False Consciousness, Class Awareness, and Belief in American Meritocracy: A Correction

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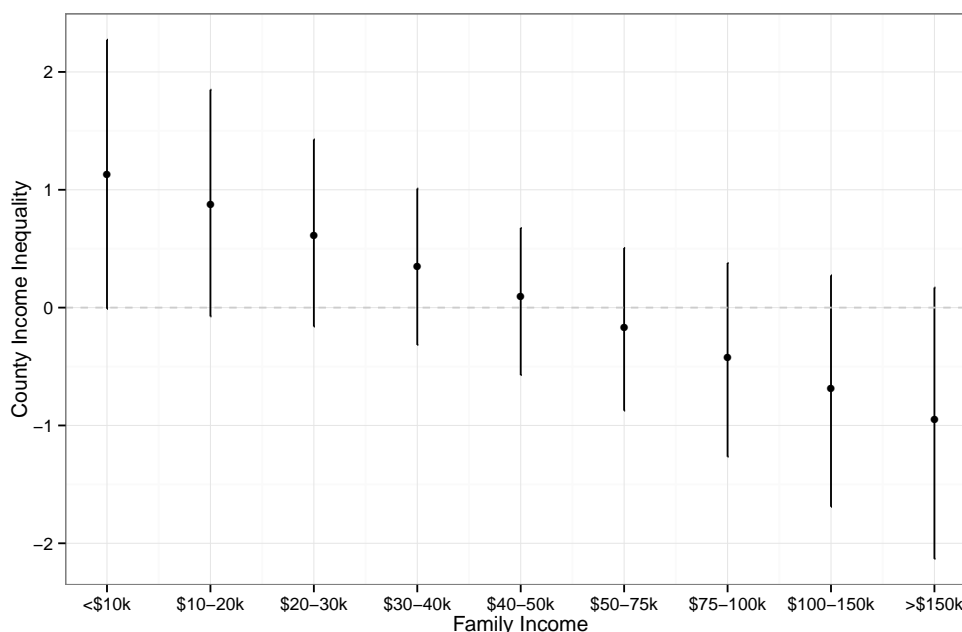
Abstract

1

0. Not reproduceable. Packrat, checkpoint, switchr; but this is just the beginning of the problems

1. Interaction misinterpreted in Table 1, Model 1 (& Table 3)

It has been well known for over a decade that models containing multiplicative interaction terms require particular care in interpretation (see, e.g., Golder 2003; Braumoeller 2004; Brambor, Clark, and Golder 2006; Kam and Franzese 2007). As Brambor, Clark, and Golder (2006, 72) wrote, "the coefficient on X [income] only captures the effect of X on Y [rejection of meritocracy] when Z [income inequality] is zero." But in the replication data for Table 1, Model 1, the range of income is (oddly) .21 to 1; the variable never takes on a value of zero. Figure 1 plots the coefficient estimates at each of the nine levels of income in the Pew data. The confidence intervals of these estimates all cross zero. None are statistically significant. The conclusion of Newman, Johnston, and Lown (2015, 334) that this result "reveals that among low-income citizens, those residing in highly unequal contexts are significantly more likely to reject meritocratic ideals than those in relatively equal contexts" is therefore erroneous.

Figure 1: Logit Coefficients of Local Income Inequality by Respondent Income: Table 1, Model 1, om Replication Data

Notes: The coefficient for county income inequality fails to reach statistical gnificance for any observed level of respondent family income.

2. DV mismatch in 2007 and 2009: 30% in reject meritocracy in 2007 Pew Religious Landscape rvey (compared to just 18% in 2007 survey used)

3. missing data on income singly imputed

4. unemployment mismeasured in 2005 (plus 2007 and 2009) due to missing employ2 variable, which only available in 2006.

5. Table 3 not replicable *at all* (model has more REs than observations)

6. "Neither/both" coded as 0 on rej_meritocracy 7. In Table 2, a. miscode of partyid

```
table(pew2.w$partyid_01, pew2.w$party)

##
##           1   2   3   4   5   9
##   0       0 192   0   0   0   0
##   0.25    0 135 136   9   1   2
##   0.5     0   0  89  18   1  19
##   0.75  171   0 124   7   1   6
##   1     247   0   0   0   0   0
```

b. whats going on with ideo? more single imputation?

```
table(pew2.w$ideology_01, pew2.w$ideo)

##
##           1   2   3   4   5   9
##   0       0   0   0   0  44   6
##   0.25    0   0   0 151   0   6
##   0.5     0   0 436   0   0  24
##   0.75    0 381   0   0   0   8
##   1     100   0   0   0   0   2
```

c. attendance–missing just assigned 'once or twice a month' (approx mean value?)

```
table(pew2.w$religattend_01, pew2.w$attend)

##
##           1   2   3   4   5   6   9
##   0       0   0   0   0   0 140   0
##   0.2     0   0   0   0 192   0   0
##   0.4     0   0   0 203   0   0   0
##   0.6     0   0 149   0   0   0  12
##   0.8     0 305   0   0   0   0   0
##   1     157   0   0   0   0   0   0
```

References

Brambor, Thomas, William Roberts Clark, and Matt Golder. 2006. "Understanding Interaction Models: Improving Empirical Analyses." *Political Analysis* 14(1):63–82.

Braumoeller, Bear F. 2004. "Hypothesis Testing and Multiplicative Interaction Terms." *International Organization* 58(4):807–820.

Golder, Matt. 2003. "Electoral Institutions, Unemployment, and Extreme Right Parties: A Correction." *British Journal of Political Science* 33(3):525–534.

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