, 2008) argued that personality traits of political leaders and trust they receive through the electorate are the consequence of their personality traits. This study will hence contribute to the same theory by assessing the assumption through exploratory analysis. Trust is the commonly known word that crops up our daily language. Trust is fundamentally a person’s individual decision to grant discretion to another (Hardin, 2002). According to (Norris, 2000) social and political trust arise from the same source in a person and concluded that there is only small association between social and political trust at individual level. Since, trust in politicians is entirely different from the interpersonal trust. Abstractedness of the political system renders the

layman very intricate and complex to understand. Nevertheless, lack of understanding on the political system creates too risky to be trusted and hence, legitimacy of the political system is totally threatened. Also, lack of trust on the political system accounts for non-compliance towards the legal systems which threatens the democracy of the nation. Norris (2000) claims that political support deals with the evaluation of politics whereas trust deals with the expectation from leaders by the citizens. In this way, trust is more all-encompassing than support. Trust can exist without nearness of support; this implies they are not straightforwardly associated with each other. When you can't help contradicting a specific choice, consequently you don't bolster that choice; it is as yet conceivable to place confide in the specialist/individual that is in charge of that choice (Norris, 1999). Besides, trust infers that you subscribe to the essential qualities and standards of the law based framework. Trust is in this way more unique additionally more essential than support. A vote based system can't work without trust, without bolster it presumably can. Both ideas, be that as it may, cover each other a lot.

According to Ryckman (2003) identity can be portrayed as a dynamic and sorted out arrangement of qualities of a man that extraordinarily impacts his or her perceptions, inspirations, and practices in different circumstances. In concentrate political conduct, the impact of identity elements has just gotten sporadic consideration over the previous decades (Winter, 2003; Schumann and Schoen, 2007; Mondak and Halperin, 2008). However, Winter expresses that "political structures and activities are formed and directed by individuals' identities" (2003: 110). In this manner, identity elements impact the way individuals act in the political domain. Mondak and Halperin (2008), push that in learns about political conduct where identity has been incorporated, those endeavors ordinarily have yielded critical impacts. The examination that was directed by Mondak and Halperin (2008), for example, affirmed that identity impacts political conduct. In this exploration it is, in any case, estimated that identity characteristics and disposition measurements shape residents' judgments of execution of the legislature and the show of trust in governmental issues. As such, it is estimated that individuals are anticipating their identity attributes and disposition expresses the way they assess government execution, on what they anticipate from legislative issues, and if legislative issues thus can be trusted.

People are different in many ways, some are interested in others and some are not, some people are liberal, others conservative, some are talkative or quiet. These differences are so-

called personality traits and they are important for what people think and how they behave, not only in the course of everyday life, but also in the political realm (Mondak & Halperin, 2008). According to Newton and Norris (1999) feelings of inner goodness, trust in others and oneself, and optimism form a 'basic trust' personality trait that is formed in the early stages of psychological development as a result of a mother nurturing her child. These 'basic trust' personality traits are enduring and general, because they influence many aspects of behaviour in a later stadium (Newton & Norris, 1999). Newton and Norris argue that "because of their psychological history and make-up, some individuals have an optimistic view of life and are willing to help others, cooperate, and trust"

Identity attributes allude to mental qualities of an individual person. Characteristics are viewed as moderately steady and persisting demeanors (Ajzen, 2005). Other than that, qualities are open recognizable components of identity, or as Winter remarks attributes seem to be "the textures of style promptly seen by other individuals" (2003: 115). As per Ajzen an identity quality can be characterized as "a normal for a person that applies unavoidable impact on an expansive scope of characteristic pertinent reactions" (2005: 2). Therefore, an identity attribute has an inescapable impact in transit individuals react and act in amid their life. In this examination, it is guessed that identity characteristics impact the level of political trust one displays, other than that it is speculated that identity attributes impact the level of fulfillment with government execution.

