Supplementary Information

for

Of Pandemics, Politics, and Personality: The Role of Conscientiousness and Political Ideology in

Sharing of Fake News

M. Asher Lawson

Hemant Kakkar

Duke University

Additional Analysis

Study 1

For Study 1, we present several additional analyses. First, additional GEE models testing the robustness of the interactive effect between political ideology and conscientiousness on the likelihood of sharing stories (Table S1). We plot the three-way interactions between political ideology, conscientiousness and both new veracity and news alignment (Figures S1 and S2). We include the full coefficients from our moderated mediation model (Table S2). In Figure S3, we plot the two-way interaction between conscientiousness and news alignment, and in Figure S4 we plot the three-way interaction between conscientiousness, news alignment and news veracity. In Table S3, we include linear regression models estimated with GEEs predicting participants' subjective assessments of the accuracy of news stories. Some specific pieces of analysis are included below.

We conducted pre-registered exploratory tests on the relationship between the political concordance of the news, conscientiousness and whether the news was 'fake'. We classified news as concordant or discordant news based on the news content (democratic, republican or neutral) and whether they preferred the democratic or republican party. The dummy variable 'concordant' took a value of 1 if respondents indicated that they preferred the republican party and the news was classified as republican leaning (e.g. Breitbart), or if they indicated a preference for democrats, and the news was democrat leaning (e.g. The Raw Story). Similarly, the dummy variable 'discordant' was 1 if the news leaned towards the opposing party. This procedure is similar to prior work on concordance of fake news (Pennycook et al., 2018; Pennycook & Rand, 2019b). However, unlike past work these variables were defined relative to the neutral category, where the news was not laden with any political content. This enabled us to

tease apart the effects of news alignment with political ideology accurately. These models can be seen in Table 1 in the main manuscript.

Effect of news concordance and discordance. First, we tested whether the alignment of a news story with a participant's political beliefs was relevant to their likelihood of sharing the story. In Model 7, we see that there was no main effect of politically 'concordant' news on the likelihood of sharing, but there was a negative main effect of the news being 'discordant' (b = -0.427, $p < 0.001$). This suggests that differences in participants' sharing behavior of political news across the spectrum is driven by a reduced propensity to share discordant news than an enhanced propensity to share concordant news. Previous designs lacking a neutral news condition have precluded this insight.

In Model 8, we examined the interaction between conscientiousness and news-alignment variables. This was intended to test whether conscientiousness has different effects on the likelihood of sharing a news story contingent on ideological alignment. We found a significant main effect of conscientiousness (b = -0.628, $p < 0.001$), no significant main effects of 'concordant' or 'discordant', but a significant negative interaction between discordant and conscientiousness (b = -0.192, $p = 0.016$) (see Figure S3 in SI). Combined with the results of Model 7, this suggests that higher conscientiousness participants were driving the negative effect of news discordance on sharing behavior. In other words, highly conscientious people are averse to sharing discordant political news and not biased towards sharing concordant news.

We also examined whether the news veracity affected how conscientiousness and concordance interacted to predict the likelihood of sharing a story. Model 9 thus tested the three-way interactions between conscientiousness, if the news was fake and news discordance. We observed a significant positive three-way interaction between conscientiousness, news

concordance and if the news was fake ($b = 0.285$, $p = 0.009$), negative two-way interactions between conscientiousness and news discordance ($b = -0.299$, $p < 0.001$) and between conscientiousness and if news was fake ($b = -0.337$, $p < 0.001$), and a negative significant effect of conscientiousness ($b = -0.500$, $p < 0.001$). This pattern of results suggests that conscientiousness had a greater negative impact on the likelihood of sharing a story for 'discordant' and 'fake' news separately, but that this effect was not additive: when a story was both 'discordant' *and* 'fake', conscientiousness did not have an even larger impact than when a story was 'discordant' *or* 'fake' (see Figure S4). Overall, our analysis revealed that concordance did not increase sharing of news, rather discordance reduced it.

We repeated all of our analyses using linear regression with subjective accuracy as a dependent variable. A similar interaction between conscientiousness and political ideology in the prediction of accuracy was observed, consistent with our moderated mediation analysis. In addition to the regression analysis, we tested for party differences in perceptions of attitudes towards the virus (Covid-19) and whether trait conscientiousness varied as a function of political ideology. Refer to the SI for further details on these analyses (Table S3).

Study 2

For Study 2, we present several additional analyses. First, additional GEE models testing the robustness of the interactive effect between political ideology and conscientiousness on the likelihood of sharing stories (Table S4). We plot the three-way interactions between political ideology, conscientiousness and both new veracity and news alignment (Figures S5 and S6). We include the full coefficients from our moderated mediation model (Table S5). In Figure S7, we plot the two-way interaction between conscientiousness and news alignment. In Table S6, we

include linear regression models estimated with GEEs predicting participants' subjective assessments of the accuracy of news stories. Some specific pieces of analysis are included below.

Effect of news concordance and discordance. We investigated the effect of the political alignment of news stories on sharing using the paradigm widely adopted in the literature in Table 2 in the main manuscript. In Model 7, we found a significant positive effect of news being politically concordant on the likelihood of sharing a story ($b = 0.427$, $p < 0.001$). In Model 8, we found a significant positive interaction between conscientiousness and news being politically concordant ($b = 0.258$, $p < 0.001$). See Figure S7 for further details. These results replicate previous findings that discussed concordant news to be shared more than discordant ones (Bago et al., 2020; Martel et al., 2019). Thus previous interpretation of news concordance related to positive sharing of fake news is not wrong given the above results but these results should be treated with caution *without a neutral control condition*. The control condition allows to test the directionality of this effect and without one it's difficult to ascertain the underlying process. The three-way interaction between conscientiousness, political concordance and news being 'fake' did not achieve statistical significance ($p < .05$).

In addition to the described analyses, we estimated models predicting participants' ratings of the subject accuracy of news stories in Table S6.

Study 3

For Study 3, we present several additional analyses. First, additional GEE models testing the robustness of the interactive effect between political ideology and conscientiousness on the likelihood of sharing stories (Table S7). We plot the three-way interactions between political ideology, conscientiousness and both new veracity and news alignment (Figures S8 and S9). We include the full coefficients from our moderated mediation model (Table S8). In Figure S10, we

plot the two-way interaction between conscientiousness and news alignment, and in Figure S11 we plot the three-way interaction between conscientiousness, news alignment and news veracity. In Table S9, we include linear regression models estimated with GEEs predicting participants' subjective assessments of the accuracy of news stories. Some specific pieces of analysis are included below.

In Table 3 in the main manuscript, Models 3-5 and 7-8 revealed significant negative effects of 'false warnings' on the likelihood of sharing a story (model 3: b = -.856, all p < 0.001), consistent with the third hypothesis.

Effect of news concordance and discordance. A significant negative interaction of conscientiousness and discordant news also emerged (b = -.220, p = 0.002), such that conscientiousness had a greater negative effect on the likelihood of sharing politically discordant news (Model 8). We find that people are averse to sharing discordant news, rather than favoring concordant news (see Figure S10 in the SI).

Next we analyzed a three-way interaction between conscientiousness, false warnings and news concordance. The three-way interaction between conscientiousness, political concordance and a 'false warning' was positive and significant (b = 0.351, p = 0.004, *Model 9*). The interaction between conscientiousness and 'discordant' was significant and negative (b = -0.237, p = 0.006). The interaction between conscientiousness and a 'false warning' was significant and negative (b = -0.537, p < 0.001). None of the main effects were significant. This pattern of results suggests that conscientiousness reduced the sharing of politically discordant stories and importantly 'fake' news. However, this reduction in the likelihood of sharing a 'fake' story was smaller when the story was politically concordant (see Figure S11 in the SI).

Similar to prior studies, we also estimated parallel models predicting participants' ratings of the subject accuracy of news stories in Table S9.

Study 4

For Study 4, we present several additional analyses. First, our core GEE models predicting 'share' (Table S10). Second, additional GEE models testing the robustness of the interactive effect between political ideology and conscientiousness on the likelihood of sharing stories (Table S11). We plot the three-way interactions between political ideology, conscientiousness and both new veracity and news alignment (Figures S12 and S13). We include the full coefficients from our moderated mediation model (Table S12). In Figure S14, we plot the three-way interaction between conscientiousness, news alignment and news veracity. In Table S13, we include linear regression models estimated with GEEs predicting participants' subjective assessments of the accuracy of news stories. Some specific pieces of analysis are included below.

For Study 4 we analyze the findings of the first stage of the study i.e. before the fact checker intervention, including replications of all of our main results from previous studies. The first stage of Study 4 is a direct replication of Study 1.

Replicating results in the first stage. We first wanted to replicate our findings from previous studies at the news level. The results are presented in Table S10. In Model 1 the coefficient for political ideology was positive and statistically significant ($b = .138$, $p = 0.004$) and the coefficient for conscientiousness was negative and significant ($b = -.395$, $p < 0.001$). In Model 4, we saw that both effects were robust to the inclusion of control variables, political ideology ($b = .078$, $p = 0.002$) and conscientiousness ($b = -.230$, $p = 0.003$). In Model 2, we observed a significant interaction between political ideology and conscientiousness ($b = -.223$, $p < 0.001$). This was robust to including control variables ($b = -.164$, $p < 0.001$). In Model 2, the

simple slope of the effect of political ideology on the likelihood of sharing a story was significant at one standard deviation below mean conscientiousness ($b = .291$, $p < 0.001$), but not at one standard deviation above ($b = -.036$, $p = 0.231$). In Table S11, we re-ran the analysis for Model 5 in the subsets of real and fake news stories, finding that the effect was statistically significant for real ($b = -.184$, $p < 0.001$) and fake stories ($b = -.139$, $p < 0.001$). There was no significant three-way interaction between conscientiousness, political ideology and news being 'fake', but the interaction between conscientiousness and political ideology was significant in this model ($b = -.176$, $p < 0.001$, Model 13, Table S11).

The moderated mediation analysis (Table S12), revealed a positive indirect effect of conservative political ideology via subjective accuracy at low levels of conscientiousness ($b = .014$, $p < 0.001$, $CI_{95} = [0.012, 0.016]$), but a negative indirect effect at high levels of conscientiousness ($b = -.010$, $p < 0.001$, $CI_{95} = [-0.012, -0.008]$).

Effect of news concordance and discordance. In Table S10, we also repeated our analyses for the effects of political alignment, news veracity and conscientiousness on news sharing behavior. We replicated our result regarding political alignment: 'discordant' had a negative effect ($b = -.490$, $p < 0.001$) on the likelihood of sharing a story (Model 7). However, we also found that 'concordant' had a positive effect for the first time ($b = .137$, $p < 0.001$). We did not observe this in Studies 1 and 3. It is possible that the larger sample size of Study 4 facilitated the detection of a small positive effect of news being 'concordant' on sharing behavior, relative to a control. However, the need for a control condition is still clear: It is necessary to tease apart these two effects (discordance and concordance) to understand their relative importance).

In Model 9, we found a significant three-way interaction, between conscientiousness, concordance and fake ($b = .432$, $p < 0.001$). In addition to this interaction, there were significant two-way interactions between conscientiousness and concordant ($b = -.142$, $p = 0.016$), conscientiousness and discordant ($b = -.191$, $p = 0.003$), conscientiousness and fake ($b = -.307$, $p < 0.001$) and concordant and fake ($b = -.685$, $p = 0.023$). The interaction pattern can be seen in Figure S14. In this study, we find some evidence that people reduce the extent to which they are willing to share politically concordant fake news *less* across the range of conscientiousness than discordant or neutral news. For real news, we find that people reduce the extent to which they are willing to share neutral news *less* across the range of conscientiousness than concordant or discordant news. This analysis suggests that if a highly conscientious person is going to share fake news, it is likely to be politically concordant. They are still most likely to share politically neutral, real news.

We repeated all of our main analyses using subjective accuracy as the dependent variable. This analysis can be seen in Table S13.

Study 6

For Study 6, we present several additional analyses. First, additional GEE models testing the robustness of the interactive effect between political ideology and conscientiousness on the likelihood of sharing stories (Table S14). Second, linear regression models predicting desire for chaos with political ideology and conscientiousness (Table S15). Next, the full coefficients from our serial moderated mediation model (Table S16). We plotted predicted desire for chaos at high and low levels of conscientiousness across the political spectrum (Figure S15). We also include the full model estimates (Table S17) and corresponding diagram (Figure S16) for an additional

moderated mediation model, using just desire for chaos as the mediator. Some specific results are detailed below.

We tested a moderated mediation model (Table S17, Figure S16), where political ideology was the independent variable, conscientiousness was the moderator, desire for chaos was the mediator and the likelihood of sharing a story was the dependent variable. We found that there was a positive indirect effect of political ideology on the likelihood of sharing a news story via the mediator of desire for chaos at low levels of conscientiousness ($b = .031$, $p < 0.001$, $CI_{95} = [.028, .034]$), but that the indirect effect was negative and did not attain statistical significance at a 5% level for high levels of conscientiousness ($b = -.001$, $p = 0.066$, $CI_{95} = [-.002, .000]$).

Studies 1-4: Differences in attitudes towards COVID-19 and conscientiousness between liberals and republicans.

Using our forced choice between the democratic and republican party item as our independent variable, we tested the difference between group averages for several variables. The results of this analysis can be seen in Table S18. In each of Studies 1-4, the observed pattern of results is identical. Importantly, there is generally no significant difference in conscientiousness across party lines. In Study 6, we see slightly higher levels of trait conscientiousness among Republicans. We replicate previous results regarding the cognitive reflection of Democrats and Republicans (Bago et al., 2020; Pennycook & Rand, 2019a). Republicans consistently score lower on our measure of cognitive reflection. Furthermore, Democrats are more concerned about COVID-19, both with regards to the self and the world. Republicans believe that it is more likely the threat from COVID-19 is exaggerated. Democrats more strongly support a federally mandated two-week quarantine for affected persons.

