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Pre-Registration made easy

Study 2 - political headlines (#20745)

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?
The main question of this study is twofold:
1) We would like to compare the motivated reasoning account and the classical reasoning account of susceptibility to fake news.
2) We would like to test the robustness of some of the effects we found in Study 1 with the use of a politically charged item set.

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.
Participants will be presented with politically charged fake and real news headlines. The item set will include: 6 democrat-consistent fake, 6 democrat-consistent real news headlines, 6 republican-consistent fake, and 6 republican-consistent real news headlines. Participants will be presented to 4 randomly selected headlines out of each category, in a randomised order. Participants will be asked to indicate whether they believe the headline accurately describes a real event, what their confidence is in the correctness of their response, and (later) whether they have seen the specific headline prior to the study.

We will use the two response paradigm, in which participants will be presented with the same headline twice. First, they will be asked to give an initial, intuitive judgment (whether they think the headline describes a real event). To assure the intuitive nature of this initial response people will have to give this response under time pressure (7 sec, determined by a previous reading pre-test), and concurrent load (in a 4X4 matrix 5 dots will be presented, and participants will be asked to memorize the pattern). After the initial response, participants will be presented with the same headline again, and they will then provide a final response under no constraints.

At the end of the experiment, participants will be presented with the headlines again, and will be asked whether they have seen them prior to the experiment or not.

Individual differences in reflectivity will be measured the Cognitive Reflection Test (7 total items).
Participants' political partisanship will also be collected using a continuous Democrat-Republican scale.

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?
There will be two conditions. In one condition, people will be presented with the two response paradigm as described above. In the second condition, which we call "only-final-response", people will be presented with each headline only once, without any constraint or imperative to respond with the first response that comes to mind.

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.
First, we will compare perceived accuracy averages of the only-final-response experiment to the final response on the two response experiment, both for real and for fake news. We will use mixed effect logistic regression models with perceived accuracy rating (no/yes) as the DV and headline type (fake vs real) and condition (two response vs one response formats) and political consistency (headline is politically consistent with individual's own views or not) as fixed factors (along with their interaction). We will also add items and subject IDs as random intercepts.

The motivated reasoning account argues that reflection increases the belief in politically concordant fake news and decreases the belief in politically discordant fake news. Whereas, the classical reasoning view argues that at the final response time truth discernment should be higher. Thus we should see that -regardless of political concordance- fake news perceived accuracy should decrease, and real should increase.
Therefore, we will test the interaction of headline type (fake vs. real), political consistency (politically concordant or not) and response number (initial, final).

Finally, we will test how CRT score affects this relationship. Hence, we will add the interaction of headline type (fake vs. real), political consistency (politically concordant or not), response number (initial, final) and CRT score.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.
In accordance with previous two-response paradigm experiments, we will exclude all trials in which participants didn't manage to correctly recognize the a priori presented dot matrix, or didn't manage to give an initial response within the deadline. However, this exclusion won't be applied to the

very first analysis (the comparison of perceived accuracy rates of the two response paradigm – final response stage and the one response paradigm) to avoid selection effects.

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.

We will test 1000 people on MTurk (~600 for the two response condition and 400 for the one-response condition). Any participants who complete the study above our quota will be retained.

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

Nothing else to pre-register.