Data Description

This file describes the data and variables used in "Pay Rates and Subject Performance in Social Science Experiments Using Crowdsourced Online Samples." In that paper, the main text includes an analysis of what is there called "Study 2" while the analysis of "Study 1" is reserved for the online appendix. To match the order of what appears in the paper, these files label the study that appears in the main text as "Study 1" and the study used in the online appendix as Study 2. The descriptions below should help clear up any confusion this may cause.

Study 1 – Simulated Political Campaign (Used in main text)

Platform
Programmed in the Dynamic Process Tracing Environment (DPTE)

Study Summary
This study can be viewed at:
https://dpte.polisci.uiowa.edu/dpte/action/player/launch/921/22772?pass=Archived&skip=1

This study involved a simulated political campaign designed in the dynamic process tracing environment (DPTE). We recruited a total of about 400 subjects over four consecutive days (100 per day), changing the payment promised for participation each day. Payments were set at $2, $4, $6 and $8.

The study asked subjects to learn about political candidates running for office and then vote for their preferred candidates, first in a primary election and then in a general election.
Subjects began the study by completing a questionnaire including approximately 100 questions, including: 35 political opinions, 11 political knowledge questions, 10 personality questions, 7 political participation questions, 24 feeling thermometer evaluations of political candidates and groups, and nine demographic questions. Within these questions were four "attention check" questions – simple questions that tracked whether subjects were paying attention to what they were shown or just randomly clicking an answer.

Subjects then proceeded to a short 2-minute long mock presidential campaign that taught them how the dynamic process tracing software operated. After completing that training, they were introduced to two Democrats and two Republicans running their party's nomination for an executive office,[1] and asked to choose in which primary they would vote. They then viewed a 17-minute long dynamic information board and cast their primary vote (see Lau and Redlawsk 2006 for a fuller explanation of the system). After 7 minutes, subjects could choose to leave the dynamic information board and proceed directly to the "ballot box" to vote.

[1] Half the sample saw the candidates as gubernatorial candidates, and half saw them appear as presidential candidates. The candidates were identical in all ways other than the office they sought.

After the primary, subjects found out which candidates won and saw those candidates advance to the general election, where they were joined by candidates running for US Senate and the House of Representatives. Another 17-minute dynamic information board followed, after which subjects were asked to vote and evaluate the candidates they learned about. In total, subjects could learn up to 25 unique attributes about each candidate.

Alongside this candidate information, we included 25 current event items that were not politically relevant, but were designed to be interesting and distract attention away from the campaign material. Also, within both dynamic information boards were additional attention checks – pop up boxes that asked subjects to close the box within 10 seconds.

Files Used

DPTE produces four different types of files:

1. a Subject file containing answers to all the questions in the study
2. a Count file containing counts of how many times each information boxes was available and opened by each subject
3. a Duration file containing time data on how long each item in the study was viewed by each subject
4. an Event file that lists every action taken by the DPTE program and each subject

These files were combined to capture data on every action taken by each subject during the study. The full file contains approximately 8,000 variables. Here we post a drastically slimmed down version that only includes the specific variables used in this paper's analysis.

Variables

SubjectID – A unique identifier given to each subject in DPTE

Date – The date the subject began the study

PayRate4 – The pay rate each subject was given, in dollars

Female – Did subject identify as Female?

0 – Male
1 - Female

Black – Did Subject identify as Black?

