Appendix A: Additional information on the development and the psychometric characteristics of the Political Elites Aversive Personality Scale (PEAPS)

Aim of the scale

Political Elites Aversive Personality Scale (PEAPS) is a 6-item short scale to measure socially aversity – yet not-pathological – personality traits in politicians. The items stem from various inventories to measure *self-reported* socially aversive personality (i.e. the Short Dark Triad, the Dirty Dozen, The Dark Factor of Personality, and the NARQ-6 scale). Since, to the best of our knowledge, there has been no attempt to directly survey such personality traits among politicians, we have compiled a survey instrument tailored to politicians from the existing scales. The general idea underlying the scale is that there is a common dispositional basis of aversive personality (e.g., Moshagen et al., 2018; Schreiber & Marcus, 2020); hence, the PEAPS scale does not aim to develop a measure allowing assessing different traits. In addition, PEAPS is based on already existing measures and does not develop new items to capture "dark" personality.

Scale development

Although there are already several approaches to measuring self-reported aversive personality traits, none of the inventories can be used for politicians. First, all available scales are much too long to be presented to politicians. Since politicians do not have much time to complete the questionnaires, the number of items must be very limited. Second, the available scales often contain questions that are too harsh or inappropriate to ask politicians (e.g., "I enjoy having sex with people I barely know," "I have lied or cheated to get my way," "I think about molesting others for pleasure"). For obvious reasons–politicians are public interest persons and would probably be very reluctant to answer such questions–extremely inappropriate items cannot be part of a scale.
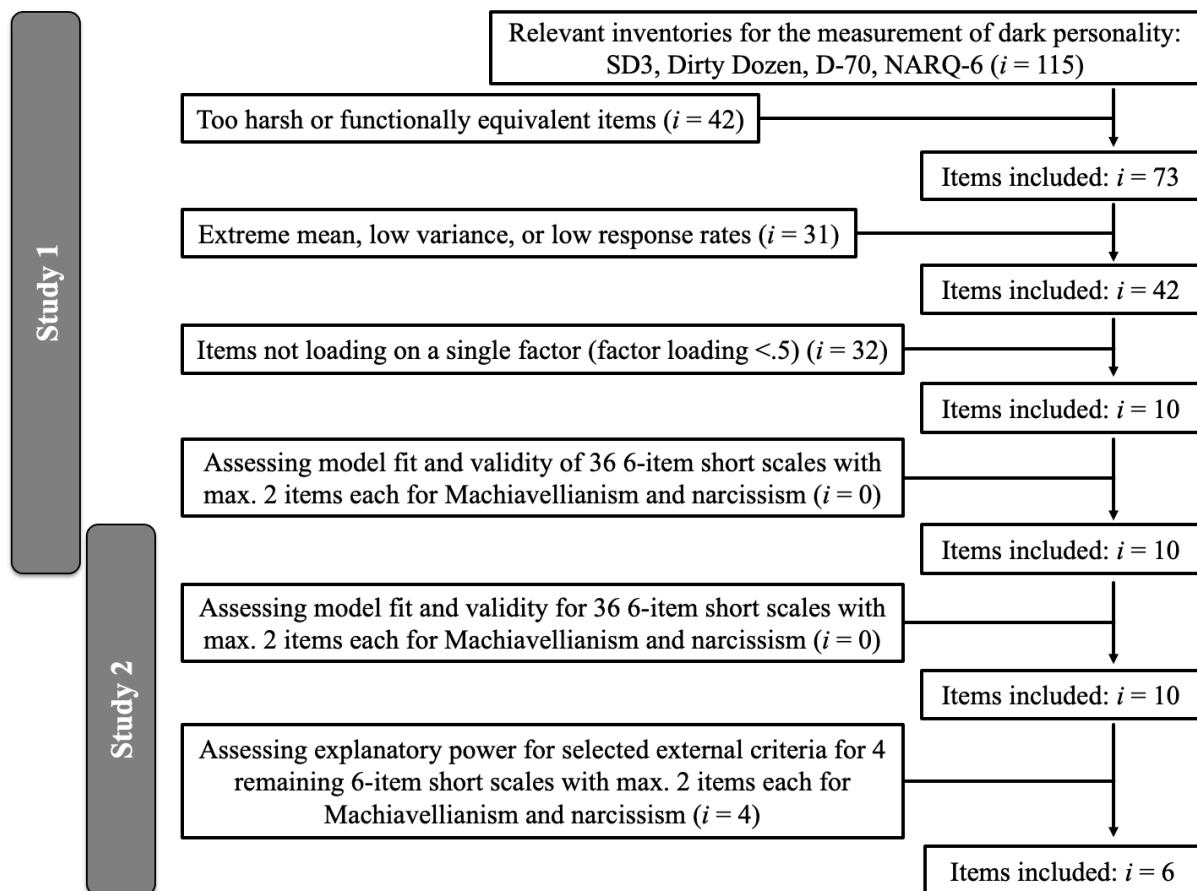

