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# Measurement of Conspirativistic Mentality: Primary Psychometric Verification of Diagnostic Methodology

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## Abstract

**Introduction.** The study of the specific features of the prevalence of belief in various conspiracies is an urgent problem of the crisis of our time. The available methods are mainly focused on the types of belief in conspiracies, but there is little attention given to holistic approach. We are the first to demonstrate on the Russian sample the developed new valid and reliable tools for identifying the features of the conspirativistic mentality of modern youth. **Methods.** The construct of the methodology is based on the stages of perception of belief in conspiracies and the allocation of significant attitudes – resistance to conspiracies, willingness to accept conspiracies on faith, the desire to look for the causes of conspiracies and evaluate the consequences and results of their impact on life. The methodological tools are presented by the author's methodology "Measurement of conspirativistic mentality", tested on 300 male and female respondents. The construct of the methodology has a two-factor structure, on one pole - readiness-stability in relation to the conspiracy, on the other - seeking-productive types. **Results.** Psychometric testing of the technique showed that men and women have different manifestations of a conspiratorial mentality. Men have a higher belief in conspiracies. Ready and productive types are closer to the zone of tradition, and stable and searching types are more in the zone of innovation. The constructive validity of the methodology was confirmed, and a high  $\alpha$ -Kronbach index was obtained, which indicates the internal consistency of the methodology. **Discussion.** The data obtained are combined with existing studies of certain aspects of conspirativism. We found confirmation of the following ideas: the sexual difference of the conspiratorial mentality, its personal identity, the specifics of orientation, connection with anxiety and basic fears. **Conclusion.** Preliminary psychometric verification of the methodology on a representative sample demonstrates its reliability and validity. The Further work will be aimed at modifying the methodology and comparing age groups.

**Keywords:** psychometric verification, methodology, conspirativistic mentality, belief in conspiracies, anxiety, personality traits, students, men and women, validity, reliability

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## Introduction

The presence of belief in conspiracy theories is today a persistent prejudice of a considerable number of the people on our planet (van der Linden, Panagopoulos, Azevedo & Jost, 2021; van Prooijen, Rodrigues, Bunzel, Georgescu, Komáromy & Krouwe, 2022; Arteev, 2022; Kazun, 2022).

S. Moscovici (1987) was one of the first to reflect the psychological aspects of the conspirativistic mentality and qualified the concept of "conspiracy" as some ideas that unite representatives of various social groups around the need to make a revolution in society. The authors define conspiracy theories as the "central prejudice of the paranoid style" of a person (Hofstadter, 1996; Brotherton, 2017; Sutton & Douglas, 2020). According to the authors' research, the conspirativistic mentality is higher in countries with low indicators on the democracy index (Economist) and the corruption index (Transparency International), it is characteristic of a society with a high degree of economic inequality (Imhoff et al., 2022). The digital revolution may have accelerated the formulation and spread of conspiracy theories.

**Conspiraciology** as a special type of discourse, which is often mixed with the detective one, contains an action-packed composition and a suspicious subject (Dmitrieva, Vanyushina, 2021), is a fake (imitation, implausible knowledge) (Swami, Furnham, Smyth, Weis, Lay & Clow, 2016).

**The subject of the conspiracy** is a real or illusory event, which is determined from the standpoint of various explanatory, causal threat schemes. **The conspirativistic mentality**, in our opinion, is a combination of values, meanings and significance of the conspiracy adept, aimed at the subject of the conspiracy, which is associated with special negative consequences for personal or public safety. According to Boltanski (2019), the subject of the conspiracy is a constructed reality. And the conspiracy theory is a "blind spot", since it cannot be unambiguously interpreted (Arteev, 2022). The subjects of a conspiracy can be either an individual or a group of people who are united by a joint conspiratorial activity or a common interpretation of the conspiracy theory.

Conspiracy theories are often directed at vulnerable groups of society and discriminate against them, they can ignore scientific data (Kirzyuk, 2021). The belief of certain groups of the population in conspiracy theories can provoke actions that polarize relations in society, which leads to serious consequences (Pishchik, 2019; Yablokov, 2020), such as political passivity, refusal from vaccinations, hostility to ethnic minorities, etc.

