



# Predictors Of Racial Resentment In Blacks And Whites: A Multi-Group Path Modeling Approach



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## Background

- Measures of racial resentment (RR) have been validated to predict political attitudes toward Blacks. Racial resentment consists of a coalescence of anti-Black affect and conservative ideology (Kinder & Sanders, 1990; Maxwell & Shields, 2014; Sears & Henry, 2003).
- Few studies have examined the underpinnings of RR across Black and White samples while considering covariates like Protestant Work Ethic (PWE) and religiosity (Protestantism).

## Hypotheses

- It was hypothesized that:
  - The mediation path of Protestantism->PWE->RR will be significant in both Blacks and Whites, but quantitatively stronger in Blacks.

## Methods

### Participants

- Nationally representative sample of 6,128 individuals from the U.S. that participated in the General Social Survey (GSS) from 1994 to 2018 (Smith et al., 1972-2018).

### Measures

- Recoded measures included race (Black or White), religious affiliation (Protestant or Non-Protestant), PWE, and beliefs concerning prejudice toward Blacks – an item taken from the racial resentment scale (Maxwell & Shields, 2014). Political orientation, closeness to Blacks, income, and age were included as covariates
- A multi-group path model tested a moderated mediation effect of Protestantism on racial resentment via Protestant Work Ethic in both Blacks and Whites. Exogenous variables were free to covary. Models for group invariance were tested for Blacks and Whites
- Bias-corrected bootstrapping was used to estimate all standard errors and confidence intervals.

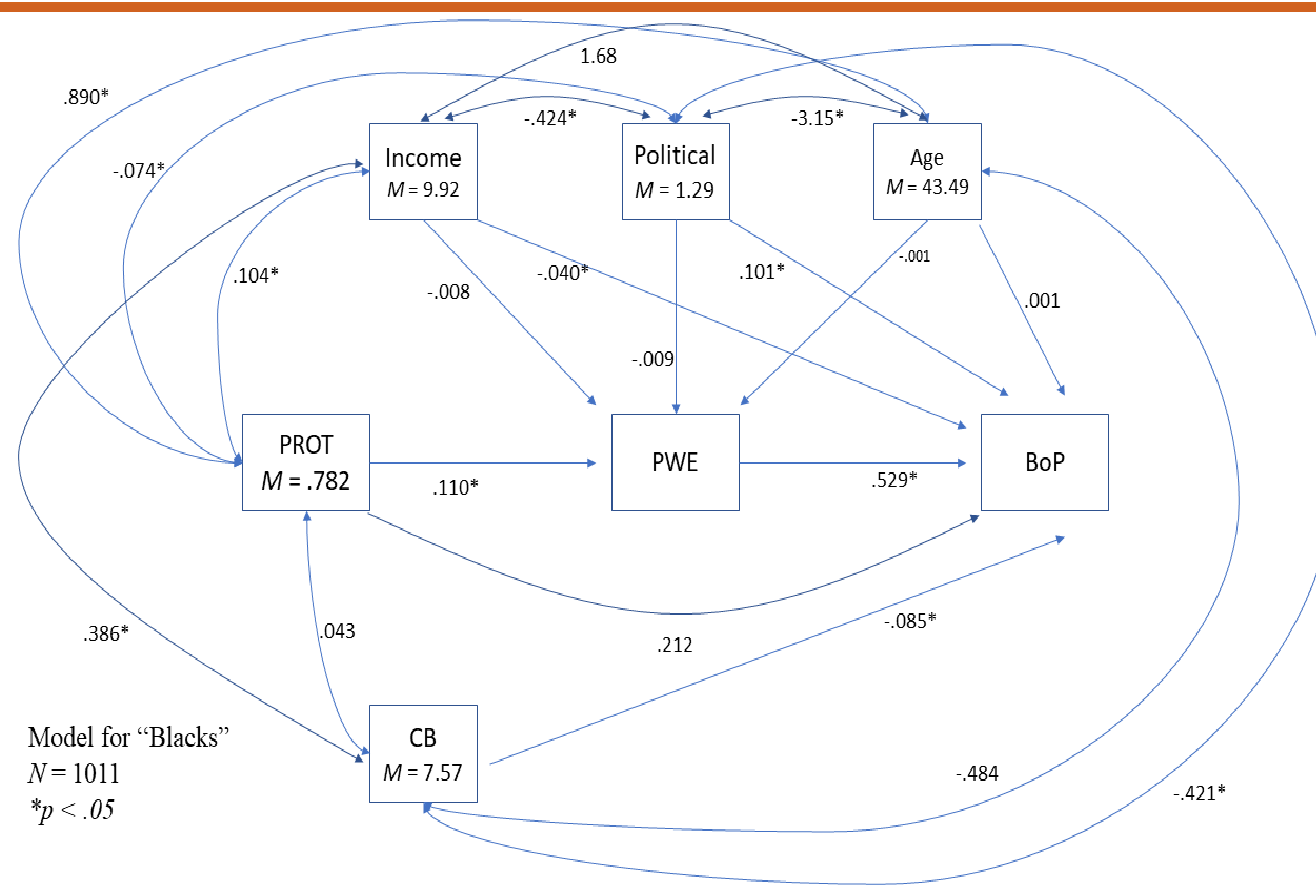
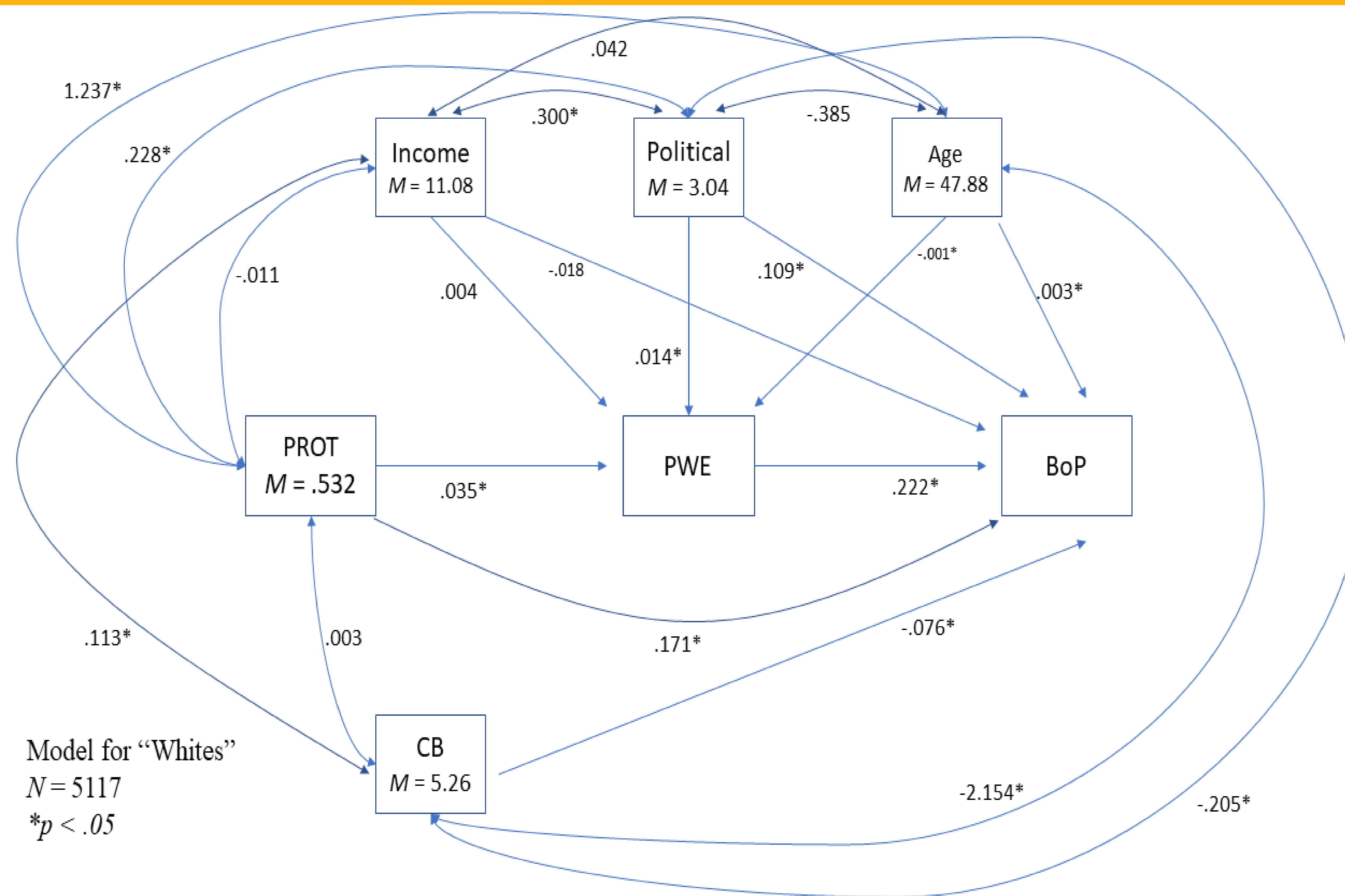


