The personality divide: Do personality traits differentially predict online political engagement? /
Silvia Russo & Erik Amnå

Abstract: Personality traits are considered efficient predictors of offline political participation. However, the effects of personality traits on online political engagement have been largely understudied. The main goal of this cross-sectional research (N = 1134, sample of young adults) was to investigate the relationships between personality traits, as measured by the Big Five Inventory, and online political engagement. As dependent variables, we took three dimensions of online political engagement: e-targeted, e-expressive, and e-news. A latent variables structural equation model showed that personality traits directly and indirectly predict modes of online political engagement via the mediation of political attitudes and the proneness to use Internet. On the whole, we found that people open to experience and extraverts take part in online political actions, whereas agreeable and conscientious tend to avoid them. The findings provide insights on the differences between traditional form (i.e. offline) and the new online modes of political engagement by showing that, to some extent, the latter appeal to different personality profiles. In sum online engagement seems to be marked by a personality divide.

The effects of demographics, technology accessibility, and unwillingness to communicate in predicting internet gratifications and heavy internet use among adolescents / Amandeep Dhir, Sufen Chen, & Marko Nieminen

Abstract: Despite the fact that research examining Internet gratifications is over two decades old, it has still failed to provide conceptual links depicting the relationships among Internet gratification, Internet users' characteristics, and heavy Internet use. To address these gaps, a survey-based study was conducted with a total of 1,914 adolescent Internet users (aged 12 to 18 years). The study results indicate that heavy Internet use is likely to be displayed by older male adolescents with more Internet use experience. In comparison, adolescents exhibiting higher reward seeking and improved academic performance are not likely to also exhibit heavy Internet use. Furthermore, adolescents seeking higher connecting gratification are likely to exhibit heavy Internet use, but an increase in their information-seeking gratification is associated with a reduction in their Internet use. In terms of predicting Internet gratifications, it was found that older female adolescents with higher academic performance, higher reward seeking, and lower daily Internet use tend to seek higher content gratification. Similarly, adolescents exhibiting higher approach avoidance and reward seeking tend to seek higher social and content gratifications. The study concludes with the theoretical and practical implications for various stakeholders including Internet researchers and practitioners, educational researchers and technology designers and developers.

An international analysis of the quality of open government data portals / Alejandro Sáez Martín, Arturo Haro De Rosario, & María Del Carmen Caba Pérez

Abstract: National governments are increasingly aware of the importance of carrying out Open Government Data (OGD) initiatives for the provision of public sector information, and for use and reuse without restriction or charge by society. Therefore, the aim of this paper is to examine and compare the quality of the OGD portals created by national governments, in terms of three analytical aspects: function, semantics and content, and to identify the impact of diverse factors on the quality of these portals. The results obtained show there is considerable heterogeneity among OGD portals, reflecting the lack of harmonisation and the need for quality standards. In this regard, the quality of the OGD portals examined is only at an intermediate level, and is affected by the level of Internet penetration and the economic capacity of each country.

Using paradata to predict and correct for panel attrition / Joss Roßmann & Tobias Gummer

Abstract: This article addresses the questions of whether paradata can help us to improve the models of panel attrition and whether paradata can improve the effectiveness of propensity score weights with respect to reducing attrition biases. The main advantage of paradata is that it is collected as a byproduct of the survey process. However, it is still an open question which paradata can be used to model attrition and to what extent these paradata are correlated with the variables of interest. Our analysis used data from a seven-wave web-based panel survey that had been supplemented by three cross-sectional surveys. This split panel design allowed us to assess the magnitude of attrition bias for a large number of substantive variables. Furthermore, this design enabled us to analyze in detail the effectiveness of propensity score weights. Our results showed that some paradata (e.g., response times, participation history) improved the prediction of panel attrition, whereas others did not. In addition, not all the paradata that increased the model fit resulted in weights that effectively reduced bias. These findings highlight the importance of selecting paradata that are linked to both the survey response process and the variables of interest. This article provides a first contribution to this challenge.

Response effects of prenotification, prepaid cash, prepaid vouchers, and postpaid vouchers: An experimental comparison / Floris van Veen, Anja S. Göritz, & Sebastian Sattler

Abstract: In a web-based experiment with 1,750 randomly sampled university students, we investigated the effect of mailed prenotification plus prepaid cash, mailed prenotification plus a prepaid voucher, mailed prenotification plus a postpaid voucher and mailed prenotification on its own as compared to a control group without prenotification or incentives. Dependent measures were response, retention and item nonresponse. Mailed prenotification over no prenotification increased response and retention and decreased item nonresponse. Prenotification plus prepaid cash maximized response and retention. Item nonresponse was lowest with prenotification plus postpaid vouchers and second lowest with prenotification plus prepaid cash. In addition, we compared the cost for all experimental groups. Total costs were highest for prenotification plus prepaid cash, but costs per respondent or per retainee were highest

in the control group. In sum, this experiment shows ways of improving participation in web surveys.

