

Women Also Know Stuff

Challenging the Gender Gap in Political Sophistication

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7th Annual General Conference of the European Political Science Association Milan, Italy

22-24 June 2017



Stony Brook University

Who scores higher on political knowledge?

	Respondent A	Respondent B
Obama (+)		
Obama (-)		
Romney (+)		
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Both respondents scored equally on the conventional political knowledge measure in the 2012 ANES!






















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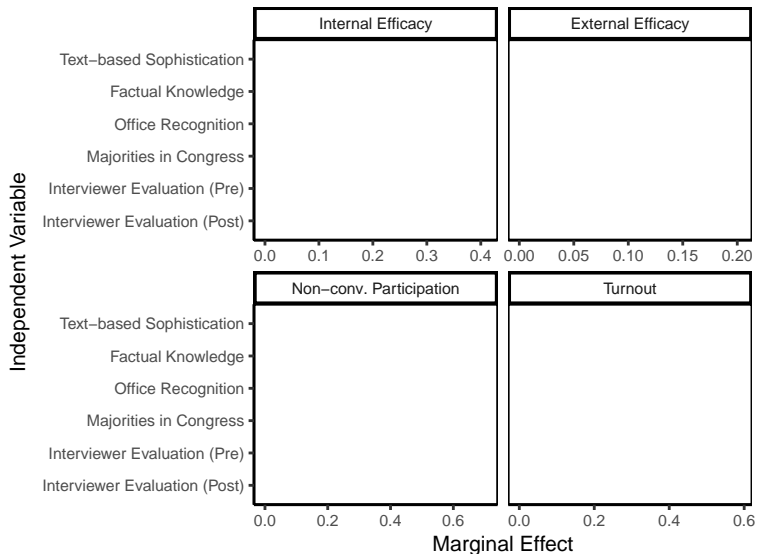
Validating the Measure I

Text-based Sophistication	Factual Knowledge	Office Recognition	Majorities in Congress	Interviewer Evaluation (Pre)	Interviewer Evaluation (Post)	Text-based Sophistication
						Factual Knowledge
						Office Recognition
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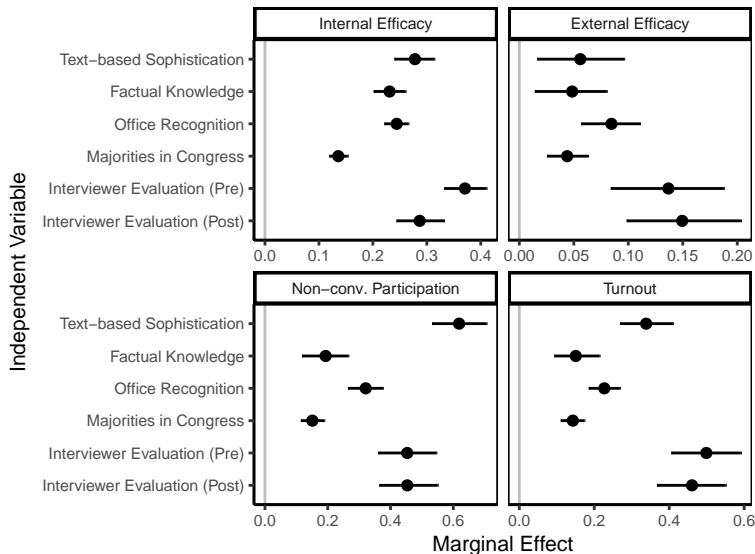
Validating the Measure I

Text-based Sophistication	Factual Knowledge	Office Recognition	Majorities in Congress	Interviewer Evaluation (Pre)	Interviewer Evaluation (Post)	
	Corr: 0.271	Corr: 0.277	Corr: 0.221	Corr: 0.437	Corr: 0.369	Text-based Sophistication
		Corr: 0.503	Corr: 0.385	Corr: 0.314	Corr: 0.366	Factual Knowledge
			Corr: 0.478	Corr: 0.48	Corr: 0.554	Office Recognition
				Corr: 0.394	Corr: 0.426	Majorities in Congress
					Corr: 0.624	Interviewer Evaluation (Pre)
						Interviewer Evaluation (Post)

