Supplementary Material

Code

The *R* Code used for data analysis can be found here: https://osf.io/pduyb/

Items – Study 1

<u>Conspiracy Mentality</u>

Four items of the Conspiracy Mentality Questionnaire (CMQ; Bruder et al., 2013; eleven-point scale: 0% = certainly not to 100% = certain):

I think that…

1. …many very important things happen in the world, which the public is never informed about.

2. …politicians usually do not tell us the true motives for their decisions.

3. …government agencies closely monitor all citizens.

4. …events which superficially seem to lack a connection are often the result of secret activities.

<u>Generalized Interpersonal Trust</u>

Single-item measure (Roßteutscher et al., 2019; eleven-point scale: 1 = one cannot be careful enough to 11 = one can trust most people):

Generally speaking: Do you think that most people can be trusted, or that you can't be careful enough when dealing with other people?

<u>Right-Wing Authoritarianism</u>

Authoritarianism Short Scale by Beierlein et al. (2014) consisting of nine items (five-point scale: 1 = do not agree at all to 5 = agree completely):

1. We should take strong action against misfits and slackers in society.

2. Troublemakers should be made to feel that they are not welcome in society.

3. Rules in society should be enforced without pity.

4. We need strong leaders so that we can live safely in society.

5. People should leave important decisions in society to their leaders.

6. We should be grateful for leaders telling us exactly what to do.

7. Traditions should definitely be carried on and kept alive.

8. Well-established behaviour should not be questioned.

9. It's always best to do things in the usual way.

<u>Religiosity</u>

Single-item measure (eleven-point scale: 0 = not religious at all to 10 = very religious; European Social Survey, 2021):

How religious would you consider yourself to be?

Items – Study 2

<u>Conspiracy Mentality</u>

Single-item measure (six-point scale: 1 = do not agree at all to 6 = fully agree):

There are many important things happening in the world that are controlled by influential groups without the public's knowledge.

<u>Generalized Interpersonal Trust</u>

Single-item measure as in Study 1 (six-point scale: 1 = one cannot be careful enough to 6 = one can trust most people).

<u>Right-Wing Authoritarianism</u>

Three items of the Authoritarianism Short Scale by Beierlein et al. (2014) used in Study 1, respectively measuring one of the three subdimensions of RWA (six-point scale: 1 = do not agree at all to 6 = fully agree):

1. Troublemakers should be made to feel that they are not welcome in society.

2. People should leave important decisions in society to their leaders.

3. Well-established behaviour should not be questioned.

<u>Religiosity</u>

Single-item measure (six-point scale: 1 = not religious at all to 6 = deeply religious):

How religious do you consider yourself to be?

Data processing – Study 1

In Germany and Poland, a total of N = 2,809 respondents started the survey ($N_{Germany}$ = 1,358; N_{Poland} = 1,451). N = 674 respondents were excluded from further analyses due to missing values in central variables (in the case of RWA, respondents were excluded if their data included more than one missing value in at least one RWA subdimension measured by three items; in the case of CM, respondents were excluded if their data included more than one missing value in the four-item scale; all other variables were single-item measures). This resulted in N = 2,135 respondents of which one additional respondent was excluded due to the indication "other" in the variable gender (with only one respondent in this gender category, this category could not be considered in subsequent analyses). As a measure of data quality control, we examined whether any respondent displayed no variance in their responses. As this was not the case, N = 2,134 respondents remained in the data set.

Data processing – Study 2

In Germany and Poland, a total of N = 2,602 respondents started the survey ($N_{Germany}$ = 1,402; N_{Poland} = 1,200). N = 234 respondents were excluded from the data due to missing values in central variables (as RWA was measured with only one item per subdimension and CM was measured with a single item contrary to Study 1, respondents were excluded in the presence of any missing value). This resulted in N = 2,368 respondents of which N = 11 respondents were excluded as they did not display any variance in their responses. N = 2,357 respondents remained in the data set.

Table S1. Means, standard deviations, and correlations with confidence intervals in Study 1 (Germany).

