Codebooks – "Backing Out or Backing In? Commitment and Consistency in Audience Costs Theory"

The following are the codebooks describing the variables from the two surveys discussed in the empirical analysis.

Codebook for the data set for the main survey "commitment.dta"

GROUP: Indicator for experimental group, where 1 = Stay out; 2 = Back in; 3 = Back in/New information; 4 = Back out; 5 = Back out/New information; 6 = Go in.

APPROVE27: Full seven-point measure for approval of the president's actions, where 1 = Disapprove very strongly; 2 = Disapprove somewhat; 3 = Lean toward disapproving; 4 = Don't lean either way; 5 = Lean toward approving; 6 = Approve somewhat; 7 = Approve very strongly.

APPROVE23: Three-point measure for approval of the president's actions, where 0 = Disapprove; 1 = Neither approve nor disapprove (including leaners); 2 = Approve.

COMPETENCE: Evaluation of the president's competence, where 1 = Very incompetent; 2 = Somewhat competent; 3 = Neither competent nor incompetent; 4 = Somewhat competent; 5 = Very competent.

REPUTATION: Effect on U.S. reputation, where 1 = Hurt a lot; 2 = Hurt somewhat; 3 = Didn't make much difference; 4 = Helped somewhat; 5 = Helped a lot.

CREDIB: Effect on likelihood other countries would believe future threats and promises made by the U.S. president, where 1 = Very unlikely; 2 = Somewhat unlikely; 3 = Somewhat likely; 4 = Very likely.

BACKOUT_PROBNEWINFO: Probability the president received new information in the "Back out" condition, where 1 = Very unlikely; 2 = Somewhat unlikely; 3 = Somewhat likely; 4 = Very likely. Note that this variable is coding as missing for all groups that are not "Back out."

BACKIN_PROBNEWINFO: Probability the president received new information in the "Back in" condition, where 1 = Very unlikely; 2 = Somewhat unlikely; 3 = Somewhat likely; 4 = Very likely. Note that this variable is coding as missing for all groups that are not "Back in."

MALE: 1 = Male; 0 = Female.

AGEGAT: 1 = 18-24 years; 2 = 25-34 years; 3 = 35-44 years; 4 = 45-54 years; 5 = 55-64 years; 6 = 65 years or older.

EDUC: 1 = Less than high school; 2 = High school; 3 = Some college; 4 = Bachelor's degree or higher.

REGISTERED: Voter registration status, where 1 = Registered voter; 0 = Not registered.

VOTER: 1 = Voted in the 2012 presidential election; 0 = Non-voter.

PARTYID7: 1 = Strong Democrat; 2 = Not strong Democrat; 3 = Leans Democrat; 4 = Independent; 5 = Leans Republican; 6 = Not strong Republican; 7 = Strong Republican.

VETERAN: Respondent's military background, where 1 = Some form of military experience (active duty in armed forces, previous active duty, or trained for national reserves or guard); 0 = Otherwise.

ACTIVIST: Political activism, where 1 = Engaged in any of the following activities over the previous 12-month period (attended a protest or rally, contacted a government official, volunteered or worked for a political campaign, donated to a campaign, served on a community board, or worked with others to solve a community problem); 0 = Otherwise.

Codebook for the data set for the follow-up survey "commitment_followup.dta"

GROUP: Indicator for experimental group, where 1 = Stay out; 2 = Back in; 3 = Back in/New intelligence only; 4 =Back in/Expert consensus only; 5 = Back in/New intelligence and Expert consensus; 6 = Go in; 7 = Back out; 8 = Back out/New intelligence only; 9 = Back out/Expert consensus only; 10 = Back out/New intelligence and Expert consensus.

APPROVE3: Three-point measure for approval of the president's actions, where 0 = Disapprove; 1 = Neither approve nor disapprove (including leaners); 2 = Approve.

MORALPRES3: Belief that the president handled the situation in the morally right way, where 0 = Disagree; 1 = Neither agree nor disagree; 2 = Agree.