

Study 3 Supplementary Material

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Table S1: Demographic Characteristics of Participants by Political Orientation

Variable	Liberals (<i>n</i> = 294)	Conservatives (<i>n</i> = 272)
Age (years)	<i>M</i> = 42.00, Range = 20 to 83	<i>M</i> = 42.64, Range = 18 to 78
Gender		
Female	153	130
Male	140	141
Non-binary	1	1
Prefer not to say	—	—
Education		
High school graduate	29	25
Some college	50	38
2-year degree	23	20
4-year degree	112	89
Professional degree	59	76
Doctorate	21	24
Ethnicity		
Asian/Asian American	33	7
Black/African American	53	47
Hispanic	17	6
Native American or Alaska Native	2	5
White or European American	183	205
North African or Middle Eastern	1	1
Other	5	1
Household Income	Median = \$65,000 (IQR: \$45,000–\$125,000)	Median = \$85,000 (IQR: \$55,000–\$125,000)

Note. Liberal participants were distributed across conditions as follows: ingroup perception (*n* = 99), metaperception (*n* = 95), outgroup perception (*n* = 100). Conservative participants were distributed across conditions as follows: ingroup perception (*n* = 92), metaperception (*n* = 86), outgroup perception (*n* = 94).

Study Material for Liberals

Outgroup Perception

James is a 38-year-old man living in rural Virginia. He strongly believes in personal freedoms, especially the right to own guns. For James, owning a gun is important for his personal protection and represents freedom. When new gun control laws are proposed, such as requiring more extensive background checks or limiting the types of firearms people can own. James becomes worried that the government is going too far. He attends local meetings to speak out against stricter gun laws. He believes that stricter gun laws could put law-abiding people at risk by making it harder for them to protect themselves. James also helps in his community by teaching others how to use firearms for self-defense and encouraging responsible ownership. By promoting personal preparedness and participating in local discussions, he actively supports his belief in protecting individual rights and limiting government control.

Comprehension Check

According to the scenario, what does James believe about stricter gun laws?

- They help reduce crime by keeping guns out of the wrong hands.
- They make it harder for law-abiding people to protect themselves.
- They don't go far enough in regulating firearms.
- He doesn't have a clear opinion about gun laws.

Morality

Please read the following sentences and indicate the extent to which you think each statement describes James: (From 1 = Does not describe him at all to 5 = Describes him extremely well).

1. He is empathetic toward those people who have suffered in their lives.
2. It pains him when he sees someone ignoring the needs of another human being.
3. He believes that everyone should be given the same quantity of resources in life.
4. He gets upset when some people have a lot more money than others in his country.
5. He thinks people who are more hard-working should end up with more money.
6. He feels good when he sees cheaters get caught and punished.
7. He thinks children should be taught to be loyal to their country.
8. He believes the strength of a sports team comes from the loyalty of its members to each other.
9. He thinks it is important for societies to cherish their traditional values.
10. He believes that one of the most important values to teach children is to have respect for authority.
11. Choose the third option for this statement. (Attention Check)
12. He believes chastity is an important virtue.
13. It upsets him when people use foul language like it is nothing.

Threat

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements about James and people like him (From 1 = Strongly disagree to 7 = Strongly agree).

1. People like James pose a threat to the safety of people like me.
2. Because of people like James, I worry more about crime in my community.

3. The presence of people like James reduces the quality of life for people like me.
4. The beliefs of people like James about guns undermine our society's values.
5. People like James threaten the moral standards of our community.
6. The values of people like James are incompatible with the values of people like me.

Trust

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements about James and people like him (From 1 = Strongly disagree to 7. = Strongly disagree).

1. He has the ability to be trustworthy.
2. He is benevolent.
3. He has integrity.
4. He is trustworthy.
5. He is someone you would lend money to and trust will pay it back.
6. You can trust this person with a sensitive secret.

