

Authoritarianism and prejudice across cultures

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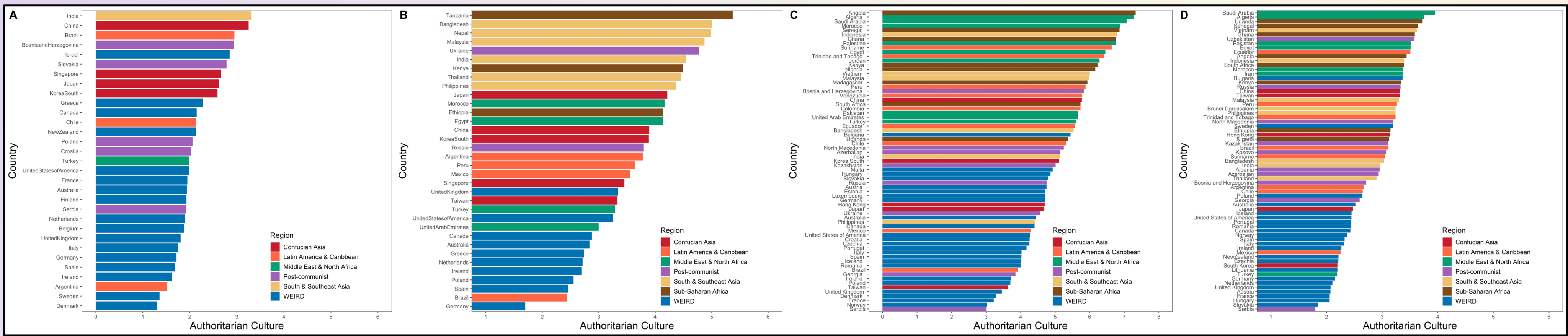
Background

The link between authoritarianism and various forms of prejudice has been well documented, however most of this research comes from Western countries, characterized by autonomy-oriented culture opposing authoritarian principles. It is possible that the authoritarian prejudice effect is partly attributable to threat-evoking value misalignment between authoritarian individuals and anti-authoritarian social environments. In consequence, the established link between authoritarianism and prejudice should be weaker or null in countries promoting authoritarian culture.

Method

Four cross-national datasets, different (proxy) measures:
(A) Parasite Stress Survey, $k = 31$, $N = 12299$, conventionalism
(B) Survey of Worldviews, $k = 34$, $N = 8887$, 11-item authoritarianism
(C) Live Better 1, $k = 69$, $N = 16366$, conformity values
(D) Live Better 2, $k = 67$, $N = 22039$, full 3-factor CSA scale 
Measures of prejudice: acceptance of immigrants (A, C), ethnocentrism (B), feeling thermometer towards foreigners (D)
Authoritarian Culture → country-level mean of authoritarianism
Analysis: multilevel regressions with cross-level interactions

Results

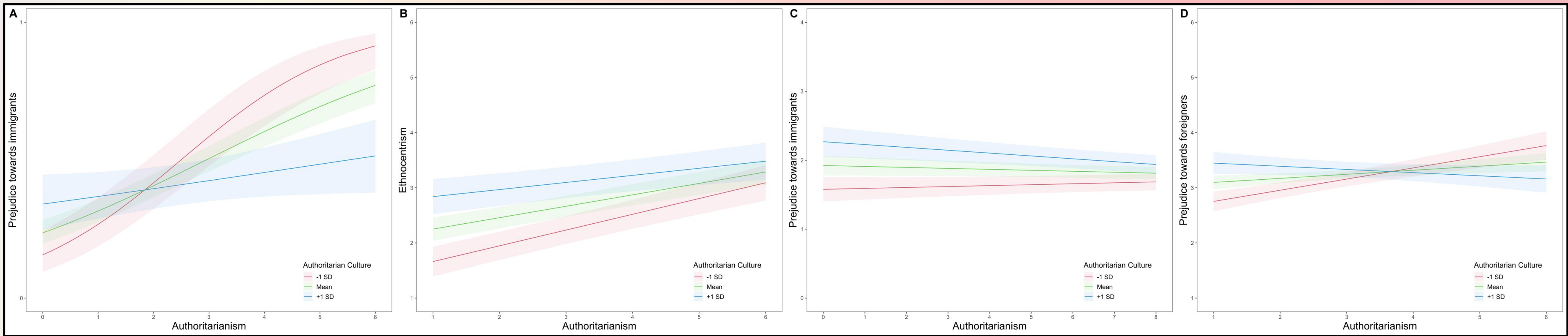
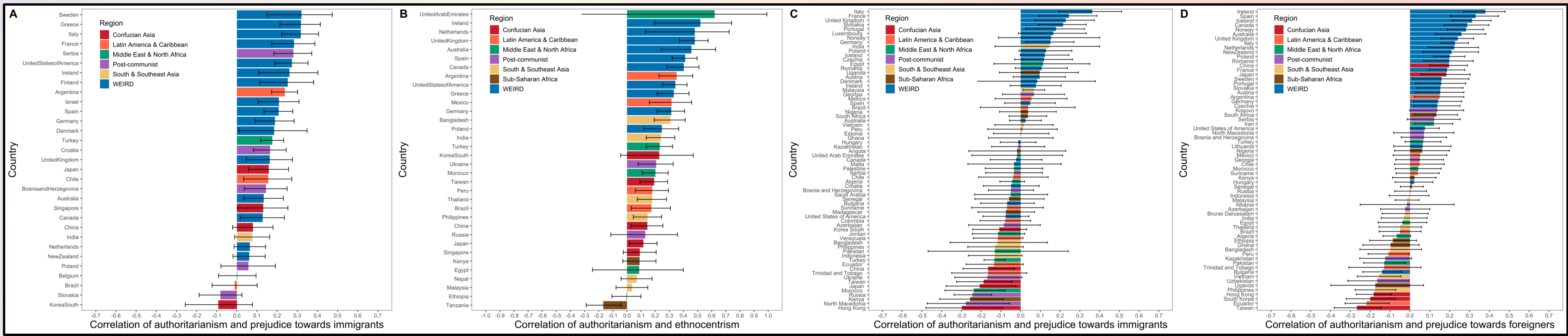


ICC = 0.22

ICC = 0.28

ICC = 0.23

ICC = 0.30



46% of random slope explained

33% of random slope explained

24% of random slope explained

47% of random slope explained

Authoritarianism functions not only as an individual difference but also a culture-level variable with 22%–30% of variance due to country differences. The authoritarianism-prejudice links were strongest in Western countries, where lowest levels of authoritarianism were observed. These results suggest that authoritarian prejudice may partly result from cultural misalignment.