ASPREDICTED

Fake New - Effect of accuracy on social media sharing (8/23/2017) (#5235)

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1) Have any data been collected for this study already?

No, no data have been collected for this study yet

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

Asking about accuracy will decrease social media sharing of fake news (much more so than real news). Or, put differently, prompting people to think about accuracy will make them better able to discern fake new from real when deciding whether to share stories on Facebook.

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

Willingness to share news articles on social media. People will be asked "If you were to see the above article on Facebook, how likely would you be to share it?" Responses will be made on a scale from 1 (extremely unlikely) to 6 (extremely likely).

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

Participants will be randomly assigned to one of two conditions:

Control: Participants will see 24 news articles (half fake, half real) and will be asked the Facebook sharing question.

Treatment: Participants will see the same articles, but will first be asked "To the best of your knowledge, how accurate is the claim in the above headline?" prior to being asked the Facebook sharing question.

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

We will begin by testing for an interaction between a condition dummy (0=control, 1=treatment) and a news type dummy (0=fake, 1=real). We will then test for a simple effect of news type in each of the two conditions (the effect is predicted to be larger in Treatment). We will also test for a simple effect of condition for each of the two types of news (the effect is predicted to be larger for fake news).

Finally, we will examine how condition influences the relationship between sharing decisions and pretested ratings of partisanship (converted to political concordance based on a forced choice between the Democrat and Republican party), likelihood (plausibility), and familiarity for each item. To do so, we will examine the interaction between a condition dummy and each of these three measures.

All analyses will be performed at the level of the individual item (i.e. one data point per item per subject) using linear regression with robust standard errors clustered on subject.

6) Any secondary analyses?

We will explore potential interactions with performance on the Cognitive Reflection Test and political ideology (forced choice between Democrat and Republican and/or Clinton and Trump).

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

500

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

Participants who do not have Facebook will not be permitted to complete the study.

Those who indicate anything other than 'yes' on the following question will be removed from the analysis: "Would you ever consider sharing something political on Facebook? Yes/No/I don't use social media"