

Title: Survey instrument appendix for “Source alerts can reduce the harms of foreign disinformation”

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Date: May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Note: The material contained herein is supplementary to the article named in the title and published in the Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) Misinformation Review.

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## Appendix B: Survey instrument<sup>1</sup>

1. You are invited to participate in a research study about American adults’ perceptions of political messages on Facebook and Twitter. Your participation is voluntary. In order to make this study a valid one, you will not be made fully aware of the exact purpose of the study. By participating, you are agreeing to that alteration.

In this study, you will be asked to do the following things:

- Login to MTurk as an approved participant
- Take a survey on MTurk about political messages on social media

If you have any questions, concerns, or complaints about this study, now or in the future, please contact Dr. Jason Ross Arnold at [jrarnold@vcu.edu](mailto:jrarnold@vcu.edu).

- I consent
- I do not consent

**We would like to begin by asking you a few questions about yourself.**

2. In what year were you born? \_\_\_\_\_ (enter 4-digit birth year; for example, 1976)

3. When it comes to politics, do you usually think of yourself as ...

- Extremely liberal
- Liberal
- Slightly liberal
- Moderate, middle of the road
- Slightly conservative
- Conservative
- Extremely conservative
- Haven't thought much about it

4. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?

- Republican
- Democrat
- Independent
- Something else

5. If you think of yourself as a Republican, would you call yourself a strong Republican or a not very strong Republican?

- Strong Republican
- Not very strong Republican

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<sup>1</sup> Branching logic is embedded in SurveyMonkey, and not shown in this printed questionnaire.

6. If you think of yourself as a Democrat, would you call yourself a strong Democrat or a not very strong Democrat?

- Strong Democrat
- Not very strong Democrat

7. If you think of yourself as an Independent or something else, do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or the Democratic Party?

- The Republican Party
- The Democratic Party

**Now we would like to ask you some questions about your media use habits.**

8. Which social media platform do you use the more often?

- Facebook
- Twitter
- I don't use Facebook or Twitter

9. How frequently do you use social media?

- Several times an hour
- Several times a day
- Once a day
- Several times a week
- Once a week
- Less often than once a week
- Never

10. How much time, on average, do you spend on social media on the days that you use it?

- Less than an hour
- 1-2 hours
- 3-5 hours
- More than five hours

11. When you use social media, how likely are you to share political or issue- based posts (by reposting, liking, or commenting)?

- Very unlikely
- Unlikely
- Likely
- Very likely

12. When you use social media, how likely are you to share non-political posts, such as about every day or special personal experiences (by reposting, liking, or commenting)?

- Very unlikely
- Unlikely
- Likely
- Very likely

13. Is the time that you spend on social media for personal or business use?

- Business
- Personal
- Both

14. Although you don't use Facebook or Twitter personally, which social media platform are you more familiar with?

- Facebook
- Twitter

**Now we would like to ask you some questions about your media use habits.**

15. Which social media platform do you use the more often?

- Facebook
- Twitter
- I don't use Facebook or Twitter

16. How frequently do you use social media?

- Several times an hour   Several times a day   Once a day
- Several times a week   Once a week
- Less often than once a week   Never

17. How much time, on average, do you spend on social media on the days that you use it?

- Less than an hour
- 1-2 hours
- 3-5 hours
- More than five hours

18. When you use social media, how likely are you to share political or issue- based posts (by reposting, liking, or commenting)?

- Very unlikely
- Unlikely
- Likely
- Very likely

19. When you use social media, how likely are you to share non-political posts, such as about every day or special personal experiences (by reposting, liking, or commenting)?

- Very unlikely
- Unlikely
- Likely
- Very likely

20. Is the time that you spend on social media for personal or business use?

- Business
- Personal
- Both

21. Although you don't use Facebook or Twitter personally, which social media platform are you more familiar with?

- Facebook
- Twitter

**Now we're going to show you an example from Facebook, followed by questions about the Facebook post.**

Please take a few moments to read the post below.

It is important that you have a good idea of the information being presented in this post because you will be asked questions about it when you move to the next page.

