Follow up study for Origins of Online Political Hostility paper. (#28965)

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1) Have any data been collected for this study already?
No, no data have been collected for this study yet.

2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?
This study will test 4 hypotheses:
1) People self-report being responsible for no more hostility in online political discussions than in offline political discussions.
2) There is a very high ($r > 0.75$) correlation between self-reported online and offline political hostility within individuals.
3) Online political conflicts are not perceived to be more severe, difficult to stop or to resolve than offline political conflicts.
4) The gap between witnessing online and offline acts of hostility is largest for acts against strangers, smaller for acts against people the respondent knows and even smaller for acts against the self. In all of these cases, we expect the gap to reveal witnessing more online than offline hostility.

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.
1-2) Self-reported hostility is measured by a battery of 4 questions on a) tempering emotions, b) regretting making comments, c) making offensive comments, d) making threatening comments both offline and online. The online battery contains two more items related to getting deleted or banned from a website. These items have been used in multiple other surveys.
3) To measure perceptions of conflict severity, we rely on a battery of eight items e.g. perceived length of discussions, ease of conflict resolution, tendency to ruminate over conflict. The same battery has been used in a Danish survey before. The battery is asked once for online and once for offline political discussions.
4) We measure how often the respondent witnessed hostility against a) the self, b) someone they know, c) someone they do not know. We repeat these questions for offline and online political discussions separately.

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?
Participants will be sorted in one of two groups, the online first or the offline first group. This is a question order experiment, where the three dependent measures described above are bundled together into a block, and we randomize whether participants answer first the questions pertaining to offline or online political discussions.

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.
1) We will rely on equivalence testing to rule out that people self-report more online political hostility than offline political hostility. In particular, we will conduct on independent samples t-test comparing participants' hostility levels as revealed in the first block of their survey, and thus untainted by potential common source bias. We set the upper boundaries to Cohen's $d = +/-0.21$, which is the smallest effect size our study could reveal with 90% power and 5% alpha given our sample size.
2) We conduct an equivalence test for correlations relying on our repeated measures of self-reported political hostility (offline vs online). We set the lower bound to $r = 0.75$, as a somewhat arbitrary threshold for identifying strong correlations.
3) We will conduct repeated measures t-test on the two indices created by simply averaging participants' answers across the eight items.
4) We conduct a linear model, where we interact a factor variable for environment (online vs offline) with another factor for target of hostility (self, known other, unknown other). We expect significant positive interaction effects using offline and self as baseline categories.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.
We do not plan to exclude any participants who completes the study.

7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.
We plan to field the survey to a sample of 1000 adult US citizens on Lucid Theorem platform. All participants completing the survey will be retained.

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)
The survey also involves a fake news quiz with 32 items, which is administered between the two batteries on political behavior. We do not expect the fake news quiz to affect in any ways participants' responses in the subsequent battery.