Readme file for "How Bad Can It Get? Polarization and the Public Interest When It Matters" by Mark A. Kayser and Kasia Nalewajko. British Journal of Political Science.

Overview

The replication folder contains several data files and R scripts, which can be used to replicate all results from the tables and figures in the main text and the online supplementary material. All analyses have been conducted on MacOS Monterey Version 12.2.1 using R 4.2.0 and RStudio 2022.02.3.

The replication files include:

1. folder "01 data," which contains:
    a. "01 raw data" folder with all raw data and codebooks provided to us by the survey company Kantar Polska, separately for both experiments, "study1" and "study2";
    b. "02 generated data" folder with the pre-processed, clean data used in the final analyses;
2. folder "02 scripts," which contains:
    a. "01 preparation" folder, divided into study subfolders, with R scripts used to carry out the main data cleaning procedures;
    b. "02 main_text" folder with R scripts that reproduce tables and figures that appear in the main text;
    c. "03 supplementary_materials" folder with R scripts that reproduce tables and figures that appear in the online supplementary materials uploaded to the Dataverse platform.

Codebooks

The tables below provide names of variables used in the analyses with corresponding explanations. See codebooks provided by Kantar in "01 data/01 raw data/" folders for more information on the levels.

1. 01results_fullsample_clean.Rda

Variable	Class	Explanation
id	Numeric	Respondent identifier
yob	Numeric	Year of birth
age	Numeric	Age computed on the basis of the yob variable
gender	Numeric	Gender
female	Dummy	Gender recoded to dummy
locality_size	Numeric	Size of locality on a scale 1-9 based on the population figures
voivodeship	Numeric	Voivodeship of residence
education	Numeric	Level of completed formal education
survey_date	Numeric	Date when survey was taken

experiment_first	Dummy	Dummy indicating if the respondent was randomly allocated to treatment before answering demographic questions
exp_condition	Factor	Indicator of one of the three experimental conditions the respondent was randomly allocated to
outcome	Numeric	Agreement with outcome statement measured on 1-10 scale
manipulation_check1	Numeric	Answer to the manipulation check question 1
manipulation_check2	Numeric	Answer to the manipulation check question 2
LR	Numeric	Left-right position on 1-10 scale
conservative	Numeric	Conservative-liberal position on 1-6 scale
presidential_first_round	Numeric	Indicator of presidential candidate that the respondent cast the vote for in the first round of the last presidential election
presidential_second_round	Numeric	Indicator of presidential candidate that the respondent cast the vote for in the second round of the last presidential election
parliamentary	Numeric	Indicator of the political party that the respondent cast the vote for in the last parliamentary election
party_id	Numeric	Indicator of the political party that the respondent identifies with
party_id_strength	Numeric	Strength of support for the party that the respondent identifies with
PiS_or_PO	Numeric	Indication of whether the respondent would prefer PiS or PO "if they had to choose" (asked only if respondent indicated in the "party_id" a party different from PiS or PO)
PiS_or_PO_strength	Numeric	Strength of support to PiS or PO "if they had to choose"
popis	Dummy	Indicator of whether the respondent prefers PiS or PO based on previous answers (see SM section A.2.1. for more details)
forced_POPiS_choice	Dummy	Indicator of whether the respondent was asked the "if you had to choose" question
never_chooses_POPiS	Dummy	Indicator of respondent deciding not to answer the "if you had to choose" question
experiment_interpretation1	Dummy	Indicator of answer "A" to question about experiment interpretation
experiment_interpretation2	Dummy	Indicator of answer "B" to question about experiment interpretation
experiment_interpretation3	Dummy	Indicator of answer "C" to question about experiment interpretation
experiment_interpretation4	Dummy	Indicator of answer "D" to question about experiment interpretation
experiment_interpretation5	Dummy	Indicator of answer "E" to question about experiment interpretation
party_id_PiS1_GS2020	Numeric	Strength of support to first question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), asked only of those who indicate identifying with PiS
party_id_PiS2_GS2020	Numeric	Strength of support to second question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), asked only of those who indicate identifying with PiS
party_id_PiS3_GS2020	Numeric	Strength of support to third question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), asked only of those who indicate identifying with PiS

party_id_PiS4_GS2020	Numeric	Strength of support to fourth question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), asked only of those who indicate identifying with PiS
party_id_PiS5_GS2020	Numeric	Strength of support to fifth question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), asked only of those who indicate identifying with PiS
party_id_PiS6_GS2020	Numeric	Strength of support to sixth question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), asked only of those who indicate identifying with PiS
party_id_PO1_GS2020	Numeric	Strength of support to first question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), asked only of those who indicate identifying with PO
party_id_PO2_GS2020	Numeric	Strength of support to second question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), asked only of those who indicate identifying with PO
party_id_PO3_GS2020	Numeric	Strength of support to third question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), asked only of those who indicate identifying with PO
party_id_PO4_GS2020	Numeric	Strength of support to fourth question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), asked only of those who indicate identifying with PO
party_id_PO5_GS2020	Numeric	Strength of support to fifth question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), asked only of those who indicate identifying with PO
party_id_PO6_GS2020	Numeric	Strength of support to sixth question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), asked only of those who indicate identifying with PO
GSparty_id1	Numeric	Strength of support to first question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), independently of the party supported
GSparty_id2	Numeric	Strength of support to second question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), independently of the party supported
GSparty_id3	Numeric	Strength of support to third question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), independently of the party supported
GSparty_id4	Numeric	Strength of support to fourth question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), independently of the party supported
GSparty_id5	Numeric	Strength of support to fifth question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), independently of the party supported
GSparty_id6	Numeric	Strength of support to sixth question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), independently of the party supported
GSparty_id	Numeric	Composite measure of strength of support to all question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), independently of the party supported
GSnegative_partisan	Numeric	Score from questions measuring the extent of negative partisanship adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020)
conservative_z	Numeric	Z-score of “conservative”
GSparty_id_z	Numeric	Z-score of “GSparty_id”
GSnegative_partisan_z	Numeric	Z-score of “GSnegative_partisan”