Variable	*M*	*SD*	1	2	3	4	5	6
1. CM	7.44	2.08						
2. Age	47.04	13.28	**.10**					
			[.04, .16]					
3. Female	0.52	0.50	.04	**−.19**				
			[−.02, .10]	[−.24, −.13]				
4. Education	14.65	3.20	**−.11**	**−.11**	**−.09**			
			[−.17, −.05]	[−.17, −.05]	[−.15, −.03]			
5. GIT	5.71	2.47	**−.29**	.01	**−.09**	**.09**		
			[−.34, −.23]	[−.05, .06]	[−.15, −.03]	[.03, .15]		
6. RWA	3.28	0.77	**.16**	**.10**	.04	**−.21**	**−.11**	
			[.10, .21]	[.04, .16]	[−.02, .10]	[−.26, −.15]	[−.17, −.05]	
7. Religiosity	4.06	2.99	.01	−.02	.06	−.03	**.10**	**.06**
			[−.05, .07]	[−.08, .03]	[−.00, .12]	[−.09, .03]	[.04, .16]	[−.00, .12]

Notes: *M* = Mean; *SD* = Standard deviation; CM = Conspiracy Mentality; GIT = Generalized Interpersonal Trust. Gender was dummy−coded (0 = male, 1 = female). Education indicates the years spent at any educational institution.

Table S2. Means, standard deviations, and correlations with confidence intervals in Study 2 (Germany).

Variable	M	SD	1	2	3	4	5	6
1. CM	3.74	1.67						
2. Age	53.66	16.46	**.17**					
			[.12, .23]					
3. Female	0.46	0.50	.00	.05				
			[−.05, .06]	[−.00, .11]				
4. Education	4.45	2.11	**−.15**	.02	**−.08**			
			[−.20, −.09]	[−.04, .08]	[−.13, −.02]			
5. GIT	3.82	1.29	**−.20**	**−.06**	−.00	**.18**		
			[−.25, −.14]	[−.12, −.01]	[−.06, .05]	[.13, .24]		
6. RWA	3.58	1.12	**.23**	**.28**	**.07**	**−.18**	**−.17**	
			[.18, .28]	[.23, .33]	[.01, .12]	[−.23, −.12]	[−.22, −.12]	
7. Religiosity	2.67	1.52	.04	**.10**	**.09**	**−.08**	−.00	**.09**
			[−.01, .10]	[.05, .16]	[.04, .15]	[−.13, −.02]	[−.06, .05]	[.03, .14]

Notes: *M* = Mean; *SD* = Standard deviation; CM = Conspiracy Mentality; GIT = Generalized Interpersonal Trust. Gender was dummy-coded (0 = male, 1 = female). Education indicates the educational level of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) ranging from ISCED 0 to ISCED 8.

Table S3. Means, standard deviations, and correlations with confidence intervals in Study 1 (Poland).

Variable	*M*	*SD*	1	2	3	4	5	6
1. CM	7.65	1.94						
2. Age	41.13	12.95	.00					
			[−.06, .06]					
3. Female	0.52	0.50	−.04	−.06				
			[−.10, .03]	[−.12, .00]				
4. Education	16.42	3.47	.04	−.02	.03			
			[−.03, .10]	[−.08, .04]	[−.03, .09]			
5. GIT	5.49	2.47	**−.15**	−.01	**−.09**	.03		
			[−.21, −.09]	[−.07, .05]	[−.15, −.03]	[−.03, .09]		
6. RWA	3.78	0.70	.06	**.20**	−.01	**−.06**	**.08**	
			[−.00, .12]	[.14, .26]	[−.08, .05]	[−.12, −.00]	[.02, .14]	
7. Religiosity	6.10	3.10	.02	**.06**	**.08**	−.03	**.12**	**.31**
			[−.04, .08]	[−.00, .12]	[.02, .14]	[−.09, .03]	[.06, .18]	[.25, .36]

Notes: *M* = Mean; *SD* = Standard deviation; CM = Conspiracy Mentality; GIT = Generalized Interpersonal Trust. Gender was dummy-coded (0 = male, 1 = female). Education indicates the years spent at any educational institution.

