

Online Appendix

Chapter 3

A post-truth public? Investigating the mechanisms of resistance to factual correction

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I. VARIABLES

i. Dependent variables

- *diff* is the main dependent variable measuring to what extent the correction changed respondents' belief in the false facts. It is equal to the difference between pre- and post-correction veracity scores. Both pre- and post-correction veracity scores are measured on a scale from 0 (definitely true) to 6 (definitely false, see questionnaire on page 37). Therefore, *diff* takes on values between -6 and 6. Positive values indicate a positive effect; 0 indicates no effect, and negative values indicate a backfire effect. The maximum effect (+6) represents the difference between a pre-correction veracity score of 6 ("definitely true") and a post-correction veracity score of 0 ("definitely false"). The minimum value (-6) represents a pre-correction veracity score of 0 ("definitely false") and a post- correction veracity score of 6 ("definitely true").
- *diff_i2* is equal to the difference between pre- and post-correction beliefs in the *uncorrected* false claim.

- *accurateAuthority* is a continuous variable measuring perceived accuracy of the corrective information on a scale from 1 (not at all accurate) to 4 (very accurate) (see question on p. 49)
- *trustAuthority* is a continuous variable measuring trust in the expert on a scle from 0 = Would not trust at all to 6 = Would trust a great deal.
- *accurate_source2* is a continuous variable, measuring perceived accuracy of the second source. For respondents who received a re-correction from a blogger it is equal to [accurateBlogger]. For respondents who received a re-correction from a professor it is equal to [accurateFactFreeProf].
- *trust_source2* is a continuous variable, measuring trust in the second source. For respondents who received a re-correction from a blogger it is equal to [trustBlogger]. For respondents who received a re-correction from a professor it is equal to [trustFactFreeProf]. It is measured on a 7-point scale from 0 = Would not trust at all to 6 = Would trust a great deal.

ii. Independent variables

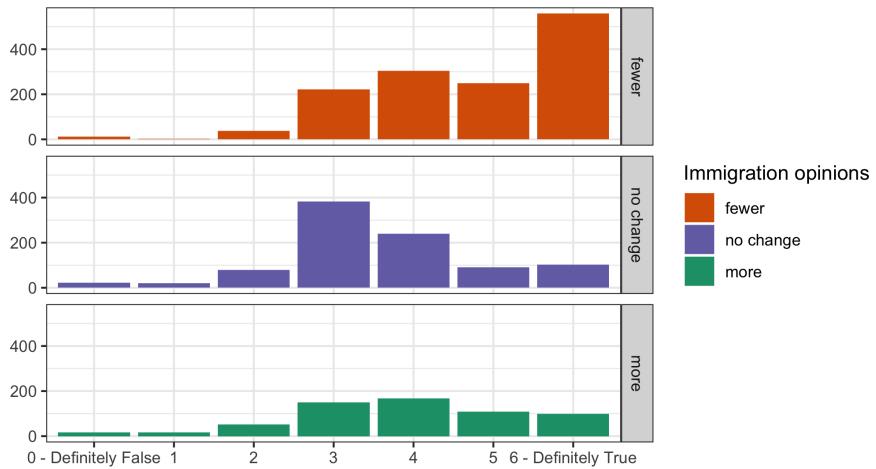
- *gender*. Respondents' gender (question 1).
- *age*. Respondents' age (question 2).
- *university* is a dummy variable, coded as 1 if the respondent has a university degree, a higher university degree, or is still in full time education (see question 4).
- *PollAtt* is a categorical variable comprised of the *attention* variable (question 12): Scores between 0 and 2 are coded as 'low'; scores between 3 and 7 are coded as 'medium'; scores between 8 and 10 are coded as 'high'.
- *trueScore7* is an additive scale of all veracity scores in stage 2 of the survey (questions 29 to 36) excluding the score corresponding to the item that was corrected in stage 3.
- *populism_scale* is an additive scale of the four *pop_* variables. The populism variables were re-coded so that higher values mean 'more populist'. For each of the four variables, 'Strongly agree' was coded as 4, 'Agree' was coded as 3, 'Disagree' was coded as 2, 'Strongly disagree' was coded as 1, and 'Don't Know' was coded as 0. The sum of the four variables was divided by four so as to retain values ranging between 0 and 4.
- *ethno_scale* is an additive scale of the six nationalism (*ethno_*) variables. The three reverse-coded variables (*ethno_ratherBritain*, *ethno_2Critical*, *ethno_moreLikeBritain*) were re-coded so

that higher values mean 'more nationalist'. The sum of the four variables was divided by six so as to retain values ranging between 0 and 4.

- *immigNo123* is a dummy variable denoting whether the respondent listed 'Immigration' as one of the major issues facing Britain today (see question 13).

'There has been a sharp rise in the number of people applying for asylum in the UK in the past ten years.'

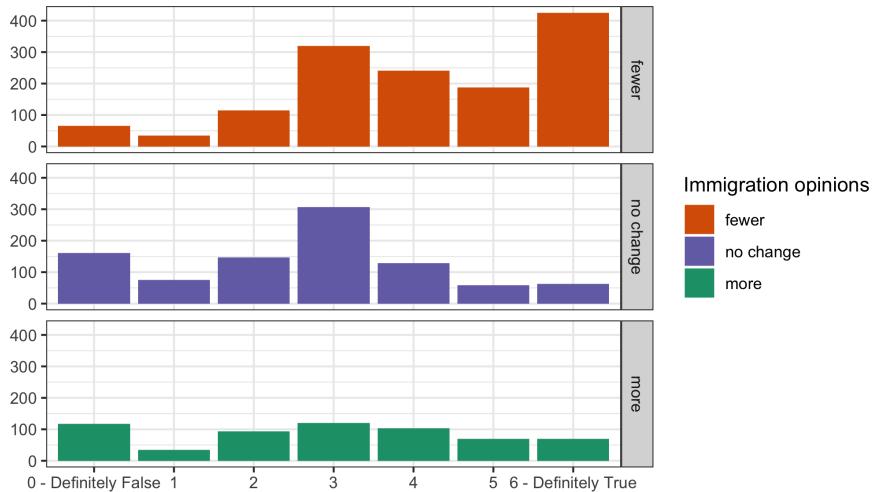
All respondents



(a) *noAsylum*

'Immigrants receive more in benefits and services than they pay in taxes.'

All respondents

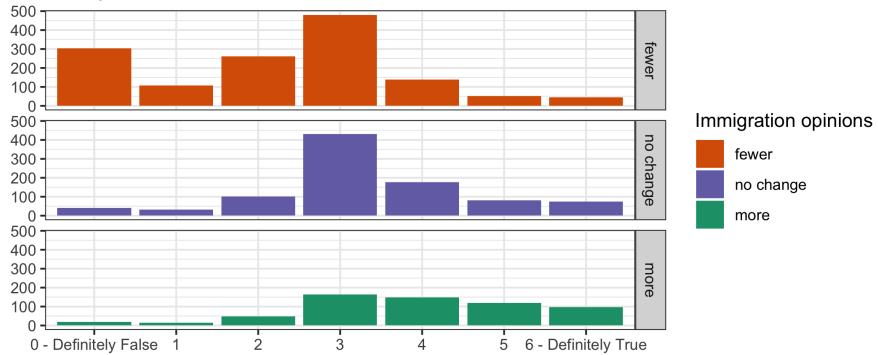


(b) *costImmig*

Figure 1: False claims that buttress anti-immigration opinions

'The majority of crimes in London are committed by white people, not ethnic minorities.'

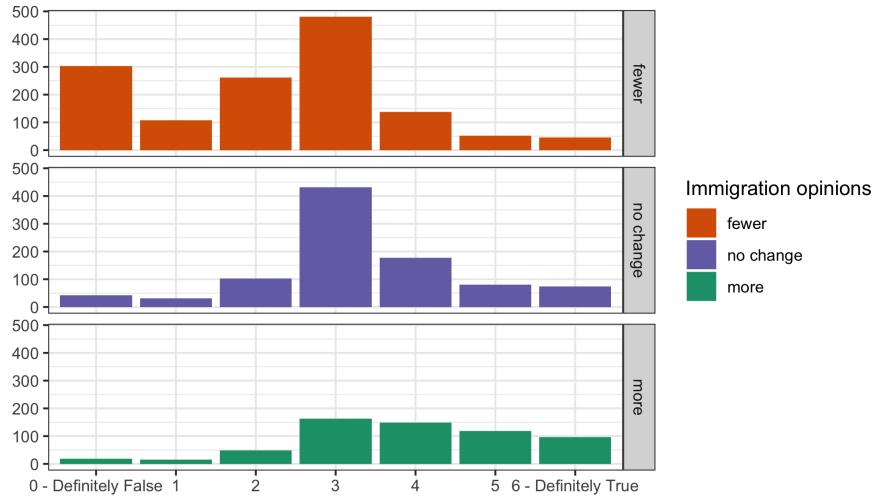
All respondents



(a) *whiteCrime*

'Immigration to the UK does not affect the wages of the low-paid.'

All respondents



(b) *Immigration to the UK does not affect the wages of the low-paid.*

Figure 2: False claims that buttress pro-immigration opinions

Corrected statement by immigration opinions

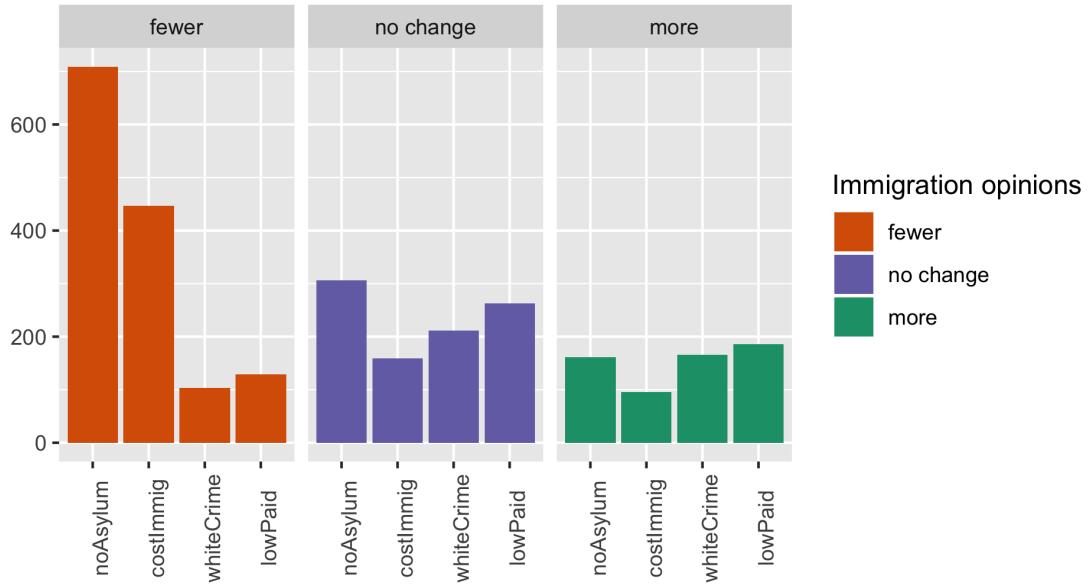


Figure 3: Corrected claim

Table 1: *Belief in false claims*

	Dependent variable:			
	asylum seekers	cost/benefits	crime	low-paid wages
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
voted to leave the EU	-0.031 (0.066)	0.126 (0.089)	-0.158 (0.110)	-0.249** (0.102)
immigration opinions	-0.175*** (0.021)	-0.146*** (0.025)	0.079** (0.034)	0.072** (0.032)
immigration important issue	0.217*** (0.065)	0.262*** (0.076)	-0.094 (0.124)	-0.174 (0.127)
low political attention	0.067 (0.113)	-0.145 (0.122)	-0.384* (0.230)	-0.075 (0.218)
high political attention	0.162 (0.116)	-0.208 (0.127)	-0.129 (0.237)	0.092 (0.220)
university	-0.114* (0.060)	-0.054 (0.078)	0.048 (0.105)	-0.002 (0.093)
female	0.026 (0.059)	-0.063 (0.075)	-0.012 (0.101)	-0.066 (0.092)
age	-0.002 (0.002)	-0.002 (0.002)	-0.001 (0.003)	0.001 (0.003)
populist (centred)	0.176*** (0.040)	0.279*** (0.054)	0.085 (0.062)	0.163*** (0.055)
nationalist (centred)	-0.048 (0.044)	-0.120* (0.061)	-0.175** (0.080)	-0.173*** (0.067)
other T/F ratings	0.052*** (0.006)	0.065*** (0.007)	0.096*** (0.009)	0.064*** (0.009)
Constant	6.482*** (0.177)	6.499*** (0.208)	5.554*** (0.320)	5.605*** (0.304)
Observations	985	597	366	469
R ²	0.211	0.271	0.316	0.196
Adjusted R ²	0.202	0.257	0.294	0.177

Note:

*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

II. EFFECT OF THE CORRECTION ON BELIEF IN FALSE CLAIMS (CONTROL GROUP)

i. All Control Group Respondents who had a Motivation to Reject the Statistics

Effect of expert statement on belief in false claims

Average veracity scores (1='Definitely false' 7='Definitely true')

Control Group who saw statistics that challenged their opinions about immigration.

