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ONLINE APPENDIX FOR:

*ONLINE ABUSE OF POLITICIANS:*

*EXPERIMENTAL EVIDENCE ON POLITICIANS' OWN PERCEPTIONS*

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SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE [TRANSLATED, ENGLISH]

What is your gender?

- [1]  Man
- [2]  Women
- [3]  Other

What is your age?

[Drop down list; 18-99 years]

In which year were you first elected for a municipal council, a regional council or the national parliament?

[Drop down list; years 2022-1940]

In politics, one often talks about “left” and “right.” Where would you place yourself on this scale, ranging from 0 (very left wing) to 10 (very right wing)?

0: very left wing	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10: very right wing	[999]
											Don't know
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

How often do you use the following social media?

	[0] Never	[1] Less than once a week	[2] Once a week	[3] 2-6 times a week	[4] One time a day	[5] 2-5 times a day	[6] 6 or more times a day	[999] Don't know
Facebook	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Twitter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Instagram	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

How often do you receive messages or comments through digital media, criticizing your politics? (Digital media can be social media, chat sites, mobile text messages and e-mail).

- [1]  Never
- [2]  Less than once a year
- [3]  Once or several times a year
- [4]  Once or several times a month
- [5]  Once or several times a week
- [6]  Once or several times a day
- [999]  Don't know

How often do you receive the following types of messages or comments through digital media? (Digital media can be social media, chat sites, text messages and e-mail).

	[0] Never	[1] Less than once a year	[2] Once or several times a year	[3] Once or several times a month	[4] Once or several times a week	[5] Once or several times a day	[999] Don't know
Messages with insults directed at me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Inappropriate messages regarding my looks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Inappropriate messages regarding my gender	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Inappropriate messages regarding my ethnicity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Messages containing threats	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What types of threats have you received?

- [3]  Violent threats directed at me
- [6]  Violent threats directed at my family or social circle
- [9]  Death threats directed at me
- [4]  Death threats directed at my family or social circle
- [2]  Threats of sexual assault directed at me
- [5]  Threats of sexual assault directed at my family or social circle
- [7]  Threats of vandalism
- [8]  Other types of threats, please describe \_\_\_\_\_

Some politicians receive more abusive comments on digital media when engaging with certain political topics (abusive comments can, for example, be insults, threats or inappropriate comments about one's gender and body).

Do you experience abusive comments on digital media when engaging with any of the following topics?

(Feel free to tick several boxes. If you have not received abusive comments on any topic, you can simply move on to the next question.)

- [2]  Crime
- [3]  Defence
- [4]  Economy
- [6]  Taxes
- [7]  Foreigners and immigration
- [9]  Employment/unemployment
- [10]  Transportation
- [11]  Housing and urban planning
- [12]  Education
- [14]  Health
- [15]  Environment, nature and the climate

- [16]  Culture
- [17]  Social issues
- [22]  The elderly
- [21]  Children and youths
- [18]  Gender equality
- [19]  Other issues, please write: \_\_\_\_\_

The following questions focus on how you are affected by abusive messages on digital media.

To what degree do abusive messages on digital media affect...

	[1] Not at all	[2] To a low degree	[3] To some degree	[4] To a high degree	[5] To a very high degree	[999] Don't know
... your personal/mental well-being?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... what you write on social media?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... what you say in political discussions?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... your motivation to run in the next election?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... what political topics you write about on social media?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

The following questions focus on your reactions to abusive messages on social media (for example, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram).

How often ...

	[1] Never	[2] Rarely	[3] Sometimes	[4] Often	[5] Very often	[999] Don't know
... do you report messages about yourself to the social media?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... do you report messages about yourself to the police?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... do you report messages about other politicians to the social media?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... do you report messages about other politicians to the police?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... block people that sends abusive messages?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... reply to abusive messages?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**[Introduction to experiment]**

On the following pages, we will show you a series of fictitious messages from citizens to politicians on social media. The examples are inspired by real messages and we want your reaction to these messages. Some of the messages may contain very coarse language.

**[Post on social media with comment]**

[Name] is a politician from [party]. [He/She] made a post on [Twitter/Facebook] and received the following comment on this post:

”[Comment]”

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	[1] Very strongly disagree	[2] Strongly disagree	[3] Somewhat disagree	[4] Neither agree nor disagree	[5] Somewhat agree	[6] Strongly agree	[7] Very strongly agree	[999] Don't know
The comment is abusive	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Politicians should be able to tolerate comments like this	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would report this message to [Twitter/Facebook]	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**[Variables used in the eksperiment:]**

Name:	[1] Anne; [2] Mette; [3] Kirsten; [4] Hanne; [5] Helle; [6] Anna; [7] Susanne; [8] Lene; [9] Maria; [10] Marianne; [11] Lone; [12] Camilla; [13] Louise; [14] Pia; [15] Charlotte; [16] Tina; [17] Gitte; [18] Jette; [19] Bente; [20] Julie; [21] Peter; [22] Michael; [23] Lars; [24] Jens; [25] Thomas; [26] Henrik; [27] Søren; [28] Christian; [29] Martin; [30] Jan; [31] Morten; [32] Anders; [33] Jesper; [34] Niels; [35] Mads; [36] Rasmus; [37] Per; [38] Hans; [39] Mikkel; [40] Jørgen
Party:	[1] Social Democrats; [2] Social Liberals; [3] Conservative Peoples' Party; [4] New Right; [5] Socialist Peoples' Party; [6] Liberal Alliance; [7] Danish Peoples Party; [8] Liberals; [9] Unity List; [10] The Alternative
Social media	[0] Twitter; [1] Facebook
Comments:	[1] Your policy on this issue is deeply harmful [criticism] [2] Your policy on this issue is completely indefensible [criticism] [3] Your policies are poisonous for our welfare! [criticism] [4] Your policies are poisonous for our businesses! [criticism] [5] Your policies on this issue is completely grotesque [criticism] [6] You are really untrustworthy. Liar! [insult] [7] You are just so unsympathetic. Asshole! [insult] [8] You are just so incompetent. Useless! [insult] [9] You are just so stupid. Imbecile!! [insult] [10] You are just a bad person. Period! [insult] [11] Someone really ought to kill you... [threat] [12] If I ever see you, I am going to kill you! [threat] [13] If I ever see you, I am going to slap you! [threat] [14] I am fucking gonna beat you up! [threat]

- [15] Just remember, we know where you and your family lives [threat]
  - [16] People only vote for you because you are hot [sexist remark]
  - [17] Everyone knows you fucked your way to the top [sexist remark]
  - [18] I'll vote for you if you get naked! [sexist remark]
  - [19] Seriously, only a [man/woman] can say something so stupid [sexist remark]
  - [20] Boohoo! Why does you [women/men] always feel so sorry for yourself? [sexist remark]
- 

**[Debrief]**

Thank you for your participation.

For the record, we point out that our survey contains many examples of comments on social media. Other participants in the survey may therefore have read different comments than the ones you have read.

If you have any further comments on this study or digital abuse of politicians, please feel free to post them here:

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[End of Survey]

## SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE [ORIGINAL, DANISH]

Hvad er dit køn?

- [1]  Mand  
 [2]  Kvinde  
 [3]  Andet

Hvad er din alder?

