



Political Psychology Data from a 26-wave Yearlong Longitudinal Study (2019– 2020)

DATA PAPER

MARK J. BRANDT 

FELICITY M. TURNER-ZWINKELS 

EMILY KUBIN 

**Author affiliations can be found in the back matter of this article*

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ABSTRACT

Data was collected from 552 people from the United States every two weeks for one year for a 26-wave panel study. Participants recruited on Prolific completed measures of political attitudes, political identification, perceived threat, perceived stress, and social distance at every wave. They completed demographic measures at the first wave. They completed political behaviour intentions (e.g., voting, signing a petition) in four waves spread over the last half of the study. They completed items related to COVID-19 for the last four waves. Data is stored on the Open Science Framework. It can be used to study longitudinal associations between politically-relevant variables, assess stability overtime, and test for the influence of discrete events on attitudes during the course of the study.

CORRESPONDING AUTHOR:

Mark J. Brandt

Tilburg University, NL;
Michigan State University, US
brandt15@msu.edu

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(1) OVERVIEW

COLLECTION DATE(S)

2019–2020, United States of America.

BACKGROUND

The dynamics of political attitudes are of interest to social scientists because they help us understand if attitude change is possible and under what conditions this occurs. Moreover, these dynamics can help scholars understand the underpinnings of political attitudes. Much of the work on political attitudes uses data that makes the study of attitude change dynamics difficult. Although scholars often go beyond cross-sectional data, longitudinal data often comes from different participants at each time point (such as in the World Values Survey, American National Election Studies, or the General Social Survey) or from the same participants with time points approximately 1 year apart (such as the Longitudinal Internet Studies for the Social Sciences Panel and the New Zealand Attitudes and Values Survey). Although this is valuable data, if attitudes change at a faster rate, or have dynamics that occur over shorter time periods, they cannot be detected in such studies. Moreover, many longitudinal studies in this domain only include 2 or 3 time points, making it difficult to observe some types of dynamic processes (e.g., [9]; although for exceptions see Longitudinal Internet Studies for the Social Sciences Panel and the New Zealand Attitudes and Values Survey). Here we aimed to collect data that would provide a more fine-grained look at the dynamic processes underlying the maintenance and change of political attitudes.

We included measures of constructs that would have broad interest to social scientists, including political attitudes and identities [2], perceived threats and stresses [6], political engagement [3], and social distance from political groups [5]. Each of these constructs have a long tradition in the political psychological literature. Our study aims to provide data about their variation over the course of one year. We also included items related to the COVID-19 pandemic, which overlapped with the end of our study. This makes it possible to assess COVID-19-related attitudes over a part of the study.

(2) METHODS

The methods for this data collection were preregistered. There are three preregistrations associated with the project. The first preregisters the procedure and original measures used in the study. It was completed prior to the start of data collection, and is available here: <https://osf.io/7h5ds>. The second preregistration documents measures of behavioural intentions we added after data collection began, and was completed in December 2019. It is available here: <https://osf.io/7r4bk>. The third

preregistration documents measures we added related to COVID-19. It was completed in March 2020 after data collection had started. It is available here: <https://osf.io/rxcqf>.

There were changes to the study that are not documented with preregistrations (noted below). These include a measure related to climate policy (added for Wave 2–26) and two attention check items in two different waves.

SAMPLE

Participants were recruited on Prolific (see Procedure below for details) using quota sampling based on vote choice in the 2016 U.S. elections. In the first wave, we had 552 participants from the United States (M age = 34.7, SD = 12.4, Range [18, 73]; 278 women, 271 men, 2 indicated their gender was not listed). Our average response rate across the waves was 75%, SD = 8%, Range [63%, 93%]. The sample size for each wave and for all pairwise combination of waves is in [Table 1](#). The number of waves completed by each participant is visualized in [Figure 1](#). The sample size based on the 2016 U.S. election vote is in [Table 2](#).

MATERIALS

The materials for all of the waves are stored with the data. In addition, the materials are posted at the OSF page for the project (<https://osf.io/x94rc>).

Participants completed measures related to their positions on political issues, political identifications, political interest, presidential approval, feelings of internal threat (e.g., stress), feelings of external threat (e.g., from the economy), and social distance from political groups at each wave of the study. At the first wave, participants also completed demographic measures and reported their vote choice from the 2016 presidential election. This latter item is used to assess the correspondence between the prescreening measure provided by Prolific and our participants own self-report in the current study.

