

RESEARCH ARTICLE – SHORT COMMUNICATION

For some things, size does seem to matter. Penis size as a predictor of political preference: an exploratory analysis

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 OPEN ACCESS

Citation: Uckl P, Eder F, Clouseau J, Kowalczyk SK (2025). For some things, size does seem to matter. Penis size as a predictor of political preference: an exploratory analysis. JOQES 11(2)

Received: December 24, 2024

Accepted: February 07, 2025

Published: February 14, 2025

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Abstract

Introduction: This study investigates the potential link between erect penis length (ErPeL) and political preferences, expanding on the relationship between physical attributes and political orientation. Traditionally, political views are shaped by socio-demographic and psychological factors. Recent research suggests physical characteristics like ErPeL could also play a role.

Methods: Conducted in Germany, the study involved 244 male participants aged 18 to 50, recruited to ensure diverse backgrounds. Participants assessed their political preferences via Likert scales and the Political Compass Test. ErPeL was measured under controlled conditions, with additional data on demographics, psychology, and sexual satisfaction collected for comprehensive analysis.

Results: Participants with smaller ErPeL were more likely to consider voting for AfD than participants with a larger penis. ErPeL was significantly negatively correlated with a preference for authoritarian-right wing ideologies. Larger ErPeL was slightly correlated with more liberal-leftist views. Psychological factors such as anxiety and self-confidence correlated with ErPeL, influencing political inclinations. Higher sexual satisfaction correlated with liberal views and political engagement.

Discussion: Our findings suggest physiological factors significantly impact political orientation, with ErPeL influencing psychological well-being and, consequently, political attitudes. Demographic insights reveal a shift towards progressive ideals, moderated by education. These results highlight the need for further exploration into the physiological aspects of political preference and behavior.

LAY LANGUAGE SUMMARY IN ENGLISH	ZUSAMMENFASSUNG IN ALLGEMEIN VERSTÄNDLICHER SPRACHE AUF DEUTSCH
<p>This study examined the relationship between the length of men's erect penises and their political views. Researchers surveyed 244 men about their voting preferences and measured their penis sizes. Men with shorter penises tended to lean towards right-authoritarian parties and political attitudes. The study also shows a connection between penis size and psychological traits such as anxiety and confidence, suggesting that physical characteristics may influence political beliefs alongside factors like age, education, and income.</p>	<p>Diese Studie untersuchte die Beziehung zwischen der Länge des erigierten Penis von Männern und ihren politischen Ansichten. Forscher befragten 244 Männer zu ihren Wahlvorlieben und maßen ihre Penisgrößen. Männer mit kürzeren Penissen neigten zu rechts-autoritären Parteien und politischen Einstellungen. Die Studie zeigt außerdem einen Zusammenhang zwischen Penisgröße und psychologischen Eigenschaften wie Angst und Selbstvertrauen, was darauf hindeutet, dass körperliche Merkmale neben Faktoren wie Alter, Bildung und Einkommen die politischen Überzeugungen beeinflussen könnten.</p>

Introduction: Political orientation depends on a large number of various factors touching on many facets of everyday life. Socio-demographic Factors such as age, gender, income, education level, and country of residence can all play significant roles in shaping political views. For example, older individuals and males are often more likely to hold conservative views, while higher education levels are associated with liberalism (Teerakapibal S, 2017). Personal values and psychological traits have been linked to political proclivity. For instance, individuals who score high on openness are more likely to lean liberal, while those high in conscientiousness tend to be more conservative (Purko Y, 2011).

In the contemporary digital age, media exposure and information dissemination have become pivotal in molding political opinions, offering individuals a lens through which to view the political landscape (Shahal, 2023). Concurrently, the social environment, typified by family, friends, and social networks, exerts a powerful influence as individuals often adopt the political stances prevalent within their close circles. In this milieu, self-perception emerges as a critical factor, influencing political behavior through the lens of personal identity (Jost et al., 2005).

Intriguingly, recent research has begun to explore the intersection of physical attributes and political attitudes. For example, physical attractiveness has been linked to populist tendencies, possibly due to societal biases that favor attractive individuals (Gaßner, 2023). Similarly, self-esteem, a well-

documented influencer of political belief, is significantly impacted by physical characteristics such as penis size in men (Veale et al., 2015; King et al., 2019). Building on these insights, this study seeks to investigate the relationship between erect penis length and political proclivity, providing a fresh perspective on the determinants of political orientation.

Methods:

This exploratory study aimed to investigate the relationship between erect penis length (ErPeL) and political proclivity. Conducted in Germany, it involved a sample of 244 healthy male volunteers aged 18 to 50 years. Participants were recruited through advertisements in local newspapers, sports clubs, pubs, university bulletins, as well as online forums, ensuring a diverse representation of socio-demographic backgrounds.

