Erratum to "Beyond total effects: Exploring the interplay of personality and attitudes in affecting turnout in the 2009 German federal election." Political Psychology 34, 533-552.

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In the paper "Beyond total effects: Exploring the interplay of personality and attitudes in affecting turnout in the 2009 German federal election." Political Psychology 34, 533-552, we analyzed the interplay of personality traits and pro-participation attitudes in affecting electoral turnout. Due to a miscoding of a multiplicative variable, the results on the interaction between agreeableness and party identification reported in Table 4 are wrong. The correct results are reported below in Table 1. They indicate a positive interaction between agreeableness and party identification. At low levels of agreeableness, party identification is not conducive to turnout. Highly agreeable persons, however, respond strongly to party identification when deciding upon turnout. This result suggests that agreeableness conditions citizens' inclination to obey to party attachments.

Given this interaction effect and the sizable effect of agreeableness on the strength of party identification (b = .16; S.E. = .03), jointly analyzing indirect and conditioning effects of agreeableness shows that agreeableness increases the strength of party identification and augments the latter's effect on turnout. Figure 1 includes three lines indicating the effect of party identification on turnout at three different levels of agreeableness. We assume a move from two standard deviations below the mean of agreeableness to two standard deviations above its mean. This change translates – while setting all other variables in the models to their mode, median, or mean, respectively – into an increase of the strength of party identification from -0.43 to 0.22. If the impact of party identification were independent of agreeableness, this increase would result – on the "unconditioned effect" line – in an increase in turnout by less than five percentage points (dashed arrow). Because agreeableness serves as conditioning variable, however, the actual effect is somewhat more sizeable. For those respondents located two standard deviations below the mean of agreeableness, the virtually flat line indicates the impact of party identification on turnout. Given the above results, however, a move from two standard deviations below to two standard deviations above the mean of agreeableness does not only result in an increase in the strength of party identification from -0.43 to 0.22. Rather, capturing the full effect also requires switching from the flat to the steep line (solid arrow). As a result, the combined effect of this change in agreeableness increases the likelihood of turnout by some 17 points.

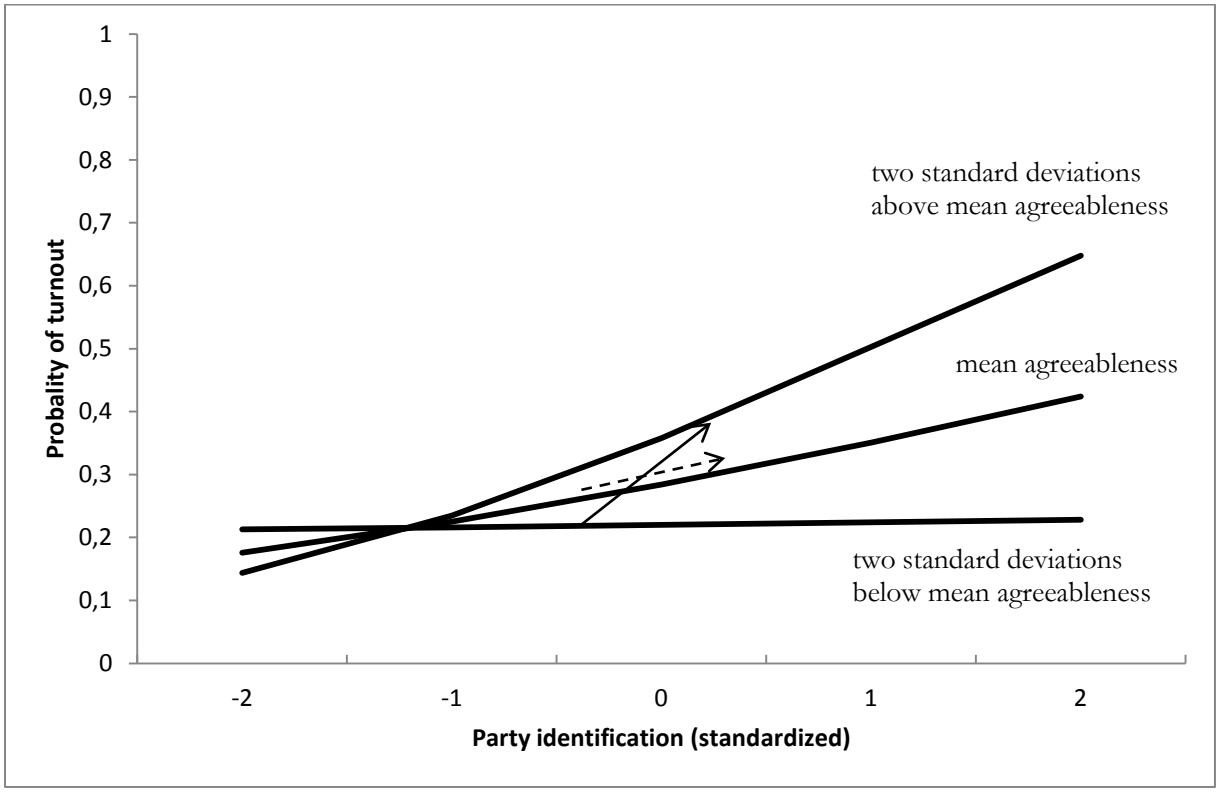
In effect, the coding error prevented us from fully capturing the interplay of personality traits and pro-participation attitudes on turnout in the 2009 German federal election.

Table 1: The interplay of agreeableness and party identification in affecting turnout (WLMSV estimates)

Agreeableness	.17*
	(.07)
Party identification	.31**
	(.06)
Agreeableness *	.14*
Party identification	(.06)
Party identification (-2 sd. Agree.)	.02
	(.14)
Party identification (-1 sd. Agree.)	.17
	(.10)
Party identification (+1 sd. Agree.)	.45**
	(.07)
Party identification (+2 sd. Agree.)	.60**
	(.11)

Entries are regression (WLMSV) coefficients with robust standard errors in parentheses. Levels of statistical significance: ** $p<0.01$, * $p<0.05$.
The model includes also age, age², gender, region, education dummies (low education; high education), interest in politics, internal efficacy, external efficacy, civic duty, openness, emotional stability, conscientiousness, and extraversion as predictor variables. The respective results are not reported for the sake of brevity.

Figure 1: The interplay of agreeableness and strength of party identification in affecting turnout (indirect and conditioning effects of agreeableness)



Note: The dashed arrow indicates the impact of a move from two standard deviations below to two standard deviations above the mean of agreeableness on turnout assuming the unconditioned effect of the strength of party identification on turnout. To glean this result, the effect of this change in agreeableness on party identification was calculated (an increase from -0.43 to 0.22) and then the effect of this change in party identification on turnout was calculated. For these calculations the other variables in the model were set to their mode, median, and mean, respectively.

The solid arrow indicates the impact of a move from two standard deviations below to two standard deviations above the mean of agreeableness on turnout when the conditioning effect of agreeableness on the impact of the strength of party identification on turnout is taken into account. To glean this result, the effect of this change in agreeableness on the strength of party identification was calculated (an increase from -0.43 to 0.22). Then, we calculated the probability of turnout for persons two standard deviations below the mean of agreeableness, i.e. using the respective level and impact of party identification. Finally, we calculated the probability of turnout for persons two standard deviations above the mean of agreeableness, i.e. using the respective level and impact of party identification. For these calculations the other variables in the model were set to their mode, median, and mean, respectively.