We preregistered that we may add items throughout the course of the study. In total we added seven new items to the survey. 1: We added an issue about climate change at Wave 2 that remained in the study until the end. 2: We added an item about the importance of the July 4th holiday in Waves 4 and 9 to help us test preregistered hypotheses about the effect of the holiday on political prejudice (see preregistrations for that study here <https://osf.io/26bua/registrations>). 3: We added an attention check item as the last item in both Waves 12 and 15. 4: We added behavioral intention items in Wave 17, 20, 23, and 26. 5–7: Finally, we added three items relevant to the COVID-19 pandemic in the last four waves. All items are listed in [Table 3](#).

The issue positions, political interest, presidential approval, feelings of internal threat, feelings of external

| WAVE | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 | 552 | 510 | 503 | 487 | 471 | 454 | 449 | 442 | 435 | 421 | 416 | 420 | 397 | 403 | 398 | 411 | 381 | 391 | 394 | 381 | 400 | 369 | 373 | 381 | 348 | 348 | |
| 2 | 510 | 510 | 485 | 470 | 454 | 437 | 431 | 424 | 420 | 409 | 403 | 411 | 388 | 393 | 385 | 400 | 372 | 379 | 384 | 372 | 387 | 360 | 359 | 368 | 339 | 337 | |
| 3 | 503 | 468 | 503 | 468 | 452 | 437 | 434 | 429 | 418 | 404 | 400 | 405 | 382 | 388 | 381 | 393 | 366 | 375 | 378 | 367 | 383 | 357 | 358 | 363 | 336 | 333 | |
| 4 | 487 | 448 | 434 | 427 | 419 | 408 | 427 | 419 | 408 | 402 | 394 | 398 | 376 | 384 | 374 | 389 | 361 | 369 | 375 | 365 | 380 | 350 | 352 | 358 | 332 | 328 | |
| 5 | 471 | 435 | 427 | 417 | 410 | 395 | 391 | 391 | 391 | 391 | 391 | 374 | 374 | 377 | 371 | 386 | 359 | 367 | 367 | 361 | 376 | 347 | 353 | 359 | 328 | 328 | |
| 6 | 454 | 417 | 412 | 399 | 388 | 385 | 390 | 369 | 373 | 365 | 375 | 353 | 359 | 359 | 355 | 368 | 346 | 349 | 349 | 355 | 368 | 346 | 349 | 349 | 321 | 320 | |
| 7 | 449 | 413 | 401 | 393 | 386 | 389 | 369 | 371 | 365 | 374 | 356 | 358 | 361 | 357 | 367 | 343 | 345 | 349 | 349 | 357 | 367 | 343 | 345 | 349 | 323 | 322 | |
| 8 | 442 | 407 | 396 | 386 | 394 | 371 | 373 | 367 | 376 | 354 | 361 | 364 | 356 | 367 | 344 | 347 | 351 | 325 | 322 | 344 | 344 | 344 | 347 | 351 | 325 | 322 | |
| 9 | 435 | 387 | 386 | 368 | 369 | 363 | 373 | 352 | 362 | 364 | 354 | 369 | 343 | 364 | 354 | 369 | 343 | 339 | 346 | 369 | 343 | 343 | 339 | 346 | 317 | 319 | |
| 10 | 421 | 389 | 384 | 363 | 367 | 364 | 367 | 350 | 352 | 355 | 354 | 365 | 337 | 341 | 342 | 317 | 315 | 315 | 354 | 365 | 337 | 341 | 342 | 317 | 315 | 315 | |
