

On the Association between Sociodemographics & Moralization in Everyday Life during pandemic

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Introduction

- The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our everyday life to a great extent, but also created a unique environment to study how people make moral decisions in this context^[1]. Research shows that moralization is affected by many exogenous factors^[2,3].

In our study, we

1. Measure the moralization score
2. Inspect the impact of sociodemographics on moralization.

Method

Moralization of Everyday Life Scale (MELS) was designed to measure variations in people's assignment of moral weight to everyday behaviors. The scale was further adapted in the beginning of the COVID-19 to measure pandemic related everyday behaviours.

"How morally wrong is this behaviour in your opinion?"



- We perform item response modelling to estimate the dimensionality of the adapted MELS questionnaire.

- We postulated factors based on content similarity and computed factor scores for each participant.

- We then investigated associations between sociodemographics and moralization scores.

Sociodemographic Characteristics of the sample

Characteristic	n	\bar{x}	σ
Age	209	27	7.45
Gender		F	%
Female	111		53.11%
Male	92		44.01%
Others	6		2.87%
Nationality	26		
German	78		37.32%
Indian	85		40.67%
Others	46		22.01%
Country of Living	21		
German	99		47.37%
Indian	63		30.14%
Others	47		22.49%

Results

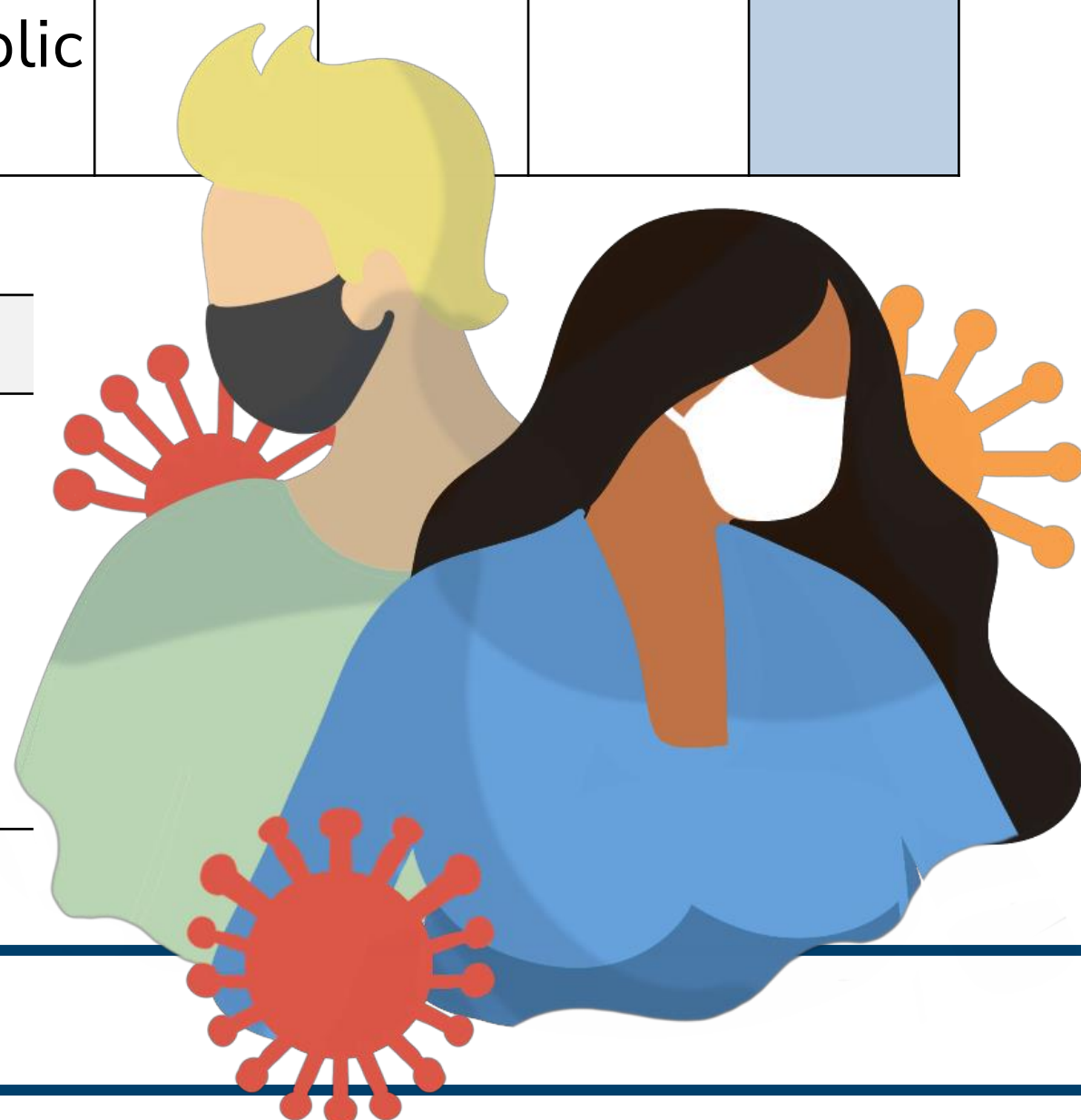
1. Measuring moralization scores with the adapted MELS questionnaire