0 – Not Black
1 – Black

PartyID7 – Subjects self-reported party identification

1 – Strong Democrat
2 – Democrat
3 – Weak Democrat
4 – Independent

5 – Weak Republican
6 – Republican
7 – Strong Democrat

Democrat – Did subject identify as a Democrat? (1,2 or 3 from PartyID7)
0 – Not Democrat
1 – Democrat

Independent – Did subject identify as an Independent (4 from PartyID7)
0 – Not Independent
1 – Independent

Age – Subject's years of age

Interest – Subject's political interest
0 – Not at all interested
1 – Not very interested
2 – Somewhat interested
3 – Very interested

LibCon – Subject's self-placement on the 7-point Liberal-Conservative scale
1 – Extremely Liberal
2 – Liberal
3 – Slightly Liberal
4 – Moderate
5 – Slightly Conservative
6 – Conservative
7 – Extremely Conservative

PassTraps – Did subject pass all the trap questions?
0 – No, subject got at least one question wrong
1 – Yes, subject answered all trap questions correctly

PEPopUp1 – Did subject fail to close the first pop-up in the Primary within 10 seconds?
0 – No, subject successfully closed the pop-up in time
1 – Yes, subject failed to close the pop-up in time

PEPopUp2 – Did subject fail to close the second pop-up in the Primary within 10 seconds?
0 – No, subject successfully closed the pop-up in time
1 – Yes, subject failed to close the pop-up in time

PEPopUp3 – Did subject fail to close the third pop-up in the Primary within 10 seconds?
0 – No, subject successfully closed the pop-up in time
1 – Yes, subject failed to close the pop-up in time

PEPopUp4 – Did subject fail to close the fourth pop-up in the Primary within 10 seconds?
0 – No, subject successfully closed the pop-up in time
1 – Yes, subject failed to close the pop-up in time

GEPopUp1 – Did subject fail to close the first pop-up in the General within 10 seconds?
0 – No, subject successfully closed the pop-up in time
1 – Yes, subject failed to close the pop-up in time

GEPopUp2 – Did subject fail to close the second pop-up in the General within 10 seconds?
0 – No, subject successfully closed the pop-up in time
1 – Yes, subject failed to close the pop-up in time

GEPopUp3 – Did subject fail to close the third pop-up in the General within 10 seconds?
0 – No, subject successfully closed the pop-up in time
1 – Yes, subject failed to close the pop-up in time

GEPopUp4 – Did subject fail to close the fourth pop-up in the General within 10 seconds?
0 – No, subject successfully closed the pop-up in time
1 – Yes, subject failed to close the pop-up in time

TimePE – Total number of seconds spent in the Primary Election

PEOpns – Total number of information boxes opened during the Primary Election

TimeLookingPE – Total number of seconds spent viewing information items in the Primary

TimePolPE – Total number of seconds spent viewing information items in the Primary Election

TimeCurEvntPE – Total number of seconds spent viewing information items in the Primary

TimeGE – Total number of seconds spent in the General Election

GEOpns – Total number of information boxes opened during the General Election

TimeLookingGE – Total number of seconds spent viewing information items in the General

TimePolGE – Total number of seconds spent viewing information items in the General Election

TimeCurEvntGE – Total number of seconds spent viewing information items in the General

GEExecVote – Which executive candidate did subject vote for?
1 – Democrat
2 – Republican

GEHseVote – Which executive candidate did subject vote for?

1 – Democrat

2 – Republican

GEExecVoteConf – How confident was subject that they voted for the right Executive candidate?

1 – Not confident at all

5 – Very confident

GEExecVoteDiff – How difficult was it to choose which executive candidate to vote for?

1 – Not difficult at all

5 – Very difficult

GEExecCandKnowAvg – Average subjective knowledge of the Executive candidates

0 – Did not know much at all about them

4 – Knew lots about both candidates

GEHseVoteConf – How confident was subject that they voted for the right House candidate?

1 – Not confident at all

5 – Very confident

GEHseVoteDiff – How difficult was it to choose which House candidate to vote for?

