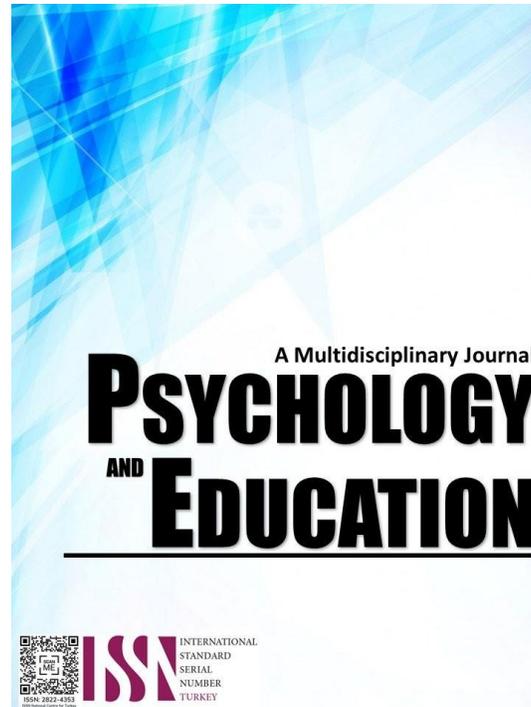


# THE RISE OF DUTERTISMO: NEUROTICISM TRAIT MEDIATE THE LINK BETWEEN AUTHORITARIAN ATTITUDE AND SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING



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## The Rise of Duterteism: Neuroticism Trait Mediate the Link Between Authoritarian Attitude and Subjective Well-Being

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### Abstract

The classical notion of authoritarian attitude claims it lowers subjective well-being (Onraet & Van Hiel, 2014). However, some findings indicated that the authoritarian attitude is a protective function. The current study's data involved 706 participants who responded to psychological questionnaires spread through online platforms. Results showed that the neuroticism trait mediated the link between authoritarian attitude and subjective well-being. The authoritarian attitude negative association with the neuroticism trait could influence the decrease in negative feelings and influence increase in flourishing and positive feelings. The result extends the explanation for adherence to an authoritarian worldview and can be used to explain the rise of Duterteism in the Philippine context.

**Keywords:** *neuroticism, mediate, authoritarian, subjective, well-being*

### Introduction

The Philippines witnessed a reemergence of authoritarian attitude from the electorate victory of former President Rodrigo Duterte in 2016 (Regilme, 2021a). The rise of authoritarian attitude in the Philippines dubbed as "Duterteism" (David, 2016). The aggressive rhetoric from Duterte led to a war on drugs and related crimes that dehumanized and exterminated culminating in thousands of deaths (Simangan, 2018). The massive support of Duterte from the populace reflects the authoritarian tendencies of Filipinos (Pernia, 2019). Threatening liberal democracy, and protection of human rights (Dressel & Bonoan, 2019).

But why do authoritarian leaders sway individuals? The empathizers of aggressive rhetoric and violent countermeasures were promised peace and security in exchange for intensive militarization; killings and dehumanization of the alleged crime violators; and the leader's absolute powers (Regilme, 2021b). Are those who adhere to an authoritarian attitude not in their right mind or rather a response to social-environmental threats (Schumann et al., 2022).

Historically, an authoritarian attitude was viewed to have harmful effects on psychological well-being (Onraet, & Van Hiel, 2014). Some of the evidence supports this claim, showing authoritarian attitudes associations with psychological ill-being (Womick et al., 2021; Duriez et al., 2011; Gil et al., 2020). However, other findings challenged this notion, purporting that an authoritarian attitude might have a protective function against distress, therefore, increasing subjective well-being. (Briki & Dagot, 2022; Van Hiel & Brebels, 2011). For example, an authoritarian attitude serves as a coping function in the presence of country-level danger (Onraet et al., 2017); it helps the stigmatized group to preserve social worth in a hostile social environment (Brandt et al., 2015); and protects sense of meaning in life during challenging periods (Womick et al., 2019).