To study the phenomenon of belief in conspiracies, sociological surveys and a few methods are used to identify the spread of certain types of conspiracies, for example, Goreis & Voracek (2019); van der Linden, Panagopoulos, Azevedo & Jost (2021). We (Pishchik, Mutalimova, 2014; Pishchik, 2017) adapted the method for measuring belief in conspiracies (Imhoff & Bruder, 2014). The technique allows us to identify the types of belief in conspiracies represented in various social groups. Today, in connection with the pandemic period, we have added a vaccination clause to the method. There remained the problem of studying the general attitudes of readiness and unwillingness to accept faith in conspiracies. In this regard, *the purpose* of our research is to develop and conduct a primary (since we are only at the first stage of verification) psychometric verification of a new technique that allows us to identify an internal attitude of belief in conspiracies.

## Methods

If we proceed from the ideas and models of conspirativism (Swami, Chamorro-Premuzic & Furnham, 2010; Beemster, Bijleveld & Treur, 2021; Stasielowicz, 2022), then we can determine some stages of perception of conspiracy theories by people:

- Stage 1: detection and perception of information about conspiracy.
- Stage 2: emotional response and/or comparison of data with available information about the conspiracy subject.
- Stage 3: accepting information on faith or criticism, rejecting it.
- Stage 4: assessing or ignoring the consequences of this information.

Based on the data of these stages of the perceiving information process about the presence of a conspiracy, we assumed that it is possible to determine 4 types of attitudes towards conspiracies:

- Resistant to conspiracies.
- Ready to accept conspiracies.
- Searching for an explanation of conspiracies.
- Evaluating the impact of conspiracy theories on life.

Thus, there are 2 areas of difference between the main attitudes to the conspiracy: readiness / unwillingness; stability / instability; evaluating / not evaluating data; evaluating / not evaluating the result.

The presented attitudes can determine the type of conspiratorial mentality: ready, productive, seeking, stable.

- Productive – strives for finding meaning in random events, facts.
- Seeking – seeks to find an explanation to all contradictory events, facts.
- Ready – strives to determine order, harmony in events, facts.
- Stable – strives to be critical of existing events, facts.

In developing the methodology, we relied on the findings of studies about the relationship between personality traits (externality, authoritarianism, schizotypy, paranoia, narcissism, etc.) and belief in conspiracies (Swami, Chamorro-Premuzic & Furnham, 2010; Nestik, Deineka & Maksimenko, 2020; Stasielowicz, 2022).

Based on these ideas, a questionnaire was constructed (see Appendix), consisting of 16 points with 2 statements in each:

- Points 1 and 9 are related to the need to confirm the content of the conspiracy.
- Points 2 and 10 are related to the attitude to uncertainty in a conspiracy situation.
- Points 3 and 11 – to the resistance to belief in a conspiracy.
- Points 4 and 12 – to the choice of process or result in the conspiracy evaluation.
- Points 5 and 13 – to the self-assessment of their anxiety.
- Points 6 and 14 – to the attitude to the threats of the world.
- Points 7 and 15 – to the expectation of a threat from people.
- Points 8 and 16 – to the definition of the stability/instability of life on Earth.

The statements relate to each of the 4 types of conspirativistic mentality, determined by the key. The key is built on the principle of matching the item (attributing the statement to a certain type of installation) and assigning 1 point for it. In our research work, 2 tasks were set: to test a new method and to conduct its preliminary psychometric verification.

In the study, based on the concept of mentality (Pishchik, 2019), we put forward two hypotheses:

- H1 – the stable type of conspirativistic mentality is more in the innovation zone, and the ready

type is in the traditional zone.

– H2 – high anxiety is associated with a ready type of conspirativistic mentality.

Determining the plan of psychometric verification of the method, we relied on the logic of its implementation in similar works (Vergunov, Nikolaeva & Bobrova, 2019; Bazarov, Raikov & Shaikhutdinov, 2020; Kuzmina, 2021).

