

**Subject:** Re: Final Paper  
**From:** Stanley Feldman <stanleyfeldman1@gmail.com>  
**Date:** 06/03/2014 03:17 PM  
**To:** Patrick Kraft <patrick.kraft@stonybrook.edu>

Patrick,

Here are some comments/suggestions for your paper.

1. I suspect that the purity words are just not very likely to be used in an electoral context. It's not clear to me that adding other purity related words will help. One thing you might do is to see if they are used by people who are very religious. I'm not sure that will be very interesting though in the context of this paper.
2. You may get sharper results if you move away from using just liberal-conservative self-identification. Using it is like trying to collapse multiple dimensions into one. And we know that the conservative label is especially heterogeneous (a significant proportion are libertarians and some even hold liberal political views). It wouldn't be too hard to use issue preferences to construct two dimensions of ideology -- economic and social. I've seen a couple of papers that find different patterns of relationship between the moral foundations measures and the two ideology dimensions. The Iyer et al. paper found that libertarians were low on all five of the foundations.
3. For the argument you're trying to make you really should have a better measure of sophistication than political interest. Information is the obvious candidate. So, for that reason alone, you might want to look at the likes/dislikes from another ANES survey. You probably want to replicate these results in any case.
4. Including a control for the total number of comments will be useful. There's a 1980 APSR paper by Eric Smith that argues that, holding all else constant, people who talk more are more likely to be scored in the higher categories of the levels of conceptualization. As you suggest, the more you say the more likely you are to say something using moral (or ideological) language.

Let me know if you want to talk more about any of this. I think is the basis of a publishable paper.

Stanley

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On Tue, May 20, 2014 at 11:44 PM, Patrick Kraft <[patrick.kraft@stonybrook.edu](mailto:patrick.kraft@stonybrook.edu)> wrote:

Stanley,  
please find my final paper attached.  
Should I also hand in a printed copy?  
Best,  
Patrick

Re: Final Paper

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Patrick Kraft  
Ph.D. Student  
Department of Political Science  
Stony Brook University