

## Supplemental Appendix

### I. Question wording, March 2020 Qualtrics national survey

**Conspiracy thinking.** (Each item is 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree;  $\alpha=0.84$ ,  $M=3.18$ ,  $SD=0.97$ ):

1. Much of our lives are being controlled by plots hatched in secret places.
2. Even though we live in a democracy, a few people will always run things anyway.
3. The people who really 'run' the country, are not known to the voters.
4. Big events like wars, the current recession, and the outcomes of elections are controlled by small groups of people who are working in secret against the rest of us.

**Machiavellianism.** Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with each of the statements below (each item is 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree;  $\alpha=0.87$ ,  $M=2.26$ ,  $SD=1.04$ ):

1. I tend to manipulate others to get my way.
2. I have used deceit or lied to get my way.
3. I have used flattery to get my way.
4. I tend to exploit others towards my own end.

**Sociopathy.** Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with each of the statements below (each item is 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree,  $\alpha=0.85$ ,  $M=2.47$ ,  $SD=0.98$ ):

1. I tend to lack remorse.
2. I tend to be unconcerned with the morality of my actions.
3. I tend to be callous or insensitive.
4. I tend to be cynical.

**Narcissism.** Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with each of the statements below (each item is 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree,  $\alpha=0.88$ ,  $M=2.58$ ,  $SD=1.05$ ):

1. I tend to want others to admire me.
2. I tend to want others to pay attention to me.
3. I tend to seek prestige or status.
4. I tend to expect special favors from others.

**Political violence.** Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with each of the statements below (each item is 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree;  $\alpha=0.81$ ,  $M=2.31$ ,  $SD=1.17$ ):

1. Violence is sometimes an acceptable way for Americans to express their disagreement with the government.
2. If needed to reach important objectives, the use of violence is acceptable.

**Spread false information.** "I share information on social media about politics even though I believe it may be false." (1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree).

**Feeling thermometers.** Please rate name listed below using the "feeling thermometer" slider bars. Ratings between 50 and 100 degrees mean that you feel favorable toward the name. Ratings between 0 and 50 degrees mean that you do not feel favorable toward the name.

1. Donald Trump
2. Hillary Clinton
3. QAnon movement

**Trust in government.** The federal government in Washington can be trusted to do what is right.

1. Strongly disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Agree
5. Strongly agree

**Ideological identity.** (self-placement; 1=extremely liberal, 5=extremely conservative)

**Partisan identity.** (self-placement; 1=strong Democrat, 5=strong Republican)

**Sociodemographics:**

1. Educational attainment (6-point scale, 1=No high school degree, 6=post-grad degree)
2. Religiosity (church attendance, 5-point scale, 1=Never, 5=Every day)
3. Age (age in years, 18–91)
1. Household income (7-point scale, 1=\$24,999 or less, 7=200,000 or more)
4. Gender (0=male, 1=female)
5. Race (Black: 0=not Black, 1=Black; Hispanic: 0=not Hispanic, 1=Hispanic)

## II. Sample details

**Table A1:** Sociodemographic information about March and October 2020 samples, compared to 2010 U.S. Census estimates.

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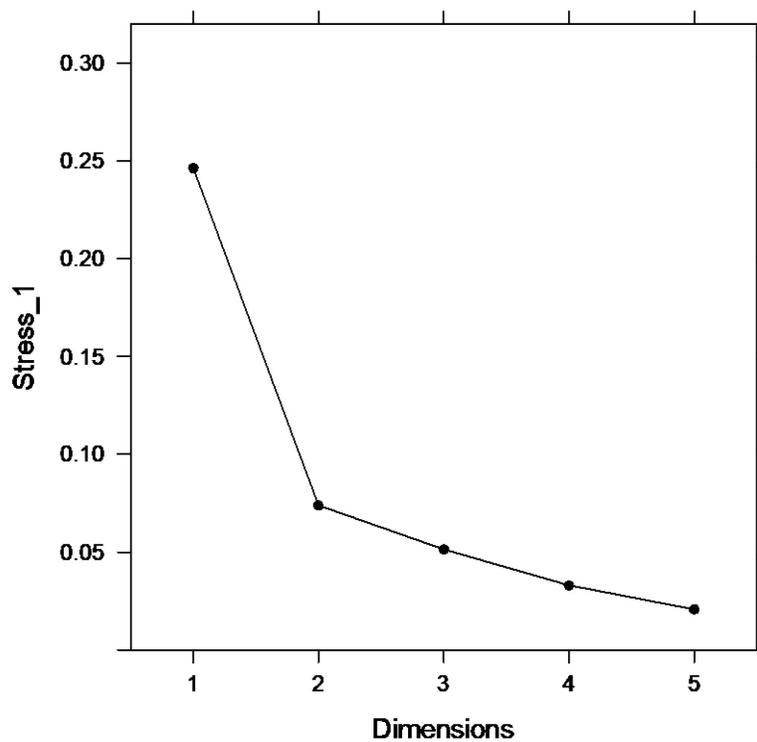
Characteristic	March 2020	October 2020	2010 Census Estimate
Age (median)	39	43	38
High school degree (%)	95	97	88
Some college or more (%)	60	76	59
Female (%)	52	51	51
Household income (median)	\$25,000– \$49,999	\$25,000– \$49,999	\$49,445
Race:			
White (%)	65	68	72
Black (%)	15	14	13
Hispanic (%)	18	17	16
<i>n</i>	2,023	2,015	

