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DA 1: Study Designs

DA 1.1. Politics vs. Entertainment

Recruitment

Participants were recruited by ResearchNow (now part of Dynata) through the standard recruitment for the platform: notification that a study was available; participants were also offered an estimate of how long the study would take. Once within the study, the consent form clarified that the study "a research study to track what people think of the media environment around them."

Factor 1: Description

[Politics condition:] Thank you for your participation. We are going to ask you a number of questions about media as it relates to politics. You will receive questions about important political issues of the day.

[Entertainment condition:] Thank you for your participation. We are going to ask you a number of questions about media as it relates to arts and entertainment. You will receive questions about television, music and movies.

Factor 2: Controversial vs. Baseline

[Random Assignment: Controversial Block First or Last]

[Contentious Block]

1. Do you oppose or favor making it more difficult for a woman to get an abortion? On the scale below, 1 means you strongly oppose making it more difficult for a woman to get an abortion, and 7 means you strongly favor making it more difficult for a woman to get an abortion. Be sure to click on the slider, such that the number you selected appears on the right side, to mark your choice.

_____ Please click on the slider to mark your choice (1)

2. Do you oppose or favor the health care law passed in 2010? This law, also known as "Obamacare", requires all Americans to buy health insurance and requires health insurance companies to accept everyone. On the scale below, 1 means you strongly oppose the health care law, and 7 means you strongly favor the health care law. Be sure to click on the slider, such that the number you selected appears on the right side, to mark your choice.

_____ Please click on the slider to mark your choice (1)

3. Do you oppose or favor allowing companies to increase the number of black workers by considering race along with other factors when making hiring decisions? On the scale below, 1 means you strongly oppose increasing the number of black workers by

considering race when hiring, and 7 means you strongly favor increasing the number of black workers by considering race when hiring. Be sure to click on the slider, such that the number you selected appears on the right side, to mark your choice.

_____ Please click on the slider to mark your choice (1)

4. Do you oppose or favor allowing same-sex couples to legally marry? On the scale below, 1 means you strongly oppose allowing same-sex couples to legally marry, and 7 means you strongly favor allowing same-sex couples to legally marry. Be sure to click on the slider, such that the number you selected appears on the right side, to mark your choice.

_____ Please click on the slider to mark your choice (1)

5. Do you oppose or favor the death penalty for persons convicted of murder? On the scale below, 1 means you strongly oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder, and 7 means you strongly favor the death penalty for persons convicted of murder. Be sure to click on the slider, such that the number you selected appears on the right side, to mark your choice.

_____ Please click on the slider to mark your choice (1)

6. Some people believe that we should spend much less money for defense. Suppose these people are at one end of a scale, at point 1. Others feel that defense spending should be greatly increased. Suppose these people are at the other end, at point 7. What would you say your opinion is on this topic? Would you put yourself closer to 1 (Government should spend less money on defense) or 7 (Government should spend more money on defense)?

_____ Please click on the slider to mark your choice (1)

7. Some people think it is important to protect the environment even if it costs some jobs or otherwise reduces our standard of living. Suppose these people are at one end of the scale, at point number 1. Other people think that protecting the environment is not as important as maintaining jobs and our standard of living. Suppose these people are at the other end of the scale, at point number 7. What would you say your opinion is on this topic? Would you put yourself closer to 1 (Protect the environment even if it costs jobs) or 7 (Jobs are more important than the environment)?

_____ Please click on the slider to mark your choice (1)

8. Some people believe the United States should solve international problems by using diplomacy and other forms of international pressure and use military force only if absolutely necessary. Suppose these people are at one end of the scale, at point number 1. Others believe diplomacy and pressure often fail and the US must be ready to use military force. Suppose these people are at the other end of the scale, at point number 7. What would you say your opinion is on this topic? Would you put yourself closer to 1 (U.S. should solve with diplomacy and international pressure) or 7 (U.S. must be ready to use military force)?

_____ Please click on the slider to mark your choice (1)

9. Some people feel the government in Washington should see to it that every person has a job and a good standard of living. Suppose these people are at one end of a scale, at point 1. Others think the government should just let each person get ahead on their own. Suppose these people are at the other end, at point 7 What would you say your opinion is on this topic? Would you put yourself closer to 1 (Government should see to jobs and standard of living) or 7 (Government should let each person get ahead on their own)?

_____ Please click on the slider to mark your choice (1)

DA 1.2 Survey Selection Experiment 1 (Deliberation)

Recruitment

[MTurk] Title: Public Opinion Study

This is a research study. Please read the instructions and answer the following questions. These questions should take about 10 minutes to answer.

After completing the Qualtrics survey, you will need to enter your unique validation code into Mechanical Turk to confirm your completion of the study.

Participation is voluntary.

Design

Welcome, Thank you for volunteering to participate in one of these short surveys. To begin, please select which survey you would like to participate in.

[Participants randomly assigned to one of the following]

[Version 1]
Political Survey
Consumer Products Survey

[Version 2]
Political Debate Survey
Consumer Products Survey

[Version 3]
Political Deliberation Survey
Consumer Products Survey

DA 1.3 Survey Selection Experiment 2 (Dialogue)

(Note: this study was fielded during the review process, given questions and ideas raised by the reviewers. It was fielded as a pre-registered replication/extension, and replaces the original version of Survey Selection Study - Agreement)

Recruitment

[Directly on MTurk]

Title: Opinion Survey

Description: Participate in a research study about your preferences for different types of information and surveys. Study can be completed in under 10 minutes.

Design
[Participants were randomly assigned to one of the following]

[Version 1]
In the future, which of the following surveys would you be more interested in taking?
1 Survey about political issues
2 Survey about consumer topics
3 Survey about work-life balance
4 Survey about health-related behaviors
5 None of the above

[Version 2]
In the future, which of the following surveys would you be more interested in taking?
1 Survey about political issues on which there is contentious debate
2 Survey about consumer topics
3 Survey about work-life balance
4 Survey about health-related behaviors
5 None of the above

[Version 3]
In the future, which of the following surveys would you be more interested in taking?
1 Survey about political issues on which there is respectful dialogue
2 Survey about consumer topics
3 Survey about work-life balance
4 Survey about health-related behaviors
5 None of the above

DA 1.4: Dinner Conversation Experiment 1

Recruitment

[Prolific] Title: Public Opinion Study
This is a research study. Please read the instructions and answer the following questions. These questions should take about 6 minutes to answer.

After completing the Qualtrics survey, you will need to enter your unique validation code into Prolific to confirm your completion of the study.

Participation is voluntary.

Design
Imagine that you receive the following text message from an acquaintance, someone you know, but would not necessarily consider a close friend. Assuming COVID-19 is no longer a problem, would you accept or decline the invitation?

"Hi! Would you be interested in joining me and some friends for dinner at my house this week? I like to organize dinners and invite people with different perspectives, who don't necessarily know each other, to get together to discuss a particular topic. I was thinking this time we could discuss [politics/movies.] Don't feel any pressure to join. I know this type of thing isn't for everyone, and you may already have plans, [but I contacted you because I'd really like to hear your thoughts.] We'd love to have you!"

Yes, I would accept the invitation.
No, I would not accept the invitation.

DA 1.5: Dinner Conversation Experiment 2

Recruitment

[Prolific] Title: Public Opinion Study

This is a research study. Please read the instructions and answer the following questions. These questions should take about 2 minutes to answer.

After completing the Qualtrics survey, you will need to enter your unique validation code into Prolific to confirm your completion of the study.

Participation is voluntary.

Design
Imagine that you receive the following text message from an acquaintance, someone you know, but would not necessarily consider a close friend. Assuming COVID-19 is no longer a problem, would you accept or decline the invitation?

"Hi! Would you be interested in joining me and some friends for dinner at my house this week? I like to organize dinners and invite people with different perspectives, who don't necessarily know each other, to get together to discuss a particular topic. I was thinking this time we could discuss [politics/movies]. Don't feel any pressure to join. I know this type of thing isn't for everyone, and you may already have plans, [but I want you to know that I make it a point to encourage open-minded deliberation, not arguing at these dinners. The whole point is to listen to each other and see if we can reach any points of consensus]. We'd love to have you!"

Yes, I would accept the invitation.
No, I would not accept the invitation.

DA 1.6: Conversations on Topics (Pew)

Recruitment

All recruitment was conducted by Pew. Methodology is here:
https://www.pewresearch.org/journalism/2022/09/20/atp-methodology/

Recruitment into the American Trends Panel:

We are inviting a member of your household to be part of an important national study – the American Trends Panel sponsored by the Pew Research Center. We are interested in people's opinions on a variety of issues, attitudes, and trends shaping America and the world.

Why should you participate? Nonpartisan studies like this are how our country learns what is going well and what is going poorly in Americans' lives. Also, we know your time is valuable, so we will send you $10 for participating.

Design
[Question stem for all questions, asked in random order]

Thinking about a conversation you might have with someone you don't know well, how comfortable would you feel discussing each of the following?

a. Politics or Trump
b. The economy
c. Religion
d. The weather
e. Sports

f. Movies and television

Response options for each:
1. Very comfortable
2. Somewhat comfortable
3. Not too comfortable
4. Not at all comfortable

DA 1.7: Conversation on Issues

Recruitment

[MTurk]
[Title] Participate in a Survey
[Description] Participate in a research study about political contexts and institutions. Study can be completed in about 15 minutes.

Design

Thinking about a conversation you might have with someone, how comfortable would you feel chatting about [randomly assigned: (a)politics, (b)climate, (c) racial inequality, (d) the influence of lobbying in government]?

1. Very comfortable
2. Somewhat comfortable
3. Not too comfortable
4. Not at all comfortable

DA 1.8 Engagement in Politics

Recruitment

[Directly from the NORC]
INTRO
Hello, my name is $I. I'm calling from AmeriSpeak by NORC. May I please speak with [FIRSTNAME]?

