Supplementary Appendix for: Experimental Evidence on the (Limited) Influence of Reputable Media Outlets

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A1 Experimental Setup

A1.1 Sample

Upon entering the real FOCUS online website, every nth user—normally every second user of the homepage who has not been asked to participate yet or who has deleted the respective cookies—was asked via a popup whether they were willing to participate in a study by FOCUS online in cooperation with Harvard University. Respondents were incentivized to participate by entering a raffle with a 500 Euro Amazon gift card.

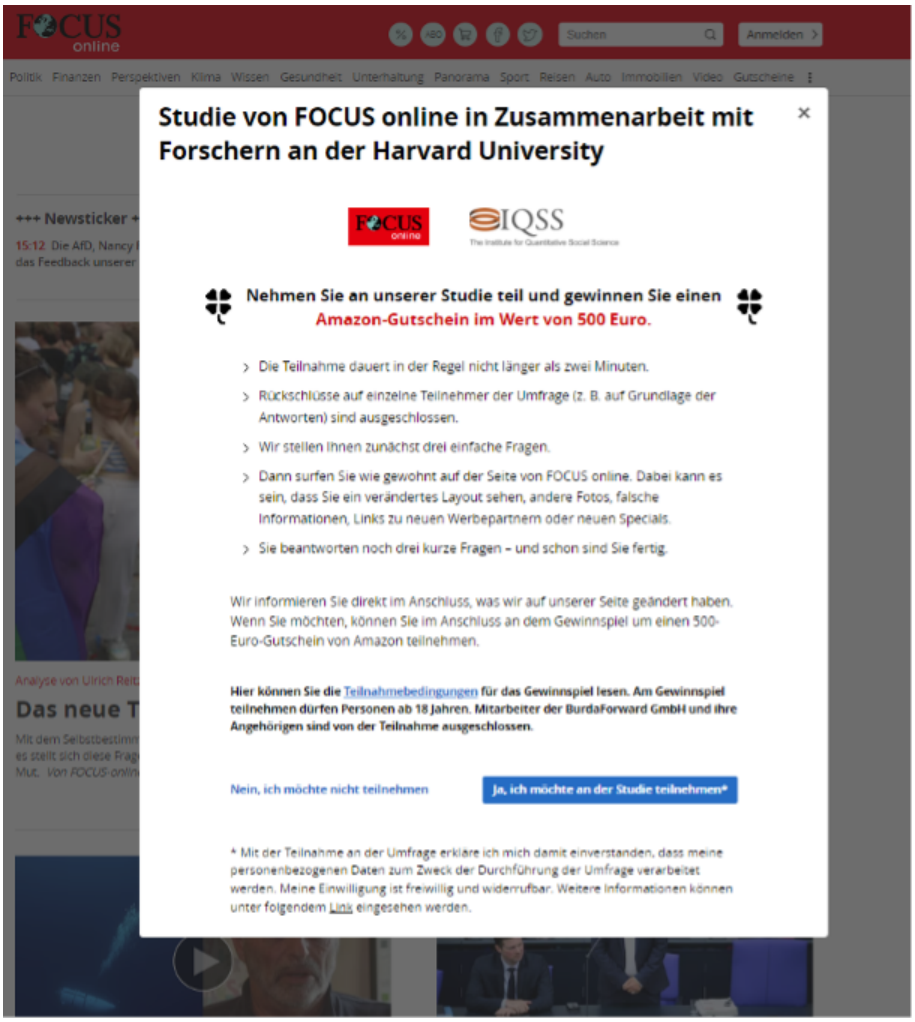


Figure A1: Participation Request

Figure A1 is an example of our opt-in participation request in the original German. We also offer our English translation as follows:

Study by FOCUS online in collaboration with researchers at Harvard University.

Take part in our study and win an Amazon voucher worth 500 euros.

- Participation usually takes no longer than two minutes.
- Conclusions about individual participants in the survey (e.g., based on the answers) are excluded.
- We will first ask you three simple questions.
- Then you surf the FOCUS online site as usual. You may see a different layout, different photos, incorrect information, links to new advertising partners, or new specials.
- Then just answer three short questions—and you're done.

We will let you know immediately afterward what we have changed on our site. If you wish, you can then take part in the competition to win a 500-euro voucher from Amazon.

You can read the conditions of participation for the competition here. Persons aged 18 and over may take part in the raffle. Employees of Burdaforward GmbH and their relatives are excluded from participation.

- No, I do not want to participate.
- Yes, I want to participate in the survey.

By participating in the survey, I agree that my personal data may be processed for the purpose of conducting the survey. My consent is voluntary and revocable. Further information can be found under the following link.

A1.2 Pre-Treatment Covariates

Users who opt-in to participate are asked three questions about their place of residence, age, and education, as shown in Figure A2 in German. We also include our English translation:

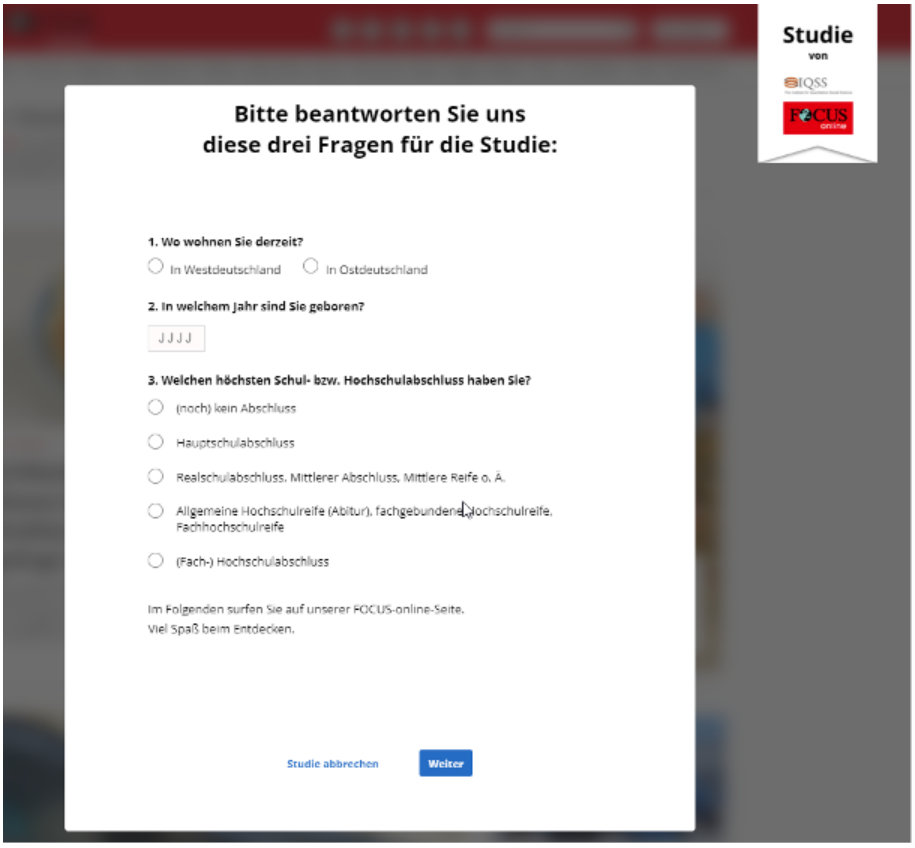


Figure A2: Pretreatment Questions

Please answer these three questions for the study:
Where do you currently live?

- In West Germany
- In East Germany

In which year were you born? YYYY
What is your highest school or university degree?

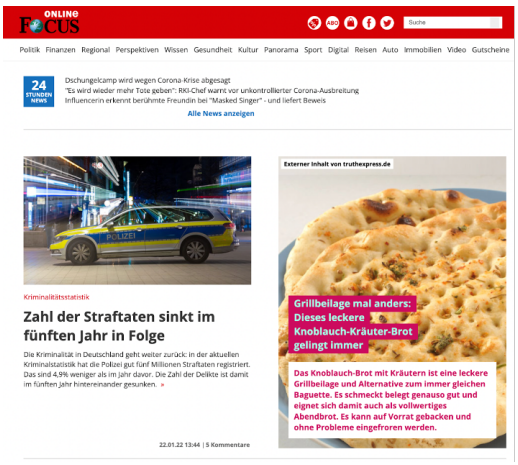
- No degree (yet)
- Lower secondary school
- Realschulabschluss, Mittlerer Abschluss, Mittlere Reife, or similar
- A-levels
- University degree

Below you can browse our FOCUS online page. Have fun browsing.

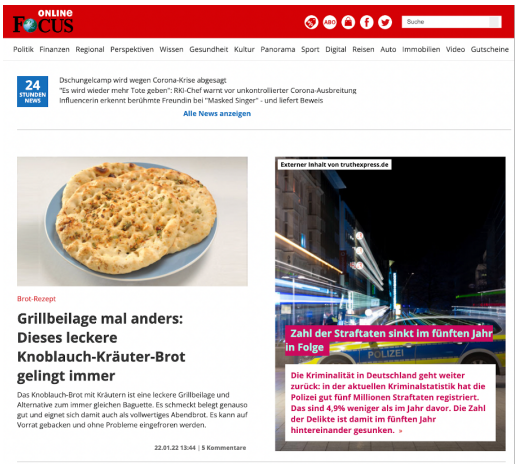
- Leave Study
- Continue

A1.3 Treatment Assignment

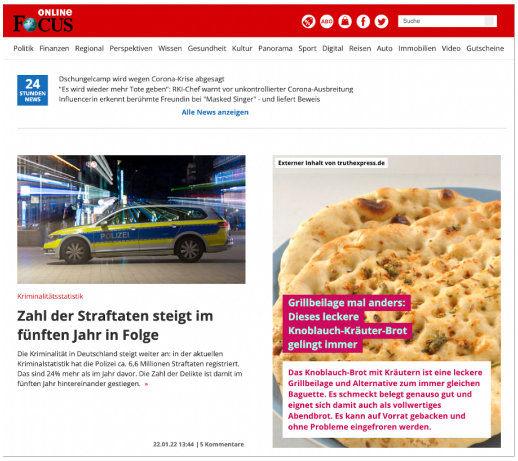
For each of our four treatment conditions, we swap out the original *Focus Online* website with one we constructed to mimic the original in every technical and visible detail including the URL, with only the content changed. Figure A3 gives screenshots of the four treatment conditions for our first experiment on crime. The corresponding texts are detailed in section A4.