Table 2: Factor loadings estimated with IRT Analysis

Questionnaire	URT	FDG	SB	HH
Anna throws a house party and invites many friends over without asking them to do a COVID-19 Screening test.	0.736			
Daniela sees a friend while out on a walk and greets them by kissing her on the cheek / shaking their hand.	0.613			
Yamini is not offering to collect an elderly person's medical prescription.		0.894		
Mathias is not offering to pick up groceries for a neighbour who is self-isolating after showing symptoms.		0.896		
During the lockdown, Iman is buying toilet rolls and other household items in bulk.			0.936	
During the lockdown, Niklas is buying perishable groceries that he does not need/cannot use before they expire.			0.654	
Dimitris is not washing his hands when he comes home.				0.754
Michelle is coughing without covering her mouth in a public space.				0.659

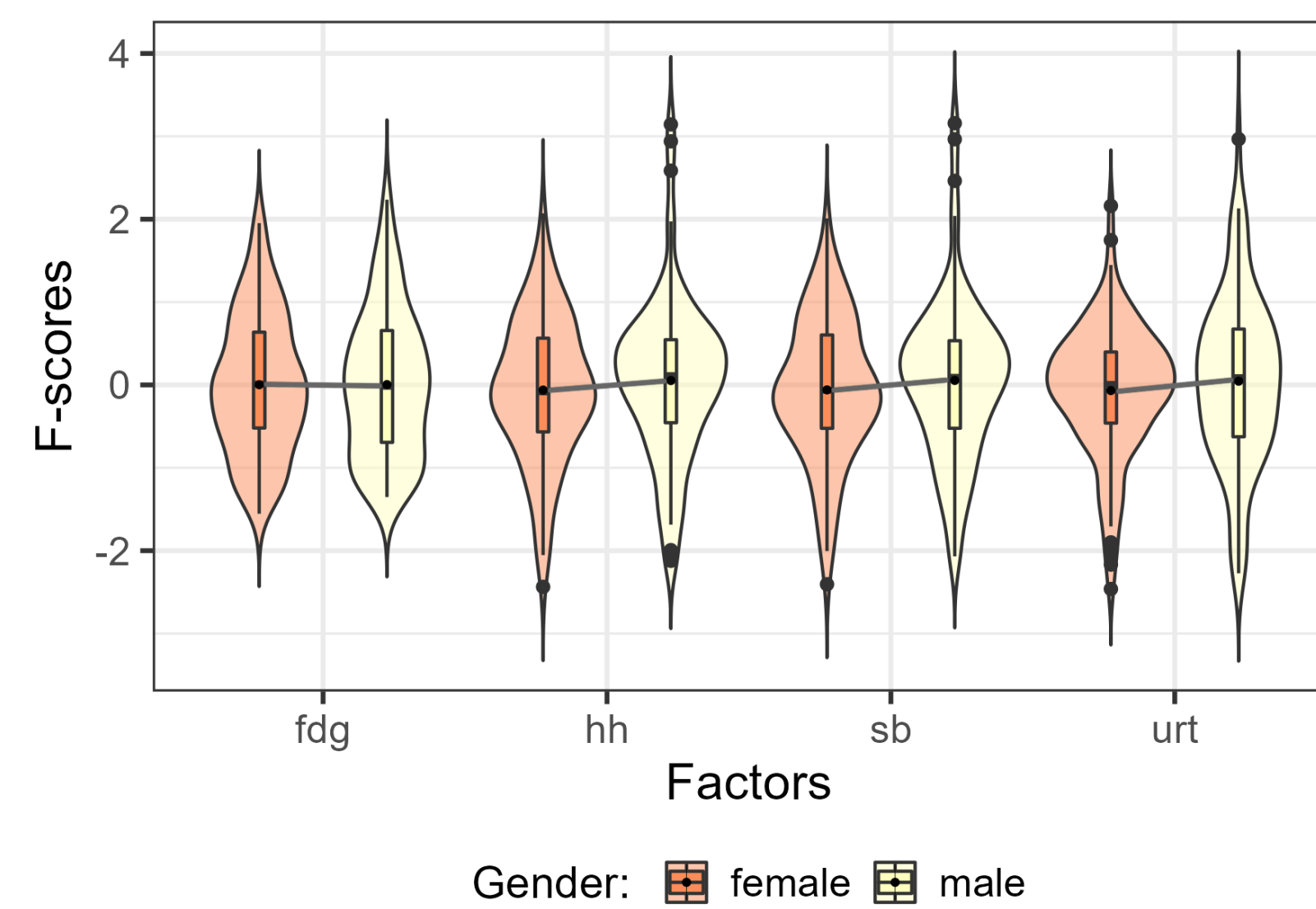
Moralization Dimensions

URT : unnecessary-risk taking
FDG : failing to do good
SB : selfish behaviour
H&H : health and hygiene