The qualities that can be recognized mirror the dialect of initial introductions; we utilize ordinary dialect (descriptive word and intensifiers) to depict somebody. There are, nonetheless, various identity qualities, and it is in this manner important to choose two or three them. Consequently, underneath a structure for portraying and measuring identity qualities will be clarified. Mondak and Halperin (2008, and additionally Schumann and Schoen (2007) have demonstrated that identity qualities (measured with the Enormous Five variable scale) affect a few viewpoints of political conduct, for example, voting conduct and gathering recognizable proof. In this examination, the Big Five Element structure will likewise be utilized, the substance of the Big Five will be clarified beneath. According to (Goldberg, 2008) words referring to personality are combined as magical five elements. The Big Five factors display the major dimensions that describes the personality. (Mondak & Halperin, 2008). The Big Five elements have turned out to be greatly valuable for portraying singular people, in light of the fact that those components are a rich system for grouping

identity characteristics (Goldberg, 2008: 9). The Goldberg's Big Five hypothesis contains five variables that depict singular identity attributes. Those variables are: Extroversion, Pleasantness, Honesty, Neuroticism, and Openness to Involvement (Goldberg, 1990). As indicated by Goldberg (2008) each variable speaks to specific attributes. Goldberg (1990) has built up a 50-thing scale, which joins 10 attributes to each component of the Big Five. (Mondak and Halperin, 2008) argued that variations in personality might directly correspond to the variations in the political behaviour of individual. In this study, political trust is measured instead of political behaviour among the participants. High scores of agreeableness of individual means that a person is eager to please other individuals. Thus, such people will be actively engaging in social life and political environment as they show great interest in the livelihood of other people. Likewise, individuals scoring high in conscientiousness possess great sense of duty. Hence, such individuals are expected to study the politics well and expertise in the field of politics. On the other hand, Neuroticism is called as emotional stability during the positive and negative moods like happiness, anxiety, depression, instability and negativity. Low levels of emotional stability are related to unfair and unsatisfactory towards environment. Such personalities easily caught up by mood swings and get themselves upset soon due to circumstances and make decisions that are totally regarded as unfair by their people. (Mondak & Halperin, 2008)

## Methodology

### Research design

The study uses exploratory research design to evaluate the role of Big Five Personality factors on political trust among Australian population. Exploratory research design mere attempts to explore on the research problem and seeks to answer the posed research questions. This design is chosen for the study as this study employs new type of scale and concepts for explaining the research problem. Also, this design suits the limited sample size and provides ability to make definitive conclusions through the results obtained from the analysis. (Saunders et al, 2012)

### Research method

Quantitative method is chosen for this study which is more appropriate for the exploratory research design. Quantitative methods employ the use of objective measurements like



arithmetic, numerical and statistical analysis of the given data. It highlights on gathering numerical data from the generalizable population

### Population and sampling

The study recruited undergraduate students and staffs from Australian university. A sum of 200 participants were recruited for the study. Survey questionnaires were distributed to the students after getting their informed consent in written format. Totally 187 students responded back with the duly completed survey questionnaire. A sample of 27 (10% from total population data set) were chosen for the study using random sampling method from the general population.

### Data Collection procedure

Survey was used as research instrument for the data collection. Structured close ended questionnaires were designed and distributed to the participants directly after getting their written consent form. All participants were provided 60-minute time to complete their questionnaire. No participant was forced to participate in this research.

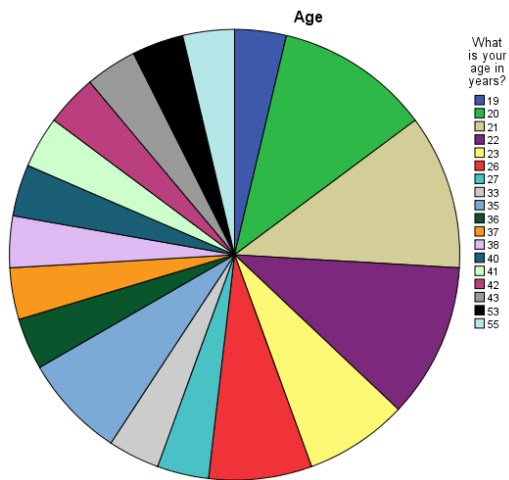
### Data Analysis procedure

All data gathered are fed into SPSS version 22 processor from IBM corp for statistical analysis. The big five personality traits and populism are the independent variables whereas political trust is the dependent variable chosen for this study. Votein, Next election and Fed2016 are categorical variables and age, gender are the demographic variables. Descriptive statistics, factor analysis, Cronbach's reliability analysis and correlation studies are the analytical procedures conducted using the gathered data. The results are displayed in the form of graphs and tables in the subsequent chapter. The study attempts to test three hypothesis to evaluate the relationship between personality traits and political trust among the target participants.