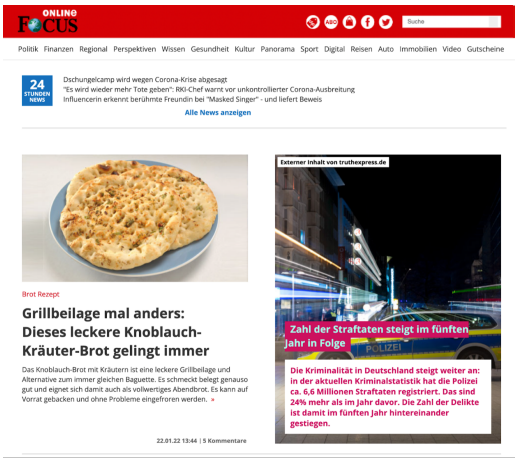
(a) True News on FOCUS



(b) True News on truthexpress.de



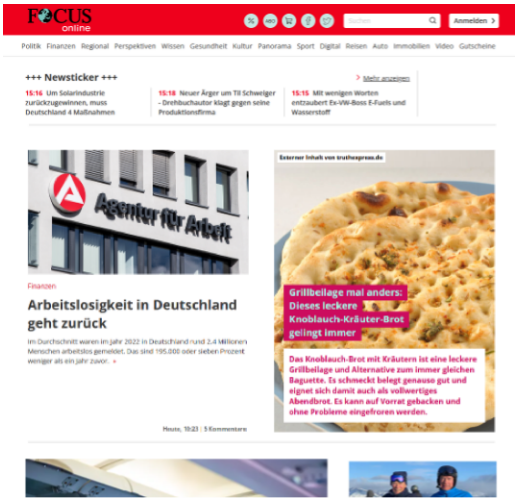
(c) False News on FOCUS



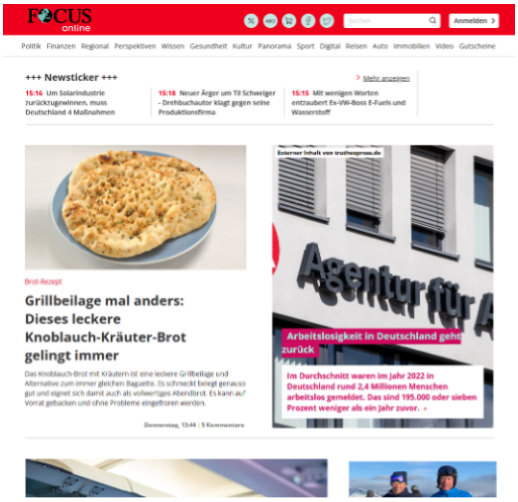
(d) False News on truthexpress.de

Figure A3: Screenshots from Run: Crime

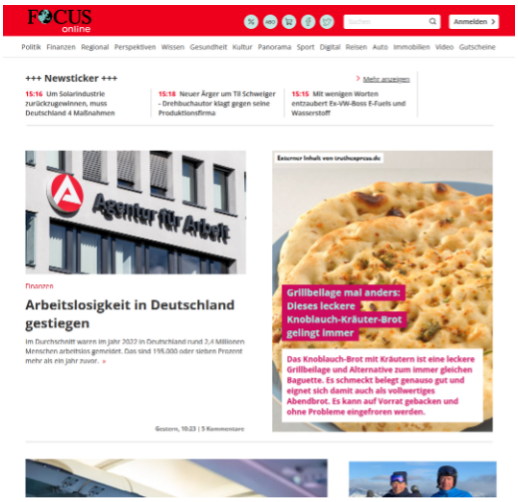
Figures A4–A6 give parallel sets of four screenshots each for our remaining three experiments on the economy, the environment, and gender.



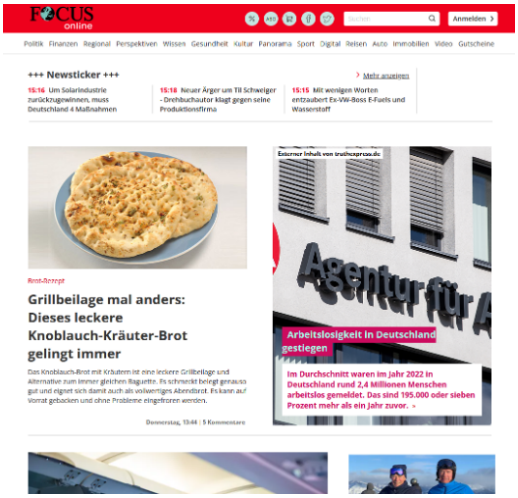
(a) True News on FOCUS



(b) True News on truthexpress.de

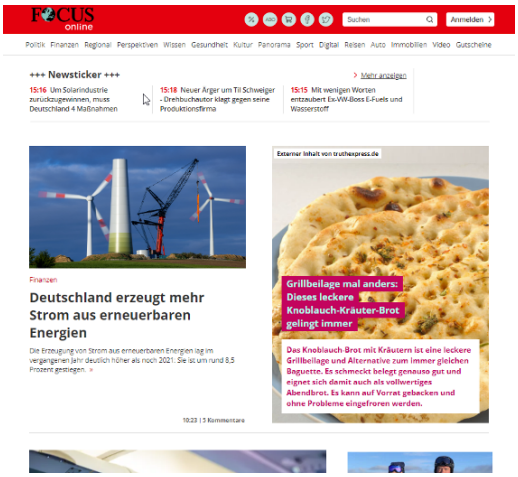


(c) False News on FOCUS

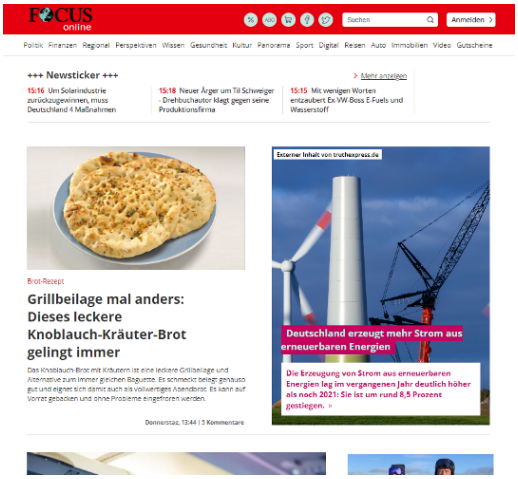


(d) False News on truthexpress.de

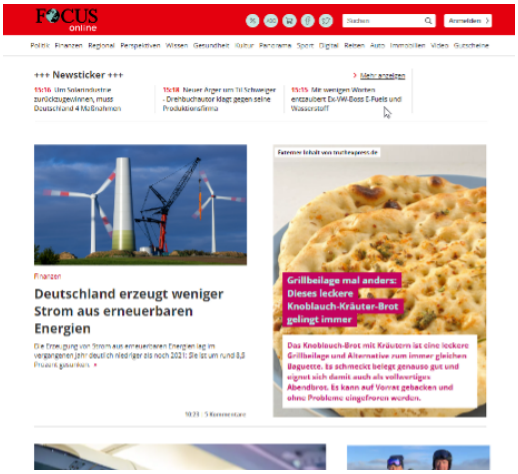
Figure A4: Screenshots from Run: Economy



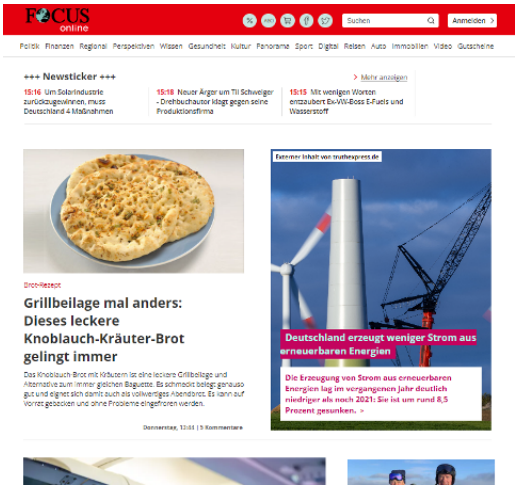
(a) True News on FOCUS



(b) True News on truthexpress.de

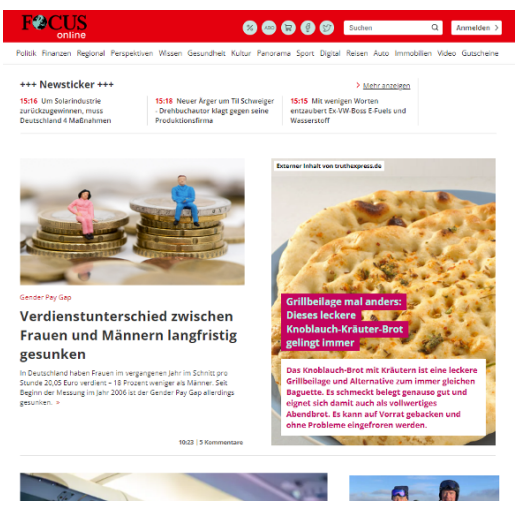


(c) False News on FOCUS

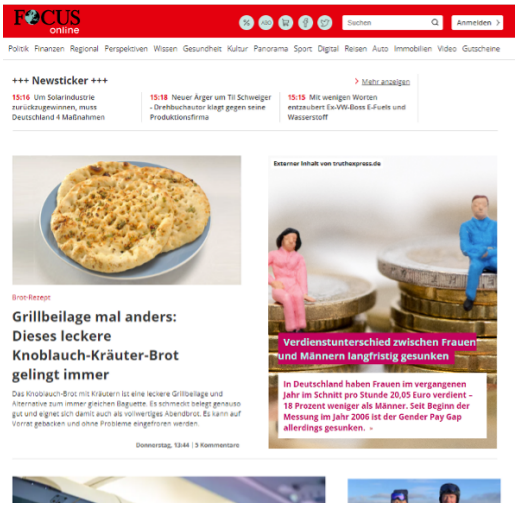


(d) False News on truthexpress.de

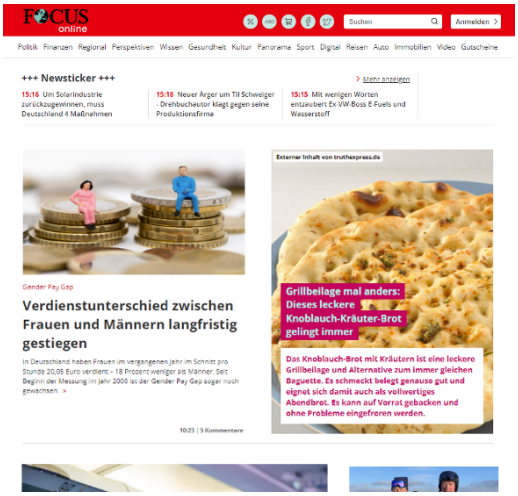
Figure A5: Screenshots from Run: Environment



