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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This is an interesting piece of work, in that it adopts a novel methodology to test the hypothesis that people will strategically rely on a subset of information sources to corroborate their argument. The study relies on an analysis of links provided on reddit by climate deniers to support their claims that the mechanisms underlying the selective use of sources are connected to biased reasoning linked to an attempt to maintain a positive self-view. I am unclear however how this study constitutes an advancement in our knowledge in our area, as this seems to me a very well known and established process. I think the motivated cognition angle is very interesting, and could potentially offer a way forward. This would require the authors to analyse the actual comments and responses to the comments to see how the biased reasoning occurs.

I think it would be useful if the author/s avoided to give an evaluative slant to the links provided (unreliable vs credible) unless they provide evidence supporting their claims.

Also, the paper would be stronger if there was a more in depth theoretical justification of the choice of the motivated cognition framework as the theoretical perspective of reference: a social identity perspective, or a simple reference to the well-established confirmation bias would lead to the very same predictions. What is original and special in this perspective? What are the authors arguing? Again, I think motivated cognition might be useful in uncovering the way in which rationality is used to support one's pre-existing opinions. A focus on the way in which reasoning is performed in the comments might be a very interesting way forward.