Table 2.  
Indirect Effects on Racial Resentment (RR)

Model	Predictor	Observed Coef.	Bootstrapped Std. Error	95% Confidence Int.	
Whites	Protestantism	.0077*	.0032	.0021	.0150
	Income	.0009	.0007	-.0005	.0024
	Age	-.0002*	.0001	-.0004	-.0001
Black	Protestantism	.0582*	.0233	.0195	.1124
	Income	-.0040	.0027	-.0100	.0009
	Age	-.0007	.0005	-.0019	.0002
	Political Aff.	.0031*	.0009	.0015	.0051
	Political Aff.	-.0048	.0056	-.0170	.0055

\*p < .05

Table 1.  
Group-level fit statistics

	N	SRMR	$\chi^2$	df	p > $\chi^2$
White	5117	0.003	1.076	1	0.300
Black	1011	0.000	0.001	1	0.980

## Results

- The results showed that mental state significantly affected:
  - Fully variant model had the best fit and fit well statistically,  $\chi^2(2, N = 6128) = 1.08, p = .58$ , and descriptively (CFI = 1.00, RMSEA < .001 [90% CI = .00, .03], SRMR = .002)
  - Direct effects of Protestantism on BOP were descriptively similar between Blacks and Whites, but the mediation path was significantly greater in Blacks.

## Implications

- These findings suggest that religious ideology may contribute substantially to Blacks' withholding support from other Blacks, whereas a confluence of participant level factors may drive the same attitude in Whites. Future research should continue to probe group invariance for racial resentment, particularly in experimental contexts, to discern if the measure is valid across Black and White samples

## References

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Smith, T. W., Marsden, P., Hout, M., & Kim, J. (1972-2018). General Social Survey [machine-readable data file]. Data accessed from the GSS Data Explorer website at [gssdataexplorer.norc.og](http://gssdataexplorer.norc.og)