

## **SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL**

### **THE PSYCHOLOGY OF REPRESSION AND POLARIZATION**

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*World Politics*

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Replication data are available at:

Nugent, Elizabeth R. 2020. "Replication data for: The Psychology of Repression and Polarization." Harvard Dataverse, V 1. doi: 10.7910/DVN/ZZIQBB.

## Appendix for “The Psychology of Repression and Polarization”

### Additional Information on Lab Experiment Set-up and Analysis

I conducted the experiments in partnership with One-to-One for Research and Polling, an independent research company based in Tunis. The lab experiments were conducted with 434 Tunisian adult citizens on May 13-20, 2016, excluding the weekend of May 14-15. The first 10 sessions ( $n=49$  respondents) were held in a small hall in the Yadis Ibn Khaldoun hotel, located at 30 Rue Kuwait in Tunis. Due to an unforeseen scheduling issue, the remaining 79 sessions ( $n=385$  respondents) were conducted at a rented space located at 9 Avenue de Madrid in the Bab el-Khadra neighborhood of Tunis. I controlled for the location of each respondent's session in analyses and it did not have any significant influence on results. Experiments were run between 8:30 am and 7:30 pm.

A rotating, mixed-gender team of four enumerators positioned themselves outside of the space to recruit participants. Recruited individuals were asked if they were willing to spend roughly 30 minutes completing an exercise about Tunisian society and were required to be over 18 years old to participate. Potential participants were not told that they would be compensated for their time. A session began when five respondents had been recruited. Each respondent was paired with an enumerator who read the instrument to the respondent and filled out the answers on a tablet computer. Prior to fielding, I worked closely with a team of One-to-One staff to translate the instrument into Tunisian Arabic. During the experiments, I checked in with enumerators at the conclusion of each session but was not visible to participants, as I occupied a private office in the back of the rented space.

I recruited “ordinary” Tunisian private citizens for logistical and ethical reasons. First, I believe the theory outlined above to be a generalizable process due to its robustness in social psychology, and should occur with all types of individuals. A recent meta-analysis confirms that political scientists largely overstate the magnitude of elite-public gaps in decision-making.<sup>1</sup> As such, participants drawn from the political “elite” are not necessary in experiments. In addition, Tunisian politicians were continuing to navigate the difficult political challenges of democratic transition during the period in which I conducted my experiments, and I did not want to take up their valuable time.

The covariates included in regressions incorporate a number of attitudinal, demographic, and enumerator measurements. First, a respondent's relevant pre-treatment preferences were included; this was the respondent's level of agreement with the statement, “The government should take an active role in the economy instead of allowing for a free market economy,” and the respondent's level of agreement with the statement, “The government and parliament should enact legislation according to Islamic law.” In addition, a number of demographic controls were included: the respondent's self-reported employment status, level of education, household income, and frequency of attendance at Friday prayer and Qur'an readership. Another set of covariates included pre-treatment “groupness” variables, including self-reported current group membership (coded as 1 if the respondent reported being a member of a political, social, or economic group) as well as levels of general trust. I also included enumerator gender and, if female, whether the enumerator wore a veil in order to control for related enumerator effects.<sup>2</sup> A dummy variable for group assignment was included (coded as 1 if the respondent was assigned to the religion and politics group), and all standard errors are clustered by the respondent's session.

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<sup>1</sup> Kertzer, Joshua D. 2019. “Re-Assessing Elite-Public Gaps in Political Behavior.” *Working Paper*.

<sup>2</sup> Blaydes, Lisa and Rachel M. Gillum. 2013. “Religiosity-of-Interview Effects: Assessing the Impact of Veiled Enumerators on Survey Response in Egypt.” *Politics of Religion* 6(3): pp. 459-482.  
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S1755048312000557>