

Personality Traits and Vote Switching: A Tale of Open-Minded Switchers and Agreeable Populism Resisters

Online Appendix

Table A1 Inclusion and exclusion of subjects

Exclusion criterion	Subjects excluded	Subjects remaining
Initial sample		4847
Test execution incomplete	446	4401
Missing value in “Sunday question”	30	4371
Not eligible to vote	20	4351 (H1a-d)
AFD supporters since survey wave 1	331	4020 (H2a-d)

Note: The table shows the number of respondents before and after the application of exclusion criteria for the analyses of H1a-d and H2a-d.

Table A2 Overview of the items of the BFI-10

Nr	Items (German)	Items (English)	Polarity	Big Five trait
1	Ich bin eher zurückhaltend, reserviert.	I see myself as someone who is reserved.	-	Extraversion
2	Ich schenke anderen leicht Vertrauen, glaube an das Gute im Menschen.	I see myself as someone who is generally trusting.	+	Agreeableness
3	Ich bin bequem, neige zur Faulheit.	I see myself as someone who tends to be lazy.	-	Conscientiousness
4	Ich bin entspannt, lasse mich durch Stress nicht aus der Ruhe bringen.	I see myself as someone who is relaxed, handles stress well.	-	Neuroticism
5	Ich habe nur wenig künstlerisches Interesse.	I see myself as someone who has few artistic interests.	-	Openness
6	Ich gehe aus mir heraus, bin gesellig.	I see myself as someone who is outgoing, sociable.	+	Extraversion
7	Ich neige dazu, andere zu kritisieren.	I see myself as someone who tends to find fault with others.	-	Agreeableness
8	Ich erledige Aufgaben gründlich.	I see myself as someone who does a thorough job.	+	Conscientiousness
9	Ich werde leicht nervös und unsicher.	I see myself as someone who gets nervous easily.	+	Neuroticism
10	Ich habe eine aktive Vorstellungskraft, bin fantasievoll.	I see myself as someone who has an active imagination.	+	Openness

Note: The answer is given on a five-point Likert scale from ‘strongly disagree’ (1) to ‘strongly agree’ (5).

Table A3 Reliability coefficients of the BFI -10

Big Five	Rammstedt & John (2007)	PPD (2022 - 2023) *
<i>Openness</i>	.72	.72
<i>Conscientiousness</i>	.77	.68
<i>Extraversion</i>	.84	.76
<i>Agreeableness</i>	.58	.62
<i>Neuroticism</i>	.74	.68

Note: The table shows the retest reliability of the BFI-10 on two samples (Rammstedt & John (2007), sample (N = 184), retest interval 6 weeks and the Policy Panel (2022-2023), sample (N = 4351), retest interval 15 months). The presentation is based on a table by Rammstedt & John (2014).

**The ICC was calculated with unweighted data.*

Table A4 Logistic regression model M1 – Vote Switching in general

Model M1 - Vote switching in general:	Coefficient (Standard Error)	Odds Ratio (CI)
Dependent variable:		
<u>Big Five traits</u>		
Openness	0.5118 (0.1622) **	1.67 (1.21–2.29) **
Conscientiousness	0.8156 (0.2049) ***	2.26 (1.51–3.38) ***
Extraversion	-0.3422 (0.1571) *	0.71 (0.52–0.97) *
Agreeableness	-0.1325 (0.2053)	0.88 (0.59–1.31)
Neuroticism	0.4009 (0.1829) *	1.49 (1.04–2.14) *
<u>Controls</u>		
Left-right self-placement (0 = left, 1 = right)	0.3810 (0.1712) *	1.46 (1.05–2.05) *
Age	0.0023 (0.0021)	1.00 (1.00–1.01)
Gender (0 = male, 1 = female)	0.2107 (0.0682) **	1.23 (1.08–1.41) **
Region (0 = East Germany; 1 = West Germany)	0.0429 (0.0910)	1.04 (0.87–1.25)
Education (ref: ISCED 0-2)		
ISCED 2	0.2747 (0.1721)	1.32 (0.94–1.85)
ISCED 3	0.2913 (0.1744) ○	1.34 (0.95–1.89) ○
ISCED 6-8	0.0291 (0.1662)	1.03 (0.75–1.43)
Household Income (ref: I find it very difficult to make ends meet)		
I find it somewhat difficult to make ends meet	-0.1160 (0.2558)	0.89 (0.54–1.48)
I can make ends meet	-0.0303 (0.2351)	0.97 (0.61–1.55)
I can live somewhat comfortably on the income	-0.1903 (0.2333)	0.83 (0.52–1.31)
I can live very comfortably on the income	-0.3058 (0.2418)	0.74 (0.46–1.19)
Intercept	-1.7287 (0.3919) ***	0.18 (0.08–0.38) ***
<i>N</i>	4248	
<i>AIC</i>	5546.6	
<i>McFadden's-Pseudo-R²</i> :	0.045	
<i>R² Tjur</i> :	0.020	

