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Reference number:

Quiz results received for all applicants? Y/N

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY HUMAN ETHICS ADVISORY GROUP
LOW-RISK APPLICATION FORM



The [National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research](#) (2007) - updated 2018 defines low risk research as:
 'Research in which the only foreseeable risk is one of discomfort. Research in which the risk for participants is more serious than discomfort is not low risk'.

Project Title: Think again: evaluating a brief training exercise on social media consumption

Proposed Start Date: 30/07/2020

Proposed end date: 30/12/2020

Principal Investigator/s: Dr Mathew Ling

Associate Investigator: Dr Annamaria Klas

Student Investigator/s (if applicable):

Ms Rachel Stewart¹

Student ID:

Ms Monique Slaviero¹

Student ID:

Ms Fiona Fox²

Student ID:

Degree/s for which student/s enrolled:

School: Psychology

Faculty: Health

Contact Telephone No: 03 924 46475

Email: m.ling@deakin.edu.au

Contact details of all researchers involved in the project:

Name	Role	Email	Phone
Mathew Ling	PI	m.ling@deakin.edu.au	
Annamaria Klas	AI		
Ms Rachel Stewart	SI		
Ms Monique Slaviero	SI		
Ms Fiona Fox	SI		

Please note: There has been an update by Microsoft which blocks links to single sign-on web pages.

To access the Deakin Human Ethics Guidelines referred to in this form, cut and paste the following address to your browser:

<http://www.deakin.edu.au/students/research/research-support-and-scholarships/integrity-secure/human-ethics/dheg>

Links to external sites in this form will still work.

COVID-19

Please indicate whether:

1. Your project is not designed to align with current COVID-19 restrictions but will be delayed until all restrictions are lifted and will be modified with approval prior to commencement in the event that unforeseen flow-on effects from the virus raise new ethical issues ☐
- OR
2. Your project is designed to align with current COVID-19 restrictions and will be conducted once approval is granted ☒

PART A: Excluded Categories (see *National Statement* [Chapter 5.1.6](#))

1 Does your project involve any of the following?

- Yes ☐ No ☒ Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Peoples or issues
- Yes ☐ No ☒ Research involving pregnant women or the human fetus
- Yes ☐ No ☒ People highly dependent on medical care who may be unable to give consent
- Yes ☐ No ☒ People with a cognitive impairment, an intellectual disability, or mental illness
- Yes ☐ No ☒ People who may be involved in illegal activities where the research is intended to study or expose illegal activity or that is likely to discover it
- Yes ☐ No ☒ Clinical trials - defined as "...any research study that prospectively assigns human participants or groups of humans to one or more health-related interventions to evaluate the effects on health outcomes" (World Health Organisation)
- Yes ☐ No ☒ Human genomic research
- Yes ☐ No ☒ Human biospecimens including human cells (Please note: where researchers want to re-use human biospecimens that were originally collected as per a Deakin approved ethics application, their future use *may* be eligible for low risk review if the researchers intend to seek specific consent from participants for the new project and if all other aspects of the project are low risk)
- Yes ☐ No ☒ Projects involving ionising radiation
- Yes ☐ No ☒ Travel to regions classified as Level 2, 3 or 4 (see [DFAT](#) and Section 35 of the Deakin Guidelines)
- Yes ☐ No ☒ Projects involving active concealment or planned deception of participants
- Yes ☐ No ☒ Risk of harm to participants (more serious than discomfort, *National Statement* [Chapter 2.1.6](#))
- Yes ☐ No ☒ Opt-out consent in relation to the collection of ***health or sensitive data** from participants (*National Statement*, [Chapter 2.3](#)). Please complete a [Human Research Ethics Application](#) (HREA) that includes a request to waive the requirement for consent (required under Privacy Legislation) and submit to DUHREC, attaching the [Privacy Supplement](#).
- Yes ☐ No ☒ A waiver of the requirement for consent when accessing collections of potentially **identifiable *health or sensitive data***. Please complete a [Human Research Ethics Application](#) (HREA) and submit to DUHREC attaching the [Privacy Supplement](#). Please note if you are accessing **pre-existing collections of non-identifiable data** you may be eligible for an exemption (see Q.3, page 3 for more information).

If you selected yes to ANY of these elements, your project is not eligible for low-risk review. You should complete a higher than low risk application form (the [Human Research Ethics Application](#) (HREA) for review by DUHREC (see [Section 6.5](#) of the Deakin Guidelines).

* **Please note:** if you are seeking access to existing collections of **potentially identifiable data**, that are **neither health nor sensitive data**, your project may still be eligible for low risk review even if you are seeking to waive the requirement for consent (i.e. you are not planning to obtain consent from participants to access their data) so long as every other aspect of your project is low risk. If this is the case, please complete Q.1 in Section 2 of the Checklist, and Questions 3 and 11 in Part C of this form. Please also note: this only applies to existing collections of data. If you are prospectively collecting data directly from participants, you will need to apply for ethics approval and seek participant consent prior to collecting the data. If you are using **opt-out consent in relation to the collection of non-health or non-sensitive data**, and every other aspect of your study is low risk, please address the *National Statement* 2.3.6 a-i (see Part C: Q.10: Consent).

* Please see Part F: Glossary, page 15 of this form for definitions of health and sensitive data.

2 Does your project involve ethical review by another Australian organisation?

Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, your project should not be submitted for review by a HEAG. You should consult [Section 6](#) of the Deakin Guidelines regarding the processes which apply to applications previously approved by another organisation.

3 Does your project involve ONLY use of existing collections of non-identifiable data?

Data are non-identifiable when they do not identify the people to whom the information relates – identifiers should never have been collected, or should have been permanently removed from the data set before you received it.

Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, you should complete the application form for Exemption from Ethical Review (see Section 6 of the Deakin Guidelines). Please note: **research using human biospecimens is not eligible for an exemption.**

PART B: Checklist

This checklist will help you decide whether your research may be submitted for review by your Faculty HEAG. Research is eligible for low-risk review if the foreseeable risk level is no more than discomfort. If you answer 'YES' to any items on the checklist **your project is not eligible for low risk review unless** you can explain how this potential risk will be managed or minimised to ensure that the project remains low risk. This should be explained in the special case assessment section (Section 6) below.

It is your responsibility to assess the level of risk associated with your project. If your project is not considered low risk by the HEAG, you will be required to complete a high-risk application for submission to DUHREC.

*Please ensure you include all signatures before submitting the application
as approval cannot be granted until they are received.*

1 Are any of the following topics to be covered in part or in whole?

Parenting	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Sensitive personal issues	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Sensitive cultural issues	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Grief, death or serious/traumatic loss	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Gambling	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Eating disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Illicit drug taking	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Substance abuse	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Self-report of criminal behaviour	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Any psychological disorder, depression, mood states and/or anxiety	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Suicide	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Sexuality, sexual behaviour or gender identity	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Race or ethnic identity	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Any disease or health problem	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Fertility	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Termination of pregnancy	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

2 Are any of the following procedures to be employed?

Waiver of consent for access to collections of identifiable data that are neither health nor sensitive data (please see Part F: Glossary for definitions of health and sensitive data).	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Use of personal data obtained from Commonwealth or State Government Department/Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Concealing the purposes of the research	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Covert observation	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Audio or visual recording without consent	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Recruitment via a third party or agency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Withholding from one group specific treatments or methods of learning, from which they may 'benefit' (e.g. in medicine or teaching)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Psychological interventions or treatments	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Administration of physical stimulation	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

Invasive physical procedures	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Infliction of pain	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Administration of drugs or placebos	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Administration of other substances	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Use of medical records where participants can be identified or linked	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

3 PARTICIPANT VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

Does the research specifically target participants from any of the following groups?

Children or young people under 18 years	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
People with a physical disability or vulnerability	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
People whose ability to give consent is impaired	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Residents of a custodial institution	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
People unable to give free informed consent because of difficulties in understanding the Plain Language Statement or Information Sheet (e.g. language difficulties)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Members of a socially identifiable group with special cultural or religious needs or political vulnerabilities	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
People in dependent or unequal relationship with the researchers (e.g. lecturer/student, doctor/patient, teacher/pupil, professional/client)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
People with existing relationships with the researcher (e.g. relative, friend, co-worker)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
People in a workplace setting with the potential for coercion or problems of confidentiality (e.g. employer/employee)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Participants able to be identified in any final report when specific consent for this has not been given	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Persons not usually considered vulnerable but would be thought so in the context of the project	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

4. RESEARCH IN OVERSEAS SETTINGS ASSESSMENT

Does the research involve any of the following?

