

The Consequences of Interparty Conversation on Outparty Affect

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Partisans:

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Americans divided: Neighbors turn enemies over Trump in swing-vote Michigan suburbs

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RQ₂: Do the consequences of explicitly political conversations differ from conversations avoiding such topics?

Today's talk

1. Theory & hypotheses

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2. Experimental design

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4. Concluding thoughts

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Intergroup contact

- initial reaction – categorize & depersonalize
- but, opportunity to move beyond inparty/outparty categories
- partisan categories less useful for making sense of future interactions

Theory & hypotheses

H_1 : Non-political conversation improves feelings and perceptions of outparty.

Theory & hypotheses

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H_2 : Political conversation improves feelings and perceptions of outparty.

Theory & hypotheses

H_1 : Non-political conversation improves feelings and perceptions of outparty.

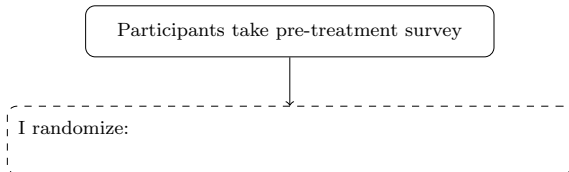
H_2 : Political conversation improves feelings and perceptions of outparty.

H_3 : Political conversation will be less effective than non-political conversation at improving feelings and perceptions of outparty.