Therefore, one of the gaps in studies can be bridged by identifying an intervening variable that could influence the authoritarian attitude linked to subjective well-being. Findings indicate that Neuroticism trait has a negative association with authoritarian attitude (Burton et al., 2015) and subjective well-being (Winzer et al., 2021; Okbay et al., 2016). Entailing a potential mediator This extends the explanation for the adherence of the populace to authoritarian worldviews. And findings provide further explanation of the rise of Duterteism.

### Present Study

The authoritarian attitude is operationally defined as right-wing authoritarianism that includes aggression toward violators of group norms, excessive conventionalism, and support for strong leaders (Bizumic & Duckitt, 2018). Neuroticism trait is operationally defined as part of the Five-Factor Model that indicates one's tendency to experience negative emotions as a response to uncertainty and danger (DeYoung & Tiberius, 2022). Finally, subjective well-being is operationally defined in the study as positive/negative feelings and flourishing (Diener et al., 2010).

### Research Questions

The current study aimed to investigate the role of neuroticism traits in the link between authoritarian attitude and subjective well-being. It aimed to answer what is the mediating influence of Neuroticism trait on the link between authoritarian attitude and subjective well-being. Specifically:

1. What is the mediation influence of Neuroticism trait on the link between authoritarian attitude and negative feelings?
2. What is the mediation influence of Neuroticism trait on the link between authoritarian attitude and flourishing?
3. What is the mediation influence of Neuroticism trait on the link between authoritarian attitude and positive feelings?

## Literature Review

### *Authoritarian Attitude*

The scholarly studies that investigated authoritarian attitudes came into its vogue in an attempt to explain the ideology of Nazism. Theodore Adorno and his colleagues argued that it is rooted in general dislike towards outgroups (e.g., antisemitism) and minorities; and blinded excessive nationalism (e.g., ethnocentrism; Duckitt, 2015).

Conventionally, scholars view the authoritarian attitude as characterized by aggression toward violators of the group's norms; submission to a strong leader; and conventionalism through strict adherence to the group's norms (Dunwoody & Funke, 2016). Integral to the authoritarian attitude is its association with conservatism: a cognitive-motivational personal need to reduce uncertainty, and ambiguity, while increasing closure, structure, and order (Nilsson & Jost, 2020; Sinn, & Hayes, 2017). The mitigation of threats motivates individuals to acquire conservatism and authoritarian attitudes (Russo et al., 2020; Dunwoody & Plane, 2019; Manzi et al., 2015). As the evidence indicates that a higher sense of threat induces an authoritarian attitude and conservatism (Jost et al., 2018; Hickley, 2020; Sinn & Hayes, 2018). In conjunction, an authoritarian attitude tends to gravitate toward militarism, resorting to reliance on extreme force to mitigate threats (Osborne et al., 2023; Claessens et al., 2020; Escriba`-Folch et al., 2019).

For instance, COVID-19 poses an existential threat that indicates death (Pyszczynski et al., 2020). Evidence showed COVID-19 spread is positively associated with authoritarian attitude and the usage of military force (Deason & Dun, 2022; Zmigro et al., 2021; Hartman et al., 2021). Furthermore, the authoritarian attitude is positively associated with excessive nationalism (Osborne et al., 2017). Hence, authoritarian attitude tends to prejudice members of out-groups such as minorities and immigrants – perceived as a threat to the in-group's order and culture (Pacilli et al., 2022; Dunwoody & McFarland, 2017).

### *Dutertismo: Rise of Authoritarian Attitude*

Former president Rodrigo Duterte won the 2016 Philippine presidential election with a gigantic 16 million voting support from the masses. The phenomenon “Dutertismo” was dubbed to refer to the support and yearning towards leadership that Duterte's campaign embodied (David, 2016). The campaign promised aggressive bloodbath initiatives against illegal drugs and other criminal activities; A sense of anti-democratic countermeasures to eradicate the social ills; The reignition of Filipino nationalism and hatred against colonialism; And a strong leadership that will carry the Philippine nation toward salvation (Heydarian, 2018). Hence, Duterte's campaign effectively characterized an authoritarian attitude (Curato, 2016a).