## Results

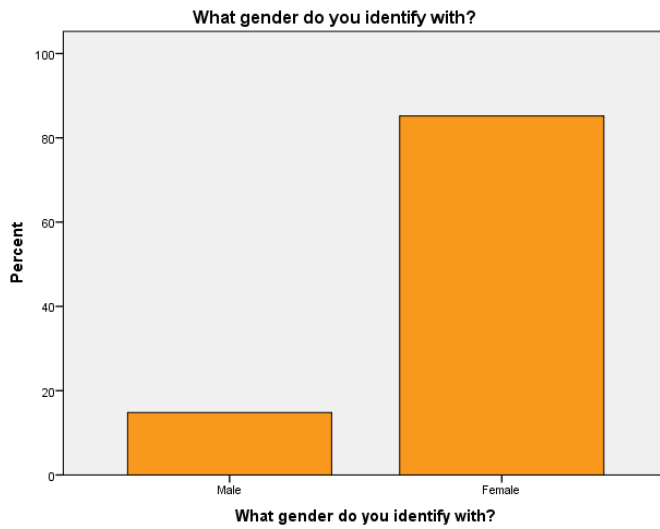
## Demographical analysis

### Age



The above graph clearly illustrates that participants range between age 19 to 55. The mean age of the participants is 30.41.

### Gender



The above graph represents that female subjects outnumbered the male subjects in this study.

### Reliability analysis

Item-Total Statistics				
	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
What is your age in years?	441.8958	1110.140	-.095	.303
What gender do you identify with?	470.8958	1156.583	.118	.228
Some people speak in terms of political left and right. Use the slider to indicate where you stan...	439.3542	262.635	.309	.039

Did you vote in the 2016 Federal Election?	471.6875	1161.507	-.127	.231
Who did you vote for in the 2016 Australian Federal Election?	466.2292	1074.227	.504	.173
Likelihood of voting in the next election	373.9792	1126.310	.044	.225
Like having media attention	470.7292	1159.840	-.013	.231
Are motivated by power	470.9375	1156.008	.075	.228
Enjoy being treated as important people	470.9792	1171.037	-.234	.238
Want to be well-known	470.8125	1163.164	-.069	.233
Are motivated by personal greed	469.9375	1133.425	.353	.213
Are mostly concerned about their reputations	470.2292	1159.351	-.010	.231
Only make decisions that further their personal goals	469.7708	1125.470	.439	.207

Want to make life better for ordinary people	469.0208	1129.145	.553	.209
Want to improve Australian society	468.7292	1132.645	.443	.212
Want to create a fair and just society	469.4375	1130.589	.441	.211
Genuinely care about the lives of others	469.0625	1151.872	.114	.225
Put the needs of the community ahead of their own	469.8125	1138.593	.293	.216
Consider the well-being of all Australians	469.6458	1210.765	-.576	.264
Are very intelligent people	469.3542	1160.177	-.020	.231
Have a natural talent for their particular area	469.6042	1152.825	.089	.226
Have a thorough understanding of global issues	469.7292	1146.376	.150	.222
Possess a high level of knowledge and skills	469.3542	1137.724	.308	.216

Effectively balance the needs of today with those of the future	470.3958	1148.428	.132	.223
Do not have the ability to make good decisions	469.1875	1154.407	.067	.227
Are capable of effectively tending to the public's needs	469.3125	1128.365	.466	.209
Follow the letter of the law	469.8542	1139.824	.315	.217
Follow through with promises made during election campaigns	470.7708	1146.302	.194	.222
Show consistency between what they say and what they do	470.1875	1140.111	.337	.217
Do not always tell the truth	470.7292	1167.054	-.128	.236
Are honest	470.1042	1132.832	.444	.212
Most people are basically honest	468.4792	1139.456	.207	.218

