

# Abstract

Attitudes towards corruption have been attributed to a broad range of macro-level and, to a limited

extent, micro-level antecedents. Neglected is academic research on the effect of individual-level

psychological factors on the attitudes toward corruption. To fill this gap, this article aims to explore

the impact of individuals' personality traits on their willingness to justify corrupt acts, drawing on data

from World Values Survey Wave 6. By applying fixed effects models, the study finds that two of five

personality traits - consciousness and agreeableness are significantly and negatively associated with

individuals' willingness to justify corrupt exchanges. Additionally, the study results show that the

association between the personality traits and corruption tolerance varies from country to country:

openness to experience, for instance, was significantly and negatively associated with corruption

tolerance in Germany, whereas this trend was not observed in the Dutch sample. Among the control

variables, age and sex were significant predictors of corruption tolerance as well

as the Dutch were

less willing to justify corrupt acts than Germans. The study provides empirical and practical

implications as well as suggestion for future research.