

## Resumen

El objetivo de este estudio es explorar si en la situación de crisis sociosanitaria actual, la ideología política determina la elección de políticas que priorizan la salud o la economía, si es un factor determinante en la propia percepción de la realidad como correcta y si influye en la creencia de que el mundo es justo. Para ello, se realizó un estudio empírico con diseño cuantitativo en el que participaron 116 personas (68 mujeres y 50 hombres) mayores de edad cuya residencia actual se encontraba en España. Se llevó a cabo utilizando un formulario online formado por las siguientes escalas: Escala de la Creencia Global en un Mundo Justo, Escala del Monopolio de la Verdad, Escala de Autoposicionamiento Político y elección entre preferencia por la economía o por la salud. En los resultados, se puede observar una mayor preferencia de la economía en la gente con ideología de derechas. Una relación negativa entre la gente con ideología de derechas y el monopolio de la verdad y, por último, una relación positiva entre la gente con ideología de derechas y la creencia en un mundo justo. Los resultados de este estudio indican que la ideología política parece ser un factor importante a la hora de influir en la elección de prioridades sociales y en la visión que se tiene sobre el mundo. Se precisa de más investigación con una muestra más grande y heterogénea.

**Palabras clave:** Ideología Política, Creencia Global en un Mundo Justo, Políticas de Salud y/o Economía, Monopolio de la Verdad.

## Summary

The aim of this study is to explore whether, in the current situation of social and health crisis, political ideology determines the choice of policies that prioritize health or the economy, whether it is a determining factor in the perception of reality as correct and whether it influences the global belief in a just world. For this purpose, an empirical study with a quantitative design was carried out with the participation of 116 people (68 women and 50 men) over the age of 18 whose current residence was in Spain. It was carried out using an online form composed of the following scales: Global Belief in a Just World Scale, Monopoly of Truth Scale, Political Self-Positioning Scale and choice between preference for the economy or for health. In the results, a higher preference for the economy can be observed among people with right-wing ideology. A negative relationship between people with right-wing ideology and the monopoly of truth and, finally, a positive relationship between people with right-wing ideology and the belief in a just world. The results of this study indicate that political ideology seems to be an important factor in influencing people's choice of social priorities and their view of the world. More research with a larger and more heterogeneous sample is needed.

**Keywords:** Political Ideology, Global Belief in a Just World, Health and/or Economic Policies, Monopoly on Truth.

# POLITICAL IDEOLOGY IN CRISIS SITUATIONS AND HOW IT IMPACTS ON HEALTH, ECONOMICS, MONOPOLY ON TRUTH AND GLOBAL BELIEF IN A JUST WORLD

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## INTRODUCTION

**Social context.** According to the Sociological Research Centre, **47.8% of the Spanish population had little or no confidence in the government's policies to combat the pandemic**, despite political ideology (cited in Arcila et al., 2021). However, according to Contreras et al. (2021), left-wing and right-wing ideology influences how citizens respond to the pandemic.

Taking care of people's health, and the shutdown of many production sectors, have generated a collateral economic crisis (Nisa et al., 2020). **Economic damage because of the virus is perceived as more likely than the virus itself.** Economic risk is the key predictor of policy support (Nisa et al., 2020).

On the other hand, in uncertainty situations, such as the pandemic, people seek to reduce it by relying on their beliefs. On this matter, the **"Monopoly on Truth"** has been studied in previous research (Griffin and Ross, 1991), showing that people's **'naïve realism'** leads them to believe that their own ideas are an objective and true representation of the world. What Ellis (1986) calls **'Absolute Truth'** (cited in Dono et al., 2018).

Furthermore, the **"Global Belief in a Just World"** is held to a stronger extent by right-wing ideology. That is, the current social hierarchy, wealth distribution, financial and security systems must be supported for the progress of society (Barreiro et al., 2014).

## Objective

To explore whether, in the current health and social crisis, political ideology determines the choice between policies that prioritize the economy or the health of society, the perception of reality as correct and the belief in a just world.