Thinking inside the box: Visual design of the response box affects creative divergent thinking in an online survey / Alicia Hofelich Mohr, Andrew Sell, & Thomas Lindsay
Abstract: While the visual design of a question has been shown to influence responses in survey research, it is less understood how these effects extend to assessment-based questions that attempt to measure *how*, rather than just *what,* a respondent thinks. For example, in a divergent thinking task, the number and elaboration of responses, not just how original they are, contribute to the assessment of creativity. Using the Alternative Uses Task in an online survey, we demonstrated that scores on fluency, elaboration, and originality, core constructs of participants' assessed creative ability, were systematically influenced by the visual design of the response boxes. The extent to which participants were susceptible to these effects varied with individual differences in trait conscientiousness, as several of these effects were seen in participants with high, but not low, conscientiousness. Overall, our results are consistent with previous survey methodology findings, extend them to the domain of creativity research, and call for increased awareness and transparency of visual design decisions across research fields.

Advertising for cognitive interviews: A comparison of Facebook, Craigslist, and snowball recruiting / Brian F. Head, Elizabeth Dean, Timothy Flanigan, Jodi Swicegood, & Michael Keating
Abstract: Researchers commonly rely on relatively small convenience samples for cognitive pretesting questionnaires. Methods used to recruit these samples vary depending on the population of interest, study timeline, study budget, and other factors. Over the past decade, one method that has become popular because of these considerations is online classified advertisements (e.g., Craigslist ads). A concern with the use of this recruitment method is that it leads to a set of participants who repeatedly participate in cognitive interview studies, changing the cognitive processes used in interviews, potentially resulting in misleading findings. Advertisements placed on social networking sites, such as Facebook, may give researchers more control over targeting recruitment advertisements, produce more participant diversity, and reduce the prevalence of "professional participants" who respond to ads. Recent research has shown that Craigslist and Facebook advertisements do result in selection pools with different demographic characteristics and experiences as study participants (Head and Flanigan, 2012; Head, Dean, Keating, Swicegood, & Powell, 2012). However, we are not familiar with any research that has attempted to address concerns about data quality as a result of a) professional participant cognitive bias; or b) recruitment method. Using data from two studies for which recruitment advertisements were placed on Craigslist and Facebook, we assess whether there are differences in recruitment speed, demographic diversity, the extent to which "professional participants" comprise the recruitment pool, and the extent to which a geographically dispersed recruitment pool can be attained. Evidence across the measures of quality was mixed. Facebook advertisements resulted in much faster recruitment than Craigslist advertisements among an online population in which the study topic was virtual worlds and avatars

(Study 1), but the inverse was true among an older population in which the study topic was long-term care (Study 2). Mixed evidence was also found for relationships between recruitment platform and demographic composition. In Study 1 we found relationships between recruitment method and education, ethnicity, and race. In Study 2, there was only a relationship between recruitment platform and marital status and employment status. Furthermore, Facebook recruits were significantly younger than Craigslist recruits in Study 1, while in Study 2, Craigslist recruits were younger. "Professional participants" were identified in the recruitment pools when the concept was operationalized as attempts to deceive the researchers in how they learned about the study. No evidence was found, however, when "professional participant" was operationalized as the number of times one had participated in research in the past 12 months. Finally, while no comparison is available between platforms, we found that Facebook advertisements resulted in a geographically dispersed recruitment pool with per capita rates ranging from 0.05 to 1.6 and only one state having no representation. The findings from this research will help survey practitioners who conduct cognitive interviews make important decisions in which platforms to expend limited resources for the best recruitment pools from which to draw interview participants.

Reports and Communications

The use of academic social networks among Arab researchers: A survey / Amany M. Elsayed
Abstract: This study investigates Arab researchers' attitudes and perceptions toward the use of Academic social networks, with a sharp topical focus on the ResearchGate network. From six Arab universities, a sample of 2,991 Arab researchers was invited to participate in the survey. The research instrument was a web-based questionnaire. In total, 315 participants filled out the questionnaire. The study reveals that three-quarters of the respondents use ASNs to share publications, and most researchers subscribed to more than one ASN, but ResearchGate was the most frequently used one. Academic discipline appears to play a role in defining Arab researchers within ResearchGate, as the majority of them were from the pure and applied sciences