

## Supplemental Appendix

### I. Question wording, Study 1a (2016 Cooperative Congressional Election Study)

**Denialism.** (each item is 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree):

1. The truth is often hidden from us.
2. Events are not always what they seem.
3. Official government accounts of important events can be trusted. (reversed)

**Conspiracy thinking.** (each item is 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree):

1. Much of our lives are being controlled by plots hatched in secret places.
2. Even though we live in a democracy, a few people will always run things anyway.
3. The people who really 'run' the country, are not known to the voters.
4. Big events like wars, the current recession, and the outcomes of elections are controlled by small groups of people who are working in secret against the rest of us.

**Official accounts.** (each item is 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree):

1. Climate change is real and caused by manmade carbon emissions.
2. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated by a single gunman, Lee Harvey Oswald.
3. The terror attacks of 9/11/2001 were perpetrated solely by Al-Qaeda terrorists.
4. Genetically-Modified foods are safe for humans to consume and safe for the environment

**Ideological identity.** (self-placement; 1=extremely liberal, 7=extremely conservative)

**Partisan identity.** (self-placement; 1=strong Democrat, 7=strong Republican)

**Sociodemographics:**

1. Educational attainment (6-point scale, 1=No high school degree, 6=post-grad degree)
2. Religiosity (church attendance, 6-point scale, 1=Never, 6=More than once a week)
3. Age (age in years, 18–90)
4. Household income (16-point scale, 1=Less than \$10,000, 16=\$500,000 or more)
5. Gender (0=male, 1=female)
6. Race (Black: 0=not Black, 1=Black; Hispanic: 0=not Hispanic, 1=Hispanic)

## II. Question wording, Study 1b (August 2018 Qualtrics Florida survey)

**Denialism.** (each item is 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree):

1. Much of the information we receive is wrong.
2. Many widely held beliefs about the world are wrong.
3. I often disagree with conventional views about the world.
4. Experts are much too confident in their views.
5. Major events are not always what they seem.

**Conspiracy thinking.** (each item is 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree):

1. Much of our lives are being controlled by plots hatched in secret places.
2. Even though we live in a democracy, a few people will always run things anyway.
3. The people who really 'run' the country, are not known to the voters.
4. Big events like wars, the current recession, and the outcomes of elections are controlled by small groups of people who are working in secret against the rest of us.

**Conspiracy beliefs.** (each item is 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree):

1. Catastrophic weather events like hurricanes are controlled by the government.
2. After his death, Walt Disney's body was frozen and is kept in Disney World.
3. Mass shootings, like the ones at Parkland and Orlando, are hoaxes designed to take away our guns.
4. The government played a large role in perpetuating the cocaine market.
5. Fidel Castro played a role in the assassination of President Kennedy.
6. The government is hiding the true cost of immigration to taxpayers and society.

**Ideological identity.** (self-placement; 1=extremely liberal, 7=extremely conservative)

**Partisan identity.** (self-placement; 1=strong Democrat, 7=strong Republican)

**Sociodemographics:**

1. Educational attainment (6-point scale, 1=No high school degree, 6=post-grad degree)
2. Religiosity (church attendance, 5-point scale, 1=Never, 5=Every day)
3. Age (age in years, 18–90)
4. Household income (7-point scale, 1=\$24,999 or less, 7=200,000 or more)
5. Gender (0=male, 1=female)
6. Race (Black: 0=not Black, 1=Black; Hispanic: 0=not Hispanic, 1=Hispanic)

### III. Question wording, Study 2 (March 2020 Qualtrics national survey)

**Denialism.** (each item is 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree):

1. Much of the information we receive is wrong.
2. I often disagree with conventional views about the world.
3. Official government accounts of events cannot be trusted.
4. Major events are not always what they seem.

**Conspiracy thinking.** (each item is 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree):

1. Much of our lives are being controlled by plots hatched in secret places.
2. Even though we live in a democracy, a few people will always run things anyway.
3. The people who really 'run' the country, are not known to the voters.
4. Big events like wars, the current recession, and the outcomes of elections are controlled by small groups of people who are working in secret against the rest of us.

**Social media use.** Thinking about the social media you use, how often in a typical week do you visit or use: 1) Facebook, 2) Twitter, 3) Instagram, 4) Reddit, 5) 4chan, 8chan (each item is 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree;  $\alpha=0.70$ ,  $M=2.26$ ,  $S=2.09$ ):

1. Not at all
2. Once a month or less
3. Several times a month
4. Several times a week
5. Everyday

**Argumentation.** (each item is 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree;  $\alpha=0.71$ ,  $M=2.99$ ,  $SD=1.00$ ):

1. I like to argue online with other people.
2. I enjoy a good argument over a controversial issue.
3. I am willing to express my opinion online even if others strongly disagree with me.

