**Online Supplementary Material**

**Study 1**

Ostracism Experience Scale

For each of the statements below, please consider your personal feelings. Determine how often, in general, the following experiences happen to you. Just give your gut response. Use the scale: 1 = Hardly ever to 7 = Almost always. Please read each statement carefully.

1. In general, others leave me out of their group.
2. In general, others keep me out-of-the-loop on information that is important to my close relationships.
3. In general, others treat me as if I am invisible.
4. In general, others give me the cold shoulder treatment.
5. In general, others physically turn their backs to me when in my presence.
6. In general, others treat me as if I’m in solitary confinement.
7. In general, others do not look at me when I’m in their presence.
8. In general, others ignore me during conversation.

Vulnerability

Please indicate the extent to which you agree with each of the statements (1 = Strongly disagree to 7 = Strongly agree).

1. I feel vulnerable.
2. I feel threatened.
3. I am incapable of coping with external shocks in life.
4. I am unable to meet the challenges in life.

Conspiracy Beliefs

Please indicate the extent to which you agree with each of the statements (1 = Strongly disagree to 7 = Strongly agree).

1. A powerful and secretive group known as the New World Order is planning to eventually rule the world through an autonomous world government that would replace sovereign governments.
2. SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) was produced under laboratory conditions as a biological weapon.
3. The U.S. government had foreknowledge about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor but allowed the attack to take place so as to be able to enter the Second World War.
4. The assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. was the result of an organized conspiracy by U.S. government agencies such as the FBI and CIA.
5. The Apollo moon landings never happened and were staged in a Hollywood film studio.
6. The assassination of John F. Kennedy was not committed by the lone gunman Lee Harvey Oswald but was rather a detailed organized conspiracy to kill the president.
7. The U.S. government allowed the 9/11 attacks to take place so that it would have an excuse to achieve foreign (e.g., wars in Afghanistan and Iraq) and domestic goals (e.g., attacks on civil liberties) that had been determined prior to the attacks.
8. Princess Diana’s death was not an accident but rather an organized assassination by members of the British royal family who disliked her.
9. The Oklahoma City bombers Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols did not act alone but rather received assistance from neo-Nazi groups.
10. The Coca-Cola Company intentionally changed to an inferior formula with the intent of driving up demand for their classic product, later reintroducing it for their financial gain.
11. In July 1947, the U.S. military recovered the wreckage of an alien spacecraft from Roswell, NM, and covered up the fact.
12. Area 51 in Nevada is a secretive military base that contains hidden alien spacecraft and/or alien bodies.
13. The claim that the climate is changing due to emissions from fossil fuels is a hoax perpetrated by corrupt scientists who want to spend more taxpayer money on climate research.
14. U.S. agencies intentionally created the AIDS epidemic and administered it to Black and gay men in the 1970s.

**Study 2**

Ostracism Manipulation

Ostracism condition: Please recall the worst time in your life that you experienced ostracism or social exclusion. Please describe the experience in the space provided below as detailed as you can. You may take as much time as needed.

Physical pain condition: Please recall the worst time in your life that you experienced physical pain. Please describe the experience in the space provided below as detailed as you can. You may take as much time as needed.

Control condition: Please recall you last visit to a grocery store or supermarket. Please describe the experience in the space provided below as detailed as you can. You may take as much time as needed.

Manipulation Check

Please indicate the extent to which you agree with each of the statements (1 = Strongly disagree to 7 = Strongly agree).

1. I feel socially excluded.
2. I feel ignored.
3. I feel rejected.
4. The experience is negative.

Vulnerability

Same as Study 1.

Conspiracy Beliefs

Same as Study 1.

**Study 3**

Ostracism manipulation

Please refer to the following webpage for the detailed description.

<http://smpo.github.io/socialmedia/>

Manipulation check

Please indicate the extent to which you agree with each of the statements (1 = Strongly disagree to 7 = Strongly agree).

1. I was excluded.
2. I was ignored.
3. I was rejected.

Vulnerability

Same as Study 1.

Negative mood

Please indicate the extent to which the following statements represent your current feelings (1 = Not at all to 7 = Extremely).

1. I feel good. (R)
2. I feel bad.
3. I feel friendly. (R)
4. I feel unfriendly.
5. I feel angry.
6. I feel pleasant. (R)
7. I feel happy. (R)
8. I feel sad.

Conspiracy Beliefs

In the following section, please vividly imagine the scenarios and indicate the extent to which you agree with each of the statements (1 = Strongly disagree to 7 = Strongly agree).

1. On 19th March 2004, an assassination attempt was made on President Chen Shui-bian and Vice President Annette Lu during their presidential campaign event in Tainan, Taiwan. When both Chen and Lu were waving at the crowds in the backseat of a jeep, a gunman fired two shots where a bullet grazed Chen’s abdomen and was lodged in his clothes while the other bullet smashed in to the leg cast that Lu was wearing due to an earlier injury. Although injured, both Chen and Liu’s injuries were slight and no hospitalization nor surgery was needed and were quickly released from Chi-Mei Hospital within the same day. The attempt was made a day before the big presidential election. Despite the attack on the political figures, the election was not postponed and carried on as usual.

The attempted assassination was conducted to attract the attention of those citizens that usually do not vote.