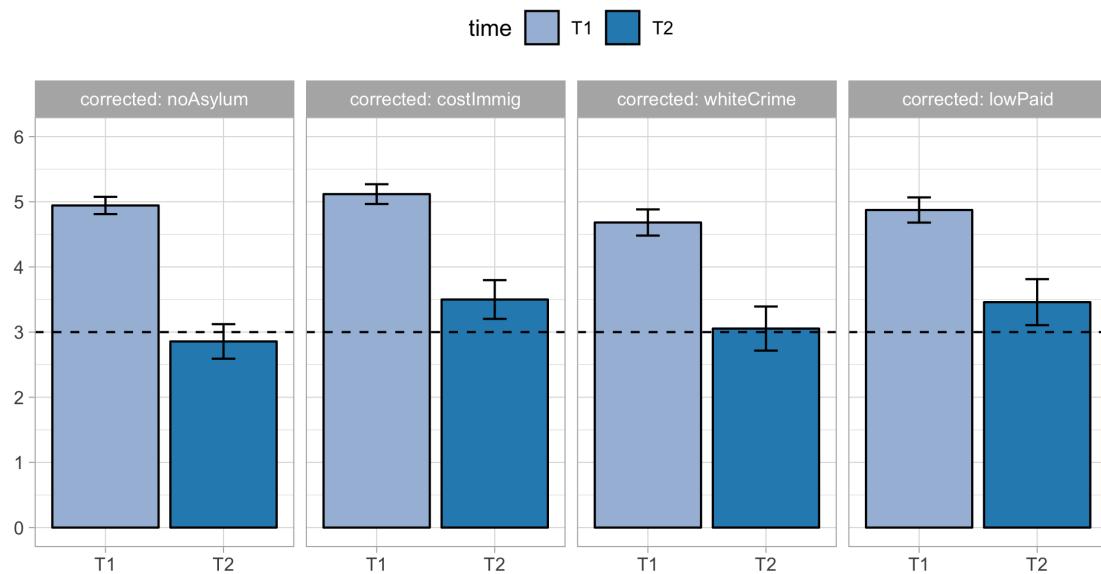


Figure 4: Effect of the correction on belief in false claims

Table 2: Reactions to expert statements (control group)

	Dependent variable:			
	Difference pre and post-correction asylum seekers	veracity scores cost/benefits	crime	low-paid wages
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
voted to leave the EU	-0.016 (0.457)	0.203 (0.636)	-0.488* (0.258)	-0.529** (0.250)
increase immigration	0.304 (0.239)	0.104 (0.293)	-0.054 (0.083)	-0.042 (0.078)
immigration important issue	-0.291 (0.407)	-0.146 (0.474)	-0.166 (0.277)	0.029 (0.265)
low political attention	0.736 (0.749)	-0.055 (0.769)	0.255 (0.469)	0.123 (0.448)
high political attention	1.569** (0.771)	-0.150 (0.831)	0.398 (0.487)	0.546 (0.465)
university	0.022 (0.374)	-0.019 (0.450)	-0.088 (0.239)	-0.273 (0.226)
female	1.267*** (0.388)	0.446 (0.509)	0.424* (0.240)	0.541** (0.229)
age	-0.007 (0.012)	0.013 (0.013)	0.015* (0.008)	0.014* (0.007)
populist (centred)	-0.799 (0.669)	-0.904 (0.763)	0.070 (0.376)	0.170 (0.350)
nationalist (centred)	0.101 (0.275)	-0.171 (0.379)	-0.123 (0.187)	-0.052 (0.179)
other T/F ratings	0.025 (0.044)	-0.011 (0.044)	-0.002 (0.024)	-0.012 (0.022)
populist:increase immigration	0.269 (0.301)	0.123 (0.425)	-0.049 (0.090)	-0.041 (0.080)
populist:female	0.414 (0.506)	0.662 (0.716)	-0.315 (0.300)	-0.476* (0.276)
Constant	7.487*** (1.080)	7.770*** (1.096)	8.128*** (0.682)	8.077*** (0.653)
Observations	140	106	340	336
R ²	0.162	0.066	0.058	0.085
Adjusted R ²	0.076	-0.066	0.021	0.048

Note:

*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

III. EFFECT OF THE FACT-FREE COMMENT ON BELIEF IN FALSE CLAIMS

i. Do Fact-Free Comments Cancel Out the Effect of the Expert Statement?

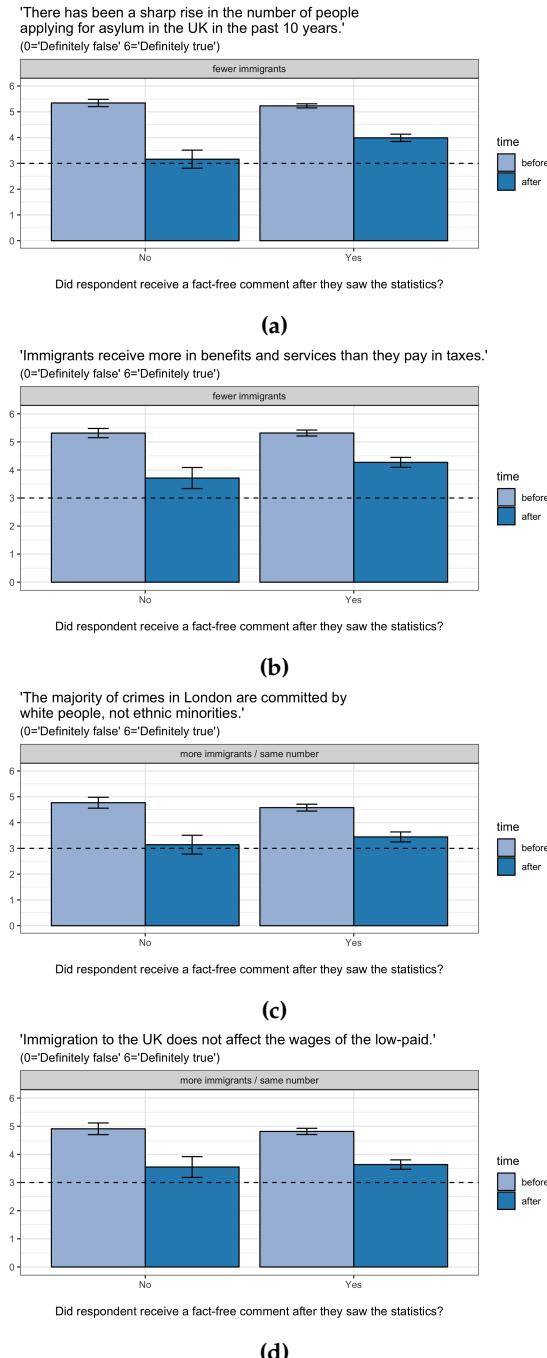
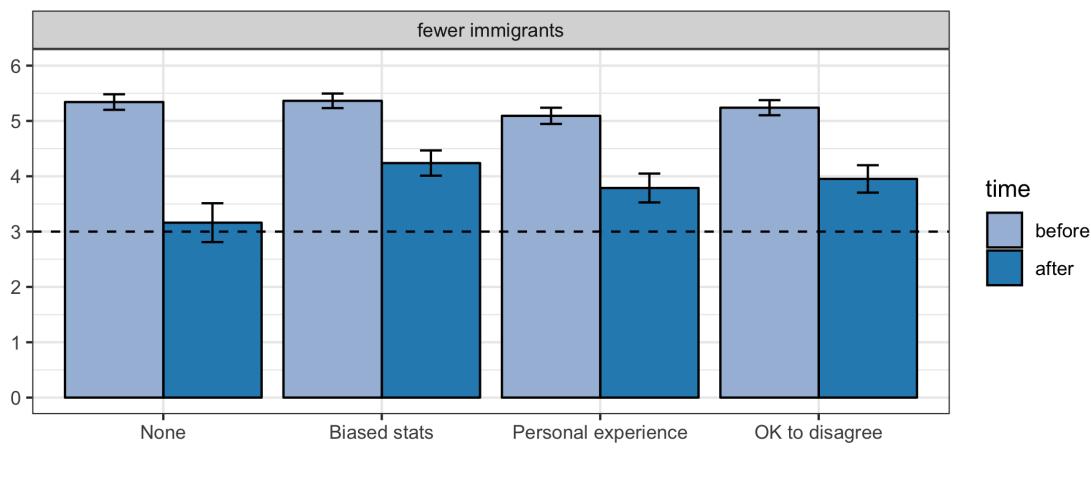


Figure 5

ii. Does the Message Matter? (Pooled Data / Motivated to Reject)

'There has been a sharp rise in the number of people applying for asylum in the UK in the past 10 years.'
(0='Definitely false' 6='Definitely true')



'Immigrants receive more in benefits and services than they pay in taxes.'
(0='Definitely false' 6='Definitely true')

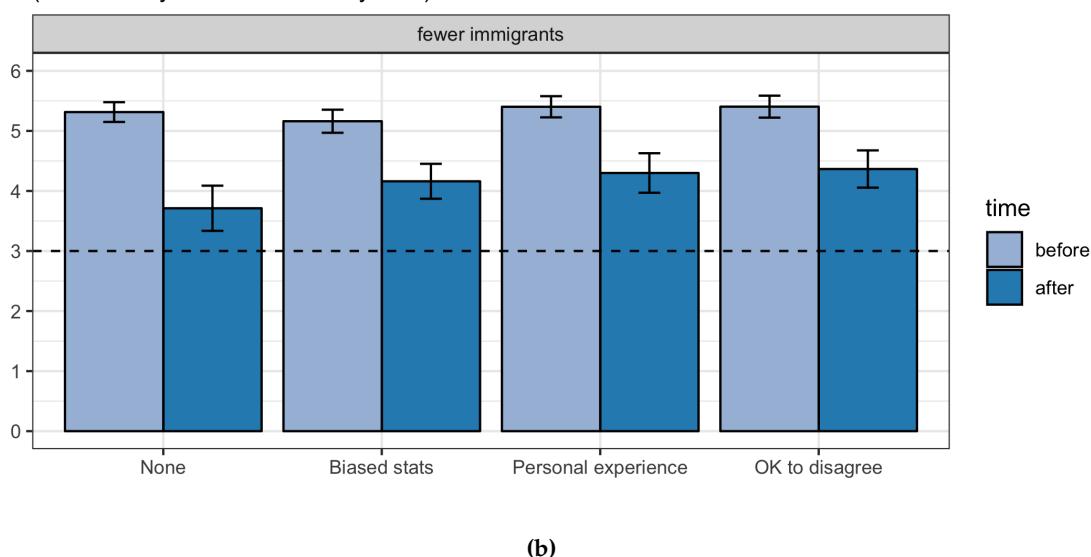
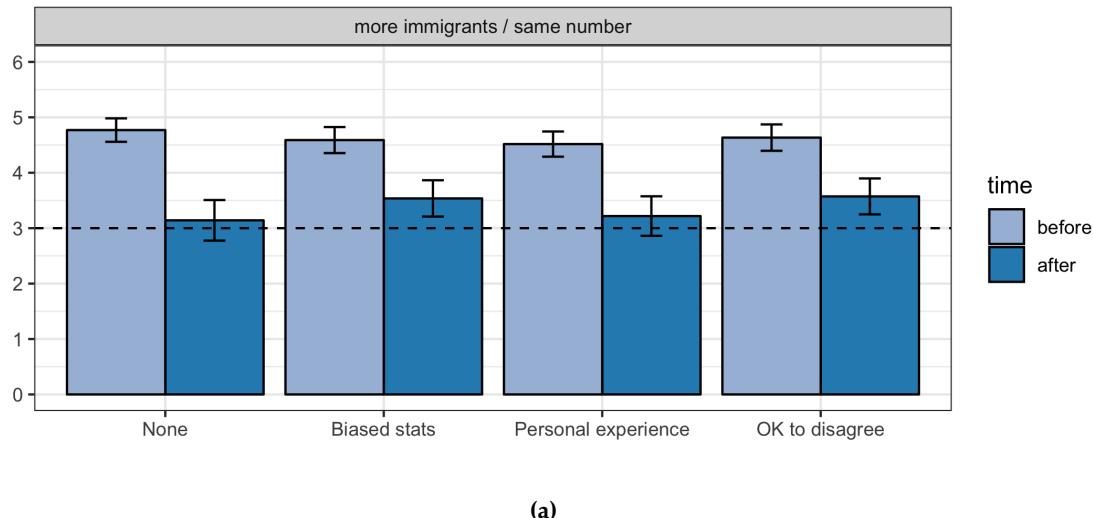


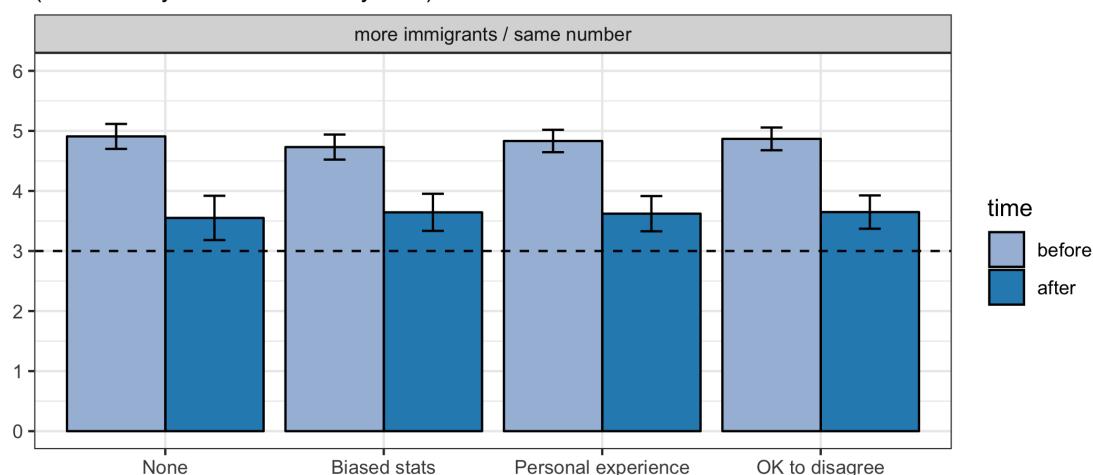
Figure 6

'The majority of crimes in London are committed by white people, not ethnic minorities.'
 (0='Definitely false' 6='Definitely true')



