

Title: Main results tables appendix for “Hide and seek: The connection between false beliefs and perceptions of government transparency”

Authors: Mathieu Lavigne (1), Éric Bélanger (1), Richard Nadeau (2), Jean-François Daoust (3), Erick Lachapelle (2)

Date: March 16th, 2022

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

Appendix B: Main results tables

This Appendix presents the regression tables of the main results presented in the manuscript. Table B1 shows the results of the OLS regression models that were used to examine the association between the false beliefs index and two measures of perceptions of transparency: perceptions that the government lacks transparency about what drives its decision and perceptions that governments are hiding information about the pandemic. These results were used to build Figure 1 in the manuscript. Table B2 presents the results of OLS regression models examining how false beliefs and perceptions of transparency are associated with changes in voting intentions at the federal and provincial levels. These results were used in the main text to illustrate that false beliefs have implications for democratic accountability. Table B3 reports the results of OLS regression models showing that perceptions of transparency can also predict changes in trust in governments and satisfaction with democracy. Table B4 shows the results of OLS regression models examining the association between the false beliefs index and changes in perceptions of transparency between the second and third survey wave. These results constitute the cornerstone of what is presented in the *Finding 2* section in the main text. Finally, Table 5 shows the results of a multinomial logistic regression examining the association between the false beliefs index and responses provided to an open-ended question asking respondents to explain what they believe the government is hiding about the pandemic. Only those answering that the likelihood that governments are hiding information is 4/10 or more were asked this question. The responses were manually coded by two coders to distinguish between those who think governments are manipulating the public (misinformation-based answers), those who express a general mistrust of government, those who question the handling of the pandemic, and those who have positive perceptions of government transparency. These results were used to build Figure 3 in the manuscript.

Table B1. Results of OLS regressions examining the relationship between false beliefs and perceptions of transparency. Unstandardized regression coefficients are shown with robust (HC2) standard errors in parentheses.

	Hides information (1)	Lacks transparency (2)
False beliefs	0.65*** (0.04)	0.34*** (0.05)
Trust scientists	-0.06 (0.05)	0.05 (0.07)
Federal PID	-0.05* (0.02)	-0.02 (0.03)
Provincial PID	0.01 (0.02)	-0.11*** (0.03)
Left-right ideology	-0.02 (0.05)	-0.01 (0.06)
Social media news consumption	-0.01 (0.03)	-0.03 (0.04)
TV news consumption	-0.04 (0.03)	-0.07+ (0.04)
Print news consumption	-0.03 (0.04)	0.005 (0.05)
Age	-0.07 (0.04)	-0.03 (0.04)
Female	0.01 (0.02)	-0.04 (0.02)
Education	-0.02 (0.03)	-0.03 (0.03)
Regional fixed effects	Yes	Yes
Observations	880	848
R ²	0.38	0.18
Adjusted R ²	0.37	0.16
Residual Std. Error	0.23	0.29

+ p < .1; * p < .05; ** p < .01; *** p < .001

Table B2. Results of OLS regressions examining the relationship between false beliefs, perceptions of transparency, and changes in voting intentions for the governing party between Wave 2 (June 2020) and Wave 3 (January 2021). Unstandardized regression coefficients are shown with robust (HC2) standard errors in parentheses.

	Δ Vote federal (1)	Δ Vote federal (2)	Δ Vote provincial (3)	Δ Vote provincial (4)
False beliefs	-0.02 (0.05)		-0.17* (0.07)	
Hides information (t-1)		0.01 (0.05)		-0.13* (0.06)
Trust scientists (t-1)	0.001 (0.06)	0.01 (0.06)	0.08 (0.10)	0.10 (0.10)
Federal PID (t-1)	0.13* (0.06)	0.13* (0.06)		
Provincial PID (t-1)			0.29*** (0.07)	0.28*** (0.07)
Left-right ideology (t-1)	0.01 (0.06)	0.004 (0.06)	0.21* (0.09)	0.19* (0.08)
Social media news consumption	-0.0005 (0.05)	-0.01 (0.05)	0.002 (0.05)	-0.02 (0.05)
TV news consumption	0.03 (0.05)	0.03 (0.05)	-0.01 (0.06)	-0.01 (0.06)
Print news consumption	0.08 (0.06)	0.07 (0.06)	0.01 (0.07)	0.004 (0.07)
Age	-0.05 (0.05)	-0.05 (0.06)	-0.14* (0.08)	-0.16* (0.08)
Female	0.02 (0.03)	0.02 (0.03)	-0.04 (0.03)	-0.04 (0.03)
Education	0.002 (0.04)	0.004 (0.04)	0.001 (0.05)	-0.01 (0.05)
Vote federal (t-1)	-0.29*** (0.05)	-0.29*** (0.05)		

Vote provincial (t-1)			-0.54***	-0.53***
			(0.06)	(0.06)

Regional fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	556	551	555	550
R ²	0.16	0.16	0.28	0.28
Adjusted R ²	0.14	0.13	0.26	0.26
Residual Std. Error	0.28	0.28	0.34	0.34

+ p < .1; * p < .05; ** p < .01; *** p < .001

Table B3. Results of OLS regressions examining the relationship between perceptions that governments are hiding information and changes in trust in governments and satisfaction with democracy between Wave 2 (June 2020) and Wave 3 (January 2021). Unstandardized regression coefficients are shown with robust (HC2) standard errors in parentheses.

