
RESEARCH ARTICLE

The Effects of Agreeableness and Political Orientation on Perceptions of Aggression in Media

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Research on aggression in media has often focused on its influence on later acts by individual viewers. One area that is often not researched is the perception of aggressive acts. Prior research on influences on people's perceptions have shown that they can be influenced by ingroup bias and differences in personality. These areas of research can be tied together in order to look at the differences in perceptions of aggressive acts and how they are influenced by political ideology and agreeableness. The focus of the present study is to examine how differences in political ideology and agreeableness affect how individuals perceive acts of aggression. Participants in the current study were asked to rate their perceptions of the aggressiveness of officers and protestors in a compilation of Black Lives Matter protest videos. The hypotheses of the study are that those who self-report as liberal will rate the police as more aggressive than the protestors, and vice versa for those who self-report as conservative. Additionally, those with a higher agreeableness score will rate the perceived aggression of the entire situation to be higher. The results of the study showed that political ideology did have an effect on the perceived aggressiveness of the protestors, as well as the perceived justification of both the police and protestors. However, there was no significant correlation between agreeableness and the perceived aggressiveness of the situation. The implications of this study show how social media can target specific political orientations in order to change perceptions.

Keywords: *personality, selective perception, political orientation, media*

Acts of aggressive behavior can be found throughout many aspects of our daily lives, especially in our media. However, aggression in media, like some of the coverage of the Black Lives Matter movement protests, is debated and argued over depending on viewers' varying experiences and identities. This often creates disagreements about issues, such as who the main aggressor is during a particular event.

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As found by Hastorf and Cantril (1954), Ross and Lepper (1985), and Kim (2016), perceptions of an event can be tied to a person's personality, morality, and political ideology. Additionally, group involvement and social identity can also play a role in influencing perceptions of various events. These factors can change how a person views the context of an event, such as aggression in visual media. This phenomenon may be observed in different interpretations of the Black Lives Matter movement. The purpose of this research is to see if political ideology and personality, specifically agreeableness, affect how one perceives aggression in video media. This will provide insight into how these factors can result in differing opinions of the same media content.

Selective Perception

When viewing a certain situation and interaction between groups, it is common to think that

there may be bias depending on group involvement. This bias can change how one perceives an event and notice specific moments/ideas that would support their previously held ideals rather than ideals that oppose them. This is known as selective perception (Hastorf & Cantril, 1954). An example of a study that focused on this bias is the "They Saw a Game: A Case Study" by Hastorf and Cantril (1954). During this study, researchers had two different groups, students from Princeton and students from Dartmouth, watch a football game between the two colleges. After watching the game, all of the students were given a questionnaire to rate the physicality of both teams, the level of fairness and note any infractions by the opposite team. This study found that students from both schools ranked the physicality of the situation to be high but found that students from both schools also rated that level of fairness to their team to be low, with most participants rating the game as "rough and dirty." It was also found that the losing team of the Princeton students rated the game as dirtier than the winning team of the Dartmouth students, where one-third of the Princeton students rated the game as "rough and fair." Finally, it was found that students from both schools rated a higher number of large infractions against the opposing team but fewer large infractions for their own team. This study shows that group involvement can influence one's views on the same media, and therefore influence how a participant views an outgroup.

In another study that focused on selective perception, researchers Ross and Lepper (1985) conducted a study where participants viewed the same media coverage and rated the bias against their group shown. The participants were either Pro-Israeli, Pro-Arab, or politically neutral and viewed media of a TV coverage of the Beirut Massacre. This study found that for those who held a prior belief, whether it be Pro-Israeli or Pro-Arab, they believed that the media they were shown had many more negative references to their side than to the opposing side. It was also found that the participants with a prior partisanship believed that this media would influence participants who were nonpartisan to a hostile direction. This study shows that group membership influences how one reacts to media that may present negative ideals towards one group identity.

In a study that looked at how individuals rate news articles, researchers found that participants are less likely to rate news articles as biased if they

come from a partisan source that was consistent with their own position (Kim, 2016). It was also found that the rating of the bias was affected by partisan source, regardless of its valence, and that the effects of the partisan sources on bias perceptions were only significant among those with moderate or high levels of value-relevant involvement. This study shows that partisan sources can influence perceptions of bias if the individual has a high involvement with the information being presented.

Agreeableness

Another factor that can influence how people view aggressive situations is their level of agreeableness. Agreeableness, one of the Big Five personality traits, has a major influence on how we view the world, how we react to it, and, overall, how we end up perceiving it (Truxillo et al., 2006, Goldberg, 1999). The Big Five personality traits are agreeableness, Openness, Extraversion, Neuroticism, and Conscientiousness (Costa & McCrae, 1986). These personality traits come from the five-factor model as a way to group personality traits and are used in a variety of psychological research. The agreeableness trait is a grouping of characteristics focused on cooperation and empathy. Those who present higher on the spectrum of agreeableness show the characteristics of altruism, kindness, and empathy while those on the lower end of the agreeableness trait have characteristics of selfishness and apathy. The varying levels inside agreeableness can drastically change how one perceives a situation and handles it, especially when those situations are negative.

Researchers have examined the relationship between agreeableness and preference for positive/negative media. These researchers have found that those with a higher level of agreeableness showed a preference for positive media and that those with a lower level of agreeableness showed a tendency to view negative media longer than positive media (Bresin & Robinson, 2014). This study was conducted by having participants look at various photos, some positive and some negative. The researchers had participants report their agreeableness level through an agreeableness scale named Goldberg's International Personality Item Pool (Goldberg, 1999). This study found that those with a lower level of agreeableness had longer view times for negative stimuli than those with a

higher level, who had longer view times for positive stimuli instead. Another part of the study showed that those high on agreeableness had a much higher chance to choose the romantic movie (positive stimuli) while those with low agreeableness had a much higher chance to choose the horror movie (negative stimuli). This study can be reflected in the present study by showing how those with varying levels of agreeableness prefer positive or negative stimuli.

Researchers have begun to look at how differences in personality influenced participant's perceptions of themselves, a separate entity, and a situation's fairness. The researchers had participants take a personality test and then rate their perceptions of themselves, a law enforcement agency that they had applied to, and the fairness of the application. It was found that differences in agreeableness and neuroticism were the most consistent predictors of how an applicant perceived these three categories (Truxillo et al., 2006). This study relates to the present study by showing that a person's level of agreeableness is tied to perceptions of themselves. The fact that a person's agreeableness can affect their self-perception may also mean that one's level of agreeableness can also affect their perceptions of their in-group. This could mean that perceptions of situations that one's group is a part of may be affected by their level of agreeableness.

