POQ Codebook: The Social Nature of Political (Dis)Interest

Céline M. Laffineur, Doctoral Candidate, Amsterdam School of Communication Research, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, NL

Bert N. Bakker, Associate Professor, Amsterdam School of Communication Research, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, NL

Gijs Schumacher, Professor of Political Psychology, Department of Political Science, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, NL

This codebook documents variables used in the manuscript and appendix, and the derived variables created by the replication scripts. The scripts/R files contain more detailed and additional information on how variables were transformed and used.

1. Construct Validity

The following table documents the variables in the shared data sets:

- *data_interest*: Split-half 1 for Construct Validity (Exploratory Analysis, EA)
- *data_interest_split2*: Split-half 2 Construct Validity(Confirmatory Analysis, CA)

Original Variable	Renamed/ Constructed	Description
id		Participant ID; duplicates removed by keeping first response
int_pos_id_YES_1–8	Item 1–8	Positive interest identity items for interested participants (EA/CA)
int_neg_id_YES_1–8	Item 1–8	Negative interest identity items for interested participants (EA/CA)
int_pos_id_NO_1–8	Item 1–8	Positive interest identity items for uninterested participants (EA/CA)
int_neg_id_NO_1–8	Item 1–8	Negative interest identity items for uninterested participants (EA/CA)
	pos_id_sum	Sum of positive interest identity items (EA/CA)
	pos_id_mean	Mean of positive interest identity items (EA/CA)
	neg_id_sum	Sum of negative interest identity items (EA/CA)
	neg_id_mean	Mean of negative interest identity items (EA/CA)

2. Predictive Validity:

The following table documents the variables in the shared data sets:

- *data_interest_split1_covariates*: Split-half 1 for Predictive Validity (EA)
- *data_interest_split2_covariates*: Split-half 2 for Predictive Validity (CA)

Original Variable	Renamed/ Constructed	Description
id		Participant ID
political_interest	pol_interest	Political interest (1 = not at all interested, 4 = very interested)
	Interested	Nominal treatment: Interested vs. Uninterested based on political_interest
	InterestedNum	Numeric treatment: 1 = Interested, 0 = Uninterested based on Interested
int_pos_id1–int_pos_id8		Positive interest identity items for all participants
	pos_id_mean/ pos_id_sum	Mean/sum of positive interest identity items
int_neg_id1–int_neg_id8		Negative interest identity items for all participants
	neg_id_mean/ neg_id_sum	Mean/sum of negative interest identity items
Age_1	age	calculated age in 2023
Sex	sex / sex_fem	Sex: m = male, f = female, nb = non-binary; numeric female coding 0 = male, 1 = female
Education	education / education_num	Educational level: VMBO, HAVO/VWO/Gymnasium, MBO, HBO, Universiteit, Lagere School; numeric coding 1–5
lr_placement_1	ideology	Ideology placement (0 = extrem left, 10 = extreme right)
	ideology_strength	Ideology extremity (distance from center 5)
confidence_pre_1–confidence_pre_3	pol_confidence_1–3 / pol_confidence	Confidence in political knowledge items; 1 = totally disagree, 7 = totally agree; mean score
political_knowledge1–5	knowledge_1–5 / pol_knowledge	Political knowledge items (1 = correct, 0 = incorrect); mean of items 2–5; question one mistake
efficacy_1–6		Political efficacy items (1–7), recoded

	pol_efficacy	mean score political efficacy
	int_pol_efficacy	Internal political efficacy mean from efficacy_1,2,6
	ext_pol_efficacy	External political efficacy mean from ext_pol_efficacy
pol_alternative_1–5	activism_1–5 / activism	Political activism items (1–7); mean score
political_engagement_1	pol_news_con	General news consumption frequency (1 = not at all often, 7 = very often)
news avoidance items_1–3	news_aversion_1–3 / news_aversion	News avoidance scale (1–7); mean score
	news_openness_1–3 / news_openness	Re-coded news avoidance scale (1–7); mean score
B5_1, B5_6, B5_11, B5_16	e1, e2r, e3, e4r/ e	Extraversion items (1–5), recoded; mean score
B5_2, B5_7, B5_12, B5_17	a1, a2r, a3, a4r/ a	Agreeableness items (1–5), recoded; mean score
B5_4, B5_9, B5_14, B5_19	n1, n2r, n3, n4r/ n	Neuroticism items (1–5), recoded; mean score
B5_3, B5_8, B5_13, B5_18	c1, c2r, c3, c4r/ c	Conscientiousness items (1–5), recoded; mean score
B5_5, B5_10, B5_15, B5_20	o1, o2r, o3r, o4r / o	Openness to experience items (1–5), recoded; mean score
NfA_1–10	nfa1r–nfa10/ nfa	Need for affect items (1–5), recoded; mean score
NfC_1–10	nfc1–nfc10/ nfc	Need for cognition items (1–7), recoded; mean score
SDO_1–8	sdo1–sdo8/ sdo	Social dominance orientation items (1–5), recoded; mean score
dogmatism_1–11	dog1–dog11/ dogmatism	Dogmatism items (1–5), recoded; Mean score
self-esteem_1–5	self_esteem_1–5/ self_esteem	Self-esteem items (1–7), recoded; mean score
	Analysis	Dataset indicator: 0 = split1 (EA), 1 = split2 (CA)