



POLITICAL ORIENTATIONS AND OSTRACISM

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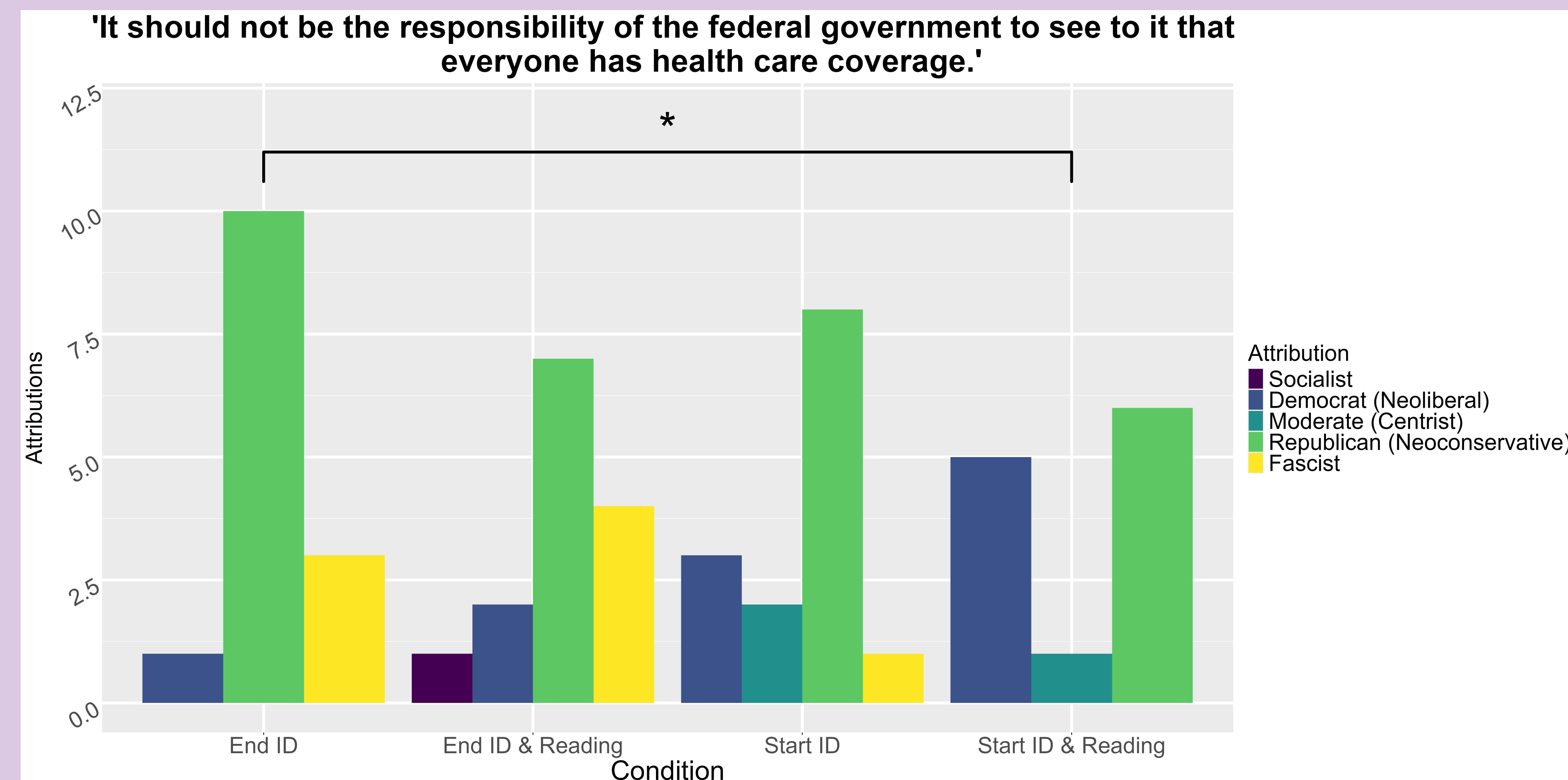


Background

- * College students are an increasingly large percentage of the voting population (Thomas et. al, 2021);
- * But, college students' *knowledge* and *attributions* of different political policy positions to their respective parties is unknown;
- * We also wanted to measure college students' levels of ostracism across political orientations, as ostracized individuals could be prone to extreme viewpoints (Poon et al., 2020; Robertson et al., 2022).

