

Framing effects in times of the Corona crisis

List of measurements

Experiment 1 (Germany)

Concept	Measurement
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Socio demographics

Age How old are you? _____

Gender What is your sex?
female
male
I would like to describe myself: _____

Educational Attainment What is the highest level of education you have completed?
I left school without a degree.
Still in school.
Secondary school certificate.
Higher secondary school certificate.
Completed apprenticeship.
Vocational baccalaureate.
High school graduation.
University degree.
Other: _____

Need for cognition (COVID-19 specific)

Adapted from:
Pechtl (2009)

In the Federal Republic of Germany there is currently much talk about the spread of the so-called Corona virus or COVID-19. The following questions and statements refer to this current topic.

Please indicate which statements apply to you.

1. I currently have the need to deal with information about the Corona virus and its spread.
2. I often think about how I can understand the origin and spread of the Corona virus better than before.
3. I find it important to obtain new knowledge and information about the Corona virus and its spread.
4. Knowing how the infection with the Corona virus proceeds is not enough for me, I also want to know the modes of action or connections.
5. With regard to infection with the Corona virus, it is enough for me to know that the healthcare system is working, I don't think about anything else. (inverse)
6. With regard to the Corona virus and its spread, I often question information I get from the media or social networks.
7. With regard to the Corona virus and its spread, I tend to first analyze facts and information that I receive.

*measured on a 5-point Likert scale from 1 = completely disagree to 5 = completely agree

Fear of the virus

1. The spread of the Corona virus terrifies me.
2. I'm afraid of getting sick with the Corona virus.
3. I'm afraid of my relatives getting sick with the Corona virus.

*measured on 5-point Likert scale from 1 = completely disagree to 5 = completely agree

Knowledge (COVID-19 specific)

Please indicate whether or not the following statements in connection with the Corona virus are correct. Please answer as spontaneously as possible.

1. The Corona virus spreads rather slowly. (inverse)
2. The incubation period, i.e. the time from infection to the outbreak of symptoms, is on average 5-6 days for the Corona virus.
3. There is already an approved vaccine that can be used to successfully immunize humans against the virus. (inverse)
4. Anyone entering Germany from a risk area must remain in quarantine for 14 days.
5. Corona viruses are encapsulated viruses. (inverse)

*binary variable (1 = correct, 2 = incorrect)

Trust in politicians

Adapted from:
Halmburger et al. (2019)

The following statements are about how you assess politicians in our country. It is not about individual or specific persons, but about politicians in general.

1. Politicians break their promises to get ahead. (inverse)
2. Politicians are in politics to get out as much as possible for themselves. (inverse)
3. All in all, politicians are honest with the electorate.
4. Politicians act responsibly.
5. Politicians are committed to justice.
6. Politicians respect the norms and values of our society.
7. Politicians are well-trained.
8. Politicians are sufficiently competent.
9. Politicians have enough expert knowledge.

*measured on a 5-point Likert scale from 1 = completely disagree to 5 = completely agree

Party Affiliation

In the Federal Republic of Germany, many people tend to support a certain party for a long time, although they also vote for another party from time to time.

How about you: Are you, generally speaking, a supporter of any particular party? If so, which one?

CDU
CSU
SPD

AfD
FDP
Die Linke
Bündnis 90/Die Grünen
Other: _____

No party.

*Parties are listed proportionally.

Strength of party affiliation

How strongly or how weakly do you lean towards this party overall?

*measured on a slide bar from 1 = very weak to 100 = very much

Risk aversion

Adapted from:
Garbarino, Slonim, & Sydnor
(2011)

Imagine that you can choose between different options in a small lottery game. Each decision contains different probabilities of winning.

There are 6 possible decisions. Please select the ONE you would choose.

*In experiment 1 only lottery B was assessed.