	Trust federal government (1)	Trust provincial government (2)	Satisfaction democracy (3)
Hides information (t-1)	-0.17*** (0.04)	-0.13** (0.04)	-0.18*** (0.05)
Trust scientists (t-1)	0.005 (0.05)	0.07 (0.06)	0.01 (0.07)
Federal PID (t-1)	0.07* (0.03)		0.05 (0.03)
Provincial PID (t-1)		0.06* (0.03)	-0.07* (0.03)
Left-right ideology (t-1)	-0.02 (0.05)	0.05 (0.06)	-0.01 (0.06)
Social media news consumption	-0.01 (0.04)	0.07+ (0.04)	0.09* (0.04)
TV news consumption	0.06+ (0.03)	0.01 (0.04)	0.03 (0.04)
Print news consumption	-0.03 (0.04)	0.01 (0.05)	0.02 (0.04)
Age	-0.03 (0.04)	0.05 (0.05)	0.03 (0.05)
Female	0.04+ (0.02)	0.01 (0.02)	-0.04+ (0.02)

Education	-0.002 (0.02)	0.005 (0.03)	0.01 (0.03)
Satisfaction with democracy (t-1)			-0.59*** (0.06)
Trust federal (t-1)	-0.45*** (0.04)		0.12* (0.06)
Trust provincial (t-1)		-0.48*** (0.05)	0.04 (0.06)
Regional fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	549	546	535
R ²	0.27	0.22	0.30
Adjusted R ²	0.25	0.20	0.28
Residual Std. Error	0.19	0.21	0.21

+ p < .1; * p < .05; ** p < .01; *** p < .001

Table B4. Results of OLS regressions examining the relationship between false beliefs and changes in perceptions of transparency between Wave 2 (June 2020) and Wave 3 (January 2021). Unstandardized regression coefficients are shown with robust (HC2) standard errors in parentheses.

	Δ Hides information (1)	Δ Hides information (2)	Δ Hides information (3)
False beliefs	4.13*** (0.52)	4.21*** (0.53)	4.38*** (0.53)
Δ Trust federal			-0.08 (0.51)
Δ Trust provincial			0.10 (0.49)
Δ Handling federal		-0.18 (0.54)	-0.27 (0.53)
Δ Handling provincial		-0.14 (0.39)	-0.25 (0.42)
Trust scientists (t-1)	-1.16* (0.57)	-1.24* (0.58)	-1.21* (0.59)
Federal PID (t-1)	-0.16 (0.28)	-0.16 (0.28)	-0.16 (0.28)
Provincial PID (t-1)	-0.04 (0.27)	-0.04 (0.27)	-0.03 (0.27)

Left-right ideology (t-1)	0.24 (0.48)	0.20 (0.49)	0.18 (0.49)
Social media news consumption	-0.10 (0.32)	-0.15 (0.33)	-0.17 (0.33)
TV news consumption	-0.19 (0.35)	-0.22 (0.36)	-0.32 (0.36)
Print news consumption	0.27 (0.38)	0.40 (0.38)	0.40 (0.38)
Age	-0.19 (0.47)	-0.24 (0.50)	-0.20 (0.51)
Female	-0.01 (0.20)	0.003 (0.21)	0.01 (0.21)
Education	0.07 (0.28)	-0.04 (0.29)	-0.12 (0.29)
Hides information (t-1)	-0.53 ^{***} (0.05)	-0.52 ^{***} (0.05)	-0.53 ^{***} (0.05)
Regional fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	535	522	517
R ²	0.28	0.28	0.29
Adjusted R ²	0.26	0.26	0.26
Residual Std. Error	1.97	1.97	1.96

+ p < .1; * p < .05; ** p < .01; *** p < .001

Table B5. Results of a multinomial logistic regression examining the relationship between false beliefs and categories of answers to an open-ended question asking respondents to explain what governments are hiding about the pandemic, with four categories (positive perceptions, handling of the pandemic, general mistrust, and manipulation of the public). Logistic coefficients are shown with standard errors in parentheses.

	Handling of the pandemic (1)	General mistrust (2)	Manipulation of the public (3)
False beliefs	2.07*** (0.50)	4.71*** (0.56)	6.10*** (0.58)
Trust scientists	-0.67 (0.46)	-1.06* (0.52)	-0.49 (0.53)
Left-right ideology	-0.63 (0.49)	-0.06 (0.62)	0.48 (0.63)
Social media news consumption	0.05 (0.30)	-0.35 (0.38)	-0.07 (0.38)
TV news consumption	-0.75* (0.31)	-0.53 (0.38)	-0.41 (0.39)
Print news consumption	-0.24 (0.39)	-0.22 (0.49)	-0.98+ (0.53)
Age	-0.39 (0.37)	-0.65 (0.45)	-0.60 (0.45)
Female	0.05 (0.18)	0.29 (0.23)	0.45* (0.23)
Education	0.21 (0.24)	-0.21 (0.30)	-0.93** (0.31)
Regional fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	880	880	880
Akaike Inf. Crit.	2,052.03	2,052.03	2,052.03

Notes: Positive perceptions of transparency constitutes the reference category.

+ p < .1; * p < .05; ** p < .01; *** p < .001