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Fake News - Counterbalanced items - CRT & BSR (#2507)

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

1) Analytic thinking makes people less susceptible to fake news.
2) People who are more receptive to bullshit are more susceptible to fake news.
3) People should be more likely to think fake news stories are accurate if they are familiar with them. Same should be true for real news, but to a larger degree (i.e., because it happens to be true).
4) Although people should be more likely to think real news is accurate, they should be more likely to share fake than real news that they think is accurate (there should be no difference for cases where people think the stories are inaccurate).
5) Do the correlations with analytic thinking (1) and bullshit receptivity (2) depend on disagreement with the fake news? In other words, will more analytic liberals [conservatives] be more or less likely to think Pro-Trump [Anti-Trump] fake news is accurate? This is exploratory in the sense that any pattern of results is revealing.

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

Participants will be presented with fake and real news headlines. They will be asked to indicate 1) whether they've heard about the stories before, 2) how accurate they think the headlines are (i.e., whether the headlines describe a real event), and 3) whether they would consider sharing the story on social media.

Individual differences in analytic thinking will be assessed using two versions of the Cognitive Reflection Test (CRT). Participants will also complete the bullshit receptivity scale (BSR).

We will also ask participants to indicate who they voted for in the 2016 Presidential election. Participants will then be asked to choose between Clinton and Trump so that those who didn't vote or who voted for a 3rd party candidate can be dichotomized into relatively Pro-Clinton v. relatively Pro-Trump groups.

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

All in one condition. There will be three different types of news: 1) Pro-Democrat, 2) Pro-Republican, 3) Politically neutral. Half of the news stories will be (actual) fake news and half with be (actual) real news.

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

Accuracy ratings will be scored 0 if "not at all accurate" or "not very accurate" are selected and 1 if "somewhat accurate" or "very accurate" are selected. Familiarity ratings will be scored 0 if "no" or "unsure" are selected and 1 if "yes" is selected. Social media ratings will be scored 0 if "no" is selected and 1 if "maybe" or "yes" is selected (cases where people indicate that they would never share something political online will be removed.

1) Correlate CRT with mean accuracy rating for both fake and real news. Should correlate negatively with fake news (more analytic -> more likely to say fake news is inaccurate) and positively with real news (more analytic -> more likely to say real news is accurate). More analytic individuals should also be less likely to share fake news on social media.
2) Correlate BSR with mean accuracy rating for both fake and real news. Should correlate positively with fake news (more receptive to BS -> more likely to say fake news is accurate). No prediction for real news. Those more receptive to BS should be more likely to share fake news on social media.
3) Comparison of real vs. fake news accuracy ratings as a function of familiarity (mean of familiar and unfamiliar news items) using repeated measures ANOVA.
4) Comparison of real vs. fake news social media sharing propensity as a function of accuracy (mean of reported accurate and inaccurate news items) using repeated measures ANOVA.
5) Three-way interaction between actual news accuracy (real, fake), news type (Pro-Democrat, Pro-Republican, Neutral), and political ideology (Trump supporter, Clinton supporter) using a mixed design ANOVA.
6) Analyses described in (1) and (2) will be completed separately for Trump/Clinton supporters.

5) Any secondary analyses?

Use of CRT as an interacting variable in the ANOVA's described in points 3-5 above.

6) 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.

800 participants from mechanical turk

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

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

No, no data have been collected for this study yet