Lottery A

1. 50% to add 22.00 € & 50% chance to add 22.00 €
2. 50% to add 30.00 € & 50% chance to add 18.00 €
3. 50% to add 38.00 € & 50% chance to add 14.00 €
4. 50% to add 46.00 € & 50% chance to add 10.00 €
5. 50% to add 54.00 € & 50% chance to add 6.00 €
6. 50% to add 60.00 € & 50% chance to add 0.00 €

Lottery B

1. 75% to add 22.00 € & 25% chance to add 22.00 €
2. 75% to add 26.00 € & 25% chance to add 18.00 €
3. 75% to add 30.00 € & 25% chance to add 14.00 €
4. 75% to add 34.00 € & 25% chance to add 10.00 €
5. 75% to add 38.00 € & 25% chance to add 6.00 €
6. 75% to add 40.00 € & 25% chance to add 0.00 €

Lottery C

1. 25% to add 22.00 € & 75% chance to add 22.00 €
2. 25% to add 30.00 € & 75% chance to add 20.00 €
3. 25% to add 38.00 € & 75% chance to add 18.00 €
4. 25% to add 46.00 € & 75% chance to add 16.00 €
5. 25% to add 54.00 € & 75% chance to add 14.00 €
6. 25% to add 60.00 € & 75% chance to add 12.00 €

*choices are reaching from 1 = risk-averse to 6 = risk seeking

Dependent variables

Support of restrictions of public life

How do you view the introduction of nationwide restrictions of public life?

This refers to measures that limit the accumulation of groups in public and private space to the partnership and family for a certain period of time. Exceptions for shopping, walking and medical care are permitted.

I think restrictions of public life are...

1 = not at all useful to 9 = very useful.

Perception of rule breakers

What terms do you think apply to people who do not follow the rules of conduct recommended by the government? This refers to people who do not keep a minimum distance, do not restrict their social contacts, meet in groups or do not follow the rules on coughing and sneezing.

Multiple answers are possible.

- apostate^b
- treacherous^b
- disloyal^b
- unfaithful^b
- naïve
- uninformed
- ignorant
- rude
- selfish
- comfy
- negligent

^b These adjectives were chosen for their reference to the concept of betrayal. They are semantically related to the word field of war and conflict (traceable at: <https://wortschatz.uni-leipzig.de/de/download/>, 21 March 2020)

*All adjectives were presented in a randomized order.

Support for punishment

What punishment do you consider appropriate when restrictions are not respected?

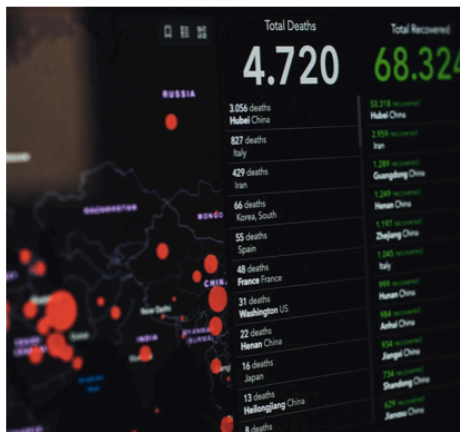
1. Fines of up to 10 €
2. Fines of up to 50 €
3. Fines of up to 100 €
4. Fines of up to 500 €
5. Fines of up to 1000 €
6. Fines of up to 10000 €

7. Fines of up to 25000 €
8. Imprisonment

Stimulus used in experiment 1

Politics & Research

The war against the Corona virus



The war against the Corona virus has already begun in Germany. The number of infections and deaths is rising rapidly. Clinics and care facilities are already preparing for heavy overload and are equipping themselves with protective clothing, additional personnel and flexible extensions. While some small entrepreneurs are facing financial ruin and the predicted number of unemployed is increasing, there are still massive behavioral violations in public life. Some people continue to engage in social contacts, Corona parties are celebrated in parks and public places, and in particularly severe cases, younger people cough on older people.