[Rulleliste: 18-99 år]

Hvilket år blev du første gang indvalgt i en kommunalbestyrelse, et regionsråd eller Folketinget?

[Rulleliste: 2022-1940]

I politik taler man ofte om ”venstre” og ”højre”. Hvor vil du placere dig selv på en skala, der går fra 0 (meget venstreorienteret) til 10 (meget højreorienteret)?

0: Meget venstreorienteret	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10: Meget højreorienteret	[999] Ved ikke
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Hvor ofte bruger du følgende sociale medier?

	[0] Aldrig	[1] Mindre end en gang om ugen	[2] En gang om ugen	[3] 2-6 gange om ugen	[4] En gang om dagen	[5] 2-5 gange om dagen	[6] 6 eller flere gange om dagen	[999] Ved ikke
Facebook	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Twitter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Instagram	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Hvor ofte modtager du beskeder eller kommentarer på digitale medier, der kritiserer din politik (digitale medier kan være sociale medier, digitale fora, sms og e-mail).

- [1]  Aldrig  
 [2]  Mindre end en gang om året  
 [3]  En eller flere gange om året  
 [4]  En eller flere gange om måneden  
 [5]  En eller flere gange om ugen  
 [6]  En eller flere gange om dagen  
 [999]  Ved ikke

Hvor ofte modtager du følgende type beskeder eller kommentarer på digitale medier (digitale medier kan være sociale medier, digitale fora, sms og e-mail).

	[0] Aldrig	[1] Mindre end en gang om året	[2] En eller flere gange om året	[3] En eller flere gange om måned	[4] En eller flere gange om ugen	[5] En eller flere gange om dagen	[999] Ved ikke
Beskeder, der indeholder fornærmelser rettet mod mig	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Upassende beskeder om mit udseende	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Upassende beskeder om mit køn	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Upassende beskeder om min etnicitet	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Beskeder, der indeholder trusler	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Hvilke former for trusler har du modtaget?

- [3]  Trusler om vold rettet mod mig selv  
 [6]  Trusler om vold rettet mod min familie eller omgangskreds  
 [9]  Dødstrusler rettet mod mig selv  
 [4]  Dødstrusler rettet mod min familie eller omgangskreds  
 [2]  Trusler om seksuelle overgreb rettet mod mig selv  
 [5]  Trusler om seksuelle overgreb rettet mod min familie eller omgangskreds  
 [7]  Trusler om hærværk  
 [8]  Andet, beskriv venligst \_\_\_\_\_

Nogle politikere oplever at få særligt mange chikanerende kommentarer på digitale medier i forbindelse med bestemte politiske emner (chikanerende kommentarer kan eksempelvis være fornærmelser, trusler eller upassende kommentarer om ens køn og krop).

Oplever du at få chikanerende kommentarer på digitale medier i forbindelse med nogle af følgende emner?

(Sæt gerne flere krydser. Hvis du ikke har modtaget chikanerende kommentarer om nogle emner kan du blot gå videre til næste spørgsmål)

- [2]  Kriminalitet  
 [3]  Forsvar  
 [4]  Økonomi  
 [6]  Skat  
 [7]  Udlændinge og integration  
 [9]  Arbejdsmarked og ledighed  
 [10]  Transport  
 [11]  Boliger og byplanlægning  
 [12]  Uddannelse  
 [14]  Sundhed  
 [15]  Miljø, natur og klima  
 [16]  Kultur



- [17]  Sociale forhold  
 [22]  Ældre  
 [21]  Børn og unge  
 [18]  Ligestilling  
 [19]  Andre emner, skriv venligst \_\_\_\_\_

De følgende spørgsmål handler om, hvordan chikanerende beskeder på digitale medier påvirker dig.

I hvilken grad påvirker chikanerende beskeder på digitale medier...

	[1] Slet ikke	[2] I lav grad	[3] I nogen grad	[4] I høj grad	[5] I meget høj grad	[999] Ved ikke grad
... dit personlige/mentale velbefindende	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... hvad du skriver på sociale medier	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... hvad du siger i politiske debatter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... din lyst til at genopstille til næste valg	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... hvilke politiske emner du skriver om på sociale medier	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

De følgende spørgsmål handler om, hvordan du reagerer på chikanerende beskeder på sociale medier (for eksempel Facebook, Twitter og Instagram).

Hvor ofte...

	[1] Aldrig	[2] Få gange	[3] En gang imellem	[4] Ofte	[5] Meget ofte	[999] Ved ikke
... anmelder du beskeder, der handler om dig selv til det sociale medie?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... anmelder du beskeder, der handler om dig selv til politiet?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... anmelder du beskeder, der handler om andre politikere til det sociale medie?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... anmelder du beskeder, der handler om andre politikere til politiet?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... blokerer du afsendere af chikanerende beskeder?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... svarer du på chikanerende beskeder?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**[Introduktion til eksperiment]**

Vi vil på de følgende sider vise dig en række fiktive beskeder fra borgere til politikere på sociale medier. Eksemplerne er inspireret af virkelige beskeder, og vi vil gerne høre, hvad din reaktion er på disse beskeder.

For en god ordens skyld gør vi opmærksom på, at nogle af beskederne kan indeholde meget groft sprog.

**[Opslag på socialt medie med kommentar]**

[Navn] er politiker fra [Parti]. [Han/Hun] har lavet et opslag på [Socialt medie] og derefter modtaget følgende kommentar på opslaget:

”[Kommentar]”

I hvor høj grad er du enig eller uenig i de følgende udsagn?

	[1] Fuldstændig uenig	[2] Uenig	[3] Lidt uenig	[4] Hverken enig eller uenig	[5] Lidt enig	[6] Enig	[7] Fuldstændig enig	[999] Ved ikke
Kommentaren er chikanerende	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Politikere bør kunne tåle kommentarer som denne	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Jeg ville anmelde denne kommentar til [Twitter/Facebook]	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**[Variable anvendt i eksperiment:]**

Navn:	[1] Anne; [2] Mette; [3] Kirsten; [4] Hanne; [5] Helle; [6] Anna; [7] Susanne; [8] Lene; [9] Maria; [10] Marianne; [11] Lone; [12] Camilla; [13] Louise; [14] Pia; [15] Charlotte; [16] Tina; [17] Gitte; [18] Jette; [19] Bente; [20] Julie; [21] Peter; [22] Michael; [23] Lars; [24] Jens; [25] Thomas; [26] Henrik; [27] Søren; [28] Christian; [29] Martin; [30] Jan; [31] Morten; [32] Anders; [33] Jesper; [34] Niels; [35] Mads; [36] Rasmus; [37] Per; [38] Hans; [39] Mikkel; [40] Jørgen
Parti:	[1] Socialdemokratiet; [2] Radikale Venstre; [3] Det Konservative Folkeparti; [4] Nye Borgerlige; [5] Socialistisk Folkeparti; [6] Liberal Alliance; [7] Dansk Folkeparti; [8] Venstre; [9] Enhedslisten; [10] Alternativet
Socialt medie	[0] Twitter; [1] Facebook
Kommentar:	[1] Din politik på det her område er dybt skadelig [criticism] [2] Din politik på det her område er fuldstændig uforsvarlig [criticism] [3] Din politik er gift for vores velfærd! [criticism] [4] Din politik er gift for vores erhvervsliv! [criticism] [5] Din politik på det her område er altså helt grotesk [criticism] [6] Du er simpelthen så utroværdig. Løgner! [insult] [7] Du er simpelthen så usympatisk. Røvhul! [insult] [8] Du er simpelthen så inkompetent. Uduelig! [insult] [9] Du er simpelthen så dum. Fjols! [insult] [10] Du er simpelthen bare et dårligt menneske. Punktum! [insult] [11] Nogen burde virkelig slå dig ihjel... [threat]