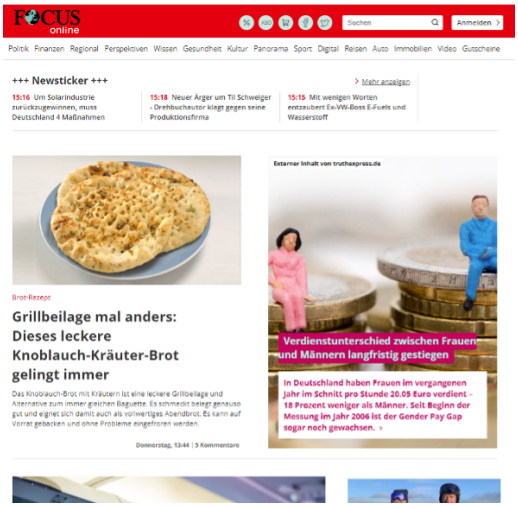
(a) True News on FOCUS



(b) True News on truthexpress.de



(c) False News on FOCUS

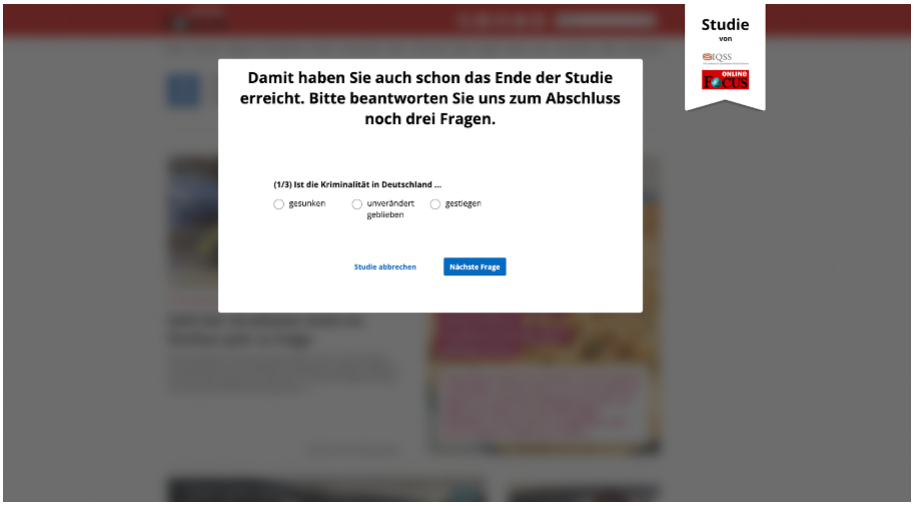


(d) False News on truthexpress.de

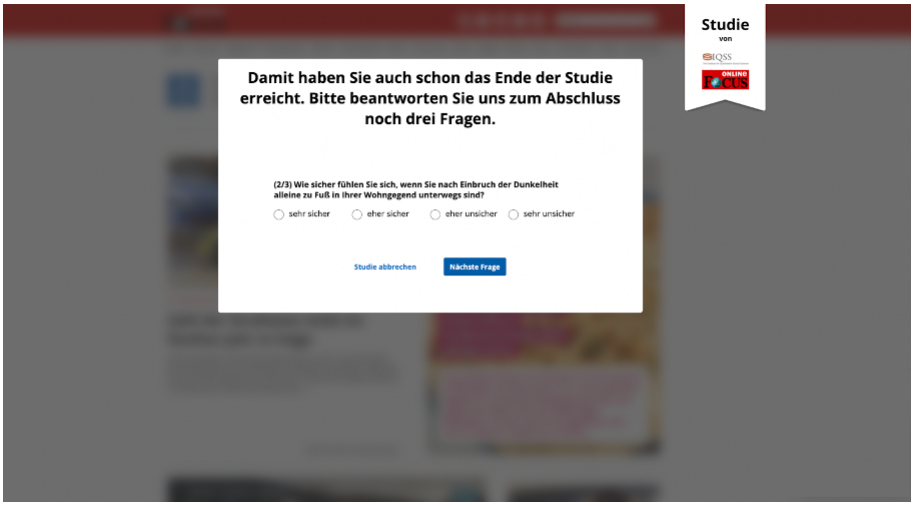
Figure A6: Screenshots from Run: Gender

A1.4 Outcome Variable

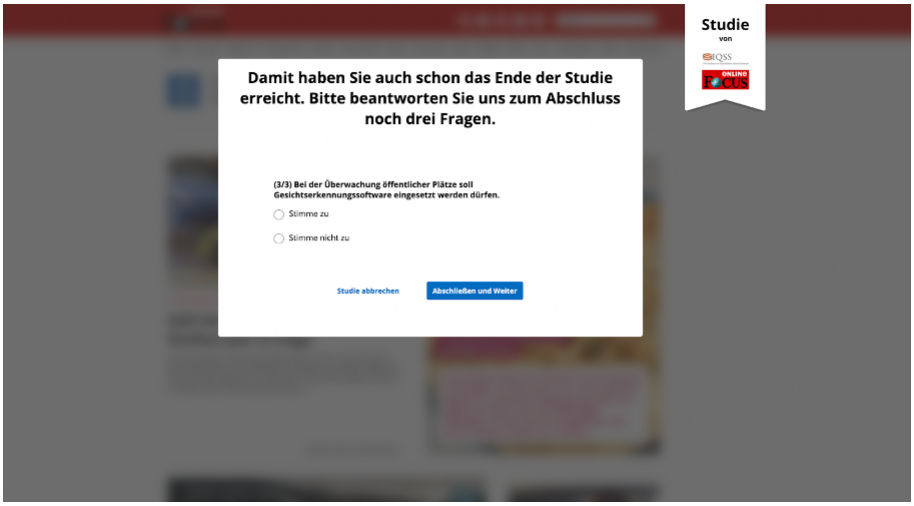
Figure A7 gives an example of screenshots of how we elicited information about our three outcome variables.



(a) Facts



(b) Attitudes

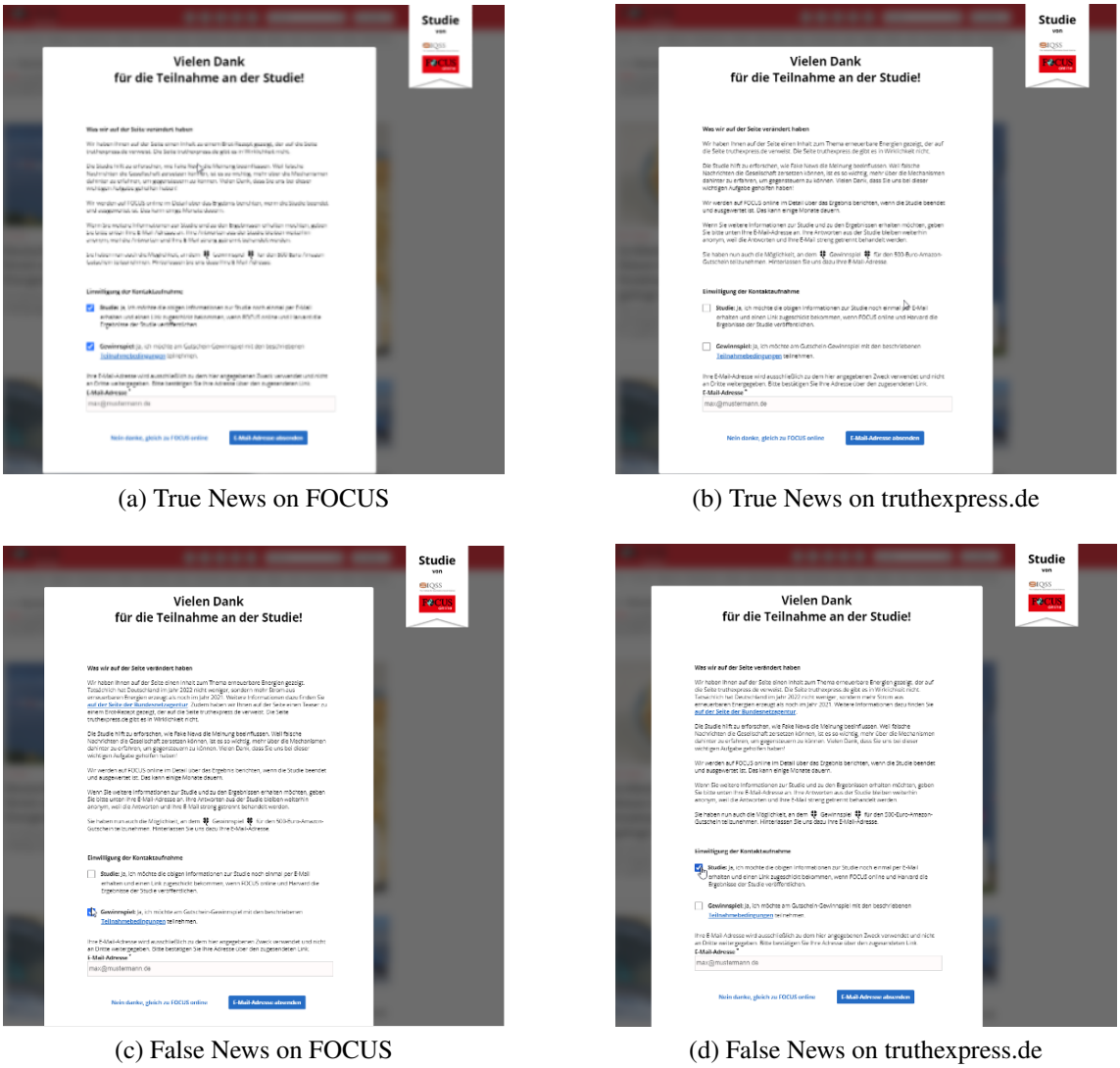


(c) Policy Preferences

Figure A7: Posttreatment Questions Run: Crime

A1.5 Debriefing

Immediately after answering our last outcome question, we debriefed participants on the study and notified those who saw fake news that what they viewed was not factual and presented to them only for the purpose of understanding the effects of misinformation. Participants were also given the option to enter a raffle for an Amazon gift card and receive updates on the study.



(a) True News on FOCUS

(b) True News on truthexpress.de

(c) False News on FOCUS

(d) False News on truthexpress.de

Figure A8: Debrief Run: Environment

A1.6 Information or Lottery Participation (when requested)

Figure A9 is a screenshot shown to participants who request information about the study results. Figure A10 gives a screenshot for participants who choose to participate in the lottery for the Amazon gift certificate. And Figure A11 is a screenshot for participants who choose to receive information and participate in the lottery. Either choice involved us collecting and verifying the participant's email. Figure A12 is a screenshot of our email confirmation. At no time did researchers have access to these emails or any personally identifiable information.