(a)

'Immigration to the UK does not affect the wages of the low-paid.'
 (0='Definitely false' 6='Definitely true')

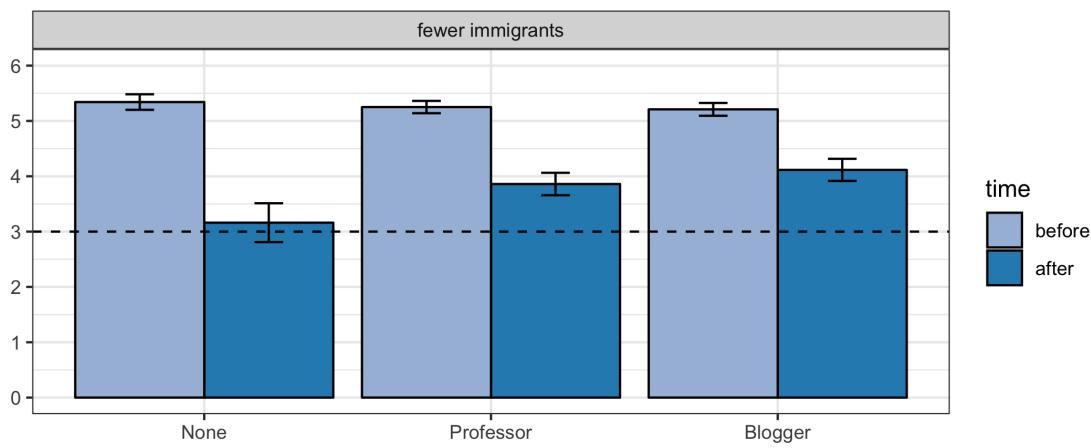


(b)

Figure 7

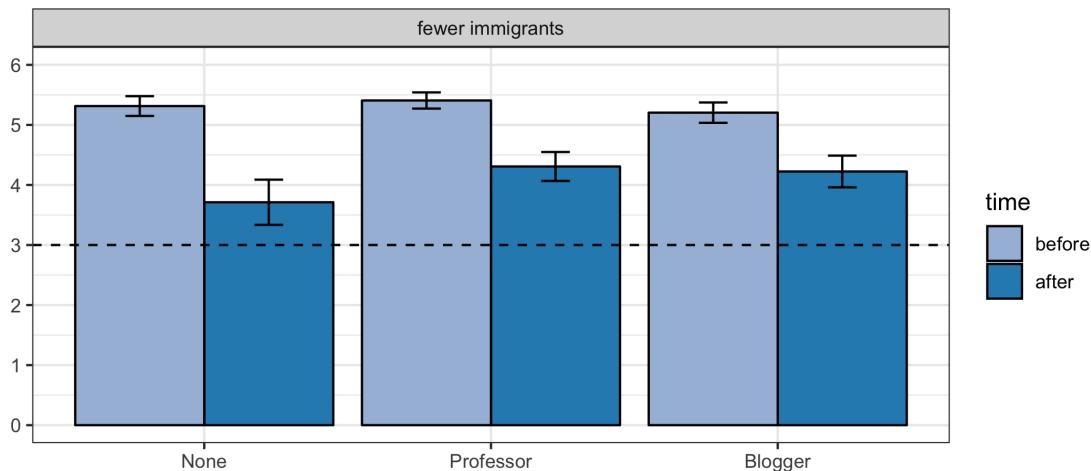
iii. Does the Source Matter? (Pooled Data / Motivated to Reject)

'There has been a sharp rise in the number of people applying for asylum in the UK in the past 10 years.'
 (0='Definitely false' 6='Definitely true')



(a) *noAsylum*

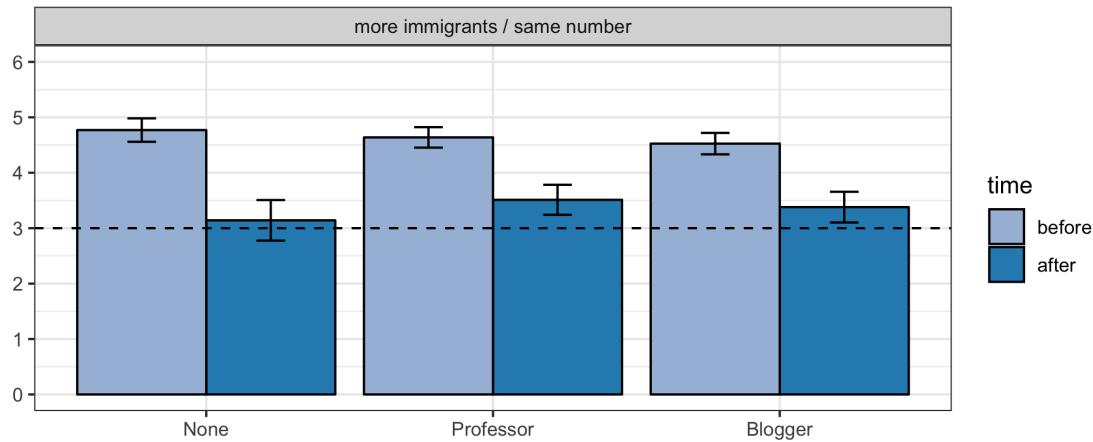
'Immigrants receive more in benefits and services than they pay in taxes.'
 (0='Definitely false' 6='Definitely true')



(b) *costImmig*

Figure 8

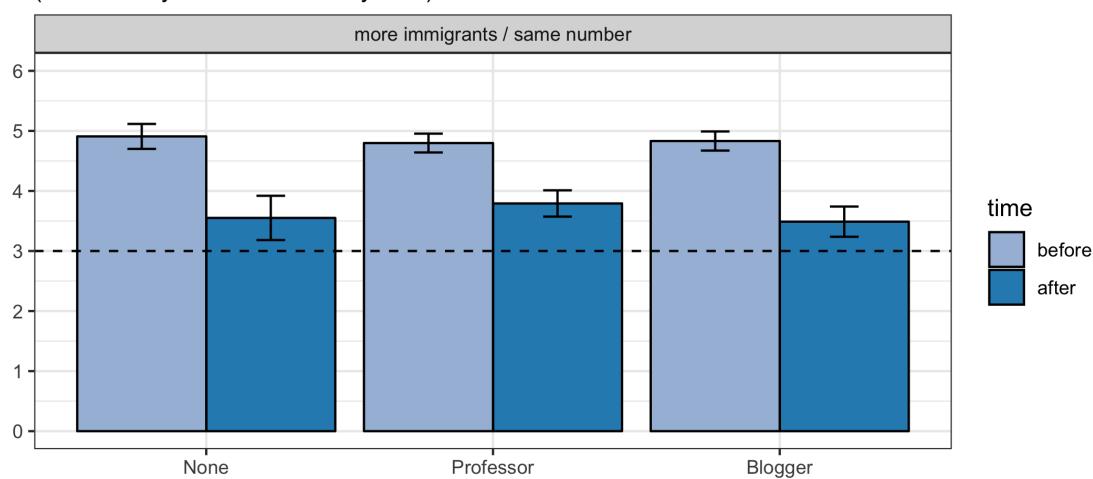
'The majority of crimes in London are committed by white people, not ethnic minorities.'
 (0='Definitely false' 6='Definitely true')



(a) *whiteCrime*

'Immigration to the UK does not affect the wages of the low-paid.'

(0='Definitely false' 6='Definitely true')

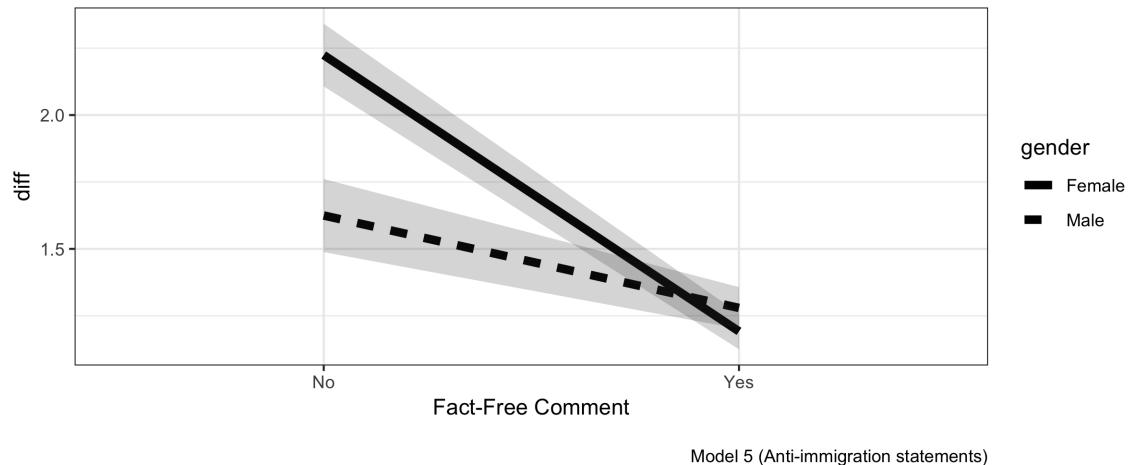


(b) *lowPaid*

Figure 9

**IV. OLS REGRESSION RESULTS – EFFECT OF A FACT-FREE COMMENT ON
RESPONSIVENESS TO EXPERT INFORMATION**

The effect of the FFC depending on gender



The effect of the FFC depending on populist predispositions

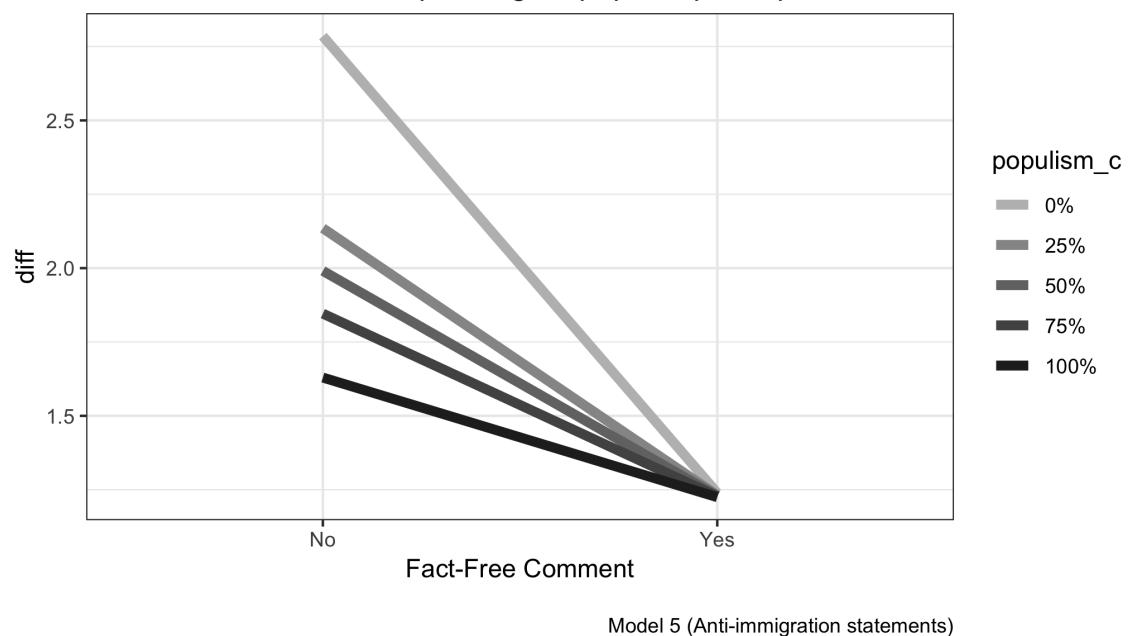


Figure 10: Interaction effects (pooled anti-immigration false facts)

Table 3: Effect of FFC on responsiveness to expert information (anti-immigration claims)

	Dependent variable:					
	Difference pre and post-correction veracity scores					
	asylum seekers		cost/benefits		pooled	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
fact free comment	-0.517 (0.335)	-0.375* (0.204)	-0.313 (0.435)	-0.036 (0.280)	-0.481* (0.263)	-0.255 (0.165)
voted to leave	0.176 (0.300)		-0.378 (0.383)		-0.029 (0.234)	
important issue	-0.482 (0.306)	-0.192 (0.130)	-0.292 (0.327)	-0.191 (0.154)	-0.404* (0.221)	-0.219** (0.099)
feel like home	0.035 (0.172)	-0.092 (0.133)	-0.067 (0.178)	0.016 (0.155)	-0.063 (0.122)	-0.111 (0.099)
populist (centred)	-0.374* (0.194)	-0.373** (0.175)	-0.463** (0.217)	-0.200 (0.190)	-0.390*** (0.143)	-0.289** (0.129)
nationalist (centred)	-0.001 (0.194)		-0.242 (0.271)		-0.072 (0.157)	
low pol. attention	0.129 (0.224)		0.065 (0.243)		0.090 (0.164)	
high pol. attention	0.338 (0.229)		-0.190 (0.255)		0.138 (0.169)	
university	0.073 (0.254)		-0.160 (0.309)		-0.023 (0.195)	
female	0.853*** (0.260)	0.766*** (0.234)	0.376 (0.312)	0.447 (0.284)	0.621*** (0.198)	0.600*** (0.180)
age (centred)	0.005 (0.008)	0.005 (0.007)	0.008 (0.009)	0.017** (0.008)	0.007 (0.006)	0.010* (0.005)
FFC:leave	0.308 (0.339)		0.266 (0.445)		0.364 (0.267)	
FFC:important issue	0.434 (0.342)		0.167 (0.381)		0.298 (0.251)	
FFC:feel like home	-0.376** (0.190)	-0.330** (0.148)	-0.205 (0.210)	-0.257 (0.181)	-0.257* (0.138)	-0.258** (0.112)
FFC:populist	0.303 (0.216)	0.322 (0.196)	0.588** (0.257)	0.315 (0.226)	0.358** (0.162)	0.285* (0.147)
FFC:nationalist	-0.072 (0.220)		0.085 (0.305)		-0.047 (0.178)	
FFC:university	-0.117 (0.289)		-0.027 (0.360)		-0.079 (0.224)	
FFC:female	-0.783*** (0.293)	-0.744*** (0.267)	-0.736** (0.365)	-0.734** (0.332)	-0.688*** (0.227)	-0.687*** (0.208)
FFC:age	-0.001 (0.009)	0.0003 (0.008)	-0.016 (0.011)	-0.023** (0.009)	-0.006 (0.007)	-0.009 (0.006)
Constant	1.572*** (0.365)	1.861*** (0.181)	1.964*** (0.438)	1.440*** (0.245)	1.776*** (0.278)	1.745*** (0.146)
Observations	832	968	491	568	1,323	1,536
R ²	0.131	0.112	0.089	0.067	0.103	0.090
Adjusted R ²	0.110	0.102	0.053	0.050	0.090	0.084

Note:

*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

The effect of the FFC depending on feeling at home
'There are so many foreigners round here that it doesn't feel like home anymore.'

