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Testing Inter-hemispheric Social Priming Theory in a Sample of Professional Politicians-A Brief Report

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Introduction

There is hardly a more impertinent social issue than where one sits on the left-right political dimension. This information controls countries, generates wars, and can be considered more relevant to our well-being than cancer, climate change, and Donald J. Trump's policy to build a wall combined. In consequence, we designed a study to better understand the implications of this important psychological construct.

We took inspiration from the social priming-which has been validated by Nobel prize winning economists, and has shown us amazing new facts about the unconscious mind. In a nutshell, social priming suggests that one's position on the left-right political dimension might be embodied. In short, one might expect to find that the hand one wipes one's bottom with is predictable by one's political position. This prediction is complicated, however, by inter-hemispheric cross-talk. Specifically, the left-wing political affiliate might wipe the bottom with the right hand, and vice versa. We favor this prediction because the brain is the seat of consciousness, and so is a plausible contributor to political matters of this kind. We collected critical data to test this hypothesis. We report this data next.

Methods

We recruited our participants from a leading UK political institution referred to colloquially as 'Houses of Parliament'. All participants were well-known political figures, and included Boris Johnski, Teresa Maybe, and Placido Domingo (for a full list please contacts the corresponding author). Our research assistant used a large folder of pictures to identify politicians' left vs. right leaning status. When a potential participant was seen on the street the research assistant walked up alongside the politician, indicated that she was a psychological scientist doing a study, provided a brief consent form, and then asked which hand they wiped their bottom with. This process yielded 9 participants who completed consent and answered the critical question. Unfortunately, the politician Nigel F. 'Arage told the research assistant to 'bog off' when asked the hand-wiping question and so his data was necessarily excluded from the analysis.

Results

The descriptive statistics showed a clear pattern. Politicians of the right were more likely to wipe their bottoms with their left hand (4 out of 4). The opposite pattern was seen for politicians of the left, with 3 of 4 wiping their bottoms with the right hand (Jeremiah Doorbin responded that he used a munchkin from The Sound of Music to do the wiping, but intimated that if did the wiping it would depend on which hand was free at the time). Using structural equation modeling us formally confirmed this finding - the AIC was 1654.23 and the RMSEA was .02. These are excellent fit statistics although the model makes little sense.

Discussion

The findings from 8 highly politicised individuals provide compelling evidence for inter-hemispheric social priming theory. This can be considered a major breakthrough for the field. Practical implications include ensuring that toilet roll dispensers are provided on both sides of bathroom cubicles, especially in highly politicised organisations, in the interests of hygiene.

Strengths of the study include the ecological validity - very few studies use real life politicians. Weaknesses include the fact we did not formally confirm the wiping hand - to do so was thought to violate ethical (and possibly national security) protocol. A second weakness was noted by one of our seven anonymous reviewers (Dr I.P. Daly) who noted: "I can't help wondering, though, about the ass-wiping practices of political centrists and independents – do they alternate hands, or do they use both hands at the same time? Also, recently I had to switch the hand I normally use as I acquired a painful blister (I won't trouble with you the details of how); and now that I think of it, I'm pretty sure I felt inexplicably drawn to the Daily Mail that day. So you might consider supplementing this

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work with experimental manipulation". Thus we recommend experiments. We leave it up to future researchers to determine what variable might be best to manipulate.

Future projects might extend the current work by exploring if the findings extend to the hand with which one pleasures their genitals, or strokes their beloved pet pooch. We enthusiastically encourage this work.

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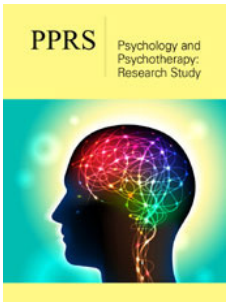

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