The campaign effectively induced a sense of anxiety among Filipino voters that insurmountable illegal drugs and other related crimes infest the country. Duterte portrayed himself as a macho leader who could only solve the country's dangerous circumstances (Curato 2016b). Findings showed that the perception of a higher national crime rate, trust for the law and enforcement agents, and authoritarian attitude among the electorate are related to the support that Duterte garnered. However, the claim of Duterte on the severe effects of drugs that resonated with Filipinos is unsubstantiated by Philippine agencies, whether public or private institutions (Maxwell, 2018).

Duterte's ascension to power followed a bloody war on drugs (Jensen & Hapal, 2018). As of 2016 end, there are 9,000 estimated casualties from the war on drugs (Human Rights Watch 2017). Garnering concern from national and international institutions designed to protect human rights (Reyes, 2016). Moreover, the Duterte administration's countermeasures to COVID-19 were heavily militarized and authoritarian: perceiving the virus as an existential threat (Hapal, 2021). Despite this, Duterte garnered a 79% satisfaction rate (2016-2022) regarding the war on drugs (Economist, 2018); and a robust approval rating in militarized management of COVID-19 (Thompson, 2022). Corroborating the findings that government administrations displaying authoritarian attitudes tend to be perceived as trustworthy and competent by Filipinos (Pernia, 2021).

### *Subjective Well-Being*

An individual's subjective well-being indicates the general evaluation of one's life and subjective emotions (Diener et al. 2017). It encompasses different aspects such as life satisfaction, meaning, happiness, positive/negative feelings, and overall life flourishing (Das et al., 2020; Diener et al., 2010).

Previous studies pointed out that conservatives tend to rate themselves as happier than liberals (Onraet et al., 2017; Schlenker et al., 2012; Briki & Dagot, 2022) and greater in terms of meaning in life (Newman et al., 2019). In parallel, findings showed that authoritarian attitude increase self-esteem; and provides a protective function against threatening circumstances, thereby, increasing subjective well-being (Van Hiel & Brebels, 2011; Van Hiel and De Clercq, 2009).

The protective function of an authoritarian attitude provides adaptive adjustments that might help an individual manage the distress from one's dangerous environment. For example, a sense of power, supremacy, and privilege (Onraet et al., 2017). It offers a sense of group cohesion, order, and predictability from perceived strong leaders (Osborne et al., 2023). Rationalize the perceived injustice through system justification (Briki & Dagot, 2022). And a general tendency for self-control, optimism, and commitment to morality (Schlenker et al., 2012).

## ***Terror Management Theory***

The protective function that the authoritarian attitude provides, might be explained through the lens of Terror Management Theory (Womick et al., 2021). The higher cognitive ability of humans granted the burden of death awareness. It triggers the inherent tendency of humans to self-preservation, which provides a sense of existential terror. The existential terror is being managed by system-reducing anxiety composed of social relationships; self-esteem; and in-group worldviews. These worldviews are Individuals' common beliefs within a group that answer the basic life questions and ideal standard behavior. Those who can follow the group's standard gain a promise for either or both symbolic or literal immortality. Symbolic immortality is gained through devotion to something greater than oneself for instance, family, organization, or nation. Literal immortality is gained through hope of one's life continuation after death such as belief in the afterlife or heaven. Both symbolic and literal immortality require an individual to contribute to something greater than oneself that will persist despite one being long gone, thereby, as if one continued to exist (Pyszczynski et al., 2015).

Evidence showed that death reminders lead to a higher authoritarian attitude (Weise, 2012). The Terror Management Theory applies to the authoritarian attitude protective function. First, conventionalism entails group standards to follow providing order and predictability that reduces anxiety and uncertainty from freedom. Second, following group standards such as obeying leaders or contributing to the nation gives meaning and purpose. Third, it makes a simple interpretation of experiences from complex social reality, dividing the world into the in-group and out-group, good and bad, positive and negative. Hence, experiences become more coherent reducing complexity that might entail terror (Womick et al, 2019).

