diss\_pilot\_prolific

Survey Flow

Standard: consent (3 Questions)

Standard: screener\_check (2 Questions)

Standard: prolific\_id (1 Question)

Standard: targ\_transition (1 Question)

Standard: target\_manip (6 Questions)

Standard: manip\_checks (3 Questions)

Standard: transition\_jen (2 Questions)

Standard: distance\_threat\_qs (4 Questions)

Standard: itt\_questions (3 Questions)

Standard: explicit\_threat\_qs (2 Questions)

Standard: pol\_orient\_and\_dem (11 Questions)

Standard: debrief (1 Question)

EndSurvey: Advanced

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| Page Break |  |

Start of Block: consent

Q82 **Informed Consent**  
   
 You are invited to participate in a study conducted by Kathryn Denning from the University of Oregon Psychology Department. In this study, we hope to learn more about the effects that political beliefs have on behavior and social interactions. You were selected as a possible participant in this study because of your enrollment in Prolific Academic. We ask that you read this form before agreeing to participate in the study.  
    
 If you decide to participate, you will be directed to an online survey and asked to complete some questionnaires about your political beliefs and personal feelings toward polarizing contexts. You will also be asked to read information about a person and provide some initial perceptions. This study will take no more than 8 minutes to complete. You will be compensated according to this online data collection platform’s standards for your participation.  
    
 Following the experiment, you will be given the contact information of the researcher so that you may ask any questions. This study may include risks that are unknown at this time. This research will help us better understand factors that reduce and/or exacerbate polarization between opposite political groups in the United States. However, we cannot guarantee that you personally will receive any benefits from this research, although there is no known cost to you to participate in this research study. The data collected from this study will be analyzed as a part of an on-going research project. As we cannot anticipate all additional analyses we may desire to conduct on this data, all responses you provide will be kept for at least three years and possibly indefinitely. Moreover, this data may be shared with other researchers for them to conduct their own analyses or attempt to replicate our findings.  
   
 A potential risk involved with participating in this study may be loss of privacy/breach of confidentiality. To minimize this risk, neither your name, nor any other unique identifying information will be associated with your responses. All electronic information will be coded and secured in files on password-protected computers. Access to the records will be limited to the researchers.  
    
 Your participation is voluntary and you can opt out of the study at any time. If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw your consent and discontinue participation without penalty. You may print a copy of this consent form to keep for your records.  
    
 If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kathryn Denning at  
 kdenning@uoregon.edu or her faculty advisor Dr. Sara Hodges, sdhodges@uoregon.edu. If you have any questions regarding your rights as a research participant, contact Research Compliance Services, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403, (541) 346-2510 or    
 [ResearchCompliance@uoregon.edu](mailto:ResearchCompliance@uoregon.edu).  
   
 Opting to continue this study at this time demonstrates that you are over the age of 18 and that you willingly agree to participate, that you may withdraw your consent at any time and discontinue participation without penalty, and that you are not waiving any legal claims, rights, or remedies.

consent Do you consent to participate in this study?

* Yes, I consent (1)
* No, I do not consent (3)

Skip To: End of Block If Do you consent to participate in this study? = 1

Q250 As you do not wish to participate in this study, please return your submission on Prolific by selecting the 'Stop without completing' button.

Skip To: End of Survey If As you do not wish to participate in this study, please return your submission on Prolific by sel... Is Displayed

End of Block: consent

Start of Block: screener\_check

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Q39 Who did you vote for in the 2020 U.S. Presidential Election? If you did not vote/were unable to vote, please select your preferred candidate in the 2020 U.S. Presidential Election.

* Donald Trump (1)
* Joe Biden (2)
* Other (3)

Skip To: End of Block If Who did you vote for in the 2020 U.S. Presidential Election? If you did not vote/were unable to v... = 2

screener\_ineligible **You have provided information which is inconsistent with your Prolific prescreening responses. We are only looking for participants who voted for/preferred Joe Biden and previously set-up prescreening criteria to remove participants who voted differently. You said you voted for either "Trump" or "Other," making you ineligible for this study.  Please return your submission on Prolific by selecting the 'Stop without completing' button.**

Skip To: End of Survey If You have provided information which is inconsistent with your Prolific prescreening responses. We... Is Displayed

End of Block: screener\_check

Start of Block: prolific\_id

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prolificID\_typed Please type in your participant number for Prolific Academic in the text box below, so that you can be compensated for your time once you have finished participating.

