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# Personality and society IV

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## Personality and society IV



Book Personality and society IV presents research papers and findings obtained within research project “Personal and society factors of political choices”. The project was completely conducted within cooperation with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung BiH. Furthermore, without their support the project itself would not be possible to realize.

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## INTRODUCTION

Personality and society IV, in the form of an edited book, is the result of the research project "Existential Fear as an Impact Factor on Social Choice". This marks the continuation of the previous collaboration between the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Foundation Friedrich Ebert BiH. The research project itself was based on findings from previous studies that had sought to analyse the relationship between social behaviour and social characteristics. Previous research, into which types of politicians citizens prefer, in relation to socio-historical factors, has demonstrated the tendency towards preferring an authoritarian type of politician. (see *Personality and Society II*, 2016). Further research investigated citizens' motives for disposition towards particular political leaders. The research identified as the basic motive 'fear for one's continued existence', which has been manipulated through multiple ethnic conflicts (see *Personality and Society III*, 2017). This widespread feeling of basic insecurity was identified as the key factor that has ensured the dominance of group (ethnic) identity over individual identities. At the same time, this feeling of basic insecurity has become a potential tool which politicians can manipulate in their efforts to gain the trust of citizens. This study focuses on the 'fear for one's continued existence', which drives the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina to vote for authoritarian politicians, whose primary goal is to protect their own ethnic group.

Research conducted within this new study analysed fear for one's continued existence from different perspectives. Firstly, previous research into the personality traits preferred by the respondents in a politician was reproduced, with the aim of verifying their temporal stability and their connections with social events of that period. The personality traits preferred in a politician were correlated with the self-reported personality traits of voters, as well as with their ethnic and religious identities. The impact of fear on social behaviours was further examined in relation to social trauma. Direct experience of war-time death and/or injury of a family member and forceful war-time displacement from the original place of residence were examined as predictors of religious nationalism. Given that the families of war victims and refugees are defined as social categories in Bosnia & Herzegovina, this also gave us a chance to analyse the social aspect, in addition to personal aspects, of the examined trauma. A qualitatively different approach was taken when analysing the content of a religious text-book. The study examined, through content analysis, the likelihood of the school system indirectly encouraging an emphasis on ethno-religious identity as a primary identification. Finally, the study examined the relationship between ethnic attachment, ethnic openness, and religiosity. This essay presents a theoretical model of ethnic attachment and openness as well as the survey that was used to assess ethnic attachment, ethnic openness, and religiosity as a sub-category of authoritarian syndrome. The choice of the research topic makes it possible to correlate fear – as a factor impacting on the preference of the respondents for authoritarian types of politician – with several psychological concepts.

The authors hope that the contribution of this research lies in both the valuable data that it has collected as well as in the practical synthesis that the research proposes. The results obtained, if appropriately interpreted, have the potential to improve the functionality of political institutions, or at the very least, contribute towards a more comprehensive understanding of the characteristics of the social system in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We are grateful for the opportunity given to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences actively to carry out an analysis of social and political life in Bosnia & Herzegovina and to offer results and guidelines that can contribute to the improvement of the overall status of its citizens.

***The Editor***

## **The 'Big Five' desirable personality traits in a politician in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2016-2018**

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**Abstract:** The making of political decisions would generally be associated with the cognitive processes, but that does not mean that such decisions are necessarily based on rational or critical thinking. Other important factors at work that play a part in determining the political choices of citizens include the socio-historical context of the country and the personality characteristics of its citizens, as well as the personality traits they prefer in a politician. Citizens have their opinions and expectations as to what kind of personal characteristics or group identities political leaders ought to possess, and such preferences can often come into conflict with the real interests of those citizens. However, regardless of the true characteristics of a politician, it is likely that politicians are going to 'manage' these characteristics when making public addresses. In this case, political decisions based on an assessment of the desirable characteristics in a politician very often have nothing to do with the real needs of individuals. The study that has been undertaken here has compared the desirable traits in a politician that were self-reported by citizens of Bosnia & Herzegovina in 2016 and 2018. In 2018, the sample comprised 197 respondents (124 women), between 19 to 57 years of age ( $M = 23.98$ ,  $SD = 7.96$ ). In 2016, the sample comprised 260 respondents (112 women) between 18 and 53 years of age ( $M = 24.17$ ,  $SD = 7.84$ ). 6.2% of the respondents self-assessed their income as below the average, 87.7% self-assessed as average and 6.2% above the average. The survey was conducted online, and respondents assessed the desirable personality traits in a politician using the BFI-44 survey. Respondents were asked to rank each trait as to how desirable each would be in a politician. After analysing the results of the 2018 survey, comparison was made between the 2018 results and the 2016 survey results. The analysis of the variations in scores of desirable traits in a politician was conducted through the use of t-test and discriminant analysis. The 2018 survey demonstrates Openness to experience, Extraversion and Conscientiousness to be the most important traits in a politician. However, this study differs from the previous one in that it demonstrates that respondents ranked more highly Agreeableness and Emotional Stability. The main question suggested by these results is whether they correlate with the dynamics of social events in Bosnia and Herzegovina between 2016 and 2018.

**Keywords:** desirable personality traits, Big Five, politicians.

## INTRODUCTION

Voting in elections is the most common form of civic participation in the political life of democratic societies. Given that it is through selecting which candidate, of which political party, to vote for that citizens themselves define the social context in which they live, so those votes should be rational and based on valid information (Bobbio, 1987). In other words, voter bias should be based on knowledge of the traits possessed by the politicians that voters prefer and knowledge of their own personal preferences. However, research (Converse, 1964, Zaller, 1992) shows that, in general, people frequently know very little about politics, about the parties, or candidates for whom they could vote. Additionally, the political decisions of citizens are often based on perceived characteristics of politicians that have no bearing on the degree of political success enjoyed by them; such as physical appearance, voice, or attitude (Rosenberg, Kahn and Tran, 1991; Todorov, Mandisoza, Goren and Hall, 2005 ). The superficial characteristics of politicians for whom citizens vote have little to do with whether those politicians will succeed or fail to meet the individual and/or group needs of citizens. This phenomenon has been confirmed in many studies. Gregory and Gallagher (2002) found a link between voters' choice and how deep the timbre of the voices of politicians are. According to some theories, candidates with deeper voices, which has been said to indicate a higher level of testosterone, attract more voters (Puts, Apicella and Cardenas, 2012). Confirmation of this finding was established through several studies conducted on various samples (Klofstad, Anderson and Peters, 2012). More broadly, another conclusion drawn in these studies is that, regardless of their latent political orientation, voters primarily positively value confidence in politicians (Costantini and Craik, 1980, Simonton, 1990). Numerous studies point out that it is the so-called 'personality factor' that politicians try to use to attract voters (Jones and Hudson, 1996; Pierce, 1993).

In academic studies, it is man, as *homo politicus*, in the context of the totality of social and political systems, who is seen as either positive (Rousseau), negative (Hobbes), or neutral (Locke). The individual is always considered in his/her socio-historical context. So social status or group membership are recognized as one of the most important determinants in decision making, as well as in the selection of a specific political party (Lazarsfeld, et al., 1948). In a number of sociological and psychological studies that have dealt with the traits of voters, politicians and of the prevailing social conditions in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Abazović, 2006; Čekrlija, 2016; Ćurak, Čekrlija, Sarajlić and Turčalo, 2009; Kukic, 2010; Blower, Milinović and Arsenijević-Puhalo, 2009) results showed that political decisions are made primarily using ethnicity as the key criterion. The personal needs and desires of an individual are blocked by thinking within her or his ethnic matrix and, thus, they make little impact on the individual's political choices. According to Campbell et al (1960), with regard to their political choices, citizens are led by relationality, as they opt for a politician who matches their group identity or personality traits. With regard to group identity, the results of studies thus confirm this to be the case in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Notwithstanding the importance of social context and group identity, Eysenck (1954; Eysenck and Wilson, 1978) emphasizes the role of personality in the shaping of political attitudes. Numerous studies have confirmed the correlation between personality traits and disposition towards particular political ideologies (Adorno Frenkel-Brunswick, Levinson, Sanford, 1950; Altemeyer 1996; Carney, Jost,



Gosling, and Potter, 2008; Jost, Glaser, Kruglanski and Sulloway, 2003; McClosky 1958 Sniderman 1975) towards particular forms of political behaviour (Blais and Labbé-St-Vincent 2011; Denny and Doyle 2008; Gerber, Gregory Doherty, Dowling, Raso and Ha 2011b; Levinson 1958 Milbrath 1965 Mondak, Hibbing, Canachi, Seligson and Anderson, 2010; Caprara Vecchione and 2009). ). In line with the results of previous studies in the area of the Big Five personality factors, Extraversion (Mondak and Halperin 2008; Mondak et al. 2010) and Conscientiousness (Gallego, Busch, Sturgis and Oberski, 2014; Gerber, Huber, Doherty and Dowling, 2011; Gerber et al. 2011b) correlates positively with the tendency of citizens to use their right to vote. Respondents who are liberal in their social orientation tend to score more highly on Openness (McCrae, 1996, Trapnell, 1994). A tendency towards political conservatism and authoritarianism correlate with lower scores in the search for sensation, conformity and conventionalism (McCrae; 1996 Jost et al. 2003). Many studies confirm the correlation between the tendency towards authoritarian systems and rigidity (Dollinger, Leong and street, 1996; Eysenck, 1982; Eysenck and Coulter, 1972; Eysenck and Wilson, 1978). Hostility, as the opposite pole to Agreeableness, has been identified as an important correlate of authoritarianism (Todosijević, 1996).

Overall, social context, as defined by social status or group affiliation, and personality traits are anticipated to be the main factors in the shaping of political decisions and voting preferences of the individual. One additional significant factor is the political subject – political party or a politician. It is most frequently observed that the main goal of a political party is participation in government. This way, political parties and individuals achieve their different aims. Thus, it is logical to assume that political parties and politicians are unlikely to be passive, simply waiting to be elected on grounds of a combination of favourable social circumstances and personalities of citizens. They are much more likely to take an interventionist role and also will display quite different political behaviour. Some examples of inappropriate political behaviour by politicians in Bosnia and Herzegovina include: overstating their own competence and superior values by denigrating the values of their political opponents; ‘manipulating’ facts and data to produce overly optimistic and overly pessimistic forecasts; understating or overstating the reality on the ground in order to induce a feeling of insecurity among the population (Živanović, 2016; Dragomirović i Aćić, 2016). Given that the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina has primarily been determined by the exploitation of ethnicity and division for over 25 years, with the legacy of the conflict of the 1990s, which led to tens of thousands of victims, the claims of politicians that they would enhance the feeling of security is one of their main claims. Add to this the possibility that politicians themselves manipulate their public performances for specific political ends, then it is clear that they have in their hands a very powerful ‘toolkit’ for shaping the electoral will of the citizens. Given the fact that the impression formed about the characteristics of politicians is created primarily through the mass media’s reporting of their performance (Popkin, 1991), rather than based on their actual characteristics (Dalton and Wattenberg, 2000; Funk, 1996; Wattenberg, 1998), then it is clear that politicians have significant opportunities for manipulation in order to make a specifically guided impact on the voting behaviour of citizens (Rocass, Sagiv, Knafo and Schwartz, 2002). Regardless of the actual personality traits of politicians, their public addresses will highlight their self-confidence and their dominant attitude, which traits were identified in previous research as desirable in a politician (Browning and Jacob, 1964, Winter, 1973). The same finding holds for Bosnia & Herzegovina. The degree of self-confidence in political messages that deal with the reduction of

existential fear among the citizens is what evokes positive responses among the voters, provided that the politician is a member of the same ethnic group as those voters.

One of the desirable personality traits rated highly by voters is Agreeableness (Caprara, Barbaranelli and Zimbardo, 2002). In a study of the US elections in 2006, Agreeableness and Openness were identified as predictors of electors who would be likely to vote for John Kerry, and Emotional stability, Conscientiousness and Activity (energetic) as predictors of voters for George W. Bush (Barbaranelli, Caprara, Vecchione and Fraley, 2006). A review of relevant literature shows that to be energetic and agreeable are the most highly valued personality characteristics in a politician (Conover and Feldman, 1986 Pancer, Brown, and Barr, 1999; Pierce, 1993; Popkin, 1991; Rahn, Aldrich, Borgida, and Sullivan, 1990).

In a survey conducted in 2016, before the local elections in Bosnia & Herzegovina, general openness and conscientiousness were demonstrated to be the most desirable traits in a politician. Openness, sociability, maintaining one's orientation in large groups or unfamiliar situations, as well as the ability to deal capably with the duties and responsibilities of the position, were evaluated as the most important traits in a politician (Čekrlija, 2016). Amongst the other features also rated positively are fairness, efficiency, oratory, vision and nerve. In other words, the most desirable personality traits in politicians primarily relate to their ability to provide citizens with a sense of personal security and protection within their own ethnic group. In cases where politicians are sociable and express confidence and dominance over political opponents in their public addresses, then it will be even easier for citizens to associate such politicians with their need and desire to feel safe. In the final review of these findings, it was concluded that, precisely due to their basic sense of insecurity and fear, the citizens of Bosnia & Herzegovina, by and large, still elect political parties that emphasize ethnic identity and ethnic interests. The aim of this research was to replicate the same survey before the elections in 2018. Given that the official indicators of quality of life in Bosnia & Herzegovina, as well as the indicators of the overall performance of Bosnia & Herzegovina as a state (2016), remain unfavourable, the study aimed to examine whether there had been any variation in the desirable traits in a politician that were preferred by citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## **METHOD**

### *Sample*

The research used the snowball sampling technique. All respondents were given an online survey to complete. After the elimination from the sample of respondents who did not satisfy the ethical and methodological criteria used for the study, the final sample was comprised of 197 respondents (124 female). The age of the respondents was between 19 and 57 years old ( $M=23.98$ ,  $SD=7.96$ ). The study also includes the data collected in the 2016 Survey already referenced here, which consisted of 260 respondents (112 female) whose ages ranged from 18 to 53 ( $M=24.17$ ,  $SD=7.84$ ). In the 2016 Survey, 6.2% of respondents self-reported their household income as below the average, 87.7% of respondents self-reported their household income average and 6.2% self-reported their household income as above the average. The total of 24.6% respondents were members of a political party.

### Statistical analysis

The research analyses and compares descriptive statistics measures for the results personality traits of politicians obtained in the Surveys of 2016 and 2018. A T-test for independent samples and discriminant analysis /were used to make a comparison of the results. The correlates between the desirable traits in a politician and sociodemographic variables for 2016 and 2018 were analysed using a T-test for independent samples.

### Instruments

The Big Five Inventory (The Big Five Inventory – BFI: John i Srivastava, 1999) was used to assess the desirable traits in a politician. The BFI is composed of 44 items, divided into 5 sets, that that measures an individual on the Big Five Factors (dimensions) of personality (Neuroticism, Extraversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, and Openness to Experience). Participants respond on a 5-point Likert-type scale with response options from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). The BFI-44 has shown satisfactory psychometric characteristics in research thus far (John i sar., 2008; Čolović, Mitrović i Smederevac, 2005).

## RESULTS

From the results obtained, the personality traits deemed by the respondents to be desirable in a politician were considered first. They were first analysed using the descriptive parameters obtained for the personalities of politicians that had been evaluated (Table 1), and then compared to values obtained in Survey of 2016 (Table 2).

**Table 1. Descriptive statistics measures for desirable personality traits in a politician**

	M	SD	S	K	Min	Max	$\alpha$
NE	13.65	3.81	.93	.84	8	27	.71
EX	33.58	4.15	<b>-1.22</b>	<b>2.10</b>	17	40	.74
OI	39.35	6.44	<b>-1.34</b>	<b>2.93</b>	14	50	.78
AG	35.67	4.75	-.37	-.04	23	45	.73
CO	40.13	4.79	<b>-1.43</b>	<b>2.17</b>	22	45	.80

As results in Table 1 show, Openness, Extraversion, and Conscientiousness score positively. The skewness values of these traits are statistically significant ( $S > \pm 1.00$ ) and the negative values in this column indicate that respondents, on average, considered openness to experience, conscientiousness

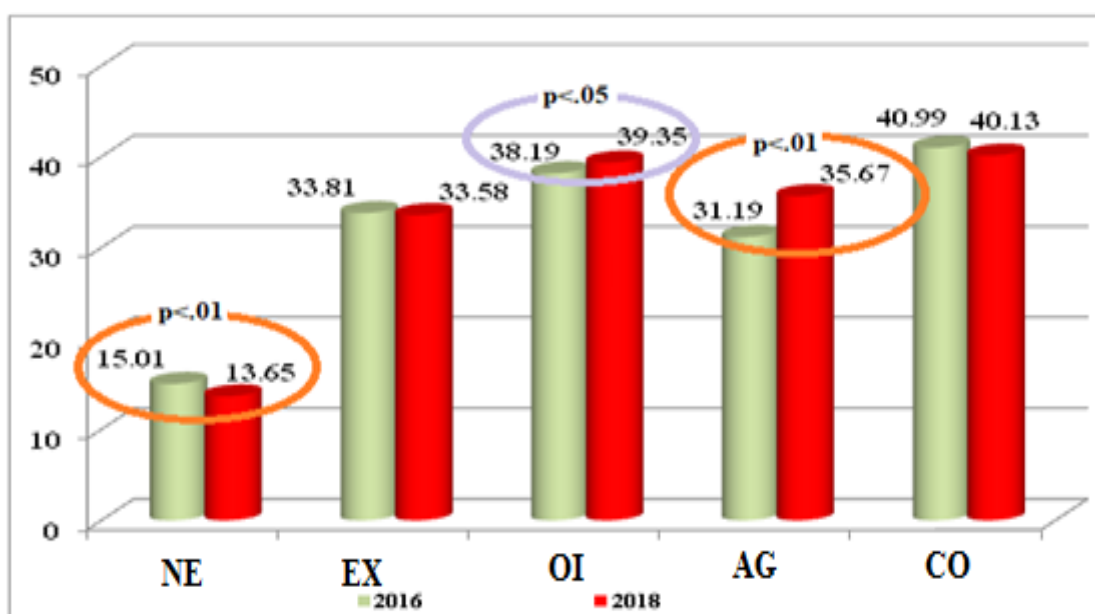
and extraversion to be very desirable qualities in a politician. Statistically significant kurtosis values further suggest that such attitude prevails in most respondents. The reliability of the scales of the desirable traits in a politician derived and expressed by the Cronbach coefficient is satisfactory.

In the next step, a comparison was made of the test results obtained in Surveys of 2016 and 2018 (Table 2). For better overview, the main findings are further highlighted in Graph 1.

**Table 2. T-test; Assessment of desirable personality traits in a politician in 2016 and 2018**

		N	M	SD	SEM	F	Df	t	df	p
NE	2016	260	15.01	4.31	.38	2.04	.15	2.98	455	.00
	2018	197	13.65	3.81	.27					
EX	2016	260	33.81	4.22	.37	.42	.51	.47	455	.63
	2018	197	33.58	4.15	.30					
OI	2016	260	38.19	4.49	.39	9.88	.00	-1.91	455	.05
	2018	197	39.35	6.44	.46					
AG	2016	260	31.19	4.49	.39	.52	.47	-8.51	455	.00
	2018	197	35.67	4.75	.34					
CO	2016	260	40.99	4.95	.43	.14	.70	1.56	455	.11
	2018	197	40.13	4.79	.34					

**Graph 1. Desirable personality traits in a politician in 2016. and 2018.**



The comparison of the results obtained in 2018 against the results of studies in 2016 showed, firstly, that the general preferences of citizens have not changed. Citizens still consider the most desirable traits in a politician to be openness, extraversion and conscientiousness. Two differences noted relate to the traits of agreeableness and neuroticism. Specifically, for respondents in the 2018 Survey, the trait of agreeableness in a politician was judged to be more important than in the Survey of 2016. At the same level of statistical significance ( $p < .01$ ) a difference can be noticed in relation to neuroticism. In the Survey in 2018, citizens considered emotional stability more desirable trait in a politician than they had in the Survey of 2016.

The judgement as to the traits that are desirable in a politician have also been examined using specific socio-demographic characteristics of respondents. The following factors of respondents were taken into account: gender; ethnic composition of the family and of the social milieu of the respondent; and the experience of the trauma caused by forced displacement due to war, injury and/or death of a family member in the war.

The results show that the gender of respondents is the only socio-demographic variable that has a statistically significant impact on desirable traits in a politician. According to the results, (Table 3), women consider extraversion, agreeableness and conscientiousness as more important traits in a politician than do men ( $p < .01$ ). Concurrently, women value emotional stability more than do men ( $p < .01$ ). Finally, a smaller but still statistically significant difference ( $p < .05$ ) is seen in the judgement of openness to experience. In relation to this trait, women find it more desirable in a politician than do men.

**Table 3. T-test; Estimates of desirable characteristics of a politician by gender**

		N	M	SD	SEM	F	df	t	df	p
NE	female	124	13.09	3.70	.33	.49	.48	-2.76	195	.01
	male	73	14.62	3.82	.45					
EX	female	124	34.24	3.85	.35	1.66	.20	2.96	195	.00
	male	73	32.47	4.43	.52					
OI	female	124	40.07	6.06	.54	1.22	.27	2.07	195	.04
	male	73	38.12	6.90	.81					
AG	female	124	36.65	4.62	.41	.13	.72	3.91	195	.00
	male	73	34.00	4.54	.53					
CO	female	124	40.78	4.64	.42	.38	.54	2.52	195	.01
	male	73	39.03	4.88	.57					

The results of the comparison of desirable qualities of a politician with regard to other socio-demographic criteria did not show any evidence of trends significant enough to warrant more

attention being directed towards them. The judgement as to what constitutes desirable traits in a politician showed no dependence on whether the respondent comes from a single or multi-ethnic environment (Tables 4 and 5). Concurrently, the findings suggest that even an intense social trauma, such as forced displacement due to war, or the death of, or injury to a family member, do not affect the judgement of respondents as to the desirable traits in a politician (Tables 6 and 7).

**Table 4. T-test assessment of desirable traits in a politician and ethnic composition of the family**

		N	M	SD	SEM	F	df	t	df	p
NE	multi-ethnic family	103	13.22	4.05	.39	3.89	.05	-1.67	195	.09
	mono-ethnic family	94	14.12	3.48	.35					
EX	multi-ethnic family	103	33.75	4.22	.41	.01	.91	.61	195	.54
	mono-ethnic family	94	33.39	4.09	.42					
OI	multi-ethnic family	103	39.65	6.34	.62	.00	.95	.68	195	.49
	mono-ethnic family	94	39.02	6.55	.67					
AG	multi-ethnic family	103	35.59	5.09	.50	1.76	.18	-.22	195	.82
	mono-ethnic family	94	35.74	4.37	.45					
CO	multi-ethnic family	103	40.37	4.75	.46	.29	.59	.75	195	.45
	mono-ethnic family	94	39.86	4.84	.49					

**Table 5. T-test; Estimates of desirable traits in a politician with regard to ethnic identity of friends of the respondents**

		N	M	SD	SEM	F	df	t	df	p
NE	multi-ethnic society	183	13.66	3.82	.28	.00	.96	.01	195	.99
	mono-ethnic society	14	13.64	3.77	1.01					
EX	multi-ethnic society	183	33.70	4.04	.30	2.18	.14	1.48	195	.13
	mono-ethnic society	14	32.00	5.36	1.43					
OI	multi-ethnic society	183	39.56	6.29	.47	.17	.67	1.68	195	.09
	mono-ethnic society	14	36.57	7.86	2.10					
AG	multi-ethnic society	183	35.68	4.73	.35	.40	.52	.13	195	.89
	mono-ethnic society	14	35.50	5.24	1.40					
CO	multi-ethnic society	183	40.31	4.66	.34	2.45	.11	1.85	195	.06
	mono-ethnic society	14	37.86	6.01	1.61					

**Table 6 T-test; Estimates of desirable traits in a politician with regard to the trauma of forced displacement**

		N	M	SD	SEM	F	df	t	df	p
NE	forced displacement	40	13.63	3.44	.54	.54	.46	-.05	195	.95
	same place of residence	157	13.66	3.91	.31					
EX	forced displacement	40	33.73	4.13	.65	.03	.80	.24	195	.81
	same place of residence	157	33.55	4.17	.33					
OI	forced displacement	40	40.38	5.19	.82	2.48	.11	1.12	195	.26
	same place of residence	157	39.09	6.71	.54					
AG	forced displacement	40	35.43	4.74	.75	.04	.83	-.35	195	.72
	same place of residence	157	35.73	4.77	.38					
CO	forced displacement	40	40.08	4.49	.71	.33	.56	-.08	195	.93
	same place of residence	157	40.15	4.88	.39					

**Table 7. T-test; Estimates of desirable traits in a politician with regard to the trauma of injury and/ or death family members**

		N	M	SD	SEM	F	df	t	df	p
NE	war victims within family	114	13.49	3.83	.36	.32	.57	-.70	195	.48
	no war victims in family	83	13.88	3.79	.42					
EX	war victims within family	114	33.62	4.28	.40	.77	.38	.15	195	.87
	no war victims in family	83	33.53	3.99	.44					
OI	war victims within family	114	39.64	6.70	.63	.50	.47	.74	195	.46
	no war victims in family	83	38.95	6.08	.67					
AG	war victims within family	114	35.51	4.94	.46	1.31	.25	-.54	195	.59
	no war victims in family	83	35.88	4.50	.49					
CO	war victims within family	114	40.25	4.98	.47	.57	.448	.41	195	.67
	no war victims in family	83	39.96	4.55	.50					

## **DISCUSSION**

The results of the present study are discussed in relation to certain socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents, and in relation to the results of the previous study conducted in 2016. On the one hand, the results open up the possibility for the attitudes of the citizens that were studied to be treated as dynamic variables, through which it is possible to monitor the effects of social events. On the other hand, through the study's review of the correlations of the results with the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents, we could identify the specific factors or criteria that influence the selection of the particular desirable traits in a politician that were preferred by citizens. When compared to the results from the 2016 Survey, we can say that there were no significant discrepancies found. The general openness perceived in politicians who display extraversion, openness to experience, together with conscientiousness, are still considered as the most desirable traits in a politician by citizens. As almost identical results were obtained in Bosnia & Herzegovina, and these results are completely in line with studies from other cultures (Barbaranelli, Caprara, Vecchione and Fraley, 2007; Schoen and Schumann, 2007), we can conclude that the traits of extraversion, openness to experience and conscientiousness in a politician are, in general, the most highly valued. Based on the study's results and analytical findings, we can conclude that identification with a particular party, and support of a particular presidential candidate are associated with openness and conscientiousness, whilst extraversion and conscientiousness are associated with political activism. If the label 'identification with parties and presidential candidates' is replaced by the label 'identification with a particular ethnic group and its leader', and the label 'political activism' is replaced with the 'anxiety of citizens of BiH over the politicization of everyday life', then the same interpretation as in these studies could be applied in our case. If the politicians favour the same traits as citizens, then the politicians and citizens directly concur. In addition, where traits have been identified by citizens as desirable, politicians in whom those traits are more pronounced have an advantage over politicians who are introverted or who do not show openness and accessibility to public. Generally speaking, citizens seek political leaders in whom Openness, integrity, and accountability are pronounced.

