ASPREDICTED

Climate Change Risk Perceptions of Climate Change Blog Audiences (#28868)

Author(s)

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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 will disseminate a survey via climate change blogs for audiences to fill out. We aim to answer two main questions with the survey data, which we will henceforth refer to as Study 1 and Study 2.

Study 1 (Confirmatory and exploratory research): What socio-psychological factors explain variations in audience climate change risk perceptions?

Study 2 (Exploratory research): To what extent do audiences consume blogs on both sides of the spectrum (climate sceptic vs mainstream) or solely blogs that are in line with their own climate change risk perceptions?

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

Study 1: The key dependent variable is "climate change risk perception". A total of eight measures will be used to create a holistic assessment of risk perception. The first question asks respondents how concerned they are about climate change. The following question asks respondents to judge how likely they think it is that they will personally experience threats to their overall well-being as a result of climate change. The same will be asked for society as a whole. Two questions ask respondents to evaluate how serious of a threat they think climate change is to the natural environment and them personally. Respondents will also be asked how serious they would rate current impacts around the world and for their country of residence. Lastly, respondents will be asked how often they worry about climate change. All questions use a 7-point Likert scale.

Study 2: They key variables of this study are "climate change risk perception" and "climate sceptical blog consumption" and "climate mainstream blog consumption". We are not sure about the exact association between these theoretical constructs. We will use the eight measures described above to create a holistic assessment of climate change risk perceptions. We will use three measures to create an assessment of audiences' climate sceptical blog consumption patterns. The first question asks respondents whether they visit blogs that reject evidence for human-caused climate change. If this question is answered with 'no', the respondents do not need to answer any more questions to assess this construct (Skip logic). If this question is answered with 'yes', respondents are asked how many days they have visited blogs that reject evidence for human-caused climate change during the last month. Lastly, respondents are asked how much time they typically spend on a day that they visit blogs rejecting evidence for human-caused climate change. The same type of questions will be used to assess audiences' climate mainstream blog consumption patterns.

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

Study 1 and 2: Number of conditions not applicable, because the study design is a cross-sectional survey, without experimental manipulation.

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

Study 1: We will use a theory-based, hierarchical linear regression analysis to evaluate to what extent cognitive, experiential, and socio-cultural dimensions can explain and predict risk perceptions of climate change. In addition, we will use the same analysis to evaluate to what extent trust, belief in climate change and support of the scientific consensus can explain and predict risk perceptions of climate change. We will also report results when controlling for baseline levels of the dependent variable socio-demographic characteristics.

Study 2: We will run correlational tests and a factor analysis to look for an association between climate sceptical blog consumption patterns and climate mainstream blog consumption patterns. If these test show that there is a monotonic component to the association, we will run an ANOVA to assess the differences between the two groups on climate change risk perceptions.

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

We have no formal a priori exclusion criteria.

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 will use quote sampling, as we want to gather at least 100 responses of audience members that visit climate sceptical blogs (Y/N) and at least 100 responses of audience members that visit climate mainstream blogs (Y/N).

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

No, we do not want to pre-register anything else.