Call for Proposals: Data Collection for Replication+Novel Political Science Survey Experiments

Alexander Coppock and Mary McGrath

January 27, 2026

We invite proposals for a survey experiment replication+novel design competition. Selected replication+novel design survey experiments will be conducted on large samples of American respondents, quota sampled to match U.S. Census margins and filtered for quality and attention by the survey sample provider Rep Data (repdata.com).

Each proposal consists of two parts: (1) a replication study of an existing, previously published survey experiment, and (2) a novel experimental design on a topic of the authors' choosing.

The replication studies and reanalyses of the existing studies will be combined into a meta-paper to be co-authored by all authors of accepted proposals along with the principal investigators (Coppock and McGrath). As a condition for acceptance, authors commit to sharing the data and producing a write-up of the findings from their novel design for submission to a scholarly journal, and public posting of a working paper pre-publication.

Sampling and Platform

Rep Data is a firm that provides high-quality survey respondents to firms and researchers. Their proprietary *Research Defender* tool identifies suspicious behavior and filters out fraudulent respondents. See `https://repdata.com/solutions/research-defender/` for details.

The sample is quota sampled to U.S. Census margins. Quotas are applied only after respondents pass quality checks, ensuring that the resulting sample is both high-quality and approximately weighted to Census benchmarks. We will also provide sampling weights based on a simple raking procedure using demographics collected for all subjects.

As with all survey providers, inattention remains an issue even with Rep Data respondents who pass their suspicious behavior checks. Proposers should include pre-treatment attention checks in line with current best practices.

Replication Studies

A major purpose of this project is to demonstrate the replicability of existing survey experiments. Here we describe how to choose an existing study for replication and how to prepare the reanalysis.

How to choose studies for replication

- Replication studies must involve random assignment to a control condition and one or more treatment conditions. This could include, for example, information-provision experiments or vignette-based studies. Designs used primarily for descriptive inference, such as list experiments and conjoint experiments, will be considered only if they include randomized treatments embedded within these designs (i.e., list/conjoint experiments as stand-alone proposals will not be considered).

- The existing study must be published in a peer-reviewed journal, with replication data publicly available. If data are not publicly available, consider writing to original study authors and encouraging them to publicly post a replication dataset.

- The objective should be to replicate estimates of estimands that are theoretically meaningful. Your aim should not be to search out studies that you expect *not* to replicate. It may be that an estimate of a theoretically meaningful estimand fails to replicate, which would be of scientific use.

- The total survey time (split between replication experiment and proposer's own novel experiment) should remain under roughly 10 minutes. This time requirement likely excludes experiments with long covariate batteries, long treatment applications, or long outcome batteries.

- Replication experiments should be, loosely speaking, about politics. Generally, this will mean that either the treatment or the outcome measurement is "political." We strongly encourage submissions from all empirical subfields of political science — we would very much like to include survey experiments from International Relations, Comparative Politics, and American Politics. However, applicants should note that the sample will be comprised exclusively of Americans. In other words, we encourage proposals that identify existing experiments originally conducted with, e.g., Brazilian or Ukrainian respondents for replication in a sample of American respondents.

- Existing survey experiments conducted in any time period (from very recent to long ago) may be proposed for replication. Conditional on the estimand in the existing study

being theoretically meaningful, survey experiments published in lower-impact journals or with lower citation counts will be given equal consideration to those published in higher-impact journals.

Reanalysis of the existing experiment

- Authors must provide their own reanalysis of the existing experiment.
- Analyses should include difference-in-means and covariate-adjusted estimates of average treatment effects, as well as any proposed analyses of heterogeneous treatment effects. At the stage of pre-registering the meta-analysis, the main estimates for replication will be chosen. It could be one or two estimates; it probably should not be 10 or 12 estimates.
- The main estimands to be replicated do not have to be the focal estimands of the journal article or book chapter in which the existing study was originally published. For example, a strong application might propose to replicate the effect of condition 2 versus condition 4 on outcome 3 of a six condition study with 4 outcomes. However, applicants should be sure to make clear why the estimand to be replicated is theoretically meaningful.

Replication of the existing experiment

- In the simplest case, the replication experiment would simply deploy the exact same experimental stimuli and outcome measures on a new sample.
- In some cases, replication studies might require "localization" or "temporalization."
- Proposals should include a sample size justification. The "small telescopes" paper (Simonsohn, 2015) offers a rule of thumb that if an existing study had 33% power, a replication study should enroll 2.5x the sample size. The appropriate multiplier depends on the assumptions one makes about the existing study, so we won't enforce a hard-and-fast rule here, but proposers should describe the appropriate sample size.
- Proposers should prepare a complete survey instrument for the replication study.

Novel Survey Experiments

We place fewer restrictions on the format of the novel studies, but random assignment of treatments is still required. In a strong proposal, the novel experiment may be theoretically

connected to the replication study proposed, but this is not a requirement. We adopt the spirit of the TESS program: if a study would be appropriate for TESS, it is appropriate for this project. See https://tessexperiments.org/info/introduction for their guidelines.

What to include in the proposal

- Separate pdf documents for
    1. the replication proposal and reanalysis of the existing experiment
    2. the proposal for the novel experiment
    3. the replication experiment survey instrument
    4. the novel experiment survey instrument
- The replication proposal and reanalysis document should be approximately four pages. It should include a brief theoretical background about the study and why it is important to replicate. It should describe the design (assignment conditions and outcomes) of the existing study. It should describe any complications in the design of the replication experiment. The renanalysis results should be presented in a figure or table or two.
- The reanalysis should be accompanied by the existing paper's replication dataset and the proposer's cleaning and analysis code.
- The novel experiment document should also be about four pages. It should include a brief theoretical background for the study but focus mainly on the research design. It should explain the treatment conditions, the outcomes, and the predicted results.
- The survey instruments may be exported as a pdf from a survey design tool (e.g., Qualtrics).

Further Details

- Before any study is fielded, proposers must obtain IRB approval from their own university.
- All data associated with the meta-paper will be posted online once the meta-paper is published. Authors commit to making the data for their novel studies public upon publication.

Project Timeline

Proposals will be evaluated on a rolling basis. Applications open on February 1, 2026 and will remain open until all survey responses provided by Rep Data have been allocated.

Please email your submission to alex.coppock@northwestern.edu and mary.mcgrath@northwestern.edu with the subject line Replication+Novel submission.