References

Bago, B., Rand, D. G., & Pennycook, G. (2020). Fake news, fast and slow: Deliberation reduces belief in false (but not true) news headlines. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*. https://doi.org/10.1037/xge0000729

Martel, C., Pennycook, G., & Rand, D. (2019). *Reliance on emotion promotes belief in fake news*. https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/a2ydw

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Pennycook, G., & Rand, D. G. (2019a). Cognitive Reflection and the 2016 US Presidential Election. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, *45*(2), 224–239.

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Study 1

Table S1: *Likelihood of sharing a news story using GEE logistic regression (Study 1)*

Variable	Model 10			Model 11			Model 12 (real)			Model 12 (fake)			Model 13			Model 14		
	estimate	se	sig	estimate	se	sig	estimate	se	sig	estimate	se	sig	estimate	se	sig	estimate	se	sig
(Intercept)	-2.471	0.953	*	-3.506	1.606	*	-1.950	1.077	n.s	-2.381	1.154	*	-1.862	1.070	n.s	-1.817	1.115	n.s.
Political Ideology (PI)	1.063	0.255	***	1.221	0.361	***	0.785	0.201	***	0.948	0.222	***	0.770	0.201	***	0.769	0.209	***
Conscientiousness (C)	0.237	0.234	n.s	-0.144	0.255	n.s	0.017	0.213	n.s	0.062	0.239	n.s	0.046	0.216	n.s	-0.048	0.232	n.s.
Fake[a]				-0.455	0.035	***							-0.586	0.390	n.s	-0.456	0.035	***
Extraversion				0.351	0.205	n.s	0.477	0.094	***	0.511	0.111	***	0.489	0.096	***	0.492	0.097	***
Agreeableness				0.566	0.333	n.s	0.028	0.125	n.s	-0.103	0.138	n.s	-0.031	0.126	n.s	-0.032	0.127	n.s.
Negative Emotionality				0.176	0.197	n.s	-0.006	0.097	n.s	-0.011	0.100	n.s	-0.009	0.095	n.s	-0.009	0.095	n.s.
Open-mindedness				-0.339	0.241	n.s	-0.323	0.104	**	-0.320	0.115	**	-0.320	0.104	**	-0.325	0.105	**
Attitude towards COVID-19				0.322	0.093	***	0.347	0.088	***	0.289	0.096	**	0.319	0.089	***	0.323	0.089	***
General Cognitive Reflection				-0.176	0.032	***	-0.169	0.033	***	-0.184	0.034	***	-0.175	0.032	***	-0.176	0.032	***
Age				0.001	0.006	n.s	0.001	0.006	n.s	-0.001	0.006	n.s	0.000	0.006	n.s	0.000	0.006	n.s.
Male[b]				0.100	0.144	n.s	0.108	0.145	n.s	0.111	0.154	n.s	0.109	0.144	n.s	0.109	0.145	n.s.
News - Conservative				-0.255	0.053	***	-0.606	0.065	***	0.173	0.072	*	-0.254	0.052	***			
News - Democrat				-0.151	0.061	*	-0.368	0.070	***	0.124	0.077	n.s	-0.150	0.060	*			
Counterbalance				0.001	0.138	n.s	0.007	0.137	n.s	-0.062	0.147	n.s	-0.024	0.136	n.s	-0.025	0.137	n.s.
Concordant																-0.033	0.666	n.s.
Discordant																-0.858	0.712	n.s.
PI X C	-0.239	0.064	***	-0.147	0.065	*	-0.182	0.051	***	-0.213	0.058	***	-0.180	0.051	***	-0.157	0.053	**
PI X Extraversion				0.035	0.056	n.s												
PI X Agreeableness				-0.148	0.076	n.s												
PI X Negative Emotionality				-0.043	0.045	n.s												
PI X Open-mindedness				0.000	0.060	n.s												
C X Fake													-0.023	0.101	n.s			
PI X Fake													0.183	0.088	*			
PI X C X Fake													-0.033	0.024	n.s			
PI x Concordant																0.029	0.140	n.s.
PI x Discordant																0.315	0.157	*
C X Concordant																0.109	0.171	n.s.
C X Discordant																0.186	0.186	n.s.
PI x C X Concordant																-0.033	0.037	n.s.
PI x C X Discordant																-0.104	0.043	*
News Story FEs		Yes			No			No			No			No			No	
n					11712			5856			5856			11712			11712	

[a] Categorical Variable 0 = Real News, 1 = Fake News; [b] Categorical Variable 1 = Male, 0 = Otherwise

Figure S1: *The predicted probability of sharing real and fake news stories for high and low conscientiousness respondents across the range of political ideology in Study 1.*

Figure S2: *The predicted probability of sharing discordant, neutral and concordant news stories for high and low conscientiousness respondents across the range of political ideology in Study 1.*

Table S2: *Moderated Mediation analysis (Study 1)*

| | Moderated mediation | | | | |
| | | 95% CI | | | |
	Estimate	Lower	Upper	z-value	p-value
Direct effect of Political Ideology on 'share'	0.022	0.018	0.026	10.97	<0.001
Effect of Political Ideology on accuracy	0.392	0.335	0.448	13.58	<0.001
Effect of Conscientiousness on accuracy	0.113	0.050	0.177	3.53	<0.001
Effect of Political Ideology X Conscientiousness on accuracy	-0.097	-0.112	-0.083	-13.21	<0.001
Effect of accuracy on 'share'	0.209	0.203	0.216	63.73	<0.001
Indirect effect of Political Ideology on 'share' at 1sd below mean Conscientiousness	0.018	0.015	0.021	11.24	<0.001
Indirect effect of Political Ideology on 'share' at 1sd above mean Conscientiousness	-0.013	-0.016	-0.009	-7.45	<0.001

n = 11,712

Note. CI = Confidence Interval

Figure S3: *The predicted probability of sharing a news story for different politically aligned news stories across the range of conscientiousness (Study 1)*
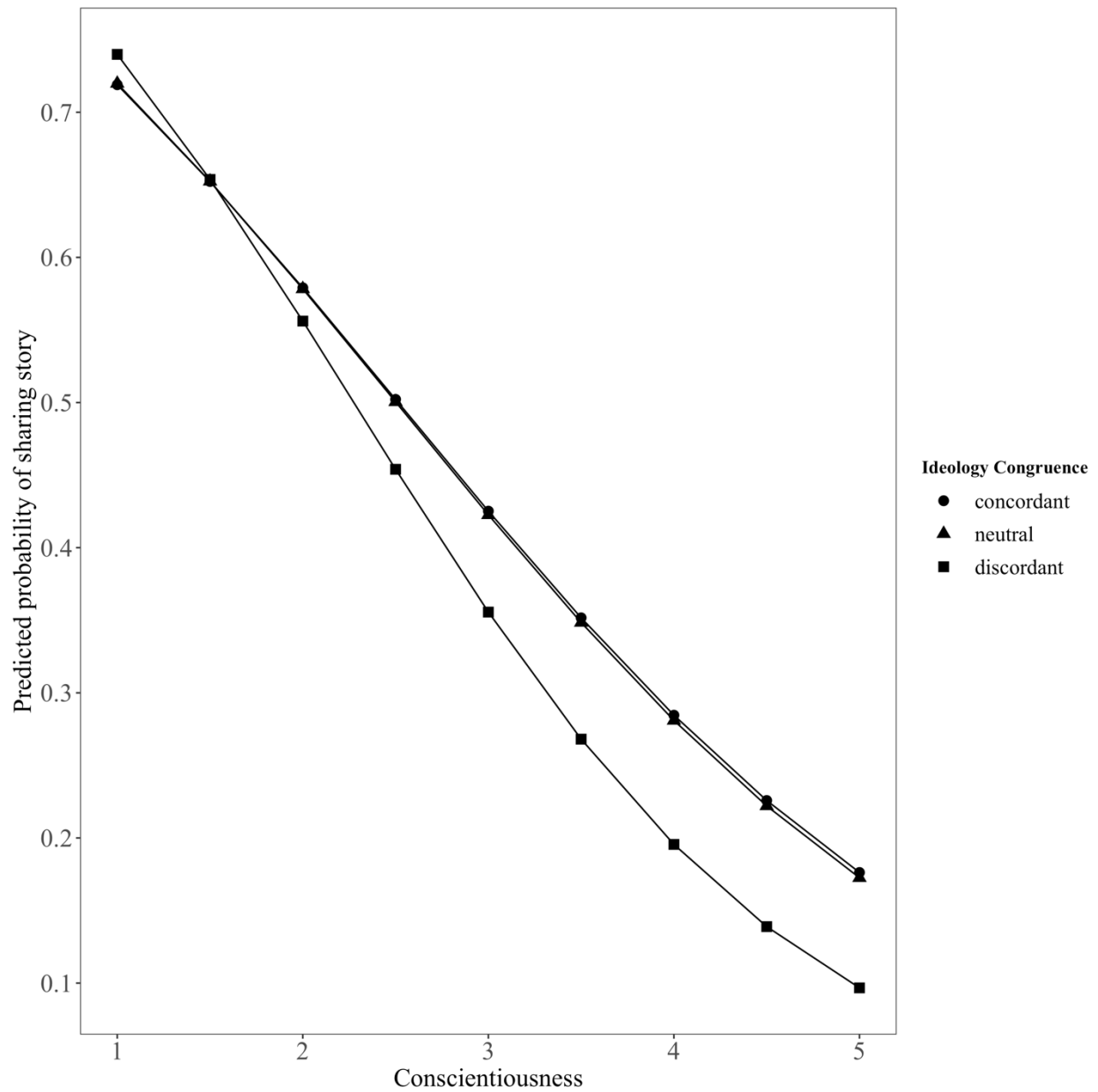
Figure S4: *The predicted probability of sharing real and fake news stories for different politically aligned news stories across the range of conscientiousness (Study 1)*
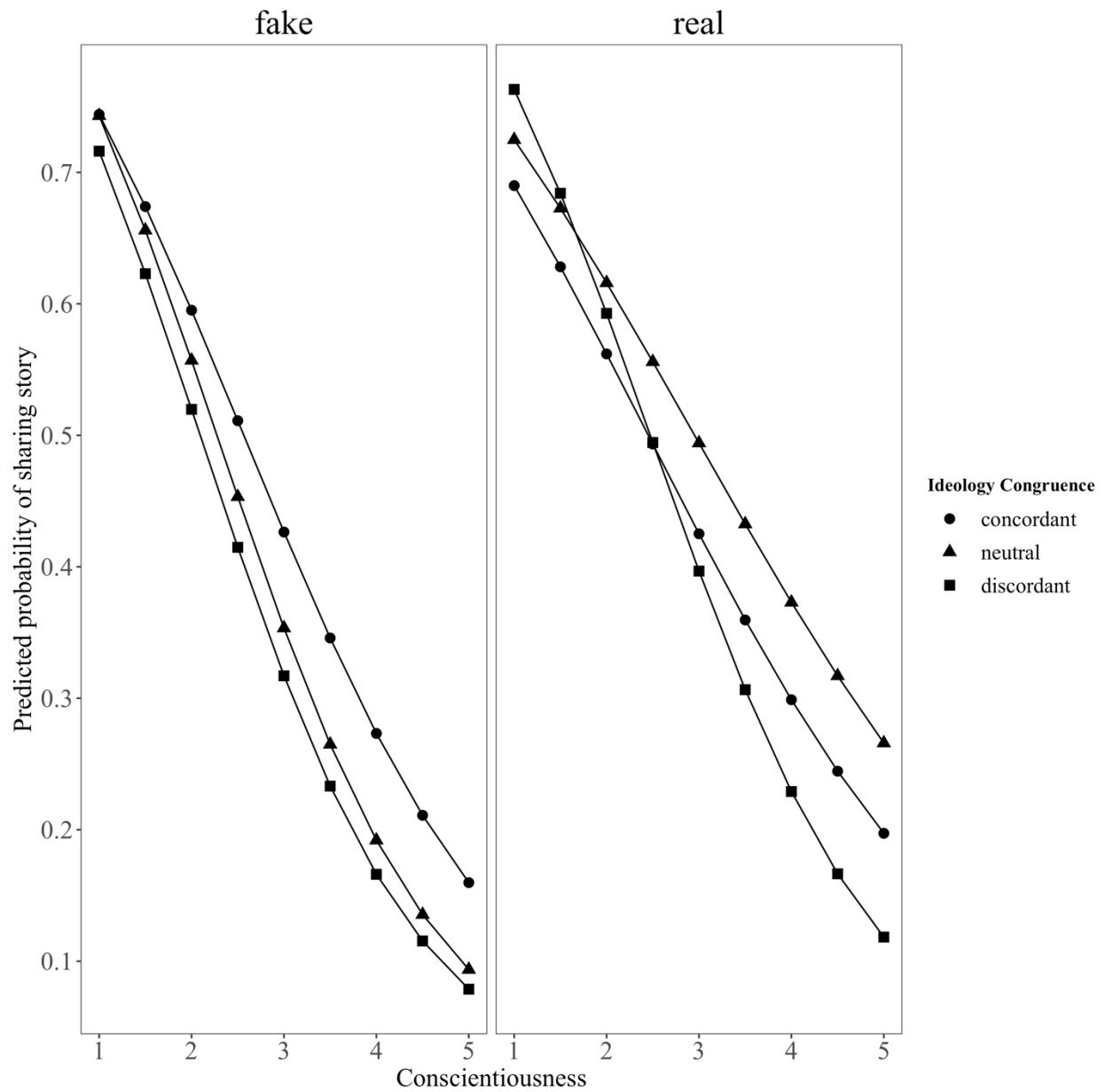
Table S3: *Accuracy of a news story using GEE linear regression (Study 1)*