[IF RESPONDENT IS AVAILABLE]
Thank you for your continued participation in AmeriSpeak. I am calling to let you know that your next survey is available. The survey takes approximately [SURVEYLENGTH] minutes to complete. If you complete the survey, you will receive [INCENTWCOMMA] AmeriPoints for your time. We will keep all of your answers confidential. Shall we proceed?

Great. As always, for quality assurance purposes, this call may be recorded or monitored.

[CATI-INBOUND]
INTRO
Thank you for calling AmeriSpeak by NORC. My name is $I. How are you today?

And are you calling to take your next survey?

I just need to confirm that I'm speaking with [FIRSTNAME] [LASTNAME]. Is that you?

Great. This survey takes approximately [SURVEYLENGTH] minutes to complete over the phone and you will receive [INCENTWCOMMA] AmeriPoints for your time. We will keep all of your answers confidential.

As always, for quality assurance purposes, this call may be recorded or monitored.

Shall we proceed?

Design

[Version 1]
How interested are you in politics?

1 Not interested at all
2 Slightly interested
3 Moderately interested
4 Very interested
5 Extremely interested

[Version 2]
How interested are you in politics, by which we mean laws and policies?

1 Not interested at all
2 Slightly interested
3 Moderately interested
4 Very interested
5 Extremely interested

[Version 3]
How interested are you in politics, by which we mean laws and policies to address problems facing the country?

1 Not interested at all
2 Slightly interested
3 Moderately interested

4 Very interested
5 Extremely interested

[Version 4]

How interested are you in politics, by which we mean people debating laws and policies?

1 Not interested at all
2 Slightly interested
3 Moderately interested
4 Very interested
5 Extremely interested

[Version 5]
How interested are you in politics, by which we mean people debating laws and policies to address problems facing the country?

1 Not interested at all
2 Slightly interested
3 Moderately interested
4 Very interested
5 Extremely interested

DA 1.9: Post-Hoc Mechanism Check

Recruitment

[Title] Public Opinion Survey
[Description]
Participate in a research study about political discussions. Study can be completed in under 15 minutes.

Design
[Participants randomly assigned to **two** of the following conditions]

[Version 1]
Let's say you hear the following description of a conversation: “a conversation about politics”

[Version 2]
Let's say you hear the following description of a conversation: “a deliberative conversation about politics”

[Version 3]
Let's say you hear the following description of a conversation: “an open-minded conversation about politics”

[Version 4]
Let's say you hear the following description of a conversation: “a conversation about public policy”

[Version 5]
Let's say you hear the following description of a conversation: “a deliberative conversation about public policy”

[Version 6]
Let's say you hear the following description of a conversation: “an open-minded conversation about public policy”

[Outcome measures]

1. How contentious do you think this [based on random assignment] conversation about politics was?
   a) Not contentious at all (1)
   b) Slightly contentious (2)
   c) Mostly contentious (3)
   d) Extremely contentious (4)

2. How frequently or infrequently do you think people changed their minds during this [random assignment] conversation about politics?
   a) Very **in**frequently (1)
   b) Somewhat **in**frequently (2)
   c) Somewhat frequently (3)
   d) Very frequently (4)

DA 2: Conflict Avoidance Measures

Dichotomous measure used in the following studies:

- Survey Selection Experiment 1 (Deliberation)
- Survey Selection Experiment 2 (Dialogue)
- Dinner Conversation Experiment 2
- Conversations on Issues
- Additional YouGov Study fielded during the review process to use as a check

[Ulig and Funk 1999 version] Some people enjoy debating with friends and family about various topics. Others prefer to avoid disagreement with friends and family. What about you? Do you enjoy debating with friends and friends or do you avoid disagreements with friends and family?

a. I enjoy debating with friends and family (1)

b. I avoid disagreement with friends and family (2)

Three-question measure used in *Conversations on Topics*
[Pew 2019] Where would you place yourself on the following scale?

Q1:
1. Disagreements make me uncomfortable
2.
3.
4. Disagreements don't really bother me that much

Q2:
1. I enjoy challenging the opinions of others
2.
3.
4. I don't enjoy challenging others, even when they are wrong

Q3:
1. I would rather go along with the group than risk creating conflict
2.
3.
4. I would rather speak my mind, even if it risks creating conflict

Two question measure used in *Engagement in Politics* (NORC)
[Wolak 2020] How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Q1 I enjoy challenging the opinions of others.

Q2 I find conflicts exciting

[response options for both]
1 Strongly Agree
2 Agree
3 Neither Agree nor Disagree
4 Disagree
5 Strongly Disagree

DA 3: Sample Characteristics

	Politics/ Entertainment	Survey Selection 1	Survey Selection 2	Dinner 1	Dinner 2	Conversation on Topics
	ResearchNow[1]	MTurk	MTurk[2]	Prolific	Prolific[3]	Pew[4]
% Dem. (non-lean)	30.86	45.01	---[5]	54.05	49.01	37.62
% Rep. (non-lean)	29.96	28.53	---	12.70	14.87	26.28
Income (modal cat.)	$50k-$75k (19.23%)	$30k-$40k (15.05%)	---	$40-$50k (10.28%)	---	$50-$75k (17.12%)
Education (modal cat.)	BA (30.20%)	BA (44.47%)	BA (47.10%)	BA (36.49%)	BA (39.04%)	BA/some BA+ (28.87%)
% African American	---	11.20	10.28	8.51	---	9.14
% White	---	75.26	78.28	74.08	---	74.51
Age (mean)	---	---	41.50	31.68	---	Modal category: 30-49
%Women	52.30	40.98	45.61	50.10	50.93	55.04

Missing categories mean that the question was not asked in this sample.

	Conversations on Topics	Conversations on Issues[6]	Engagement	Survey Selection DA only	Post-Hoc Check	Alternative, Survey Selection
	Pew Weighted	MTurk	NORC[7]	MTurk[8]	MTurk	YouGov[9]
% Dem. (non-lean)	32.11	46.98	34.94	46.98	46.64	36.13
% Rep. (non-lean)	26.1	22.93	25.98	22.93	24.83	25.33
Income (modal cat.)	$50-$75k (16.03%)	$50k-$60k (12.83%)	$60k- $75k (11.65%)	$50k-$60k (12.83%)	---	$30k-$40k (10.21%)[10]
Education (modal cat.)	High School (29.29%)	BA (39.80%)	Vocational/ Some College	BA (39.80%)	BA (42.28%)	High School

[1] Given the design of this study, all demographic variables are measured "post-treatment."
[2] New version of study fielded during the review process given reviewer questions
[3] Demographic variables other than party are asked post-treatment (conflict avoidance, party asked pre-treatment)
[4] This is unweighted, all weighted Pew results are in DA 7.
[5] We did not ask about partisanship prior to our treatment.
[6] *Survey Selection DA Only version* and the *Conversation on Issues* study were conducted in the same sample (as each study is only one question in total). The questions were split by a completed unrelated study, conducted by a different researcher.
[7] Additional study added to paper during the review process
[8] This was previously included in the manuscript, but now it is included in the DA only. We replicated this study with a pre-registered replication during the review process.
[9] This is unweighted, as this is the description of the sample.
[10] Although, the true modal category is "Prefer not to say" at 10.81% of the sample.

			(45.89%)			(30.53%)
% African American	11.87	10.46	11.05	10.46	7.72	9.80
% White	65.08	75.33	65.90	75.33	78.52	66.80
Age (mean)	Modal category: 30-49	39.83	50.28	39.83	41.61	48.36
%Women	52.39	55.23	53.26	55.23	48.49	51.48

DA 3.1 Addressing Generalizability

Given that in some of our studies we rely on convenience samples, we next consider the generalizability of our results. This generalizability, in large part, hinges on conflict avoidance. If the conflict avoiders in our convenience samples different than those in the population, or within other samples, this would present an important barrier to generalizability. We first note that across every one of our studies we find a gender difference in conflict avoidance levels (DA 14). This pattern holds in convenience samples and in the other types of samples with conflict avoidance measures (Pew, NORC and YouGov). It is also a pattern in line with other research (Bear et al 2014; Deckman 2022; Mendelberg and Karpowitz 2016; Ridgeway 2011; Sydnor 2019; Wolak 2020). This result suggests that our convenience samples do replicate the most consistent pattern in conflict avoidance.

In this section of the DA, we move a step further. Here we rely on an addition YouGov sample (N=1,000) which includes the same binary measure of conflict avoidance as our convenience samples. This was part of a study fielded during the review process. Therefore, we compare the conflict avoidant people in the YouGov sample to those in the convenience samples. We note that we are somewhat limited in the variables we can consider. We include few pre-treatment variables in our studies, as our pre-treatment variables were there only to track the demographics of the sample. We do not have any additional variables about people's relationship to politics, for example, because we had no a priori hypotheses about these types of measures.

The most consistent measures that we have across the studies are measures of partisanship and ideology (and even then, we note these are not included in one of the *Survey Selection* studies). Therefore, we consider these measures. The logic is that people who are more partisan, more ideological and better sorted would be more likely to engage with politics (e.g. Druckman et al 2021). If, for example, the conflict avoidant people in our less partisan or less sorted than the conflict avoidant people in the YouGov sample, then this would hint that our conflict avoidant participants are somehow different because in the convenience samples. And, more broadly, that the results we see are a function of these differences. This would also suggest that our results would not generalize beyond our convenience samples.

We do not see evidence to this pattern. Across most of our studies we see no correlation between ideology and conflict avoidance – with the one exception of the *Dinner Conversation Study 2*, conducted on Prolific. At the same time, we see similar patterns in partisanship and sorting (if anything, in one of our studies (*Survey Selection 1*) the conflict avoidant participants are more

partisan/sorted than in the YouGov sample). Most importantly, however, we do not see evidence that they are substantially *less* political than the YouGov sample.