Political Ideology and Morality

Along with ingroup bias and agreeableness, political ideology, and the morality that is tied within it, can affect perceptions of the world and media. Researchers have begun to look at the relationship between political ideology and morality and how one views transgressions on different moral foundations. In a study conducted by Smith et al., (2019), it was found that those of a liberal political ideology held a more negative view of those that violated the moral foundations of Care/Fairness than those with a conservative ideology. In contrast, those with a conservative political ideology held more negative views for those shown violating the moral foundations of Loyalty/Authority/Purity than those with a liberal ideology (Smith et al., 2019). This study shows the differing moral foundations that are centered around differing political ideologies.

In a study that looked at the differences between liberals and conservatives, researchers focused on how the two groups differ in their physiological and psychological responses to fea-

tures of an environment that is negative (Hibbing et al., 2014). The researchers found that those who report as conservatives tend to register greater physiological responses to such stimuli and devote more psychological resources to them. This study has shown that conservatives hold greater reactions, both physiological and psychological, to environments that they deem as negative.

In a study that looked at moral beliefs and political ideology, researchers looked at two related ideas: the idea of promotion, which is concerned with the advancement, or the evolution and shifting of moral beliefs over time, and the idea of prevention, which is concerned with security (Cornwell & Higgins, 2013). It was found that these two moral beliefs directly opposed each other, with those high in promotion having lows in prevention, and vice versa. Researchers then compared these moral beliefs with the political ideologies of liberals and conservatives and found that. This study has shown that there are differences in moral beliefs, especially in terms of advancement and security, between different political ideologies.

In a study looking at the relationship between political ideology and a range of moral principles, researchers looked at how different political ideologies differed in terms of intrapersonal, interpersonal, and collective moralities (Janoff-Bulman & Carnes, 2016). Researchers found that there was no difference between liberals and conservatives on intrapersonal and interpersonal moralities. However, the researchers did find that there was a difference in their collective moralities. It was found that liberals were more likely to fall into the collective morality of Social Justice while conservatives fall into the collective morality of Social Order. This study shows that liberals and conservatives may not differ on moralities that focus on intrapersonal and interpersonal morals, but they more than likely differ on moralities that focus on the collection of individuals.

Personality and Political Ideology

There are many factors that influence someone's political ideology, such as income, social status, experiences with minority groups and more. An important factor that influences political ideology is personality and how it presents itself. Which personality factors influence one's political ideology is often theorized by researchers. A study that fo

cuses on the trait of agreeableness, broke up the trait into two aspects; Compassion and Politeness (Hirsh et al., 2010). Compassion is focused on understanding a person's situation and feeling, while Politeness is more focused on being kind and understanding without connecting it to the person individually. The aspect of Compassion emphasizes a genuine personal connection to what they are seeing while Politeness involves less of a personal connection. Compassion was found to be more associated with liberalism and egalitarianism, while Politeness was more associated with conservatism and traditionalism (Hirsh et al., 2010). This study shows that different political ideologies show agreeableness in different ways.

There has also been research on how people with differing political ideologies differ in overall personality traits. Furnham and Fenton-O'Creevy (2018) looked at this idea and tried to find how people with different political ideologies differed on the Big Five scale. They found that those who described themselves as Left-wing individuals were more likely to have a higher score on openness and agreeableness, while those who aligned themselves with being more Right-wing were more likely to have a higher score on conscientiousness (Furnham & Fenton-O'Creevy, 2018). Another study that looked at personality differences, specifically the Big Five and how these factors differed between Liberals and Conservatives, supported the results found by Furham and Fenton-O'Creevy (Carney et al., 2008). The researcher's looked at the typical differences in personality for those on opposite ends of the political spectrum. The researchers found that those who feel closer to the Liberal side of political orientation, were more likely to be high on the personality traits of openness and agreeableness, while those who feel closer to the Conservative political orientation were more likely to rank higher on Conscientiousness. This study shows that there are personality trait differences between the political orientations of Liberal and Conservative. This may be reflected in the present study if people with a certain political ideology fall closer to the agreeableness level with which their ideology aligns.

Present Study

Differences in political ideology and personality could have a major impact on how one perceives aggressive situations, with these differences causing different reactions to and perceptions of the same stimuli. Aggression is present in a variety of media today, including the Black Lives Matter pro-

tests. The differences in political ideology and personality could influence how individuals perceive this same media, specifically the aggression that is present between the officers and the protestors. Political ideology could also be related to one's morals and personality and how they differ would affect the aggression perceived in the situation. This is what the current study has examined further.

Differences in political ideology could affect how an individual views aggression in the media, especially when the media is tied in with the individual's political beliefs, such as the Black Lives Matter protests. This would be caused by the selective perception that influences the individual to not view their political ideology as the aggressor in the present media (Hastorf & Cantril, 1954; Ross & Lepper, 1985; Kim, 2016). This idea would reflect one of the hypotheses of this study, which is that those who fall into the conservative ideology would rate the aggression of the officers as low and the aggression of the protestors as high, while those who are liberal would rate the aggression of the officers as high and the aggression of the protestors as low. This is caused by the selective perception that is tied in with their political affiliation, influencing their perceptions of aggression to fit with their aligned group. Conservatives would be more likely to side with the police due to the conservative foundations of loyalty, authority and purity, which would be reflected with the ideals of the police, while liberals would be more likely to side with the protestors due to the foundations of change, political correctness, and fighting for minority rights, reflected in the protestors call for policy changes throughout the criminal justice system.

Differences in personality could also affect how an individual views the aggression in the present media. These differences in personality, specifically centered around differences in the range of agreeableness, could influence the perceptions of aggression between the two videos. Studies have found that differences in the range of agreeableness can influence one's preference for positive/negative media, which could influence how one perceives that aggression in the present media (Bresin & Robinson, 2014). Due to these findings, the hypothesis is that those high on the agreeableness scale would rate both protestors and officers as more aggressive than those who score low on the agreeableness scale.

Method

Participants

Individuals were recruited from a range of sources including online forums on Reddit, including r/psychologicalresearch and r/samplesize, and emails sent from the Ball State Communication Center. This caused a range of ages, stemming from 18-65 due to the high amount of college students and individuals on Reddit ($M = 28.08$, $SD = 13.51$). Overall, there were 54 participants who completed the survey (74.1% Female, 83.3% White). A majority of the participants were Liberal ($n = 30$), compared to Moderate ($n = 14$) and Conservative ($n = 10$). Participants who had not completed a significant amount of the study (80%) or the questions of aggression were eliminated from data collection.

