Tutorial 4

POL222

Nuclear weapons inspectors from the United Nations arrived in Libya today. Inspectors traveled from Italy to Libya to begin their initial investigation into the extent of Libya's efforts to build nuclear weapons. Libyan leader Momar Khadafi announced just last week that his country would scrap its weapons of mass destruction program. The International Atomic Energy Agency says this first trip will demonstrate just how cooperative Khadafi will be in dismantling Libya's uranium enrichment facilities.
The agency will also investigate a suspected connection between the nuclear weapons programs in Libya and Iran.

And finally tonight, did Saddam Hussein really want to keep al Qaeda at arm's length?
According to U.S. officials, as well as a document found with Saddam Hussein when he was captured, Hussein warned supporters to be wary of cooperating with what were described as "foreign jihadists coming into Iraq to fight Americans". Some in the Bush administration have contended there was close cooperation between Saddam's government and al Qaeda. Officials say the document appears to have been written after Saddam lost power.

Turner, 2007

ORIGINAL PAPER

The Messenger Overwhelming the Message: Ideological Cues and Perceptions of Bias in Television News

Joel Turner

Abstract   Survey research has demonstrated that citizens perceive ideological bias in television news, specifically with regard to CNN and Fox News Channel (FNC), which allegedly represent the liberal and conservative viewpoint, respectively. In this paper I argue that attaching the CNN and FNC labels to news stories sends an ideological cue to the viewer regarding the content of the story. Utilizing an experimental design that allows manipulation of the network attribution of actual FNC and CNN content, I am able to demonstrate that the CNN and FNC labels function as ideological signals to the viewer, with this signal being most pronounced among ideologues whose views are supposedly at odds with those attributed to the network.

Keywords   Television news · Ideological bias · Heuristics

Read

- The section titled "Experimental Design" (pp.445-448).
- The first paragraph of the section titled "Variable Measures" (p.448).
  - This paragraph starts with "The dependent variable for this analysis is…" and ends with "Therefore, bias is measured on a 0 to 50 scale … 25 representing perceived ideological neutrality."

Describe how the author's experiment is designed and implemented by answering the following questions:

