



Validation of the Populist Thin Ideology Scale (Pop-THIS):

Linking Populist Beliefs to populist Voting

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Populism: a controversial concept

History

(Stavrakakis, 2014)

- Russia 19th
- Peronism in Argentina
- Far-right in Europe
- Far-left in Latin America
- Demagogy
-



Social Sciences

Contemporary Left-wing Populism in Latin America: Leadership, Horizontalism, and Postdemocracy in Chávez's Venezuela

Yannis Stavrakakis ✉, Alexandros Kioupiolis ✉, Giorgos Katsambekis ✉, Nikos Nikisianis ✉, Thomas Siomos ✉

Original Articles

Extreme right-wing populism in Europe: revisiting a reified association

Yannis Stavrakakis ✉, Giorgos Katsambekis, Nikos Nikisianis, Alexandros Kioupiolis & Thomas Siomos

Pages 420-439 | Received 17 Aug 2016, Accepted 17 Jan 2017, Published online: 10 Apr 2017

Left and right populism compared: The British case

Luke March

First Published March 31, 2017 | Research Article |



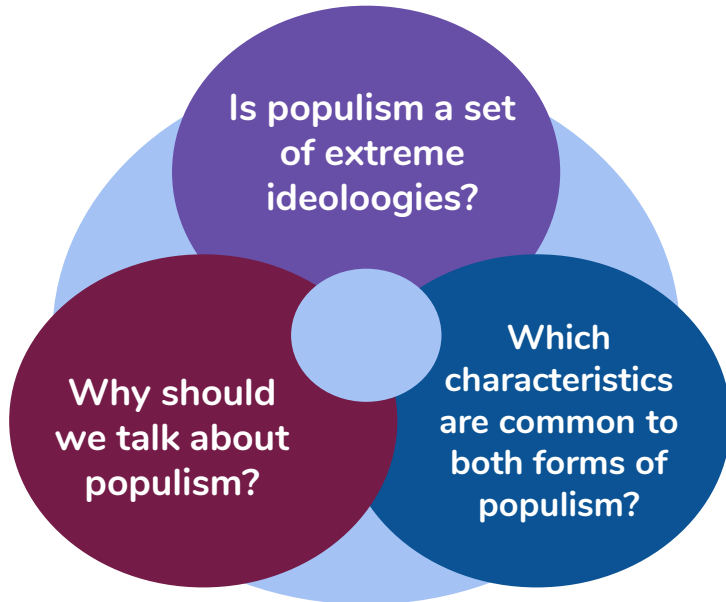
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1369148117701753>



Populism as “Thin ideology”

Exclusionary and inclusionary populism

(Mudde & Kaltwasser, 2013)



Populism at the extremes of the left-right axis



Populism as a thin ideology





Populism as “Thin ideology”

“[...] a thin-centred ideology that considers society to be ultimately separated into two homogenous and antagonistic camps, ‘the pure people’ versus the ‘corrupt elite’, and which argues that politics should be an expression of the *volonté générale* (general will) of the people” (Mudde & Kaltwasser, 2017, p.6)

Measures of populism as thin ideology

Akkerman et al., 2014;
Elchardus & Spruyt, 2016;
Hameleers & de Vreese, 2020;
Oliver & Rahn, 2016;
Roccatto et al., 2019;
Rooduijn, 2014;
Schulz et al., 2018;
Stanley, 2011
Silva et al., 2018;
Van Hauwaert et al., 2020

Limitations of these measures

- Lack of content validity
- Lack of criterion validity
- Lack of construct validity (divergence)
- Methodological limitations
- Score calculation limitations

A logical analysis of Mudde's definition of populism

“[...] a thin-centred ideology that considers society to be ultimately separated into two homogenous and antagonistic camps, ‘the pure people’ versus the ‘corrupt elite’, and which argues that politics should be an expression of the *volonté générale* (general will) of the people”

