



Heterogeneity in Experience of and Coping with the COVID-19 Pandemic by Personality Traits

Marco Angrisani

Wändi Bruine de Bruin

Htay-Wah Saw

Motivation



The Big5 personality traits

- Openness
- Conscientiousness
- Agreeableness
- Neuroticism
- Extraversion

play an important role in shaping life experiences and responses to stressors

Motivation



The Big5 personality traits have been found to be associated with

- Health and well-being [Zell & Krizan, 2017]
- Mental health [Furnham & Cheng, 2019]
- Psychopathology [Lamers et al., 2012]
- Mindfulness [Giluk, 2009]
- Drinking motives [Mezquita et al., 2010]
- Coping more generally [Geisler, 2009]

Research Question



In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, to what extent the Big5 drive differences across individuals in

- Health risk perceptions
- Economic risk perceptions
- Adoption of protective behaviors
- Adoption of coping behaviors
- Mental health



Research Question

There exists some anecdotal evidence on this topic:



AS STATES STRUGGLE TO GET THE COVID-19 BALANCE RIGHT – between eased restrictions and rising infection rates – it falls to individuals to abide by mask-wearing rules and to maintain six feet of distance between themselves and others when out and about.

We tackle the question scientifically and comprehensively

Approach

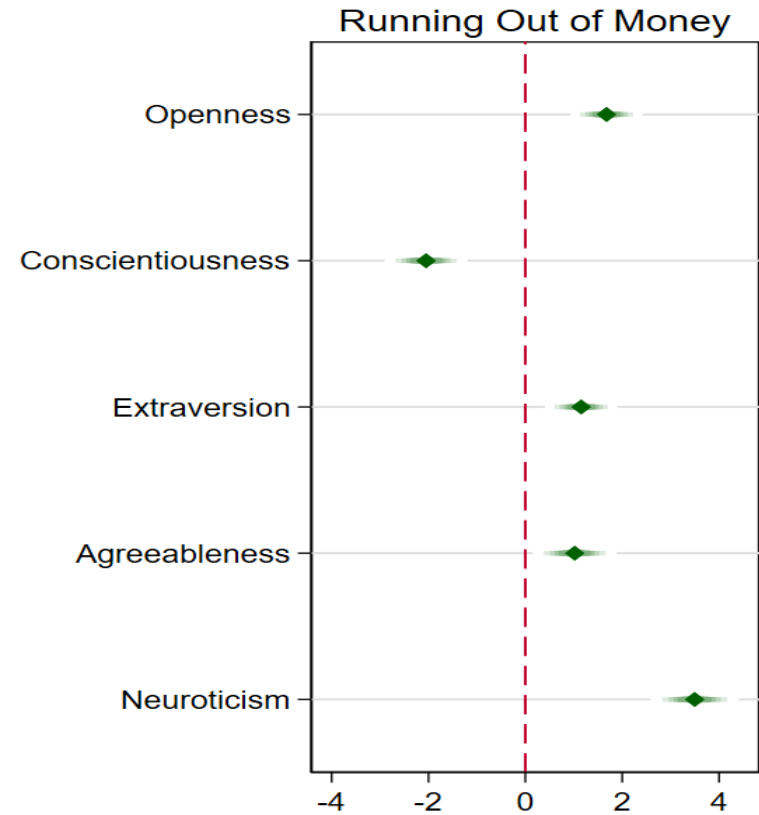
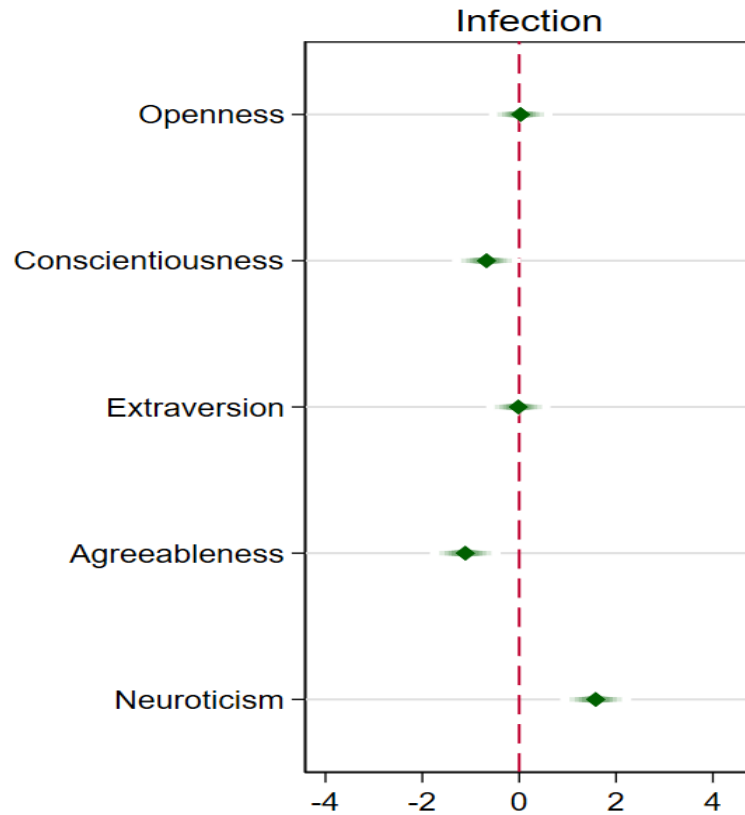


