# Social Influence News Evaluation

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**Q15 Dear Participant,**

You are being asked to participate in a study. Our study goal is to better understand how people evaluate news. Here are some things you should know before you decide to join:

Requirements:
You must be a fluent English speaker and 18 years of age or older.

Procedure:
We will ask you to read the instructions, rate 16 news headlines, and answer follow-up questions. We anticipate that your participation presents no greater risk than everyday use of the Internet.

Compensation:
You will be compensated through Amazon MTurk using the code you receive at the end of the study.

Benefits:
We do not expect you will gain other direct benefits from participating. The research will inform broader academic discourse and the future designs of news platforms.

Data Sharing:
De-identified data from this study may be shared with the research community to advance science. We will remove any personal information that could identify you before files are shared so that, by current known methods, your responses are fully anonymized.

Taking Part is Voluntary:
You do not have to be in this study if you don't want to be. You can change your mind and leave the study at any time without giving any reason. You do not waive any of your legal rights by participating in this research.

Questions about the Study:
The research is led by Maurice Jakesch at Cornell University. If you have any questions about the study, please contact the him (mpj32@cornell.edu). Because emails may contain your name, we will delete the emails once the study is complete.

<u>Questions about Your Rights as a Research Participant:</u>
 You may contact the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for Human Participants at 607-255-5138. You may also report your concerns or complaints anonymously through Ethicspoint online by calling toll free at 1-866-293-3077.

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consent **I have read the above information and received answers to questions I had.**

○ I CONSENT to take part in the study. I am 18 or older, and I understand my rights in this study.  (1)

○ I DO NOT CONSENT to take part in the study.  (2)

**End of Block: Consent**

**Start of Block: Instructions**

*Display This Question:*
 *If group = control*

Q17 You will read 16 news headlines. **Some of the headlines you will see are false, while others are true.** We ask you to tell us whether you think each headline is true or false.

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*Display This Question:*
 *If group != control*

Q27 You will read 16 news headlines. **Some of the headlines you will see are false, while others are true.** We ask you to tell us whether you think each headline is true or false.

 ${e://Field/dems} Democrats and ${e://Field/reps} Republicans have already completed this study before you. **You will see how they rated a headline to help with your evaluation.**

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Q24 You have 30 seconds to evaluate each headline. Please do not search for the headlines online but give your honest opinion. We hope you enjoy the task!

**End of Block: Instructions**

**Start of Block: Checks**

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check_1 Some warm-up questions: Choose the accurate rephrasing of *"It is easy to see John"*.

&#9711; John is easy to see.  (1)

&#9711; John is eager to see.  (2)

&#9711; John's sister's friend's car.  (3)

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check_2 Based on the task description, the news headlines you will read:

&#9711; some are true, some are false  (1)

&#9711; are all true  (3)

&#9711; are all false  (4)

**End of Block: Checks**

**Start of Block: Evaluation task**

Q22 ${lm://CurrentLoopNumber} of ${lm://TotalLoops}

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*Display This Question:*
    *If group != control*

Q20    .container {    max-width: 100%;  }   .card {    max-width: 770px;    padding: 1rem 1.5rem;    border-radius:5px;    box-shadow:0 3px 8px #aaa;    line-height: 1.4;    margin:0em auto;  }   h1, td.shrink{    margin: 0;    font-size: 1.4rem;    font-family: Roboto,RobotoDraft,Helvetica,Arial,sans-serif;    font-weight: 500;    overflow-wrap: break-word;  }   table.stats{    margin:0em auto;    text-align: center;    width: 100%;    max-width: 420px;    padding-top: 20px;  }   td.shrink{    white-space: nowrap;    width: 1px;    padding: 0;  }   td.extend{    width:99.9%;    clear:both;    padding: 0;    valign="middle";  }   .icons{ float:right;    width:60px;    max-width:60px;    height:60px;    position: relative;    z-index: 99 !important;    display: block;  }    .progress-track {    position: relative;    width: 100%; height: 25px;    background: #ebebeb;  }   .progress-fill {    position: relative;    height: 25px; width: 50%;    border-radius: 2px;    box-shadow: inset 0 0 5px rgba(0,0,0,.2);   }

${lm://Field/2}


${e://Field/dems_rel}%">                                      *${e://Field/dems} Democrats &*
*${e://Field/reps} Republicans answered so far*


${lm://Field/4}%;">                                      *${lm://Field/5} say the claim is false and*
*${lm://Field/3} say it is true*          [].forEach.call(document.querySelectorAll('em ,
.LabelPositionBELOW , .PageTimer fieldset , #Buttons'), function (el) {     el.style.visibility =
'hidden';  });    function showPopulation() {
document.getElementById("population").style.visibility = "visible";  }
setTimeout("showPopulation()", 2000);     function showVotes() {
document.getElementById("votes").style.visibility = "visible";  }  setTimeout("showVotes()",
3500);     function showQuestion() {    [].forEach.call(document.querySelectorAll('em ,
.LabelPositionBELOW , #Buttons'), function (el) {     el.style.visibility = 'visible';    });  }
setTimeout("showQuestion()", 6000);    function showTimer(cpr_loop) { if
("${lm://CurrentLoopNumber}" == cpr_loop){     [].forEach.call(document.querySelectorAll('em ,
.LabelPositionBELOW , .PageTimer fieldset , #Buttons'), function (el) {     el.style.visibility =
'visible';    }); }   }  setTimeout("showTimer(${lm://CurrentLoopNumber})", 15500);