| 11 | 416 | 387 | 366 | 368 | 364 | 367 | 356 | 357 | 357 | 353 | 360 | 337 | 340 | 342 | 321 | 315 | 315 | 315 | 357 | 360 | 337 | 340 | 342 | 321 | 315 | 315 | |
| 12 | 420 | 376 | 380 | 375 | 381 | 360 | 363 | 365 | 362 | 365 | 362 | 369 | 343 | 347 | 348 | 324 | 320 | 320 | 365 | 362 | 343 | 347 | 348 | 324 | 320 | 320 | |
| 13 | 397 | 370 | 357 | 365 | 346 | 345 | 349 | 343 | 343 | 351 | 331 | 328 | 336 | 307 | 304 | 304 | 304 | 304 | 345 | 349 | 331 | 328 | 336 | 307 | 304 | 304 | |
| 14 | 403 | 376 | 378 | 358 | 357 | 360 | 354 | 364 | 341 | 342 | 319 | 318 | 318 | 318 | 318 | 318 | 318 | 318 | 360 | 354 | 364 | 341 | 342 | 347 | 319 | 318 | |
| 15 | 398 | 374 | 358 | 356 | 359 | 350 | 361 | 338 | 338 | 338 | 338 | 338 | 338 | 338 | 338 | 338 | 338 | 338 | 359 | 350 | 361 | 338 | 338 | 343 | 314 | 316 | |
| 16 | 411 | 364 | 363 | 364 | 359 | 365 | 339 | 342 | 351 | 320 | 317 | 317 | 317 | 317 | 317 | 317 | 317 | 317 | 364 | 359 | 365 | 339 | 342 | 351 | 320 | 317 | |
| 17 | 381 | 355 | 353 | 344 | 352 | 333 | 336 | 343 | 314 | 309 | 309 | 309 | 309 | 309 | 309 | 309 | 309 | 309 | 353 | 344 | 352 | 333 | 336 | 343 | 314 | 309 | |
| 18 | 391 | 363 | 349 | 357 | 338 | 334 | 319 | 314 | 314 | 314 | 314 | 314 | 314 | 314 | 314 | 314 | 314 | 314 | 363 | 349 | 357 | 338 | 334 | 342 | 319 | 314 | |
| 19 | 394 | 354 | 360 | 340 | 339 | 317 | 315 | 315 | 315 | 315 | 315 | 315 | 315 | 315 | 315 | 315 | 315 | 315 | 394 | 354 | 360 | 340 | 339 | 344 | 317 | 315 | |
| 20 | 381 | 360 | 335 | 342 | 337 | 312 | 310 | 310 | 310 | 310 | 310 | 310 | 310 | 310 | 310 | 310 | 310 | 310 | 360 | 335 | 342 | 337 | 312 | 310 | 310 | 310 | |
| 21 | 400 | 350 | 351 | 326 | 325 | 325 | 325 | 325 | 325 | 325 | 325 | 325 | 325 | 325 | 325 | 325 | 325 | 325 | 400 | 350 | 351 | 326 | 325 | 325 | 325 | 325 | |
| 22 | 369 | 333 | 338 | 309 | 313 | 313 | 313 | 313 | 313 | 313 | 313 | 313 | 313 | 313 | 313 | 313 | 313 | 313 | 369 | 333 | 338 | 309 | 313 | 313 | 313 | 313 | |
| 23 | 373 | 345 | 316 | 315 | 315 | 315 | 315 | 315 | 315 | 315 | 315 | 315 | 315 | 315 | 315 | 315 | 315 | 315 | 373 | 345 | 316 | 315 | 315 | 315 | 315 | 315 | |
| 24 | 381 | 328 | 327 | 327 | 327 | 327 | 327 | 327 | 327 | 327 | 327 | 327 | 327 | 327 | 327 | 327 | 327 | 327 | 381 | 328 | 327 | 327 | 327 | 327 | 327 | 327 | |
| 25 | 348 | 314 | 314 | 314 | 314 | 314 | 314 | 314 | 314 | 314 | 314 | 314 | 314 | 314 | 314 | 314 | 314 | 314 | 348 | 314 | 314 | 314 | 314 | 314 | 314 | 314 | |
| 26 | 348 | 348 | 348 | 348 | 348 | 348 | 348 | 348 | 348 | 348 | 348 | 348 | 348 | 348 | 348 | 348 | 348 | 348 | 348 | 348 | 348 | 348 | 348 | 348 | 348 | 348 | 348 |

Table 1 Sample sizes per wave and pairwise sample sizes for each wave combination.