When compared with the results from the 2016 Survey, the most important variations observed are related to the traits of neuroticism and agreeableness. Respondents have self-reported Agreeableness in a politician as a significantly desirable trait. Emotional stability in a politician was more desirable to participants in the 2018 Study than in the 2016 Survey. In the 2018 Study, openness to experience is scored as a more desirable trait in a politician than in the 2016 Survey, but, in the 2018 Survey, the general assessment of the importance of this trait, as compared to others, did not show significant variations. Across the whole study, it seems that openness, extroversion and conscientiousness are affirmed as traits that are consistently preferred and valued more highly in a politician. As such, these traits are likely to have a significant impact on the results of political elections. On the other hand, emotional stability and agreeableness seem to be traits that were rated as desirable in a politician to a



large degree. However, the judgement of the respondents on these two traits in a politician, could over time be significantly altered, probably under the influence of various social factors.

The complete absence of a link between the socio-demographic variables examined in the study and the judgements of respondents as to the desirable qualities in a politician was not anticipated. On the basis of earlier studies (Čekrljija, Turjačanin and Puhalo 2004, and Turjačanin Čekrljija, 2006), the variables from the domains of social trauma were anticipated to have some impact on the attitudes which are related to group identities. This 'absent link' certainly remains one of the phenomena, brought to light in this study, that will need to be addressed in a subsequent research. The gender of respondents has been shown to be the only significant source of the variations in ratings accorded to the desirable traits in a politician. Viewed across the whole study, women set higher standards than men do for all the traits. According to women's judgement, the preferred traits in a politician are that s/he needs to be more open to experience, more extrovert, conscientious, agreeable and emotionally stable than the traits in a politician that are preferred by men.

The basic premise of democracy is that government of the people should be by the people, and that, if we want it to function successfully, it needs to meet certain conditions, such as: it requires that the citizens take an interest in politics; that the citizens have some knowledge about politics and political behaviour; and that citizens are involved in active political participation (Bartels, 1996; Lau and Redlawsk, 1997 ). Where it is the case that these conditions are not met, political decisions are more likely to be based on primitive concepts and mechanisms, such as group identities and the superficially obvious personality traits of politicians. The election campaign will have the greatest impact on those citizens who already had a clear view of their own political preferences or affiliations before the campaign starts. This gives rise to a distorted situation; i.e. that during political campaigns, it is democratically sufficient to support or to hold an initial 'public opinion', based solely on the outwardly obvious traits displayed by the politicians standing for election or solely because s/he belongs to the same social group or political party. Further, it is not difficult to imagine situations in which the outward expression and 'performance' of desirable traits in public discourse (supported by the presentation of these traits in public) and the maintenance of a certain political image will dominate over practical strategy and policy and the exercise of relevant political knowledge and action. Another situation that could be imagined is the domination of certain political parties that is based on making and maintaining a generally positive impression on the citizens.

Future research will analyse the correlation between multiple socio-demographic variables and the desirable traits in a politician. Special focus will be placed on the identification of the personal and social traits of the respondents that may impact on changes in their preferences for traits they most value in a politician.

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## **Voters Personality Traits and the desirable politicians personality traits**

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**Abstract:** One of the main factors that impacts on political decisions is the personality traits of the voters. Complementarily, the personality traits of the politician, and the specific behaviours s/he emphasizes in his/her public appearances have a significant impact on the formation of the voting behaviour of citizens. The results of the previous research show a significant correlation between the personality traits and the values of the voter, and those of the politicians. In the research conducted by this study, the goal was to examine the correlations between the personality traits of the citizens and the personality traits that were judged as desirable in a politician by respondents. The survey was conducted in April 2018, during the period preceding the general election in Bosnia & Herzegovina.

The sample consisted of 232 respondents between 19 and 57 years of age ( $M = 24.22$ ,  $SD = 8.27$ ). The respondents completed an online survey, and the snowball sampling technique was used to collect the overall sample. BFI-44 was used in the assessment of the personality traits of citizens, as well as in the assessment of the personality traits self-reported by citizens to be desirable in a politician. In the statistical analysis, the scores for the self-reported personal traits of voters were compared with the results of self-reported traits they found desirable in a politician. For this purpose, a t-test of paired samples was used. The correlation between the self-reported personality traits of citizens and self-reported traits they found desirable in a politician was assessed using Pearson's linear correlation coefficient. The results demonstrate that Conscientiousness, Openness to Experience and Emotional Stability are considered to be personality traits most desired by respondents in a politician. The overarching conclusion of the study is that respondents consider the personality traits they most desire in a politician to be the same traits as those in which they themselves demonstrate higher scores. With regard to the socio-demographic variables of gender and social trauma indicators, the study demonstrates only a weak connection with the respondents' self-report of the personality traits they most desire in a politician.

**Key words:** personality traits, Big Five, politicians, voters.

## INTRODUCTION

This paper examines the relationship between the personality traits of citizens and the personality traits they judge to be most desirable in a politician. Personality is a relatively permanent and unchanging structure. Viewed from this perspective, the assessment of personality traits obtained through valid surveys can be considered as relatively reliable measure of sustained and stable personality traits. Taking into account the dynamics of social change in the last 100 years, the idea that it is possible for one life to be lived solely in line with one ideological current has been fundamentally challenged. With the rise of education, technological advances, the development of philosophical thought, and the possibility to satisfy one's needs, individuals and groups can explore different ideas and social values with the aim of satisfying their needs and desires. In our research, the personality traits of citizens and the personality traits they judge to be most desirable in a politician have been tested with the Big Five model. The creator of this model was Lewis Goldberg. The Big Five is currently the dominant model of the taxonomy of personality traits and the basis on which it was created used the lexical approach in personality psychology (Mitrović and Smederevac, 2006). The basic idea of the lexical approach is that those personality characteristics that are important to a group of people will eventually become a part of that group's language in order for them to communicate more easily between one another. Therefore, the lexical approach starts from descriptive terms that are associated with personality traits, which are further organised in smaller subsets through factor analysis. The results of the factor analysis allocate individual personality traits into five broad factors or dimensions: extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism, and openness. These five specific personality dimensions are the traits that are used for analytical purposes by the 'Big Five' model. The present study uses the particular iteration of the Big Five that was developed by John and Srivastava (1999).

In general, psychological studies suggest the existence of structures and personality mechanisms that are likely to be responsible for the disposition of an individual towards particular ideologies and patterns of political behaviour. Appreciation of the importance of the social context and membership of a specific political group stand out as dominant factors in the formation of political views (Eysenck, 1954; Eysenck and Wilson, 1991). Indeed, numerous studies have confirmed the correlation between personality traits and disposition towards different ideologies (Adorno Frenkel-Brunswick, Levinson, Sanford, 1950; Altemeyer 1996; Carney, Jost, Gosling, and Potter, 2008; Jost, Glaser, Kruglanski and Sulloway, 2003; McClosky 1958 Sniderman 1975) and towards specific forms of political behaviour (Blais and Labbé-St-Vincent 2011; Denny and Doyle 2008; Gerber, Gregory Doherty, Dowling, Raso, & Ha, 2011; Levinson 1958 Milbrath, 1965; Mondak, Hibbing, Canachi, Seligson and Anderson, 2010; Caprara Vecchione and 2009). According to previous findings in the field of study of the Big Five, the personality traits Extroversion (Mondak and Halperin 2008) and Conscientiousness (Gallego, Busch, Sturgis and Oberski, 2014; Gerber, Huber, Doherty and Dowling, 2011; Gerber et al. 2011) are positively related to the disposition of citizens to exercise their right to vote in elections. Higher scores for Openness

tend to be demonstrated by respondents with liberal social orientations (McCrae, 1996, Trapnell, 1994).

A tendency towards political conservatism and authoritarianism correlates with lower scores in the search for sensations, conformity and conventionalism (McCrae; 1996; Jost et al. 2003). The overlap between the disposition towards authoritarianism and rigidity has been confirmed in other studies (Dollinger, Leong and Street, 1996; Eysenck, 1982; Eysenck and Coulter, 1972; Wilson and Eysenck, 1978). Hostility has been identified as a significant correlate of authoritarianism (Todosijević, 1996). Agreeableness is rated as a highly desirable trait in a politician by voters (Caprara, Barbaranelli and Zimbardo, 2002). In a study of the US elections in 2006, Agreeableness and Openness were identified as predictors of electors who would be likely to vote for John Kerry, and Emotional stability, Conscientiousness and Activity (energetic) as predictors of voters for George W. Bush (Barbaranelli, Caprara, Vecchione and Fraley, 2006). A review of relevant literature shows that to be energetic and agreeable are the most highly valued personality characteristics in a politician (Conover and Feldman, 1986 Pancer, Brown, and Barr, 1999; Pierce, 1993; Popkin, 1991; Rahn, Aldrich, Borgida, and Sullivan, 1990).

Previous studies that dealt with the personality traits of politicians in Bosnia & Herzegovina have shown that, in their political leaders, voters value conscientiousness, openness and extroversion (Čekrlja, 2016). Amongst the other features also rated positively are fairness, efficiency, oratory, vision and nerve. In other words, the most desirable personality traits in politicians primarily relate to their ability to provide citizens with a sense of personal security and protection within their own ethnic group. In the final review of these findings, it was concluded that, precisely due to their basic sense of insecurity and fear, the citizens of Bosnia & Herzegovina, by and large, still elect political parties that emphasize ethnic identity and ethnic interests. The comparison of findings about the personality traits of voters and the traits they perceive as desirable in a politician leads to certain questions. Do personality traits of citizens correlate with the personality traits that citizens prefer in a politician? In this study, the basic aim was to examine the nature of the correlation between these two categories, and, on the basis of the results obtained, formulate precise hypotheses about that relationship.

## **METHOD**

### *Sample*

The research sample was composed of 232 respondents (148 female). The age of the respondents was between 19 to 57 years old. ( $M=24.22$ ,  $SD=8.27$ ). The collection of data was conducted during the months of March and April 2018. All the respondents answered the online questionnaire and snowball sampling technique was used to form the overall sample. 168 respondents were students, 40 respondents had a secondary school diploma and 24 respondents had a university

diploma. 120 respondents belong to mono-ethnic households, while 112 respondents are part of multi-ethnic households. 32 respondents have friends only within their own ethnic group. 68 respondents were forcefully displaced due to war, while 84 reported death of, or injury to a family member in war.

### *Instruments*

The Big Five Inventory (BFI 44; John i Srivastava, 1999) was used in this study. The Big Five is composed of 44 items on a 5-point Likert-type scale that assess: Neuroticism (NE, 8 items), Extraversion (EX, 8 items), Openness to Experience (OT, 10 itmes), Agreeableness (PR, 9 items) and Conscientiousness (SA, 9 items). This instrument was used twice in the course of the research. The first time the respondents self-reported the personality traits they found most desirable in a politician. Following this, the respondents used the same survey to self-report on their own traits. The results of self-reported traits of respondents are marked with the letter 'g' added to the names of traits (Neg, Exg, OTg, PRg i SA<sub>g</sub>). The results of self-reported traits that are perceived as desirable in a politician are marked with the letter 'p' added to the names of traits (NE<sub>g</sub>, EX<sub>p</sub>, OT<sub>g</sub>, PR<sub>p</sub> i SA<sub>p</sub>).

### *Statistical analysis*

The correlation between the self-reported personality traits of respondents and self-reported desirable traits in a politician was analysed using Pearson correlation coefficient. A t-test of paired samples was used to analyse correlates between self-reported traits and traits desirable in a politician.

## **RESULTS**

The first table displays the results regarding the descriptive parameters for personality traits, according to the respondents' self-evaluations, presented alongside the preferences for personality traits in a politician (Table 1).



**Table 1. Descriptive statistics of respondents' own personality traits and the personality traits rated as desirable by them in a politician**

	M	SD	S	K	Min	Max	$\lambda$
NEg	19.08	5.27	.62	.63	10	34	.74
EXg	28.52	5.23	-.09	-.96	19	38	.69
OIg	35.04	6.47	-.10	-.40	20	48	.74
PRg	34.81	5.01	.00	-.54	24	44	.69
SAg	32.26	5.75	.20	-.65	21	45	.83
NEp	13.59	3.88	.89	<b>1.30</b>	8	27	.72
EXp	33.69	3.61	-.37	-.72	26	39	.75
OIp	40.30	5.52	-.32	-.90	30	50	.76
PRp	35.82	4.73	-.16	-.22	24	45	.73
SAp	40.51	4.49	<b>-1.69</b>	<b>3.61</b>	23	45	.86

The average scores of respondents on the subject of personality traits are not significantly different from the findings obtained through other relevant applications of the BFI questionnaire in the respondents' mother tongue. The skewness and kurtosis values of these traits, as parameters of deviation from the normal distribution, do not raise any statistically significant concerns (Muthe and Kaplan, 1985s). Consistency is expressed by using Cronbach's alpha range and is acceptable for all of the scales that assessed traits which were used in the study.

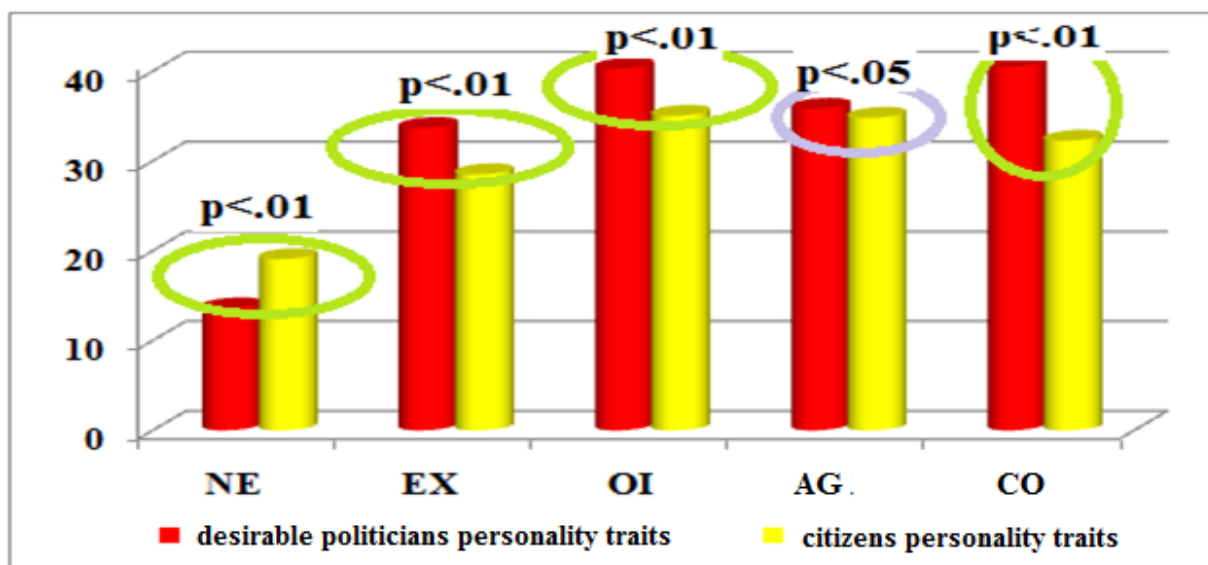
In the assessment of the personality traits that respondents found desirable in a politician, results show higher average scores. The skewness value on the scale of Neuroticism ( $S = 1.30$ ), is statistically significant and suggests that the subjects placed a higher value on emotional stability in a politician. Statistically significant values in the parameters of deviation from the normal distribution ( $S = -1.69$ ,  $C = 3.61$ ) clearly indicate that there is an opinion expressed that Conscientiousness is viewed as a very favourable personality trait in a politician.

**Table 2. T-test; Differences in respondents' personality traits and personality traits desired by respondents in a politician**

		r	t(230)	p
NE	respondents personality traits	.20	6.74	.00
	politicians personality traits			
EX	respondents personality traits	.23	-6.70	.00
	politicians personality traits			
OI	respondents personality traits	.38**	-5.76	.00
	politicians personality traits			
PR	respondents personality traits	.60**	-2.18	.03
	politicians personality traits			
SA	respondents personality traits	.32**	-10.18	.00
	politicians personality traits			

The comparison between the self-reports by respondents of their personality traits and their judgement as to the personality traits deemed desirable in a politician (Table 2 and Figure 2) shows significant difference for all traits. Respondents judge that politicians should be more conscientious, extrovert, open to experience, and emotionally stable than the respondents ( $p < .01$ ). Politicians should also possess a greater degree of agreeableness than that possessed by the citizens, but this difference is slightly less pronounced ( $p < .05$ ).

**Graph 1. Differences between self-reported personality traits of respondents and the personality traits they judged to be desirable in a politician**



The nature of the relationship of the respondents' self-evaluation of their own personality traits to their judgement concerning the personality traits desired in a politician was analysed using Pearson correlation coefficient (see Table 3). Judgements regarding desirable traits are in mutually positive correlation and in a negative correlation with neuroticism ( $p < .01$ ). In other words, it is not possible to judge in favour of a particular personality trait when its desirability is not compatible with one's judgement of other traits. On the other hand, the self-evaluation of the respondents' own traits indicates a similar incidence of mutual correlation, with the exception of Agreeableness, which shows no correlation with Neuroticism, Extraversion or Openness, whereas all other correlation coefficients are statistically significant at  $p < .01$ .

The testing of correlation between the self-reported traits of respondents, and their evaluation of the traits deemed by them to be desirable in a politician, judged Agreeableness as the key personality trait above all the other traits chosen by them. Respondents who themselves score highly on the self-reported trait of Agreeableness, rank as desirable in a politician the following traits: Agreeableness (.60,  $p < .01$ ); Conscientiousness (.59,  $p < .01$ ); Openness to experience (.35,  $p < .01$ ); Emotional stability (-.32,  $p < .01$ ); and Extraversion (.26,  $p < .05$ ).

Respondents who themselves score highly on the self-reported trait of Agreeableness, prefer politicians who are: more Agreeable (.62,  $p < .01$ ); more Conscientious (.31,  $p < .01$ ) and more Emotionally stable (-.22,  $p < .05$ ). Extroversion and Openness to experience of respondents are associated with valuing the same quality in a politician. Finally, Neuroticism self-reported by respondents demonstrated a low level of positive correlation with the evaluation of the same traits in a politician (.20,  $p < .05$ ).

**Table 3. Correlation between respondents' self-reported personality traits and the personality traits preferred by respondents in a politician**

	Nep	EXp	OIp	PRp	SAp	NEg	EXg	OIg	PRg	SAg
NEp	1.00									
EXp	-.47**	1.00								
OIp	-.33*	.62**	1.00							
PRp	-.47**	.50**	.49**	1.00						
SAp	-.57**	.58**	.47**	.67**	1.00					
Neg	.20*	-.07	.03	-.13	-.12	1.00				
EXg	-.06	.22*	.22*	.19	.18	-.61**	1.00			
OIg	-.18	.20*	.37**	.17	.16	-.44**	.51**	1.00		
PRg	-.32**	.26*	.35**	.60**	.59**	-.18	.12	-.00	1.00	
SAg	-.22*	.18	.10	.42**	.31**	-.41**	.47**	.27**	.54**	1.00

In the analysis of the impact of the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents on their judgement of the of the personality traits they desired in a politician, the first factor to be analysed was the differences between women and men. As can be seen in Table 4, statistically significant differences were observed in the judgements of the desirable traits Agreeableness and Cooperativeness. The results indicate that women find these two features more desirable traits in a politician than do men ( $p < .05$ ).

The education of the respondents was not a significant variable in judging the desirability of particular personality traits in a politician. Table 4 indicates that respondents' judgements of desirable traits in a politician do not differ significantly on grounds of respondents education level.

Although it was anticipated, the results showed no link between the judgement of the personality traits deemed desirable in a politician with the ethnicity of the household (Table 5). In other words, regardless of whether s/he originated from a mono-ethnic or a multi-ethnic household, the respondents' preferences, when considering the personality traits they desire in a politician, do not differ.

**Table 4. T-test; Gender impact on personality traits desirable in a politician**

	Gender	M	SD	SE M	t(230)	P
NEp	Male	12.89	4.00	.91	1.92	.06
	Female	14.94	3.68	.60		
Exp	Male	32.61	3.94	.92	-1.59	.11
	Female	34.26	3.34	.57		
OIp	Male	38.45	6.33	1.41	-1.91	.06
	Female	41.33	4.79	.79		
PRp	Male	33.78	4.63	1.06	-2.40	.02
	Female	36.86	4.47	.73		
SAp	Male	38.95	4.91	1.09	-2.00	.04
	Female	41.40	4.03	.68		

**Table 4 ANOVA; Impact of respondents' education on the personality traits preferred in a politician.**

		M	SD	F(2,230)	p
NEp	Students	13.47	3.85		
	Secondary school	14.60	3.94	.51	.60
	University	12.66	4.32		
EXp	Students	33.83	3.49		
	Secondary school	32.22	3.99	1.17	.31
	University	35.00	3.68		
OIp	Students	40.45	5.43		
	Secondary school	38.50	6.65	.95	.39
	University	42.33	3.61		
PRp	Students	36.17	4.89		
	Secondary school	34.80	4.68	.39	.67
	University	35.16	3.92		
SAp	Students	40.87	4.45		
	Secondary school	38.90	5.40	.77	.46
	University	40.83	2.78		

**Tabela 5 T-test; Impact of the ethnicity of family on the personality traits preferred in a politicians**

	Ethnicity of family	M	SD	SE M	t(230)	p
NEp	Multi-ethnic family	12.62	3.18	.61	-1.82	.07
	Mono-ethnic family	14.48	4.29	.79		
Exp	Multi-ethnic family	34.08	3.37	.67	.74	.46
	Mono-ethnic family	33.33	3.84	.73		
OIp	Multi-ethnic family	40.62	5.47	1.05	.42	.67
	Mono-ethnic family	40.00	5.63	1.04		
PRp	Multi-ethnic family	35.44	3.89	.74	-.57	.56
	Mono-ethnic family	36.17	5.43	1.00		
SA	Multi-ethnic family	40.82	3.54	.67	.52	.60
	Mono-ethnic family	40.18	5.34	1.02		

In contrast, the ethnic composition of the wider social milieu of subjects was seen to have a certain bearing on the judgement of the personality traits deemed to be most desirable in a politician (Table 6). The results indicate that respondents who have friends in other ethnic groups rated Openness to experience as one of the more desirable personality traits in a politician ( $p < .05$ ).

**Tabela 6 T-test; Impact of the ethnicity of friends on the personality traits preferred in a politician**

	Ethnicity of friends	M	SD	SE M	t(230)	p
NEp	Multi-ethnic friends	13.83	3.95	.57	1.01	.25
	Mono-ethnic friends	12.12	3.22	1.14		
EXp	Multi-ethnic friends	33.47	3.66	.55	-1.00	.31
	Mono-ethnic friends	34.87	3.22	1.14		
OIp	Multi-ethnic friends	44.42	3.55	1.34	-2.18	.03
	Mono-ethnic friends	39.71	5.51	.78		
PRp	Multi-ethnic friends	35.50	4.79	.69	-1.25	.21
	Mono-ethnic friends	37.75	3.99	1.41		
SAp	Multi-ethnic friends	40.22	4.68	.67	-1.21	.22
	Mono-ethnic friends	42.42	2.14	.81		

The final section analyses the social impact of trauma on the respondents' judgement of traits deemed desirable in a politician. The underlying question is whether the respondents' judgment of these personality traits in a politician is biased by his/her direct experience of trauma of displacement and/or war-time death / injury, and whether it can predict a propensity to find certain traits in a politician desirable. According to the data on trauma, forced displacement during the war does not appear to have had any significant impact on the preferences for certain personality traits in a politician (Table 7).

