

## **Right-Wing Authoritarianism, Political Affiliation, Religiosity, and Their Relation to Psychological Androgyny**

**Gidi Rubinstein<sup>1</sup>**

*University of Haifa*

*The authoritarian personality is characterized by a traditional attitude towards gender roles that reflects its conservative ideology [T. W. Adorno, E. Frenkel-Brunswik, D. J. Levinson, and R. N. Sanford (1950) *The Authoritarian Personality*, New York: Norton]. The present study investigated the relationship between S. L. Bem's [(1974) sex roles "The Measurement of Psychological Androgyny," *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, Vol. 42, pp. 155–162], on the one hand, and right-wing authoritarianism [RWA; B. Altemeyer (1988) *Enemies of Freedom: Understanding Right-Wing Authoritarianism*, San Francisco], political affiliation, and religiosity level, on the other. Subjects were 365 Jewish undergraduate students (227 women and 138 men) at a number of universities; 81 were second generation Israelis, 90 were children of Ashkenazic parents, 75 were children of Sephardic parents, and 113 were children of parents from mixed background. They completed Altemeyer's RWA scale and a shortened version of Bem's Sex Role Inventory. Political affiliation and religiosity level (variables strongly linked to the authoritarian personality theory) were also measured. Among women, the RWA mean score of the cross-sex typed subjects was significantly lower than that of the sex-typed and the undifferentiated subjects, and most of the cross-sex typed women supported the political left and defined themselves as secular, while among men, no statistically significant RWA, political affiliation, and religiosity differences were found between Bem's four personality types. These results highlight gender differences in the relationships between authoritarian personality and gender-role identification. While it seems that cross-sex-typed women tend to rebel against the status quo, the question of why similar patterns do not appear among men still remains open to speculation.*

<sup>1</sup>To whom correspondence should be addressed at 23 Dubnov Street, 64-369, Tel-Aviv, Israel.