Extension

Does Education Matter?

RT ran analyses on various groups but surprisingly, they did not include education into account. One's educational level, firstly, influences how s/he perceives the gun control problem directly. For instance, better-educated people are likely to have a better knowledge of the Second Amendment and therefore, have a different gun right attitude than others. Second, education also enables people to receive and process more information. Educated people are also expected to be more attentive to what is happening in the world. That said, education makes respondents more likely to receive the treatment. Third, education helps people to be more open-minded. RT argued the null effect of the Sandy Hook shooting is a result of the opinion polarization — gun control opponents are frozen at their predisposition and reluctant to change according to the new information. We expect better-educated people are less change reluctance-prone.

Education in TAPS wave 13 is measured in a 15-points scale, in which 1 means no formal education at all and 15 means doctorate. The 25% quantile, median, and 75% quantile is some college without a degree, an associate degree, and a bachelor degree respectively. There are 10 respondents who refused to disclose their educational information. These invalid cases are only 0.6% of the full sample so we simply drop them from our analysis. Since education has 15 categories, we treat is as a continuous variable. We include the treatment dummy variable, education, and their interaction term in our model to see whether the Sandy Hook shooting's effect on gun control support is present conditional on one's educational level.

Table 1: Effect of the Sandy Hook Shooting on Gun Control Support Conditional on Education

	Logit	Ordered Logit
Post-event (Yes = 1)	−0.50	−0.09
	(0.78)	(0.57)
Education (No = 1, Doctorate = 15)	0.17***	0.12***
	(0.04)	(0.03)
Post-event × Education	0.05	0.03
	(0.07)	(0.05)
Constant	−3.07***	
	(0.46)	
Strongly Disagree |Disagree		0.90**
		(0.34)
Disagree |Neither		1.91***
		(0.35)
Neither |Agree		2.59***
		(0.35)
Agree |Strongly Agree		3.47***
		(0.35)
BIC	1842.03	5041.52
$\ln \mathcal{L}$	−906.17	−2494.78
N	1674	1674

Standard errors in parentheses.