We also do not see large differences in the total percentage of participants classified as conflict avoidant within sample – especially once we compare patterns within gender.

	YouGov	**Survey Selection 1**	**Dinner Party 2**	**Conversations on Issues/Survey Selection DA**
Correlation:				
Ideology strength	0.0008 (p=0.982)	0.0135 (p=0.715)	0.0834 (p=0.0161)	0.0303 (p=0.3652)
Conflict Avoidant:				
% Partisan	62.16%	73.70%	63.69%	69.83%
% Sorted	40.30%	48.72%	42.19%	42.93%
% Conflict Avoidant	51.97%	47.95%	57.26%	46.54%

DA 4: Survey Selection Experiment Included in Original Manuscript

This study originally appeared in the main manuscript (fielded via MTurk in 2021, N=889). However, during the review process, a reviewer noted that the treatment in the study may have been unclear to participants. Therefore, we fielded another study which clarified the treatment; this replication is in the main manuscript as *Survey Selection Experiment 2 (Dialogue*).

We also note the use of the term "political" in the study description during recruitment for this study.

Pre-Registration: https://aspredicted.org/blind.php?x=/BVS_9XS

Recruitment
[MTurk Title:] Participate in a survey
[MTurk Description Section] Participate in a research study about political contexts and institutions. Study can be completed in about 15 minutes.

Design
[Participants were randomly assigned to one of the following]

[Version 1]
In the future, which of the following surveys would you be more interested in taking?
1 Survey about political issues
2 Survey about consumer topics
3 Neither

[Version 2]
In the future, which of the following surveys would you be more interested in taking?
1 Survey about political issues on which there is contentious debate
2 Survey about consumer topics
3 Neither

[Version 3]
In the future, which of the following surveys would you be more interested in taking?
1 Survey about contentious political issues on which there is general public agreement
2 Survey about consumer topics
3 Neither

Mean Conflict Avoidance by Survey Selection

	Mean Conflict Avoidance (higher = more conflict avoidant)
Selected Political Survey	0.350
Did not Select Political Survey	0.599

Total Observations:	855

Those who select "neither" are excluded, but the results are substantively similar if "neither" is categorized as non-political. The description of the politics survey was experimentally manipulated, but those conditions are combined for this analysis.

Model predicting survey selection by treatment and conflict avoidance.

	(2) Consumer	(3) Neither
Agree	-0.079	-0.387
	(0.240)	(0.744)
Conflict Avoidance	***0.780***	0.046
	(0.238)	(0.748)
Agree × Conflict Avoid	0.122	0.692
	(0.344)	(1.082)
Disagree	-0.301	-0.567
	(0.238)	(0.743)
Disagree × Conflict Avoid	*0.627*	*1.797*
	(0.348)	*(1.024)*
Constant	***-0.540***	***-3.025***
	(0.162)	***(0.458)***
Observations	881	

Model relies on a multinomial logit with a three category dependent variable: (1) political survey – reference category; (2) consumer survey; (3) neither survey.
Bold and italics p<.05; italics only p<.10 (two-tailed).

Alternative Specification

Results excluding people who select "neither."

DV: Agree to take survey	(1) Logit	(2) OLS
Agree	0.079	0.018
	(0.240)	(0.056)
Conflict Avoidance	***-0.780***	***-0.191***
	(0.238)	***(0.056)***
Agree × Conflict Avoid	-0.122	-0.029
	(0.344)	(0.081)
Disagree	0.301	0.067
	(0.238)	(0.054)
Disagree × Conflict Avoid	*-0.627*	*-0.145*
	(0.348)	*(0.081)*
Constant	***0.540***	***0.632***
	(0.162)	***(0.038)***
Observations	855	855
R^2		0.066

Bold and italics p<.05; italics only p<.10 (two-tailed). The dependent variable is coded 1 if the respondent chose the political survey and 0 if the respondent chose the consumer survey; in this specification, those who chose neither survey are excluded.

DA 5 Political Knowledge Using the Pew Measures

We can also use the Pew data to consider the role of political knowledge. Specifically, we use a series of knowledge measures fielded in another wave (Wave 10) of the American Trends Panel to consider whether our results are robust to accounting for knowledge. We present these patterns below in three parts. First, we present the full set of knowledge measures from the Pew wave. Next, we present our results accounting for knowledge.

DA 5.1.1 Knowledge Measures

As an additional check, we consider our results controlling for knowledge. In the Pew data, this knowledge variable is comprised of 13 questions, which are shown below. The knowledge variable is measured in Wave 10 of Pew's American Trends Panel in 2015. It is measured in a different wave than conflict avoidance.

The results from the tests with the additional knowledge control are included alongside other robustness checks. In this appendix, we present the knowledge measures we use in the Pew data, and an additional test which interacts conflict avoidance and knowledge.

INTRO TEXT: Here are some questions about people and things that have been in the news. Please answer the questions as best as you can. If you don't know the answer to a question, just move on to the next one. We will reveal the correct answers at the end of the survey.

Q1: What does the line on the map represent?
[people were shown map with the proposed Keystone Pipeline]

1. Mississippi River
2. New Madrid Fault
3. Proposed Keystone XL Pipeline
4. Expansion of the Midwest Regional Railroad Line

Q2: What is the name of this person?
[Image of Martin Luther King Jr.]

1. Malcolm X
2. Martin Luther King, Jr.
3. Jesse Jackson
4. Thurgood Marshall

Q3: Which country is Pope Francis originally from?
[Map with different countries highlighted, each with a number]

1. 1
2. 2
3. 3
4. 4

Q4: The United States recently announced that it would re-establish diplomatic relations with which of the following countries?

1. Russia
2. North Korea
3. Cuba
4. Yemen

Q5: Who is Malala Yousafzai?
[question accompanied by an image of Malala Yousafzai]

1. 2014 Nobel Peace Prize recipient
2. The first Muslim woman elected to the U.S. Congress
3. An Academy Award-winning director
4. Pakistan's ambassador to the U.S.

Q6: To comply with the health care law, most Americans need to indicate they have health insurance coverage when they...

1. Vote in an election
2. Change their address
3. File their taxes
4. Receive a driver's license

Q7: This graph shows the trend in what national statistic?
[question accompanied by a graph image]

1. The inflation rate
2. The corporate tax rate
3. The high school dropout rate
4. The unemployment rate

Q8: Which dot on this map represents where the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay is located?
[question accompanied with an image of a map with areas that have numbers]

1. 1
2. 2
3. 3
4. 4

Q9: There are nine justices on the Supreme Court of the United States. How many are women?

1. One
2. Two
3. Three
4. Four

Q10: What country does this person lead?
[question accompanied by image of Kim Jong Il]

1. North Korea
2. South Korea
3. China
4. Malaysia

Q11: Which of the following shows the number of seats each party holds in the U.S. Senate? [The response options are images of the partisan distribution – red/blue; only the numbers are listed below]

1. Dem 50, Rep 50
2. Dem 37, Rep 61, Ind 2
3. Dem 53, Rep 46, Ind 1
4. Dem 44, Rep 54, Ind 2

Q12: In what year did the U.S. war in Afghanistan begin? Was it...

1. 1997
2. 2001
3. 2003
4. 2010

Q13: Which one is Elizabeth Warren, the senator from Massachusetts?
[response options are images of women – among them Elizabeth Warren]

DA 5.1.2. Models Controlling For Knowledge

In this section, we present the main Pew results including the knowledge control. Given that these were asked in different waves, we do see a drop in N. Nonetheless, we still see similar patterns.

	Politics		Trump	
	Coef.	Std. Err.	Coef.	Std. Err.
Conflict Avoidant	***-2.905***	***0.352***	***-2.850***	***0.342***
Knowledge	*0.063*	*0.036*	0.007	0.035
Democrat	0.712	0.750	-0.113	0.813
Republican	0.746	0.757	0.354	0.809
Ideology	0.041	0.097	-0.086	0.092
Income	-0.044	0.038	-0.015	0.038
Religious	-0.015	0.048	-0.041	0.047
Age	***0.223***	***0.081***	***0.294***	***0.080***
Woman	***-0.556***	***0.152***	***-0.318***	***0.151***
Education	0.037	0.061	-0.052	0.061
Black	-0.026	0.436	-0.192	0.425
Hispanic	-0.195	0.404	-0.138	0.396
White	0.248	0.304	0.244	0.308
Constant	-0.381	0.962	1.302	0.984
Observations	921		935	

Logit; dichotomous dependent variable coded 1 if the respondent is comfortable talking about the topic and 0 if the respondent is uncomfortable. Bold and italics p<.05 (two-tailed).

DA 5.1.3. Models Interacting Conflict Orientation and Knowledge

In the next set of models, we interact knowledge and conflict orientation to see if the differences in willingness to discuss are similar among those with high and low levels of knowledge.

	Politics		Trump	
	Coef.	Std. Err.	Coef.	Std. Err.
Conflict Avoidant	-1.272	1.425	1.253	1.372
Knowledge	*0.135*	*0.071*	***0.199***	***0.072***
Conflict X Knowledge	-0.167	0.142	***-0.417***	***0.137***
Democrat	0.781	0.761	-0.016	0.810
Republican	0.793	0.766	0.445	0.807
Ideology	0.033	0.098	-0.089	0.092
Income	-0.045	0.038	-0.018	0.038
Religious	-0.013	0.048	-0.042	0.047
Age	***0.219***	***0.081***	***0.284***	***0.081***
Woman	***-0.550***	***0.153***	***-0.306***	***0.151***
Education	0.038	0.061	-0.056	0.061
Black	-0.008	0.434	-0.167	0.423
Hispanic	-0.185	0.404	-0.162	0.394
White	0.248	0.304	0.220	0.307
Constant	-1.118	1.150	-0.608	1.159
Observations	921		935	

Logit; dichotomous dependent variable coded 1 if the respondent is comfortable talking about the topic and 0 if the respondent is uncomfortable. Bold and italics p<.05 (two-tailed).