Participants provided written informed consent, emphasizing confidentiality and the voluntary nature of the study. The study received approval from an institutional ethics committee, underscoring its adherence to ethical research standards. Each participant received a compensation of €100, acknowledging their time and contribution.

Political preferences were assessed by asking participants to rate their likelihood of voting for the major political parties in Germany (CDU, SPD, Grüne, FDP, AfD, Linke) using a Likert scale ranging from -2 ("not likely at all") to +2 ("very likely"). In addition,

participants were asked to complete the Political Compass Test (<https://www.politicalcompass.org/>), a widely recognized tool that maps individuals on a two-dimensional political spectrum based on their responses to a series of sociological and political statements. This test provides insights into both social and economic dimensions of political orientation.

ErPeL measurements were conducted in a controlled environment to ensure accuracy and consistency. Trained researchers employed a standardized measuring technique, assessing the length of the erect penis from the pubic bone to the its tip (Greenstein, 2020). Measurements were taken under conditions ensuring privacy and comfort for the participants, with data recorded from 202 individuals due to exclusions based on measurement anomalies or participant withdrawal.

In addition to ErPeL, the Likert scale for party voting preference and the Political Compass Test, comprehensive data collection included demographic information such as age, body weight, height, resting blood pressure, and pulse rate. Participants also completed a self-assessment of their overall sexual satisfaction, rated on a scale from -2 ("not satisfied at all") to +2 ("very satisfied"). This multifaceted approach allowed for a holistic understanding of the interplay between physical attributes, psychological factors, and political inclinations.

Table 1. Participant demographics

Median age (range)	32 years (18-49)
Mean body weight (SD)	83.4 kg (22 kg)
Mean height (SD)	180.2 cm (18.3 cm)
Mean resting blood pressure (SD)	systolic 128 mmHg (21 mmHg) diastolic 87 mmHg (12mmHg)
Mean resting pulse rate (SD)	71 bpm (14 bpm)
Erect penis length	6.5 cm (minimum) 11.5 cm (25 th percentile) 14.4 cm (median), 14.7 cm (mean) 17.6 cm (75 th percentile) 22.8 cm (maximum)

SD – standard deviation; bpm – beats per minute

Data analysis involved both descriptive and inferential statistical methods. Descriptive statistics were used to summarize participant characteristics and ErPeL distributions. Inferential analyses, including correlation and regression analyses, were conducted to explore associations between ErPeL, political orientation, and other variables. Statistical significance was set at $p < 0.01$ to limit the likelihood of chance findings due to multiplicity testing and to ensure robust conclusions despite the exploratory nature of this study. The sample size was calculated to ensure rejection of the null hypothesis (H_0 : ErPeL is not correlated with the likelihood of voting for any of the six parties) with a power of 80%. This calculation was based on the alternative hypothesis that there exists a correlation between ErPeL and the likelihood of voting for any particular party, specifically a correlation coefficient greater than 0.3 or less than -0.3.

Results:

The analysis of the collected data revealed a series of compelling insights into the relationship between erect penis length (ErPeL) and political proclivity, as well as their interplay with psychological and demographic factors. Table 1 comprises key demographic information.

Party Preference Analysis: Table 2 summarizes the results of participant’s party preference if German

federal elections had been held on the day of assessment.

Table 2. Self-reported likelihood to vote for any of the parties, currently represented in the German federal parliament (“Bundestag”)

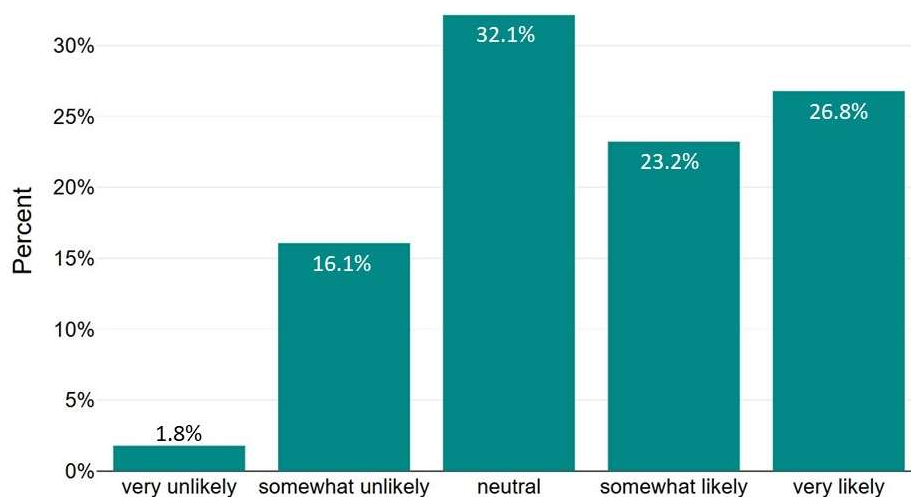
Party	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Neutral / don't know	Somewhat unlikely	Very unlikely
SPD	12	23	24	23	18
CDU	11	36	22	15	16
Grüne	13	19	21	8	39
AfD	13	15	8	31	33
FDP	4	6	28	49	13
Linke	5	11	19	38	27
Sum (%)	58	110	122	164	146