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### III. Discussion of input data and nonmetric MDS model fit diagnostics

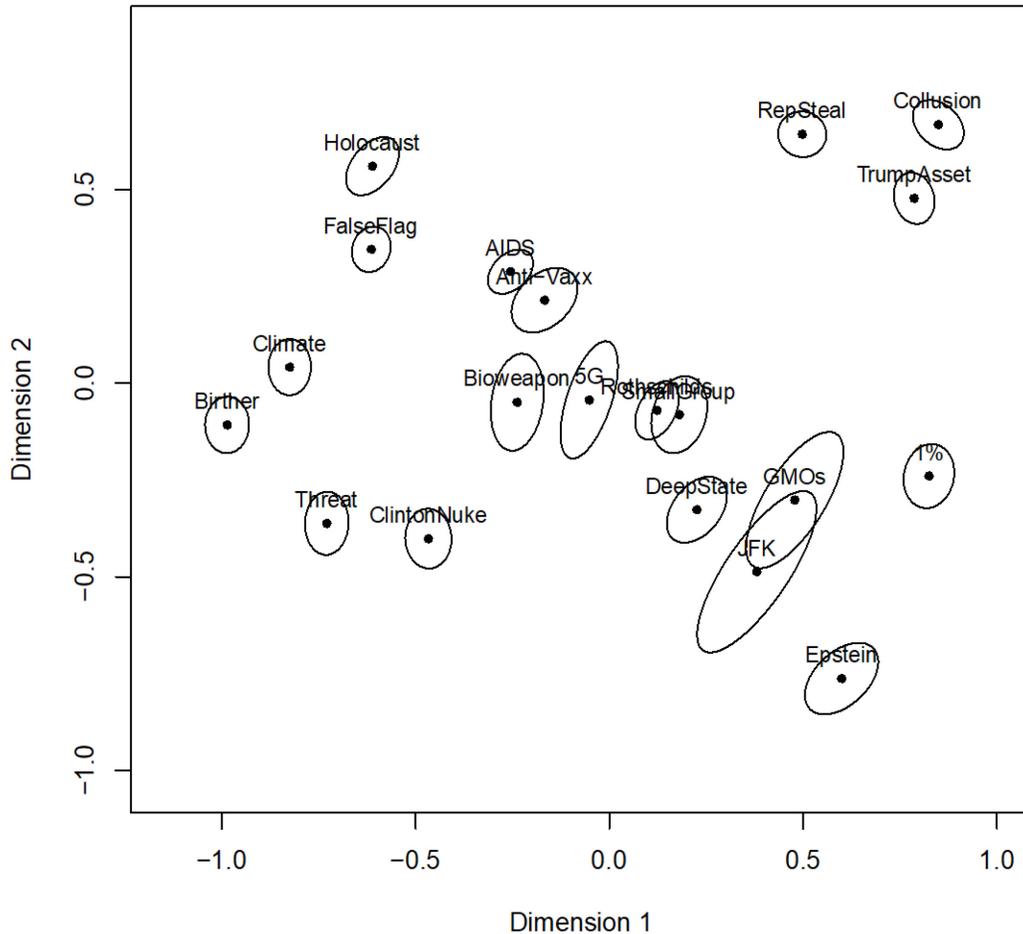
Some practitioners use modified correlations as input data. This is perfectly reasonable, although the geometry of correlations is different than that of Euclidean distances, which are central to MDS output. Briefly, correlation coefficients measure angular separation between variable vectors, whereas Euclidean distances measure distances between the terminal points of variable vectors. A consequence is that correlational measures of dissimilarity oftentimes do not match distance-based measures of dissimilarity. Depending on correlational structure, they oftentimes also result in a circular MDS point configuration, which is an artifact of the correlational input data.