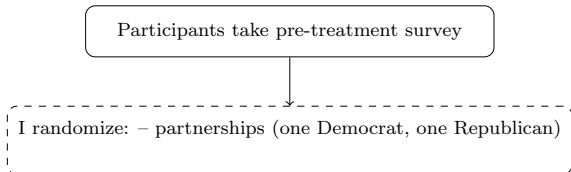
Experimental stages

Participants take pre-treatment survey

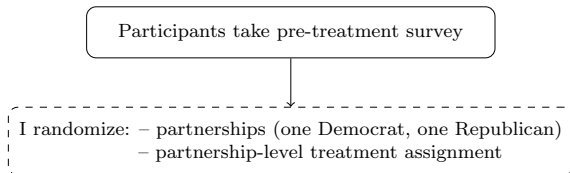
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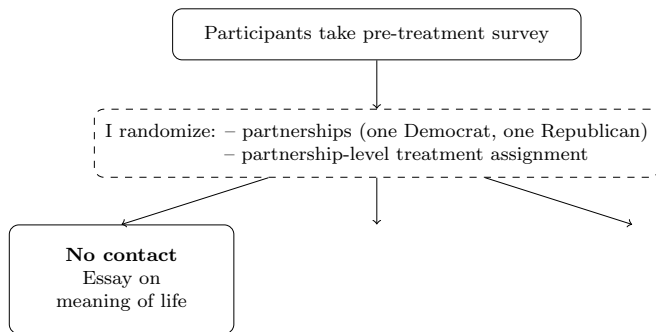
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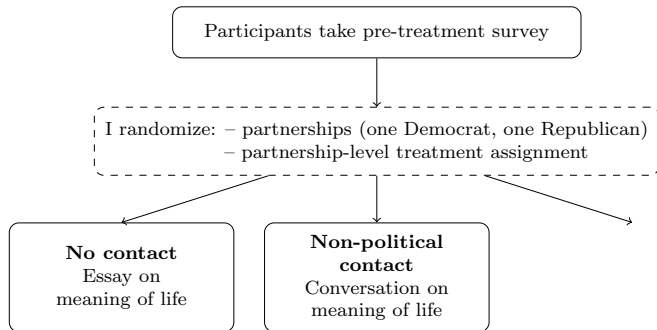
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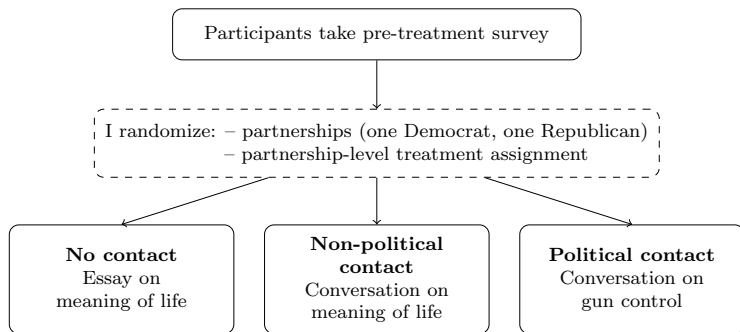
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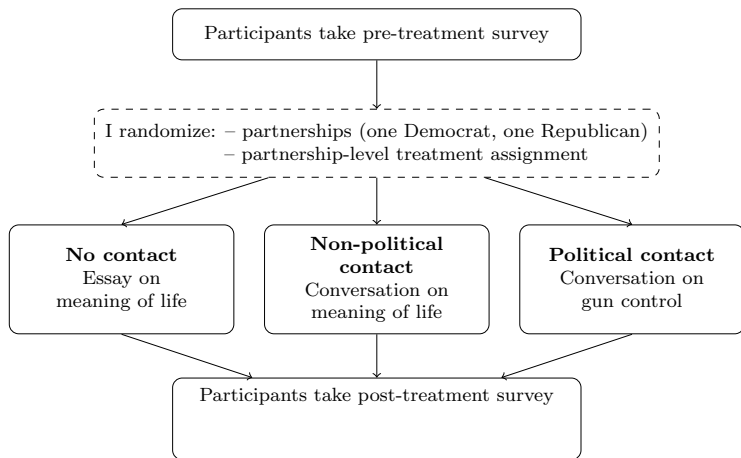
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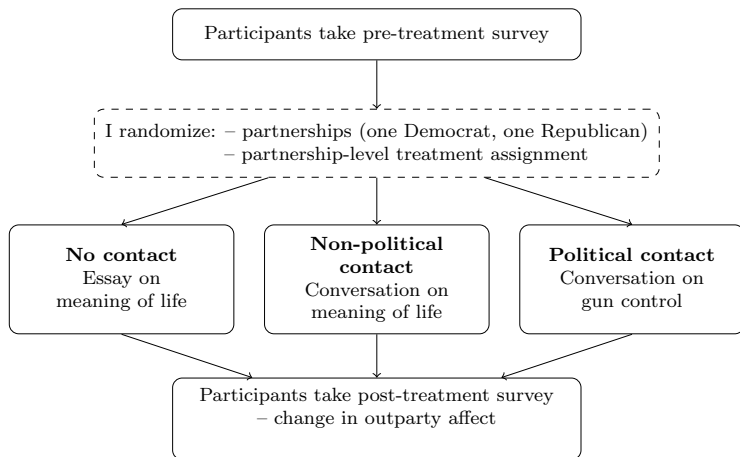
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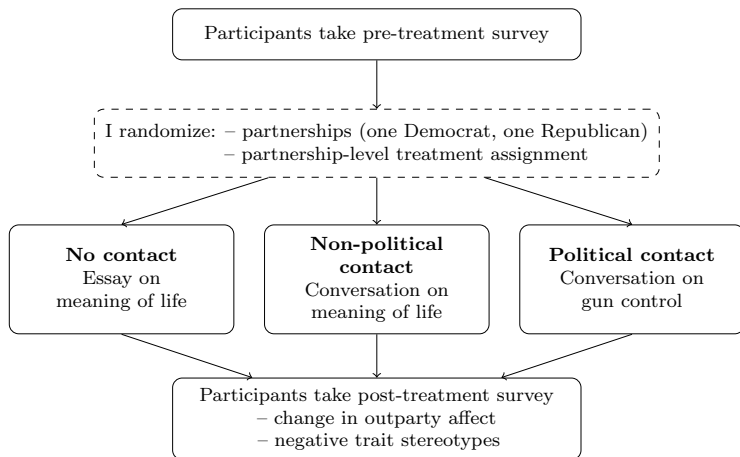
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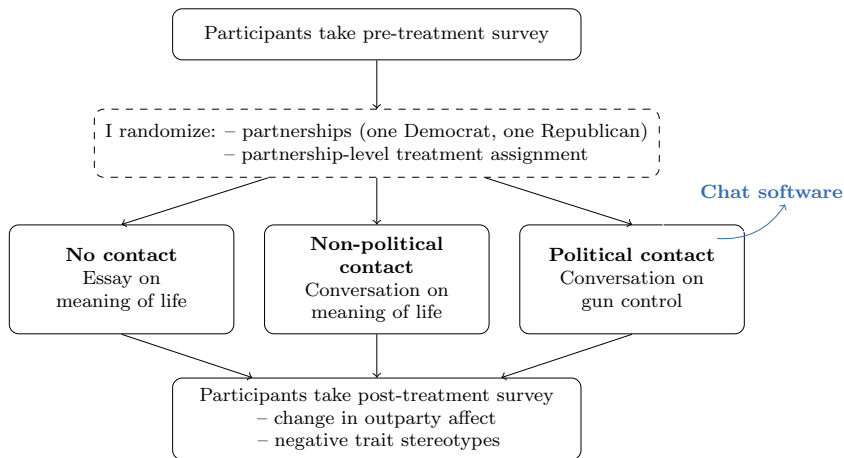
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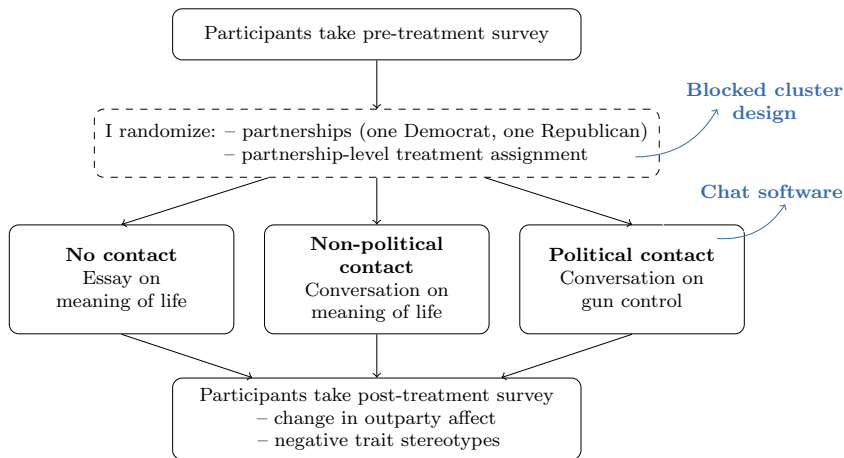
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We've randomly assigned you a partner that belongs to or leans toward the **Republican** party. Please have a conversation with them about gun control.