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Q25   .container {    max-width: 100%;  }  .card {    max-width: 770px;    padding: 1rem
1.5rem;    border-radius:5px;    box-shadow:0 3px 8px #aaa;    line-height: 1.4;    margin:0em
auto;  }  h1, td.shrink{    margin: 0;    font-size: 1.4rem;    font-family:
Roboto,RobotoDraft,Helvetica,Arial,sans-serif;    font-weight: 500;    overflow-wrap: break-
word;  }  table.stats{    margin:0em auto;    text-align: center;    width: 100%;    max-width:
450px;    padding-top: 20px;  }  td.shrink{    white-space: nowrap;    width: 1px;    padding: 0;
}  td.extend{    padding: 0;    valign="middle";  }  .icons{    width:60px;    max-width:60px;
height:60px;    position: relative;    z-index: 99 !important;    display: block;  }  .progress-track
{    position: relative;    width: 100%;    height: 25px;    background: #ebebeb;  }  .progress-fill
{    position: relative;    height: 25px;    width: 50%;    border-radius: 2px;    box-shadow: inset
0 0 5px rgba(0,0,0,.2);  }

${lm://Field/2}
    [].forEach.call(document.querySelectorAll('em , .LabelPositionBELOW , .PageTimer fieldset
, #Buttons'), function (el) {    el.style.visibility = 'hidden';  });    function showQuestion() {
[].forEach.call(document.querySelectorAll('em , .LabelPositionBELOW , #Buttons'), function (el)

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{     el.style.visibility = 'visible';    }); }  setTimeout("showQuestion()", 3000);    function
showTimer(cpr_loop) { if ("${lm://CurrentLoopNumber}" == cpr_loop){
[].forEach.call(document.querySelectorAll('em , .LabelPositionBELOW , .PageTimer fieldset ,
#Buttons'), function (el) {     el.style.visibility = 'visible';    }); }  }
setTimeout("showTimer(${lm://CurrentLoopNumber})", 15500);
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answer
*The claim in the headline is:*

○ False  (1)

○ True  (2)

Q26 To help us improve result quality, please answer these questions honestly. We will approve your HIT no matter what you answer below.

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follow_random Have you answered questions randomly?

○ Yes  (1)

○ No  (3)

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follow_search Have you searched some of the headlines on the web (e.g. Google):

○ Yes  (1)

○ No  (2)

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follow_purpose Describe in a few words what you perceived to be the purpose of this study:

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Page Break ────────────────────────────────

Q67 Please tell us about yourself:

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dem_pol_1 Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?

○ Republican  (1)

○ Democrat  (2)

○ Independent  (3)

○ Other  (6)

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dem_pol_2 Where would you place yourself on a scale from extremely liberal to extremely conservative?

○ liberal  (3)

○ somewhat liberal  (4)

○ somewhat conservative  (5)

○ conservative  (6)

○ no opinion  (8)

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dem_pol_3 If you had to position yourself on the political map, you would be on the

○ Left or center-left  (1)

○ Right or center-right  (2)

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dem_gender To which gender identity do you most identify?

○ Female  (1)

○ Male  (2)

○ Other  (3)

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dem_education What is the highest level of school you have completed?

○ Less than a high school diploma  (1)

○ High school degree or equivalent (e.g. GED)  (2)

○ Associate degree (e.g. AA, AS)  (5)

○ Bachelor's degree (e.g. BA, BS)  (6)

○ Master's degree (e.g. MA, MS)  (7)

○ Professional degree (e.g. MD, JD)  (8)

○ Doctorate (e.g. PhD, EdD)  (9)

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✳

dem_birth Which year were you born?

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**End of Block: Follow-Up Questions**

debrief_feedback (Optional) Was there anything that was unclear, something that didn't quite make sense or could be done better? **Leave us a few words, anything helps :)**

_____

Q60 Thank you for participating in this study! In order to get the information we were looking for, we provided you with incorrect information about some aspects of this study. Now that the experiment is over, we will describe the deception to you, answer any of your questions, and provide you with the opportunity to make a decision on whether you would like to have your data included in this study.

What the study is really about is in which ways people consider social signals when evaluating news claims. To test this, we have given you the impression that you saw how past participants evaluated the claims. In reality, these past evaluations were invented by the research team. All the headlines you saw came from real news organizations though. The headlines about the lack of women in Iceland and the Corona brewery founder were fake news, all others were accurate claims.

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debrief_agree Although you have already completed the survey, your involvement is still voluntary, and you may choose to withdraw the data you provided prior to debriefing without penalty. Withdrawing your submission will not adversely affect your relationship with Cornell University, the researchers, or any of our affiliates. For any questions, please contact <mpj32@cornell.edu>.

○ I AGREE that the data collected during the study may be included for the purpose of the study.  (1)

○ I WITHDRAW my participation for this study.  (2)

**End of Block: Debriefing**