Variable	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5	Model 7	Model 8	Model 9
Political Ideology (PI)	0.010	0.283***		0.013	0.259***			
	(0.022)	(0.066)		(0.012)	(0.063)			
Conscientiousness (C)	-0.179***	0.065		-0.158***	0.074	-0.157***	-0.150***	-0.040
	(0.028)	(0.059)		(0.031)	(0.062)	(0.031)	(0.034)	(0.039)
PI X C		-0.070***			-0.063***			
		(0.016)			(0.015)			
Fake[a]			-0.411***	-0.411***	-0.411***	-0.411***	-0.411***	0.042
			(0.017)	(0.017)	(0.017)	(0.017)	(0.017)	(0.164)
Extraversion			0.024	0.031	0.027	0.035	0.035	0.035
			(0.031)	(0.030)	(0.029)	(0.030)	(0.030)	(0.030)
Agreeableness			-0.118***	-0.068*	-0.059	-0.069*	-0.069*	-0.069*
			(0.033)	(0.034)	(0.034)	(0.034)	(0.034)	(0.034)
Negative Emotionality			0.035	-0.005	0.000	-0.002	-0.002	-0.002
			(0.025)	(0.026)	(0.025)	(0.026)	(0.026)	(0.026)
Open-mindedness			-0.042	-0.005	0.003	-0.012	-0.012	-0.012
			(0.032)	(0.031)	(0.031)	(0.030)	(0.030)	(0.030)
Attitude towards COVID-19			0.093***	0.101***	0.090***	0.094***	-0.012	0.094***
			(0.023)	(0.023)	(0.024)	(0.022)	(0.030)	(0.022)
General Cognitive Reflection			-0.015	-0.013	-0.011	-0.014	-0.014	-0.014
			(0.010)	(0.009)	(0.009)	(0.009)	(0.009)	(0.009)
Age			0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
			(0.002)	(0.002)	(0.002)	(0.002)	(0.002)	(0.002)
Male[b]			0.088*	0.072	0.066	0.074	0.074	0.074
			(0.042)	(0.041)	(0.040)	(0.041)	(0.041)	(0.041)
News - Conservative			0.066**	0.066**	0.066**			
			(0.022)	(0.022)	(0.022)			
News - Democrat			0.077**	0.077**	0.077**			
			(0.027)	(0.027)	(0.027)			
Counterbalance			0.009	-0.001	-0.014	0.000	0.000	0.000
			(0.039)	(0.039)	(0.038)	(0.038)	(0.038)	(0.038)
Concordant						0.237***	0.061	0.209
						(0.025)	(0.131)	(0.162)
Discordant						-0.094***	0.164	0.173
						(0.022)	(0.106)	(0.149)
C X Concordant							0.045	-0.072
							(0.034)	(0.042)
C X Discordant							-0.066*	-0.144***
							(0.028)	(0.038)
C X Fake								-0.219***
								(0.041)
Concordant X Fake								-0.296
								(0.221)
Discordant X Fake								-0.019
								(0.204)
C X Concordant X Fake								0.235***
								(0.057)
C X Discordant X Fake								0.156**
								(0.052)
Intercept	3.011***	1.982***	2.527***	2.816***	1.876***	2.887***	2.859***	2.630***
	(0.117)	(0.246)	(0.209)	(0.220)	(0.291)	(0.217)	(0.221)	(0.225)

Note: N = 11,712; * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p <= 0.001; [a] Categorical Variable 0 = Real News, 1 = Fake News; [b] Categorical Variable 1 = Male, 0 = Otherwise

Study 2

Table S4: *Likelihood of sharing a news story using GEE logistic regression (Study 2)*

Variable	Model 10 estimate	se	sig	Model 11 estimate	se	sig	Model 12 (real) estimate	se	sig	Model 12 (fake) estimate	se	sig	Model 13 estimate	se	sig	Model 14 estimate	se	sig
(Intercept)	-2.410	0.834	**	-2.194	2.205	n.s	-2.039	1.443	n.s	1.048	1.758	n.s	-0.421	1.488	n.s	-0.840	1.578	n.s.
Political Ideology (PI)	1.367	0.204	***	1.286	0.497	**	0.736	0.222	***	0.942	0.269	***	0.603	0.228	**	0.966	0.250	***
Conscientiousness (C)	0.201	0.209	n.s.	-0.214	0.319	n.s	-0.060	0.266	n.s	-0.123	0.325	n.s	-0.106	0.279	n.s	-0.125	0.292	n.s.
Fake[a]				-0.630	0.053	***							-1.119	0.803	n.s	-0.630	0.052	***
Extraversion				0.347	0.247		0.483	0.121	***	0.521	0.151	***	0.495	0.122	***	0.500	0.123	***
Agreeableness				0.212	0.296	n.s	0.046	0.133	n.s	-0.186	0.164	n.s	-0.048	0.134	n.s	-0.048	0.135	n.s.
Negative Emotionality				0.192	0.256	n.s	0.212	0.117	n.s	-0.043	0.151	n.s	0.121	0.119	n.s	0.120	0.120	n.s.
Open-mindedness				0.056	0.284	n.s	-0.191	0.129	n.s	-0.534	0.146	***	-0.318	0.128	*	-0.320	0.130	*
General Cognitive Reflection				-0.205	0.037	***	-0.158	0.036	***	-0.265	0.042	***	-0.199	0.037	***	-0.201	0.037	***
Age				-0.008	0.007	n.s	-0.003	0.007	n.s	-0.019	0.008	*	-0.009	0.007	n.s	-0.009	0.007	n.s.
Male[b]				0.205	0.166	n.s	0.268	0.164	n.s	0.117	0.190	n.s	0.209	0.166	n.s	0.209	0.167	n.s.
News - Conservative				-0.051	0.053	n.s	-0.108	0.061	n.s	0.039	0.071	n.s	-0.050	0.053	n.s			
Counterbalance				-0.012	0.161	n.s	-0.038	0.158	n.s	0.070	0.186	n.s	-0.003	0.161	n.s	-0.004	0.162	n.s.
Concordant																0.372	0.812	n.s.
PI X C	-0.302	0.052	***	-0.130	0.074	n.s	-0.161	0.056	**	-0.216	0.070	**	-0.132	0.058	*	-0.213	0.064	***
PI X Extraversion				0.044	0.067	n.s												
PI X Agreeableness				-0.082	0.069	n.s												
PI X Negative Emotionality				-0.028	0.065	n.s												
PI X Open-mindedness				-0.119	0.068	n.s												
C X Fake													0.068	0.205	n.s			
PI X Fake													0.529	0.176	**			
PI X C X Fake													-0.127	0.047	**			
PI x Concordant																-0.232	0.170	n.s.
C X Concordant																0.080	0.207	n.s.
PI x C X Concordant																0.047	0.045	n.s.
News Story FEs		Yes			No			No			No			No			No	
n		11640			11640			5820			5820			11640			11640	

Note: N = 11,640; * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p <= 0.001; [a] Categorical Variable 0 = Real News, 1 = Fake News; [b] Categorical Variable 1 = Male, 0 = Otherwise

Figure S5: *The predicted probability of sharing real and fake news stories for high and low conscientiousness respondents across the range of political ideology in Study 2.*
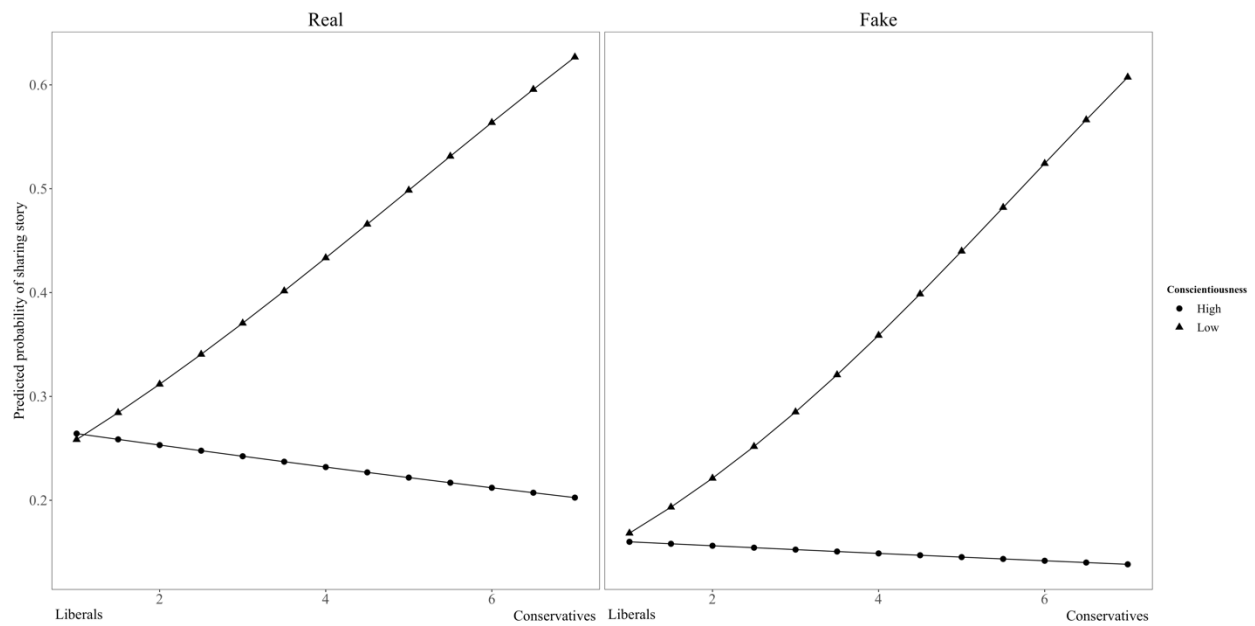
Figure S6: *The predicted probability of sharing discordant and concordant news stories for high and low conscientiousness respondents across the range of political ideology in Study 2.*
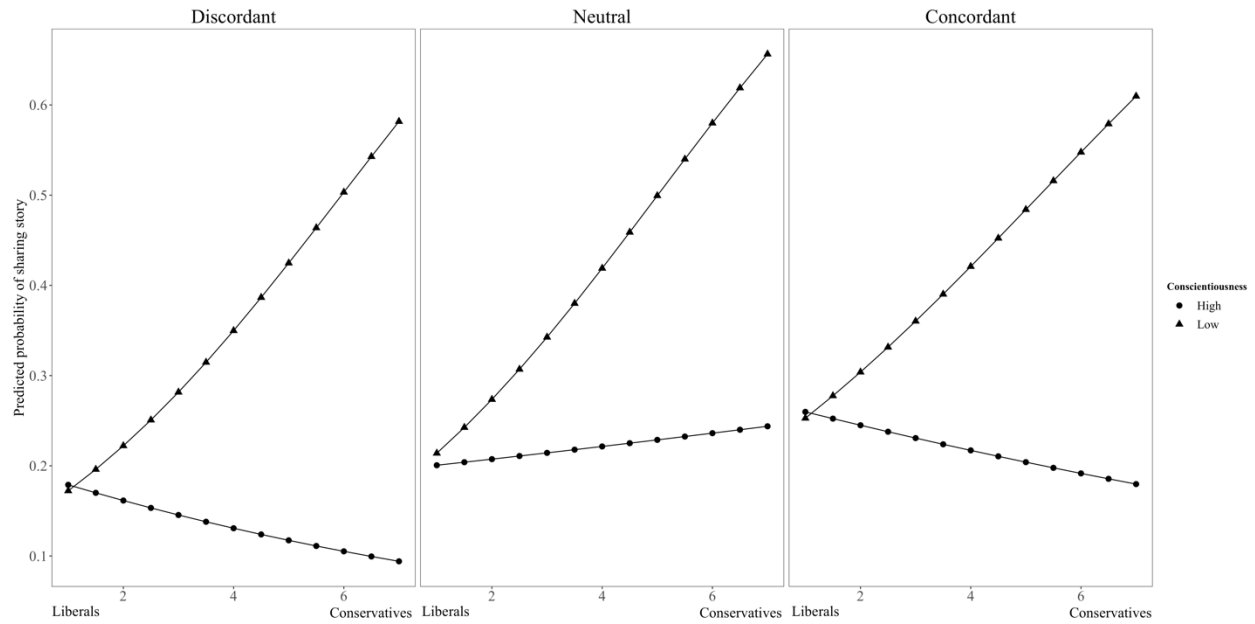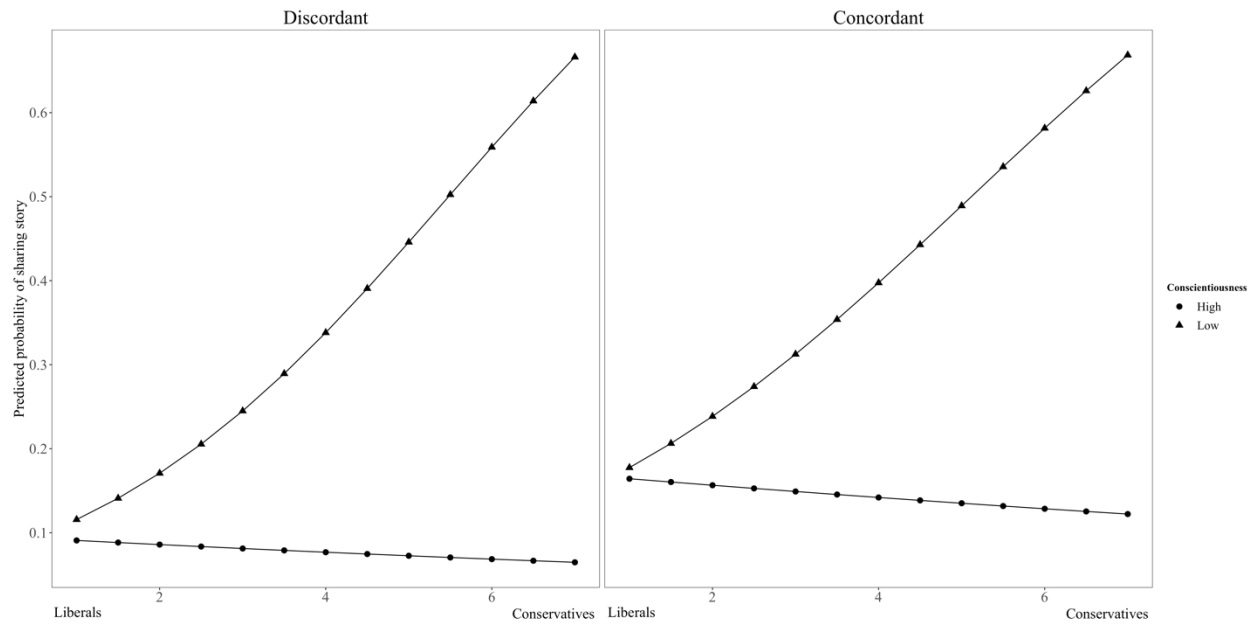
Table S5: *Moderated Mediation analysis (Study 2)*

