Online Appendix

team

05 April, 2019

Contents

1 Chapter 11

1.1 Shiny App

1.2 Summary statistics for the sample

Table 1: Descriptive statistics for sample of good news

Statistic	N	Mean	St. Dev.	Min	Max
Nij	19,400	1.650	1.156	0.000	4.000
Voter turnout	16,037	0.801	0.399	0.000	1.000
Effort	13,237	2.396	0.944	1.000	4.000
Dishonesty	13,756	2.458	1.209	1.000	5.000
Backlash	2,157	0.232	0.309	0.000	1.000
Age	20,020	35.461	12.729	17.000	99.000
Co-ethnicity	17,382	0.665	0.472	0.000	1.000
Education	20,033	7.191	4.108	0.000	20.000
Wealth	19,903	2.772	1.091	−2.317	5.000
Co-Partisanship	16,550	1.155	1.797	0.000	9.000
Voted in past election	20,015	0.827	0.378	0.000	1.000
Secret ballot	19,788	2.098	1.420	1.000	5.000
Free and fair elections	19,303	3.349	1.501	1.000	5.000

Note: * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$.

Table 2: Descriptive statistics for sample of bad news

Statistic	N	Mean	St. Dev.	Min	Max
Nij	19,191	−1.077	1.031	−4.000	0.000
Voter turnout	15,597	0.798	0.401	0.000	1.000
Effort	12,761	2.597	0.938	1.000	4.000
Dishonesty	13,589	2.481	1.239	1.000	5.000
Backlash	2,339	0.147	0.192	0.000	1.000
Age	19,584	37.370	13.345	18.000	92.000
Co-ethnicity	16,749	0.815	0.388	0.000	1.000
Education	19,604	6.657	3.968	0.000	20.000
Wealth	19,260	2.890	1.057	−2.805	5.000
Co-Partisanship	17,002	1.151	1.675	0.000	9.000
Voted in past election	19,568	0.862	0.345	0.000	1.000
Secret ballot	19,281	2.401	1.407	1.000	5.000
Free and fair elections	19,103	3.571	1.437	1.000	5.000

Note: * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$.

1.3 Balance tests

1.3.1 Balance: Meta-analysis

Table 3: Balance of covariates

Baseline covariate	Control mean	Treat mean	d-stat	$\hat{\beta}_1$	$\hat{\beta}_2$	N
Prior	1.35	1.38	0.03	0.05	0.02*	20617
	(1.26)	(1.28)		(0.01)	(0.01)	
Good news	0.48	0.48	0	-0.1***	-0.01***	23803
	(0.5)	(0.5)		(0.02)	(0.01)	
Gender	0.43	0.42	-0.02	0.01*	-0.02***	23998
	(0.5)	(0.49)		(0.01)	(0.01)	
Age	39.56	39.62	0	0***	0***	23917
	(14.96)	(14.96)		(0)	(0)	
Co-ethnicity	0.65	0.63	-0.03	0***	-0.03***	19391
	(0.48)	(0.48)		(0.01)	(0.01)	
Education	5.45	5.43	0	0***	0***	23960
	(4.79)	(4.71)		(0)	(0)	
Wealth	2.42	2.41	-0.01	0.02*	0.01*	23693
	(1.44)	(1.42)		(0.01)	(0)	
Co-Partisanship	3.64	3.6	-0.01	0.06	0***	20025
	(2.81)	(2.78)		(0)	(0)	
Voted in past election	0.78	0.77	-0.01	0.07	0.17	23892
	(0.42)	(0.42)		(0.01)	(0.01)	
Voted incumbent past election	0.66	0.66	0	0.22	0.03*	19869
	(0.47)	(0.47)		(0.01)	(0.01)	
Clientelism	1.99	1.96	-0.02	-0.04***	0***	22911
	(1.41)	(1.41)		(0)	(0)	
Salience of information	0.52	0.54	0.03	-0.04***	0***	20143
	(0.5)	(0.5)		(0.01)	(0.01)	
Credibility of information	0.41	0.43	0.05	-0.02***	-0.01***	21415
	(0.49)	(0.5)		(0.01)	(0.01)	
$\Pr(\chi^2)$	0.1					