Research being undertaken in a politically unstable area			<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Research involving sensitive cultural issues			<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Research in countries where criticism of government and institutions might put participants and/or researchers at risk			<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
*Please indicate which DFAT level of advice applies to the region you intend visiting (see DFAT and Section 35 of the Deakin Guidelines)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
*Note: Travel to regions classified as Level 2 (or above) is considered higher than low risk and not eligible for review by a HEAG.				

5. OTHER RISKS

Are there any risks to the researcher, (e.g. research undertaken in unsafe environments or trouble spots)?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Are there any other risks not covered in this assessment that you consider may be relevant?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

6. SPECIAL CASE ASSESSMENT

If you have answered 'YES' to an item in the checklist but you still believe that because of the particular nature of the project and the participants your project may still be eligible for low risk review. Please provide details below, or attach an additional sheet.

SPECIAL CASE DETAILS:

Recruitment will be undertaken using the service "Prolific" (formerly Prolific Academic). Prolific will distribute an advertisement to their pool of participants who will then be forwarded to the PLS and survey. Participants will therefore consent under the same voluntary and informed conditions as any convenience sample, at no point will Prolific hold any of the participant data.

PART C: Project

1. Aims of the project/the research question(s)/hypothesis

To evaluate the effectiveness of a generic misinformation training program for reducing susceptibility to misinformation.

2. Research design and methods

Give a concise and simple description of the proposed research design and the methods to be used. Please include all data collection procedures and all groups of participants.

A generic convenience sample of participants will be recruited to a 2 x 3 (misinformation) between subjects design.

The participants will be randomly split across two conditions, one which will be focussed on informing them about cues for misinformation, and one about potentially offensive or insensitive content. After engaging with the exercises associated with each arm, participants will then be further randomly allocated to one of 3 piece of misinformation (relating to vaccination, Complementary and Alternative Medicines (CAMs) or climate change). The participants will then have their attitudes toward these domains measured.

Describe how the design and methods of the project will enable adequate exploration of the research questions and achieve the aims of the research.

The effect of the misinformation will be tested by comparing the participants exposed to one domain of misinformation (e.g. climate change) to those allocated to the other conditions (e.g. vaccination and CAMs) on their attitudes towards that domain. The effectiveness of the misinformation priming condition will be assessed by contrasting the size of this effect between participants forewarned about misinformation versus those exposed to the offensive and insensitive content warning.

The contrast between those allocated to each misinformation exposure will permit the evaluation of the impact of misinformation, and the comparison between the two training conditions will allow for the evaluation of the protective effects of the critical reading content against misinformation.

Describe how the design of the project will maintain respect for participants.

The Plain Language Statement for this study will provide as much detail as is possible about the design without compromising the integrity of the study to ensure voluntary participation is informed.

Participants will have the right to decline to answer any questions and withdraw at any point. In order to ensure the privacy of participants, the minimum demographic data will be collected. Effort will be taken to ensure any identifying or pseudo identifying information participants volunteer in open text responses is removed.

Has the project been reviewed by a formally constituted academic, scientific or professional review process and if so, what was the outcome of that review?

This project has undergone preliminary review by the school of psychology's pre-review process and analytic review by data sciences.

3. Use of existing stored data

Please list any existing stored data that you plan to use as part of the project e.g. health or employment records used for recruitment, or comparison. Please include in your answer:

- The type and number of records being accessed;
- Whether the records identify individual people; and
- How you will obtain permission to use them (consent from individuals or permission from custodians of non-identifiable data). Or, if not seeking consent, please indicate here that you are seeking a waiver of the requirement for consent and answer Q.11 below (please note waivers of consent can only be sought via low risk review **where the data are neither health nor sensitive data**).

(See the *National Statement* [Chapter 3.1](#) and [Chapter 3.2](#); and [Section 25](#) of the Deakin Guidelines for more information.)

None

Please describe any stored biospecimens that you intend to use as part of the project. **Please note:** projects involving biospecimens may only be considered low risk if they were collected as part of a project that was approved by a Deakin ethics review body, you intend to seek the consent of the participants for the re-use of their biospecimens as described in this application and the project is low risk in all other respects.

(see the *National Statement* [paragraphs 3.2.11-3.2.14](#) for more information)

None

4. Risks and benefits

Give a summary of the expected benefits of this project

This may include benefits to the broader community, the participants, people with whom the participants identify or the researcher (see the *National Statement* on [benefits](#) for more information). Among other things, benefits may include a contribution to knowledge or understanding, improved social or individual wellbeing, or the skill and expertise of researchers.

This study will give insight into strategies that may be more or less effective in addressing misinformation in social media settings. In particular, it will give direct insight into whether critical thinking training can reduce the effect of misinformation on beliefs related to climate change, vaccinations and complementary and alternative medicines. This may help guide the development of resources to mediate the risks associated with climate change, vaccination and complementary and alternative medicines.

Provide a justification for the potential benefits

Potential benefits should be based on either relevant literature or a review of prior research unless, due to the novelty of the question, there is scarce literature or prior research.

Previous research has indicated that explicit warning messages preceding misinformation exposure has reduced the adverse effects of misinformation on people's beliefs (Cook et al., 2017; van der Linden et al., 2017). Moreover, active and gamified approaches where people learn to master common strategies used in misinformation have improved people's abilities and confidence in identifying misinformation on social media (Basol et al., 2020; Roozenbeek & van der Linden, 2019a, 2019b). The use of critical thinking as a treatment effect has been applied through a series of guidelines for identifying misinformation on Facebook (Lutzke et al., 2019). The present study will use different guidelines in an ecologically valid twitter setting where the misinforming tweet will be concealed among distractor information and the intervention's effect will be compared to an active control group.

Give a summary of the expected risks of this project and how they will be managed

This should include any risks to participants, researchers, to the environment or to Deakin or other organisations (see the *National Statement* on [assessment of risk](#) for more information).

There are no anticipated risks to participants beyond inconvenience and exposure to social media content that is not expected to be more harmful than in everyday life. Participants will be advised of this in the Plain Language Statement and following completion of the survey debriefed regarding the misinformation they were exposed to.

5. Monitoring

As the researcher, how will you monitor the progress of the research?

You should include details of planned communication between members of the research team (e.g. face to face meetings, email, telephone or Skype) (see the *National Statement* [Chapter 5.5.3](#) for more information).

Members of the research team will have meetings about the progress of the study at least fortnightly. Information about progress to date; maintenance and security of records; compliance with the approved proposal; and compliance with any conditions of approval will be provided to the HEAG-H annually and at the conclusion of the project (as well as at any time requested by HEAG-H). Research participants will be invited to provide feedback about their experience of participating in the research at the end of the survey. This feedback will be regularly monitored by the Principal Investigator.

6. Resources

Please explain the amount and source of funding (sponsorship, tender, grant etc.). If there are specific resources required for the project how will they be provided?

The project will be funded by the School of Psychology 4th year student project research funding. Data collection will be funded by 2020 Student budget and reserve capital held by the Misinformation Lab.

7. Conflict of interest

Do any of the researchers or others involved in this project have any conflict of interest in relation to it? If so, please explain how this will be managed (see the *National Statement* on [Conflict of Interest](#) for more information).

No researchers in this project have a conflict of interest.

PARTICIPANTS

8. Describe your participant group/s

Please include the following information for each participant group how many participants you plan to recruit:

- a justification for the number of participants chosen for each participant group
- the inclusion and exclusion criteria.

(See the *National Statement* [Section 4](#) for more information.)

We aim to recruit 600 participants in total, with 300 allocated to either the critical thinking training group and control group, and 100 across each of the six outcomes. Participants recruited through Prolific will be required to be over 18 years of age and residing in Australia. No other exclusion criteria will apply. Sample size is determined by feasibility within funding constraints.

