**Appendix A: Question Wording**

*Traditional Knowledge:*

Now we want to ask some questions related to what you know about politics.

Which party currently has a majority of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives?

Democratic 1

Republican 2

Tea Party 3

I don’t know 4

What majority is needed in the House and Senate to override a presidential veto?

51%

2/3

3/4

I don’t know

Which party is considered more conservative at the national level?

Democratic 1

Republican 2

They are considered equally conservative. 3

I don’t know 4

Whose responsibility is judicial review?

President 1

Congress 2

Supreme Court 3

I don’t know 4

What office is currently held by Joe Biden?

Vice President

Chief Justice of Supreme Court

Secretary of State

I don’t know.

*Knowledge of Carceral Violence:*

There have been a number of stories these days about confrontations between the police and citizens.  Please match the name with the description of the person below.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Eric Garner | Michael Brown | Marissa Alexander | Cece McDonald | John Crawford III | Renisha McBride |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

Q139i. 43 year old unarmed Black male killed after being choked by police officer Daniel Pantaleo on July 17, 2014 in Staten Island, New York.

Q139j. 18 year old unarmed Black male fatally shot by police officer Darren Wilson on August 9, 2014 in Ferguson, Missouri.

Q139k. Black female sentenced to 20 years in prison for firing a “warning shot” following her husband attacking and threatening to kill her in Jacksonville, Florida.

Q139l. Black transgender woman convicted of second degree manslaughter after using deadly force to protect herself and friends from a physical, transphobic, and racist assault in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 2012.

Q139m. 22 year old Black male fatally shot by police officers inside a Wal-Mart in Dayton, Ohio on August 5, 2014.

Q139n. 19 year old unarmed Black female fatally shot in November 2013 after crashing her car and knocking on a stranger’s door outside of Detroit, Michigan.

*TV or Radio news:*

How many days in the **past week** did you get news and information about political or social issues from: TV or Radio News (not counting TV or Radio News accessed via internet)

0-7 days

*Print News:*

How many days in the **past week** did you get news and information about political or social issues from: Print Newspaper or Magazines

0-7 days

*Social media news*

How many days in the **past week** did you get news and information about political or social issues from: Twitter or Facebook post/tweets from family or friends

0-7 days

*News from blog or Youtube posts:*

How many days in the **past week** did you get news and information about political or social issues from: Blogs or YouTube posts devoted to political or social topics

0-7 days

*Discuss politics online:*

How often do you discuss politics online?

Never 1

Rarely 2

Sometimes 3

Often 4

*Face-to-face political discussion*

How often do you discuss politics in your face-to-face interactions with people?

Never 1

Rarely 2

Sometimes 3

Often 4

*Political Interest:*

I am interested in political issues. Do you…

Strongly Disagree. 1

Disagree. 2

Agree. 3

Strongly Agree. 4

*Websites catering to people of color:*

How often do you visit sites online that cater to people of color or consistently feature issues and perspectives of interest to minorities or people of color? We mean sites like BET.com, The Global Grind, Bossip, The Griot, The Root, Hispanic Trending, Latino Rebels, Voto Latino, Hypen Magazine, Goldsea, or Asians.

Never 1

Rarely 2

Sometimes 3

Often 4

*Online homophily:*

When using social network sites (like Facebook), do you interact with:

Mostly Whites 1

Mostly Blacks 2

Mostly Hispanics/Latinos 3

Mostly Asians 4

Mostly Multiracial People 5

[text box] Other (please specify) 6

Not sure 7

Not applicable – I do not interact with people on these sites 8

*Frequency of Internet access:*

Looking at the following list of items, please indicate **how many days** **in the past week** you did each of the following activities: Access the Internet

0-7 days

*# of Friends Online:[[1]](#footnote-1)*

Think about online social networking sites that you visit like Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instragram, Pinterest or Google Plus. Altogether, approximately how many people are on your list of “followers,” “friends,” “connections,” or contacts? (Just your best guess is fine.)

1-25 1

26-50 2

51-100 3

101-199 4

200-499 5

500 or more 6

Not sure 7

I do not use any social networking sites. 8

*Linked fate:*

Do you think that what happens generally to [INSERT RACE OF RESPONDENT] in this country with have something to do with what happens in your life?