$$P = A \wedge B$$

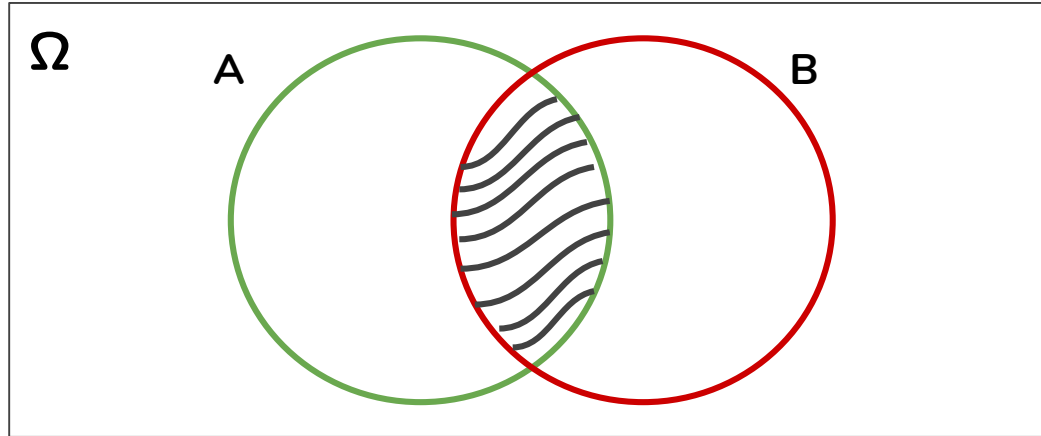




A logical analysis of Mudde's definition of populism



$$P = A \cap B$$

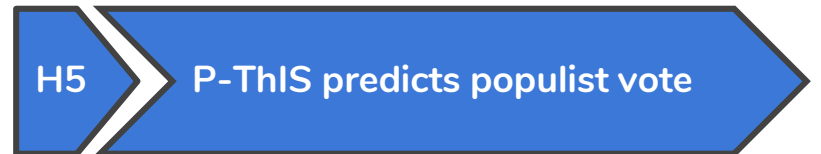
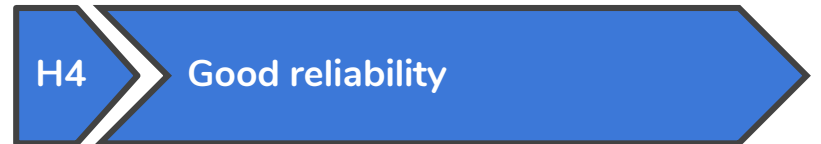
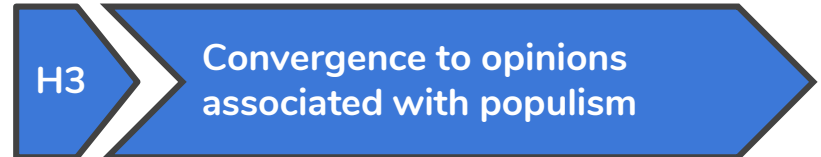
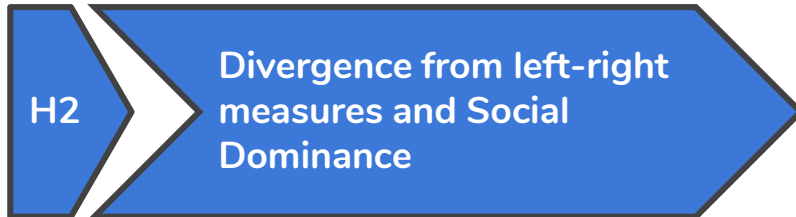
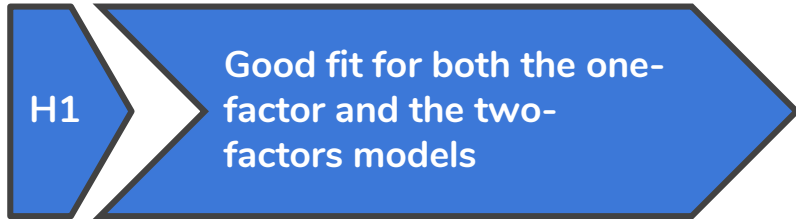




The Populism Thin Ideology Scale

Aims and Hypotheses

Construction and validation of a measure of populism taking into account the identified limitations of existing measures.





The Populism Thin Ideology Scale

Methods

n= 427

On-line survey Pop-THIS

1. Construction of the items
2. CFA
3. Divergence/ convergence analysis
4. Regression analyses

Instruments

Left-right ideology measures

- Capitalism-Collectivism (6 items)
- Self-position scale social left(vs right)(1 item)
- Progressivism-Conservatism (6 items)
- Self-position scale economic left(vs right) (1 item)

Beliefs associated with populism

- Attitudes toward international treaties (2 items)
- Attitudes toward journalists and mediatic system (2 items)
- Attitudes toward justicialism (1 item)

Populist vote intentions

Social Dominance Orientation

(10 items; Pratto et al., 1994)

BIG 5 personality traits

(2 items per trait; Bakker & al., 2016)

Socio-demographic variables

(age, gender, education)

Subjective Social Status

(Adler, 2000)



The Populism Thin Ideology Scale

1. Construction of the scale

Two dimensions

Make sure that both the attributes of Mudde's definition are taken into account

Construction of the items

- 25 - 18 - 10 items
- Perfectly balanced

Populist leaders discourse analysis

Common terms used by exclusionary and inclusionary French populist candidates

The final version of the Pop-THIS ($\alpha=.90$)

Intergroup bias

Pop1. Banks, politicians and all elites are part of the same corrupt caste.

