**Review Registered Report Stage 1**

**“Neuroanatomical correlates of system-justifying ideologies: A pre-registered voxel-based morphometry study on right-wing authoritarianism and social dominance orientiation” (Balagtas et al.)**

**1A. The scientific validity of the research question(s).**

The authors investigate neuroanatomical correlates of system-justifying ideologies, i.e., trait measures of social dominance (SDO) and right-wing authoritarianism (RWA). This research question is scientifically justifiable and derived from existing theories. Furthermore, it is defined with sufficient precision as to be answerable through quantitative research. It also falls within established ethical norms.

**1B. The logic, rationale, and plausibility of the proposed hypotheses, as applicable.**

# The authors state clear, directional hypotheses. Yet, there is some additional literature that seems to be relevant for deriving the hypotheses (e.g. Baumgartner et al., 2014, Neuroimage, “Impartiality in humans is predicted by brain structure of dorsomedial prefrontal cortex”). While I found the direction of these hypotheses reasonably deduced from previous literature, I was a bit confused regarding the underlying unidimensionality and the expected correlation between SDO and RWA. If the correlation among these measures depends so heavily on the cultural/political environment, is it then plausible to expect a common evolutionary/biological basis of these two constructs? Maybe the authors could clarify this issue.

**1C. The soundness and feasibility of the methodology and analysis pipeline (including statistical power analysis or alternative sampling plans where applicable).**

In total, I found the methodology and analysis pipeline sound and feasible. The authors have provided a reasonable justification for choosing this sample size. However, I think the authors should add some details to their analysis plan (see 1D).

**1D. Whether the clarity and degree of methodological detail is sufficient to closely replicate the proposed study procedures and analysis pipeline and to prevent undisclosed flexibility in the procedures and analyses.**

I was missing some details regarding the ROI-definition and statistical analysis. How exactly will the ROIs be defined (e.g. which atlas will be used)? How do the authors plan to test their hypotheses? Could they please specific how they will perform their “ROI multiple regression analysis”? Do the authors expect differences between gender? Why not including gender as an additional covariate? How exactly will the GMV be calculated (e.g., which software will be used)?

**1E. Whether the authors have considered sufficient outcome-neutral conditions (e.g. absence of floor or ceiling effects; positive controls; other quality checks) for ensuring that the obtained results are able to test the stated hypotheses or answer the stated research question(s).**

Not applicable.