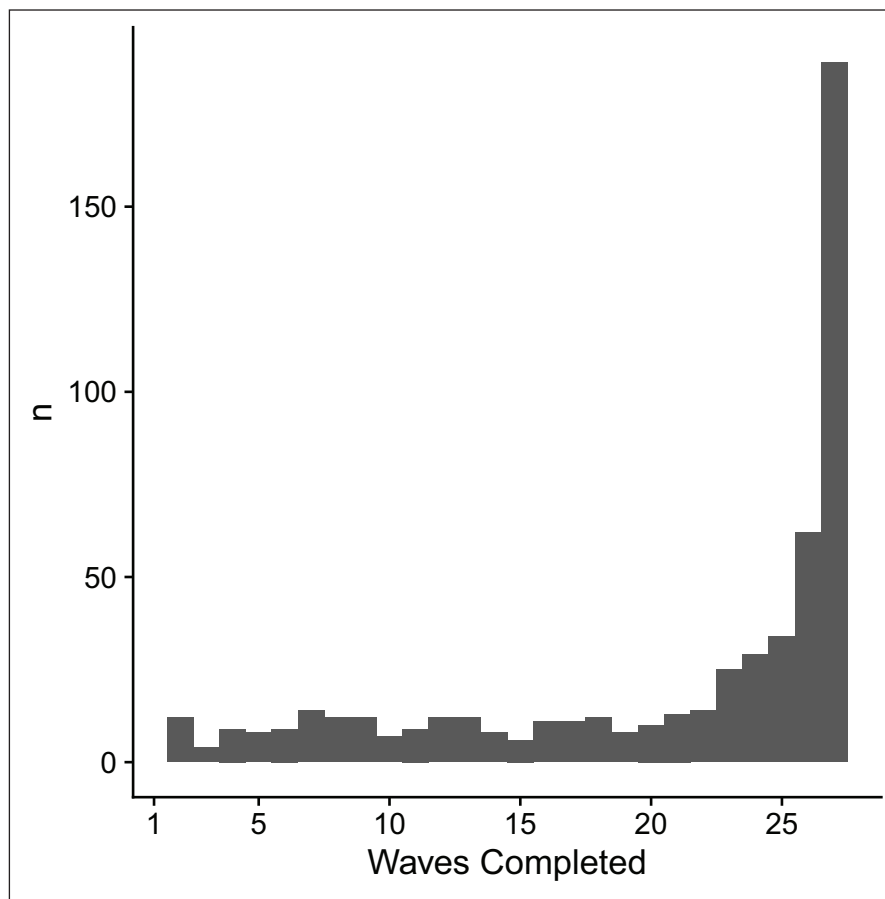


Figure 1 Histogram of number of waves completed.

| TARGET N | ACHIEVED N | PROLIFIC OPTION |
|----------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| 223 | 223 | Did not vote/Prefer not to say or NA |
| 161 | 161 | Trump |
| 166 | 168 | Clinton |

Table 2 Sample size per 2016 vote choice.

threat, and political prejudice items were completed first and in a random order. For the purposes of the randomization, the five political prejudice items were treated as one item and the order of the five targets were randomized within that one item. The two political identification items came next and were presented in a random order. The remaining measures in Wave 1 were presented last and in the order they appear in [Table 3](#). The behavioral intention items were presented last and in a random order. The COVID-19 items were presented in the order they appear in [Table 3](#) and before the block of items containing political identification items.

PROCEDURES

Participants were recruited on Prolific, an online service that facilitates the crowdsourcing of research participants (for an overview see [7]). The first wave of the study started on 8 May 2019. For the first wave, the survey was

left open until the three quotas (described below) were fulfilled (1 day). For the 2nd–26th wave the survey was left open for one week. A new survey was posted every 2 weeks. This means that there is somewhere between a one week and two week gap between each wave for each participant. The final wave started data collection on 22 April 2020.

We opened the task on Prolific to 550 participants with the expectation of having between 250 and 500 participants at each individual wave. Prolific allows us to target people based on their self-reported vote in the 2016 election. For the first wave, we collected data from participants in proportion to their vote choice and the population-level outcome of this election (see [Table 2](#)). The target Ns and achieved Ns are reported in [Table 2](#). This was done to increase the diversity of political opinions within the sample. The study was additionally limited to people reporting the United States as their nationality and who had an approval rate 90 or higher.