- [12] Hvis jeg nogensinde ser dig slår jeg dig ihjel! [threat]
  - [13] Hvis jeg nogensinde ser dig får du et par på siden af hovedet! [threat]
  - [14] Jeg kommer fandme og banker dig! [threat]
  - [15] Husk nu, vi ved godt hvor du og din familie bor... [threat]
  - [16] Folk stemmer kun på dig fordi du er lækker [sexist remark]
  - [17] Alle ved at du har bollet dig til indflydelse
  - [18] Du får min stemme, hvis du smider tøjet!
  - [19] Seriøst, det er kun en [kvinde/mand], der kan sige noget så dumt
  - [20] Buhu! Hvorfor har i [kvinder/mænd] altid så ondt af jer selv?
- 

### **[Debrief]**

Tak for din besvarelse.

Vi gør for en god ordens skyld opmærksom på, at vores undersøgelse indeholder mange eksempler på kommentarer på sociale medier. Andre deltagere i undersøgelsen kan derfor have læst andre kommentarer end dem, som du har læst.

Hvis du har yderligere kommentarer til denne undersøgelse eller digital chikane af politikere, er du velkommen til at skrive dem her:

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[End of Survey]

## SAMPLE AND POPULATIONS CHARACTERISTICS

The population of elected politicians in Denmark is composed of up to 2,820 politicians, consisting of 179 individuals elected for the national parliament (*"Folketinget"*), 205 individuals elected in one of the five regions (*"regionsråd"*), and 2,436 individuals elected in one of the 98 municipal councils (*"kommunalbestyrelser"*). In practice, however, the total number of individuals elected for a political office is smaller, as 81 politicians are members of multiple political bodies, having for instance both a seat a municipal council as well as a seat in the national parliament.

The email addresses, names and partisanship of all politicians were gathered from the official websites of municipalities, regions, and the national parliament. Some politicians (<1%) were on leave at the time of the survey. In a very limited number of cases, we were unable to determine whether the elected politician or the politician's substitute were acting at the time of the survey. In these cases, both individuals where emailed the invitation to the survey.

We piloted our survey to approximately 10% of the Danish politicians. These politicians were not included in the main survey. With these exclusions, 2,451 politicians were eligible to participate in our main study. The survey was completed by 727 politicians. Table A1 below compare the characteristics of the final sample with the total population of the Danish politicians.

Table A1: Characteristics of sample and population

	Sample (n=727)	Population
<i>Gender (female)</i>	38.7 %	37.1% <sup>1</sup>
<i>Age in years, mean (s.d.)</i>	54.3 (11.6)	n.a.
<i>Left-Right Position, 0-1 (s.d.)</i>	5.0 (2.4)	n.a.
<i>Partisanship:</i>		
<b><i>Center-left parties</i></b>	<b>52.3 %</b>	<b>47.6 %</b>
<i>Social Democrats</i>	33.0 %	31.0 %
<i>Social Liberals</i>	3.9 %	4.1 %
<i>Socialist People's Party</i>	8.5 %	7.1 %
<i>Unity List</i>	6.6 %	5.3 %
<i>The Alternative</i>	0.3 %	0.2 %
<b><i>Center-right parties</i></b>	<b>42.2 %</b>	<b>46.9%</b>
<i>Conservative People's Party</i>	13.6 %	15.6 %
<i>The New Right</i>	2.1 %	2.6 %
<i>Liberal Alliance</i>	0.4 %	0.4 %
<i>Danish People's Party</i>	3.0 %	3.7 %
<i>The Liberals</i>	23.1 %	24.6 %
<b><i>Other parties</i></b>	<b>5.5 %</b>	<b>5.5 %</b>

<sup>1</sup> Based on share of women elected for municipalities (874/2436), regions (103/205), and parliament (70/179) at latest election (Source, *Statistics Denmark*).

## RESPONSE PATTERNS: EXPERIENCES AND REACTIONS TO ONLINE ABUSE

*Table A2: How often do you receive the following types of messages or comments through digital media? (Digital media can be social media, chat sites, text messages and e-mail).*

	[0] Never	[1] Less than once a year	[2] Once or several times a year	[3] Once or several times a month	[4] Once or several times a week	[5] Once or several times a day	[999] Don't know
Messages with insults directed at me	27.1 %	21.5 %	26.1 %	15.2 %	8.5 %	1.1 %	0.8 %
Inappropriate messages regarding my looks	70.7 %	10.2 %	10.8 %	5.7 %	1.7 %	0.3 %	0.6 %
Inappropriate messages regarding my gender	79.6 %	7.1 %	7.1 %	4.5 %	1.0 %	.01 %	0.5 %
Inappropriate messages regarding my ethnicity	92.3 %	1.9 %	2.7 %	1.4 %	0.5 %	0.1 %	1.0 %
Messages containing threats	69.0 %	16.7 %	11.4 %	1.5 %	0.6 %	0.0 %	0.8 %

Note: n=784

*Table A3: To what degree do abusive messages on digital media affect...*

	[1] Not at all	[2] To a low degree	[3] To some degree	[4] To a high degree	[5] To a very high degree	[999] Don't know
... your personal/mental well-being?	30.0 %	33.2 %	21.4 %	7.0 %	4.4 %	4.0 %
... what you write on social media?	30.7 %	24.7 %	23.4 %	9.8 %	7.3 %	4.2 %
... what you say in political discussions?	41.0 %	31.2 %	16.2 %	4.2 %	3.2 %	4.1 %
... your motivation to run in the next election?	46.3 %	21.9 %	15.7 %	5.0 %	6.1 %	4.9 %
... what political topics you write about on social media?	33.3 %	26.0 %	20.7 %	9.6 %	5.4 %	4.9 %

Note: n=753

## MODELS

Table A4: Primary models

	(1)		(2)		(3)		(4)	
<i>Comment type:</i>								
Criticism	0.00	(.)	0.00	(.)	0.00	(.)	0.00	(.)
Insult	0.30***	(0.01)	0.35***	(0.02)	0.29***	(0.01)	0.30***	(0.01)
Threat	0.60***	(0.01)	0.61***	(0.02)	0.60***	(0.01)	0.61***	(0.01)
Sexist remark	0.33***	(0.02)	0.41***	(0.02)	0.27***	(0.02)	0.33***	(0.01)
<i>Partisanship:</i>								
Outparty	0.00	(.)						
In-party	-0.00	(0.01)						
Insult × In-party	0.01	(0.02)						
Threat × In-party	-0.01	(0.02)						
Sexist remark × In-party	0.01	(0.02)						
<i>Left-Right Position:</i>								
Left-Right			-0.00	(0.00)				
Insult × Left-Right			-0.01**	(0.00)				
Threat × Left-Right			-0.00	(0.00)				
Sexist remark × Left-Right			-0.02***	(0.00)				
<i>Gender of target:</i>								
Man					0.00	(.)		
Woman					-0.00	(0.01)		
Insult × Woman					0.03	(0.02)		
Threat × Woman					-0.01	(0.02)		
Sexist remark × Woman					0.11***	(0.02)		
<i>Gender of respondent:</i>								
Man							0.00	(.)
Woman							0.06***	(0.01)
Insult × Respondent is a Women							-0.00	(0.02)
Threat × Respondent is a Women							-0.04*	(0.02)
Sexist remark × Respondent is a Women							0.00	(0.02)
Constant	0.27***	(0.01)	0.29***	(0.02)	0.27***	(0.01)	0.24***	(0.01)
Observations	2737		2725		2737		2737	
R <sup>2</sup>	0.525		0.536		0.534		0.533	

Notes: OLS regression coefficients (standard errors, clustered by respondent).