- ❖ We use longitudinal data from the UAS-COVID survey
- ❖ We exploit rich background information available for UAS respondents, including the Big5
- ❖ We relate heterogeneity in outcomes at the beginning of the pandemic to the Big5
- ❖ We also study heterogeneity in changes in outcomes over time in relation to the Big5

Results: Risk Perceptions



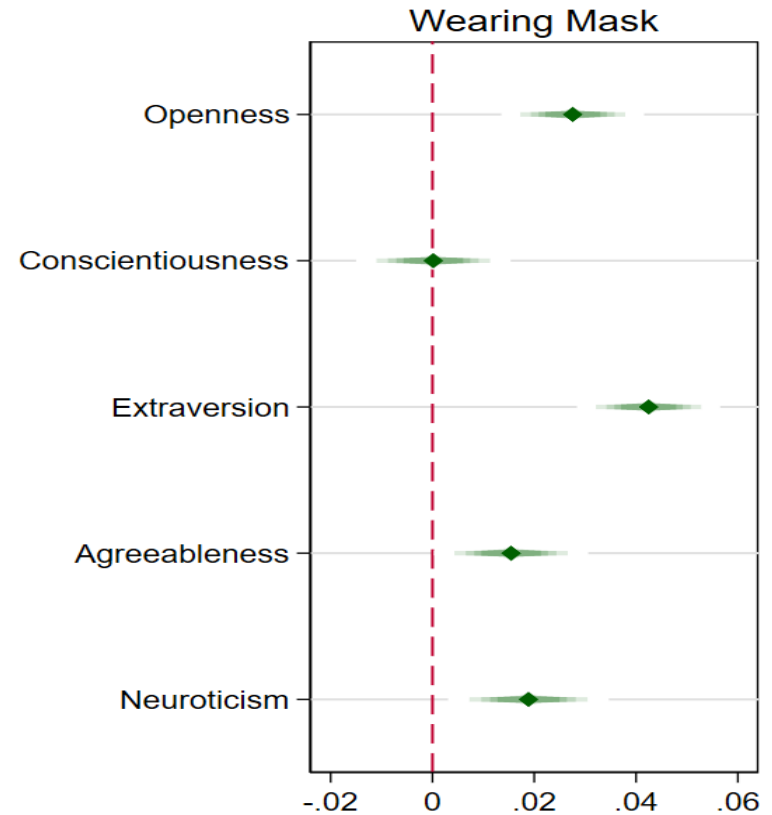
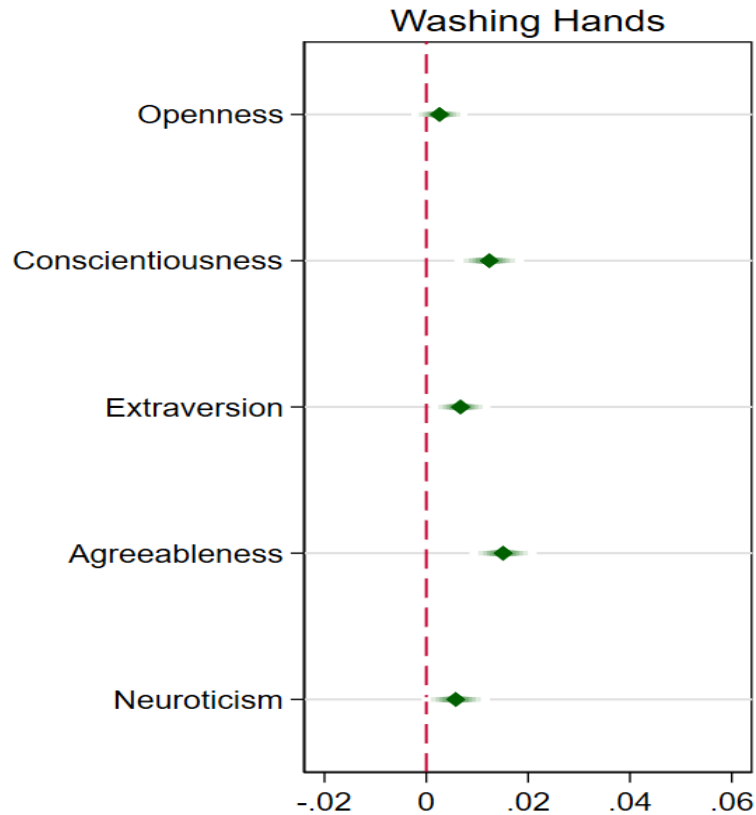
Association of Big5 with Perceived Risk of...



Results: Protective Behaviors (I)



