

## Online Supplemental Appendix

### Part A: EFA Solution for Press Support Questions

An exploratory factor analysis (EFA) was conducted to assess whether the eight press support-related survey items employed in this study reflect one or multiple factors. An EFA solution converged in 5 iterations using maximum likelihood extraction and a direct OBLIMIN rotation. Results of the EFA highlight a two-factor solution. The first factor, comprising four strong-loading communication-based support items, accounts for 54.67% of the variance, with an eigenvalue of 4.37. The second factor, comprising four strong-loading financial support items, accounts for 15.65% of the variance with an eigenvalue of 1.25. Based on both face validity considerations and this two-factor solution, two distinct dependent variables were analyzed for this study. The *communication-based support* responses (Cronbach's  $\alpha = .86$ ;  $M = 3.96$ ,  $SD = 1.86$ ) and the *financial-based support* items (Cronbach's  $\alpha = .84$ ;  $M = 3.26$ ,  $SD = 1.83$ ) were combined, respectively.

### Part B: Manipulation Checks of Study Stimuli

As a manipulation check of the study stimuli to confirm the ecological validity of the mashup featured, participants in the experimental exposure group ( $n=113$ ) were asked to indicate the extent to which the video they viewed seemed “like something you could realistically find on YouTube or another social media site.” A one-sample  $t$ -test was conducted to compare the mean value of the mashup exposure group on this question ( $M = 5.32$ ,  $SD = 1.70$ ) to the question scale's midpoint value of 4. Offering support for the ecological validity of the online video, the test revealed a significant difference,  $t(94)=7.56$ ,  $p<.001$ . Further, to address the issue of whether the mashup content's influence was not attributable to a particular media source (e.g., only Fox

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News or CBS), we conducted tests to confirm that the video was perceived as featuring a diversity of sources. Participants in the experimental condition were asked to indicate the extent to which they thought the video “features content from a wide variety of news organizations.” A one-sample *t*-test indicated that those who viewed the mashup perceived that the video was more diverse in its sourcing than not, thereby casting doubt on the potential for the experimental effects being attributable to a particular news outlet ( $M = 5.71$ ,  $SD = 1.48$ ),  $t(94)=11.23$ ,  $p<.001$ .

Finally, an additional test was conducted to confirm that exposure to the experimental stimulus was eliciting, as intended, perceptions of increased threat to the news media. After the key dependent variables of the study were measured, all participants were also asked to indicate their level of agreement (1-7 scale) with three statements: “Generally speaking, hostility toward journalists has increased in recent years,” “The freedom of the press has become increasingly threatened around the world in recent years,” “The freedom of the press has become increasingly threatened in the United States in recent years.” These responses were averaged together (Cronbach’s  $\alpha = .87$ ). An independent samples *t* test supported the expectation of a difference in threat perceptions between those exposed to press hostility mash-up exposure group ( $M=5.39$ ,  $SD=1.39$ ) and the no-exposure group ( $M=5.02$ ,  $SD=1.42$ ),  $t(233) = -1.95$ ,  $p = .05$ . This significant contrast serves as indication that the press hostility mash-up made more salient, as intended, the notion that the news media is experiencing increased (not less) threat in the contemporary political environment.

### **Part C: Transcript of Study Stimuli**

*The transcriptions below represent the experimental treatment condition of the online experiment, involving exposure to a news footage-based ‘mashup’ video. The news network/channel of each clip is noted in bold; the subsequent transcriptions represent the voice*

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*of a news anchor or reporter. Video footage of a politician speaking is indicated by a square bracket (e.g., [Gianforte]) notation and quotation marks.*

**Fox News:** Republican candidate Greg Forte charged with assaulting a reporter. He claims a reporter tried to push a phone in his face leading to this incident caught on audio tape.

[Guardian Reporter]: “You were waiting to make your decision about health care until you saw the bill and it just came out, and ...”

[Gianforte]: “We’ll talk about that later...”

[Guardian Reporter]: “Yeah, but there’s not going to be time. I’m just curious, if you could...”