Les banques, les politiciens et toutes les élites font partie de la même caste corrompue.

Pop2. The elite represents bad things.

L'élite représente des choses négatives.

Pop3R. The conflict between the elite and the people is meaningless.

Le conflit entre peuple et élite n'a aucun sens.

Pop4R. The elite does not exercise any form of tyranny against the people.

L'élite n'exerce aucune forme de tyrannie contre le peuple.

Pop5. The people suffer injustices at the hands of the elite.

Le peuple subit des injustices de la part de l'élite.

Pop.6R The elite is no more corrupt than the people.

L'élite n'est pas plus corrompue que le peuple.

People's general will

Pop7R. Citizens can already express their opinions and engage in dialogue with the institutions.

Les citoyens peuvent déjà exprimer leurs opinions et dialoguer avec les institutions.

Pop8. The people, not the politicians, must take the most important decisions for France.

Le peuple, et non les politiciens, doit prendre les décisions les plus importantes pour la France.

Pop9. The people must exercise political power directly.

Le peuple doit exercer directement son pouvoir politique.

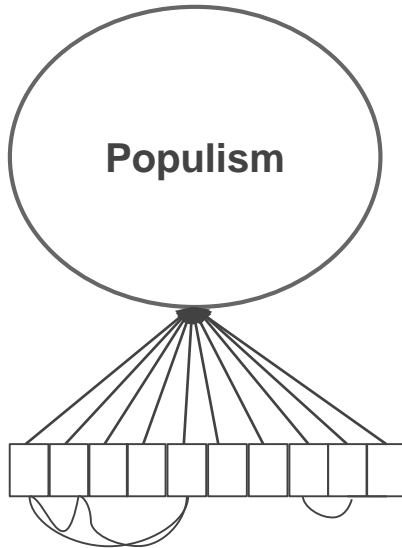
Pop10R. The election of party list representatives is the best possible form of democracy.

L'élection des représentants politiques est la meilleure forme de démocratie possible.

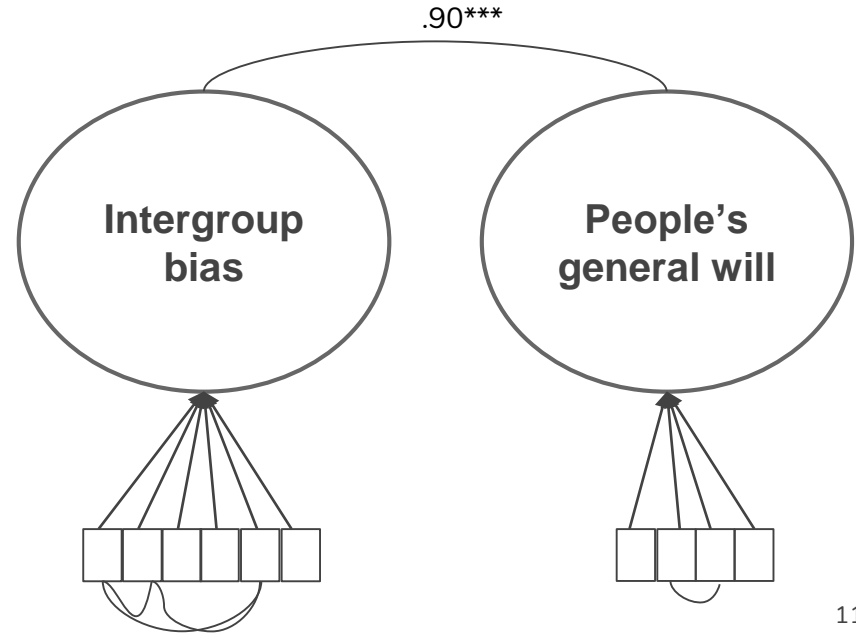
The Populism Thin Ideology Scale

2. CFA models and Structure of the construct

CFI=.98, RMSEA= .05 [.03, .07]



CFI=.99, RMSEA= .03 [.00, .05]





The Populism Thin Ideology Scale

3. Divergence and convergence analysis

Table 1. Correlations between the Pop-THIS and divergent criteria.

