March 3rd, 2022

Dear Dr. Carlsson and Meta-Psychology Team:

Our team is submitting a conceptual replication for *Meta-Psychology* entitled “Moral Foundations of U.S. Political News Organizations” This original manuscript has not been previously published and is not under review for publication by any other journal. The study used archival data available to the general public; therefore, IRB approval was not sought.

OSF Page: <https://osf.io/5kpj7/>

Manuscript Version materials: <https://osf.io/5kpj7/files/> (select the manuscript version folder, which is also on GitHub, but downloads are easier from OSF for reproducibility).

Manuscript Pre-print:

We would like to include open data and material badges. Two of the team members (WP, EMB) created a pre-registration for the thesis version of the manuscript available at: <https://osf.io/6vj2q/>. We have reworked the manuscript conceptually and many of these features were retained for the manuscript version.

Partisan differences and diviseness have become an increasing hot topic in psychological research. Many theories have been proposed to explain these differences and divisions including Moral Foundations Theory. The current research seeks to use a linguistic measure of Moral Foundations, the Moral Foundations Dictionary (MFD), to test the theory in terms of predicted partisan differences. Through web scraping, the researchers extracted articles from popular partisan news sources' websites, calculated MFD word frequencies, and identified words' respective valences. This process attempts to uncover news outlets' positive or negative endorsements of certain moral dimensions concomitant with a particular ideology. The current study does not support MFT, and the results shed doubt on the validity of the MFD as a reliable measurement tool. This paper will be of interest to a wide audience of psychologists investigating topics on discourse, politics, and their interaction.

Sincerely,

Erin M. Buchanan, Ph.D.

Analytics

Harrisburg University of Science and Technology

[ebuchanan@harrisburgu.edu](mailto:ebuchanan@harrisburgu.edu)