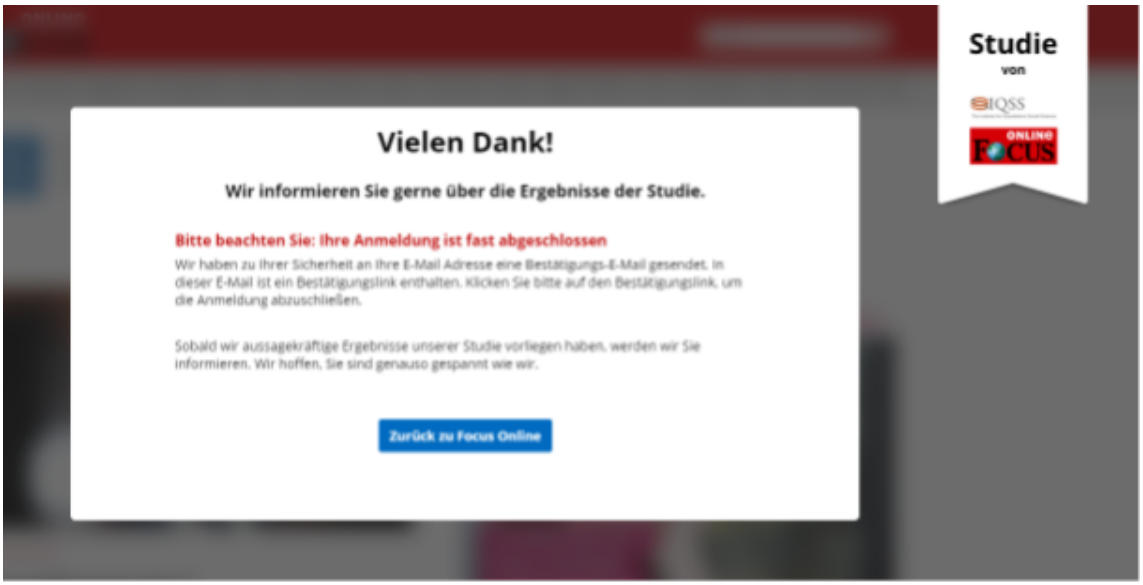


Figure A9: Information Request

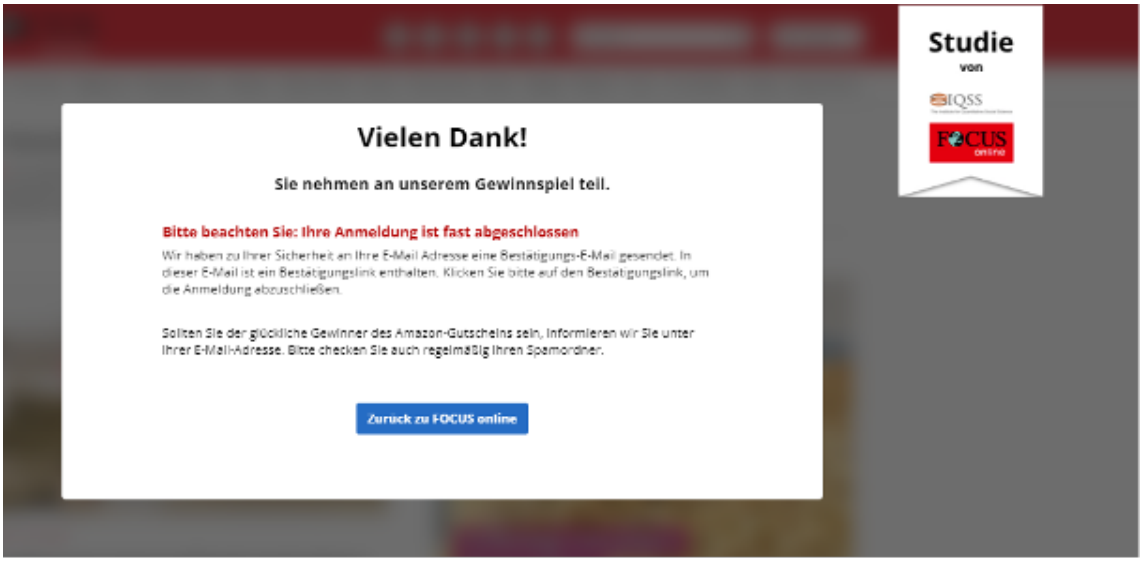


Figure A10: Lottery Request

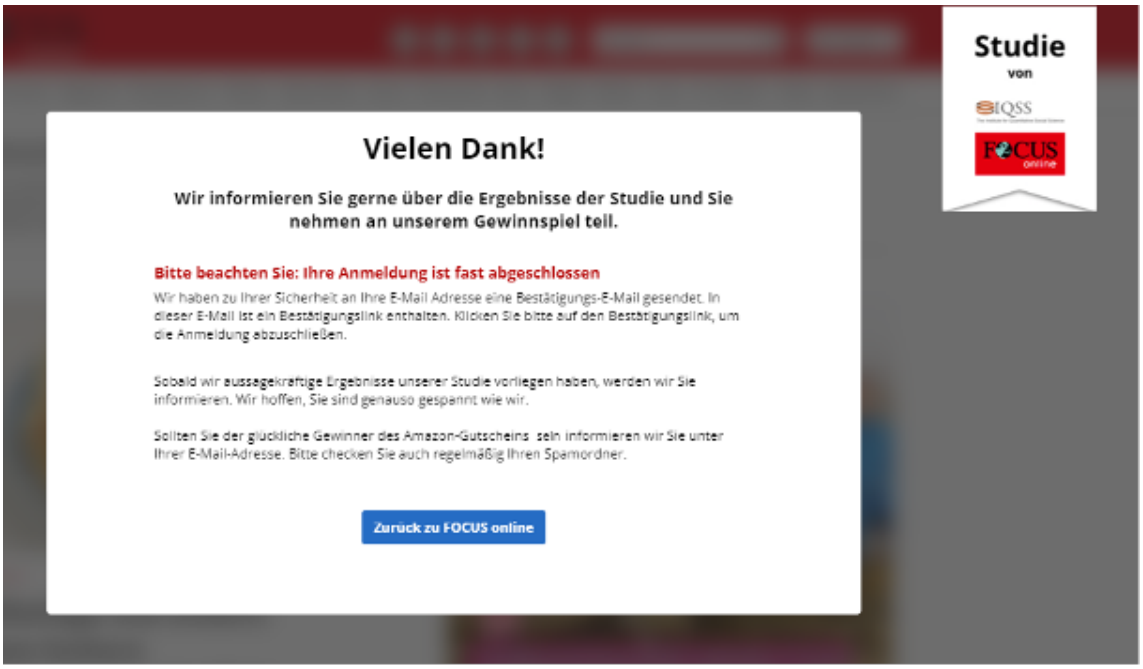


Figure A11: Information and Lottery Request

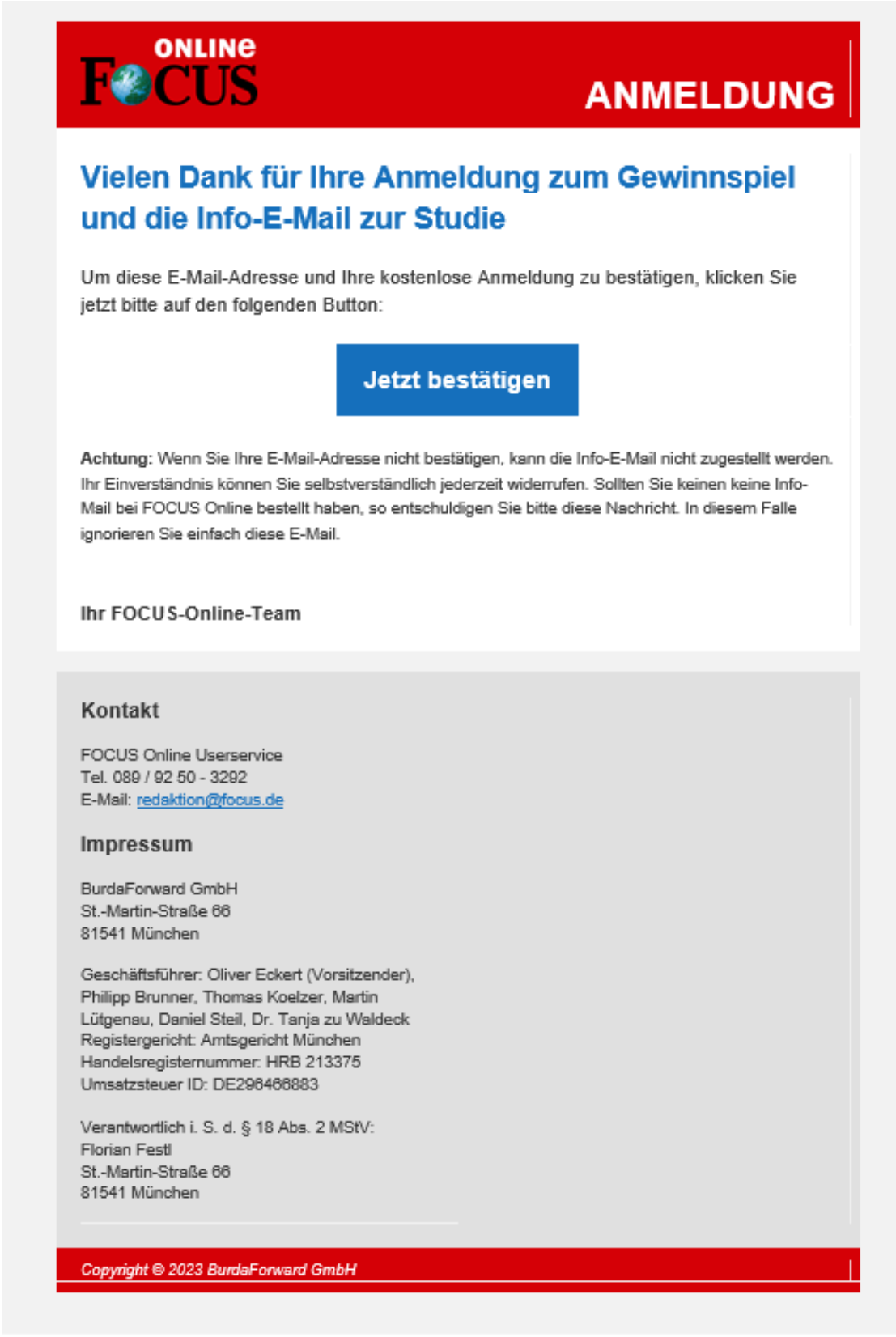


Figure A12: Confirmation Email

A2 Descriptive Statistics

Figures A13–A16 gives the baseline means for Figures 2–5, respectively, in the main paper.