**Figure A1:** Scree plot of Stress values against the number of dimensions. March 2020 data.



The MDS Stress-based scree plot can be interpreted much like a scree plot of eigenvalues or the proportion of variance explained, like one would estimate using factor analysis or compute in the context of principal components analysis. In all situations, one wants to locate an “elbow” – a visually apparent bend in the curve formed by connecting the points. Unlike with factor analysis or principal components analysis where one wants to maximize variance explained, MDS seeks to minimize Stress. Therefore, instead of selecting the number of dimensions to the left of the elbow (like in EFA and PCA), we want to retain the number of dimensions at the elbow. In this case, there is a clear elbow at two dimensions.

**Figure A2:** Bootstrapped nonmetric MDS configuration with 95% confidence ellipses. March 2020 data.

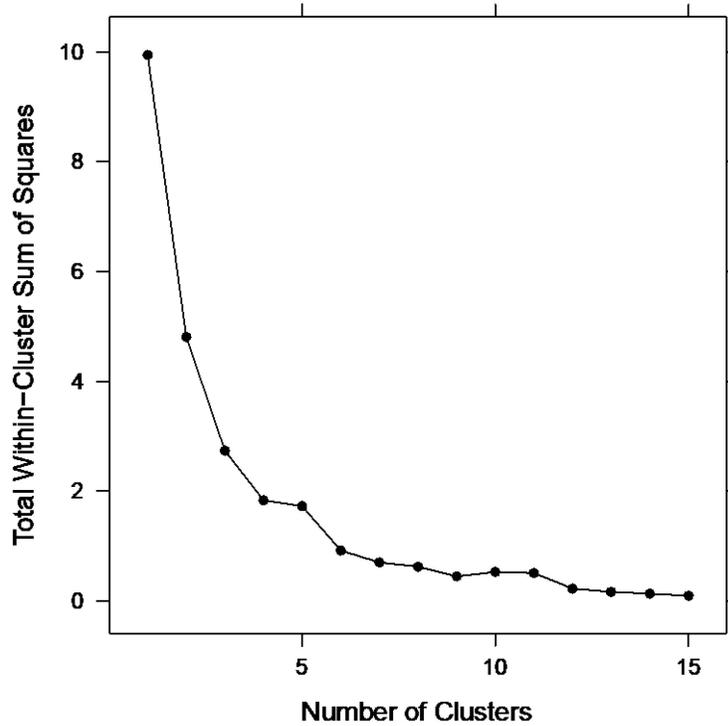


The bootstrapped MDS configuration is constructed by resampling from the original  $n$  by  $k$  matrix of individual survey responses from the  $n$  respondents to the  $k$  conspiracy belief questions, reconstruct the input dissimilarities matrix of Euclidean distances on the resampled dataset, and re-estimating the MDS point configuration. We did this 500 times. Variability in point locations across the 500 replications is then used to generate 95% confidence ellipses. In general, one hopes that the point locations are 1) fairly stable and, relatedly, 2) tend not to overlap with other points.

We observe some overlap between the *JFK* and *GMOs* points, as well as the *Rothschilds* and *SmallGroup* points (which are closer to each other than any two points in the configuration produced on the full dataset). That said, swapping the positions of the conspiracy theories involved in these two pairs of points alters neither the results of the cluster analysis/external variable regression, nor our substantive interpretation of the configuration (clusters). As such, we are additionally confident that a two-dimension representation of variability in the data is appropriate.

