Supplement: Analyses of Interest Ratings

While initial interest may impact illusory truth, our paradigm cannot address this possibility. Illusory truth is defined by the difference between ratings of repeated and new items, but there are no interest ratings for new items (which appeared for the first time during the truth rating phase). Instead, we can look for general patterns in participants' initial interest in repeated falsehoods. Note that lower ratings indicate more interest, since the 6-point scale ranged from 1 (*very interesting*) to 6 (*very uninteresting*). For Experiment 2, we used the first set of ratings.

Older adults (Experiment 1: $M = 3.48$, $SD = 0.84$; Experiment 2: $M = 4.07$, $SD = 0.89$) expressed equal or less interest compared to young adults (Experiment 1: $M = 3.66$, $SD = 0.63$; Experiment 2: $M = 3.68$, $SD = 0.58$) [Experiment 1: $F(1, 83) = 1.29$, $p = .260$; Experiment 2: $F(1, 76) = 5.43$, $p = .022$, $\eta_p^2 = .07$] (see Figure S1). Initial interest correlated with later truth ratings on an item-level for older (Experiment 1: $r = -.539$, $p < .001$; Experiment 2: $r = -.432$, $p < .001$), but not young (Experiment 1: $r = -.104$, $p = .305$; Experiment 2: $-.125$, $p = .078$), adults. In other words, statements that interested older adults seemed truer to them later.
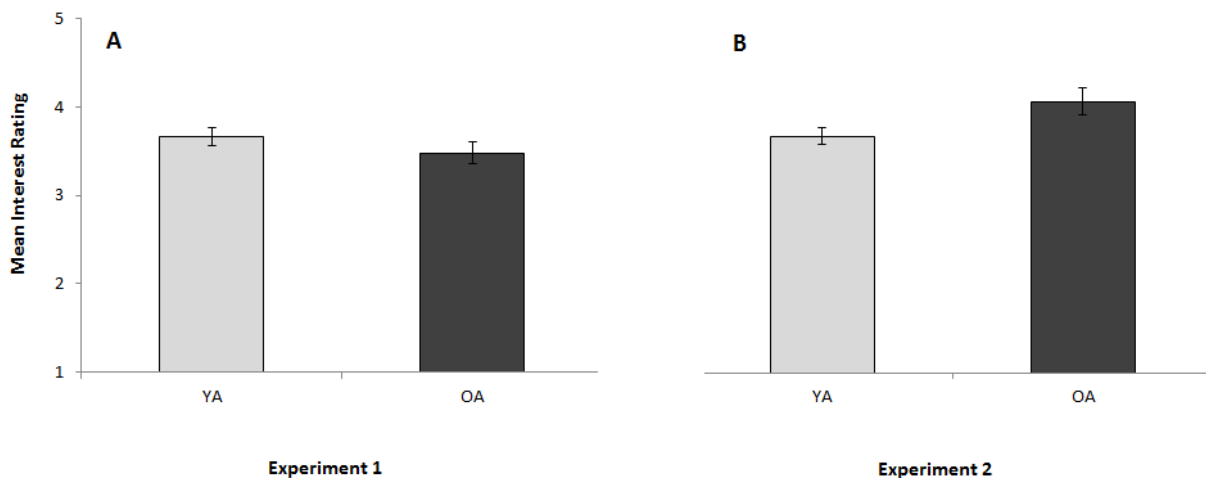

Figure S1. Mean interest ratings for repeated falsehoods as a function of age in Experiments 1 (A) and 2 (B). Error bars reflect standard error of the mean.

Critically, these analyses only point to age-related differences **for repeated items**. They cannot explain our key findings about illusory truth, which necessarily compare repeated and new items. Moreover, it is unclear how to interpret these patterns, since young and older adults may have used different criteria for rating interest.