- Who are the participants in the experiment (= the unit of analysis of the experiment)? How are they recruited?
- What are the experimental treatments (stimuli or manipulations) of the author's experiment? How are different treatments assigned to the participants of the experiment? In other words, how is the independent variable operationalized in this experiment?
- How are the outcomes (= the dependent variable) measured?
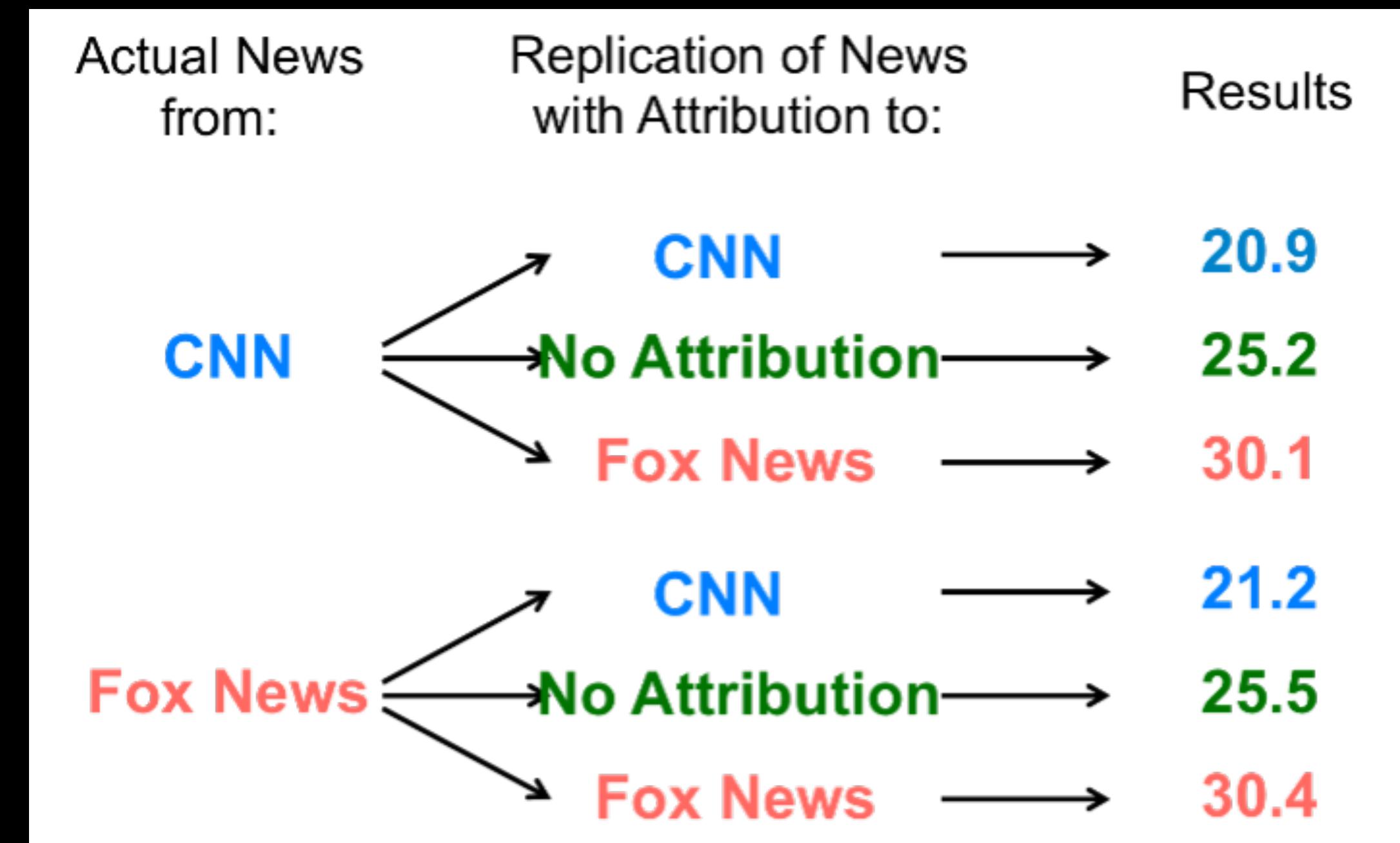
Describe how the author's experiment is designed and implemented by answering the following questions.

A. Who are the participants in the experiment (= the unit of analysis of the experiment)? How are they recruited?
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C. How are the outcomes (= the dependent variable) measured?

The author's theoretical conjecture is summarized in Hypothesis 1 in the article (p.444). The author's theoretical argument applies more broadly beyond Fox News and CNN referred to in his Hypothesis 1, however. We have learned that a theory is stated in relatively general concepts and is applicable broadly.

Restate the author's theory in more general terms using the following concepts as independent and dependent variables: *news media's reputation* and a *perceived ideological bias in a news story* (= this is a bias perceived by an individual who consumes the news).

The following figure recasts the results of the experiment reported in Table 3 (p.451) in a more accessible format. The last column of the figure below, named Results, shows the average (across respondents) of the ideological rating given to a news program in each treatment group. Recall that 25 represents the ideologically neutral position, 0 most liberal, and 50 most conservative.

Actual News from:	Replication of News with Attribution to:	Results
CNN	CNN	20.9
	No Attribution	25.2
	Fox News	30.1
Fox News	CNN	21.2
	No Attribution	25.5
	Fox News	30.4

Using these numbers, describe the causal impact of media reputation found in this experiment.

Read

- The first two paragraphs of the section titled "Manipulation Checks" (p.449).
  - *The first paragraph starts with "To draw valid conclusions from this study …"*
  - *The second paragraph ends with "immune to any cueing effects from the network attribution."*

Evaluate the internal validity of this experiment by answering the following questions.
A. Are experimental treatments randomly assigned to the participants?
B. Are experimental stimuli well designed to isolate the causal effect of the independent variable in the proposed theory? Why did not the author use the actual newscasts from Fox News and CNN? Why did the author need to replicate these newscasts?
C. Was the author successful in hiding the true intension of the experiment from the participants? How did the author do that? How did the author overcome the potential ethical issues related to this element of deception?