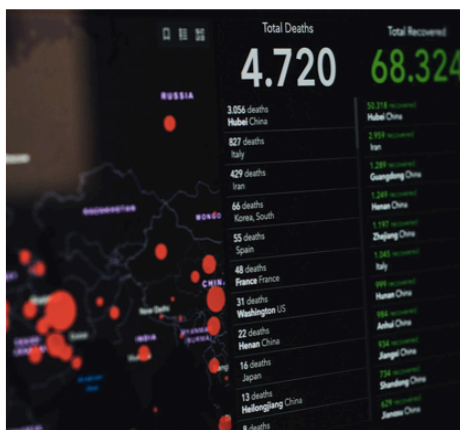
[more](#)



Figure 1. War-frame

Politics & Research

The fight against the Corona virus



The fight against the Corona virus has already begun in Germany. The number of infections and deaths is rising rapidly. Clinics and care facilities are already preparing for heavy overload and are equipping themselves with protective clothing, additional personnel and flexible extensions. While some small entrepreneurs are facing financial ruin and the predicted number of unemployed is increasing, there are still massive behavioral violations in public life. Some people continue to engage in social contacts, Corona parties are celebrated in parks and public places, and in particularly severe cases, younger people cough on older people.

[more](#)

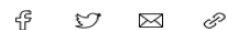
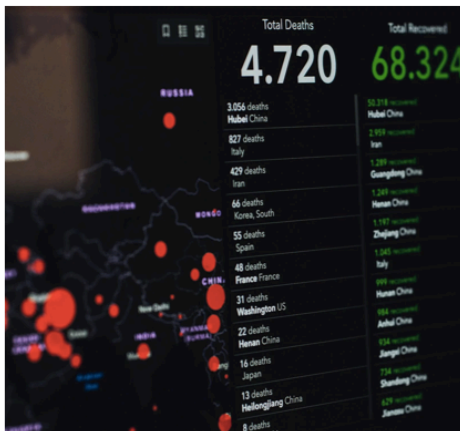


Figure 2. Fight-frame

Politics & Research

The shielding against the Corona virus



The shielding against the Corona virus has already begun in Germany. The number of infections and deaths is rising rapidly. Clinics and care facilities are already preparing for heavy overload and are equipping themselves with protective clothing, additional personnel and flexible extensions. While some small entrepreneurs are facing financial ruin and the predicted number of unemployed is increasing, there are still massive behavioral violations in public life. Some people continue to engage in social contacts, Corona parties are celebrated in parks and public places, and in particularly severe cases, younger people cough on older people.

[more ...](#)

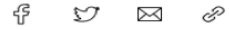


Figure 3. Shielding-frame

Experiment 2 (United States)

Concept	Measurement
Socio demographics	
Age	How old are you? _____
Gender	What is your sex? female male I would like to describe myself: _____
Educational Attainment	What is the highest level of education you have completed? I left school without a degree. Still in school. Secondary school certificate. Higher secondary school certificate. Completed apprenticeship. Vocational baccalaureate. High school graduation. University degree. Other: _____
Party affiliation (US)	
	How would you describe yourself? I would describe myself as a... Supporter of the Democrats Supporter of the Republicans None Other: _____
Need for cognition (COVID-19 specific)	In the United States there is currently much talk about the spread of the so-called coronavirus or COVID-19. The following questions and statements refer to this current topic.
Adapted from: Pechtl (2009)	Please indicate which statements apply to you. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. I currently have the need to deal with information about the Corona virus and its spread.2. I often think about how I can understand the origin and spread of the Corona virus better than before.3. I find it important to obtain new knowledge and information about the Corona virus and its spread.4. Knowing how the infection with the Corona virus proceeds is not enough for me, I also want to know the modes of action or connections.5. With regard to infection with the Corona virus, it is enough for me to know that the healthcare system is working, I don't think about anything else. (inverse)

6. With regard to the Corona virus and its spread, I often question information I get from the media or social networks.
7. With regard to the Corona virus and its spread, I tend to first analyze facts and information that I receive.

*measured on a 5-point Likert scale from 1 = completely disagree to 5 = completely agree

Knowledge
(COVID-19 specific)

Please indicate whether or not the following statements in connection with the Corona virus are correct. Please answer as spontaneously as possible.

