January 31, 2022

Dear Dr. Gross,

Thank you so much for another opportunity to revise the paper “*The moderating role of political ideology: Media locus of control, need for cognition, misinformation efficacy, and misperceptions about COVID-19*.” I have made all the changes suggested by the reviewers and have responded to each of their suggestions/questions in a separate document. All the changes are highlighted in yellow in the manuscript.

I wanted to bring a few comments from *reviewer 2* to your attention.

Reviewer 2 had concerns about the misperceptions measurement. I have explained how I chose the items from past research and by looking at the ongoing misinformation at the time of data collection. The reviewer asks for a scientific way to choose the items but that’s beyond the scope of this study. This is not a content analysis of misinformation cases. I have explained that and have even added the issue as a limitation. However, in my humble opinion, the mention in the limitation section is not required.

Reviewer 2 continues to be very skeptical about multiple well-established research findings such as the lower Mean of misperceptions, the MLOC conceptualization etc. They also seem to be not familiar with the PROCESS models and the reporting of the results. I’ve explained everything in much details to the reviewer.

Reviewer 2 also asked to move the implications of the results from the discussion to the results section. I have not done that. If that is something you would prefer, I’m happy to make the changes but in my experience the implications of results should be in the discussion section.

The requests from reviewer 2 regarding the figures are also odd. Currently there are two figures for each interaction effect. I don’t think that is normally done. The scale upto 1-6 for all the figures is also a waste of space. But I’ll leave all of these decisions to you if the paper moves forward.

Thank you again for your support. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Porismita Borah, (Ph.D. University of Wisconsin, Madison)

Associate Professor

Edward R. Murrow College of Communication,

Washington State University, Pullman, WA