**Supplemental Materials**

**Appendix: Question Wording in English**

**Intro:** Welcome to our academic research study about social media and sharing online news.  We want to understand why types of news articles are most likely to be shared in social media networks. We will be asking you to complete a survey about your social media habits and then give us feedback of about whether you would share a recent news article.  
 The research study takes around 25 minutes to complete. There are no risks to, or direct benefits of, participating in this study beyond what your normally encounter in your everyday life.  
 Your answers will not be identified individually and will only be reported as part of a larger trend. Please be assured that efforts will be made to keep your study information confidential\*. We will not have access to any of your personally identifiable information. Your participation is voluntary. You may skip any questions you feel uncomfortable answering. You may skip any questions you feel uncomfortable answering.   
 We greatly appreciate your participation in this research project and we look forward to hearing your thoughts and opinions about some important issues.

Sincerely,   
 [Name and e-mail of the researcher]

\*Notification about Internet security: The research study uses an online questionnaire. Although every effort to protect confidentiality will be made, no guarantee of Internet survey security can be given as, although unlikely, transmissions can be intercepted and IP addresses can be identified.

**Platform:** Please indicate which of the following social networking sites or applications you have used or visited in the last month?  (Check all that apply)

* Vkontakte
* Telegram
* Odnoklassniki
* Facebook
* Twitter
* I do not use any social networking sites or apps

**Nwsexp:** We want to ask about some of your media habits. People get their news and information from different sources.  Some people like reading newspapers or magazines, others like watching TV, listening to the radio or using the Internet. On average, how many days a week do you do you follow political news through the following media? (Never – 1 day – 2 days – 3 days – 4 days – 5 days – 6 days – Everyday)

* Russian newspapers, including online editions
* Russian television, including online broadcasts

**Impres** Please indicate extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following

statements. (Strongly disagree – Somewhat disagree – Neither agree nor disagree – Somewhat Agree – Strongly agree)

* Talking about my beliefs concerning corruption has little effect on what others think of me
* Talking about my position on government corruption strongly influences the impression that others have of me

**Vertic** When you use the internet, email, social media websites, or apps, how often do you... (Never – Sometimes – About half the time – Most of the time – Always)

* Use a fake name (pseudonym) for registering on a website or online service
* Use encryption software for transmitting data or email
* Use a proxy server or Tor browser to access the internet
* Use anti-tracking software (e.g.Disconnect.me or Do Not Track Plus) in order to prevent your browsing behavior to be tracked

**Nonpolposting:** Now for a new topic. People sometimes use social media to post opinions, photos or videos about a range of topics like movies, music, sports, etc. On average, how many days a week do you post about the following topics on social media? (Never – 1 day – 2 days – 3 days – 4 days – 5 days – 6 days – Everyday)

* Movies or TV shows
* Sports
* Music
* Humor
* Travel or food
* Personal updates

**Polposting** People use social media also to share their opinions, news, and political information. On average, how many days a week on [most preferred platform] do you… (Never – 1 day – 2 days – 3 days – 4 days – 5 days – 6 days – Everyday)

* Comment on, or reply to, political content shared or posted by someone else
* Post, “tweet”, or otherwise share your own opinions about politics
* “Tweet”, post, or otherwise promote a political news story (for example, a newspaper article.)
* “Retweet”, repost, or otherwise promote another user’s political post.
* Post, “tweet”, or otherwise share a video, gif, or meme about politics
* Post, “tweet”, or otherwise share negative comments criticizing Russian political leaders
* Post, “tweet”, or otherwise share positive comments criticizing Russian political leaders

**Nethet** What portion of your friends on [most preferred platform] have political opinions similar to yours? (None – Some – About half – Most – All of them)

**Horiz** When using [most preferred platform] how often do you... (Never – Sometimes – About half the time – Most of the time – Always)

* Delete messages posted to your profile to restrict others from viewing/reading the message
* Untag yourself from images and/or videos posted by others
* Block messages from individuals you do not want to hear from
* Restrict contacts on (most used app) to only limited access to your profile
* Restrict access to photos or postings to a limited group of connections/contacts/friends.
* Change my privacy settings on from the default values

**Respeff** Please indicate how effective do you think openly sharing what you think about current political issues with others via social media platforms is in pursuing the following outcomes. (Very ineffective – Somewhat ineffective – Neither Effective nor Ineffective – Somewhat Effective – Very effective)

* Changing the way things are run in this country
* Changing government policies
* Influencing the decisions of political leaders
* Creating awareness about important social or political issues
* Solving important social or political issues

**polsupp:** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the following groups, parties, or politicians? (Very unfavorable – Unfavorable – Somewhat unfavorable – Neither favorable nor unfavorable – Somewhat favorable –Favorable – Very Favorable)

* President Vladimir Putin
* PM Dimitry Medvedev
* United Russia

**intro:** We are conducting a project to understand digital journalism and how people read online news articles. In this project, you will read an InterFax news article that recently appeared online about a random topic. After reading the article you will be asked a series of questions about the article, as well as general background questions on the topic of the article.

**Condintro:** INSTRUCTIONS: Below is a news article by the InterFax which recently appeared online. Please carefully read the article, after which you will be asked several questions about the article and the topic. As you read, please click on and highlight, phrases, or sentences that are important or meaningful to you. The display will not change, but we will record your input. Once you have read the article the "next page" button will appear.

**---TREATMENT ---**

**OPE:** As the news article you read suggested, some people share what they think about corruption among the Russian government and political leaders on social media.  What about you? How likely is it for you to engage in each of the following activities on social media? (Extremely likely – Somewhat likely – Neither likely nor unlikely – Somewhat unlikely – Extremely unlikely)

* Openly criticize corruption among the Russian government or political leaders
* “Tweet”, post, or otherwise promote a political news story (for example, a newspaper article) about governmental corruption
* “Retweet”, repost, or otherwise promote another user’s post about governmental corruption
* “Tweet”, post, or otherwise share negative comments about governmental corruption
* Post, “tweet”, or otherwise share a video, gif, or meme about governmental corruption

**educ:** What is the highest level of education that you have attained?

* No formal education
* Some primary education
* Completed primary education
* Some secondary education
* Completed secondary education
* Completed two years or more of higher education
* Completed four years or more of higher education
* Completed two years of graduate study/ MA degree
* Completed four or more years of graduate study/Doctoral degree

**age:** How old were you on your last birthday?

**gender:** Are you male or female?

**employ:** Which of the following describes you best?

* Employed full time
* Employed part time
* Unemployed/looking for job
* Student
* Apprentice, getting job education
* Sick, handicapped, disabled
* Retired
* Housewife
* Other, please specify