Materials

BFI. The BFI (John and Srivastava, 1999) is a shortened personality test, with 44 questions. This was further shortened and adapted, solely focusing on agreeableness, with a total of nine items. Participants were given a statement and were asked the extent to which they agree that the statement reflected their personality ($1 = \text{highly disagree}$ and $5 = \text{highly agree}$). An example of a statement in the BFI is "is helpful and unselfish with others." In a test for reliability, the BFI was tested for men ($\alpha = 0.83, 0.82, 0.79, 0.82, 0.90$) and women ($\alpha = 0.74, 0.83, 0.85, 0.81, 0.92$) (Alansari, 2016).

Video. The video the participants watched was created from a compilation of videos from YouTube depicting aggressive interactions between the police and BLM protestors. The video was twenty-four seconds long and was created by cutting clips of videos showing police and protesters interactions. These videos come from YouTube clips from two news sites, Guardian News and Ruptly. Due to how the videos were cut, the situations shown in the video to the participants are not clear. This allowed participants to see an ambiguous exchange between the two groups so they could create their own interpretations on who is more aggressive overall. The video was also used because it allowed the researchers to create a form of media in which it is harder for individuals to see the clear situation, as they only saw a small clip of a whole video.

Perceptions of Aggression. Participants were asked a total of three items to determine their perceived aggression. Participants were asked to rate the level of aggression for the police, protestors, and the situation of the presented video. Participants were asked to rate each item on a scale

from one to seven, ($1 = \text{low}$ and $7 = \text{high}$). These items were created for the study in order to evaluate the perceived aggression from the participant.

Perceptions of Control/Justification.

Participants were asked a total of 4 items to determine their perceived control and justification of the groups in the video. Participants were asked to rate the level of control for the police and the protestors. Participants were also asked to rate the level of justification for the police and the protestors. Participants were asked to rate each item on a scale from one to seven ($1 = \text{low}$ and $7 = \text{high}$). These items were created for the study in order to evaluate the perceived control and justification from the participant.

Procedure

The participants were given a description of the overall study and then were asked if they elected themselves to be a participant. After providing consent, the participants were asked general informational questions (gender, income, education, etc.). After these questions, the participants either watched the video compilation of BLM protestors and police and then completed a questionnaire about the video (Appendices A and B) or took the BFI personality test and self-report political orientation question. Half the participants watched the video first, while the other half took the BFI and PO question first in an effort to reduce the chance that the order of the stimuli affected the results. After the participants completed all steps listed above, they had their data recorded.

Results

Political Ideology and Perceived Aggression

We analyzed how differences in political ideology would affect participant's perceived aggression of the police and protestors. The hypotheses of the study predicted that those who self-reported as Liberal would rate the police as significantly more aggressive than the protestors than those who self-reported as Conservative, and vice versa. The main dependent measure was the participants' perceived aggression of the police and protestors. To test the effect of political ideology on perceived aggression, aggression ratings were analyzed with a one-way ANOVA. Figures 1-3 provide a summary of these results. Perceived aggression of protestors varied significantly as a function of political ideology, $F(2,52) = 9.46$, $p < .001$. A Tukey post hoc test showed that Liberals significantly rated the

aggression of protestors lower than Moderates and Conservatives. Perceived aggression of the police, however, did not vary significantly as a function of political ideology, $F(2,53) = 1.72, p = .189$. The perceived aggression of the overall situation also did not vary significantly as a function of political ideology, $F(2,53) = 2.61, p = .083$.

Agreeableness and Perceived Aggression

We analyzed how differences in the personality trait agreeableness would affect perceived aggression of interactions of police and protestors. One of the hypotheses of study predicted that those with a higher agreeableness score would rate the entire situation to be significantly more aggressive than those with a low agreeableness score. The main dependent measure was the participants' perceived aggression score of the situation. To test the effect of agreeableness on perceived aggression, aggression ratings were analyzed with a correlation between perceptions and agreeableness. It was found that there was no significant relationship between agreeableness and perceived aggression of the situation, $r(54) = .07, p = .615$. There was a significant relationship between agreeableness and the perceived aggression of the police, $r(54) = .31, p = .022$; high levels of agreeableness were associated with higher perceptions of police aggressiveness. There was no significant relationship between agreeableness and perceived aggression of the protestors, $r(53) = .23, p = .091$.

Perceived Control, Justification, and Political Ideology

I also conducted exploratory analyses that focused on the perceived control and justification of the police and protestors and how this was affected by political ideology. The main dependent measures were the participants' perceived control and justification of police and protestors, each of which was analyzed as a function of political ideology. Figures 4-7 provide a summary of these results. Perceived control of protestors did vary significantly as a function of political ideology, $F(2,50) = 12.86, p < .001$; A Tukey post hoc test showed that Liberals significantly rated the control of protestors higher than Moderates and Conservatives, and Moderates rated the control of the protestors lower than Liberals but higher than Conservatives. However, perceived control of police did not vary significantly as a function of political ideology, $F(2,52) = 1.95, p = .153$. Perceived justification of the protestors did vary significantly as a function of political ideology, $F(2,52) = 10.03, p < .001$; A Tukey

post hoc test showed that Liberals significantly rated the justification of protestors higher than Conservatives, but neither Liberals nor Conservatives varied significantly from Moderates. There was also a significant relationship between the perceived justification of the police and political ideology, $F(2,51) = 5.26, p = .009$; A Tukey post hoc test showed that Liberals significantly rated the justification of police lower than Moderates and Conservatives.

Discussion

Prior research has demonstrated that ingroup involvement and personality can influence how one perceives an event (Hastorf & Cantril, 1954). These perceptions can change how a person views a particular situation and the things that they draw from it. Prior research has shown that those who are involved with a group will often perceive their group as the correct one and align their perceptions to fit this ideal (Kim, 2016). Prior research has also found that personality, especially the trait of agreeableness, influences the perceptions of events (Truxillo et al., 2006). The purpose of this research was to expand upon this knowledge and provide more information on how ingroup involvement, specifically groups based on political ideology, and personality can influence perceptions of aggression.

In general, we found support for the idea that political ideology does affect perceptions of aggression of protestors. These findings show that political ideology does sway an individual's perceptions of aggression when viewing media. These findings are consistent with the hypothesis that political ideology will influence perceptions of protestor's aggression. Overall, these findings have shown that an individual's political ideology can influence how a person perceives aggression in the media that they watch.

In general, we also found support for the idea that the personality trait of agreeableness is correlated with the perceived aggression of the police. However, the present study did not find that agreeableness was correlated with perceptions of the situation, as hypothesized. However, the significant findings of agreeableness being correlated with perceptions of police do reflect the idea that personality can influence how one perceives aggression in media. The present study also found support for the idea that political ideology does affect perceptions of control and justification. These find

ings show that political ideology does affect how one perceives groups in media and their motives for performing certain actions. This reflects the influence of group involvement and shows how individuals will justify the actions of their group while condemning the opposing one. Overall, these findings show that political ideology does affect the perceptions of control and justification that the viewer has.