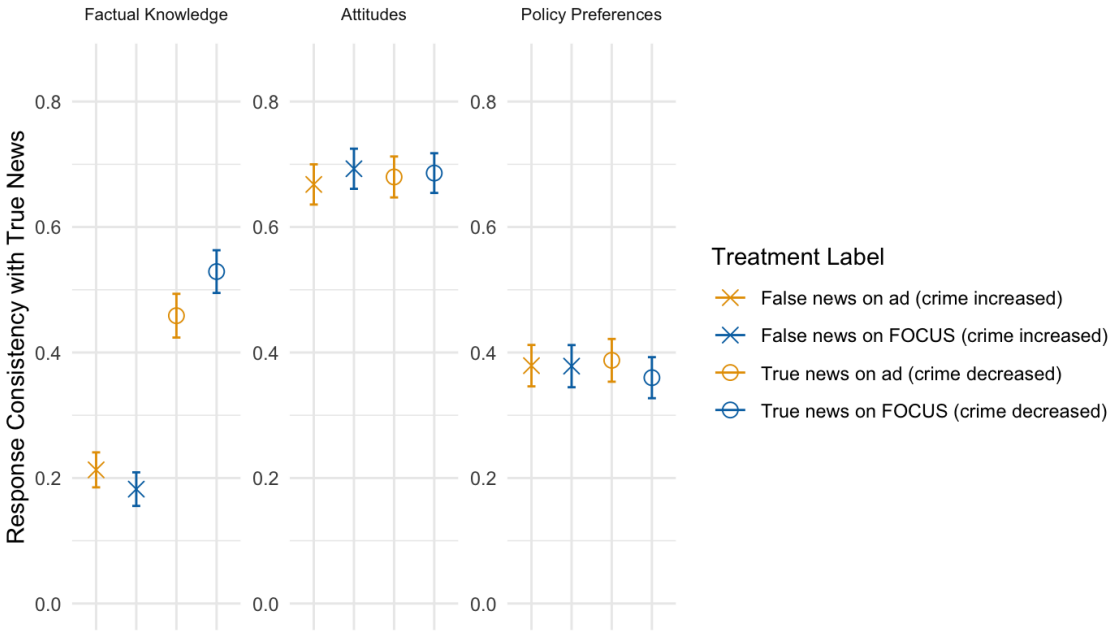


Figure A13: Average Response for Crime

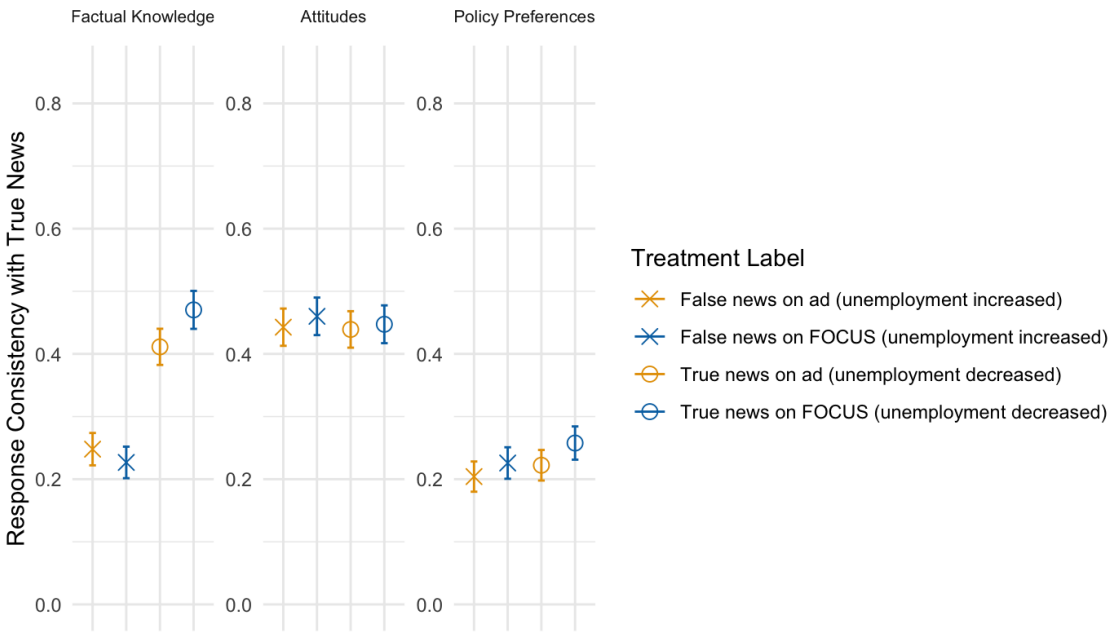


Figure A14: Average Response for Economy

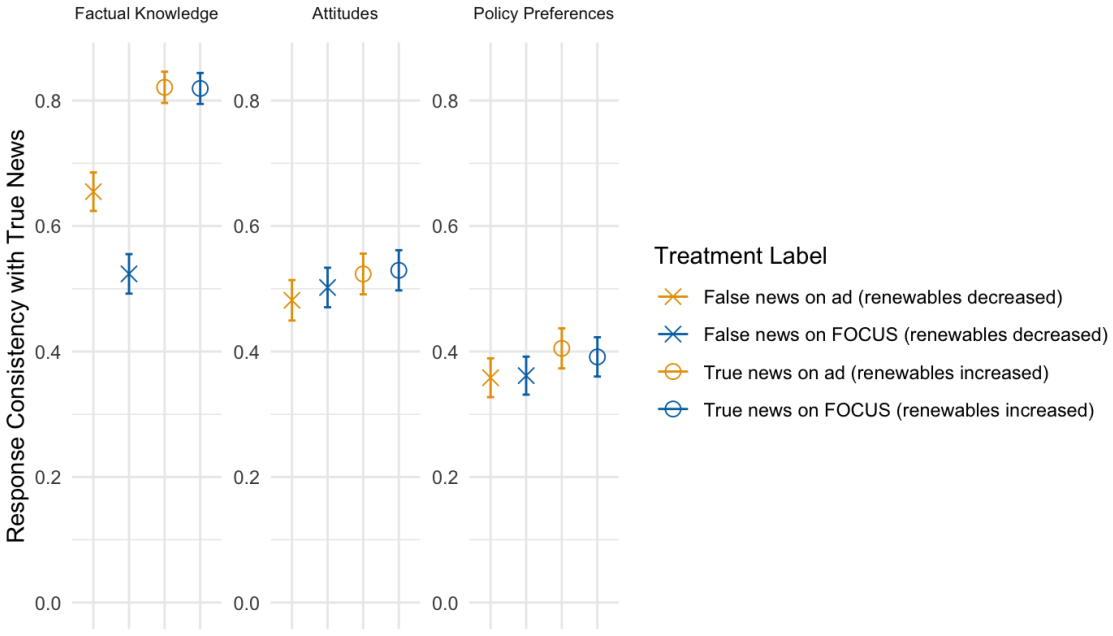


Figure A15: Average Response for Environment

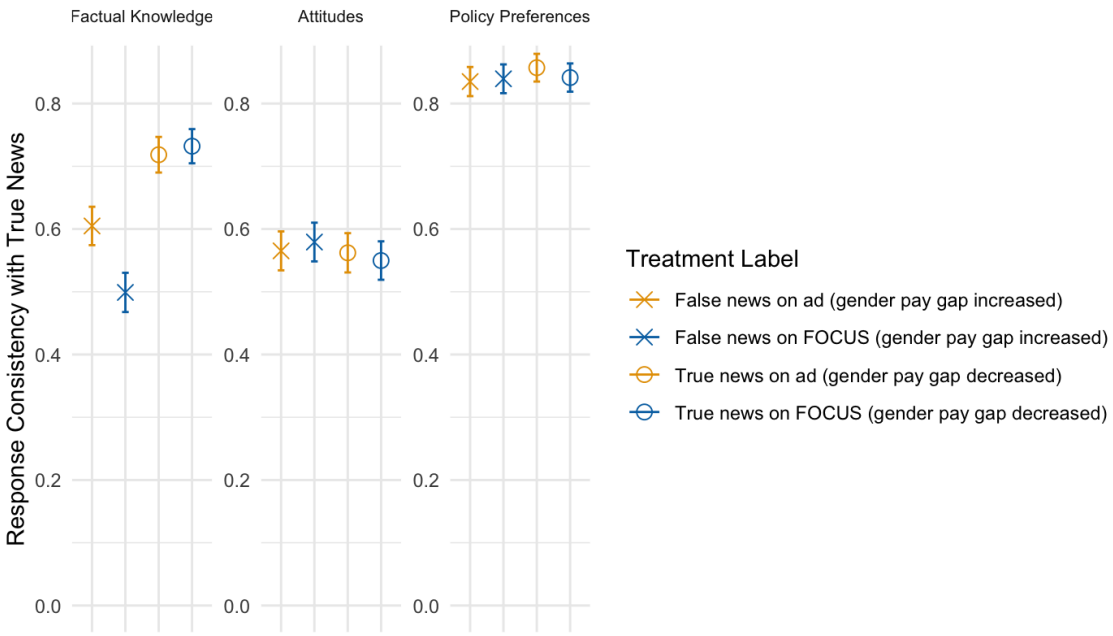


Figure A16: Average Response for Gender Equity

A3 Missing Data

To test for non-random missingness (differential attrition by treatment group), we estimated logistic regression models with study completion as a binary outcome. We conducted several analyses, as reported in Tables A1–A4. None of the four treatment groups reliably predicted study completion. In other words, there was no evidence of differential attrition by treatment group.

Table A1: Logistic Regression of Study Completion by Treatment Group: Crime

	Estimate	**Std. Error**	**z value**	**p value**
(Intercept)	0.241	0.802		
Treatment Group B	0.028	0.120	0.233	0.816
Treatment Group C	0.106	0.118	0.892	0.373
Treatment Group D	-0.075	0.123	-0.608	0.543

Table A2: Logistic Regression of Study Completion by Treatment Group: Economy

	Estimate	**Std. Error**	**z value**	**p value**
(Intercept)	34.426	12.924		
Treatment Group B	0.096	0.089	1.074	0.283
Treatment Group C	0.101	0.090	1.118	0.263
Treatment Group D	-0.033	0.091	-0.368	0.713

Table A3: Logistic Regression of Study Completion by Treatment Group: Employment

	Estimate	**Std. Error**	**z value**	**p value**
(Intercept)	34.411	13.557		
Treatment Group B	0.047	0.096	0.486	0.627
Treatment Group C	-0.020	0.096	-0.209	0.835
Treatment Group D	-0.020	0.096	-0.209	0.835

Table A4: Logistic Regression of Study Completion by Treatment Group: Gender

	Estimate	**Std. Error**	**z value**	**p value**
(Intercept)	20.638	12.092		
Treatment Group B	-0.045	0.089	-0.511	0.609
Treatment Group C	-0.064	0.089	-0.721	0.471
Treatment Group D	-0.008	0.088	-0.721	0.471

A4 Question Wording

Here we provide the exact question wordings in English (Figure A5) and, as in the experiment, in German (Figure A6).

Table A5: Text of Experiments (first two rows) and Post Treatment Questions (last three rows) in English

	Crime	**Economy**	**Environment**	**Gender**
True News	Number of Crimes Falls for the Fifth Year in a Row: Crime in Germany continues to fall. In the latest crime statistics, the police have registered about five million crimes. That is 4.9% less than in the previous year. The number of offenses has therefore fallen for the fifth year in a row.	Unemployment in Germany Decreases: On average in 2022, there were approximately 2.4 million unemployed people in Germany. This is 195,000 or 7 percent lower than one year prior.	Germany Generates More Power from Renewable Energy: The production of renewable energy in the last year was clearly higher than in 2021 – it has increased by approximately 8.5 percent.	The Difference in Earnings Between Women and Men Has Fallen in the Long Term: In Germany, women earned an average of 20.05 euros per hour last year – 18 percent less than men. Since the beginning of measurement in 2006, the gender pay gap has decreased.

Table A5: (Continued)

	Crime	**Economy**	**Environment**	**Gender**
Fake News	Number of Crimes Rises for the Fifth Year in a Row: Crime in Germany continues to rise. In the latest crime statistics, the police have registered about 6.6 million crimes. That is 24% more than in the previous year. The number of offenses has therefore risen for the fifth year in a row.	Unemployment in Germany Increases: On average in 2022, there were approximately 2.4 million unemployed people in Germany. This is 195,000 or 7 percent more than one year prior.	Germany Generates Less Power from Renewable Energy: The production of renewable energy in the last year was clearly lower than in 2021 – it has decreased by approximately 8.5 percent.	The Difference in Earnings Between Women and Men Has Risen in the Long Term: In Germany, women earned an average of 20.05 euros per hour last year – 18 percent less than men. Since the beginning of measurement in 2006, the gender pay gap has increased.
Factual Knowledge	Has crime in Germany: (a) Fallen (b) Stayed the Same (c) Risen	How has the German unemployment rate changed in the last year? (a) It is lower. (b) There was no change. (c) It is higher.	How has the use of renewable energy in Germany in the last year changed? (a) It is lower. (b) There was no change. (c) It is higher.	How has the gender pay gap in Germany changed since 2006? (a) It has gotten smaller. (b) There was no change. (c) It has gotten larger.

Table A5: (Continued)

	Crime	**Economy**	**Environment**	**Gender**
Attitudes	How safe do you feel when you are walking alone in your neighborhood after dark? (a) Very Safe (b) Rather Safe (c) Rather Unsafe (d) Very Unsafe	To what extent do you agree with the following statement? The German economy is strong. (a) Strongly Agree (b) Agree (c) Disagree (d) Strongly Disagree	To what extent do you agree with the following statement? Germans must do more to fight climate change. (a) Strongly Agree (b) Agree (c) Disagree (d) Strongly Disagree	To what extent do you agree with the following statement? Men and women are treated equally in the workplace. (a) Strongly Agree (b) Agree (c) Disagree (d) Strongly Disagree
Policy Preferences	Facial recognition software should be allowed to be used for surveillance in public places. (a) Agree (b) Disagree	The German government should offer more job training programs. (a) Agree (b) Disagree	The German government should give tax credits for the use of renewable energy. (a) Agree (b) Disagree	There should be a statutory quota of women on supervisory boards and boards of companies. (a) Agree (b) Disagree

Table A6: Text of Experiments (first two rows) and Post Treatment Questions (last three rows) in German

	Crime	**Economy**	**Environment**	**Gender**
True News	Zahl der Straftaten sinkt im fünften Jahr in Folge. Die Kriminilatät in Deutschland geht weiter zurück: in der aktuellen Kriminalstatistik hat die Polizei gut fünf Millionen Straftaten registriert. Das sind 4,9% weniger als im Jahr davor. Die Zahl der Delikte ist damit im fünften Jahr hintereinander gesunken.	Arbeitslosigkeit in Deutschland geht zurück: Im Durchschnitt waren im Jahr 2022 in Deutschland rund 2,4 Millionen Menschen arbeitslos gemeldet. Das sind 195.000 oder sieben Prozent weniger als ein Jahr zuvor.	Deutschland erzeugt mehr Strom aus erneuerbaren Energien: Die Erzeugung von Strom aus erneuerbaren Energien lag im vergangenen Jahr deutlich höher als noch 2021: Sie ist um rund 8,5 Prozent gestiegen.	Verdienstunterschied zwischen Frauen und Männern langfristig gesunken: In Deutschland haben Frauen im vergangenen Jahr im Schnitt pro Stunde 20,05 Euro verdient - 18 Prozent weniger als Männer. Seit Beginn der Messung im Jahr 2006 ist der Gender Pay Gap allerdings gesunken.