*Note: The middle column of the table presents unstandardized coefficients from logistic regression, standard errors in parentheses; the last column presents Odds Ratio values with 95%-confidence intervals in parentheses. 103 subjects were not included in the logistic regression model due to missing values in the control variables, which is why N is smaller here than reported in the method section. ○ $p < 0.1$ * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$ and *** $p < 0.001$.*

Table A5 Causal Mediation Analysis – Vote Switching in general

Big Five	ACME (average)	ADE (average)	Total Effect
<i>Openness</i>	-0.0125 (-0.0258, 0.0004) ○	0.1154 (0.0265, 0.1977) **	0.1030 (0.0139, 0.1880) *
<i>Conscientiousness</i>	0.0128 (-0.0004, 0.0265) ○	0.1772 (0.0780, 0.2745) **	0.1901 (0.0972, 0.2838) ***
<i>Extraversion</i>	0.0009 (-0.0022, 0.0050)	-0.0785 (-0.1589, 0.0120) ○	-0.0776 (-0.1559, 0.0123) ○
<i>Agreeableness</i>	-0.0227 (-0.0461, 0.0008) ○	-0.0304 (-0.1400, 0.0908)	-0.0532 (-0.1571, 0.0689)
<i>Neuroticism</i>	-0.0074 (-0.0162, 0.0002) ○	0.0925 (-0.0019, 0.1883) ○	0.0851 (-0.0095, 0.1836) ○

*Note: The table shows effect estimates and 95%-confidence intervals for the five mediation models of each Big Five trait (N = 4248). The models include left-right self-placement as mediator and controls for all other Big Five variables, as well as for further control factors. ACME = Average Causal Mediation Effect; ADE = Average Direct Effect. ○ $p < 0.1$ * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$ and *** $p < 0.001$*

Table A6 Logistic regression model M2 – Susceptibility to populism

Model M2 - Susceptibility to populism (= vote switching to AfD)	Coefficient (Standard Error)	Odds Ratio (CI)
Dependent variable:		
<u>Big Five traits</u>		
Openness	0.1488 (0.3660)	1.16 (0.57 – 2.38)
Conscientiousness	0.9639 (0.4649) *	2.62 (1.06 – 6.58) *
Extraversion	0.0435 (0.3541)	1.04 (0.52 – 2.09)
Agreeableness	-0.0696 (0.4491)	0.93 (0.39 – 2.25)
Neuroticism	-0.1863 (0.4178)	0.83 (0.36 – 1.88)
<u>Controls</u>		
Left-right self-placement (0 = left, 1 = right)	7.3578 (0.5286) ***	1568.37 (569.56 – 4529.73) ***
Age	0.0011 (0.0048)	1.00 (0.99 – 1.01)
Gender (0 = male, 1 = female)	-0.2199 (0.1557)	0.80 (0.59 – 1.09)
Region (0 = East Germany; 1 = West Germany)	-0.2549 (0.1969)	0.77 (0.53 – 1.15)
Education (ref: ISCED 0-2)		
ISCED 2	0.2853 (0.3695)	1.33 (0.67 – 2.85)
ISCED 3	0.4878 (0.3795)	1.63 (0.80 – 3.54)
ISCED 6-8	0.0590 (0.3638)	1.06 (0.54 – 2.26)
Household Income (ref: I find it very difficult to make ends meet)		
I find it somewhat difficult to make ends meet	-0.7432 (0.4638)	0.48 (0.20 – 1.22)
I can make ends meet	-1.2821 (0.4241) **	0.28 (0.12 – 0.67) **
I can live somewhat comfortably on the income	-2.0401 (0.4285) ***	0.13 (0.06 – 0.31) ***
I can live very comfortably on the income	-2.4671 (0.4630) ***	0.08 (0.03 – 0.22) ***
Intercept	-5.4391 (0.8291) ***	0.00 (0.00 – 0.02) ***
N	3929	
AIC	1400.1	
McFadden's-Pseudo-R ² :	0.245	
R ² Tjur:	0.141	