Figure A1. Overview of steps and procedures in item selection

To systematically identify items measuring aversive personality among politicians, we conducted two consecutive studies (for an overview of the scale development process see Figure A1). Study 1 aimed to develop an initial short scale with estimates supporting its internal consistency and the validity of the score

interpretations. The study was based on German city counselors (N=123), whom we asked to self-assess aversive personality traits using 73 items from established scales. We then identified ten items stemming from measures of four aversive traits which, as a scale, showed a satisfactory internal consistency and promising external validity, but did not follow a unidimensional structure. In Study 2, the items selected in Study 1 were used among surveys of candidates running for German state parliaments (N=1,518). Based on these data, we identified a further shortened scale with six items, which we labeled the Political Elites Aversive Personality Scale (PEAPS). The scale is balanced with regard to different traits, i.e., are not dominated by, e.g., measures of Machiavellianism and Narcissism. Because the scale is based on the concept of the Dark Factor of Personality, which is considered as "the basic disposition that gives rise to specific personality traits related to antagonistic, malevolent, or socially aversive behavior, thereby representing the common core of dark personality traits" (Moshagen et al., 2020, p. 182), it is not limited to the dimensions proposed by the Dark Triad (i.e., Narcissism, Psychopathy, and Machiavellianism; see Jones & Paulhus, 2014), but is also open to other socially aversive personality traits (e.g., amoralism, egoism, moral disengagement, sadism, self-centeredness, spitefulness; see Moshagen et al., 2020).

The final scale represents four different traits: Machiavellianism (i.e. "(a) manipulativeness, (b) callous affect, and (c) a strategic-calculating orientation"; Jones & Paulhus, 2014, p. 29), Narcissism (i.e. "ego-reinforcement is the all-consuming motive"; Jones & Paulhus, 2014, p. 30), psychopathy (i.e. "deficits in affect (i.e., callousness) and self-control (i.e., impulsivity)"; Jones & Paulhus, 2014, p. 29), and spitefulness (i.e. "a preference that would harm another but that would also entail harm to oneself. This harm could be social, financial, physical, or an inconvenience"; Marcus et al., 2014, p. 566). The Political Elites Aversive Personality Scale shows a satisfactory internal consistency, follows a unidimensional structure, and shows meaningful correlations with other constructs (as reported in the article).

Psychometric characteristics (based on Study 2)

- χ^2=51.527, p<0.001
- RMSEA: 0.056
- CFI: 0.953
- SRMR: 0.032
- Cronbach's α=0.671

The correlation between PEAPS and the available (19) items of the Short Dark Triad is r(117)=0.80, p<0.001 in Study 1; r(117)=0.66, p<0.001 for the available (55) items of the Dark Factor of Personality. This information is not available for Study 2.

References

Jones, D. N., & Paulhus, D. L. (2014). Introducing the Short Dark Triad (SD3). A brief measure of dark personality traits. *Assessment* 21(1), 28-41.

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Schreiber, A., & Marcus, B. (2020). The place of the "Dark Triad" in general models of personality. Some meta-analytic clarification. *Psychological Bulletin*, *146*(11), 1021-1041.