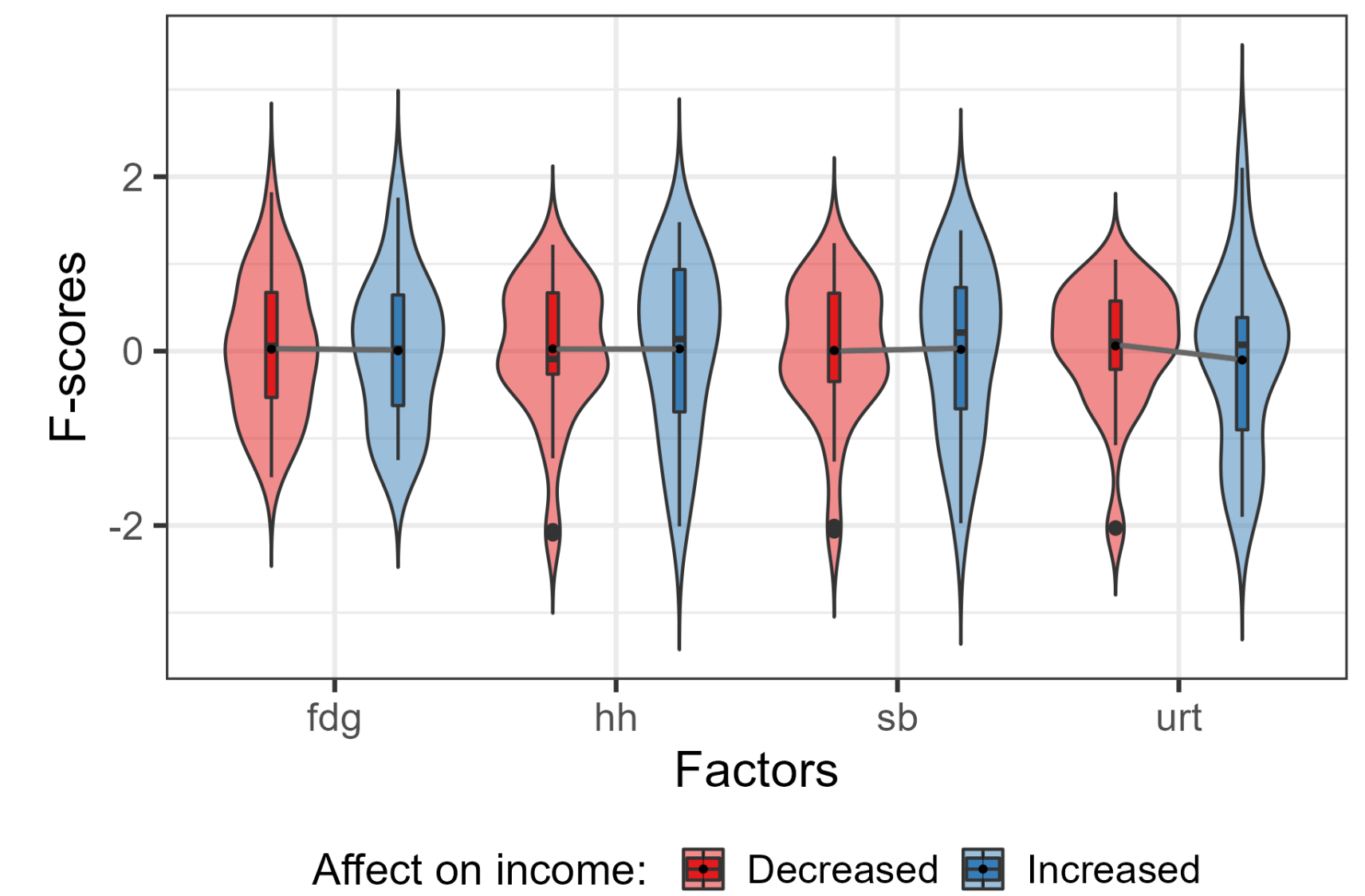


2. Association between sociodemographics