[Images from Figures 3 or 4 presented to subjects]

You will be asked questions about this post when you move to the next page.

22. Are you ready to proceed?

- Yes
- No

**Now we're going to show you an example from Twitter, followed by questions about the tweet.**

Please take a few moments to read the tweet below.

[Images from Figures 3 or 4 presented to subjects]

It is important that you have a good idea of the information being presented in this tweet because you will be asked questions about it when you move to the next page.

You will be asked questions about this tweet when you move to the next page.

23. Are you ready to proceed?

- Yes
- No

**Now we're going to show you an example from Facebook, followed by questions about the Facebook post.**

Please take a few moments to read the post below.

[Images from Figures 3 or 4 presented to subjects]

It is important that you have a good idea of the information being presented in this post because you will be asked questions about it when you move to the next page.

24. You will be asked questions about this post when you move to the next page. Are you ready to proceed?

- Yes
- No

**Now we're going to show you an example from Twitter, followed by questions about the tweet.**

Please take a few moments to read the tweet below.

[Images from Figures 3 or 4 presented to subjects]

It is important that you have a good idea of the information being presented in this tweet because you will be asked questions about it when you move to the next page.

25. You will be asked questions about this tweet when you move to the next page. Are you ready to proceed?

- Yes
- No

26. Imagine that you came across this post on your social media feed. How likely is it that you would "like" this post on social media?

- Very likely
- Likely
- Somewhat likely
- Neither likely nor unlikely
- Somewhat unlikely
- Unlikely
- Very unlikely

27. Imagine that you came across this post on your social media feed. How likely is it that you would "share" this post on social media?

- Very likely
- Likely
- Somewhat likely
- Neither likely nor unlikely
- Somewhat unlikely
- Unlikely
- Very unlikely

28. Imagine that you came across this post on your social media feed.

How likely is it that you would initiate a conversation about the information in this post with a friend, family member, acquaintance, or anyone else?

- Very likely
- Likely
- Somewhat likely
- Neither likely nor unlikely
- Somewhat unlikely
- Unlikely
- Very unlikely

29. Imagine that you came across this post on your social media feed. How likely is it that you would talk about the information in this post in a conversation with a friend or family member?

- Very likely
- Likely
- Somewhat likely
- Neither likely nor unlikely
- Somewhat unlikely
- Unlikely
- Very unlikely

30. Thinking about the statement in the post, would you consider this claim to be true, somewhat true, somewhat false, or false?

- True
- Somewhat true
- Somewhat false
- False

31. Thinking about the content of the post, did you find the post very useful, somewhat useful, not useful at all?

- Very useful
- Somewhat useful
- Not useful at all
- Don't know

32. Thinking about the tone of the post, would you characterize the tone of the post as overly hostile, somewhat hostile, or not hostile at all?

- Overly hostile
- Somewhat hostile
- Not hostile at all
- Don't know

33. Some states allow voters to cast their ballots early or to mail in their ballots. Have you already voted in the November 2020 election?

- Yes
- No

34. Does the information in this post make you more likely to vote in the upcoming November 2020 election, or less likely to vote?

- Much more likely
- Somewhat more likely
- Neither more or less likely
- Somewhat less likely
- Much less likely

35. There are many ways to cast your ballot in the upcoming November 2020 election. In some states you can mail in your vote. If your state allowed mail-in voting would the information in this post make you more likely to vote by mail in the 2020 election, or less likely to vote by mail?

- Much more likely
- Somewhat more likely
- Neither more or less likely
- Somewhat less likely
- Much less likely

36. If you hadn't yet cast your ballot, and if your state allowed mail-in voting, do you think the information in this post would have made you more likely or less likely to vote by mail?

- Much more likely
- Somewhat more likely
- Neither more or less likely
- Somewhat less likely
- Much less likely

37. How likely is it that you would participate in a demonstration or protest in your area based on the information in this post?

- Very likely
- Likely
- Somewhat likely
- Neither likely nor unlikely
- Somewhat unlikely
- Unlikely
- Very unlikely

38. Imagine that you came across this tweet on your social media feed. How likely is it that you would "like" this tweet on social media?