| | Moderated mediation | | | | |
| | | 95% CI | | | |
	Estimate	Lower	Upper	z-value	p-value
Direct effect of Political Ideology on 'share'	0.018	0.015	0.022	10.10	<0.001
Effect of Political Ideology on accuracy	0.535	0.485	0.586	20.83	<0.001
Effect of Conscientiousness on accuracy	0.189	0.134	0.245	6.67	<0.001
Effect of Political Ideology X Conscientiousness on accuracy	-0.123	-0.136	-0.111	-18.86	<0.001
Effect of accuracy on 'share'	0.202	0.195	0.208	59.17	<0.001
Indirect effect of Political Ideology on 'share' at 1sd below mean Conscientiousness	0.030	0.027	0.033	19.90	<0.001
Indirect effect of Political Ideology on 'share' at 1sd above mean Conscientiousness	-0.010	-0.013	-0.007	-6.26	<0.001

n = 11,640

Note. CI = Confidence Interval

Figure S7: *The predicted probability of sharing a news story for different politically aligned news stories across the range of conscientiousness (Study 2)*
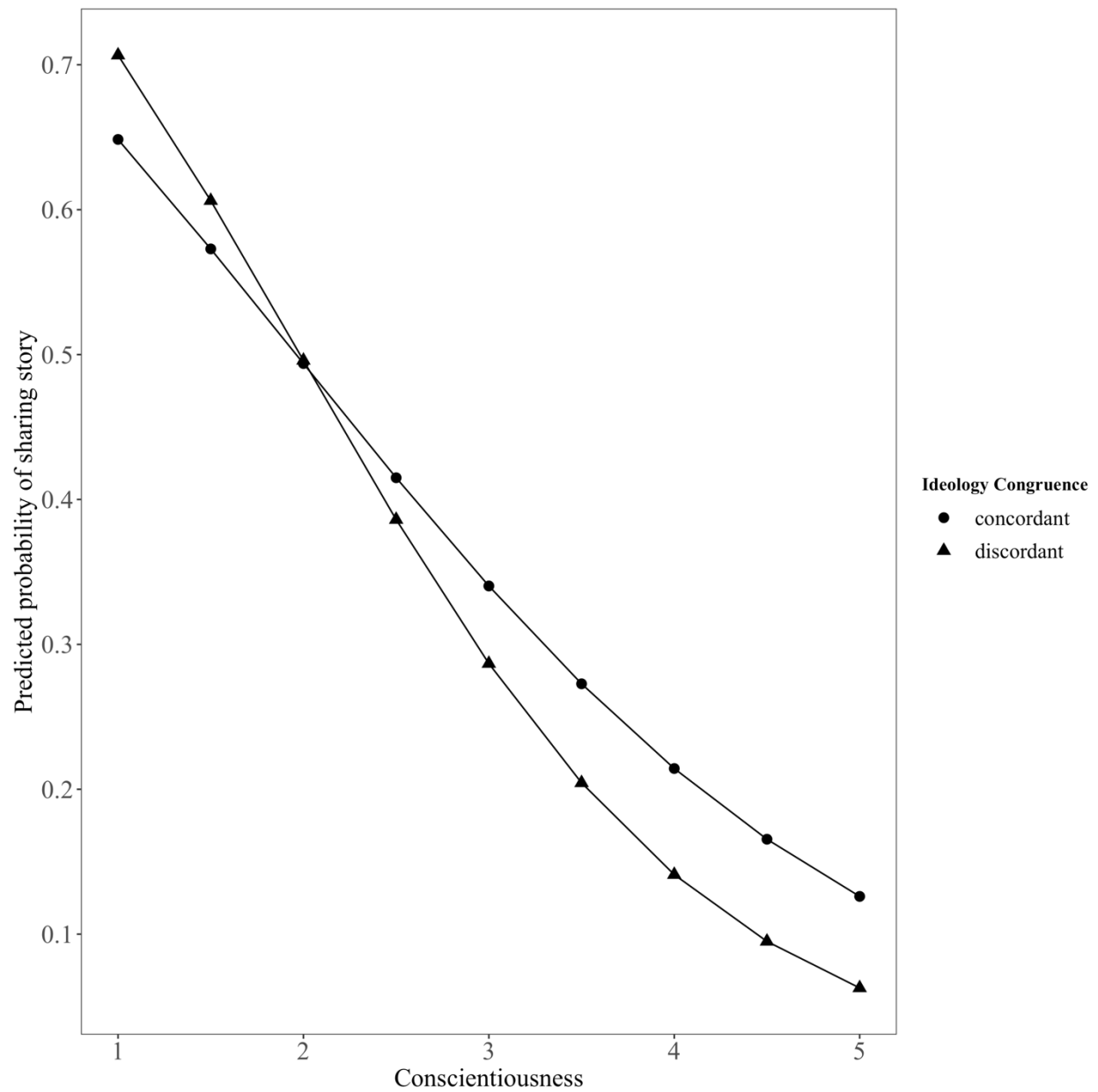
Table S6: *Accuracy of a news story using GEE linear regression (Study 2)*

Variable	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5	Model 7	Model 8	Model 9
Political Ideology (PI)	0.044***	0.372***		0.023	0.298***			
	(0.012)	(0.058)		(0.012)	(0.061)			
Conscientiousness (C)	-0.148***	0.144**		-0.097**	0.131*	-0.094**	-0.135***	-0.062
	(0.029)	(0.050)		(0.033)	(0.054)	(0.033)	(0.034)	(0.040)
PI X C		-0.084***			-0.069***			
		(0.014)			(0.014)			
Fake[a]			-0.805***	-0.805***	-0.805***	-0.805***	-0.805***	-0.203
			(0.028)	(0.028)	(0.028)	(0.028)	(0.028)	(0.168)
Extraversion			0.066*	0.066*	0.054*	0.076**	0.076**	0.076**
			(0.026)	(0.027)	(0.026)	(0.026)	(0.026)	(0.026)
Agreeableness			-0.109***	-0.083*	-0.071*	-0.090**	-0.090**	-0.090**
			(0.033)	(0.033)	(0.033)	(0.033)	(0.033)	(0.033)
Negative Emotionality			0.036	0.006	0.012	0.001	0.001	0.001
			(0.027)	(0.027)	(0.027)	(0.027)	(0.027)	(0.027)
Open-mindedness			-0.070*	-0.041	-0.018	-0.056	-0.056	-0.056
			(0.032)	(0.032)	(0.032)	(0.031)	(0.031)	(0.031)
General Cognitive Reflection			-0.043***	-0.040***	-0.031**	-0.043***	-0.043***	-0.043***
			(0.011)	(0.011)	(0.011)	(0.011)	(0.011)	(0.011)
Age			-0.001	-0.001	-0.000	-0.000	-0.000	-0.000
			(0.002)	(0.002)	(0.002)	(0.002)	(0.002)	(0.002)
Male[b]			0.066	0.051	0.042	0.053	0.054	0.054
			(0.045)	(0.044)	(0.043)	(0.044)	(0.044)	(0.044)
News - conservative			-0.012	-0.012	-0.012			
			(0.020)	(0.020)	(0.020)			
Counterbalance			-0.022	-0.032	-0.046	-0.026	-0.026	-0.026
			(0.042)	(0.042)	(0.040)	(0.042)	(0.042)	(0.042)
Concordant						0.205***	-0.117	-0.202
						(0.017)	(0.089)	(0.114)
C X Concordant							0.082***	0.111***
							(0.023)	(0.029)
C X Fake								-0.145***
								(0.041)
Concordant X Fake								0.170
								(0.124)
C X Concordant X Fake								-0.059
								(0.031)
Intercept	2.562***	1.428***	3.131***	3.278**	2.214***	3.300***	3.461***	3.161***
	(0.119)	(0.209)	(0.230)	(0.243)	(0.332)	(0.243)	(0.245)	(0.256)

Note: N = 11,640; * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p <= 0.001; [a] Categorical Variable 0 = Real News, 1 = Fake News; [b] Categorical Variable 1 = Male, 0 = Otherwise

Study 3

Table S7: *Likelihood of sharing a news story using GEE logistic regression (Study 3)*

Variable	Model 10			Model 11			Model 12 (real)			Model 12 (fake)			Model 13			Model 14		
	estimate	se	sig	estimate	se	sig	estimate	se	sig	estimate	se	sig	estimate	se	sig	estimate	se	sig
(Intercept)	-1.893	0.795	*	0.790	1.505	n.s	-0.535	1.072	n.s	-0.959	1.275	n.s	-0.352	1.048	n.s	-0.377	1.067	n.s.
Political Ideology (PI)	0.825	0.190	***	0.181	0.356	n.s	0.458	0.173	**	0.559	0.212	**	0.380	0.173	*	0.495	0.177	**
Conscientiousness (C)	0.099	0.192	n.s.	-0.081	0.190	n.s	0.042	0.184	n.s	-0.092	0.240	n.s	0.063	0.187	n.s	-0.061	0.185	n.s.
False Warning (FW)				-0.881	0.055	***							-0.759	0.709	n.s	-0.888	0.056	***
Extraversion				-0.006	0.193	n.s	0.259	0.105	*	0.497	0.113	***	0.349	0.096	***	0.350	0.096	***
Agreeableness				-0.180	0.208	n.s	-0.313	0.113	**	-0.445	0.125	***	-0.363	0.107	***	-0.364	0.108	***
Negative Emotionality				-0.236	0.164	n.s	-0.056	0.098	n.s	0.013	0.114	n.s	-0.031	0.093	n.s	-0.032	0.094	n.s.
Open-mindedness				-0.092	0.199	n.s	0.013	0.105	n.s	-0.317	0.113	**	-0.119	0.099	n.s	-0.118	0.100	n.s.
Attitude towards COVID-19				0.273	0.079	***	0.287	0.081	***	0.257	0.093	**	0.276	0.079	***	0.279	0.080	***
General Cognitive Reflection				-0.118	0.030	***	-0.099	0.030	**	-0.149	0.035	***	-0.119	0.030	***	-0.120	0.030	***
Age				-0.003	0.005	n.s	-0.004	0.005	n.s	-0.003	0.007	n.s	-0.004	0.005	n.s	-0.004	0.005	n.s.
Male[b]				0.397	0.135	**	0.302	0.140	*	0.558	0.158	***	0.402	0.135	**	0.404	0.136	**
News - Conservative				-0.148	0.050	**	-0.522	0.063	***	0.397	0.076	***	-0.148	0.050	**			
News - Democrat				-0.131	0.058	*	-0.356	0.065	***	0.207	0.083	*	-0.131	0.058	*			
Counterbalance				-0.084	0.126	n.s	-0.125	0.130	n.s	-0.019	0.149	n.s	-0.079	0.126	n.s	-0.081	0.127	n.s.
Concordant																0.186	0.642	n.s.
Discordant																-0.785	0.625	n.s.
PI X C	-0.180	0.047	***	-0.084	0.051	n.s	-0.108	0.043	*	-0.106	0.054	*	-0.093	0.043	*	-0.089	0.043	*
PI X Extraversion				0.100	0.050	*												
PI X Agreeableness				-0.054	0.051	n.s												
PI X Negative Emotionality				0.062	0.043	n.s												
PI X Open-mindedness				-0.012	0.048	n.s												
C X FW													-0.191	0.184	n.s			
PI X FW													0.272	0.150	n.s			
PI X C X FW													-0.030	0.039	n.s			
PI x Concordant																-0.109	0.148	n.s.
PI x Discordant																0.331	0.145	*
C X Concordant																0.079	0.163	n.s.
C X Discordant																0.196	0.161	n.s.
PI x C X Concordant																0.001	0.038	n.s.
PI x C X Discordant																-0.113	0.038	**
News Story FEs		Yes			No			No			No			No			No	
n		11496			11496			5748			5748			11496			11496	

Note: * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p <= 0.001; [a] Categorical Variable 1 = Male, 0 = Otherwise