Note: The middle column of the table presents unstandardized coefficients from logistic regression, standard errors in parentheses; the last column presents Odds Ratio values with 95%-confidence intervals in parentheses. 91 subjects were not included in the logistic regression model due to missing values in the control variables, which is why N is smaller here than reported in the method section. ○ $p < 0.1$ * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$ and *** $p < 0.001$.

Table A7 Causal Mediation Analysis – Populism Susceptibility

Big Five	ACME (average)	ADE (average)	Total Effect
<i>Openness</i>	-0.0607 (-0.0814, -0.0457) ***	0.0082 (-0.0389, 0.0510)	-0.0525 (-0.1085, -0.0083) *
<i>Conscientiousness</i>	0.0475 (0.0356, 0.0646) ***	0.0374 (-0.0065, 0.0748) ○	0.0849 (0.0437, 0.1255) ***
<i>Extraversion</i>	0.0042 (-0.0075, 0.0159)	0.0021 (-0.0376, 0.0408)	0.0063 (-0.0357, 0.0484)
<i>Agreeableness</i>	-0.0787 (-0.1050, -0.0607) ***	-0.0038 (-0.0768, 0.0610)	-0.0824 (-0.1608, -0.0222) *
<i>Neuroticism</i>	-0.0203 (-0.0337, -0.0083) ***	-0.0088 (-0.0532, 0.0316)	-0.0291 (-0.0730, 0.0097)

*Note: The table shows effect estimates and 95%-confidence intervals for the five mediation models of each Big Five trait (N = 3929). The models include left-right self-placement as mediator and controls for all other Big Five variables, as well as for further control factors. ACME = Average Causal Mediation Effect; ADE = Average Direct Effect. ○ $p < 0.1$ * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$ and *** $p < 0.001$*