- Very likely
- Likely
- Somewhat likely
- Neither likely nor unlikely
- Somewhat unlikely
- Unlikely
- Very unlikely

39. Imagine that you came across this tweet on your social media feed. How likely is it that you would "share" this tweet on social media?

- Very likely
- Likely
- Somewhat likely
- Neither likely nor unlikely
- Somewhat unlikely
- Unlikely
- Very unlikely

40. Imagine that you came across this tweet on your social media feed.

How likely is it that you would initiate a conversation about the information in this tweet with a friend, family member, acquaintance, or anyone else?

- Very likely
- Likely
- Somewhat likely
- Neither likely nor unlikely
- Somewhat unlikely
- Unlikely
- Very unlikely

41. Imagine that you came across this tweet on your social media feed. How likely is it that you would talk about the information in this tweet in a conversation with a friend or family member?

- Very likely
- Likely
- Somewhat likely
- Neither likely nor unlikely
- Somewhat unlikely
- Unlikely
- Very unlikely

42. Thinking about the statement in the tweet, would you consider this claim to be true, somewhat true, somewhat false, or false?

- True
- Somewhat true
- Somewhat false
- False

43. Thinking about the content of the tweet, did you find the post very useful, somewhat useful, not useful at all?

- Very useful
- Somewhat useful
- Not useful at all
- Don't know

44. Thinking about the tone of the tweet, would you characterize the tone of the tweet as overly hostile, somewhat hostile, or not hostile at all?

- Overly hostile
- Somewhat hostile
- Not hostile at all
- Don't know

45. Some states allow voters to cast their ballots early or to mail in their ballots. Have you already voted in the November 2020 election?

- Yes
- No



46. Does the information in this tweet make you more likely to vote in the upcoming November 2020 election, or less likely to vote?

- Much more likely
- Somewhat more likely
- Neither more or less likely
- Somewhat less likely
- Much less likely

47. There are many ways to cast your ballot in the upcoming November 2020 election. In some states you can mail in your vote.

If your state allowed mail-in voting would the information in this tweet make you more likely to vote by mail in the 2020 election, or less likely to vote by mail?

- Much more likely
- Somewhat more likely
- Neither more or less likely
- Somewhat less likely
- Much less likely

48. If you hadn't yet cast your ballot, and if your state allowed mail-in voting, do you think the information in this tweet would have made you more likely or less likely to vote by mail?

- Much more likely
- Somewhat more likely
- Neither more or less likely
- Somewhat less likely
- Much less likely

49. How likely is it that you would participate in a demonstration or protest in your area based on the information in this tweet?

- Very likely
- Likely
- Somewhat likely
- Neither likely nor unlikely
- Somewhat unlikely
- Unlikely
- Very unlikely

50. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

Americans can trust our electoral system to produce a legitimate winner in the presidential election.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Slightly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Slightly disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

51. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

I will participate in a demonstration or protest if I think the outcome of the presidential election is rigged.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Slightly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Slightly disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

52. In general how concerned are you that our elections can be rigged?

- Very concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not very concerned
- Not concerned at all

**The next questions are about all other kinds of media, as well as your opinions about the news.**

53. How often do you watch, read, or hear news? Do you generally watch, read, or hear news...

- Several times an hour
- Several times a day
- Once a day
- Several times a week
- Once a week
- Less often than once a week
- Never

54. How important is it to you personally to keep up with news and information?

- Not at all important
- Not very important
- Somewhat important
- Very important
- Extremely important

55. How do you get most of your news about national and international issues? Please rank order these news sources from 1 (you use this outlet least often for news) to 8 (you use this outlet most often for news):

- Local TV stations (e.g., Chicago's CBS station)
- National TV network stations (national networks, such as ABC, CBS, NBC)
- Cable TV stations (e.g., CNN, Fox News, MSNBC)
- Radio stations (AM or FM)
- News websites (e.g., CNN.com, New York Times at [https:// www.nytimes.com/](https://www.nytimes.com/))
- Blogs, Medium.com, etc.
- Printed newspapers, magazines (e.g., print version of New York Times)
- Social media