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End of Block: prolific\_id

Start of Block: targ\_transition

transition\_to\_jen\_c In the next section, you will be introduced to a person named **Jen**.    
    
Please take care to read her description closely so that you can remember her description. **You will be asked to answer questions about Jen later.**

End of Block: targ\_transition

Start of Block: target\_manip

targ\_image

loss\_targ Jen wants liberals to lose the Presidency and the U.S. House of Representatives in 2024. She hopes President Trump will run again, so that she can vote for him again.

comp\_targ Jen enjoys running, works as a business manager, and voted for Trump in the 2020 U.S. Presidential Election.

covid\_targ Jen does not believe in getting the Covid-19 vaccine. She thinks the severity of Covid-19 has been exaggerated to push vaccines for a liberal agenda, at the cost of personal freedom.

warm\_targ Jen likes to cook, works as a high-school teacher, and voted for Trump in the 2020 U.S. Presidential Election.

control\_targ Jen likes to cook and works as a high-school teacher.

End of Block: target\_manip

Start of Block: manip\_checks

manip\_check\_politics Was there any information provided about whom Jen voted for in the 2020 U.S. Presidential election?

* No information was provided (1)
* Yes, Jen voted for Trump (2)
* Yes, Jen voted for Biden (3)
* I can't remember (4)

manip\_check\_covid Was there any information provided about Jen's opinion on COVID-19?

* No information was provided (3)
* Yes, Jen believes COVID-19 is a threat the country needs to address through vaccination (1)
* Yes, Jen believes COVID-19 is exaggerated and vaccination is part of a liberal agenda (2)
* I can't remember (4)

manip\_check\_profess Was there any information provided about Jen's profession?

* No information was provided (4)
* Yes, Jen is a teacher (1)
* Yes, Jen is a business manager (3)
* I can't remember (5)

End of Block: manip\_checks

Start of Block: transition\_jen

Q95 In the next section, you will be asked to answer questions about**Jen.**

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jen\_check Just as a check: Who will you be answering questions about in the next section?

* Jen (1)
* Myself (2)
* Trump supporters (3)
* Biden supporters (4)

End of Block: transition\_jen

Start of Block: distance\_threat\_qs

distance\_intro You will now be asked two questions about Jen, *imagining* you met Jen in the *real world*. The first question will ask you to look at an image to answer the question.

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| Page Break |  |

coffee\_shop\_image

distance\_coffee ***Imagine* you and Jen are at the same coffee shop (image above). Jen sits down at one table to work. Where would you sit in the coffee shop?**    
    
While answering this question, please imagine what you would do **if COVID-19 did not exist**, or in **pre-COVID** times. Choose your seat by selecting the letter that corresponds to the seat of your choice listed in multiple-choice format below. Jen is sitting where the blue star is located, beside where her name is written in blue. The possible seats you can pick from are labeled in red. There are five locations you can choose from (A-E).

* Seat A (1)
* Seat B (2)
* Seat C (3)
* Seat D (4)
* Seat E (5)

distance\_town **Based on what you know about Jen, where do you *imagine* Jen lives in relation to you?** Select your answer from the multiple-choice options below.

* Next door (1)
* Same neighborhood, but not next door (2)
* Next neighborhood over (3)
* Neighborhood across town (4)
* Next town over (5)
* Another town in a different part of the state (6)
* Different state (7)

End of Block: distance\_threat\_qs

Start of Block: itt\_questions

itt\_instructions The next four questions will ask you what you think about Jen. Please answer as honestly as possible, using the scale presented in the table below when responding. Two of the questions appear below and two on the next page.  
    
  1 2 3 4 Not at all Slightly Moderately Extremely

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realistic\_q How worried are you that people like Jen support policies that could harm the country’s safety or economic well-being now or in the future?

* 1 Not at all (1)
* 2 Slightly (2)
* 3 Moderately (3)
* 4 Extremely (4)

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symbolic\_q How worried are you that people like Jen support policies that could harm American culture and what America stands for?

* 1 Not at all (1)
* 2 Slightly (2)
* 3 Moderately (3)
* 4 Extremely (4)

End of Block: itt\_questions

Start of Block: explicit\_threat\_qs

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explicit\_targ To what extent do you find Jen threatening to your beliefs and way of life?

