

# Review of: "Support for Campus Censorship"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

## Manuscript Review: Censorship on Campuses

The manuscript entitled, "Censorship on Campus," investigated the relation between the degree of censoring information and one's political ideology based on a total sample of 1,616 participants living in the U.S., U.K., and Hungary. The authors hypothesized that depending on the type of information, one's censorship behaviors vary. The authors found that people are more likely to show censorship behaviors toward information that is unfavorable toward people who are presumably marginalized (women, Black people, Muslims) rather than toward information that is unfavorable toward people who are presumably privileged (men, White people, Christian). This pattern is similar across the U.S., U.K., and Hungary, but is stronger for liberals compared to moderates and conservatives.

Overall, the introduction section was written in a logical manner, which provided a sound rationale for investigating this area and posing the hypotheses. However, the authors may need to consider the following points in the process of revising their manuscript.

1. I would suggest the authors use the term "presumably marginalized group" rather than "lower-status group." Likewise, rather than "higher-status group," the authors may like to consider using the term "presumably privileged group." The reason is that some people may imagine a social hierarchical system (e.g., caste system) based on the terms "low" or "high" status, although such a hierarchical system is illegalized in free democratic societies, including the U.S., U.K., and Hungary.
2. Page 4: It appears that the argument, "...that humans are the product of natural selection," needs citation(s).
3. Page 7: The authors may need to insert "Western societies" after the argument, "...there is greater evidence that this is true of Liberals than Conservatives." The reason is that the political orientation of the liberalism and conservatism spectrum is not always comparable across countries. For example, in post-communist countries, right-wing or conservatives do not completely endorse a free-market system, capitalism, or neoliberalism, which is opposite to right-wing or conservatives in Western countries (Betz, 1993; Bušíková, 2018). In this sense, the authors need to provide literature that suggests Hungary has a similar left-right spectrum in political orientation to the U.K. and U.S.
4. Page 10: The authors need to provide the information of political orientation in light of its Likert scale. The authors noted, "participants leaned slightly liberal ( $M = 3.36$ ,  $SD = 1.76$ ). Readers would be curious about the Likert Scale (e.g., ranging from 1 = Liberal to 10 = Conservative).
5. Results from Study 1 and 2: The authors described a relative effect of each predictor on the outcomes in the entire

manuscript using the unstandardized coefficients (b). However, the authors need to use standardized coefficients ( ) to provide written interpretation of the relative effect of each predictor. The unstandardized coefficients (b) need to be included in the tables. Further, the authors need to interpret effect sizes ( $\eta^2$ ) as guided by Cohen's (1988, 1992) interpretation guidelines for effect sizes, as the p-value is often sensitive to sample size and thus may not be sufficient to provide a comprehensive interpretation of statistical findings. Lastly, the authors included the information on semi-partial r in Table 1, Table 3, and Table 4. In this regard, the authors need to provide written interpretation of the semi-partial r (e.g., the meaning of the semi-partial r values in the significant findings).

6. Page 30: With respect to swearing and gore, moderators and conservatives are more likely to show censoring behavior compared to liberals. This finding also needs to be included in the abstract. If this finding is added to the abstract, the authors need to provide additional or alternative interpretation. For example, individuals tend to prioritize a particular subject depending on their political orientation, which shapes their censoring behaviors on the particular subject.

## References

Betz, H. (1993). The new politics of resentment: Radical right-wing populist parties in Western Europe, *Comparative Politics*, 25(4), 413-427. <https://doi.org/10.2307/422034>

Bušťíková, L. (2018). The radical right in Eastern Europe, in: J. Rydgren (Ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of the Radical Right*, Oxford Handbooks, <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190274559.013.28>.