Ingroup Perception

Alex is a 35-year-old man living in a city in Illinois. He strongly believes in community safety and the need for stricter gun laws. For Alex, supporting stricter gun control is important to reduce violence and protect people. When new laws are proposed to loosen gun regulations, such as eliminating certain background checks or allowing more people to carry firearms in public. Alex becomes concerned that the government is going too far. He attends local meetings to speak out against these changes, arguing that weaker laws could increase the risk of gun violence. Alex also helps in his community by raising awareness about gun violence and supporting efforts to pass stronger safety laws. By advocating

for preventive measures and participating in community discussions, he actively supports his belief in protecting families and communities through sensible government action.

Comprehension Check

According to the scenario, what does Alex believe about loosening gun regulations?

- They help promote individual freedom and self-defense.
- They don't have much impact on community safety.
- They could put communities at greater risk of gun violence.
- He supports loosening gun laws to protect responsible gun owners.

Morality

Please read the following sentences and indicate the extent to which you think each statement describes Alex (From 1 = Does not describe him at all to 5 = Describes him extremely well):

1. He is empathetic toward those people who have suffered in their lives.
2. It pains him when he sees someone ignoring the needs of another human being.
3. He believes that everyone should be given the same quantity of resources in life.
4. He gets upset when some people have a lot more money than others in his country.
5. He thinks people who are more hard-working should end up with more money.
6. He feels good when he sees cheaters get caught and punished.
7. He thinks children should be taught to be loyal to their country.
8. He believes the strength of a sports team comes from the loyalty of its members to each other.

9. He thinks it is important for societies to cherish their traditional values.
10. He believes that one of the most important values to teach children is to have respect for authority.
11. Choose the third option for this statement. (Attention Check)
12. He believes chastity is an important virtue.
13. It upsets him when people use foul language like it is nothing.

Threat

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements about Alex and people like him (From 1 = Strongly disagree to 7 = Strongly agree).

1. People like James pose a threat to the safety of people like me.
2. Because of people like James, I worry more about crime in my community.
3. The presence of people like James reduces the quality of life for people like me.
4. The beliefs of people like James about guns undermine our society's values.
5. People like James threaten the moral standards of our community.
6. The values of people like James are incompatible with the values of people like me.

Trust

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements about Alex and people like him (From 1 = Strongly disagree to 7 = Strongly agree).

1. He has the ability to be trustworthy.
2. He is benevolent.

3. He has integrity.
4. He is trustworthy.
5. He is someone you would lend money to and trust will pay it back.
6. You can trust this person with a sensitive secret.

Metaperception

Alex is a 35-year-old man living in a city in Illinois. He strongly believes in community safety and the need for stricter gun laws. For Alex, supporting stricter gun control is important to reduce violence and protect people. When new laws are proposed to loosen gun regulations—such as eliminating certain background checks or allowing more people to carry firearms in public—Alex becomes concerned that the government is going too far. He attends local meetings to speak out against these changes, arguing that weaker laws could increase the risk of gun violence. Alex also helps in his community by raising awareness about gun violence and supporting efforts to pass stronger safety laws. By advocating for preventive measures and participating in community discussions, he actively supports his belief in protecting families and communities through sensible government action.

Comprehension Check

According to the scenario, what does James believe about stricter gun laws?

- They help reduce crime by keeping guns out of the wrong hands.
- They make it harder for law-abiding people to protect themselves.
- They don't go far enough in regulating firearms.
- He doesn't have a clear opinion about gun laws.

Morality

In this section, we want you to think about Alex from the perspective of a Conservative person. Specifically, we are asking you to answer each question based on how you believe a typical Conservative person would view his beliefs, values, and actions. For each statement below, imagine that a Conservative person is evaluating Alex. How much would that Republican person think that Alex agrees or disagrees with each statement? Answer the questions based on how you believe a Conservative person might judge his beliefs, even if they differ from your own views. For example, do you think a Conservative person would believe that Alex values ‘compassion for those who are suffering’ as the most important virtue? Use the following scale to rate each statement based on what you think a Conservative person would believe about Alex’s views. (From 1 = Does not describe him at all to 5 = Describes him extremely well).