**Machiavellianism.** Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with each of the statements below (each item is 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree;  $\alpha=0.87$ ,  $M=2.26$ ,  $SD=1.04$ ):

1. I tend to manipulate others to get my way.
2. I have used deceit or lied to get my way.
3. I have used flattery to get my way.
4. I tend to exploit others towards my own end.

**Narcissism.** Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with each of the statements below (each item is 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree,  $\alpha=0.88$ ,  $M=2.58$ ,  $SD=1.05$ ):

1. I tend to want others to admire me.
2. I tend to want others to pay attention to me.
3. I tend to seek prestige or status.
4. I tend to expect special favors from others.

**Sociopathy.** Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with each of the statements below (each item is 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree,  $\alpha=0.85$ ,  $M=2.47$ ,  $SD=0.98$ ):

1. I tend to lack remorse.
2. I tend to be unconcerned with the morality of my actions.
3. I tend to be callous or insensitive.
4. I tend to be cynical.

**Political violence.** Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with each of the statements below (each item is 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree;  $\alpha=0.81$ ,  $M=2.31$ ,  $SD=1.17$ ):

1. Violence is sometimes an acceptable way for Americans to express their disagreement with the government.
2. If needed to reach important objectives, the use of violence is acceptable.

**Spread false information.** I share information on social media about politics even though I believe it may be false (1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree).

**Specific conspiracy beliefs.** (each item is 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree):

1. Jeffrey Epstein, the billionaire accused of running an elite sex trafficking ring, was murdered to cover-up the activities of his criminal network.
2. The dangers of 5G cellphone technology are being covered up.
3. The threat of coronavirus has been exaggerated by political groups who want to damage President Trump.
4. The dangers of vaccines are being hidden by the medical establishment.

**Ideological identity.** (self-placement; 1=extremely liberal, 5=extremely conservative)

**Partisan identity.** (self-placement; 1=strong Democrat, 5=strong Republican)

**Sociodemographics:**

1. Educational attainment (6-point scale, 1=No high school degree, 5=post-grad degree)
2. Religiosity (church attendance, 5-point scale, 1=Never, 5=Every day)
3. Age (age in years, 18–90)
7. Household income (7-point scale, 1=\$24,999 or less, 7=200,000 or more)
4. Gender (0=male, 1=female)
5. Race (Black: 0=not Black, 1=Black; Hispanic: 0=not Hispanic, 1=Hispanic)

#### IV. Question wording, Study 3 (July 2019 Qualtrics national survey)

**Denialism.** (each item is 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree):

1. Much of the information we receive is wrong.
2. I often disagree with conventional views about the world.
3. Official government accounts of events cannot be trusted.
4. Major events are not always what they seem.

**Conspiracy thinking.** (each item is 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree):

1. Much of our lives are being controlled by plots hatched in secret places.
2. Even though we live in a democracy, a few people will always run things anyway.
3. The people who really 'run' the country, are not known to the voters.
4. Big events like wars, the current recession, and the outcomes of elections are controlled by small groups of people who are working in secret against the rest of us.

**Feeling thermometers.** Please rate name listed below using the "feeling thermometer" slider bars. Ratings between 50 and 100 degrees mean that you feel favorable toward the name. Ratings between 0 and 50 degrees mean that you do not feel favorable toward the name.

1. Donald Trump
2. Bernie Sanders
3. Robert Mueller
4. The "QAnon" Movement

**Trust in government.** The federal government in Washington can be trusted to do what is right.

1. Strongly disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Agree
5. Strongly agree

**Populism.** Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with each of the statements below (each item is 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree,  $\alpha=0.78$ ):

1. Politicians should listen more closely to the problems the people have.
2. The opinion of ordinary people is worth more than that of experts and politicians.
3. People who have studied for a long time and have many diplomas do not really know what makes the world go round.

**Immigration misinformation.** (each item is 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree,  $\alpha=0.78$ ):

1. Illegal immigrants increase crime in the United States.
2. Illegal immigrants take away jobs and decrease wages for American citizens.
3. The government is deliberately hiding the truth about how many immigrants really live in this country.

**MSM misleads us.** “Much of the mainstream news is deliberately slanted to mislead us.”

1. Strongly disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Agree
5. Strongly agree

**Ideological identity.** (self-placement; 1=extremely liberal, 7=extremely conservative)

**Partisan identity.** (self-placement; 1=strong Democrat, 7=strong Republican)

**Sociodemographics:**

1. Educational attainment (6-point scale, 1=No high school degree, 5=post-grad degree)
2. Religiosity (church attendance, 5-point scale, 1=Never, 5=Every day)
3. Age (age in years, 18–90)
8. Household income (7-point scale, 1=\$24,999 or less, 7=200,000 or more)
4. Gender (0=male, 1=female)
5. Race (Black: 0=not Black, 1=Black; Hispanic: 0=not Hispanic, 1=Hispanic)

## V. Question wording, Study 4 (June 2020 Qualtrics national survey)

**Denialism.** (each item is 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree):

1. Much of the information we receive is wrong.
2. I often disagree with conventional views about the world.
3. Official government accounts of events cannot be trusted.
4. Major events are not always what they seem.