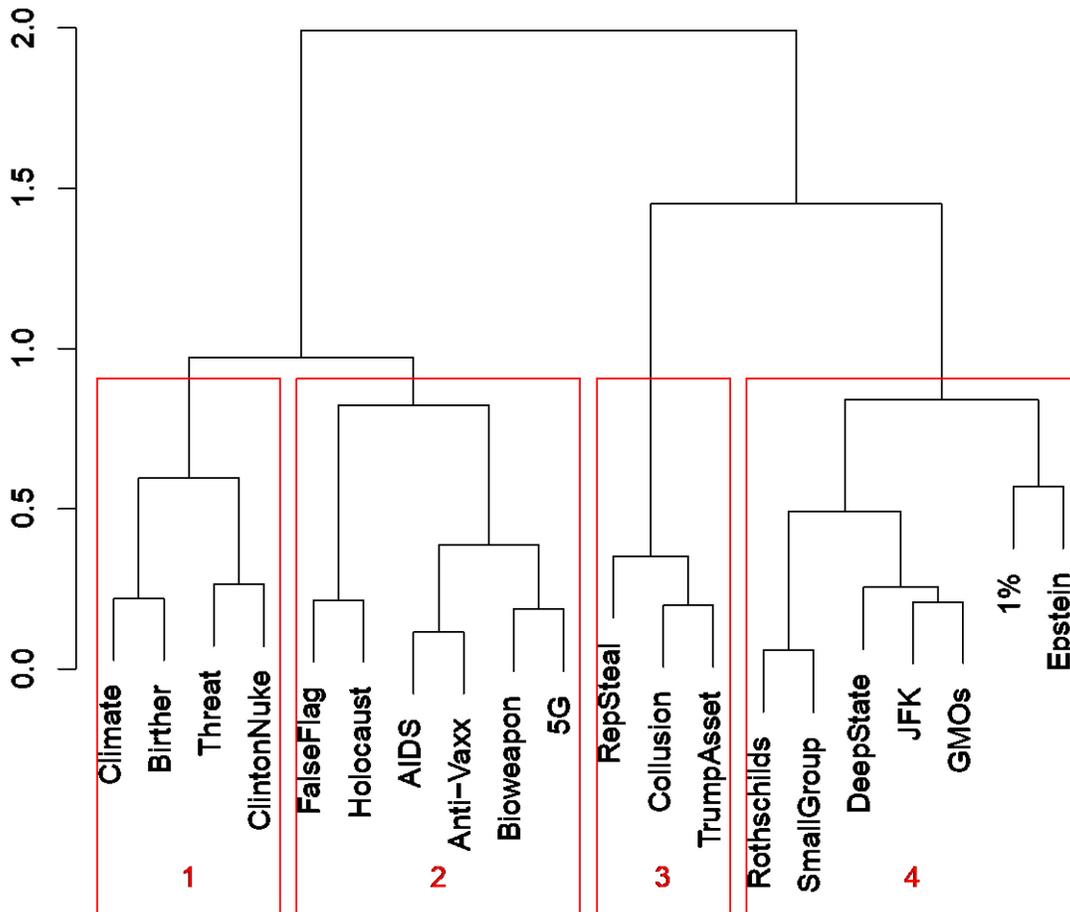
#### IV. Cluster analysis diagnostics

**Figure A3:** Scree plot of total within-cluster variance (sum of squares) against number of clusters. March 2020 data.



As with the Stress scree plot above, we can use the elbow in the total within-cluster variance scree plot to determine the appropriate number of clusters. As noted in the main text, there are two decipherable elbows: one at four clusters and another at six. Generally speaking, the “best” elbow is the one for which minimal change in the total variance is exhibited after the associated cluster number. In this case, there is very little decrease in the total within-cluster variance after the six cluster mark, though there is still visually apparent change moving from four to six clusters. Therefore, in consultation with an examination of the composition of the clusters, we determined six clusters to be most appropriate (though, see below).

**Figure A4:** Hierarchical cluster analysis of interpoint distances from two-dimensional nonmetric MDS configuration with 4 primary clusters identified. March 2020 data.



Reducing the number of partitions from six to four results in the clusters identified above. Two distinct partisan clusters are still apparent. However, the *FalseFlag/Holocaust* cluster fuses with the science conspiracy theories, which makes little substantive sense. Moreover, the *1%/Epstein* cluster of “easy” conspiracy theories joins the cluster of group-based conspiracy theories. Ultimately, given both substantive interpretability and the cluster variance scree plot presented above, six clusters appears to more accurately account for clustering in the data.

## V. Full results of external variable regressions from Figure 3

In order to regress each of the 7 external variables into the MDS space, these variables need to be formatted to the 20x2 (conspiracy theories by dimensions) data matrix containing the point coordinates.

The first step in this process involved recoding each of the 7 variables below (e.g., ideological self-identification, sociopathy) in to “trichotomous” variables based on terciles, such that an even number of respondents appear in each of the 3 new variable categories. Then, for each of the 7 new trichotomized variables we calculated the difference in beliefs for each of the 20 conspiracy theories between the first (lowest) and third (highest) tercile. This gives us a measure of how different each conspiracy belief is between those high and low on each external variable (or Republican/conservative and Democratic/liberal, in the case of partisanship and ideology). Finally, these differences were merged into the data matrix containing the MDS point coordinates and each separately regressed on the point coordinates for MDS Axis 1 and 2.