To validate and identify the reliability of the tool, we used a number of techniques. Firstly, the methodology for measuring the type of mentality (Pishchik, 2019). The methodology reveals the types of mentality with the poles tradition and innovation. Tradition presupposes temporality, inheritance, strict adherence to values and rules in social relations. Innovation leads to greater flexibility in relationships, individualization of rules, deviation from general principles and standards. Secondly, the following methods were applied: "Belief in Conspiracies" by Pishchik, Mutalimova (Pishchik, 2017), revealing various types of belief in conspiracies; the method of measuring Taylor's anxiety (Teilor's Manifest Anxiety Scale, 1953; adapted by T. A. Nemchinov and V. G. Norakidze, 1975) (Dermanova, 2002); the Freiburg FPI Personality Questionnaire of Fahrenberg, Zarg and Gampel (Fahrenberg, Hampel & Selg, 1994); a method for measuring values through fears (Pishchik, 2019).

To establish the normality of the sample distribution, the Kolmogorov-Smirnov single-sample criterion was applied. To test the reliability of the instrument, we used Pearson correlation analysis, Cronbach's Alpha; to determine factor validity, we used exploratory factor analysis, the Kendall W criterion.

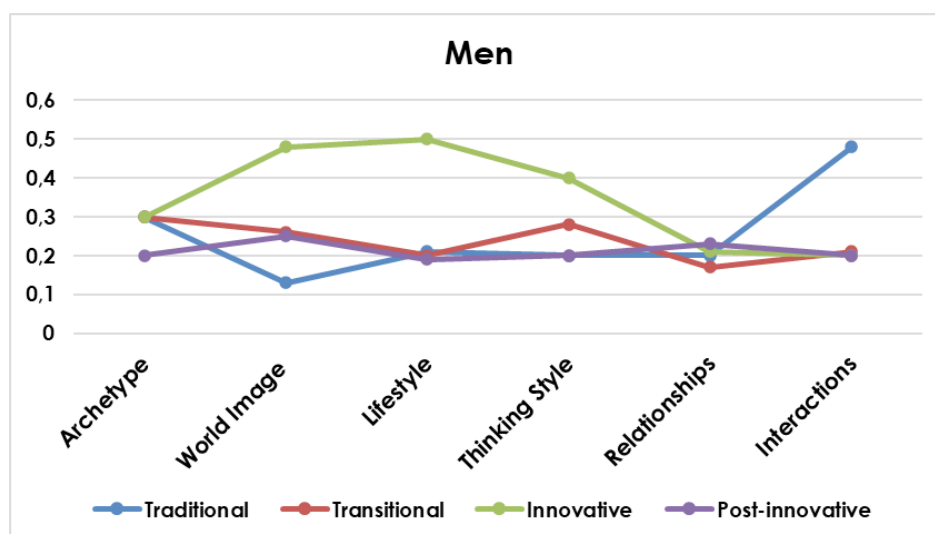
The randomized sample was represented by young men and women aged between 17 and 23 years, all were students of higher educational institutions of the city of Rostov-on-Don (Russian Federation). The sample size was 300 people (60% of them were women).

