

Worldviews

Definition:

The fundamental cognitive orientation of an individual or society encompassing the entirety of the individual or society's knowledge and point-of-view, including natural philosophy; fundamental, existential, and normative postulates; or themes, values, emotions, and ethics.

It is a concept fundamental to German philosophy and refers to a *wide world perception*.

Additionally, it refers to the framework of ideas and beliefs through which an individual, group or culture interprets the world and interacts with it.

**Palmer, Gary B. (1996). *Toward A Theory of Cultural Linguistics*.
University of Texas Press.**

Worldviews

Applications: Metrics of perception



The screenshot shows the website for CONPSYCHMeasures, which provides measurement tools for environmental practitioners. The page features a header with the site's logo and name, a navigation menu, and a main content area. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains the title 'Ecological World View Scale', the original citation, and the editors' names. The right column contains a 'Downloadable Measure' section with a link to the 'Environmental World View Scale'.

CONPSYCHMeasures
Measurement Tools for Environmental Practitioners

Editors:
Coral M. Bruni
P. Wesley Schultz
Carol Saunders

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Ecological World View Scale

Original Citation

Blaikie, N. W. H. (1992). The nature and origins of ecological world views: An Australian study. *Social Science Quarterly*, 73(1), 144-165.

Downloadable Measure

- [Environmental World View Scale](#)

<http://www.conpsychmeasures.com/>

Worldviews

Example:

- input: 30 binary questions
- output: two scores (horizontal / vertical)

Worldviews

Terminology:

Neo-Malthusian:

Also known as “doomers” or “doomsters”
Proponents of population control



Originally based on the writings of reverend Thomas Robert Malthus, laid out initially in his 1798 *An Essay on the Principle of Population*, which describes how unchecked population growth is exponential while the growth of the food supply was expected to be arithmetic

Modern "neo-Malthusians" are generally more concerned than Malthus was with environmental degradation and catastrophic famine than with poverty

Worldviews

Terminology:

Cornucopian:

Also known as “boomsters”

Believe that continued progress and provision of material needs for humanity will be met by continued technological advances

Believe there is enough matter and energy on the Earth to provide for the ever-rising population of the world

The term comes from the cornucopia, the "horn of plenty" of Greek mythology, which magically supplied its owners with endless food and drink



Worldviews

Terminology:

Mechanist:



Believe that natural living things are like complicated machines or artifacts, composed of parts lacking any intrinsic relationship to each other

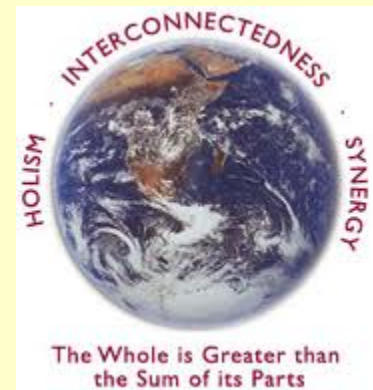
Thus, the driver of any living thing's activities is not the whole itself, but its parts or an external influence on the parts

Worldviews

Terminology:

Holist:

Believe that natural living things (living matter) or reality is made up of organic or unified wholes that are greater than the simple sum of their parts



Worldviews

Two Gradients:

