

Populism in the Eye of the Beholder? A Conjoint Experiment on Citizens' Identification of Populists

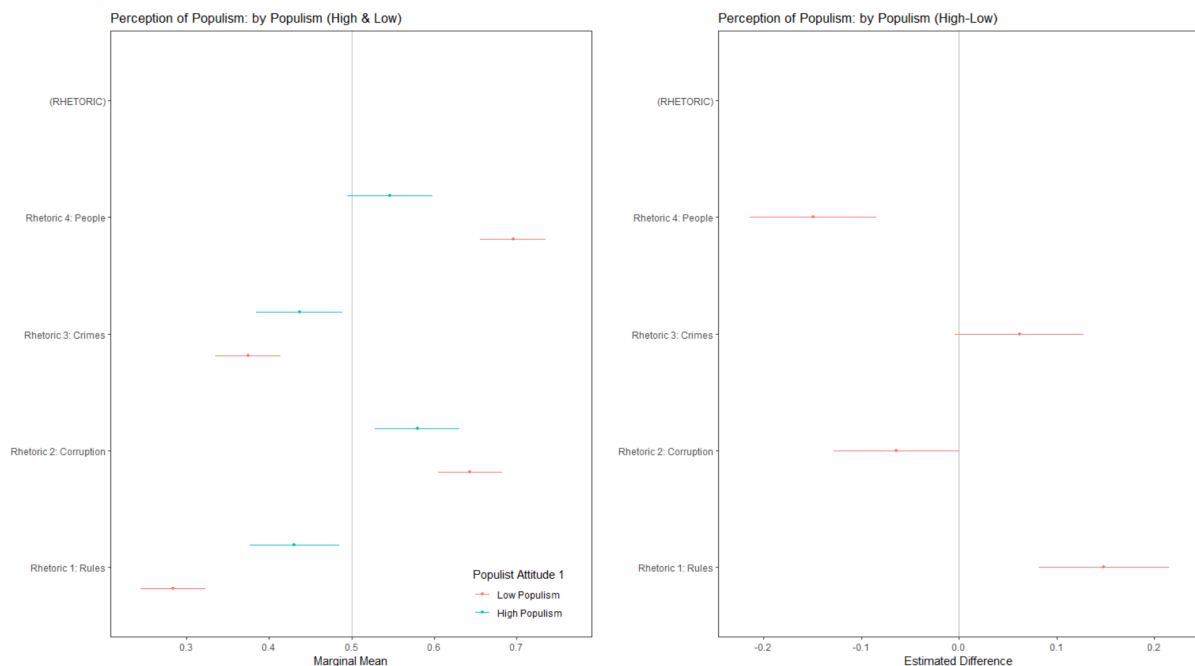
APPENDIX

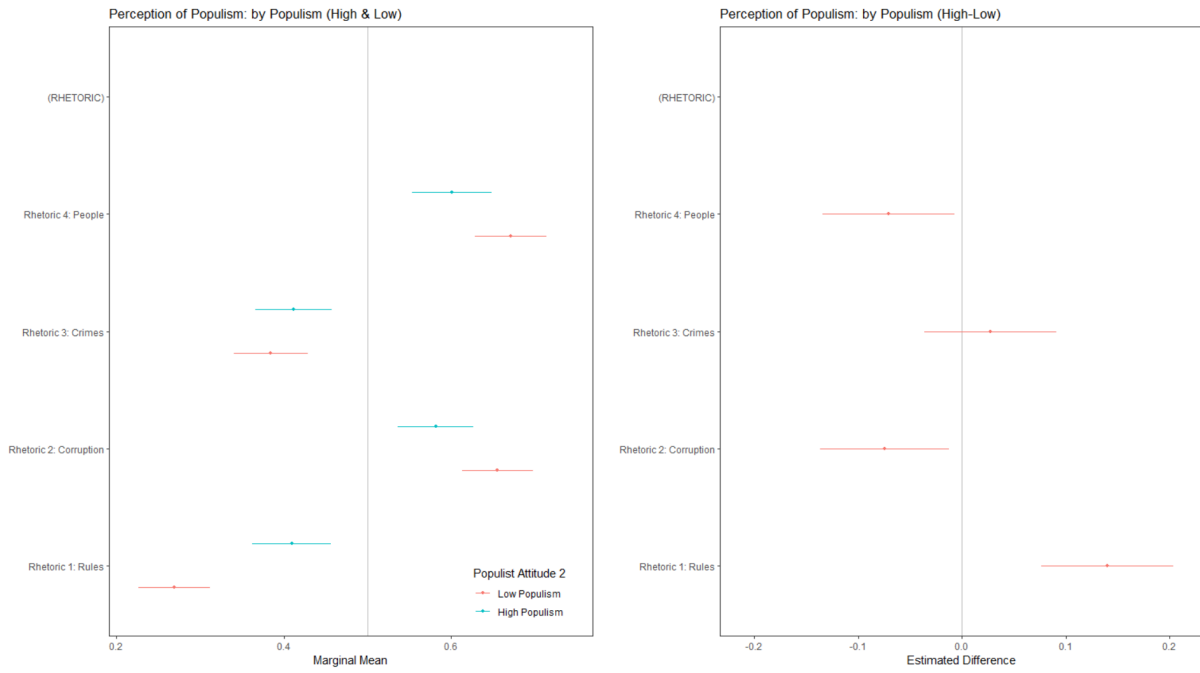
This appendix presents additional information about the article “Populism in the eye of the beholder? A conjoint experiment on citizens' identification of populists.” In particular, we show all the additional robustness checks we performed.

Robustness Check 1

Below, we replicate Figure 4 by considering the two questions related to the level of populism of the respondents in a separated way, rather than combining them via a factor analysis. In both cases, we created a dummy variable equals to 1 if the respondent replies that she agree or completely agree with the question. The first variable (labelled below as Populism 1) so estimated (related to people-centric populism) has a mean of .382 and a s.d. of .485. The second variable (related to anti-elite populism and labelled Populism 2) has a mean of .486 and a s.d. of .499.

Figure 1A. Conditional marginal means (left panel) and differences in conditional marginal means (right panel), by Populism 1 and 2





Note: Estimates are marginal means conditional on the Populism rate (1 and 2) of the respondent. Horizontal lines are 95% confidence intervals based on respondent-clustered standard errors

Robustness Check 2

Figure 2A presents results on the balance in the frequencies of attributes by the experimental traits. Figure 3A shows the results of our main analysis when we exclude those respondents that spent less than 36 seconds (i.e., the first quartile in the distribution of our sample) on the 2-vignettes administered during the experiment. Next, Figure 4A shows the results of our main analysis when we exclude those respondents that provided blatantly inaccurate answers (i.e., respondents who claimed they usually spend more than 15 hours per-day watching or reading political news). Figure 5A checks for the stability in the preferences of the respondents across the 2-rounds of the conjoint experiment. Finally, Figures 6A and 7A allow us to check for the potential quadratic relationship between ideology and extremism. More in details, in Figure 6A we grouped together the two extreme categories (i.e., left and right) versus the remaining three centrist categories (i.e., centre-left, centre and centre-right) of the ideological positions of politicians as they appear in the vignette. In Figure 7A, we considered the rightist politicians versus all the others.

Figure 2A. Checking for balance in the frequencies of attributes by experimental trait