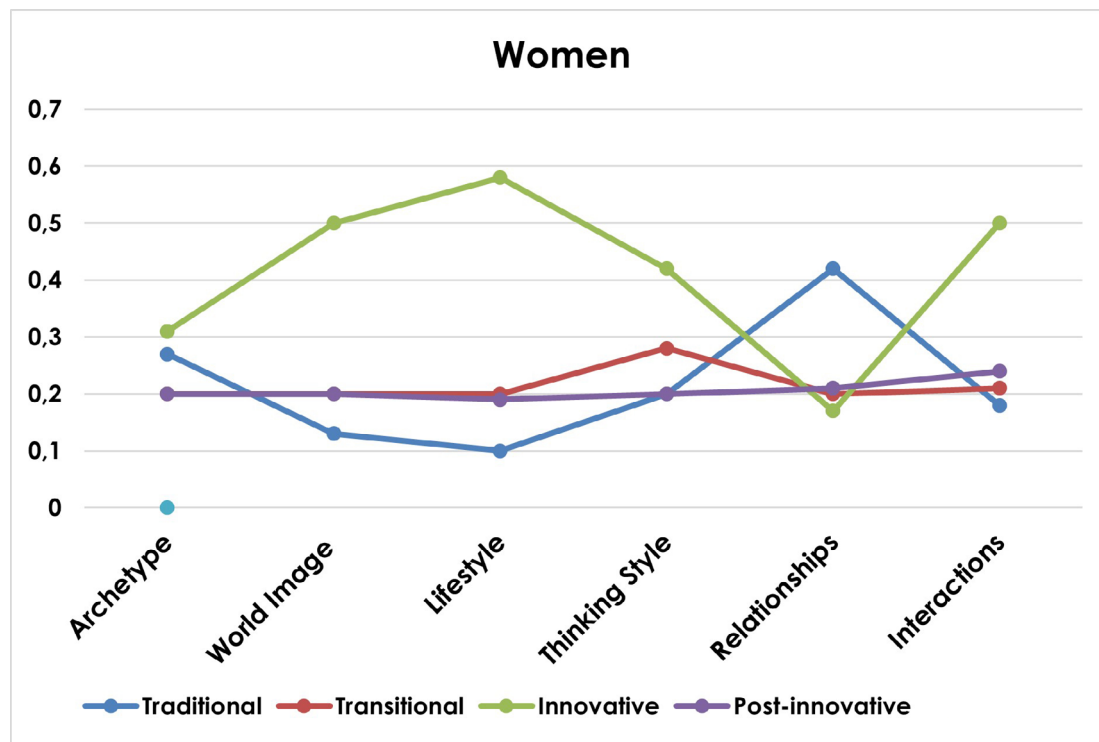
## Results

According to our data, the following components of mentality were represented in the group of men and women (Fig. 1).

**Figure 1**

*Components of mentality in the group*





The image of the world and life, interaction is in the innovation zone. Only in the group of women relationships are in the zone of tradition ( $U = 1930.0$ ,  $p = 0.009$ ). At the same time, traditional relationships are associated with an innovative archetype ( $0.168^*$ ), expressed more in women. The male group combines the archetypes of innovation, tradition and transitivity. In the group of men, the lifestyle is in the innovation zone and has fewer polarities, and in the group of women, the traditional lifestyle opposes the innovative lifestyle (which forms 2 poles).

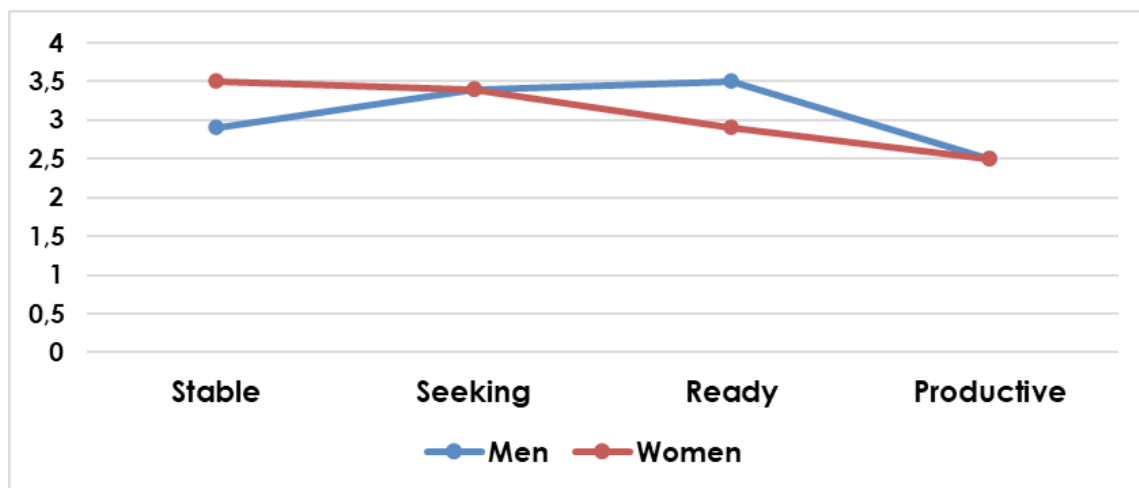
The innovative mentality is characterized by the following social choices:

- girls choose business partners (36.9%), girls are career oriented (65.2%), politicians are defined as corrupt (50.5%), wise means creating new things (55.9%), magic is attributed to healers (53.3%);
- the world is seen as chaotic (28.3%) and concrete (28%), dynamic (45.5%), uncertain (34.4%), a person is in the center of the world (61.3%), the world is seen as open (43%);
- situations develop (63.4%), respondents lead an active lifestyle (56.6%), focus on innovation (70.3%), life strategy – natural steps (42.7%), life is planned in some aspects (63.8%); money is the basis of the way of life (54.8%);
- they think extraordinary (42.3%), pragmatic (33%) and analytical (33%), they make decisions based on their own opinion (45.9%), the way of thinking is modern (35.8%), if they think, they live (70.6%);
- respondents are surrounded by: family (57%) and friends (37.3%), relations are peaceful (68.8%), indifferent (18.6%), men and women show freedom in relationships (46.2%), they are characterized by romanticism (26.2%), traditions (17.2%);
- interactions are aimed at profit (50.5%), at a specific goal (26.2%), at a common affair (15.8%),

- at friendly relations (63.4%), at support for successful people (53.8%), at support for those in need for help (30.1%);
- respondents note that "I am a real person (61.6%), timeless (19.4%), have a desire to achieve a lot (63.1%), create a new one (27.6%)", the meaning of life is money, career (54.1%), health, spiritual growth (22.6%), family, labour (20.1%).
- We identified the types of conspirativistic mentality (Fig. 2).

**Figure 2**

*Types of conspirativistic mentality*



In the group of men, there is a greater willingness to accept conspiracies on faith ( $U = 2416.0$ ,  $p = 0.001$ ). In the group of women, a stable type of conspiratorial mentality is more represented ( $U = 4686.0$ ,  $p = 0.001$ ).

The second most important type for both men and women is the seeking type. Very little attention is paid to the productive type. In the group of men, the type ready to perceive conspiracies is most prominent. In the group of women, a the most manifested type is the stable one, reflecting a somewhat detached attitude to the belief in conspiracies. To a lesser extent, the seeking type is expressed in both groups. It is associated with the search for an explanation for conspiracies. The least represented type in the groups is the productive type, for which the importance of the consequences of the impact of conspiracies on human life is high. This may mean that belief in conspiracies is interesting in itself and not everyone is interested in the consequences of their impact (for a detailed description of the types of conspirativistic mentality, see Appendix 1).

The internal reliability of the tool was determined by the internal consistency method by correlating all scales of the methodology with each other (Table 1). The distribution of values is normal across all scales (stable single-sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov criterion  $5.499E-7^1$ ; Seeking –  $1.057E-5^1$ ; Ready –  $1.940E-4^1$ ; Productive –  $4.547E-6^1$ ; the significance level is 0.05), so we applied the Pearson correlation coefficient.

**Table 1**

*The significance of the interrelationships of the methodology scales*

Types	Stable	Seeking	Ready	Productive
Stable	1			
Seeking	0,39**	1		
Ready	-0,52**	-0,25**	1	
Productive	-0,35**	-0,34**	0,42**	1

As we can see, the stable type is negatively interconnected with the finished type. This confirms our assumption about the juxtaposition of these types in a single continuum. Earlier we wrote about 2 areas of difference in the basic attitudes to the conspiracy. The close relationship of the stable type with the seeking one speaks of their inner closeness. Indeed, in order for a person to be stable, it is necessary to have complete information that the seeking type receives by searching for explanations, analyzing information. However, the productive type is negatively related to the seeking type, so the productive one is more focused on the consequences of conspiracy theories than on finding their explanations. The productive type is closely related to the ready one, which may indicate anxiety accompanying the ready type. The information about the relationship between anxiety and belief in conspiracies can be found in the works of Swami, Furnham, Smyth, Weis, Lay & Clow (2016).

We have calculated the Cronbach index, the results are presented in (Table 2).

**Table 2**

*Indicators of one-time reliability of the methodology*

Reliability statistics	
Cronbach's alpha	Cronbach's alpha on the bases of standardized elements
0,857	0,883

As we can see, the high values of  $\alpha$ -Cronbach (0.857 and 0.883  $\alpha$ -Cronbach based on standardized elements) demonstrate the internal consistency of the characteristics describing the object of study.

