# Do Exclusionary Policies Reduce Cognitive Bandwidth and Harm Economic Outcomes of Marginalized Groups? Pre-registered Outcomes and Hypotheses.

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<span style="color:red">This document updates the hypotheses that we pre-registered in January 2024 before the field study. The updates have been made ahead of a new round of online-only data collection.</span>

## 1 Outcomes

### 1.1 Primary outcomes

1. Productivity: the number of tweets correctly transcribed in the transcription task.

2. Mistakes: choosing the bonus contract when piece-rate is optimal optimal OR choosing piece rate when the bonus contract is optimal.

## 2 Main hypotheses

1. Muslims in the treatment group(s) will transcribe fewer tweets correctly than Muslims in the control group

2. Muslims in the treatment group(s) will make more mistakes in choosing the contract than Muslims in the control group

3. Both the symbolic and the material treatments will harm Muslims in the ways described in Hypotheses 1 and 2

# 3    Mechanisms and manipulation checks

## 3.1    Mechanisms

We hypothesise that insecure national belonging affects economic decisions by reducing cognitive bandwidth. Therefore we will implement two tasks that have been used to test constraints to bandwidth.

1. Numerical stroop task: participants with less cognitive bandwidth should get fewer tasks right and spend more time on the task

## 3.2    Manipulation check – insecure belonging

We will implement several tests to see whether both our treatments shift feelings of national belonging.

1. Emotional Stroop Task

   **Expected difference:** Treated Muslims should spend more time on the emotional words relative to the neutral words. They may be more likely to get the emotional words correct.

2. Survey questions about feelings of belonging and place in society

   **Expected difference:** Treated Muslims will feel less like they belong in society.

## 3.3    Manipulation check – symbolic versus material

We will use the following questions to test whether the symbolic and the material treatments are received differently.

Q_finances ”If any of the policies are implemented next week, how much will it affect the daily finances of you and your household?”

Q_status ”If any of the policies are implemented next week, how much will it affect your status and worth in the eyes of other Indian citizens?

**Expected difference:** The material treatment should have a greater impact on finances compared to the symbolic treatment.

# 4    Additional analyses

1. Average treatment effects for Hindus could depend on many elements that we are not able to predict ex-ante. Therefore, while we will analyse treatment effects for Hindus, we will not pre-register any hypotheses and will treat the results as exploratory.

2. The treatments could make Muslims worse off relative to Hindus and we will explicitly test this by comparing treatment effect sizes for Muslims compared to Hindus

# 5 Data Exclusion

The experiment is designed to be taken online and completed by participants who are somewhat regularly online and who have a reasonable understanding of English. In addition to standard attention checks, we will exclude participants who do no meet these criteria. All exclusions will be made based on data collected before the treatment.

1. We will exclude participants who do not fit the demorgaphic profiles we requested at recruitment as this may be a sign of a lack of fidelity to the recruitment protocol: age, religion, state, gender

2. We will exclude participants who are too fast or too slow. We will definitely exclude any participants who are more than 2 standard deviations from the mean; and may further exclude the top and bottom 2.5% of participants.

3. We will exclude participants who report that they do not speak or use English regularly.

4. We will exclude participants who fail the explicit attention check before treatment.

5. We will exclude participants who exhibit too much noise in the attention check Tweets at the beginning of each survey.