Participants were paid £0.35 for completing the first wave (~4 minutes) and for completing each of the next four follow-up waves (~3 minutes). Every fifth wave, participants were paid £0.02 more per survey, so that the payment at the final survey was £0.45. If they completed all 26 surveys, participants earned £10.20. This is approximately £7.75/hour (~\$9.63/hour). The US

Table 3 Item summary.

| NAME (TYPE) | VARIABLE | RESPONSE OPTIONS | WAVE |
|----------------|---|---|-----------|
| def (issue) | Should federal spending on defense be increased, decreased, or kept the same? | 1. Greatly decrease defense spending 2. 3. 4. Keep defense spending about the same 5. 6. 7. Greatly increase defense spending. 8. Don't Know 9. I haven't thought much about it | All Waves |
| crime (issue) | Should federal spending for dealing with crime be increased, decreased, or kept the same? | 1. Greatly decrease spending for dealing with crime 2. 3. 4. Keep spending for dealing with crime about the same 5. 6. 7. Greatly increase spending for dealing with crime. 8. Don't Know 9. I haven't thought much about it | All Waves |
| terror (issue) | Should federal spending on the war on terrorism be increased, decreased, or kept the same? | 1. Greatly decrease war on terror spending 2. 3. 4. Keep war on terror spending about the same 5. 6. 7. Greatly increase war on terror spending. 8. Don't Know 9. I haven't thought much about it | All Waves |
| poor (issue) | Should federal spending on aid to the poor be increased, decreased, or kept the same? | 1. Greatly decrease aid to the poor 2. 3. 4. Keep aid to the poor about the same 5. 6. 7. Greatly increase aid to the poor 8. Don't Know 9. I haven't thought much about it | All Waves |
| health (issue) | Should federal spending on healthcare be increased, decreased, or kept the same? | 1. Greatly decrease healthcare spending 2. 3. 4. Keep healthcare spending about the same 5. 6. 7. Greatly increase healthcare spending 8. Don't Know 9. I haven't thought much about it | All Waves |
| econ (issue) | Should federal spending to stimulate the economy be increased, decreased, or kept the same? | 1. Greatly decrease economic stimulus 2. 3. 4. Keep economic stimulus about the same 5. 6. 7. Greatly increase economic stimulus 8. Don't Know 9. I haven't thought much about it | All Waves |
| abort (issue) | Which one of the opinions below best agrees with your view of abortion? | 1. By law, abortion should never be permitted. 2. The law should permit abortion only in case of rape, incest, or when the woman's life is in danger. 3. The law should permit abortion for reasons other than rape, incest, or danger to the woman's life, but only after the need for the abortion has been clearly established. 4. By law, a woman should always be able to obtain an abortion as a matter of personal choice. 5. Don't Know 6. I haven't thought much about it | All Waves |

(Contd.)

| NAME (TYPE) | VARIABLE | RESPONSE OPTIONS | WAVE |
|---------------------|--|---|-----------|
| unemploy (issue) | Should federal spending on benefits for the unemployed be increased, decreased, or kept the same? | 1. Greatly decrease benefits for the unemployed 2. 3. 4. Keep benefits for the unemployed about the same 5. 6. 7. Greatly increase benefits for the unemployed 8. Don't Know 9. I haven't thought much about it | All Waves |
| blkaid (issue) | Should federal spending to improve the social and economic position of blacks be increased, decreased, or kept the same? | 1. Greatly decrease aid to blacks 2. 3. 4. Keep aid to blacks about the same 5. 6. 7. Greatly increase aid to blacks 8. Don't Know 9. I haven't thought much about it | All Waves |
| adopt (issue) | Do you favor or oppose laws that prevent gay or lesbian couples from adopting children, or haven't you thought much about it? | 1. Favor strongly 2. 3. 4. Neither favor nor oppose 5. 6. 7. Oppose strongly 8. Don't Know 9. I haven't thought much about it | All Waves |
| imm (issue) | Should federal spending to control immigration be increased, decreased, or kept the same? | 1. Greatly decrease spending on immigration control 2. 3. 4. Keep spending on immigration control about the same 5. 6. 7. Greatly increase spending on immigration control 8. Don't Know 9. I haven't thought much about it | All Waves |
| vaccines (issue) | Do you favor or oppose laws that require parents to vaccinate their children using common vaccines (e.g., polio, tetanus, measles, flu)? | 1. Favor strongly 2. 3. 4. Neither favor nor oppose 5. 6. 7. Oppose strongly 8. Don't Know 9. I haven't thought much about it | All Waves |
| guns (issue) | Should the federal government make it more difficult for people to buy a gun than it is now, make it easier for people to buy a gun, or keep these rules about the same as they are now? | 1. Make it much more difficult 2. 3. 4. Keep the rules the same 5. 6. 7. Make it much easier 8. Don't Know 9. I haven't thought much about it | All Waves |
| djt (approval) | Do you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing as president? | 1. Strongly approve 2. Approve 3. Disapprove 4. Strongly disapprove 5. Don't know 6. I haven't thought much about it | All Waves |
| interest (interest) | How interested are you in politics? | 1. Very uninterested 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. Very interested | All Waves |