Note: Results show the control and treatment means for each of the pre-treatment covariates. Means and standard deviations are weighted by block share of non-missing observations. *d*-stat is calculated as the difference between treatment and control means normalized by one standard deviation of the control mean. $\hat{\beta}_1$ ($\hat{\beta}_2$) is the coefficient in a regression of vote choice (turnout) on each covariate separately, in the control sample. As with main specification, we include randomization block fixed effects and standard errors clustered at the level of treatment assignment. We also show the probability of rejecting the null that none of the covariates is predictive of treatment. All regressions include block fixed effects, standard errors clustered at the level of assingment and inverse propensity weights, and all countries are weighted equally. * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$.

1.4 Attrition

1.4.1 Meta Analysis

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Table 4: Differential attrition

	Vote Choice			Voter Turnout		
	Estimate	Std. Error	p-value	Estimate	Std. Error	p-value
Treatment	0.00	(0)	0.57	0.00	(0)	0.71
F-stat		13.78			15.26	
Pr(F)		0.39			0.29	

Note: Table shows the effect size of treatment on data missingness in incumbent vote choice and voter turnout across the entire sample. Pr(F) shows the probability of rejecting the null that none of the covariates is differentally determining attrition across treatment and control conditions. All regressions include block fixed effects, standard errors clustered at the level of assingment and inverse propensity weights, and all countries are weighted equally.* $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$.