Using the lens of the theory, the authoritarian attitude can influence neuroticism traits that can also influence the decrease in negative feelings, and increase in flourishing and positive feelings.

## ***Personality Traits***

Personality trait neuroticism might play a role in the effects of the authoritarian attitude toward subjective well-being. Neuroticism trait is a tendency to experience negative emotions such as anxiety and sadness that might compromise subjective well-being (DeYoung & Tiberius 2022). Neuroticism trait activates as a response to avoid or alleviate a sense of danger and uncertainty (DeYoung & Krueger, 2018). Evidence indicates that conservatism as an integral aspect of the authoritarian attitude tends to be negatively associated with neuroticism (Burton et al., 2015). In parallel, the Five Factor Model indicates neuroticism trait has a robust negative association with subjective well-being (Winzer et al., 2021; Okbay et al., 2016; Wenzel et al., 2015).

Hence, if an authoritarian attitude has a protective function against threat its association with neuroticism trait might be hypothesized as negative. In the lens of Terror Management Theory, the authoritarian attitude protective function alleviates uncertainty and danger, decreasing the manifestation of neuroticism traits. Hence, low neuroticism traits might influence an increase in subjective well-being.

## **Methodology**

### **Participants**

The data of the present study came from a section of a bigger study collected by the same authors. It aimed to investigate the mediating effects of the Five-Factor Model of personality traits in the link between authoritarian attitude and subjective well-being. It is composed of 706 participants from Metro-Manila, young adults (18-30 years old). Respondents who reported suffering from debilitating physical and psychological distress were excluded. As it might be a potential factor compromising subjective well-being. The data was collected through online platforms containing self-rating psychological measures.

### **Instruments**

#### ***Very Short Authoritarianism Scale (VSA)***

The VSA measures the authoritarian attitude's three subfactors: authoritarian submission to strong leaders, extreme adherence to conventions of the group, and aggression towards violators of the group's norms. It consists of six items answerable in a 9 Likert scale. Sample item include: "What our country needs most is discipline, with everyone following our leaders in unity". The VSA has satisfactory convergent validity to the RWA Scale by Altmeyer (.86). and an Alpha coefficient of .76 (Bizumic & Duckitt, 2018).

For scoring, the items encoded reverse were 1, 4, and 5. Next, the Means of items in VSA were computed giving a level of authoritarian attitudes. But not in terms of separate subfactors due to a limited number of items (Bizumic & Duckitt, 2018).

#### ***Scale of Positive/Negative Experiences (SPANE)***

The SPANE consists of 12 items. 6 items each designed to measure positive experiences and another 6 items to measure negative experiences. Sample items include "Afraid, Happy, Joyful". For each item, participants rated from 1 (Very rarely or never) to 5 (Very often or always) how much they have been experiencing such feelings. It has a high psychometric property with Cronbach Alpha .87 (Positive Feelings Items) and .81 (Negative Feelings Items); And a Test-retest reliability of .87 (Positive Feelings Items) and .63 (Negative Feelings Items; Diener et al., 2010).

The scores from Positive Feelings were added and scores from Negative Feelings were added separately. The possible lowest score is

6 and the highest score is 30 (Diener et al., 2010).

### Flourishing Scale

The FS is composed of 8 statements that participants indicated their agreement on a Likert scale of 7 (strongly agree) to 1 (strongly disagree). The items are designed to measure different aspects of subjective well-being such as meaning, social relationships, self-esteem, competency, and optimism. Items include “I lead a purposeful and meaningful life” and “My social relationships are supportive and rewarding”. The FS has a good Test-retest reliability of .71 and a Cronbach Alpha of .87 (Diener et al., 2010). In scoring items were added. Scores range from 8- 56, indicating low and high subjective well-being (Diener et al., 2010).