Specifically, we are interested in you sharing your opinion on gun control and learning your conversation partner's opinion as someone that might hold different values and beliefs.

For example, survey research shows that some people believe it is more important to protect the right of Americans to own guns than control gun ownership, while others believe the opposite. Survey research also shows that some people believe making it harder to own guns would result in fewer mass shootings, while others believe this would make no difference.

What do you think?

With bonus, this HIT is paying above minimum wage. We expect you to have thoughtful, thorough conversations that utilize the full 8 minutes without large gaps of time. Participants who do so will receive a \$1.00 bonus.

► Additional instructions about the chat app:

Hi there. Are you for stricter gun control?

Y066eRGryB: Hi, how are you? Yes, I am for stricter gun control, you?

I'm well. Hope you are as well. Yes, I think we need stricter gun control laws in this country. I think at the very least people with mental illness disorders should not have the ability to own guns. I also think there should be universal background checks.

Write your reply...

Send

Time until finished: 0:00:02:00

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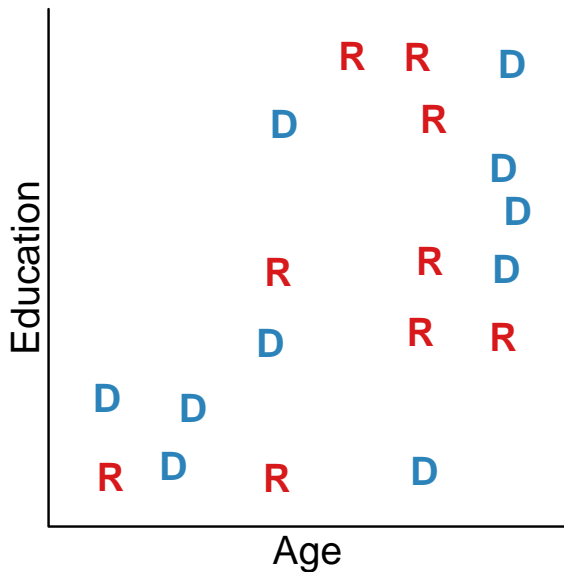
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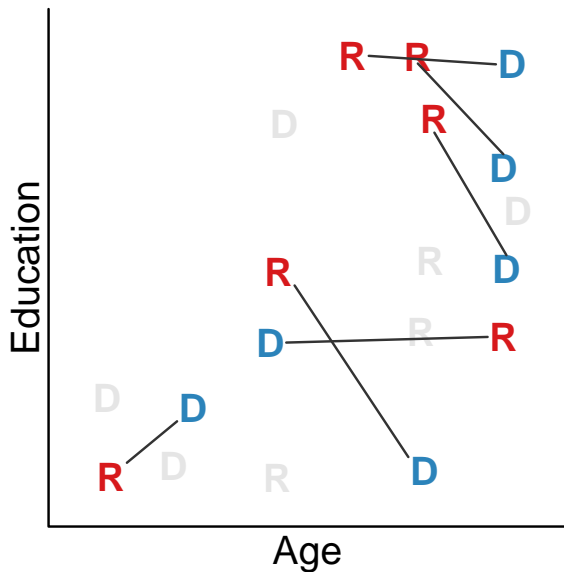
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2. Assign treatment within blocks to improve efficiency
 - block = set of similar partnerships