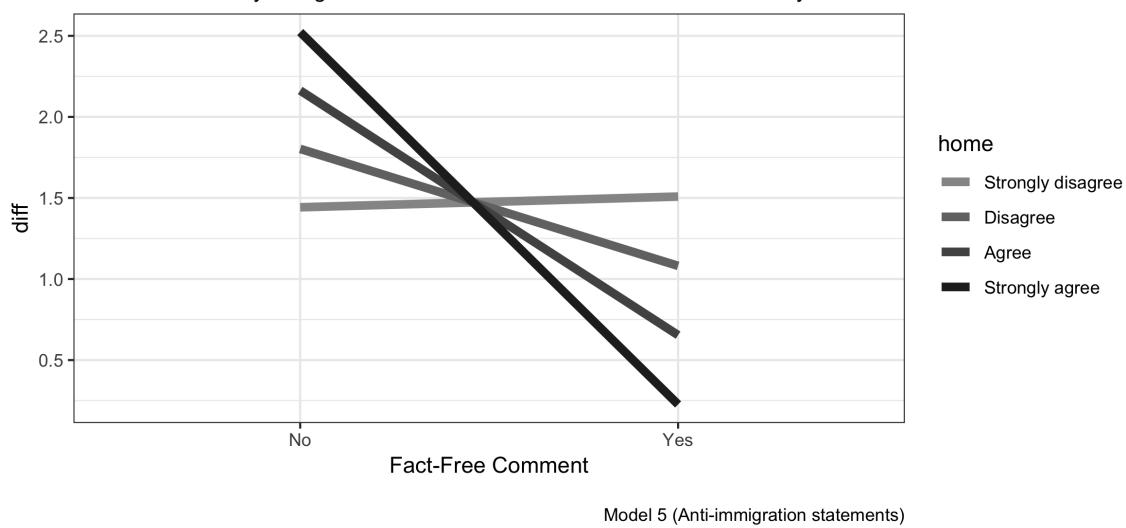


Figure 11: Interaction effects (pooled anti-immigration false facts)

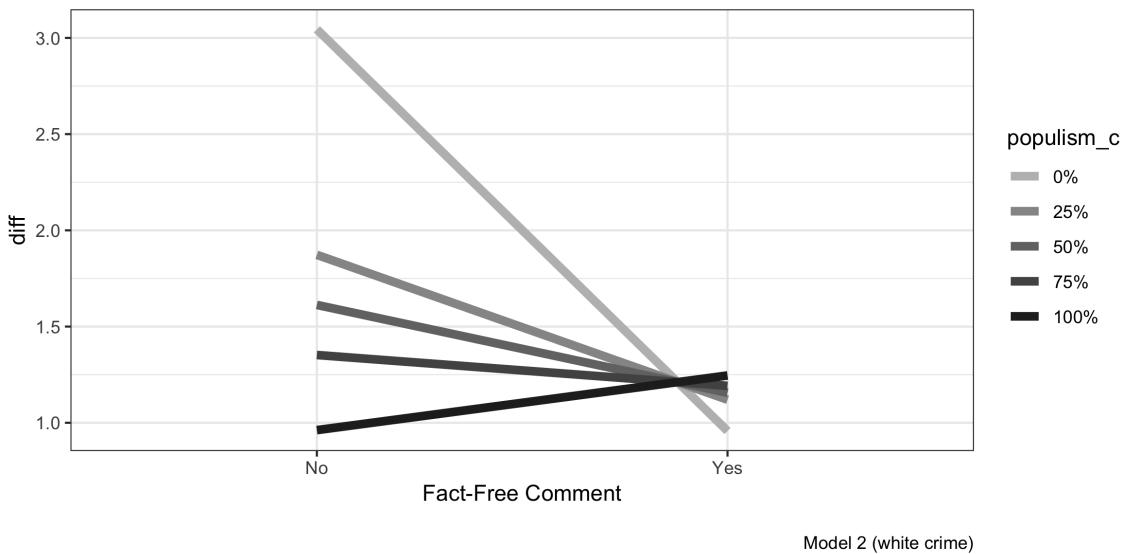
Table 4: Effect of FFC on responsiveness to expert information (pro-immigration claims)

	Dependent variable:					
	Difference pre and post-correction veracity scores					
	white crime	low-paid wages	pooled	(1)	(2)	(3)
fact free comment	-0.624 (0.622)	-0.797* (0.410)	-0.059 (0.581)	-0.044 (0.347)	-0.517* (0.266)	-0.518*** (0.171)
voted to leave	-0.364 (0.427)		-0.649 (0.446)			
important issue	-0.352 (0.601)	-0.224 (0.556)	1.263* (0.702)	1.151* (0.599)	0.201 (0.405)	
feel like home	0.480** (0.232)	0.360* (0.214)	-0.680*** (0.228)	-0.618*** (0.192)	-0.119 (0.139)	-0.111 (0.130)
populist (centred)	-0.827** (0.336)	-0.521** (0.247)	-0.216 (0.235)	-0.181 (0.209)	-0.298* (0.156)	-0.308** (0.152)
nationalist (centred)	-0.615 (0.385)	-0.934*** (0.333)	0.568* (0.303)	0.416 (0.260)	-0.147 (0.201)	-0.121 (0.096)
low pol. attention	0.631 (0.575)		0.059 (0.480)			
high pol. attention	0.912 (0.589)		0.267 (0.481)			
university	0.846* (0.453)	0.174 (0.383)	-0.634 (0.411)	-0.552 (0.362)	-0.127 (0.257)	
female	0.490 (0.441)		0.511 (0.406)			
age (centred)	-0.012 (0.015)		0.001 (0.013)			
FFC:leave	0.677 (0.539)		0.562 (0.516)			
FFC:important issue	1.079 (0.704)	0.745 (0.640)	-1.400* (0.772)	-1.172* (0.663)	0.039 (0.458)	
FFC:feel like home	-0.780*** (0.279)	-0.788*** (0.252)	0.369 (0.262)	0.316 (0.221)	-0.241 (0.163)	-0.227 (0.149)
FFC:populist	0.940** (0.371)	0.593** (0.283)	0.024 (0.265)	0.047 (0.236)	0.254 (0.179)	0.294* (0.175)
FFC:nationalist	0.404 (0.444)	0.878** (0.381)	-0.649* (0.336)	-0.563* (0.293)	0.042 (0.229)	
FFC:university	-0.966* (0.533)	-0.176 (0.449)	0.171 (0.466)	0.232 (0.408)	-0.050 (0.297)	
FFC:female	-0.304 (0.516)		-0.666 (0.459)			
FFC:age	0.021 (0.016)		-0.004 (0.014)			
Constant	0.320 (0.757)	1.582*** (0.346)	1.287* (0.678)	1.162*** (0.299)	1.487*** (0.227)	1.441*** (0.146)
Observations	271	351	350	415	766	778
R ²	0.133	0.084	0.121	0.094	0.052	0.048
Adjusted R ²	0.068	0.055	0.071	0.069	0.038	0.041

Note:

*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

The effect of the FFC depending on populist predispositions



The effect of the FFC depending on nationalist predispositions

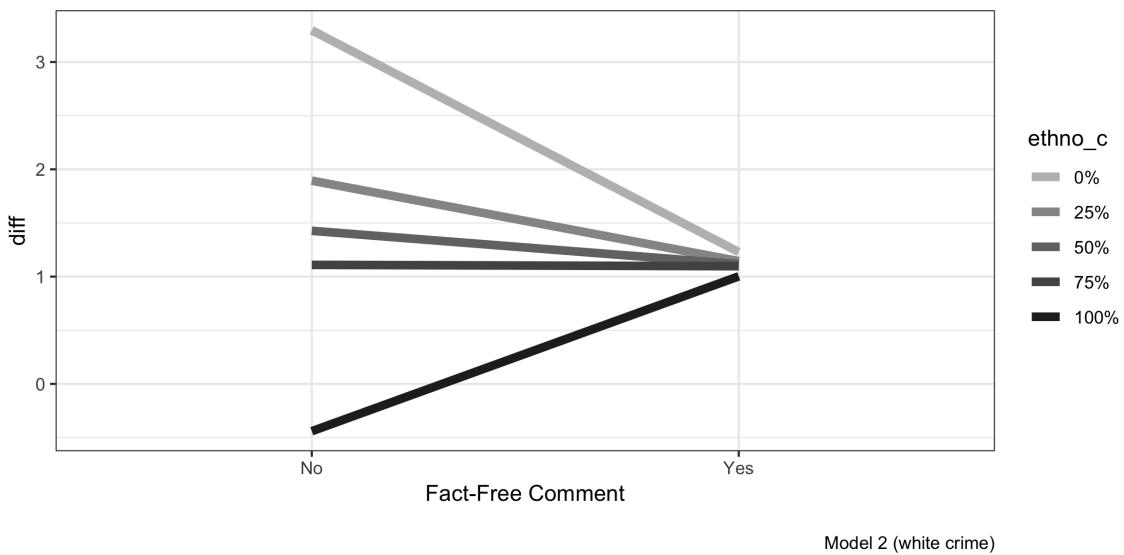
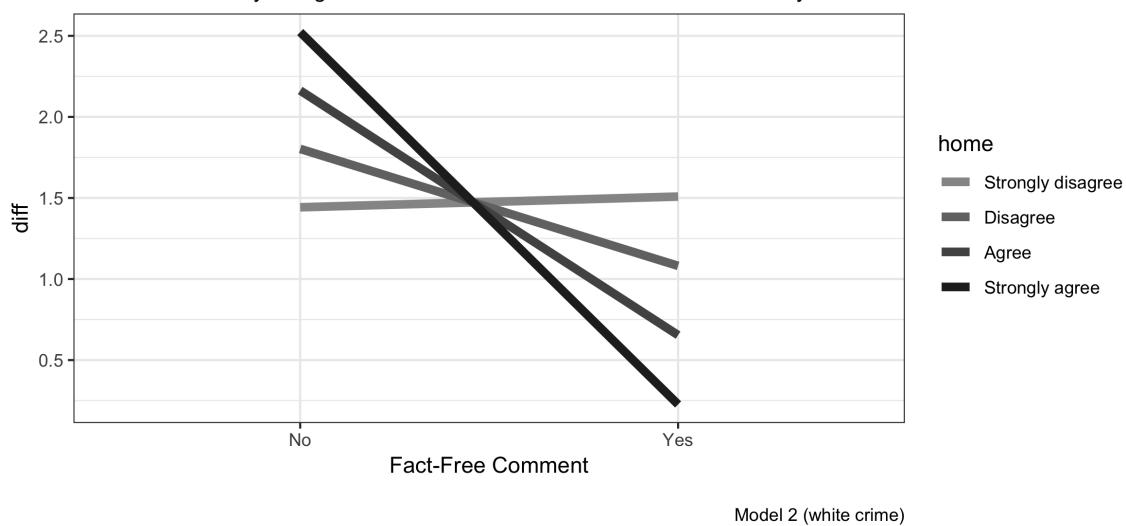


Figure 12: Interaction effects for individual pro-immigration claims)

The effect of the FFC depending on feeling at home
 'There are so many foreigners round here that it doesn't feel like home anymore.'