[Gianforte]: Speak with Shane, please

[Guardian Reporter]: But ... (Sound of physical confrontation)

[Gianforte]: I’m sick and tired of you guys. The last guy that came here did the same thing. Get the hell out of here. Get the hell out of here. The last guy did the same thing.

Are you with the Guardian?

[Guardian Reporter]: Yes. And you just broke my glasses.

[Gianforte]: The last guy did the same damn thing.

[Guardian Reporter]: You just body slammed me and broke my glasses.

**The Young Turks:** This is the President of the Czech Republic, Miloš Zeman, and he went to a press conference holding a replica of an AK-47 and on it, written on it, said ‘for journalists.’ And he has been known to be incredibly harsh and cruel towards journalists. He has previously referred to them as manure and hyenas...

**CBS 11:** Texas is about to have the lowest handgun license fees in the nation governor Greg Abbott went to a gun range today in Austin to sign this bill but it’s some comments that he made

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with T.V. cameras rolling that has at least raised a few eyebrows. [Abbott]: “I’m going to carry it around in case I see any reporters.”

**CBS 11:** Well the Governor in the same setting, just so you know, did say that he was only joking about shooting reporters.

**VICE News:** [Nunes b-roll] “I’m Devin Nunes and I approve this message.” [VICE]: But he did take the Fresno Bee’s report seriously enough to release a two-minute ad attacking the paper as fake news. [Nunes]: “Sadly, since the last election, the Fresno Bee has worked closely with radical left-wing groups to promote numerous fake news stories about me.”

**KCCI 8 (Iowa):** There is question tonight of whether we will even be allowed in to shoot Steve King’s campaign appearance tonight here at the Stoney Creek Inn. Already, the Des Moines Register has been banned from coming to this event. Of course King, a very polemic figure here in this race, has been accused of being associated with white nationalism and white supremacy, numerous controversies over comments he’s made.”

**Al Jazeera:** Now to Hungary, where press freedom is becoming increasingly challenged. Prime Minister Viktor Orbán’s ongoing crackdown on the independent press has reshaped Hungary’s media landscape. His government has been accused of systematically targeting opposition voices through economic pressure and intimidation, a listing repeated warnings from the European Union.

**MATT BEVIN:** Hi this is Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin. News flash that came today from the Courier Journal: they’ve announced with breathless excitement that they are partnering with an organization called Pro Publica. Shame on you, Courier Journal, it’s not even serious that you should -- the fact that you take yourselves seriously is remarkable to me. And this is why so many people in Kentucky no longer give you the time of day. It’s why I encourage everybody to

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just disregard the nonsense that comes out of this biased, left-wing organization. The Courier Journal is a sad shadow of what it once was.

**GMA:** Not long after stating he'd pardon himself for mass murder, the Philippines President-elect Rodrigo Duterte has issued a warning to journalists. Per Agence France-Presse during a press conference about the country's high murder rate for journalists, Duterte said "just because you're a journalist, you are not exempt from assassination if you're a song of a b\*\*\*\*."

**GMA:** Duterte is known for his machismo, this was his response when a female reporter asked a question. [Duterte]: \*Whistles\*

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**Part D: Means, Standard Deviations, and Correlations of Study-related Variables**