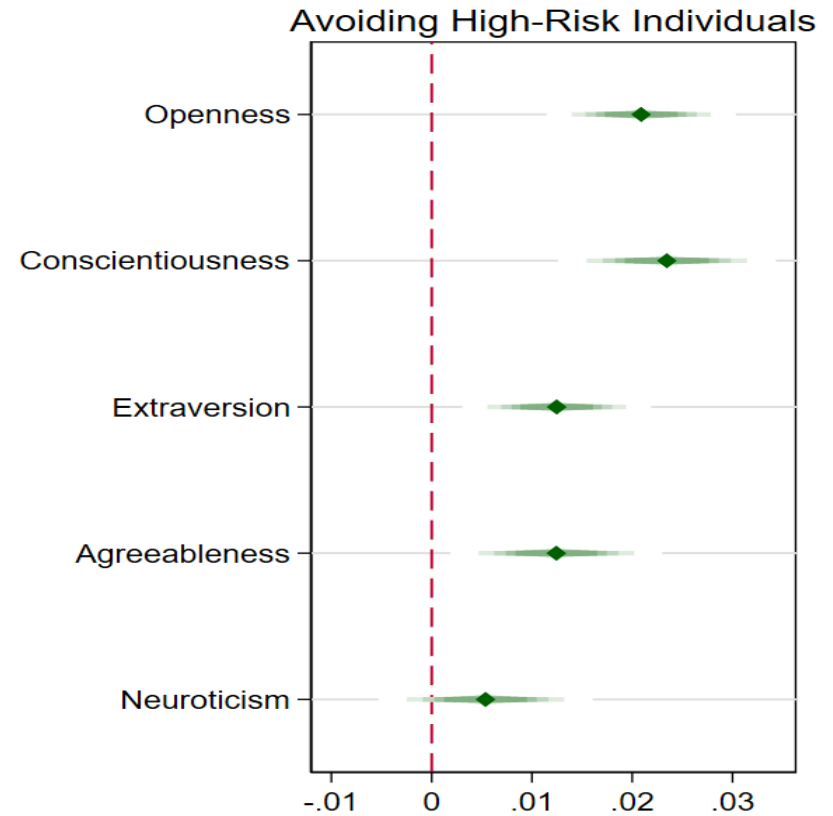
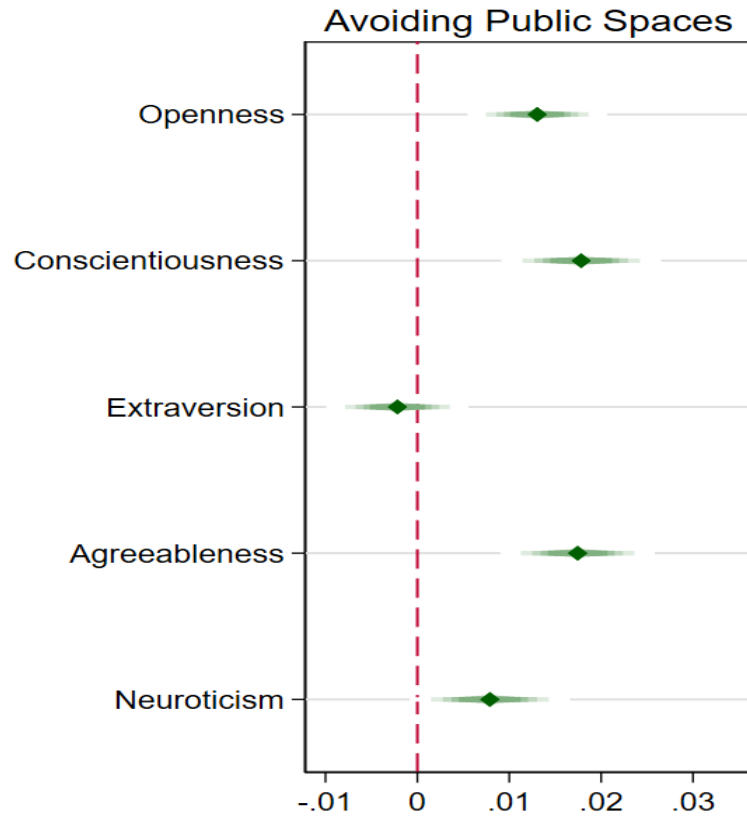
Association of Big5 with Likelihood of...



Results: Protective Behaviors (II)



