



A Closer Look Into Exploring Misinformation Through a Twitter Simulation

LOL Lab

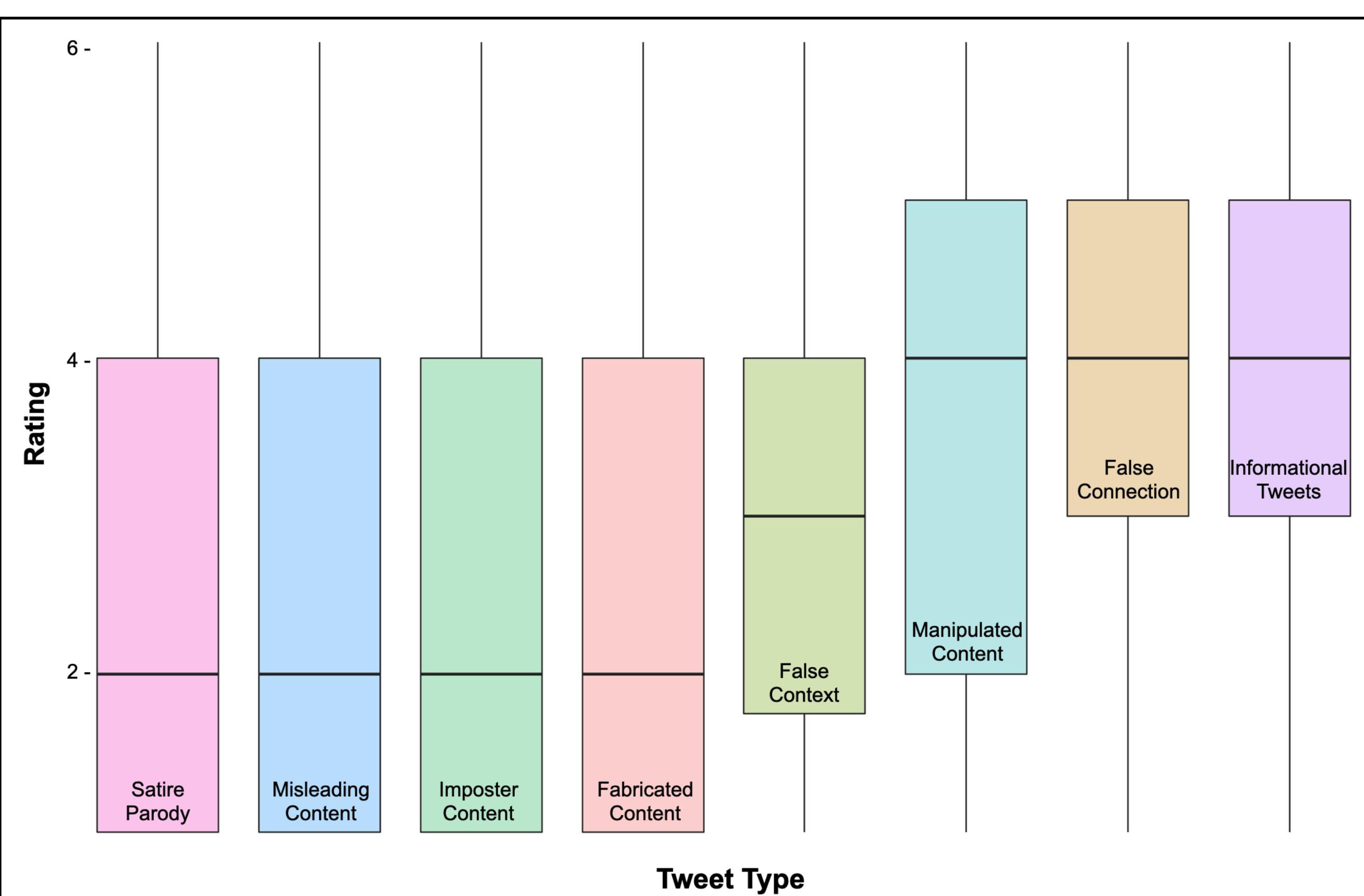
Language Of Learning Lab

Est. 2019

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Introduction:

