**Appendix**

*Table A1: Descriptive statistics for control variables measured in Wave 1.*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Variable | *M* | *SD* | Min | Max |
| Left-right ideology | 4.96 | 2.72 | 0 | 10 |
| Political interest | 2.04 | 0.74 | 1 | 4 |
| Gov. approval W1 | 4.78 | 1.54 | 1 | 7 |
| COVID-19 development W1 | 4.56 | 1.61 | 1 | 7 |

*Table A2: Descriptive statistics for control variables gender and age measured in Wave 1.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | *N* | Percent |
| Gender |  |  |
| Female | 1276 | 51.33 |
| Male | 1210 | 48.67 |
| Age |  |  |
| Under 30 years old | 297 | 11.95 |
| 30–39 years | 368 | 14.80 |
| 40–49 years | 395 | 15.89 |
| 50–59 years | 478 | 19.23 |
| 60–69 years | 485 | 19.51 |
| 70 years or older | 463 | 18.62 |

*Table A3: Descriptive statistics for news coverage in six Swedish media outlets in Wave 1.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *N* | *M* | *SD* |
| Dagens Nyheter | 157 | -0.48 | 0.65 |
| Aftonbladet | 311 | -0.37 | 0.61 |
| Expressen | 169 | -0.40 | 0.58 |
| Rapport | 82 | -0.44 | 0.65 |
| TV4 Nyheterna | 63 | -0.46 | 0.71 |
| Ekot | 59 | -0.24 | 0.68 |

*Table A4: Attrition analysis.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Odds Ratio** | **Std. Error** |
| Constant | 5.05 | 2.47\*\* |
| Left-right ideology | 0.97 | 0.02 |
| Political interest | 1.02 | 0.09 |
| Gender (Ref: female) | 1.32 | 0.18\* |
| Age (Ref: under 30) |  |  |
| 30–39 | 1.00 | 0.22 |
| 40–49 | 1.59 | 0.36\* |
| 50–59 | 2.32 | 0.53\*\*\* |
| 60–69 | 2.41 | 0.55\*\*\* |
| 70 and older | 2.55 | 0.60\*\*\* |
| Education (Ref: 0) |  |  |
| 1 | 0.72 | 0.30 |
| 2 | 1.01 | 0.44 |
| 3 | 0.71 | 0.29 |
| *Note*. Education was measured using four categories (0 = “up to nine years of school”; 1 = “up to 12 years of school”; 2 = “school and vocational training”; 3 = “12 years of school and university degree”). \* *p* < .05, \*\* *p* < .01, \*\*\* *p* < .001. | | |

*Table A5: Results of mediation analysis.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Model 1: COVID-19 Development | | | | |  | Model 2: Governmental Trust W2 | | | | |
|  | ***b*** | ***SE*** |  | **LL CI** | **UL CI** |  | ***b*** | ***SE*** |  | **LL CI** | **UL CI** |
| Constant | 10.77 | 0.19\*\*\* |  | 0.70 | 14.53 |  | 0.01 | 0.15 |  | -0.29 | 0.30 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Negativity | 0.04 | 0.01\*\* |  | 0.02 | 0.07 |  | 0.02 | 0.01 |  | 0.00 | 0.04 |
| Development W2 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0.34 | 0.02\*\*\* |  | 0.30 | 0.38 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Controls* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Development W1 | 0.32 | 0.02\*\*\* |  | 0.28 | 0.37 |  | 0.03 | 0.02 |  | -0.01 | 0.07 |
| Governmental Trust W1 | 0.32 | 0.02\*\*\* |  | 0.27 | 0.36 |  | 0.53 | 0.02\*\*\* |  | 0.49 | 0.56 |
| Education | -0.02 | 0.01 |  | -0.05 | 0.01 |  | -0.01 | 0.01 |  | -0.04 | 0.01 |
| Gender | -0.07 | 0.06 |  | -0.19 | 0.05 |  | 0.09 | 0.05 |  | 0.00 | 0.18 |
| Age | 0.05 | 0.02\*\* |  | 0.02 | 0.09 |  | -0.01 | 0.02 |  | -0.04 | 0.02 |
| Ideology | 0.04 | 0.01\*\* |  | 0.01 | 0.06 |  | 0.14 | 0.01\*\*\* |  | 0.12 | 0.16 |
| Experience | 0.08 | 0.02\*\*\* |  | 0.04 | 0.11 |  | -0.02 | 0.01 |  | -0.04 | 0.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***R²*** | 0.39 |  |  |  |  |  | 0.72 |  |  |  |  |
| ***F*** | 150.31 | \*\*\* |  |  |  |  | 515.80 | \*\*\* |  |  |  |

*Note*. LLCI = lower level 95% confidence interval; ULCI = upper level 95% confidence interval. Unstandardized coefficient with standard error displayed. \**p* < .05, \*\**p* < .01, \*\*\**p* < .001.

*Table A6: Results of moderated mediation.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Model 1: COVID-19 Development | | | | |  | Model 2: Governmental Trust W2 | | | | |
|  | ***b*** | ***SE*** |  | **LLCI** | **ULCI** |  | ***b*** | ***SE*** |  | **LLCI** | **ULCI** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Constant | 1.62 | 0.17\*\*\* |  | 1.27 | 1.96 |  | 0.02 | 0.14 |  | -0.25 | 0.30 |
| Negativity | 0.04 | 0.01\*\* |  | 0.02 | 0.07 |  | 0.01 | 0.01 |  | -0.01 | 0.03 |
| Development W2 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0.34 | 0.02\*\*\* |  | 0.30 | 0.37 |
| Experience | 0.08 | 0.02\*\*\* |  | 0.04 | 0.11 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Negativity \* Experience | 0.00 | 0.01 |  | -0.01 | 0.02 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Controls* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Development W1 | 0.32 | 0.02\*\*\* |  | 0.28 | 0.37 |  | 0.03 | 0.02 |  | -0.01 | 0.07 |
| Ideology | 0.04 | 0.01\*\* |  | 0.01 | 0.06 |  | 0.14 | 0.01\*\*\* |  | 0.12 | 0.16 |
| Gender | -0.07 | 0.06 |  | -0.19 | 0.05 |  | 0.10 | 0.05\* |  | 0.00 | 0.19 |
| Age | 0.05 | 0.02\* |  | 0.02 | 0.09 |  | -0.01 | 0.02 |  | -0.04 | 0.02 |
| Education | -0.02 | 0.01 |  | -0.05 | 0.01 |  | -0.02 | 0.01 |  | -0.04 | 0.01 |
| Governmental Trust W1 | 0.32 | 0.02\*\*\* |  | 0.27 | 0.36 |  | 0.53 | 0.02\*\*\* |  | 0.49 | 0.56 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***R²*** | 0.39 |  |  |  |  |  | 0.72 |  |  |  |  |
| ***F*** | 133.60\*\*\* | |  |  |  |  | 579.41\*\*\* | |  |  |  |

*Note*. LLCI = lower level 95% confidence interval; ULCI = upper level 95% confidence interval. Unstandardized coefficient with standard error displayed. \**p* < .05, \*\**p* < .01, \*\*\**p* < .001.