We see that for both, the politics and Trump conditions conflict avoidant high knowledge participants are significantly less likely to want to have a conversation on this topic than the conflict seeking. The difference between the seeking and avoidant is -0.60 ($p<0.001$) for politics, and -0.79 ($p<0.001$) for Trump. It is much more difficult to form conclusions on the other end of the spectrum of knowledge (i.e. low knowledge) as fewer than 2% of the (already reduced due to the waves being merged) sample have a score of 3 or below on knowledge (meaning that they got 3 or fewer questions correct). If we consider as "low knowledge" participants who are at the 25% point on knowledge – just to increase the N -- we still see significant differences between conflict seeking and conflict avoidant in both conditions (politics: -0.56, $p<0.001$; Trump: -0.45, $p<0.001$). This is a lower gap than for the high knowledge, though again – we note much lower Ns which leave us hesitant to form any conclusions about the size of the difference.

DA 6: Recruitment and Sample for Study 7

As we note throughout the manuscript, we inadvertently included the term "politics" in the description of the study during recruitment. Here we consider how this may have affected our sample.

DA 6.1. MTurk Interface

As of this writing, people encounter HITs on MTurk in a list which shows them the following information:

(1) The "requester" – who created the HIT (in our case this would be through CloudResearch)
(2) The HIT "title" – some brief words on the study
(3) HIT statistics – how many total tasks there are (in a research study case, the total hoped-for N), the payment per task and when the task was originally posted (the algorithm privileges more recently posted HITs)
(4) Optional preview link – which would show the first page of the task (in this case the consent form)
(5) A button that says, "Accept & Work" (or no such button if the person does not qualify for the task for some reason – this is not unique to our study, this is the general set-up).

Should an MTurk participant click on "Accept & Work," they will then see a screen for the task. In the case of a survey, this would be a HIT description (from the person who posted the HIT), instructions, a link to the survey and a space in which the participants can enter the number they see at the end of the completed survey to verify that they have completed the study. Thus, completing a study includes steps and that means that we can identify some key points at which people may self-select out of our study.

The first is the **title** – as this is the first thing participants see about the study. Indeed, CloudResearch notes that the title is pivotal for avoiding bias in recruitment and therefore the suggested "best practices" on CloudResearch is using a generic title specifically to ensure as little self-selection as possible (Moss and Litman, CloudResearch). The word politics is not the in the title of the study. Members of MTurk, then, could have clicked on the "Accept & Work" button without learning *anything else* about the study – aside from the fact that it was a survey and payment. As CloudResarch suggests, it is the title that is likely the key determinant of self-selection into a particular MTurk HIT (Litman and Robinson 2020). Therefore, our study passes the first, and likely most important, test for self-selection.

We do include the word "politics" in the "**description**" section of the CloudResearch webform. When would participants have seen the information included in the description? The information in the "description" section is shown when: (1) a worker clicks a plus button to "display details" on the listing of HITs on the MTurk Amazon interface (which they would see if they are not using a script) or (2) once someone accepts a task and sees the task screen prior to starting the survey.

We have no way of tracking how many people clicked to get more information on our study and then opted not to click "Accept & Work." However, if many people were going through the steps

to get additional information and then not accepting the HIT, that would likely be reflected in task acceptances taking longer. This does not seem to be the case. Typically, MTurk studies are most likely to get "accepts" shortly after posting (the algorithm privileges newer hits). In our case, more than half the HITs are "accepted" within the first hour of study posting; this is no slower than other studies with similar payment structures (e.g. Meyer et al 2020).

Everyone who clicked "Accept & Work", however, would have also seen the word politics once the task was in their dashboard – as this is primarily where the description appears. Once a task is accepted, participants see a screen with the task title, description and instructions. The instruction portion contains the link to our study, and a text entry for the completion code. Once at this screen, an MTurk participant may decide that they no longer want to do a task and can "return" the task. Again, we cannot tell how many people accepted the task, but then "returned" the task before starting the survey. That said, this type of pattern would have been reflected in an overall longer time for survey completion. Once a participant selects "Accept and Work" on a HIT, the number of available tasks declines by one – even if the participant has not actually completed the survey yet. If people were accepting our HIT, but then "returning" the HIT, it would mean a longer total recruitment because the HIT would not be available to others. Again, we do not see an especially lengthy recruitment for this study.

Now, it is also plausible that an MTurk participant clicked "Accept & Work," went right to the survey link without reading the description. In this case, the participant would have seen the word "political" in the consent form – as we have identified (per institutional IRB requirements) our department.

Research suggests that participants often do not read consent forms thoroughly (Douglas et al 2020). In this study we see that although 52 participants did not finish our study, *none* of these 52 people quit at the consent point. We do not see any patterns in the timing at which the participants who did not complete left the study (the pre-treatment questions were not explicitly political); some of the timing results seem consistent with the idea that a participant walked away from their computer mid-study and eventually was timed out (i.e. "abandoned" the HIT as CloudResearch would classify it).

In sum, the logistics of our studies point to several key points:

1. The place that is most likely to produce consequential self-selection – the title of the study – followed best practices and did not include the term politics.
2. There are two points where self-selection may have occurred due to "politics" – though both would have produced unusual timing patterns, which we do not see.
3. We do not see any dropouts at the consent form.

DA 6.2. Conflict Avoiders Self-Selection and Results

Theoretically, it is, of course, still possible that conflict avoiders averse to the word "politics" selected out, leaving only an unusual subset of conflict avoiders who are abnormally comfortable with various forms of conflict.

We can consider a set of the most extreme possibilities. There are four possible types of conflict avoidant individuals who are, potentially, not participating: (1) they are comfortable discussing

politics and comfortable discussing all other topics; (2) they are comfortable discussing politics, but uncomfortable discussing all other topics; (3) they are uncomfortable discussing politics but comfortable discussing all other topics; (4) they are uncomfortable discussing politics and uncomfortable discussing all other topics.

The first two types are illogical; if they are comfortable discussing politics, then they should be comfortable taking the survey. In other words, inclusion of "politics" in the description should not lead them to select out.

The third type would necessarily mean that we are *underestimating* conflict avoidant people's willingness to talk more about topics other than politics. It's only the fourth type that is more likely to cause an issue. If we think of it from the other direction, it means that our sample would be more likely to include people who report they are conflict avoidant, but are actually quite willing to talk about *any* topic. It is unclear who this would explain our pattern of results, however – if the conflict avoiders in our sample are willing to talk about any topic, then this would hinder our ability to discern any differences across topics.

DA 7: Post-Hoc Check Results

In this post-hoc check we consider whether believe that political conversations labeled "deliberative" or "open-minded" will be considered less contentious and more likely to change minds. Participants were also randomly assigned to a political or policy conversations.

This was fielded after the *Dinner Party Experiment* and *Survey Selection Experiment* where, in both cases, the term "deliberative" proved ineffective at bringing participants back toward politics.

	Change from control (politics)		Change from control (policy)	
	Contentious (higher values = more contentious)	Mind Change (higher values = more mind change)	Contentious (higher values = more contentious)	Mind Change (higher values = more mind change)
Conflict Avoidant Participants				
Deliberative	+0.34 (p=0.002)	+0.06 (p=0.455)	+0.11 (p=0.305)	-0.05 (p=0.574)
Open-Minded	-0.14 (p=0.220)	+0.39 (p<0.001)	-0.20 (p=0.004)	+0.20 (p=0.038)
Conflict Seeking Participants				
Deliberative	+0.03 (p=0.818)	+0.09 (p=0.410)	+0.15 (p=0.199)	+0.20 (p=0.049)
Open-Minded	-0.34 (p=0.004)	+0.23 (p=0.044)	-0.25 (p=0.026)	+0.32 (p=0.002)

All results are based on t-tests from OLS regression models. There are no significant differences between the politics and policy conditions.

DA 7.1 Sample Issues

In this study, we inadvertently included the word politics in the description of the study posted to MTurk. In DA 10.3 we discuss the conditions under which participants would have seen this term via the MTurk interface. Thinking through the logic, however, even if in the worst case scenario the term affected our sample, it is not clear that the results – and conclusions drawn from these results – would change.

If, for example, the conflict avoidant individuals were less likely to associate politics with conflict, it would leave us with a sample that is disproportionately comfortable with politics, making our test more conservative. This could help to explain, potentially, why we don't see a difference between politics and public policy in this study. The goal of the post-hoc check, however, was to investigate how people perceive the term "deliberative" as this was the term used in our previous studies. It would be very odd, then, if a sample biased toward viewing politics as *less* conflictual would *also* be biased toward viewing deliberation as *more* conflictual.

We can think through these patterns in another way. Let's assume that there are people who are more conflict avoidant in general, and they self-selected out of our study. For our results to show different patterns, it would mean that people of who are more avoidant of *all* conflict are at the same time *less likely* to think that deliberation is contentious (an idea that would stand in contrast to common worries surrounding deliberation – e.g. Minozzi et al 2023).

DA 8: Replication of Survey Selection, YouGov

Prior to the Survey Choice Experiment 2 reported in the main manuscript, we fielded a different study that included the same treatment – but had a different measure of conflict avoidance. We present the results with the more conventional, better validated measure in the manuscript, but include the results of the original study (which are substantively identical) below.