9. Explain your recruitment process

Please include the following information for each participant group:

- How will you locate the participants that you plan to recruit? If through existing records or contact lists, please explain how this will be done in a way that does not infringe privacy requirements.
- How will initial contact be made?
- If you plan to use a document or spoken statement e.g. flyer, letter, advertisement, phone call, please attach a copy of the document or script to this application.
- All advertisements (both written and spoken) must include the following statement: "This study has received Deakin University ethics approval (reference number: insert reference number here)."
- Will the participants be screened?
- If there is a screening tool, please attach a copy.

(See [Section 8](#) of the Deakin Guidelines for more information.)

Participants of the research project will be recruited via the online crowdsourcing platform Prolific. Potential participants will be voluntary subscribers to Prolific, and as such Prolific will mediate all interactions between the research team and potential respondents.

The research team will provide Prolific the web link for the study. Prolific will then display this web link to participants who fit the inclusion criteria required for the study. These inclusion criteria include being over the age of 18, and being in Australia. This web link will include the Plain Language Statement, followed by the study materials. The description of the study that will be sent to potential participants by Prolific is provided as an attachment.

CONSENT

10. Describe the consent process

There are a variety of ways in which consent can be established, most commonly by giving participants a Plain Language Statement and Consent Form (PLSCF) or by return of a survey. You may wish to consult [Section 9](#) of the Deakin Guidelines for more information. Please include details such as:

- how and when you will provide consent materials to your potential participants

- how, when and to whom participants will indicate their consent
- If you are seeking **opt-out consent in relation to non-health or non-sensitive data**, please address the National Statement [Chapter 2.3](#), 2.3.6 a-i.

(See the *National Statement* [Chapter 2.2](#), [Chapter 2.3](#) and Element 3 of [Chapter 3.1](#) for more information.)

Participants recruited via Prolific Academic will then proceed to the study site on Qualtrics where they will read the Plain Language Statement and will be given an opportunity to download a PDF of this PLS which will be hosted on the Open Science Framework (<https://osf.io/pxytu/>). Participants will be informed that that submission of the survey will indicate consent, prior to their moving to the demographic section

11. Waiver of Consent

Are you seeking a waiver of consent (in relation to accessing **collections of potentially identifiable data** that are **neither health nor sensitive*** data)? (See the *National Statement*, [Chapter 2.3](#) for more information.) ☐ YES ☒ NO

If yes, please describe how this complies with the [NS 2.3.10 a-i](#) requirements below:

- involvement in the research carries no more than low risk to participants:
- the benefits from the research justify any risks of harm associated with not seeking consent:
- it is impracticable to obtain consent (for example due to the quantity, age or accessibility of records):
- there is no known or likely reason for thinking participants would not have consented if they had been asked:
- there is sufficient protection of their privacy:
- there is an adequate plan to protect the confidentiality of data:
- in case the results have significance for the participants' welfare there is, where practicable, a plan for making information arising from the research available to them:
- the possibility of commercial exploitation of derivatives of the data or tissue*(please note waivers of consent in regards to accessing *human tissue or biospecimens are not eligible for low risk review) will not deprive the participants of any financial benefits to which they would be entitled:
- the waiver is not prohibited by State, federal or international law:

*** Please see Part F: Glossary, page 15 of this form for definitions of health and sensitive data.**

12. Will there be reimbursement of expenses or incentives to participate?

Where expenses will be reimbursed please state:

- the nature of the expenses incurred by participants
- the maximum value of any intended reimbursement.

Where incentives to participate are offered, please explain:

- why you consider that the proposed incentive will not encourage participants to take risks they would not otherwise take. In doing so, please consider both the risks associated with participation and the value of the incentive, relative to your participant group.

(See the *National Statement* [Chapter 2.2.10-2.2.11](#); and [Section 8](#) of the Deakin Guidelines for more information.)

As required on the Prolific Platform, participants will receive a small reimbursement of £1.60 for their time. This amount is above the minimum required by Prolific to ensure all participants are reimbursed at the minimum rate per hour, however this incentive is not thought to be coercive and participants will not be exposed to any risk above that of typical engagement with social media.

13. Pre-existing or unequal relationships

Do any of the proposed participants have existing relationships with the researchers, each other or with any other organisation involved in the research? Please explain the relationships, and how you will make sure that participants do not feel pressured to take part.

(See the *National Statement* [Chapter 4.3](#); and the [Section 22](#) of the Deakin Guidelines for more information.)

None.

14. Does your project include children or young people under 18 years?

If your project involves people under the age of 18, please answer the following questions.

- What age group is involved?
- Will parental/guardian consent be obtained? If the young people will consent on their own behalf, how their capacity to do this will be judged?
- Is it necessary to involve people under 18? Could your projects be undertaken with adult participants?
- Is the methodology appropriate for children/young people?
- Is there any reason to consider that participation in the research is not in the best interests of the children/young people?

(For further information, consult the *National Statement* [Chapter 4.2](#); and [Section 19](#) of the Deakin Guidelines.)

None.

15. Language and communication issues

Will your project involve people who cannot communicate easily in English? (e.g. people who are not confident English speakers, or who have a disability, such as a hearing impairment that requires special arrangements for participation). If so, please explain how translation/interpretation issues will be managed.

(For further information consult [Section 24](#) of the Deakin Guidelines.)

The project will involve only text and visual media and has been optimised (as much as possible) for ease of reading. The screenshots of sections of twitter feed will be accompanied by alternate text for participants requiring the use of a screen reader. The Recruitment platform is implemented in English, so it is anticipated that all respondents will be competent readers of English.

16. People in other countries

If you are planning to undertake research in other countries, please answer the following questions. What are the legal and ethical requirements for conducting research in the designated country?

- What arrangements will be in place for a local, readily accessible contact to receive responses, questions and complaints about the research? (*National Statement* [Chapter 4.8.16](#))
- How will the research be monitored on site?
- Are there cultural sensitivities relating to the research? How will these be managed?

If the research is to be conducted in a language other than English, please ensure that you have covered all relevant language issues under question 14.

(For further information consult the *National Statement*, [Chapter 4.8](#); and Section 35 of the Deakin Guidelines.)

We are not recruiting participants from other countries.

17. Return of research results or findings to participants

If the results/findings of the research will be returned to participants, please explain:

- If the individual research results for each participant will be returned to that participant
- If the overall research findings will be returned to participants
- How these results/findings will be provided to participants/how the process will be managed and
- Any risks associated with returning the results/findings

The Principal researcher will publish results to a pre-specified open repository on the OSF, the details of which will

be made available to participants on the end page of the survey and the Plain Language Statement. Only group results will be published, no individual will be identified in any publication.

Where the results/findings could have significant health, social, economic, legal, psychological or other implications for participants or their relatives, please provide an ethically defensible plan to disclose or withhold results or findings of the research. The plan should include:

- What results will be returned (if any)
- Whether the participants will be advised in advance of the option to receive the findings or results
- Whether the findings or results may be given to anyone else and if so, whether participants will be informed of this in advance
- If applicable, the process for determining whether participants' relatives wish to receive the findings or results
- How the findings or results will be returned in a manner that is appropriate and accessible
- The relevant expertise of the person who may be communicating the results and
- Any measures to protect the level of privacy desired by participants.

No individual contact information or identifiers will be captured, therefore individual feedback can be provided to participants. Information including a plain language summary and the raw, anonymised data will be made available to participants via an OSF repository made available via a link in the Plain language statement. There are no anticipated risks arising from this distribution method.

For further information, consult the National Statement paragraphs [3.1.63 - 3.1.65](#).

Where the research involves the use of biospecimens (see exception to excluded categories of research in Section A), please also include the additional details for the ethically defensible plan described in the National Statement [3.2.15](#) points a-i:

CONFIDENTIALITY / PRIVACY

18. Will you be collecting data/information in identified form?

Data are generally divided into:

- **identifiable** (also called personal): the person to whom the data relates can be established from the data – either because they are named, or information that identifies them is included (e.g. position in an organisation at the time)
- **re-identifiable** (also called coded): the identifiers have been removed from the information and replaced with a code.
- **non-identifiable**: the data were collected anonymously, or all identifiers have been permanently removed.