1. He is empathetic toward those people who have suffered in their lives.
2. It pains him when he sees someone ignoring the needs of another human being.
3. He believes that everyone should be given the same quantity of resources in life.
4. He gets upset when some people have a lot more money than others in his country.
5. He thinks people who are more hard-working should end up with more money.
6. He feels good when he sees cheaters get caught and punished.
7. He thinks children should be taught to be loyal to their country.
8. He believes the strength of a sports team comes from the loyalty of its members to each other.
9. He thinks it is important for societies to cherish their traditional values.

10. He believes that one of the most important values to teach children is to have respect for authority.
11. Choose the third option for this statement. (Attention Check)
12. He believes chastity is an important virtue.
13. It upsets him when people use foul language like it is nothing.

Threat

Please indicate the extent to which you think a typical Conservative person would agree the following statements are true about Alex or people like him. (From 1 = Strongly disagree to 7 = Strongly agree).

1. People like James pose a threat to the safety of people like me.
2. Because of people like James, I worry more about crime in my community.
3. The presence of people like James reduces the quality of life for people like me.
4. The beliefs of people like James about guns undermine our society's values.
5. People like James threaten the moral standards of our community.
6. The values of people like James are incompatible with the values of people like me.

Trust

Please indicate the extent to which you think a typical Conservative person would agree the following statements are true about Alex or people like him (From 1 = Strongly disagree to 7 = Strongly agree).

1. He has the ability to be trustworthy.
2. He is benevolent.

3. He has integrity.
4. He is trustworthy.
5. He is someone you would lend money to and trust will pay it back.
6. You can trust this person with a sensitive secret.

Study Material for Conservatives

Outgroup Perception

Alex is a 35-year-old man living in a city in Illinois. He strongly believes in community safety and the need for stricter gun laws. For Alex, supporting stricter gun control is important to reduce violence and protect people. When new laws are proposed to loosen gun regulations, such as eliminating certain background checks or allowing more people to carry firearms in public. Alex becomes concerned that the government is going too far. He attends local meetings to speak out against these changes, arguing that weaker laws could increase the risk of gun violence. Alex also helps in his community by raising awareness about gun violence and supporting efforts to pass stronger safety laws. By advocating for preventive measures and participating in community discussions, he actively supports his belief in protecting families and communities through sensible government action.

Comprehension Check

According to the scenario, what does Alex believe about loosening gun regulations?

- They help promote individual freedom and self-defense.
- They don't have much impact on community safety.
- They could put communities at greater risk of gun violence.
- He supports loosening gun laws to protect responsible gun owners.

Morality

Please read the following sentences and indicate the extent to which you think each statement describes Alex (From 1 = Does not describe him at all to 5 = Describes him extremely well):

1. He is empathetic toward those people who have suffered in their lives.
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10. He believes that one of the most important values to teach children is to have respect for authority.
11. Choose the third option for this statement. (Attention Check)
12. He believes chastity is an important virtue.
13. It upsets him when people use foul language like it is nothing.

Threat

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements about Alex and people like him (From 1 = Strongly disagree to 7 = Strongly agree).

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2. Because of people like James, I worry more about crime in my community.

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Trust

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements about Alex and people like him (From 1 = Strongly disagree to 7 = Strongly agree).

1. He has the ability to be trustworthy.
2. He is benevolent.
3. He has integrity.
4. He is trustworthy.
5. He is someone you would lend money to and trust will pay it back.
6. You can trust this person with a sensitive secret.

Intgroup Perception

James is a 38-year-old man living in rural Virginia. He strongly believes in personal freedoms, especially the right to own guns. For James, owning a gun is important for his personal protection and represents freedom. When new gun control laws are proposed, such as requiring more extensive background checks or limiting the types of firearms people can own. James becomes worried that the government is going too far. He attends local meetings to speak out against stricter gun laws. He believes that stricter gun laws could put law-abiding people at risk by making it harder for them to protect themselves. James also

helps in his community by teaching others how to use firearms for self-defense and encouraging responsible ownership. By promoting personal preparedness and participating in local discussions, he actively supports his belief in protecting individual rights and limiting government control.