### Big Five Aspect Scale (BFAS)

The BFAS contains 100 items. 10 each item was designed to measure the Five-Factor Model (Openness to Experience, Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Agreeableness, and Neuroticism traits). The BFAS provides also the measuring aspect traits that form each of the Big Five Traits. For Neuroticism, it is Withdrawal and Volatility. Sample items “I am filled with doubts about things”, I feel threatened easily”. BFAS has satisfactory convergent validity .88 with Big Five Inventory and .82 with NEO PI-R (.82; DeYoung et al., 2007).

The means of items that needed to be reversed were coded before means per Big Five traits and aspect traits were computed (DeYoung et al., 2007). The researcher added “I” in each item as advised by the authors of BFAS.

### Data Analysis

The data was transposed into an Excel spreadsheet to encode item reversals. Next data was transferred to IBM SPSS for mediation analysis. The data was analyzed through IBM SPSS version 20. The program utilized Macro Process version 4.1 for mediation analysis by Andrew Hayes (see Hayes, 2022). Bootstrapping of the data was conducted 10,000 times ensuring the detection of mediation significance (Alfons, et al., 2022).

Three models were tested using mediation analysis. Model A, the mediating effect of neuroticism trait to the link between authoritarian attitude and negative feelings. Model B, the mediating effect of neuroticism trait to the link between authoritarian attitude and flourishing. Model C, the mediating effects of neuroticism trait to the link between authoritarian attitude and positive feelings.

### Ethical Considerations

The study acquired Ethics Approval from the Far Eastern University Ethics Committee. This was granted by ensuring the protection of privacy and anonymity of the participants; informed consent; freedom to withdraw from the study; beneficence to the participants and society; transparency of results; and protection of data. None of the participants received a monetary reward, and none were coerced into participation.

### Results and Discussion

The result of regression analysis indicates that an authoritarian attitude has a significant negative association with the neuroticism trait ( $\beta = -.068$ ,  $p < .000$ ). This entails that an authoritarian attitude might influence the reduction of the level of neuroticism trait, decreasing one’s proneness towards negative feelings such as sadness and anxiety. In conjunction, the authoritarian attitude has a small negative but not significant effect on negative feelings ( $\beta = -.048$ ,  $p > .692$ ). It means that an authoritarian attitude alone does not have a substantial influence on negative feelings (see Table 1).

Table 1. *Regression Analysis for Predicting the Influence of Authoritarian Attitude on Neuroticism Trait, Flourishing, Positive Feelings, and Negative Feelings*

	$\beta$	SE	95% CI		P
			LL	UL	
Neuroticism Trait	-.068***	.016	-.100	-.035	.000
Flourishing	.922***	.192	.550	1.305	.000
Positive Feelings	.381**	.120	.147	.613	.002
Negative Feelings	-.048	.126	-.295	.199	.692

Note. N = 706. \* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ .

On the other hand, regression analysis showed authoritarian attitude has a robust significant positive association with flourishing ( $\beta = .922$ ,  $p < .000$ ). This indicates that adherence to the authoritarian attitude might influence an increase in one’s psychosocial life such

as social relationships, meaning in life, happiness, and optimism. Simultaneously, findings showed that authoritarian attitudes significant positive association with positive feelings ( $\beta = .381, p < .002$ ), indicating that the authoritarian attitude might influence an increase in the array of positive experiences

Therefore, findings from regression analysis showed that an authoritarian attitude predicts a decrease in the tendency to experience negative emotions such as sadness and anxiety. It does not have a substantial influence on negative feelings. On the other hand, it potentially influences the experience of positive feelings and one's psychosocial life.