1. The Corona virus spreads rather slowly. (inverse)
2. The incubation period, i.e. the time from infection to the outbreak of symptoms, is on average 5-6 days for the Corona virus.
3. There is already an approved vaccine that can be used to successfully immunize humans against the virus. (inverse)
4. Anyone entering Germany from a risk area must remain in quarantine for 14 days.
5. Corona viruses are encapsulated viruses. (inverse)

*binary variable (1 = correct, 2 = incorrect)

Risk aversion

Adapted from:
Garbarino, Slonim, & Sydnor
(2011)

Imagine that you can choose between different options in a small lottery game. Each decision contains different probabilities of winning.

There are 6 possible decisions. Please select the ONE you would choose.

Lottery A

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5. 50% to add 54.00 € & 50% chance to add 6.00 €
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Lottery B

1. 75% to add 22.00 € & 25% chance to add 22.00 €
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Lottery C

1. 25% to add 22.00 € & 75% chance to add 22.00 €
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3. 25% to add 38.00 € & 75% chance to add 18.00 €
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5. 25% to add 54.00 € & 75% chance to add 14.00 €
6. 25% to add 60.00 € & 75% chance to add 12.00 €

*choices are reaching from 1 = risk-averse to 6 = risk seeking

Dependent variables

Fear of the virus

How scared are you of the coronavirus?

Slide bar from 0 = not at all scared to 100 = very scared

Spread of the virus

How fast do you think the Coronavirus spreads?

Slide bar from 0 = rather slow to 100 = very fast

Perception of rule breakers
(open answer)

Imagine a person would cough or sneeze on you in public. How would you react to this person?

I would _____

Imagine a person comes too close to you. How would you react to this person?

I would _____

Support of restrictions of public life

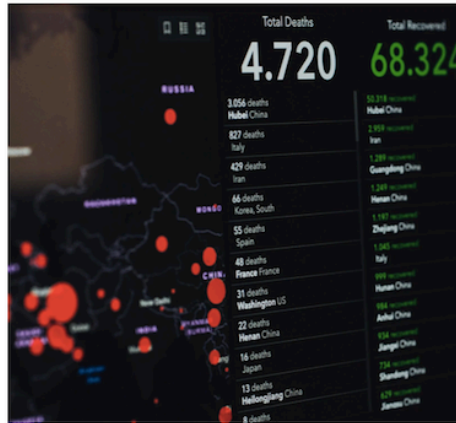
What policies do you think should be adopted to stop the virus?

(multiple answers possible)

- curfews
- compulsory wearing of masks in public
- distance rules
- other: _____
- none

Stimulus material used in experiment 2

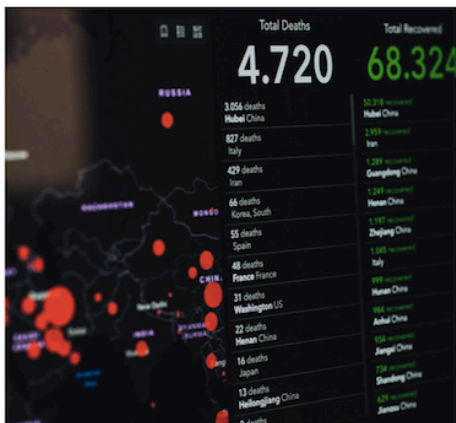
Politics & Research The battle against the Coronavirus



The battle against the Coronavirus has already begun in the US. The virus has hit us like a bomb. Now it's explosively spreading. The number of infections and deaths is rising rapidly. More than 50,000 people have already died of Corona. Doctors and nurses are sitting in the trenches. Although many people die as a result of the virus, there are still massive behavioral rule violations in public life. Some people continue to meet up with each other, some do not keep any distance, and others cough and sneeze in public.
more