**Table 7. T-test; The impact of forced displacement on the personality traits preferred in a politician**

Refugee trauma		M	SD	SE M	t(230)	P
NEp	Yes	14.50	3.44	.86	1.112	.271
	No	13.20	4.02	.63		
Exp	Yes	33.13	3.94	1.01	-.75	.48
	No	33.91	3.49	.57		
OIp	Yes	40.18	4.96	1.27	-.09	.92
	No	40.35	5.78	.91		
PRp	Yes	35.75	4.47	1.11	-.07	.94
	No	35.85	4.87	.77		
SAp	Yes	40.00	4.05	1.04	-.51	.61
	No	40.70	4.67	.73		

In contrast, a statistically significant impact of the trauma of death or injury of a family member can be seen in relation to the judgement of levels of Neuroticism when looking at the desirable personality traits in a politician. Respondents who have direct personal experience of the death or injury of a family member are likely to consider Emotional stability as a more desirable trait in a politician. By contrast, respondents who had not experienced such trauma, rated Neuroticism as more a desirable trait in a politician ( $p < .05$ ).

**Table 8. T-test; The impact of war victims within family on the judgement of desirable personality traits in a politician**

war victims within family		M	SD	SE M	t(230)	P
NEp	Yes	12.42	3.28	.64	-2.16	.03
	No	14.60	4.12	.75		
Exp	Yes	34.44	3.42	.68	1.45	.15
	No	33.00	3.70	.71		
OIp	Yes	41.20	5.50	1.10	1.09	.27
	No	39.58	5.50	.98		
PRp	Yes	36.57	4.11	.80	1.11	.26
	No	35.16	5.18	.94		
SAp	Yes	41.12	3.11	.62	.92	.36
	No	40.00	5.37	.98		

## DISCUSSION

In this study, we have examined the relationship between the self-reported personality traits of the respondents and the personality traits deemed by those respondents to be desirable in a politician. The aim of the study was to determine how the personality traits of potential voters determines their vision of the ideal personality traits in a politician. For a clearer insight into the interrelationship between the respondents' personality traits and the personality traits deemed desirable, by them, in a politician, some specific socio-demographic characteristics of respondents were taken into consideration and included in the analysis and results of the study.

The respondents demonstrated the greatest approval for politicians exhibiting strongly the traits of Neuroticism and Conscientiousness. The parameters of deviation from the average distribution pointed to a grouping of answers on a spectrum that incorporated expressions of Emotional stability and Conscientiousness. The most pronounced variations between the personality traits identified by the respondents' self-assessment of their own traits and the personality traits identified by the respondents that they found desirable in a politician were registered with regard to these two traits. In other words, respondents considered it desirable for politicians to be more emotionally stable and more conscientious than themselves. The study found a similar variation in the assessment of the desirable traits in a politician in relation to self-reported personal traits where extraversion and openness to experience were concerned. The narrowest gap, yet still statistically significant, is seen between respondents' self-identified trait of Agreeableness and the same trait identified as being desirable in a politician. On the whole, the respondents believe that it is desirable for politicians to be significantly more conscientious, emotionally stable and more open, moderate and agreeable than the respondents judge themselves to be. If the results of this study are connected with the findings of the study by Čekrlija et al. (2016), the conclusion, for the majority of respondents, is that it is desirable that all of the traits and attitudes of a politicians to be more pronounced. While it would be reasonable to assume that a politician, putting him/herself forward for public office, is competent in terms of knowledge and management skills where the different resources at the local, national, or regional level are concerned, it would seem to be an unfounded assumption that a politician would have all personality traits more pronounced. Given that a significant number of the public addresses made by politicians are pre-planned, with the intention of creating a pre-determined impression, and to hide or disguise the true characteristics of their personality, then the data collected concerning the personality traits preferred by citizens-respondents in a politician are likely to be unreliable at best.

The results of desirable personality traits in a politician offer an ideal opportunity to apply psychodynamic interpretation. If respondents judge Conscientiousness highly, this would indicate a preference for having a politician in charge who can be trusted and who can take responsibility. If respondents judge Openness to experiences and to people in a politician highly, this indicates a preference for a politician who can provide a safe context for personal growth and growth of groups. Agreeableness, together with Openness to experience in a politician add to the impression of intimacy and accessibility on the part of a preferred politician. In conclusion, respondents can be said to seek in a politician an authoritative figure, who will facilitate citizens' everyday life with regard to their duties and responsibilities. Such a figure would also provide a pleasant and stress-free context in which the social needs and aspirations of citizens will be fulfilled through agreeable social interactions. Although the authors of the study would refrain from drawing over-simplistic conclusions, it would be impossible not to draw attention to the ways in which the findings of this study reflect the parent-child dynamic and the ways in which children satisfies their needs in the family.



In addition, the correlation of the personality traits of respondents with the personality traits that are judged to be desirable in a politician show another overlap. The correlation matrix demonstrates the tendency of respondents to score as desirable the personality traits in a politician in which they self-report themselves to have a high score. This is especially true for the traits of Agreeableness and Conscientiousness, which of all the personality traits desired in a politician correlated most closely when the self-reported personality traits of respondents scored agreeableness and conscientiousness most highly. Similarly, respondents with higher scores on Extraversion and Openness to experience judge these two personality traits as more desirable in a politician. Finally, respondents with self-reported low scores for neuroticism prefer emotionally stable politicians. Such results indicate a similarity with the two-factor model of personality by De Young (2002) or Saucier (2009). Although our study does not use the same tools as these two researchers for assessing personality, it cannot be denied that the personality traits of respondents and their interrelationship with the preferred personality traits in a politician, can be grouped into two broad categories that are similar to plasticity and stability, or elsewhere referred to as dynamism and social competence.

The analysis of the socio-demographic variables of respondents did not demonstrate a consistent impact on the personality traits they preferred in a politician. Namely, the identified differences found by this study in the preferences for the personality traits in a politician correspond with previous studies, according to which, women increasingly favoured the personality traits of Agreeableness and Conscientiousness, whereas Openness to experience and Extraversion were favoured by men (2017). The impact of education on the judgement of desirable personality traits in a politician was not established by this study. To make a comprehensive analysis of this kind in this study, three categories of respondents alone (students, high school graduates and a university graduates) were not enough. Therefore, data about the level of education of respondents should be collected and determined through a larger number of categories in a future study. In order to research, in more detail, the impact of socio-demographic variables on the preferences of respondents for particular personality traits in a politician, future research will include a greater number of variables in this domain.

In this study, social trauma, as a problematic concept in personality psychology, did not prove to be a reliable indicator of the judgments by respondents as to the desired personality traits in a politician. The preference for politicians who demonstrate Openness to experience is stronger in respondents who have friends among members of ethnic groups other than their own, but what these respondents fail to demonstrate is any correlation with other personality traits desirable in a politician. Based on the findings of Čekrljica et al, (Čekrljica, Turjačanin and Puhalo, 2004), our study anticipated finding higher scores for Agreeableness and Conscientiousness in those respondents whose social circle is multi-ethnic. Based on the same research (ibid.), as well as another study, (Turjačanin and Čekrljica, 2006), our study anticipated a significant difference between respondents, based on the ethnic composition of their families. In this study, the impact of the variables from the domain of social trauma is almost completely absent. However, social trauma as a variable must continue to be included in future research because it is a complex phenomenon which requires examination from multiple perspectives prior to determining either general findings or conclusions.

Based on the findings of this study, we can generally conclude that respondents prefer those personality traits in a politician for which, in their own self-judgement, they score themselves highly. This finding will be analysed in more detail in future research by posing a larger number of more defined hypotheses based on this study.

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## Desirable personality traits of politicians and relationship with ethnic attachment, ethnic openness and religiosity

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**Abstract:** The aim of the conducted research was to examine the relationship between ethnic attachment, ethnic openness and religiosity with preferences of certain personality traits in politicians. In assessing desirable personality traits of politicians, Big five model of personality was used, while ethnic attachment, openness and religiosity are observed as components of clero-nationalism.

The study involved 175 respondents (78 female), between 19 and 82 years of age. In assessment of desirable characteristics of the politicians, the BFI-44 questionnaire was used, and the ethnic attachment, ethnic openness and conformistic religiosity were measured with EV-EO-R Scale. The data analysis included correlations between assessments of desirable personality traits in politicians and described components of clero-nationalism. The results show that Consciousness and Emotional Stability were the most desirable characteristic in politicians. The results also show that higher scores on ethnic attachment, openness and religiosity are associated with higher desirability of Consciousness and Emotional Stability. Based on multiple regression analysis, it has been established that higher desirability of Consciousness and Openness in politicians is predictive of higher ethnic openness.

**Key words:** personality traits in politicians, ethnic attachment, ethnic openness, religiosity.

## INTRODUCTION

The presented study is a part of a wider project which explores personality traits of politicians. In the context of this research the desirable traits of politicians are discussed in relation to the ethnic attachment, ethnic openness and conformistic religiosity.

Studies on authoritative personality in the former Yugoslavia received considerable attention (Djuric, 1987; Hofman, Uzelac and Ignjatović, 1987; Majstorović Ignjatović and Salaj, 1994; Roth and Havelka, 1973). Authoritarianism was discussed within the context of numerous personality models, was associated with a variety of personal characteristics and social psychology constructs, as well as socio-cultural context. The disintegration of the former state further intensified interest in the psychological aspects of authoritarianism. After the nineties, ethnocentrism became the most attractive component of authoritarianism for researchers. This construct was analyzed through different operationalization such as ethnic identity, ethnic attachment and openness, ethnic distance, ethnic stereotypes, ethnic reconciliation (Turjačanin, 2015). A number of studies

obtained a considerable amount of knowledge about the overall experience and attitudes considering their own and other ethnic groups. In addition, the variable of ethnic identity, which describes the components of ethnicity and openness, has become an integral part of all serious research of social phenomena.

As well as in the previous, in the present study authoritarianism is seen through the component of ethnocentrism. The experience of one's own and other ethnic groups is operationalized through ethnic attachment and openness, and complemented with religiosity. Given that: 1) in the Balkan region ethnicity is inextricably intertwined with the affiliation to a particular religious group (Turjačanin, 2007), 2) that in this region the terms ethnic and religious group are often mixed (Turjačanin, 2008), and 3) that researchers consistently report on the relationship between ethnicity and religiosity (Gajic, 2006; Turjačanin and Čekrljija, 2006; Wolf and Momirović, 1988); this approach is emerging as an optimal solution for achieving a comprehensive insight into the authoritarian tendencies in the Balkan context.

Conceptually, ethnic attachment can be treated like a form of ethnic identity. It shares a common area with ethnocentrism, nationalism and patriotism but also enables the simultaneous existence of multiple identities (Turjačanin, 2015). In the most general sense it can be described as a loyalty to their own ethnic group and its connection with her fate and the fate of its members. Unlike the other related concepts, ethnic attachment can also be a negative sign. In other words, opposite to ethnic attachment is not only the indifference to his own ethnic group, but also negative attitudes towards their own ethnic group, distancing or its complete rejection. The second component of an attitude towards ethnic group experience is an attitude towards other ethnic groups. This component can also be described through its poles, as national ethnic openness opposed to ethnic isolation. Although all studies of this concept include an attitude towards their own and other ethnic groups, there are a number of models that differ in the proposed structure. Milosavljević argues about the existence of unique dimension of national attachment opposed to national openness, while Rot and Havelka (1973) suggest five types of national attachment (exclusive national attachment, featured national attachment, divided national attachment, general human bondage, and anationalism and individualism). Guetzkow (1955) reports three types of national attachment: attachment to their own nation, and the connection with other nations; exclusive national attachment; and lack of feeling of unity with the nation where one belongs. Considering number of studies (Turjačanin and Čekrljija, 2006), findings give strong support to the two-dimensional model that consists of ethnic attachment and ethnic openness (Čekrljija, 2013), which gave the reason for its further validation. One of the most important part of the validation was linking ethnic attachment /openness to the construct of religiosity. Guided by previously found correlations of ethnocentrism and religion in the context of an authoritarian personality syndrome (Altemeyer, 1996; Adorno, Frenkel-Brunswick, Levinson and Sanford, 1950), consistent empirical findings that indicate their relationship (Čekrljija, Barac and Djuric, 2013; Gajic, 2006; Blower, 2006) and the fact that ethno-religious identity has already been recognized as a unique construct in political science, sociological and philosophical studies (Zivanovic, 2016; Ćurak, 2006; Kukic, 1998; Mujkic, 2010), Wolf and Momirović (1988) presented a thesis of clero-nationalism as a superior dimension that brings together ethnic attachment, ethnic isolation and religiosity. Later

studies have also confirmed the relationship between these three components (Čekrlija, Đ., & Đurić, 2015; Dušanić, 2006; Gajic, 2006).

In the present study, ethnic attachment, ethnic openness and religiosity are observed as mutually independent variables. The basic objective of the research is to examine whether these three variables, as confirmed subdimensions of authoritarianism, are indicators of desirability of certain personality traits of politicians. In other words, whether ethnic attachment, openness and religiosity are associated with the preference of certain traits or behaviors in politicians. Politicians' characteristics are described through the Big Five model. Respondents were asked to assess some descriptions having in mind the idea of the perfect politician. Obtained scores on personality scales were interpreted as a measure of desirable traits of politicians. The general assumption is that subjects with high scores on the dimension of clero-nationalism consider consciousness and emotional stability as desirable traits of politicians. According to first results on desirability of personality traits, subjects do not differ excessively from, for example, the voters from the USA (Barbaranelli, Caprara Vecchione and Fraley, 2006) in estimates of desirable traits in politicians. In both cases, conscientiousness and openness to experience emerge as the most desirable features, followed by emotional stability and agreeableness. However, if we consider these results in the context of subjects' political values and orientation, we can conclude that a preferred type of politician is the authoritative, leader type (Čekrlija, 2016). Therefore, in this study it will be directly observed if authoritarianism, manifested through the ethno-religious context, is directly related to the preferences of a particular type of politician.

## METHOD

### *Sample*

All respondents filled out a questionnaire online. The sample was gathered with the help of students using the snowball technique. After the elimination of incorrectly filled data, total sample consisted of 175 subjects (78 women) from 19 to 82 ( $M=36.34$ ,  $SD=14.20$ ) years of age. Respondents were at different levels of education. Most of them graduated from high school, while 7 respondents completed their primary education. 51 of them had their college degree, while 21 are currently studying.

### *Instruments*

Big Five Inventory (BFI 44; John, Donahue, & Kentle, 1991) is composed of 44 items, with 8 to 10 items per factor. Participants respond on a 5-point Likert-type scale with response options from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). The inventory consists of five scales: Neuroticism, Extraversion, Openness to Experience, Conscientiousness and Agreeableness.

Components of clero-nationalism were estimated using EV-EO-R questionnaire. Questionnaire consists of three scales: Ethnic attachment (EV), ethnic openness (EO) and conformistic religiosity (R). EV and EO scales consist of 5 items, while R scale includes 9 items. Participants respond on a 5-point Likert-type scale with response options from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). Longer versions of questionnaire showed satisfactory psychometric properties (Čekrlja, Turjačanin i Puhalo, 2004; Turjačanin i Čekrlja, 2006; Čekrlja, Barać i Đurić, 2013) and consistent findings in exploring the relationship with authoritarian tendencies.

### Statistical analysis

Descriptive parameters of estimated desirable personality traits of politicians, ethnic attachment, ethnic openness and conformistic religiosity were analysed. Relationship between estimated personality traits in politicians and clero-nationalism components was analysed using Pearson's correlation coefficient. Multiple regression was performed in further illumination of relationship between examined constructs. Preferred personality traits were defined as independent variables and clero-nationalism components were varied as dependent variables.

## RESULTS

Measures of descriptive statistics are discussed first. Estimated parameters of desirable traits presented with five major factors (Neuroticism, Consciousness, Agreeableness, Openness to experience and Extroversion) ethnic attachment, ethnic openness and religiosity are presented in Table 1. We used abbreviations instead of longer construct names.

**Table 1. Descriptive parameters, reliability, correlation with age and gender**

	<i>N</i>	<i>Min</i>	<i>Max</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Sk</i>	<i>Ku</i>	$\alpha$	<i>r</i>	<i>t</i>
NE	8	8.00	35.00	16.54	5.38	.70	.56	.73	-.08	-.71
CO	9	13.00	45.00	38.72	6.58	<b>-1.39</b>	<b>1.80</b>	.86	.22**	.82
AG	9	13.00	43.00	32.10	7.01	-.19	2.05	.65	.14	2.37*
OI	10	16.00	50.00	36.25	6.64	-.36	.09	.77	.02	2.52*
EX	8	14.00	38.00	33.85	5.59	<b>1.02</b>	<b>1.40</b>	.59	.12	.16
EO	5	5.00	25.00	21.05	3.69	<b>-1.26</b>	<b>2.15</b>	.73	.14	-2.75**
EV	5	5.00	25.00	17.93	4.54	-.23	.64	.75	-.19*	2.46**
R	9	9.00	49.00	30.58	6.83	.21	.35	.82	.04	.39

Note: *N*- number of items; *r*-correlation with age; *t*- test; \*  $p < .05$ , \*\*  $p < .01$

Based on the data in Table 1 it is evident that respondents tend to obtain higher scores on traits such as Conscientiousness, Agreeableness, and Openness to experiences, while on scales of emotional stability and extraversion have a evident tendency to achieve lower scores. Subscales of extraversion and agreeableness have a slightly lower internal consistency, and subscales of emotional stability, conscientiousness and openness to experience have a satisfactory internal consistency according to the conventional limit value  $\alpha = .70$ . Subscales of clero-nationalism have a satisfactory internal reliability according to the same conventional limit value. Answers on these subscales are generally higher, with the exception of subscales of ethnic religiosity where respondents aim towards slightly lower scores. Statistically significant correlations between these subscales and age are not identified. A positive significant correlation with low effect sizes (Cohen, 1988; Cumming, 2012) were found between age and conscientiousness, as well as between age and ethnic attachment. Statistically significant gender differences were also identified on agreeableness ( $t(173) = 2.37, p < .05, d = .37$ ) and openness to experience ( $t(173) = 2.52, p < .05, d = .35$ ). These differences, according to classifications, can be characterized as those of low intensity differences, where men achieve higher scores than women (Cohen, 1988; Cumming, 2012). Statistically significant gender differences were also identified on dimensions of ethnic openness ( $t(173) = 2.75, p < .01, d = .41$ ) and ethnic attachment ( $t(173) = -2.46, p < .01, d = .38$ ).

**Table 2. Correlations between scales**

	SA	PR	OI	EX	EO	EV	R
NE	-.77**	-.32**	-.33**	-.40**	-.31**	-.24*	-.23*
CO		.41**	.49**	.42**	.35**	.23*	.20*
AG			.40**	.05	.24**	.05	.20*
OI				.19*	.40**	.10	.15*
EX					.18*	.19*	.07
EO						.15*	.01
EV							.40**

Note:  $p < .05$       \*\* $p < .01$

Relations between personality traits and sub-scales of clero-nationalism are presented in Table 2. Based on the data in Table 2 it is evident that there are statistically significant correlations, low in intensity, between personality characteristics and subscales of clero-nationalism. Thus, for example, emotional stability is negatively correlated with all three subscales of clero-nationalism, with the highest correlation being the one ethnic openness. Conscientiousness is positively correlated with all three subscales (the highest correlation is with ethnic openness). Agreeableness is not significantly correlated only with ethnic attachment, while this personality trait is in positive statistically significant correlation with ethnic religiosity and ethnic openness.



Extraversion, as a personality trait, achieves a statistically significant correlation with ethnic openness and ethnic attachment, while a statistically significant correlation is not obtained with ethnic religiosity. The identified correlations are of negligible effect size (Cohen, 1988, Cumming, 2012). Openness to experience obtained the highest correlation with ethnic openness, a negligible correlation with ethnic religiosity. This personality trait is not correlated with ethnic attachment.

Since personality traits have been in correlation with ethnic openness, ethnic attachment and ethnic religiosity, multiple regression analysis was used in further exploration of relations between these constructs. In the first step, personality traits are set as predictors, and ethnic religiosity is defined as a criterion variable. The predictive model was not statistically significant ( $R^2 = .05$ ,  $F(5, 142) = 1.41$ ,  $p = .22$ ).

**Table 3. Personality traits as predictors of conformistic religiosity**

<i>Predictors</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>
NE	-.17	-1.39	.17
EX	.02	.19	.85
OI	.00	.03	.98
AG	.15	1.69	.09
CO	-.07	-.55	.58

In the second step, personality traits are still predictors, while ethnic openness is now the criterion variable. This predictive model is statistically significant and explains about 31% of the variance ( $r^2 = .314$ ,  $F(5, 141) = 12.88$ ,  $p < .001$ ). Conscientiousness and Openness stay statistically significant predictors of ethnic openness, as can be seen in Table 4. Both predictors are positively related to ethnic openness. Openness to experience is a slightly better individual predictor.

**Table 4. Personality traits as predictors of ethnic openness**

<i>Prediktori</i>	$\beta$	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>
NE	-.07	-.67	.51
EX	-.05	-.45	.65
OI	.33	4.30	<.001
AG	.05	.62	.54
CO	.28	2.49	<.05

In the third step, personality traits are still set as predictors, while ethnic attachment is now set as criterion variable. The predictive model, according to the results shown in Table 5, is statistically significant and explains about 7% of the variance ( $r^2 = .077$ ,  $F(5, 144) = 2.41$ ,  $p < .05$ ). Although the model of predictors in the latter case is statistically significant, the individual predictors, personality characteristics, are not statistically significant predictors of ethnic attachment.

**Table 5. Personality traits as predictors of ethnic attachment**

<i>Predictors</i>	$\beta$	$t$	$p$
NE	-.07	-.58	.56
EX	.09	.95	.35
OI	-.06	-.62	.54
AG	-.03	-.35	.73
CO	.19	1.45	.15

## DISCUSSION

The aim of the research was to examine the relations between desirable traits of politicians and ethnic attachment, ethnic openness and religiosity. Having in mind the obtained results, we can conclude they partially support the hypothesis on the preference of conscientiousness and emotional stability, as antipodes to neuroticism in subjects with higher scores on ethnic attachment / openness and religion. However, these findings are sufficient only to formulate a more precise hypotheses in the next research step, which would relate to the nature of registered connections.

First findings considering the desirable traits of politicians are compatible with those from 2016. Conscientiousness, openness to experience and extroversion are the most preferred traits of politicians. As for the ethnic attachment, openness and religiosity, the only significant diversion is a slightly increased score on ethnic openness. This important part of these findings is associated with the kurtosis value, whose sign indicates the direction of correlation between ethnic openness and ethnic attachment. Specifically in the case of a sample with average scores that indicate a simultaneous ethnic attachment and openness, the correlation between these two variables is positive. In the case of ethnic isolation, this correlation is negative. Descriptive parameters and a positive correlation of ethnic attachment and openness in this study confirmed that this is a sample of respondents that are average in ethnic openness.

Out of the desirable traits of politicians, conscientiousness and neuroticism are associated with the tested components of clero-nationalism. Those with a higher score on the scale of ethnic

attachment, openness and religiousitz prefer conscientiousness and emotional stability as desirable traits in a politician. If these links are interpreted from the perspective of the authoritarian personality, we could say that the results are expected and logical. Emotional stability of a politician preferred by an authoritarian structure is associated with a desired reduction of basic inconveniences which is through development acquired through impact of different authorities. Conscientiousness, on the other hand, would have to send a message about the ability of the system to maintain functionality. Since an authoritarian personality is not able to function outside of a specific system, integrity or authority of the politicians in this case are promoted as his most important characteristics. However, in additional analysis, we did not obtain a confirmation of registered correlations. Using the assessment of desirable personality traits, we could not predict ethnic attachment of religiosity. Thus, the importance of preferences of emotional stability and conscientiousness in politicians does not directly say anything about ethnic attachment or individual's religiosity. A link between ethnic attachment and the preference towards the openness to experience and consciousness in politicians is verified. Respondents that consider these two features as desirable characteristics are likely to have a pronounced component of ethnic openness. Here, it is necessary to draw attention to the role of assessment of openness to experience. Namely, as it was determined, regardless of the type of society or the country where the research is being conducted consciousness is a desirable feature of a politician (Barbaranelli, Caprara, Vecchione and Fraley, 2006). On the other hand, consciousness as a personality trait, is associated with the preference of authoritative systems, but has also been established as a correlate with humanistic orientation (Pierce, 1993; Popkin, 1991). Therefore, openness to experience, in individuals or recognized in politicians, could be a personality characteristics that determines the nature of the relationship of conscientiousness and ethnic openness opposed versus ethnic isolation. Openness to experience, along with consciousness, will therefore in the next research step, be the focus of additional attention. First, these two personality traits consistently emerge as the most desirable qualities of politicians. Secondly, previous studies of desirable traits in politicians provide us with the basis for more precise research hypotheses, which aim would no longer be simply just to identify the factors impacting the preferences of certain personality traits of politicians, but determining the precise nature of that impact.