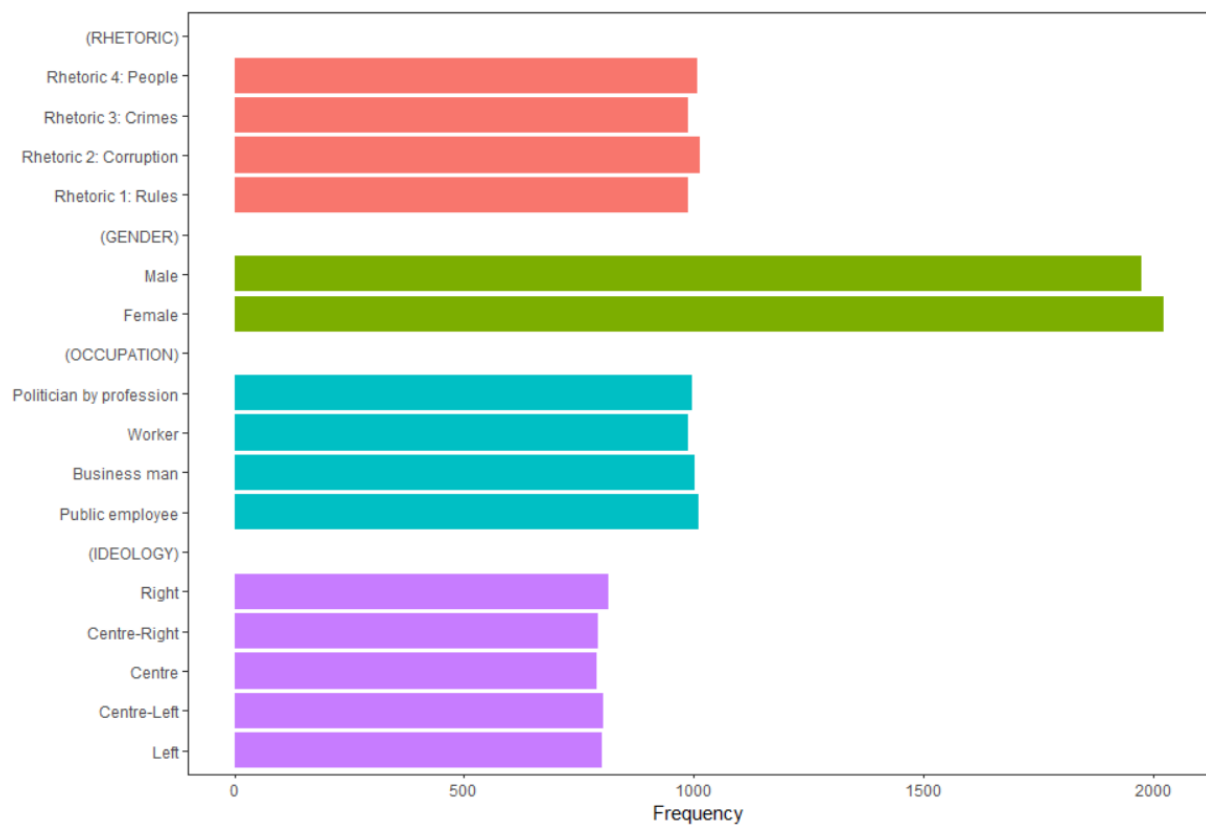


Figure 3A: Conjoint experiment excluding those failing attention checks (i.e., those respondents who spent less than 36 seconds (i.e., the first quartile in the distribution of our sample) on the 2-vignettes administered during the experiment)