\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$

Table A5: Supplementary models

	(5)		(6)		(7)		(8)	
<i>Comment type:</i>								
Criticism	0.00	(.)	0.00	(.)	0.00	(.)	0.00	(.)
Insult	0.30***	(0.01)	0.35***	(0.02)	0.29***	(0.01)	0.30***	(0.01)
Threat	0.60***	(0.01)	0.61***	(0.02)	0.60***	(0.01)	0.61***	(0.01)
Sexist remark	0.32***	(0.02)	0.41***	(0.02)	0.27***	(0.02)	0.33***	(0.01)
<i>Partisanship:</i>								
Outparty	0.00	(.)						
In-party	-0.01	(0.01)						
Insult × In-party	0.01	(0.02)						
Threat × In-party	-0.01	(0.02)						
Sexist remark × In-party	0.01	(0.02)						
<i>Left-Right Position:</i>								
Left-Right	-0.01***	(0.00)	-0.00	(0.00)	-0.01***	(0.00)	-0.01***	(0.00)
Insult × Left-Right			-0.01**	(0.00)				
Threat × Left-Right			-0.00	(0.00)				
Sexist remark × Left-Right			-0.02***	(0.00)				
<i>Gender of target:</i>								
Man					0.00	(.)		
Woman					-0.00	(0.01)		
Insult × Woman					0.04	(0.02)		
Threat × Woman					-0.01	(0.02)		
Sexist remark × Woman					0.11***	(0.02)		
<i>Gender of respondent:</i>								
Man	0.00	(.)	0.00	(.)	0.00	(.)	0.00	(.)
Woman	0.04***	(0.01)	0.04***	(0.01)	0.03***	(0.01)	0.05**	(0.01)
Insult × Respondent is a Woman							-0.00	(0.02)
Threat × Respondent is a Woman							-0.04*	(0.02)
Sexist remark × Respondent is a Woman							0.00	(0.02)
Age	-0.00**	(0.00)	-0.00**	(0.00)	-0.00**	(0.00)	-0.00**	(0.00)
Constant	0.37***	(0.03)	0.33***	(0.03)	0.37***	(0.03)	0.36***	(0.03)
Observations	2725		2725		2725		2725	
R <sup>2</sup>	0.540		0.543		0.549		0.541	

Notes: OLS regression coefficients (standard errors, clustered by respondent).

\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$



Table A6: Exploratory models

	(9)		(10)	
<i>Comment type:</i>				
Criticism	0.00	(.)	0.00	(.)
Insult	0.33***	(0.02)	0.31***	(0.01)
Threat	0.60***	(0.01)	0.59***	(0.01)
Sexist remark	0.38***	(0.02)	0.34***	(0.02)
<i>Left-Center-Right Position:</i>				
Left	0.00	(.)		
Center	-0.02	(0.02)		
Right	-0.02	(0.02)		
Insult × Center	-0.00	(0.02)		
Insult × Right	-0.06*	(0.02)		
Threat × Center	-0.00	(0.02)		
Threat × Right	-0.01	(0.02)		
Sexist Remark × Center	-0.05*	(0.03)		
Sexist remark × Right	-0.09**	(0.03)		
<i>Ideological distance</i>				
Left-Right distance			0.00	(0.00)
Insult × 1 Left-Right distance			-0.00	(0.01)
Threat × Left-Right distance			0.00	(0.00)
Sexist remark × Left-Right distance			-0.00	(0.01)
Constant	0.28***	(0.01)	0.27***	(0.01)
Observations	2725		2578	
R <sup>2</sup>	0.534		0.519	

Notes: OLS regression coefficients (standard errors, clustered by respondent).

\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$

In model 10, ideological distance is calculated as the absolute difference between respondent's self-placement and average self- placement of the politicians belonging to fictitious politicians' party.