Comprehension Check

According to the scenario, what does James believe about stricter gun laws?

- They help reduce crime by keeping guns out of the wrong hands.
- They make it harder for law-abiding people to protect themselves.
- They don't go far enough in regulating firearms.
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Morality

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5. He thinks people who are more hard-working should end up with more money.
6. He feels good when he sees cheaters get caught and punished.
7. He thinks children should be taught to be loyal to their country.

8. He believes the strength of a sports team comes from the loyalty of its members to each other.
9. He thinks it is important for societies to cherish their traditional values.
10. He believes that one of the most important values to teach children is to have respect for authority.
11. Choose the third option for this statement. (Attention Check)
12. He believes chastity is an important virtue.
13. It upsets him when people use foul language like it is nothing.

Threat

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements about James and people like him (From 1 = Strongly disagree to 7 = Strongly agree).

1. People like James pose a threat to the safety of people like me.
2. Because of people like James, I worry more about crime in my community.
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4. The beliefs of people like James about guns undermine our society's values.
5. People like James threaten the moral standards of our community.
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1. He has the ability to be trustworthy.
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3. He has integrity.
4. He is trustworthy.
5. He is someone you would lend money to and trust will pay it back.
6. You can trust this person with a sensitive secret.

Metaperception

James is a 38-year-old man living in rural Virginia. He strongly believes in personal freedoms, especially the right to own guns. For James, owning a gun is important for his personal protection and represents freedom. When new gun control laws are proposed, such as requiring more extensive background checks or limiting the types of firearms people can own. James becomes worried that the government is going too far. He attends local meetings to speak out against stricter gun laws. He believes that stricter gun laws could put law-abiding people at risk by making it harder for them to protect themselves. James also helps in his community by teaching others how to use firearms for self-defense and encouraging responsible ownership. By promoting personal preparedness and participating in local discussions, he actively supports his belief in protecting individual rights and limiting government control.

Comprehension Check

According to the scenario, what does James believe about stricter gun laws?

- They help reduce crime by keeping guns out of the wrong hands.
- They make it harder for law-abiding people to protect themselves.

- They don't go far enough in regulating firearms.
- He doesn't have a clear opinion about gun laws.

Morality

In this section, we want you to think about James from the perspective of a Liberal person. Specifically, we are asking you to answer each question based on how you believe a typical Liberal person would view his beliefs, values, and actions. For each statement below, imagine that a Liberal person is evaluating James. How much would that Liberal person think that James agrees or disagrees with each statement? Answer the questions based on how you believe a Liberal person might judge his beliefs, even if they differ from your own views. For example, do you think a Liberal person would believe that James values 'compassion for those who are suffering' as the most important virtue? Use the following scale to rate each statement based on what you think a Liberal person would believe about James' views. (From 1 = Does not describe him at all to 5 = Describes him extremely well).

1. He is empathetic toward those people who have suffered in their lives.
2. It pains him when he sees someone ignoring the needs of another human being.
3. He believes that everyone should be given the same quantity of resources in life.
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8. He believes the strength of a sports team comes from the loyalty of its members to each other.

9. He thinks it is important for societies to cherish their traditional values.
10. He believes that one of the most important values to teach children is to have respect for authority.
11. Choose the third option for this statement. (Attention Check)
12. He believes chastity is an important virtue.
13. It upsets him when people use foul language like it is nothing.

Threat

Please indicate the extent to which you think a typical Liberal person would agree the following statements are true about James or people like him.

1. People like James pose a threat to the safety of people like me.
2. Because of people like James, I worry more about crime in my community.
3. The presence of people like James reduces the quality of life for people like me.
4. The beliefs of people like James about guns undermine our society's values.
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Please indicate the extent to which you think a typical Liberal person would agree the following statements are true about James or people like him.

