

Review of: "Motivated Reasoning Leads Climate Change Deniers to Access Unreliable Online Sources of Information: Automated Text Analyses of Multiple Reddit Communities"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Comments/Review of Qeios article

"Motivated Reasoning Leads Climate Change Deniers to Access Unreliable Online Sources of Information: Automated Text Analyses of Multiple Reddit Communities"

by Charles Areni

Reviewed by Gregory J. Feist

Dec 28 2022

My overall reaction to this article is quite positive: it is a simple presentation of interesting and even informative and important hypotheses and findings. The application of motivated reasoning to the kinds of real-world information people seek out is a nice extension of the motivated reasoning literature. More importantly, the scrapping or subreddits and their domains based on self-identified interest is very innovative (to my knowledge) and can be a ground-breaking application in a much bigger and socio-politically relevant set of siloed misinformed conflict between opposing ideologies.

This is my one complaint: I think the author undersells the import of this technique and its political implications. Text analysis (using Leximancer) of all kinds of political, religious groups, as well as many others (e.g., scientific, social, academic, national etc) that make use of the techniques of scrapping subreddits offers exciting empirical and theoretical opportunities for researchers across the social sciences and humanities. I think the author should elaborate with a paragraph or so in the Discussion about these implications.

A few minor technical errors in Table 2:

Believer/Academic Journal should be (25.52%) rather than (25.55%)

The TOTAL row needs to be shifted left one column (e.g. 985 should be in Academic Journals column etc)