Table S4. Means, standard deviations, and correlations with confidence intervals in Study 2 (Poland).

Variable	M	SD	1	2	3	4	5	6
1. CM	4.39	1.57						
2. Age	50.37	16.44	.06					
			[.00, .12]					
3. Female	0.45	0.50	.08	.05				
			[.02, .14]	[−.00, .11]				
4. Education	4.92	1.94	−.10	−.14	.05			
			[−.16, −.04]	[−.20, −.08]	[−.00, .11]			
5. GIT	2.94	1.54	−.14	.03	.01	.08		
			[−.20, −.08]	[−.03, .09]	[−.05, .07]	[.02, .14]		
6. RWA	4.17	1.18	.15	.16	.04	−.03	−.06	
			[.09, .21]	[.10, .22]	[−.02, .10]	[−.09, .03]	[−.12, .00]	
7. Religiosity	3.40	1.64	.06	.19	.07	−.18	.02	.14
			[.00, .12]	[.14, .25]	[.01, .13]	[−.24, −.13]	[−.03, .08]	[.08, .20]

Notes: *M* = Mean; *SD* = Standard deviation; CM = Conspiracy Mentality; GIT = Generalized Interpersonal Trust. Gender was dummy-coded (0 = male, 1 = female). Education indicates the educational level of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) ranging from ISCED 0 to ISCED 8.

Table S5. Correlational and regression analyses regarding conspiracy mentality.

Variable	Germany						Poland					
	Study 1		Study 2		Pooled		Study 1		Study 2		Pooled	
	r	*b*	*r*	*b*	*r*	*b*	*r*	*b*	*r*	*b*	*r*	*b*
GIT	**−.29**	**−.28**	**−.20**	**−.19**	**−.25**	**−.24**	**−.15**	**−.15**	**−.14**	**−.12**	**−.15**	**−.14**
	[−.34, −.23]	[−.34, −.23]	[−.25, −.14]	[−.25, −.13]	[−.29, −.21]	[−.28, −.19]	[−.21, −.09]	[−.21, −.10]	[−.20, −.08]	[−.18, −.07]	[−.19, −.11]	[−.18, −.09]
RWA	**.16**	**.13**	**.23**	**.22**	**.20**	**.18**	.06	.07	**.15**	**.13**	**.11**	**.10**
	[.10, .21]	[.07, .19]	[.18, .28]	[.16, .27]	[.16, .24]	[.13, .22]	[−.00, .12]	[.00, .14]	[.09, .21]	[.08, .19]	[.06, .15]	[.06, .14]
Religiosity	.01	.03	.04	.03	.03	.03	.02	.02	**.06**	.04	.04	.03
	[−.05, .07]	[−.03, .09]	[−.01, .10]	[−.03, .08]	[−.01, .07]	[−.01, .07]	[−.04, .08]	[−.05, .08]	[.00, .12]	[−.01, .10]	[−.00, .08]	[−.01, .07]

Notes: Bold numbers represent significant coefficients (*p* < .05). GIT (Generalized Interpersonal Trust), RWA and Religiosity were *z*-standardized prior to the analyses.

Table S6. Correlation and regression analyses regarding conspiracy mentality (including sociodemographic control variables).