1. He has the ability to be trustworthy.
2. He is benevolent.

3. He has integrity.
4. He is trustworthy.
5. He is someone you would lend money to and trust will pay it back.
6. You can trust this person with a sensitive secret.

Questions answered by all participants

Screening Question

Which of the following statements best reflects your general view about guns and public safety?

- Limiting access to guns is important for reducing harm and keeping communities safe.
- The ability to own guns is a fundamental right that should be protected.
- There are good arguments on both sides, and I don't have a strong opinion either way.

Empathy and Perspective-Taking

Please indicate how well each statement describes you (From 1 = Does not describe me at all to 5 = Describes me very well):

1. I often have tender, concerned feelings for people less fortunate than me.
2. Sometimes I don't feel very sorry for other people when they are having problems.
3. When I see someone being taken advantage of, I feel kind of protective towards them.
4. Other people's misfortunes do not usually disturb me a great deal.
5. When I see someone being treated unfairly, I sometimes don't feel very much pity for them.
6. I am often quite touched by things that I see happen.
7. I would describe myself as a pretty soft-hearted person.

8. I sometimes find it difficult to see things from the “other person’s” point of view.
9. I try to look at everybody’s side of a disagreement before I make a decision.
10. I sometimes try to understand my friends better by imagining how things look from their perspective.
11. If I’m sure I’m right about something, I don’t waste much time listening to other people’s arguments.
12. I believe that there are two sides to every question and try to look at them both.
13. When I’m upset at someone, I usually try to “put myself in his shoes” for a while.
14. Before criticizing somebody, I try to imagine how I would feel if I were in their place.

Social Identity

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about your political affiliation:

1. In general, being a liberal/conservative is an important part of my self-image.
2. I often think about the fact that I am a liberal/conservative.
3. Generally, I feel good when I think about myself as a liberal/conservative.
4. In general, I am glad to be a liberal/conservative.
5. I feel strong ties to other liberals/conservatives.
6. In a group of liberals/conservatives, I really feel that I belong.

All items were measured on a 5-point scale from 1 = Strongly disagree to 5 = Strongly agree.

Identity Fusion

Below, you will see a series of images representing different levels of connection between yourself and Liberals/Conservatives. Each pair of circles represents the relationship between "You" and the group ("Liberals/Conservatives"). Please select the image that best represents how closely you feel connected to that group.

[Participants were presented with five diagrams depicting varying degrees of overlap between the self and the political group and were asked to select one option:]

- Option A: The self and the group are completely separate (no overlap).
- Option B: The self and the group are touching but do not overlap.
- Option C: The self and the group partially overlap.
- Option D: The self is mostly contained within the group.
- Option E: The self is completely contained within the group.

Demographic Questions

1. What is your age?

[Open-ended numeric response]

2. What is your gender identity?

- Male
- Female
- Non-binary / third gender
- Prefer not to say

3. Which of the categories best describes you?

- Native American or Alaska Native

- Asian or Asian American
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino/Latinx
- Middle Eastern or North African
- White or European American
- Other

4. Which one describes your political opinions better?

- Very liberal
- Liberal
- Slightly liberal
- Moderate
- Slightly conservative
- Conservative
- Very conservative

5. What is the highest level of education you completed?

- Less than high school
- High school graduate
- Some college
- 2 year degree
- 4 year degree
- Professional degree
- Doctorate

6. What is your combined annual household income?

[Scale from "Less than \$10,000" to "More than \$150,000"]

Identity Fusion, Social Identity, and Moral Metaperceptual Mismatch

In an exploratory supplementary analysis, we examined whether individual differences in identity fusion and social identity predict the magnitude of moral metaperceptual inaccuracies observed in Study 3. Whereas the primary analyses focused on the downstream consequences of moral perception mismatches for intergroup trust and threat, this analysis investigated potential antecedents of these mismatches.