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## The impact of social trauma and personality traits on clero-nationalism

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**Abstract:** The aim of this research is to analyze the relationship between personality traits, social trauma and clero-nationalism. Previous studies have obtained results that suggest the stable relationship between the personality traits interpreted according to Freud-Abraham theory of psychosexual development and different subdimensions of authoritativeness. In this study, along with personality traits, the impact of social trauma upon clero-nationalism was analyzed. In our research, social trauma was defined by the presence of war victims in respondents' families. In the study we tried to examine the interrelationship between social trauma and personality traits, as well as their overall impact on clero-nationalism. The sample consisted of 1128 participants (576 women), whose age ranged from 18 to 61 ( $M=31.96$ ,  $SD = 6.16$ ). Respondents were divided in groups, and participation in the study was completely voluntary and anonymous. For the assessment of personality traits we used the REKA questionnaire to assess libido fixation, while clero-nationalism was assessed by the EV-EO-R scale. To assess the anti-intracception we used the AI scale, RSES Rosenberg's scale to measure self-esteem, and aggression was tested by VAP098 scale. The data was analyzed using multiple regression analysis, where clero-nationalism was the dependent, while the socio-demographic variables, together with personality traits and libido fixation, made a set of predictor variables. In the applied mediation analysis, social trauma was set as an independent variable, clero-nationalism as the dependent, while the libido fixations, and other personality traits, were placed in the position of mediation variables.

The results show that social trauma is a significant predictor of clero-nationalism. Respondents having these kind of experiences achieved higher scores on clero-nationalism. On the other hand, measures of oral, urethral and phallic fixation are the significant predictors of clero-nationalism. As far as personality traits are considered, the aggressive character stands out as a predictor of clero-nationalism. The results are consistent with earlier findings on the etiology of authoritarianism. In addition, the research has confirmed the influence of social trauma in expressing clero-nationalism, in the sense that the presence of trauma of this kind enhances clero-nationalism.

**Key words:** social trauma, clero-nationalism, personality traits, Freud Abraham theory of psychosexual development

## INTRODUCTION

In the last thirty years, within the areas where people speak variations of B-H-S languages, ethnic attachment and ethnic openness were discussed from various angles. In the field of psychology, these variables are discussed in relation with different characteristics and pathological personality structures, wide-range of sociopsychological variables and social orientations, as well as concepts of developmental psychology. Summing up many of the studies, we can rightly say that we now have a large amount of knowledge about ethnic attachment, ethnic openness and religiosity, both individually and within clero-nationalism as the higher structure in hierarchy. By their nature, these variables are usually placed within the framework of authoritarianism syndrome, and as such, they can be considered as quite well defined.

Studies that consider ethnic attachment, ethnic openness and religiosity can be broadly divided into two groups. The first group is defined by those studies where the relationship with a variety of personal characteristics, personal preferences, or social orientations is tested. The second group includes studies that analyze the impact of different socio-demographic variables on ethnic attachment, openness and the subdimension of clero-nationalism. They mainly seek to determine whether being a member of a certain social group is related to having certain specifics related to any of the subdimensions of clero-nationalism. By conducting research with such a successive approach, a significant part of more specific information remains beyond the reach of the available methods of conclusion. Drawing conclusion about the relationship between clero-nationalism and conative variables will fully be possible only when the specific features of certain social groups are taken in account. Therefore, in this study, clero-nationalism is considered as a result of psychological and socio-demographic variables, as well as their specific relationships. The aim of the research is to examine whether the presence of social trauma affects the intensity of clero-nationalism and whether personality characteristics have a mediation role in shaping the overall relationship between social trauma and clero-nationalism.

Since researchers are not unanimous about what constitutes social trauma and under what circumstances it develops, we do not have a unique definition of the concept. However, if you read certain discussions on this subject (Echo-Chak, 2010), or reviews given by Jeffrey (2012), Hernandez (2007), Prager (2011), Hollander (2013), it can be concluded that there are certain aspects that all the authors agree about. Social trauma, in the most general sense, presents negative psychological consequences of traumatic situations or events that occurred as a result of being a member of a particular social group. It is important to emphasize that the presence of social trauma implies realistic personal experience based on a specific membership in a particular social category, and anxiety caused by the possibility of experiencing certain discomfort as a result of being a member of the particular group. In other words, social trauma represents unpleasant, traumatic experience which is a consequence of the very belonging to a certain social group which is associated with particular attitudes, stereotypes or prejudices. If you were to look for studies on relations between social trauma, personality characteristics or specifically clero-nationalism, the research would not obtain many findings. However, if social trauma is defined by direct war experience, refugee status, status of ethnic minorities or by association with other categories like families of deceased, missing, injured or unemployed soldiers, then we come to the conclusion that the concept of social trauma is far more wider than it appears at first sight. Unfortunately, at the same time, it leads to the conclusion that it is necessary to do a detailed systematization of research findings, which are nominally classified within numerous

scattered concepts, but by their nature belong to the domain of social trauma (Echo-Chak, 2010). In this study, we have chosen two variables that undoubtedly represent important sources of social trauma. The first variable suggests experience related to an injury or death of a family member in the war. Its impact on clero-nationalism was analyzed by comparing subjects with such direct experience and those who were lucky enough not to directly experience such a stressor. The second indicator of social trauma is related to the ethnic structure of participants' families. Since the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina was primarily an ethnically defined one, it is clear that the ethnically mixed families had an additional source of stress because they were not able to develop a full group identity based on ethnicity. Studies that analyze the relationship between two mentioned variables and ethnic identity, openness and religiosity generally show conflicting results. The general conclusion is that the death or an injury of a family member has a potentially positive effect on the expression of ethnicity and religiosity, primarily in families whose members belong to the same ethnic group (Turjačanin and Čekrlija, 2006; Čekrlija, Turjačanin and Puhalo, 2004). In contrast, members of families that include individuals of other ethnic groups show a greater degree of ethnic openness.

In studies considering the relationship between personality traits and ethnic attachment and openness we have a large number of obtained results. Most of them have found that Agreeableness and Openness correlate with ethnic openness (Sibley and Duckitt 2008). Religiousness, on the other hand, is usually correlated with Conscientiousness and Agreeableness (Kosek, 1999; Saroglou 2002; Taylor and MacDonald, 1999). By examining connections of ethnic attachment and ethnic openness with personality traits in the domain of authoritarianism (Adorno, Frankel-Brunswick, Levinson, 1950) we get a more accurate insight into their nature. Summarizing the numerous studies considering the relationship between ethnic attachment and openness with authoritarianism subdimension (Čekrlija, Barać and Đurić, 2013; Čekrlija and Đurić, 2015; Turjačanin and Čekrlija, 2006)), it was concluded that ethnic attachment and openness represent the basic context for expression of authoritarian personality tendencies (Čekrlija, 2016). If we know that in developed countries the primary group identity is based on ethnicity, it is expected that the authoritarian tendencies are directed primarily through ethnocentrism. Taking in consideration several independent studies (Turjačanin and Čekrlija, 2006), religiosity, however, can be linked with general conformism of an individual.

In most of the studies so far we shed a light on the nature of authoritarian personality structure and its traits by using Freud-Abraham's theory of psychosexual development of personality. Perhaps the most important findings about the nature of authoritarianism were obtained using a dynamic interpretation of the psychoanalytic theory of personality and it would be irresponsible to deny them. On the other hand, many psychoanalytical concepts are today used under different terms and as parts of other theories. Therefore, it seems easier to remain in the previously proven theoretical framework which offered many valid interpretations. Freud-Abraham's theory of psychosexual development of personality is used as a theoretical basis in the consideration of personality characteristics and different dimensions of authoritarianism. Considering personality factors that are defined by the indicators of libido fixation in the oral, anal, urethral and phallic phases, constructs like anti-intracception (Čekrlija 2001; Marinković, 1996) and religiosity (Čekrlija, 2007b) were analyzed. In addition, we have validations and verifications of praxophillia (Rašović, Stojanović, Rajaković, Lukić, 2001) and ordophillia (Stojanović, Trogrlić and Mitrović, 2001) and conformity (Dušanić, 2006; Gajić, 2006). Overall results of conducted studies show that oral fixation, with indicators of primary aggressiveness and low controllability, is the most significant predictor of subdimensions of authoritarianism, anti-intracception or religiousness. Phallus phase fixation usually



appears paired with oral fixation. Anal and urethral fixation seem to have a more moderating effect on subdimension of authoritarianism, overtaking the role in modifying the tendency of authoritarianism which was developed in the oral stage.

Anti-intracception, taken from the domain of personality traits, is included in the study as well. It is defined as an opposition to the subjective, imaginative and emotional, initiated by the fear of repressed forbidden impulses and loss of emotional control. According to our findings and derived generalizations, anti-intracception should be a very core part of authoritarianism (Čekrljija, Vujaković, and Đurić, 2017; Mitrović et Gradinovački, 1996). Its existence was confirmed by analyzing relations with Eysenck's personality factors (Ignjatović, Stojanović, Marinković and Orozović, 1996), as well as by the analysis of the relationship with a number of other subdimensions of authoritarianism (Čekrljija, 2007a; Stojanovic, 1996). Generally speaking, a measure of anti-intracception can be accepted as a valid alternative for assessing authoritarianism. From the domain of personality traits, we have also taken self-esteem and aggression in consideration.

Self-esteem is based on a general tendency of individuals to evaluate their own characteristics and abilities in a positive or negative manner (Rosenberg, 1965). Relations between self-esteem and variables based on ethnicity were considered in a number of studies. Through a number of studies conducted on various samples, a stable connection between ethnic attachment (Martinez and Dukes, 1997; Phinney, 1992; Roberts et al., 1999; Smith, Walker, Fields, Brookins, & Seay, 1999), and ethnic openness with self-esteem (Tajfel & Turner, 1979; Taylor & Moriarty, 1987; Masson and Verkuyten, 2005) was determined. A link between self-esteem and religiosity (Bagley and Mallick, 1997; and Khalek Eysenck, 1983) was also identified. According to the findings of numerous studies dealing with social trauma and dimensions of authoritarianism, self-esteem of an individual is an important factor in interpreting the particular context as a stimulus that should or should not result in authoritarian tendencies. Aggression, on the other hand, is seen as a state of readiness to respond aggressively in uncomfortable situations (Ignjatović, 1978). This kind of aggression is interpreted as a reaction to the threat and has no primary objective of endangering another person. Its primary goal is a personal defense. Considered like this, this kind of aggression could be broadly treated as a level of frustration tolerance. The VAPO-98 scale (Ignjatović, 1989), which is used to operationalize this type of aggression, obtained very good psychometric characteristics and decent correlations with other measures of aggression (Kurbalija, Ignjatović, 1999).

The primary goal of the study, as we have already stated, is defining the relationship between social trauma and clero-nationalism. What is the nature of the relationship between various categories of social trauma and their degree of clero-nationalism? The next question concerns the role of personality traits in shaping clero-nationalism. Are personality variables only predictors of clero-nationalism, or do they also mediate the effect of socio-demographic variables, as potential sources of social trauma, in encouraging clero-nationalism?

## **METHOD**

### *Sample*

Data for the study was collected among 1128 respondents (576 female), between 18 and 61 years of age ( $M=31.96$ ,  $SD=6.16$ ). 347 respondents were classified as socially traumatized (war victims within family).

### *Instruments*

For the assesment of libido fixations questionnaire REKA (Ignjatović, Mitrović, Jevremov, 2003) was used. The questionnaire is based on the Freud–Abraham's theory of psychosexual development of the personality. The REKA includes 4 scales and 40 items that present fixation in: oral, anal, urethral and phallic phase. Oral and anal fixation scales include indicators of passive and aggressive subphases. Urethral fixation scale includes descriptions of the inability to control the urinary tract, and social shame caused by enuresis. Items in phallic fixation scale are related to the animosity towards older people, and autoerotism. Scales indicate satisfactory reliability coefficients (Oral,  $\alpha=.84$ ; Anal,  $\alpha=.82$ ; Urethral,  $\alpha=.80$ ; Phallic,  $\alpha=.85$ ). For each item participants responded on the scale ranged from 1 (absolutely incorrect) to 5 (absolutely correct).

Anti-intracception is estimated with AI scale (Ignjatović, Orozović, Stojanović, Marinković, Bujak, Mitrović, and Kosanović, 1996). The scale is consisted of 40 items that describe anti-intracception as hostility towards emotions, psychology and art. Participants respond on the seven-degree scale with values ranged from 1 (absolutely incorrect) to 5 (absolutely correct). Cronbach coefficient of reliability indicates satisfactory value ( $\alpha=.93$ ).

Self-esteem was evaluated with Rosenberg scale of general self-esteem (RSE, Rosenberg 1965). The scale is based on idea that self-esteem is presented as a general dimension which consists of associated aspects of self-concept. In this study RSE items were rated on a five-point Likert scale ranged from 1 (absolutely incorrect) to 5 (absolutely correct). The Cronbach  $\alpha$  coefficient indicated satisfactory reliability of the RSE ( $\alpha=.81$ ).

VAP0-98 (Ignjatović, 1998) is constructed as a short S-R form scale. It consists of 12 situations and 9 different reactions. For each situation respondent evaluates three different reactions to the situation and that provides a total of 36 items. Overall score presents a measure of general readiness to react aggressively if the situation is interpreted as dangerous or unpleasant.

Questionnaire EV-EO-R is used as a measure of clero-nationalism. It consist of three scales: ethnic attachment (EV; 5 items), ethnic openness (EO; 5 items), and conformistic religiosity (R). Items were rated on a five-point Likert scale, ranged from 1 (absolutely incorrect) to 5 (absolutely correct). The overall measure of clero-nationalism is the sum of scores on EV, EO and R scale.

### *Statistical analysis*

In this study different statistical procedures were performed. T-test was used in the analysis of relationship between social trauma and clero-nationalism. Relationship between social trauma, personality characteristics and clero-nationalism were considered using multiple regression analysis and mediation analysis (Preacher Hayes, 2004).

## **RESULTS**

In the first part of the analysis, personality traits were taken in consideration, depending on the presence of social trauma, on whether participants come from families that had casualties during the war or not. The obtained results (Table 1) indicate that the two groups of participants, that were

compared, are statistically significantly different when it comes to anti-intracception, religiosity and clero-nationalism. The findings show that respondents who had war victims within their families are significantly more anti-intracceptive, more religious and have more prominent trait of clero-nationalism. The differences were statistically significant at the  $p < 0.01$  level.

**Table 1. T-test; differences in personality characteristics (with or without social trauma)**

Social trauma		M	SD	T	P
OF	DA	39.50	8.94	1.41	.16
	NE	38.59	10.40		
AF	DA	14.67	4.84	1.54	.13
	NE	14.13	5.59		
UF	DA	18.61	5.15	.68	.50
	NE	18.38	5.55		
PF	DA	23.20	6.52	1.39	.17
	NE	22.59	6.89		
AI	DA	130.91	65.99	<b>2.66</b>	<b>0.01</b>
	NE	121.79	46.06		
VAPO	DA	96.65	26.69	.88	.38
	NE	95.08	28.21		
GSE	DA	19.97	3.65	.62	.53
	NE	19.83	3.38		
EV	DA	18.41	3.95	1.04	.30
	NE	18.16	3.58		
EO	DA	10.00	3.66	-.48	.63
	NE	10.11	3.50		
R	DA	35.94	7.36	<b>3.25</b>	<b>.00</b>
	NE	34.11	6.82		
CN	DA	64.35	9.03	<b>3.39</b>	<b>.00</b>
	NE	62.41	8.64		

Using hierarchical multiple regression, a further analysis of the relationship between social trauma and personality traits was considered. This time, as an independent variable in the first step of the multiple regression analysis, the variables are taken from the set of socio-demographic characteristics (sex, age, ethnicity of parents and friends, whether participants had war casualties within their families). In the second phase, as measures of personality traits, libidinal fixations (oral, anal, uterine, and phallic), aggressiveness, anti-intracception and self esteem were involved

In the first step of multiple regression analysis, multiple correlation coefficient is  $r = .18$  (only 3% of the total variance explained). Value of the parameter ( $F(5,1097) = 6.390$ ,  $p < 0.1$ ), indicates the presence of substantial connections between predictors and the dependent variable. According to the

values of regression coefficients, the significant predictors are: age (-11,  $p < .01$ ), ethnicity of a friend (-.07,  $p < .05$ ) and having war victims within families (-.09,  $p < .01$ ). Summarizing the results, we can conclude that younger respondents, followed by respondents who do not have friends from other ethnic groups and respondents that have war victims within their families achieve higher scores on clero-nationalism.

Having personality traits in the next step of multiple regression analysis resulted in multiple correlation of  $R = .91$ , ( $F(12,1090) = 414054$ ,  $p < .01$ ). Statistically significant predictors of clero-nationalism are oral ( $\beta = .35^{**}$ ), urethral ( $\beta = .17^{**}$ ), and phallic fixation ( $\beta = .16^{**}$ ). The value of the regression coefficient of anti-intracception is also statistically significant ( $\beta = .24^{**}$ ), while the measure of self-esteem ( $\beta = .06^{*}$ ) was registered as a significant predictor probably only because of the large number of respondents in the sample. However, the most important predictor of clero-nationalism from the personality domain is aggression ( $\beta = .66^{*}$ ). In addition, although the values are very low, age and the presence of war victims within families cease to be relevant predictors of clero-nationalism.

**Table 2. Regression coefficients (socio-demographic variables and personality traits as predictors of clero-nationalism)**

	B	P
Gender	.08*	.01
Age	-.11**	.00
parents' ethnicity	.00	.99
friends' ethnicity	-.07*	.01
war victims in the family	-.09**	.00
Gender	-.03*	.04
Age	.01	.66
parents' ethnicity	-.04**	.00
friends' ethnicity	.00	.69
war victims in the family	-.03*	.01
OF	.36**	.00
AF	-.01	.44
UF	.17**	.00
PF	.16**	.00
AI	.24**	.00
VAP0	.66**	.00
SE	.06**	.00

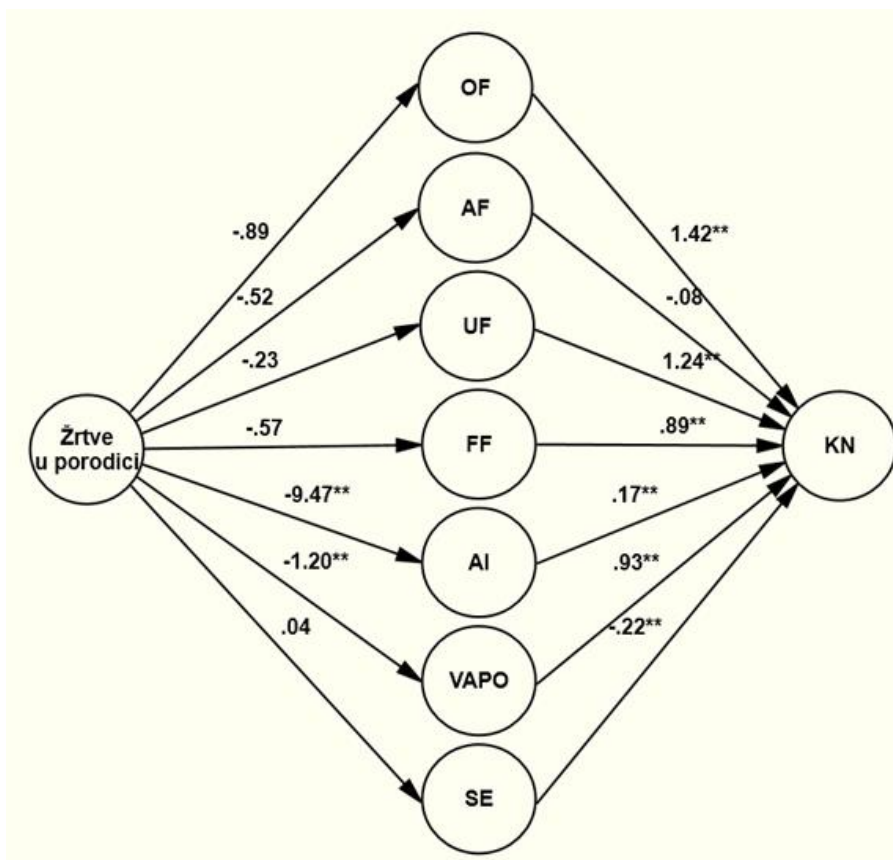
In an effort to achieve a more accurate insight into the nature of the impact of socio-demographic variables and personality characteristics on the intensity of clero-nationalism, the mediation analysis was applied (Preacher and Hayes, 2004). The role of social trauma is, due to its importance in this case, separated from the set of socio-demographic characteristics and set as the primary independent variable. In the first phase, personality measures (oral, anal, urethral and

phallic fixation, anti-intracception, aggression and self esteem) are defined as mediator variables, while the general measure of clero-nationalism is put in a position of a dependent variable. The model includes 67% of the variance ( $R = .83$ ) with the value of variance statistics  $F(8.1095) = 655.92$  ( $p < .01$ ).

Both direct (-7.84) and an overall impact (-3.02) of social trauma on the intensity of clero-nationalism were statistically significant ( $p < .01$ ).

The results presented in Figure 1 show the impact of social trauma on anti-intracception and aggression. From the domain of mediation variables, only anal fixation is not significantly connected with clero-nationalism. The highest correlation with clero-nationalism are within oral and urethral fixation. According to presented results, phallic fixation and aggressiveness are also worth mentioning, while the lowest contribution to the explanation of clero-nationalism is derived from anti-intracception. The correlation between self-esteem and clero-nationalism is negative.

**Figure 1. Mediation analysis (Relations between social trauma, personality traits and clero-nationalism)**

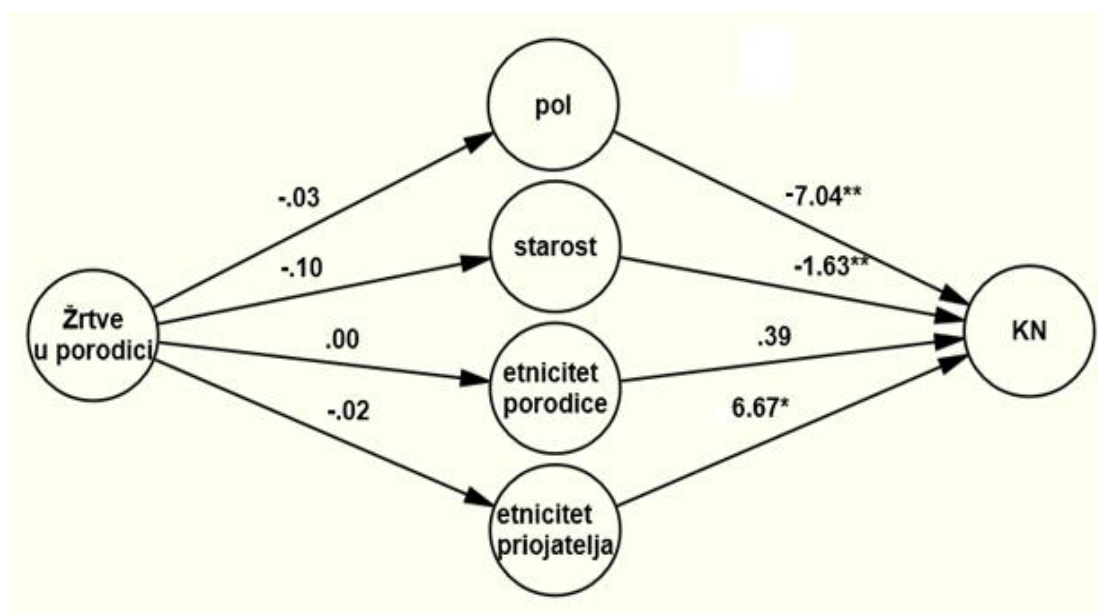


In the second mediation analysis, socio-demographic variables (gender, age, ethnicity of family members and friends) replaced personality traits in the position of mediation variables. Social trauma and clero-nationalism were retained as the independent and dependent variable.

Value of the correlation coefficient between multiple variables in the test model is slightly lower this time ( $R = .30$ ; 9% of the variance explained), with statistically significant value of statistic variance ( $F(5.1109) = 6.87$ ,  $p < .01$ ). The values of direct (-8.90) and an overall impact (-8.98) parameters of social trauma on clero-nationalism were statistically significant ( $p < .01$ ), negative and uniform.

The results in Figure 2 show the absence of any relations between the presence of social trauma and socio-demographic characteristics. On the other hand, regression coefficients show clero-nationalism is more prominent in men ( $p < .01$ ), younger subjects ( $p < .05$ ) and those who only have friends of their own ethnic group.

**Figure 2. Mediation analysis (Relation between social trauma, socio-demographic variables and clero-nationalism)**



## DISCUSSION

Overall, the results support the hypothesis on the relationship between social trauma and personality characteristics with clero-nationalism. Results within the personality domain are consistent with earlier findings on libido fixation and subdimensions of authoritarianism. On the other hand, sex, age, and the presence of social trauma are variables that are to be kept in mind when it comes to clero-nationalism.

