FA2020 - Fake news replications 2 - MTurk (#46976)

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1) Have any data been collected for this study already?
No, no data have been collected for this study yet.

2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?
We're asking people to report, for a number of media outlets, the extent to which each media outlet is a source of real news, fake news, and propaganda. We hypothesize that people's ratings will be related to their political affiliation; e.g., News sources reported as 'real' by people on the left will be reported as 'fake' by people on the right, and vice versa.

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.
For each of 42 media sources, people are asked to rate the extent to which they believe each is a source of real news, fake news, and propaganda, on three 5-point Likert scales ranging from 1 (Definitely not) to 5 (Definitely is).
People also self-report their political identification from 1 (Far left) to 7 (Far right).
We also ask people to tell us what the terms "fake news" and "propaganda" mean to them; how they are similar and different.

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?
For the sake of simplicity, we will use people's self-reported political identifications to create 3 participant groups: Left (a 1, 2, or 3 on the political identification scale), Center (a 4), and Right (a 5, 6, or 7).
There are 42 news sources, but we are unlikely to look at these at an individual level. If we do so, it will be in an exploratory fashion.

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.
First we'll look at simple correlations across the averaged real news, fake news, and propaganda ratings.
Next, we'll examine whether there are differences in average real, fake, and propaganda ratings according to political identification (averaged over news sources). (i.e., 3 one-way ANOVAs)
Next, we'll examine whether there are differences in average real, fake, and propaganda ratings according to the relationship between political identification and news sources. (i.e., 3 factorial ANOVAs) Follow-up comparisons would be preposterous, so we'll instead take an exploratory approach and simply look at the maximum mean differences. That analysis will help us determine which news sources the left and right most disagree on.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.
We will exclude subjects who fail to complete the study or whose responses indicate they obviously did not take the study seriously (e.g., no variation in responses).

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.
We aim to collect 300 subjects using Amazon's Mechanical Turk in an effort to boost precision from a previous sample (n = 200).

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)
In an effort to simplify the results from these 42 news sources, we might conduct a cluster analysis to see which sources "hang" together, in terms of people's ratings. We might also examine people's free responses to the question about what fake news and propaganda means.
NOTE: This study is an attempt to replicate previous findings (#9951). Changes from that study include the following additional questions to be used in exploratory analyses:
- “Who did you vote for in the 2016 US Presidential election?”
- 3 Cognitive Reflection Test questions, from Frederick (2005).
- Familiarity ratings for each news source (42 total).