YES

NO

**IF YES**

Will it affect you:

NOT VERY MUCH

SOME

A LOT

*Internal efficacy:*

Please indicate your agreement with the following statement: “I consider myself well qualified to participate in politics”

STRONGLY DISAGREE

DISAGREE

AGREE

STRONGLY AGREE

*External efficacy:*

Please indicate your agreement with the following statement: “The leaders in government care very little about people like me”

STRONGLY DISAGREE

DISAGREE

AGREE

STRONGLY AGREE

*Voting:*

In talking to people about elections, we often find that a lot of people were not able to vote because they weren’t registered, they were sick, or they just didn’t have time.

How about you—did you vote in the election last November?

Yes 1

No 2

*Protest:*

Many people try to have influence in ways that aren’t directly related to campaigns and elections. Please indicate whether you have taken part in a protest, demonstration or sit-in in the past 12 months.

YES

NO

**Appendix B: Supplementary Analyses**

**Appendix Table 1. Correlations between Traditional and Carceral Violence Knowledge Questions**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Party Majority | Veto Power | Conservative Party | Judicial Review | Joe Biden | Eric Garner | Michael Brown | Marissa Alexander | Cece McDonald | John Crawford III | Traditional Knowledge Scale |
| Party Majority |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0.66 |
| Veto Power | 0.39 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0.65 |
| Conservative Party | 0.51 | 0.48 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0.71 |
| Judicial Review | 0.44 | 0.46 | 0.55 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0.68 |
| Joe Biden | 0.52 | 0.53 | 0.61 | 0.60 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0.64 |
| Eric Garner | 0.29 | 0.23 | 0.26 | 0.29 | 0.46 |  |  |  |  |  | 0.27 |
| Michael Brown | 0.34 | 0.24 | 0.31 | 0.29 | 0.49 | 0.74 |  |  |  |  | 0.28 |
| Marissa Alexander | 0.10 | 0.07 | 0.09 | 0.12 | 0.13 | 0.24 | 0.24 |  |  |  | 0.09 |
| Cece McDonald | 0.11 | 0.12 | 0.11 | 0.16 | 0.30 | 0.34 | 0.40 | 0.53 |  |  | 0.14 |
| John Crawford III | 0.26 | 0.23 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.39 | 0.84 | 0.59 | 0.33 | 0.44 |  | 0.25 |
| Renisha McBride | 0.17 | 0.12 | 0.10 | 0.14 | 0.26 | 0.35 | 0.34 | 0.73 | 0.61 | 0.43 | 0.14 |
| Carceral Violence Scale | 0.20 | 0.16 | 0.17 | 0.19 | 0.28 | 0.68 | 0.59 | 0.62 | 0.65 | 0.70 | **0.29** |

*Note*: Tetrachoric correlation coefficients of the individual dichotomous political knowledge questions, and Pearson’s R correlation coefficients when using the knowledge scales.

**Appendix Table 2a. Discrimination and Difficulty Parameters, Traditional Knowledge**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Whites | Blacks | Latinx |
| Majority Party | 1.99  -0.30 | 1.13  -0.08 | 1.38  0.29 |
| Conservative Party | 1.87  -1.06 | 1.93  0.03 | 2.17  -0.11 |
| Joe Biden | 1.99  -1.89 | 2.73  -1.12 | 2.15  -0.67 |
| Veto | 1.32  -0.33 | 1.04  0.48 | 1.49  0.69 |
| Judicial Review | 1.38  -1.02 | 1.84  -0.41 | 1.79  -0.41 |

*Note:* The top number represents the discrimination parameter; the bottom the difficulty parameter.

**Appendix Table 2b. Discrimination and Difficulty Parameters, Carceral Violence Knowledge**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Whites | Blacks | Latinx |
| Eric Garner | 4.00  -0.27 | 2.90  -0.72 | 2.31  0.01 |
| Michael Brown | 1.52  -1.36 | 2.25  -1.06 | 1.49  -0.58 |
| Marissa Alexander | 0.83  0.63 | 1.74  -0.01 | 1.55  0.54 |
| Cece McDonald | 0.95  0.40 | 2.48  -0.14 | 1.72  0.47 |
| John Crawford III | 4.19  -0.07 | 3.44  -0.40 | 2.91  0.19 |
| Renisha McBride | 0.99  0.74 | 2.32  0.09 | 2.01  0.55 |

*Note:* The top number represents the discrimination parameter; the bottom the difficulty parameter.