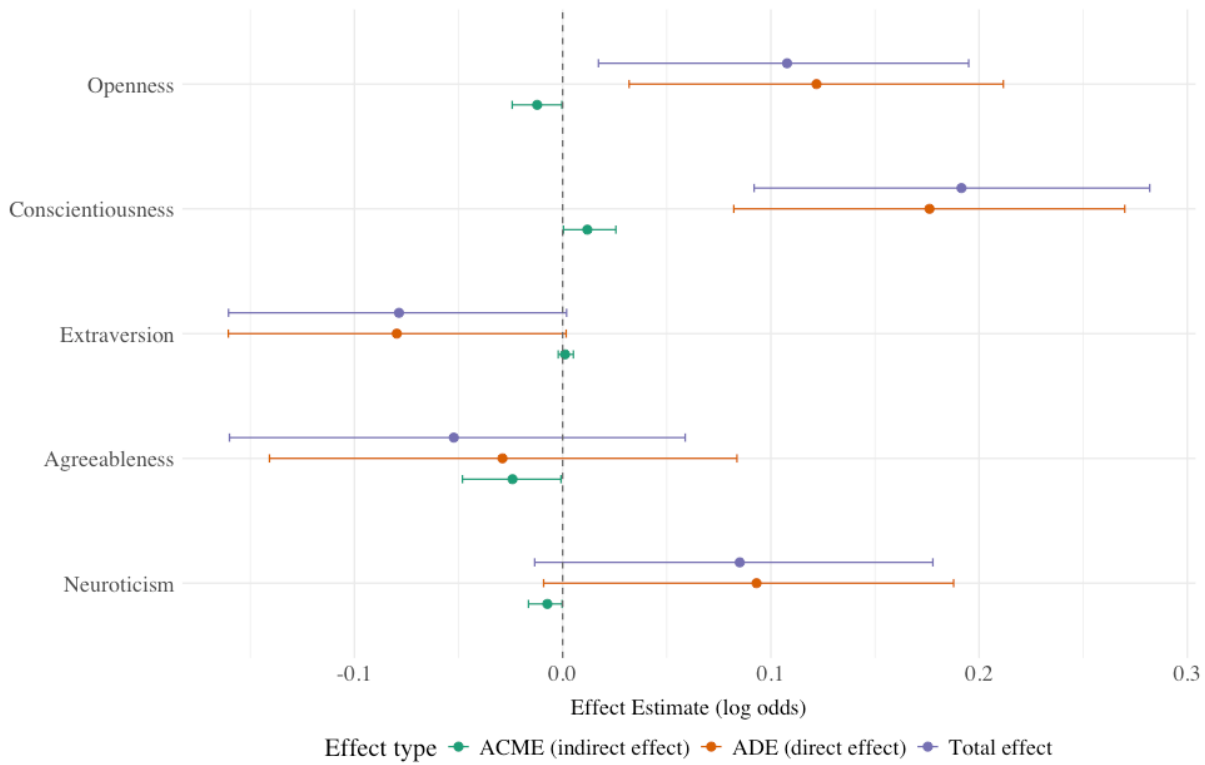


Figure A1 Robustness check 1 for vote switching in general – Exclusion of potential outliers (left right). $N = 4220$. Exclusion of 28 cases with left-right self-placement fluctuations greater than 5 points. Indirect effects of openness, conscientiousness, agreeableness, and neuroticism become significant.