and moralization scores

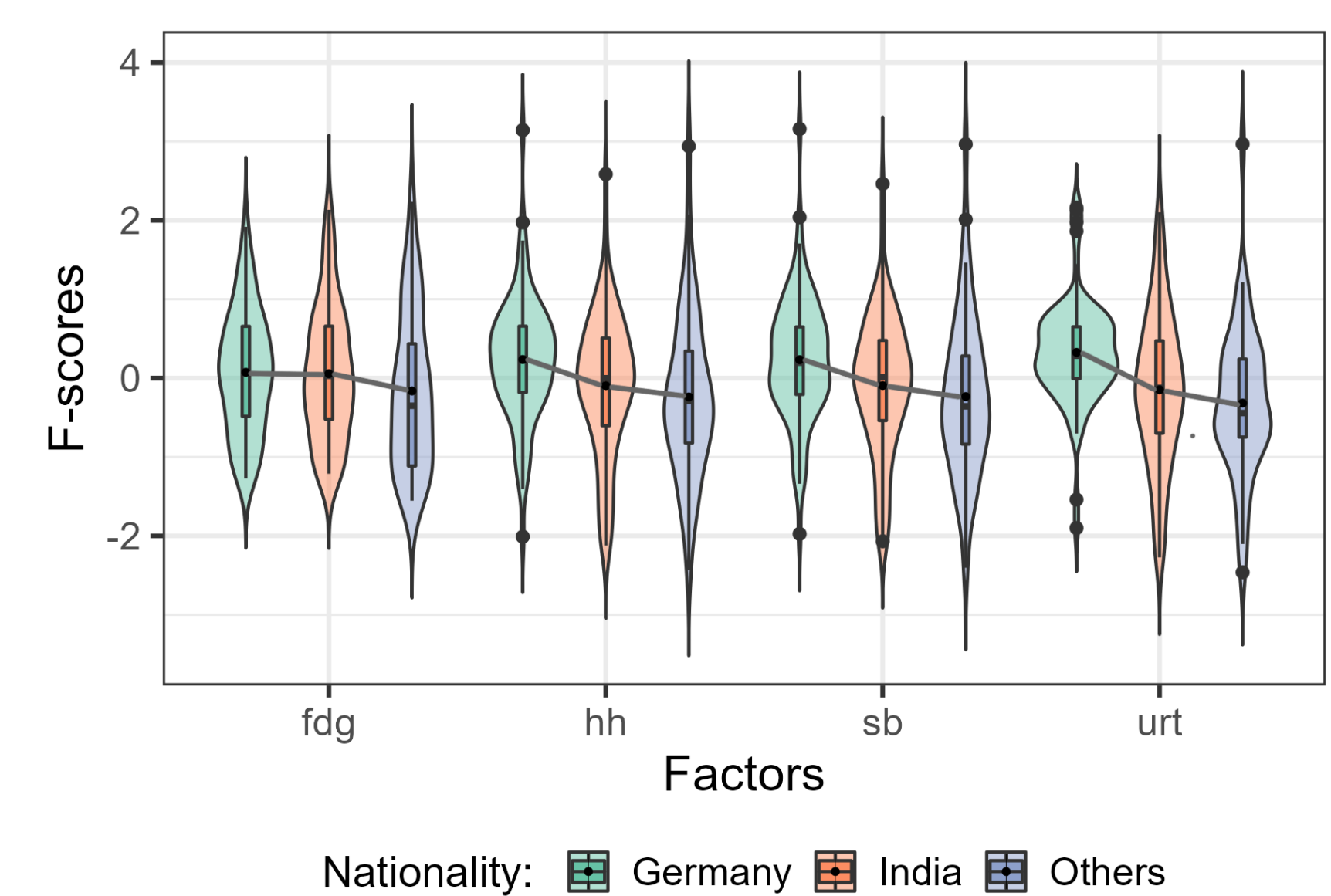