ADDITIONAL FIGURES

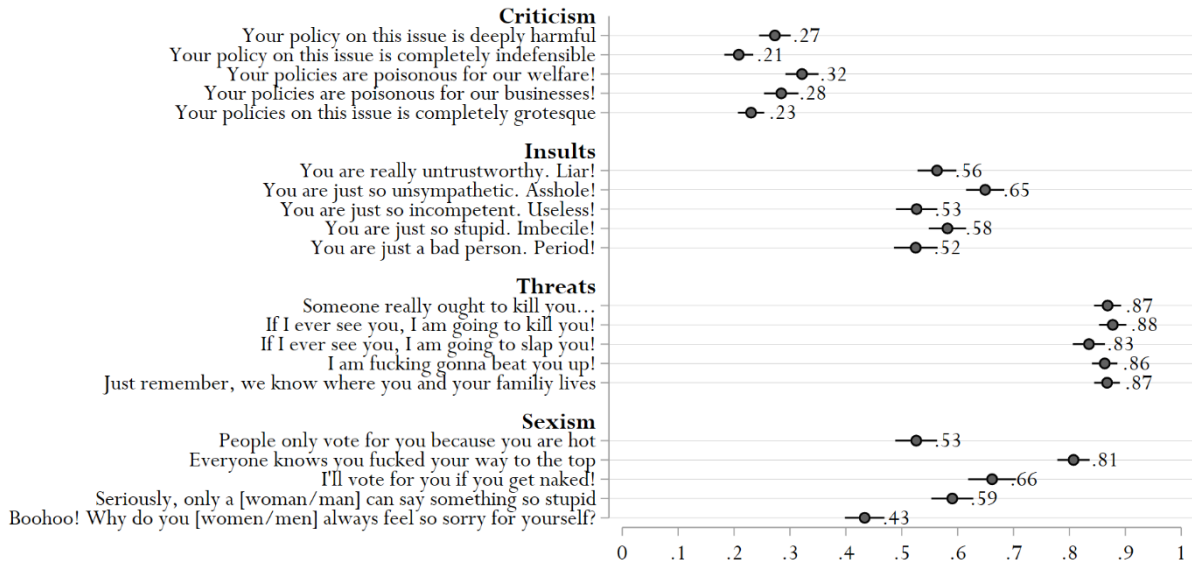


Figure A1. Mean aversion to individual comments, with 95% confidence intervals

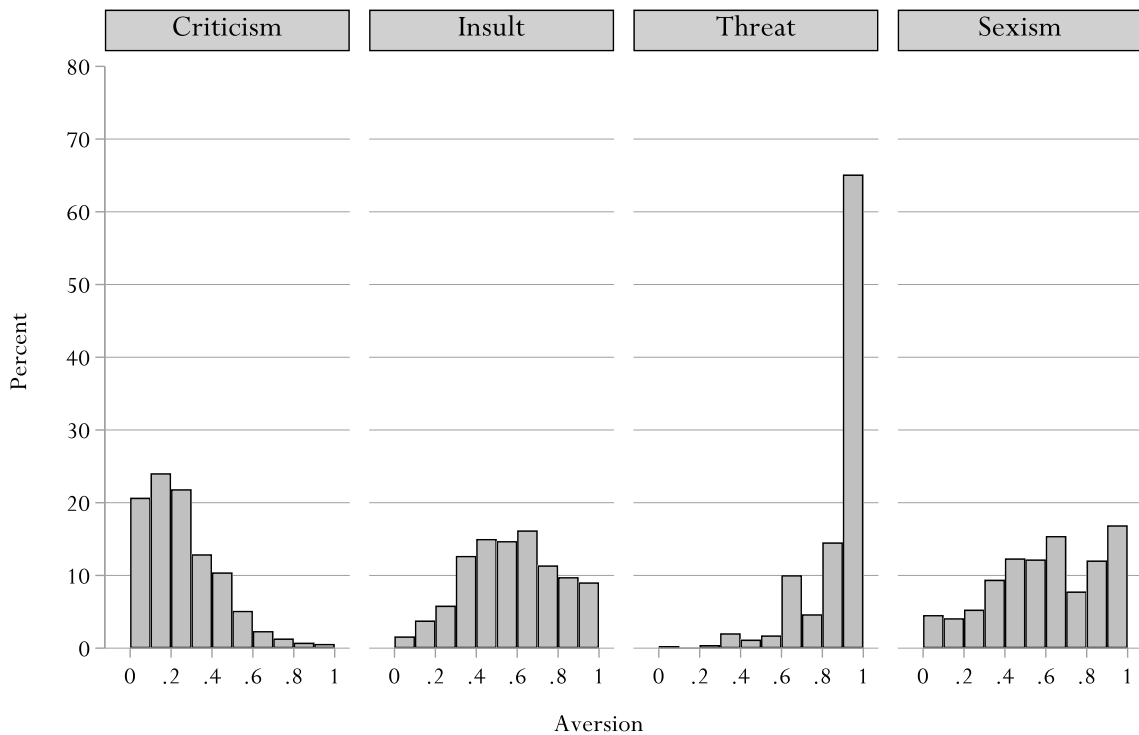


Figure A2. Aversion across message types. The histograms illustrates the distribution on the aversion index for each message type.

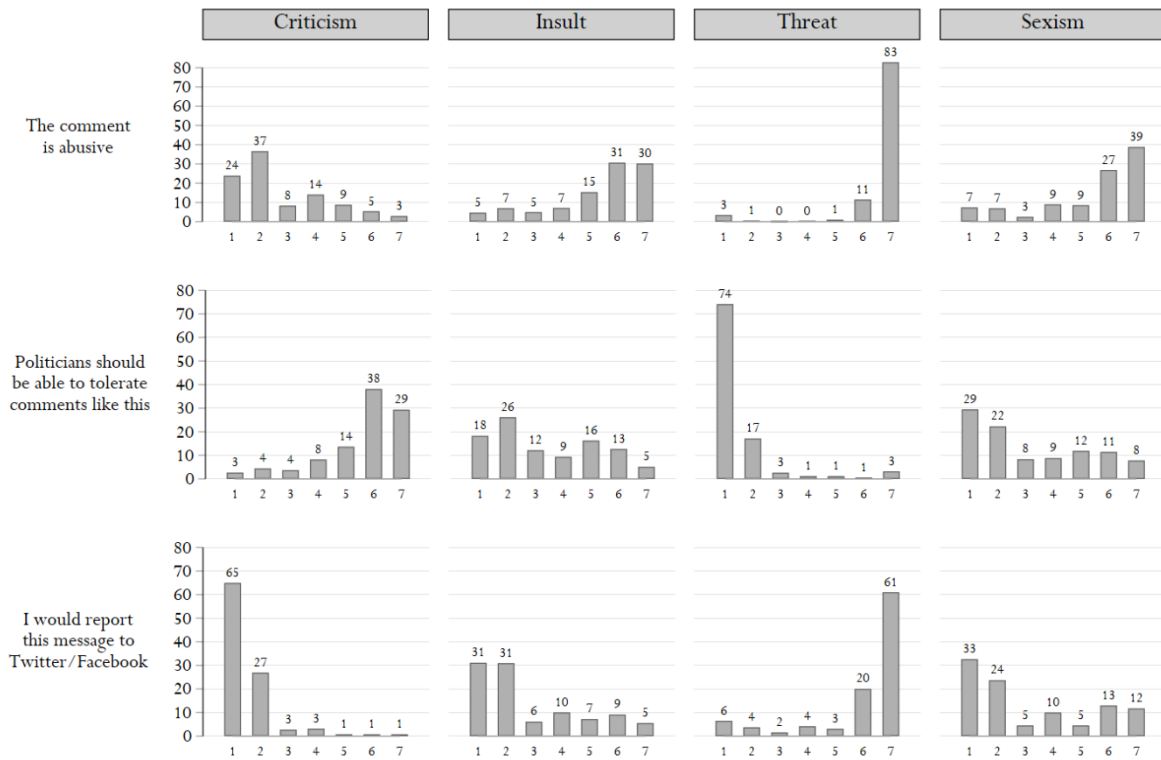


Figure A3. Aversion across message types on individual response items. Bar height denotes share of replies (%). All responses are on a 7-point scale, ranging from “Very strongly disagree” (1) to “Very strongly agree” (7).

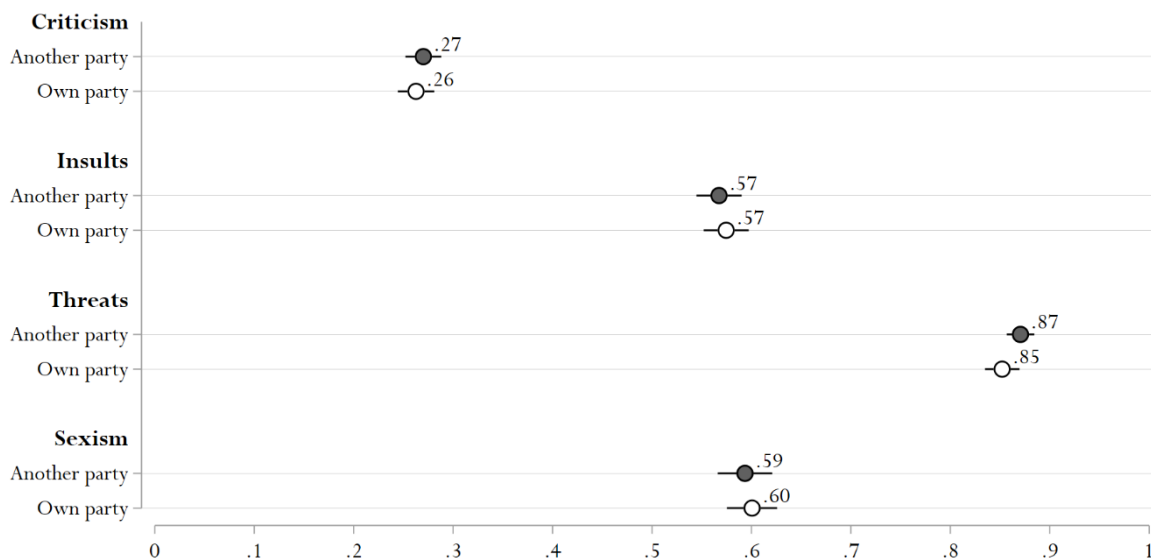


Figure A4. Partisanship and aversion to negative messages, with covariates. Estimates with 95% confidence intervals (based on model 5, table A5).