We found factor validity by means of exploratory factor analysis using the principal components method. Rotation method: Varimax with Kaiser normalization, rotation converged in 3 iterations (Table 3, Table 4).

**Table 3**

*The explained total dispersion*

Component	Initial eigenvalues			Sums of squares of extraction load			Sums of squares of rotation loads		
	Total	Dispersion %	Overall %	Total	Dispersion %	Overall %	Total	Dispersion %	Overall %
1	1.69	42.241	42.241	1	1.690	42.241	42.241	1	1.690
2	1.08	27.210	69.451	2	1.088	27.210	69.451	2	1.088
3	0.86	21.535	90.985	3	0.861	21.535	90.985	3	0.861
4	0.361	9.015	100.000	4	0.361	9.015	100.000	4	0.361

**Table 4**

*Rotated matrix of components, rotation converged in 3 iterations*

Types	Component	
	1	2
Stable	0.869	-0.130
Seeking	0.319	-0.758
Ready	-0.759	0.028
Productive	0.093	0.862

Analyzing the result, it can be assumed that the stable and ready types of conspirativistic mentality fell into one component-factor, since they are opposite poles of the conspirativistic mentality. Similarly, the seeking and productive types also fell into one factor.

The verification of the constructive validity of the methodology was carried out by comparing the results of our methodology with the results of other methods (according to the method of measuring the type of mentality; the method of measuring Taylor's anxiety). The correlation analysis showed that the types of conspirativistic mentality are particularly related to the structures of the organization of the mentality of groups (Tables 5 and 6).



**Table 5***Relationships of indicators in the group of men*

Components of mentality	ITM	TST	IIW	IR	PIA	HLA
Productive	-0.217**		-0.344**	0.246**	0.189*	0.337**
Stable	0.184*		0.241**	-0.215*		
Ready		0.161*	-0.150*			
Seeking	0.175*		0.284*		-0.149*	-0.343**

Note. \*\* – Correlation is significant at 0.01 (double-sided).

\* – Correlation is significant at 0.05 (double-sided). Accepted abbreviations: ITM – innovative type of mentality; TST – transitional style of thinking; IIW – innovative image of the world; IR – innovative relations; PIA – post innovative archetype; HLA – high level of anxiety.

It is noteworthy that the ready-made type of conspirativistic mentality, which is most pronounced in the group of men, is less combined with the innovative image of the world, but is combined with a transitional style of thinking. The transitional mentality is between traditional and innovative. This type is usually characterized by apathy, indifference, and to a greater extent externality, hence readiness to accept belief in conspiracies. A stable type in both women and men, is combined with an innovative mentality, an innovative image of the world. This type of mentality allows for the possibility of the most incredible, but events are taken for granted and few people take it for granted. The productive type is combined in men with the post-innovation archetype. It is the postinnovational type of mentality that is characterized by orientation towards the future, that is why the postinnovational type is more interested in the consequences of belief in conspiracies that are characteristic of the productive type. (Именно постинновационному типу ментальности характерна ориентация на будущее, то поэтому постинновационный тип в большей степени интересуют последствия веры в заговоры, характерные для результативного типа.)

Thus, the assumption that the stable type of conspirativistic mentality is more in the innovation zone, and the ready type is in the tradition zone, has found its confirmation (the H1 hypothesis is accepted).

Let's consider the results in a group of women (Table 6).

**Table 6***Relationships of indicators in the group of women*

Components of mentality	ITM	IIW	IR	TA	TST /L	HLA	PIIW
Productive	-0.167*	-0.355*	0.196*	0.253**		0.339*	
Stable		0.235**			/-0.178*		-0.243*
Ready					0.201*/		0.203*
Seeking		0.315*		-0.189*		-0.346**	

Note. Accepted abbreviations: ITM is an innovative type of mentality; IIW – innovative image of the world; IR – innovative relations; TA – transition archetype; TST/L- transitional style of thinking/lifestyle; HLA – high level of anxiety; PIIW – post innovative image of the world.