DA 8.1: Measures

[Random Assignment]
[Version 1]
In the future, which of the following surveys would you be more interested in taking?
1 Survey about political issues
2 Survey about consumer topics
3 Neither

[Version 2]
In the future, which of the following surveys would you be more interested in taking?
1 Survey about political issues on which there is contentious debate
2 Survey about consumer topics
3 Neither

[Version 3]
In the future, which of the following surveys would you be more interested in taking?
1 Survey about contentious political issues on which there is general public agreement
2 Survey about consumer topics
3 Neither

[Conflict Avoidance Measure – Based on Krupnikov and Ryan 2022]

It is important to correct people's misperceptions about politics even if they do not want to hear these corrections.

a. Strongly Agree (1)
b. Agree (2)
c. Slightly Agree (3)
d. Neither Agree nor Disagree (4)
e. Slightly Disagree (5)
f. Disagree (6)
g. Strongly Disagree (7)

DA 8.2: Results

DV: Selecting into Survey	(2) Consumer	(3) Neither
Agree	-0.125	*1.150*
	(0.344)	*(0.658)*
Conflict Orientation	***0.298***	***0.451***
	(0.062)	***(0.107)***
Agree × Conflict	-0.030	***-0.311***
	(0.086)	***(0.150)***
Debate	-0.562	0.597
	(0.361)	(0.658)
Debate × Conflict	0.064	-0.150
	(0.089)	(0.150)
Constant	***-1.404***	***-3.692***
	(0.243)	***(0.487)***
Observations	1,487	1,487

Bold and italics p<.05; italics only p<.10 (two-tailed).

Results excluding people who select "neither."

	(1) Logit	(2) OLS
Agree	0.116	0.018
	(0.342)	(0.073)
Conflict Orientation	***-0.294***	***-0.069***
	(0.061)	***(0.014)***
Agree × Conflict	0.033	0.010
	(0.085)	(0.019)
Debate	0.540	0.102
	(0.358)	(0.075)
Debate × Conflict	-0.058	-0.008
	(0.088)	(0.019)
Constant	***1.388***	***0.828***
	(0.242)	***(0.052)***
Observations	1,373	1,373
R^2		0.059

Bold and italics p<.05; italics only p<.10 (two-tailed).

DA 9: Gender and Conflict Orientation

During the review process, a question emerged about the extent to which the process we describe -- as well as the belief that politics is conflictual – is likely to exclude certain voices from the political context. Given this important question, we conducted a series of exploratory analysis to consider this idea. A key characteristic is gender – we find that the processes we describe in the manuscript are likely to lead to a decline in women's voices in political context. In this section, we present a series of additional exploratory analyses that consider the role of gender.

DA 9.1 Conflict Behavior and Gender

We begin by reinforcing the idea that others have noted – there is a gender difference in conflict orientations between men and women (e.g. Bear et al 2014; Deckman 2022; Mendelberg and Karpowitz 2016; Ridgeway 2011; Wolak 2020). We too see these differences across a variety of samples. Below, we present basic patterns in conflict avoidance across the studies in our manuscript, as well as additional data sources. In particular, as part of a larger project we collected data via YouGov and also included conflict avoidance as a measure. Although that data was collected to consider different research questions within the larger project, we conducted exploratory analyses on the gender/conflict avoidance patterns to ensure that the patterns were robust across a variety of samples. We present these patterns below.

In Table 9.1, we group results by measure type.

Table 9.1: Patterns in Conflict Seeking and Avoidance, by Gender		
	Gender Difference	Study # (Table 1, manuscript)
Binary Measure (percentage point, negative = men seek conflict)		
MTurk	-11.4 (p=0.003)	Study 2 (Survey Selection 1)
MTurk	-15.0 (<0.001)	Study 3 (Survey Selection 2)
Prolific	-8.2 (p=0.016)	Study 5 (Dinner Conversation 2)
MTurk	-1.54 (p<0.001)	Study 7 (Conversation on Issue)
YouGov	-17.6 (p<0.0001)	*Additional Data*
Five-point measure, two-question index (mean difference, negative=men seek conflict)		
NORC	-0.247 (p<0.001)	Study 8 (Engagement on Issues)
Four-point measure, three-question index (mean difference, negative=men seek conflict)		
Pew	-0.096 (p<0.0001)	Study 6 (Conversation Topics)

Note: YouGov, NORC and Pew results all use weights provided by the survey company.

These patterns follow from previous research, but even more broadly, the role of gender has clear implications for whose voices are most present in political contexts. We can consider these ideas through a series of exploratory analyses. First, we reconsider our experimental results by gender; second, we rely on additional data from Pew to track people's willingness to speak about politics.

DA 9.2: Gender Patterns in Political Contexts

We begin with a series of simple, exploratory analyses of the original experiments in the manuscript where participants select into either political or non-political contexts. In the manuscript, we track the conflict avoidance characteristics of participants who selected into political contexts versus those who did not. Now, we use a similar approach to track gender patterns. We present our results below, by study (Table DA 9.2).

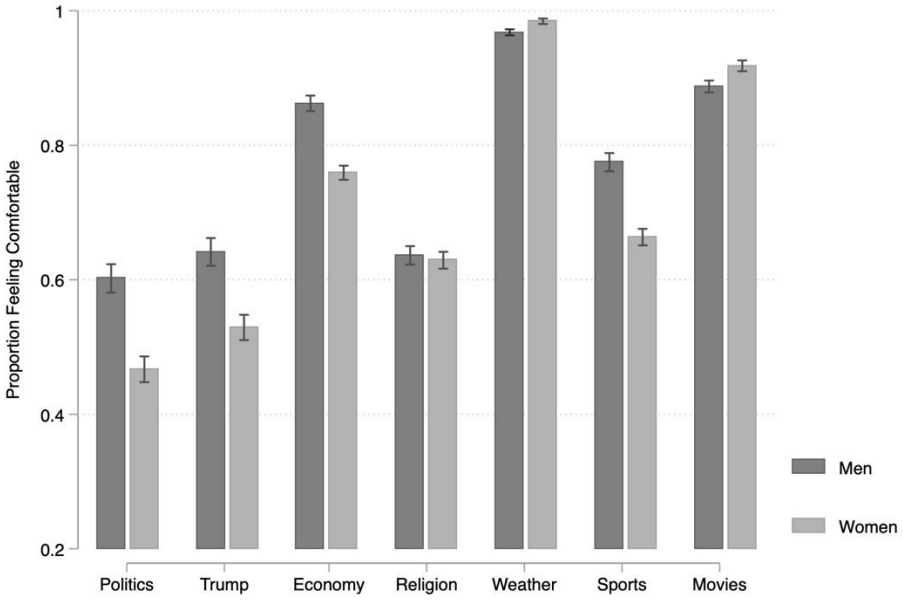
DA 9.2: Patterns of Selection Within Gender			
	% Women	% Men	Difference
Study 2 (MTurk)			
Selected into politics (pol. condition)	32.00%	40.97%	*8.97 (p=0.012)*
Selected into politics (deb. condition)	33.67%	31.29%	*-2.38 (p=0.697)*
Selected into politics (delib. condition)	30.19%	44.85%	*14.66 (p=0.017)*
Study 3 (MTurk)			
Selected into politics (pol. condition)	28.26%	48.54%	*20.28 (p=0.004)*
Selected into politics (contentious condition)	19.80%	47.47%	*27.67 (p<0.001)*
Selected into politics (respectful condition)	21.52%	39.66%	*18.14 (p=0.008)*
Selected into politics (overall)	23.16%	44.97%	*21.81 (p<0.001)*
Study 4 (Prolific)			
Agreed to discuss movies	57.01%	66.98%	*9.96 (p=0.032)*
Agreed to discuss politics	41.67%	53.23%	*11.56 (p=0.021)*
Study 5 (Prolific)			
Agreed to discuss movies	45.13%	55.47%	*10.34 (p=0.1044)*
Agreed to discuss politics	32.41%	44.09%	*11.67 (p=0.0160)*
Survey Replication (YouGov, DA 15)			
Selected into politics (pol. condition)	42.49%	74.13%	*31.65 (p<0.001)*
Selected into politics (agree condition)	51.00%	77.72%	*26.72 (p<0.001)*
Selected into politics (disagree. condition)	57.02%	74.29%	*17.26 (p<0.001)*
Selected into politics (overall)	50.21%	75.38%	*25.17 (p<0.001)*
Survey Replication (MTurk, DA 8)			
Selected into politics (pol. condition)	46.71%	64.39%	*17.69 (p=0.002)*
Selected into politics (agree condition)	48.70%	60.50%	*11.80 (p=0.053)*
Selected into politics (disagree. condition)	45.39%	65.38%	*19.99 (p=0.001)*

The exploratory analyses above suggest that, generally, women are less likely than men to select into political contexts. We also see these patterns in additional exploratory analyses of the Pew data as well – which asks a somewhat different question, which is comfort discussing a topic with people you do not know.

Here, we find the most significant gender differences in the political topics: politics and Trump discussions. Even though men are also less likely to talk about politics than other topics, we see that women are *especially* reluctant to discuss politics (Figure DA 14.1). Notably, the gender differences increase when we do *not* control for conflict avoidance, hinting that it is this conflict

orientation that underlies the gender differences in political discussion (Table SI14.3). In sum, the possibility that politics is viewed as conflictual has the possible implication of being more likely to exclude women's voices.