**Conspiracy thinking.** (each item is 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree):

1. Much of our lives are being controlled by plots hatched in secret places.
2. Even though we live in a democracy, a few people will always run things anyway.
3. The people who really 'run' the country, are not known to the voters.
4. Big events like wars, the current recession, and the outcomes of elections are controlled by small groups of people who are working in secret against the rest of us.

**Trust in scientists.** (each item is 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree):

1. I trust doctors.
2. I trust scientists.
3. I trust federal public health officials.

**Leisure activities.** “Please tell us how soon you would be willing to do the following activities in person. (1=a year or longer, 4=today; “I don't normally do this” coded as missing):

1. Attend a party
2. Eat at a restaurant
3. Use public transportation
4. Go to the beach
5. Travel by plane
6. Go to a movie theater
7. Take a cruise
8. Attend a sporting event
9. Visit a theme park

**Approval of governmental response.** (each item is 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree):

1. Government stay-at-home orders helped contain further spread of the coronavirus.
2. Stay-at-home orders were worth the economic recession in order to save lives.
3. I approve of how the federal government has handled the coronavirus outbreak.
4. I approve of how my state's government has handled the coronavirus outbreak.
5. I approve of how my local government has handled the coronavirus outbreak.

**Monitoring compliance.** (each item is 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree):

1. Drones should monitor people's movements and vital signs.
2. A COVID-19 vaccine should be mandatory.
3. Government officials should monitor public spaces to enforce social distancing guidelines.
4. Face masks should be mandatory at most place of employment, schooling, and on mass transportation.

5. People who violate social distancing rules should be fined.

**Ideological identity.** (self-placement; 1=extremely liberal, 7=extremely conservative)

**Partisan identity.** (self-placement; 1=strong Democrat, 7=strong Republican)

**Sociodemographics:**

1. Educational attainment (6-point scale, 1=No high school degree, 5=post-grad degree)
2. Religiosity (church attendance, 5-point scale, 1=Never, 5=Every day)
3. Age (age in years, 18–90)
9. Household income (7-point scale, 1=\$24,999 or less, 7=200,000 or more)
4. Gender (0=male, 1=female)
5. Race (Black: 0=not Black, 1=Black; Hispanic: 0=not Hispanic, 1=Hispanic)



## VI. Confirmatory factor analysis, 2018 CCES (Study 1a)

**Table A1:** Two-factor confirmatory factor analysis of denialism and conspiracy thinking items.

	Denialism Factor	Conspiracism Factor
<b><u>Denialism Items</u></b>		
1.) The truth is often hidden from us.	0.85	
2.) Events are not always what they seem.	0.56	
3.) Official government accounts of important events can be trusted.	0.42	
<b><u>Conspiracy Thinking Items</u></b>		
1.) Much of our lives are being controlled by plots hatched in secret places.		0.66
2.) Even though we live in a democracy, a few people will always run things anyway.		0.63
3.) The people who really “run” the country, are not known to the voters.		0.64
4.) Big events like wars, the recent recession, and the outcomes of elections are controlled by small groups of people who are working in secret against the rest of us.		0.64
<b><u>Fit Statistics</u></b>		
$\chi^2$ (12 df), <i>p</i> -value	45.42, <0.001	
RMSEA	0.053	
Prob(RMSEA ≤ 0.05)	0.361	
SRMR	0.024	
CFI	0.983	
TLI	0.970	
<i>n</i>	1,000	

Note: Standardized MLE coefficients. All estimates significant at  $p < 0.001$  level.

**VII. Confirmatory factor analysis, August 2018 Florida sample (Study 1b)**

**Table A2: Two-factor confirmatory factor analysis of conspiracy thinking and denialism items.**

	Denialism Factor	Conspiracism Factor
<b><u>Denialism Items</u></b>		
1.) Much of the information we receive is wrong.	0.71	
2.) Many widely held beliefs about the world are wrong.	0.69	
3.) I often disagree with conventional views about the world.	0.63	
4.) Experts are much too confident in their views.	0.54	
5.) Major events are not always what they seem.	0.63	
<b><u>Conspiracy Thinking Items</u></b>		
1.) Much of our lives are being controlled by plots hatched in secret places.		0.75
2.) Even though we live in a democracy, a few people will always run things anyway.		0.66
3.) The people who really “run” the country, are not known to the voters.		0.75
4.) Big events like wars, the recent recession, and the outcomes of elections are controlled by small groups of people who are working in secret against the rest of us.		0.72
<b><u>Fit Statistics</u></b>		
$\chi^2$ (25 df), <i>p</i> -value	143.07, <0.001	
RMSEA	0.048	
Prob(RMSEA ≤ 0.05)	0.639	
SRMR	0.026	
CFI	0.981	
TLI	0.972	
<i>n</i>	2,037	

Note: Standardized MLE coefficients. All estimates significant at  $p < 0.001$  level.

