

DEBRIEFING FORM – Day 2

Project Title: Civics and attention

Principal Investigator (PI): Dr. Dana Hayward (dana.hayward@ualberta.ca)

Thank you for your participation in our study. Your time and commitment to psychological research at the University of Alberta is greatly appreciated. The goal of this study was to investigate how an individual's political beliefs influence their attention to social (in-group vs out-group information), as well as non-social information (i.e., arrows). While most research in attention has examined how other aspects of an individual affect attention such as their personality, there is limited research on the relationship between political beliefs and attention. Furthermore, it is unclear how political similarity with those around us affects attention. Our goal is thus to investigate how political orientation and political similarity affects social and non-social attention.

In this 2-day study, we first collected various questionnaire measures in order to determine your political orientation and a baseline measure of your social attention. On the second day, we manipulated whether the face you saw in the attention task had similar or dissimilar political views to yourself (between-subjects factor), to determine the effect that political similarity has on social attention. Finally, we asked you to complete a non-social attention task to examine the effect of political beliefs on general attention.

If you have any further questions about this research, please do not hesitate to contact the PI, Dr. Dana Hayward, at dana.hayward@ualberta.ca. If you would like to withdraw your data from the study after testing is completed, you may do so at any time up until 7 days after your testing session was completed. This can be done by contacting the PI. If you have any questions about research participation, contact our Research Participation Coordinator at (780) 492-5689, or rescured@ualberta.ca.

For further reading on similar issues you may want to consult these interesting articles:

Carraro, L., Dalmaso, M., Castelli, L. & Galfano, G. The politics of attention contextualized: gaze but not arrow cuing of attention is moderated by political temperament. *Cognitive Processing*, 16, 309–314 (2015). DOI 10.1007/s10339-015-0661-5

Dodd, M. D., Hibbing, J. R., & Smith, K. B. (2011). The politics of attention: Gaze cuing effects are moderated by political temperament. *Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics*, 73, 24-29. doi: 10.3758/s13414-010-0001-x

Thank you very much for participating. Without the help of volunteers like you, we could not answer many important scientific questions in psychology. We have one last request: **Please don't tell other people about what we asked you to do in this study, as it is very imperative that they approach the study as you originally did, i.e., without expectations and without full awareness of our objectives.** This is important because it is the only way for us to obtain objective and valid information.

Yours truly,
Dr. Dana Hayward
Assistant Professor