Participants provided assessments of likelihood to vote for any particular party. Therefore, multiple entries per category were possible. Overall participants were significantly more inclined to state they were not likely to vote for any of the parties. In contrast, only 58% of participants stated they were “very likely” to vote for any of the parties.

Further analysis of party preference revealed that individuals in the lowest ErPeL quartile were significantly more likely to express an intention to vote for the “Alternative für Deutschland (AfD)”, with 50% indicating this preference (Figure 1). This contrasted with participants in the highest quartile,

where the likelihood of supporting parties such as the “Grüne” or “SPD” increased, reflecting a more progressive and environmentally conscious orientation. However, these trends were not statistically significant (compare Table 3).

Figure 1. Inclination to vote for AfD in the lowest ErPeL quartile



Mean (min/max) ErPeL in lowest quartile: 9.1 cm (6.5cm/11.5cm)

This finding prompted us to do a post-hoc analysis of mean ErPeL by party preference. In essence, participants who stated they were “somewhat likely” or “very likely to vote for AfD or FDP had the smallest

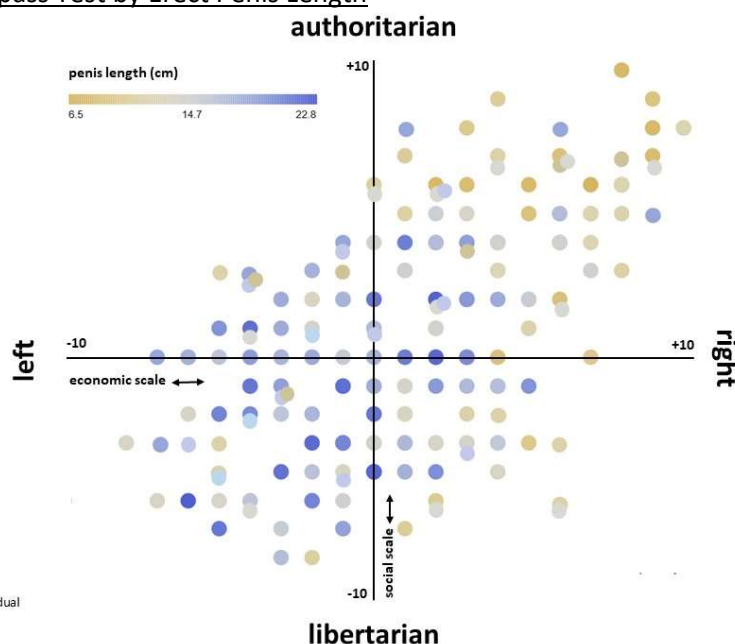
mean ErPeL. There was no meaningful difference in ErPeL between “somewhat likely” or “very likely” voters of the other parties (supplementary material).

Political Compass Test: Participants were categorized into quartiles based on their ErPeL measurements (Table 1). Those in the lowest quartile exhibited a marked tendency towards authoritarian and right-wing ideologies on the Political Compass Test. Specifically, 65% of this group fell into the authoritarian-right quadrant, demonstrating a preference for hierarchical structures and conservative economic policies. Conversely,

participants in the highest quartile displayed a more diverse political orientation, with 35% aligning with liberal-left ideologies and only 18% showing a preference for authoritarian-right views (Figure 1). Spearman's rank correlation analysis to assess the relationship between ErPeL and political preference in the Political Compass revealed a significant negative correlation between ErPeL and authoritarian right wing political preference ($\rho=-0.53, p<0.001$; Table 3).

Figure 2. Political Compass Test by Erect Penis Length

The Political Compass – political orientation by penis size



Psychological Correlations: A key finding was the relationship between ErPeL and psychological traits. Participants with smaller ErPeL reported higher levels of anxiety, measured using a validated anxiety scale, and lower self-confidence scores. These psychological factors were significantly correlated with their political inclinations (Table 3). In contrast, those with larger ErPeL exhibited higher life satisfaction and

optimism, correlating with their more liberal political views.

Sexual Satisfaction: Sexual satisfaction emerged as a critical variable, with those reporting lower satisfaction levels showing a stronger inclination towards right-wing, authoritarian views. Interestingly, sexual satisfaction in participants with larger ErPeL was positively correlated with political engagement,

indicating that personal contentment may foster active participation in democratic processes.