Please explain the form in which the data will be collected. If you plan to collect it in identified form and later remove the identifiers, please explain how and when.

(See Section 10 of the Deakin Guidelines for more information.)

Prolific will provide the researchers with 'Prolific IDs' of all participants who have completed the study for the purposes of approving compensation.

While these IDs are not themselves identifiable, they are static across research studies and so could potentially be used to link participant responses between multiple studies. This could compromise anonymity of participants if a set of studies provide sufficient information about participants to identify them. For this reason

- Prolific IDs will not be shared with anyone outside of the research team.
- Prolific IDs will only be collected for the purposes of distributing study compensation.
- All Prolific IDs will be removed from the dataset at the conclusion of data collection. These IDs will be replaced with a randomly generated participant ID for each participant. It will not be possible to identify participants from this ID.

19. How will the research comply with relevant regulations or guidelines authorised by law?

For example, the mandatory reporting requirements for disclosure of child abuse. For more information see National Statement [3.1.66 - 3.1.68](#).

There are no anticipated legal, contractual or professional obligations to disclose findings or results to third parties.

20. Storage of data/information

Data storage should meet the requirements of the Research Conduct Policy and the Research Data and Primary Materials Management Procedure which can be found in the [Deakin Legislation and Policy Library](#). In most cases data should be stored securely at Deakin, for a period of at least five years after the final publication of the research outcomes. If the data will be stored in another location, please explain this, and how data security will be maintained. You should include:

- whether the data will be identified/re-identifiable/non-identifiable
- how security will be maintained (locked storage, secure server, etc.)
- how long the data will be stored and
- if and when the data will be disposed of and how security will be maintained.

(See Section 10.8 of the Deakin Guidelines for more information.)

During data collection data will be stored on the Deakin University Qualtrics instance. Only members of the research team will have access to this data.

Once data collection is complete data will be moved to a Deakin research data store and checked to ensure de-identified status, ensuring no private or sensitive information has been inadvertently disclosed and that participants have not identified themselves through combination of pseudo-identifiers. Data from this study will then be published in an open access data repository; this will allow for verification of published results and secondary analysis by other researchers to maximise the outputs from the participants' contribution.

All de-identified data will be stored indefinitely, consistent with sections 15 and 16 of the Research Data and Primary Materials Management Procedure.

21. Collaborative research

If the research involves multiple researchers collaborating on collection, storage and/or analysis of data, please outline your arrangements for:

- Custodianship of the data
- Storage, retention and destruction of the data or materials
- Rights of access to the data or information
- Rights to analyse or use and re-use the data or information and
- Rights to produce research outputs based upon the data

All investigators are Deakin affiliates. PI Ling will act as custodian of the data holding it on a secure RDS on the Deakin server. After removal of any identifiers, the raw dataset will be published to the Open Science Framework under a CC BY 4.0 licence for re-use by third parties consistent with the National Statement. As a result, researchers other than those named within this project will have the right to re-use and analyse the de-identified data relating to this project.

22. Intellectual property, copyright and ownership

Please detail any intellectual property (individual, community, organisational, commercial), ownership or copyright arrangements related to the data or outputs of the research:

It is intended for all products of this research to be made available under a CC-BY licence.

23. Publication of results

(See Section 4 of the [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#) for more information.)

Whose responsibility will it be to notify participants of the outcome of the research?

Participants will not be directly notified of the outcome of this research project. However, the Principal Investigator Dr Mathew Ling will publish plain language summaries of results to a pre-specified open repository on the OSF, the details of which will be made available to participants on the end page of the survey and the Plain Language Statement.

How will you notify participants of the outcome of the research?

Participants will not be directly notified of the outcome of this research project. However, the Principal Investigator Dr Mathew Ling will publish plain language summaries of results to a pre-specified open repository on the OSF, the details of which will be made available to participants on the end page of the survey and the Plain Language Statement.

How will your research be reported/published?

Results will be reported at relevant academic conferences and published in peer-reviewed journals. Raw (non-identifiable) data from the study will also be published and available for verification of published results and secondary analysis by other researchers.

How will you manage participant confidentiality?

All Prolific IDs will be removed from the dataset at the conclusion of data collection (and after all participants have been compensated). These IDs will be replaced with a randomly generated participant ID for each participant. It will not be possible to identify participants from this ID. Only this non-identifiable data will be available to other researchers. Individual participants will not be identifiable through any output of this research.

PART D: Declarations

- 1 I/We, the undersigned declare that the information supplied in this application is true and accurate to the best of my/our knowledge.

I / We the undersigned have read the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research* and accept responsibility for the conduct of the project detailed in this application in accordance with the principles contained in the Statement and any other conditions laid down by Deakin University or the Human Ethics Advisory Group.

I/We the undersigned, declare that where the research project may involve contact with a child or young person under the age of 18, I/we have a current Working with Children Check.

Where the project involves a student researcher, as the supervisor I accept responsibility for ensuring that ethics approval is obtained prior to commencing the research and for overseeing the ethical conduct of the project as detailed in the ethics application.

Signatures:

Principal Investigator/s

Dr Mathew Ling

Date: 08/07/2020

Associate Investigator/s

Dr Annamaria Klas

Date: 08/07/2020

Student Investigator/s

Ms Fiona Fox

Date: 08/07/2020

Date: 08/07/2020

Ms Rachel Stewart

Ms Monique Slaviero

Date: 08/07/2020

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF HEAD OF SCHOOL*/DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH OR THEIR NOMINEE

I the undersigned acknowledge that the Faculty has considered and approved the academic worth of the project described in this application.

Name:

Title:

Signature:

Date:

*If the Head of School (or similar) is also a member of the research or supervisory team, a more senior member of University staff e.g. Dean or Associate Dean (Research) must sign the project as authorising officer.

Part E: Attachments

Have you attached the following?

- Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐ A copy of the email or certificate confirming successful completion of the online human ethics quiz (first time applicants) or project id of an ethics application/s on which you are listed. For more information on the quiz, copy and paste the following link into your browser: <http://www.deakin.edu.au/students/research/research-support-and-scholarships/integrity-secure/human-ethics/human-research-ethics-training>
- Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐ A copy of any advertisements/flyers or other recruitment materials. All advertisements (both written and spoken) must include the following statement: "This study has received Deakin University ethics approval (reference number: insert reference number here)."
- Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐ A copy of the Plain Language Statement and Consent Form (PLSCF) or other consent materials to be used in the project
- Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐ A copy of any survey, list of questions/topics for interviews, or other materials to be used in this project. Please note Deakin University's preferred online survey platform is Qualtrics. More information on Qualtrics can be found [here](#) or for technical assistance contact eresearch@deakin.edu.au
- Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐ Any other documents to be supplied to the participants or used in the conduct of the project
- Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒ A letter of support from the organisation/s involved or an organisational PLSC if you are proposing to recruit participants through an external organisation/s
- Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒ A completed Organisational Consent Form Coversheet (available on the [Application Forms page](#)) if you are recruiting Deakin staff and students

Please submit all documents via email to your faculty's HEAG:

Faculty of Arts and Education	artsed-ethics@deakin.edu.au
Faculty of Business and Law	blethics@deakin.edu.au
Faculty of Health	health-ethics@deakin.edu.au
Faculty of Science, Engineering and Built Environment	sciethic@deakin.edu.au

Please note: if the hyperlinks in this form result in an error message, return to the form and:

1. *right click on the hyperlink*
2. *click on Edit Hyperlink*
3. *copy the URL to your browser.*

Deakin University is collecting your personal information on this form for the primary purpose of processing your human research ethics application. It will also use this information for monitoring your compliance with the approved protocol. For these purposes Deakin may also provide this information to potential research participants, past or current research participants, or other interested parties in your research. You are not required to provide the information requested, however if the information is not provided, Deakin may not be able to process your ethics application. Deakin manages personal information it holds, including requests by individuals for access to their personal information, in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic). Deakin's Privacy Policy may be viewed on Deakin's [Policy Library](#). Information on privacy at Deakin is available at <http://www.deakin.edu.au/footer/privacy>. Questions about privacy may be directed to the Privacy Officer on (03) 5227 8524 or by email to privacy@deakin.edu.au.

