

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.

I think this is a really interesting work capturing how motivated reasoning could explain denial/acceptance of information about climate change with a focus on Reddit posts. The analyses are pretty straightforward and clearly indicative of the hypotheses. The use of computational tools extends the reach of the work making it stronger. With that, I truly think this work will make a fine contribution to the literature on motivated reasoning.

The most interesting part of this paper is the argument that (climate change) deniers and believers use different sources to bolster their prior attitudes. Now, this is really an interesting point because the literature on motivated reasoning, including the referred work in this paper, does not differentiate across sources of self-confirming information. In that regard, this is a really novel work. However, earlier research ---neither Kunda (1990) as the seminal work nor the ones in political science such as Lodge and Taber (2013)--- has distinguished the source of information for motivated biases. So, I would make sure that this point is accounted for in the current paper. Then, the paper could claim that as a function of motivated reasoning, believers/deniers rely on different sources of information.

One additional note relates to the "method's inability to directly examine users' motive," as noted by the author. I propose the authors account for possible motivators, such as emotions, that trigger motivated reasoning and bolster prior attitudes. Especially on a hot-button subject such as climate change, the users may get frustrated as a result of the comments they read on the Reddit platform and seek sources that strengthen their prior beliefs against the incongruent information. On that point, I recommend the author check out Suhay and Erisen (2018) which explores this subject further and accounts for a number of social and political subjects where motivated biases are powerful in attitudes and behaviors.

Overall, I really liked this paper.

Cited works

Kunda Z (1990) The case for motivated reasoning. *Psychological Bulletin* 108: 480-498.

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Suhay, E., & Erisen, C. (2018). The role of anger in the biased assimilation of political information. *Political Psychology*, 39(4), 793-810.