Variable	Germany						Poland					
	Study 1		Study 2		Pooled		Study 1		Study 2		Pooled	
	r	*b*	*r*	*b*	*r*	*b*	*r*	*b*	*r*	*b*	*r*	*b*
Age	**.10**	**.01**	**.17**	**.01**	**.14**	**.01**	.01	−.00	**.06**	.00	.03	.00
	[.04, .16]	[.00, .01]	[.12, .23]	[.00, .01]	[.10, .18]	[.01, .01]	[−.06, .06]	[−.01, .00]	[.00, .12]	[−.00, .00]	[−.01, .07]	[−.00, .00]
Female	.04	.06	.00	−.04	.02	.00	−.04	−.10	**.08**	**.15**	.02	.03
	[−.02, .10]	[−.06, .18]	[−.05, .06]	[−.15, .06]	[−.02, .06]	[−.07, .08]	[−.10, .03]	[−.22, .01]	[.02, .14]	[.04, .26]	[−.02, .06]	[−.06, .11]
Education	**−.11**	−.02	**−.15**	**−.05**	**−.13**	**−.04**	.04	.01	**−.10**	**−.04**	−.03	**−.02**
	[−.17, −.05]	[−.03, .00]	[−.20, −.09]	[−.07, −.02]	[−.17, −.09]	[−.05, −.02]	[−.03, .10]	[−.00, .03]	[−.16, −.04]	[−.07, −.01]	[−.07, .01]	[−.03, −.00]
GIT	**−.29**	**−.28**	**−.20**	**−.17**	**−.25**	**−.23**	**−.15**	**−.16**	**−.14**	**−.12**	**−.15**	**−.14**
	[−.33, −.22]	[−.34, −.22]	[−.25, −.14]	[−.23, −.11]	[−.29, −.21]	[−.27, −.18]	[−.21, −.09]	[−.22, −.10]	[−.20, −.08]	[−.17, −.06]	[−.19, −.11]	[−.18, −.10]
RWA	**.16**	**.11**	**.23**	**.17**	**.20**	**.14**	.06	.07	**.15**	**.13**	**.11**	**.11**
	[.10, .21]	[.05, .17]	[.18, .28]	[.11, .23]	[.16, .24]	[.10, .18]	[−.00, .12]	[.00, .14]	[.09, .21]	[.07, .18]	[.06, .15]	[.06, .16]
Religiosity	.01	.03	.04	.01	.03	.02	.02	.02	**.06**	.02	.04	.02
	[−.05, .07]	[−.03, .09]	[−.01, .10]	[−.04, .07]	[−.01, .07]	[−.02, .06]	[−.04, .08]	[−.04, .09]	[.00, .12]	[−.04, .08]	[−.00, .08]	[−.02, .06]

Notes: Bold numbers represent significant coefficients ($p < .05$). GIT (Generalized Interpersonal Trust), RWA and Religiosity were *z*-standardized prior to the analyses. Gender was dummy−coded (0 = male, 1 = female).

Table S7. Analysis of country effects.

Predictor	Study 1	Study 2	Pooled
	b	b	b
GIT*country	**.13**	.08	**.11**
	[.05, .21]	[−.00, .16]	[.05, .16]
RWA*country	−.07	**−.09**	**−.08**
	[−.15, .02]	[−.17, −.01]	[−.14, −.02]
Religiosity*country	−.01	.01	.00
	[−.10, .08]	[−.07, .09]	[−.06, .06]

Notes: Bold numbers represent significant coefficients ($p < .05$). GIT (Generalized Interpersonal Trust), RWA and Religiosity were z-standardized prior to the analyses. The regression coefficient b respectively refers to the regression coefficient resulting from multiple linear regression analyses including GIT, RWA, and religiosity as predictors of CM.

Table S8. Simple slopes analyses.

Variable	Study 1				Study 2			
	b	SE	t	p	b	SE	t	p
GIT								
Germany	**−.29**	.03	−9.69	.00	**−.20**	.03	−6.37	.00
Poland	**−.16**	.03	−5.22	.00	**−.12**	.03	−4.37	.00
RWA								
Germany	**.14**	.03	4.61	.00	**.22**	.03	7.75	.00
Poland	.07	.03	2.08	.04	**.13**	.03	4.54	.00
Religiosity								
Germany	.02	.03	.77	.44	.03	.03	1.09	.28
Poland	.01	.03	.39	.69	.04	.03	1.30	.19

Notes: Bold numbers represent significant coefficients ($p < .01$). GIT (Generalized Interpersonal Trust), RWA and Religiosity were z-standardized prior to the analyses.

Table S9. Correlational and regression analyses regarding conspiracy mentality – RWA subdimensions.