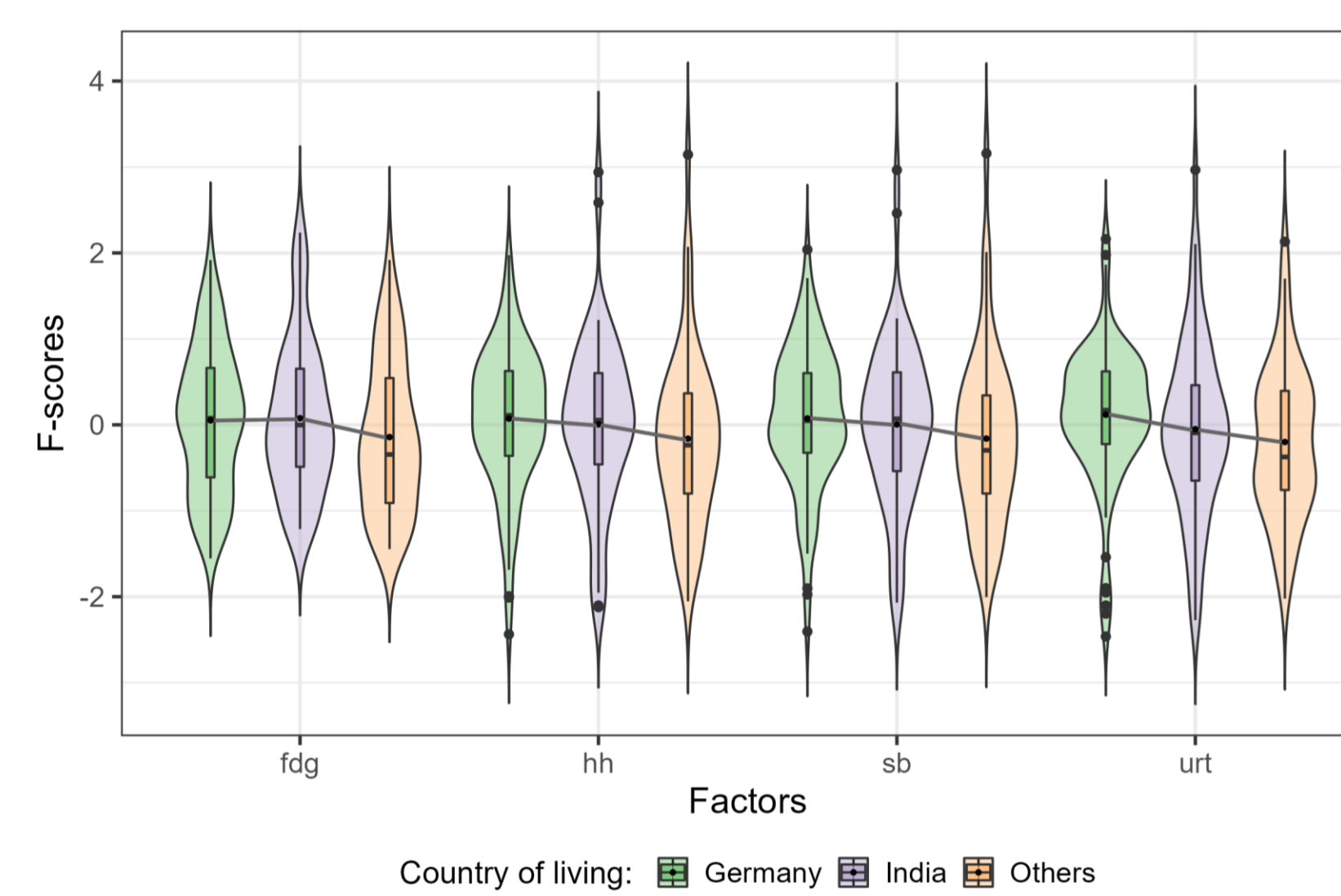
Q1. Is there a gender difference in moralization?