Socioeconomic Attitudes: The study also explored socioeconomic attitudes, revealing that smaller ErPeL was associated with support for policies emphasizing

national sovereignty, stricter immigration controls, and traditional family values. These findings align with the broader authoritarian tendencies observed in this group. In contrast, participants with larger ErPeL were more inclined towards advocating for equal rights, social welfare programs, and environmental sustainability.

Table 3. Correlation analyses

Independent variable	Dependent variable	Correlation coefficient	Significance level
Erect Penis Length	“very likely” or “somewhat likely” to vote for:		
	SPD	0.03	n.s.
	CDU	-0.10	n.s.
	Grüne	0.10	n.s.
	AfD	-0.51	P<0.0001
	FDP	-0.27	P<0.01
	Linke	0.02	n.s.
Erect Penis Length	Authoritarian, right wing preference	-0.49	P<0.001
Erect Penis Length	Libertarian, left wing preference	0.14	n.s.
Erect Penis Length	Anxiety	-0.28	P<0.01
Erect Penis Length	Self confidence score	0.18	P<0.01
Sexual satisfaction	Authoritarian, right wing preference	-0.23	P<0.01
Sexual satisfaction	Libertarian, left wing preference	0.17	P<0.01

NS – not significant; significance level set at P<0.01 to account for multiple testing

Demographic Insights: The study also uncovered some demographic patterns. Younger participants, regardless of ErPeL, tended to favor more progressive policies, suggesting generational shifts in political attitudes. Additionally, educational attainment appeared to moderate the relationship between ErPeL and political proclivity, with higher education levels mitigating the tendency towards authoritarianism (supplementary material).

Discussion

These results provide a nuanced understanding of how a physical attribute like erect penis length which over millennia has been associated with masculinity, sexual prowess, and attractiveness for sexual partners can intersect with political beliefs and behaviors in men. The data suggest that physiological factors, often overshadowed by more traditional socio-

demographic and psychological variables, could significantly influence political orientation.

The intriguing correlation between smaller penis size and the support of right-wing authoritarian political ideas may be rooted in several psychological and social factors. Firstly, individuals with smaller penis size may experience lower self-esteem and heightened anxiety, as suggested by psychological research (Veale et al., 2015; King et al., 2019). This was confirmed in this study (Table 3). These feelings of inadequacy and insecurity could make individuals more susceptible to the appeal of authoritarian ideologies, which often promise order, stability, and a sense of belonging within a structured hierarchy (Jost et al., 2003). The need for external validation and affirmation might drive these individuals towards political groups that emphasize traditional values and clear societal roles.

Additionally, right-wing authoritarian ideologies often promote nationalistic and protectionist policies, which can create an in-group versus out-group dynamic (Duckitt, 2001). For individuals feeling marginalized or inadequate, aligning with a strong in-group can provide a compensatory mechanism to enhance self-worth and counteract personal insecurities. This alignment can also be seen as a way to project strength and assertiveness, traits that are culturally associated with masculinity, thus compensating for perceived physical shortcomings (Conway et al., 2016).

Moreover, the emphasis on traditional gender roles and family values within many right-wing ideologies might resonate with individuals seeking to affirm their masculinity and status in society (Khan et al., 2016). By adhering to these ideologies, individuals may find a sense of identity and purpose that aligns with their personal experiences and perceptions of themselves.

However, based on the results of this study physiological factors like penis size should not be considered deterministic in political orientation. As shown, they can nonetheless intersect with psychological and social dynamics that shape an individual's political beliefs. Understanding these connections can offer insights into the complex interplay of personal identity and political ideology.

The intersection of ErPeL with psychological traits like anxiety and confidence underscores a potential

feedback loop where physical self-perception influences psychological well-being and, consequently, political attitudes. This basic connection was already described more than half a century ago by Sniderman & Citrin (1971, comprehensively reviewed in Cichoka A, 2024). The feedback loop may suggest that interventions aimed at improving self-esteem might not only enhance individual life satisfaction but also influence broader political landscapes. Beyond the scope of the present study this may apply similarly for both, men and women.

The demographic insights further enrich this understanding, indicating that younger generations, irrespective of ErPeL, may be shifting towards more progressive ideals, potentially reshaping political affiliations in the future. The moderating effect of education on the relationship between ErPeL and political proclivity highlights the role of knowledge and critical thinking in countering authoritarian tendencies, suggesting that educational initiatives could serve as a buffer against such inclinations.

Overall, these findings open up intriguing possibilities for future research, suggesting that a deeper exploration of the physiological dimensions of political behavior could yield valuable insights into the intricate mechanisms that drive political orientation and engagement.

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