Investigating the generalizability and mechanism of the association between corruptible look and corruption record

Embargoed registration Updates

Metadata

A. Hypotheses

Essential Elements

For any required question that does not apply to your study put 'N/A' in the space for the relevant field. See van 't Veer & Giner-Sorolla (2016) or https://osf.io/56g8e/ for additional information.

Description of essential elements

A. Hypotheses

H1. Consistent with our prior research (Lin, Adolphs, & Alvarez, 2018), we expect to replicate that corruptible looks predict corruption records using colored photos of the same set of politicians as in our prior research and ratings from U.S. representative participants.
H1a. We expect that participants perceive politicians with corruption records to be more corruptible than politicians with clean records, and vice versa.
H1b. We expect that the association between corruptible looks and corruption records will remain robust when controlling for other features of the photos that may influence corruptibility perception.
H1c. We expect that the association between face perception and corruption records will be significant for corruptibility-related traits (e.g., corruptible, genuine) but not for corruptibility-unrelated traits (e.g., attractiveness).

Interaction Efforts

NA

Manipulations

NA

Recommended Elements

Complex Interactions

No files selected

Rationales or theoretical Frameworks

No response

Outcomes from Multiple Predictions

No response

B. Methods

For any required question that does not apply to your study put 'N/A' in the space for the relevant field. See van 't Veer & Giner-Sorolla (2016) or https://osf.io/56g8e/ for additional information.

Essential Elements

Design

List, based on your hypotheses from section A:

Independent Variables

The independent variable is the politicians' corruption records with two levels: 0 = clean, 1 = had been convicted of corruption. This is a within-participant design where each participant will rate all politicians on all traits.

Dependent Variables

The dependent variables are participants' ratings of the politicians on how corruptible, genuine, dominant, and attractive each of them looks. All ratings will be collected on a 7-point Likert scale with 1 indicating that the trait description does not fit the politician at all and 7 indicating that the trait description fits the politician extremely well.

Third Variables

The covariates are the characteristics of the photos that may influence trait perception of the politicians, such as their age at the photos, the clarity of the photos, whether they wore glasses in the photos, their smile intensity in the photos, and the color of their clothing in the photos.

Planned Sample

Pre-Selection Rules

We will include participants who satisfy the following criteria:
i) located in the U.S.,
ii) aged 18 and older;
iii) have normal or corrected-to-normal vision;
iv) with the highest level of education completed no less than high school;
and v) have not participated in our pilot studies.

Data Collection

We will recruit participants who satisfy the above pore-selection rules via CloudReserach Connect. We will target participants that are representative of the U.S. population demographics along gender, age, and race. Participants will complete our study online via custom JavaScript.

Sample Size

We determined the sample size based on formal power analysis and prior research. Based on data from Lin, Adolphs, and Alvarez (2018) for the federal-level politicians, we computed how many participants are needed to detect a significant difference between a participant's overall ratings for the politicians with corruption record and ratings for the politicians with clean record across each of the five tested traits in their Study 1. Based on one-sample paired t-tests, we found that to detect the effect sizes found in that prior work at 95% power and a significant level of 0.05, we will need at least 17 participants for the trait inferences of corruptibility (Cohen's d = 0.96), 24 participants for the trait inferences of dishonesty (Cohen's d = 0.78), 20 participants for the trait inferences of generosity (Cohen's d = -0.87), 26 participants for the trait inferences of selfishness (Cohen's d = 0.74), and 18 participants for the trait inferences of trustworthiness (Cohen's d = -0.92). Thus, a sample size of at least 26 participants is needed to detect a significant effect for all the above trait inferences. Given this power analysis and that the prior work recruited 100 participants, we decided to also recruit 100 participants so that our test of generalizability would be fair. Considering a participant-wise data exclusion rate of 15%, we planned to recruit N = 118 participants in total.

Power Analysis File

No files selected

Data Collection Termination

We will terminate data collection when all posted experiments based on the planned sample size above are completed.

Exclusion Criteria

Exclusion Criteria

We will exclude a trial (i.e., a rating for a politician on a trait from a participant) if its response time is shorter than 200ms or longer than 10,000ms.

We will exclude a block (i.e., all ratings for all politicians on a trait from a participant) if ratings for all politicians in this block are the same or the number of trials get excluded in this block is more than 10%.