The resultant matrix appears below. D1 and D2 refer to the MDS point coordinates. The remaining columns show the differences in conspiracy belief by each external variable (pid=partisanship, ideo=ideology, vio=violence, soc=sociopathy, fal=false information, nar=narcissism, mac=Machiavellianism).

	D1	D2	pid	ideo	vio	soc	fal	nar	mac
Threat	-0.729	-0.362	-0.257	-0.136	-0.281	-0.244	-0.267	-0.195	-0.203
Bioweapon	-0.238	-0.049	-0.072	-0.035	-0.332	-0.248	-0.303	-0.231	-0.213
1%	0.825	-0.240	0.122	0.133	-0.177	-0.098	-0.103	-0.119	-0.095
DeepState	0.226	-0.327	-0.031	-0.008	-0.223	-0.142	-0.186	-0.143	-0.129
5G	-0.052	-0.043	-0.054	-0.028	-0.253	-0.166	-0.217	-0.161	-0.166
FalseFlag	-0.614	0.346	-0.062	-0.015	-0.404	-0.308	-0.362	-0.279	-0.273
Rothschilds	0.123	-0.070	0.002	0.033	-0.264	-0.186	-0.236	-0.190	-0.161
JFK	0.380	-0.487	-0.010	-0.003	-0.194	-0.113	-0.142	-0.123	-0.116
AIDS	-0.255	0.288	0.018	0.012	-0.340	-0.265	-0.327	-0.249	-0.227
Anti-Vaxx	-0.167	0.214	-0.007	-0.021	-0.317	-0.208	-0.268	-0.200	-0.209
Holocaust	-0.611	0.560	-0.006	0.007	-0.398	-0.307	-0.353	-0.293	-0.256
Epstein	0.599	-0.763	-0.055	0.009	-0.137	-0.102	-0.082	-0.117	-0.082
GMOs	0.478	-0.302	0.002	0.001	-0.150	-0.088	-0.137	-0.103	-0.079
SmallGroup	0.180	-0.082	0.008	0.024	-0.282	-0.204	-0.249	-0.206	-0.166
Climate	-0.825	0.041	-0.236	-0.118	-0.318	-0.261	-0.287	-0.192	-0.205
Collusion	0.849	0.667	0.410	0.282	-0.210	-0.132	-0.161	-0.155	-0.151
TrumpAsset	0.786	0.477	0.308	0.211	-0.200	-0.128	-0.161	-0.154	-0.167
ClintonNuke	-0.467	-0.402	-0.285	-0.132	-0.239	-0.187	-0.205	-0.144	-0.147
RepSteal	0.498	0.643	0.294	0.211	-0.278	-0.184	-0.230	-0.196	-0.208
Birther	-0.986	-0.108	-0.357	-0.164	-0.259	-0.224	-0.227	-0.134	-0.157

The coefficients used to orient the new dimensions in Figure 3, along with other details about each of the 7 regression models, appear in the tables below.

**Table A2:** Results from OLS regression of **ideological self-identification** on MDS point coordinates. March 2020 data.

	Coefficient	Standard Error	<i>p</i> -value
MDS Axis 1	0.813	0.004	<0.001
MDS Axis 2	0.549	0.004	<0.001

$R^2 = 0.973$

**Table A3:** Results from OLS regression of **partisanship** on MDS point coordinates. March 2020 data.

	Coefficient	Standard Error	<i>p</i> -value
MDS Axis 1	0.802	0.003	<0.001
MDS Axis 2	0.574	0.003	<0.001

$R^2 = 0.984$

**Table A4:** Results from OLS regression of **sociopathy** on MDS point coordinates. March 2020 data.

	Coefficient	Standard Error	<i>p</i> -value
MDS Axis 1	0.832	0.009	<0.001
MDS Axis 2	-0.418	0.009	<0.001

$R^2 = 0.858$

**Table A5:** Results from OLS regression of **violence attitudes** on MDS point coordinates. March 2020 data.

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	Coefficient	Standard Error	<i>p</i> -value
MDS Axis 1	0.707	0.113	<0.001
MDS Axis 2	-0.541	0.113	<0.001

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$R^2 = 0.783$

**Table A6:** Results from OLS regression of **predisposition to spread false information online** on MDS point coordinates. March 2020 data.