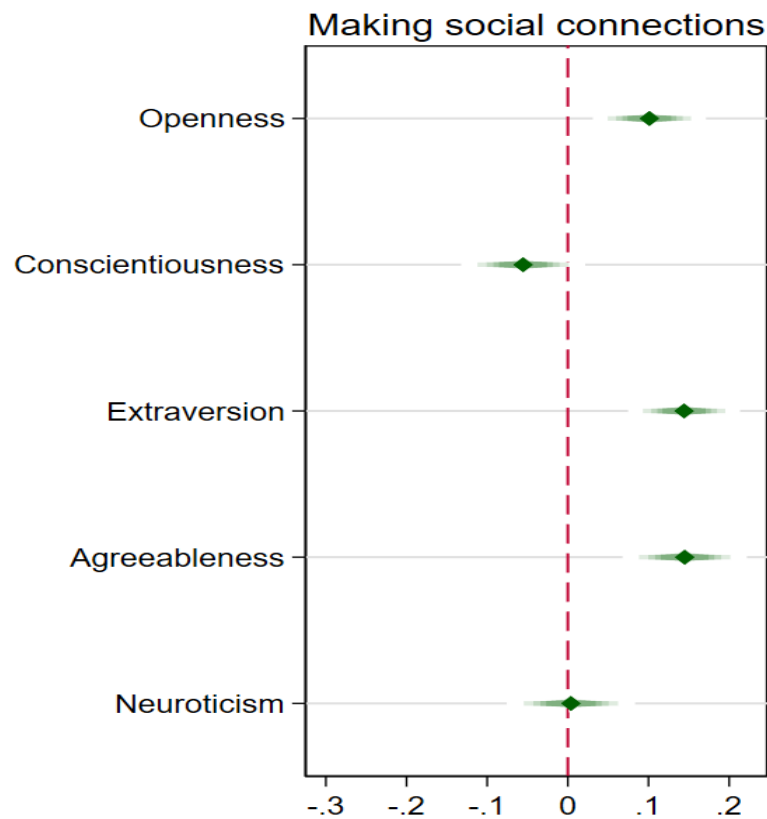
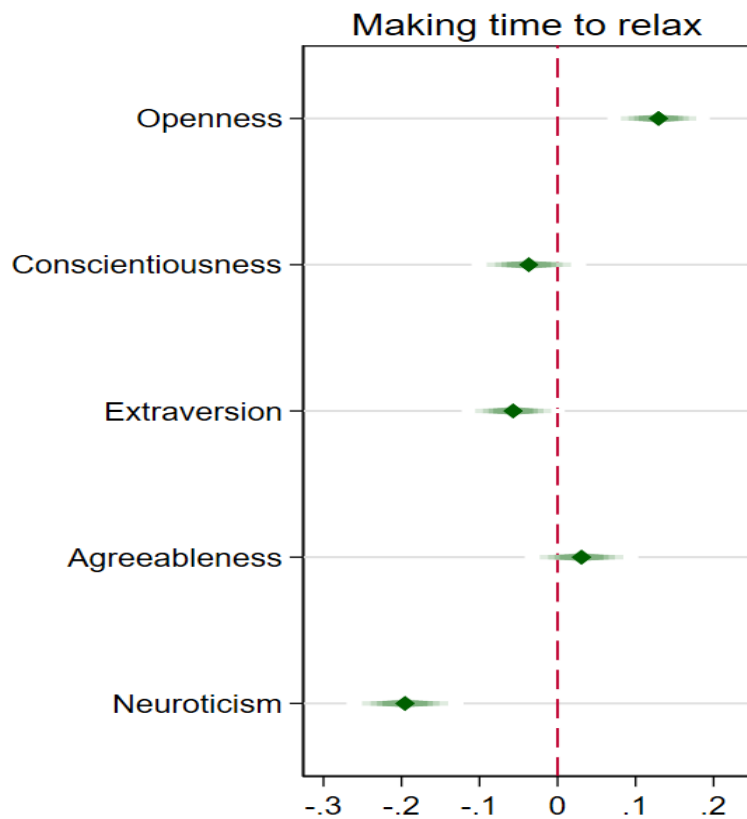
Association of Big5 with Likelihood of...



