

Supplementary Materials for De Freitas, Tobia, Newman, & Knobe  
(*Cognitive Science*, 2016)

Stimuli Presented in Studies 1 and 3

Country

*Bellshore* is a small country. In the majority of its regions the local government intentionally teaches people to express their opinions freely in public, while in some other regions the local government intentionally teaches people to discriminate against one another for being different.

Over the years, some regions of *Bellshore* change their policies. Now, after these changes, in the majority of regions the local government intentionally teaches people to discriminate against one another for being different.

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Band

*Breath String* is a four member band. When the group first began writing songs, the majority of their songs were intentionally deeply moving and meaningful, while some other songs were intentionally very superficial and commercial.

Over the years, some of the original members left, and some new members joined. Now, after these changes, the majority of their songs are intentionally very superficial and commercial.

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Science Paper

A physicist writes a physics article entitled *Atom Dynamics*. The majority of the theoretical points are intentionally very well supported by the data and follow naturally from the analyses, while some other theoretical points intentionally make very big claims that aren't directly related to or supported by the data at all.

The physicist then spends five hours editing the paper, removing some parts and adding some new parts. Now, after these changes, the majority of the theoretical points intentionally make very big claims that aren't directly related to or supported by the data at all.

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### University

*Eastford* is a large university. When the university first opened, the majority of its departments taught by intentionally using diverse teaching styles and really challenging students to think for themselves, while some other departments taught by intentionally reading straight out of a textbook and strictly not allowing any student participation during lectures.

Over the years, some of the original departments were removed, and some new departments created. Now, after these changes, the majority of its departments teach by intentionally reading straight out of a textbook and strictly not allowing any student participation during lectures.

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### Conference

*Medline* is an annual conference where professors get together to present their research. When the conference first began operating, the majority of its presentations were intentionally very helpful and relevant to current medical problems, while some other presentations were intentionally very commercial and not seriously aimed at addressing current medical problems.

Over the years, some professors stopped attending the conference, and some new professors started attending. Now, after these changes, the majority of its presentations are intentionally very commercial and not seriously aimed at addressing current medical problems.

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Comprehension questions (using the country example)

1) Before the changes, how would you describe *Bellshore*?

- Mostly regions where people can express their opinions in public.
- Mostly regions where people discriminate against one another for being different.
- Some regions where people can express their opinions in public, and others where people discriminate against one another for being different.

2) After the changes, how would you describe *Bellshore*?

- Mostly regions where people can express their opinions in public.
- Mostly regions where people discriminate against one another for being different.
- Some regions where people can express their opinions in public, and others where people discriminate against one another for being different.

Stimuli Presented in Study 2

Scout Club

*Young Scouts* is a scouting club that teaches survival and life skills. When the club first started, some trips intentionally included compulsory lessons about the necessity of being God-loving and a good Christian, while some other trips intentionally did not include these lessons at all.

Over the years, the club removes some trips and adds some new ones. Now, after these changes, almost all of the trips intentionally include compulsory lessons about the necessity of being God-loving and a good Christian.

OR

Over the years, the club removes some trips and adds some new ones. Now, after these changes, almost all of the trips intentionally do not include any lessons whatsoever about being God-loving and a good Christian.

Conference

*SciTech* is a conference about the most urgent scientific and technological challenges facing our government. When the conference first began operating, some of the presentations were intentionally about the grave threat of climate change on the planet, while some other presentations were intentionally about the dire need to update military defense technology.

Over the years some presenters stopped attending the conference, and some new presenters started attending. Now, after these changes, almost all of the presentations are intentionally about the dire need to update military defense technology.

OR

Over the years, some presenters stopped attending the conference, and some new presenters started attending. Now, after these changes, almost all of the presentations are intentionally about the urgent threat of climate change on the planet.