The effect of the FFC depending on nationalist predispositions

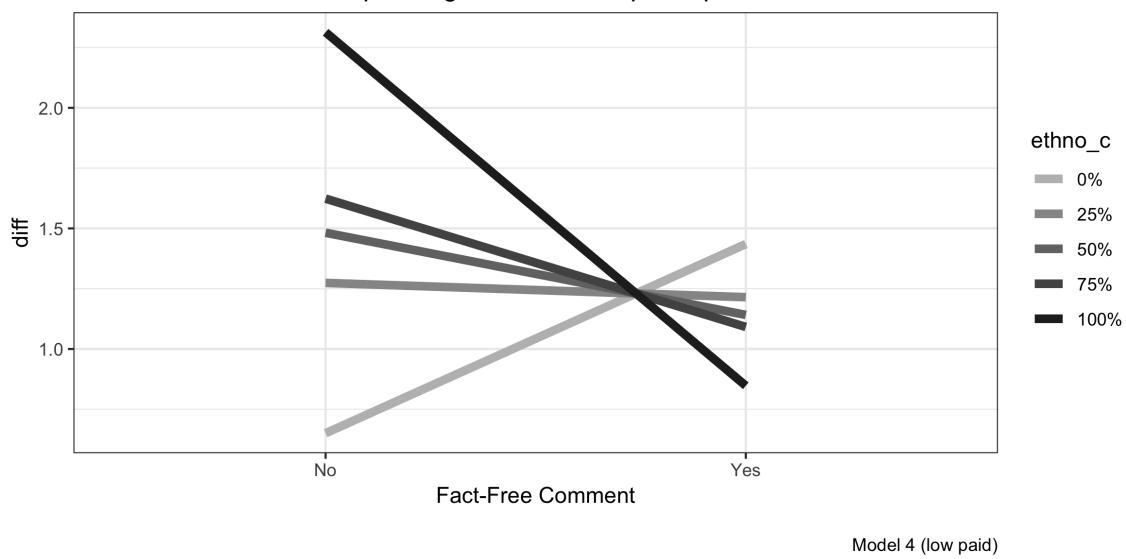


Figure 13: Interaction effects for individual pro-immigration claims

Table 5: Effect of FFC on responsiveness to expert information (top quintile populists)

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>			
	Difference pre- and post-correction veracity scores			
	pooled anti-immigration	(2)	(3)	(4)
fact free comment (FFC)	0.863 (0.569)	0.888** (0.414)	-0.773 (0.967)	-1.134* (0.660)
voted to leave	1.965*** (0.597)	1.905*** (0.568)	-0.019 (0.602)	
important issue	0.897** (0.432)	0.892** (0.401)	1.395* (0.827)	
feel like home	-0.269 (0.241)	-0.359*** (0.107)	-0.175 (0.295)	
nationalist (centred)	0.534 (0.357)	0.222* (0.130)	-0.187 (0.504)	-0.251 (0.365)
low pol. attention	0.165 (0.277)		-0.619 (0.814)	
high pol. attention	0.298 (0.274)		-0.700 (0.777)	
university	-0.338 (0.405)		-0.808 (0.755)	-0.833* (0.501)
female	1.132*** (0.410)	1.122*** (0.383)	-0.714 (0.583)	-1.005** (0.488)
age (centred)	-0.008 (0.014)		-0.039* (0.023)	-0.032* (0.018)
FFC:leave	-1.698*** (0.653)	-1.650*** (0.625)	0.451 (0.789)	
FFC:important issue	-1.198** (0.484)	-1.210*** (0.445)	-1.262 (1.013)	
FFC:feel like home	-0.135 (0.270)		-0.167 (0.361)	
FFC:nationalist	-0.380 (0.386)		-0.816 (0.714)	-1.310** (0.517)
FFC:university	0.221 (0.459)		0.491 (0.936)	0.860 (0.660)
FFC:female	-1.205*** (0.462)	-1.214*** (0.429)	0.674 (0.757)	1.267* (0.648)
FFC:age	0.011 (0.015)		0.067** (0.028)	0.060*** (0.023)
Constant	0.469 (0.562)	0.607 (0.380)	1.998* (1.133)	1.772*** (0.531)
Observations	329	330	84	110
R ²	0.150	0.138	0.340	0.259
Adjusted R ²	0.104	0.114	0.170	0.193

Note:

*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Table 6: Effect of FFC on responsiveness to expert information (top quintile populists)

	Dependent variable:			
	Difference pre- and post-correction veracity scores			
	anti-immigration (pooled)	pro-immigration (pooled)	(3)	(4)
	(1)	(2)		
fact free comment (Professor)	0.820*	0.375	-1.463*	-0.439
	(0.465)	(0.362)	(0.812)	(0.398)
fact free comment (Blogger)	0.209	-0.001	-1.289	-0.253
	(0.477)	(0.371)	(0.878)	(0.401)
voted to leave	1.633***	1.518***	-0.466	
	(0.562)	(0.547)	(0.615)	
important issue	-0.106		0.562	
	(0.198)		(0.510)	
feel like home	-0.086	-0.364***	-0.225	-0.072
	(0.230)	(0.102)	(0.180)	(0.231)
nationalist (centred)	0.173	0.188	-0.548	-0.575*
	(0.136)	(0.131)	(0.369)	(0.295)
pol. attention (low)	0.215		-0.645	
	(0.279)		(0.869)	
pol. attention (high)	0.333		-0.333	
	(0.274)		(0.811)	
university	-0.227		-0.630	
	(0.192)		(0.457)	
female	1.095***	1.062***	-0.455	
	(0.393)	(0.385)	(0.595)	
age (centred)	0.001		0.005	
	(0.006)		(0.013)	
FFC (Prof):female	-1.233***	-1.159**	-0.138	
	(0.475)	(0.469)	(0.927)	
FFC (Blogger):female	-1.167**	-1.191**	1.053	
	(0.491)	(0.484)	(0.895)	
FFC (Prof):leave	-1.374**	-1.135*	1.510	
	(0.667)	(0.652)	(0.923)	
FFC (Blogger):leave	-1.233*	-1.144*	0.683	
	(0.667)	(0.657)	(0.973)	
FFC (Prof):feel like home	-0.414			-0.355
	(0.273)			(0.313)
FFC (Blogger):feel like home	-0.251			-0.623*
	(0.287)			(0.322)
Constant	0.731	1.110***	2.178**	1.017***
	(0.473)	(0.321)	(1.022)	(0.281)
Observations	329	330	84	111
R ²	0.145	0.128	0.229	0.198
Adjusted R ²	0.098	0.101	0.059	0.151

Note:

*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

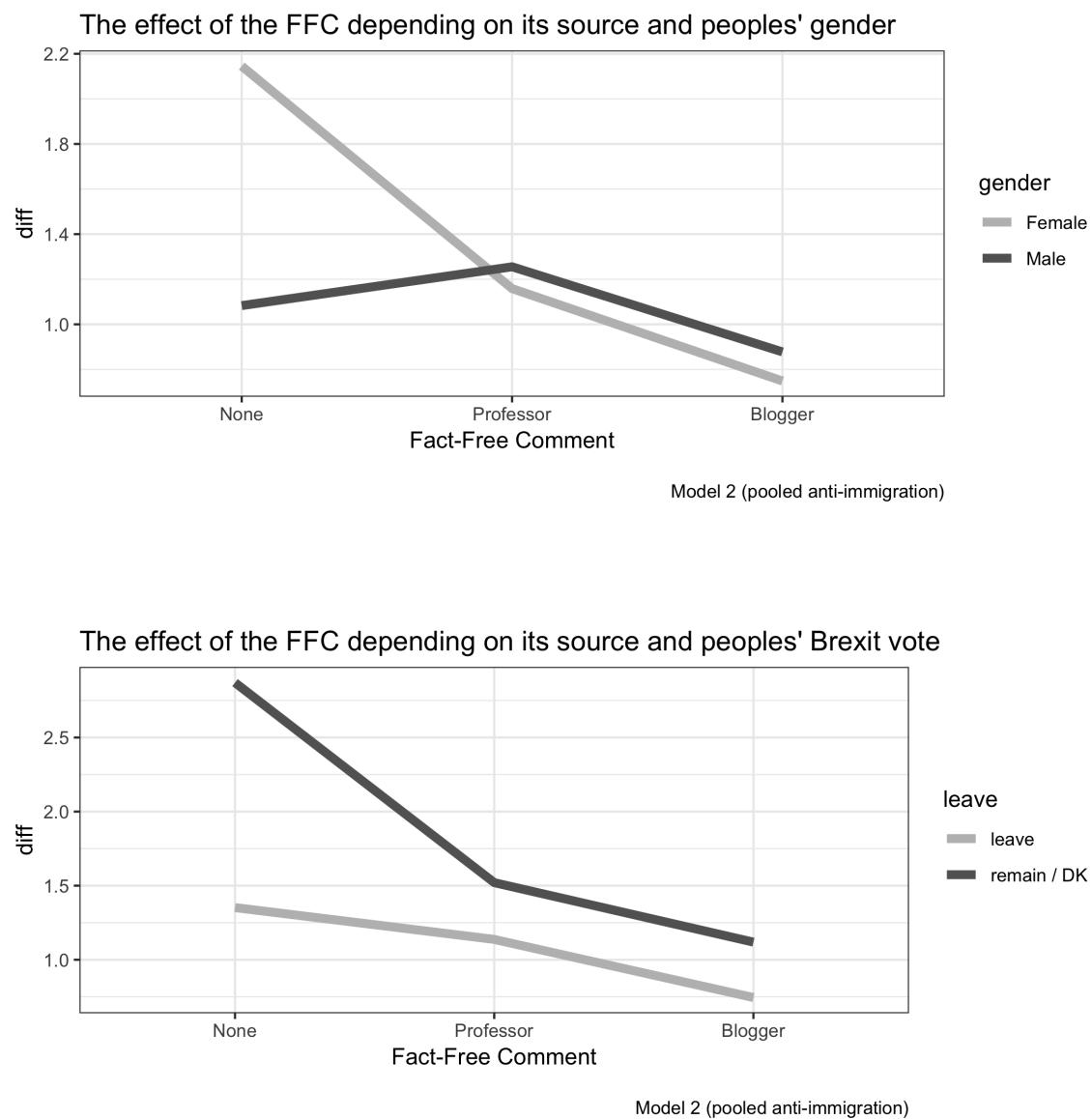


Figure 14: Interaction effects for top quintile populists (pooled anti-immigration statements)

Table 7: Effect of FFC on responsiveness to expert information (anti-immigration claims)

	Dependent variable:				
	asylum seekers	Difference pre and post-correction	veracity scores		
		asylum seekers	cost/benefits	cost/benefits	pooled
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
fact free comment	-0.517 (0.335)	-0.375* (0.204)	-0.313 (0.435)	-0.036 (0.280)	-0.255 (0.165)
voted to leave	0.176 (0.300)		-0.378 (0.383)		
important issue	-0.482 (0.306)	-0.192 (0.130)	-0.292 (0.327)	-0.191 (0.154)	-0.219** (0.099)
feel like home	0.035 (0.172)	-0.092 (0.133)	-0.067 (0.178)	0.016 (0.155)	-0.111 (0.099)
populist (centred)	-0.374* (0.194)	-0.373** (0.175)	-0.463** (0.217)	-0.200 (0.190)	-0.289** (0.129)
nationalist (centred)	-0.001 (0.194)		-0.242 (0.271)		
low pol. attention	0.129 (0.224)		0.065 (0.243)		
high pol. attention	0.338 (0.229)		-0.190 (0.255)		
university	0.073 (0.254)		-0.160 (0.309)		
female	0.853*** (0.260)	0.766*** (0.234)	0.376 (0.312)	0.447 (0.284)	0.600*** (0.180)
age (centred)	0.005 (0.008)	0.005 (0.007)	0.008 (0.009)	0.017** (0.008)	0.010* (0.005)
FFC:leave	0.308 (0.339)		0.266 (0.445)		
FFC:important issue	0.434 (0.342)		0.167 (0.381)		
FFC:feel like home	-0.376** (0.190)	-0.330** (0.148)	-0.205 (0.210)	-0.257 (0.181)	-0.258** (0.112)
FFC:populist	0.303 (0.216)	0.322 (0.196)	0.588** (0.257)	0.315 (0.226)	0.285* (0.147)
FFC:nationalist	-0.072 (0.220)		0.085 (0.305)		
FFC:university	-0.117 (0.289)		-0.027 (0.360)		
FFC:female	-0.783*** (0.293)	-0.744*** (0.267)	-0.736** (0.365)	-0.734** (0.332)	-0.687*** (0.208)
FFC:age	-0.001 (0.009)	0.0003 (0.008)	-0.016 (0.011)	-0.023** (0.009)	-0.009 (0.006)
Constant	1.572*** (0.365)	1.861*** (0.181)	1.964*** (0.438)	1.440*** (0.245)	1.745*** (0.146)
Observations	832	968	491	568	1,536
R ²	0.131	0.112	0.089	0.067	0.090
Adjusted R ²	0.110	0.102	0.053	0.050	0.084

Note:

*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Table 8: Effect of FFC on responsiveness to expert information (pro-immigration claims)

	Dependent variable:				
	white crime	Difference pre and post-correction veracity scores			
		white crime	low-paid wages	low-paid wages	pooled
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
fact free comment	-0.624 (0.622)	-0.718*** (0.246)	-0.059 (0.581)	-0.093 (0.239)	0.096 (0.177)
voted to leave	-0.364 (0.427)		-0.649 (0.446)		
important issue	-0.352 (0.601)		1.263* (0.702)		
feel like home	0.480** (0.232)	0.372* (0.208)	-0.680*** (0.228)	-0.530*** (0.187)	0.012 (0.144)
populist (centred)	-0.827** (0.336)	-0.546** (0.242)	-0.216 (0.235)	-0.202 (0.206)	0.094 (0.193)
nationalist (centred)	-0.615 (0.385)	-0.973*** (0.319)	0.568* (0.303)	0.504** (0.255)	-0.577** (0.226)
low pol. attention	0.631 (0.575)		0.059 (0.480)		
high pol. attention	0.912 (0.589)		0.267 (0.481)		
university	0.846* (0.453)	0.053 (0.200)	-0.634 (0.411)	-0.356** (0.167)	-0.043 (0.154)
female	0.490 (0.441)		0.511 (0.406)		
age (centred)	-0.012 (0.015)		0.001 (0.013)		
FFC:leave	0.677 (0.539)		0.562 (0.516)		
FFC:important issue	1.079 (0.704)		-1.400* (0.772)		
FFC:feel like home	-0.780*** (0.279)	-0.719*** (0.242)	0.369 (0.262)	0.228 (0.215)	-0.293* (0.166)
FFC:populist	0.940** (0.371)	0.619** (0.278)	0.024 (0.265)	0.068 (0.234)	-0.140 (0.220)
FFC:nationalist	0.404 (0.444)	0.924** (0.368)	-0.649* (0.336)	-0.653** (0.288)	0.404 (0.264)
FFC:university	-0.966* (0.533)		0.171 (0.466)		
FFC:female	-0.304 (0.516)		-0.666 (0.459)		
FFC:age	0.021 (0.016)		-0.004 (0.014)		
Constant	0.320 (0.757)	1.621*** (0.246)	1.287* (0.678)	1.230*** (0.229)	1.111*** (0.190)
Observations	271	351	350	415	590
R ²	0.133	0.076	0.121	0.085	0.048
Adjusted R ²	0.068	0.055	0.071	0.067	0.035

