

Voting Behavior (#42314)

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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?

Participants are exposed to two different names (Smith and Jones) on fictitious news websites. The names are displayed in varying frequencies with one appearing frequently (95% of the trials) while the other appears infrequently (5%). The news websites are presented in the context of a task in which the participants are asked to track the economic development of five companies in a fictitious country. After going through a series of news websites, participants are asked to imagine that they were to vote for a political leader with the two names as options. We expect the frequent name to be chosen significantly more often than the infrequent name.

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.

Vote on a ballot paper (choice). Participants are forced to pick one (and only one) of the two names. The two names are presented next to each other (one on the left, the other on the right) with order randomized across participants.

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?

Participants go through 40 trials, with each trial consisting of a fictitious news website. Each website features a lead article and information about economic development of five companies. The lead article consists of a picture, a headline and a catchphrase. The headline features one of the two names. For each participant, one name appears in 95% of the trials (38 trials in total) whereas the other name appears in the remaining 5% (2 trials). Identity of the frequent/infrequent name, name sequence, and order of the headlines are randomized across participants.

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.

A χ^2 -test will be performed with the null hypothesis being an equal distribution of votes across the two names (frequent name vs. infrequent name).

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.

Participants are excluded if they indicate suspicions about or insight into the experiment's rationale.

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 at collecting data of 90 participants for a power of 0.8 for medium effect sizes of $\phi = 0.3$ ($\alpha = 0.05$).

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)

The experiment concludes with a structured debriefing which includes a question on the amount of attention paid to the content of the news articles (including the names). We will assess the impact of this factor on voting behavior via logistic regression analyses. We will also assess whether the order of the two names on the ballot paper (infrequent name first vs. frequent name first) affects choices and will include this factor in the main analysis if such an effect occurs. Exploratory follow-up analyses will target potential primacy and recency effects in cases where the infrequent name is presented in the first or the last trial of a participant.