



# Moral Growth Mindset Measure: Measurement Invariance Among Political Orientations



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## Background

### Moral Growth Mindset (MGM)

- The belief that someone can become a morally better person if they try
- **MGM** measure designed with less nuanced terms in order to reduce risk of a liberal bias

### Moral Foundations

- *2 individualizing foundations*: harm/care and fairness/reciprocity
- *3 binding foundations*: ingroup/loyalty, authority/respect, purity/sanctity
- Commonly found that liberals rely on only *individualizing foundations*, while conservatives rely on all five

### Measurement Invariance (MI)

- Demonstrates that various groups respond to measure in the same way
- Since various political perspectives tend to view morality differently, this study tested the **MGM** measure for MI among Democrats and Republicans

## Methods

- 366 undergraduate students (321 females: *M* Age = 22.66, *SD* = 7.05 years; 143 Democrats, 223 Republicans)
- Participants took **MGM** measure as well as Moral Foundations Questionnaire
- Used R to detect any significant changes between different models of invariance

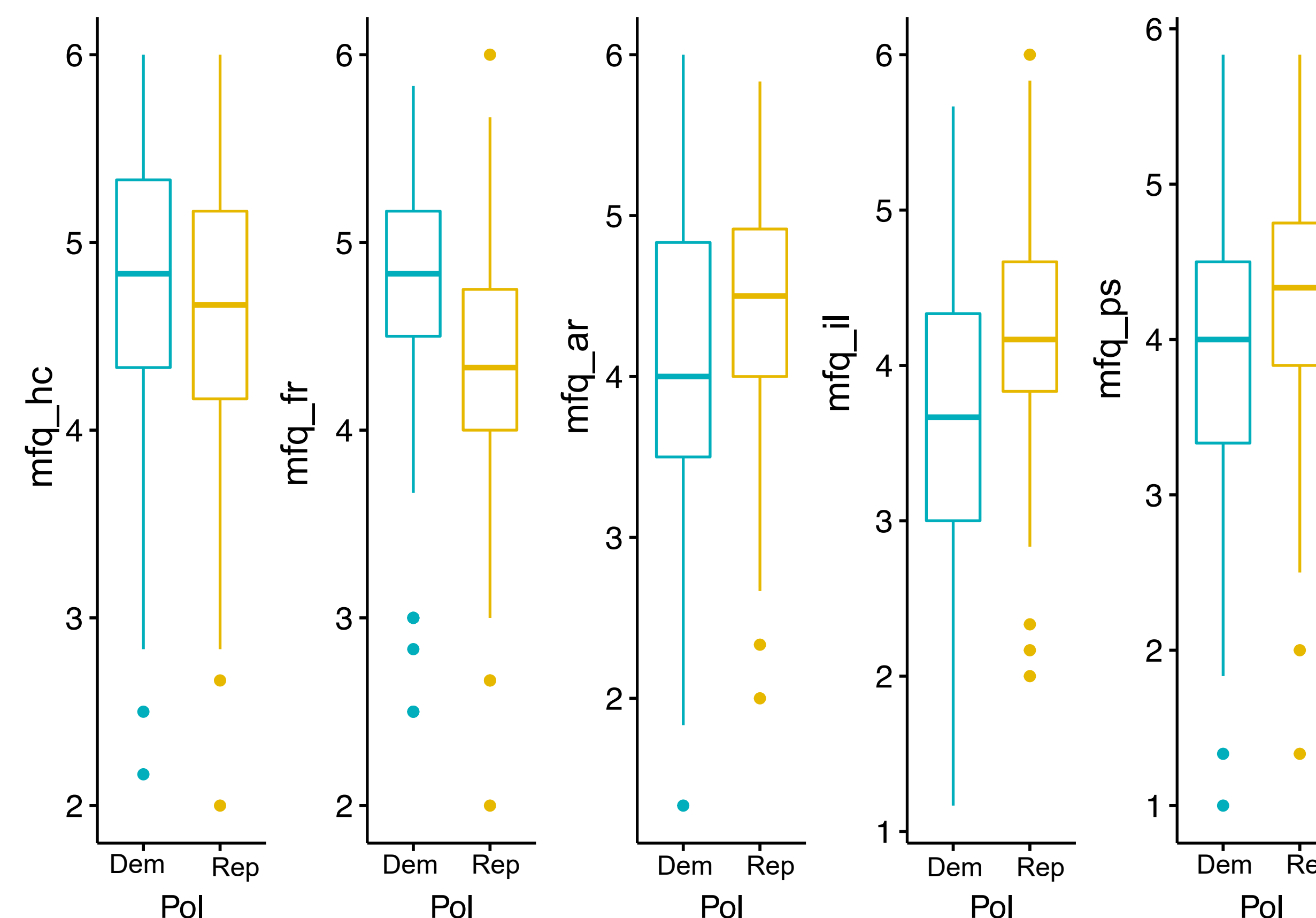
## Findings

### Measurement Invariance

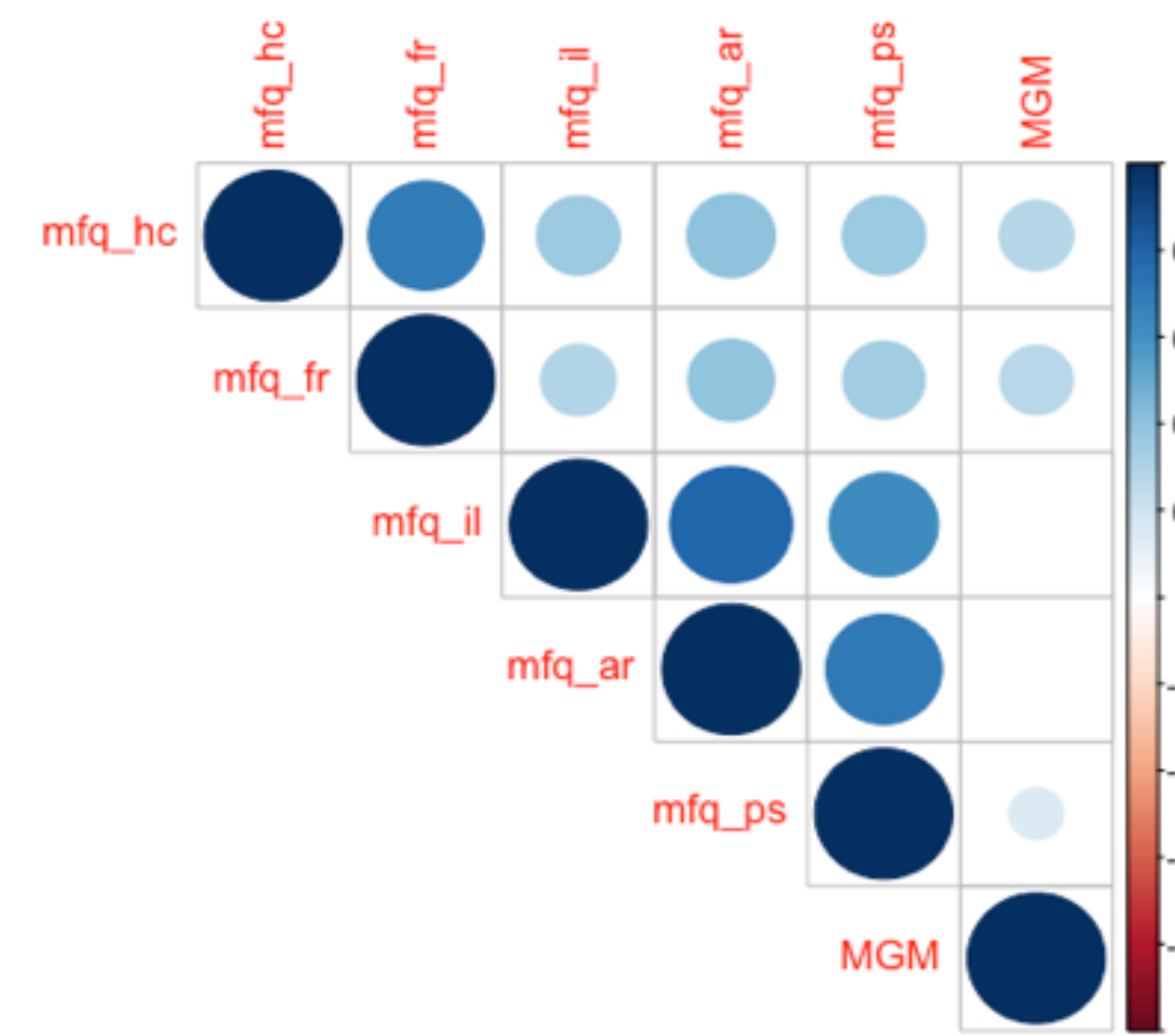
Model	DWLS	df	CFI	TLI	RMSEA	SRMR
Configural	0.306	4	0.998	0.994	0.049	.007
Metric	14.698	8	0.993	0.989	0.069	.047
Scalar	15.191	11	0.992	0.991	0.064	.048
Residual	22.885	15	0.991	0.993	0.056	.057

- CFI and TLI showed stability between all four models
- RMSEA values fell within recommended criteria for change (.015) except from configural to metric model