The present study mirrors findings from previous studies very well. Past researchers (Has-torf & Cantril, 1954; Ross & Lepper, 1985) have found that ingroup involvement can influence participants' perceptions. These studies have found that ingroup involvement influenced the participant's perceptions in a way that favored their own group while finding opposing groups to be more at fault. These findings can also be found in the present study with perceived aggression of protestors, as well as the perceived control and justification of the groups. The predictions that political ideology would affect the perceptions that the participants had on police and protestors were supported because the participants ingroup involvement influenced their perceptions of the event in order to support their defined groups. In today's society, political ideology is often an arguing point and becomes the central basis for numerous debates. With the video holding so many political ties and reflecting the division between political ideologies, the ingroup involvement of the participants pushed the participant to perceive the situation in a way that would confirm their group's belief. The present study also found that political ideology had affected the perceptions of control and justification for the groups. These findings were exploratory but do fit in with the general notion of findings from past researchers. As stated above, ingroup involvement has influenced participants to view their group as the correct one, while viewing the other group as the ones at fault. This fits with the present findings that political ideology influences how individuals perceive the group that represents their ideals and the ones that fight against them. Therefore, it is understandable that the ingroup involvement of political ideology has affected how the participants see the justifications of the two opposing groups.

The present study did not mirror prior studies on the effect that agreeableness has on perceptions of aggression, however. In past research (Bresin & Robinson, 2014), research

ers found that those with a high agreeableness would be less likely to watch negative media and finding that they tend to avoid it more than those with a low agreeableness score. To follow this idea, the present study hypothesized that those with a high agreeableness would rate the situation as aggressive, due to its negative connotation. However, the present study did not find any significant data that personality influenced the rating of the perceived aggression of the situation. This could be because the situation itself was highly aggressive and there was no room for interpretation. The high amount of aggression between the police and the protestors would override the ability to perceive the situation as aggressive or not. If this were true, then agreeableness would have no effect, as the situation was too aggressive to not interpret it as so.

The results of this study do raise theoretical and practical implications. With more knowledge on how political ideology and personality can affect perceptions of aggression, news and media groups could target specific groups in order to get their support. This idea is very indicative of what already occurs in biased media outlets and campaign media centered around a specific candidate. By focusing on how political ideology will influence perceived aggression, one could influence how an entire group will react to presented media. This raises lots of issues as it can be seen as a form of propaganda. These issues can provide a lot of discourse among individuals who may debate on these issues, even though both groups had seen the same media. With ambiguous media being widely available in terms of short clips, these are more likely to be the media being used to change perceptions. With more research on these changes in perceptions, more information is available on how differing media sites can create influence towards specific political ideals by targeting specific audiences. Also, with more knowledge about this subject, individuals can better prepare to tackle their own personal biases. If an individual knows that they are likely to perceive something in terms of their own political bias, then they can try to absorb more of the situation and context in order to fight jumping to a specific conclusion. This would stop the prevalence of biases affecting an individual's initial reactions to ambiguous media, such as short videos with little context.

There were some problems and limitations that held the study back. The present study

had a very small sample size (54 participants). With such a small sample size, it is harder to infer that the effects found would fit with all those who fall into political ideology groups. Along the same lines, the present study had a big gap on the diversity of political ideology in the participants. There was a much higher number of liberals than moderates and conservatives. Due to this, it can be said that the present study could not reflect the complete ideals of all political ideologies, with such few numbers. Another limitation that the study had was the ambiguity of the compilation video of police and protestors interactions. This video was meant to be ambiguous, which would lead to the participants to be more inclined to fill in what happened with the bias for their group. However, since the video was less ambiguous due to the length of the video and lack of change in the scenario, there could have been less of a chance that personal bias could have affected the results. The video itself could also have had priming effects on the participants. In the video, there is a political sign that could have primed the participants to side with the specific side. There is also a watermark of the original news site that could have primed the participants if they had prior experience with that specific news site.

If this study were to be conducted in the future, there are many things that can be done in order to improve upon it. First, the study could include a much larger sample size gathered from around the country. This would increase the significance of the findings. Future research could also increase the diversity of the population in terms of political ideology, as well as other demographics. The increase in diversity would allow all groups to be presented in the findings, leading to a smaller chance of a portion of the group representing the whole. Other researchers that wish to continue this research could research more ideas surrounding the general perceptions of aggression. In the present study, there are exploratory findings looking at how political ideology affects perceived control and justification. This could be expanded upon to include other perceived ideals that the participant could gather. Researchers could also expand the idea of personality by not only focusing on the trait of agreeableness and instead expanding it to include all of personality. This could lead to more findings about how personality affects perceptions of media.