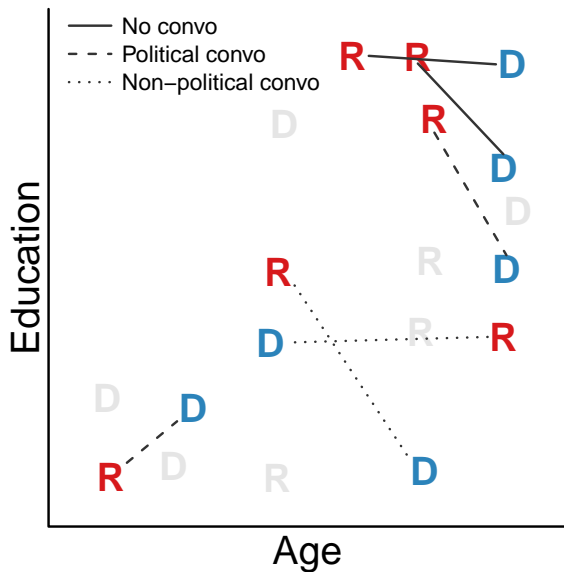
Blocked cluster design algorithm intuition



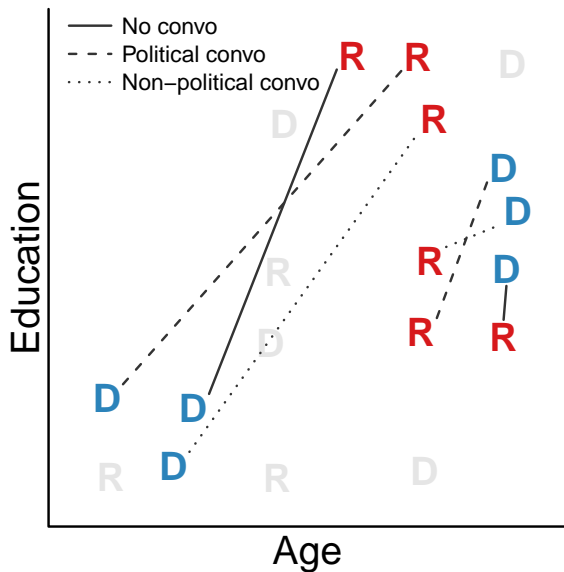
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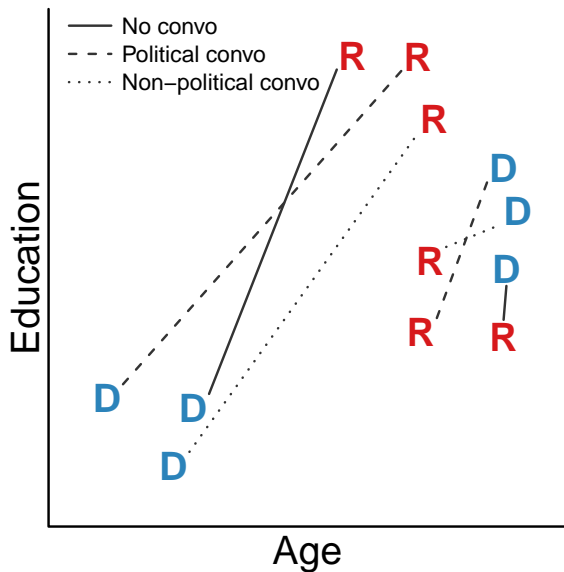
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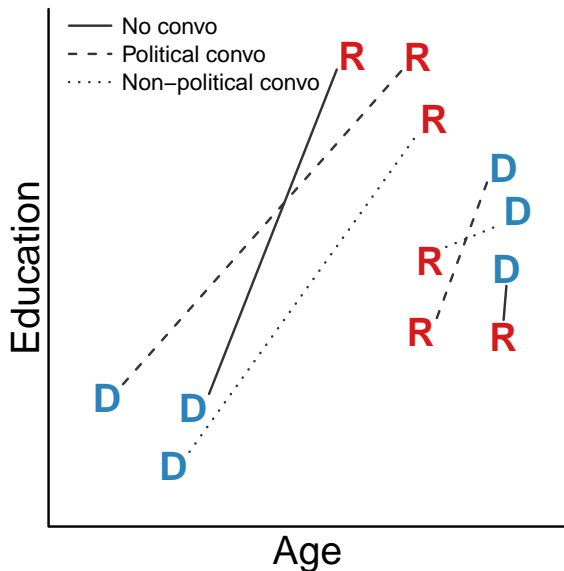
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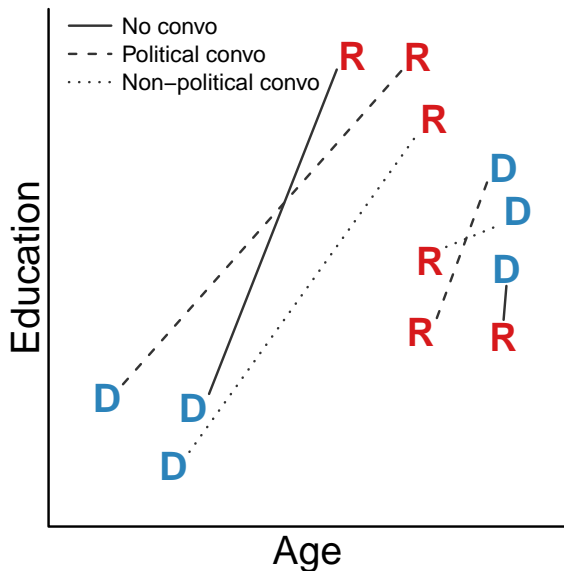


