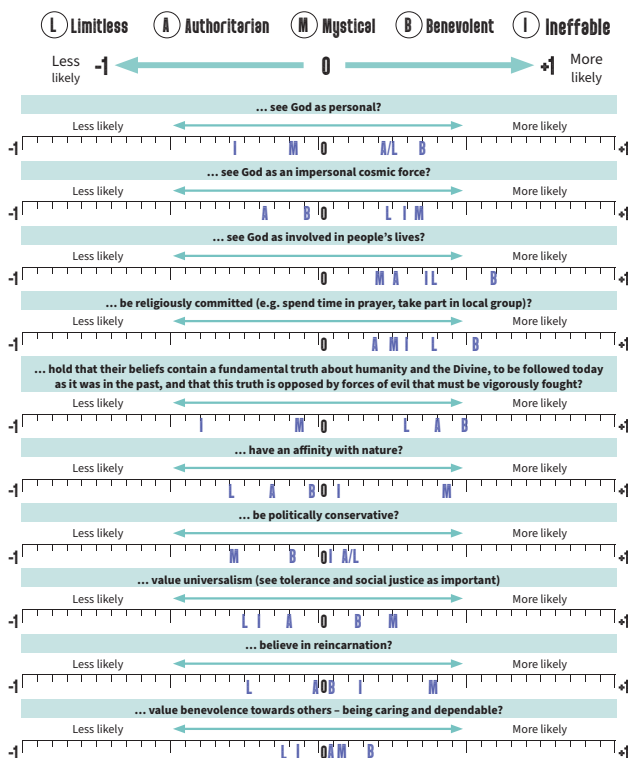


Notes on data for LAMBI scale correlations (p.29)



Note: the research is carried out via Mechanical Turk – an online crowdsourcing platform allowing researchers to find people to complete their research tasks. For background information, see www.psychologicalscience.org/observer/using-amazons-mechanical-turk-benefits-drawbacks-and-suggestions

Note: The diagram on page 29 indicates correlations – that is, links between participants' different answers, when we take many people's responses into account.

A **positive correlation** means that as one scale goes up, the other goes up as well (so, as scores on 'authoritarian God' go up, scores on 'personal God' also go up). In the real world you will almost never get a perfect positive correlation, but if you did, this would be +1 on a scale of -1 to +1.

A **negative correlation** means that as one scale goes up, the other goes down (so, as scores on 'ineffable God' go up, scores on 'personal God' go down). A perfect negative correlation would be -1 on a scale of -1 to +1.

No relationship at all means that there's no recognisable pattern across different people's answers – so, one person who scores high on 'mystical God' might have high levels of 'personal God', and another who scores high on 'mystical God' might have low levels of 'personal God'. No relationship at all would be 0 on a scale of -1 to +1.

Research methods in Psychology:

Psychologists use a range of methods. Some are **descriptive** (to observe and record behaviour); some are **correlational** (to detect naturally occurring relationships); and some are **experimental** (to explore cause and effect).

A lot of psychological research today relies on **statistics** in order to help us see and interpret what we might miss with the naked eye, because we are often wrong when we try to make **estimates** about what large numbers of people are like.

Statistics allows psychologists to **organise** and **describe** patterns in lots of data from subsets of people (called **samples**), so that they can use that data to make **accurate inferences** about what people in general are like.

Statistical methods help us to determine how **confident** we can be that the patterns in data (such as differences between two groups) are really there, and not because of some **chance** fluctuations in the people who were sampled.