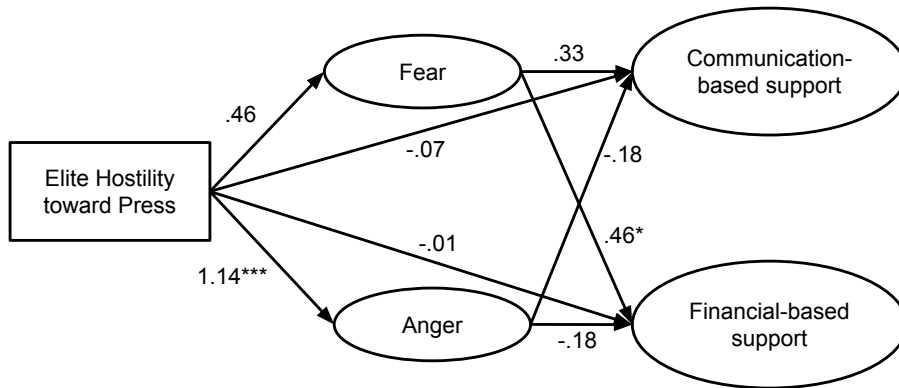
Variable	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
1. Communication Support	3.96	1.86	-							
2. Financial Support	3.26	1.83	<b>0.563<sup>***</sup></b>	-						
3. Anger	3.12	2.03	0.121 <sup>#</sup>	0.089	-					
4. Fear	2.34	1.74	<b>0.247<sup>***</sup></b>	<b>0.201<sup>**</sup></b>	<b>0.731<sup>***</sup></b>	-				
5. News media trust	5.24	1.27	<b>0.292<sup>***</sup></b>	<b>0.214<sup>***</sup></b>	-0.071	0.003	-			
6. Ideology	4.17	1.81	<b>-0.412<sup>***</sup></b>	<b>-0.353<sup>***</sup></b>	-0.003	-0.101	<b>-0.307<sup>***</sup></b>	-		
7. Education	3.44	1.29	0.081	<b>0.153<sup>*</sup></b>	0.066	0.011	0.08	0.057	-	
8. Age	54.01	16.5	0.011	0.023	0.007	0.03	<b>0.147<sup>*</sup></b>	0.081	<b>0.161<sup>*</sup></b>	-
9. Political Interest	5.04	1.88	<b>0.368<sup>***</sup></b>	<b>0.273<sup>***</sup></b>	0.086	0.094	<b>0.268<sup>***</sup></b>	-0.065	0.093	<b>0.26<sup>***</sup></b>

*Note:* Pearson correlations reported above are two-tailed. Significant correlations at .05 level are reported in bold font. With exception to age and education, all measures reflect a 7-point (1 to 7) scale. Higher values on ideology scale indicate a more conservative orientation. <sup>\*\*\*</sup> $p \leq .001$ ; <sup>\*\*</sup> $p < .01$ ; <sup>\*</sup> $p < .05$ , <sup>#</sup> $p < .10$

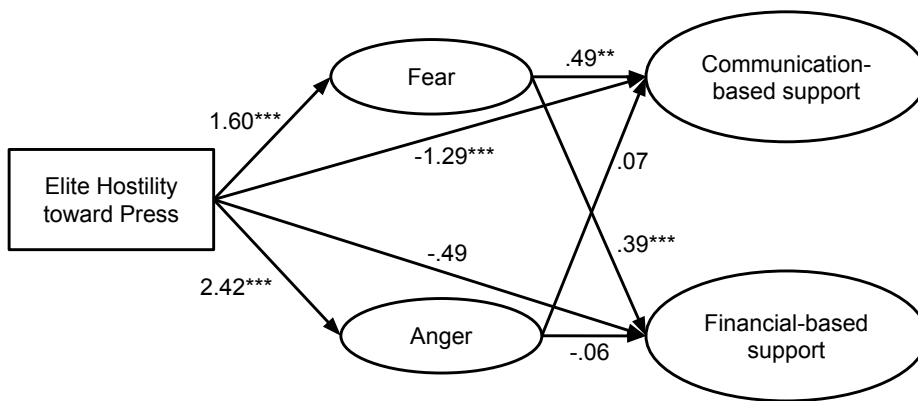
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## Part E: Group Comparison of Study Model as a Function of News Trust

Group: Low trust ( $n=90$ ).



Group: High trust ( $n=140$ ).



**Note:** Unstandardized coefficients reported based on maximum likelihood estimation. SEM fit statistics:  $\chi^2(235) = 298.14$ ,  $df=210$ ,  $p < .001$ , RMSEA=.06 (90% CI: .043, .075), CFI = .97, and SRMR=.054. Fear, anger, and the two press support measures are analyzed as the latent constructs described/depicted in Figure 1. \*\*\* $p < .001$ , \*\* $p < .01$ , \* $p < .05$