Attention partagée et polarisation politique

Le point de départ : Shteynberg (2016) montre que percevoir qu'on regarde un contenu politique en même temps que d'autres amplifie le jugement dans les deux sens. Ce résultat n'a jamais été répliqué indépendamment, jamais testé hors contexte américain, jamais appliqué à des contenus désinformationnels. L'objectif est de reproduire ce paradigme en France.

Les autres articles ouvrent des questions :

Schmälzle et al. (2015) — discours puissant = synchronisation / plus convaincant. Discours faible = désynchronisation / moins convaincant. Les deux travaillent sur des contenus modérés — on ne sait pas ce qui se passe avec de la désinformation ou des contenus émotionnellement extrêmes.

Halko et al.(2026) — la colère et la tristesse peuvent renforcer la confiance même envers des informations fausses. Peut-on prédire que la colère ou la tristesse face à une déclaration politique serait plus forte quand elle est vécue simultanément avec autrui ?

Rahrig (2025) — la colère synchronise le traitement de l'information entre individus. Si l'attention partagée amplifie aussi les émotions (Shteynberg, 2014), les deux effets pourraient s'additionner — hypothèse à tester. La pleine conscience réduit la réactivité émotionnelle aux contenus politiques — est-ce qu'elle pourrait faire la même chose face à un effet d'attention partagée ? Non testé.

Lefebvre (2024) — la polarisation peut exister sans dimensions sociales. L'attention partagée peut-elle jouer comme amplificateur en renforçant le biais de confirmation déjà présent au niveau individuel ? Limite de l'article : pas de données humaines.

Van Bavel (2018) — on se souvient faussement d'un événement politique de manière cohérente avec son camp, sans avoir jamais décidé de le mémoriser ainsi. Shteynberg montre que l'attention partagée amplifie le rappel mnésique. Est-ce que l'attention partagée pourrait donc renforcer une mémoire déjà biaisée par l'appartenance partisane ?

Sommaire

1. *(2015). Engaged listeners: shared neural processing of powerful political speeches. https://doi.org/10.1093/scan/nsu168* p. 3

2. *Halko ML, Halonen J, Laukkanen M, Nyberg H, Salmela M (2026). Sad but true: how emotions and political ideology shape perceptions of information.. Cogn Emot, 1-19. https://doi.org/10.1080/02699931.2026.2662478* p. 3

3. *Rahrig H, Beloborodova P, Castro C, Sabet K, Johnson M, Pearce O, Celik E, Brown KW (2025). Examining emotion reactivity to politically polarizing media in a randomized controlled trial of mindfulness training versus active coping training.. Sci Rep, 15(1), 5209. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-024-84510-0* p. 4

4. *Lefebvre G, Deroy O, Bahrami B (2024). The roots of polarization in the individual reward system.. Proc Biol Sci, 291(2017), 20232011. https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2023.2011* p. 5

5. *Jay J. Van Bavel, Andrea Pereira (2018). Trends in Cognitive Sciences The Partisan Brain: An Identity-Based Model of Political Belief. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tics.2018.01.004* p. 6

6. *Shteynberg G, Bramlett JM, Fles EH, Cameron J (2016). The broadcast of shared attention and its impact on political persuasion.. J Pers Soc Psychol, 111(5), 665-673. https://doi.org/10.1037/pspa0000065* p. 7

ARTICLE 1 / 6

Engaged listeners: shared neural processing of powerful political speeches

(2015). Engaged listeners: shared neural processing of powerful political speeches. https://doi.org/10.1093/scan/nsu168

RÉSUMÉ

Powerful speeches can captivate audiences, whereas weaker speeches fail to engage their listeners. What is happening in the brains of a captivated audience? Here, we assess audience-wide functional brain dynamics during listening to speeches of varying rhetorical quality. The speeches were given by German politicians and evaluated as rhetorically powerful or weak. Listening to each of the speeches induced similar neural response time courses, as measured by inter-subject correlation analysis, in widespread brain regions involved in spoken language processing. Crucially, alignment of the time course across listeners was stronger for rhetorically powerful speeches, especially for bilateral regions of the superior temporal gyri and medial prefrontal cortex. Thus, during powerful speeches, listeners as a group are more coupled to each other, suggesting that powerful speeches are more potent in taking control of the listeners' brain responses. Weaker speeches were processed more heterogeneously, although they still prompted substantially correlated responses. These patterns of coupled neural responses bear resemblance to metaphors of resonance, which are often invoked in discussions of speech impact, and contribute to the literature on auditory attention under natural circumstances. Overall, this approach opens up possibilities for research on the neural mechanisms mediating the reception of entertaining or persuasive messages.

