Faith in Reason: developing a survey measure of belief in the rationality of others

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abstract goes here

Introduction

What we believe about other people matters. It is not enough that others are trustworthy, reasonable or well intentioned. Successful coordination, as well as individual wellbeing, benefit when we also *perceive* others as trustworthy, reasonable or well intentioned.

Generalised trust

Second order effexcts of Disinfo

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Third person effect

- Some part of the TPE may be driven by accurate perception of others Lyons B (2022) Why we should rethink the third-person effect: Disentangling bias and earned confidence. Available at: https://www.dropbox.com/s/tpzy6e1ovfi0y1o/Why%20we%20should%20rethink%20TPE%20%28v2%2C%202022%29.pdf?dl=0

- driving calls for censorship Olshansky A, Landrum AR (2020) Third-person perceptions and calls for censorship of Flat Earth videos on YouTube. Media and Communication 8(2): 387–400. Feng GC, Guo SZ (2012) Support for censorship: a multilevel meta-analysis of the third-person effect. Communication Reports 25(1): 40–50.

Rationality

Dawson, N. V., & Gregory, F. (2009). Correspondence and coherence in science: A brief historical perspective. Judgment and decision making, 4(2), 126-133.

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Confidence in their abilities, friends' and family's abilities, and people's abilities to spot misinformation was measured with three statements adapted from Corbu et al. (2020) and the European Commission (2018): "I am able to identify news or information that misrepresent reality or is even false" "My friends and family are able to identify news or information that misrepresent reality or is even false" "People in general are able to identify news or information that misrepresent reality or is even false"

- negatively conceived
- unidimensional: influence

Method

Part of a larger survey

Sample

Item development

correspondance (items 2 and 6) coherance (items 7 and 8) influence (items 3 and 5) insight into behaviour (4) naive endorsement (item 1)

See Table 1

Prereg

Reproducibility

Code and data is open

Reproducible manuscript, origin files at https://github.com/tomstafford/faithinreason

Results

Our data consist of 1875 participants who completed our online survey. 6 failed an attention check and were removed.
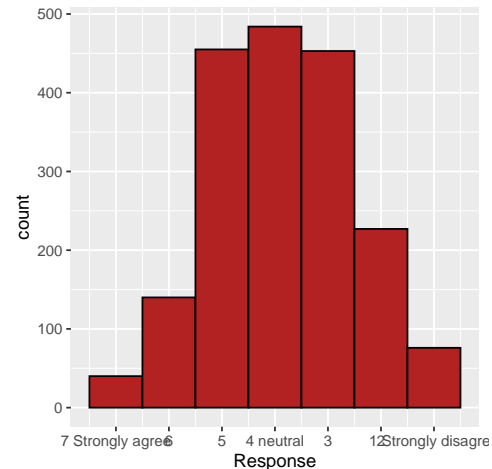

Figure 1. Histogram of responses to Item 1 ("The typical person is often irrational")

Discussion

Normative models

arguably our scale doesn't touch on normative models of rationality as captured by T&K. Bias, prejudice

References

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Table 1

Scale item wording

nums	items
1	The typical person is often irrational
2	People are often misinformed on important issues
3	People are too easily manipulated
4	People often act for reasons they don't understand or endorse
5	The average person can be persuaded to change their mind if given good reasons
6	Most people hold accurate views about the world
A	For this question please click the middle option, 'neutral', to show you are paying attention
7	An individual's beliefs about the world are generally coherent
8	People's behaviour is generally consistent with their beliefs

Note. Response was on a 7 point Likert scale from (1 = "Strong Disagree", 7 = "Strongly Agree"). Items 1,2,3 and 4 reverse coded so that for all items higher scores represented stronger faith in reason.