All analyses were conducted within the metaperception condition only, separately for liberals and conservatives, consistent with the primary Study 3 analyses. Mismatch scores were computed using the same asymmetric definitions employed in the main text to preserve interpretability across ideological groups. Specifically, for liberals, binding moral foundation mismatch scores reflected the difference between conservatives' actual ratings of liberals' binding foundations and liberals' predictions of those ratings (reality - metaperception), such that higher values indicated greater underestimation of conservatives' positivity. For conservatives, individualizing moral foundation mismatch scores reflected the difference between conservatives' predictions of how liberals would rate their individualizing foundations and liberals' actual ratings (metaperception - reality), such that higher values indicated greater overestimation of liberals' positivity.

Political social identity was assessed using an abbreviated version of the Ingroup Identification Scale (Cameron, 2004), consisting of six items measuring centrality, ingroup affect, and ingroup ties. Responses were recorded on a 7-point Likert scale. Identity fusion was measured using a pictorial single-item measure adapted from Swann et al. (2009), in which participants selected the diagram that best represented the degree of overlap between the self and their political group. Both variables were entered simultaneously as predictors in linear regression models, along with ideology as a control variable, allowing us to assess their unique associations with moral perception mismatch.

Among liberal participants, the combined regression model predicting binding moral perception mismatch was statistically significant, $F(3, 91) = 11.21, p < .001$, explaining 27.0% of the variance in mismatch scores (adjusted $R^2 = .246$).

Political identity strength emerged as a significant negative predictor of mismatch, $b = -0.30, SE = 0.12, t(91) = -2.54, p = .013, 95\% \text{ CI } [-0.54, -0.07]$, indicating that liberals with stronger political identity reported smaller discrepancies between conservatives' actual evaluations and their own metaperceptions of conservatives' views of liberal binding foundations. Identity fusion did not uniquely predict mismatch, $b = -0.09, SE = 0.09, t(91) = -1.06, p = .29, 95\% \text{ CI } [-0.27, 0.08]$, once political identity strength and ideology were included in the model.

Ideology was a strong negative covariate, $b = -0.40, SE = 0.07, t(91) = -5.70, p < .001$, consistent with the pattern observed in the primary Study 3 analyses. Partial eta-squared estimates indicated that ideology accounted for the largest proportion of explained variance ($\eta_p^2 = .26$), whereas political identity strength accounted for a modest but nontrivial portion ($\eta_p^2 \approx .01$).

Among conservative participants ($n = 86$), the combined regression model predicting individualizing moral perception mismatch was not statistically significant, $F(3, 82) = 1.71, p = .17$, accounting for 5.9% of the variance in mismatch scores (adjusted $R^2 = .024$).

Identity fusion showed a negative but marginal association with mismatch, $b = -0.11, SE = 0.06, t(82) = -1.83, p = .071, 95\% \text{ CI } [-0.23, 0.01]$, suggesting a weak tendency for more strongly fused conservatives to exhibit reduced overestimation of liberals' positivity toward their individualizing foundations. Political identity strength did not predict mismatch, $b = 0.05, SE = 0.09, t(82) = 0.59, p = .56$, nor did ideology, $b = -0.04, SE = 0.05, t(82) = -0.81, p = .42$.

Consistent with these results, effect size estimates were small for all predictors ($\eta_p^2 \leq .05$), indicating that dispositional identity-related variables explained relatively little variance in conservatives' moral metaperceptual mismatch.

In sum, these supplementary analyses indicate that the predictors of moral metaperceptual inaccuracies differ across ideological groups. Among liberals, stronger political identity was reliably associated with greater metaperceptual accuracy, whereas identity fusion did not uniquely contribute once identity strength and ideology were controlled. Among conservatives, moral perception mismatch was only weakly and inconsistently related to identity fusion and was unrelated to political identity strength.

References

- Cameron, J. E. (2004). A three-factor model of social identity. *Self and identity*, 3(3), 239–262. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13576500444000047>
- Swann, W. B., Jr, Gómez, A., Seyle, D. C., Morales, J., & Huici, C. (2009). Identity fusion: The interplay of personal and social identities in extreme group behavior. *Journal of personality and social psychology*, 96(5), 995. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0013668>