We will exclude a participant (i.e., all ratings for all politicians on all traits from a participant) if their age is under 18, their highest level of education completed is less than high school, or more than one block of their ratings are excluded based on the block-wise exclusion criteria above.

Procedure

Procedure

Stimuli.
We will use the same set of 72 federal-level politicians as in the prior study (Lin, Adolphs, & Alvarez, 2018). That prior work converted the original photos of the politicians from colored into black-and-white. Here, we will use the original colored photos instead to increase ecological validity since nowadays people more often see colored photos of politicians in daily life than black-and-white photos. We will check whether each of the 36 politicians with clean records in the prior study is still holding a clean record now at the time this present study is conducted. For politicians whose records have changed from clean to corrupt, we will replace these politicians with politicians who are currently holding clean records and match the corresponding corrupt politicians in the state, office, gender, race, and age (at the time the corrupt politicians committed the crime).

Procedure.
The experiment consists of four blocks, which corresponds to the rating of four traits, corruptibility, genuineness, dominance, and attractiveness, shown in a randomized order. In each block, participants will view 72 politician photos one by one in a randomized order and rate how much the given trait describes their impressions of the politician. Participants will enter their responses using the number keys 1 to 7 on their computer keyboard. After rating all politicians on all traits, participants will fill out a brief survey about the demographic information.

Recommended Elements

Procedure

No response

No files selected

C. Analysis plan

For any required question that does not apply to your study put 'N/A' in the space for the relevant field. See van 't Veer & Giner-Sorolla (2016) or https://osf.io/56g8e/ for additional information.

Essential Elements

Confirmatory Analyses
Describe the analyses that will test the first main prediction from the hypotheses section. Include:

Relevant Variables

The relevant variables are whether the politician holds a corruption or clean record, the ratings participants provided about these politicians on corruptibility, genuineness, dominance, and attractiveness, and the characteristics of the photos that may influence trait inferences.

Statistical Technique

To test H1a, we will conduct an aggregate-level t-test for the rating of corruptibility. We will first compute the average corruptibility rating for a given politician across all participants. We will then test whether politicians with corruption records are rated more corruptible on average than politicians with clean records using a two-sample one-sided t-test.

To test H1b, we will conduct an aggregate-level logistic regression. We will first compute the average corruptibility rating for a given politician across all participants. We will then regress the politicians' records (corrupt or clean) on their average corruptibility ratings while controlling for photo characteristics that may influence corruptibility perception such as the politician's age, image clarity, image sources, smile intensity, with or without glasses and jewelry, and hair and clothing colors, etc.

To test H1c, we will repeat the above t-test and logistic regression for each of the remaining three traits, genuineness, dominance, and attractiveness.

Variable Roles

In the logistic regression analysis, the politicians' records serve as the dependent variable, the trait ratings serve as the independent variable, and the photo characteristics serve as the covariates.

Covariate Rationale

These photo characteristics may influence how participants rate the politicians on different traits and how corruptible they are perceived by other people in real life which may be associated with their corruption records.

Other Techniques

NA

Second Prediction
Describe the analyses that will test the second main prediction from the hypotheses section. Include:

Relevant Variables

No response

Statistical Technique

No response

Variable Roles

No response

Covariate Rationale

No response

Other Techniques

No response

Third Prediction
Describe the analyses that will test the third main prediction from the hypotheses section. Include:

Relevant Variables

No response

Statistical Technique

No response

Variable Roles

No response

Covariate Rationale

No response

Other Techniques

No response

Fourth Prediction
Describe the analyses that will test the fourth main prediction from the hypotheses section. Include:

Relevant Variables

No response

Statistical Technique

No response

Variable Roles

No response

Covariate Rationale

No response

Other Techniques

No response

Further Predictions
Describe the analyses that will test any further (main) predictions from the hypotheses section. Include:

Relevant Variables

No response

Statistical Technique

No response

Variable Roles

No response

Covariate Rationale

No response

Other Techniques

No response

Recommended Elements
Specify contingencies and assumptions, such as:

Method of Correction

No response

Missing Data

No response

Reliability Criteria

No response

Data Transformations

No response

Assumptions of Analysis

No response

Files Related to Analysis

No files selected

Final questions

For any required question that does not apply to your study put 'N/A' in the space for the relevant field. See van 't Veer & Giner-Sorolla (2016) or https://osf.io/56g8e/ for additional information.

Data Collection

No, data collection has not begun

Data Observation

No

Start and End Dates

No response

Additional Comments

No response