Note:

*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

V. EVIDENCE OF POST-TRUTH REASONING

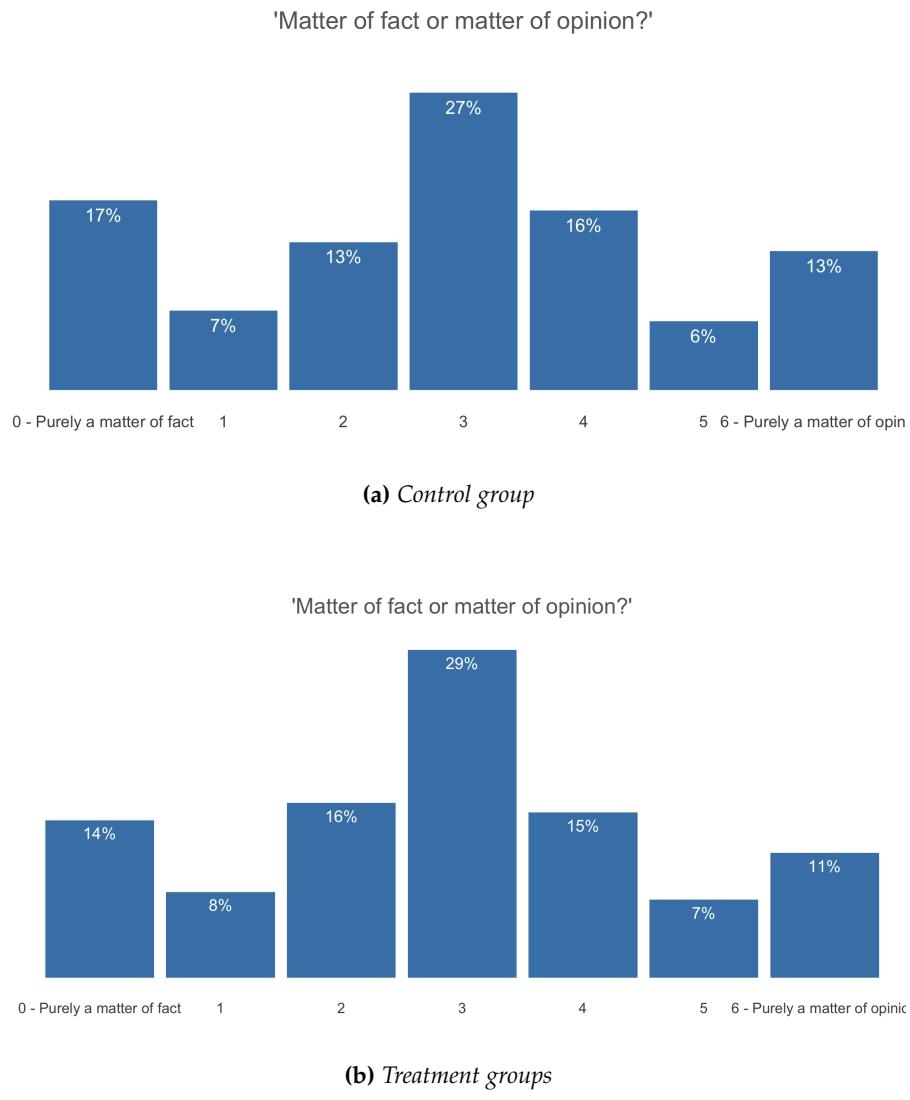
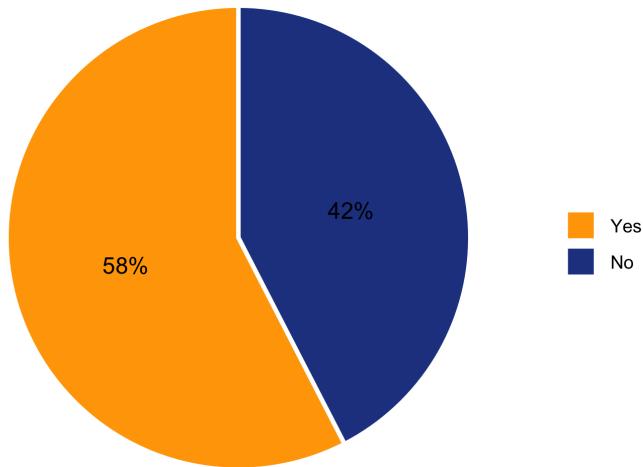


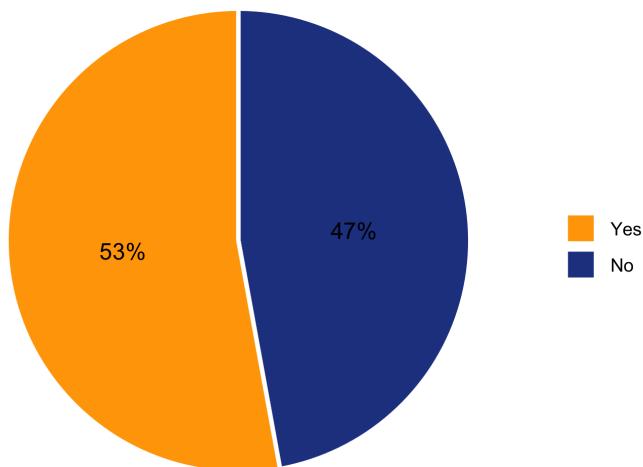
Figure 15: *Matter of fact or opinion?*

Would you say that the statistics here were consistent with what you believed?
(They weren't.)



(a) Control group

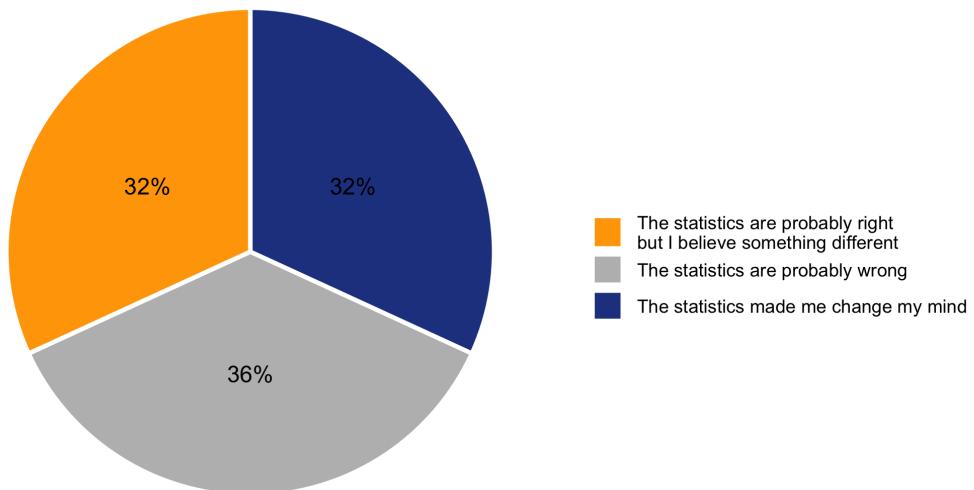
Would you say that the statistics here were consistent with what you believed?
(They weren't.)



(b) Treatment groups

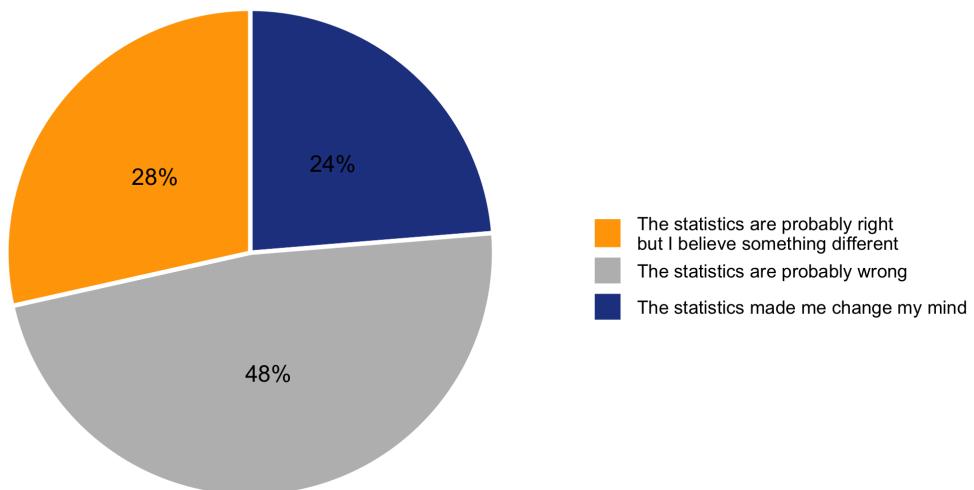
Figure 16: Statistics consistent with what you believed?

If the statistics were 'not consistent' with what I believed



(a) Control group

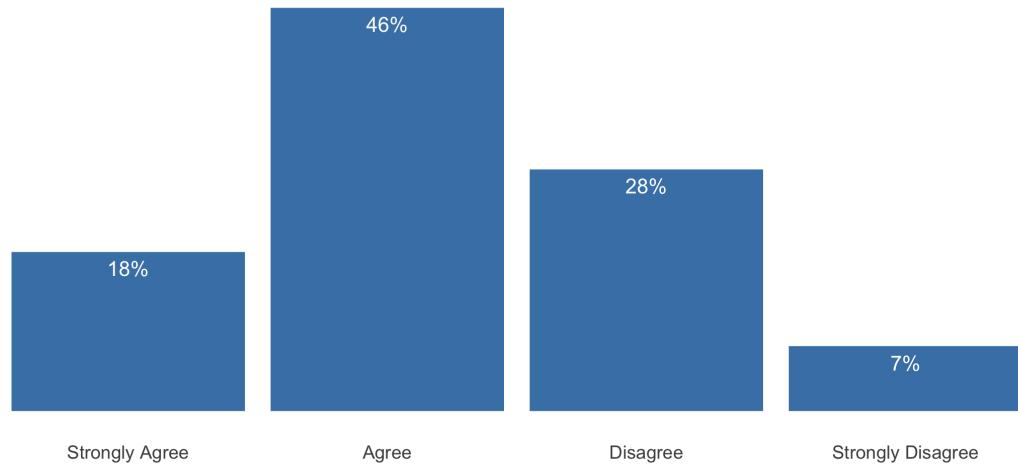
If the statistics were 'not consistent' with what I believed



(b) Treatment groups

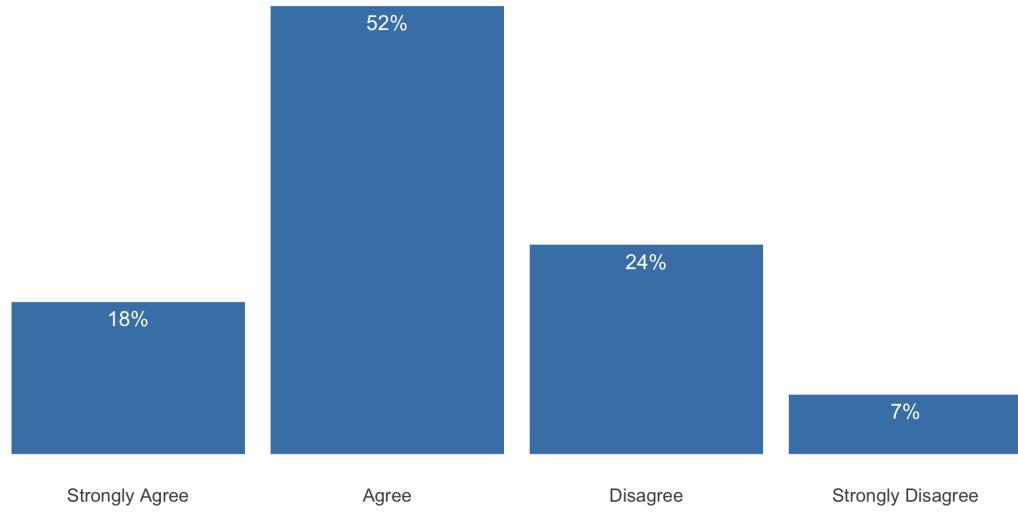
Figure 17

'It's OK to disagree with the facts if that's what you believe.'



(a) Control group

'It's OK to disagree with the facts if that's what you believe.'



(b) Treatment groups

Figure 18: OK to disagree with the facts?