1.5 Pre-specified analysis: unweighted + adjusted

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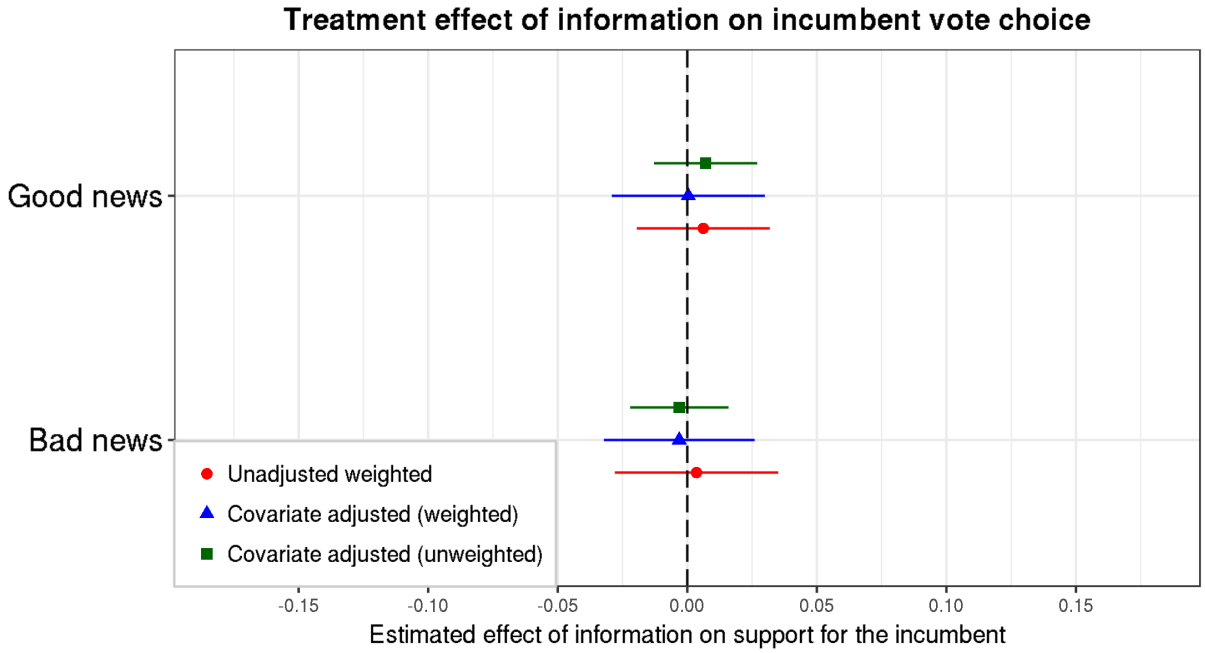
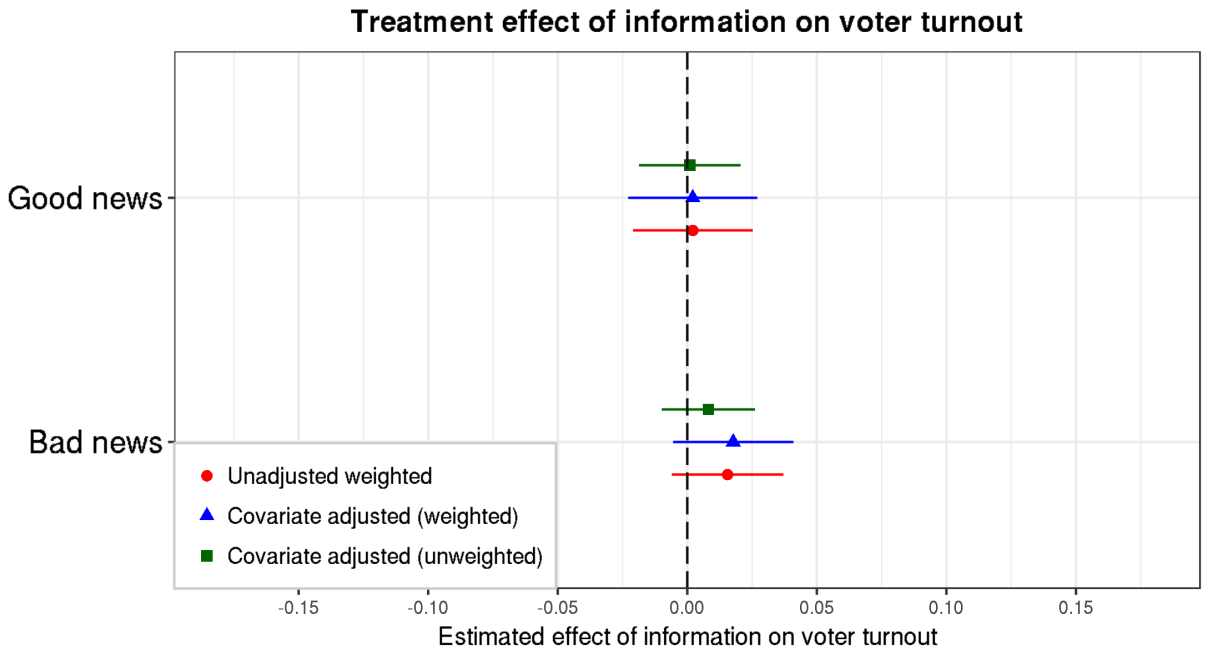


Figure 1


Treatment effect of information on voter turnout
Good news
Bad news
Unadjusted weighted
Covariate adjusted (weighted)
Covariate adjusted (unweighted)
-0.15
-0.10
-0.05
0.00
0.05
0.10
0.15
Estimated effect of information on voter turnout

1.6 Country-specific analyses

Table 5: Covariate-adjusted estimates of treatment effect on vote choice (good news) for each study

	ALL	BEN	BRZ	BF	MEX	UG1	UG2
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Treatment	0.0004	−0.005	0.007	0.004	−0.036	0.048	0.009
	(0.015)	(0.066)	(0.030)	(0.049)	(0.031)	(0.033)	(0.012)
Observations	13,196	220	859	389	725	456	10,547
R^2	0.299	0.348	0.484	0.392	0.224	0.177	0.240

Note: Reported estimates refer to Equation 11.1. * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$.