Part F: Glossary

Health Data:

(a) information or an opinion about:

- i. the physical, mental or psychological health or a disability (at any time) of an individual; or
- ii. an individual's expressed wishes about the future provision of health, disability or aged care services to him or her; or
- iii. a health, disability or aged care service provided, or to be provided, to an individual; that is also personal information; or

(b) other personal information collected to provide, or in providing, a health, disability or aged care service; or

(c) other personal information about an individual collected in connection with the donation, or intended donation, by the individual of his or her body parts, organs or body substances; or

(d) personal information that is genetic information about an individual in a form which is or could be predictive of the health (at any time) of the individual or any of his or her descendants.

Sensitive Data:

means information or an opinion about an individual's:

- racial or ethnic origin; or
- political opinions; or
- membership of a political association; or
- religious beliefs or affiliations; or
- philosophical beliefs; or
- membership of a professional or trade association; or
- membership of a trade union; or
- sexual preferences or practices; or
- criminal record; or
- health information about an individual, or
- genetic information about an individual that is not otherwise health information; or
- biometric information that is to be used for the purpose of automated biometric verification or biometric identification; or biometric templates.

PLS

PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT AND CONSENT FORM

Date: 6th June, 2020

Full Project Title: Think again: evaluating a brief training exercise on social media consumption

Principal Researchers: Dr Mathew Ling

Associate Researchers: Dr Anna Klas

Student Researcher: Ms Rachel Stewart, Ms Monique Slaviero, Ms Fiona Fox

We are testing the impact of a brief interactive activity on how people approach content on social media. You have been invited as a member of the *Prolific* community.

If you choose to take part in this study, you will be asked to complete a short online survey. This will capture some basic information about who you are and what you believe across a range of topics discussed online, you'll then be given one of two brief tasks that will train you to look out for certain things in online content, after which we will test how effective this training was. These tasks may contain images, but alternate text is provided if you require it. The survey will take 15 minutes to complete and you will be paid £1.60 for your participation.

While we cannot guarantee any personal benefit from taking part in the training, the results will help us to understand whether these types of exercise may be useful in making online communication more healthy overall. The risk of harm to you is not expected to be greater than that experienced in everyday life.

Communication of results and data

In order to maximise the benefit of your participation to the public, the results of this study will be published in formats including academic journals, social media, student theses and at academic conferences. If you wish to view the results from this study, a summary of results will be released at the following web address after December

2020 (<https://osf.io/h3awj/>).

As part of our commitment to transparency in research, and consistent with the National Statement on Ethical Conduct of Human Research, we will publish all data collected to address our research questions. After removing any identifying features from the dataset, this de-identified data will be published in a public, online data-store at the Open Science Foundation (<https://osf.io/pxytu/>)

Research participant rights

Participation in this study is voluntary. You have the right to decline to answer any questions if you experience any discomfort. At the beginning of the online survey, you will be asked to indicate your consent to participate in the study.

At all stages of this study, the research will be monitored by Principal Researcher Dr Mathew Ling. If you have questions relating to this research project, you can contact Mathew via email (m.ling@deakin.edu.au) or telephone +61 03 924 46475 (Australian phone number).

Complaints

If you have any complaints about any aspect of the project, the way it is being conducted or any questions about your rights as a research participant, then you may contact:

The Human Research Ethics Office, Deakin University, 221 Burwood Highway, Burwood Victoria 3125, Telephone: 9251 7129, research-ethics@deakin.edu.au

Please quote project number HEAG-H _2020

Indicating your consent

If you'd like a copy of this Plain Language Statement for your records, you can download one at the following link:

By clicking the button below, you agree that you have read and understood the Plain Language Statement, including the publication of de-identified raw data, and that you consent to participate in this research.

Demographics and pre-measures

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We'd like you to tell us a bit about yourself, so we can describe the total group of people who participated in our study. We won't be able to identify you from your responses here.

How old are you in years?

What is your gender?

What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- ☐ Less than high/secondary school
- ☐ High/secondary school graduate
- ☐ Technical/Trade School diploma
- ☐ Associate degree
- ☐ Bachelors degree
- ☐ Professional degree
- ☐ Doctorate

The next set of questions will help us understand your beliefs and values, which may shape your later responses. Please respond honestly regarding your beliefs.

Strongly
disagree

Disagree

Somewhat
disagree

Neither
agree
nor
disagree

Somewhat
agree

Vaccination is one of the most effective ways to prevent diseases.

☐☐☐

Neither agree nor disagree

☐

Somewhat agree

☐

I believe more people should adopt a vegan diet.

Strongly disagree

☐☐

Somewhat disagree

☐

Neither agree nor disagree

☐

Somewhat agree

☐

I believe in listening to people who are different from me to try and understand them.

☐☐☐☐☐

Children these days are exposed to a harmful amount of "screen time".

☐☐☐☐☐

Diseases had already begun to disappear before vaccines were introduced, because of better hygiene and sanitation.

☐☐☐☐☐

All people deserve free and equal treatment regardless of gender identity, race, sexual orientation.

☐☐☐☐☐

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Somewhat disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Somewhat agree

Giving a child multiple vaccinations for different diseases at the same time can overload the immune system.

☐☐☐☐☐

Complementary and alternative medicines are ineffective for real health complaints.

☐☐☐☐☐

5G communications technology poses significant risks to health.

☐☐☐☐☐

I feel comfortable with future generations inheriting the climate as we're leaving it.

☐☐☐☐☐

Complementary and alternative medicines are a safer alternative to conventional medicine.

☐☐☐☐☐

Social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook are a force for good.

☐☐☐☐☐

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Somewhat disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Somewhat agree

Global warming is unrelated to human activities.

☐☐☐☐☐

Complementary and alternative medicines support the body's natural ability to heal.

☐☐☐☐☐

People should avoid consuming Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs).

☐☐☐☐☐

Climate change is a real and concerning issue facing humanity.

☐☐☐☐☐

Fruit and vegetables produced according to Organic standards are healthier and more nutritious.

Asylum protection is an important right for all.

Strongly disagree Disagree Somewhat disagree Neither agree nor disagree Somewhat agree

intervention-start

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Everyday, we encounter information that tells us about the state of the world. This can arise from a variety of sources, including news articles, social media posts and even in conversations with others.

However, sometimes this information turns out to be false, either because new information comes to light, or there may have never been evidence to support the claim in the first place.

It's important to be mindful of what we believe and share with others, particularly in this modern era of photoshop, misinformation, and fake videos.

Misleading information can have impacts on your health and well-being, and that of others. So it's important that you approach the information around you critically. That is, stop and consider whether the information might be true instead of simply accepting or dismissing it immediately.

There are a range of techniques that we can use to critically evaluate the truthfulness of information that we share and consume. Including identifying the trustworthiness of the information source, evaluating the quality of evidence they provide, and looking for clues that they want you to “feel” instead of think.

Critically evaluating information and acknowledging that we may not have sufficient knowledge to judge a claim's accuracy can help us better detect misinformation in the future. In doing so, we are able to make better decisions and think twice before sharing potentially harmful misleading information with others.

Let's do an exercise to practice picking potential misinformation.

intervention - Block 1

**GMO Free USA**
@GMOFreeUSA

One of the BEST stories from 2019
Morgan Freeman Converted His 124-Acre Ranch Into A Giant Honeybee Sanctuary To Save The Bees



Morgan Freeman Converted His 124-Acre Ranch Into A Giant Honeybee Sanctua...
Morgan Freeman, the actor, film director and philanthropist has added a new title to his name: Beekeeper. The 81-year-old celebrity decided to convert his 124-acr...
[forbes.com](#)

2:24 AM · Jan 3, 2020 · [Twitter Web Client](#)

44 Retweets 76 Likes

Do you think this is trustworthy enough to share?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

intervention - Block 2

You got that one right!

We didn't think there was a problem with that one.

While GMO free USA might not be a reliable source on it's own, it is linking to a newspaper, which has to adhere to professional standards regarding the accuracy of their reporting. So it's probably ok.

What about this next one?



jeff sekerak
@jeffsekerak



GMO's are safe. 5G is safe. Mandated injections are safe! So some say. Research a bit and you'll find: They worship demonic entities, drink the blood of children, & hunt full-grown humans for fun. If they say it's safe. RUN THE OTHER WAY.