**Appendix Table 3. Observed Scale Reliability, Eigenvalues, and Raw Knowledge Gaps:**

**African Americans, Whites, and Latino/as**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | African Americans | | | | Whites | | | | Latino/as | | | |
|  | Alpha | # Eigenvalues > 1 | # Estimated Factors | Mean | Alpha | # Eigenvalues > 1 | # Estimated Factors | Mean | Alpha | # Eigenvalues > 1 | # Estimated Factors | Mean |
| Combined Scale (5 traditional items + 6 items of Carceral Violence) | 0.77 | 3 | 3 | 6.9 | 0.70 | 3 | 3 | 7.1 | 0.78 | 3 | 3 | 5.6 |
| Traditional Knowledge Scale (5 items) | 0.65 | 1 | 1 | 2.9 | 0.64 | 1 | 1 | 3.6 | 0.70 | 1 | 1 | 2.6 |
| Knowledge of Carceral Violence (6 Items) | 0.79 | 2 | 2 | 3.9 | 0.68 | 2 | 2 | 3.4 | 0.77 | 2 | 2 | 2.9 |

Appendix Table 1 presents the tetrachoric correlation coefficients when analyzing the correlation between the individual (dichotomous) knowledge items, and Pearson’s R correlation coefficients between two constructed as additive scales. The results show plainly that knowledge of carceral violence and traditional knowledge are not highly correlated. While the average tetrachoric correlation within the traditional knowledge items is 0.51, and the average tetrachoric correlation within the knowledge of carceral violence questions is 0.48, the average tetrachoric correlation across traditional and carceral violence knowledge questions is just 0.22. Finally, the Pearson’s R correlation between the two when constructed as separate additive scales is just 0.29.

The analysis in Appendix Table 3 provides further evidence that those who possess knowledge of the liberal state are not necessarily experts in identifying victims of carceral violence. For each racial and ethnic group, the principal component factor analysis presented in Table 2 suggests that there is more than 1 factor—as indicated by the number of eigenvalues—when combining the traditional and carceral violence knowledge batteries. Furthermore, varimax rotated factor loadings verify what the correlations in Appendix Table 1 suggest: the traditional knowledge questions all load on a single domain separately from the carceral violence questions.

Confirmatory factor analysis based on the tetrachoric correlations presented in Appendix Table 1 provides further evidence that these two types of knowledge are separate in much of the public’s knowledge about politics. Specifically, a variety of goodness of fit statistics are better for a two-dimensional than a one-dimensional model. For example, both the AIC and BIC are lower in the two-factor compared to the one-factor model. The comparative fit index (Bentler 1990) is 0.76 for the two-factor model, and just 0.54 for the one-factor model. The coefficient of determination is 0.99 for the two-factor model, and 0.91 for the one-factor model. And the correlation between the latent factors of traditional and carceral knowledge in the two-factor model is 0.50, a statistically significant correlation but well below the recommended cut-point of 0.85 to identify poor discriminant validity (Kline 2005).

As one final test, we extracted latent variables for both traditional and carceral violence knowledge from the IRT response models mentioned above; the correlation between these latent variables was just 0.32. In sum, a two-factor model of political knowledge—with one factor based on traditional knowledge and another knowledge of carceral violence—provides a much better fit to the data than the one-factor model, and there is some but only limited overlap between the two latent constructs. However, we note that the two sets of questions are measured slightly differently, which may contribute to the finding we observe that a two-factor model fits the data better than a one-factor model of political knowledge. Nonetheless, the cumulative evidence all points towards the conclusion that people who possess an abundance of knowledge about the liberal state do not necessarily know much about the carceral state, and vice versa.

**Appendix Figure 1. Item Characteristic Curves for Traditional Knowledge Items**



**Appendix Figure 2. Item Characteristic Curves for Carceral Violence Knowledge Items**



1. People who responded “not sure” (N=112) are recoded to the midpoint to minimize loss of sample size. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)