nature research

Corresponding author(s): Suzanne Hoogeveen

Last updated by author(s): Oct 5, 2021

Reporting Summary

Nature Research wishes to improve the reproducibility of the work that we publish. This form provides structure for consistency and transparency in reporting. For further information on Nature Research policies, see our Editorial Policies and the Editorial Policy Checklist.

Statistics

For all statistical analyses, confirm that the following items are present in the figure legend, table legend, main text, or Methods section.

n/a	Confirmed	
☐	☒	The exact sample size (*n*) for each experimental group/condition, given as a discrete number and unit of measurement
☐	☒	A statement on whether measurements were taken from distinct samples or whether the same sample was measured repeatedly
☐	☒	The statistical test(s) used AND whether they are one- or two-sided *Only common tests should be described solely by name; describe more complex techniques in the Methods section.*
☐	☒	A description of all covariates tested
☒	☐	A description of any assumptions or corrections, such as tests of normality and adjustment for multiple comparisons
☐	☒	A full description of the statistical parameters including central tendency (e.g. means) or other basic estimates (e.g. regression coefficient) AND variation (e.g. standard deviation) or associated estimates of uncertainty (e.g. confidence intervals)
☒	☐	For null hypothesis testing, the test statistic (e.g. *F*, *t*, *r*) with confidence intervals, effect sizes, degrees of freedom and *P* value noted *Give P values as exact values whenever suitable.*
☐	☒	For Bayesian analysis, information on the choice of priors and Markov chain Monte Carlo settings
☐	☒	For hierarchical and complex designs, identification of the appropriate level for tests and full reporting of outcomes
☐	☒	Estimates of effect sizes (e.g. Cohen's *d*, Pearson's *r*), indicating how they were calculated

Our web collection on statistics for biologists contains articles on many of the points above.

Software and code

Policy information about availability of computer code

Data collection	Administration of the survey was done via Qualtrics (https://www.qualtrics.com/)
Data analysis	R and RMarkdown were used to conduct the analyses. The analysis was carried out on the Dutch national e-infrastructure with the support of SURF Cooperative.

For manuscripts utilizing custom algorithms or software that are central to the research but not yet described in published literature, software must be made available to editors and reviewers. We strongly encourage code deposition in a community repository (e.g. GitHub). See the Nature Research guidelines for submitting code & software for further information.

Data

Policy information about availability of data

All manuscripts must include a data availability statement. This statement should provide the following information, where applicable:

- Accession codes, unique identifiers, or web links for publicly available datasets
- A list of figures that have associated raw data
- A description of any restrictions on data availability

All data collected as part of the experimental study, as well as preprocessed secondary data on explicit trust are provided at https://osf.io/qsyvw/. Raw data on the explicit trust ratings are available at https://wellcome.org/reports/wellcome-global-monitor/2018downloads-4d1c.

Field-specific reporting

Please select the one below that is the best fit for your research. If you are not sure, read the appropriate sections before making your selection.

☐ Life sciences ☒ Behavioural & social sciences ☐ Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences

For a reference copy of the document with all sections, see nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf

Behavioural & social sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

Study description	We used a mixed design with one repeated-measures manipulated variable (source) and one individual differences measured variable (religiosity). The data are quantitative.
Research sample	Participants (N=10,195) were recruited from university student samples, from personal networks, and from representative samples accessed by panel agencies and online platforms (MTurk, Kieskompas, Sojump, TurkPrime, Lancers, Qualtrics panels, Crowdpanel, and Prolific). The average age of the total sample was 33.8 (SD=13.8), with 55.9% women. A breakdown of demographics per country is given in Table 3 in the manuscript. In addition, we used an existing dataset of ratings from 117,191 participants across 143 countries. This dataset is obtained from Gallup's Wellcome Gobal Monitor First Wave Findings (https://wellcome.ac.uk/reports/wellcome-global-monitor/2018
Sampling strategy	The countries were convenience-sampled (i.e., through personal networks), but were selected to cover all 6 continents and include different ethnic majorities and religious majorities (Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Jewish, Eastern religions, as well as highly secular societies). We preregistered a target sample size of n = 400 per country and 20-25 target countries. The preregistered sample size and composition allowed us to look at overall effects, effects within countries, and between countries. As we applied a Bayesian statistical framework, we needed a minimum of 20 countries to have sufficient data for accurate estimation in cross-country comparisons. However, our main interest were overall effects - rather than effects for individual countries. With approximately 8,800 participants, we would have sufficient data to reliably estimate overall effects, especially since the source effect is within-subjects.
Data collection	All data was collected via the computer. Participants received a link to the Qualtrics survey, either by email, social media or through an online platform. No one could access the data except for the main researcher.
Timing	Data collection started on February 6th, 2019 and was terminated by November 30th, 2019. Ten participants completed the survey after this termination date, as the survey links were kept open (though no longer disseminated).
Data exclusions	In total 10,535 completed the survey. As preregistered, 340 participants (3.23%) were excluded because they failed the attention check, leaving an analytic sample of N = 10,195 from 24 countries.
Non-participation	Of all 11,929 people who started the survey, 1746 (14.6%) did not complete it.
Randomization	Participants were randomly allocated to 1 of 4 experimental conditions, consisting of different text-source matches (text A-spiritual source and text B-scientist or text A-scientist and text B-spiritual source) and source orderings (scientific-spiritual or spiritual-scientific ordered condition).

Reporting for specific materials, systems and methods

We require information from authors about some types of materials, experimental systems and methods used in many studies. Here, indicate whether each material, system or method listed is relevant to your study. If you are not sure if a list item applies to your research, read the appropriate section before selecting a response.

Materials & experimental systems

n/a	Involved in the study
☒	☐ Antibodies
☒	☐ Eukaryotic cell lines
☒	☐ Palaeontology and archaeology
☒	☐ Animals and other organisms
☐	☒ Human research participants
☒	☐ Clinical data
☒	☐ Dual use research of concern

Methods

n/a	Involved in the study
☒	☐ ChIP-seq
☒	☐ Flow cytometry
☒	☐ MRI-based neuroimaging

Human research participants

Policy information about studies involving human research participants

Population characteristics	See above.
Recruitment	See above.
Ethics oversight	The study was approved by the local ethics committee at the Psychology Department of the University of Amsterdam (Project #2018-SP-9713). Additional approval was obtained from local IRBs at the Adolfo Ibáñez University (Chile), the Babes-Bolyai University (Romania), the James Cook University (Singapore), Royal Holloway, University of London (UK), and the University of Connecticut (US).

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.