### Mediating Effect of Neuroticism

For model A, Figure 1 shows the mediating influence of the neuroticism trait on the link between authoritarian attitudes and negative feelings. Authoritarian attitude showed a significant negative influence on neuroticism trait, indicating that it predicts a decrease in the tendency to experience sadness and anxiety (path  $a = -.0678, p < .0000$ ). The neuroticism trait association with negative feelings showed a significant positive influence (path  $b = 3.7163, p < .0000$ ). Pointing out that neuroticism trait predicts an increase in negative feelings. When the neuroticism trait is controlled, the influence of the authoritarian attitude on negative feelings is significantly positive (path  $c' = .2034, p < .0391$ ). Therefore, when the influence of the neuroticism trait was controlled, the authoritarian attitude showed that it might increase negative feelings.

But when the neuroticism trait mediated the link, it resulted in a significant negative indirect influence of authoritarian attitude to negative feelings (path  $ab = -.2519, 95\% \text{ CI } [-.3828, -.1291]$ ). The mediation is partial, showing that some of the influence of an authoritarian attitude goes to neuroticism traits and some influence goes to negative feelings. Authoritarian attitude's direct influence on negative feelings is significantly positive. But when some of its influences were mediated by neuroticism trait, it became significantly negative. This entails that authoritarian attitude interaction with neuroticism trait predicts a decreased manifestation of the neuroticism trait. The possible influence of its interaction is lower negative feelings. Therefore, the mediating influence of neuroticism traits makes the authoritarian attitude decrease negative feelings.

Model B, Figure 2 displayed the mediating influence of the neuroticism trait on the link between authoritarian attitude and flourishing. Whereas neuroticism trait has a negative significant influence on flourishing (path  $b = -4.1966, p < .0000$ ). Indicating that as neuroticism trait increases, it predicts a decrease in one's healthy psychosocial life. The mediation is partial. The significant positive mediating influence of the neuroticism trait showed that the authoritarian attitude influences a lower neuroticism trait which could potentially influence an increase in flourishing (path  $ab = .2844, 95\% \text{ CI } [.1381, .4557]$ ).

Congruently, Model C in Figure 3, showed that the neuroticism trait has a significant negative influence on positive feelings (path  $b = -2.5178, p < .0000$ ). Predicting that as one's tendency to experience negative experiences increases positive feelings decrease. The neuroticism trait has a significant positive mediation on the link between authoritarian attitude and positive feelings (path  $ab = .1706, 95\% \text{ CI } [.0862, .2599]$ ). The mediation is partial. This entails that as neuroticism mediates some of the indirect influence of the authoritarian attitude it potentially increases positive feelings.

In summary, the findings showed that the authoritarian attitude has a negative association on neuroticism trait. It predicts a decrease in one's tendency to experience negative emotions such as sadness and anxiety. These interactions resulted in divergent mediation of neuroticism trait to the link between authoritarian attitude, negative feelings, flourishing, and positive feelings. When mediated by the neuroticism trait, the authoritarian attitude influence on negative feelings was significantly negative. While there were significant positive mediations on both flourishing and positive feelings. Therefore, as an authoritarian attitude influences a decrease in neuroticism traits it predicts lower negative feelings, higher flourishing, and positive feelings.

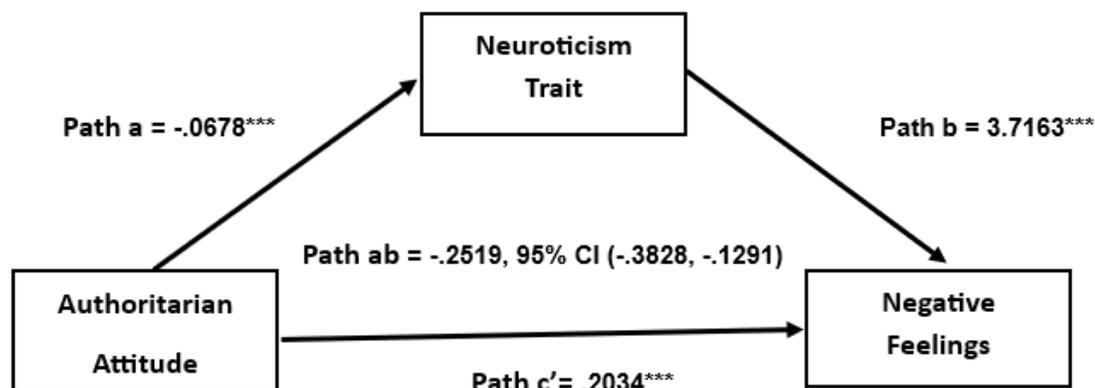


Figure 1. The Mediating Influence of Neuroticism Trait on the Link Between Authoritarian Attitude and Negative Feelings

