Guide to replication data for "Can Elites Escape Blame by Explaining Themselves?

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This guide covers the replication materials for "Can Elites Escape Blame by Explaining Themselves? Suspicion and the Limits of Elite Explanations"

Included in this repository are the necessary materials to reproduce the figures and analyses reported in the manuscript. This project was created using Stata and R; typically Stata was used to output the tables, while R was used to compile the figures, although occasionally an analysis was done in Stata with its output saved and then graphed in R. See below for details.

Data Files

The analyses in text make use of the following data files:

1. exp1_cleaned.dta (Experiment 1)
2. exp2_cleaned.dta (Experiment 2)
3. exp3_cleaned.dta (Experiment 3a/3b)

A codebook is provided to help use these files ("Competing_Explanations_DataDictionary")

The following files are also provided that touch on supplementary analyses:

1. "meta_explanations.xlsx" - This spreadhseet contains the effect size estimates used to generate the forest plot in Appendix A
2. "combined_experiments.dta" - This .dta file provides the underlying dataset that combines the three experiments and which is used in Tables OA8-OA10
3. "appendix_oe_data.dta": Data for the short experiment described in Online Appendix OE

Note: the syntax files below are set up such that it will be easiest to if the data files were all in the same folder as one another.

Syntax Files

The following syntax files are provided:

1. Main Text Analyses
   - "figure1.R": R syntax to create Figure 1
   - "figure2.do" & "figure2.R": Stata and R syntax to create Figure 2. The Stata syntax needs to be run fist as it outputs estimates that are then used in Figure 2.
   - "figure3_4.do" & "figures3_4.R": Stata and R syntax to create Figures 3 & 4. The Stata syntax needs to be run fist as it outputs estimates that are then used in the figures.
2. Appendices
   - "Table_OA2_6.do": Stata syntax to create to create Tables OA2-OA6. Some additional formatting was then done (e.g. to add bolded headers).

- "figure_oa1_oa2.do" & "figure_oa1_oa2.R": Stata syntax to create to create Figures OA1 & OA2. The Stata do file needs to be run first.
- "figure_oa3.R": R syntax to create Figure OA3.
- "table_oa7.do" & "table_oa7.R": The Stata syntax file calculates the observed Cohen's d statistics for the experiments, while the R syntax file calculates the minimum detectable effect, thereby jointly creating Table OA7.
- "tables_oa8_oa10.do": Stata syntax to create Tables OA8-OA10.
- "table_ob6.do": Stata syntax to obtain estimates in Table OB6
- "appendix_oc.do" and "figure_oc4.R": The Stata syntax file creates Figure OC2, Tables OC1-OC3, and Table OC5. The R syntax file creates Figure OC4. Note that the Stata syntax file (or at least part of it) needs to be run first since Figure OC4 is based on analyses run in Stata and exported to file.
- "appendix_od.do": Stata syntax to create Tables OD1-OD5
- "figure_oe1.do": Stata syntax to create Table OE1