1 – Not difficult at all

5 – Very difficult

GEHseCandKnowAvg – Average subjective knowledge of the House candidates

0 – Did not know much at all about them

4 – Knew lots about both candidates

AvgCandPref – Average preference for all candidates voted for over their opponents based upon 100-point feeling thermometer scores

Study 2 – Survey Experiment of Patriotism (Used in Online Appendix)

Platform

Programmed in Qualtrics survey platform

Study Summary

This study can be viewed at: https://iastate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1YxsPYdlywrENi5

In this study, subjects were recruited from Amazon's Mechanical Turk to participate in a short 3-minute survey experiment. Subjects first viewed a randomly selected picture designed to elicit varying levels of national patriotism: a picture of Grand Central station (which to most observers unfamiliar with New York City looked simply like a large atrium with people walking through it), that identical image with a small digitally-inserted American flag in plain view, or a large image of the American flag. Subjects then were asked about how much they agreed with statements about being proud of the United States, the United States being the greatest nation in the world, and whether people born abroad could ever truly understand what it is to be an American. Subjects also were asked how long they have been a citizen of the United States. Next, subjects were queried about what state they lived in, and the previous questions were then repeated for their state. Subjects were then asked the "Moreno" question about whether they felt they were more a citizen of their country or of their state.[2] Finally, subjects were asked about their age, sex, partisanship and some political knowledge questions about their state's government.

Files Used

Data was generated in and downloaded directly from Qualtrics.

Variables

RecordedDate – Date Subject took the study

Finished – Did the subject complete the study
- 0 – Did not complete
- 1 – Completed

Duration__in_seconds_ - How many seconds did it take for the subject to complete the study (Interval level)

Payrate – What was subject paid for participation

Treatment – Which treatment did Subject view?

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[2] The question was developed by social scientist Luis Moreno in 1986 in studying Scottish identity, but has been explored further in recent work, by among others McCrone and Bechhofer 2015. The question asks respondents to choose how salient their national identity is compared to other regional identities, in this case state identities.

0 – Picture of Grand Central Station
1 – Picture of Grand Central Station with small American Flag
2 – Picture of American Flag

Sex – Are you male or female?
1 – Male
2 – Female

Age – How old are you?
1 – 17 years or younger
2 – 18 to 25
3 – 26 to 30
4 – 31 to 35
5 – 36 to 40
6 – 41 to 45
7 – 46 to 50
8 – 51 to 55
9 – 56 to 60
10 – 61 to 65
11 – 66 and older

PolKnowTime_Page_Submit – How many seconds did it take to complete the political knowledge questions?
(Interval level)

PolKnow – How many political knowledge questions to subject answer correctly?
0-5

PartyID7 – Subjects self-reported party identification
1 – Strong Democrat
2 – Democrat
3 – Weak Democrat
4 – Independent
5 – Weak Republican
6 – Republican
7 – Strong Democrat

Republican – Was subject a Republican? (5,6 or 7 from PartyID7)
0 – Not Republican
1 – Republican

Democrat – Was subject a Democrat? (1,2 or 3 from PartyID7)
0 – Not Democrat
1 – Democrat

Independent – Was subject an Independent (4 from PartyID7)

0 – Not Independent

1 – Independent

StateProud – How proud are you of your state? (put on a 1-point scale)

0 – No pride in state

1 – Very proud of state

StateGreat – Do you think your state is the greatest state? (put on a 1-point scale)

0 – Not the greatest state

1 – The greatest state

StateCitizen – Can people who were not born in your state ever truly understand what a means to be a citizen of your state?

0 – No, not possible

1 – Yes, they can

USProud – How proud are you of the USA? (put on a 1-point scale)

0 – No pride in USA

1 – Very proud of USA

USGreat – Do you think the USA is the greatest country? (put on a 1-point scale)

0 – Not the greatest country

1 – The greatest country

USCitizen – Can people who were not born in the USA ever truly understand what a means to be an American?

0 – No, not possible

1 – Yes, they can

Moreno1 – Are you more an American or citizen of your state? (put on a 1-point scale0

-0.5 – Totally an American

0 – Equally an American and a citizen of my state

0.5 – Totally a citizen of my state

FinishedSlim – Recoded Finished variable, recoding two subjects who took more than 1,000 seconds to complete the study as “Not Finished”

0 – Did not complete in 1,000 seconds

1 – Completed within 1,000 seconds