- Misinformation (often referred to as fake news) is false, inaccurate, or misleading information that is spread either intentionally or unintentionally (Almaliki, 2019; Wardle, 2017; Warner et.al., 2022)
- Initial results from previous study showed that manipulated content & false connection misinformation tweets rated as high on the credibility scale as real information tweets
- Purpose of expansion is to explore why manipulated content and false connection tweet categories rated as accurately as real tweets in the credibility scale



Research Questions:

- Will the prior results replicate when focusing on a broader classification of tweet types (real vs. false vs. manipulated)?
- If differences are found, which types of tweets will be perceived as more credible?

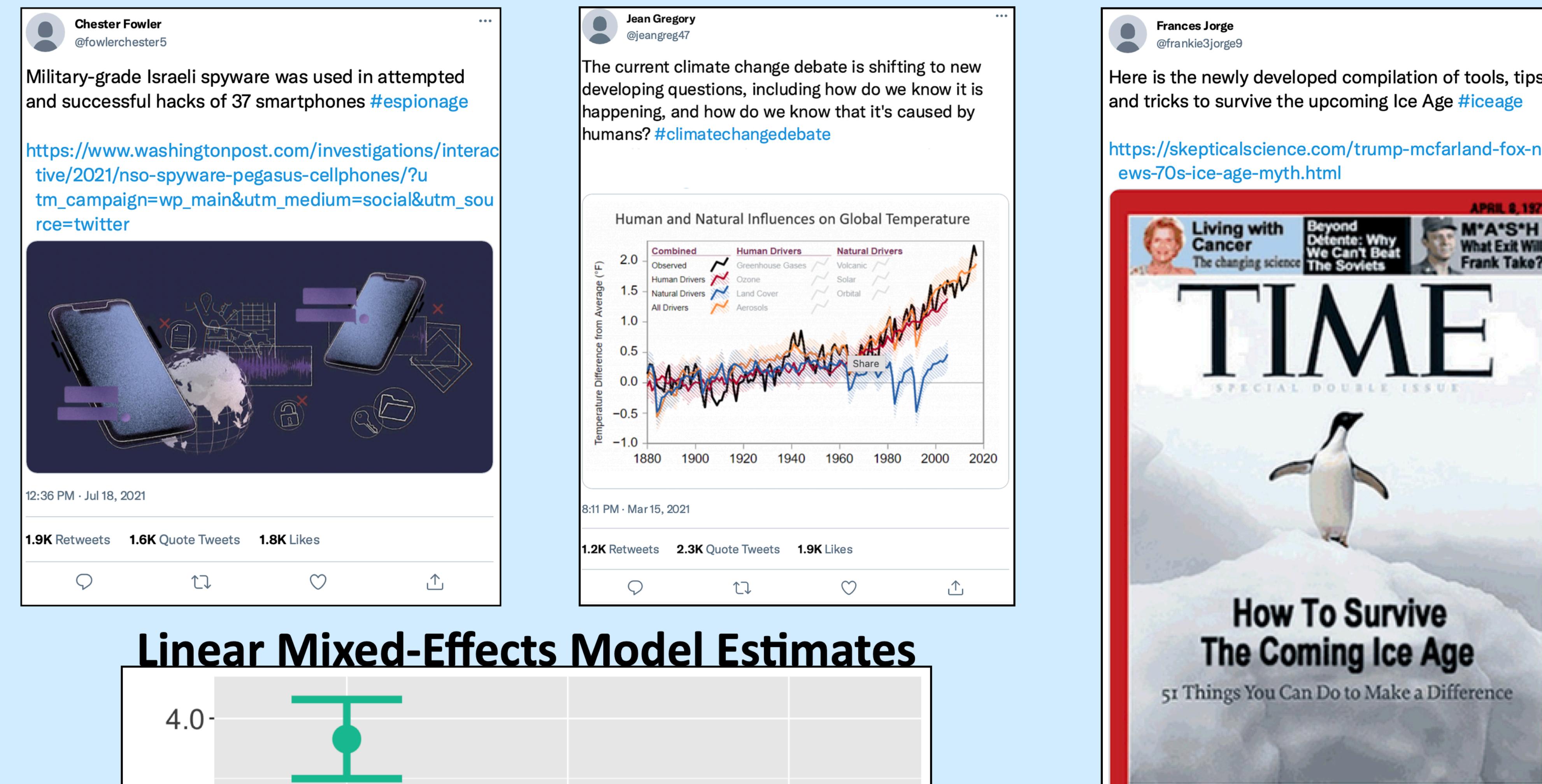
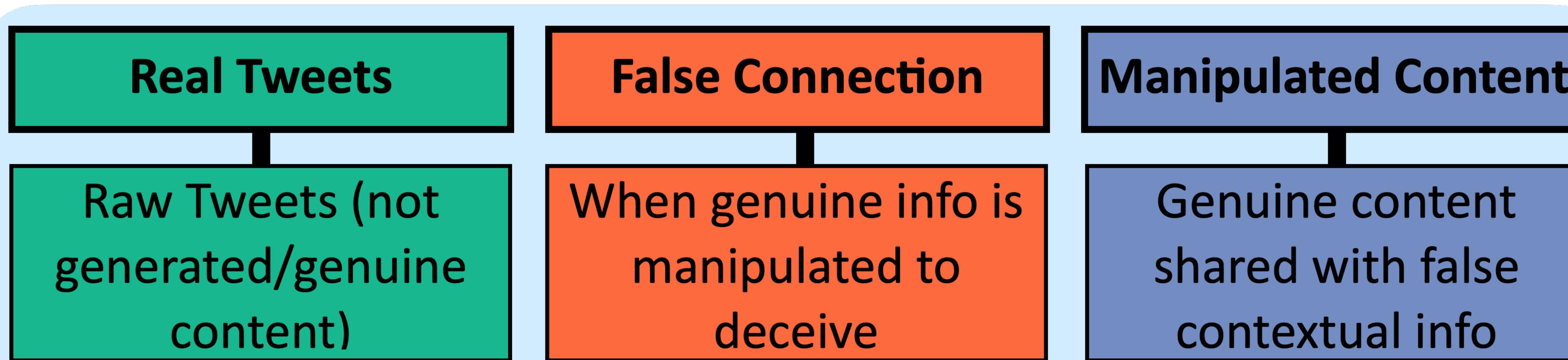
Methods & Results