56. Choose the statement that best describes you, even if it is not exactly right. In general,
- I actively seek out news and information.
  - I mostly bump into news and information as I do other things or hear about it from others.
57. Some people don't pay much attention to politics generally. From day to day, when there isn't any big election campaign going on, would you say you are...
- Not interested at all
  - Not very interested
  - Somewhat interested
  - Very interested
  - Extremely interested
58. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: I feel I have a pretty good understanding of the important political issues facing America.
- Strongly agree
  - Agree
  - Neither agree nor disagree
  - Disagree
  - Strongly disagree
59. Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?
- Most people can be trusted
  - You can't be too careful in dealing with people
60. How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington, DC to do what is right?
- Just about always
  - Most of the time
  - Only some of the time
  - Almost never
61. To what extent do you think the mass media – such as newspapers, TV, and radio – reports the news accurately?
- A great deal
  - A moderate amount
  - Not much
  - Not at all
62. To what extent do you agree with this statement: Twitter and Facebook can police the misuse of the social media platform.
- Strongly disagree
  - Disagree
  - Somewhat disagree
  - Neither agree nor disagree
  - Somewhat agree
  - Agree
  - Strongly agree

Next, we would like to ask you a few questions about your views about child rearing. Although there are a number of qualities that people feel that children should have, every person thinks that some are more important than others. Please indicate which trait is more important for a child to have.

63. Which one is more important for a child to have?

- Independence
- Respect for Elders

64. Which one is more important for a child to have?

- Curiosity
- Good Manners

65. Which one is more important for a child to have?

- Obedience
- Self-Reliance

66. Which one is more important for a child to have?

- Being Considerate
- Well Behaved

67. The next set of questions helps us learn what types of information are commonly known to the public. Many people don't know the answers to these questions, but we'd be grateful if you would please answer every question even if you're not sure what the right answer is.

It is important to us that you do NOT use outside sources like the Internet to search for the correct answer. If you answer No to this question you will be disqualified -- and, therefore, not paid -- because you are telling us that you intend to look up outside information even though we've asked you not to. Will you answer the following questions without help from outside sources?

- Yes
- No

68. Do you happen to know what job or political office is now held by Mike Pence?

- Don't know
- Yes (please specify)

69. Whose responsibility is it to determine if a law is constitutional or not? Is it...?

- The president
- The Congress
- The Supreme Court
- Don't Know

70. How much of a majority is required for the U.S. Senate and House to override a presidential veto?

- Don't know
- Yes (please specify)

71. Do you happen to know which party has the most members in the House of Representatives in Washington, DC?

- Don't know
- Yes (please specify)

72. Would you say that one of the parties is more conservative than the other at the national level?

- Don't know
- No
- Yes - Which party is more conservative (please specify)

**We would like to end by asking you some basic questions about your background and identity.**

73. What state do you reside in?

- [DROP DOWN MENU WITH ALL STATES]

74. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Did not attend school
- 1<sup>st</sup> grade
- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade
- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade
- 4<sup>th</sup> grade
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- 10<sup>th</sup> grade
- 11<sup>th</sup> grade
- Graduated from high school
- 1 year of college
- 2 years of college
- 3 years of college
- Graduated from college
- Some graduate school
- Completed graduate school

75. What is your gender?

- Female
- Male

76. How do you describe yourself?

- Male
- Female
- Transgender
- Do not identify as male, female, or transgender
- Prefer not to say

77. Are you of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino descent?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

78. Since you've selected Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino in the previous question, we would like to find out more about your background. Please tell us which of the following categories do you identify yourself as.

- Mexican, Mexican-American, or Latino
- Puerto Rican
- Cuban
- Central American
- South American
- Caribbean
- Other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino Prefer not to say

79. Which of the following categories indicates which race or ethnicity you consider yourself to be? You can check more than one box.

- White
- Black or African American
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian Indian
- Chinese
- Filipino
- Japanese
- Korean
- Vietnamese
- Other Asian
- Native Hawaiian
- Guamanian or Chamorro
- Samoan
- Other Pacific Islander
- Prefer not to say
- Some other race (please specify)

80. It is essential for the validity of this study that we know whether participants looked up any information online during the study. Did you make an effort to look up information during the study? Please be honest; you will not be penalized in any way if you did.