Most people are trustworthy	468.3542	1118.443	.464	.203
Most people are basically good and kind	468.0625	1100.964	.596	.190
Most people are trustful of others	468.2708	1135.086	.238	.215
I am trustful	467.3125	1120.475	.361	.205
Most people will respond in kind when they are trusted by others.	467.3958	1136.501	.301	.215
The government in Canberra can be trusted to do what is right.	469.4792	1178.827	-.295	.244
The government is run by big interests looking out for themselves rather than the benefit of the people.	469.3542	1184.095	-.338	.247
The government wastes a lot of the money we pay in taxes	468.8125	1158.578	.001	.230

Quite a few of the people running the government are crooked	469.8542	1184.471	-.338	.247
Most politicians don't know what they're doing	469.8958	1181.241	-.372	.245
Fearful, apprehensive:Relaxed, unconcerned	470.1458	1162.706	-.064	.233
Angry, bitter:Even-tempered	470.4375	1159.247	-.008	.231
Pessimistic, glum:Optimistic	470.2708	1153.005	.078	.226
Timid, embarrassed:Self-assured, glib	470.3125	1139.377	.259	.217
Tempted, urgency:Controlled, restrained	470.3958	1155.489	.048	.228
Helpless, fragile:Clear-thinking, fearless	470.3958	1158.083	.008	.230
Cordial, affectionate, attached:Cold, aloof, indifferent	469.3542	1150.887	.099	.225



Sociable, outgoing:Withdrawn, isolated	469.1042	1171.001	-.171	.238
Dominant, forceful:Unassuming, quiet	469.6042	1179.040	-.297	.244
Vigorous, energetic, active:Passive, lethargic	469.4375	1178.601	-.301	.243
Reckless, daring:Cautious, monotonous	469.6875	1163.591	-.070	.233
High-spirited:Placid, anhedonic	468.9792	1170.284	-.176	.238
Dreamer, unrealistic, imaginative:Practical, concrete	469.4792	1172.952	-.209	.240
Aberrant interests, aesthetic:Uninvolved	469.1042	1167.328	-.166	.236
Self-aware:Constricted, unaware	468.5625	1163.972	-.078	.234
Strange, odd, peculiar, creative:Pragmatic, rigid	469.1458	1173.140	-.224	.240
Unconventional, eccentric:Routine, predictable	469.5208	1169.665	-.147	.238

Permissive, broad-minded:Traditional, inflexible	469.0625	1180.915	-.333	.245
Gullible, naive, trusting:Skeptical, cynical	470.1042	1137.598	.296	.216
Confiding, honest:Cunning, manipulative	469.0208	1168.310	-.131	.237
Sacrificial, giving:Stingy, selfish, greedy	468.8958	1165.351	-.096	.235
Docile, cooperative:Oppositional, combative	469.2708	1130.129	.417	.211
Meek, self-effacing, humble:Confident, boastful	469.9375	1155.031	.061	.228
Soft, empathetic:Tough, callous, ruthless	469.3125	1131.066	.387	.211
Perfectionistic, efficient:Lax, negligent	468.8958	1162.621	-.061	.233
Ordered, methodical, organized:Haphazard, disorganized	469.3125	1143.261	.225	.220

Rigid, reliable, dependable:Casual, undependable	469.0208	1155.530	.072	.228
Workaholic, ambitious:Aimless, desultory	469.0625	1162.718	-.072	.232
Dogged, devoted:Hedonistic, negligent	469.0625	1171.976	-.208	.239
Cautious, ruminative, reflective:Hasty, careless, rash	469.2292	1155.403	.065	.228
The government is involved in the murder of innocent citizens and/or well-known public figures, and keeps this a secret	470.8125	1155.871	.030	.229

Experiments involving new drugs or technologies are routinely carried out on the public without their knowledge or consent	470.5625	1164.464	-.071	.235
Certain significant events have been the result of the activity of a small group who secretly manipulate world events	470.6042	1137.695	.241	.216
Evidence of alien contact is being concealed from the public	471.0208	1139.252	.304	.217
The government permits or perpetrates acts of terrorism on its own soil, disguising its involvement	470.9375	1173.454	-.239	.240