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Figure 1

Perceived Aggressiveness of Protestors as a Function of Political Ideology

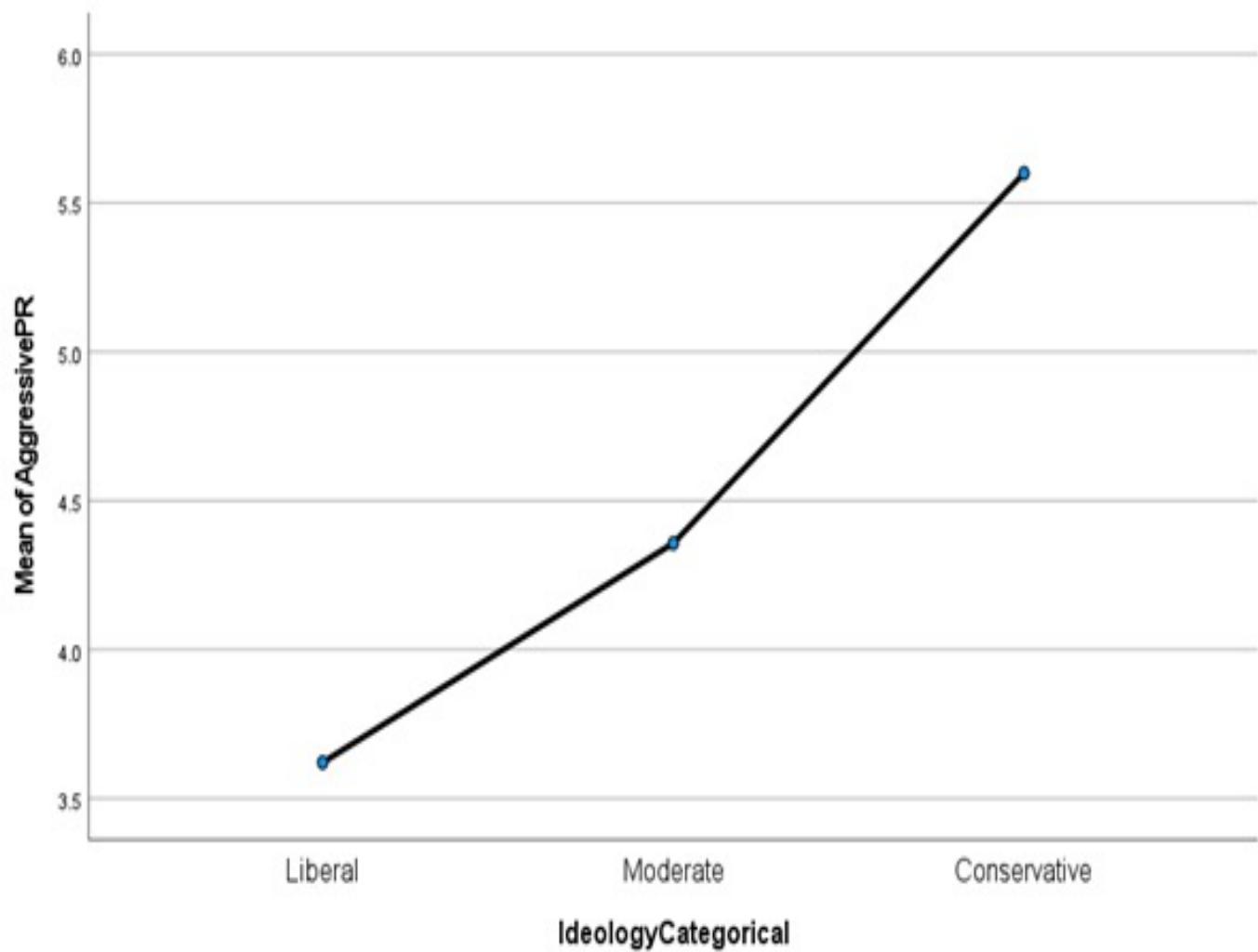


Figure 2

Perceived Aggressiveness of Police as a Function of Political Ideology

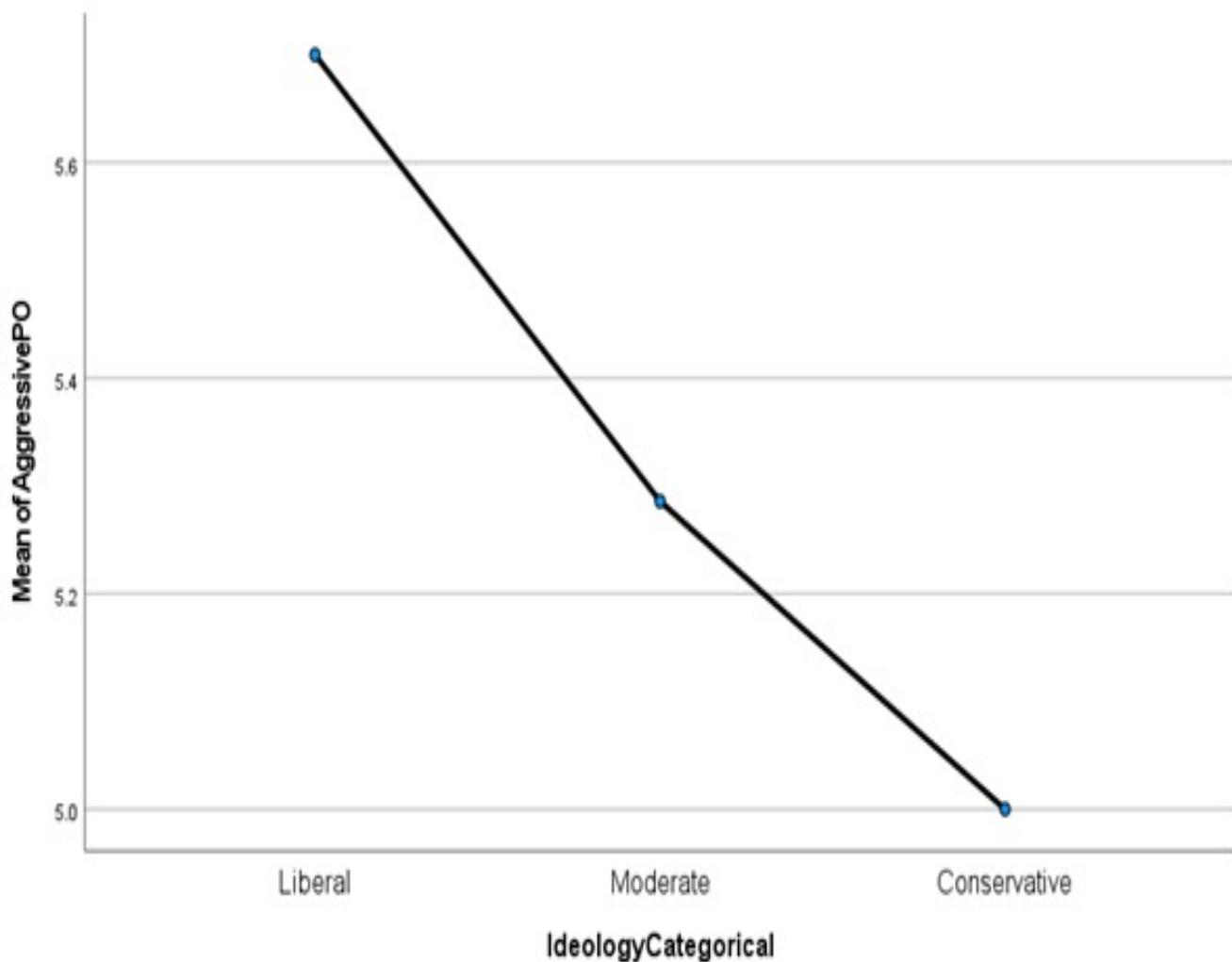


Figure 3

Perceived Aggressiveness of Situation as a Function of Political Ideology

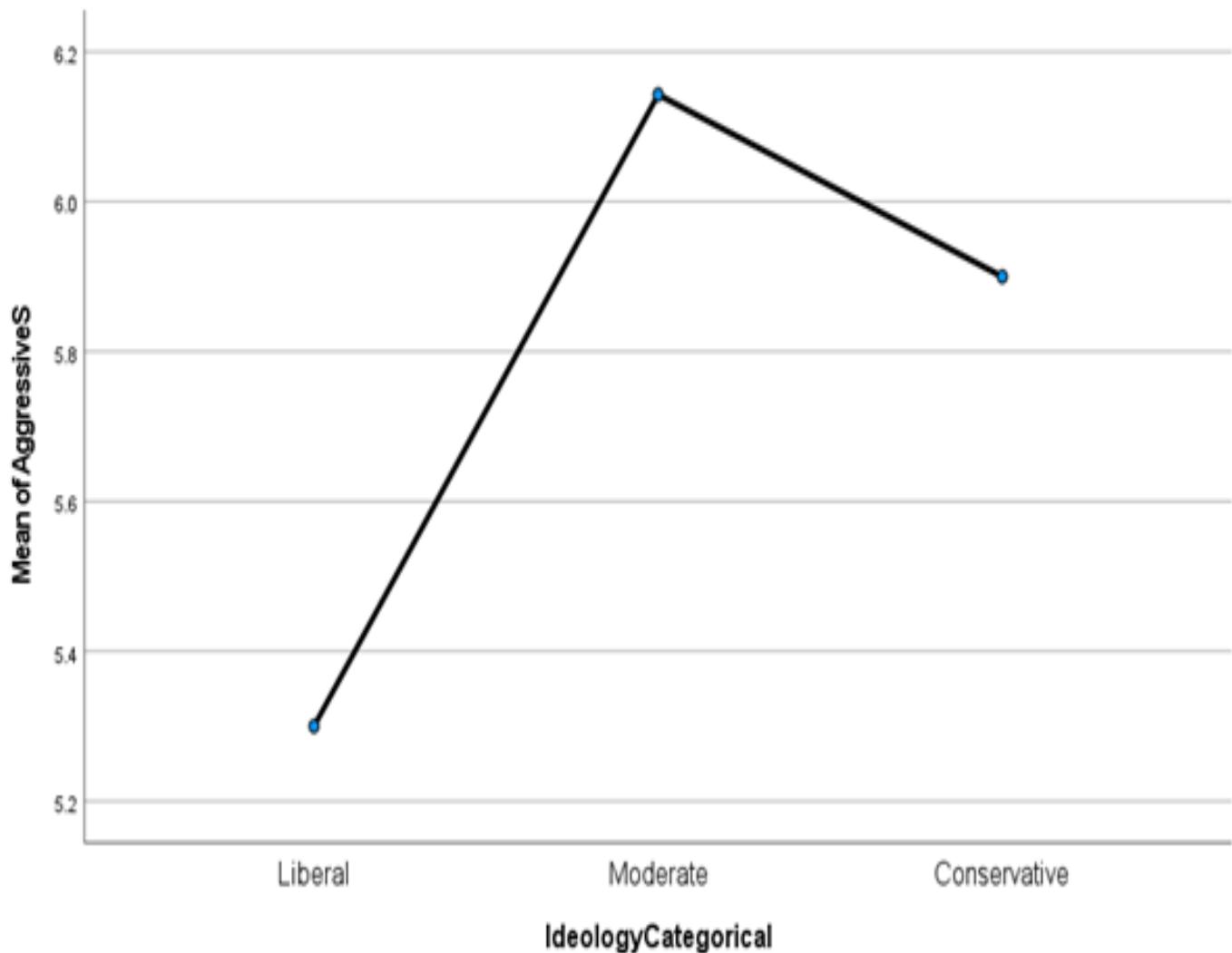


Figure 4

Perceived Control of Protestors as a Function of Political Ideology

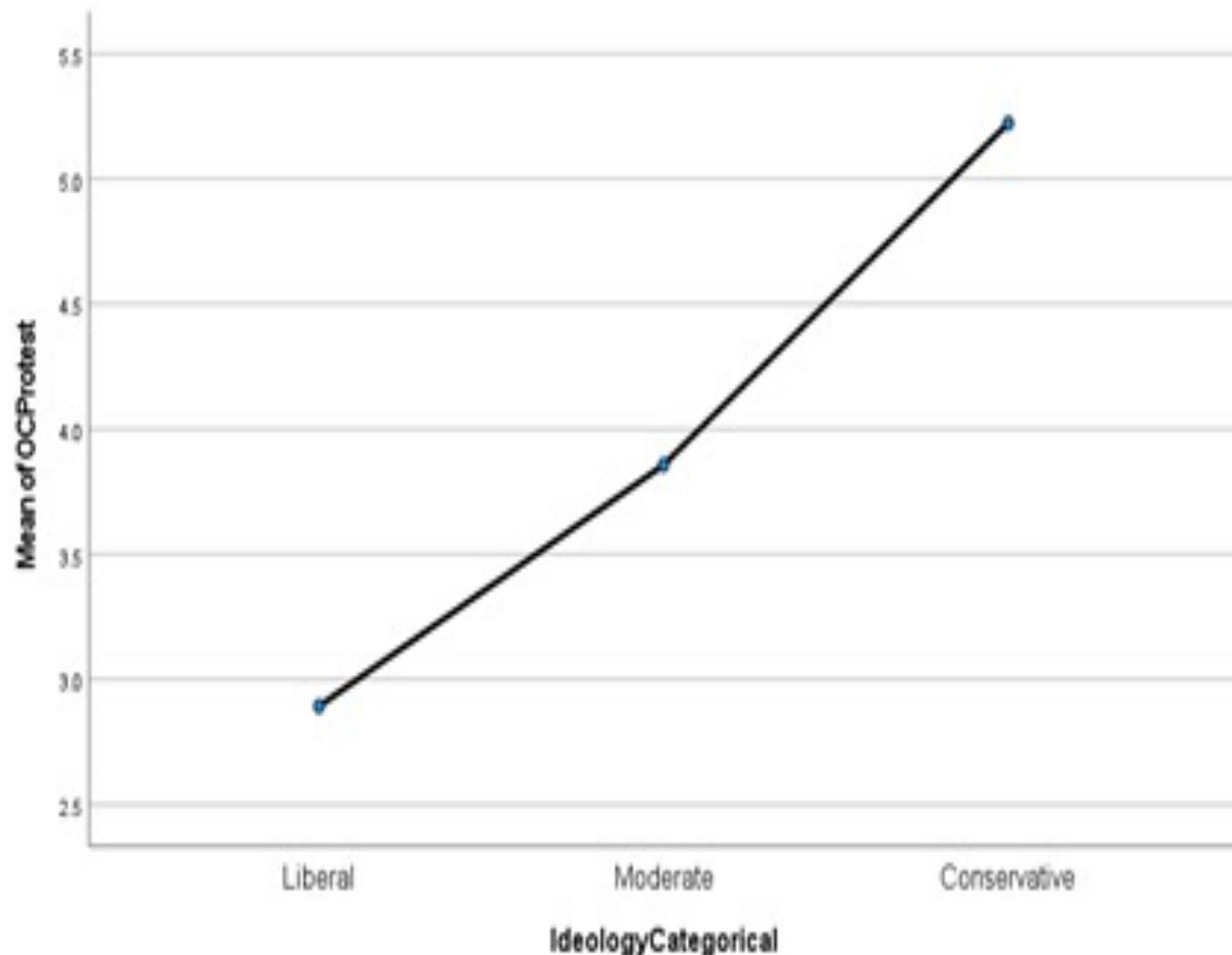


Figure 5