Results: Coping Behaviors



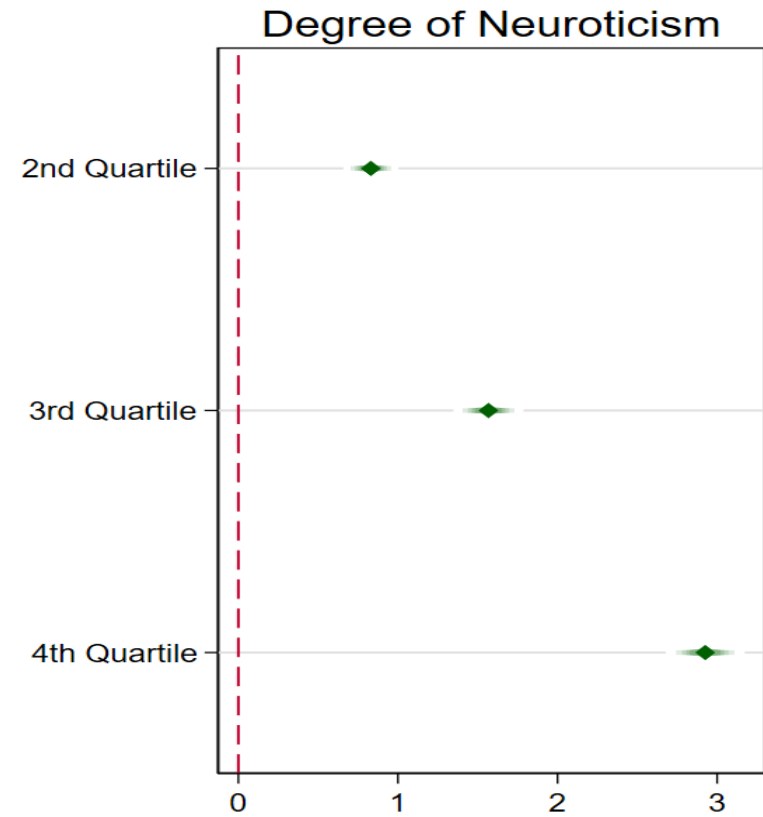
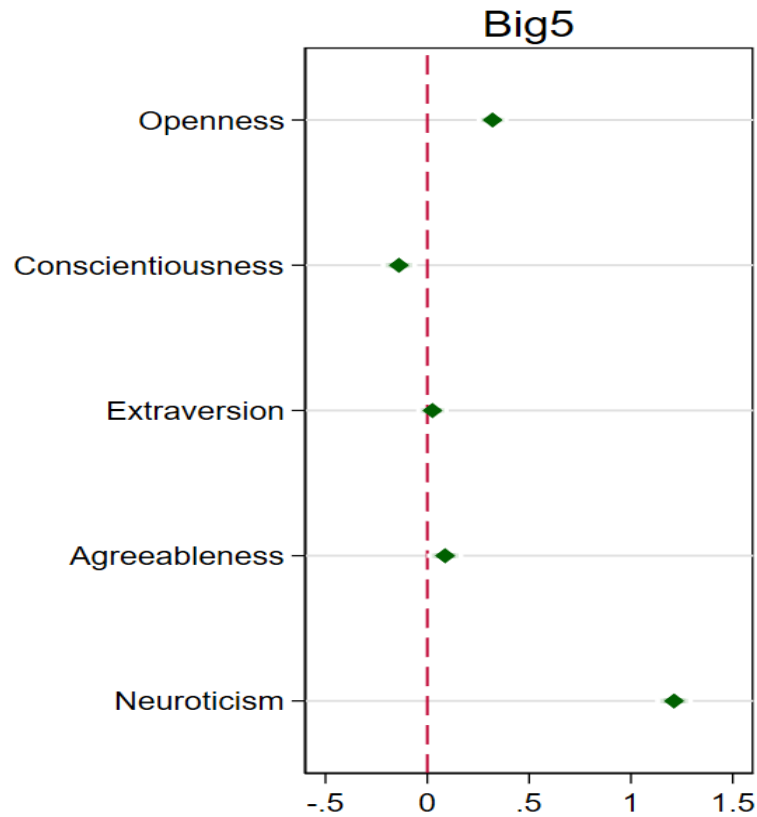
Association of Big5 with Frequency of...



