

WHY DO I *STILL* HATE THEE?

MISPERCEPTIONS OF OPPOSING POLITICAL ATTITUDES



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Introduction

- Chambers & Melnyk (2006)
- So what if we're polarized?
- Partisans have less disagreement than they perceive; exaggeration of disagreement is most prevalent for *central values*

Method

- 314 participants, MTurk
- Rated own positions on various values
- Rated *opposition's* positions on same values

Results

- Significant increase in perceived disagreement on *pro-life* value of moral code of sexual conduct
- Significant increase in perceived disagreement on *pro-choice* values of freedom from government interference and value of human life
- In 2006 and 2019, perceived disagreement is almost always higher than actual disagreement

Discussion/Conclusions

- More *perceived disagreement* about central values
- *Actual disagreement* trends varied; for some, increased, for others, decreased
- Consistently higher PD than AD

Upon replicating Chambers & Melnyk (2006), we concluded that Americans *perceive* more political disagreement than there truly is. In some cases, political disagreement has increased, but *generally*, perceived disagreement is higher than actual disagreement.

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