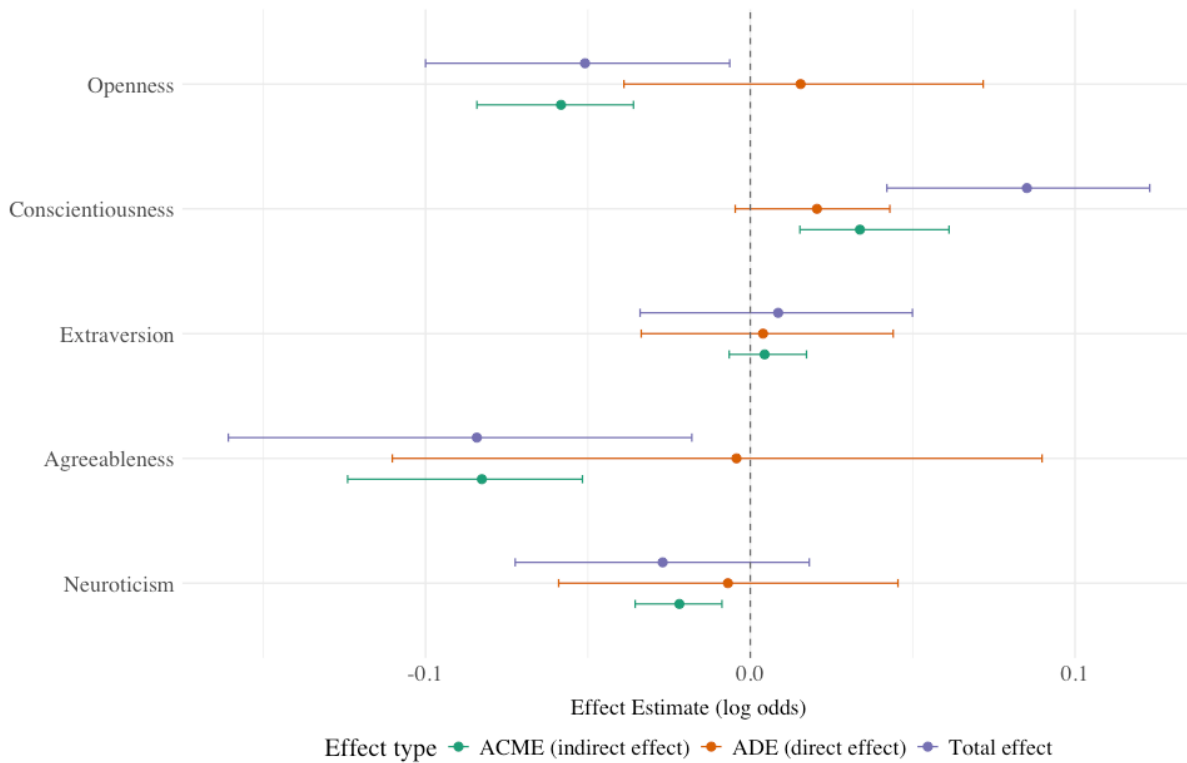


Figure A2 Robustness check 1 for susceptibility to populism – Exclusion of potential outliers (left right). $N = 3907$. Exclusion of 22 cases with left-right self-placement fluctuations greater than 5 points. Total effect of conscientiousness does not become significant anymore.