The power held by heads of state is second to that of small unknown groups who really control world politics	470.6458	1162.919	-.059	.233
Some UFO sightings and rumours are planned or staged in order to distract the public from real alien contact	471.1875	1148.161	.170	.223
A lot of important information is deliberately concealed from the public out of self-interest	469.3542	1167.695	-.100	.237
New and advanced technology which would harm current society is being suppressed	469.8125	1150.987	.076	.226

The government uses people as patsies to hide its involvement in criminal activity	470.6875	1159.278	-.009	.231
The spread of certain viruses and/or diseases is the result of the deliberate, concealed efforts of some organisation	470.9792	1174.901	-.221	.241
A small, secret group of people is responsible for making all major world decisions, such as going to war	470.9792	1147.327	.171	.222
Secret organizations communicate with extraterrestrials, but keep this fact from the public	471.1875	1150.906	.120	.225

Technology with mind-control capacities is used on people without their knowledge	471.0625	1160.338	-.023	.231
Groups of scientists manipulate, fabricate, or suppress evidence in order to deceive the public	470.2708	1154.927	.028	.229
The politicians in the Australian Parliament need to follow the will of the people	468.6042	1169.770	-.162	.238
The people, and not politicians, should make our most important policy decisions.	469.6458	1168.064	-.134	.236

The political differences between the elite and the people are larger than the differences among the people.	469.1042	1153.841	.081	.227
I would rather be represented by a citizen than a specialised politician	470.2292	1173.458	-.182	.240
Elected officials talk too much and take too little action	468.9375	1156.202	.043	.228
What people call 'compromise' in politics is really just selling out on one's principles	470.0625	1169.805	-.150	.238



One important reason that contributes to climate change is the burning of fossil fuels and subseq...- Support for carbon tax	465.6458	1220.495	-.337	.276
Yamagishi & Yamagishi (1994) measure of trust in general	467.9792	1124.319	.515	.206
Adapted version of the American National Election Studies political trust measure	469.4792	1176.867	-.368	.242
Neuroticism from the FFMRF	470.3264	1154.221	.093	.227
Extraversion from the FFMRF	469.3611	1168.285	-.202	.236
Openness from the FFMRF	469.1458	1170.820	-.266	.238
Agreeableness from the FFMRF	469.4236	1147.182	.319	.222
Conscientiousness from the FFMRF	469.0972	1158.110	.041	.229

Generic Conspiracist Beliefs Scale	470.6736	1155.755	.069	.228
Akkerman et al measure of Populist Attitudes	469.4306	1164.301	-.163	.233

The Cronbach's alpha value above 0.70 is generally considered as reliable data set. This data obtained 0.59 for standardised items at 95% C.I. The inter-item correlations reveal that upon deletion of items, the values seem to be higher.

### Descriptive analysis

	What is your age in years?	What gender do you identify with?	Some people speak in terms of political left and right. Use the slider to indicate where you stan...	Did you vote in the 2016 Federal Election?	Who did you vote for in the 2016 Australian Federal Election?
Mean	30.41	1.85	33.6400	1.07	6.46
Median	26.00	2.00	30.0000	1.00	8.00
Mode	20 <sup>a</sup>	2	10.00 <sup>a</sup>	1	4
Std. Deviation	10.537	.362	24.85940	.267	2.387
Minimum	19	1	.00	1	4
Maximum	55	2	85.00	2	10

The descriptive statistics table reveals that mean and S.D values of age is 30.41±10.53. Female subjects are higher than male subjects. Most of the subjects had voted in 2016 held elections with the mean of 1.07±0.267 S.D. The mean values of political affiliation variable are high 33.64±24.85 S.D. Most of the participants show optimistic values of political affiliation with mean high scores. For voting in next elections, mean and s.d values are 6.46±2.38 depicting the interest shown by study subjects on politics.