9:24 PM · Apr 20, 2020 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

114 Retweets **265** Likes



Do you think this is trustworthy enough to share?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

intervention - Block 3

You got that right!

We think you ought to be more cautious with posts like this.

This post is fairly sensational. Be wary of inflammatory language as it often makes you go with your gut reaction instead of taking time to think about whether you should trust something or not. Always take the time to consider whether you have reasons to trust something, or you're just being pushed into an emotional response.

What about this one?



Do you think this is trustworthy enough to share?

☐ Yes

☐ No

intervention - Block 4

You got that right!

We didn't think there was any issue with this.

While “ubercopters” might seem farfetched, this is a verified account of a news outlet linking to their own reporting and so they have to adhere to reporting standards. Later evidence might conflict with this report, but as a starting point, it’s reasonably trustworthy.

What about this one?



Do you think this is trustworthy enough to share?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

intervention - Block 5

You got that right!

It might be worth being more cautious about posts like this.

While “Mercy for animals” is a verified account, as an animal rights organisation, they have a “conflict of interest” in that their general goals may undermine their trustworthiness on the issue of veganism for health reasons. **Trustworthy sources are free of conflicts of interest and have relevant expertise.**

What about this one?



Do you think this is trustworthy enough to share?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

intervention - Block 6

You got that right!

It might be worth being more cautious about posts like this.

The claims don't sound too extreme, but what evidence have they given you? This is just a series of claims without evidence and a photo of bread. **Think about the evidence that you're being provided** to support the position and don't trust what you can't verify. Remember, claims without evidence can be dismissed without evidence.



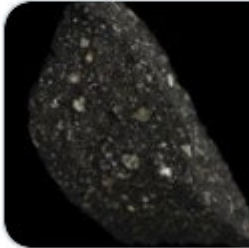
ABC Science  @ABCscience · May 5

Sometimes the secrets of the cosmos can literally fall in your backyard. At least that's what happened for the Murchison folk back in 1969.

Read about the 4.6-billion-year-old Murchison meteorite here:

ab.co/2Wo35gA

#ABCCatalyst



'Something has fallen out of the sky in a place called ...
It startled the cows, intrigued the locals and excited
scientists around the world. Fifty years on, the ...
abc.net.au

 1

 6

 20



Do you think this is trustworthy enough to share?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Spacer - intervention

You got that right!

We don't think there's anything particularly untrustworthy about that post.

The content is linked to an article on a science news page. Given the journalists have to verify their reports, it's probably safe to trust.

We're going to show you a twitter feed on the next page.

Please pay attention to the presented content as we'll be asking you some questions about it afterwards.

Note: you won't be able to advance from the next page for at least 15 seconds.

Control-start

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Everyday, we encounter information that tells us about the state of the world. This can arise from a variety of sources, including news articles, social media posts and even in conversations with others.

However, sometimes this content can reinforce prejudices, or cause harm to sensitive audiences.

It's important to be mindful of what we consume and share with others, particularly in this modern era of diversity, plurality, and inclusion.

Harmful information can have impacts on both your wellbeing, and that of others. So it's important that you approach the information around you critically. That is, stop and consider whether information is inclusive and appropriate, instead of simply accepting and sharing with others.

There are a range of techniques that we can use to evaluate the appropriateness of information that we share and consume. This includes assessing the potential impact on others of differing genders, sexuality, age, race, financial status, or religions.

Critically evaluating content and acknowledging that we may not have sufficient knowledge to know whether something might be harmful can help us to be more sensitive to others in the future. In doing so, we are able to make better decisions and think twice before sharing potentially harmful content with others.

Let's do an exercise to practice picking potentially harmful content.

Control - block 1



ABC Australia ✓ @ABCAustralia · 28 Feb

Uber's plans for a helicopter-based service above Melbourne have been revealed, with previously secret documents detailing an ambitious trial starting as soon as this year. ab.co/38378Vp (via @abcnews)



Uber Air's plans for 1,000-strong Melbourne helicopter fleet revealed - ...
About 1,000 helicopters flying below 500 metres at up to 320 kilometres per hour — this is Uber Air's vision for Melbourne, as revealed in ...
abc.net.au



1



1



1



Do you think this is safe to share?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Control - block 2

You got that right!

We don't think there's anything particularly harmful in that post.

While people might feel strongly about rideshares, uber, and local helicopters, there's nothing particularly insensitive about this.

What about this one?



amazingjokes
@AmazingJokes



#HeyVegans (Feb 19th #AmazingJokes #image) Follow
and/or Retweet for more! amazingjokes.com

HEY VEGANS,

I killed this cow because it was
eating your food.

You're welcome.



AmazingJokes_

4:10 PM · Feb 19, 2019 · [Amazing Jokes](#)



Do you think this is safe to share?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Control - block 3

You got that right!

It might be worth thinking through the implications of these kinds of posts a little more.

Perhaps you don't share their worldview, but mocking other's closely held values, whether they seem absurd to you or otherwise, devalues them as human.

What about this one?



David 🌹🌹🌹 @David39133380 · May 7

Banksy produces new image to be auctioned for NHS charities. The guy may not be the most technically gifted artist but his concepts and message are always 100% spot on.

Well done Banksy, wherever and whoever's you are! 🙌🙌🙌



💬 4

↻ 23

❤️ 106



Do you think this is safe to share?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Control - block 4

You got that right!

We don't think there's anything particularly harmful in that post.

Aside from maybe Banksy themselves, this is unlikely to cause anyone any harm.

What about this?



Do you think this is safe to share?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Control - block 5

You got that right!

It's probably worth thinking through that a little more.

While it may be uncontroversial that the average age of US presidential candidates is quite high, the claims about the elderly are highly prejudicial, and the #nooffence hashtag doesn't really make it not offensive. It pays to **be careful when claims are made about whole groups of people**, irrespective of what that group is.

What about this one?



Do you think this is safe to share?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Control - block 6

You got that right!

It might be worth thinking through the implications of these kinds of posts a little more.

This might seem harmless, but it minimises the real and significant hardships transgender people experience to have their rights recognised. These type of things make light of the abuse and discrimination transgender people face and so **it's best to be careful when sharing things that reference traditionally disadvantaged groups.**

What about this tweet?



GMO Free USA
@GMOFreeUSA



One of the BEST stories from 2019
Morgan Freeman Converted His 124-Acre Ranch Into A
Giant Honeybee Sanctuary To Save The Bees



Morgan Freeman Converted His 124-Acre Ranch Into A Giant Honeybee Sanctua...
Morgan Freeman, the actor, film director and philanthropist has added a new title
to his name: Beekeeper. The 81-year-old celebrity decided to convert his 124-acr...
[forbes.com](#)

2:24 AM · Jan 3, 2020 · [Twitter Web Client](#)

44 Retweets **76** Likes

Do you think this is safe to share?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Spacer - control

You got that right!

We don't think there's anything particularly harmful in that post.



If anything, it's kinda uplifting.

We're going to show you a twitter feed on the next page.

Please pay attention to the presented content as we'll be asking you some questions about it afterwards.

Note: you won't be able to advance from the next page for at least 15 seconds.


Test - CAM

**PETA**  @peta · May 21


They're forcing her to jump through literal rings of fire.

She's under a constant threat of violence if she doesn't do what they want.

Help tigers like her! peta.vg/2sug




200 71 135

**Homeopathy Plus!** @HomeopathyPlus · Apr 29

Homeopathy Tops Cam Study: A Northern Ireland Government study found that alternative and complementary therapies offered significant health benefits and reduced healthcare costs

homeopathyplus.com/homeopathy-top...

#Study #Healthbenefits #healthcosts #Homeopathy





7

13

**Land of Food** @landoffacts · May 21

Chocolate Dipped Reese's Peanut Butter Cup Oreo Sandwich



52

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Test - Climate

**PETA** @peta · May 21

They're forcing her to jump through literal rings of fire.

She's under a constant threat of violence if she doesn't do what they want.