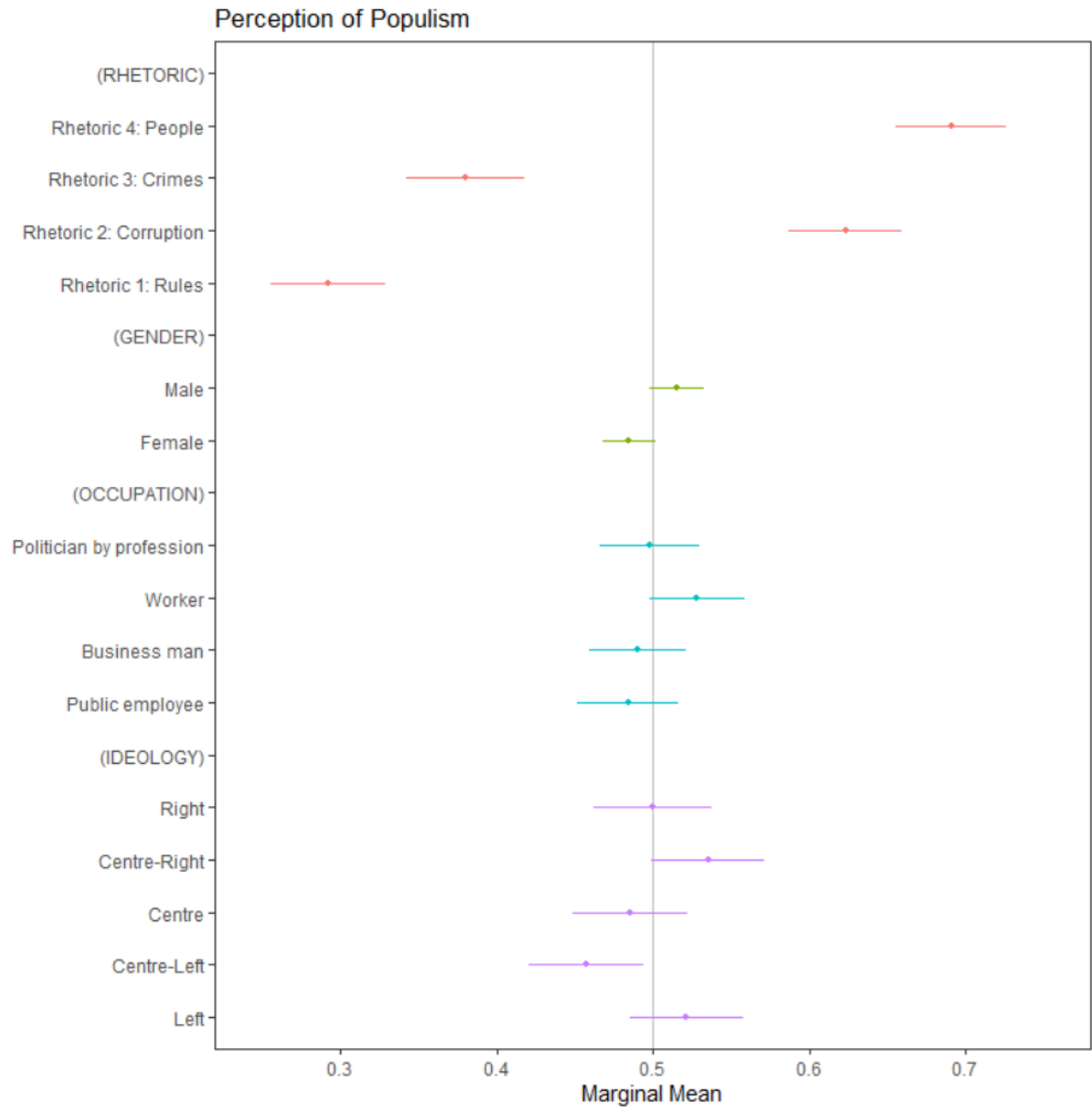


Figure 4A. Conjoint experiment excluding those providing blatantly inaccurate answers (i.e., respondents who claimed they usually spend more than 15 hours per-day watching or reading political news)