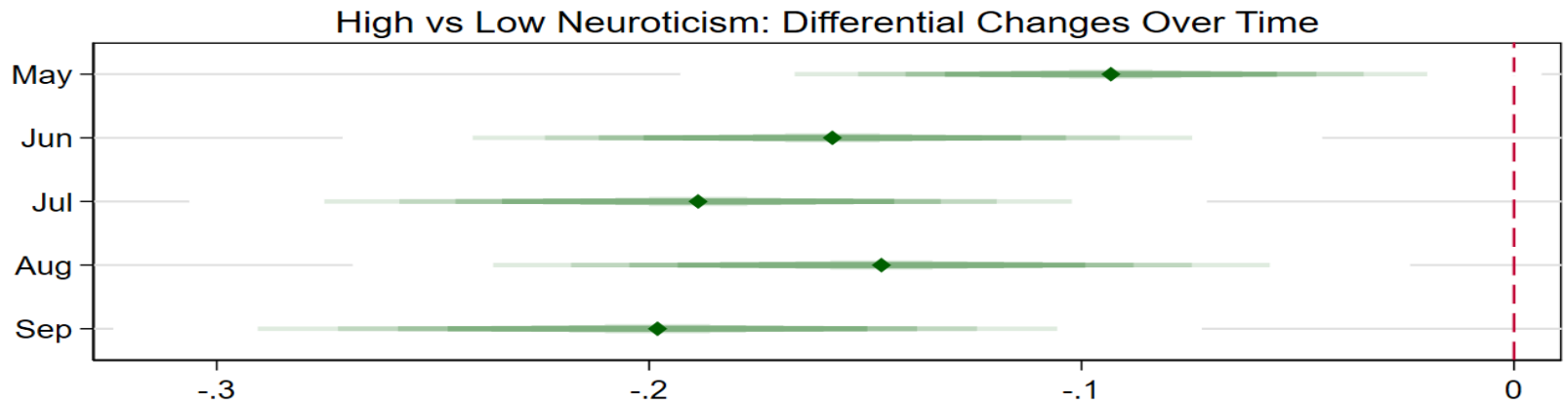
Results: Mental Health (I)



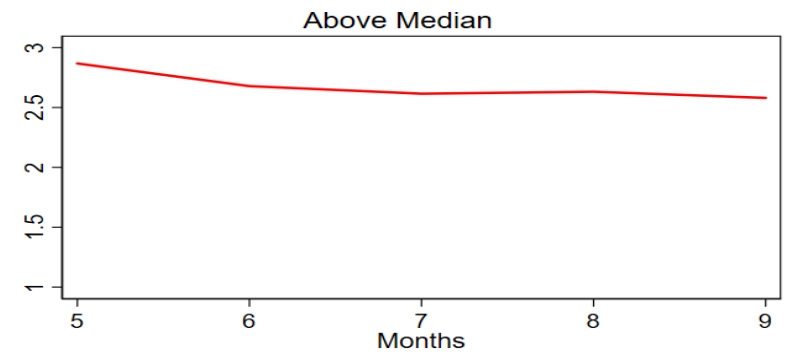
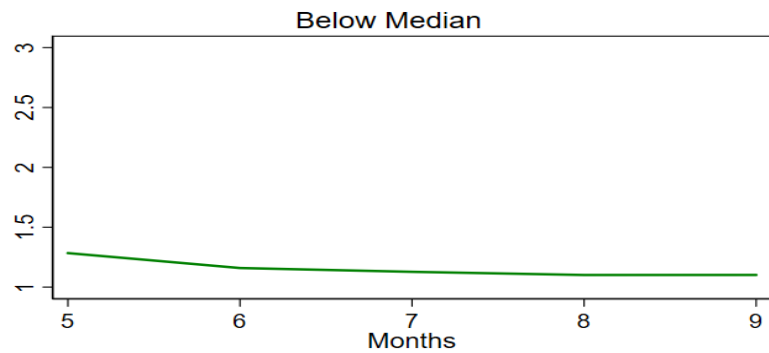
PHQ4 Score and...



Results: Mental Health (II)



PHQ4 Score Over Time by Degree of Neuroticism



Conclusions



- ❖ We find evidence of differential responses to the pandemic by personality traits
- ❖ We will explore heterogeneity in these responses by demographics
- ❖ If available, outcomes observed before and after the pandemic should provide additional insights
- ❖ As the COVID-19 crisis continues and new waves of data are collected, we will be able to document differential responses to a changing environment