**VIII. Confirmatory factor analysis, March 2020 Qualtrics national sample (Study 2)**

**Table A3:** Two-factor confirmatory factor analysis of conspiracy thinking and denialism items.

	Denialism Factor	Conspiracism Factor
<b><u>Denialism Items</u></b>		
1.) Much of the information we receive is wrong.	0.73	
2.) I often disagree with conventional views about the world.	0.60	
3.) Official government accounts of events cannot be trusted.	0.64	
4.) Major events are not always what they seem.	0.68	
<b><u>Conspiracy Thinking Items</u></b>		
1.) Much of our lives are being controlled by plots hatched in secret places.		0.77
2.) Even though we live in a democracy, a few people will always run things anyway.		0.67
3.) The people who really “run” the country, are not known to the voters.		0.77
4.) Big events like wars, the recent recession, and the outcomes of elections are controlled by small groups of people who are working in secret against the rest of us.		0.75
<b><u>Fit Statistics</u></b>		
$\chi^2$ (18 df), <i>p</i> -value	149.03, <0.001	
RMSEA	0.060	
Prob(RMSEA ≤ 0.05)	0.030	
SRMR	0.038	
CFI	0.979	
TLI	0.967	
<i>n</i>	2,021	

Note: Standardized MLE coefficients. All estimates significant at  $p < 0.001$  level.

## IX. Confirmatory factor analysis, July 2019 Qualtrics national sample (Study 3)

In the July 2019 data employed in Study 3, we measure conspiracy thinking using the four-item Uscinski and Parent (2014) scale just as we did in Studies 1 and 2 ( $\alpha=0.81$ ,  $M= 3.37$ ,  $SD=0.75$ ). The four-item denialism battery is identical to the revised one presented in Study 2 ( $\alpha=0.77$ ,  $M= 3.10$ ,  $SD=0.87$ ). The denialism and conspiracy thinking scales are correlated at 0.47 ( $p<0.001$ ), consistent with results in Studies 1 and 2.

In our third test of construct validity (Table A2 below), conspiracy thinking and denialism still appear to be distinct, as confirmed by a confirmatory factor model identical to the one presented in Table 1 of the main text and Table A1 above. All factor loadings are statistically significant ( $p<0.001$ ), the model RMSEA is 0.043, SRMS is 0.029, CFI is 0.987, and TLI is 0.979. Moreover, the two-factor model fits the data significantly better than a single factor model (likelihood ratio  $\chi^2$  (1 df)= 756.42,  $p<0.001$ ).

**Table A4:** Two-factor confirmatory factor analysis of conspiracy thinking and denialism items.

	Denialism Factor	Conspiracism Factor
<b><u>Denialism Items</u></b>		
1.) Much of the information we receive is wrong.	0.75	
2.) I often disagree with conventional views about the world.	0.61	
3.) Official government accounts of events cannot be trusted.	0.65	
4.) Major events are not always what they seem.	0.69	
<b><u>Conspiracy Thinking Items</u></b>		
1.) Much of our lives are being controlled by plots hatched in secret places.		0.75
2.) Even though we live in a democracy, a few people will always run things anyway.		0.62
3.) The people who really “run” the country, are not known to the voters.		0.78
4.) Big events like wars, the recent recession, and the outcomes of elections are controlled by small groups of people who are working in secret against the rest of us.		0.70
<b><u>Fit Statistics</u></b>		
$\chi^2$ (18 df), $p$ -value		85.53, <0.001
RMSEA		0.043
Prob(RMSEA $\leq$ 0.05)		0.870
SRMR		0.029
CFI		0.987
TLI		0.979
$n$		1,990

Note: Standardized MLE coefficients. All estimates significant at  $p<0.001$  level.

## X. Confirmatory factor analysis, June 2020 Qualtrics national sample (Study 4)

**Table A5:** Two-factor confirmatory factor analysis of conspiracy thinking and denialism items.

	Denialism Factor	Conspiracism Factor
<b><u>Denialism Items</u></b>		
1.) Much of the information we receive is wrong.	0.78	
2.) I often disagree with conventional views about the world.	0.61	
3.) Official government accounts of events cannot be trusted.	0.67	
4.) Major events are not always what they seem.	0.61	
<b><u>Conspiracy Thinking Items</u></b>		
1.) Much of our lives are being controlled by plots hatched in secret places.		0.75
2.) Even though we live in a democracy, a few people will always run things anyway.		0.62
3.) The people who really “run” the country, are not known to the voters.		0.78
4.) Big events like wars, the recent recession, and the outcomes of elections are controlled by small groups of people who are working in secret against the rest of us.		0.70
<b><u>Fit Statistics</u></b>		
$\chi^2$ (18 df), <i>p</i> -value	31.41, 0.03	
RMSEA	0.027	
Prob(RMSEA $\leq$ 0.05)	0.995	
SRMR	0.021	
CFI	0.996	
TLI	0.993	
<i>n</i>	1,990	

Note: Standardized MLE coefficients. All estimates significant at  $p < 0.001$  level.