Help tigers like her! peta.vg/2sug



200

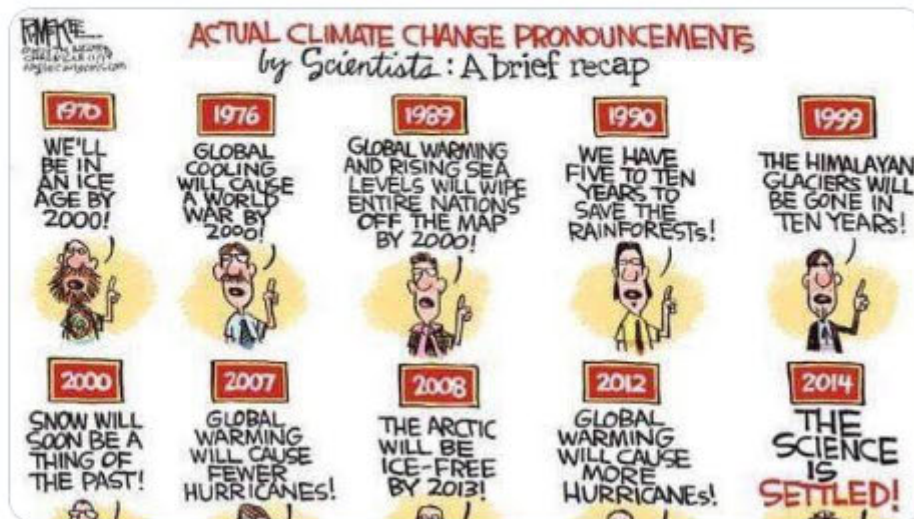
71

135



Neil Hamilton MS/AS @NeilUKIP · Aug 31, 2019

So-called scientists and **climate** experts can't even settle the science amongst themselves but are more than happy to impose further financial burdens on the poorest in society #ClimateHoax



20

108

184



Land of Food @landoffacts · May 21

Chocolate Dipped Reese's Peanut Butter Cup Oreo Sandwich





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Test - Vax



PETA @peta · May 21

They're forcing her to jump through literal rings of fire.

She's under a constant threat of violence if she doesn't do what they want.

Help tigers like her! peta.vg/2sug



200

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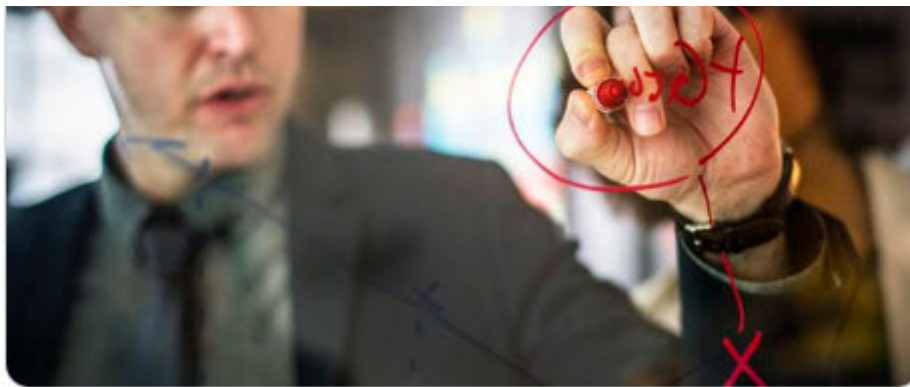
LotusOak @LotusOak2 · Jun 21

UK Scientist Speaks Out About the Dangers of [#Aluminum](#) Adjuvants in [#Vaccines](#)

vactruth.com/2018/12/21/dan...

[#LearnTheRisk](#) [#VaccineSafety](#) [#VaccineInjury](#)





52

66

**Land of Food** @landoffacts · May 21

Chocolate Dipped Reese s Peanut Butter Cup Oreo Sandwich



52

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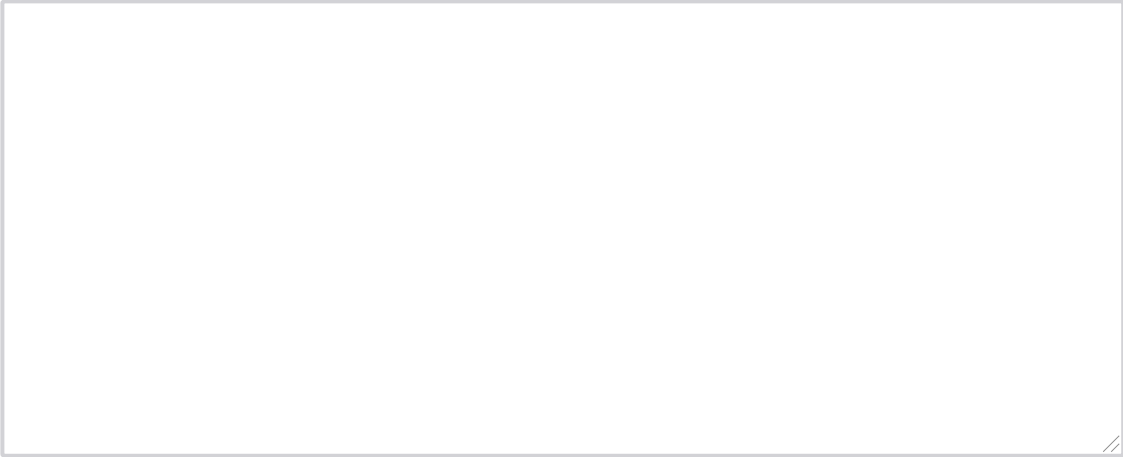
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qual-review

What did you see in the twitter feed presented? Would you have any concerns about sharing any of the posts you saw?



post measures

We want to re-assess your beliefs after our exercise, so will ask you the same questions from the beginning. Please respond honestly about your beliefs **as they are now**.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree
Fruit and vegetables produced according to Organic standards are healthier and more nutritious.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel comfortable with future generations inheriting the climate as we're leaving it.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Complementary and alternative medicines support the body's natural ability to heal.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook are a force for good.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5G communications technology poses significant risks to health.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Climate change is a real and concerning issue facing humanity.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree
Children these days are exposed to a harmful amount of "screen time".	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

amount of "screen time".

All people deserve free and equal treatment regardless of gender identity, race, sexual orientation.

Strongly
disagree

Disagree

Somewhat
disagree

Neither
agree
nor
disagree

Somewhat
agree

Diseases had already begun to disappear before vaccines were introduced, because of better hygiene and sanitation.

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

People should avoid consuming Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs).

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

Vaccination is one of the most effective ways to prevent diseases.

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

I believe in listening to people who are different from me to try and understand them.

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

Strongly
disagree

Disagree

Somewhat
disagree

Neither
agree
nor
disagree

Somewhat
agree

I believe more people should adopt a vegan diet.

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

Complementary and alternative medicines are ineffective for real health complaints.

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

Global warming is unrelated to human activities.

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

Giving a child multiple vaccinations for different diseases at the same time can overload the immune system.

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

Complementary and alternative medicines are a safer alternative to conventional medicine.

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

Asylum protection is an important right for all.

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

Intervention end

Thank you for participating in our study. This study was testing the effects of a critical reading exercise for mitigating the effects of misinformation. You were allocated to the intervention condition, and as such did not see the control condition. If you'd like a summary, you can [click here](#).

You were specifically exposed to a misinforming tweet on climate change.

The tweet in question highlights some dire predictions in the past that have not been borne out, but in many of these cases, [the predictions were not made by scientists and were misreported by the media](#).

It is inevitable that some predictions will be wrong, both underselling and overselling the risks of climate change, but the overwhelming consensus of climate scientists around the world that [climate change is real, it is caused by humans, and will have significant impacts on humanity and the environment in the future.](#)

You were specifically exposed to a misinforming tweet on vaccination.


The tweet in question merely indicates a UK scientist had raised concerns about Aluminium in vaccines. It's easy to find one scientist who believes anything especially if you look at all scientists, instead of just ones with *relevant* expertise. The overwhelming consensus amongst scientists in relevant fields like medicine and neuroscience, based on robust evidence, is that the [aluminium added to vaccines to improve their efficacy is safe](#), and overall that [vaccinations are safe](#) and are [rigorously monitored](#).

You were specifically exposed to a misinforming tweet on complementary and alternative medicines.

