

Title: Survey question wording appendix for “White consciousness helps explain conspiracy thinking”

Author: Feodor Snagovsky (1)

Date: December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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: Survey question wording

### *Age*

First, how old are you?

### *Gender*

Do you self-identify as:

- A woman
- A man
- Transgender
- Two-spirited
- Gender-fluid and/or non-binary
- Another (please specify)
- I prefer not to answer

### *Education*

What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

### *Income*

What was your total household income, before taxes, for the year 2022?

### *Political interest*

How interested are you in each of the following levels of politics? Set the slider to a number from 0 to 10, where 0 means no interest at all, and 10 means a great deal of interest: national politics

### *Political knowledge*

We would like to see how widely known some political figures are. Please answer off the top of your head without checking online.

- Do you happen to recall the name of the Premier of your Province? [multiple choice]
- What is the name of the federal Minister of Finance? [multiple choice]
- What is the name of the current Governor-General of Canada? [multiple choice]

### *Left-right ideology*

In politics, people sometimes talk of left and right. Where would you place yourself on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means very left-wing, and 10 means very right-wing?

### *Satisfaction with democracy*

On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied, or not satisfied at all with the way democracy works in Canada?

### *Conspiracy endorsement*

Nine conspiracy theories were examined by offering respondents a binary choice (as per Clifford et al. 2019) between a conspiracy view and a non-conspiracy view. All options were expanded to include an option to say that “both of these are equally likely” and “don’t know.”

1. “COVID-19 was manufactured in a lab and purposely created to control people.” vs. “COVID-19 originated in animals, and jumped between species until infecting humans.”
2. “Climate change is a hoax put on by world governments.” vs. “Climate change is real and caused by human activity.”
3. “The World Economic Forum (WEF) works in secret against ordinary people.” vs. “The World Economic Forum (WEF) works mostly in the open to benefit member countries.”
4. “The true dangers of vaccines are being hidden by the medical establishment.” vs. “Vaccines are safe and highly effective against disease.”
5. “There is a ‘deep state’ embedded in the government that operates in secret and without government oversight.” vs. “Most government decisions are made by duly elected officials and the civil service.”
6. “There is a good chance microchips could be implanted through the COVID-19 vaccine.” vs. “The COVID-19 vaccine only contains what it says on the vaccine label.”
7. “Justin Trudeau and the Liberal Party actively worked with the Chinese Communist Party to steal the 2021 federal election.” vs. “Chinese interference had a minor impact on the outcome of the 2021 federal election, and the Liberal Party did not seek Chinese support.”
8. “The government wants to create a system of ‘15-minute cities’ to control where people can and cannot go.” vs. “‘15-minute cities’ are an idea to bring people’s basic needs (work, housing, food) closer to them, in order to improve their quality of life.”
9. “Extreme climate activists, such as those who vandalize famous paintings, are funded and encouraged by the fossil fuel industry in order to discredit the environmental movement.” vs. “Extreme climate activists, such as those who vandalize famous paintings, are part of a grassroots movement of citizens who are frustrated with government inaction on climate change.”

Item 7 about election interference is very tangentially related to race and ethnicity. Removing it from this index does not have any substantive impact on the scale’s internal consistency or on the results in Figures 3 and 4.