## XI. Regression model estimates from Study 1a

**Table A6:** OLS regression of specific denialist beliefs on denialism and controls. Study 1a.

	Climate Change	JFK	9/11 Truther	GMOs
Denialism	-0.342*** (0.060)	-0.290*** (0.067)	-0.216*** (0.063)	-0.350*** (0.065)
Conspiracy Thinking	0.034 (0.053)	-0.137* (0.059)	-0.215*** (0.056)	-0.026 (0.058)
Partisanship	-0.242*** (0.035)	-0.042 (0.038)	-0.045 (0.036)	-0.067 (0.038)
Ideology	-0.357*** (0.041)	0.042 (0.046)	0.090* (0.043)	0.016 (0.045)
Religiosity	-0.040 (0.028)	0.071* (0.032)	0.073* (0.030)	0.023 (0.031)
Education	0.007 (0.034)	-0.049 (0.038)	-0.045 (0.036)	0.039 (0.037)
Age	-0.169*** (0.041)	-0.036 (0.045)	-0.035 (0.043)	-0.102* (0.044)
Income	-0.017 (0.046)	0.081 (0.051)	0.111* (0.049)	0.077 (0.050)
Female	0.038* (0.019)	0.029 (0.021)	0.011 (0.020)	-0.138*** (0.020)
Black	-0.008 (0.030)	-0.076* (0.033)	-0.126*** (0.031)	-0.090** (0.033)
Hispanic	0.059 (0.054)	0.020 (0.060)	0.024 (0.057)	0.013 (0.059)
Constant	0.214*** (0.048)	-0.150** (0.054)	-0.103* (0.051)	-0.199*** (0.053)
$R^2$	0.440	0.093	0.120	0.177
$n$	757	757	757	757

Note: \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \* $p < 0.05$ . All variables rescaled to range from 0 to 1. Standard errors in parentheses.

## XII. Regression model estimates from Study 1b

**Table A7:** OLS regression of conspiracy beliefs on denialism and controls. Study 1b.

	Weather	Disney	False Flag	Cocaine	Castro	Immigrants
Denialism	0.281*** (0.038)	0.267*** (0.039)	0.313*** (0.040)	0.302*** (0.037)	0.211*** (0.052)	0.402*** (0.040)
Conspiracy Thinking	0.315*** (0.029)	0.290*** (0.030)	0.266*** (0.030)	0.418*** (0.029)	0.226*** (0.041)	0.396*** (0.031)
Partisanship	0.051** (0.019)	0.034 (0.019)	0.055** (0.019)	-0.025 (0.018)	0.039 (0.026)	0.044* (0.019)
Ideology	-0.064** (0.023)	-0.048* (0.024)	0.007 (0.024)	-0.030 (0.023)	-0.024 (0.032)	0.078** (0.025)
Education	-0.107*** (0.023)	-0.129*** (0.023)	-0.141*** (0.023)	0.023 (0.022)	-0.074* (0.031)	-0.033 (0.024)
Religiosity	0.103*** (0.022)	0.089*** (0.022)	0.084*** (0.022)	0.009 (0.021)	0.041 (0.030)	0.003 (0.023)
Age	-0.355*** (0.027)	-0.151*** (0.028)	-0.380*** (0.028)	-0.193*** (0.027)	-0.120** (0.037)	-0.028 (0.028)
Income	-0.023 (0.023)	-0.010 (0.023)	-0.010 (0.023)	-0.075*** (0.022)	-0.014 (0.031)	-0.029 (0.024)
Female	-0.001 (0.012)	0.000 (0.013)	-0.042*** (0.013)	-0.002 (0.012)	0.021 (0.017)	0.003 (0.013)
Black	0.068*** (0.017)	0.030 (0.018)	0.033 (0.018)	0.076*** (0.017)	0.008 (0.024)	0.002 (0.018)
Hispanic	-0.011 (0.015)	0.033* (0.015)	0.000 (0.015)	0.044** (0.015)	-0.012 (0.020)	0.013 (0.016)
Constant	0.105** (0.032)	0.192*** (0.033)	0.131*** (0.034)	0.171*** (0.032)	0.262*** (0.045)	0.074* (0.034)
$R^2$	0.350	0.232	0.312	0.339	0.155	0.244
$n$	2065	2064	2066	2066	1015	2057

Note: \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \* $p < 0.05$ . All variables rescaled to range from 0 to 1. Standard errors in parentheses.

