**Online Supplementary Materials**

**Table 1**

*Dates and Payments of Each Wave*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Wave 1 | Wave 2 | Wave 3 | Wave 4 | Wave 5 |
| Date | Oct 13-19 | Oct 27-Nov 2 | Nov 10-16 | Nov 24-30 | Dec 8-15 |
| Payment | £0.5 | £0.5 + £0.1 | £0.5 + £0.2 | £0.5 + £0.3 | £0.5 + £0.4 |
| Participants | *N* = 300 | *N* = 313 | *N* = 304 | *N* = 286 | *N* = 250 |

**Table 2**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Model | χ2 (*df*) | *p* | CFI | RMSEA | SRMR | Δχ2 (Δ*df*) | *p* | ΔCFI | ΔRMSEA | ΔSRMR |
| CM | Configural | 197.81 (25) | <.001 | .935 | .167 | .046 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Metric | 211.09 (41) | <.001 | .936 | .129 | .056 | 13.29 (16) | .652 | .001 | -.038 | .010 |
| Scalar | 230.02 (57) | <.001 | .934 | .111 | .060 | 18.93 (16) | .272 | -.002 | -.018 | .004 |
| CTO | Configural | 67.52 (10) | <.001 | .978 | .152 | .023 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Metric | 88.11 (22) | <.001 | .975 | .110 | .047 | 20.59 (12) | .056 | -.003 | -.042 | .024 |
| Scalar | 126.57 (34) | <.001 | .964 | .105 | .057 | **38.46 (12)** | <.001 | **-.011** | -.005 | .010 |
| CTI | Configural | 20.63 (10) | .024 | .997 | .066 | .010 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Metric | 44.30 (22) | .003 | .993 | .064 | .042 | **23.66 (12)** | .023 | -.004 | -.002 | **.032** |
| Scalar | 52.78 (34) | .003 | .993 | .064 | .042 | 8.48 (12) | .746 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Measurement Invariance over Time*

*Note:* When models have small degrees of freedom, RMSEA can exceed cutoffs very often even when the models fit well (Kenny et al., 2015). Metric and scalar invariance were tested using the thresholds of ΔCFI < .010; ΔRMSEA < .015; and ΔSRMR < .030 (Chen, 2007).

**Figure 1**

*Vote Coding Decision Tree*

**Shape

Description automatically generated with medium confidence**

**Figure 2**

*The Number of Participants of Each Vote Option*

Chart, diagram, treemap chart

Description automatically generated

*Note.* Columns 1-3 are Wave 1-3, Column 4 is the final vote coding. The height of each bar indicates the number of participants.

**Figure 3**

*Atrition Randomness Check*

A picture containing calendar

Description automatically generatedChart

Description automatically generated

A picture containing calendar

Description automatically generatedChart

Description automatically generated

A picture containing table

Description automatically generatedChart, histogram

Description automatically generated

**Missing Data Imputation**

This is a longitudinal study, so each missing value can be predicted by both cross-sectional data from other participants or items and longitudinal data from the same participants and the same item in different waves. For example, in Table 3,[[1]](#footnote-1) cm1 (highlighted in blue) is predicted by cross-sectional data (dc1, rc1, highlighted in green) and longitudinal data (cm2, cm3, cm4, cm5, highlighted in yellow).

As some variables contain several items, we imputed data for each of the items, and then used passive imputation to calculate the means of each variable for having more degrees of freedom in estimation. For example, conspiracy mentality is measured with five items. When we analyze models, we will calculate the mean of five items first. When there are missing data, we have to impute the value of the missing item and the mean. With passive imputation, this process is divided into two steps: impute missing values, then calculate the imputed value into means.

Table 3 Prediction Matrix of Variables

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | cm1 | dc1 | rc1 | cm2 | dc2 | rc2 | cm3 | dc3 | rc3 | cm4 | dc4 | rc4 | cm5 | dc5 | rc5 |
| cm1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| dc1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| rc1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| cm2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| dc2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| rc2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| cm3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| dc3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| rc3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| cm4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| dc4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| rc4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| cm5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| dc5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| rc5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |

*Note:* cm: conspiracy mentality; dc: Democrat conspiracy beliefs; rc: Republican conspiracy beliefs; numbers indicate the waves.

**Measures**

***Conspiracy mentality*** (Bruder et al., 2013)

Many important things happen in the world, which the public is never informed about.

Politicians usually don't tell us the true motives for their decisions.

Government agencies closely monitor all citizens.

Events which superficially seem to lack a connection are often the result of secret activities.

There are secret organizations that greatly influence political decisions.

***Democratic Conspiracy Theories***

The elections will be (were) rigged to favor Joe Biden.

High-ranked officials conspire to give the Democrats an unfair advantage during the elections.

The Democratic Party is (was) committing fraud in the election.

The Democratic Party is (was) suppressing voting among Republicans.

***Republican Conspiracy Theories***

The elections will be (were) rigged to favor Donald Trump.

High-ranked officials conspire to give the Republicans an unfair advantage during the elections.

The Republican Party is (was) committing fraud in the election.

The Republican Party is (was) suppressing voting among Democrats.

1. This prediction matrix is not the one used in this research, because there were more variables included. Demographic variables were included as well (see https://osf.io/24rzd). Table 3 is for explaining how we have constructed the prediction matrix. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)