INTÉRÊT POUR NOTRE THÉMATIQUE

Schmalzle (2015) et Shteynberg (2016) arrivent au même résultat par des méthodes différentes — l'un dans le cerveau, l'autre dans le jugement. Discours puissant = synchronisation / plus convaincant. Discours faible = désynchronisation / moins convaincant. Limite commune : Shteynberg travaille explicitement sur des contenus modérés. Pour Schmalzle, les discours sont classés selon leur qualité rhétorique mais leur degré d'extrémisme idéologique n'est pas précisé. Limite commune : les deux travaillent sur des contenus modérés, pas sur de la désinformation ou des contenus émotionnellement extrêmes.

ARTICLE 2 / 6

Sad but true: how emotions and political ideology shape perceptions of information.

Halko ML, Halonen J, Laukkanen M, Nyberg H, Salmela M

Halko ML, Halonen J, Laukkanen M, Nyberg H, Salmela M (2026). Sad but true: how emotions and political ideology shape perceptions of information.. Cogn Emot, 1-19. https://doi.org/10.1080/02699931.2026.2662478

RÉSUMÉ

Political and economic challenges, amplified by social media algorithms, are increasingly polarising how people receive and evaluate information. This study examines how political views and immediate emotional reactions shape the perceived trustworthiness of information. We conducted a preregistered laboratory experiment in which participants evaluated politically charged statements while their emotional responses were assessed in real time. Facial expressions were recorded to identify seven discrete emotions, while galvanic skin response and heart rate were measured to capture physiological arousal and reaction intensity. Consistent with expectations and prior research, we observed a clear political confirmation bias: ideologically congruent statements were rated as more trustworthy, with the strongest effect among the most conservative participants. Increases in anger and sadness were positively associated with trust ratings across the sample, whereas joy was linked to reduced confirmation bias. Among conservatives, multiple emotions predicted overall trust and the extent of confirmation bias. Machine-learning models incorporating physiological data likewise identified anger and joy as the most informative emotional predictors; however, physiological measures did not improve predictive performance beyond the baseline model, contrary to our expectation. By integrating behavioural and real-time physiological measures, the findings highlight how emotional and cognitive processes interact to shape trust in political information.

INTÉRÊT POUR NOTRE THÉMATIQUE

Shteynberg montre que l'attention partagée amplifie les réponses affectives. Cette article montre que la colère et la tristesse peuvent renforcer la confiance même envers des informations fausses. peux t on prédire que la colère ou la tristesse face à une déclaration politique serait plus forte quand elle est vécue simultanément avec autrui ?

ARTICLE 3 / 6

Examining emotion reactivity to politically polarizing media in a randomized controlled trial of mindfulness training versus active coping training.

Rahrig H, Beloborodova P, Castro C, Sabet K, Johnson M, Pearce O, Celik E, Brown KW

Rahrig H, Beloborodova P, Castro C, Sabet K, Johnson M, Pearce O, Celik E, Brown KW (2025). Examining emotion reactivity to politically polarizing media in a randomized controlled trial of mindfulness training versus active coping training.. Sci Rep, 15(1), 5209. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-024-84510-0

RÉSUMÉ

Emotional appraisals of political stimuli (e.g., videos) have been shown to drive shared neural encoding, which correspond to shared, yet divisive, interpretations of such stimuli. However, mindfulness practice may entrain a form of emotion regulation that de-automatizes social biases, possibly through alteration of such neural mechanisms. The present study combined a naturalistic neuroimaging paradigm and a randomized controlled trial to examine the effects of short-term mindfulness training (MT) (n = 35) vs structurally equivalent Cognitive Reappraisal training (CT) (n = 37) on politically-situated emotions while evaluating the mechanistic role of prefrontal cortical neural synchrony. Participants underwent functional near-infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS) recording while viewing inflammatory partisan news clips and continuously rating their momentary discrete emotions. MT participants were more likely to respond with extreme levels of anger (odds ratio = 0.12, p

INTÉRÊT POUR NOTRE THÉMATIQUE

La colère synchronise le traitement de l'information entre individus. Si l'attention partagée amplifie aussi les émotions (Shteynberg, 2014), les deux effets pourraient s'additionner — hypothèse à tester. La pleine conscience réduit la réactivité émotionnelle aux contenus politiques — est-ce qu'elle pourrait faire la même chose face à un effet d'attention partagée ? Non testé.

ARTICLE 4 / 6

The roots of polarization in the individual reward system.