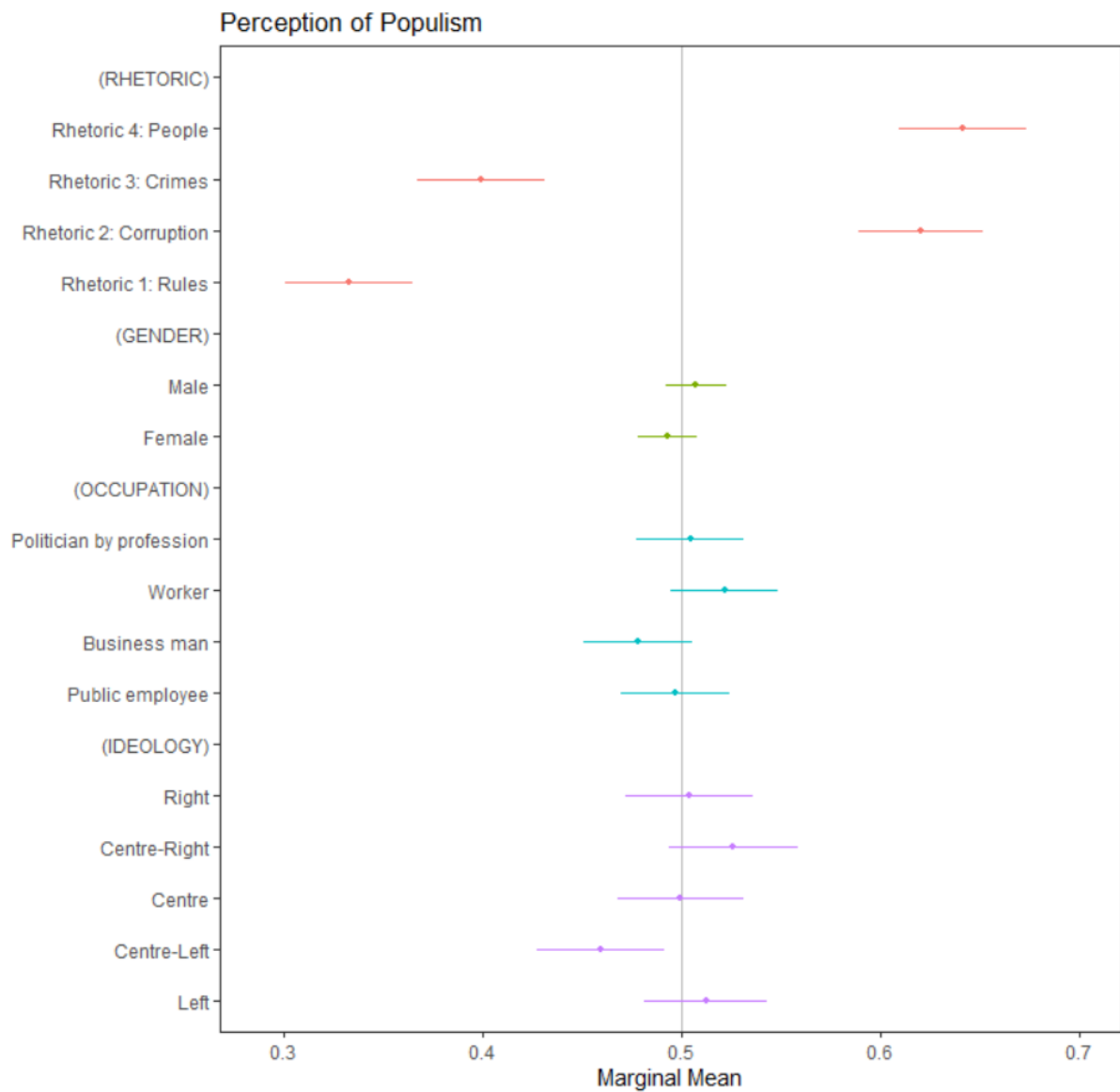


Figure 5A. Checking for the stability in the preferences of the respondents across the 2-rounds of the conjoint experiment

