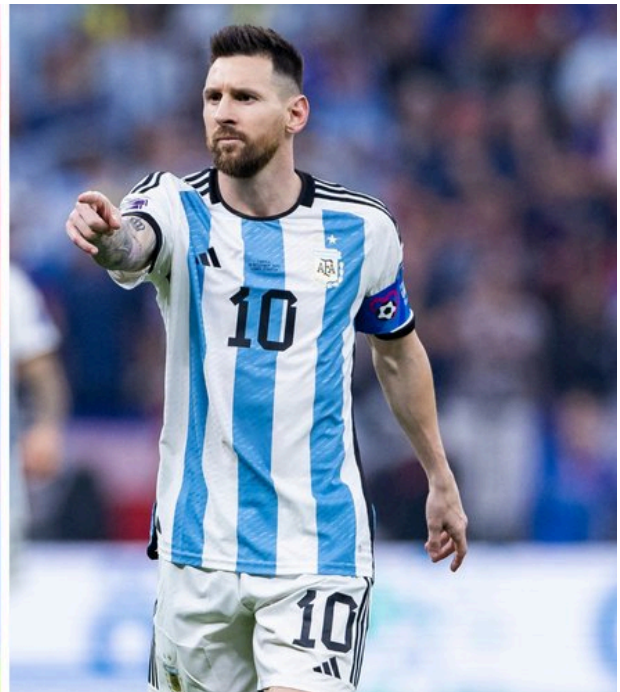


Messi or Ronaldo? A global study reveals that your choice says a lot about your political views, and the result is surprising.

D ladepeche.fr/2026/06/20/messi-ou-ronaldo-une-etude-mondiale-revele-que-votre-choix-en-dit-long-sur-vos-idees-politiques-et-le-resultat-surprend-13429238.php

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Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi, two legends of world football - photo montage - DDM

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the essentials According to a university study, people who lean left tend to prefer Lionel Messi, while those who identify as more conservative lean more towards Cristiano Ronaldo. This conclusion should be interpreted with caution, but it transforms the duel between the two football legends into a political debate.

It was already the longest-running debate in the history of modern football, and now it's becoming almost ideological. Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo? The quiet genius versus the record-breaking machine. According to a university study, the answer might reveal a bit more about your political leanings.

The research, published on the Social Science Research Network platform, surveyed over 10,000 people in 26 different countries. In the study titled "Political Identity Beyond Politics:

Messi-Ronaldo Preference in 26 Countries," researchers asked participants to rate the two stars before comparing these responses with their political orientation.

The result is as surprising as it is perfect for reigniting barroom discussions. More progressive profiles would tend to rate Lionel Messi higher, while more conservative individuals would lean more towards Cristiano Ronaldo.

Two players, two collective imaginaries

According to the study's authors, this divide stems from the two stars' public image. Messi is often perceived as a discreet player, focused on the team, and committed to a certain simplicity. Ronaldo, on the other hand, embodies a more demonstrative success, with a work ethic, a focus on physical presentation, self-confidence, and a taste for individual performance.

The study also shows a link between preferring Ronaldo and having higher self-esteem. Those who regularly consume short videos on TikTok or Instagram, platforms where Ronaldo is very prominent, tend to prefer him to Messi.

South Korea is more pro-Messi than Argentina!

The study also reveals some surprises on a country-by-country basis. The countries most favorable to Messi include South Korea, Argentina, Finland, Spain, the United Kingdom, Norway, the United States, and Canada. Surprisingly, South Korea even appears as the most pro-Messi country in the sample, ahead of Argentina.

Researchers explain this result by a very low score given to Ronaldo, possibly linked to the memory of an exhibition match in Seoul in 2019, where the Portuguese player did not play despite public expectations.

Conversely, Ronaldo is more popular in Indonesia, Turkey, Mexico, Egypt, Malaysia, Portugal, Singapore, China, France, India, and Nigeria. The case of Portugal is interesting: the Portuguese do prefer Ronaldo, but less so than some countries with no direct national connection to him.