ASPREDICTED

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As Predicted:"*Fake news & CRT in Ukraine Study 2*" (#31649)

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1) Have any data been collected for this study already?
It's complicated. We have already collected some data but explain in Question 8 why readers may consider this a valid pre-registration nevertheless.

2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?
The primary purpose of this study is to examine the link between cognitive reflection and the ability to discern true versus false news statements in the context of Ukraine. Prior work using Americans has found that more reflective people show better truth discernment. Here we are testing how the pattern compares in among Ukrainians.

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.
The key dependent variable is the perceived accuracy of a series of 16 statements (measured using a 6-point Likert scale), 12 of which are false and 4 of which are true.

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?
One condition

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.
To examine our main question of interest, we will conduct a series of regression models with perceived accuracy as the dependent variable (one observation per rating, 18 observations per subject). There were be four main models, which will all have the following independent variables: statement veracity (0=false, 1=true), subject cognitive style (z-scored), subject orientation towards Europe versus Russia (z-scored), and all interactions, as well as fixed effects for oblast/oversample strata. The models will vary in their definition of

cognitive style and ideological concordance. Cognitive style will be measured using (i) number of correct answers on a 4-item (2 numerical, 2 non-numerical) Cognitive Reflection Test and (ii) averaged responses to a set of 6 questions measuring Active Open-minded Thinking. Subject orientation will be measured in the following two ways: (i) a Russian-oriented variable that aggregates 3 questions asking which language they use in various situations, and a question asking which ethnic groups they identify with (Speaking Russian implies greater pro-Russian orientation, as does identifying as an ethnic Russian; speaking Ukrainian and identifying as ethnic Ukrainian are indicators of a pro-Ukraine orientation). (ii) a classification based on whether respondents think Russia is a threat or not and whether they would like to move closer to the west (3 point scales).

For each of the four models, we will ideally use multilevel mixed effects models with random intercepts and random slopes for subject nested within polling station (primary sampling unit) and statement. If the full model does not converge, we will try random intercepts only. If this model still does not converge, we will use linear regression with robust standard errors clustered on polling station and statement.

We will also repeat each model including controls for age, gender, education and income.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.

We will not exclude outliers. With respect to missing data, we will omit “refuse to answer” responses, treat “don’t know” responses to the perceived accuracy choices as zeroes (the scale midpoint), and omit data with any missing responses to right-hand side variables.

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.

9800 respondents: 1200 respondents were drawn from each of 4 oversampled regions, with an additional 5000 respondents drawn from the rest of the country.

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register?

(e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)

Secondary analyses:.

We will look at zero-order correlations between CRT, AOT, and each of the 18 different forms of statement [economics, military, nazi/historical, political realignment]x[disparage US/EU/NATO, build up Russia, undermine Ukraine, no strategy/real news].

We will look at zero-order correlations between CRT, AOT, the measures of support for Ukraine vs Russia described above, having voted, income, and education.

Regarding "it's complicated":

The data have been collected by another set of researchers, but those of us composing this pre-registration have not yet analyzed it at all.

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