## Hypothesis

- H1.** People with a right-wing ideology will prioritize the economy as opposed to left-wing ideology who will prioritize health.
- H2.** People with right-wing ideology believe that their perception of reality is more objective and correct than those with left-wing ideology.
- H3.** People with a right-wing ideology have a stronger global belief in a just world than people with a left-wing ideology.

## RESULTS

### H1

( $\chi^2 = 5.89$ ;  $df = 1$ ;  $p = .015$ )

[ $\bar{X} = 3.71$ ;  $SD = .710$ ]

Differences in preference for the economy between the right ( $z = 1.8$ ) and the left ( $z = -1.4$ ) have been found.

There is a **positive relation** between right-wing ideology and economic preference.

### H2

**Table 1.**

ANOVA (1 Factor). Relationship between Political Ideology and Monopoly on Truth.

Measures	Right		Left		F	$\eta^2$
	M	SD	M	SD		
Monopoly on Truth Scale	3.94	.905	4.39	1.01	4.75*	.04

\* $p < .05$

### H3

**Table 2.**

ANOVA (1 Factor). Relationship between Political Ideology and Global Belief in a Just World.

Measures	Right		Left		F	$\eta^2$
	M	SD	M	SD		
Global Belief in a Just World Scale	2.48	.947	1.98	.737	4.75*	.08

\* $p < .05$

There is a **positive relation** between right-wing ideology and Monopoly on Truth.

There is a **positive relation** between right-wing ideology and Global Belief in a Just World.

## METHOD

### Participants

18+

 ♀ 67 (56,8%)  
 $n = 118$  ♂ 49 (41,5%)  
 $n = 116$  ♀ 2 (1,7%)

### Variables and Materials

- **Global Belief Just World - GBJWS** (Barreiro et al., 2014): measures the belief that a person has about the world being just. A Likert scale from 1 to 5 was used.  $\alpha = .877$
- **Monopoly on Truth - MOTS** (Dono et al., 2020): measures the level of a person's belief in the objectivity and truthfulness of their own perception of reality. A Likert scale from 1 to 7 was used.  $\alpha = .747$
- **Political Ideology - Political Self-Positioning Scale.** A Likert scale from 1 to 5 was used.
- **Health/economy preference:** measured with an item developed for its study.

**Design:** empirical study with a quantitative design. Hypotheses have been tested through Chi-Square and One-Factor Anova tests using SPSS Statistics V.21.0.

### Procedure

The battery of questionnaires was created on Google Forms platform and distributed through different social networks.

## DISCUSSION

Regarding the **H1** of this study, the results show that people with a right-wing ideology prefer to protect the economy more than those with a left-wing ideology, confirming the hypothesis.

However, health is important for both groups. On the other hand, within the left-wing group, there are no significant differences between prioritizing health and the economy during the pandemic, although compared to the right-wing group, they chose the economy much less frequently. These results do not agree on the proposal of Nisa et al., (2020).

The results support **H2**, showing that the Monopoly on Truth is biased by ideology, with right-wingers being more likely to believe that their perception of reality is objective. However, the results of Dono et al., (2020) showed that this variable is not biased by ideology.

Furthermore, the results show that right-wing people believe more strongly than left-wing people that today's world is just, confirming the **H3**. This result is in line with Barreiro et al. (2014), who indicate that there is a correlation between right-wing ideology and the belief that social success is a consequence of individual achievement, consequently denying social injustice.

Finally, due to the implicit moral character of the Monopoly on Truth (Dono et al., 2020) and the increase in recent research on moral variables in political behaviour, the relation of the Monopoly on Truth and the Global Belief in a Just World to political ideology and the behaviour of citizens accepting measures proposed by governments in social crisis situations should be further investigated through "naïve realism".

### Study limitations:

- Small and left-wing ideology sample.

### Future Investigations:

- More research is needed with a larger, heterogeneous sample.

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