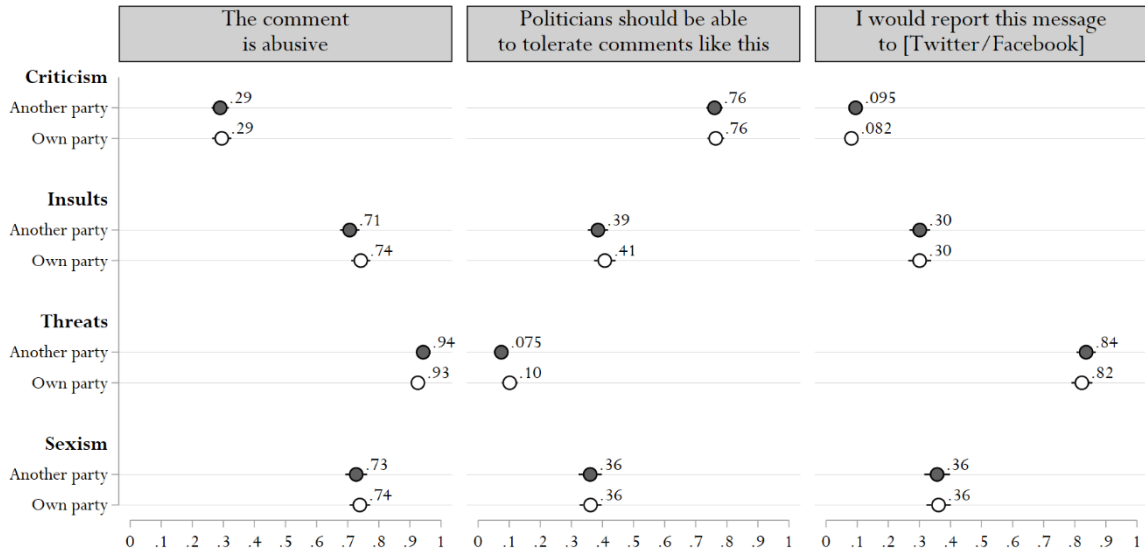


Figure A5. Partisanship and individual response items. Estimates with 95% confidence intervals

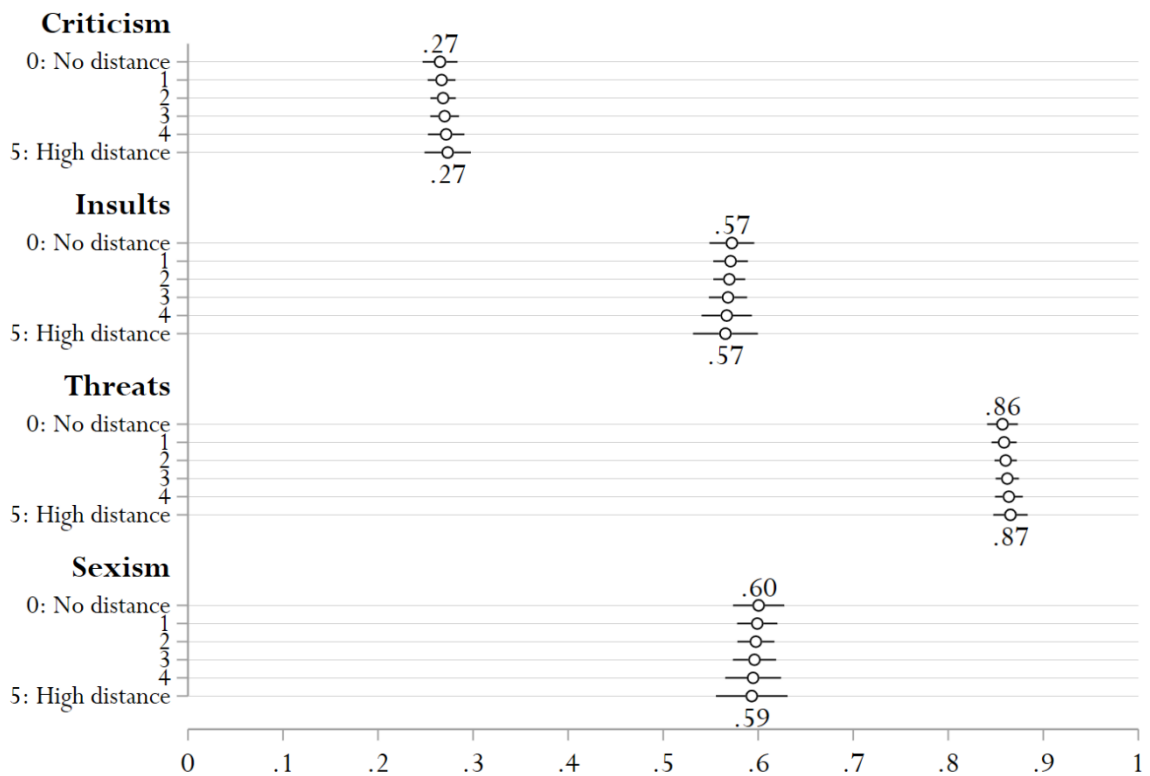


Figure A6. Ideological distance and aversion to negative messages. Estimates with 95% confidence intervals (based on model 10, table A6). 90% of respondents are within an ideological distance of 0-5 to the fictitious politicians.