(Contd.)

| NAME (TYPE) | VARIABLE | RESPONSE OPTIONS | WAVE |
|-------------------------|---|---|-----------|
| friends_1 (prejudice) | How willing would you be to be friends with people from the following groups? Liberals | 1. I absolutely would not 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. I absolutely would 8. Don't know 9. I haven't thought much about it | All Waves |
| friends_2 (prejudice) | How willing would you be to be friends with people from the following groups? Conservatives | 1. I absolutely would not 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. I absolutely would 8. Don't know 9. I haven't thought much about it | All Waves |
| friends_3 (prejudice) | How willing would you be to be friends with people from the following groups? Moderates | 1. I absolutely would not 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. I absolutely would 8. Don't know 9. I haven't thought much about it | All Waves |
| friends_4 (prejudice) | How willing would you be to be friends with people from the following groups? Republicans | 1. I absolutely would not 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. I absolutely would 8. Don't know 9. I haven't thought much about it | All Waves |
| friends_5 (prejudice) | How willing would you be to be friends with people from the following groups? Democrats | 1. I absolutely would not 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. I absolutely would 8. Don't know 9. I haven't thought much about it | All Waves |
| tense (internal threat) | At this moment, I feel tense. | 1. Fully disagree 2. 3. 4. Neither agree nor disagree 5. 6. 7. Fully agree | All Waves |
| death (internal threat) | I have an intense fear of death | 1. Fully disagree 2. 3. 4. Neither agree nor disagree 5. 6. 7. Fully agree | All Waves |
| ewry (external threat) | I worry that I myself or someone from my family will be worse off financially in the near future. | 1. Fully disagree 2. 3. 4. Neither agree nor disagree 5. 6. 7. Fully agree | All Waves |

(Contd.)

| NAME (TYPE) | VARIABLE | RESPONSE OPTIONS | WAVE |
|--------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|
| values (external threat) | The values in our country have gone seriously off track. | 1. Fully disagree 2. 3. 4. Neither agree nor disagree 5. 6. 7. Fully agree | All Waves |
| climate (issue) | Do you think the federal government should be doing more about climate change, should be doing less, or is it currently doing the right amount? | 1. Doing more about climate change 2. 3. 4. Doing the right amount 5. 6. 7. Doing less about climate change 8. Don't Know 9. I haven't thought much about it | Waves 2 – Wave 26 |
| fourth (holiday) | I find it important to celebrate the 4th of July. | 1. Fully disagree 2. 3. 4. Neither agree nor disagree 5. 6. 7. Fully agree | Wave 4 (some participants), Wave 9 |
| ideo (identification) | When it comes to politics, do you think of yourself as a liberal, conservative, moderate, or haven't you thought much about this? | 1. Strongly liberal 2. Liberal 3. Slightly liberal 4. Moderate, middle of the road 5. Slightly conservative 6. Conservative 7. Strongly conservative 8. Don't know 9. I haven't thought much about it | All Waves |
| partyid (identification) | Do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or haven't you thought much about this? | 1. Strongly Democrat 2. Democrat 3. Independent, lean Democrat 4. Independent 5. Independent, lean Republican 6. Republican 7. Strongly Republican 8. Don't know 9. I haven't thought much about it | All Waves |
| check (attention check) | We are using this question to check your attention. Please select "Don't know". | 1. Strongly Democrat 2. Democrat 3. Independent, lean Democrat 4. Independent 5. Independent, lean Republican 6. Republican 7. Strongly Republican 8. Don't know 9. I haven't thought much about it | Wave 12 |
| check (attention check) | This question is checking your attention. Please select "I haven't thought much about it". | 1. Strongly Democrat 2. Democrat 3. Independent, lean Democrat 4. Independent 5. Independent, lean Republican 6. Republican 7. Strongly Republican 8. Don't know 9. I haven't thought much about it | Wave 15 |
| beh_att_1 | How likely would you be to sign a petition in support of the following issues? ...increase aid to the poor | 1. Very unlikely to sign petition 2. 3. 4. Neither likely nor unlikely to sign the petition 5. 6. 7. Very likely to sign the petition. 8. Don't Know | Waves 17, 20, 23, 26 |