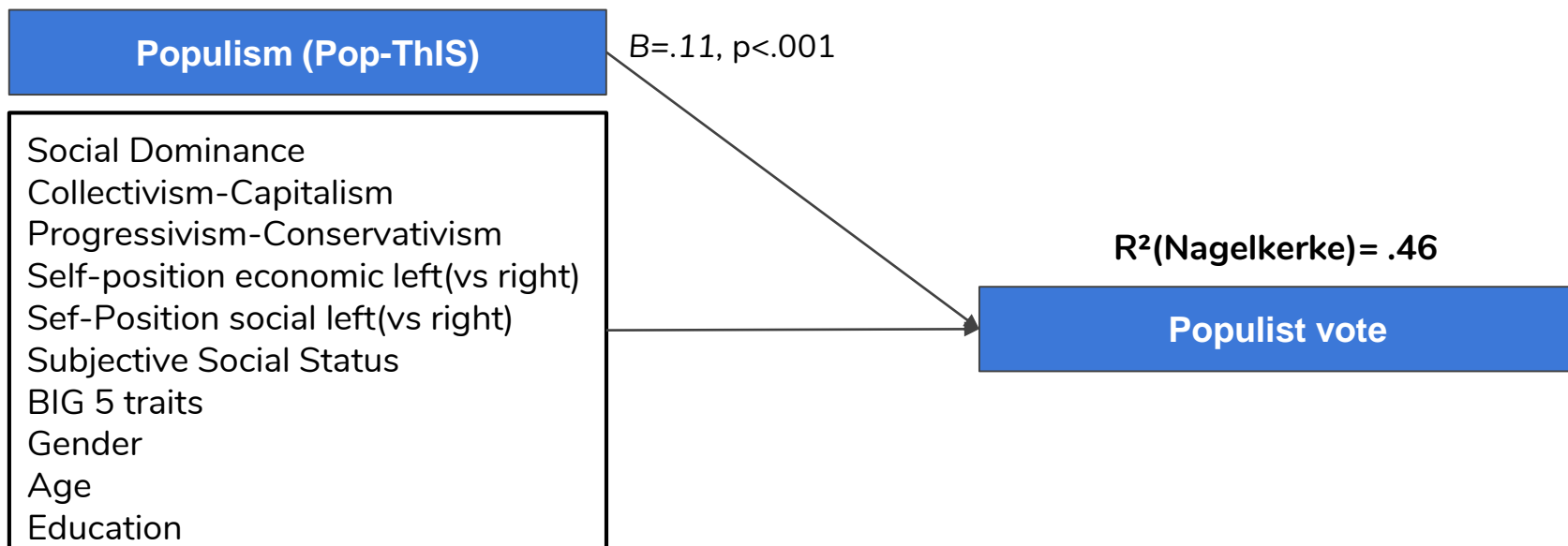
Collectivism- capitalism	-.32***
Self-position economic left (vs right)	-.36***
Progressivism- conservatism	-.09 n.s.
Self-position social left (vs right)	-.13**
Social Dominance Orientation	-.28***

Table 2. Correlations between the Pop-THIS and convergent criteria.

Anti-journalists attitude	.61***
Anti-international treaties attitude	.64***
Justicialism belief	.63***