Variable	Germany						Poland					
	Study 1		Study 2		Pooled		Study 1		Study 2		Pooled	
	r	*b*	*r*	*b*	*r*	*b*	*r*	*b*	*r*	*b*	*r*	*b*
RWA	**.16**	**.13**	**.23**	**.22**	**.20**	**.18**	.06	**.07**	**.15**	**.13**	**.11**	**.10**
	[.10, .21]	[.07, .19]	[.18, .28]	[.16, .27]	[.16, .24]	[.13, .22]	[−.00, .12]	[.00, .14]	[.09, .21]	[.08, .19]	[.06, .15]	[.06, .14]
RWA (AA)	**.19**	**.15**	**.22**	**.22**	**.21**	**.19**	**.13**	**.14**	**.12**	**.09**	**.13**	**.12**
	[.13, .24]	[.09, .21]	[.17, .27]	[.16, .28]	[.17, .25]	[.14, .23]	[.07, .19]	[.07, .20]	[.06, .17]	[.04, .14]	[.08, .17]	[.07, .16]
RWA (AS)	.00	−.00	**.07**	**.06**	.04	.03	**−.07**	**−.07**	.05	.03	−.01	−.02
	[−.06, .20]	[−.06, .06]	[.02, .13]	[.00, .12]	[−.00, .08]	[−.01, .07]	[−.13, −.01]	[−.13, −.01]	[−.01, .10]	[−.02, .09]	[−.05, .03]	[−.06, .02]
RWA (C)	**.19**	**.16**	**.21**	**.20**	**.20**	**.18**	**.09**	**.12**	**.16**	**.16**	**.13**	**.15**
	[.13, .24]	[.10, .22]	[.15, .26]	[.14, .26]	[.16, .24]	[.14, .22]	[.03, .15]	[.05, .19]	[.10, .22]	[.10, .22]	[.08, .17]	[.10, .19]

Notes: RWA (AA): Authoritarian Aggression, RWA (AS): Authoritarian Submission, RWA (C): Conventionalism. Bold numbers represent significant coefficients ($p < .05$). The regression coefficient *b* respectively refers to the regression coefficient resulting from multiple linear regression analyses including GIT and religiosity as predictors of CM. All predictors were *z*-standardized prior to the analyses.

Table S10. Analysis of country effects – RWA subdimensions.

Predictor	Study 1	Study 2	Pooled
	b	b	b
RWA (AA)*country	−.02	**−.13**	**−.08**
	[−.11, .06]	[−.21, −.05]	[−.13, −.02]
RWA (AS)*country	−.05	−.04	−.05
	[−.14, .03]	[−.12, .04]	[−.10, .01]
RWA (C)*country	−.05	−.05	−.05
	[−.14, .04]	[−.13, .04]	[−.11, .01]

Notes: RWA (AA): Authoritarian Aggression, RWA (AS): Authoritarian Submission, RWA (C): Conventionalism. Bold numbers represent significant coefficients ($p < .05$). The regression coefficient b respectively refers to the regression coefficient resulting from multiple linear regression analyses including GIT and religiosity as predictors of CM. All predictors were z-standardized prior to the analyses.

Table S11. Simple slopes analyses – RWA subdimensions.

Variable	Study 1				Study 2			
	b	SE	t	p	b	SE	t	p
RWA (AA)								
Germany	**.16**	.03	5.57	.00	**.22**	.03	7.40	.00
Poland	**.14**	.03	4.09	.00	.09	.03	3.37	.00
RWA (AS)								
Germany	−.00	.03	−0.09	.93	**.07**	.03	2.28	.02
Poland	−.06	.03	−1.83	.07	**.03**	.03	1.13	.26
RWA (C)								
Germany	**.17**	.03	5.79	.00	**.21**	.03	6.95	.00
Poland	**.12**	.04	3.32	.00	**.16**	.03	4.91	.00