High anxiety is combined with the productive type in men and women, which is understandable, since the productive type is the most anxious of all types, but this cannot be said about the seeking type. That means that the H2 hypothesis is not accepted. The post-innovation image of the world, which aspires to tradition, is combined with a ready type, which is less pronounced in women. The innovative type of mentality and the image of the world are incongruous with the productive type of belief in conspiracies, which is associated with the transitional archetype. The searching type is combined with an innovative image of the world. The stable type decreases, and the ready type increases when there is the tendency to traditionalism (post-innovation image of the world).

When comparing the types of conspirativistic mentality and the types of belief in conspiracies, we obtained the following results (Table 7).

**Table 7***Correlations values of types and kinds of belief in conspiracies*

Indicators	Belief in political conspiracy	Belief in aliens	Belief in conspiracy, connected with vaccination	Belief in the end of the world	Belief in the world conspiracy	Belief in globalism
Seeking	-0.32*	-0.28*				
Productive	0.32*	0.31*	0.31*	0.33*		0.32*
Stable			0.32*			
Neuroticism	-0.68*					
Extraversion					0.66**	

The results demonstrate that the most connections with the belief in conspiracies were found in the productive type. The seeking type demonstrates negative connections with the belief in conspiracies, which can also be explained by its focus on revealing any secrets. The result of a connection of a stable type with a belief in vaccination can be a situational result, because the population has had a hard time surviving the pandemic. The relationship of the ready type with the types of belief in conspiracies was not found, but perhaps this fact indicates the willingness of this type to take many things on faith.

Belief in a political conspiracy was associated with such a personality trait as neuroticism; belief in a global conspiracy was associated with extroversion.

Then we compared fears and values (a method of measuring values through fears) and types of conspirativistic mentality (Table 8).

**Table 8**

*Interrelation of types of fears, values and types of conspirativistic mentality*

Type Values and fears	Ready	Seeking	Productive	Stable
Technological threats	-0.35*			
Epidemics scare	-0.31*			
Mystical experience	0.57*	-0.33*		
Mystical value	0.61*			
Losing yourself	-0.43*			
The value of other		0.34*		
Ecological crisis		0.32*		
Uncertainty cultures				0.32*
Lack of information				0.50*
Is afraid of everything new				-0.38*
The lack of ideals frightens				-0.50*
Is afraid to lose Another one				0.27*
Loss of meaning			0.46*	
Inability to make a choice			0.46*	
The impossibility of being in chaos			0.28*	
Fear of tradition loss			-0.55*	
The value of culture			0.39*	
The value of technology			0.34*	

Note. \*Correlation is significant at 0.05 (double-sided).

Analysis of the results of establishing links with fears and values shows that the ready type, having a mystical experience with high indicators of the "mystical value", attributes significance to conspiracies. For the seeking type, the value of the other is important, and he is puzzled by the salvation of the ecological system. The productive type is afraid of chaos, the inability to make a choice in a situation of threat and the loss of meaning of what is happening. The stable type is also oriented towards Others, in this sense it is close to the seeking type. The stable type is afraid of the lack of information and the uncertainty of culture, because it is more rational and adheres to cultural certainty.

### **Discussion**

Creating the methodology, we proceeded from the fact that it makes no sense to focus on a separate type of belief in a conspiracy, which is declared in the work (Sternisko, Cichocka & Van Bavel, 2020). It is important that by applying factor analysis, we have identified 2 factors of the model of conspirativistic mentality. A study by Swami, Chamorro-Premuzic & Furnham (2010) found a similar two-factor structure for measuring belief in various conspiracy theories regarding the terrorist attacks in September 11, 2001.

We have demonstrated differences in the severity of the types of conspirativistic mentality in men and women, which is confirmed in large-scale studies (Kleppestø et al., 2019; Nestik, Deineka & Maksimenko, 2020). The finished type was combined with the value of the mystical, which is confirmed in the studies (Ward, & Voas, 2011). Van Prooijen (2018), Stephens (2020) which pointed out that conspiracy beliefs can be caused by situational factors such as post-traumatic stress, anxiety and depressive reactions. A similar result we obtained in the question of connection of the ready type with the belief in a conspiracy concerning vaccination. The seeking and productive types are associated with high anxiety. The authors' research shows that "in a situation of anxious feedback, perceived intergroup anxiety significantly increases" (Khukhlaev & Bratkina, 2022, p. 84).