Figure 1. Battle-frame

Politics & Research The struggle against the Coronavirus



The struggle against the Coronavirus has already begun in the US. The virus has hit us hard. Now it's spreading. The number of infections and deaths is rising rapidly. More than 50,000 people have already died of Corona. Doctors and nurses are on standby. Although many people die as a result of the virus, there are still massive behavioral rule violations in public life. Some people continue to meet up with each other, some do not keep any distance, and others cough and sneeze in public.
more

Figure 2. Struggle-frame

Pretest for Experiment 3 and 4

Concept	Measurement
Socio demographics	
Age	How old are you? _____
Gender	What is your sex? female male I would like to describe myself: _____
Educational Attainment	What is the highest level of education you have completed? I left school without a degree. Still in school. Secondary school certificate. Higher secondary school certificate. Completed apprenticeship. Vocational baccalaureate. High school graduation. University degree. Other: _____
Text evaluation	<p>Please indicate which of the following terms you find applicable to the text you have just read.</p> <p>expressive – cool official – personal sentimental – sober vivid – dry factual – emotional figurative - conceptual calm – agitated objective – subjective evaluative – descriptive detached – engaged narrative – reporting clarified – passionate</p> <p>*measured on 7-point semantic differentials</p>
Text based knowledge	<p>By clicking on the respective statements, please indicate which of the statements correspond to the information given in the text.</p> <p>Please ONLY click on the statements, which were mentioned IN THE TEXT.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Without political measures against the spread of the virus, an overload of the health care system could not have been

- avoided. (correct)
- 2. The highest numbers of infections have so far been recorded in the US. (incorrect)
- 3. The situation is particularly threatening in the emerging and developing countries. (correct)
- 4. There is **no** approved vaccine against the corona virus yet. (correct)
- 5. A second wave of infection in the colder autumn and winter months is **not** expected. (incorrect)
- 6. The corona virus has caused **as many** deaths as occurred in the same period last year. (incorrect)

Pretested stimulus material used in experiment 3 and 4

Politics & Research

The struggle against the Corona virus is not yet won!

Contrary to initial estimates, the Corona virus is significantly more dangerous than the common flu viruses known to date. This can be also seen by the exponential growth of the infections (Figure 1). The danger of the Corona virus is also shown by the so-called excess mortality, i.e. the higher number of deaths compared to the same time period in previous years, which is 50% on average (in some cases, e.g. in Italy: a plus of 90% deaths compared to previous years). However, at present there is neither a sufficiently effective medicine nor a vaccine against Corona. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), research is being conducted worldwide at full speed in 131 institutes. Before general use, however, the effectiveness must be proven in clinical studies. Therefore, the development of a vaccine can hardly be completed before 2021.

In order to avoid overburdening health care systems, many measures have been adopted internationally to flatten the number of infections. In particular, curfews and contact restrictions were implemented. The regulations that have been adopted are showing initial success in flattening the infection curve, as Figure 2 also shows.

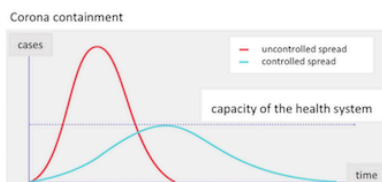


Fig. 2: Flattening of the infection curve

But that does not eliminate the virus. Therefore, a second wave can be expected in the colder autumn and winter months. Experts therefore warn against a hasty return to a "business as usual". Hygiene and distance rules would have to be continued in order to control the spread in the future.

Moreover, there is a threatening situation in the emerging and developing countries. So far, 85 nations have already applied for financial aid from the International Monetary Fund. Because of the global networking of nations, the struggle against the pandemic must also be waged internationally. According to economic experts, only by joint efforts there will be a realistic chance of winning this struggle.

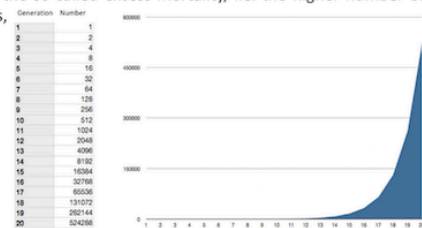


Fig. 1: Exponential spread of the Corona virus

Figure 1. Struggle-frame reported in matter-of-fact-style

Politics & Research

The war against the Corona virus is not yet won!