## Factor analysis

Personality traits	Political trust	Support for carbon trust
The government in Canberra can be trusted to do what is right.	-.026	.146
The government is run by big interests looking out for themselves rather than the benefit of the people.	-.016	.129
The government wastes a lot of the money we pay in taxes	-.034	.056
Most politicians don't know what they're doing	.002	.086
Most people will respond in kind when they are trusted by others.	.011	-.057
Fearful, apprehensive:Relaxed, unconcerned	-.074	.021

Angry, bitter:Even-tempered	-.042	.125
Pessimistic, glum:Optimistic	-.100	.066
Timid, embarrassed: Self-assured, glib	-.071	-.061
Tempted, urgency:Controlled, restrained	-.051	.008
Helpless, fragile:Clear-thinking, fearless	-.098	-.019
Cordial, affectionate, attached:Cold, aloof, indifferent	.064	-.108
Sociable, outgoing:Withdrawn, isolated	.088	-.026
Dominant, forceful:Unassuming, quiet	.044	.065
Vigorous, energetic, active:Passive, lethargic	.073	.062
Reckless, daring:Cautious, monotonous	-.005	.103
High-spirited:Placid, anhedonic	.087	.038

Dreamer, unrealistic, imaginative:Practical, concrete	.022	.038
Aberrant interests, aesthetic:Uninvolved	.063	.051
Self-aware:Constricted, unaware	.092	-.006
Strange, odd, peculiar, creative:Pragmatic, rigid	-.006	.134
Unconventional, eccentric:Routine, predictable	-.020	.151
Permissive, broad-minded:Traditional, inflexible	.043	.087
Gullible, naive, trusting:Skeptical, cynical	-.009	-.080
Confiding, honest:Cunning, manipulative	.078	-.048
Sacrificial, giving:Stingy, selfish, greedy	.088	-.026
Docile, cooperative:Oppositional, combative	-.023	-.122

Meek, self-effacing, humble:Confident, boastful	-.067	-.021
Soft, empathetic:Tough, callous, ruthless	-.015	-.025
Perfectionistic, efficient:Lax, negligent	.055	.018
Ordered, methodical, organized:Haphazard, disorganized	-.009	-.074
Rigid, reliable, dependable:Casual, undependable	.011	-.039
Workaholic, ambitious:Aimless, desultory	.020	.064
Dogged, devoted:Hedonistic, negligent	.073	-.007
Cautious, ruminative, reflective:Hasty, careless, rash	-.040	.020
The politicians in the Australian Parliament need to follow the will of the people	.055	.006

The people, and not politicians, should make our most important policy decisions.	.055	-.011
The political differences between the elite and the people are larger than the differences among the people.	-.017	.008
I would rather be represented by a citizen than a specialised politician	-.006	-.019
Elected officials talk too much and take too little action	-.034	.064
What people call 'compromise' in politics is really just selling out on one's principles	-.018	.004

The factor analysis table suggests that most of the factors show negative values. Hence, the analysis stresses that there is no variability among the correlated variables at 95% C.I. The component.

### Correlational analysis

	The government in Canberra can be trusted to do what is right.	The government is run by big interests looking out for themselves rather than the benefit of the people.	The government wastes a lot of the money we pay in taxes.	Quite a few of the people running the government are crooked.	Most politicians don't know what they're doing.	The politicians in the Australian Parliament need to follow the will of the people.	The people, and not politicians, should make our most important policy decisions.	The political differences between the elite and the people are larger than the differences among the people.	I would rather be represented by a citizen than a specialised politician.	Elected officials talk too much and take too little action.	What people call 'compromise' in politics is really just selling out on one's principles.
The government in Canberra can be trusted to do what is right.	1	.602**	.162	.235	.028	-.187	.012	.042	-.177	.345	.192
The government is run by big interests	.602**	1	.475*	.526**	.216	.029	.070	.269	.007	.305	.017



looking out for themselves rather than the benefit of the people.											
The government wastes a lot of the money we pay in taxes	.162	.475*	1	.066	.075	-.205	-.060	-.014	.030	.299	-.270
Quite a few of the people running the government are crooked	.235	.526**	.066	1	.148	.245	.126	0.000	.175	.226	.089
Most politicians don't know what they're doing	.028	.216	.075	.148	1	.196	.063	-.260	-.078	.200	-.014
The politicians in the Australian Parliament need to follow the will of the people	-.187	.029	-.205	.245	.196	1	.247	.072	.055	-.040	-.159
The people, and not politicians, should make	.012	.070	-.060	.126	.063	.247	1	-.052	-.154	-.063	.240

