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| Table S1. *Sensitivity Analyses. Linear regression estimates with dependent variable neuroticism, independent variable group and covariates sex, age, and lifetime depression* | | | | | |
| Independent variable | B | SE | t | P | 95%CI |
| Group | 13.01 | 1.53 | 8.50 | <.001 | [9.97, 16.05] |
| Sex | 3.67 | 1.41 | 2.61 | .011 | [0.87, 6.46] |
| Age | 0.04 | 0.06 | 0.71 | .480 | [-0.07, 0.15] |
| Lifetime depression | 3.21 | 1.69 | 1.90 | .060 | [-.14, 6.56] |
| Constant | 18.76 | 3.22 | 5.83 | <.001 | [12.37, 25.16] |
| Note. Participants with ASD (M = 40.26, SD = 8.49) reporting higher neuroticism scores than controls (M = 26.02, SD = 5.68). The model explained a significant proportion of the variance, adjusted R-squared = .53, F(4, 93) = 28.49, *p* < 0.001. The effect sizes of the differences in neuroticism levels between the participants with ASD and the controls were large, Cohen’s d = 1.97. ASD, autism spectrum disorders; M, mean; SD, standard deviation; B, standardized regression coefficient; SE, standard error; t, t-value test statistic, P, *p-*value, CI, confidence interval | | | | | |

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| Table S2. *Sensitivity Analyses.* *Multilevel regressions estimate of stress, neuroticism and their interactions in the model of negative affect (NA)* | | | | | | |
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|  |  | Obs | B | SE | P | 95%CI |
| ASD (n=47) | 1. Activity stress | 3772 | -.088 | .131 | .505 | [-0.345, 0.170] |
| Neuroticism |  | .024 | .010 | .019 | [0.004, 0.044] |
|  | Neuroticism x activity stress |  | .007 | .003 | **.024** | [0.001, 0.013] |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 2. Event stress | 3767 | .001 | .145 | .993 | [-0.284, 0.286] |
|  | Neuroticism |  | .033 | .013 | .010 | [0.008, 0.059] |
|  | Neuroticism x event stress |  | .005 | .003 | .163 | [-0.002, 0.011] |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 3. Social stress | 1884 | -.148 | .107 | .167 | [-0.358, 0.062] |
|  | Neuroticism |  | .025 | .013 | .060 | [-0.001, 0.051] |
|  | Neuroticism x social stress |  | .007 | .002 | **.009** | [0.002, 0.011] |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Controls (n=51) | 4. Activity stress | 3857 | -.005 | .078 | .946 | [-0.157, 0.146] |
| Neuroticism |  | -.002 | .005 | .761 | [-0.012, 0.009] |
|  | Neuroticism x activity stress |  | .004 | .003 | .171 | [-0.002, 0.010] |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 5. Event stress | 3853 | -.081 | .090 | .366 | [-0.257, 0.095] |
|  | Neuroticism |  | .006 | .006 | .337 | [-0.006, 0.018] |
|  | Neuroticism x event stress |  | .008 | .003 | **.018** | [0.001, 0.015] |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 6. Social stress | 2696 | -.055 | .084 | .513 | [-0.221, 0.110] |
|  | Neuroticism |  | .003 | .005 | .523 | [-0.007, 0.014] |
|  | Neuroticism x social stress |  | .006 | .003 | .070 | [-0.000, 0.012] |
| *Note.* ASD, autism spectrum disorders, Obs, number of observations, B, standardized regression coefficient; SE, standard error; P, *p*-value; CI, confidence interval; Dependent variable in all models is negative affect. All models control for age, sex, and lifetime depression. The Simes correction was used on the *p*-values of the interactions. All initial significant *p*-values remained significant after this correction. | | | | | | |

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| Table S3.  *Sensitivity Analyses.* *Multilevel regressions estimate of neuroticism, social context and their interactions* *in the* *model of negative affect* | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Slopes per category of social context | | | | |
|  |  | Obs | B | SE | P | 95%CI | B | SE | P | | 95%CI |
| ASD (n=50) | Neuroticism | 3771 | .039 |  | **.008** | [0.010, 0.068] |  |  |  | |  |
| Social context;  Alone (0) | 1887 | Reference |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |
|  | Inner circle (1) | 1205 | .105 | .220 | .632 | [-0.326, 0.537] |  |  |  | |  |
|  | Outer circle (2) | 679 | -.398 | .351 | .257 | [-1.108, 0.290] |  |  |  | |  |
|  | Neuroticism x social context; |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |
|  | Alone (0) |  | Reference |  |  |  | .039 | .015 | **.008** | | [0.010, 0.068] |
|  | Inner circle (1) |  | -.009 | .005 | .091 | [-0.020, 0.001] | .030 | .014 | **.031** | | [0.003, 0.057] |
|  | Outer circle (2) |  | .011 | .009 | .181 | [-0.005, 0.029] | .050 | .014 | **<.001** | | [0.022, 0.078] |
|  | Outer circle (2)  - inner circle (1) |  | .020 | .006 | **.001** | [0.009, 0.032] |  |  |  | |  |
|  |  | | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  | | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Slopes per category of social context | | | | |
|  |  | Obs | B | SE | P | C.I. 95% | B | SE | P | C.I. 95% | |
| Controls (n=51) | Neuroticism | 3859 | .011 | .008 | .174 | [-0.005, 0.028] |  |  |  |  | |
| Social context;  Alone (0) | 1161 | Reference |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |
|  | Inner circle (1) | 1692 | -.011 | .095 | .991 | [-0.198, 0.176] |  |  |  |  | |
|  | Outer circle (2) | 1006 | .124 | .147 | .398 | [-0.164, 0.412] |  |  |  |  | |
|  | Neuroticism x social context; |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |
|  | Alone (0) |  | Reference |  |  |  | .011 | .008 | .174 | [-0.005, 0.028] | |
|  | Inner circle (1) |  | -.003 | .004 | .337 | [-0.010, 0.004] | .008 | .007 | .265 | [-0.006, 0.022] | |
|  | Outer circle (2) |  | -.007 | .006 | .236 | [-0.017, 0.004] | .005 | .006 | .475 | [-0.008, 0.018] | |
|  | Outer circle (2)   - inner cricle (1) |  | -.003 | .004 | .394 | [-0.010, 0.004] |  |  |  |  | |
| *Note.* Obs, number of observations; B, standardized regression coefficient; SE, standard error; CI, confidence interval; P, *p*-value; Dependent variable in all models is negative affect (NA). All models control for age, sex, and lifetime depression. | | | | | | | | | | | |