Holist

-

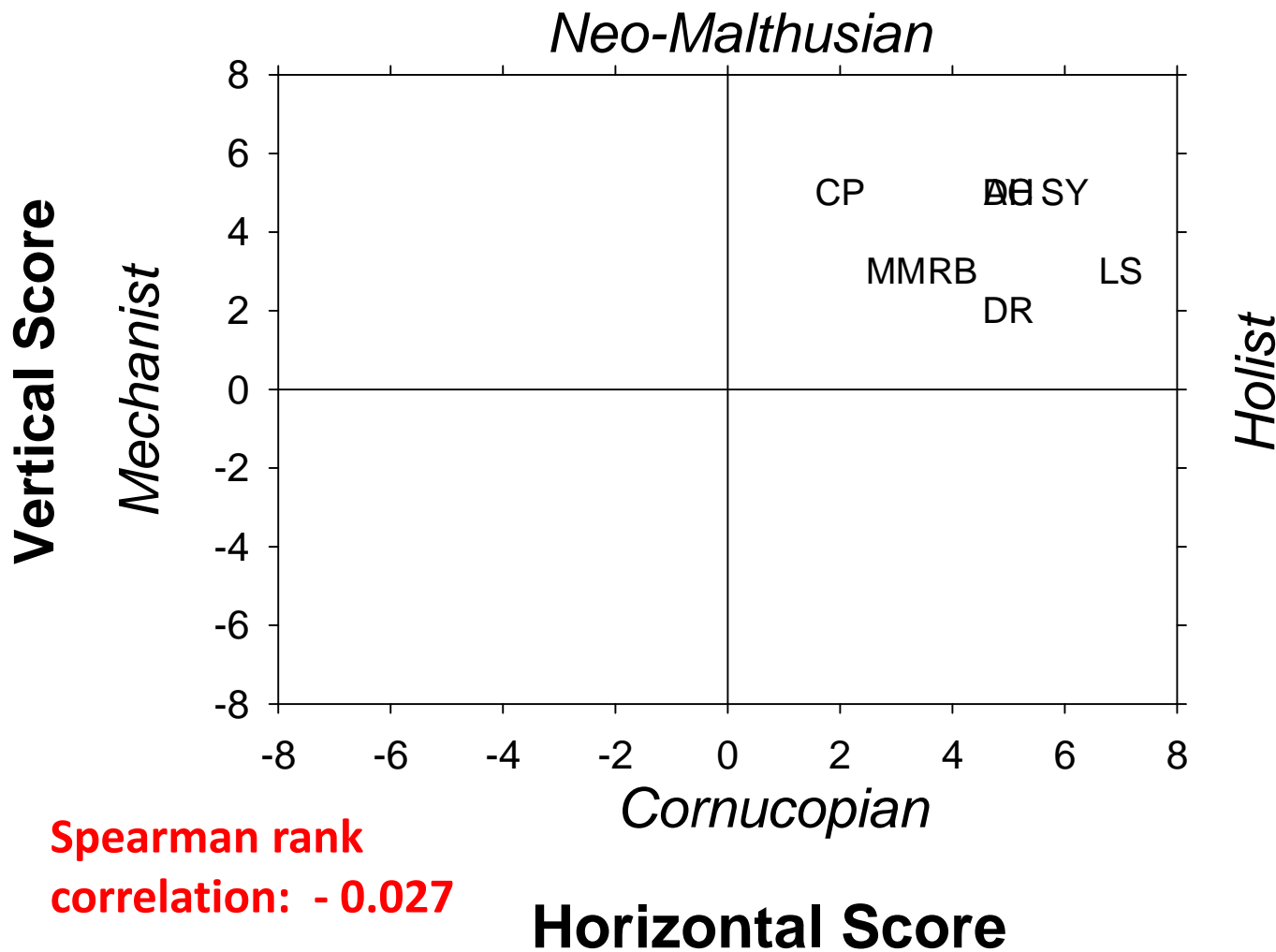
Mechanist

Cornucopian

-

Neo-malthusian

Other Worldviews

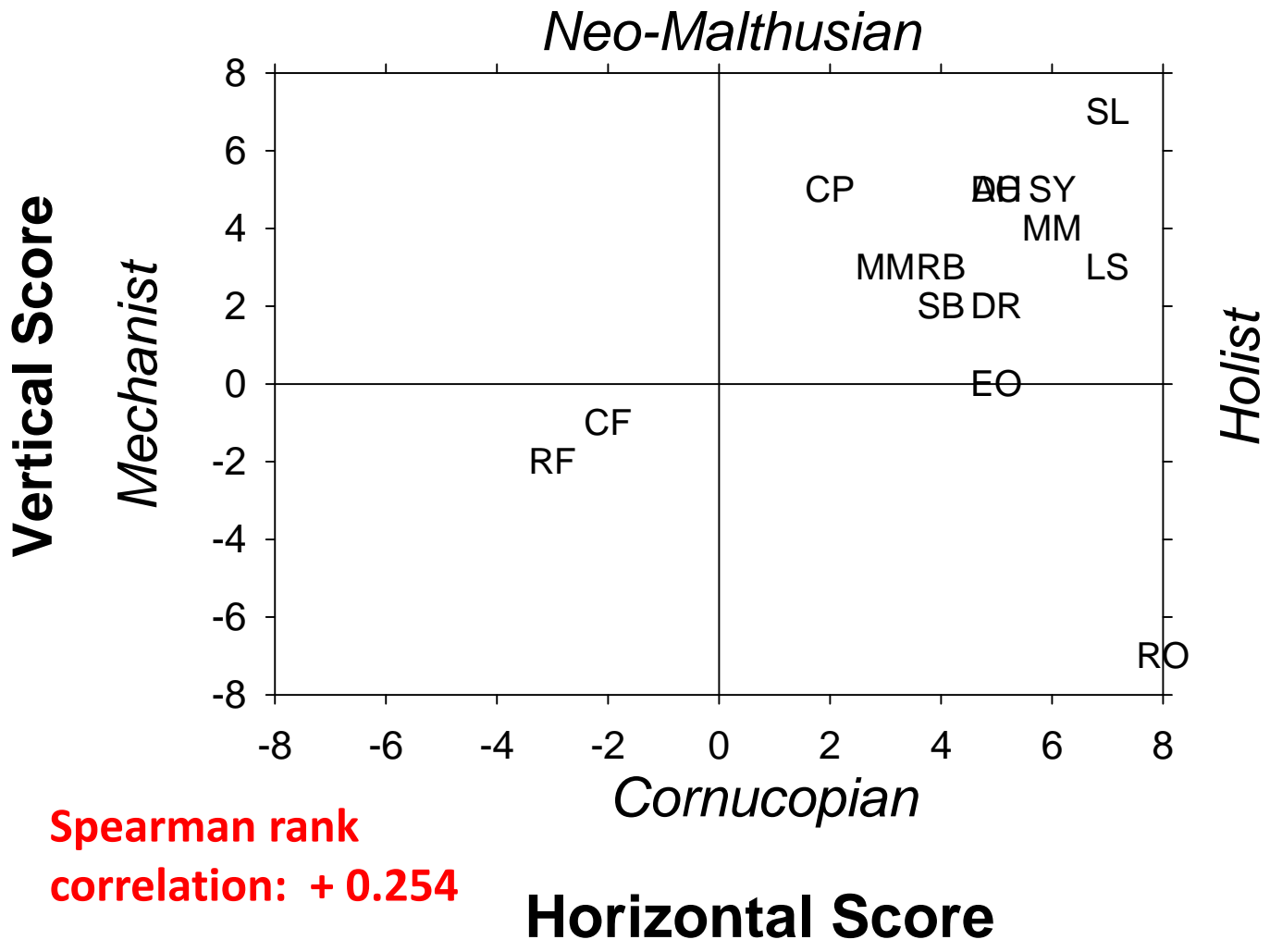


Other Worldviews

Seven Characters:

- MPA manager (NOAA) - MM
- Monk Seal Lover and Advocate - SL
- Monk Seal Biologist (NOAA) - SB
- Recreational Fisher - RF
- Commercial Fisher - CF
- Resort Owner - RO
- Eco-tourism Operator - EO

Class Worldviews



Other Perspectives

Can you think of other dimensions or gradients?