VI. QUESTIONNAIRE

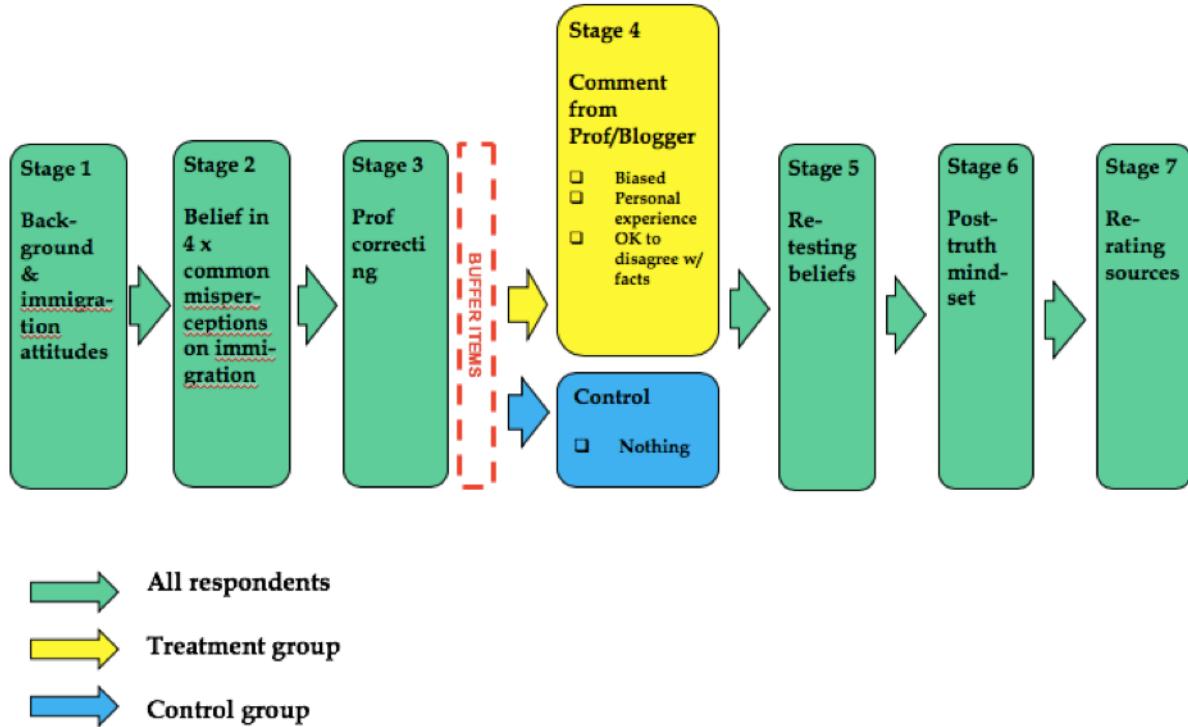


Figure 19: Survey flow

Stage 1: Background characteristics and immigration attitudes

[ALL RESPONDENTS]

1. Which of the following best describes how you think of yourself? [gender]

- Male
- Female
- In another way

2. And how old are you? [age]

3. Where do you live? [regions]

- Northern Ireland
- Scotland

- North West
- North East
- Yorkshire and the Humber
- Wales
- West Midlands
- East Midlands
- South West
- South East
- Eastern
- London
- Other

4. What is the highest educational level that you have achieved? [education]

- Secondary school
- University degree or equivalent professional qualification, NVQ level 4 etc
- Higher university degree, doctorate, MBA, NVQ level 5 etc
- Still in full time education
- No formal education
- Don't know/prefer not to answer

5. Please indicate which one of the following best describes the profession of the chief income earner in your household. [profession]

- High managerial, administrative or professional e.g. doctor, lawyer, medium / large company director (50+ people)
- Intermediate managerial, administrative or professional e.g. teacher, manager, accountant
- Supervisor, administrative or professional e.g. policeman, nurse, secretary, self-employed
- Skilled manual worker e.g. mechanic, plumber, electrician, lorry driver, train driver
- Semi-skilled or unskilled manual worker e.g. waiter, factory worker, receptionist, labourer
- House-wife / house-husband
- Unemployed
- Student

- Retired

6. Post code [postcode – collected by DeltaPoll but not included in our raw data]

This survey needs you to enter your full postcode before proceeding. The postcode is used purely to collect information about the area you live in to be analysed in relation to the other data we collect. It will not be used to identify you individually, or be used for any other purpose other than for academic research. We would like to reassure you that your answers are anonymous and will be completely confidential.

PLEASE WRITE IN YOUR FULL POSTCODE:

7. On a scale of 0 (certain NOT to vote) to 10 (absolutely certain to vote), how likely would you be to vote in a general election tomorrow? [voteTom]

8. If there were a general election held tomorrow, which party would you vote for? [voteTomParty]

- Conservative
- Labour
- Liberal Democrat
- UK Independence Party (UKIP)
- Scottish National Party (SNP)
- Plaid Cymru (PC)
- Green
- Some other party
- Would not vote
- Don't know
- Refuse

9. And now imagine The Independent Group (TIG) and The Brexit Party put up candidates at the next general election. The Conservative party, Labour, Liberal Democrats, UKIP and other parties also stand. How would you then vote? [voteTomParty2]

- Same options as above

10. Talking to people about the General Election on June 8th 2017, we have found that a lot of people didn't manage to vote. How about you - did you manage to vote in the General Election in 2017? [votedIn2017]

- Yes
- No

11. Which party did you vote for in the General Election on June 8th 2017? [vote2017]

- Same options as above

12. How much attention do you generally pay to politics? Please use the following scale, where 0 means no attention at all and 10 means a great deal of attention. [attention]

- Scale from 0 to 10.

13. Here are some issues facing Britain today. Please choose the three issues that are most important to you and rank them from 1 (most important) to 3 (third most important). [issues]

[RANDOMISE ORDER OF OPTIONS]

- Immigration [issues_immig]
- The economy [issues_econ]
- NHS/Health [issues_nhs]
- Crime [issues_crim]
- EU/Brexit [issues_eu]
- Housing [issues_housing]
- Schools/Education [issues_edu]

Here is a short list of statements. How much you agree or disagree with each one?

[RANDOMISE ORDER OF OPTIONS]

14. Britain has a lot to learn from other countries in running its affairs. [ethno1]

15. What people call 'compromise' in politics is really just selling out on one's principles. [populism6]

16. I would rather be a citizen of Britain than of any other country in the world. [ethno2]

17. The people, and not politicians, should make our most important policy decisions. [populism2]

18. There are so many foreigners round here that it doesn't feel like home any more. [immigFeel-LikeHome]

19. I am often less proud of Britain than I would like to be. [ethno6]

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

20. Some people talk about 'left', 'right', and 'centre' to describe parties and politicians. Where would you place yourself on this scale? [leftright]

- Very left wing
- fairly left wing
- slightly left wing
- centre
- slightly right wing
- fairly right wing
- very right wing
- don't know

21. Some people think that we should allow many fewer immigrants come to the UK and others think that we should allow many more immigrants. Where would you place yourself on this scale?

[immig]

- Scale from -3 to +3. -3 labelled as 'many fewer', 0 labelled as 'no change', +3 labelled as 'many more'

22. How important to you is this issue? [immigImportance]

- Extremely important
- very important
- somewhat important
- not at all important

Now here is another list of statements. Again, please say how much you agree or disagree.

[RANDOMISE ORDER OF STATEMENTS]

23. There are some things about Britain today that make me ashamed to be British. [ethno3]

24. The world would be a better place if people from other countries were more like the British.

[ethno5]

25. I would rather be represented by a citizen than by a specialized politician. [populism4]

26. Elected officials talk too much and take too little action. [populism5]

27. Immigration is good for the British economy. [immigEcon]

28. People in Britain are too ready to criticise their country. [ethno4]

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Stage 2: Belief in 4* common misperceptions about immigration

[ALL RESPONDENTS]

And here is a third list of statements. This time, we'd like you to say whether, to the best of your knowledge, they are true or false?

- Scale: 0 (definitely false) - 6 (definitely true)

[RANDOMISE ORDER]

29. There has been a sharp rise in the number of people applying for asylum in the UK in the past ten years. [noAsylum_T1]

30. European immigrants receive more in benefits and services than they pay in taxes. [costImmig_T1]

31. The majority of crimes in London are committed by white people, not ethnic minorities. [whiteCrime_T1]

32. Immigration to the UK does not affect the wages of the low-paid. [lowPaid_T1]

33. Britain is the fifth largest economy in the world. [no5_T1]

34. The Leave vote in June 2016 did not result in an instant UK recession. [recession_T1]

35. Fracking causes earthquakes. [fracking_T1]

36. England's plastic bag usage dropped 85% since 5p charge was introduced. [plasticBags_T1]

Stage 3: Authoritative correction of misperception

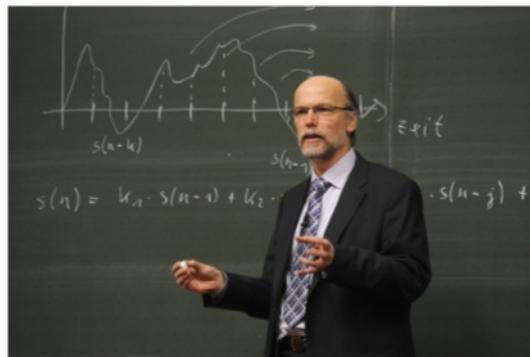
[ALL RESPONDENTS]

We have asked Richard Clarke, Professor of Economics at the University of Oxford to provide us with information about the statements you just read. On the following page, you will see some detailed information about one of these statements, that is:

[REPEAT STATEMENT TO BE CORRECTED: This is the variable given the highest score out of Q29, Q30, Q31, and Q32. If two or more statements received the joint highest score/truth rating, randomly assign respondents to one of them].

By Professor Richard Clark

University of Oxford

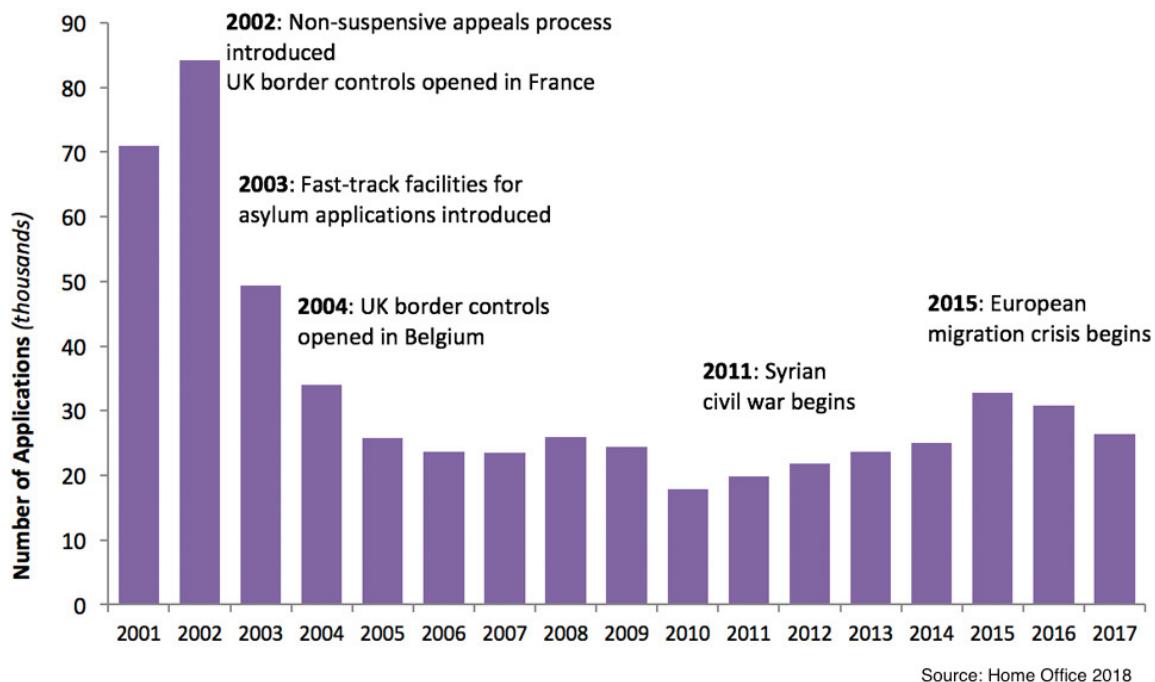


[Insert article as shown below]

Professor Richard Clark is a Professor of Population Economics at the University of Oxford. From 2009 to 2015, he was a Consultant on Population and Demography with the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

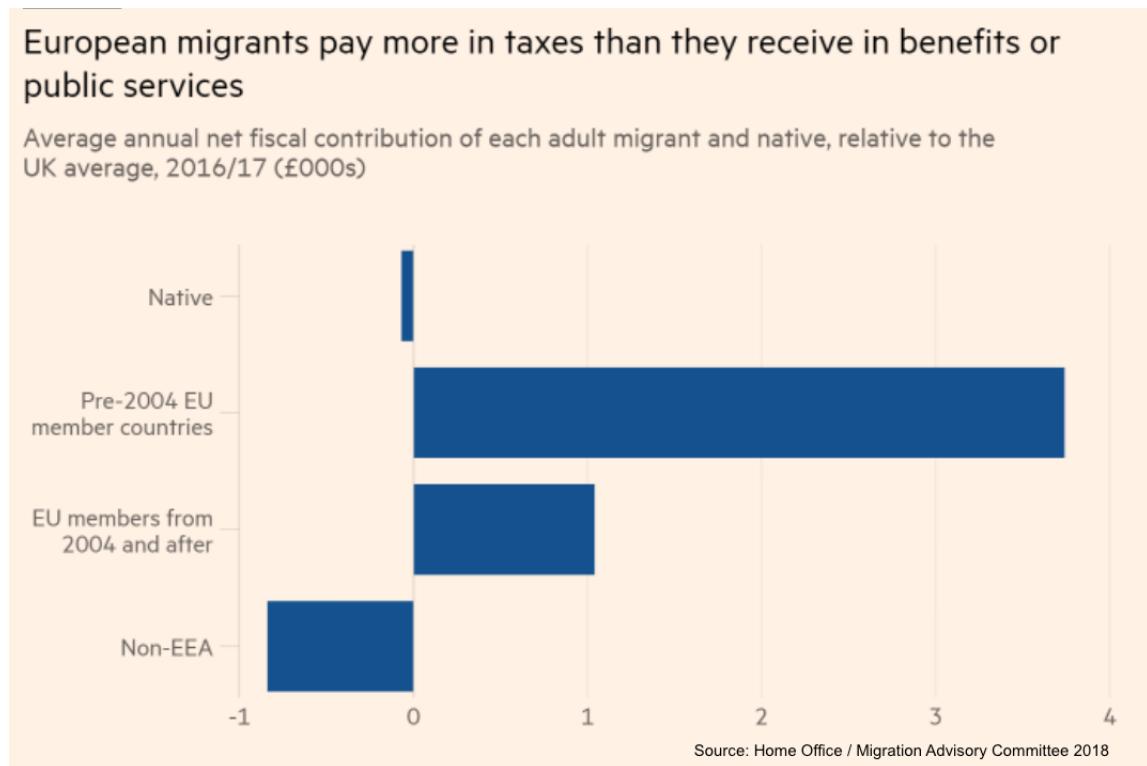
Professor Clarke holds a PhD from Harvard University.