Figure S8: *The predicted probability of sharing real and fake news stories for high and low conscientiousness respondents across the range of political ideology in Study 3.*
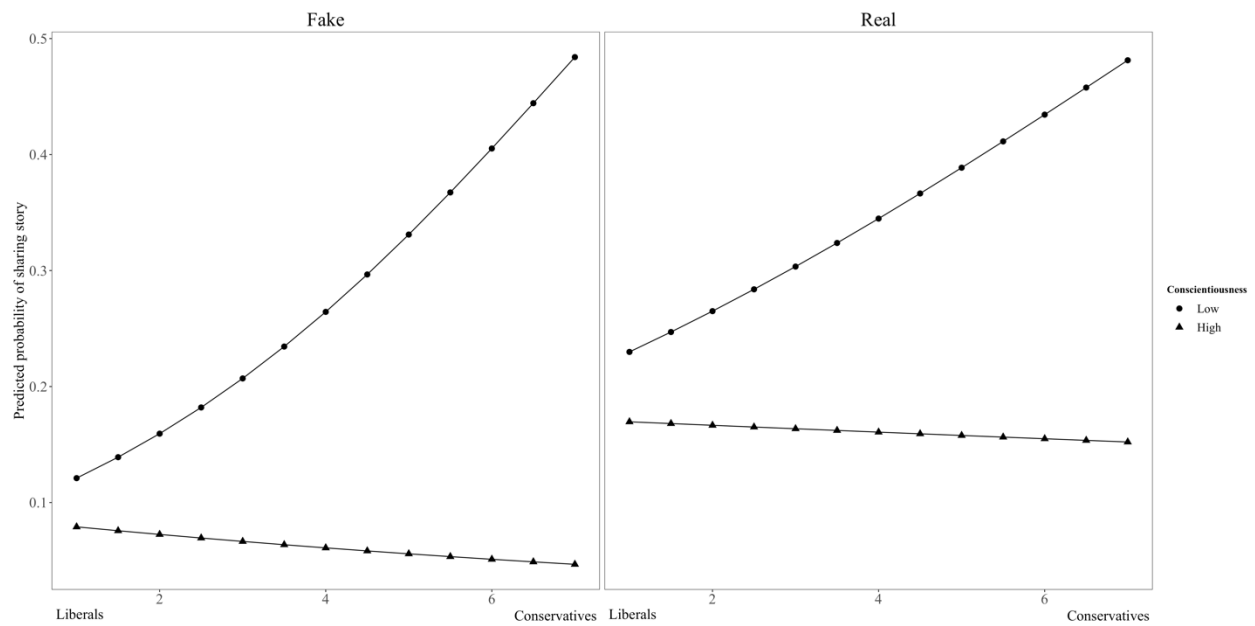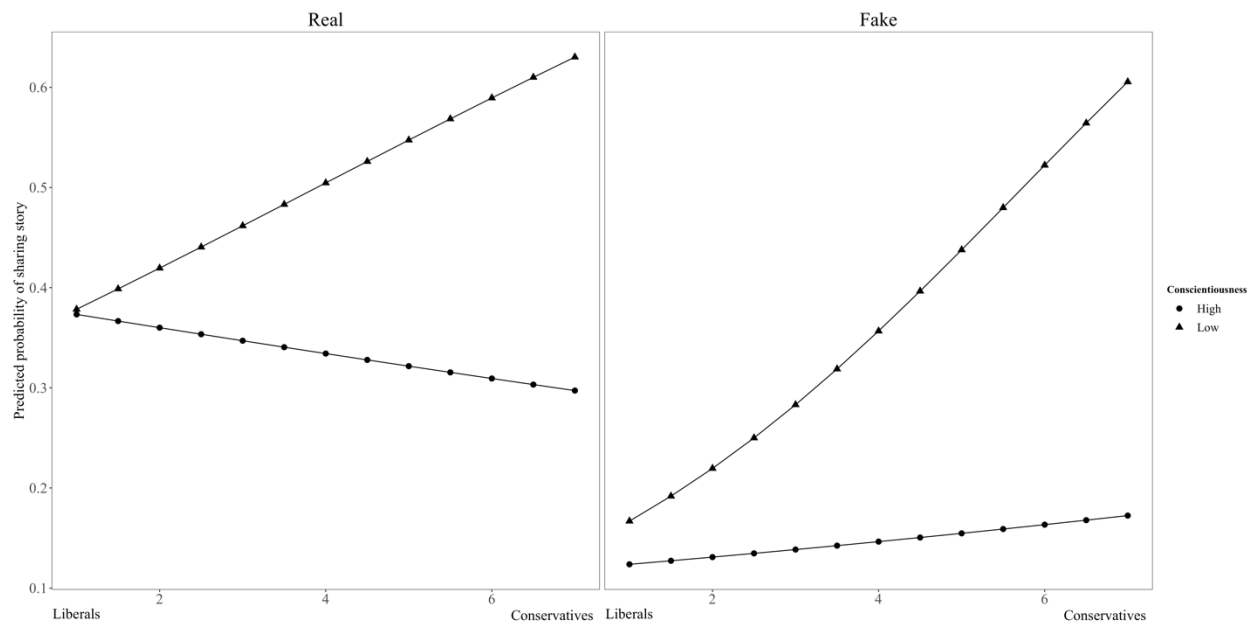
Figure S9: *The predicted probability of sharing discordant, neutral and concordant news stories for high and low conscientiousness respondents across the range of political ideology in Study 3.*
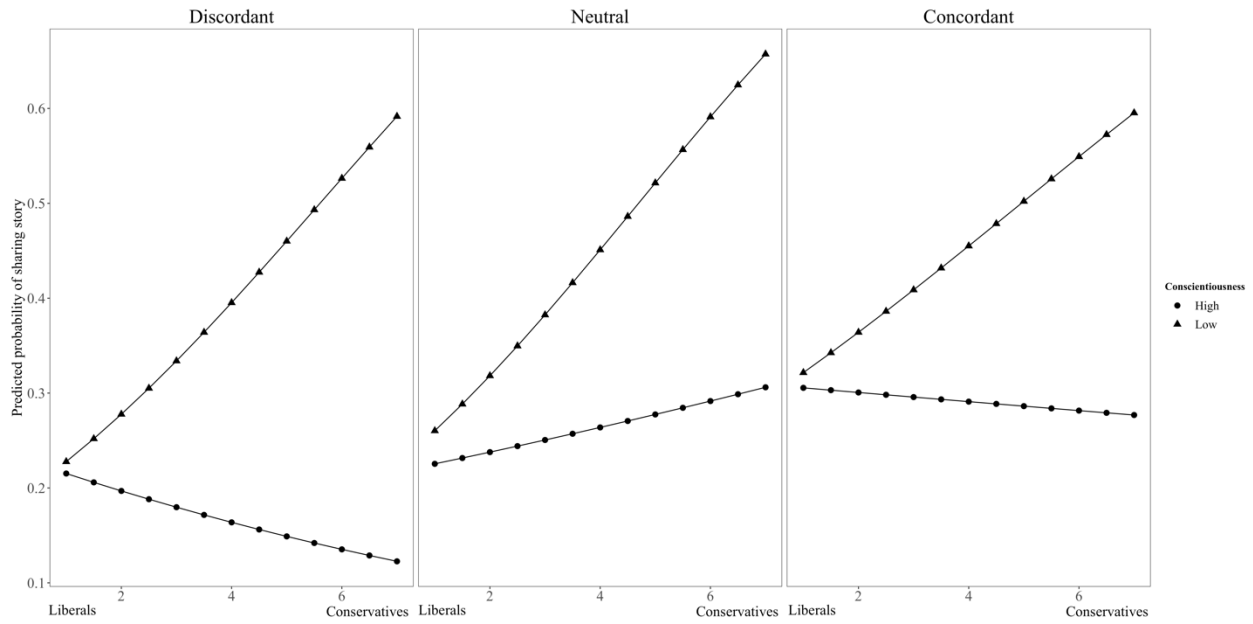
Table S8: *Moderated Mediation analysis (Study 3)*

| | Moderated mediation | | | | |
| | | 95% CI | | | |
	Estimate	Lower	Upper	z-value	p-value
Direct effect of Political Ideology on 'share'	0.020	0.017	0.024	10.69	<0.001
Effect of Political Ideology on accuracy	0.342	0.285	0.398	11.79	<0.001
Effect of Conscientiousness on accuracy	0.100	0.035	0.165	3.03	0.002
Effect of Political Ideology X Conscientiousness on accuracy	-0.086	-0.100	-0.071	-11.50	<0.001
Effect of accuracy on 'share'	0.223	0.216	0.229	70.69	<0.001
Indirect effect of Political Ideology on 'share' at 1sd below mean Conscientiousness	0.016	0.013	0.019	9.93	<0.001
Indirect effect of Political Ideology on 'share' at 1sd above mean Conscientiousness	-0.012	-0.016	-0.009	-6.95	<0.001

n = 11,496

Note. CI = Confidence Interval

Figure S10: *The predicted probability of sharing a news story for different politically aligned news stories across the range of conscientiousness (Study 3)*

Figure S11: *The predicted probability of sharing real and fake news stories for different politically aligned news stories across the range of conscientiousness (Study 3)*
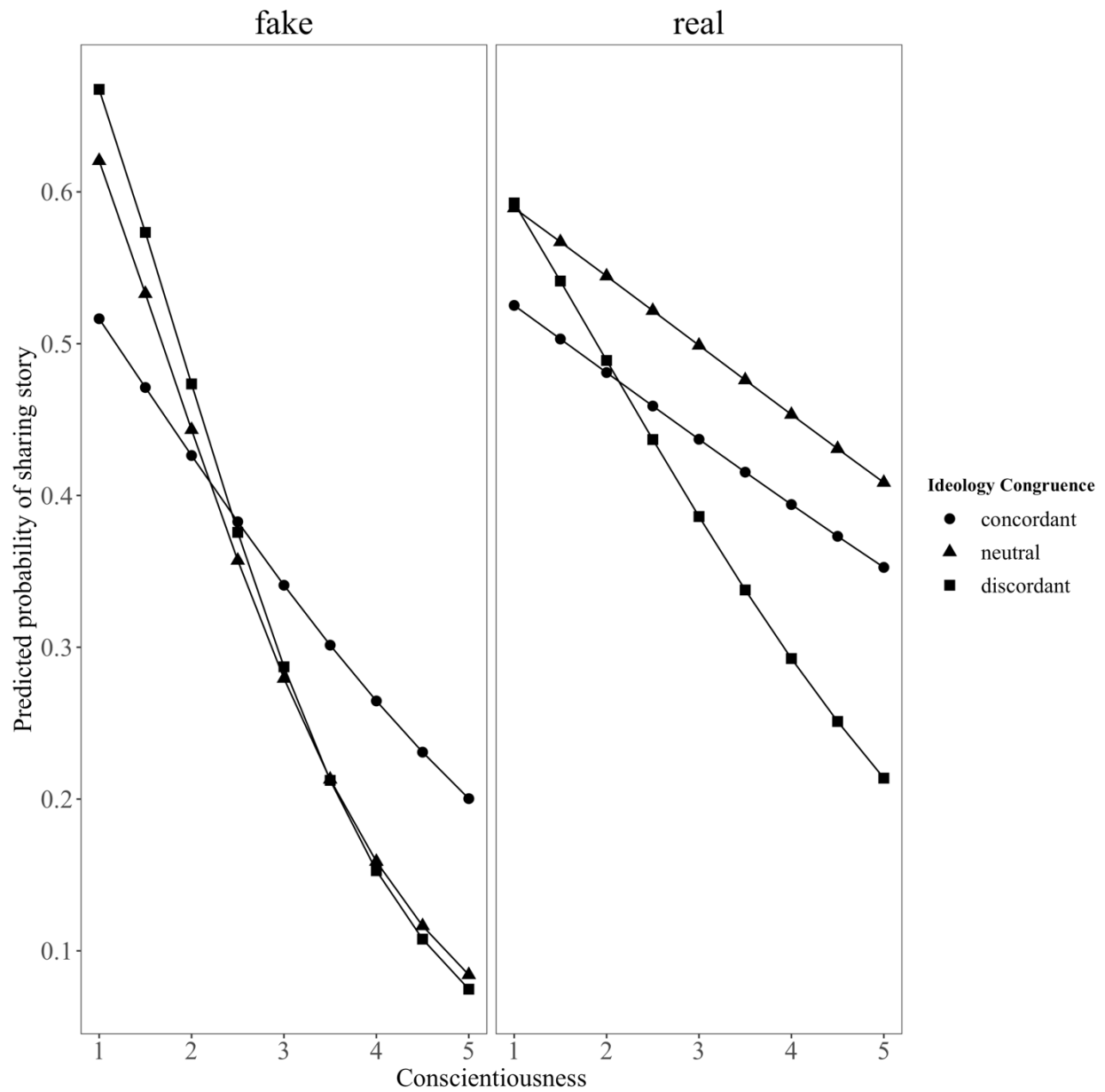
Table S9: *Accuracy of a news story using GEE linear regression (Study 3)*