The tweet in question indicates a study suggested complementary and alternative medicines including homeopathy had health benefits and reduced costs. Given it was being shared by a homeopathy account, one might be a little more suspicious. The [study in question was conducted by a market research company](#) and isn't designed to test if the treatment actually had real benefits (i.e. being better than a placebo) only that participants felt better, which given many of the participants had severe symptoms to begin with isn't that high a bar.

There is presently [no evidence that homeopathy is effective for the treatment of any condition](#).

If you have any feedback on this study, please feel free to provide it below.



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First Click: *0 seconds*

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Control end

Thank you for participating in our study. This study was testing the effects of a critical reading exercise for mitigating the effects of misinformation. You were allocated to the control condition, and as such did not see the training. If you'd like a summary, you can [click here](#).

You were specifically exposed to a misinforming tweet on climate change.

The tweet in question highlights some dire predictions in the past that have not been borne out, but in many of these cases, [the predictions were not made by scientists and were misreported by the media](#).

It is inevitable that some predictions will be wrong, both underselling and overselling the risks of climate change, but the overwhelming consensus of climate scientists around the world that [climate change is real, it is caused by humans, and will have significant impacts on humanity and the environment in the future](#).

You were specifically exposed to a misinforming tweet on vaccination.

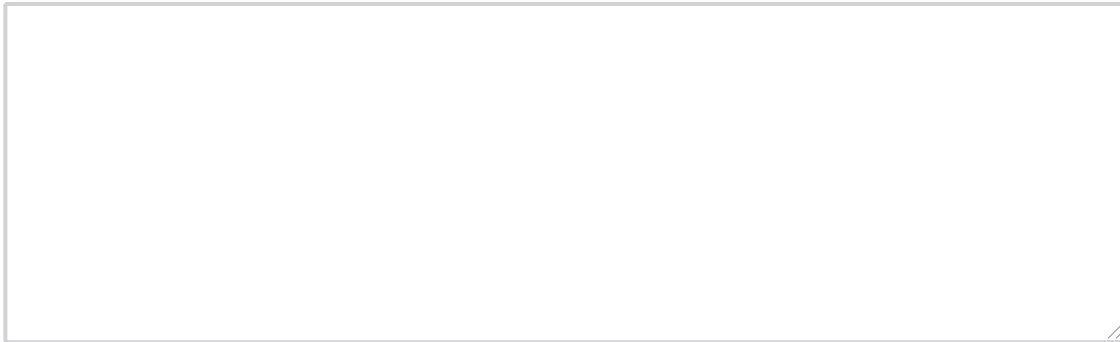
The tweet in question indicates a UK scientist had raised concerns about Aluminium in vaccines. In practice, the scientist is a chemist, not a neuroscientist, and he is not presenting strong evidence for aluminium in vaccines being harmful at all. It's easy to find one scientist who believes anything, but the overwhelming consensus amongst scientists with relevant expertise, based on robust evidence is that [aluminium adjuvants are safe](#), and overall that [vaccinations are safe](#) and are [rigorously monitored](#).

You were specifically exposed to a misinforming tweet on Complementary and Alternative medicines.

The tweet in question indicates a study suggested Complementary and alternative medicines including homeopathy had health benefits and reduced costs. Given it was being shared by a Homeopathy account, one might be a little more suspicious. The [study in question was conducted by a market research company](#) and isn't designed to test if the treatment actually had real benefits (i.e. being better than a placebo) only that participants felt better, which given many of the participants had severe symptoms to begin with isn't that high a bar.

There is presently [no evidence that Homeopathy is effective for the treatment of any condition](#).

If you have any feedback on this study, please feel free to provide it below.



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2020 – Think Again Study

Survey Flow

1. Standard: PLS (1 Question)
2. Standard: Demographics and pre-measures (6 Questions)
3. BlockRandomizer: 1 - Evenly Present Elements
 - EmbeddedData: Condition = intervention
 - EmbeddedData: Condition = control
4. Branch: New Branch (1 of 2)
 - a. If Condition Is Equal to intervention
 - Block: intervention-start (2 Questions)
 - Standard: intervention - Block 1 (2 Questions)
 - Standard: intervention - Block 2 (5 Questions)
 - Standard: intervention - Block 3 (5 Questions)
 - Standard: intervention - Block 4 (5 Questions)
 - Standard: intervention - Block 5 (5 Questions)
 - Standard: intervention - Block 6 (5 Questions)
 - Standard: Spacer - intervention (4 Questions)
 - b. If Condition Is Equal to control
 - Standard: Control-start (2 Questions)
 - Standard: Control - block 1 (2 Questions)
 - Standard: Control - block 2 (5 Questions)
 - Standard: Control - block 3 (5 Questions)
 - Standard: Control - block 4 (5 Questions)
 - Standard: Control - block 5 (5 Questions)
 - Standard: Control - block 6 (5 Questions)
 - Standard: Spacer - control (4 Questions)
5. BlockRandomizer: 1 - Evenly Present Elements
 - EmbeddedData: exposure = cam
 - EmbeddedData: exposure = vax
 - EmbeddedData: exposure = climate
6. Branch: New Branch (1 of 3)
 - a. If exposure Is Equal to cam
 - Standard: Test - CAM (2 Questions)
 - b. If exposure Is Equal to climate
 - Standard: Test - Climate (2 Questions)
 - c. If exposure Is Equal to vax
 - Standard: Test - Vax (2 Questions)
7. Standard: qual-review (1 Question)
8. Standard: post measures (1 Question)
9. Branch: New Branch (1 of 2)

- a. If Condition Is Equal to intervention
Standard: Intervention end (6 Questions)
- b. If Condition Is Equal to control
Standard: Control end (6 Questions)

Page Break

“Think Again” Study – Sensitivity Debrief

You were allocated to the sensitivity condition and therefore missed out on our misinformation content. This is just a brief summary of the content presented there.

In much the same way that the internet is littered with potentially hurtful material, so too is it filled with falsehoods deliberately or accidentally passed on as truth. Understanding misinformation like this is central to the [work of our lab](#). Like sensitive or prejudicial information, there is value in understanding the importance of looking for warning signs before sharing content that could be misinformation and if in doubt erring on the side of caution.

We suggest you keep a look out for things that use language or imagery to inflame an emotional response from you and distract you from thinking critically about what you’re reading, like this:



jeff sekerak
@jeffsekerak



GMO's are safe. 5G is safe. Mandated injections are safe! So some say. Research a bit and you'll find: They worship demonic entities, drink the blood of children, & hunt full-grown humans for fun. If they say it's safe. RUN THE OTHER WAY.

9:24 PM · Apr 20, 2020 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

114 Retweets 265 Likes



Another thing to be mindful of is conflicts of interest, consider why sources might share particular information and if that might undermine their commitment to truth, for example as an animal rights organisation, Mercy for Animals might have reasons to bend the truth in favour of promoting veganism:



Finally, keep an eye on what evidence is presented when a claim is made. Claims without evidence can be dismissed without evidence, for example this tweet is just a series of claims and a photo of bread. Don't trust what you can't verify:



By no means will this identify every type of misinforming content you might find on the internet, but hopefully it will give you something to keep an eye out for. Thank you for helping keep our online community kind and true.

“Think Again” Study – Misinformation Debrief

You were allocated to the misinformation condition and therefore missed out on our sensitivity condition. This is just a brief summary of the content presented there.

In much the same way that the internet is littered with misinformation (which is central to the [work of our lab](#)), so too is it filled with things that can perpetuate prejudice or are potentially harmful. Like misinformation, there is value in understanding the importance of looking for warning signs before sharing content like this and if in doubt erring on the side of caution.

We suggest you keep a look out for things that make light of people’s values, like veganism:



Things that reference traditionally disadvantaged groups, like the LGBTI+ community, as these can minimise the real and significant hardships they experience to be treated equally:



Or things that make strong claims about the characteristics of groups in general, for example the elderly:



By no means will this identify every type of harmful content you might find on the internet, but hopefully it will give you something to keep an eye out for. Thank you for helping keep our online community kind and true.

Prolific Advertisement

A study about content on social media

In this study you'll do a training exercise that tests how you deal with content you come across on the internet. We'll then test if it's had any effect.