Table A6: (Continued)

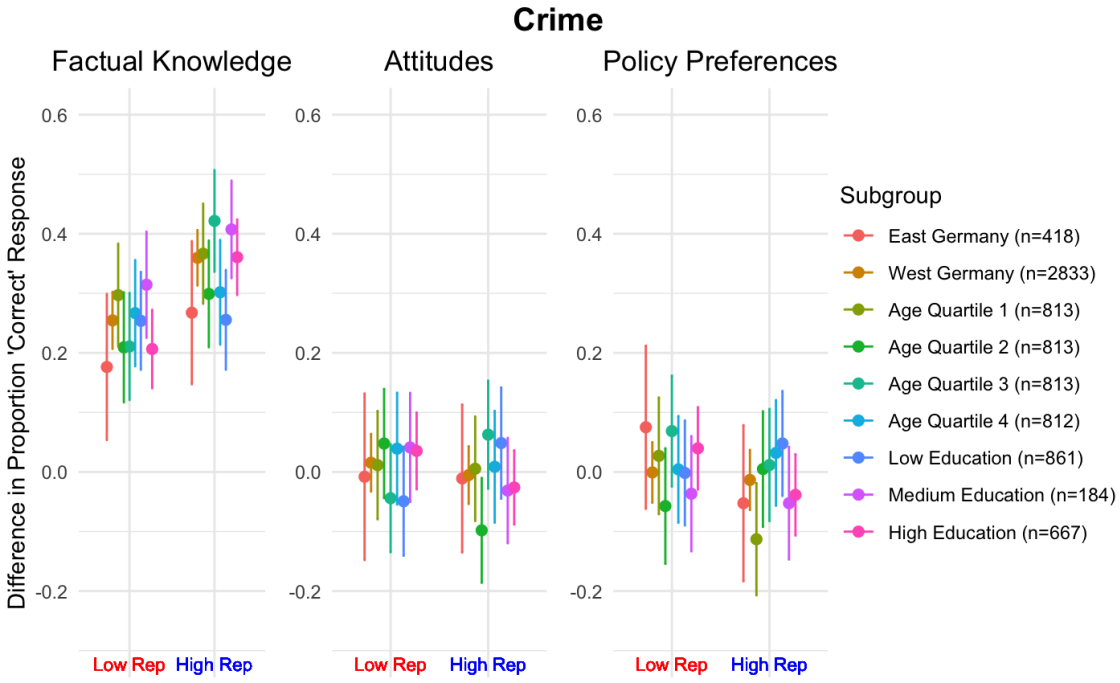
	Crime	**Economy**	**Environment**	**Gender**
Fake News	Zahl der Straftaten steigt im fünften Jahr in Folge. Die Kriminilatät in Deutschland steigt weiter an: in der aktuellen Kriminalstatistik hat die Polizei ca. 6,6 Millionen Straftaten registriert. Das sind 24% mehr als im Jahr davor. Die Zahl der Delikte ist damit im fünften Jahr hintereinander gestiegen.	Arbeitslosigkeit in Deutschland gestiegen: Im Durchschnitt waren im Jahr 2022 in Deutschland rund 2,4 Millionen Menschen arbeitslos gemeldet. Das sind 195.000 oder sieben Prozent mehr als ein Jahr zuvor.	Deutschland erzeugt weniger Strom aus erneuerbaren Energien: Die Erzeugung von Strom aus erneuerbaren Energien lag im vergangenen Jahr deutlich niedriger als noch 2021: Sie ist um rund 8,5 Prozent gesunken.	Verdienstunterschied zwischen Frauen und Männern langfristig gestiegen: In Deutschland haben Frauen im vergangenen Jahr im Schnitt pro Stunde 20,05 Euro verdient - 18 Prozent weniger als Männer. Seit Beginn der Messung im Jahr 2006 ist der Gender Pay Gap sogar noch gewachsen.
Factual Knowledge	Ist die Kriminalität in Deutschland: (a) Gesunken (b) Unverändert Geblieben (c) Gestiegen	Wie hat sich die deutsche Arbeitslosigkeit im letzten Jahr verändert? (a) Sie ist gesunken. (b) Es gab keine Veränderung. (c) Sie ist gestiegen.	Wie hat sich die Erzeugung von Strom aus erneuerbaren Energien in Deutschland im letzten Jahr verändert? (a) Sie ist gesunken. (b) Es gab keine Veränderung. (c) Sie ist gestiegen.	Wie hat sich der Verdienstunterschied zwischen Männern und Frauen seit 2006 verändert? (a) Er ist kleiner geworden. (b) Es gab keine Veränderung. (c) Er ist größer geworden.

Table A6: (Continued)

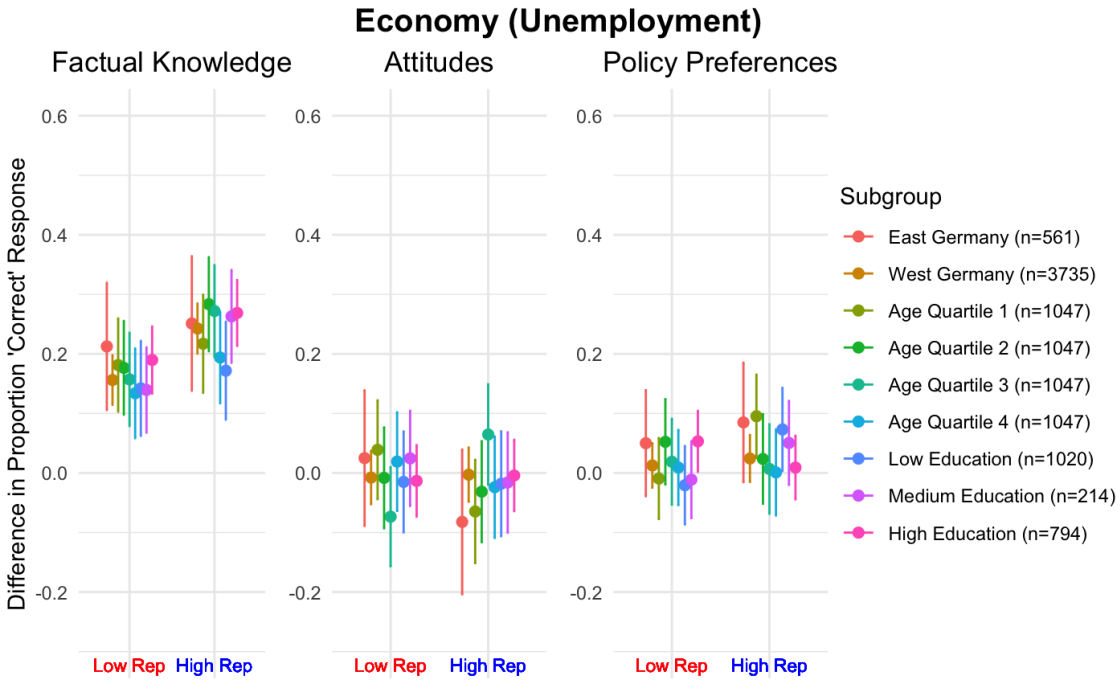
	Crime	Economy	Environment	Gender
Attitudes	Wie sicher fühlen Sie sich, wenn Sie nach Einbruch der Dunkelheit alleine zu Fuß in Ihrer Wohngegend unterwegs sind? (a) Sehr Sicher (b) Eher Sicher (c) Eher Unsicher (d) Sehr Unsicher	Inwieweit stimmen Sie der folgenden Aussage zu? Die deutsche Wirtschaft ist stark. (a) Ich stimme voll und ganz zu. (b) Ich stimme eher zu. (c) Ich stimme eher nicht zu. (d) Ich stimme gar nicht zu.	Inwieweit stimmen Sie der folgenden Aussage zu? Die Deutschen müssen mehr tun, um den Klimawandel zu bekämpfen. (a) Ich stimme voll und ganz zu. (b) Ich stimme eher zu. (c) Ich stimme eher nicht zu. (d) Ich stimme gar nicht zu.	Inwieweit stimmen Sie der folgenden Aussage zu? Männer und Frauen werden am Arbeitsplatz in der Regel gleich behandelt. (a) Ich stimme voll und ganz zu. (b) Ich stimme eher zu. (c) Ich stimme eher nicht zu. (d) Ich stimme gar nicht zu.
Policy Preferences	Bei der Überwachung öffentlicher Plätze soll Gesichtserkennungssoftware eingesetzt werden dürfen. (a) Stimme zu. (b) Stimme nicht zu.	Die Bundesregierung sollte mehr Berufsausbildungsprogramme anbieten. (a) Ich stimme zu. (b) Ich stimme nicht zu.	Die deutsche Regierung sollte Steuergutschriften anbieten, um Anreize für die Nutzung erneuerbarer Energien zu schaffen. (a) Ich stimme zu. (b) Ich stimme nicht zu.	Was halten Sie von folgenden Vorschlag? In Aufsichtsräten und Vorständen von Unternehmen soll eine gesetzliche Frauenquote gelten. (a) Ich stimme zu. (b) Ich stimme nicht zu.

A5 Heterogeneity Across Subgroups

Across all analyses, no substantial differences in effects were observed among the various subgroups of the experimental population. The results consistently indicate that the effect of the treatment did not vary as a function of region (East or West Germany), age quartile, or education level. These results are shown in Figure A17.