Method

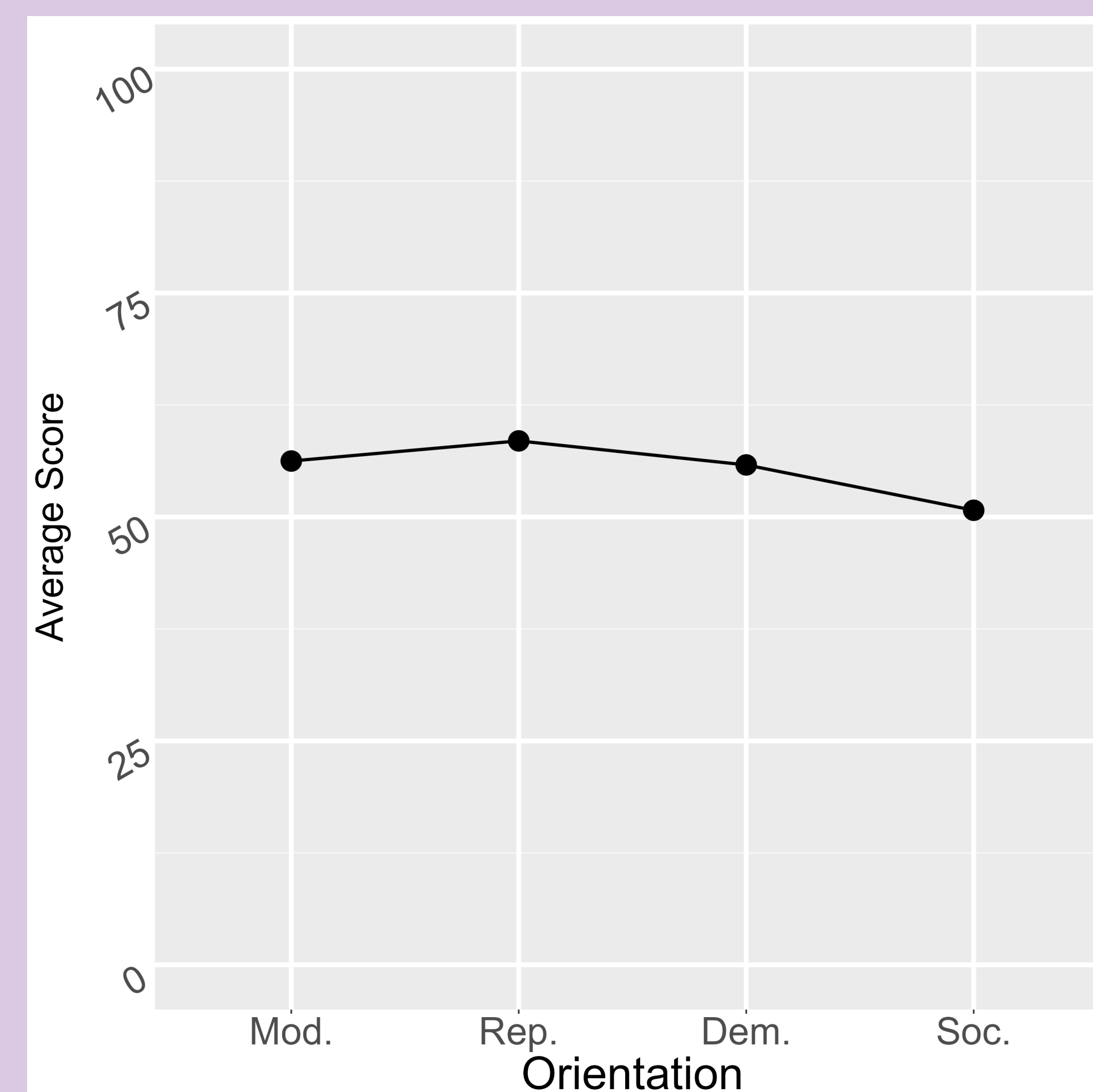
- * 120 Participants;
- * Participants were split into four conditions:
 1. End Identification, No Reading
 2. End Identification, Reading
 3. Start Identification, No Reading
 4. Start Identification, Reading
- * Identification = Identifying with a political orientation (e.g. Democrat or Republican);
- * Reading = Whether or not participants read descriptions of different political orientations.



“Yes. My family tends to see my views [as] too radical. They are neoliberals”

“Yes. I used to live in a very close minded, conservative town that was very hateful towards anyone who did not share their beliefs”

“Yes, because institutions like this one/universities in general shove liberalism down our throats, and also propaganda from the media makes being a liberalism the norm, making us conservatives look like the crazy ones”



Results

- * Conditions did not predict cumulative score, $F(1,2113) = 2.773, p = 0.096$, or individual answers, $F(1,2113) = 0.055, p = 0.814$;
- * Orientation though, did predict cumulative score, $F(3,5883) = 49.32, p < 0.005$, and individual answers, $F(3,2111) = 3.027, p = 0.029$;
- * A post-hoc item analysis relieved that some items did change over condition, such as questions on health and guns;
- * Free responses indicated that ostracism was identified in 16 cases.

Discussion

- * Overall, orientation was a better predictor of scores than conditions;
- * This may suggest that students usually attribute policy to their own orientations'...
- * ... and as mentioned, ostracism could exasperate this effect;
- * More intensive priming methods such as “deep canvassing” (Broockman & Kalla, 2021) might be necessary to change policy knowledge and attributions.

Please contact Dr. Nguyen with questions: anguye9@ilstu.edu. Special thanks to: Will Ervin, Dante Caruso, and the rest of the SLam Lab.