- SRMR values greater than recommended change (.030) from configural to metric, but within recommended range (.015) from scalar to residual and metric to scalar

- In general, our results replicate previous findings that liberals rely more on the *individualizing foundations* while conservatives rely on all five



- Both *individualizing foundations* showed a significant positive correlation with **MGM**



- Two *binding foundations* (ingroup/loyalty and authority/respect) showed no correlation with **MGM** while purity/sanctity showed a significant positive correlation

## Conclusion/Significance

- Although two values were greater than recommended change, Chen (2007) suggests using CFI as main criterion
- Therefore, measurement invariance was demonstrated between political perspectives → measure suitable for both Democrats and Republicans
- There is evidence that those with a **MGM** have a more rights-based approach to morality, rather than duty-based for fixed mindset, which may help explain stronger relationship between *individualizing foundations* and **MGM**
- Future studies can use **MGM** measure to explore how moral growth mindset is associated with moral development

## References

- Chen, F. F. (2007). Sensitivity of goodness of fit indexes to lack of measurement invariance. *Structural Equation Modeling: A Multidisciplinary Journal*, 14(3), 464-504.
- Chiu, C. Y., Dweck, C. S., Tong, J. Y. Y., & Fu, J. H. Y. (1997). Implicit theories and conceptions of morality. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 73(5), 923.
- Graham, J., Haidt, J., & Nosek, B. A. (2009). Liberals and conservatives rely on different sets of moral foundations. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 96(5), 1029.