our most important policy decisions.											
The political differences between the elite and the people are larger than the differences among the people.	.042	.269	-.014	0.000	-.260	.072	-.052	1	.229	.234	.159
I would rather be represented by a citizen than a specialized politician	-.177	.007	.030	.175	-.078	.055	-.154	.229	1	.033	-.209
Elected officials talk too much and take too little action	.345	.305	.299	.226	.200	-.040	-.063	.234	.033	1	.008
What people call 'compromise' in politics is really just selling out on	.192	.017	-.270	.089	-.014	-.159	.240	.159	-.209	.008	1

one's principles											
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The relationship among populism and political trust is analysed using correlation. Most of the r values are negative suggesting there is negative association between populism and political trust at 95% C.I and hence null hypothesis is accepted.

		Neuroticism from the FFMRF	Extraversion from the FFMRF	Openness from the FFMRF	Agreeableness from the FFMRF	Conscientiousness from the FFMRF
The government in Canberra can be trusted to do what is right.	Pearson Correlation	.125	.095	.404*	-.175	-.021
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.535	.636	.037	.382	.918
	N	27	27	27	27	27
The government is run by big interests looking out for themselves rather than the benefit of the people.	Pearson Correlation	-.006	-.120	.447*	-.054	.009
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.976	.551	.019	.790	.965
	N	27	27	27	27	27

The government wastes a lot of the money we pay in taxes	Pearson Correlation	.165	-.351	.025	-.114	.066
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.410	.073	.903	.572	.744
	N	27	27	27	27	27
Quite a few of the people running the government are crooked	Pearson Correlation	.067	-.008	.207	-.102	-.099
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.740	.967	.301	.612	.625
	N	27	27	27	27	27
Most politicians don't know what they're doing	Pearson Correlation	-.076	-.069	.196	-.397*	-.057
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.706	.734	.328	.040	.776
	N	27	27	27	27	27

A Pearson's correlation analysis was conducted to analyse the relationship between personality factors and political trust gained. Most of the variables show significant correlations with r values close to 1. Most of the variables depict positive correlation at 95% C.I. Hence, hypothesis stating that there is a relationship among personality traits and political trust is accepted.

			The government is run by big interests looking out for themselves rather than the benefit of the people.		The government wastes a lot of the money we pay in taxes	Quite a few of the people running the government are crooked	Most politicians don't know what they're doing
Like having media attention	Pearson Correlation	.045	-.056	-.113	.238	-.304	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.822	.782	.575	.232	.123	
	N	27	27	27	27	27	
Are motivated by power	Pearson Correlation	-.144	-.044	.076	.108	-.100	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.473	.827	.707	.592	.618	
	N	27	27	27	27	27	
Enjoy being treated as important people	Pearson Correlation	-.055	.085	-.155	.145	.074	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.785	.675	.440	.472	.714	
	N	27	27	27	27	27	
Want to be well-known	Pearson Correlation	-.300	-.106	-.138	-.039	-.015	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.128	.599	.492	.845	.942	
	N	27	27	27	27	27	
Are motivated by personal	Pearson Correlation	-.308	-.333	-.099	-.550**	-.304	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.118	.089	.624	.003	.124	

greed	N	27	27	27	27	27
Are mostly concerned about their reputations	Pearson Correlation	-.532**	-.326	-.082	.033	-.019
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.004	.097	.684	.869	.927
	N	27	27	27	27	27
Only make decisions that further their personal goals	Pearson Correlation	-.324	-.388*	-.010	-.425*	-.251
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.099	.046	.960	.027	.206
	N	27	27	27	27	27

The results suggest that there is no statistical significant positive relationship among self-interest and political interest since r values are negative and not close to 1 at 95% C.I. Hence, null hypothesis is accepted.

## Discussion and Conclusion

The concluding remarks of this research report emphasises that there is a striking relationship between personality traits and political trust. The new scale self-interest and populism has no effect on gaining political trust. The study suggests that not every hypothesis is accepted in the study. Although, personality traits seem to have promising effect on gaining trust, few negative values recorded in neuroticism, agreeableness and consciousness. Also, there is a striking limitation in this study, firstly the scale reliability is highly questionable due to low levels of Cronbach's value. Survey also lacked few items that assesses the satisfaction of individuals towards the performance of the government and political support.