Blocked cluster design algorithm intuition



Partnership-level
differences
minimized w/in
blocks

Blocked cluster design algorithm intuition



Partnership-level
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minimized w/in
blocks

Individual-level
differences w/in
partnerships
randomized across
blocks

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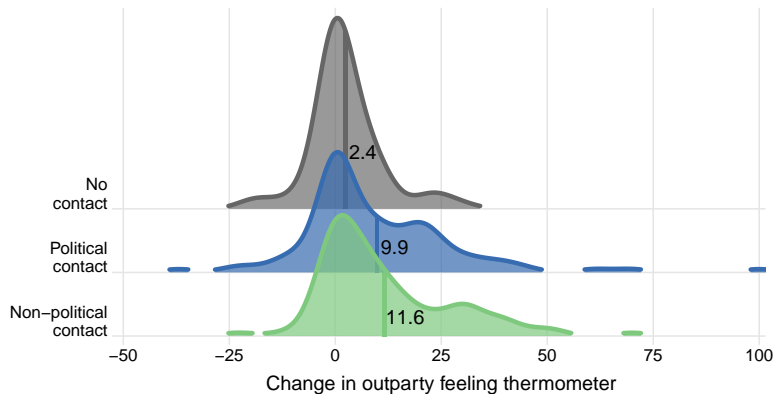
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 - 44 full blocks ($n = 264$)

Contact improves outparty affect



Change in outparty affect = post-treatment affect – pre-treatment affect

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Test stat. p -value

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Non-political vs. political contact	1.70	.58

Contact improves outparty affect

→ Priming American identity improves outparty affect by 4-5 degrees (Levendusky 2018)

Contact improves outparty affect

→ Rating the outparty “warmly” (≥ 50)

Contact improves outparty affect

- Rating the outparty “warmly” (≥ 50)
41% of those having conversation

Contact improves outparty affect

- Rating the outparty “warmly” (≥ 50)
 - 41% of those having conversation
 - 25% of those not having conversation

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→ Rating the outparty extremely “cold” (≤ 5)

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- Rating the outparty extremely “cold” (≤ 5)
16% of those having conversation

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- Rating the outparty extremely “cold” (≤ 5)
 - 16% of those having conversation
 - 28% of those not having conversation

Conclusion

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- Additional evidence about limits on partisan prejudice

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- Additional evidence about limits on partisan prejudice
- Design to improve experiments involving conversation

Thank you!