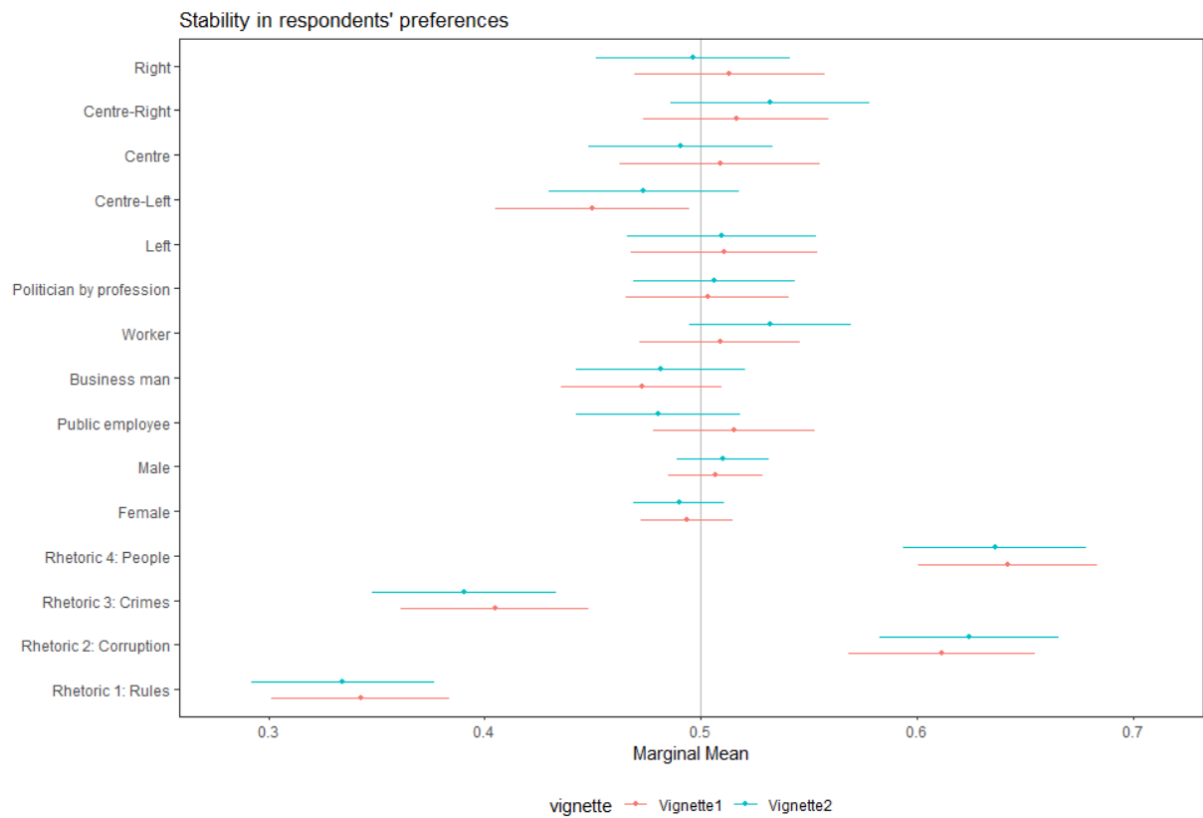


Figure 6A. Conjoint experiment by grouping together the two extreme ideological categories (i.e., left and right) versus the remaining three centrist categories (i.e., centre-left, centre and centre-right) of politicians as they appear in the vignette