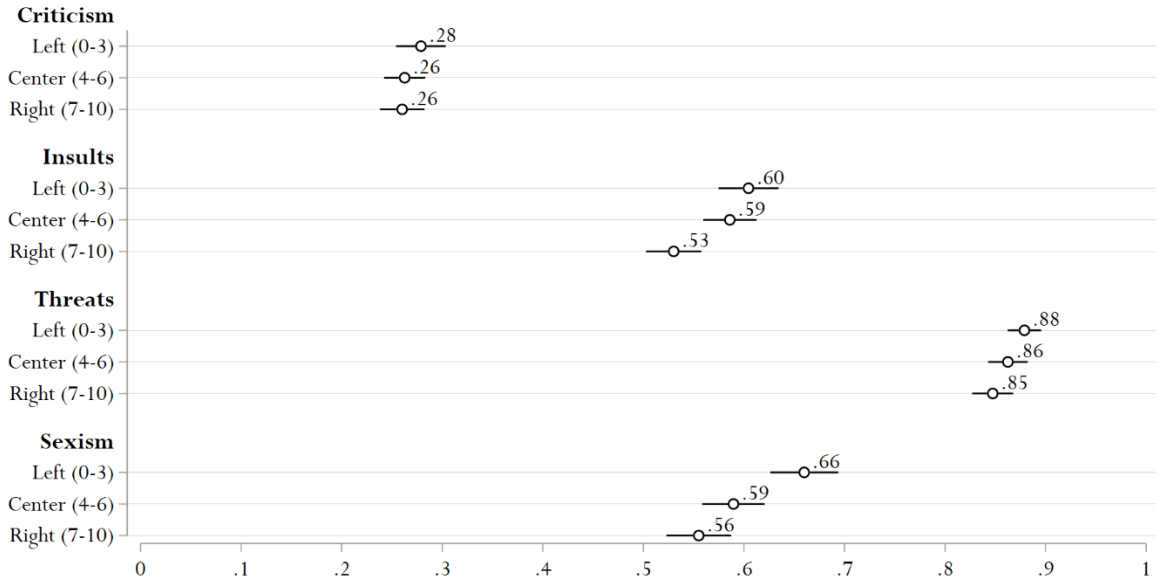


Figure A7. Left-center-right ideology (categorical categories) and aversion to negative messages. Estimates with 95% confidence intervals (based on model 9, table A5).

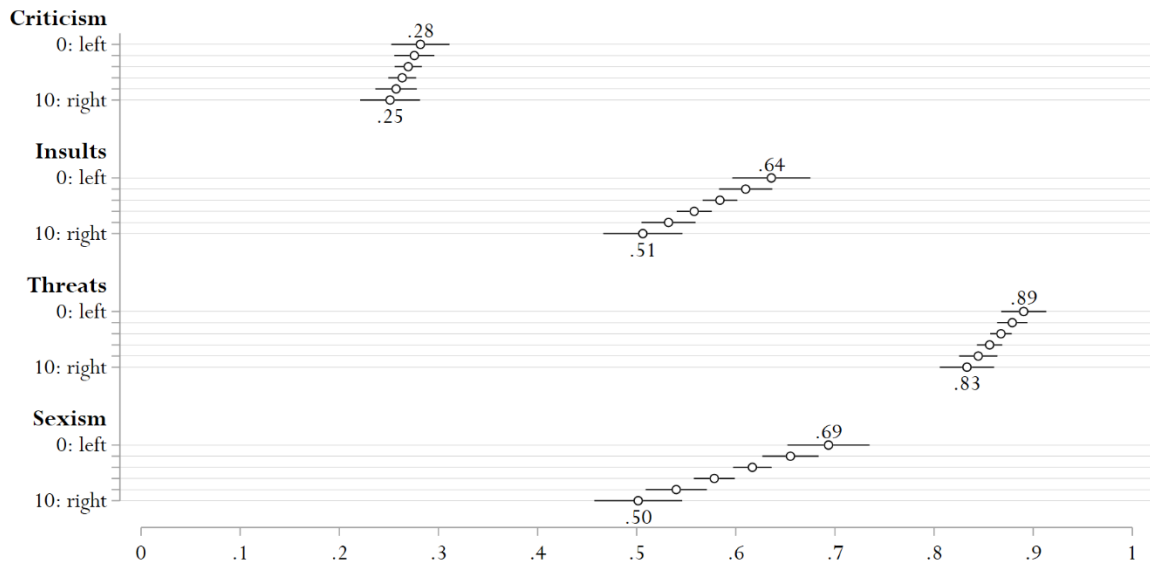


Figure A8. Political left-right position and aversion to negative messages, with covariates. Estimates with 95% confidence intervals (based on model 6, table A5).

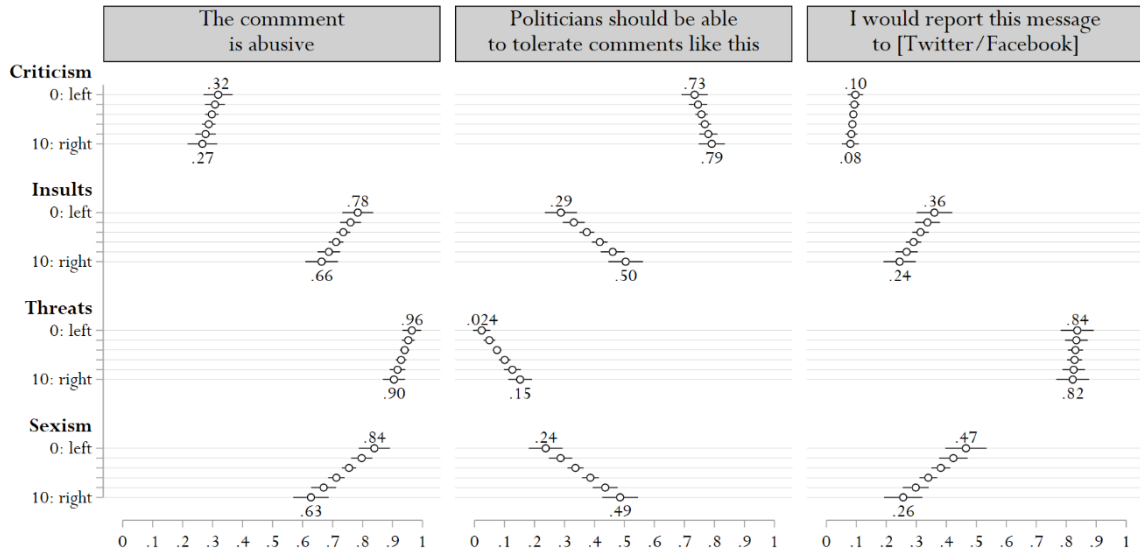


Figure A9. Political left-right position and individual response items. Estimates with 95% confidence intervals.

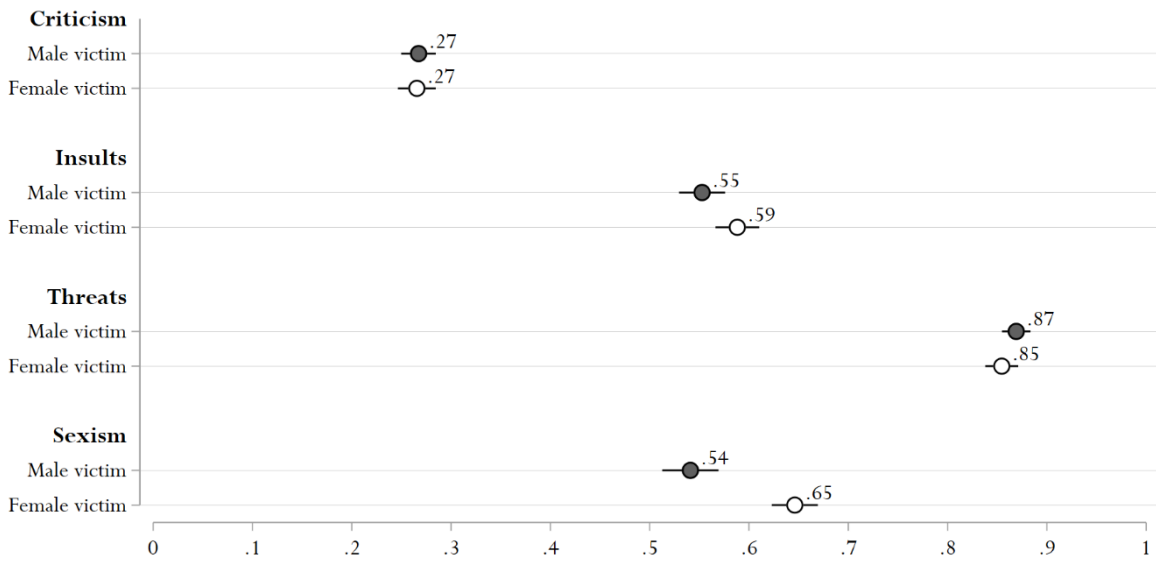


Figure A10. Gender of target and aversion to negative messages, with covariates. Estimates with 95% confidence intervals (based on model 7, table A5).