[IF CORRECTED STATEMENT == "There has been a sharp rise in the number of people applying for asylum in the UK in the past 10 years."]



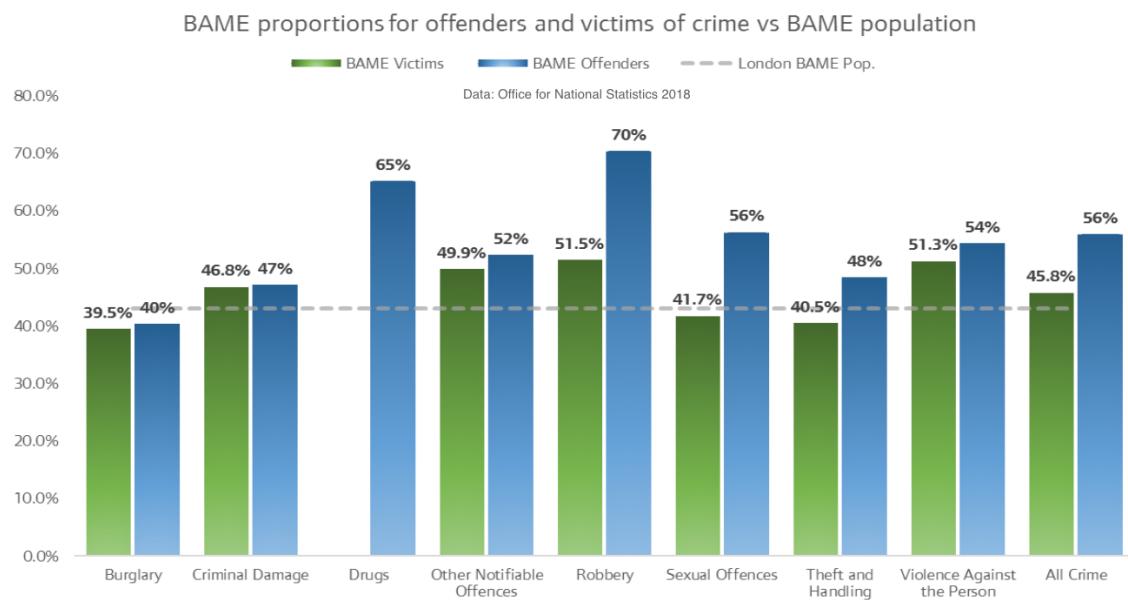
This statement is false. Asylum applications in the UK have remained stable over the past ten years. It is true is that there has been a sharp rise in the number of people crossing into Europe in 2015. Few of these made it to the UK. Germany, Sweden and Hungary shouldered most of the asylum claims. The graph below is based on the official immigration statistics that the Home Office publishes every year. It shows the number of asylum applications the UK received since 2001. The UK receives about the same number of refugees today than it did ten years ago.

[IF CORRECTED STATEMENT == "European immigrants receive more in benefits and services than they pay in taxes."]



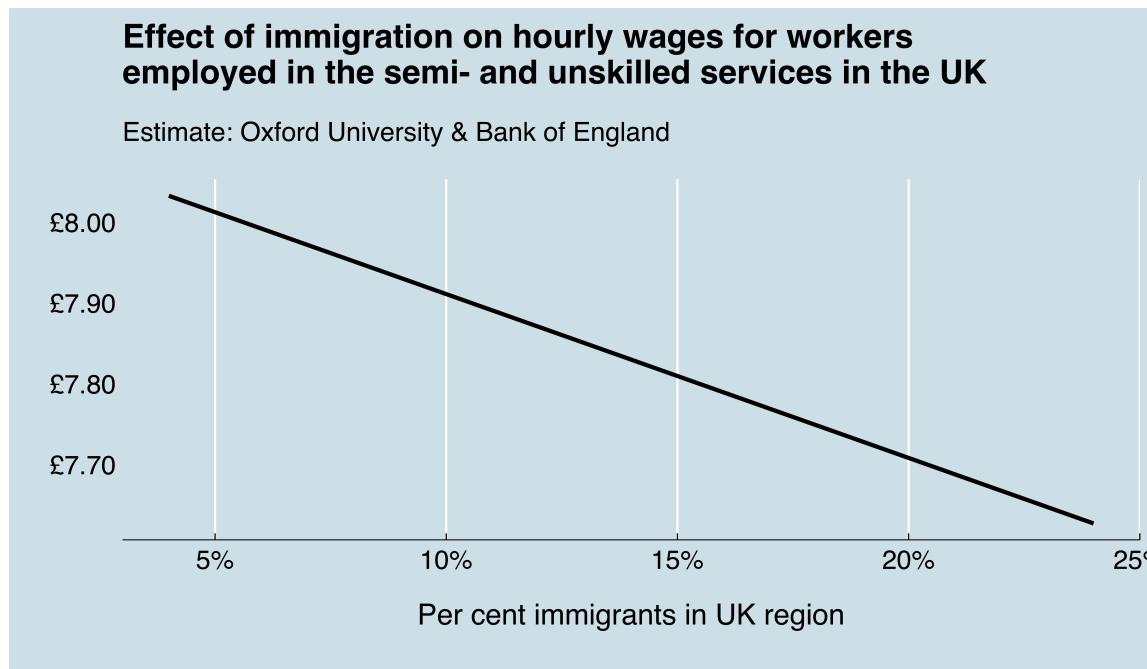
This statement is false. European immigrants pay substantially more in taxes to the government than they receive in benefits or public services. According to the most recent data European migrants made a total contribution of £4.7bn to the public finances in 2016-17. This graph shows how much migrants contribute relative to how much the average UK citizen contributes. An average adult migrant from one of the 13 countries that joined the EU before 2004 (most of Western Europe) contributed £3,740 more to Britain's exchequer than an average UK citizen. Migrants from countries that joined after 2004 (that includes Eastern European countries) paid an average of £1,040 more in taxes than they receive.

[IF CORRECTED STATEMENT == The majority of crimes in London are committed by white people.]



This statement is false. According to data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) 43% of the population in London in 2017 identified as black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME). But, as on the right-hand side of the graph below, 56% of all crime offenders were BAME. How overrepresented BAME offenders are depends on the type of crime. Every blue bar that exceeds the 43% dotted line means that, for this crime, BAME people are overrepresented. There are three offenses for which BAME people are particularly overrepresented: Drugs, Robbery, and Sexual Offenses.

[IF CORRECTED STATEMENT == "Immigration to the UK does not affect the wages of the low-paid."]



This statement is false. You have to distinguish between sectors. It is true that in many sectors immigration has no effect on wages. But things are different in the less skilled sector – that is, for people working as cleaners, in care homes, in bars and restaurants, and so on. One of my Oxford colleagues and his co-author at the Bank of England looked at the effect of immigration on wages in different sectors from 1992 to 2016. Their results are clear: in the semi- and unskilled sector, 10 per cent more immigrants in a region led to a 2.6 percent reduction in hourly pay.

	Very authoritative (Professor)	Not authoritative (Blogger)
Control (Groups 1 and 2 skip stage 4)		
Biased source	Group 3	Group 6
Personal experience	Group 4	Group 7
Alternative facts	Group 5	Group 8

Table 9: Experimental Design at stage 4

Stage 4 – Fact-free comments

[TREATMENT GROUPS ONLY. Experimental design at Stage 4: Randomly split respondents into eight groups: Groups 1 and 2 (Control, 25% of sample) proceed directly to stage 5. Groups 3-5 see a fact-free follow up from an authoritative source (professor); groups 6-8 see a fact-free follow-up from a non-authoritative source (blogger), providing one of three arguments to doubt the statistics, see figure 9]

Now, we'd like to go back to that earlier statement:

[REPEAT CORRECTED STATEMENT. As above, this is the variable given the highest score out of Q29, Q30, Q31, and Q32.]

Earlier, you saw some information about that statement. Now, here is a comment on that information from a different source.

[Groups 3-5 see a fact-free follow-up from an authoritative source:]



David Williams

Professor of Economics at the
London School of Economics

[insert comment]

[Groups 6-8 see a fact-free follow-up from a non-authoritative source:]



David Williams

Blogger

[insert comment]

[Comments to insert]

[Groups 3 and 6 – biased source]

I would take these statistics with a big pinch of salt. The fact that someone is a professor doesn't mean that they don't have an agenda. And we all know that there is a lot of scope to choose and present statistics so that they end up saying just what want them to say.

[Groups 4 and 7 – personal experience]

I would take these statistics with a big pinch of salt. A graph might say one thing but the experience of people's everyday lives could be quite different. And I think that a lot of people reading those statistics will say: that doesn't sound like the world I live in.

[Groups 5 and 8 – alternative facts]

I would take these statistics with a big pinch of salt. There's so much information and so many statistics out there that it can be hard to know what to believe. In that case, I think it's best to trust your instincts even if looks as if the facts are different.

Stage 5 – Re-testing belief in 2 * common misperceptions

[ALL RESPONDENTS]

Thinking again about these statements: Would you say they are true or false?

[If corrected statement was Q21 or Q22 (misperceptions commonly held by immigration-sceptics)]

37. There has been a sharp rise in the number of people applying for asylum in the UK in the past 10 years. [noAsylum_T2]

- Scale from 0 (Definitely false) to 6 (Definitely true)

38. Immigrants receive more in benefits and services than they pay in taxes. [costImmig_T2]

- Scale from 0 (Definitely false) to 6 (Definitely true)

[If corrected statement was Q23 or Q24 (misperceptions commonly held by individuals in favour of increasing immigration)]

37. The majority of crimes in London are committed by white people, not ethnic minorities.

[whiteCrime_T2]

- Scale from 0 (Definitely false) to 6 (Definitely true)

38. Immigration to the UK does not affect the wages of the low-paid. [lowPaid_T2]

- Scale from 0 (Definitely false) to 6 (Definitely true)

Stage 6 – Post-truth reasoning

The last two questions asked you to decide whether those statements are true or false. But sometimes it's hard to say whether something is true or false. Sometimes it can be a matter of opinion on which there are different points of view. Thinking again about these statements, and this time on a scale from 0 (purely a matter of fact) to 6 (purely a matter of opinion), how would you rate the two? [factOpinion / factOpinion_i2]

[If corrected statement was Q21 or Q22, reprint both Q21 or Q22. If corrected statement was Q23 or Q24], reprint both Q23 or Q24.

- Scale from 0 (Purely a matter of fact) to 6 (Purely a matter of opinion)

53. Sometimes people see a difference between what they believed was true and what the statistics say. Would you say that the statistics here were consistent with what you believed? [consistent]

- Yes
- No

[If 'Yes', SKIP TO Q43. If 'No':]

54. Which of these best describes where you stand? [ifInconsistent]

[RANDOMISE ORDER OF OPTIONS]

- The statistics are probably right, but I believe something different.
- I think that the statistics are wrong.
- The statistics made me change my mind.

55. And how much would you agree or disagree with the following statement: "It's OK to disagree with the facts if that's what you believe" [ok2disagree]

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Stage 7 – (Re-)rating sources

[ALL RESPONDENTS]

Now we would like you to think back about the article you read at the very beginning of this survey, written by Richard Clark, Professor of Population Economics at the University of Oxford (see photo). It provided some information, including a graph about one of the statements you rated on a scale from 'true' to 'false'.

[Re-print expert article]

56. How accurate would you say was the information this professor used? [accurateAuthority]

- Not at all accurate
- Not very accurate
- Fairly accurate
- Very accurate
- Can't remember

57. And how much would you generally trust what this professor says on the issue of immigration?

[trustAuthority]

- Scale from 0 (Would not trust at all) to 6 (Would trust a great deal)
- Can't remember

[GROUPS 1-2 (who did not see the comment from the 2nd source) END HERE.]

[GROUPS 3-5 (who saw a comment from a blogger) PROCEED TO Q53:]

53. Turning now to the second source, the comment from David Williams about Professor Clark's article:

[Re-print fact-free comment from Blogger]

How accurate would you say was the information this blogger used? [accurateBlogger]

- Not at all accurate
- Not very accurate
- Fairly accurate
- Very accurate
- Can't remember

54. And how much would you generally trust what this blogger says on the issue of immigration?

[trustBlogger]

- Scale from 0 (Would not trust at all) to 6 (Would trust a great deal)
- Can't remember

[GROUPS 6-8 (who saw a comment from a professor):]

55. Turning now to the second source, the comment from David Williams, Professor of Economics at the London School of Economics about Professor Clark's article:

[Re-print fact-free comment from Professor]

How accurate would you say was the information this professor used? [accurateFactFreeProf]

- Not at all accurate
- Not very accurate
- Fairly accurate

- Very accurate
- Can't remember

56. And how much would you generally trust what this professor says on the issue of immigration?

[trustFactFreeProf]

- Scale from 0 (Would not trust at all) to 6 (Would trust a great deal)
- Can't remember