Within the framework of the study, it is essential to point out the nature of the analyzed variable clero-nationalism. Guided by the ideas of Wolf and Momirović (1988), based on indirect (Turjačanin and Čekrlija, 2006) and direct empirical (Čekrlija and Đurić, 2015) results obtained with longer versions of

the questionnaires used in this study, clero-nationalism was regarded as a superior personality characteristic which combines ethnic openness, ethnic openness (negative direction) and religiosity. In our research, items on the scale EO were recoded so that their sum is the total measure of ethnic closedness EC). The sum of the scores on scales of ethnicity, ethnic attachment and conformistic religiosity is taken as a general measure of clero-nationalism. This approach, although it seems logically justified, has no direct empirical support, and is based primarily on previous findings and not on psychometric analysis of the EV-EO-R questionnaire. This fact should be noted as a potential limitation of the study. But, as these findings support the idea of a positive correlation between ethnic attachment, ethnic closedness and religiosity, it seems that the general conclusion of the study is not affected by this deficiency.

Correlation between clero-nationalism and estimates of the libido fixation is in accordance with general findings of libido investments in certain stages of development with authoritarianism (Čekrlja 2001 Čekrlja, Đurić and Mirković, 2015; Čekrlja, 2008; Marinković, 1996; Ignjatović, Stojanović, Marinković and Orozović, 1996). The results suggest the importance of the primary oral and phallic fixation in the development of an individual prone to clero-nationalism. As in previous studies, findings suggest that the beginnings of the authoritarian personality are based on the method of interpretation of the overall stimuli that are received by an individual. The stimuli, in terms of personal needs, are connected with one's interpretation of the need as a pleasant or unpleasant change, that will or will not be met, in a pleasant or unpleasant way. The sense of deprivation in meeting their needs or, conversely, an excessive enjoyment in meeting the needs, generated by an intensive investment in the oral phase of libido development is later reflected in the more general tendency in the behavior of the individual. Each situation later in life, which is interpreted as a need or discomfort, will bind itself to the acquired behavioral or thinking patterns, as well as attitudes. This is especially true for the interpretation of feelings of vulnerability, bearing in mind that the need for security and survival are the first ones that need to be satisfied. Putting oral fixation in association with clero-nationalism may indicate that it is a simple mechanism where strong attachment to their ethnic group and religion allow certain interpretations of the general situation as safer, less embarrassing and less dangerous. The significant presence of indicators of oral aggression should point out the low frustration tolerance in clero-nationalists when meeting their needs, as well as in estimated position of vulnerability or risk. Aggressiveness, that appears when they are not satisfying their needs or experiencing vulnerability, does not include the satisfaction component, but is primarily a tendency to restore homeostasis. Unresolved Oedipal complex, expressed through animosity towards the elderly, is also expected to be correlated with clero-nationalism. First of all, one of the main characteristics of authoritarian systems, such as fascism and nazism, is an open defiance of the weak members of society, including the elderly. On the other hand, ethnic identity is an ideal ground for dismissal of the Oedipal crisis. Ethnic and religious identities can contribute to resolving the Oedipal crisis in the domain that is at least partly connected to identification and closeness with the father figure. On the other hand, a sense of fear and embarrassment in contact with the father is being projected onto the other ethnic or religious groups, which points to ambivalent attitude towards the father being handled, but in a broader context. Bearing in mind that the superego begins to evolve in the phallic phase, it must not be forgotten that in this period, in addition to the attitude towards authority, the basis for a general attitude towards some behaviour rules develops. They are most often compatible with the way authority is experienced. If it is in a more rigid form, built on father's dominance and son's anxiety, then it will probably result in a

conformist attitude towards obeying the rules. On the other hand, a successfully resolved Oedipal conflict is the basis for critical reflection on moral principles before their adoption, and not submissiveness to rules and authority. Anal fixation is not related to clero-nationalism and urethral fixation, as the only transitional phase (from anal to falus), showed a significant association with clero-nationalism. As the clero-nationalism of the individual contributes to the experience of belonging and protection, this seems to be a logical connection. The feeling of insecurity and poor ability to control the situation, based on experienced discomfort in the adoption of urethral fixation, certainly find their resort in the ethno-religious identity. At this point, it is advisable to explain the one fact that is proven to be the rule in all the studies that have analyzed libido fixation and their relationship with other psychological variables (Čekrlija, 2007b; Čekrlija, 2001; Čekrlija, Đuti i Mirković, 2015). If the oral fixation is correlated with another variable, its robust relationship with at least one measure of libido fixation seems to be a rule. This finding has a theoretical background that suggests that the libido stagnation in the earliest stage of psychosexual development indicates a lower potential for successful conflict resolution in the following phases. Since oral fixation has constantly proven to be the most consistent and leading predictor of subdimensions of authoritarianism, a more general conclusion would be that the tendencies acquired in the oral phase play a major part in the development of authoritarianism. Urethral and phallic fixation should have, according to the results of this study, an additional impact on shaping clero-nationalism. Negative attitude towards emotions and subjectivness are correlated with clero-nationalism, as we expected. Anti-intracception is identified as *quinta esencia* of authoritarianism (Čekrlija, Vujaković and Đurić, 2017). On the other hand, clero-nationalism is based on the idea of a strong, concrete group with realistic goals and serious problems, so it should not leave too much room for emotions, imagination or art. Finally, the obtained link between aggression and clero-nationalism can be interpreted in a wider context. Namely, as a measure of the tendency to aggressive reactions in situations that are assessed as dangerous or unpleasant, VAPO scale represents the operationalization of aggression that is characteristic for the oral phase. This gives us another direct argument in favor of the importance of oral fixation in the etiology of authoritarianism. The presence of social trauma has also proven to significantly associated with clero-nationalism. If a respondent, that had war victims within his family, was in question, a probability of clero-nationalism increases. In addition, social trauma intensifies its influence over the libido fixations, so overall it achieves a double effect on clero-nationalism.

One of the most negative characteristics of belonging to socially traumatized groups is a greater degree of vulnerability and the difficulty in meeting the needs, making us once again directly prone to reacting aggressively to unpleasant stimuli. That way, the conditioned ethnicity of belonging to the category of socially traumatized represents a favorable context for preference to clero-nationalism. Let us add that, in the context of a broader understanding of social trauma and its impact on the formation of attitudes and behavior, we should bear in mind that youngsters are more prone to clero-nationalism, as well as those living in a homogeneous environment.



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## **Content analysis of the Orthodox catechism textbook for the 2nd grade in elementary school**

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**Abstract:** In the paper, content analysis of the Orthodox religious education second grade textbook, that has been in use in Republic of Srpska, one of the entities in Bosna and Herzegovina, was conducted. The main aim of the study was to examine whether the analyzed textbook meets the basic criteria that every textbook has to fulfill: to be in line with students' intellectual abilities, to affect students' motivation to use their own intellectual abilities and to help the process of school habits formation.

The first 17 teaching units, covering the first semester of the 2nd grade, were selected and analyzed from the textbook. Within each unit the number of words and sentences was determined, as well as the type of words and sentences, and the necessary level to understand the terms that shape the words and sentences, based on Piaget's stages of intellectual development.

According to the obtained results, 17 thematic units were written with a total of 874 words, divided into 85 sentences. Most of the words are nouns (278), verbs (247), and pronouns (102). As for the analyzed sentences, 32 of them are complex, 52 compound, and 1 sentence is simple. Combining these information about the number and type of words and sentences leads to the conclusion that the content of the textbook is primarily a set of facts or concepts, that needs to be memorized. In addition, most religious concepts and ideas are presented as axioms or postulates, and their primary purpose is moving towards the ability to memorize and repeat. The textbook does not offer a wider analysis of the lessons learned at the current stage of student's intellectual development. A significant number of terms, that students hear of for the first time, are with their conceptualization above the current stage of their intellectual development. Considering the 10 basic competencies that are set as the general goal of education, the textbook of religious education involves only social and civic ones. One of the flaws of the textbooks is also the absence of reviewers outside the theology domain.

It is a general conclusion that the textbook for religious education for the second grade of primary school has significant shortcomings. First, textbook terminology should be adapted to students' age and intellectual development. In addition, in order to improve the textbook, in the methodical and didactic sense, it is necessary to include experts in fields of pedagogy and psychology in its creation.

**Keywords:** catechism textbook, content analysis.

## INTRODUCTION

Analysis of curricula and syllabi of educational system identified formation and development of specific competencies, that will be the starting point for students to respond to their own needs or requirements of the environment, as their most general primary goal. The complete development of a man, as ontogenetic and phylogenetic, is based on the development and learning in its broadest sense (Radonjić, 1992). According to development opportunities and available forms of learning during the lifetime, personality traits, emotions, behavior patterns, attitudes, values, and prejudices are acquired and improved. If we know the simple fact that learning is subordinated to the general development of individuals, then we have to take care about limits determined by dynamics of the development of intellectual functions. The age between 6 and 15 years is the period of the most intensive development of intellectual functions and transformation from thinking of the child to the adult thinking. Development of intellectual functions is primarily related to general intelligence as the ability to perceive relationships and problem solving in general. In the context of general intelligence, a person develops deductive, inductive and experimental thinking, and creative abilities. Research indicates that general intelligence is far more important for mastering school programs than some specific intellectual abilities (Ivić, 1976a, 1976b). At age of 12, differentiation of intellectual abilities is intensified. Verbal, numerical, spatial, practical and artistic abilities develop as relatively independent aspects of intellectual abilities. These findings should be basic information for any plan relating education, or determination of methods which seek to achieve the final goals of education. The textbooks are one of the primary elements of the education system, and as such it should be essential for them to be consistent to these findings. By definition, textbooks are supposed to be based on knowledge of the development of intellectual abilities of children for whom they are intended to. If this is accepted as a fundamental criterion in the assessment of the quality of textbooks, then two necessary categories remain: motivation and formative factor. Since every intellectual function that occurs seeks to be practiced, textbook should motivate and engage the intellectual functions that intensively develop in the school period. On the other hand, a child meets the school duties without rational motivation and without the ability of temporal and spatial planning. Furthermore, Their abilities to maintain selective attention over a longer period of time is underdeveloped. Therefore, the textbook should also be an additional tool in the formation of basic academic habits. This study analyzed the textbook named Orthodox catechism for the second year of primary school (The biblical history of the New Testament, Dubravac, 2012), which is in use in the the Republic of Srpska. The aim of the study was to analyze the content of textbooks. We intended to examine how the textbook compliance with the essential criteria that every textbook should fulfill. In addition to the content of textbooks several other parameters within the publishing activities related to scientific and educational content will be analyzed. The reasons for the analysis of the content of textbooks of religious education are as follows:

- 1) There are no data that discuss compability of religious education programs or textbooks and the competencies that are designated as general educational outcomes. With regard to religious education based on different methodological principles of learning, it is necessary to check whether the curriculum and textbooks of religious education are in accordance with the general school curricula.
- 2) The textbooks of religious education are completely outside the jurisdiction and control of the ministries of science and education. Content and other properties of textbooks are entirely determined by religious officials, with questionable pedagogical, methodological or didactic knowledge of the textbooks.

3) Religious education covers a very abstract area, but students are not cognitively developed enough to fully understand and critically analyze religious teachings and values. It is therefore necessary to consider the terminology used in the catechism textbook.

4) Within teaching that includes certain ideas, there is always a possibility of promoting compatible ideologies. If we are aware of the complexity of the content of religious education, the fact that intelligence development and differentiation are still unfinished processes, and the fact that Bosnia and Herzegovina is often a polygon of ethno-religious conflicts, it is clear why this aspect should be carefully considered.

5) Finally, there has not been done any serious analysis of the textbooks in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Because the catechism is a subject equal to others, calibration of the textbooks should be an integral part of the process of improving the educational system. Nonetheless, serious scientific studies that consider relationship between religious concepts and the developmental aspects of personality are rather rare. (Hadžić-Krnetić, 2011; 2012)

The volume of content per teaching units, and types of words and sentences used in the textbook were the first ones to be analyzed. Complexity and the comprehensibility of words and sentences will be analyzed according to Piaget's stages of cognitive development. All the words and sentences in the text will be assessed according to the stage of cognitive development needed for the entire understanding of a specific word or a sentence. This analysis should provide a basic insight into the quality and complexity of content of catechism textbook designed for 7 or 8 year old students. The results will be analyzed and discussed in relation to the general educational goals, as well as implications for the broader social level. Since textbook was evaluated according to Piaget's stages of cognitive development, these are also presented in the part that follows.

#### *Piaget's stages of cognitive development*

Examining the dynamics of the development of the intellectual function in children, Piaget observed that all children make same mistakes during solving the same intellectual problems. After a series of experiments he concluded that intellectual processes were qualitatively different at certain ages. Piaget's initial interest in biology inspired him to highlight biological factors as crucial in the development of a child. According to his view, learning is subordinated to developmental and maturation processes. He did point the impact of environmental and cultural factors, but also believed that their power is limited. Social and cultural factors can only slow down or speed up the development, but can not change the order of operations in a person's development. The child creates certain schemes which adapt to external information (accommodation) or, without modification, incorporate this information (assimilation). Achieving the balance between two processes, the child achieves an adequate relationship and interaction with the environment. According to Piaget, there are four main stages in intellectual development: sensorimotor stage, pre-operational stage, concrete operations stage, and the stage of formal operations. **Sensorimotor stage** lasts from birth to the second year, characterized by introducing and bringing everything in connection with his own body. 'Element of thought' in this case are clear senses (perception) and movement (motor abilities), which is the reason this developmental stage gained such a name. The attainment of this stage are the creation of the category of object, space, time and causality. After six months child begins to realize that the object still exists even when it is not in his field of perception. Also, they are able to separate time categories, before and after. Piaget emphasizes

that the knowledge of the child in this first stage depends on the interaction of the subject (himself) and the object. The second stage in the development of the child is called **pre-operational**, and lasts from the second to the seventh year. In order to move from the sensomotoric to preoperational stage certain conditions must be satisfied. Symbolic functions appear, meaning that the child is now able to separate the „sign“ aside from its meaning. It is also able to imagine objects and thinks about things. However, the major turning point at this stage is the emergence of speech, which opens the way to social behavior. In addition to socialization an interiorisation of speech starts, what presents the emergence of thought and the interiorisation of an action. The speech develops gradually for the purpose of its communicative role. At this stage, the speech is more an escort of material activities. By the age of seven, children are not able to achieve true communication. They play and talk, but it is more of a collective monologue, and it is therefore called egocentric. A child perceives itself as a measure of all things, and everything adjusts to itself. At the end of this period, child realizes that there is a world still existing beyond child's direct sensations. The preoperative stage leads to interiorisation of the action patterns, and mental action schemes are related to certain problems only during this period. However, his mental action schemas remain still unrelated to each other. The absence of conservation and insensitivity to contradiction present the evidence for this conclusion. Also, a child believes that things are as he directly observes them. The third is the stage of **concrete operations**, which lasts from seven to twelve years. In this period mental action schemes separate from the individual problems, and the child is now able to successfully manipulate mental action schemes. Mental operations in this stage are internalized but also reversible. The child now understands conservation concepts. He realizes that the object does not change its essence if its appearance or form is changed. The child also develops sensitivity to contradiction, and perceptual thinking ceases to be dominant. It is now able to perform a seriation of objects, but only if objects persist in the child's field of perception. Logical THINKING is still limited by the personal experience on this stage. The ability to classify same or similar objects, as part of a larger category, is also an achievement of this stage. The egocentric speech disappears. The child is able to cooperate with his peers because they are able to distinguish their own from other people's points of view. Now it is able to understand the rules of the game and to some extent argues its claims. The last and the highest stage is the stage of **formal operations**. It begins after the age of eleven. The most prominent feature of this phase is that the child does not have to assess just on the basis of concrete objects. The central point is a full development of logical and abstract thinking. Children are no longer prisoners of specific situations or realities. They are able to make the right combinations and plans on the mental stage. Some of the characteristics and achievements of the stage of formal operations are: the separation of the real and the possible, hypothetical-deductive thinking, separation of form and content, propositional thinking and combinatorics. The child is able to set up and manipulate hypotheses and make plans for the future. It is now able to perform mental and logical analysis of the problem, to argue their views and to assign priorities. In this period, it acquires their own attitudes and beliefs about some important issues in life. It intensifies the desire for autonomy and independence.

According to this, Piaget's conceptualization of cognitive development cannot change the sequence of cognitive stages of development and also cannot be sped up. Every period has a unique way of understanding the world around it, as well as certain limits to which it can be understood. The same logic was applied in the present study in relation to the content of catechism textbook. In the second grade of the elementary school students have clear cognitive limits. Their cognitive operations are not enough for understanding the world and its abstract aspects. Such knowledge should be the first criterion in the design of any school textbook, especially in catechism where students need to consider concepts that are often not clear even to elders.

## **METHOD**

### *Sample*

For the purposes of this study the first 17 lessons were selected from the Orthodox textbook for the second grade of primary school (Dubravac, 2012). The selected lessons cover the period of the first school semester and contain basic concepts, directions and basis ideas of religion. The first 17 lessons are a convenient sample because the analysis does not include a complete book. On the other hand, the analysis systematically covers the whole first semester, so the sample can be considered also as systematic (Krippendorff, 2004). Overall, the sample is adequate enough to have relevant results that can respond to the hypothesis. For a better understanding of the applied criteria in the analysis of the content following things should be noted: analyzed textbook was designed for a population of pupils aged 7 to 8 years old; Respondents intellectual functions are currently determined by limits of the concrete operations stage.

### *Content analysis*

Content analysis was focused on the following text characteristics: the number of units in the textbook; the number of sentences and words in the text; parts of speech; type of sentence; complexity of each word. The mentioned properties of the text are operationally defined in the following variables:

*Type of words* - according to the general classification, words are divided into 10 types: nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, numbers, attachments, prepositions, conjunctions, small words and interjunctions (Stevanović, 1970).

*Type of a sentence*—within the most general classification of sentences, based on its composition, simple and complex sentences are distinguished. In this study, we use a common school distinction - simple, expanded and complex (Stevanović, 1974; Stevanović 1998).

*A stage of cognitive development*- according to Piaget (sensomotor, preoperational, concrete operational and formal operational). For this study, all the terms in the text are estimated and sorted into three categories: formal operations required for the understanding of the concept; concrete operations are required; preoperational stage is sufficient for the understanding of the concept. The main purpose of creating this variable is to enable the comparison of the average degree of students' cognitive development and the cognitive requirements needed in order to understand the textbook terms.

The content of the catechism textbook was analyzed on different levels. First, the whole book was analyzed as a unique text. Then, the analysis on the sentences level was conducted. Finally, content analysis was conducted on the textbook units level.

### *The methods of statistical analysis*

The frequency analysis was applied. Chi-square test was used to determine the presence of certain categories of words and sentences.

## RESULTS

The Orthodox catechism textbook for the second grade which is used in the Republic of Srpska, consists of a total of 34 teaching units of which the first 17 entered the analysis. The first 17 lessons include a total of 874 words (excluding headings). The shortest thematic unit consists of a total of 19 words (*About the Cross*) and the longest of the 91 words (*Flood and Noah*). Results in the table 1 show that the number of words and phrases in the context of the lesson constantly grow. The general impression is that sentences are too long and too complex, particularly bearing in mind the age of students who use the Orthodox catechism textbook.

**Table 1. Representation of words and phrases in thematic units**

Lesson	Sentences (f)	Word s (f)
Lesson 1	4	26
Lesson 2	2	43
Lesson 3	3	19
Lesson 4	4	32
Lesson 5	6	38
Lesson 6	5	64
Lesson 7	4	35
Lesson 8	4	43
Lesson 9	4	45
Lesson10	6	80
Lesson11	6	63
Lesson12	5	47
Lesson13	8	91
Lesson14	9	72
Lesson15	6	67
Lesson16	4	48
Lesson17	5	61
Total	85	



Results in Table 2 show word representations per textbook unit. Results show that the number of words, nouns and verbs make up more than half of the total words in the text. Together with the pronouns and adjectives, then more than 70% of the total number of words, that consist of terms which meaning or function should be remembered in the general context or thematic units. Numerous terms and personal names are already known to the students, but it does not change the general impression; Thematic units are burdened with the amount of information that need to be remembered in the context of Catechism.

**Table 2. Types of words**

	f	%
Nouns	278	31.8
Verbs	247	28.3
Adjectives	58	6.6
Pronouns	102	11.7
Numbers	19	2.2
Prepositions	81	9.3
Adverbs	17	1.9
Conjunctions	63	7.2
Particules	9	1.0
<u>Total</u>	<u>874</u>	<u>100.0</u>

Results in the table 3 show that from the total amount of 85 sentences only one is simple, but only by words included and not by its composition (*The Lord's Prayer ...*, pp. 14), while 61.2% are extended sentences. In relation to the total number of sentences, it seems that complex sentences are more presented (37.6%) than they should be. Examples of sentences that are too long and too complicated can be seen in the thematic unit *The Sign of the Cross* (*First, we put them at the head mentioning the words "In the Name of the Father"; then on the chest pronouncing "the Son"; then touch your right shoulder and tell, "and the Holy"; and left shoulder by saying the word "Spirit".* pp. 8). Although the surface validity suggests that these are clear guidelines, two practical problems may be noticed. First, authors use very awkward sentence construction (whose point would be lost by using two, three or four shorter sentences. Four different terms with the same meaning were used (*mentioning, pronouncing, saying, and telling*) in an effort to avoid repetition and maintain the dynamics of the sentence. From students' perspective, this opens up unnecessary dilemmas which are not related to the topic that is being studied. Furthermore, on the current stage of cognitive development of a second-grader, students are not able to understand those dilemmas. As an example, a too complicated sentence in the teaching unit *Of Abraham's sacrifice*

can be highlighted (*Abraham then listened to God and when all the preparations for a sacrifice was done, an angel stops him, giving him the ability to sacrifice a ram.* pp. 36).

**Table 3. Types of sentences according to the representation**

	f	%
simple	1	1.2
extended	52	61.2
complex	32	37.6
Total	85	100.0

In relation to the Piaget's stages of cognitive development it was found that 14% of the terms in the text require achieved level of formal operations for a full understanding (table 4). It should also be pointed out that there are a number of words that can be fully understood as independent concepts, even at the level of concrete operations. Still, in the context of other abstract terms and contexts even those words become too abstract. Separate words *to forget* and *God* (although for itself a highly abstract concept) should have clear meanings. Within the sentence „*In times people have forgotten about God.*, (p. 30) those two words together provide a completely different meaning. Additional examples in which more simple terms make the sentence too abstract for recently developed cognitive structures (*Pray for bread as food, for the current day.*, pp. 16). On the other hand, there are examples in which abstract terms make some other, already clear, terms incomprehensible(*...fall into temptation....*, pp. 16). Based on these findings it can be concluded that a significant amount of text contains terms that require a higher level of cognitive development than pupils cannot actually achieve. Nonetheless, the structure of the sentences make some terms, that are usually clear, more abstract to students.

**Table 4. Word and stage of intellectual development required for an adequate understanding**

	f	%
preoperational & concrete operations stage	750	85.8
formal operations stage	124	14.2
Total	874	100

The level of cognitive development, required for an adequate understanding of the used terms, was discussed in the context of different types of words. In the table 5, all words classified as formal operations belong to nouns, adjectives and verbs. Based on this, we conclude that the most

complex terms are those that are most important in the text: actions, actors, and objects and their characteristics. Only these three types of words are operationalized in the terms of formal operations. Expectedly, chi-square indicated statistically significant value ( $\chi^2(8) = 125.989$ ,  $p < .01$ ,  $r = -.27$ ,  $p < .01$ ;  $\eta = .38$ ) that suggest differences between nouns-adjectives-verbs group and the rest of words. Therefore, the analysis was repeated once more just with words classified as nouns, verbs and adjectives. Statistically significant difference, based on the cognitive difficulty of the words, between groups was registered again. ( $\chi^2(2) = 39.160$ ,  $p < .01$ ,  $r = -.13$ ,  $p < .01$ ;  $\eta = .26$ ). Nouns are the most prevalent in the category of the most cognitively demanding. Nouns that can be understood on the formal operations stage have a higher share in the total corpus of nouns (30%) than it is the case with verbs (10%). In the total amount of adjectives one third requires cognitive abilities that define the formal operations stage. Finally, 10% of verbs were registered as words that can be adequately understood only at the formal operations stage.

**Table 5. Word types and stage of intellectual development required for a full understanding**

	Preoperational & concrete operations stage	Formal operations stage
nouns	193	85
verbs	225	22
adjectives	41	17
pronouns	102	0
numbers	19	0
prepositions	81	0
adverbs	17	0
conjunctions	63	0
particules	9	0
total	750	124

**Table 6. Types of words according to the stage of intellectual development required for a full understanding of 2**

	Preoperational & concrete operations stages	Formal operations Stage
nouns	193	85
verbs	225	22
adjectives	41	17
Total	459	124

Analysis of the word types prevalence within analyzed catechism textbook units (table 7) revealed several patterns. In the first place in each thematic unit, as well as in general, nouns are the most prominent group, then verbs and adjectives. On average these three categories generally exceed the limit of 70% of the total text within analyzed units. In units where nouns are not so numerous increasing presence of pronouns was registered. Analysis of the prevalence of different word types, using Chi-square test, showed no significant difference between analyzed textbook units with respect to the presentation of the different types of words ( $\chi^2(128)=136.229$ ;  $p=.29$ ;  $r=.01$ ;  $p<.83$ ;  $\eta=.10$ ).