Table 6: Covariate-adjusted estimates of treatment effect on vote choice (bad news) for each study

	ALL	BEN	BRZ	BF	MEX	UG1	UG2
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Treatment	−0.003	−0.080	−0.022	0.037	−0.013	0.010	−0.006
	(0.015)	(0.087)	(0.030)	(0.028)	(0.018)	(0.053)	(0.012)
Observations	12,531	181	818	911	1,215	294	9,112
R^2	0.281	0.312	0.420	0.311	0.296	0.208	0.278

Note: Reported estimates refer to Equation 11.2. * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$.

Table 7: Covariate-adjusted estimates of treatment effect on turnout (good news) for each study

	ALL	BEN	BRZ	BF	MEX	UG1	UG2
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Treatment	0.002	−0.020	0.016	−0.026	−0.045	0.089**	0.002
	(0.013)	(0.049)	(0.013)	(0.032)	(0.028)	(0.040)	(0.012)
Observations	14,500	221	859	441	739	456	11,784
R^2	0.200	0.338	0.323	0.269	0.227	0.093	0.176

Note: Reported estimates refer to Equation 11.1. * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$.

1.7 Heterogeneous effects analyses

Table 8: Covariate-adjusted estimates of treatment effect on turnout (bad news) for each study

	ALL	BEN	BRZ	BF	MEX	UG1	UG2
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Treatment	0.018	−0.016	0.016	0.037*	0.024	0.009	0.002
	(0.012)	(0.042)	(0.015)	(0.019)	(0.016)	(0.051)	(0.012)
Observations	13,148	183	818	998	1,349	294	9,506
R^2	0.160	0.211	0.237	0.237	0.159	0.072	0.198

Note: Reported estimates refer to Equation 11.2. * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$.

Table 9: Interaction analysis: Effect of good news on incumbent vote choice

	Incumbent vote choice, good news						
	ALL	BEN	BRZ	BF	MEX	UG 1	UG 2
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Treatment	0.0004	−0.005	0.007	0.004	−0.036	0.048	0.009
	(0.015)	(0.066)	(0.030)	(0.049)	(0.031)	(0.033)	(0.012)
N_{ij}	−0.017	−0.009		−0.016		−0.052**	−0.010
	(0.015)	(0.058)	(0.000)	(0.039)	(0.000)	(0.018)	(0.009)
Treatment * N_{ij}	0.00004	0.115	−0.026	−0.028	0.034	−0.025	−0.003
	(0.008)	(0.082)	(0.023)	(0.056)	(0.018)	(0.013)	(0.006)
Age	−0.0005	−0.008	0.001	0.002	−0.003	0.003*	0.002**
	(0.001)	(0.005)	(0.002)	(0.003)	(0.002)	(0.002)	(0.001)
Treatment * Age	−0.007	−0.070	−0.060*	−0.083*	0.054**	−0.009	0.004