Figure DA 9.1: Comfort with political conversation by gender, Pew Data



Note: Results are based on coefficients shown in Table DA 9.3

Table DA 9.3: Coefficient Estimates, Gender and Conversation

	Political	Trump	Economy	Religion	Weather	Sports	Movies
Woman	***-0.141***	***-0.120***	***-0.110***	***-0.0350***	***0.0244***	***-0.121***	***0.0386***
	(0.0218)	***(0.0218)***	***(0.0134)***	***(0.0148)***	***(0.00811)***	***(0.0143)***	***(0.00963)***
Democrat	***0.159***	*0.123*	0.0171	***0.109***	-0.0284	0.0103	0.0461
	(0.0709)	*(0.0647)*	(0.0528)	***(0.0506)***	(0.0242)	(0.0486)	(0.0340)
Republican	***0.223***	***0.251***	0.0824	***0.154***	-0.0189	-0.00754	0.00784
	(0.0716)	***(0.0664)***	(0.0535)	***(0.0513)***	(0.0255)	(0.0498)	(0.0348)
Ideology	0.00550	-0.00298	0.00296	***-0.0281***	0.00493	***-0.0244***	0.00632
	(0.0136)	(0.0133)	(0.00932)	***(0.00951)***	(0.00629)	***(0.00957)***	(0.00735)
Income	0.00357	***0.0141***	***0.0105***	*0.00603*	***0.00797***	***0.0107***	***0.00694***
	(0.00526)	***(0.00512)***	***(0.00312)***	*(0.00354)*	***(0.00185)***	***(0.00344)***	***(0.00240)***
Religious	***-0.0153***	***-0.0193***	***-0.0146***	***-0.0803***	-0.00337	-0.00505	*0.00675*
	(0.00693)	***(0.00690)***	***(0.00435)***	***(0.00449)***	(0.00256)	(0.00477)	*(0.00347)*
Age	***0.0456***	***0.0465***	***0.0832***	***0.0211***	***0.0163***	***0.0391***	***-0.011***
	(0.0111)	***(0.0114)***	***(0.00705)***	***(0.00770)***	***(0.00380)***	***(0.00760)***	***(0.00484)***
Education	-0.00776	-0.00867	0.00227	-0.00335	*0.00396*	0.00486	-0.00436
	(0.00779)	(0.00772)	(0.00447)	(0.00526)	*(0.00235)*	(0.00522)	(0.00351)
Black	*0.0933*	0.0528	*0.0613*	***0.106***	0.0367	***0.0859***	0.0309
	(0.0556)	(0.0552)	*(0.0349)*	***(0.0385)***	(0.0256)	***(0.0353)***	(0.0292)
White	0.0188	0.0505	0.0159	*0.0546*	***0.0581***	-0.0311	***0.0465***
	(0.0434)	(0.0428)	(0.0271)	*(0.0305)*	***(0.0206)***	(0.0283)	***(0.0230)***
Latinx	0.00972	0.0106	0.0256	0.0456	0.0255	0.0145	0.0315
	(0.0548)	(0.0531)	(0.0338)	(0.0379)	(0.0254)	(0.0357)	(0.0279)
Constant	***0.332***	***0.332***	***0.551***	***0.790***	***0.827***	***0.69***	***0.777***
	(0.0987)	***(0.0954)***	***(0.0700)***	***(0.0702)***	***(0.0396)***	***(0.0691)***	***(0.0483)***
Observations	4,751	4,710	9,459	9,467	9,465	9,452	9,467
R-squared	0.045	0.074	0.083	0.112	0.040	0.037	0.018

Note: The N is lower on the Political/Trump conversations as participants were randomly assigned to one or the other.
Bold and italics p<.05; italics only p<.10 (two-tailed).

DA 10: Pre-Registrations

Pre-registrations for the following studies are included in this section:

- Survey Selection – Dialogue (new study, completed during the review process)
- Survey Selection – Agreement (original study in original manuscript, moved to DA during the review process)
- Dinner Conversation Experiment 2
- Conversations About Topics
- Post-Hoc Check

Note, studies are in order of presentation in the paper, rather than in order of fielding. We also include the TESS proposal for *Engagement in Politics*, which details our plans for the data. The link to the data/proposal on the TESS website is excluded for purposes of anonymity during review.

Pre-registration for *Dinner Conversation Experiment 2* refers to being "sixth in a series of related studies" – the studies completed prior are (following numbers in Table 1 of the main text): *Entertainment and Politics, Survey Selection Experiment 1*, *Dinner Party Experiment 1*, the YouGov survey study reported in DA 15 and a fifth study that addresses similar topics to those in this manuscript, but speaks to different aspects of the research to be presented in a different manuscript. That study addresses gender and focuses on how different forms of invitations affect women's willingness to take part in political focus groups, finding significant effects for certain types of invitations. However, the study does not randomly assign the topic of the focus group – and therefore does not test whether politics is uniquely discouraging (as the studies in this paper do).

DA 10.1 Deviations from Pre-Registration

Survey Selection – Dialogue

- Pre-registration specified that Qualtrics Relevant ID would be used to exclude any participants flagged by Qualtrics through this process as being potentially fraudulent. Due to a programming error, Relevant ID did not work as intended. We did exclude 9 respondents from the analysis due to ip-address checks. Either excluding or including these respondents did not change our results. Both sets of results are reported.

Dinner Party Experiment 2

- Given space constraints in the manuscript, we focus on the conflict avoidance hypotheses preregistered (as well as the main hypotheses – less willingness to engage in the political dinner).
- The interactions specified in the pre-registration are reported in the DA; the gender results are reported in DA 14 (and in the text alongside other studies)
- Triple interaction between politics, deliberation and conflict avoidance shows that the results did not follow any expectations.

Conversations on Issues

- A coding error in the Qualtrics survey meant that some participants did not receive the open-ended item which we had intended to use on an exploratory basis – this means, that we could not use/code the open-endeds.

Politics and Engagement

- Here we include our TESS proposal which specified our intended use of the data.
- We focus on both the overall, and conflict avoidance hypotheses; we do not include the analyses specified as exploratory in the proposal (as we had no a priori hypotheses). We do use the NORC measures to track the scope of the sample as it relates to conflict avoidance.

DA 10.2 Pre-Registration Documents

Survey Selection – Dialogue

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Replication: Survey Selection (#104657)

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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?
Note: this is a replication of a previous study, pre-registered as #73636. The hypotheses and questions remain the same.
Can people who are conflict avoidant be encouraged to participate in political studies by changing the descriptions of those studies?

Our prediction is that specifying contentiousness will lead conflict avoidant people to opt out, but that specifying respectful conversation will lead to more willingness to opt-in. This study follows from a previous study. In the previous study, we included similar treatments as those in this study. In the previous study, however, we used agreement in the condition meant to counter contentiousness; here we opt not to signal agreement but rather than the conversation will not be contentious.

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.
Whether people report that they will participate in the political study.

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?
Three conditions. All conditions are transmitted as a single question. In all conditions, question is about willingness to take a future survey and has five responses options: (1) a political survey (description manipulated as described below), (2) Survey about consumer topics, (3) Survey about work-life balance, (4) Survey about health related behaviors and (5) None of the above:
The politics survey description is manipulated as follows:
(1) Survey about political issues
(2) Survey about political issues on which there is contentious debate
(3) Survey about contentious political issues on which there is respectful dialogue

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.
We will track differences in proportion of people selecting the political study by condition, we will also track selection by level of conflict avoidance, which is measured pre-treatment with a binary measure.

As this is conducted during the review process, based on questions raised by the reviewers, we will also conduct exploratory analyses about the demographic characteristics of people who end up selecting the non-political and political conditions (aside from conflict avoidance), as this is a question raised by reviewers.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.
We are using MTurk, which has had issues with fraudulent responding. Although we are using CloudResearch, which produces better respondent quality, we are still cognizant of potential issues. Therefore, we will be using the Qualtrics Data Quality options. We will be excluding participants who are flagged by the Qualtrics Data Quality metrics described here:
https://www.qualtrics.com/support/survey-platform/survey-module/survey-checker/fraud-detection/?utm_lp=related+page#RelevantID

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 will have 600 participants

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)
As in the previous version of this study, this is a single-question study comes at the end of a series of questions that ask about social media, entertainment and music. We have no intention of using the previous questions (except for conflict avoidance) for any reason -- but they are merely asked to ensure that the participants are not suspicious of our study. We do ask some demographic variables, which will be used only to track the descriptive characteristics of our sample and those who select into the political conditions (as requested by reviewers).

We also leave open the possibility that people are more likely to select the "respectful" politics condition because they find the possibility of respectful dialogue surprising. Given the brevity of the study, we cannot adjudicate between this and other mechanisms.

Correction to typo in Survey Selection - Dialogue

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Correction to pre-registration #104657 (#105310)

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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 is a correction to pre-registration #104657

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.
This study is a correction to pre-registration #104657

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?
This study is a correction to pre-registration #104657

In pre-registration #104657 the third condition was described as "survey on contentious political issues on which there is respectful dialogue" this is an error, the actual treatment is "survey on political issues on which there is respectful dialogue" (there is no "contentious" before political issues)

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.
This study is a correction to pre-registration #104657

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.
This study is a correction to pre-registration #104657

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.
This study is a correction to pre-registration #104657

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)
This study is a correction to pre-registration #104657

Survey Selection Agreement (moved from original manuscript to DA during the review process)

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Survey Selection (#73636)

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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?
Can people who are conflict avoidant be encouraged to participate in political studies by changing the descriptions of those studies?

Our prediction is that specifying contentiousness will lead conflict avoidant people to opt out, but that specifying agreement will lead to more willingness to opt-in.

This study follows from a previous study. In the previous study, we included similar treatments as in this study. In this previous study, we found weak effects, and therefore our goal is to build on the previous study to see if the weak effects are a function of the sample in the previous study, or our treatments.

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.
Whether people report that they will participate in the political study.

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?
Three conditions. All conditions are transmitted as a single question. In all conditions, question is about willingness to take a future survey and has three responses options: the first is a political survey, the second is a consumer survey and the third is "neither." The second and third options remain constant, the first option – political option – is randomly assigned as follows:
(1) Survey about political issues
(2) Survey about political issues on which there is contentious debate
(3) Survey about contentious political issues on which there is general public agreement

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.
We will track differences in proportion of people selecting the political study by condition and by their level of conflict avoidance, which is measured pre-treatment with a binary measure.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.
We are using MTurk, which has had issues with fraudulent responding. Although we are using CloudResearch, which produces better respondent quality, we are still cognizant of potential issues. Therefore, we will be using the Qualtrics Data Quality options. We will be excluding participants who are flagged by the Qualtrics Data Quality metrics described here:
https://www.qualtrics.com/support/survey-platform/survey-module/survey-checker/fraud-detection/?utm_lp=related+page#RelevantID

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 will have 900 participants

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)
This single-question study comes at the end of another study that is unrelated to this project. We did so because we did not want the single-question study about a possible future survey to be strange or suspicious for participants.