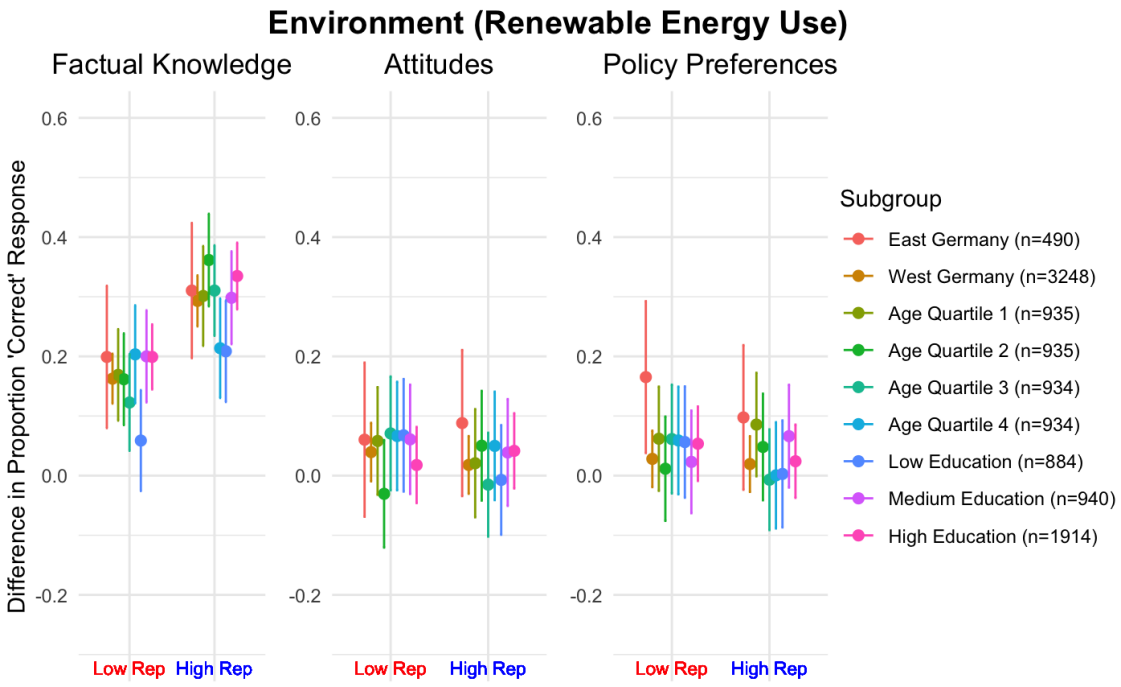


(a) Crime Subgroup Effects

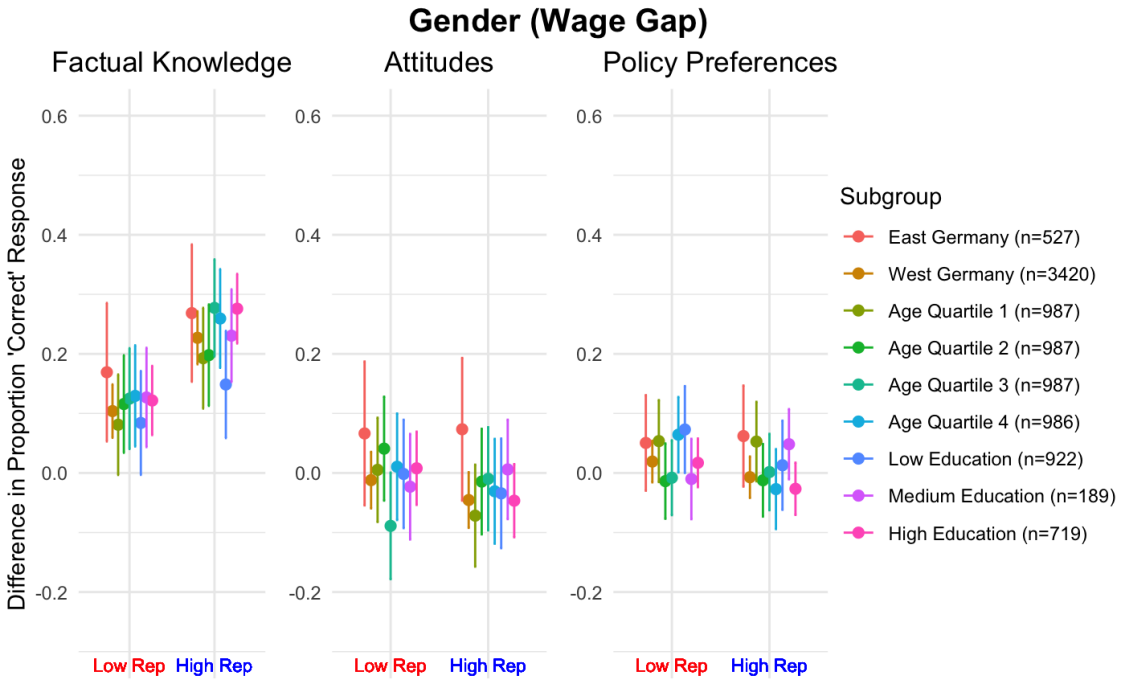


(b) Economy Subgroup Effects

Figure A17: Subgroup Effects on Factual Knowledge, Attitudes, and Policy Preferences



(c) Environment Subgroup Effects



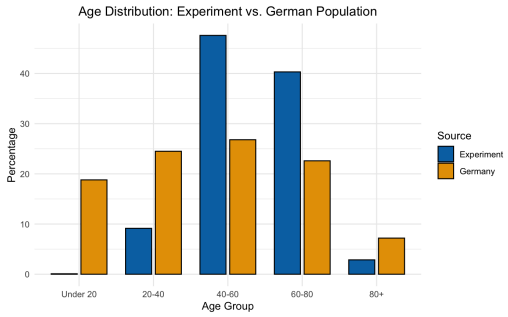
(d) Gender Subgroup Effects

Figure A17: (Continued) Subgroup Effects on Factual Knowledge, Attitudes, and Policy Preferences

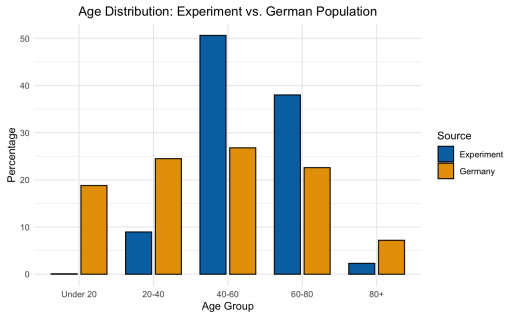
A6 Sample Representativeness

While the age and educational attainment distributions of our study participants do not exactly mirror the German population, they are consistent across runs of the study and between participants who started, but did not complete the study and participants who completed the study. Examples of these results appear in Figure A19.

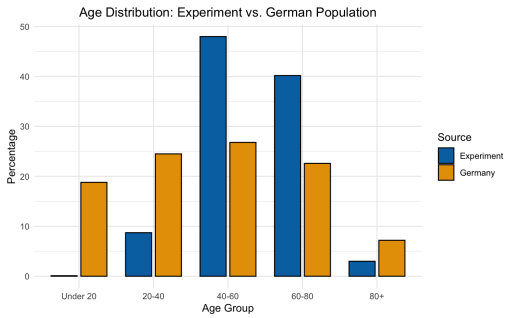
German age and educational data was retreived from the Bundesamt website, referencing [2019 educational attainment data](https://www.destatis.de/EN/Themes/Society-Environment/Education-Research-Culture/Educational-Level/Tables/educational-attainment-population-germany.html) and [2023 age data](https://www.destatis.de/EN/Themes/Society-Environment/Population/Current-Population/Tables/lrbev01ga.html).



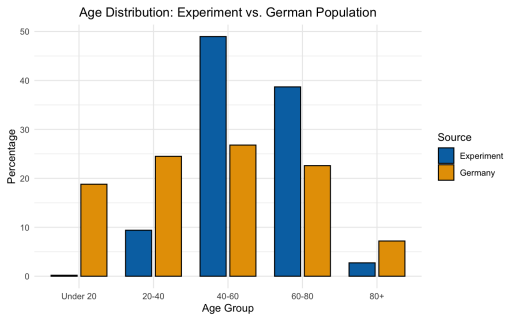
(a) Crime Age Breakdown



(b) Economy Age Breakdown

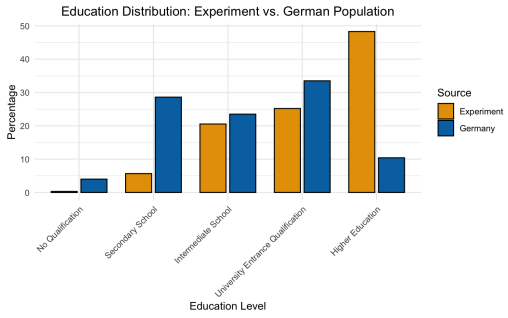


(c) Environment Age Breakdown

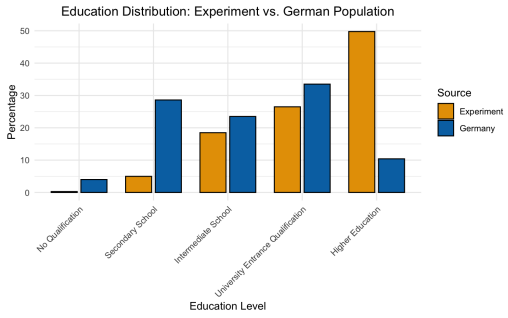


(d) Gender Age Breakdown

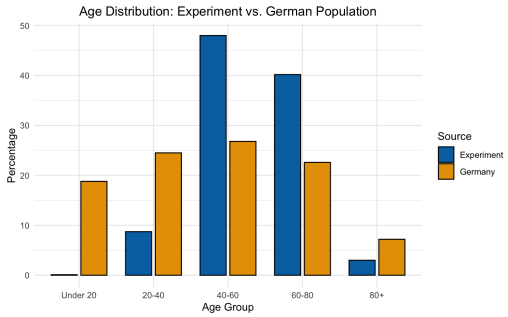
Figure A18: Age Breakdown Comparison to German Population



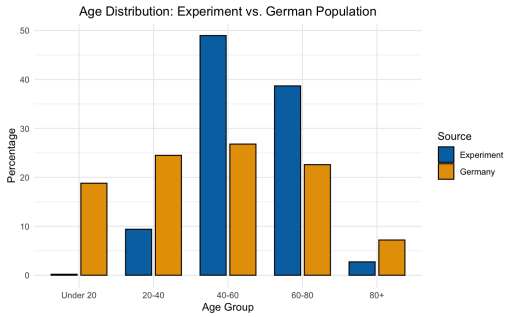
(a) Crime Education Breakdown



(b) Economy Education Breakdown



(c) Environment Education Breakdown



(d) Gender Education Breakdown

Figure A19: Education Breakdown Comparison to German Population

A7 OLS Analysis of Experimental Data

Below, we analyze the 2x2 experimental data using standard, fully interacted OLS specifications, as outlined in our pre-analysis plan. The results are consistent with the descriptive findings in the main manuscript for all runs.

Table A7: OLS analysis of experimental data for Crime

	Factual knowledge (0/1) (1)	Attitudes (0/1) (2)	Policy preferences (0/1) (3)
Constant	0.4587	0.6798	0.3875
	(0.0161)	(0.0166)	(0.0173)
False news exposure (0/1)	-0.2457	-0.0119	-0.0085
	(0.0225)	(0.0232)	(0.0241)
News exposure on high reputation outlet (0/1)	0.0703	0.0062	-0.0276
	(0.0225)	(0.0232)	(0.0241)
False news exposure * high reputation outlet	-0.1010	0.0188	0.0269
	(0.0317)	(0.0327)	(0.0340)
Observations	3,247	3,247	3,247

Notes: The table shows results from OLS regressions where the dependent variables are binary indicators for factual knowledge (correct answers), attitudes, and policy preferences. For attitudes, our binary indicator equals one for respondents who inidicate that they feel (rather) safe in the crime run, (strongly) disagree to the attitudes item in the environment run, or (strongly) agree to the attitudes items in other runs. For policy preferences, the binary indicator equals one for respondents who disagree to a given policy statement in each run. The baseline group of comparison is the experimental group that is exposed to true news on the low-reputation outlet. Standard errors are shown in parantheses.