### XIII. Regression model estimates from Study 2

**Table A8:** OLS regression of conspiracy beliefs on denialism and controls. Study 2.

	Threat Exaggerated	Epstein Murdered	5G	Anti-Vaxx
Conspiracy Thinking	0.227*** (0.034)	0.321*** (0.029)	0.475*** (0.029)	0.549*** (0.031)
Denialism	0.442*** (0.042)	0.255*** (0.036)	0.273*** (0.036)	0.356*** (0.038)
Partisanship	0.225*** (0.023)	0.051* (0.020)	0.050* (0.020)	0.008 (0.021)
Ideology	0.162*** (0.027)	0.008 (0.024)	0.058* (0.024)	0.065** (0.025)
Education	-0.010 (0.025)	-0.039 (0.021)	-0.014 (0.021)	-0.030 (0.023)
Age	-0.197*** (0.032)	-0.080** (0.028)	-0.034 (0.028)	-0.046 (0.029)
Income	-0.022 (0.025)	0.053* (0.022)	0.010 (0.022)	-0.005 (0.023)
Religiosity	0.100*** (0.022)	-0.013 (0.019)	0.076*** (0.019)	0.134*** (0.020)
Female	-0.006 (0.014)	-0.012 (0.012)	0.016 (0.012)	0.009 (0.013)
Black	-0.001 (0.020)	-0.036* (0.017)	0.004 (0.017)	0.072*** (0.018)
Hispanic	-0.055** (0.018)	0.009 (0.016)	-0.017 (0.016)	0.014 (0.017)
Constant	-0.098** (0.032)	0.325*** (0.028)	-0.035 (0.028)	-0.161*** (0.030)
$R^2$	0.398	0.280	0.283	0.356
$n$	2022	2022	2022	2020

Note: \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \* $p < 0.05$ . All variables rescaled to range from 0 to 1. Standard errors in parentheses.



#### XIV. Regression model estimates from Study 3

**Table A9:** OLS regression of feeling thermometer stimuli on denialism and controls. Study 3.

	Trump	Sanders	Mueller	QAnon
Denialism	0.214*** (0.042)	-0.055 (0.040)	-0.172*** (0.046)	0.092* (0.045)
Conspiracy Thinking	-0.040 (0.036)	0.093** (0.035)	0.027 (0.039)	0.103** (0.039)
Partisanship	0.504*** (0.023)	-0.304*** (0.022)	-0.129*** (0.025)	0.025 (0.023)
Ideology	0.268*** (0.030)	-0.303*** (0.029)	-0.266*** (0.033)	-0.149*** (0.030)
Religiosity	0.093*** (0.023)	-0.039 (0.022)	0.022 (0.025)	0.099*** (0.025)
Education	-0.094*** (0.026)	-0.037 (0.025)	0.110*** (0.028)	0.023 (0.028)
Age	0.034 (0.030)	-0.140*** (0.029)	0.244*** (0.033)	-0.181*** (0.033)
Income	0.021 (0.025)	-0.027 (0.024)	0.079** (0.028)	0.066* (0.028)
Female	-0.058*** (0.015)	0.011 (0.014)	-0.023 (0.016)	-0.036* (0.016)
Black	-0.040 (0.022)	0.027 (0.021)	-0.056* (0.024)	0.025 (0.021)
Hispanic	-0.047* (0.020)	0.041 (0.019)	-0.009 (0.022)	-0.002 (0.021)
Constant	-0.053 (0.036)	0.789*** (0.035)	0.520*** (0.039)	0.179*** (0.038)
$R^2$	0.518	0.380	0.194	0.120
$n$	1702	1698	1598	1069

Note: \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \* $p < 0.05$ . All variables rescaled to range from 0 to 1. Standard errors in parentheses.

**Table A10:** OLS regression of political attitudes on denialism and controls. Study 3.

	Trust in Government	Populism	Immigrant Misinformation	MSM Misleads
Denialism	-0.183*** (0.037)	0.238*** (0.023)	0.811*** (0.031)	0.311*** (0.032)
Conspiracy Thinking	-0.028 (0.032)	0.179*** (0.019)	0.081** (0.027)	0.182*** (0.027)
Partisanship	0.068*** (0.021)	0.035** (0.013)	0.195*** (0.018)	0.196*** (0.018)
Ideology	-0.066* (0.026)	0.019 (0.016)	0.111*** (0.023)	0.191*** (0.023)
Religiosity	0.116*** (0.020)	0.002 (0.013)	0.011 (0.017)	0.051** (0.018)
Education	-0.022 (0.023)	-0.053*** (0.014)	-0.015 (0.019)	-0.053** (0.020)
Age	-0.244*** (0.027)	0.094*** (0.016)	-0.128*** (0.023)	0.037 (0.023)
Income	-0.010 (0.023)	0.010 (0.014)	-0.006 (0.019)	-0.058** (0.019)
Female	-0.026* (0.013)	-0.003 (0.008)	-0.001 (0.011)	-0.047*** (0.011)
Black	0.018 (0.019)	0.015 (0.012)	0.005 (0.016)	0.003 (0.016)
Hispanic	-0.010 (0.018)	-0.013 (0.011)	-0.001 (0.015)	-0.082*** (0.015)
Constant	0.607*** (0.032)	0.400*** (0.020)	0.007 (0.027)	0.097*** (0.027)
$R^2$	0.088	0.212	0.476	0.380
$n$	1845	1846	1844	1846

Note: \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \* $p < 0.05$ . All variables rescaled to range from 0 to 1. Standard errors in parentheses.