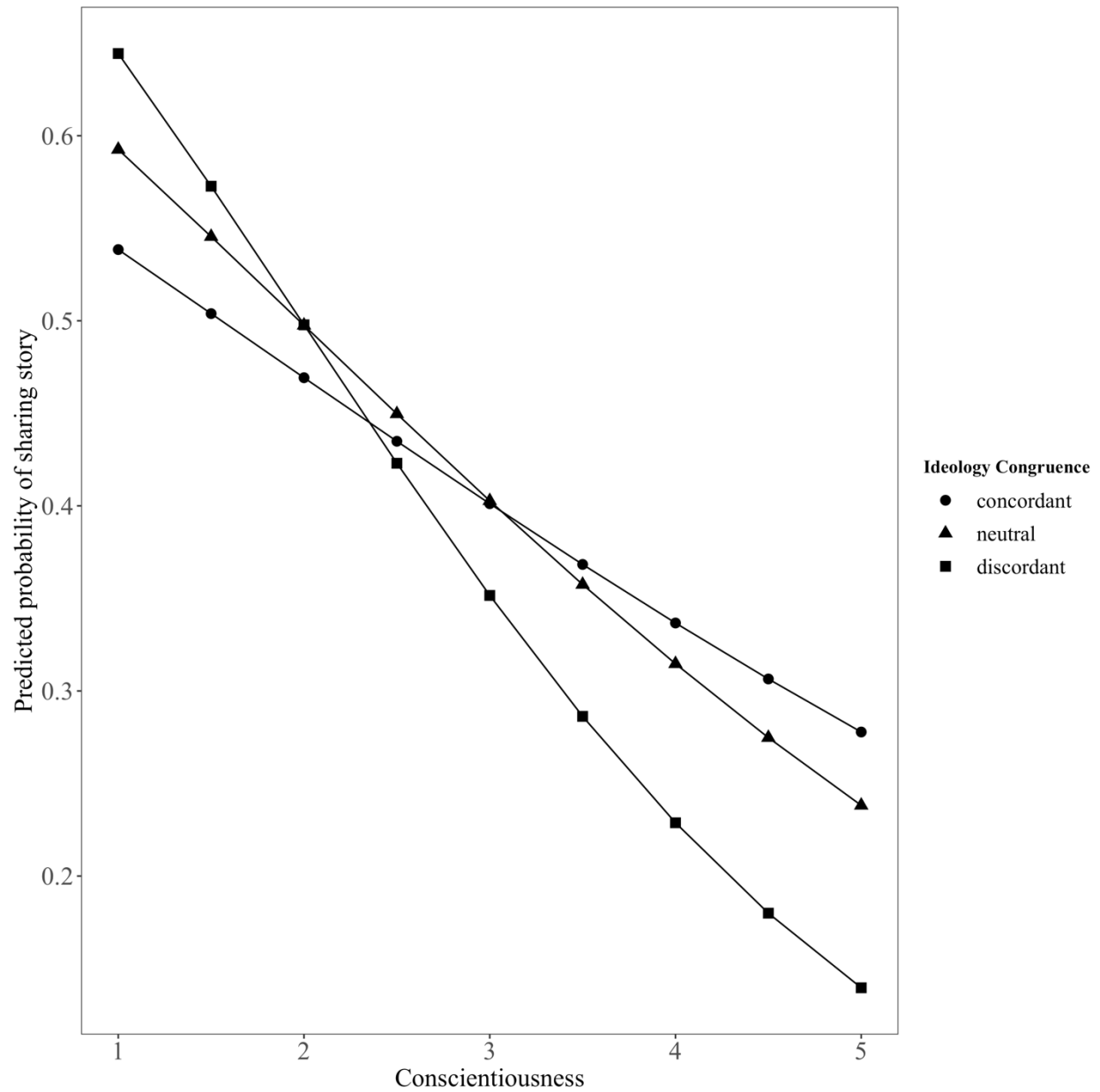| Variable	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5	Model 7	Model 8	Model 9
Political Ideology (PI)	0.003	0.253***		-0.004	0.223***			
	(0.010)	(0.053)		(0.011)	(0.055)			
Conscientiousness ©	-0.148***	0.095		-0.111***	0.092	-0.111***	-0.112***	0.040
	(0.027)	(0.052)		(0.029)	(0.052)	(0.029)	(0.030)	(0.038)
PI X C		-0.064***			-0.058***			
		(0.013)			(0.013)			
False Warning (FW)			-0.875***	-0.875***	-0.875***	-0.875***	-0.875***	-0.076
			(0.032)	(0.032)	(0.032)	(0.032)	(0.032)	(0.219)
Extraversion			0.009	0.013	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012
			(0.030)	(0.030)	(0.028)	(0.029)	(0.029)	(0.029)
Agreeableness			-0.120***	-0.099***	-0.096***	-0.098***	-0.098***	-0.098***
			(0.029)	(0.028)	(0.028)	(0.028)	(0.028)	(0.028)
Negative Emotionality			0.023	-0.011	-0.019	-0.010	-0.010	-0.010
			(0.022)	(0.024)	(0.023)	(0.024)	(0.024)	(0.024)
Open-mindedness			-0.043	-0.030	-0.017	-0.027	-0.027	-0.027
			(0.026)	(0.027)	(0.027)	(0.026)	(0.026)	(0.026)
Attitude towards COVID-19			0.053*	0.057*	0.048*	0.058**	0.058**	0.058**
			(0.021)	(0.022)	(0.022)	(0.021)	(0.021)	(0.021)
General Cognitive Reflection			-0.012	-0.009	-0.003	-0.009	-0.009	-0.009
			(0.009)	(0.009)	(0.009)	(0.009)	(0.009)	(0.009)
Age			0.001	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
			(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)
Male[a]			0.081*	0.059	0.044	0.060	0.060	0.060
			(0.039)	(0.039)	(0.039)	(0.039)	(0.039)	(0.039)
Ne–s - Conservative			0.067***	0.067***	0.067***			
			(0.020)	(0.020)	(0.020)			
Ne–s - Democrat			0.077**	0.077**	0.077**			
			(0.025)	(0.025)	(0.025)			
Counterbalance			0.034	0.042	0.048	0.042	0.042	0.042
			(0.037)	(0.037)	(0.036)	(0.037)	(0.037)	(0.037)
Concordant						0.241***	0.048	0.200
						(0.022)	(0.113)	(0.139)
Discordant						-0.097***	0.084	0.101
						(0.021)	(0.106)	(0.143)
C X Concordant							0.050	-0.067
							(0.029)	(0.036)
C X Discordant							-0.046	-0.122***
							(0.028)	(0.037)
C X FW								-0.304***
								(0.054)
Concordant X FW								-0.304
								(0.215)
Discordant X FW								-0.034
								(0.205)
C X Concordant X FW								0.233***
								(0.054)
C X Discordant X FW								0.152**
								(0.052)
Intercept	3.000***	2.053***	3.096***	3.444***	2.612***	3.412***	3.417***	3.017***
	(0.112)	(0.218)	(0.193)	(0.245)	(0.308)	(0.223)	(0.222)	(0.225)

Note: N = 11,496; * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p <= 0.001$; [a] Categorical Variable 1 = Male, 0 = Otherwise

Study 4

Table S10: *Likelihood of sharing a news story using GEE logistic regression (Study 4)*

Variable	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5	Model 6	Model 7	Model 8	Model 9
Political Ideology (PI)	0.138***	0.981***		0.078**	0.706***	0.675***			
	(0.025)	(0.140)		(0.025)	(0.134)	(0.145)			
Conscientiousne©(C)	-0.395***	0.470***		-0.230**	0.400**	0.336*	-0.222**	-0.184*	-0.064
	(0.062)	(0.134)		(0.076)	(0.137)	(0.156)	(0.077)	(0.077)	(0.083)
PI X C		-0.223***			-0.164***	-0.150***			
		(0.034)			(0.033)	(0.036)			
Fake[a]			-0.395***	-0.398***	-0.403***	0.032	-0.401***	-0.401***	0.241
			(0.024)	(0.024)	(0.024)	(0.028)	(0.024)	(0.024)	(0.228)
Extraversion			0.160**	0.163**	0.140*	0.204**	0.178**	0.178**	0.179**
			(0.061)	(0.062)	(0.062)	(0.074)	(0.063)	(0.063)	(0.063)
Agreeableness			-0.145*	-0.066	-0.056	-0.040	-0.089	-0.088	-0.089
			(0.073)	(0.076)	(0.078)	(0.088)	(0.077)	(0.077)	(0.078)
Negative Emotionality			0.094	0.041	0.047	0.080	0.021	0.022	0.023
			(0.061)	(0.065)	(0.066)	(0.074)	(0.065)	(0.065)	(0.066)
Open-mindedness			-0.273***	-0.193**	-0.167*	-0.208**	-0.253***	-0.252***	-0.254***
			(0.063)	(0.065)	(0.067)	(0.078)	(0.064)	(0.064)	(0.064)
Attitude towards COVID-19			0.065	0.092	0.083	0.031	0.074	0.074	0.075
			(0.053)	(0.054)	(0.055)	(0.064)	(0.054)	(0.054)	(0.054)
General Cognitive Reflection			-0.233***	-0.220***	-0.204***	-0.227***	-0.232***	-0.232***	-0.234***
			(0.022)	(0.022)	(0.022)	(0.025)	(0.022)	(0.022)	(0.022)
Age			-0.005	-0.006	-0.006	-0.008	-0.004	-0.004	-0.004
			(0.003)	(0.004)	(0.004)	(0.004)	(0.003)	(0.003)	(0.003)
Male[b]			0.445***	0.388***	0.397***	0.323**	0.394***	0.394***	0.397***
─News - Conservative			-0.264***	-0.266***	-0.269***	-0.379***			
─News - Democrat			-0.055	-0.055	-0.056	-0.289***			
			(0.041)	(0.041)	(0.041)	(0.043)			
Accuracy						1.265***			
						(0.033)			
Concordant							0.137***	0.000	0.240
							(0.038)	(0.187)	(0.224)
Discordant							-0.490***	0.173	-0.020
							(0.037)	(0.193)	(0.241)
C X Concordant								0.036	-0.142*
								(0.050)	(0.059)
C X Discordant								-0.178***	-0.191**
								(0.052)	(0.064)
C X Fake									-0.307***
									(0.060)
Concordant X Fake									-0.685*
									(0.301)
Discordant X Fake									0.251
									(0.301)
C X Concordant X Fake									0.432***
									(0.080)
C X Discordant X Fake									0.080
									(0.081)
Intercept	0.093	-3.184***	0.796	0.823	-1.681*	-4.874***	1.454**	1.306*	1.083*
	(0.237)	(0.546)	(0.474)	(0.555)	(0.776)	(0.861)	(0.538)	(0.535)	(0.542)
QIC	27510.9	27105.8	26235.4	26124.4	25934.5	20817	25943.4	25928.4	25734.3
CIC	27.8	36.5	72.8	87.3	96.5	108	81.4	83.3	86.8

Note: N = 23,208; * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p <= 0.001; [a] Categorical Variable 0 = Real News, 1 = Fake News; [b] Categorical Variable 1 = Male, 0 = Otherwise

Table S11: *Likelihood of sharing a news story using GEE logistic regression (Study 4)*

Variable	Model 10 estimate	se	sig	Model 11 estimate	se	sig	Model 12 (real) estimate	se	sig	Model 12 (fake) estimate	se	sig	Model 13 estimate	se	sig	Model 14 estimate	se	sig
(Intercept)	-3.496	0.566	***	-2.001	1.134	†	-2.171	0.798	**	-1.508	0.829	†	-1.907	0.781	*	-1.893	0.797	*
Political Ideology (PI)	1.018	0.145	***	0.755	0.257	**	0.761	0.134	***	0.637	0.144	***	0.721	0.132	***	0.727	0.136	***
Conscientiousness (C)	0.487	0.138	***	0.228	0.170	n.s	0.502	0.144	***	0.273	0.144	†	0.492	0.141	***	0.412	0.140	**
Fake				-0.404	0.024	***							0.146	0.294	n.s	-0.408	0.024	***
Extraversion				0.019	0.130	n.s	0.126	0.064	*	0.159	0.068	*	0.140	0.062	*	0.141	0.063	*
Agreeableness				0.088	0.167	n.s	-0.010	0.081	n.s	-0.112	0.083	n.s	-0.056	0.078	n.s	-0.057	0.079	n.s.
Negative Emotionality				-0.050	0.136	n.s	0.072	0.069	n.s	0.018	0.069	n.s	0.048	0.066	n.s	0.048	0.066	n.s.
Open-mindedness				0.106	0.156	n.s	-0.138	0.069	*	-0.205	0.070	**	-0.167	0.067	*	-0.170	0.068	*
Attitude towards COVID-19				0.079	0.055	n.s	0.103	0.056	†	0.060	0.059	n.s	0.082	0.055	n.s	0.083	0.055	n.s.
General Cognitive Reflection				-0.205	0.022	***	-0.193	0.022	***	-0.221	0.024	***	-0.204	0.022	***	-0.207	0.022	***
Age				-0.006	0.003	n.s	-0.007	0.004	†	-0.006	0.004	n.s	-0.006	0.004	†	-0.006	0.004	n.s.
Male[b]				0.391	0.094	***	0.401	0.096	***	0.401	0.102	***	0.398	0.094	***	0.403	0.095	***
News - Conservative				-0.270	0.037	***	-0.680	0.046	***	0.226	0.050	***	-0.269	0.037	***			
News - Democrat				-0.056	0.042	n.s	-0.361	0.046	***	0.324	0.054	***	-0.056	0.041	n.s			
Concordant																0.679	0.488	n.s.
Discordant																-0.420	0.522	n.s.
PI X C	-0.231	0.036	***	-0.118	0.044	**	-0.184	0.033	***	-0.139	0.036	***	-0.176	0.033	***	-0.157	0.034	***
PI X Extraversion				0.035	0.034	n.s												
PI X Agreeableness				-0.038	0.041	n.s												
PI X Negative Emotionality				0.027	0.033	n.s												
PI X Open-mindedness				-0.069	0.036	†												
C X Fake													-0.216	0.075	**			
PI X Fake													-0.052	0.067	n.s			
PI X C X Fake													0.032	0.017	†			
PI x Concordant																-0.166	0.107	n.s.
PI x Discordant																0.138	0.116	n.s.
C X Concordant																-0.030	0.126	n.s.
C X Discordant																-0.004	0.131	n.s.
PI x C X Concordant																0.014	0.028	n.s.
PI x C X Discordant																-0.041	0.030	n.s.
News Story FEs		Yes			No			No			No			No			No	
n		23208			23208			11604			11604			23208			23208	

Note: N = 23,208; † p < 0.10, * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p <= 0.001; [a] Categorical Variable 0 = Real News, 1 = Fake News; [b] Categorical Variable 1 = Male, 0 = Otherwise