(Contd.)

| NAME (TYPE) | VARIABLE | RESPONSE OPTIONS | WAVE |
|-----------------------|--|--|----------------------|
| beh_att_2 | How likely would you be to sign a petition in support of the following issues? ...increase spending to stimulate the economy | 1. Very unlikely to sign petition 2. 3. 4. Neither likely nor unlikely to sign the petition 5. 6. 7. Very likely to sign the petition. 8. Don't Know | Waves 17, 20, 23, 26 |
| beh_att_3 | How likely would you be to sign a petition in support of the following issues? ... increase spending on healthcare | 1. Very unlikely to sign petition 2. 3. 4. Neither likely nor unlikely to sign the petition 5. 6. 7. Very likely to sign the petition. 8. Don't Know | Waves 17, 20, 23, 26 |
| beh_identity | In the next Presidential election, how likely are you to vote for the candidate from the Democratic Party or the Republican Party? | 1. Very likely to vote for the Democratic candidate 2. Likely to vote for the Democratic candidate 3. Somewhat likely to vote for the Democratic candidate 4. Equally likely to vote for the Democratic as the Republican candidate 5. Somewhat likely to vote for the Republican candidate 6. Likely to vote for the Republican candidate 7. Very likely to vote for the Republican candidate 8. I would vote for another party, namely: 9. Don't know | Waves 17, 20, 23, 26 |
| virusthreat | How concerned are you about the coronavirus (COVID-19)? | 1. Not at all concerned 2. 3. 4. Somewhat concerned 5. 6. 7. Very concerned | Waves 23–26 |
| quarantine | Do you favor or oppose laws that prohibit travel to and from regions in the United States with coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreaks (i.e. a quarantine)? | 1. Favor strongly 2. 3. 4. Neither favor nor oppose 5. 6. 7. Oppose strongly 8. Don't Know 9. I haven't thought much about it | Waves 23–26 |
| sickleave | Do you favor or oppose laws that would require all businesses to pay for their employee's sick leave? | 1. Favor strongly 2. 3. 4. Neither favor nor oppose 5. 6. 7. Oppose strongly 8. Don't Know 9. I haven't thought much about it | Waves 23–26 |
| votereport (voting) | Who did you vote for in the 2016 presidential election? | 1. Donald Trump 2. Hillary Clinton 3. A different candidate 4. I did not vote 5. I planned to vote, but I forgot 6. I do not remember who I voted for | Wave 1 |
| gender (demographics) | To which gender identity do you most identify? | 1. Female 2. Male 3. Not Listed 4. Prefer not to answer | Wave 1 |

(Contd.)

| NAME (TYPE) | VARIABLE | RESPONSE OPTIONS | WAVE |
|-----------------------|---|--|--------|
| ethnic (demographics) | I identify my ethnicity as: (select all that apply) | 1. Asian 2. Black/African 3. Caucasian 4. Hispanic/Latinx 5. Native American 6. Pacific Islander 7. Not listed 8. Prefer not to answer | Wave 1 |
| edu (demographics) | What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed? If currently enrolled, highest degree received. | 1. No schooling completed 2. Nursery school to 8th grade 3. Some high school, no diploma 4. High school graduate, diploma or the equivalent (for example: GED) 5. Some college credit, no degree 6. Trade/technical/vocational training 7. Associate degree 8. Bachelor's degree 9. Master's degree 10. Professional degree 11. Doctorate degree | Wave 1 |
| inc (demographics) | What is your household income? That is, the total income of everyone living in your residence. | 1. Less than \$20,000 2. \$20,000 to \$34,999 3. \$35,000 to \$49,999 4. \$50,000 to \$74,999 5. \$75,000 to \$99,999 6. Over \$100,000 | Wave 1 |
| age (demographics) | What is your age? | | Wave 1 |
| state (demographics) | What state do you currently live in? | | Wave 1 |
| relig (demographics) | What is your present religion, if any? | 1. Protestant 2. Roman Catholic 3. Mormon 4. Orthodox such as Greek or Russian Orthodox 5. Jewish 6. Muslim 7. Buddhist 8. Hindu 9. atheist 10. agnostic 11. something else 12. nothing in particular | Wave 1 |