* 1 Not at all (1)
* 2 Slightly (2)
* 3 Moderately (4)
* 4 Extremely (5)

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explicit\_group To what extent do you find those who supported Trump in the 2020 U.S. Presidential Election threatening to your beliefs and way of life?

* 1 Not at all (1)
* 2 Slightly (2)
* 3 Moderately (4)
* 4 Extremely (5)

End of Block: explicit\_threat\_qs

Start of Block: pol\_orient\_and\_dem

pol\_orient Please respond to the following three questions by rating how liberal or conservative you feel on a scale of 1 (E*xtremely liberal)* to 5 (E*xtremely conservative).*

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|  | 1  Extremely liberal (1) | 2  Somewhat liberal (2) | 3  Neither (3) | 4  Somewhat conservative (4) | 5  Extremely conservative (5) |
| Overall, where would you place yourself, on the following scale of liberalism to conservatism? (4) |  |  |  |  |  |
| In terms of the social and cultural issues (e.g., abortion, separation of church and state, affirmative action), where would you place yourself on the following scale? (6) |  |  |  |  |  |
| In terms of economic issues (e.g., taxation, welfare, privatization of social security), where would you place yourself on the following scale? (7) |  |  |  |  |  |

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| Page Break |  |

age How old are you (in years)?

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gender What is your gender?

* Man (1)
* Woman (2)
* Other (feel free to elaborate in the box below, if you wish) (3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

education What is your highest level of education?

* Less than high school diploma (1)
* High school graduate (2)
* Some college (3)
* 2 year degree/Associate's degree (4)
* 4 year degree/Bachelor's degree (5)
* Some graduate school (6)
* Master's degree (7)
* Doctorate or Professional degree (8)

parent\_education What is the highest level of education attained by either of your parents?

* Less than high school diploma (20)
* High school graduate (21)
* Some college (22)
* 2 year degree/Associate's degree (23)
* 4 year degree/Bachelor's degree (24)
* Some graduate school (26)
* Master's degree (1)
* Doctorate or Professional degree (2)

race What is your race/ethnicity?

* American Indian or Alaska Native (1)
* Asian or Asian American (2)
* Black or African American (3)
* Latina/ or Hispanic or Chicana/o or Puerto Rican (4)
* Middle Eastern or North African (5)
* White or European American (6)
* Multiracial (feel free to elaborate in the box below, if you wish) (7) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Other (feel free to elaborate in the box below, if you wish) (8) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

country\_birth Is your country of birth the United States? If not, please specify your country of birth.

* Yes (1)
* No (feel free to elaborate in the box below, if you wish) (2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

country\_raised Were you primarily raised in the United States? If not, please specify which country you were primarily raised in.

* Yes (1)
* No (feel free to elaborate in the box below, if you wish) (2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Skip To: raised\_follow If Were you primarily raised in the United States? If not, please specify which country you were pri... = 2

Skip To: native\_language If Were you primarily raised in the United States? If not, please specify which country you were pri... = 1

raised\_follow How long have you lived in the United States?

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native\_language Is English your native language? If not, please specify your native language.

* Yes (1)
* No (feel free to elaborate in the box below, if you wish) (2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Skip To: native\_lang\_follow If Is English your native language? If not, please specify your native language. = 2

Skip To: End of Block If Is English your native language? If not, please specify your native language. = 1

native\_lang\_follow How long have you spoken English?

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End of Block: pol\_orient\_and\_dem

Start of Block: debrief

Q81   
   
   
**Thank you for participating in our study!**  
   
 This was a preliminary study to test materials that will be used in a follow-up study examining the relationship between threat and political polarization. In the follow-up, we will test an intervention to reduce political polarization. You will not be asked to participate in the follow-up study. We are only telling you about the follow-up to inform you about your role in our research.  
   
 If you would like more information about the current study (e.g., background information, purpose, your role) or would like to know more about our follow-up study, please contact Kathryn Denning at kdenning@uoregon.edu. You can also contact her faculty advisor Dr. Sara Hodges at sdhodges@uoregon.edu. If you have any questions concerning your rights as a research participant, please contact Research Compliance Services, Eugene, OR 97403, (541)-346-2510, [ResearchCompliance@uoregon.edu](mailto:ResearchCompliance@uoregon.edu).

End of Block: debrief