Figure S12: *The predicted probability of sharing real and fake news stories for high and low conscientiousness respondents across the range of political ideology in Study 4.*
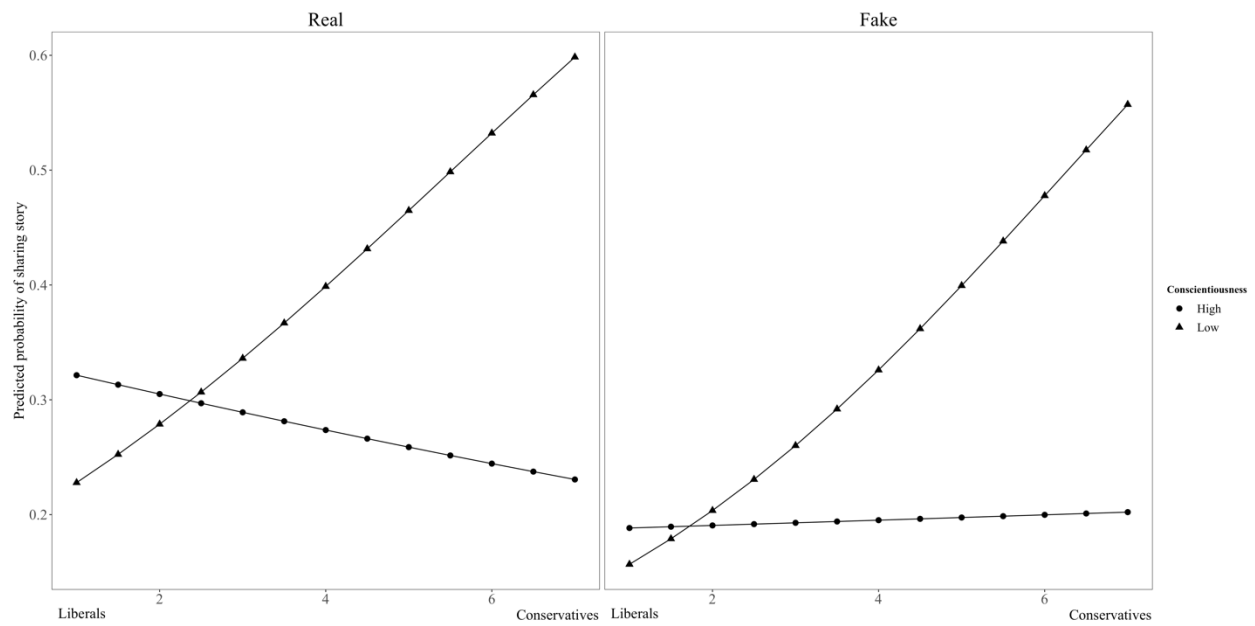
Figure S13: *The predicted probability of sharing discordant, neutral and concordant news stories for high and low conscientiousness respondents across the range of political ideology in Study 4.*
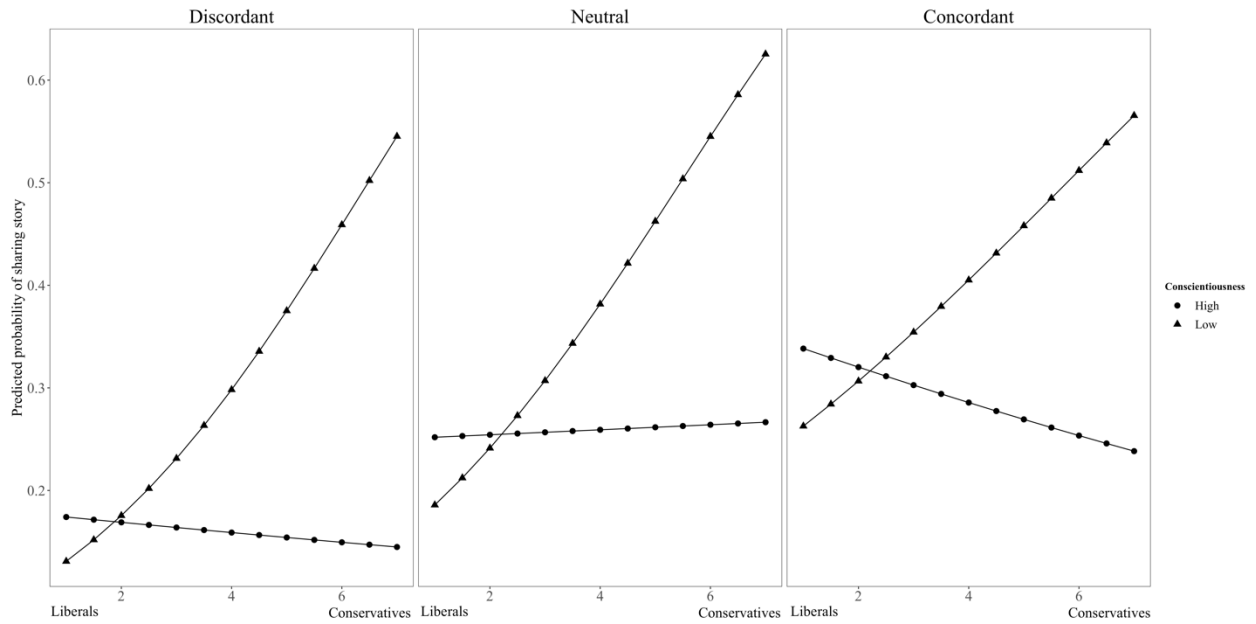
Table S12: *Moderated Mediation analysis (Study 4)*

| | Moderated mediation | | | | |
| | | 95% CI | | | |
	Estimate	Lower	Upper	z-value	p-value
Direct effect of Political Ideology on 'share'	0.020	0.017	0.023	13.88	<0.001
Effect of Political Ideology on accuracy	0.317	0.276	0.358	15.10	<0.001
Effect of Conscientiousness on accuracy	0.152	0.106	0.198	6.47	<0.001
Effect of Political Ideology X Conscientiousness on accuracy	-0.080	-0.091	-0.070	-14.77	<0.001
Effect of accuracy on 'share'	0.201	0.197	0.206	88.88	<0.001
Indirect effect of Political Ideology on 'share' at 1sd below mean Conscientiousness	0.014	0.012	0.016	12.47	<0.001
Indirect effect of Political Ideology on 'share' at 1sd above mean Conscientiousness	-0.010	-0.012	-0.008	-8.67	<0.001

n = 23,208

Note. CI = Confidence Interval

Figure S14: *The predicted probability of sharing real and fake news stories for different politically aligned news stories across the range of conscientiousness (Study 4)*

Table S13: *Accuracy of a news story using GEE linear regression (Study 4)*

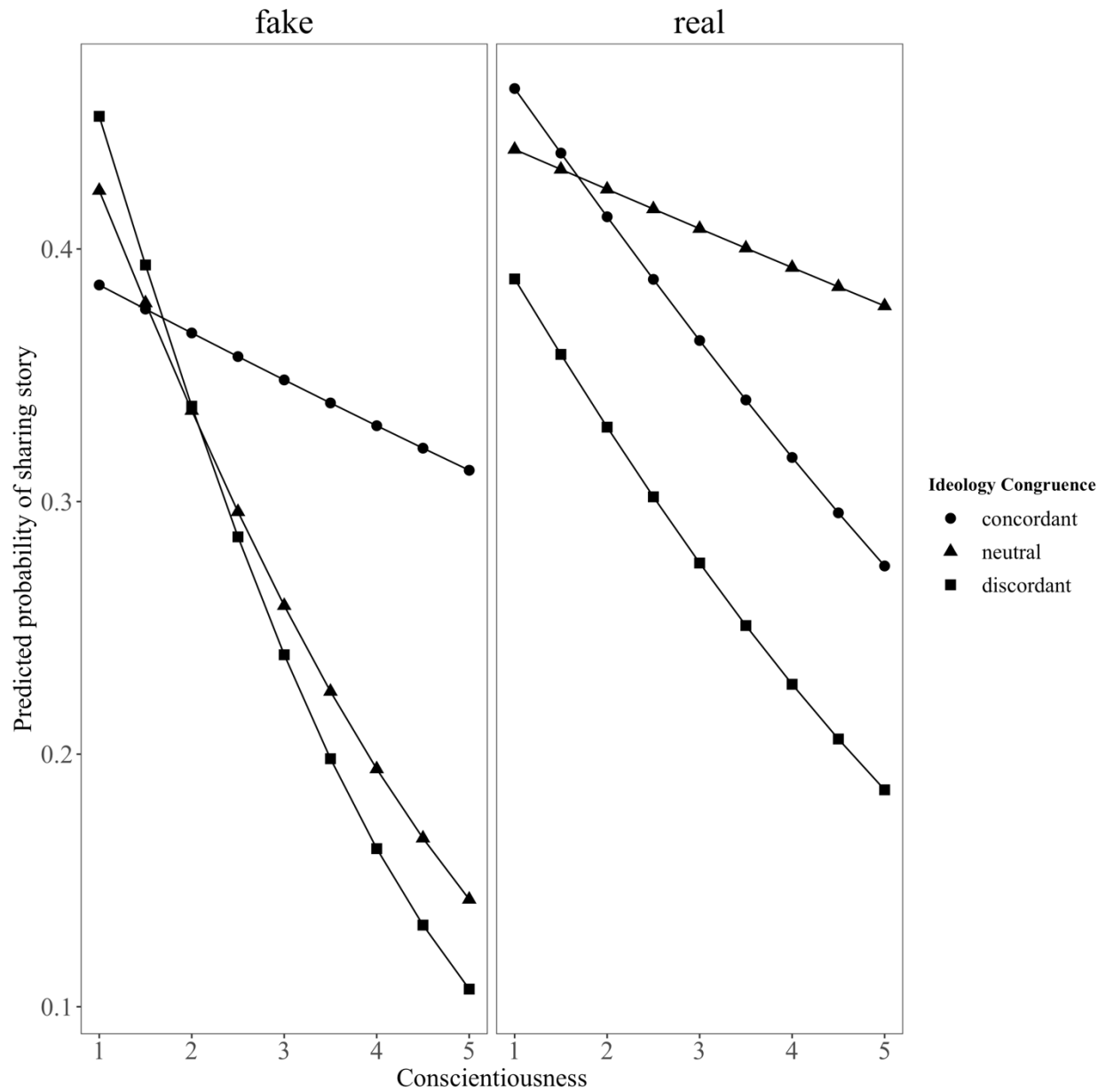| Variable	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5	Model 7	Model 8	Model 9
Political Ideology (PI)	0.002	0.188***		-0.005	0.161***			
	(0.008)	(0.042)		(0.008)	(0.040)			
Conscientiousness (C)	-0.101***	0.081*		-0.062**	0.097*	-0.063**	-0.049*	0.038
	(0.018)	(0.038)		(0.022)	(0.039)	(0.021)	(0.023)	(0.028)
PI X C		-0.048***			-0.043***			
		(0.010)			(0.010)			
Fake[a]			-0.431***	-0.431***	-0.431***	-0.431***	-0.431***	-0.303*
			(0.011)	(0.011)	(0.011)	(0.011)	(0.011)	(0.119)
Extraversion			-0.014	-0.009	-0.015	-0.009	-0.009	-0.009
			(0.017)	(0.017)	(0.017)	(0.017)	(0.017)	(0.017)
Agreeableness			-0.035	-0.021	-0.018	-0.019	-0.019	-0.019
			(0.020)	(0.020)	(0.021)	(0.021)	(0.021)	(0.021)
Negative Emotionality			0.023	0.001	0.003	0.002	0.002	0.002
			(0.017)	(0.018)	(0.018)	(0.018)	(0.018)	(0.018)
Open-mindedness			-0.019	-0.015	-0.006	-0.012	-0.012	-0.012
			(0.019)	(0.020)	(0.020)	(0.019)	(0.019)	(0.019)
Attitude towards COVID-19			0.039*	0.039*	0.037*	0.041*	0.041*	0.041*
			(0.016)	(0.017)	(0.017)	(0.016)	(0.016)	(0.016)
General Cognitive Reflection			-0.027***	-0.027***	-0.022***	-0.026***	-0.026***	-0.026***
			(0.007)	(0.007)	(0.007)	(0.007)	(0.007)	(0.007)
Age			0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
			(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)
Male[b]			0.155***	0.139***	0.141***	0.139***	0.139***	0.139***
			(0.027)	(0.027)	(0.027)	(0.027)	(0.027)	(0.027)
News - Conservative			0.064***	0.064***	0.064***			
			(0.015)	(0.015)	(0.015)			
News - Democrat			0.190***	0.190***	0.190***			
			(0.021)	(0.021)	(0.021)			
Concordant						0.353***	0.282**	0.258*
						(0.018)	(0.093)	(0.118)
Discordant						-0.098***	0.139	0.027
						(0.015)	(0.086)	(0.108)
C X Concordant							0.018	-0.093**
							(0.024)	(0.031)
C X Discordant							-0.062**	-0.124***
							(0.022)	(0.028)
C X Fake								-0.173***
								(0.030)
Concordant X Fake								0.047
								(0.166)
Discordant X Fake								0.224
								(0.148)
C X Concordant X Fake								0.223***
								(0.043)
C X Discordant X Fake								0.124***
								(0.038)
Intercept	2.865***	2.166***	2.677***	2.905***	2.246***	2.868***	2.812***	2.748***
	(0.071)	(0.153)	(0.145)	(0.168)	(0.223)	(0.161)	(0.166)	(0.170)

Note: N = 23,208 ; * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p <= 0.001$; [a] Categorical Variable 0 = Real News, 1 = Fake News; [b] Categorical Variable 1 = Male, 0 = Otherwise

Study 6

Table S14: *Likelihood of sharing a news story using GEE logistic regression (Study 6)*