Contrary to initial estimates, the Corona virus is significantly more dangerous than the common flu viruses known to date. This can be also seen by the exponential growth of the infections (Figure 1). The danger of the Corona virus is also shown by the so-called excess mortality, i.e. the higher number of deaths compared to the same time period in previous years, which is 50% on average (in some cases, e.g. in Italy: a plus of 90% deaths compared to previous years). However, at present there is neither a sufficiently effective medicine nor a vaccine against Corona. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), research is being conducted worldwide at full speed in 131 institutes. Before general use, however, the effectiveness must be proven in clinical studies. Therefore, the development of a vaccine can hardly be completed before 2021.

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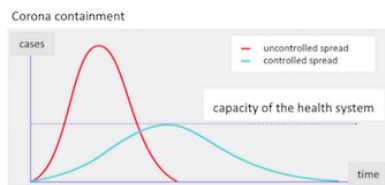


Fig. 2: Flattening of the infection curve

Figure 2. War-frame reported in matter-of-fact-style

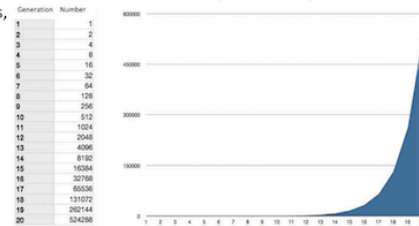


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Moreover, there is a threatening situation in the emerging and developing countries. So far, 85 nations have already applied for financial aid from the International Monetary Fund. Because of the global networking of nations, the war against the pandemic must also be waged internationally. According to economic experts, only by joint efforts there will be a realistic chance of winning this war.

Politics & Research

The struggle against the Corona virus is not yet won!

The corona virus is significantly more dangerous than the flu viruses known to date. This is also reported by Dr. Wagoner, head of the Hallington hospital (Figure 1). The virus has spread at a rapid speed and caused more deaths in Hallington compared to the same time period in previous years.

Even for an experienced doctor, he said, it had been difficult "to witness the many personal fates and losses in recent weeks". Currently there is neither an effective medication against the virus nor an approved vaccine. Although research is being carried out worldwide at full speed, the effectiveness of the vaccine must be proven in clinical studies before it can be used. For this reason, it could "take what feels like an eternity - at least one year - until the development of a vaccine is completed," said the clinic director.

In order to prevent overburdening the health care systems, the many measures that have been adopted internationally to contain the infection figures were absolutely necessary for Wagoner. This is especially true for curfews and contact restrictions. "Our staff was already at the limit at the beginning of the pandemic, without political measures we would have never been able to prevent the health system from becoming overloaded!"



Fig. 2: Overworked hospital staff at the beginning of the spread



Fig. 1: Head of the Hallington Hospital Dr. Wagoner

Furthermore, Dr. Wagoner warns against a false sense of security: "Even now, we are still far from eliminating the virus. A second wave is expected in the colder autumn and winter months. A hasty return to a 'business as usual' is extremely dangerous. We must continue to observe hygiene and distance rules in order to be able to control the spread in the future."

In addition, there is the threatening situation in the emerging and developing countries. "I have many colleagues in the poorer regions of the world. The images that reach me from there are just terrible. The pandemic is dramatically increasing the financial hardship of these countries," said Wagoner. Because of the global networking of nations, the struggle against the pandemic must therefore also be waged internationally. Only by shared efforts there is a realistic chance of winning this struggle."

Figure 3. Struggle-frame reported in narrative-style

Politics & Research

The war against the Corona virus is not yet won!

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Fig. 1: Head of the Hallington Hospital Dr. Wagoner



Fig. 2: Overworked hospital staff at the beginning of the spread

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In addition, there is the threatening situation in the emerging and developing countries. "I have many colleagues in the poorer regions of the world. The images that reach me from there are just terrible. The pandemic is dramatically increasing the financial hardship of these countries," said Wagoner. Because of the global networking of nations, the war against the pandemic must therefore also be waged internationally. Only by shared efforts there is a realistic chance of winning this war."