	(0.009)	(0.056)	(0.024)	(0.037)	(0.020)	(0.015)	(0.006)
Education	−0.002	−0.007	0.010	0.002	−0.003	−0.011	−0.002
	(0.003)	(0.009)	(0.007)	(0.020)	(0.008)	(0.007)	(0.003)
Treatment * Education	−0.010	−0.030		−0.018		0.035	−0.013
	(0.019)	(0.062)	(0.000)	(0.050)	(0.000)	(0.027)	(0.012)
Wealth	0.024	0.071	0.061	−0.007	0.033	0.041	0.016
	(0.013)	(0.051)	(0.039)	(0.039)	(0.034)	(0.027)	(0.009)
Treatment * Wealth	0.001	0.013	−0.004	0.001	0.004	−0.005*	0.0004
	(0.001)	(0.007)	(0.003)	(0.005)	(0.003)	(0.002)	(0.001)
Voted previously	0.052	−0.037	0.073	0.096	0.185***	−0.157**	0.057*
	(0.027)	(0.066)	(0.079)	(0.085)	(0.048)	(0.057)	(0.025)
Treatment * Voted previously	0.007	0.022	−0.010	−0.033	0.009	0.019*	−0.003
	(0.004)	(0.016)	(0.008)	(0.026)	(0.010)	(0.009)	(0.003)
Supported incumbent	0.196***	0.013	0.293***	0.242	0.308***	0.178**	0.111***
	(0.029)	(0.105)	(0.058)	(0.147)	(0.049)	(0.055)	(0.024)
Treatment * Supported incumbent	−0.042*	−0.156	0.030	0.036	−0.079	−0.129**	0.003
	(0.018)	(0.084)	(0.052)	(0.052)	(0.046)	(0.041)	(0.012)
Clientelism	−0.039***	−0.073	−0.073***	0.007	−0.054*	−0.019	−0.006
	(0.010)	(0.067)	(0.021)	(0.086)	(0.026)	(0.018)	(0.006)
Treatment * Clientelism	−0.030	0.110	0.085	−0.053	−0.156*	0.026	0.041
	(0.039)	(0.127)	(0.110)	(0.125)	(0.071)	(0.086)	(0.034)
Credible source	−0.022	−0.142	0.025	−0.089	−0.008	−0.052	−0.0001
	(0.033)	(0.169)	(0.112)	(0.081)	(0.065)	(0.049)	(0.032)
Treatment * Credible source	−0.034	−0.141	0.092	−0.006	0.112	−0.109	−0.002
	(0.041)	(0.109)	(0.073)	(0.197)	(0.093)	(0.075)	(0.033)
Secret ballot	0.015	0.116	−0.016	0.100	0.042	0.009	0.007
	(0.013)	(0.100)	(0.027)	(0.123)	(0.035)	(0.023)	(0.009)
Treatment * Secret ballot	0.058	0.296	−0.042	0.052	0.120	0.074	0.011
	(0.044)	(0.244)	(0.137)	(0.124)	(0.086)	(0.068)	(0.043)
Free, fair election	−0.002	−0.099	0.012	0.003	−0.036	0.040*	−0.004
	(0.011)	(0.090)	(0.031)	(0.076)	(0.028)	(0.019)	(0.008)
Treatment * free, fair election	0.022	0.045	0.020	0.117*	−0.016	0.030	0.008
	(0.012)	(0.067)	(0.026)	(0.050)	(0.032)	(0.022)	(0.008)
Covariates	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	13,196	220	859	389	725	456	10,547
R^2	0.299	0.348	0.484	0.392	0.224	0.177	0.240