**Table 7. Types of words by lesson units**

		Lesson units																	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Σ
NO	f	12	14	8	9	15	14	11	19	13	25	15	17	28	24	17	18	19	278
	%	46.20	32.60	42.10	28.10	39.50	21.90	31.40	44.20	28.90	31.30	23.80	36.20	30.80	33.30	25.40	37.50	31.10	31.80
VE	f	6	9	4	6	8	20	10	6	14	31	22	14	27	17	21	12	20	247
	%	23.10	20.90	21.10	18.80	21.10	31.30	28.60	14.00	31.10	38.80	34.90	29.80	29.70	23.60	31.30	25.00	32.80	28.30
ADj	f	1	6	2	2	2	4	3	5	1	1	2	5	8	5	6	2	3	58
	%	3.80	14.00	10.50	6.30	5.30	6.30	8.60	11.60	2.20	1.30	3.20	10.60	8.80	6.90	9.00	4.20	4.90	6.60
PRo	f	3	2	2	7	6	10	5	1	9	9	10	5	8	8	8	5	4	102
	%	11.50	4.70	10.50	21.90	15.80	15.60	14.30	2.30	20.00	11.30	15.90	10.60	8.80	11.10	11.90	10.40	6.60	11.70
NU	f	0	1	0	0	1	1	3	4	2	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	19
	%	0.00	2.30	0.00	0.00	2.60	1.60	8.60	9.30	4.40	1.30	3.20	2.10	1.10	1.40	0.00	0.00	1.60	2.20
PRe	f	1	4	2	5	2	11	1	2	5	5	6	2	11	8	6	4	6	81
	%	3.80	9.30	10.50	15.60	5.30	17.20	2.90	4.70	11.10	6.30	9.50	4.30	12.10	11.10	9.00	8.30	9.80	9.30
ADv	f	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	3	2	3	1	17
	%	0.00	2.30	5.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.50	3.20	0.00	2.20	4.20	3.00	6.30	1.60	1.90
CO	f	2	6	0	3	4	4	2	6	1	5	4	3	5	5	4	2	7	63
	%	7.70	14.00	0.00	9.40	10.50	6.30	5.70	14.00	2.20	6.30	6.30	6.40	5.50	6.90	6.00	4.20	11.50	7.20
PA	f	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	3	2	0	9
	%	3.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.30	0.00	0.00	1.10	1.40	4.50	4.20	0.00	1.00
Σ		26	43	19	32	38	64	35	43	45	80	63	47	91	72	67	48	61	874

Complexity of the words was also analyzed per textbook units (Table 8). The presence of the terms that require formal operations in order to be adequately represented ranges from 4% (*Creation of the World*, pp. 20) to 25% (*Abraham's sacrifice*, 36%), pp.\_\_). However, significant statistical difference was not registered. In other words, it can be concluded that terms which require developed formal operations extend throughout the whole analyzed textbook. ( $\chi^2(16)=23.937$ ,  $p=.09$ ;  $r=.00$ ,  $p<.89$ ;  $\eta=.16$ ).

**Table 8. Cognitive operation stage required for the adequate understanding of terms per teaching units**

	Preoperational and concrete operations stages	Formal operations stage
1.00	20 76.9%	6 23.1%
2.00	40 93.0%	3 7.0%
3.00	15 78.9%	4 21.1%
4.00	27 84.4%	5 15.6%
5.00	31 81.6%	7 18.4%
6.00	53 82.8%	11 17.2%
7.00	30 85.7%	5 14.3%
8.00	41 95.3%	2 4.7%
9.00	39 86.7%	6 13.3%
10.00	70 87.5%	10 12.5%
11.00	58 92.1%	5 7.9%
12.00	39 83.0%	8 17.0%
13.00	79 86.8%	12 13.2%
14.00	65 90.3%	7 9.7%
15.00	51 76.1%	16 23.9%
16.00	36 75.0%	12 25.0%
17.00	56 91.8%	5 8.2%

In the last part of the paper, relationship between types of sentences and prevalence of terms with different cognitive complexity (Table 9) was examined. Mostly words that require formal stage to be adequately understood are included in complex sentences. The prevalence of terms that require formal operations are almost the same in extended and complex sentences. Additional calculation showed no significant difference between different types of sentences ( $\chi^2(2)=2.848$ ,  $p=.24$ ;  $r=.09$ ,  $p=.42$ ;  $\eta=.18$ ).

**Table 9. Words at different stages of intellectual development necessary for a full understanding of type of a sentence**

Sentence type	preoperational & concrete operations stage	stage of formal operations stage	$\Sigma$
Simple	0	1	1
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Expanded	33	19	52
	63.5%	36.5%	100.0%
Complex	16	16	32
	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%
Total	49	36	85
	57.6%	42.4%	100.0%

## DISCUSSION

This paper analyzes the content of Orthodox textbook for the second grade of primary school (Dubravac, 2012), which is an official catechism textbook in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the territory of the Republic of Srpska. The amount of text, the types of words, sentences and the complexity of the terms used were analyzed for the first 17 textbook units. Specific editorial procedure related to Catechism textbooks was also taken into consideration.

Overall results suggest that Orthodox textbook for second grade do not meet the basic criteria of quality textbooks. Author's intention to introduce basic concepts gradually is satisfactory. Initial units in the textbook are simpler and with less text. Each unit includes exercises in the form of drawing and painting that meet the unit content. Lesson units also include series of questions that are meant to help in learning. These questions are completely focused on adoption and reproduction of the content, and not on understanding or critical analysis of the context.

Efforts to introduce basic concepts and ideas gradually into catechism classes are distorted by structure of sentences that the author uses. The sentences are in many cases too long and too complex. Complex sentences are present in too many cases with a structure that differs from the sentence that second grade students mostly meet. The structure of the sentences was used more to emphasize the mystic or an „ancient atmosphere“ than to point out the principles of simplicity and comprehensibility. In many cases, author uses concepts that should be learned in the higher grades and that are not part of students regular vocabulary (*"pattern"*, pp. 14; *"temptation"*, pp. 16). Very old or literary versions of some words are also beyond students current vocabulary (*"kisses"*, pp. 6; *"knowledge"*, pp. 24). According to Vigotsky (1997) students can understand these terms only at the stage of the diffuse concepts, or at least at the stage of complexes, or at best as a pseudo concept.

A sentence that a student cannot understand in its full form is presented in the lesson unit *The Lord's Prayer* (*"...Lord's Prayer ..."*, pp. 14). This is the last sentence in this unit and author uses it to set the atmosphere for praying. If we know that students in the second grade of primary school are not able to fully understand the message of this type, \_\_\_\_\_. An additional problem with too complex sentences in the book is the presence of a significant number of terms that a student can not understand in its full form. According to the cognitive age of students, terms and concepts that require accomplished formal operations can not be fully and properly understood. Words from the domain of catechism or life (such as *"bishop"*, *"grace"*, pp. 6; *"bless"*, pp. 24; *"sin"*, *"sacrifice"*, pp. 36; *"blessing championship"*, pp. 38 ) are highly abstract, and it is impossible for students to adopt them in full measure. This conclusion suggests that catechism could be appropriate just for older age students. According to the criteria established by the achievements of students in the second grade, students should be able to independently read a lesson or terminology corresponding to their age. In other words, there are concepts and terms that second grade students of primary school are not able to understand. However, it is not impossible to introduce some new complex terms to the students (beyond their current cognitive abilities level). Still, these new terms must not be presented without respecting the dynamics of development. Most of the new concepts which students are facing belong to the future zone of proximal development. In this case,

according to Ignjatović (1990) students on the current level of cognitive development can only achieve reproductive or socially desirable skills. Therewith, new concepts cannot be explained using previously unknown terms. In this way, the second grade students are introduced to the world of double neologisms. Most of the concepts in the domain of catechism are neologisms, that change their meaning during its development. During the development understanding of these concepts moves from the complex to the concept. In the following stages of cognitive development, once highly abstract concepts become concrete. Then it could be used to define other terms. At this age, explaining an abstract term using new, also unknown and highly abstract terms, is not effective. Only when certain abstract concepts are understood and incorporated, catechism texts can be adequately understood and considered. Ultimately, this approach may only increase animosity of pupils towards the contents of catechism, or generate an inadequate introjection of the catechism ideas. During the analysis several examples, in which the presence of one word changes the meaning of the whole sentence, was registered. In other words, a single word can make a whole sentence more abstract or incomprehensible. In the sentence "*We pray for bread as food for the day.*" (pp. 16) there is not one word which was previously unknown. Students use all words from this sentence every day. However, in this case the meaning of the sentence is significantly different. Based on that, it is debatable which meaning or instruction students can derive from it. A similar example is presented in the sentence "*During prayer we talk to God.*" (pp. 12), "*God gave them birth.*" (pp. 26) or "*Even after Noa people began to sin.*" (pp. 32). If we consider the sentence, "*And Abraham offered sacrifices to God.*" (pp. 34), we cannot identify any questionable content. But if we consider the term *victim* or *sacrifice*, we shall conclude that the term is too complex. Using concrete operations students cannot understand its full meaning. The meaning of the term *victim* to students is related to a specific personal sacrifice for the sake of a certain pleasure or benefit. Although the religious connotation is based on the same grounds, sacrifice primarily implies an attempt to approach God, through a ritual renunciation of something. One of the best examples that shows improper use of the term, which complicates adoption of a content, is the sentence "First we put them on the head *mentioning* the words" In the Name of the Father, "then, on your chest *pronouncing* " the Son, "then touch your right shoulder and *tell*" and Sent "and left shoulder by *saying* the word" Spirit. "(p. 8). We see that four different words have been used for the same term. In an effort to preserve a sentence that will maintain its structure as much as possible to resemble the original prayer, the author has just unnecessarily complicated task to students. General educational goals for the second grade students do not include these kind of abilities, especially in the context of catechism. Using a large number of short sentences with a better choice of terms, make their content more comprehensible. Taking into account overall results of content analysis of the catechism textbooks for the second grade (which is used in RS), we can conclude that the textbook faces the problem of inadequately used terminology. The sentences are too complex while the concepts and terms used in the textbook are too complicated. In many cases second-grade students are not able to understand them completely. Also, authors did not harmonize the used terminology with the current stage of cognitive development.

At this point, it is convenient to comment the editorial policy of Katihet's Committee. The author of the textbook is a cleric, as well as the chief editor and the reviewer. Simply, within the policy of publishing catechism textbooks, only clergies are included. No experts from the fields of



psychology and pedagogy are included. Therefore, the didactic and methodological aspects of the textbooks seem to be the most problematic. Even though the objectives of religious institutions can be realized using this textbook, general goals of education cannot be accomplished. If the textbook content is: written using complex terms and phrases; not in line with general criteria of quality textbooks; and not harmonized with the general education goals; then the tutorial does not fulfill its purpose. As such, textbook does not illuminate the teaching contents to students. It makes the whole subject harder to understand and reduces the overall motivation for learning and schoolwork. History of Bosnia and Herzegovina burdened by numerous ethno-religious conflicts should also be taken into overall conclusion. The consequences of the last conflict are still an integral part of everyday life. In this context, religious identity is very closely related to ethnic. These two variables present the basis of permanent division in society. The ethnic-religious identity is the dominant group identity in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In a country burdened by ethnic and religious distances, inadequately implemented religious ideas will only justify the fear of religious indoctrination. Using inadequate textbooks within the presentation of religious ideas to students, who are under the stage of formal operations, can produce the opposite effect than desired. Instead of promoting the general humanistic values, consistency, altruism and peace, religion can become a promotion of exclusive values of a single religious group. Especially if it is based on inadequate textbooks that are not adapted to the cognitive development of students.

Overall, based on discussed results, it can be concluded that the Orthodox catechism textbook for the second grade of primary school (Dubravac, 2012) does not meet the requirements of a quality textbook. Therefore, revision of textbooks in cooperation with university professors, elementary school teachers, experts in pedagogy (primarily didactics and methodics), psychology and Serbian language was proposed. A review of the content of catechism textbook in the earliest grades of elementary school and the dynamics of their introduction into the curriculum is also suggested; in the first place it should be primarily aligned with the stages of student's intellectual development. Valuable empirical studies of this kind have already been conducted in our country (Hadžić, 2005; Hadžić-Krnetić, 2010; Hadžić-Krnetić, 2011; Hadžić-Krnetić, 2012) and their findings should be used to improve the religious education (when it is already integrated in curriculums).

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## Two-factor model of ethnicity and openness, and the three-factor questionnaire of ethnicity, and the openness of religion (EV-EO-R): Validation study

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**Abstract:** This study includes two researches. In the first one two-dimensional model of ethnical attachment and openness was tested. In the second research EV-EC-R questionnaire, which includes ethnical attachment, ethnical openness and conformistic religiousness scale. In the first study hypothesis two independent dimensions that describe space experience of their own and other ethnic groups was tested the idea. The research was conducted on 2062 respondents (1090 women) between 18 and 43 years of age ( $M=29.44$ ,  $SD=2.18$ ). The questionnaire NVNO was used to estimate ethnical(national) attachment and ethnical(national) openness. The results supported the model with two dimensions of ethnical attachment, ethnical openness, on the basis of which is possible to create four profiles. Additional discussions showed that the proposed two-dimensional model successfully incorporates all the other theoretical models.

Through the second research revisited version of ethnical attachment and openness questionnaire, derived from the NVNO, was considered. New shorter version, named EV-EN-R consists of three scales: ethnical attachment (EV, 5 items), ethnical openness (EO, 5 items) and conformist religiousness (R, 9 items). Psychometric characteristics and factor structure of the questionnaire there were analyzed. the ability of a questionnaire to request, as a single composite measure, provides a general assessment of clergy-nationalism. The sample included 1133 students (577 women) between 19 and 28 years of age ( $M = 21.97$ ,  $SD = 2.15$ ). Psychometric characteristics of the shortened version of questionnaire was considered. The results show that all three scales of questionnaires have satisfactory psychometric properties. Factorial structure and robustness of the of the scales was considered using exploratory and confirmatory factor. However, the questionnaire EV-EC-R does not have a unique subject of measurement and can not be accepted as a unique measure of clergy-nationalism

The overall findings show that ethnic attachment and openness can be well presented in the proposed two-factorial model. On the other hand, the questionnaire EV-EO-R can be used in the assessment of ethnic attachment, ethnic openness and religiosity.

**Key words:** Two-factorial model of ethnic attachment/openness, religiousness, questionnaire EV-EC-R.

### Part 1

#### *Checking of two dimensional model of ethnic connection –openness*

## INTRODUCTION

Nevertheless, as in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the issue of The ethnic identity is a (or national question, as it is more often erroneously equates) practical, everyday life problem. At the same time, it has very different interpretations within the scholars considerations treatments of these terms,. Terminological and conceptual confusion about these terms is smeared almost everything that has been done so far. In the first place there is a insufficient knowledge of the meaning of terms used. Additionally, but with worse consequences, there are a lot of those who deliberately use these terms in an inappropriate way, without clear goals or following problematic ideals. The first part of the explanation certainly should concern the distinction of the term "ethnic group" and "ethnic group". In fact, while the term ethnic is used when we think of groups such as Bosniaks, Serbs, Croats, Germans, Irish, Italians..., the term nation is used in a broader sense and, as category, it includes all residents of one state. The simplest, and certainly the most famous example, is the United States. All its citizens are Americans by nationality, while, according to their ethnicity, they can be distinguished as African-Americans, Latino-Americans, Italian-Americans. Thus, while the term of nation refers mainly to state, the term ethnic indicates the ethno-geographic origin of a members of a nation (as a wider social group). Recalling the many ambiguities in the interpretation of those terms, the terms ethnicity and nationality will be regarded as synonymous (as in most studies conducted in the region). The only reason is easier communication with readers, as well as an effort to avoid potential criticisms, that have no psychological or methodological basis (but just presents the need to drain the water out of stone). The aim of this paper is to consider the nature of ethnic attachment. Although, it seems there are great amount of similar researches, several reasons for the reconsideration of the structure of this construct have been emphasized: confusion based on nonadequat use of terms ethnicity and nationality; there are different structural models of ethnic attachment and openness; Illumination of the structure of ethnic attachment/openness would enable relevant theoretical basis for the interpretation of current social behavior in western Balkans countries.

Scholars has started serious consideration of ethnic attachment in the mid-twentieth century. Usually, it is described as the overall psychological experience of the relationship to person's own ethnic group. Ethnic attachment may be regarded as the psychological dimension, with the intensity in a range: from the intensive loyalty and concentration on his own nation; via a neutral attitude; to the complete absence of loyalty to the own group and complete lack of interest to it. Guetzkow (1955) was one of the first to analyze ethnic attachment. He defined loyalty as an attitude that predisposes a person to react to the certain object object (an idea, a person, a group) using actions he believe that support it. Ethnic loyalty is therefore defined as an attachment to the nation-state, whether it exists or it tends to its formation. According to Guetzkow there are three types of psychological loyalty: loyalty in the meaning of a tool for some other goals; loyalty as a value in itself; conformism as a source of loyalty. Thus, Guetzkow points out the existence of three types of individuals based on a ethnic attachment: simultaneous attachment to own and other ethnic groups; attachment only to persons own ethnic group; complete separation from persons own ethnic groups.

On the other hand Rot and Havelka (1973) defined national attachment as a system of related attitudes which emphasizes the relationship of the individual to his own nation; national state and territory; own national culture; language and history; national values and symbols. It also includes attitude toward other nations". Starting from the findings of Guetzkow (1955), Katz (1965), and personal previous studies, these two authors assume the existence of five types of national attachment. *Exclusive national attachment*, as a highly expressed feeling of belonging to one's own nation and defamation of other nations; Psychological aspect of this type of national attachment are nationalism, ethnocentrism and chauvinism. *Prominent national attachment* is determined by a degree of patriotism and the idealization of one's own nation, and the acceptance of other nations. *Divided national attachment*, implies simultaneous existence of the feelings of belonging to their own nation and tendency of inter-national cooperation and understanding. Loyalty is expressed to all human, but it does not exclude the attachment to one's own nation. *General human attachment*, includes general attachment to the human community rather and striving to overcome narrow national interests. *Anationalism/Individualism* is the absence of attachment to any nation, wherein the national feelings considered as harmful. The research conducted on a sample of 790 secondary school students in Belgrade and Kragujevac (Rot and Havelka, 1973) confirmed the hypothesis on the multifactorial structure of national attachment. The findings showed that the most common forms of national attachment, within the examined population, was divided national attachment. It is followed the general human attachment, and then prominent national attachment. The rarest forms shows exclusive national attachment and anationalism.

## METHOD

### *Sample*

The data was collected in the spring of 2016 and spring 2017, in a total sample Of 2062 respondents (1090 female). The age of the subjects were in a range from 18 to 43 years of age ( $M = 29.44$ ,  $SD = 2.18$ ). The testing are in most cases carried out in groups. The study included respondents from Banja Luka, Mostar, Sarajevo, Dobo, Jajce, Gradiška, Tuzla and Zenica. For the 255 respondents parents belong to different ethnic groups, while 465 have close friendly relationship with other ethnic groups members.

### *Instruments*

Questionnaire NVNO (Turjačanin and Čekrljija, 2006) consists of two scales: national attachment (NV) and national openness (NO). Scales are presented in appendix. The questionnaire consists of 31 items. Respondents estimate items on the 5-point Likert scale, ranged from completely false (coded by 1) to completely true (coded 5). Psychometric characteristics of the questionnaire are presented in table 1.

**Table 1. Mjere upitnika NVNO**

		NVNO
Representativeness	nKMO	.85
Internal consistency	A	.80
	$\lambda_1$	.78
	$\lambda_6$	.84
Reliability of 1.PC	MI1	.81
Homogeneity	H4	.72

*Statistical analysis of data*

The data were first normalized and standardized. Factor analysis with different rotation solutions were applied. The *scree* test indicated two dimensions significant dimensions. Two dimension structure was analyzed as principal component, and promax, oblimin and varimax positions. It was tried to get a better insight into the nature of selected dimensions with used rotations,. On the other hand again, the robustness of extracted factors was more observable,as well.

**RESULTS**

Table 2 shows the structures of dimension extracted using factor analysis. Only correlations higher than .30 are retained in the table.

To choose the number of significant dimension in the factor analysis is selected Scree test indicated three dimensions. However, the content of the third factor is determined the only by two or three items and very low saturation. In addition, the deflection of this dimension from the discarded factors is not very high. That is why in the final analysis only two dimensions was retained. Two extracted factors explain the 33% of variance (21% first factor). First principal component was analyzed. Then the structure of promax, oblimin and varimax rotated factors (included Kaiser normalization procedures) was considered.

**Table2. Izvod iz matrice strukture upitnika NVNO (principal components, promax, oblimine, and varimax rotation)**

	GK		Promax		Oblimine		Varimax	
	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II
NV1	.53	-.31	.32	.58	.30	-.57		.56
NO1		.48	.42		.43		.45	
NV2	.62		.57	.36	.56	-.35	.54	.31
NV3	.41	-.33		.51		-.51		.50
NV4	.63		.65		.64		.63	
NV5	.72		.64	.45	.63	-.44	.60	.39
NO2	.37	-.44		.58		-.58		.57
NO3	.36			.46		-.46		.45
NO4	.38	.54	.59		.60		.62	
NO5	.36	.63	.62		.63		.66	-.31
NO6		-.44		.49		-.49		.50
NV6				-.35		.35		-.34
NV7	.62		.55	.40	.53	-.39	.51	.36
NO7	.41	-.53		.67		-.67		.67
NO8		-.45		.51		-.51		.52
NO9								
NV8	.57		.55		.54		.52	
NV9	.47	-.40		.61		-.61		.60
NO10		.60	.48	-.32	.50	.33	.52	-.37
NV10								
NV11	.46		.48		.48		.47	
NV12	.54		.50	.30	.50		.48	
NV13	.63		.55	.41	.54	-.40	.51	.36
NO11		.62	.55		.57	.30	.60	-.34
NV14	.56		.39	.51	.38	-.51	.34	.48
NV15		-.55		.56		-.56		.57
NV16		.40		-.39		.40		-.41
NO12								
NV17	.61	.31	.68		.68		.67	
NV18	.69		.68	.32	.67	-.31	.65	
NV19	.67		.66	.32	.65	-.31	.63	

The first component from the NV-NO questionnaire is primarily determined by the statements that affirms their own ethnic group. Ethnicity is a social structure which is above and more important the individual. Ethnicity dominantly determine attitudes and behavior to own behavior or other groups. Own nation contains its own peculiarities, which rises person's ethnic group above all others. Ethnic attachment is based on the emotional, cognitive and behavioral level. Generally, the first principal component could be described as *ethnic attachment vs. ethnic detachment*. The negative part should describes component's nature more high-colored. National attachment contains attitudes that show absolute lack of an attachment to own ethnic ethnic group. The term "detachment" is supposed to indicate the absence of any effect of national origin in behavior, attitudes or emotions. The openness to other nations and groups mostly defines second principal component. Items that indicate rejection of restrictions in interactions with other ethnic groups. The second principal component is defined as *the ethnic openness vs. ethnic closedness*.

The structure of the first promax factor is mostly determined by ethnic attachment indicators. Items emphasis the importance of the nation and importance of the national pride. In this part, the first promax factor is largely consistent with the first principal component. However, promax factor includes indicators of the ethnic openness. Such a system of attitudes and behaviors indicate that nonrestrictive ethnic attachment provides a lot of space for the interaction with other ethnic groups. The first promax factor is defined as the *centrifugal nationalism*. Ethnic closedness is based on the positive pol of the factor, while ethnic openness indicators of negatively correlate with factor. Considering all significant correlations within second promax factor, it is closer to ethnocentrism than ethnic openness vs.. closedness. The picturesque name of the factor would be *centripetal etnicism/nationalism*.

All correlations between items and the first oblimine factor are positive. Factor is mostly consisted of ethnic attachment indicators. Similar to the first promax factor, it includes both, indicators of ethnic attachment and ethnic openness. Even though, ethnic attachment indicators dominantly define the factor. Therefore, the first oblimine factor could also be identified as *ethnic deattachment*. The second oblimin factor also presents ethnic openness. However, its nature is not so simple as in the previous case. Ethnic detachment indicators significantly correlate with the factor. It indicates rejection of the predestined bonds and further intensification of openness to other nations. In this case, the factor can be described as *indifference to ethnicity*.