Dinner Party Experiment 2

Self-Selection into and out of politics

Study Information

Hypotheses

This is the sixth in a series of related studies examining how the label of "politics" affects self-selection into surveys, focus groups, and discussions. At the time of writing, we have accumulated evidence that the mere label of politics leads moderate conflict avoidant people to select out of these environments, while more politically extreme conflict seekers select in. This experiment, however, is now a direct test of the ideas and hypotheses implied by the previous research. In particular, this study marks a full test of ideas because it includes both, tests of political cues and deliberative cues. Study participants will be asked whether or not they would accept an invitation to a dinner party. In the baseline condition, they will be told the guests will discuss movies. In the treatment condition, they will be told the guests will discuss politics. We expect people to select out of the dinner party at higher rates when the topic of discussion is politics (H1), and we expect these effects to be particularly large individuals with weaker party identities (H1a), more moderate ideological leanings (H1b), less affectively polarized feelings toward parties (H1c), and who are more conflict avoidant (H1d). We will cross the topic of discussion manipulation (movies vs. politics) with a manipulation of emphasis on deliberation. In the deliberation treatment condition, the invitation will include a line emphasizing that the host emphasizes an open-minded deliberative atmosphere. In the baseline condition, no such line will be included in the invitation. We expect this emphasis on deliberation to nullify the "politics" effect, bringing invitation acceptance rates back up to a level comparable with the "movie" condition (H2). Emphasis on the deliberative environment we will also bring the composition of the "politics" dinner party back closer into alignment with the "movies" dinner party in terms of party identification strength (H2a), ideological extremity (H2b), affective polarization(H2c) , and tolerance of conflict (H2d).

Design Plan

Study type

Experiment - A researcher randomly assigns treatments to study subjects, this includes field or lab experiments. This is also known as an intervention experiment and includes randomized controlled trials.

Blinding

For studies that involve human subjects, they will not know the treatment group to which they have been assigned.

Is there any additional blinding in this study?

No response

Self-Selection into and out of politics

Study design

This is the sixth in a series of related studies examining how the label of “politics” affects self-selection into surveys, focus groups, and discussions. At the time of writing, we have accumulated evidence that the mere label of politics leads moderate conflict avoidant people to select out of these environments, while more politically extreme conflict seekers select in. This experiment, however, is now a direct test of the ideas and hypotheses implied by the previous research. In particular, this study marks a full test of ideas because it includes both, tests of political cues and deliberative cues. Study participants will be asked whether or not they would accept an invitation to a dinner party. In the baseline condition, they will be told the guests will discuss movies. In the treatment condition, they will be told the guests will discuss politics. We expect people to select out of the dinner party at higher rates when the topic of discussion is politics (H1), and we expect these effects to be particularly large individuals with weaker party identities (H1a), more moderate ideological leanings (H1b), less affectively polarized feelings toward parties (H1c), and who are more conflict avoidant (H1d). We will cross the topic of discussion manipulation (movies vs. politics) with a manipulation of emphasis on deliberation. In the deliberation treatment condition, the invitation will include a line emphasizing that the host emphasizes an open-minded deliberative atmosphere. In the baseline condition, no such line will be included in the invitation. We expect this emphasis on deliberation to nullify the “politics” effect, bringing invitation acceptance rates back up to a level comparable with the “movie” condition (H2). Emphasis on the deliberative environment we will also bring the composition of the “politics” dinner party back closer into alignment with the “movies” dinner party in terms of party identification strength (H2a), ideological extremity (H2b), affective polarization(H2c) , and tolerance of conflict (H2d).

No files selected

Randomization

No response

Sampling Plan

Existing Data

Registration prior to creation of data

Explanation of existing data

No response

Data collection procedures

We intend to recruit 850 respondents to participate in our study through the crowdsourcing platforms Prolific. People who do not answer the questions necessary for us to conduct our

analyses (ideology, party identification, affective polarization, conflict avoidance, participation in dinner party) will necessarily be excluded from those analyses.

No files selected

Sample size

850 participants will be sampled for this study.

Sample size rationale

No response

Stopping rule

No response

Variables

Manipulated variables

All study participants will be asked if they would be interested in attending a hypothetical dinner party. We will manipulate 1) the topic of conversation at that dinner party and 2) the nature of that conversation (no emphasis on deliberative characteristics/ deliberative characteristics emphasized).

No files selected

Measured variables

We will measure whether people would accept or decline the dinner party invitation. This is our primary dependent variable of interest. We are also interest in what types of people will select into and out of political conversations. For this purpose, we will measure ideology (which we will fold to create a strength measure) and party identification (which we will fold to create a strength measure), affective polarization, and conflict avoidance. We will also measure gender.

No files selected

Indices

No response

No files selected

Self-Selection into and out of politics

Analysis Plan

Statistical models

The main analyses are 1) difference in means comparisons the politics and movies conditions, where deliberation is held at baseline, 2) difference-in-difference tests comparing levels of party identification strength (H1a), ideological extremity, affective polarization, and conflict avoidance between conditions, 3) difference-in-difference tests comparing the four experimental conditions, 4) and triple interaction tests where we examine whether the deliberation treatment moderates the composition effect we expect the politics treatment to cause (i.e. does emphasizing deliberation make less polarized political moderate conflict avoiders more likely to attend the "politics" dinner party). We also plan to examine whether the two experimental treatments interact with gender. Our predictions are not as clear here, because we have seen mixed results in previous studies. However, we suspect that discussion of "politics" at the dinner party may have particularly large effect among women, leading them to decline the invitation at higher rates. If so, we would expect the emphasize on deliberation to reverse this effect, bringing women's acceptance rates back up toward baseline. Finally, since our analyses depend on ideology, we note that people who do not answer the ideology question will be excluded from the final analyses.

No files selected

Transformations

We are interested in polarization, so we will transform several of our measures (party identification, ideology, and affective polarization) from directional to extremity measures by folding the scales at their midpoint.

Inference criteria

No response

Data exclusion

No response

Missing data

We do not plan to impute data.

Exploratory analysis

No response

Conversations about issues

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Politics and Issues (#73629)

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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?
Do people who are conflict avoidant respond negatively to conversations that are described as 'political'?

This follows from a study run by Pew American Trends Panel in 2018. In the Pew study, participants answered questions about their comfort discussing various topics. This replication relies on a similar question stem as the Pew study, but varies the particular issues under consideration. Further, unlike the Pew study, here participants are randomly assigned to a question, whereas in the Pew study they answered all the questions.
Following the results in the Pew study, we track whether the term "political" is more likely to lead conflict avoidant people to avoid discussion – relative to specific issues. Although we do not anticipate that the gap in discussion between the conflict seeking and conflict avoidant will be fully closed by removing the term "political" (in fact, this gap may still be significant) we do anticipate that it will be smaller in the issue discussions.

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.
Level of comfort with conversation (4 point scale)

We also include an open-ended item allowing people to discuss why they answered the question the way they did. We use this item on a purely exploratory basis.

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?
Four conditions which change question wording. All conditions use the same question stem and the same set of response options. The description of the conversation in question is randomly assigned as follows:
(1) politics
(2) climate change
(3) racial inequality [note: this is an especially exploratory question, where given previous research we anticipate the potential for gaps that could be as large as politics]
(4) the influence of lobbyists in government [note: we anticipate more comfort in conversation in this item among those who are conflict avoidant]

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.
We will conduct the following analyses:
- Marginal effect of conflict avoidance (measured pre-treatment) on average comfort level depending on topic.
- Proportion of people feeling comfortable/uncomfortable by level of conflict avoidance (here the 4-pt DV will be recoded in two a binary variable)
- Comparison of gaps between the conflict avoidant and conflict seeking in comfort level.

Open-ended measures will be content coded (by hand) by coders to track patterns by issue and conflict avoidance level.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.
We are using MTurk, which has had issues with fraudulent responding. Although we are using CloudResearch, which produces better respondent quality, we are still cognizant of potential issues. Therefore, we will be using the Qualtrics Data Quality options. We will be excluding participants who are flagged by the Qualtrics Data Quality metrics described here:
https://www.qualtrics.com/support/survey-platform/survey-module/survey-checker/fraud-detection/?utm_lp=related+page#RelevantID

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 will have 900 participants

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)
This single question is within another study that is unrelated to this project. This is because this is a one question treatment, so it made sense to combine it with a totally unrelated study.

Politics and Engagement, TESS Proposal

A fundamental measure in political science is the measure of political interest. This measure has a strong relationship with political participation, and, even more broadly, represents "the public's capacity for self-governance" (Prior 2019, 9). Aggregate political interest is often used as a measure that can predict a particular group's potential for political engagement and even large political and electoral shifts (CIRCLE 2020; Galston 2020).

There is good reason to rely on political interest to gauge people's relationship with politics. As Prior (2019) demonstrates, for many people political interest is dispositional and is often something that develops during adolescence — though, as he notes, there are many for whom interest changes over the course of a lifetime. Measurement of interest is also fairly robust. It does not seem to be prone to social desirability bias (Prior 2009; 2019) and measures that ask people about their *general* interest in politics also reflect their interest in more specific domains of politics — for example, both local and national politics (Blais and St. Vincent 2011; Prior 2019). In short, as Prior's (2019) exhaustive review of measurement demonstrates, traditional measures of interest do seem to capture relative levels of attention and interest among the populace.

Yet interest measures depend on two considerations. First, a respondent must accurately select the response option that best describes their level of interest — something which Prior (2019) reports most respondents are very capable of doing. Second, however, this evaluation also depends on one's understanding of the idea of "politics." Politics may mean petty partisan conflict and corrupt politicians (the conflict of politics), but politics is also the policies, outcomes, and other efforts to rid America of persistent ills (the outcomes of politics). People may have relatively similar perceptions of what it means to be interested, but differences in what they believe constitutes "politics" may have consequential effects for reported levels of interest.