Notes. \* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ .  $N = 706$ .

The reported path coefficients are unstandardized effect sizes. Path c' indicates direct effect. Path ab indicates the indirect effect.

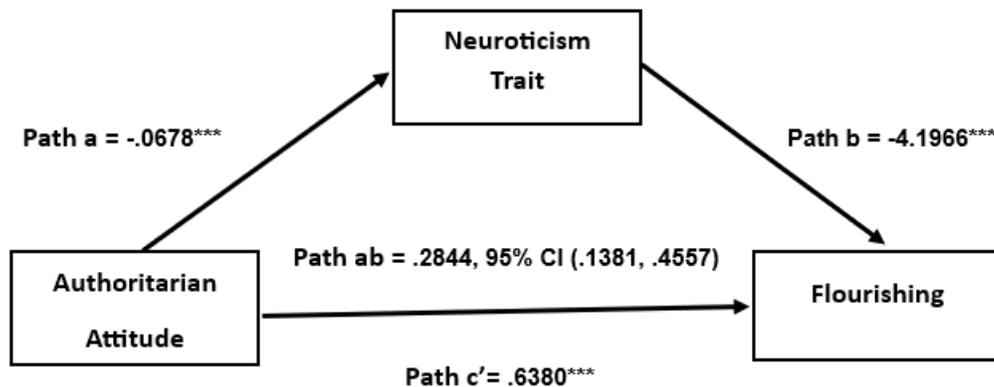


Figure 2. *The Mediating Influence of Neuroticism Trait on the Link Between Authoritarian Attitude and Flourishing*  
Notes. \* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ .  $N = 706$ .

The reported path coefficients are unstandardized effect sizes. Path c' indicates direct effect. Path ab indicates the indirect effect.

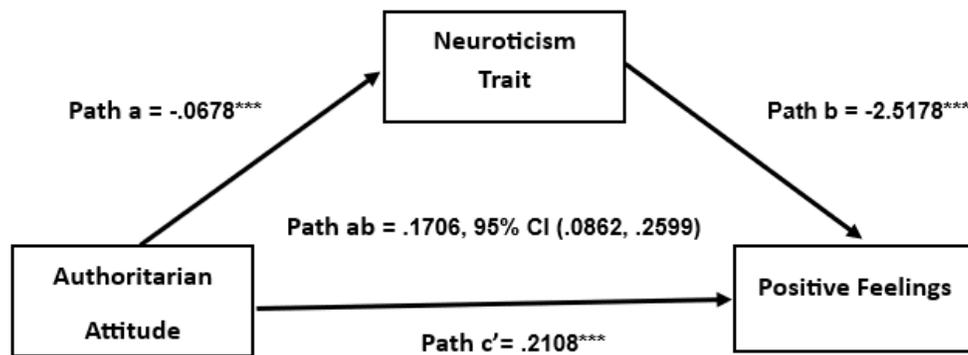


Figure 3. *The Mediating Influence of Neuroticism Trait on the Link Between Authoritarian Attitude and Negative Feelings*  
Notes. \* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ .  $N = 706$ .

The reported path coefficients are unstandardized effect sizes. Path c' indicates direct effect. Path ab indicates the indirect effect.