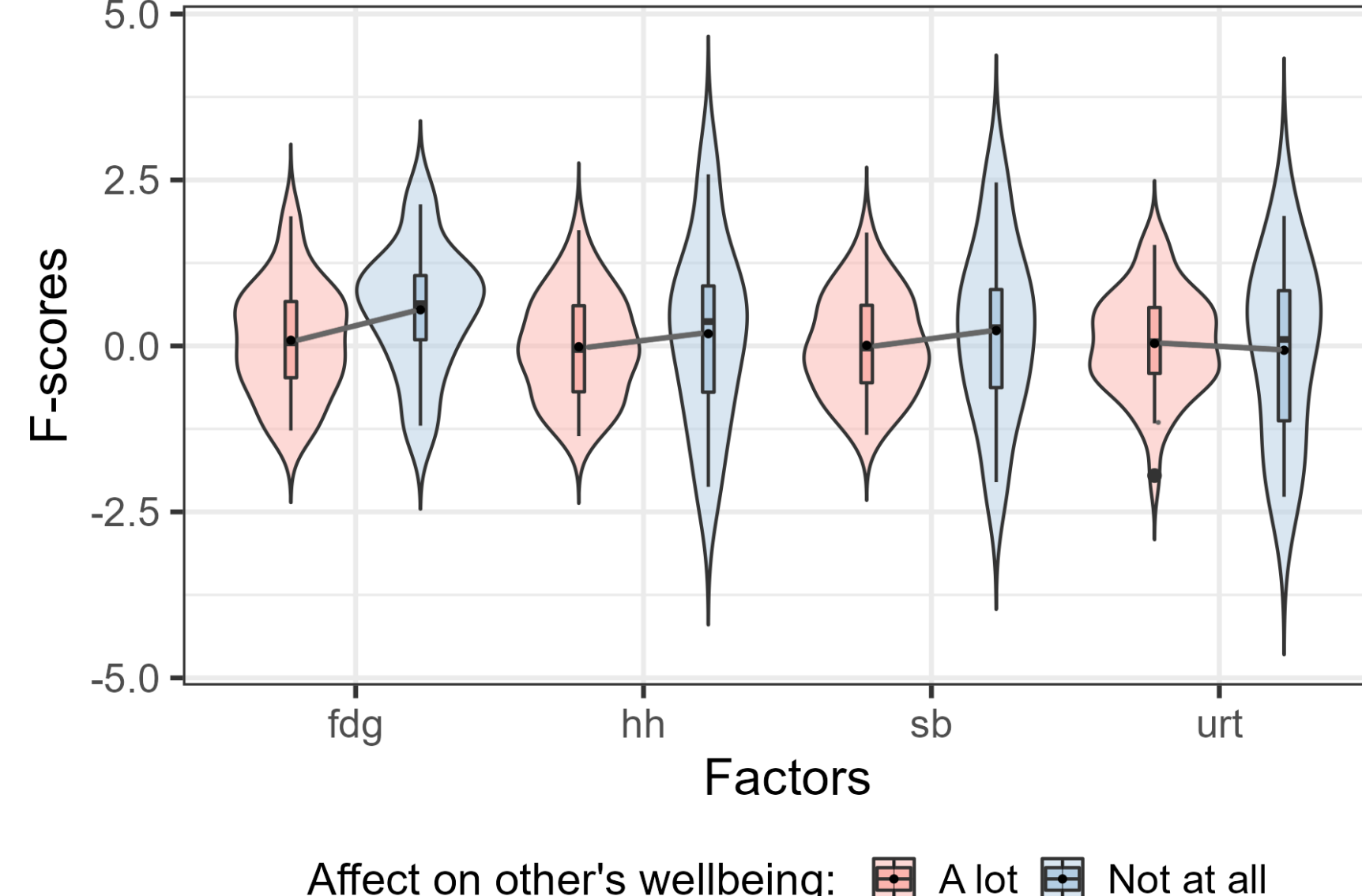
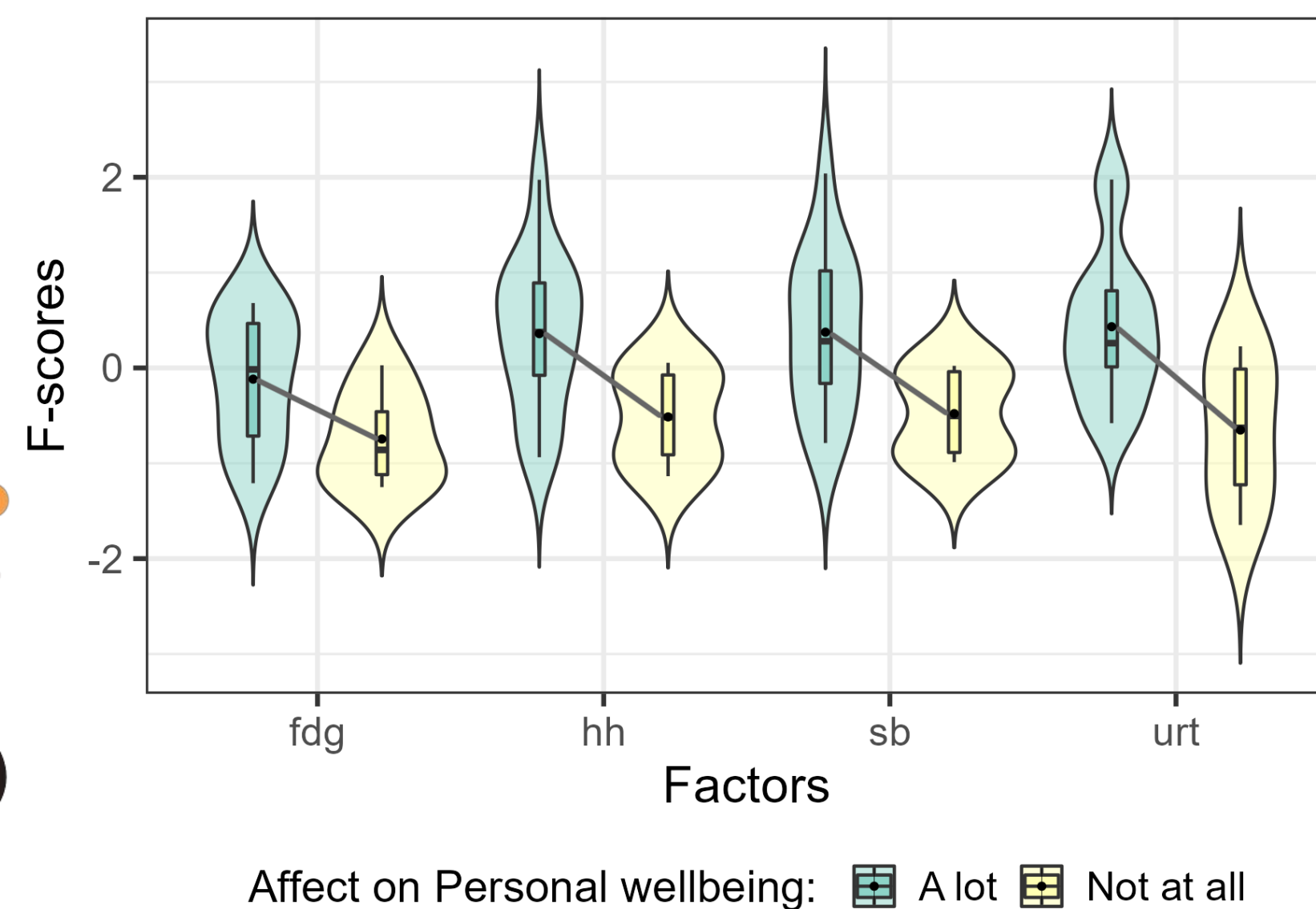
Q2. Is income change during the pandemic associated with moralization?



Q3. Does country of living and nationality matter when it comes to pandemic related behaviours?



Q4. Is wellbeing during infection associated with moralization?



Conclusion

- We found four distinct Everyday MELS dimensions they are - Unnecessary Risk Taking, Failing to Do Good, Selfish Behaviour, Health and Hygiene.
- We investigate whether sociodemographics are associated with moralization. With this preliminary analysis we may concluded that there is no significant association.

Outlook

- We will explore the association of moralization with current practicing behaviours.
- We also plan to analyse the impact of personality differences, emotional regulation, risk perception and pandemic fatigue on moralization dimensions.

REFERENCES

- [1] Jeronimus, B.F. (2020). Personality and the Coronavirus Covid-19 Pandemic. University of Groningen Press.
[2] Francis, K. B., & McNabb, C. B. (2021). Moral Decision-Making During COVID-19: Moral Judgements, Moralisation, and Everyday Behaviour. *Frontiers in psychology*, 12.
[3] Romero-Rivas, C., & Rodríguez-Cuadrado, S. (2020). Moral decision-making and mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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