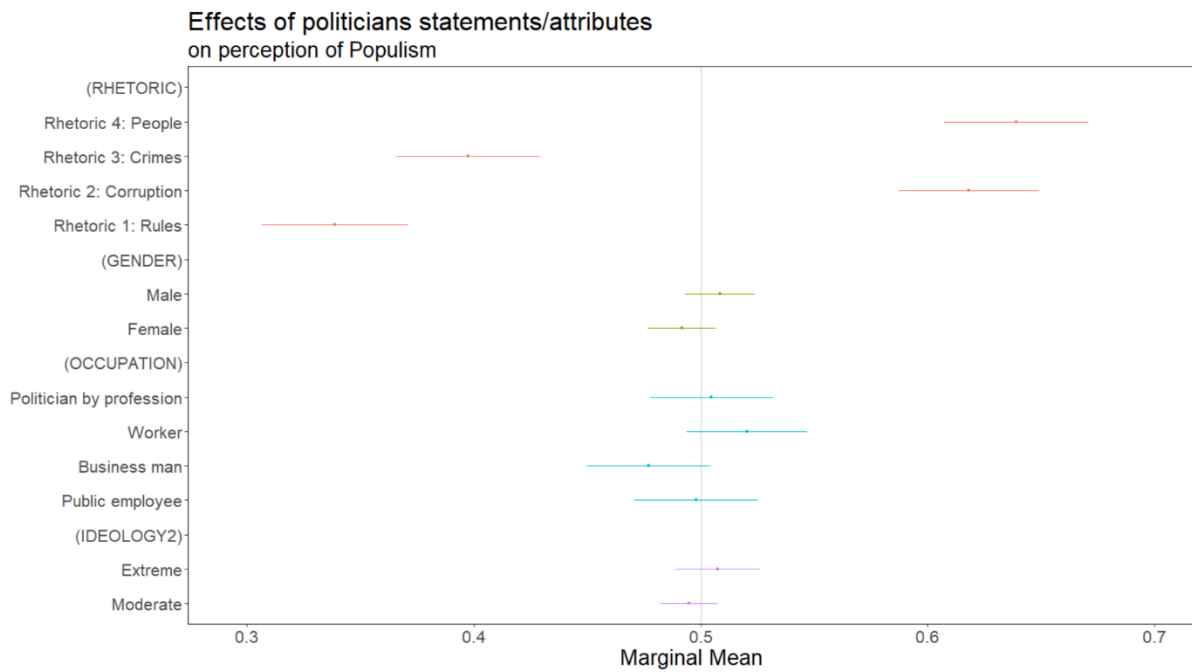


Figure 7A. Conjoint experiment by contrasting rightist politicians as they appear in the vignette versus all the others ideological positions

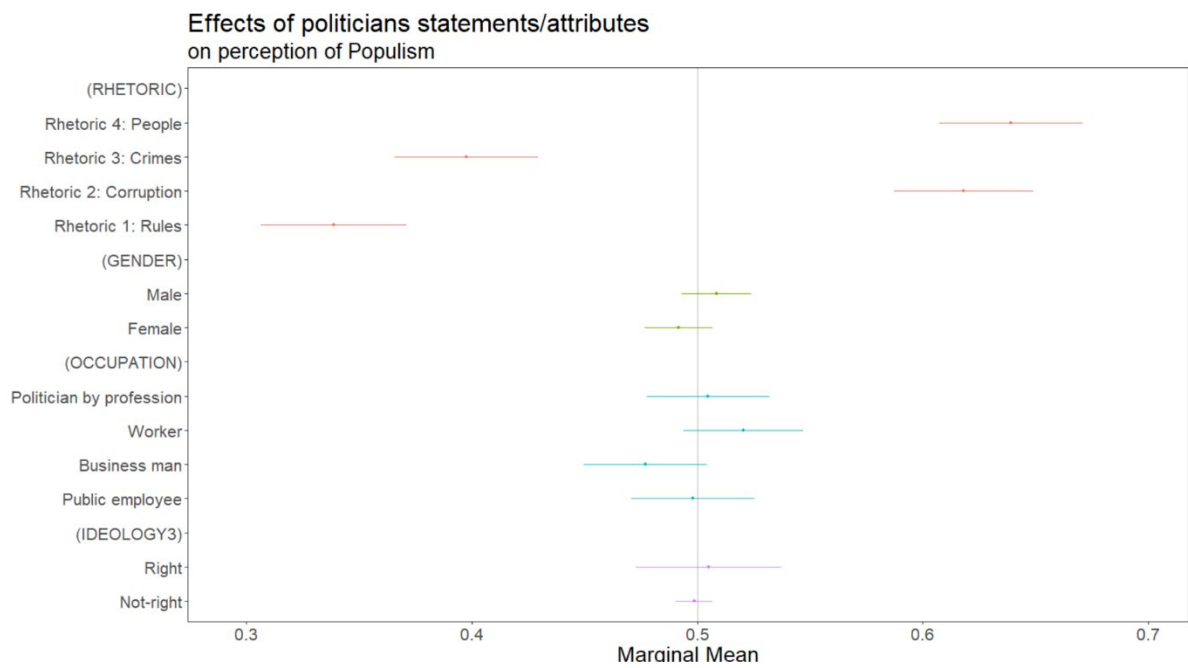


Table 1A. The original statements in Italian

Riguardo alla politica economica del Paese, il popolo, e non la classe politica, dovrebbe prendere le decisioni più importanti
La maggior parte delle persone che governano questo paese sono corrotte. Sarebbe giusto abolire integralmente ogni forma di finanziamento pubblico diretto per i partiti politici
Il rispetto delle regole è non una perdita di tempo, ma l'unico strumento affinché da un'emergenza non se ne generino altre
Non possiamo tollerare che esponenti della criminalità organizzata sfuggano alla giustizia per colpa di errori burocratici