## Discussion

Scholars have the classical notion that the authoritarian attitude lowers subjective well-being (Onraet, & Van Hiel, 2014). However, some findings indicate that the authoritarian attitude has a protective function that potentially increases subjective well-being (Womick et al., 2019; Onraet et al., 2017; Brandt et al., 2015). The current study aimed to understand the process of how the authoritarian attitude might serve as a protective function.

The current study's results indicated that the authoritarian attitude predicts a decrease in the neuroticism trait. It entails that looking at the world using the authoritarian lens, lowers the tendency to experience negative emotions such as sadness and anxiety. This parallels the findings of Burton and colleagues (2015), showing a negative association between conservative worldview and neuroticism.

Findings showed that the neuroticism trait mediated the influence of the authoritarian attitude to negative feelings. Authoritarian attitude predicts a decrease in the tendency to experience negative emotion, which potentially could lower experiences of negative feelings. Onraet and Vanhiel (2014) explain that experiencing threats leads to adherence to the authoritarian attitude, which alleviates the negative feelings. Therefore, acquiring such a political worldview serves as a protective function in increasing subjective well-being.

Furthermore, findings showed that the authoritarian attitude predicts an increase in both flourishing and positive feelings, in which, neuroticism trait mediated such interactions. Flourishing entails that one's psychosocial life is prospering. This encompasses meaning in life, work, happiness, optimism, life satisfaction, and social connections (Diener et al., 2010). The results are reminiscent of the findings showing that the authoritarian attitude increases life satisfaction (Brandt et al., 2015), and meaning in life (Womick et al., 2019).

In terms of positive feelings, the findings of Womick et al., (2020) showed that exposure to authoritarian messages could lead to lower

positive feelings and higher negative feelings in comparison to those who are exposed to egalitarian and control conditions. However, further results from the same study indicated that meaning and life and positive feelings can tilt positive evaluation of authoritarian values. In connection, the current study's result showed a positive influence of authoritarian attitudes on positive feelings might be due to the meaning in life that authoritarian values provide. Hence, meaning in life might play a role in further understanding the effect of an authoritarian attitude on positive and negative feelings.

In the Philippine context, the result is consistent with the notion that authoritarian attitudes serve a protective function. It decreases negative feelings and increases flourishing and positive feelings. The appeal of Duterteism resembles the assumptions of Terror Management Theory. Duterte employed inducing anxiety campaigns such as exaggerating nationwide drug and crime problems; and simultaneously pronouncing himself as a strong leader willing to use aggressive force; thereby successfully displaying an authoritarian attitude (Curato, 2016b).

This brought trust to the Duterte administration as Pernia (2021) showed Filipinos perceived government administration that displays an authoritarian attitude as trustworthy and competent. The bloody campaign of the Duterte administration promised to end crime and bring a sense of safety. Duterte's rhetoric presented a sense of nationalism that resonated with many Filipinos. (Thompson, 2016).

Therefore, the rise of Duterteism can be understood on a psychological level as a decrease in negative feelings as promised to end criminality; and an increase in flourishing and positive feelings from the promised safety, and nationalism. However, the mesmerizing consequences of post Duterte administration as declared by scholars, seem not mostly, for the better.

## Conclusion

The study elucidated that the neuroticism trait mediates the link between the authoritarian attitude and subjective well-being. The result indicated that the authoritarian attitude decreases the tendency to experience negative emotions which predicts a decrease in the experience of negative feelings. Simultaneously, the mediation influence of the neuroticism trait predicts the authoritarian attitude's positive influence on flourishing and positive feelings. Therefore, the mediation of the neuroticism trait predicts authoritarian attitude's positive influence on subjective well-being. This adds an explanation that the authoritarian attitude serves a protective function.

In the lens of Terror Management Theory, the authoritarian attitude serves as protection against anxiety towards death or threat. Hence, the findings of the study can be used to understand the rise of Duterteism. Employing an authoritarian attitude, Duterteism became appealing to the Filipino populace as it served as a protective function against threats, decreasing negative feelings, and increasing flourishing and positive feelings. By pronouncing the use of aggressive force, strong leadership, and nationalism.

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