

Reporting Summary

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Statistics

For all statistical analyses, confirm that the following items are present in the figure legend, table legend, main text, or Methods section.

n/a	Confirmed
☒	☐ The exact sample size (<i>n</i>) for each experimental group/condition, given as a discrete number and unit of measurement
☒	☐ A statement on whether measurements were taken from distinct samples or whether the same sample was measured repeatedly
☐	☒ The statistical test(s) used AND whether they are one- or two-sided <i>Only common tests should be described solely by name; describe more complex techniques in the Methods section.</i>
☐	☒ A description of all covariates tested
☒	☐ A description of any assumptions or corrections, such as tests of normality and adjustment for multiple comparisons
☐	☒ A full description of the statistical parameters including central tendency (e.g. means) or other basic estimates (e.g. regression coefficient) AND variation (e.g. standard deviation) or associated estimates of uncertainty (e.g. confidence intervals)
☐	☒ For null hypothesis testing, the test statistic (e.g. <i>F</i> , <i>t</i> , <i>r</i>) with confidence intervals, effect sizes, degrees of freedom and <i>P</i> value noted <i>Give P values as exact values whenever suitable.</i>
☒	☐ For Bayesian analysis, information on the choice of priors and Markov chain Monte Carlo settings
☒	☐ For hierarchical and complex designs, identification of the appropriate level for tests and full reporting of outcomes
☐	☒ Estimates of effect sizes (e.g. Cohen's <i>d</i> , Pearson's <i>r</i>), indicating how they were calculated

Our web collection on [statistics for biologists](#) contains articles on many of the points above.

Software and code

Policy information about [availability of computer code](#)

Data collection	No software was used.
Data analysis	All data and code for the present analyses are available on the Open Science Framework (https://osf.io/s7hkm/), DOI: 10.17605/OSF.IO/S7HKM.

For manuscripts utilizing custom algorithms or software that are central to the research but not yet described in published literature, software must be made available to editors and reviewers. We strongly encourage code deposition in a community repository (e.g. GitHub). See the Nature Portfolio [guidelines for submitting code & software](#) for further information.

Data

Policy information about [availability of data](#)

All manuscripts must include a [data availability statement](#). This statement should provide the following information, where applicable:

- Accession codes, unique identifiers, or web links for publicly available datasets
- A description of any restrictions on data availability
- For clinical datasets or third party data, please ensure that the statement adheres to our [policy](#)

Data availability: All data is available on the Open Science Framework at <https://osf.io/s7hkm/>, <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/S7HKM>.

Research involving human participants, their data, or biological material

Policy information about studies with [human participants or human data](#). See also policy information about [sex, gender \(identity/presentation\), and sexual orientation](#) and [race, ethnicity and racism](#).

Reporting on sex and gender	Participants' sex/gender is available in the original datasets (WVS) that we use for our analyses. However, gender differences are not the focus of the present paper, which instead focuses on differences between socio-demographic groups defined by their education level, income, social status, and country. We anticipate focusing on groups defined by other demographic characteristics (such as gender) in a future publication, and therefore do not thoroughly investigate gender differences in this study.
Reporting on race, ethnicity, or other socially relevant groupings	Participants within each country were grouped into high, middle, and low clusters according to three potential indicators of socioeconomic status: educational attainment, income, and subjective social status, based on self-reported characteristics. The highest level of education obtained was classified as low if they had only completed primary education, or had incomplete or no primary education, middle if they had partially or fully completed secondary education, and high if greater than secondary education (bachelor, master, doctoral, or other post-secondary education or equivalent). Subjective social status was classified as high if they described themselves as belonging to the "Upper class" or "Upper middle class," low if they described themselves as "Working class" or "Lower class," and middle if they described themselves as "Lower middle class". Participants also rated their income, relative to people within their country, counting all wages, salaries, pensions, and other income, on a scale ranging from 1 (lowest income group) to 10 (the highest income group). Income was classified as high if subjective income percentile was at the eighth step or above, low if subjective income percentile was at the third step or below, and middle if in between (robustness checks with more restrictive or more liberal classifications of the high vs. low income groups revealed similar findings to those reported above)
Population characteristics	See above
Recruitment	Data were drawn from a preexisting, publicly-accessible dataset, the World Values Survey, which includes nationally representative samples from 95 countries.
Ethics oversight	The WVS is a publicly-available pre-existing dataset, and all participants provided written or oral informed consent to participate in the survey, therefore as per [institution blinded for review]'s policy (Research involving secondary analysis of established data sets from which it would not be possible to identify any living or recently deceased person need not be subject to the procedure) no further ethics approval was necessary for conducting the present analyses.

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.

Field-specific reporting

Please select the one below that is the best fit for your research. If you are not sure, read the appropriate sections before making your selection.

☐ Life sciences ☒ Behavioural & social sciences ☐ Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences

For a reference copy of the document with all sections, see [nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf](https://www.nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf)

Behavioural & social sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

Study description	This was a correlational and cross-sectional study using quantitative data.
Research sample	These datasets contain nationally representative samples from 95 countries (total N = 268,992) taken from the World Values Survey (WVS), Waves 5 – 7 (2005 – 2022), 53.4% women, 47.6% men, mean Age = 30.3. This dataset was chosen as the largest, most comprehensive dataset that includes data on culturally-relevant traits across many countries.
Sampling strategy	We utilized all available data from the World Values Survey, Waves 5-7, which includes a minimum of approximately 1200 participants per country, and a total sample of 268,992 participants. The authors were not responsible for deciding to stop data collection, but rely on all available public data.
Data collection	The main method of data collection in the WVS survey is face-to-face interview at respondent's home / place of residence. Respondent's answers could be recorded in a paper questionnaire (traditional way) or by CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interview). Data was collected by individuals unassociated with the authors of the present study, and were therefore blind to the hypotheses of the current project.
Timing	Data was collected between 2005 - 2022.
Data exclusions	All available data was subjected to our division of participants into groups defined by their country and socioeconomic status. Following preregistered criteria to ensure sufficiently large sample sizes for reliable estimates, we excluded from analyses any

country/SES groups with fewer than 100 respondents, resulting in somewhat different sample sizes across analyses relying on different splits of the data.

Non-participation

We do not know exactly how many participants dropped out or chose not to participate in the study, due to relying on pre-existing WVS datasets.

Randomization

No randomization was used. We test for several potential covariates that may explain differences between countries, including a country's average educational attainment, GDP per capita, population size, linguistic distances, and continent.

Reporting for specific materials, systems and methods

We require information from authors about some types of materials, experimental systems and methods used in many studies. Here, indicate whether each material, system or method listed is relevant to your study. If you are not sure if a list item applies to your research, read the appropriate section before selecting a response.

Materials & experimental systems

n/a	Involved in the study
☒	☐ Antibodies
☒	☐ Eukaryotic cell lines
☒	☐ Palaeontology and archaeology
☒	☐ Animals and other organisms
☒	☐ Clinical data
☒	☐ Dual use research of concern
☒	☐ Plants

Methods

n/a	Involved in the study
☒	☐ ChIP-seq
☒	☐ Flow cytometry
☒	☐ MRI-based neuroimaging

Plants

Seed stocks

NA

Novel plant genotypes

NA

Authentication

NA