Table 10: Interaction analysis: Effect of bad news on incumbent vote choice

	Incumbent vote choice, bad news						
	ALL	BEN	BRZ	BF	MEX	UG 1	UG 2
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Treatment	−0.003	−0.080	−0.022	0.037	−0.013	0.010	−0.006
	(0.015)	(0.087)	(0.030)	(0.028)	(0.018)	(0.053)	(0.012)
N_{ij}	−0.049***	−0.090	−0.100***	−0.005		−0.036	−0.002
	(0.014)	(0.046)	(0.028)	(0.026)	(0.000)	(0.036)	(0.009)
Treatment * N_{ij}	−0.001	−0.139	−0.004	0.018	0.047***	−0.015	−0.002
	(0.011)	(0.090)	(0.021)	(0.033)	(0.013)	(0.028)	(0.006)
Age	0.0004	−0.004	0.00003	0.002	0.0003	0.002	0.001
	(0.001)	(0.004)	(0.002)	(0.002)	(0.001)	(0.003)	(0.001)
Treatment * Age	0.008	0.052	0.001	−0.030	0.012	0.019	−0.003
	(0.016)	(0.085)	(0.026)	(0.020)	(0.013)	(0.032)	(0.007)
Education	−0.003	−0.006	−0.001	−0.006	−0.010*	0.0004	−0.003
	(0.003)	(0.009)	(0.005)	(0.008)	(0.004)	(0.012)	(0.003)
Treatment * Education	−0.001	0.118	−0.063	−0.004		−0.002	−0.003
	(0.019)	(0.079)	(0.034)	(0.031)	(0.000)	(0.053)	(0.012)
Wealth	0.036*	0.020	0.012	0.001	0.037	0.089	0.013
	(0.015)	(0.084)	(0.041)	(0.023)	(0.020)	(0.045)	(0.009)
Treatment * Wealth	−0.00005	0.004	−0.001	0.001	0.0002	−0.001	−0.001
	(0.001)	(0.007)	(0.002)	(0.002)	(0.001)	(0.004)	(0.001)
Voted previously	0.036	0.044	−0.053	0.083	0.123**	−0.138	0.075*
	(0.037)	(0.282)	(0.089)	(0.047)	(0.038)	(0.103)	(0.029)
Treatment * Voted previously	0.001	−0.009	0.006	0.006	−0.005	−0.003	0.002
	(0.005)	(0.017)	(0.007)	(0.012)	(0.006)	(0.017)	(0.004)
Supported incumbent	0.190***	−0.013	0.282***	0.249***	0.465***	0.204*	0.065*
	(0.046)	(0.146)	(0.049)	(0.067)	(0.035)	(0.090)	(0.030)
Treatment * Supported incumbent	−0.025	0.009	0.027	−0.018	0.015	−0.105	−0.024
	(0.019)	(0.099)	(0.054)	(0.031)	(0.033)	(0.061)	(0.012)
Clientelism	−0.032**	−0.017	−0.086***	0.019	−0.012	−0.020	0.005
	(0.010)	(0.133)	(0.019)	(0.055)	(0.016)	(0.026)	(0.007)
Treatment * Clientelism	−0.023	−0.256	0.186	−0.042	0.030	−0.094	0.027
	(0.046)	(0.314)	(0.105)	(0.066)	(0.052)	(0.145)	(0.041)
Credible source	−0.013	−0.047	0.015	−0.042	0.027	−0.025	0.002
	(0.034)	(0.207)	(0.075)	(0.051)	(0.040)	(0.083)	(0.036)
Treatment * Credible source	0.016	−0.052	−0.052	0.133	−0.090	0.073	0.011
	(0.054)	(0.244)	(0.068)	(0.086)	(0.058)	(0.116)	(0.042)
Secret ballot	−0.007	−0.034	0.026	0.027	−0.056*	−0.013	−0.007
	(0.014)	(0.139)	(0.025)	(0.076)	(0.023)	(0.037)	(0.009)
Treatment * Secret ballot	0.050	0.300	0.029	0.095	0.012	−0.015	0.056
	(0.047)	(0.484)	(0.114)	(0.081)	(0.056)	(0.115)	(0.051)
Free, fair election	0.016	0.054	0.043	0.013	−0.033	0.033	−0.003
	(0.014)	(0.173)	(0.027)	(0.043)	(0.018)	(0.037)	(0.009)
Treatment * free, fair election	−0.008	0.071	−0.018	0.003	−0.015	−0.039	0.010
	(0.018)	(0.116)	(0.029)	(0.029)	(0.024)	(0.045)	(0.010)
Covariates	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	12,531	181	818	911	1,215	294	9,112
R^2	0.281	0.312	0.420	0.311	0.296	0.208	0.278

1.8 Leave one study out analysis

Table 11: Effect of bad news on vote choice and missing turnout data

	Dependent variable:					
	Vote against incumbent, bad news					
	w/o ben	w/o bf	w/o brz	w/o mex	w/o ug1	w/o ug2
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Treatment	0.012	0.028	0.019	0.018	0.029*	0.025
	(0.015)	(0.017)	(0.017)	(0.018)	(0.014)	(0.019)
N_{ij}	0.058***	0.065***	0.048**	0.059***	0.040*	0.077***
	(0.016)	(0.019)	(0.018)	(0.016)	(0.018)	(0.021)
Treatment * N_{ij}	0.011	0.003	−0.019	0.004	0.021	−0.003
	(0.019)	(0.023)	(0.021)	(0.019)	(0.019)	(0.025)
Control mean	0.449	0.394	0.413	0.423	0.431	0.463
RI p-value	0.434	0.198	0.374	0.372	0.1	0.245
Covariates	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	12,364	11,630	11,727	11,330	12,251	3,423
R^2	0.285	0.257	0.247	0.292	0.300	0.257
Note:						*p<0.05; **p<0.01; ***p<0.001