

Attitudes towards Absolute Freedom of Speech Online in Poland, the UK and Spain (#268204)

Author(s)

This pre-registration is currently anonymous to enable blind peer-review.
It has 3 authors.

Pre-registered on:
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1) Have any data been collected for this study already?

No, no data have been collected for this study yet.

2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?

RQ1: Do personality traits affect people's attitudes towards absolute freedom of speech on social media networks (vs restrictions to prevent disinformation, hate speech or incitement to violence) in Poland, the UK and Spain?

H1a) Openness predicts support for absolute freedom of speech on social media networks

H1b) Extraversion predicts support for absolute freedom of speech on social media networks

H1c) Neuroticism predicts support for restrictions on absolute freedom of speech to prevent disinformation, hate speech and incitement to violence

H1d) Agreeableness predicts support for restrictions on absolute freedom of speech to prevent disinformation, hate speech and incitement to violence

H1e) Conscientiousness predicts support for restrictions on absolute freedom of speech to prevent disinformation, hate speech and incitement to violence

RQ2: Do people's sociocultural identity affect people's attitudes towards absolute freedom of speech on social media networks (vs restrictions to prevent disinformation, hate speech or incitement to violence) in Poland, the UK and Spain?

H2a) People who define themselves as socioculturally conservative will be more supportive of absolute freedom of speech on social media networks

H2b) People who define themselves as socioculturally progressive will be more supportive of restrictions on social media networks to prevent misinformation/hate speech/incitement to violence

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.

Survey question measuring attitudes towards absolute freedom of speech on social networks (vs restrictions to prevent disinformation, hate speech or incitement to violence): "On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 represents a preference for complete freedom to share any content on social media and 10 represents a preference for strict restrictions to prevent the spread of misinformation/hate speech/incitement to violence, where do you stand?"
Don't know responses will be excluded.

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?

All respondents have an equal opportunity to answer all questions in the survey. Participants are not allocated into treatment groups.

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.

Personality traits will be the main independent variable for RQ1 and will be measured using the Ten-Item Personality Index standard battery. Following standard practice, we will measure each of the big five personality traits: Extraversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, Openness, and Neuroticism.

These are measured as follows: "Here are a number of personality traits that may or may not apply to you. Please write a number next to each statement to indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with that statement. You should rate the extent to which the pair of traits applies to you, even if one characteristic applies more strongly than the other." Responses will be randomized and are coded as: 1) Extraverted, Enthusiastic; 2) Critical, Quarrelsome; 3) Dependable, Self-Disciplined; 4) Anxious, Easily-Upset; 5) Open to new Experiences, Complex; 6) Reserved, Quiet; 7) Sympathetic, Warm; 8) Disorganised, Careless; 9) Calm, Emotionally Stable; 10) Conventional, Uncreative.

To analyse RQ1 ordinary least square regression models will predict the level of support people show with regards to absolute freedom of speech on social media networks. Controls will include: age, gender, education, political interest and use of social media.

People's perceived sociocultural identity will be the main independent variable for RQ2 and will be measured with the following question: "Sometimes people talk about being socially progressive, by which they mean we should promote respect for diversity, gender equality and protect LGBTQ+ and abortion rights, and sometimes people talk about being socially conservative, by which they mean we should protect traditional values and moral standards" With responses coded as: extremely socially progressive, very socially progressive, somewhat socially progressive, centrist, somewhat socially conservative, very socially conservative and extremely socially conservative.

To analyse RQ2 ordinary least square regression models will predict the level of support people show with regards to absolute freedom of speech on social media networks. Controls will include: age, gender, education, political interest and use of social media.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.

We will exclude all respondents who answer don't know/hard to say to the survey questions.

7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.

Target sample size is 1,500 in Great Britain, 1,500 in Poland and 1,500 in Spain, collected to ensure representativeness on key quotas for age, gender, place of residence, region, education level.

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)

Descriptive analyses will show the relationship between sociodemographic variables and support for absolute freedom of speech on social media networks in Poland, the UK and Spain.

BUNDLE

This pre-registration is part of a bundle which includes:

#268,686 - <https://aspredicted.org/2s49am.pdf> - Title: 'Institutional heterogeneity in democratic norm tolerance' #268,691 - <https://aspredicted.org/bp7w6h.pdf> - Title: 'Personality traits and tolerance for democratic norm violations'