1. In recent years, the Hong Kong government has been actively promoting Hong Kong’s cultural development and the development of the West Kowloon Cultural District in along the Victoria Harbour waterfront. The project mainly involves the building of museums, theatres, concert halls, performance venues, and open spaces for people to enjoy cultural performances, exhibitions, and organize cultural activities. However, in late 2016 and early 2017, the district became entangled in controversies. Chief Secretary Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor, who was speculated to run for the position of Chief Executive in upcoming elections and also the chair of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority, was criticized for skipping public consultation procedures and appointing Yim Sen-kee as the architect for the project regarding the building of Hong Kong Palace Museum in the cultural district. Some people viewed it as an attempt of the Chinese government to assert its influence in Hong Kong and the appointment involved corruption issues while others’ thought that such speculation is nonsense and was only an attempt at defamation before the elections.

Corruption was involved in Yim’s appointment.

1. Syria has been in a state of war since 2012 when rebels attempted to overthrow Bashar al-Assad’s government. Many countries, such as the United States, France, and Russia, have become involved in this internal political turmoil through providing military training and aid. As the war drags on, Amnesty International, an international humanitarian organization, has warned that war crimes are being committed and that human rights are constantly being undermined and many places are no longer suitable for living. The rebellion also let to the rise of extremist organizations such as the Islamic State, which recruits members from all over the globe and frequently organizes terrorist attacks. It also caused problems regarding influx of refugees in other nearby countries.

The figures supplied by Amnesty International were made up and used simply to pressurize other countries to end the war.

1. President Park Geun-hye of South Korea was involved in a political scandal that resulted in her impeachment in December 2016. It was revealed that Park disclosed confidential government matters with a close friend Choi Soon-sil and Choi allegedly used her relations with Park to interfere with state decisions. She was involved in corrupted exchanges with Korean chaebols (i.e. large family business conglomerates) to gain “donations” to funds in exchange for favours, and obtaining special treatment for her daughter’s enrollment into the prestigious Ewha Womans University. Park however denied the allegations against her in January 2017 and claimed that they were mere “fabrications and falsehood”.

Korean gangs and triads were behind the whole political scandal but were able to escape detection.

1. Greenpeace recently did a study on the carbon footprints of major tech companies as the IT sector is a major energy consumer among different industries. It was found that big brands like Samsung, Twitter, Alibaba, and Amazon, were large energy consumers while other brands like Google and Naver performed well and even declared a commitment towards utilizing renewable energy sources. Greenpeace is thus pushing for tech companies to gradually shift towards renewable energy and not only merely rely on carbon offsets, i.e. reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, or unbundled renewable energy credits to fulfill energy standards or targets.

Some large companies paid Greenpeace to keep quiet about its degree of energy use.

1. In early 2017, Rhode Island lawmakers announced a renewed attempt to legalize recreational marijuana. States in the United States including Massachusetts, Maine, Colorado, Washington, Oregon, Alaska, and California have made it legal for adults, i.e. those over age 21, to use pot. In states that have legalized recreational marijuana, sales were flourishing and it generated a significant amount of tax revenue for the state government. However, concerns arose in states that discourage marijuana use that its residents would simply cross the border to a neighbouring state to buy the substance legally.

The states wanted to earn more tax income and thus put forward attempts to legalize marijuana.

**Study 4**

Ostracism Manipulation

Ostracism condition: Please recall the worst time in your life that you experienced ostracism or social exclusion. Please describe the experience in the space provided below as detailed as you can. You may take as much time as needed.

Control condition: Please recall what you usually do on a typical Wednesday afternoon. Please describe the experience in the space provided below as detailed as you can. You may take as much time as needed.

Manipulation Check

Please indicate the extent to which you agree with each of the statements (1 = Strongly disagree to 7 = Strongly agree).

1. I feel socially excluded.
2. I feel ignored.
3. I feel rejected.

Self-affirmation Manipulation

Self-affirmation condition: The following is a list of 12 values (athletic ability, being good at art, being smart or getting good grades, being creative, being independent, living in the moment, belonging to a social group, music, politics, relationships with friends or family, religious values, sense of humor). In this section, please select two of your most important values and explain why you think these values are important. Please explain in the space provided below as detailed as you can. You may take as much time as needed.

No-affirmation condition: The following is a list of 12 values (athletic ability, being good at art, being smart or getting good grades, being creative, being independent, living in the moment, belonging to a social group, music, politics, relationships with friends or family, religious values, sense of humor). In this section, please select two of your least important values and explain why you think these values are unimportant. Please explain in the space provided below as detailed as you can. You may take as much time as needed.

Conspiracy Beliefs

Please indicate the extent to which you agree with each of the statements (1 = Strongly disagree to 7 = Strongly agree).

1. The government is involved in the murder of innocent citizens and/or well-known public figures, and keeps this a secret.
2. Government agencies secretly keep certain outspoken celebrities and citizens under constant surveillance.
3. Charity withholds a lot of information about diseases and their treatments from the public.
4. Groups of scientists manipulate, fabricate, or suppress evidence in order to deceive the public.
5. The government keeps many important secrets from the public.
6. Groups of scientists ensure that only evidence which supports a pre-determined conclusion is made known to the public.
7. A lot of important information is deliberately concealed from the public out of self-interest.
8. Technology is being concealed which is far in advance of what is known to the general public.
9. Government funded scientists manipulate evidence in order to support existing government policy.
10. A small, secret group of people is responsible for making all major world decisions, such as going to war.