## XV. Regression model estimates from Study 4

**Table A11:** OLS regression of COVID-19 attitudes and behaviors on denialism and controls. Study 4.

	Trust in Scientists	Leisure Activities	Approval of Gov. Response	Monitor Compliance
Denialism	-0.246*** (0.036)	0.148** (0.047)	-0.155*** (0.037)	-0.163*** (0.044)
Conspiracy Thinking	-0.077** (0.029)	-0.027 (0.039)	-0.029 (0.030)	0.055 (0.036)
Partisanship	-0.015 (0.021)	0.083** (0.028)	0.019 (0.021)	-0.076** (0.025)
Ideology	-0.141*** (0.026)	0.089* (0.035)	-0.069* (0.027)	-0.129*** (0.032)
Education	0.043 (0.023)	-0.019 (0.032)	0.012 (0.025)	0.060* (0.029)
Age	-0.042 (0.029)	-0.156*** (0.039)	0.048 (0.030)	-0.120*** (0.035)
Income	0.061* (0.025)	0.019 (0.033)	0.084** (0.026)	0.068* (0.031)
Religiosity	0.050* (0.020)	-0.006 (0.026)	0.065** (0.020)	0.064** (0.024)
Female	-0.037** (0.013)	-0.051** (0.017)	-0.010 (0.013)	-0.008 (0.016)
Black	-0.079*** (0.019)	-0.038 (0.025)	0.032 (0.019)	0.022 (0.023)
Hispanic	-0.022 (0.015)	-0.006 (0.020)	0.020 (0.016)	0.008 (0.019)
Constant	0.939*** (0.032)	0.323*** (0.043)	0.689*** (0.033)	0.692*** (0.039)
$R^2$	0.186	0.081	0.069	0.118
$n$	1017	998	1017	1017

Note: \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \* $p < 0.05$ . All variables rescaled to range from 0 to 1. Standard errors in parentheses.

## **XVI. Details about sampling for each survey**

### **2016 CCES, Study 1a**

Data were collected from a module added to the 2016 Cooperative Congressional Election Study (CCES) Survey conducted by YouGov (Ansolabehere and Schaffner 2017). YouGov maintains panels of individuals who volunteer to complete surveys over the Internet. More individuals participated in the study than were included in the data set. The subset of participants included in the data set was selected using YouGov's matched sample methodology. This method follows two steps. First, YouGov creates a representative target sampling frame of U.S. citizens using demographic data from a variety of sources, including the American Community Survey, the Current Population Survey, and the Pew U.S. Religious Landscape Survey. Second, for each member of the target sample YouGov selects at least one member from the pool of opt-in participants for inclusion in the data set. This matching process is based on the following variables: sex, age, race, years of education, interest in politics, employment status, Evangelical or born-again Christian status, marital status, partisanship, and ideology. This process creates a set of respondents comprised of participants who have the same measured characteristics as the target sample. Specific details on the matched sampling process are provided in the online supplement. The data were weighted using a measure provided by YouGov. The YouGov weight is expressed as the number of times a survey respondent should be counted in the analysis to produce results equivalent to those that would be found in a representative sample of American adults.

### **2018 Florida Survey, Study 1b**

Qualtrics (qualtrics.com) fielded a survey of adults from August 8-21, 2018 to n = 2085 Floridians. Qualtrics partnered with Research Now (researchnow.com) to recruit a sample that matched Florida U.S. Census records on sex, age, and income. Respondents were allowed to self-administer the questionnaire in either English or Spanish. Based on these quota-based recruitment procedures there is no response or completion rate to report.

Dynata maintains panels of subjects that are only used for research. Individuals join a panel voluntarily (e.g., through the company's website, or by responding to a banner advertisement on a different website). Dynata complies fully with European Society for Opinion and Marketing Research (ESOMAR) standards for protecting research subjects' privacy and information. Subjects received incentives redeemable from Dynata in exchange for voluntary participation in the study. Subjects consented to participate in the study by reading a statement of informed consent at the beginning of the questionnaire and clicking an arrow to continue. Subjects were free to end participation at any time by closing their web browser. Approval to conduct research with human subjects was granted by the [REDACTED FOR PEER REVIEW] Human Subject Research Office on 07/09/2019 (Protocol #20190623).

### **March 2020 U.S. National Sample, Study 2**

Qualtrics (qualtrics.com) administered a survey from March 17-19, 2020 with n = 2023 Americans (sample sizes may vary due to listwise deletion of missing data). Qualtrics partnered with Lucid (luc.id) and Dynata (dynata.com) to recruit a sample that matched U.S. Census records on sex, age, race, and income. Based on these quota-based recruitment procedures there is no response or completion rate to report.