Appendix B: Additional information on the modification of the Brief HEXACO Inventory (BHI-24)

Table B1. Modification of the items for honesty-humility

English version (original)[a]	English version (modified)[b]	German version (original)[c]	German version (modified)
I would like to know how to make lots of money in a dishonest manner.	Money should be earned only in an honest way.	Ich bin neugierig, wie man auf unehrliche Art und Weise Geld verdienen kann.	Geld sollte man nur auf ehrliche Art und Weise verdienen.
I am entitled to special treatment.	I deserve more than others to be treated well.	Ich habe Anspruch auf bevorzugte Behandlung.	Ich habe es mehr als andere verdient, gut behandelt zu.
I find it difficult to lie.		Es fällt mir schwer zu lügen.	-
I want to be famous.		Ich würde gerne berühmt werden.	-

a: De Vries, R. E. (2013). The 24-item Brief HEXACO Inventory (BHI). *Journal of Research in Personality, 47*(6), 871-880. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrp.2013.09.003

b: Own translation.

c: Twardawski, M., Steindorf, L. & Thielmann, I. (2021). Three pillars of physical distancing: Anxiety, prosociality, and rule compliance during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Collabra: Psychology*, *7*(1), 22511. https://doi.org/10.1525/collabra.22511

Appendix C: Additional information on the sample

Table C1. Social and political profile of participants and non-participants

	All candidates	Participants	Non-participants	Difference
Male	66.7	66.6	66.8	0.2
Age (Mean)	45.9	45.6	46.1	0.5
Incumbent	11.0	8.4	13.0	4.6**
Electoral success	16.4	16.6	16.2	0.4
Party attachment				
CDU	12.9	12.1***	13.6	1.5
SPD	11.4	12.1	10.9	1.2
FDP	9.5	11.3	8.2	3.1
B90/Grüne	9.2	12.1	7.0	5.1
Die Linke	8.0	9.0	7.2	1.8
AfD	7.6	5.2	9.5	4.3
Other parties	41.2	38.3	43.5	5.2
N	3,842	1,673	2,169	

Information of age was not available for 10 candidates (3 participants, 7 non-participants). Significance levels: * p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001

Appendix D: Additional analyses

Table D1. Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) for M2

Gender	1.18
Age	1.13
Incumbent	1.48
Electoral success	1.49
Ideology	1.97
Extremism	1.80
Honesty-humility	1.15
Emotionality	1.20
Extraversion	1.17
Agreeableness vs. anger	1.13
Conscientiousness	1.10
Openness to experience	1.13
Participation mode	1.09
Rhineland-Palatinate	1.38
Saxony-Anhalt	1.21
Berlin	1.40
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	1.22
Saarland	1.24

Table 2. Prediction of self-reported dark personality traits of politicians

	M2	
	b	**(S.E.)**
Adjusted R^2	0.271	
Gender	-0.041	(0.038)
Age	-0.005***	(0.001)
Incumbent	-0.011	(0.076)
Electoral success	-0.019	(0.054)
Ideology	0.080***	(0.023)
Extremism	0.084*	(0.034)
Ideology * Extremism	-0.010	(0.006)
Honesty-humility	-0.390***	(0.030)
Emotionality	-0.009	(0.025)
Extraversion	-0.051	(0.026)
Agreeableness vs. anger	-0.313***	(0.028)
Conscientiousness	0.023	(0.026)
Openness to experience	0.036	(0.027)
Participation: paper & pencil	-0.061	(0.042)
Rhineland-Palatinate	0.042	(0.046)
Saxony-Anhalt	-0.003	(0.061)
Berlin	0.040	(0.047)
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	0.075	(0.060)
Saarland	0.042	(0.070)
Constant	5.027***	(0.256)
N	1,320	

Note: Displayed are unstandardized coefficients (in parenthesis: standard error) of an OLS regression. Significance levels: * $p<0.05$, ** $p<0.01$, *** $p<0.001$