

## Supplementary Materials

Table S1. *Standardized Correlations Among Dependent Measures, Study 1.*

| Variables              | 1  | 2     | 3     | 4     |
|------------------------|----|-------|-------|-------|
| Moral Judgment         | -- | .787* | .869* | .590* |
| Motive Attributions    |    | --    | .881* | .637* |
| Character Inferences   |    |       | --    | .603* |
| Support for Protesting |    |       |       | --    |

\*  $p < .001$

### Study 1 Exploratory Analysis of Open-Ended Responses

Participants wrote a brief summary of their impressions of the protest. Two coders, blind to hypotheses, coded these responses for the participants' overall sentiment toward the protest (-3 strongly disapproving - +3 strongly approving,  $ICC = .87$ ) as well as whether participants mentioned the following themes in their response: (a) the protest is ineffective ( $\kappa = .51$ ), (b) the protest is disrespectful ( $\kappa = .71$ ), (c) the protest promotes social justice ( $\kappa = .54$ ), (d) players should be grateful ( $\kappa = .55$ ), and (e) not personally caring about the protest ( $\kappa = .53$ ). Themes were coded as 1-present, 0-absent. After independently coding responses, coders met and resolved disagreements (See below for the coding guide).

Regressing the authority-fairness composite on expressed sentiment revealed that authority-verses-fairness valuation predicted people expressing significantly more negative sentiment toward the players,  $\beta = -.477$ ,  $t(262) = -8.79$ ,  $p < .001$ . Additionally, logistic regressions demonstrated that authority-fairness valuation predicted people being more likely to describe the protests as ineffective,  $b = 0.39$ , Wald  $\chi^2(1) = 10.07$ ,  $p = .002$ ; disrespectful,  $b = 0.63$ , Wald  $\chi^2(1) = 21.44$ ,  $p < .001$ , as well as arguing that players ought to be grateful for their status,  $b = 0.64$ , Wald  $\chi^2(1) = 14.30$ ,  $p < .001$ , and being less likely to describe the protests as valuable for promoting social justice,  $b = 0.82$ , Wald  $\chi^2(1) = 40.06$ ,  $p < .001$ . Moral values were unrelated to people indicating that they didn't care about the protest,  $b = 0.05$ , Wald  $\chi^2(1) = 0.16$ ,  $p = .69$ .

Table S2. *Study 1: Open-Ended Coding Guide*

| Coding Categories                 |  |   |   |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|--|--|
| Sentiment                         | Don't Care   | Ineffective Protest                                     | Disrespectful   | Social Justice   | Be Grateful  |
| Overall Sentiment (3 to +3 scale) | Don't understand or don't care about these protest (1 - yes, 0 no) | This type of protest is not effective (1 - yes, 0 - no) | This protest disrespects the military/country (1 - yes, 0 - no) | This protest promotes social justice (1 - yes, 0 - no) | Players are privileged & should be grateful rather than protesting |

(1 - yes, 0 - no)

| Global rating of the comment.<br>People may say lots of things, but your job is to capture the overall feeling of the comment | For each of these questions, code a 1 if the person writes something that affirmatively states something that fits into the question category. Examples for what might fit in each question are appended below. |  |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| -3 extreme disapproval<br>(e.g., "protesters are evil"; "fire them"; "put them in jail")                                      | e.g., "I don't understand what the big deal is."  | e.g., "This is counter-productive."                      | e.g., "Kneeling disrespects the flag/military/veterans/America."            | e.g. "The players are calling attention to police brutality." | e.g., "Their job is to play football."                     |
| -2 moderate disapproval<br>(e.g., "I don't like this"; "this is wrong")   | "I don't really care about this"  | "This is not the right way."                             | "America might not be perfect, but it's your country, don't disrespect it." | "The players are trying to right a social wrong."             | "Players make lots of money."                              |
| -1 very mild disapproval<br>(e.g., "it's ok but..." "I wish they weren't doing this")   |   | "There are better ways to bring attention to the issue." |   |   | "Players should be grateful for what they have/lifestyle." |
| 0 Don't care or make arguments both ways that balance out   |   | "Protests highlights division rather than unity."        |   |   |  |
| +1 very mild approval   |   |  |   |   |  |
| +2 moderate approval<br>(e.g., "this is a good thing" "this is calling attention to an important issue)                       |   |  |   |   |  |
| +3 extreme approval<br>(e.g., "protesters are heroes"; "it's a good thing and people who disagree are racists")               |   |  |   |   |  |

### Study 3 Social Justice Protest Stimuli

## The Charlotte Observer

### Protests over Officer-Related Shooting Disrupt Charlotte



Protests erupted overnight Tuesday into Wednesday in Charlotte, North Carolina, after a police officer shot and killed Keith Lamont Scott while looking for another person who had an outstanding warrant. Police reported that Scott was armed and resisted arrest while witnesses claim that Scott was disabled, unarmed, and carrying only a book when he was gunned down.

Protesters gathered near the scene of the shooting, an area near the campus of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Footage from the protests showed people shouting “Black lives matter,” “Hands up, don’t shoot” and “No justice, no peace.” A reporter with a local NBC affiliate posted a video showing more than 100 people flooding the streets chanting “black lives matter” and “it was a book.”

Police in tactical gear used tear gas and flash grenades in an attempt to disperse the crowd, with at least one protestor reporting minor injuries. At the same time, there were reports of protestors throwing objects at police, and the police department’s official Twitter account said that an officer “sustained injuries in an attempt to deescalate agitators during demonstration.”

North Carolina Gov. Pat McCoy declared a State of Emergency Wednesday evening, and said on Twitter he would be calling in the National Guard. At least three civilians were hospitalized and four law enforcement officers were hurt, none with life-threatening injuries, WBTV reports. There were numerous arrests.

North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper also issued a statement urging everyone in Charlotte to heed the call for peaceful demonstration. “We must come together as a community to get answers and find a better path forward,” the statement said.