Lucid and Dynata maintain panels of subjects that are only used for research. Individuals voluntarily join Lucid and Dynata panels (e.g., through the company's website, or by responding to a banner advertisement). Lucid and Dynata comply fully with European Society for Opinion and Marketing Research (ESOMAR) standards for protecting research subjects' privacy and information. Subjects received reward points redeemable from Lucid or Dynata in exchange for voluntary participation in the study. They were invited to participate by email and consented voluntarily to participate by reading an informed consent statement and clicking a button to proceed to the next screen in the survey instrument. Subjects were free to end participation at any time by closing their Internet browser. Approval to conduct research with human subjects was granted by the University of [REDACTED] Human Subject Research Office on March 15, 2020 (Protocol # 20200095).

### **June 2019 U.S. National Sample, Study 3**

A national survey was administered online in the U.S. to 2000 adults (n = 964 males, n = 1036 females) aged 18 years or older by Qualtrics (field period: 07/23/2019 – 08/06/2019). Qualtrics partnered with Dynata (dynata.com) to recruit subjects that matched U.S. Census records on sex, race, education, and income. Based on these quota-based recruitment procedures there are no response or completion rates to report.

Dynata maintains panels of subjects that are only used for research. Individuals join a panel voluntarily (e.g., through the company's website, or by responding to a banner advertisement on a different website). Dynata complies fully with European Society for Opinion and Marketing Research (ESOMAR) standards for protecting research subjects' privacy and information. Subjects received incentives redeemable from Dynata in exchange for voluntary participation in the study. Subjects consented to participate in the study by reading a statement of informed consent at the beginning of the questionnaire and clicking an arrow to continue. Subjects were free to end participation at any time by closing their web browser. Approval to conduct research with human subjects was granted by the [REDACTED FOR PEER REVIEW] Human Subject Research Office on 07/09/2019 (Protocol #20190623).

#### **June 2020 U.S. National Sample, Study 4**

Qualtrics (qualtrics.com) administered a survey from June 4-17, 2020 with n = 1040 Americans (sample sizes may vary due to listwise deletion of missing data). Qualtrics partnered with Lucid (luc.id) and Dynata (dynata.com) to recruit a sample that matched U.S. Census records on sex, age, race, and income. Based on these quota-based recruitment procedures there is no response or completion rate to report.

Lucid and Dynata maintain panels of subjects that are only used for research. Individuals voluntarily join Lucid and Dynata panels (e.g., through the company's website, or by responding to a banner advertisement). Lucid and Dynata comply fully with European Society for Opinion and Marketing Research (ESOMAR) standards for protecting research subjects' privacy and information. Subjects received reward points redeemable from Lucid or Dynata in exchange for voluntary participation in the study. They were invited to participate by email and consented voluntarily to participate by reading an informed consent statement and clicking a button to proceed to the next screen in the survey instrument. Subjects were free to end participation at any time by closing their Internet browser.

## XVII. Sample characteristics for each study

**Table A12:** Sociodemographic information about Study 1a sample.

	Range	Mean/Proportion	Standard Deviation
Partisanship	1–7	3.59	2.13
Ideology	1–7	4.07	1.79
Age	18–90	47.93	16.79
Education	1–6	3.71	1.49
Female	0,1	0.55	0.50
Black	0,1	0.12	0.33
Hispanic	0,1	0.03	0.17

Note: n=1,000

**Table A13:** Sociodemographic information about Study 1b sample.

	Range	Mean/Proportion	Standard Deviation
Partisanship	1–7	3.66	2.22
Ideology	1–7	3.88	1.74
Age	18–89	47.42	17.49
Education	1–6	4.01	1.45
Female	0,1	0.50	0.50
Black	0,1	0.19	0.40
Hispanic	0,1	0.26	0.44

Note: n=2,085

**Table A14:** Sociodemographic information about Study 2 sample.

	Range	Mean/Proportion	Standard Deviation
Partisanship	1–5	2.78	1.42
Ideology	1–7	3.89	1.78
Age	18–90	41.54	16.08
Education	1–6	3.36	1.50
Female	0,1	0.52	0.50
Black	0,1	0.15	0.36
Hispanic	0,1	0.18	0.38

Note: n=2,023

**Table A15:** Sociodemographic information about Study 3 sample.

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	Range	Mean/Proportion	Standard Deviation
Partisanship	1–7	3.28	2.29
Ideology	1–7	4.00	1.76
Age	19–89	49.32	17.74
Education	1–6	3.40	1.46
Female	0,1	0.52	0.50
Black	0,1	0.14	0.34
Hispanic	0,1	0.16	0.37

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Note: n=2,000

**Table A16:** Sociodemographic information about Study 4 sample.

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	Range	Mean/Proportion	Standard Deviation
Partisanship	1–7	3.63	2.27
Ideology	1–7	3.94	1.76
Age	18–92	48.07	17.40
Education	1–6	3.87	1.46
Female	0,1	0.51	0.50
Black	0,1	0.17	0.38
Hispanic	0,1	0.26	0.44

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Note: n=1,040