Federal minimum wage is \$7.25/hour and the average state/territory minimum wage (after removing states/territories with no minimum wage) is \$9.24/hour. Participants continued participation was incentivized by offering bonuses. For every wave completed (26 possibilities in total), participants received a virtual ticket. After 6 months and then again at the end of the study, we conducted a drawing for five £10 bonuses and one £50 bonus. The total cost of the study was £5151.64.

QUALITY CONTROL

Prolific data quality is high [8] and they have procedures in place to prevent bots and repeat participants [1]. Participants were paid fair rates given the length of the study and we included incentives for completing as many waves as possible.

In addition, we checked attention rates with attention checks at Wave 12 and 15. We observed high rates of attention. All participants passed the check in Wave 15. In Wave 12, 10 of 416 participants did not pass the check

(4 participants had missing data on the attention check item and were not counted as passed nor failed).

We also checked the correspondence between people's self-reported votes in the 2016 election given to Prolific and given to us. Correspondence was high (91% match). The largest mismatch was from people who told Prolific they had not voted for neither Trump nor Clinton, but who reported to us that they voted for either Clinton ($n = 19$) or Trump ($n = 14$). The remaining mismatches were largely people who told Prolific they had either voted for Trump or Clinton, but who reported to us that they voted for a different candidate besides Trump or Clinton ($n = 2$), did not vote ($n = 9$), or planned to vote, but forgot ($n = 2$). Only one participant reported to Prolific that they voted for Clinton and reported to us that they voted for Trump. No participants reported to Prolific that they voted for Trump and reported to us that they voted for Clinton. Given that fallibility of people's memories, including for their vote choice, these results indicate a relatively high correspondence (e.g., 91% is higher than many reported estimates, e.g., [4])

ETHICAL ISSUES

Ethical approval was granted by Tilburg University. Data were anonymized by removing potential identifying information, including IP addresses and open-ended responses.

(3) DATASET DESCRIPTION

OBJECT NAME

- codebook1.html: codebook
- yllanon.csv: cleaned data file in long format
- matrix and demographics.R: for computing information in this data paper and creating the histogram
- response rates.R: for computing information in this data paper
- Materials – Qualtrics Format (folder): all materials in Qualtrics format
- Materials – Word Format (folder): all materials in Word format

DATA TYPE

Primary data, codebook, materials, code

FORMAT NAMES AND VERSIONS

.csv, .html, .R, .qsf, .docx

DATA COLLECTORS

Mark Brandt, designed study, collected data, Tilburg University
Felicity Turner-Zwinkels, designed study, Tilburg University

LANGUAGE

English

LICENSE

CC-by

REPOSITORY LOCATION

<https://osf.io/3pwvb/>

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(4) REUSE POTENTIAL

This data can be reused to test hypotheses related to political attitudes and their change overtime. This could include, for example, if political identification is an antecedent or cause of social distance from political groups, if perceived threat is associated with right-wing or left-wing attitudes, and how stable political attitudes are overtime.

The items regarding feelings of threat and anxiety may also be of use to researchers studying these topics. We purposely included items and constructs that have been the focus of investigations in the past, making it possible to conceptually replicate such findings. Lastly, given that there are relatively few datasets with such a longitudinal structure, it may also serve as an interesting teaching tool.

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COMPETING INTERESTS

The authors have no competing interests to declare.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

- Designed study, collected data, cleaned data, documented data, wrote paper
- Designed study, edited paper
- Cleaned data, documented data, edited paper

AUTHOR AFFILIATIONS

Mark J. Brandt  orcid.org/0000-0002-7185-7031

Tilburg University, NL;
Michigan State University, US

Felicity M. Turner-Zwinkels  orcid.org/0000-0001-6739-8453

Tilburg University, NL

Emily Kubin  orcid.org/0000-0003-0606-8594

Tilburg University, NL;
University of Koblenz-Landau, DE

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