Figure 4. War-frame reported in narrative-style

Experiment 3 and 4 (Germany and United States)

Concept	Measurement
Socio demographics	
Age	How old are you? _____
Gender	What is your sex? female male I would like to describe myself: _____
Educational Attainment	What is the highest level of education you have completed? I left school without a degree. Still in school. Secondary school certificate. Higher secondary school certificate. Completed apprenticeship. Vocational baccalaureate. High school graduation. University degree. Other: _____
Party affiliation (US)	How would you describe yourself? I would describe myself as a... Supporter of the Democrats Supporter of the Republicans None Other: _____
Party affiliation (Germany)	In the Federal Republic of Germany, many people tend to support a certain party for a long time, although they also vote for another party from time to time. How about you: Are you, generally speaking, a supporter of any particular party? If so, which one? CDU CSU SPD AfD FDP Die Linke Bündnis 90/Die Grünen Other: _____ No party. *Parties are listed proportionally.

Trust in politicians

Adapted from:
Halmburger et al. (2019)

The following statements are about how you assess politicians in our country. It is not about individual or specific persons, but about politicians in general.

1. Politicians break their promises to get ahead. (inverse)
2. Politicians are in politics to get out as much as possible for themselves. (inverse)
3. All in all, politicians are honest with the electorate.
4. Politicians act responsibly.
5. Politicians are committed to justice.
6. Politicians respect the norms and values of our society.
7. Politicians are well-trained.
8. Politicians are sufficiently competent.
9. Politicians have enough expert knowledge.

*measured on a 5-point Likert scale from 1 = completely disagree to 5 = completely agree

Trust in science

Adapted from:
Morgan et al. (2018)

Please indicate how much you agree with the following statements.

Science as Corrupt

1. Scientists are often dishonest about their research findings.
2. Scientists often falsify data to manipulate results or findings.
3. Science has been co-opted by corporate interests.
4. Most scientists are politically biased.
5. Scientists are typically arrogant people.

Science as Onerous

1. Science is too complicated to understand.
2. Scientific results are presented in ways that are too complex to understand.
3. Scientific jargon is too complex to understand.
4. I don't care to know the answers to scientific questions.
5. Scientific discovery makes me nervous.

Science as Limited

1. Science cannot explain everything.
2. The scientific method is limited.
3. Scientific principles do not always make sense.
4. Science produces many contradictory findings.
5. Science has significant limitations.

*measured on a 5-point Likert scale from 1 = completely disagree to 5 = completely agree

Individualism-Collectivism

Adapted from:
Triandis & Gelfand (1998)

Hor. Individualism

Ver. Collectivism

Please indicate to what extent the following statements apply to you.

Horizontal individualism

1. I'd rather depend on myself than others.
2. I rely on myself most of the time; I rarely rely on others.
3. I often do "my own thing."
4. My personal identity, independent of others, is very important to me.

Vertical collectivism

1. Parents and children must stay together as much as possible.
2. It is my duty to take care of my family, even when I have to sacrifice what I want.
3. Family members should stick together, no matter what sacrifices are required.
4. It is important to me that I respect the decisions made by my groups.

Risk aversion

Adapted from:
Garbarino, Slonim, & Sydnor
(2011)

Imagine that you can choose between different options in a small lottery game. Each decision contains different probabilities of winning.

There are 6 possible decisions. Please select the ONE you would choose.

