

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

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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. Raven's matrices: participants with less cognitive bandwidth should correctly solve fewer matrices
2. 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
2. Word Completion Task
3. Survey questions about feelings of belonging and place 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?"

1. **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