2. 02results_fullsample_clean.Rda

Variable	Class	Explanation
id	Numeric	Respondent identifier
yob	Numeric	Year of birth
age	Numeric	Age computed on the basis of the yob variable
gender	Numeric	Gender
female	Dummy	Gender recoded to dummy
locality_size	Numeric	Size of locality on a scale 1-9 based on the population figures
voivodeship	Numeric	Voivodeship of residence
education	Numeric	Level of completed formal education
survey_date	Numeric	Date when survey was taken
experiment_first	Dummy	Dummy indicating if the respondent was randomly allocated to treatment before answering demographic questions
exp_condition	Factor	Indicator of one of the three experimental conditions the respondent was randomly allocated to
int_security_most_important	Numeric	Level of agreement on 1-10 scale with the statement that international security is the most pressing issue facing contemporary Poland
outcome	Numeric	Agreement with outcome statement measured on 1-10 scale
manipulation_check	Numeric	Answer to the manipulation check question
LR	Numeric	Left-right position on 1-10 scale
conservative	Numeric	Conservative-liberal position on 1-6 scale
presidential_first_round	Numeric	Indicator of presidential candidate that the respondent cast the vote for in the first round of the last presidential election
presidential_second_round	Numeric	Indicator of presidential candidate that the respondent cast the vote for in the second round of the last presidential election
parliamentary	Numeric	Indicator of the political party that the respondent cast the vote for in the last parliamentary election
party_id	Numeric	Indicator of the political party that the respondent identifies with
party_id_strength	Numeric	Strength of support for the party that the respondent identifies with
PiS_or_PO	Numeric	Indication of whether the respondent would prefer PiS or PO “if they had to choose” (asked only if respondent indicated in the “party_id” a party different from PiS or PO)
PiS_or_PO_strength	Numeric	Strength of support to PiS or PO “if they had to choose”
popis	Dummy	Indicator of whether the respondent prefers PiS or PO based on previous answers (see SM section A.2.1. for more details)
forced_POPiS_choice	Dummy	Indicator of whether the respondent was asked the “if you had to choose” question
never_chooses_POPiS	Dummy	Indicator of respondent deciding not to answer the “if you had to choose” question
experiment_interpretation	Numeric	Answer to multiple-choice question about interpretation of the experiment

party_id_PiS1_GS2020	Numeric	Strength of support to first question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), asked only of those who indicate identifying with PiS
party_id_PiS2_GS2020	Numeric	Strength of support to second question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), asked only of those who indicate identifying with PiS
party_id_PiS3_GS2020	Numeric	Strength of support to third question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), asked only of those who indicate identifying with PiS
party_id_PiS4_GS2020	Numeric	Strength of support to fourth question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), asked only of those who indicate identifying with PiS
party_id_PiS5_GS2020	Numeric	Strength of support to fifth question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), asked only of those who indicate identifying with PiS
party_id_PiS6_GS2020	Numeric	Strength of support to sixth question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), asked only of those who indicate identifying with PiS
party_id_PO1_GS2020	Numeric	Strength of support to first question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), asked only of those who indicate identifying with PO
party_id_PO2_GS2020	Numeric	Strength of support to second question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), asked only of those who indicate identifying with PO
party_id_PO3_GS2020	Numeric	Strength of support to third question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), asked only of those who indicate identifying with PO
party_id_PO4_GS2020	Numeric	Strength of support to fourth question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), asked only of those who indicate identifying with PO
party_id_PO5_GS2020	Numeric	Strength of support to fifth question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), asked only of those who indicate identifying with PO
party_id_PO6_GS2020	Numeric	Strength of support to sixth question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), asked only of those who indicate identifying with PO
GSparty_id1	Numeric	Strength of support to first question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), independently of the party supported
GSparty_id2	Numeric	Strength of support to second question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), independently of the party supported
GSparty_id3	Numeric	Strength of support to third question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), independently of the party supported
GSparty_id4	Numeric	Strength of support to fourth question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), independently of the party supported
GSparty_id5	Numeric	Strength of support to fifth question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), independently of the party supported
GSparty_id6	Numeric	Strength of support to sixth question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), independently of the party supported

GSparty_id	Numeric	Composite measure of strength of support to all question adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020), independently of the party supported
GSnegative_partisan	Numeric	Score from questions measuring the extent of negative partisanship adapted from Graham and Svolik (2020)
conservative_z	Numeric	Z-score of "conservative"
GSparty_id_z	Numeric	Z-score of "GSparty_id"
GSnegative_partisan_z	Numeric	Z-score of "GSnegative_partisan"

Computational requirements

I used the following software: R 4.2.0 and RStudio 2022.02.3.
The following packages need to be installed: dplyr, estimatr, ggplot2, glmnet, marginaleffects, modelsummary, readxl, stargazer, stringr, tidyr, lubridate, xtable.