Lottery A

7. 50% to add 22.00 € & 50% chance to add 22.00 €
8. 50% to add 30.00 € & 50% chance to add 18.00 €
9. 50% to add 38.00 € & 50% chance to add 14.00 €
10. 50% to add 46.00 € & 50% chance to add 10.00 €
11. 50% to add 54.00 € & 50% chance to add 6.00 €
12. 50% to add 60.00 € & 50% chance to add 0.00 €

Lottery B

7. 75% to add 22.00 € & 25% chance to add 22.00 €
8. 75% to add 26.00 € & 25% chance to add 18.00 €
9. 75% to add 30.00 € & 25% chance to add 14.00 €
10. 75% to add 34.00 € & 25% chance to add 10.00 €
11. 75% to add 38.00 € & 25% chance to add 6.00 €
12. 75% to add 40.00 € & 25% chance to add 0.00 €

Lottery C

7. 25% to add 22.00 € & 75% chance to add 22.00 €
8. 25% to add 30.00 € & 75% chance to add 20.00 €
9. 25% to add 38.00 € & 75% chance to add 18.00 €
10. 25% to add 46.00 € & 75% chance to add 16.00 €
11. 25% to add 54.00 € & 75% chance to add 14.00 €
12. 25% to add 60.00 € & 75% chance to add 12.00 €

*choices are reaching from 1 = risk-averse to 6 = risk seeking

Dependent variables

Fear of the virus	How scared are you of the coronavirus? Slide bar from 0 = not at all scared to 100 = very scared
Spread of the virus	How fast do you think the Coronavirus spreads? Slide bar from 0 = rather slow to 100 = very fast
Support for selective curfews (US)	How do you view the implementation of selective curfews? This refers only to temporary measures for cities and districts with high infection rates. Thereby, groups of persons in public space will be limited to a maximum number. I think selective curfews are... 1 = not at all useful to 9 = very useful
Support for selective curfews (Germany)	How do you view the implementation of selective curfews? This refers only to temporary measures for cities and districts with high infection rates. Thereby, groups of persons in public space will be limited to a maximum number of 2 persons of two different households. I think selective curfews are... 1 = not at all useful to 9 = very useful
Support for local entry regulations (Germany)	How do you view the implementation of local entry regulations? This refers to measures for cities and districts with high infection rates. Persons from affected regions should be prohibited from entering other districts and federal states without a confirmed negative test for the Corona virus. I consider local entry restrictions to be... 1 = not at all useful to 9 = very useful
Emotional reactions rule breakers	What do you feel when you think of people who disregard anti-Corona measures (e.g. wearing face masks or respecting distance rules in public places)? sad – happy

concerned – unconcerned
angry – calm
aggressive – friendly
bad – good^a
helpless – powerful^a

*measured on a 5-point semantic differentials; items will be presented in a randomized order

^a Feelings of control and mood adapted from:
Van Beest, Williams, & van Dijk (2011)

Prevention paradox scale

Currently, there is much talk about the spread of the Corona or Sars-Cov-2 virus and related countermeasures. The following questions and statements relate to this current topic.

Please indicate to what extent you agree with the following statements.

1. In the end there will be more deaths from the economic consequences of the restrictions introduced than from the virus itself.
2. If people at high risk protect themselves, this is quite sufficient to control the pandemic.
3. The rapid success of the initial anti-Corona measures shows that they would not have been so radically necessary.
4. The Corona pandemic is no worse than a normal wave of flu.
5. It is a moral duty to protect the weak in society by imposing restrictions on all citizens. (inverse)
6. The fear of a second Corona wave is superfluous.
7. The so-called countermeasures against the virus are nothing but paternalism for adult citizens.
8. Everyone should have the right to decide for themselves what risk of illness they are exposed to.
9. The following applies to protective measures: Only if everyone participates the weak are really protected. (inverse)
10. Too little consideration is given to the negative side effects of anti-Corona measures.
11. The relaxation of the lockdown could have been started much earlier.
12. The Corona virus is presented by the media as more dangerous than it is.

*measured on a 5-point Likert scale from 1 = completely disagree to 5 = completely agree

Metaphorical reasoning
(Evaluation of government)

How would you describe the government and its crisis
management during the Corona crisis?

As...

- solid as a rock
- a tower in a battle
- an observer between the fronts
- a plaything of the events

- other

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