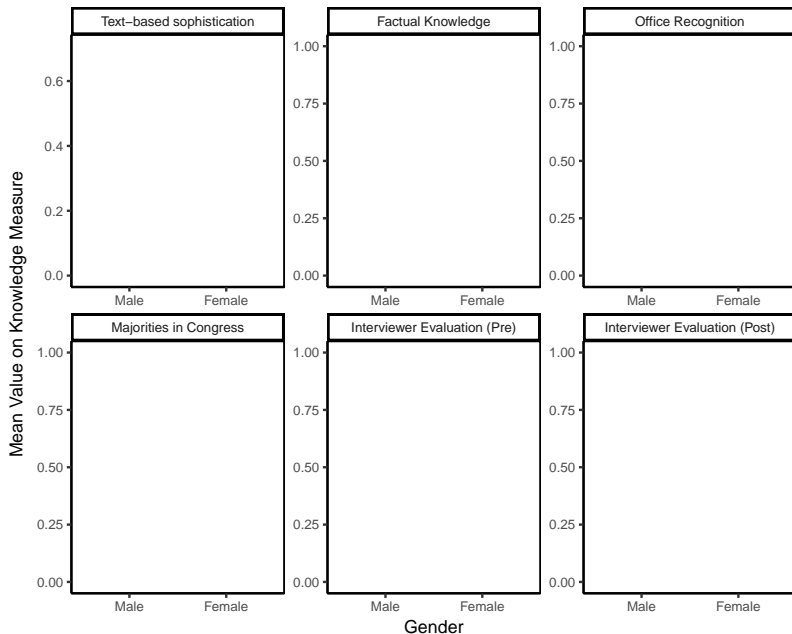
Validating the Measure II



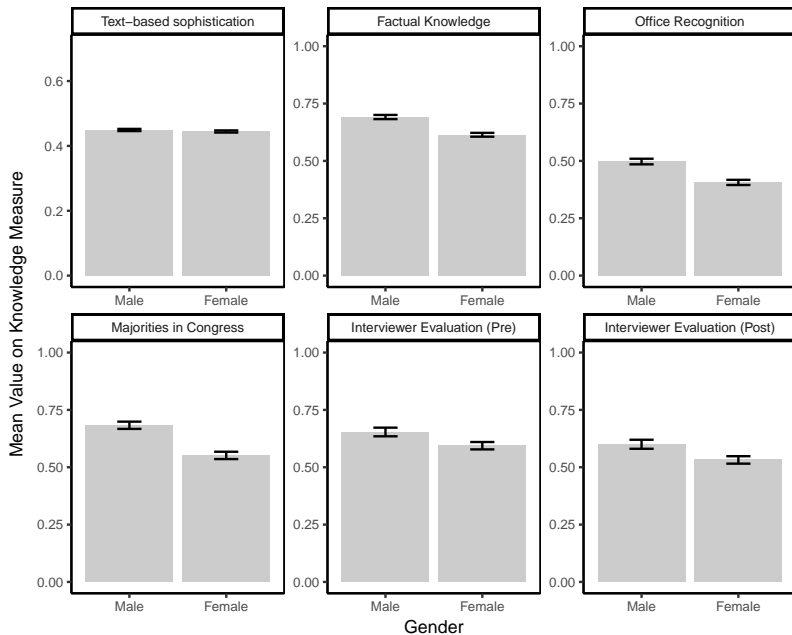
Validating the Measure II



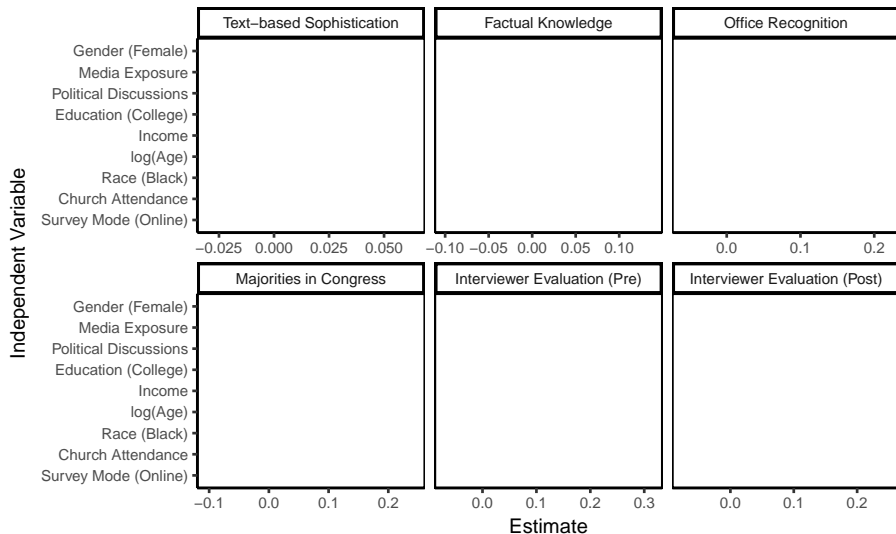
Assessing the Gender Gap I



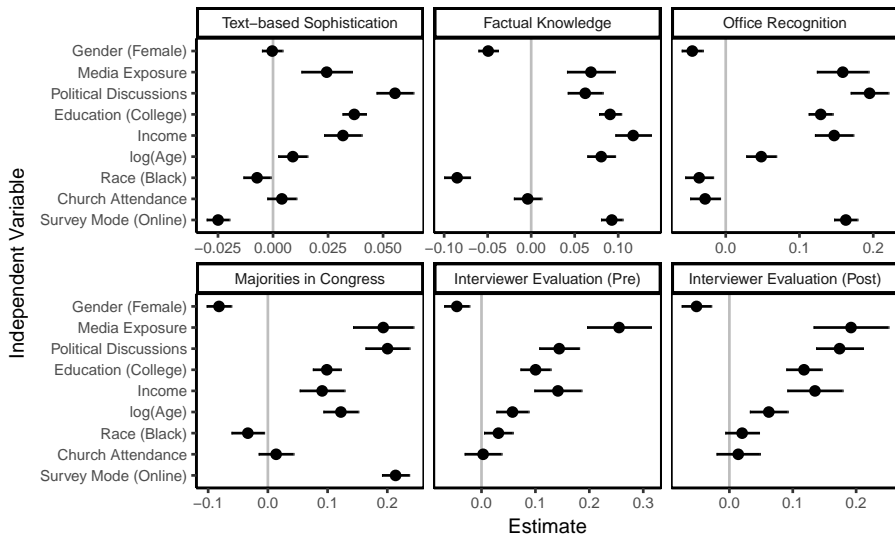
Assessing the Gender Gap I



Assessing the Gender Gap II



Assessing the Gender Gap II



Conclusion

- ▶ Women might score lower than men on **factual knowledge** about political institutions, but there are no differences in the **sophistication** of expressed political attitudes.
- ▶ We observe **theoretically meaningful** variation in the **complexity** of verbatim open-ended responses.
- ▶ Text-based sophistication is conceptually closer to the **structure of belief systems** than conventional measures. (e.g., Tetlock, 1983; Luskin, 1987).

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Thank you very much for your attention!

Manuscript and code available at:

<https://github.com/pwkraft/knowledge>

Comments, questions?

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References

- Luskin, Robert C. 1987. "Measuring political sophistication." *American Journal of Political Science* 31 (4): 856–899.
- Tetlock, Philip E. 1983. "Cognitive style and political ideology." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 45 (1): 118.