The first varimax factor is mostly determined by the indicators of ethnic attachment. However, the participation of behavior that is indicative for the national openness plays an important role in its final shaping. In other words, the core of the first varimax factor is ethnic attachment, but it is accompanied by the respect and acceptance of differences and particularities of other ethnic groups. Ethnic attachment is harmonized with affirmative attitude toward other's religion, and culture, cooperation with others, and followed by the rejection of ethnic stereotypes. A whole separated dimension can be described as an *ethnic attachment accompanied by openness to other groups*. This factor includes significant ethnic attachment indicators which emphasize domination of ethnic identity over individual fateful importance of the ethnic attachment. Regardless of the individual behavior or attitudes, person's own ethnicity completely determines person's whole life and even destiny. The item which emphasize the equalization of the importance of the family and the nation is very indicative. Family can be perceived in many different ways, but always followed



by intense emotions. During situations where the family is jeopardized, the cohesion between the family members increases. All members are more engaged to overcome the problem. According to this analogy, irrespective of the quality of ethnic attachment there are indissoluble connection with persons nation. Generally speaking, a nation presents a group which influence is impossible to deny, and which often determine the quality of relationships toward the others. The factor by itself points out dimensions of openness, but its nature is this time more determined by indicators that highlight the importance of own nation. Therefore, it appears that the best description of the treated dimensions would be *ethnic deattachment and openness*

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**Table 3 Name of the dimensions within different rottations applied**

	I	II
<b><i>Principal Components</i></b>	ethnic attachment Vs. ethnic deattachment	ethnic openness Vs. ethnic closeness
<b><i>Varimax</i></b>	ethnic attachment and openness	ethnic autism
<b><i>Promax</i></b>	centrifugal nationalism	centripetai nationalism
<b><i>Oblimine</i></b>	ethnic attachment and openness	ethnic deattachment and openness

**Table 4. Correlation of the promax factors**

	I	II
centrifugal nationalism	1.00	
centripetal nationalism	.20	1.00

**Table 5. Correlation of the oblimin factors**

	I	II
ethnic attachment and openness	1.00	
ethnic deattachment and openness	-.15	1.00

Results in tables 4 and 5 show that correlations between oblimin factors are is completely compatible to correlations of promax factors. Differences between factors are determined by different oriented ethnic attachment indicators.

Promax factors are named as centrifugal and centripetal nationalism, and the analogy with the concepts from the physics should emphasizes the fact that love towards their own nation may conect with: a) openness towards the other nations, and b) autistic closedness in relation to the members of other nations. The loyalty to own nation is a common core for both factors. Defference between them are observed in a degree of openness to other nations. The names of factors should point that in one case the ethnic attachment does not restrict the openness towards other nations and their members (centrifugal). At the same time, in the case of the “centripetal nationalism” ethnic attachment excludes any close relationship with other nations. Generally, the obtained findings lead to conclusion that ethnic attachment does not exclusively restict ethnic openness not.

## DISCUSSION

Analysis of the structure of the dimensions based on ethnic attitudes provided some solid results. First, number of dimensions that define psychological aspect of the relationship toward own and other nations has been thoroughly considered. Obtained results clearly indicate the existence of two independent factors which determine various types of national attachment, discussed by the Guetzkow (1955), or Rot and Havelka (1973). General findings

suggests two major dimensions: ethnic versus ethnic attachment and detachment and ethnic openness versus ethnic closedness. Names assigned to factors should prevent terminological confusion. Extreme values at one side named as the *national/ethnic attachment* should refer to fatal feeling of loyalty to the nation, and complete lack of the interest in other's ethnic group. *National/ethnic detachment*, as name of the should point out the absence of any attachment to own nation. On the other hand, extreme values on the *national/ethnic openness* should indicate the absolute openness to all people, regardless of any social group they belong to. In other words, no difference are recognized between the own and other ethnic groups. *National/ethnic closedness* includes rejection of any relationship with other ethnic groups and their members. If identified factors are presented as Cartesian coordinates, the twodimensional model of ethnic attachment and openness should look like as a model in Figure 1.

Significant argument in favor of the proposed two-factor model is its ability to incorporate all other models, and interpret them as their variations. Analyzing the proposed forms of national attachment mentioned by Guetzkow; a) attachment to their nation and connection with others to the proposed two-dimensional model would belong to the quadrant that is compound of ethnic attachment and ethnic openness,; b) exclusive national attachment to the quadrant determined by ethnic ties and ethnic containment and non-sense of togetherness towards own nation would be defined by ethnic openness. However, since this form leaves a vague sign Guetzkov attitude towards other ethnic groups, we can only assume that this is a quadrant of forming ethnic detachment and ethnic openness.

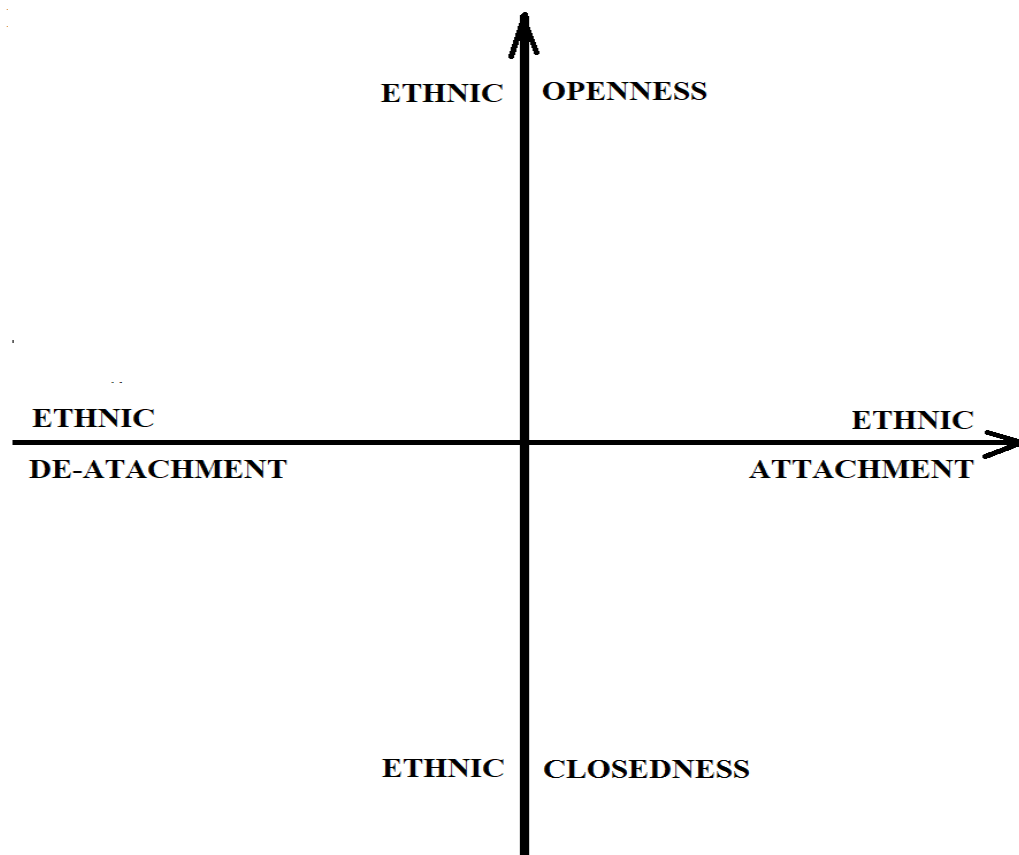
If we take a look to Rota and Havelka (1973) it can be concluded that their five of the proposed form of national attachment are more then very compliant in the represented model. Exclusive national attachment belongs to the quadrant of ethnicity and ethnic isolation, featured national attachment to the area of ethnicity and ethnic openness, divided national attachment also belongs to the quadrant of ethnicity and ethnic openness, general human attachment is close to the profile that shape ethnic detachment and ethnic openness, and anationalism / individualism belongs to the proposed model, to the quadrant bounded between ethnic detachment and ethnic openness.

At this point would be desirable to briefly overview the nature of the factors that have benn extracted by different rotation method. Regardless of whether non-orthogonal (promax and oblimin) or orthogonal rotation method (varimax) is applied factors are lose their uniqueness. In other words, their nature in rotated factors are simillar to certain types of ethnic attachment that were described wihtin proposed two-dimensional model. Without dependence on the rotation method, *ethnicattachment/detachment* and *ethnic openness/closedness*,as factors, incorporate the behavior indicative for the other dimension. This interpretation makes sense if we analise the names of rottated factors. Their descriptions or names are consistent with the nature of the tpes defined by dimensions of attachment and openness. It is therefore necessary to supplement proposed the two-

dimensional with the description of ethnic attachment and openness types. Their names and descriptions are presented in the table 6.

The most valuable aspect of the obtained findings is the fact that two identified factors (ethnic openness vs. ethnic closedness and ethnic attachment) from this model can explain all attachment types discussed in other models. In short, two-dimensional model of ethnic attachment and openness incorporates all other models and treats them as its possible forms. In addition, the scales in the NV-NO questionnaire represent ethnic attachment and ethnic openness. Further validation and improvement of the NV-NO questionnaire should be carried out in following research.

**Picture 1. Two-factorial model of Ethnic attachment and openness**



**Tabela 6. Description of profiles within two-dimensional model of ethnical attachment and closeness**

Profile/Type	Poles of dimensions that form a profile	Profile description
<b>Centrifugal nationalism</b>	ETHNIC ATTACHMENT	Dominant love of own ethnic group, loyalty, sense of belonging, a sense of predestined connection, the superimposition of ethnic group over the individual, idealization, highlighting their own ethnic group over others.
	ETHNIC OPENNESS	Willingness to cooperate with other ethnic groups, the lack of fear of the other ethnic groups, failure to recognize the significance of ethnicity, the desire to extend beyond ethnic framework.
<b>Centripetal nationalism</b>	ETHNIC ATTACHMENT	Dominant love of own ethnic group, loyalty, sense of belonging, a sense of predestined connection, the superimposition of ethnic group over the individual, idealization, highlighting their own ethnic group over others.
	ETHNIC CLOSEDNESS	Lack of interest to interact with other ethnic groups and their members, the fear of other ethnic groups, lack of interest in other characteristics, ethnicity as an important criteria in the decision-making process, a feeling of ethnic sufficiency.
<b>National Autism</b>	ETHNIC DEATTACHMENT	The absence of the love to own ethnic group, the absence of the feeling of belonging or loyalty, feeling that ethnic identity is artificially fabricated categories, not knowing the needs or particularities ethnic groups, the superimposition of the individual over the ethnic groups, deidealization of ethnic groups.
	ETHNIC CLOSEDNESS	Lack of interest to interact with other ethnic groups and their members, the fear of other ethnic groups, lack of interest in other characteristics, ethnicity as an important criteria in the decision-making process, a feeling of ethnic sufficiency.
<b>Anationalism</b>	ETHNIC DEATTACHMENT	The absence of the love to own ethnic group, the absence of the feeling of belonging or loyalty, feeling that ethnic identity is artificially fabricated categories, not knowing the needs or particularities ethnic groups, the superimposition of the individual over the ethnic groups, deidealization of ethnic groups.
	ETHNIC OPENNESS	Willingness to cooperate with other ethnic groups, the lack of fear of the other ethnic groups, failure to recognize the significance of ethnicity, the desire to extend beyond ethnic framework.

## Part 2

### Construction and psychometric properties of the questionnaire EV-EO-R

## INTRODUCTION

The national attachment and national openness scale (NVNO, Čekrlija, Turjačanin, 2006) is intended to estimate attitudes towards their own and other ethnic groups. It was developed due to a need to examine the construct using the questionnaire with considerably theoretical background. Existing models of ethnicity and openness assume that this concept can be operationalized by unique dimension of ethnic attachment versus ethnic openness (Milosavljević, 1990), or they argue the existence of multiple types of relationship to one own and other ethnic groups (Getzkow 1955, Roth and Havelka, 1973 ). In several studies carried out with co-workers, using the various questionnaires for the evaluation of national attachment and openness, Turjačanin tested various models (Turjačanin, 2005, 2007; and Turjačanin Čekrlija, 2006) and the general impression is that the whole concept is more accurately described by separate dimensions of ethnic attachment and ethnic openness. Through this research (Turjačanin and Čekrlija, 2006), obtained results clearly suggested that the relationship to one's own and the other ethnic groups should be described by two factors which are used as a common ground for the formation of a two-dimensional model of national attachment – national openness. Bearing in mind the correlation of national attachment-national openness and/or religion, empirical confirmation of their mutual relations in the framework of the authoritarianism syndrome (Adorno, 1950; Altemeyer, 1981), as well as the historical connection between these concepts, the idea of creating a questionnaire that includes not only the scales of national attachment and national openness, but also the religiosity scale, emerged. These three factors were identified by Wolf and Momirović (1988) in the frame of a hierarchically higher dimension, that they named clero-nationalism. In a study that used the questionnaire of national attachment-openness (NVNO; Turjačanin and Čekrlija, 2006), and the scale of conformistic religiosity (Čekrlija, Turjačanin and Puhalo, 2004), the obtained results are in favor of a hypothesis that presents the clero-nationalism as a parent dimension, where the positive side is defined by higher national attachment, isolation in contact with other ethnic groups, and expressed religiosity, while its antipode is defined by openness to other ethnic groups, the absence of a more powerful identification with one's own ethnic group and a low degree of agreement with religious tenets (Čekrlija and Đurić, 2015). A number of studies using questionnaires NVNO examined relations of national attachment-openness with related concepts, as well as with a variety of indicators of authoritativeness. Gajić (2006) established a positive relationship between national identity and national attachment and a negative one with national openness. In another study (Gajić, 2006b), the same author has confirmed a positive connection of national attachment and authoritative conformity. Turjačanin (2006) marked alleged collectivistic/individualistic orientation as one of the most important predictors of national attachment and openness. Besides the results, which were continually in accordance with the earlier empirical findings and theoretical

assumptions, the NV-NO questionnaire has consistently presented good psychometric characteristics too. Since both questionnaire scales have very well defined objects of the first measurement, it was decided to form a shorter version of the scale which will enable faster assessment of national attachment and openness. A change compared to the original version of the questionnaire NVNO is that the dimensions changed their name to *ethnic attachment* (EA) and *ethnic openness* (EO). The reason for this is an effort to be fully consistent considering the nature of this construct. In addition, the term ethnic attachment is more appropriate to a meaning of a term „ethnic“ meaning, that is being used in the relevant literature, and leads to a more adequate cross-cultural comparison and generalization of the findings.

The R scale is created for the assessment of conformistic religiosity. The term conformistic in this case is introduced to emphasize the authoritarian direction of religiosity, and the shaping of their own beliefs and behavior according to a system of ideas and guidelines originating from the unquestionable superior authority. According to the authors of the scale, religiosity itself is the authoritarian concept because it includes a system of values, guidelines, rituals and functioning that can not be questioned. It is adopted and is not questioned, which clearly shows its authoritarian origins. On the contrary, spirituality (Piedmont, 2005), or intrinsic religiosity (Allport and Ross, 1967) is not limited by the unquestionable correctness of authority, but includes critical thinking and the possibility to modify hypothesis on spirituality and the higher-level entity. As such, spirituality, intrinsic religiosity, has no authoritarian nature and does not belong to the narrower object of interest. In this study, the term religiosity implies conforming to a certain concept and, as such, belongs to the domain of authoritative orientation. As for the structure of the scale R, it is determined that several groups of indicators can be identified, but also that it is a unique case of measurement (Čekrljija, Turjačanin and Puhalo, 2004). Through the previous application it has been found that the score on the R scale has a positive correlation with other indicators as conformity (Gajić, 2006), collective orientation (Turjačanin, 2006), anti-intrasection (Čekrljija, 2007). At the same time, the positive connection to the ethnic identity and negative correlation to the state identity (Puhalo, in 2006) which are, in Bosnia and Herzegovina conflicting points of view, have also been identified. In a study examining the origins of conformistic religiosity, it has been found that conformistic religiosity is a subordinate to the Conformity (Dušanić, 2006a; Dušanić, 2006b).

In this study, we tested the shorter version of the questionnaire containing the scales of ethnic attachment (EA) and ethnic openness (EO) and conformistic religiosity (R). The scales EA and EO consist of 5 and scale R of 9 items. The questionnaire represents the operationalization of the idea that is based on individual measures of ethnic attachment, openness and religiosity and it is possible to determine the overall measure of clero-nationalism as the parent structure. Because all three individual scales in their longer versions have shown robust first objects of measurement and persistent cross-correlation, it was assumed that a questionnaire with short scales of ethnic attachment, ethnic openness and religiosity could be developed, whose sum would match the total assessment of clero-nationalism. Psychometric characteristics of EA, EO and R scales, as well as the psychometric structure of the questionnaire will be considered in the paper. Additionally, we will further check out whether the questionnaire can be treated as a general assessment of clero-nationalism, or it would

better to use only the questionnaire's assessment of ethnic attachment, openness and religiosity as independent structures.

## **METHOD**

### *Sample*

The research sample consist of 1133 respondents (577 female). All respondents were students whose age were in a range between 19 and 28 years old ( $M=21.97$ ,  $SD=2.15$ ). Sample were collected online, using snow-ball tehniqe.

### *Instruments and measures*

In this study short EV-EO-R questionnaire was tested. Psychometric features of scales (ethnic attachment-EV; ethnic openness-EO, and conformisitic religiosity-R) were examined. Overall Burt's component was considered as general measure of clergynationalism.

### *Statistical analysis*

In the first part of the analysis descriptive parameters of items within EV, EO and R scales were considered. Structure of the first principal components of scales were analysed too. Strucuture of the EV-EO-R qeuestionnaire was examined using exploratotry and confirmatory factor analysis. While EFA was used in the examination of identified dimensions, CFA was used to test the relationship bewtween factors.



## RESULTS

### Descriptive analysis

In table 7 are separately represented the descriptive parameters of items within EV, EO and R scales.

**Table 7. Descriptive parameters of EV-EO-R items and correlation with gender and age**

	IPC	M	SD	S	K	Min	Max	$r_{it}$	$r_p$	$r_s$
R1	.71	3.58	1.20	-.77	-.21	1	5	.62	-.07*	.12**
R2	.84	3.93	1.15	-.84	-.24	1	5	.76	-.06*	.08**
R3	.61	3.67	1.08	-.38	-.50	1	5	.52	-.08*	-.01
R4	.66	4.12	.82	-.95	1.16	1	5	.56	-.06*	.03
R5	.68	3.65	1.12	-.55	-.35	1	5	.59	-.08*	.07*
R6	.80	3.77	1.14	-.67	-.35	1	5	.71	-.12**	.04
R7	.70	4.08	1.06	-1.00	.53	1	5	.62	-.10**	.13**
R8	.73	4.21	1.12	-1.34	.94	1	5	.64	-.04	.03
R9	.70	3.75	1.12	-.58	-.29	1	5	.61	-.10**	.00
EV1	.55	2.80	1.29	.28	-.97	1	5	.37	-.04	-.07*
EV2	.75	2.28	.97	.72	.45	1	5	.56	.03	-.01
EV3	.74	2.10	1.05	1.09	.90	1	6	.51	.07*	.02
EV4	.81	2.06	.96	.88	.76	1	6	.65	.02	-.03
EV5	.67	2.55	.99	.34	-.18	1	5	.47	.00	.04
EO1	.47	3.69	.88	.53	.61	1	5	.30	-.08**	-.03
EO2	.80	4.17	.93	-1.21	1.37	1	5	.57	.00	.07*
EO3	.81	4.24	.91	-1.33	1.64	1	5	.59	-.05	.08**
EO4	.67	3.86	.91	-1.01	1.39	0	5	.45	-.05	.02
EO5	.71	4.00	.90	-.84	.34	1	5	.48	-.05	.06

*M-Mean; SD-Standard deviation; S-skewnis; K-kurtosis; Min-minimal score; Max-maximal score;  $r_{it}$ -corrected item-total correlation; correlation with gender; correlation with age.*

As it can be seen only two items (R7 and R8) show a statistically significant value of skewness ( $S > \pm 1.00$ ) which sign indicates a shift of distribution to higher scores. The kurtosis value as a measure for the vertical deviations of a normal distribution is statistically significant only in the following entries R4, a negative sign indicates a leptokurtic distribution. Discrimination index of the values of items, expressed through the corrected item-total correlations are very high and satisfactory. In relation to gender, on all the items of the scale R significantly higher results are achieved by men. As to the age of the questioned it is positively correlated with the scores of the items, R1, R2, R5 and R7. Finally all the items high saturate the first major component of the scale of religiosity.

The distribution of the scores on scale EV shows statistically significant shifting ( $S > \pm 1.00$ ) towards lower only at the item EV1. Significant vertical deviations from the normal distribution of EV scale items according to the same criteria are not recorded. Corrected item-total correlation exceed the adopted craft criterion ( $r_{it} > .30$ ), but their values vary significantly. It can be said that the scores on the items of the EV scale does not correlate with the sex and age of the respondents and that two of the correlation coefficient are registered as statistically significant only because of the sample size rather than its robustness. Finally, all of the items participate significantly in defining the main subject of the first EV scale, with the item EV1 noticeably lower participates than the others in its definition.

Within the EC scale values of skewness are significantly negative and significant positive values of the kurtosis are registered within the items E02, E03 and E04. This indicates the grouping of scores of respondents on the scale that includes strong ethnic openness. Corrected item-total correlation of the scale EO can be treated satisfactorily with the emphasis that the set of all five variables of E01 paragraph by its index of discriminatory are located on the very border of the set criteria ( $r_{it} > .30$ ). There are no connection registered with sex and age of the respondents, but two significant correlation coefficients can be interpreted primarily as due to sample size. Overview of the structure of the first principal component rocks EC shows that it is a unique dimension, noting that paragraph E01 is less saturated than the others.

**Table 8** Mjere deskriptivne statistike skala EV, EO i R i korelacije sa polom i godinama

	M	SD	S	K	Min	Max	A	$r_{pol}$	$r_s$
R	34.67	7.04	-.43	-.48	9	45	.88	-.11*	.07*
EO	11.78	3.69	.51	.42	5	25	.74	.02	-.02
EV	19.90	3.56	-.29	.59	5	48	.69	-.07*	.04

*M-Mean; SD-Standard deviation; S-skewness; K-kurtosis; Min-minimal score; Max-maximal score;  $r_{it}$ -corrected item-total correlation; correlation with gender; correlation with age.*

**Table 9. Correlation between EV-EO-R scales**

	EV	EO
R	.42**	-.18**
EV		-.44**

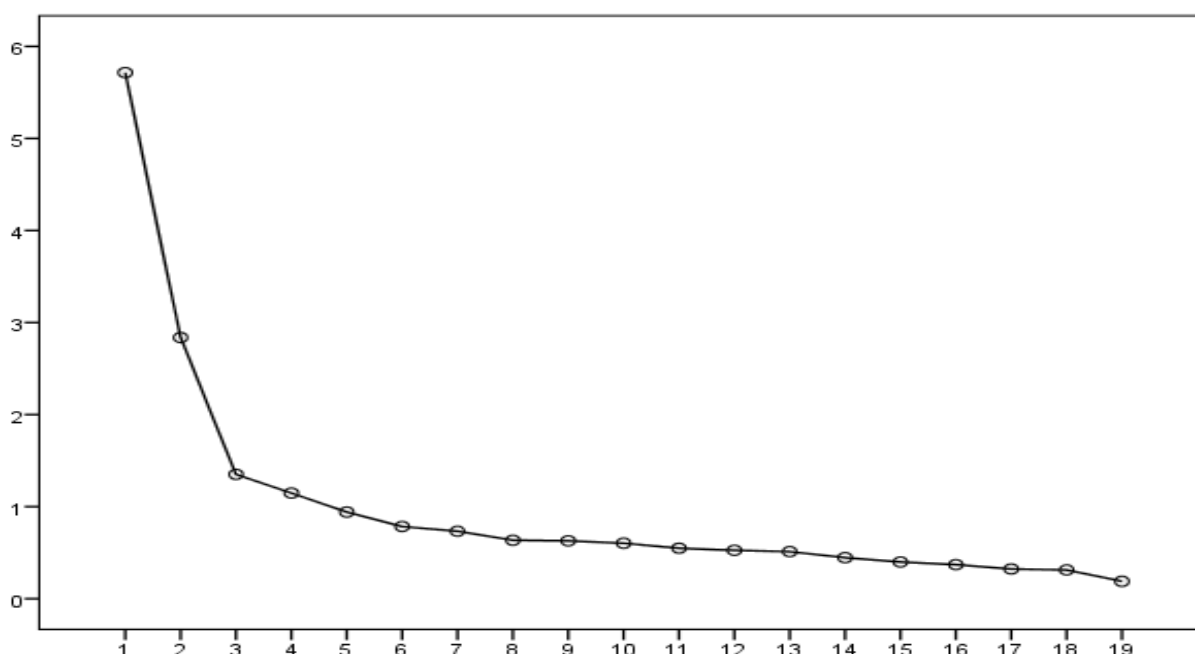
\*\* $-p < .01$

The analysis of descriptive parameters considering the total scores on EV, EC, and R has shown to have no statistically significant deviations from the normal distribution. In addition, it was found that all three scales have satisfactory values of Cronbach's  $\alpha$  coefficient. This finding is more valuable considering it has been tested on shorter scales. Total scores of ethnic attachment, openness and religiosity do not generate significant relationship with subjects' sex and age, that should be taken into account interpreting the results. As for the correlation between the scores in Table 9, we can see that the scale of ethnic attachment (EV) has a significant negative correlation with the scale of ethnic openness (EO) and a significant positive correlation with conformistic religiosity (R). On the other hand, the scale of ethnic openness shows a lower negative correlation with the scale of religiosity. All the obtained correlations were significant at  $p < .01$ .

#### *Exploratory factor analysis of the scale EV-EC-R*

In the process of factor extraction scree test has suggested 2 dimensions. By examining their structure it has been established that on the one hand there is a dimension that combines ethnic attachment and conformistic religiosity, and on the other there is a more general factor of ethnic openness. Considering the fact that the questionnaire contains three separate scales, whose objects of measurement tend to be confirmed within the multivariate space, it has been decided to explain three-factor solution which explains 52% of the variance. In Table 10, in addition to the communalities and the structure of the first principal component of the questionnaire, the structure of the first factor of the main component, and also the rotated factors in promax and oblimin position, have been given. This has been done to try to explain and to define the nature of factors and their persistence from several angles.