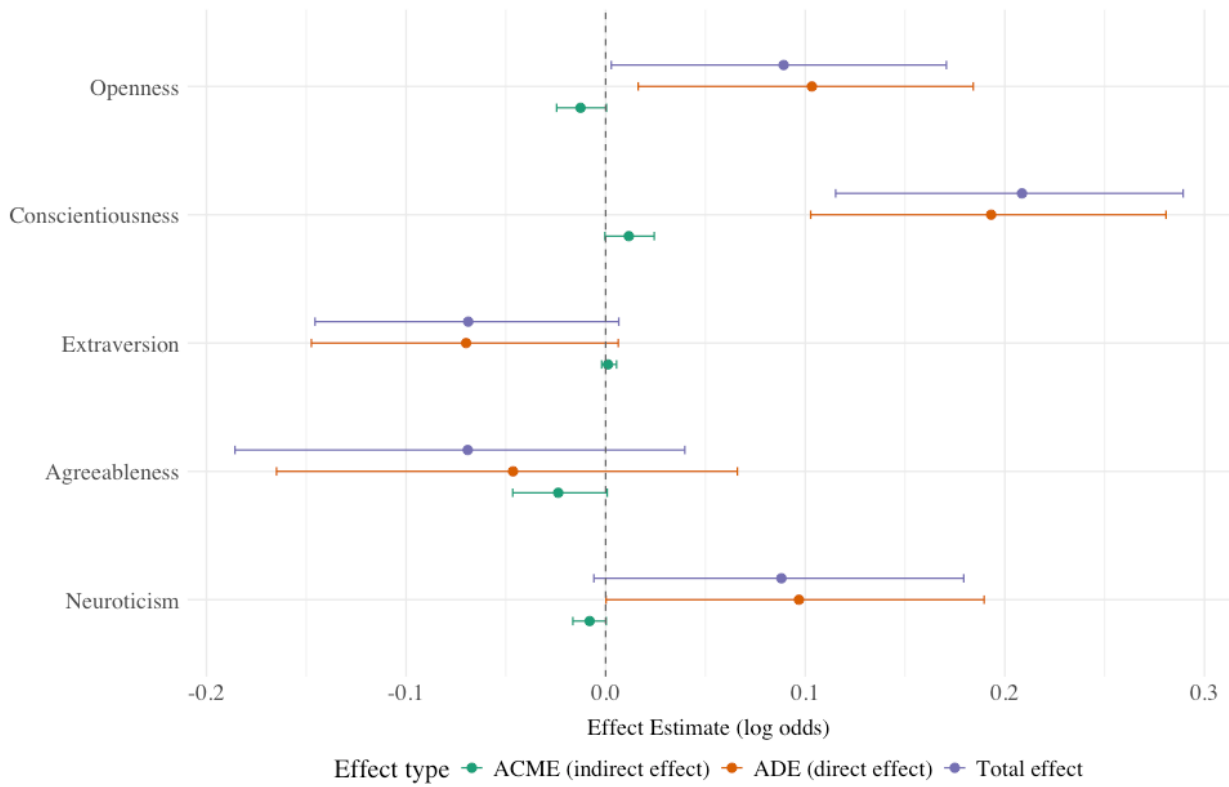


Figure A3 Robustness check 2 for vote switching in general – Control variables from survey wave 3. N = 4268. Control variables were taken from wave 3 rather than wave 1. Direct effect of neuroticism becomes significant.

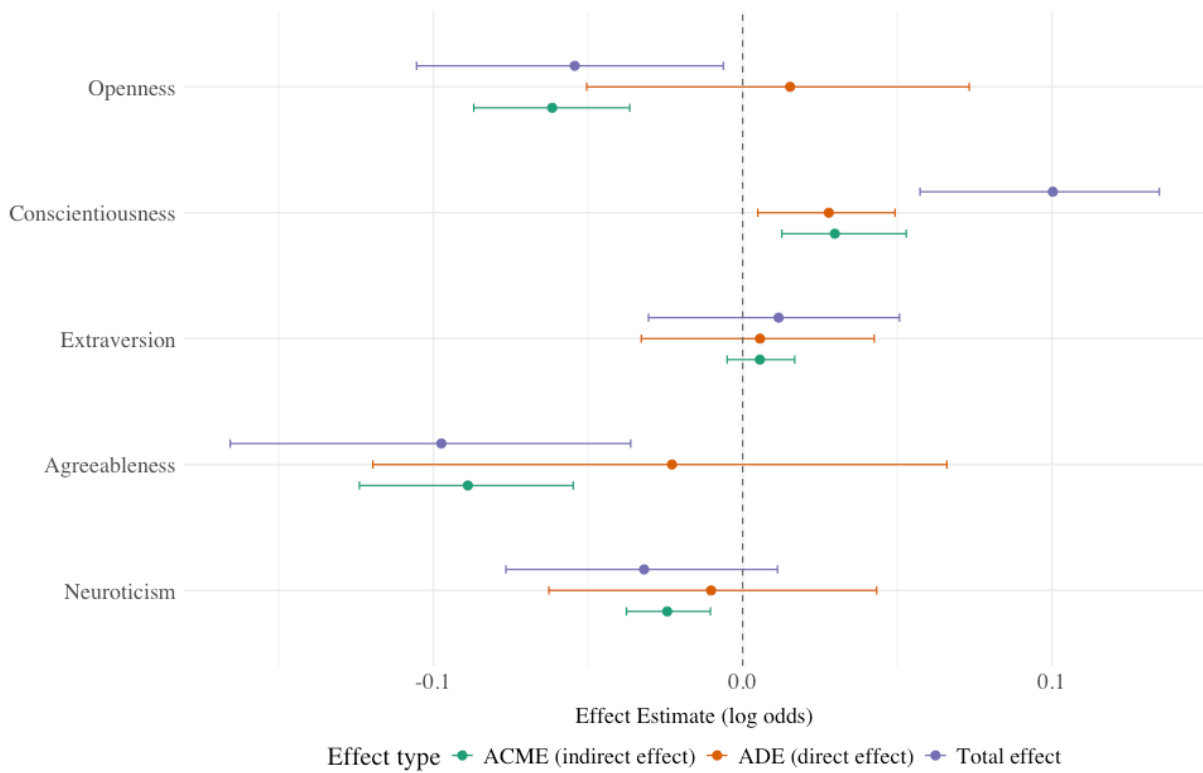


Figure A4 Robustness check 2 for susceptibility to populism – Control variables from survey wave 3. N = 3941. Control variables were taken from wave 3 rather than wave 1. Direct effect of conscientiousness becomes significant.