Evaluate the external validity of this experiment by answering the following questions.
A. How representative is the sample (the participants of the experiment) of the population to which the author's theory is applicable? Are you concerned with the generalizability of the findings? Why?
B. Are experimental stimuli realistic enough to provoke the same or similar reaction if they happened in the real world?

Essay 2

A. Propose a new causal theory and hypothesis
B. Create an experimental research design to test it
    A. Lab
    B. Field
    C. Survey
C. Write up your proposal and discuss challenges (inference, validity, etc)

Building social cohesion between Christians and Muslims through soccer in post-ISIS Iraq

SALMA MOUSA iD   Authors Info & Affiliations

Social contact and reconciliation

It has been theorized that positive intergroup relations can reduce prejudice and facilitate peace. However, supporting empirical evidence is weak, particularly in the context of real-world conflict. Mousa randomized Christian Iraqi refugees to soccer teams that were composed of either all Christian players or a mixture of Christian and Muslim players (see the Perspective by Paluck and Clark). Playing on the same team as Muslims had positive effects on Christian players' attitudes and behaviors toward Muslims within the context of soccer, but these effects did not generalize to non-soccer contexts. These findings have implications for the potential benefits and limits of positive intergroup contact for achieving peace between groups.

Science, this issue p. 866; see also p. 769

Parochialism, social norms, and discrimination against immigrants

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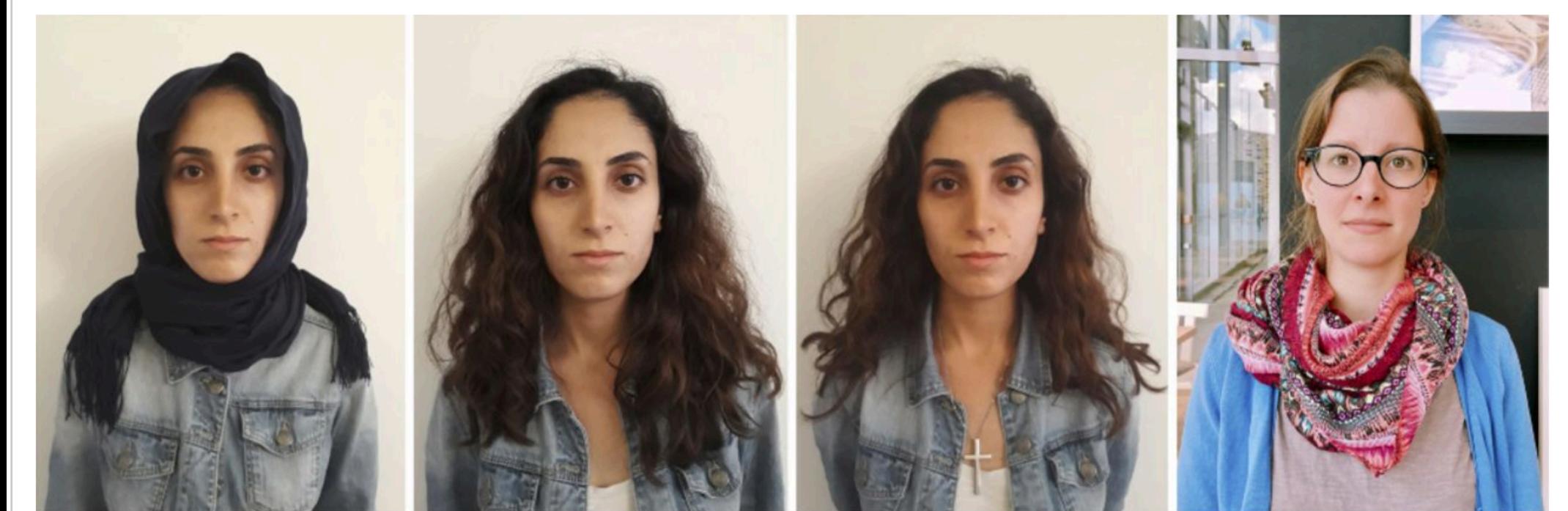
Fig. 3.

| Immigrant With Hijab | Immigrant Control | Immigrant With Cross | Native Control |

Manipulation of confederate identity.