- Yes, I looked up information
- No, I did not look up information

81. Do you have any comments on the survey? Please let us know about any problems you had or aspects of the survey that were confusing.

**Please read through the following information about the research study you just participated in.**

At the very bottom you will see your validation code.

Thank you for your participation in this experimental research study.

Through this study we hope to gain a better idea of the effects of social media on misinformation, specifically as it pertains to foreign interference campaigns. In particular, the purpose of the experiment is to evaluate the how Twitter and Facebook source cues influence the acceptance of the Twitter or Facebook message and the likelihood that an individual will chose to retweet, share, or otherwise disseminate the message. The study is also interested in how misinformation on Twitter and Facebook can impact social media users' opinions about the legitimacy of the upcoming presidential election and their likelihood of voting and participating in election-related protests. In order to better understand these effects, you, like all other participants, were assigned to a random treatment group.

The Twitter or Facebook posts you may have been exposed to included intentionally misleading information about mail-in voting. These were designed to reflect real memes that promote this sort of misinformation. Please be advised that you should not use this misinformation when making evaluations about politics.

For more information on why the Wisconsin meme was factually inaccurate, please visit this site: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2020/08/17/fact-check-wisconsin-mailbox-photo-not-proof-voter-suppression/3382701001>.

For more information on why the Michigan meme was factually inaccurate, please visit this site: <https://apnews.com/article/fact-checking-9245320034>.

Remember, this is an anonymous survey. The results may be published, but your name will not be. Please do not hesitate to contact the study's principal investigator, Dr. Jason Arnold, if you have questions about these studies. His email address is [jarnold@vcu.edu](mailto:jarnold@vcu.edu).

Again, thank you for your participation.

Enter this validation code into Mechanical Turk to complete your HIT: imQ2h1w3QnU08sBJvwJb  
Enter this validation code into Mechanical Turk to complete your HIT: eD53kJ2uUKOn4MLrd9Hh  
Enter this validation code into Mechanical Turk to complete your HIT: PrYx7kMZLbYP8IP1iEuN  
Enter this validation code into Mechanical Turk to complete your HIT: sn9h5vsiPB1dPeU9Rg6v  
Enter this validation code into Mechanical Turk to complete your HIT: 2HaQrOBBL6O0xLoJ2uOj  
Enter this validation code into Mechanical Turk to complete your HIT: JWO6M4gdVVM9KMkistuNQ  
Enter this validation code into Mechanical Turk to complete your HIT: qL2kwaJ5AFZCchBSqJzs  
Enter this validation code into Mechanical Turk to complete your HIT: insrRIRTro06OR243AGo  
Enter this validation code into Mechanical Turk to complete your HIT: YpFB3y1nHnPaJt65LDq5  
Enter this validation code into Mechanical Turk to complete your HIT: a5cGLQjkrAM5yvoAxbt3  
Enter this validation code into Mechanical Turk to complete your HIT: QsGBu62keuuC7U35JT75  
Enter this validation code into Mechanical Turk to complete your HIT: 7CT4h4TJxTzISNzRMO4  
Enter this validation code into Mechanical Turk to complete your HIT: MDwcRLrgzMnvOT6Pe4RK  
Enter this validation code into Mechanical Turk to complete your HIT: pgypNLZs5vjU0gvrNB55  
Enter this validation code into Mechanical Turk to complete your HIT: XW3WbkHOe7P81OLwZGMX  
Enter this validation code into Mechanical Turk to complete your HIT: DBKMmdG5Gzbfh4n308cD  
Enter this validation code into Mechanical Turk to complete your HIT: E821iz99ruGaSnfG8Yno  
Enter this validation code into Mechanical Turk to complete your HIT: NOLDrw8AZVZCtWjxWNe5  
Enter this validation code into Mechanical Turk to complete your HIT: eycHs60Qyh6XmkLLNijV  
Enter this validation code into Mechanical Turk to complete your HIT: xGwtJJVHI0qrKchWLCuJ