Differences in perception of politics may lead some people to under-report their interest because they dislike conflict; on the aggregate, the ranks of "extremely interested" may over-represent people who are drawn to the conflictual debates of politics (e.g. Hersh 2020). If this is the case, the measure of political interest may not necessarily reflect people's interest in the myriad different outcomes political scientists consider under the umbrella term "politics." In what follows, we propose a study that considers whether measures of political interest conflate an interest in the *conflict* of politics and the beneficial *outcomes* of politics.

These differences in perceptions of politics are not something that previous research has addressed. In Prior's (2019) review of previous measurement studies, most question variations only clarified the domain of "politics" — national or local. Other measures included "policy" still included the term "politics" (Prior 2019, 51-52). Another set of measures compared politics to entirely non-politics topics (movies, art) to evaluate baseline levels of interest. Finally, variations of the measure that focus on campaigns (Prior 2019) also still focus on a conflictual and increasingly negative process.

Avoiding and Seeking Politics

Surveys show that people have relatively cynical views of political elites (Dancey 2012) — perhaps because elites often appear to be unable to compromise (Wolak 2020). People are more dissatisfied with elites than with ordinary voters (Druckman and Levendusky 2019). For some people this dissatisfaction with elites extends to a dissatisfaction with politics generally (Krupnikov and Ryan forthcoming). One aspect of this dissatisfaction is that people perceive politics as largely a conflictual space (Groenendyk and Krupnikov 2021) — something that many people dislike (Klar and Krupnikov 2016) and hope to avoid (Wolak 2020).

We find some evidence of this deliberate avoidance in preliminary work about people's understanding of politics. In a series of experiments, participants dislike contexts in which they may

have to discuss politics with others. In one study (N=1,531, Prolific), for example, participants were told about a dinner party, but randomly assigned the description of the conversation at this dinner party — either movies or politics. This simple shift in conversation topic led to a decline of nearly 20 percentage points in accepted invitations. Another study (N=600, TurkPrime), shows that people associate political conversations with contentiousness — a perception that is not alleviated by the description of a political conversation as "deliberative." Across our studies, these results are especially pronounced among people who are conflict avoidant, in line with research suggesting that people are more drawn to politics when they perceive conflict and debate as a positive (Wolak 2020).

The possibility that people perceive politics as a conflictual space (Groenendyk and Krupnikov 2021) may affect who reports an interest in politics. Wolak (2020) finds that those who perceive conflict positively are more likely to report higher levels of political interest. This is a pattern that leads to an important question: are people who seem uninterested in politics uninterested in the various products of politics (e.g. policy, representation, etc.) or are they simply uninterested in the conflict of politics?

Certainly, interest is well correlated with other forms of political participation, which means that people who report lower levels of interest do have lower levels of political engagement. Yet, determining how perceptions of "politics" affect levels of interest has implications for increasing interest and engagement. If some are pushed away from politics because of conflict, then mobilization may mean emphasizing other aspects of politics. Therefore, understanding interest opens critical points for mobilization.

Proposed Study

We propose a study in which we clarify for respondents what we mean by politics — the conflict or the products. We begin with the measure Prior (2019) identifies as being the most common version: "How interested are you in politics?" (56). We will treat this measure as the control condition. We will then randomly assign participants to four treatment conditions. In order to ensure control across the study, each condition uses the term "politics" but goes on to explain how politics is defined in this particular measure ("politics, by which we mean…").

Participants in T1 and T2 will be reminded of the products of politics; T1 simply states "laws and policies," while T2 makes the stakes even more clear by noting that these are laws and policies which "address problems facing the country." T3 and T4, then, work to distinguish the products of politics from the conflict of politics: in these two treatments we augment T1 and T2 to state that politics is "*debates about*" policies. Variation across treatments, then, would underscore whether the suggestion of conflict drives certain people away from politics, even when its potentially beneficial products are made salient. Comparison to the control would clarify how people perceive politics in the absence of clarification.

Although we could create additional conditions, we limit the study to five groups as our goal is to consider potential heterogeneity.[11] We will also include two questions measuring conflict avoidance (Wolak 2020), for a total of **3 questions** for the entire study. We will use demographic measures provided by the NORC to conduct exploratory research about the role of gender, education, income and political independence — characteristics that have been shown as distinguishing factors in perceptions of politics and conflict (Hersh 2020; Klar 2014; Klar and Krupnikov 2016; Krupnikov and Ryan forthcoming; Wolak 2020).

This project is well-suited to the TESS SSP program. First, as our goal is to consider potential differences among demographic groups, the quality of the NORC sample will be highly beneficial. Second, the panel aspect provides pre-treatment measures of attention to politics, which

[11] The number of conditions is based on an a priori power analysis relying on the DeclareDesign framework (Blair et al 2019), using a recent NORC AmeriSpeak sample and treatment effects from preliminary studies.

will also allow for a comparison. Finally, this study is short — 3 questions — which makes it appropriate for the SSP structure. We include the full design following the reference list.

Blair, Graeme, Jasper Cooper, Alexander Coppock and Macartan Humphreys. 2020. "Declaring and Diagnosing Research Designs" *American Political Science Review*. 113(3): 838-859.

Blais, Andre and Simon Labbe St. Vincent. 2011. "Personality Traits, Political Attitudes and the Propensity to Vote." *European Journal of Political Research*. 50(3): 395-417.

CIRCLE. 2020. "Poll: Young People Believe they Can Lead Change in Unprecedented Election Cycle" CIRCLE: Latest Research.

Dancey, Logan. 2012. "The Consequences of Political Cynicism: How Cynicism Shapes Citizens' Reactions to Political Scandals" *Political Behavior*. 34: 411-423.

Druckman, James and Matthew Levendusky. 2019. "What Do We Measure When We Measure Affective Polarization?" *Public Opinion Quarterly*. 83(1):114-122.

Galston, William. 2020. "Election 2020: A Once-in-a-Century Massive Turnout?" Brookings.

Groenendyk, Eric and Yanna Krupnikov. 2021. "What Motivates Reasoning?" *American Journal of Political Science*.

Hersh, Eitan. 2020. *Politics is for Power*. Scribner.

Klar, Samara and Yanna Krupnikov. 2016. *Independent Politics*. Cambridge University Press.

Klar, Samara. 2014. "Identity and Engagement among Political Independents in America" *Political Psychology*. 35: 577-591.

Krupnikov, Yanna and John Barry Ryan. Forthcoming. *The Other Divide*. Cambridge University Press.

Prior, Markus. 2019. *Hooked: How Politics Captures People's Interest*. Cambridge University Press.

Wolak, Jennifer. 2020. "Conflict Avoidance and Gender Gaps in Political Engagement" *Political Behavior*. DOI: s11109-020-09614-5

Design:

Conflict Avoidance (These are the two measure that Wolak (2020) finds are most closely related to political interest)

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
Q1: I enjoy challenging the opinions of others.
Q2: I find conflicts exciting

Response options:
- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree or Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

[Random Assignment to Final Statement in Q3]

Interest (Basic measure from Prior (2019))

Q3: How interested are you in [Random Assignment]?

Random assignment:
Control: politics
T1: politics, by which we mean laws and policies
T2: politics, by which we mean laws and policies to address problems facing the country
T3: politics, by which we mean debate about laws and policies
T4: politics, by which we mean debate about laws and policies to address problems facing the country

Response options:
- Not interested at all
- Slightly interested
- Moderately interested
- Very interested
- Extremely interested

Post-Hoc Check

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Conflict Avoidance (#62229)

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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?
H1: People who are conflict avoidant will be more likely to perceive political discussions as contentious than those who are less conflict avoidant.
RQ1: Do people who are conflict avoidant perceive deliberative discussion as less contentious than political discussion more generally?
RQ2: Do people generally perceive differences between discourse about politics and discourse about public policy?
RQ3: How does conflict avoidance intersect with different descriptions of political/public policy discourse?

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.
(1) How contentious does the respondent perceive the discussion (Not Contentious/Slightly Contentious/Mostly Contentious/Extremely Contentious) and (2) how frequently does the respondent perceive people change their minds during such a discussion (Very infrequently/Somewhat infrequently/Somewhat frequently/Very frequently)

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?
There are 6 different conditions, and participants are randomly assigned to 2 of the 6 conditions. The conditions are as follows:
1. [no description] political discussion
2. [deliberative] political discussion
3. [open-minded] political discussion
4. [no description] public policy discussion
5. [deliberative] public policy discussion
6. [open-minded] public policy discussion

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.
1. We will compare means across the six experimental conditions. The treatment will be interacted with the conflict avoidance scale asked pre-treatment in the study. As participants are assigned to 2 of the 6 conditions, we will also cluster by participant to account for the within-subject design.
2. Given that participants will be assigned to two out of the six conditions we will also conduct additional analyses and checks:
- Compare within participant, again interacting with conflict avoidance
- Conduct analyses only with those participants assigned to a condition first, again interacting the treatments with conflict avoidance.
3. We will conduct the same analyses and steps for each of our two independent variables.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.
As this study will be conducted via Amazon's Mechanical Turk, we will include several checks to ensure compliance:
1. We will ask participants an open-ended question ("For you, what is the most important meal of the day, and why? Please write one sentence.") We will examine this open-ended question to ensure coherence (for example, that it shows command of English and is not plagiarized)
2. We will use Qualtrics' Recaptcha and RelevantID to measure the possibility of fraudulent responding.
3. We will use MTurk Cloud to also address fraudulent responding.
Participants will be excluded if they appear fraudulent (for example: respondents with RelevantID scores above 30.

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.
800 participants.

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)
We include a number of demographic characteristics pre-treatment to track the demographic characteristics of our sample.