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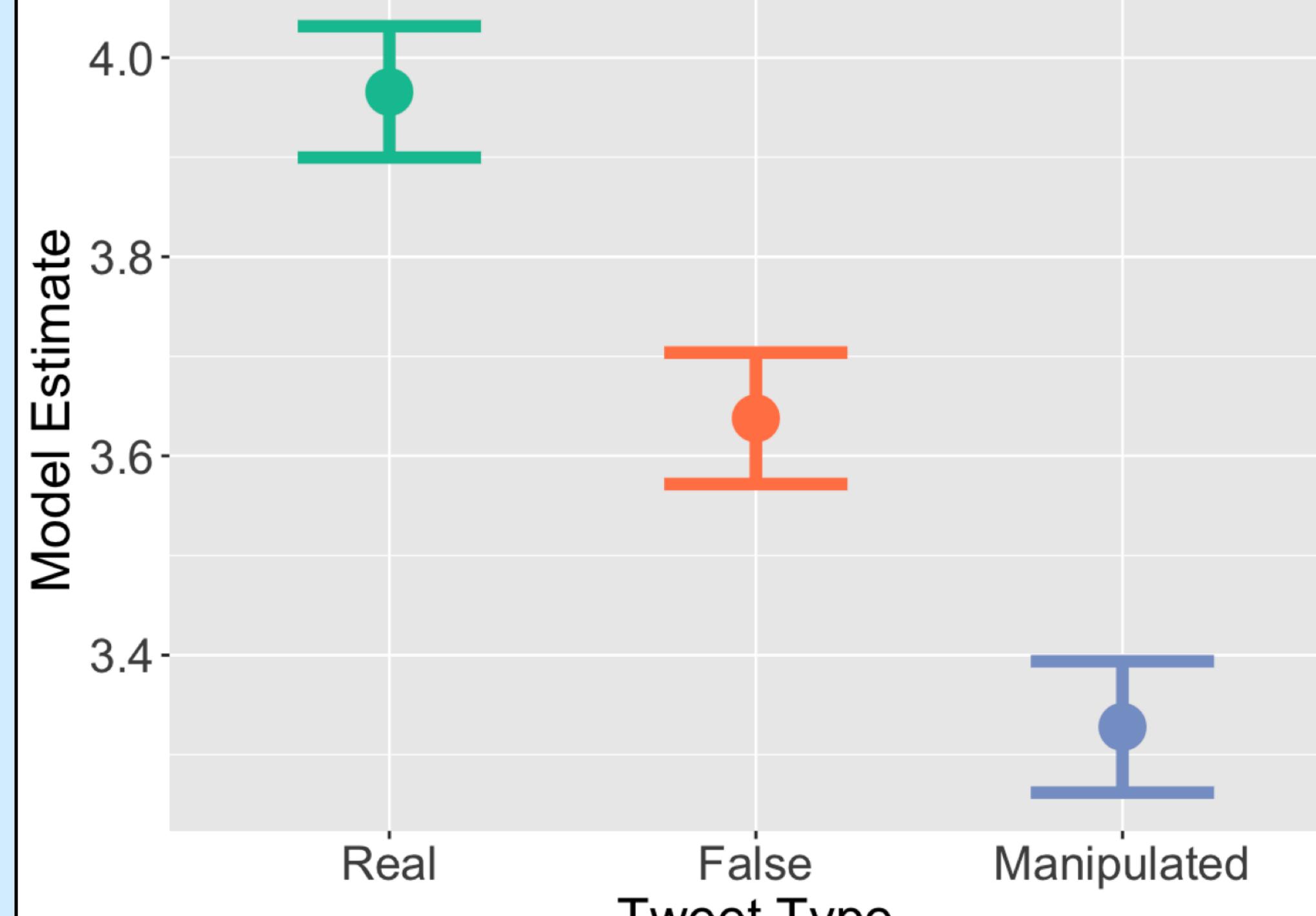
Participants (n=294) rated the accuracy of 24 Tweets (8 Real Information, 8 False Connection, 8 Manipulated Content)

Participants assessed credibility of Tweets on a 6pt-Likert scale (1=Definitely False; 6=Definitely True) and then completed a series of follow-up questions asking for their reasoning for each rating

A linear mixed-effects model found that all 3 types of Tweets significantly differ from each other (accounting for participants as a random effect)



Linear Mixed-Effects Model Estimates



- Differentiation amongst all 3 categories
- Results differ from original study due to more narrow focus of misinformation categories of interest
 - Key takeaway: Real information tweets were most credible, followed by false connection and manipulated content tweets (this is good!)
 - False connection rated higher than manipulated content potentially due to the natural drive to deceive within this category
- Limitations include that these tweets were created by us and in an experimental context

Future Directions:

- Manipulate sourcing by including a variation of authors to tweets
- Creating a different platform simulation to test statement credibility of misinformation
- Explore the impact of headline statements on news sites
- Remove controls (hashtag, hyperlink, etc) and assess credibility based on statement alone

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