The obtained values of Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin measures the adequacy of the sample (.87), and together with Bartlett's test of sphericity ( $\chi^2(171) = 7973.12$ ,  $p < .01$ ), justify the use of factor analysis.

**Picture 2. Scree test**

First look at the Table 10 shows that in the questionnaire EV-EO-R a fairly robust first principal component, which is predominantly defined by conformistic religiosity, can be identified. Projections of items of the ethnic attachment scale are in the same direction, but slightly lower in intensity, while the items of the scale of ethnic openness are the least represented, and defined by a negative direction and connection to the first principal component. The structure of isolated components shows that only ethnic attachment stands out as an independent dimension. The factor saturation of EV items within the first factor, supporting the factor of religiosity, are uniform with the loadings in the third factor, ethnic attachment. In other words, according to the structure of the isolated components, ethnic attachment as the third factor is a surplus and is artificially isolated from the first factor, where it, together with religiosity, makes the structure very close to clergy-nationalism.

Rotating the factors significantly changes their structure. In the varimax and in the promax position clear factors are more or less obtained, where the first one is defined by items of the scale R, the second by items of the scale EO, and the third by the items of EC scale. By checking the correlation between promax factors, similar results as those considering the interrelation of summation scores, were obtained. Ethnic attachment, included in the third factor, achieves balanced but negative correlations with religiosity in the first factor and ethnic openness in the second. A negative correlation of the factors of religiosity and ethnic openness is lower in intensity, but is also statistically significant.

Although the applied criteria dictated the solution with two factors, a review of the structure after the rotation of factors, justified the idea of a three-factor solution. Although we can not deny the intertwining of religiosity and ethnic attachment, or inability to complete the separation of ethnic attachment and ethnic openness, it seems that these three factors contain enough individuality to be viewed as separate structures. The final answer to this dilemma should be ensured by the application of confirmatory factor analysis.

**Table 10. Communalities and factor structure of the EV-EO-R (Principal components, varimax, and promax rotation)**

			component analysis			varimax			promax		
	K	1PC	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
R1	.53	<b>.63</b>	<b>.63</b>	.36		<b>.69</b>			<b>.71</b>		.34
R2	.72	<b>.74</b>	<b>.74</b>	.42		<b>.82</b>			<b>.84</b>		.38
R3	.37	<b>.56</b>	<b>.56</b>			<b>.60</b>			<b>.61</b>		
R4	.46	<b>.67</b>	<b>.67</b>			<b>.58</b>			<b>.63</b>		.44
R5	.50	<b>.61</b>	<b>.61</b>			<b>.69</b>			<b>.68</b>		
R6	.64	<b>.70</b>	<b>.70</b>	.39		<b>.78</b>			<b>.79</b>		.34
R7	.52	<b>.62</b>	<b>.62</b>	.30		<b>.72</b>			<b>.71</b>		
R8	.54	<b>.67</b>	<b>.67</b>			<b>.71</b>			<b>.73</b>		
R9	.50	<b>.61</b>	<b>.61</b>	.36		<b>.70</b>			<b>.70</b>		
EV1	.50	<b>.44</b>	.44		<b>.55</b>			<b>.66</b>	<b>.31</b>		<b>.65</b>
EV2	.56	<b>.46</b>	.46	-.47	<b>.36</b>		-.34	<b>.67</b>		-.46	<b>.72</b>
EV3	.53	<b>.50</b>	.50	-.48			-.45	<b>.57</b>		-.54	<b>.66</b>
EV4	.66	<b>.65</b>	.65		<b>.41</b>			<b>.73</b>	.41	-.36	<b>.81</b>
EV5	.47	<b>.49</b>	.49		<b>.41</b>			<b>.65</b>			<b>.69</b>
EO1	.22			<b>.37</b>			<b>.47</b>			<b>.47</b>	
EO2	.60	<b>-.39</b>	-.39	<b>.62</b>			<b>.75</b>			<b>.77</b>	-.35
EO3	.60	<b>-.47</b>	-.47	<b>.58</b>			<b>.73</b>			<b>.76</b>	-.42
EO4	.45			<b>.55</b>			<b>.67</b>			<b>.67</b>	
EO5	.54	<b>-.37</b>	-.37	<b>.52</b>	.35		<b>.72</b>			<b>.73</b>	

*K-communalities; 1PC-First principal component*

**Table 11. Correlation of promax factors**

	II	III
I	-.15	.40
II		-.40

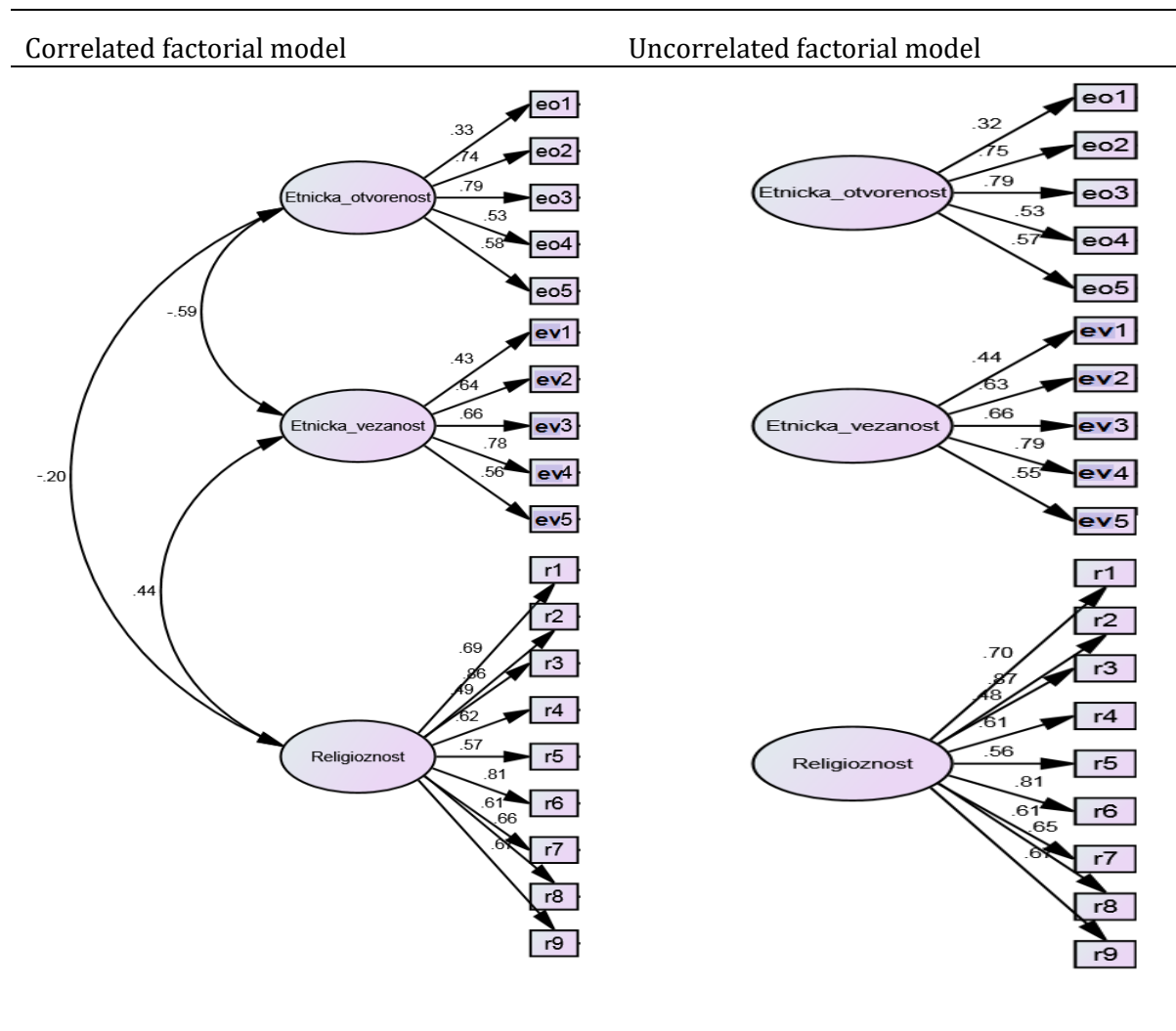
*Confirmatory factor analysis*

Final examination of the EV-EO-R questionnaire was performed using confirmatory factor analysis. Obtained results of the correlated and uncorrelated three-factorial model are presented in the table 12 and picture 3.

**Table 12. CFA fit parameters of EV-EO-R questionnaire**

	$\chi^2$	Df	P	$\chi^2/df$	RMSEA (90% CI)	NFI	CFI	SRMR
Correlated factors	1372.181	149	.00	9.209	.09	.82	.84	.06
Uncorrelated factors	1794.61	152	.00	11.81	.10	.77	.79	.15

**Picture 3. CFA of the EV-EO-R questionnaire**



In the context of the confirmatory factor analysis we used the following fit indicators:  $\chi^2$  ratio, relationship between  $\chi^2$  and the degrees of freedom ( $\chi^2 / df$ ), the root of the average squares of the approximation errors (RMSE), standardized square root of the average of the residuals (SRMR) comparative index of fit (CFI) and Bentler- Bonett normative fit index (NFI) (Kline, 2005; 2011). The value of relationships  $\chi^2 / df \leq 3$  is treated as well as the index of satisfactory fit (Kline, 2005, 2011), while other older authors set a limit on  $\chi^2 / df \leq 5$  for the samples  $N > 200$  (Marsh & Hocevar, 1985, Wheaton, Muth, Alwin and Summers, 1977). The value of the fit parameter of the present study is significantly higher than both of the proposed values. However, since the sample size significantly exceeds the proposed lower limit, it is likely that this parameter in the present study could be a bit freely interpreted. Parameter values NFI and CFI are treated acceptably for the value  $> .90$ , RMSEA parameter for the values  $< .10$  and SRMR  $< .08$  (Kline, 2011). According to the obtained total values of the fit parameters (Table 12), we can see that the three-factor tested model meets the older, less severe criteria, so the values provided by the Kline (2005) are fully acceptable. On the other hand, parameters NFI and CFI do not meet the criteria proposed by Kline (2011), but in turn meet the criteria of other liberal authors who say that the values of NFI and CFI  $> .80$  are acceptable for large samples.

High item correlations between the scale and the factors, as well as inter-correlations of factors, indicate that it is a three-factor coherent space. The factor of religiosity is defined by a uniform and relatively high relationship with the items of the scale R. The factor of ethnic attachment is also clearly defined. The factor of ethnic openness brings together all the items of the scale, noting that the highest range in the amount of the factor saturation is registered here. Correlation of factors of ethnic attachment, openness and religiosity are replicas of the relations obtained by exploratory factor analysis, ethnic and religious attachment are mutually in positive correlations, and in negative correlation with the ethnic openness. Testing the model with three independent factors, we receive fit parameters, that are slightly beyond the established criteria, what could, again, be discussed with respect to the sample size. The factor structure is virtually indistinguishable from the structure obtained by the correlated factors.

## **DISCUSSION**

First of all, the results show that the questionnaire EV-EC-R, actually its scales of ethnic attachment (EA), ethnic openness (EO), and conformistic religiosity (R) have satisfactory psychometric characteristics, especially bearing in mind that they are short scales. All three scales have a unique object measurement corresponding to the names of scales. The factors retain their structure when the space of the EV-EO-R questionnaire is regarded as a unique one. Direction among the factors relationships corresponds the theoretical concepts on which the study is based. If the conclusion would be formed only on the basis of the obtained values of psychometric characteristics, then we could say that the questionnaire EV-EC-R represents an adequate assessment of ethnic attachment, openness and religion. However, on the other

hand, the above mentioned did not confirm that these three scales form a single parent dimension of the clero-nationalism. Although, the results of longer version of the scales suggested the existence of the clero-nationalism, which brought together ethnic attachment, openness and religiosity (Čekrlija and Djuric, 2015; Turjačanin and Čekrlija 2006), this was not confirmed in this study. The exploratory factor analysis has already showed that the first principal component of the questionnaire includes ethnic attachment and religiosity in the first place, whereas items of ethnic openness are less present in its saturation. The value of parameter within the frame of confirmatory factor analysis were on the limit of acceptability or were exceeded, just as sufficiently to doubt the existence of the model. Bearing in mind a large amount of the data presented, it was decided to give up the hierarchical confirmatory factor analysis that would further test this hypothesis, just to have it rejected once more. Structure of the scale and the relations with the outside measures of psychological variables based on ethnicity, and in other samples, will for sure be taken into consideration in the further steps of validation of the EV-EC-R. We think that the fact that the questionnaire EV-EO-R can be accepted as satisfactory research tool is enough for now.

## **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

General overview of the obtained findings provides two conclusions. The first-one is based to the consideration of two-dimensional model of ethnic attachment and openness. The overall results indicate a well-based theoretical concept which is supported by the results of empirical verification. Comparison with other models showed that two-dimensional model has the power to incorporate and interpret them as its specific form. In a further validation of the two-dimensional model of the ethnic attachment and openness relationship with personality traits and related constructs of social psychology should be considered.

On the another sideobtained results indicate that short EV-EO-R questionnaire can be accepted as a measure of ethnic attachment and openness and conformist religiosity, with satisfactory psychometric properties. However, within the further validation of the EV-EO-R questionnaire, relationship with other relevant measures of ethnical attachment and openness are required.



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## CONCLUSIONS

The aims of the project “Fear as an Impact Factor on Social Choice”, the results of which are presented in this edited volume *Personality and Society IV*, were two-fold. The primary aim of the research was to investigate how fear impacts on social choice and social orientation, and the extent to which fear, as the key factor that impacts social choice, is dependent on the social context of Bosnia & Herzegovina. This publication offers the results of the studies through which the research was carried out. Additional aims of the project were: to engage university students in a scientific research project that examined relevant social constructs; to identify the pedagogical significance of such a research project. In other words, the research aimed to demonstrate the possibility of conducting research into social issues unimpeded by ideological interference. Therefore, the students were primarily guided by the principles of scientific research and were able to apply their theoretical knowledge when examining social constructs and quotidian social experiences. Furthermore, in addition to applying their theoretical insights, students were also able to develop their practical psychological skills.

The primary aim of the research was achieved through six separate essays. The titles of these essays do not emphasize the examination of fear as a factor of social choice. However, they directly analyse the social context in which fear – the focus of this research – is created and they also assess the personality traits that emerge as correlating with fear having an impact on social choice. Thus, it is possible to gain more robust insights into the nature of existential fear, its origins and development, as well as its correlations with personality traits and social factors. The introductory essay replicates previous research into the traits in politicians that were perceived as desirable by the respondents. This essay had confirmed Conscientiousness and Openness to experience to be the most desirable and most important traits in a politician. In line with the psychodynamic approach of the research, the reported significance of Conscientiousness suggests the need for a safe, reliable leader of the nation whose accountability can be trusted.

As the analysis of the data shows, such reported significance demonstrates the father-child dynamic, with the father, as the more powerful in his competencies and values, enriching individual growth and enabling the achievement of goals which the individual would be less likely to achieve by him- or herself. Openness to experience and sociability in a politician are linked to the self-reported needs of respondents for an enjoyable social environment in which they can realize their needs and desires. By pointing to these traits as desirable in a politician, respondents confirm their willingness to be led but they also articulate the need for social interactions with those who lead them. With regard to the findings in previous studies (Čekrlja, 2016), this research has found significant variations. The surveys that were carried out this year demonstrated stronger expressions of desirability for the traits of Agreeableness and Emotional Stability in a politician than expressed in previous studies. Conscientiousness and Openness to experience remain the most desirable traits in a politician, but their dominance over Agreeableness and Emotional stability is not as pronounced. The results indicate that it is no longer enough just to perceive politicians as accountable, consistent, and moral, but that they should also be perceived as agreeable and empathetic, able to manage their own emotions and the emotions of the masses.

It should be stressed that Agreeableness and Emotional stability were identified as desirable traits in a politician in all three studies that were carried out. The same tendencies were recorded within three different sample cohorts of respondents, which testifies to the robustness of the findings. The value of these results lies in their applicability. If either the opposition or the ruling party used these results to guide them, this would offer them clear pointers as to how to carry out election campaigns and what kind of candidates to promote. The results of this research also make it possible to see the extent to which politicians shape their attitudes and behaviour based on the views of citizens and whether, in general, the behaviour of politicians is at all impacted by public opinion.

The correlation between how citizens self-report on their own personality traits with the reported desirable traits in a politician demonstrates that citizens highlight as preferable those traits in a politician which they report as strongest in themselves. Significant correlations have been identified with all the traits examined in the survey. The strongest correlation has been identified with Conscientiousness and Agreeableness. Correlations between self-reported personality traits of respondents and evaluation of desirable traits in a politician have been grouped into two clusters. This enables the application of models that draw on two more general personality dimensions in the interpretation of political preferences. The results suggest that the respondents who score higher in traits in the domain of plasticity are more inclined to opt for politicians in whom they recognize the potential to achieve overall public stability. Respondents who score higher on Openness to experience, Extraversion and Emotional stability, are more inclined to opt for politicians who create a more dynamic and broader social context, characterised affirmative social interactions.

Data on preferences for a certain type of a politician demonstrates a loose correlation with religious nationalism. The research yielded a greater number of statistically significant correlates between desirable traits in a politician with ethnic attachments, ethnic openness and religiosity. The only correlates that were confirmed, through multiple regression analysis, were those between ethnic attachment and the preference for Openness to experience and, to a certain degree, for Conscientiousness. Respondents who considered Openness to experience to be an important trait in a politician were also ethnically more open. The lack of confirmation for correlation between ethnic attachment and religiosity and the desirable traits in a politician could be attributed to social desirability. Namely, ethnic and religious attachments in Bosnia & Herzegovina represent basic elements of group identity and, as such, show a low variability in the scores. Therefore, research into religious nationalism, within personality traits, demonstrates the strength of ethnic openness by using the most valid correlates of personality traits. A different interpretation of results could posit that Openness to experience becomes a personality trait that makes it possible for expressions of ethnic and religious attachments not to turn into ethnocentrism and chauvinism.

Generally speaking, the results of the three studies demonstrated two basic personality traits that impact on the preference for specific traits in a politician. Respondents form their preferences for these traits based on their need for stability (both personal and social) and their attitudes to changes in life and their social environment (the dynamic component of personality). Self-reported desirable traits in a politician match those of the self-reported personality traits of respondents.

The only difference lies in that respondents wish to see their own self-reported personality traits as more pronounced in a politician. To put it simply, respondents wish to see “upgraded” versions of their own personality traits in politicians. Therefore, the disposition towards the authoritative type of politician that was identified in previous research (Čekrljija, 2016; 2017) can be explained by the dominant pursuit of stability (for a less stressful social context) in its relationship to openness to change and strength of preference for a dynamic life. In Bosnia & Herzegovina, negative social stimuli are dominant and directly cause feelings of anxiety, fear or threat in citizens. Due to the dominance of an insecure social context (which relates to the ethnic problem, poor standards of living, and negative migration of the population), citizens aim to secure their future by voting for politicians with more pronounced stability traits. However, by voting for politicians who establish their authority on the basis of ethnic politics the social *status quo* is merely maintained and prolonged. In such cases, citizens only get perception of improved protection, while in reality the overall social context remains unfavourable. The basic sense of threat and the preference of citizens for politicians whose priority is to promote their ability to protect (based on the criteria of ethnicity) have centred in on the need for protection, security, and stability to a degree that is suffocating for the individual. By an unwillingness to make changes in their social perception, social interaction, and attitudes, voters prop up the very unfavourable and threatening social context through their voting choices. The variation in scores from the previous studies for Emotional stability and Openness to experience that this year’s study demonstrates should be noted. These variations will be examined in light of the forthcoming elections (October 2018). Comparison between the variations in the strength of preference for specific desirable traits in a politician and the 2018 election results will be of interest, as will be any potential variation when compared with the results of the 2016 election.

Bearing in mind that personality traits are learned in different ways during childhood (Ignjatović, 2001) this begs the following question: What factors shape the dominance of the preference for primary protection and general “stability” over the preference for a richer and more dynamic social context, when the latter of which is established not on the basis of ethnic attachment so much as on the basis of personal benefit?<sup>1</sup> The answer to this question is analysed in the essay that deals with the relationships between personality traits, social trauma and religious nationalism. The results have highlighted the correlation between the libido fixation of the oral stage and ethnic openness as an indicator of authoritarianism, which is further strengthened by social trauma. Special attention should be drawn to social trauma as a social factor. War-time death, injury of a family member, or forced displacement are intense psychological traumas with long-term consequences (Milosavljević, 2002). Nowadays, social trauma is a factor that has become significantly institutionalized. The recognition of certain social categories based on social trauma within the welfare system (families of fallen soldiers, war veterans, displaced persons, ethnic minorities) is another important factor. In Bosnia & Herzegovina, the insistence on ethnic identity, as a social criterion, precisely maintains the very situation that produced both the categories of social trauma and those who are forced to identify through those categories. This extends the traumatic experience of individuals and groups, impacting on those aspects of the life of individuals that should be beyond its influence. Viewed this way, artificially maintaining and

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<sup>1</sup> Here, benefit is widely defined here as the fulfilment of one’s needs.

inadequately treating social trauma has a double negative effect: it intensifies the impact of the lived trauma on everyday life, and it maintains the unfavourable social situation which led to social trauma in the first place.

The correlation between fixation at the oral stage and ethnic openness can also be examined in the light of how needs are satisfied and to what extent this is achieved. Given the (dis)satisfaction which is produced in a child by covering only the basic needs in early childhood, it is clear that the primary responsibility to satisfy the needs of a child lies with the parents. The questions that arise are: How capable are the parents – who are live constantly in the context of unstable and threatening ethnic politics and poor economic conditions – to respond to the needs of their children? Given that they are focused on satisfying the basic needs of their children, how will they be able to raise the next generation in such a way that this generation will not base its social judgements on the exclusive criterion of its group identity? The satisfaction of basic needs are likely to be easiest in one's own group environment. This environment however does not enable the satisfaction of higher-level needs that fall beyond the domain of group identity. Under unfavourable social conditions, the satisfaction of basic survival needs alone decreases the possibility for the development of individuals, whose ethnic identity is not exclusive and whose primary trait is openness.

The content analysis of the religious education textbook is part of the essay which examines the institutionalization of those factors that emphasize the feeling of basic insecurity. Religious education differs from all other school subjects. First of all, many facts have been identified that testify to the absolute dominance of religious leaders in the creation of such school textbooks. Since religious education is not based on scientific research methodologies, it does not encourage scientific doubt, inquiry and robustness of evidence but, instead, fosters conformist rote learning. Given all this, the question arises as to whether the power of religious institutions within the education system may be too influential. Furthermore, the analysed textbook is replete with terms and concepts, the understanding of which is beyond the appropriate level of development of the intellectual abilities of the students. Drawing on Vygotsky, this can be said to represent the Zone of Proximal Development, which means that the students are not yet able to understand, adopt, and apply the presented material in adequate ways. Therefore, religious education, as a school subject, fails to match the standard requirements demanded of other school subjects. In a society such as Bosnia & Herzegovina, religious education is linked to religious and ethnic identity, so the religious textbooks contain material that is primarily aimed at strengthening ethnic identity (Čekrlija and Dragomirović, 2014). This way, both students and the educational system become agents through which ethnic and religious identities continue to be developed. Even, if in theory, ethnic and religious components of the identity were possible to develop affirmatively, i.e. in a way that does not unfavourably impact on the overall social situation, our analysis does not point to such a conclusion. Religious education, as a school subject, and its textbooks (analysed thus far), emphasize drawing new members to the group rather than attending to the general or individual development of these students.

The analysis of social trauma and the religious education textbook demonstrates the impact of this factor on the institutionalization of ethno-religious identities and behaviour rooted in these identities. Given that previous studies have shown how existential fear plays the key role in

strengthening ethnic identities in Bosnia & Herzegovina (Čekrlja, 2016, 2017; Turjačanin and Čekrlja, 2006), this research indicates that the political institutions, through their actions, deepen further existential fear among the citizens of BiH, using the frame of ethnic identity to curtail political choice.

The final essay in this volume gives an account of a longitudinal research study into ethnic attachment, ethnic openness, and religiosity. In order to respond appropriately to many research questions that are related to these constructs, appropriate research tools needed to be developed. The study introduces the survey that was developed in the course of this research, entitled EV-EO-R (Ethnic attachment, Ethnic openness, Religiosity). The essay also indicates how this survey can be used in complementary research projects. For research into complementary phenomena, it is important to have a reliable tool that enables the correlation of results and synthesis of conclusions. The EV-EO-R survey could prove to be one such research tool. With regard to this study, several generations of students participated in its various stages. The contribution of these students in the long-term development of the survey has been invaluable. Student participation in scientific research is probably the most powerful long-term benefit resulting from this research project. Full participation of young researchers in all stages of this research, which in itself has made both a scientific and social contribution, has provided them with a significant professional experience. This research has also offered a great opportunity to investigate sensitive social problems scientifically, with full compliance with research ethics in the field of psychology. This has enabled students to have the opportunity to analyse personality traits and social groups in their own society without the dominance of any specific ideological perspective. Therefore, I wish to thank the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung BiH on behalf of the research team and on behalf of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences for their support in promoting and popularizing scientific research among young people.

*The Editor*