Notes: Bold numbers represent significant coefficients ($p < .01$). RWA (AA), RWA (AS) and RWA (C) were z-standardized prior to the analyses.
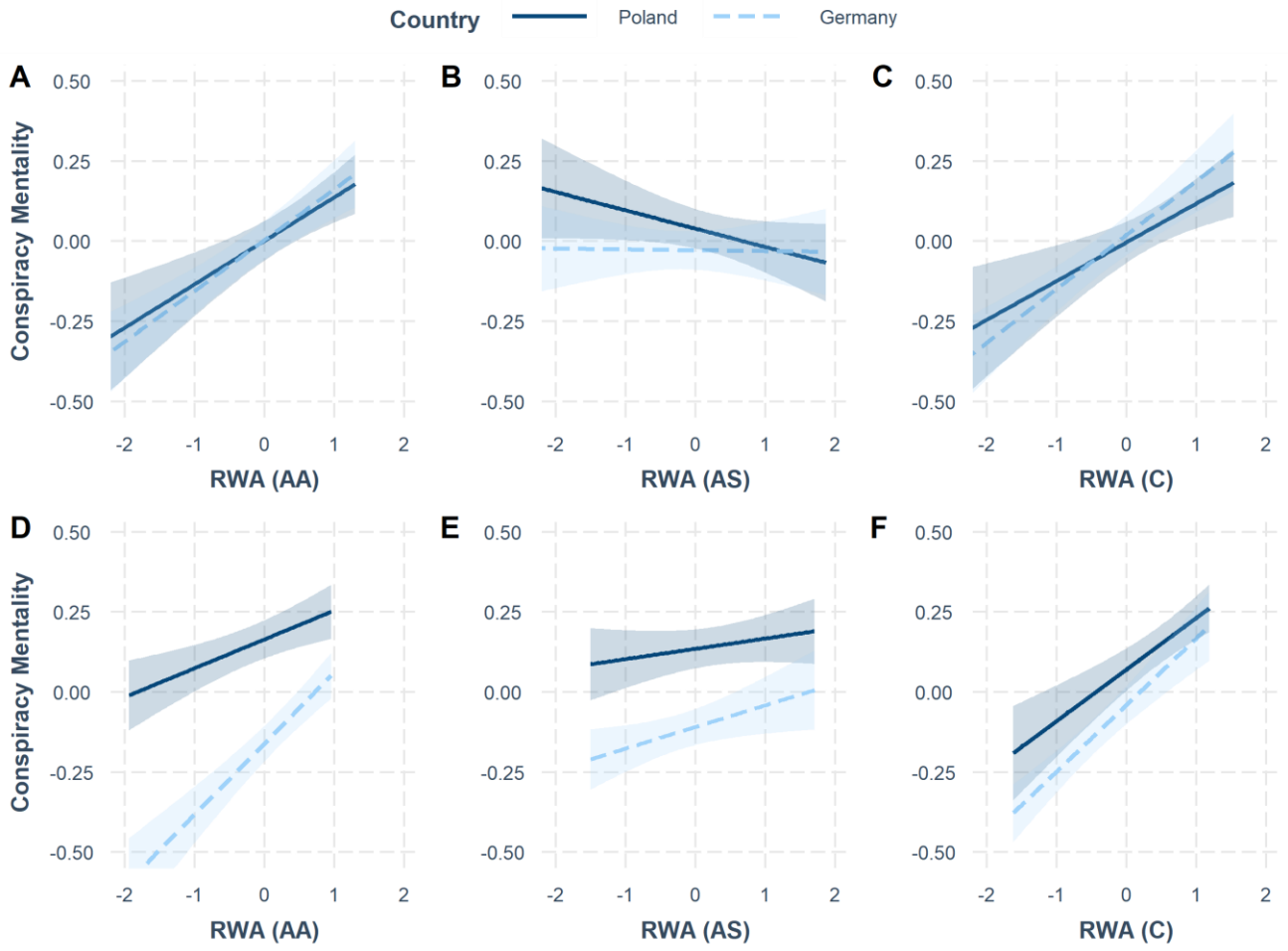
Figure S1. Interactions of country and, respectively, RWA (AA), RWA (AS), and RWA (C) in Study 1 (Panel A–C) and Study 2 (Panel D–F).