Perceived Control of Police as a Function of Political Ideology

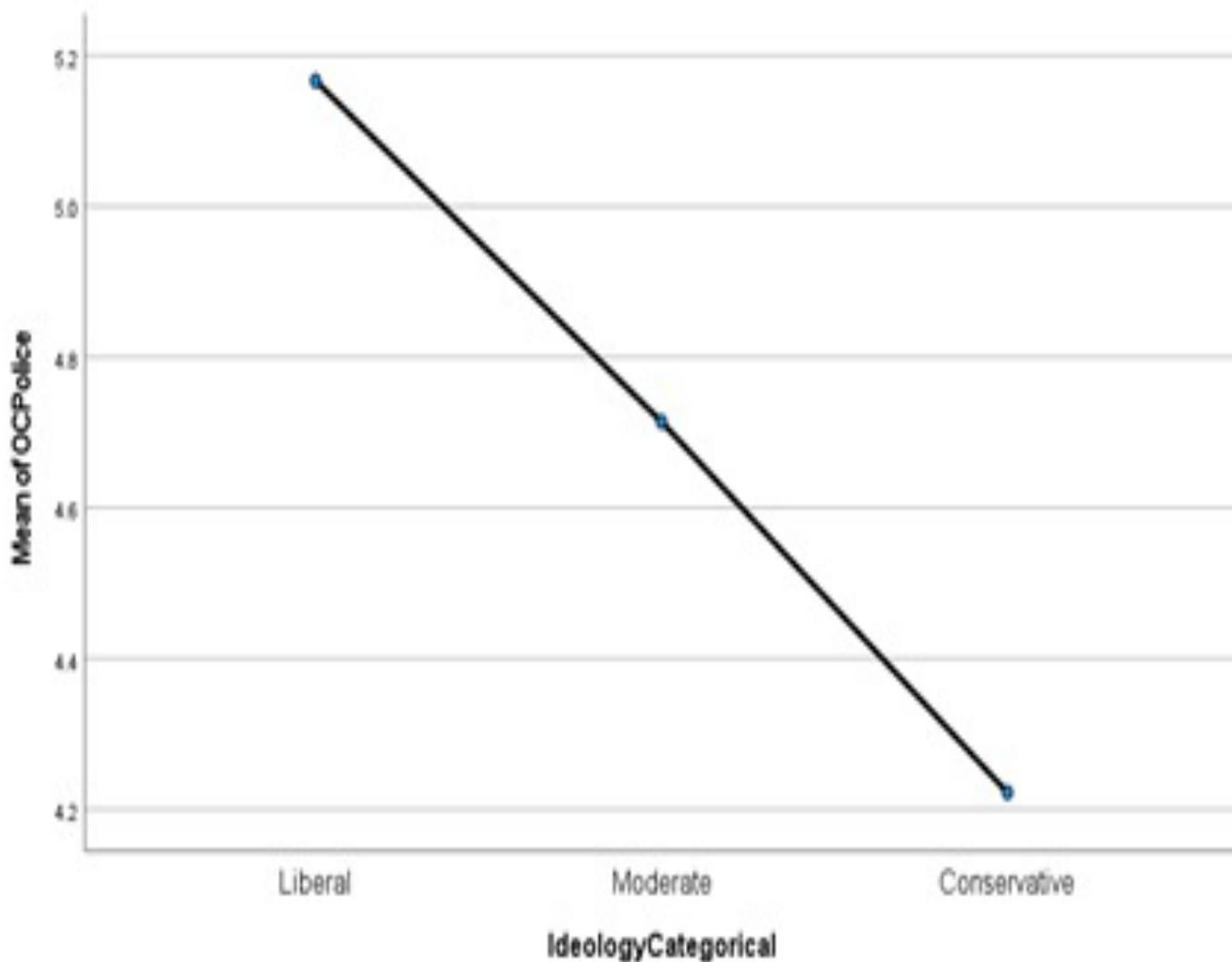


Figure 6

Perceived Justification of Protestors as a Function of Political Ideology

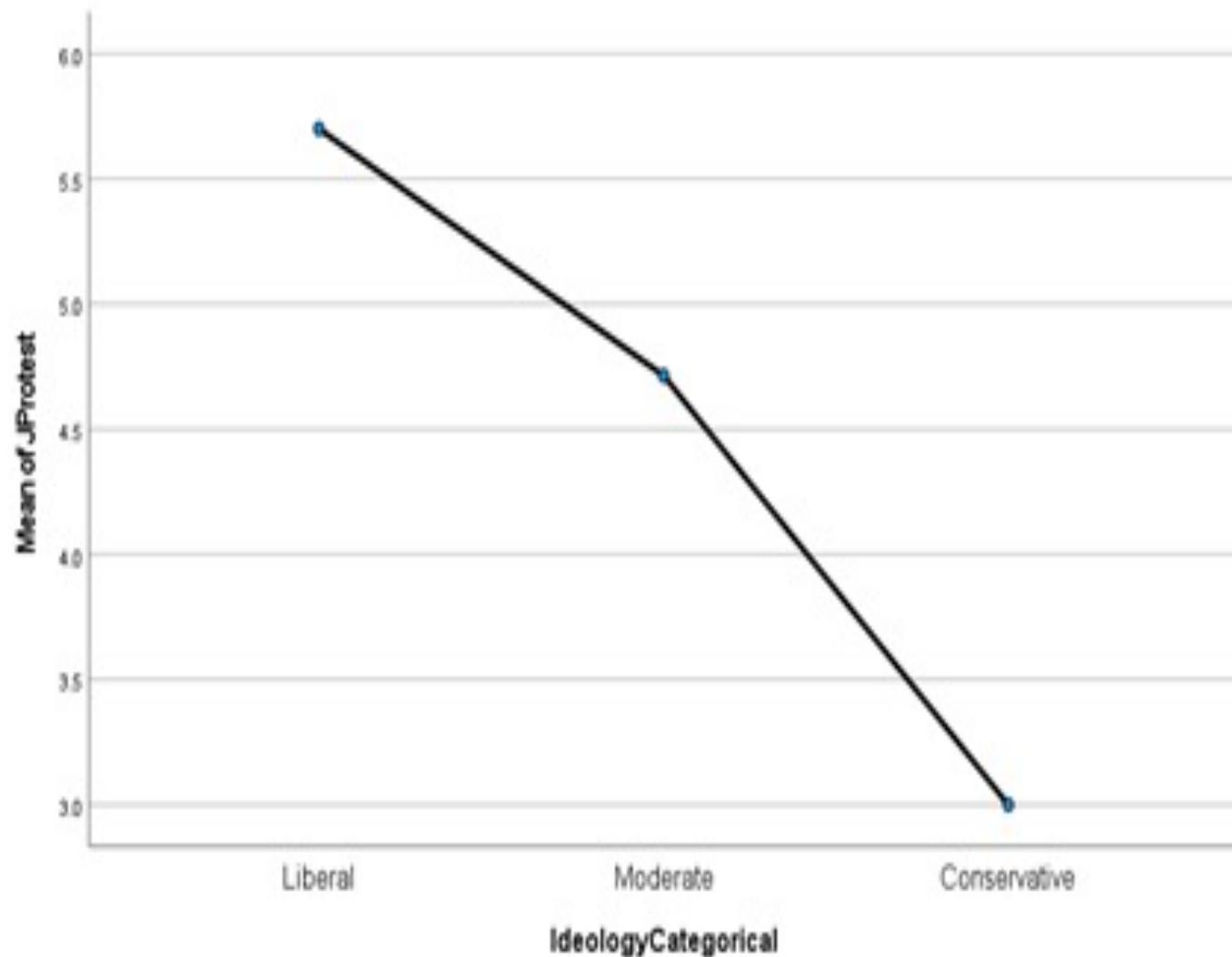
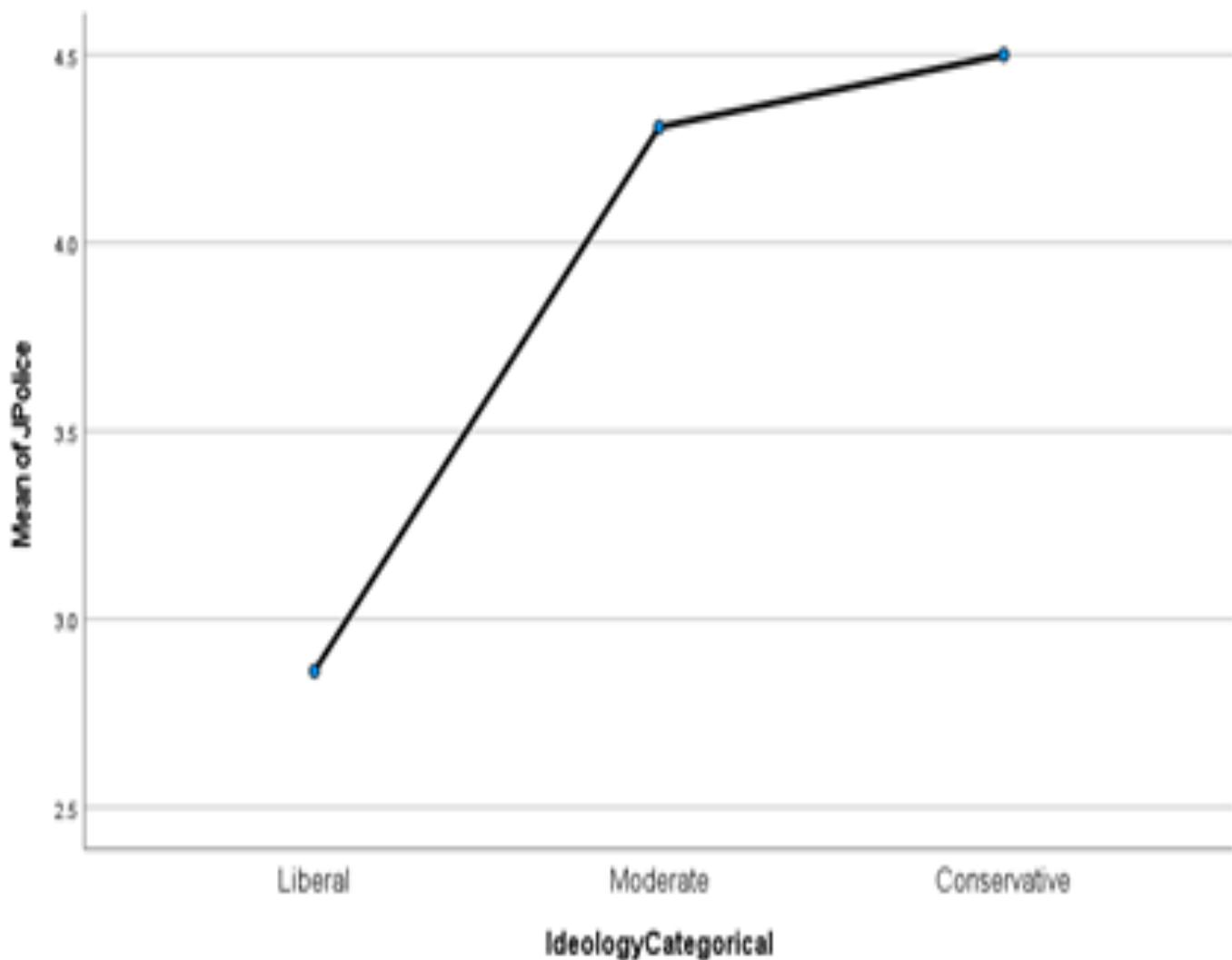


Figure 7

Perceived Justification of Police as a Function of Political Ideology



Appendix A:
Survey of Perceptions
of Aggression

(1 = Low, 4 = Neutral, 7 = High)

Rate the aggressiveness of the protestors:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Rate the aggressiveness of the police:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Rate the aggression in the entire situation:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

(1 = Low, 7 = High)

How out of control were the protestors:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

How out of control were the police:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

How justified were the protestors:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

How justified were the police:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Appendix B
BFI Agreeableness
Questions

(1 = *Highly Disagree*, 5 = *Highly Agree*)

- | | |
|--|---|
| Tends to find fault with others | R |
| Is helpful and unselfish with others | |
| Starts quarrels with others | R |
| Has a forgiving nature | |
| Is generally trusting | |
| Can be cold and aloof | R |
| Is considerate and kind to almost everyone | |
| Is sometimes rude to others | R |
| Likes to cooperate with others | |

Note: Participants will be asked to rate each response on if they agree with the statement. The answers are then tallied to get a full score out of 45. Questions above listed with **R** are reversed, as they are statements that reflect the opposite of the agreeableness trait.