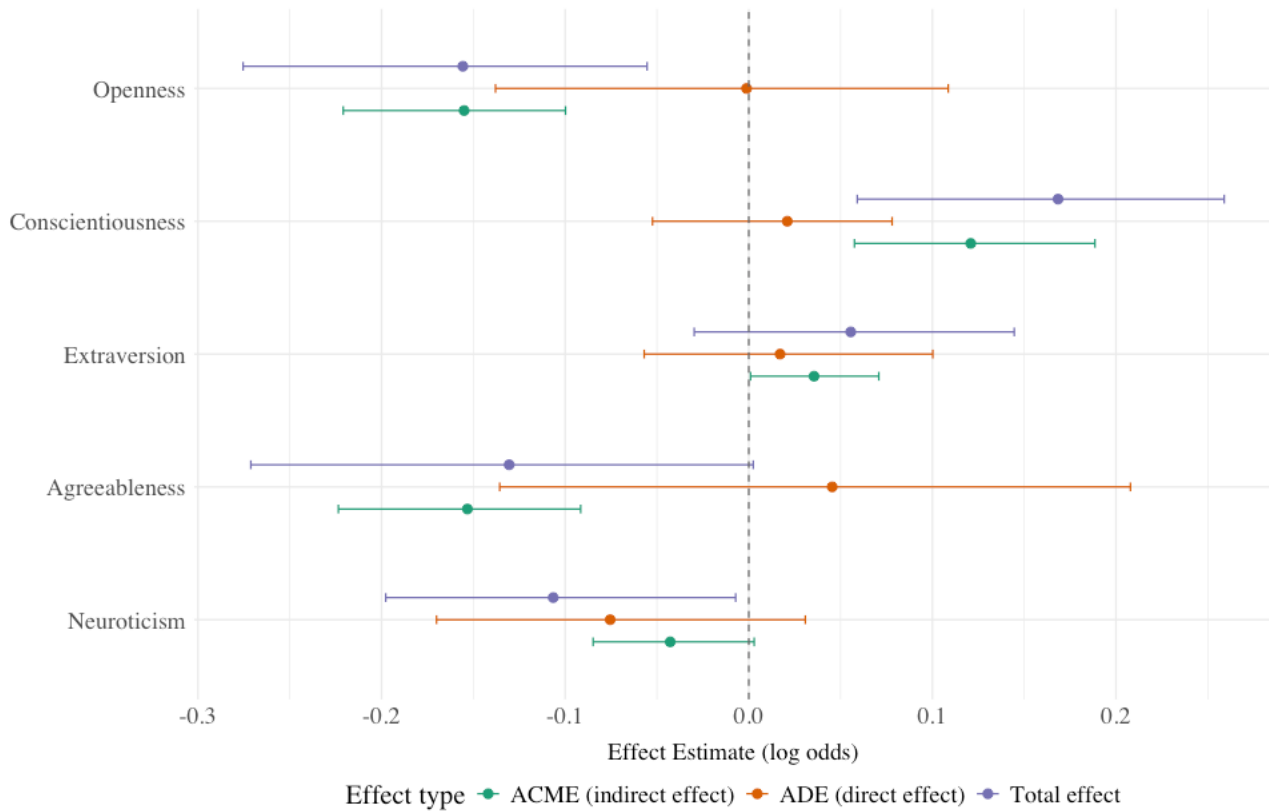


Figure A5 Robustness check 3 for susceptibility to populism – control group: populism resistant switchers. $N = 1674$. The control group of populism-resistant individuals was limited to those who also showed a party switch during the survey period (the control group diminishes by $N = 1618$). The total effect of agreeableness is no longer significant, whereas it becomes significant for neuroticism. The indirect effect of neuroticism is no longer significant, whereas for extraversion, the indirect effect becomes significant.