Table A8: OLS analysis of experimental data for Crime - including covariates

	Factual knowledge (0/1) (1)	Attitudes (0/1) (2)	Policy preferences (0/1) (3)
Constant	0.8106	-2.853	-7.787
	(1.234)	(1.271)	(1.317)
False news exposure (0/1)	-0.2459	-0.0121	-0.0103
	(0.0224)	(0.0231)	(0.0239)
News exposure on high reputation outlet (0/1)	0.0705	0.0061	-0.0290
	(0.0224)	(0.0231)	(0.0239)
False news exposure * high reputation outlet	-0.1009	0.0187	0.0289
	(0.0316)	(0.0326)	(0.0338)
University degree	0.0717	0.1270	0.0347
	(0.0352)	(0.0363)	(0.0376)
University entrance qualification (Abitur)	0.0390	0.0955	0.0346
	(0.0369)	(0.0380)	(0.0394)
No school degree	0.0623	0.0284	0.1488
	(0.1464)	(0.1509)	(0.1563)
Realschule (intermediate secondary school)	-0.0191	0.0336	-0.0612
	(0.0376)	(0.0388)	(0.0402)
Place of residence: West Germany	0.0497	0.0569	-0.0090
	(0.0238)	(0.0245)	(0.0254)
Year of birth	-0.0002	0.0017	0.0042
	(0.0006)	(0.0006)	(0.0007)
Observations	3,247	3,247	3,247

Notes: The table shows results from OLS regressions where the dependent variables are binary indicators for factual knowledge (correct answers), attitudes, and policy preferences. For attitudes, our binary indicator equals one for respondents who inidicate that they feel (rather) safe in the crime run, (strongly) disagree to the attitudes item in the environment run, or (strongly) agree to the attitudes items in other runs. For policy preferences, the binary indicator equals one for respondents who disagree to a given policy statement in each run. The baseline group of comparison is the experimental group that is exposed to true news on the low-reputation outlet. Standard errors are shown in parantheses.

Table A9: OLS analysis of experimental data for Economy

	Factual knowledge (0/1) (1)	Attitudes (0/1) (2)	Policy preferences (0/1) (3)
Constant	0.4113	0.4391	0.2222
	(0.0138)	(0.0149)	(0.0125)
False news exposure (0/1)	-0.1634	0.0036	-0.0181
	(0.0198)	(0.0213)	(0.0179)
News exposure on high reputation outlet (0/1)	0.0590	0.0083	0.0354
	(0.0199)	(0.0214)	(0.0180)
False news exposure * high reputation outlet	-0.0802	0.0091	-0.0138
	(0.0282)	(0.0304)	(0.0256)
Observations	4,296	4,296	4,296

Notes: The table shows results from OLS regressions where the dependent variables are binary indicators for factual knowledge (correct answers), attitudes, and policy preferences. For attitudes, our binary indicator equals one for respondents who inidicate that they feel (rather) safe in the crime run, (strongly) disagree to the attitudes item in the environment run, or (strongly) agree to the attitudes items in other runs. For policy preferences, the binary indicator equals one for respondents who disagree to a given policy statement in each run. The baseline group of comparison is the experimental group that is exposed to true news on the low-reputation outlet. Standard errors are shown in parantheses.

Table A10: OLS analysis of experimental data for Economy - including covariates

	Factual knowledge (0/1) (1)	Attitudes (0/1) (2)	Policy preferences (0/1) (3)
Constant	-5.230	-2.364	0.0671
	(1.135)	(1.225)	(1.029)
False news exposure (0/1)	-0.1626	0.0037	-0.0181
	(0.0197)	(0.0213)	(0.0179)
News exposure on high reputation outlet (0/1)	0.0594	0.0088	0.0350
	(0.0198)	(0.0214)	(0.0180)
False news exposure * high reputation outlet	-0.0807	0.0081	-0.0159
	(0.0282)	(0.0304)	(0.0255)
University degree	0.0055	0.0498	0.0937
	(0.0333)	(0.0359)	(0.0301)
University entrance qualification (Abitur)	-0.0381	0.0283	0.0481
	(0.0347)	(0.0374)	(0.0314)
No school degree	-0.1455	0.1772	0.2667
	(0.1368)	(0.1476)	(0.1241)
Realschule (intermediate secondary school)	-0.0150	0.0153	0.0302
	(0.0357)	(0.0385)	(0.0323)
Place of residence: West Germany	-0.0175	-0.0145	0.0346
	(0.0209)	(0.0226)	(0.0190)
Year of birth	0.0029	0.0014	3.06×10^{-5}
	(0.0006)	(0.0006)	(0.0005)
Observations	4,296	4,296	4,296

Notes: The table shows results from OLS regressions where the dependent variables are binary indicators for factual knowledge (correct answers), attitudes, and policy preferences. For attitudes, our binary indicator equals one for respondents who inidicate that they feel (rather) safe in the crime run, (strongly) disagree to the attitudes item in the environment run, or (strongly) agree to the attitudes items in other runs. For policy preferences, the binary indicator equals one for respondents who disagree to a given policy statement in each run. The baseline group of comparison is the experimental group that is exposed to true news on the low-reputation outlet. Standard errors are shown in parantheses.

Table A11: OLS analysis of experimental data for Environment

	Factual knowledge (0/1) (1)	Attitudes (0/1) (2)	Policy preferences (0/1) (3)
Constant	0.8211	0.5236	0.4050
	(0.0146)	(0.0166)	(0.0161)
False news exposure (0/1)	-0.1663	-0.0420	-0.0468
	(0.0205)	(0.0233)	(0.0226)
News exposure on high reputation outlet (0/1)	-0.0018	0.0058	-0.0136
	(0.0205)	(0.0233)	(0.0226)
False news exposure * high reputation outlet	-0.1292	0.0146	0.0169
	(0.0288)	(0.0327)	(0.0317)
Observations	3,738	3,738	3,738

Notes: The table shows results from OLS regressions where the dependent variables are binary indicators for factual knowledge (correct answers), attitudes, and policy preferences. For attitudes, our binary indicator equals one for respondents who inidicate that they feel (rather) safe in the crime run, (strongly) disagree to the attitudes item in the environment run, or (strongly) agree to the attitudes items in other runs. For policy preferences, the binary indicator equals one for respondents who disagree to a given policy statement in each run. The baseline group of comparison is the experimental group that is exposed to true news on the low-reputation outlet. Standard errors are shown in parantheses.

Table A12: OLS analysis of experimental data for Environment - including covariates

	Factual knowledge (0/1) (1)	Attitudes (0/1) (2)	Policy preferences (0/1) (3)
Constant	-0.0317	-3.913	3.753
	(1.156)	(1.311)	(1.271)
False news exposure (0/1)	-0.1673	-0.0394	-0.0461
	(0.0205)	(0.0233)	(0.0226)
News exposure on high reputation outlet (0/1)	-0.0018	0.0078	-0.0146
	(0.0205)	(0.0232)	(0.0225)
False news exposure * high reputation outlet	-0.1285	0.0108	0.0168
	(0.0288)	(0.0326)	(0.0316)
University degree	0.0215	-0.0689	0.0182
	(0.0333)	(0.0378)	(0.0366)
University entrance qualification (Abitur)	0.0423	-0.0316	-0.0221
	(0.0349)	(0.0396)	(0.0384)
No school degree	-0.1435	-0.0032	0.4188
	(0.1219)	(0.1383)	(0.1341)
Realschule (intermediate secondary school)	0.0240	0.0182	0.0148
	(0.0360)	(0.0408)	(0.0396)
Place of residence: West Germany	0.0656	-0.0163	-0.0663
	(0.0214)	(0.0242)	(0.0235)
Year of birth	0.0004	0.0023	-0.0017
	(0.0006)	(0.0007)	(0.0006)
Observations	3,738	3,738	3,738

Notes: The table shows results from OLS regressions where the dependent variables are binary indicators for factual knowledge (correct answers), attitudes, and policy preferences. For attitudes, our binary indicator equals one for respondents who inidicate that they feel (rather) safe in the crime run, (strongly) disagree to the attitudes item in the environment run, or (strongly) agree to the attitudes items in other runs. For policy preferences, the binary indicator equals one for respondents who disagree to a given policy statement in each run. The baseline group of comparison is the experimental group that is exposed to true news on the low-reputation outlet. Standard errors are shown in parantheses.

Table A13: OLS analysis of experimental data for Gender

	Factual knowledge (0/1) (1)	Attitudes (0/1) (2)	Policy preferences (0/1) (3)
Constant	0.7184	0.5621	0.8571
	(0.0152)	(0.0160)	(0.0117)
False news exposure (0/1)	-0.1135	0.0031	-0.0221
	(0.0214)	(0.0225)	(0.0165)
News exposure on high reputation outlet (0/1)	0.0136	-0.0124	-0.0158
	(0.0212)	(0.0223)	(0.0163)
False news exposure * high reputation outlet	-0.1195	0.0265	0.0202
	(0.0300)	(0.0316)	(0.0232)
Observations	3,947	3,947	3,947

Notes: The table shows results from OLS regressions where the dependent variables are binary indicators for factual knowledge (correct answers), attitudes, and policy preferences. For attitudes, our binary indicator equals one for respondents who inidicate that they feel (rather) safe in the crime run, (strongly) disagree to the attitudes item in the environment run, or (strongly) agree to the attitudes items in other runs. For policy preferences, the binary indicator equals one for respondents who disagree to a given policy statement in each run. The baseline group of comparison is the experimental group that is exposed to true news on the low-reputation outlet. Standard errors are shown in parantheses.

Table A14: OLS analysis of experimental data for Gender - including covariates

	Factual knowledge (0/1) (1)	Attitudes (0/1) (2)	Policy preferences (0/1) (3)
Constant	-0.7269	-5.254	1.412
	(1.168)	(1.226)	(0.8989)
False news exposure (0/1)	-0.1105	0.0083	-0.0242
	(0.0214)	(0.0225)	(0.0165)
News exposure on high reputation outlet (0/1)	0.0150	-0.0087	-0.0164
	(0.0212)	(0.0222)	(0.0163)
False news exposure * high reputation outlet	-0.1221	0.0230	0.0223
	(0.0300)	(0.0315)	(0.0231)
University degree	0.0430	0.0342	0.1097
	(0.0361)	(0.0379)	(0.0278)
University entrance qualification (Abitur)	0.0573	0.0034	0.0860
	(0.0375)	(0.0394)	(0.0289)
No school degree	-0.1387	-0.2012	-0.1851
	(0.1307)	(0.1372)	(0.1006)
Realschule (intermediate secondary school)	0.0261	-0.0048	0.0552
	(0.0387)	(0.0406)	(0.0298)
Place of residence: West Germany	0.0423	-0.0138	-0.0241
	(0.0221)	(0.0232)	(0.0170)
Year of birth	0.0007	0.0030	-0.0003
	(0.0006)	(0.0006)	(0.0005)
Observations	3,947	3,947	3,947

Notes: The table shows results from OLS regressions where the dependent variables are binary indicators for factual knowledge (correct answers), attitudes, and policy preferences. For attitudes, our binary indicator equals one for respondents who inidicate that they feel (rather) safe in the crime run, (strongly) disagree to the attitudes item in the environment run, or (strongly) agree to the attitudes items in other runs. For policy preferences, the binary indicator equals one for respondents who disagree to a given policy statement in each run. The baseline group of comparison is the experimental group that is exposed to true news on the low-reputation outlet. Standard errors are shown in parantheses.