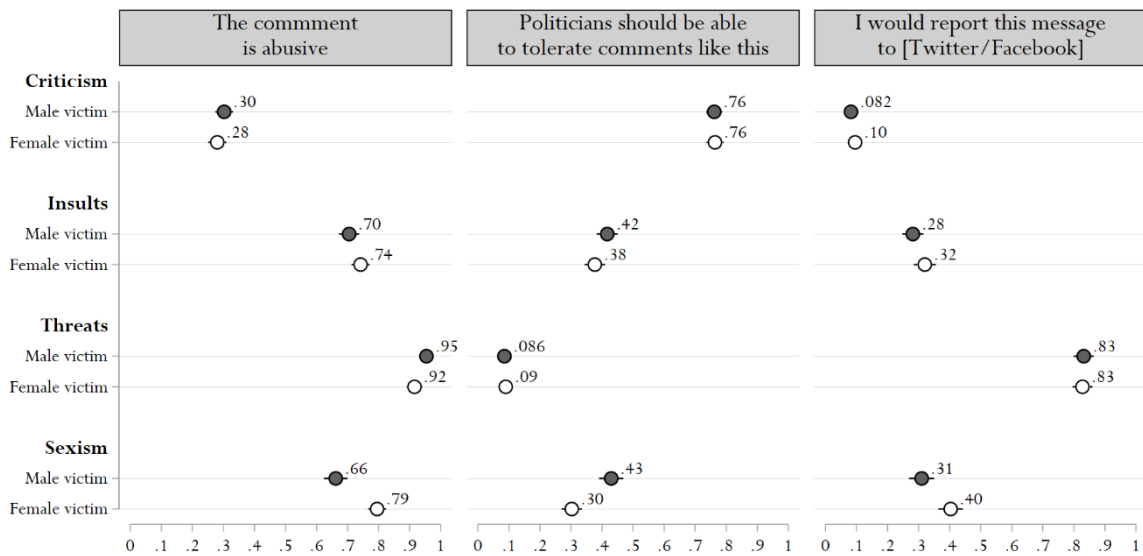


Figure A11. Gender of target and individual response items. Estimates with 95% confidence intervals.

Figure A12: Gender of respondent and aversion to negative messages, with covariates

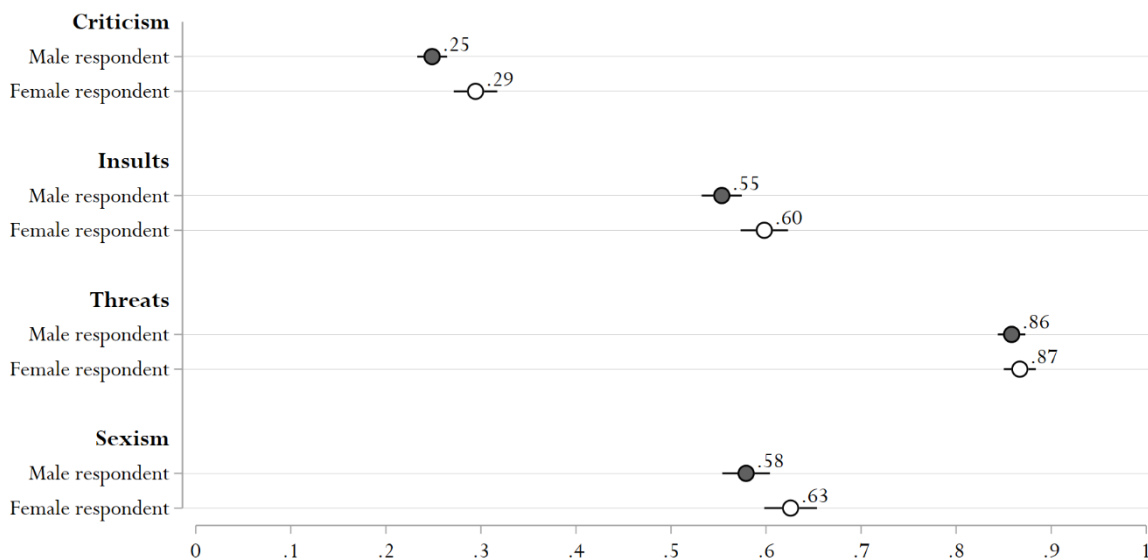


Figure A12. Gender of respondent and aversion to negative messages, with covariates. Estimates with 95% confidence intervals (based on model 8, table A5).

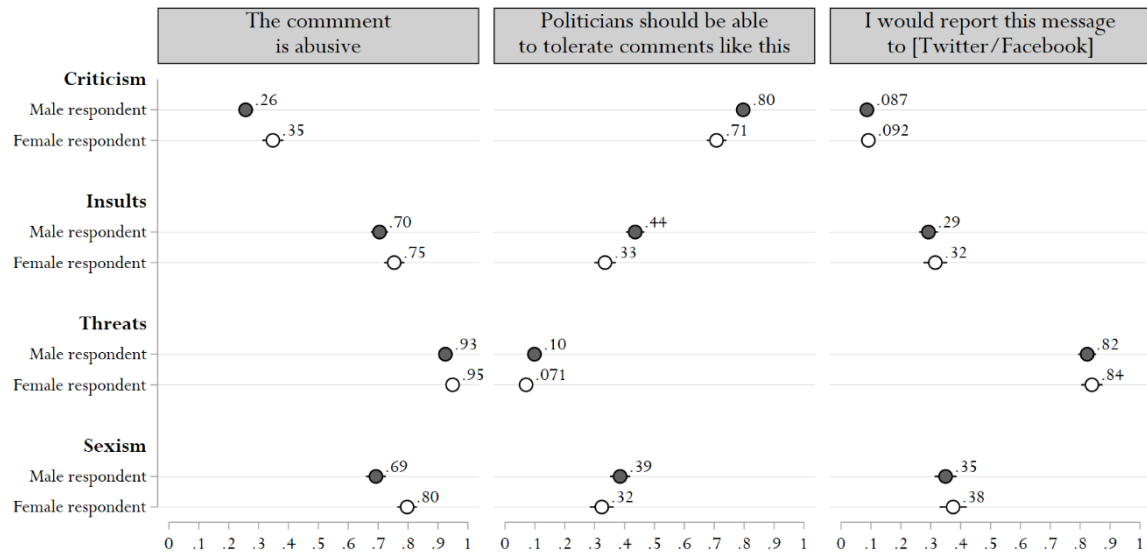


Figure A13. Gender of respondent and individual response items. Estimates with 95% confidence intervals.