Lefebvre G, Deroy O, Bahrami B

Lefebvre G, Deroy O, Bahrami B (2024). The roots of polarization in the individual reward system.. Proc Biol Sci, 291(2017), 20232011. https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2023.2011

RÉSUMÉ

Polarization raises concerns for democracy and society, which have expanded in the internet era where (mis)information has become ubiquitous, its transmission faster than ever, and the freedom and means of opinion expressions are expanding. The origin of polarization however remains unclear, with multiple social and emotional factors and individual reasoning biases likely to explain its current forms. In the present work, we adopt a principled approach and show that polarization tendencies can take root in biased reward processing of new information in favour of choice confirmatory evidence. Through agent-based simulations, we show that confirmation bias in individual learning is an independent mechanism and could be sufficient for creating polarization at group level independently of any additional assumptions about the opinions themselves, beliefs about them, information transmission mechanisms or the structure of social relationship between individuals. This generative process can interact with polarization mechanisms described elsewhere, but constitutes an entrenched biological tendency that helps explain the extraordinary resilience of polarization against mitigating efforts such as dramatic informational change in the environment.

INTÉRÊT POUR NOTRE THÉMATIQUE

La polarisation peut exister sans dimensions sociales. L'attention partagée peut elle jouer comme amplificateur en renforçant le biais de confirmation déjà présent au niveau individuel. limite de l'article : pas de données humaines.

ARTICLE 5 / 6

Trends in Cognitive Sciences The Partisan Brain: An Identity-Based Model of Political Belief

Jay J. Van Bavel, Andrea Pereira

Jay J. Van Bavel, Andrea Pereira (2018). Trends in Cognitive Sciences The Partisan Brain: An Identity-Based Model of Political Belief. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tics.2018.01.004

RÉSUMÉ

Democracies assume accurate knowledge by the populace, but the human attraction to fake and untrustworthy news poses a serious problem for healthy democratic functioning. We articulate why and how identification with political parties – known as partisanship – can bias information processing in the human brain. There is extensive evidence that people engage in motivated political reasoning, but recent research suggests that partisanship can alter memory, implicit evaluation, and even perceptual judgments. We propose an identity-based model of belief for understanding the influence of partisanship on these cognitive processes. This framework helps to explain why people place party loyalty over policy, and even over truth. Finally, we discuss strategies for de-biasing information processing to help to create a shared reality across partisan divides.

INTÉRÊT POUR NOTRE THÉMATIQUE

Van Bavel montre qu'on se souvient faussement d'un événement politique de manière cohérente avec son camp, sans avoir jamais décidé de le mémoriser ainsi. Shteynberg montre que l'attention partagée amplifie le rappel mnésique. Est-ce que l'attention partagée pourrait donc renforcer une mémoire déjà biaisée par l'appartenance partisane ?

ARTICLE 6 / 6

The broadcast of shared attention and its impact on political persuasion.

Shteynberg G, Bramlett JM, Fles EH, Cameron J

Shteynberg G, Bramlett JM, Fles EH, Cameron J (2016). The broadcast of shared attention and its impact on political persuasion.. J Pers Soc Psychol, 111(5), 665-673. https://doi.org/10.1037/pspa0000065

RÉSUMÉ

In democracies where multitudes yield political influence, so does broadcast media that reaches those multitudes. However, broadcast media may not be powerful simply because it reaches a certain audience, but because each of the recipients is aware of that fact. That is, watching broadcast media can evoke a state of shared attention, or the perception of simultaneous coattention with others. Whereas past research has investigated the effects of shared attention with a few socially close others (i.e., friends, acquaintances, minimal ingroup members), we examine the impact of shared attention with a multitude of unfamiliar others in the context of televised broadcasting. In this paper, we explore whether shared attention increases the psychological impact of televised political speeches, and whether fewer numbers of coattending others diminishes this effect. Five studies investigate whether the perception of simultaneous coattention, or shared attention, on a mass broadcasted political speech leads to more extreme judgments. The results indicate that the perception of synchronous coattention (as compared with coattending asynchronously and attending alone) renders persuasive speeches more persuasive, and unpersuasive speeches more unpersuasive. We also find that recall memory for the content of the speech mediates the effect of shared attention on political persuasion. The results are consistent with the notion that shared attention on mass broadcasted information results in deeper processing of the content, rendering judgments more extreme. In all, our findings imply that shared attention is a cognitive capacity that supports large-scale social coordination, where multitudes of people can cognitively prioritize simultaneously coattended information. (PsycINFO Database Record

INTÉRÊT POUR NOTRE THÉMATIQUE

Aucune réplication indépendante publiée à ce jour.

Toutes les études viennent du même labo, sur MTurk, avec des discours du Congrès américain → généralisabilité limitée.

Le mécanisme émotionnel est évoqué en note de bas de page mais jamais testé empiriquement.

Échantillons uniquement américains → biais culturel possible.

Les discours choisis sont modérément convaincants ou non convaincants — on ne sait pas ce qui se passe avec des contenus extrêmes.