The Populism Thin Ideology Scale

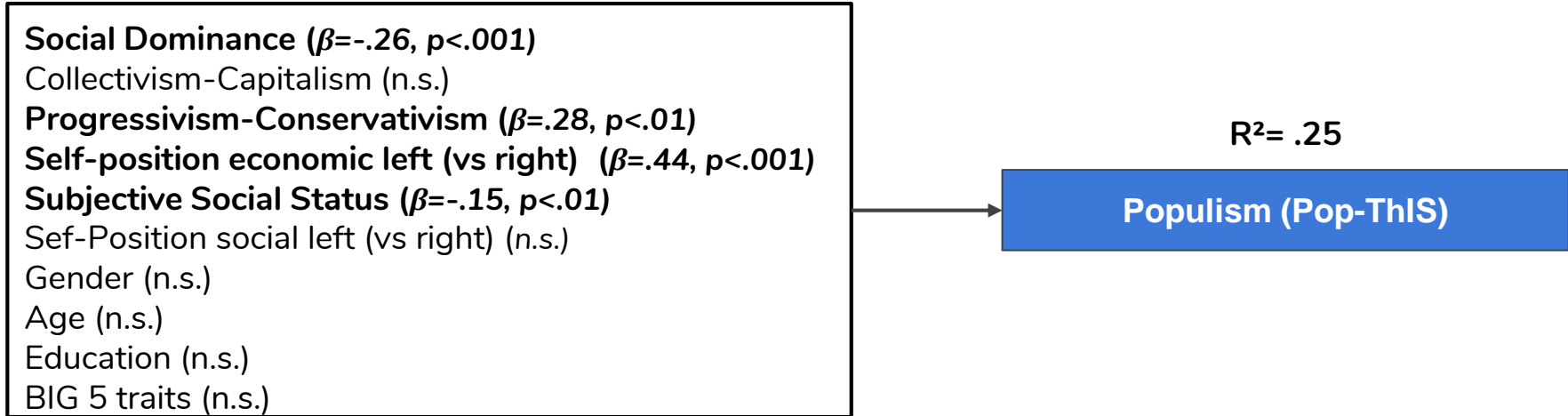
4. Regression analyses





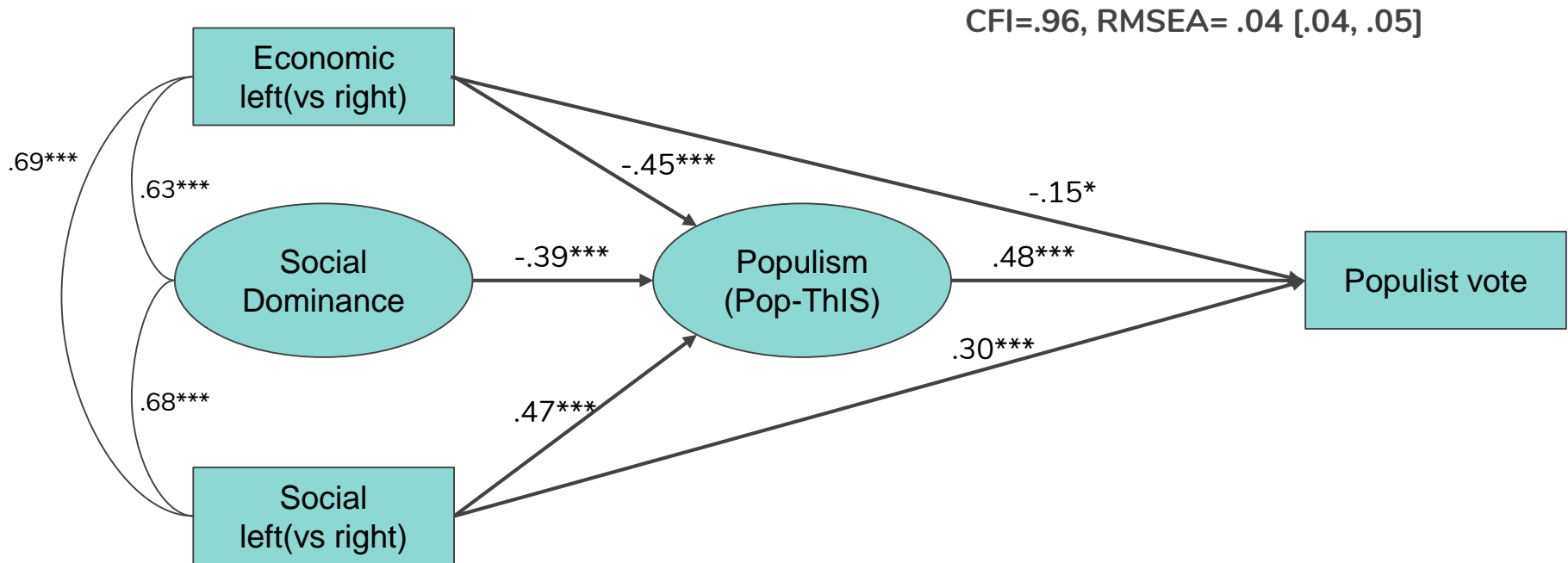
The Populism Thin Ideology Scale

4. Regression analyses



The Populism Thin Ideology Scale

4. Regression analyses (SEM)





Discussion

Good reliability

Both one-factor and two-factors model showed good fit

Divergence and convergence with other dimensions perfectly consistent with our hypotheses

Pop-THIS significantly predicted populist votes intentions



Conclusions

Why Pop-THIS ?

Next steps for external validation

Populism in Social Psychology

Future use of the scale

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