To establish connections with the types of conspirativistic mentality, we used a personality questionnaire (FPI), and it was found out that belief in conspiracy correlates with extroversion and neuroticism. However, today there are studies that show that none of the personality traits of the "Big Five" is associated with belief in conspiracy theories (Goreis & Voracek, 2019). At the same time, 12 personal indicators related to belief in conspiracies were found in the work of Stasielowicz (2022). In this regard, the question is relevant, did personality traits determine a tendency to conspirativism or did conspirativism actualize certain traits? For us, this question remains open.

### **Conclusion**

The initial test of our methodology of measuring the conspirativistic mentality showed its certain validity and reliability. The internal consistency of the methodology construct was found. The methodology, however, still needs to be improved to expand the scales.

We have obtained stable differences in the methodology based on the gender of the respondents. Thanks to the correlation and factor analysis and the establishment of links with other methods, we have received a meaningful filling of the scales of the methodology.

The methodology is characterized by ease of use and data processing. Further development and psychometric verification of the methodology may be associated with its approbation on age groups and evaluation by expert psychologists.

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## **Appendix**

### **Methodology**

"Types of conspirativistic mentality" (V. I. Pishchik) – working version.

### **Instruction manual**

"You are offered statements. It is necessary to choose the one closest to you, the one that you can attribute to yourself in situations of choice. In each item, you can choose only one option".

### **The methodology text**

1. A. It is important that any notion of the presence or absence of a conspiracy be confirmed (S).  
B. It is not important to confirm the notion of the existence of a conspiracy, especially if it is original in its essence (P).
2. A. Uncertainty about the existence of a conspiracy may irritate (St).  
B. Uncertainty about the presence of conspiracy usually invigorates me (R).
3. A. Stability in the world is important, especially with respect to established ideas about conspiracy (St).  
B. The world is changing rapidly, as well as ideas about conspiracy can change (R).
4. A. In any case, the result is important (P).  
B. The process of any case is more interesting than the result (S).
5. A. I worry about anything (P).  
B. I worry a little, it can be said, rarely (S).
6. A. Threats in the world can pass unnoticed (St).  
B. The threat in the world always exists and it is necessary to prepare for it (R).
7. A. Other people can harm me (P).  
B. Other people can bring me a lot of joy (St).
8. A. Life on planet Earth can stop (R).  
B. Life on planet Earth is eternal (S).
9. A. Published data must be confirmed (S).  
B. Published data does not necessarily have to be confirmed (P).
10. A. I am afraid of the uncertainty in the life of my environment (St).  
B. I am not afraid of the uncertainty in the life of my environment (R).
11. A. I don't believe in any conspiracies (St).  
B. There are some conspiracies that I believe in (R).
12. A. The result is always more important than the process (P).  
B. The process is sometimes more important than the result (S).
13. A. I am often called an anxious person (P).  
B. Anxiety is rarely inherent in me (S).
14. A. In the world there are many threats that need to be prepared for. (St).  
B. there are many threats in the world and it is impossible to prepare for them (R).
15. A. In difficulties with other people, it is important to understand how can this threaten me (P).  
B. If other people threaten me, we need to figure out and try to solve the problem (St).
16. A. We are hostages of the planet Earth (R).  
B. The Earth is our protective home (S).

**Key to methodology**

No of statement	Variants			
1, 9		а		б
2,10	а		б	
3,11	а		б	
4,12		б		а
5,13		б		а
6,14	а		б	
7,15	б			а
8,16		б	а	
<u>Total</u> <u>points</u>				
Types	Stable	Seeking	Ready	Productive

Each matching has 1 point.

Description of types:

- Stable – a person who is somehow detached about the belief in conspiracies.
- Seeking – a person who will seek an explanation for the conspiracies.
- Ready - a person who accepts conspiracies and believes in them.
- Productive – a person to whom the consequences of the effects of conspiracies on a person’s life are important.

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#### **Conflict of interest information**

The author has no conflicts of interest to declare.