Variable	Model 9			Model 10			Model 11 (real)			Model 11 (fake)		
	estimate	se	sig	estimate	se	sig	estimate	se	sig	estimate	se	sig
(Intercept)	-1.680	0.8531	*	-4.050	1.805	*	-2.993	1.191	*	-2.667	1.262	*
Political Ideology (PI)	0.702	0.2064	***	0.984	0.421	*	0.663	0.206	**	0.654	0.216	**
Conscientiousness (C)	-0.131	0.2188	n.s.	-0.485	0.269	n.s.	-0.054	0.219	n.s.	-0.157	0.245	n.s.
Fake				-0.251	0.032	***						
Extraversion				0.130	0.202	n.s.	0.315	0.105	**	0.326	0.110	**
Agreeableness				0.644	0.257	*	0.036	0.133	n.s.	-0.035	0.132	n.s.
Negative Emotionality				0.021	0.194	n.s.	0.151	0.104	n.s.	0.157	0.104	n.s.
Open-mindedness				0.185	0.250	n.s.	-0.133	0.109	n.s.	-0.196	0.110	n.s.
Attitude towards COVID-19				0.181	0.083	*	0.192	0.081	*	0.161	0.083	n.s.
Age				-0.005	0.006	n.s.	-0.005	0.006	n.s.	-0.004	0.006	n.s.
Male[b]				0.356	0.147	*	0.359	0.147	*	0.337	0.152	*
News - Conservative				-0.172	0.049	***	-0.405	0.061	***	0.097	0.068	n.s.
News - Democrat				-0.049	0.059	n.s.	-0.214	0.072	**	0.144	0.074	n.s.
Counterbalance				-0.214	0.136	n.s.	-0.169	0.137	n.s.	-0.159	0.142	n.s.
PI X C	-0.119	0.0521	*	-0.007	0.063	n.s.	-0.110	0.052	*	-0.104	0.055	n.s.
PI X Extraversion				0.055	0.052	n.s.						
PI X Agreeableness				-0.158	0.059	**						
PI X Negative Emotionality				0.030	0.049	n.s.						
PI X Open-mindedness				-0.098	0.058	n.s.						
News Story FEs	Yes			No			No			No		
n	11784			11784			5892			5892		

Table S15: *The relationship between the interaction between political ideology and conscientiousness and desire for chaos using linear regression (Study 6)*

DV	Desire for Chaos	Desire for Chaos
Political Ideology (PI)	0.554***	0.362***
	(0.090)	(0.086)
Conscientiousness (C)	-0.040	0.042
	(0.092)	(0.093)
C X PI	-0.123***	-0.082***
	(0.023)	(0.022)
Extraversion		0.055
		(0.048)
Agreeableness		-0.335***
		(0.060)
Negative Emotionality		-0.055
		(0.050)
Open-mindedness		-0.174***
		(0.048)
Trust in Media		0.012
		(0.036)
Attitude towards Covid-19		0.056
		(0.035)
Age		-0.007**
		(0.003)
Male		0.157*
		(0.065)
Social Media (time)		0.072***
		(0.015)
Social Media (proportion)		-0.004**
		(0.001)
(Intercept)	1.597***	3.167***
	(0.356)	(0.522)

Table S16: *Serial Moderated Mediation analysis (Study 6)*

| | Moderated mediation | | | | |
| | | 95% CI | | | |
	Estimate	Lower	Upper	z-value	p-value
Direct effect of Political Ideology on 'share'	0.031	0.027	0.034	15.586	<0.001
Effect of Political Ideology on 'desire for chaos'	0.528	0.482	0.574	22.613	<0.001
Effect of Conscientiousness on 'desire for chaos'	-0.068	-0.105	-0.030	-3.532	<0.001
Effect of Political Ideology X Conscientiousness on 'desire for chaos'	-0.116	-0.127	-0.106	-21.635	<0.001
Effect of 'desire for chaos' on 'share'	0.149	0.140	0.159	30.306	<0.001
Effect of Political Ideology on 'accuracy'	0.076	0.020	0.132	2.669	0.008
Effect of Conscientiousness on 'accuracy'	0.040	-0.016	0.097	1.392	0.164
Effect of Political Ideology X Conscientiousness on 'accuracy'	-0.020	-0.035	-0.006	-2.736	0.006
Effect of 'desire for chaos' on 'accuracy'	0.156	0.131	0.182	11.965	<0.001
Effect of 'accuracy' on 'share'	0.168	0.161	0.174	50.444	<0.001
Indirect effect of Political Ideology on 'share' at 1sd below mean Conscientiousness	0.032	0.028	0.036	15.865	<0.001
Indirect effect of Political Ideology on 'share' at 1sd above mean Conscientiousness	-0.004	-0.007	-0.001	-2.602	0.009

Figure S15: *The predicted desire for chaos for high and low conscientiousness respondents across the range of political ideology in Study 6.*
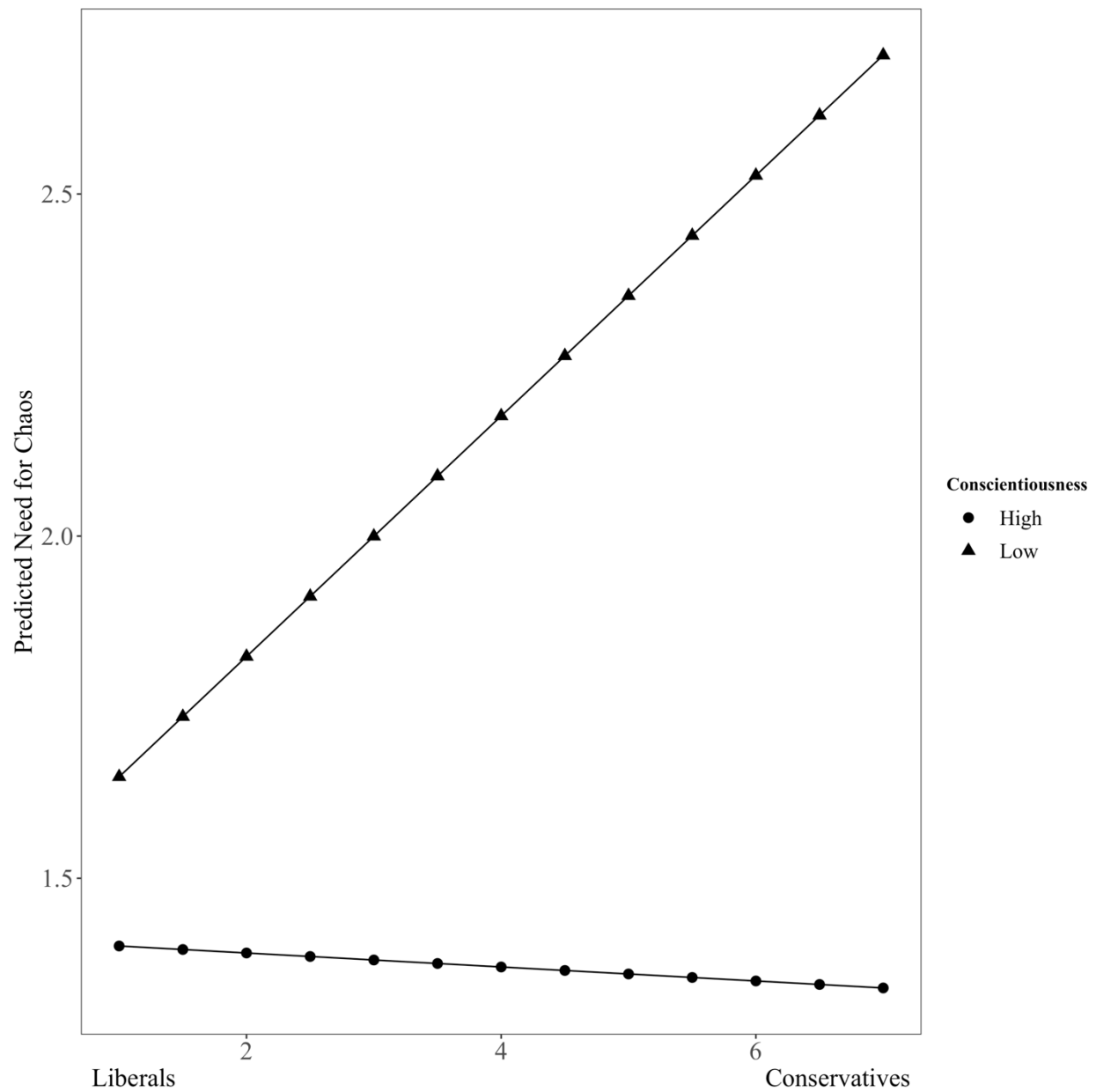
Table S17: *Moderated Mediation analysis (Study 6)*

| | Moderated mediation | | | | |
| | | 95% CI | | | |
	Estimate	Lower	Upper	z-value	p-value
Direct effect of Political Ideology on 'share'	0.029	0.025	0.034	13.150	<0.001
Effect of Political Ideology on 'desire for chaos'	0.532	0.487	0.578	22.848	<0.001
Effect of Conscientiousness on 'desire for chaos'	-0.067	-0.104	-0.029	-3.492	<0.001
Effect of Political Ideology X Conscientiousness on 'desire for chaos'	-0.117	-0.128	-0.107	-21.855	<0.001
Effect of 'desire for chaos' on 'share'	0.182	0.171	0.192	34.313	<0.001
Indirect effect of Political Ideology on 'share' at 1sd below mean Conscientiousness	0.031	0.028	0.034	18.898	<0.001
Indirect effect of Political Ideology on 'share' at 1sd above mean Conscientiousness	-0.001	-0.002	0.000	-1.841	0.066

Figure S16: *Moderated Mediation analysis (Study 6)*

b_{low} = .031; CI$_{95}$ = [.028, .034]; p < 0.001

b_{high} = -.001; CI$_{95}$ = [-.002, .000]; p = 0.066
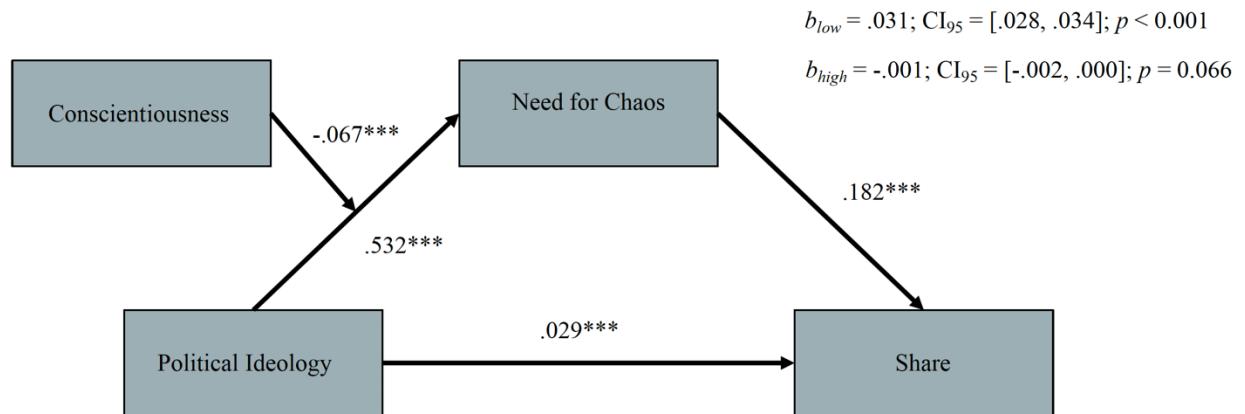
Studies 1-4

Table S18: *Descriptive statistics across party identification (Studies 1-4)*

Study	Variable	M (Republicans)	M (Democrats)	t	p
Study 1	N	195	293		
	Concern with COVID-19 (all)	3.56	3.96	4.69	<0.001
	Concern with COVID-19 (self)	3.27	3.60	3.17	0.002
	Concern with COVID-19 (world)	3.84	4.32	5.72	<0.001
	Likelihood that threat is exaggerated	4.33	2.84	-8.58	<0.001
	Support for mandatory quarantine	5.59	6.01	2.97	0.003
	Conscientiousness	3.87	3.92	0.81	0.417
	General Cognitive Reflection	3.41	4.04	3.27	0.001
Study 2	N	222	263		
	Conscientiousness	3.93	3.94	0.22	0.930
	General Cognitive Reflection	4.23	3.67	2.76	0.006
Study 3	N	181	298		
	Concern with COVID-19 (all)	3.70	4.05	4.07	<0.001
	Concern with COVID-19 (self)	3.34	3.74	3.78	<0.001
	Concern with COVID-19 (world)	4.06	4.36	3.72	<0.001
	Likelihood that threat is exaggerated	4.10	2.74	-7.30	<0.001
	Support for mandatory quarantine	5.76	6.14	2.58	0.011
	Conscientiousness	3.95	3.86	-1.25	0.213
	General Cognitive Reflection	3.59	4.17	2.79	0.005
Study 4	N	402	565		
	Concern with COVID-19 (all)	3.81	4.10	5.13	<0.001
	Concern with COVID-19 (self)	3.47	3.74	3.91	<0.001
	Concern with COVID-19 (world)	4.15	4.46	5.79	<0.001
	Likelihood that threat is exaggerated	3.75	2.40	-10.80	<0.001
	Support for mandatory quarantine	5.96	6.34	4.08	<0.001
	Conscientiousness	3.87	3.81	-1.20	0.229
	General Cognitive Reflection	3.56	3.97	3.03	0.003
Study 5	N	402	565		
	Conscientiousness	3.76	3.71	-0.49	0.624
Study 6	N	184	307		
	Conscientiousness	3.92	3.79	-2.00	0.050
	Concern with COVID-19 (all)	3.47	4.10	6.74	<0.001
	Concern with COVID-19 (self)	3.82	4.47	5.49	<0.001
	Concern with COVID-19 (world)	3.11	3.73	7.20	<0.001