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	Coefficient	Standard Error	<i>p</i> -value
MDS Axis 1	0.751	0.108	<0.001
MDS Axis 2	-0.498	0.108	<0.001

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$R^2 = 0.802$

**Table A7:** Results from OLS regression of **Machiavellianism** on MDS point coordinates. March 2020 data.

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	Coefficient	Standard Error	<i>p</i> -value
MDS Axis 1	0.621	0.105	<0.001
MDS Axis 2	-0.662	0.105	<0.001

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$R^2 = 0.813$

**Table A8:** Results from OLS regression of **narcissism** on MDS point coordinates. March 2020 data.

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	Coefficient	Standard Error	<i>p</i> -value
MDS Axis 1	0.519	0.152	0.003
MDS Axis 2	-0.590	0.152	0.001

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$R^2 = 0.610$

## VI. Full regression results from Figure 4

**Table A9:** OLS regression of **Trump thermometer** on conspiracy belief clusters and controls. March 2020 data.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Education	-0.046 (0.026)	-0.117*** (0.030)	-0.101*** (0.030)	-0.049 (0.027)	-0.110*** (0.031)	-0.113*** (0.031)
Religiosity	0.097*** (0.023)	0.201*** (0.027)	0.209*** (0.027)	0.282*** (0.023)	0.231*** (0.027)	0.256*** (0.027)
Age	0.178*** (0.033)	0.192*** (0.040)	0.159*** (0.040)	0.003 (0.034)	0.130** (0.040)	0.097* (0.040)
Income	0.081** (0.027)	0.110*** (0.032)	0.116*** (0.032)	0.086** (0.028)	0.113*** (0.032)	0.114*** (0.032)
Female	-0.048*** (0.014)	-0.067*** (0.017)	-0.080*** (0.017)	-0.092*** (0.015)	-0.080*** (0.017)	-0.088*** (0.017)
Black	-0.157*** (0.021)	-0.213*** (0.024)	-0.219*** (0.025)	-0.106*** (0.022)	-0.214*** (0.025)	-0.198*** (0.025)
Hispanic	-0.079*** (0.019)	-0.117*** (0.023)	-0.130*** (0.023)	-0.073*** (0.020)	-0.136*** (0.023)	-0.125*** (0.023)
Cluster 1	0.769*** (0.026)					
Cluster 2		0.289*** (0.031)				
Cluster 3			0.271*** (0.032)			
Cluster 4				-0.646*** (0.025)		
Cluster 5					0.248*** (0.037)	
Cluster 6						-0.014 (0.037)
Constant	0.102*** (0.024)	0.322*** (0.027)	0.297*** (0.029)	0.703*** (0.025)	0.286*** (0.033)	0.432*** (0.036)
$R^2$	0.405	0.165	0.158	0.351	0.147	0.127
$n$	1928	1928	1928	1928	1928	1928

Note: All variables rescaled to range from 0-1 so magnitude of effects can be compared. OLS coefficients with standard errors in parentheses. \* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.001$

**Table A10:** OLS regression of **Clinton thermometer** on conspiracy belief clusters and controls. March 2020 data.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Education	0.155*** (0.027)	0.186*** (0.028)	0.186*** (0.028)	0.134*** (0.025)	0.186*** (0.028)	0.186*** (0.028)
Religiosity	0.176*** (0.024)	0.079** (0.025)	0.098*** (0.025)	0.074*** (0.022)	0.097*** (0.025)	0.094*** (0.025)
Age	-0.030 (0.035)	0.043 (0.037)	0.014 (0.037)	0.089** (0.032)	0.014 (0.036)	0.022 (0.037)
Income	-0.044 (0.028)	-0.061* (0.029)	-0.060* (0.029)	-0.036 (0.026)	-0.060* (0.029)	-0.060* (0.029)
Female	-0.002 (0.015)	0.025 (0.016)	0.019 (0.016)	0.018 (0.014)	0.018 (0.016)	0.020 (0.016)
Black	0.136*** (0.021)	0.151*** (0.022)	0.158*** (0.022)	0.082*** (0.020)	0.158*** (0.022)	0.156*** (0.022)
Hispanic	0.071*** (0.020)	0.098*** (0.021)	0.096*** (0.021)	0.054** (0.019)	0.097*** (0.021)	0.095*** (0.021)
Cluster 1	-0.386*** (0.027)					
Cluster 2		0.079** (0.029)				
Cluster 3			-0.019 (0.030)			
Cluster 4				0.536*** (0.023)		
Cluster 5					-0.029 (0.034)	
Cluster 6						0.029 (0.033)
Constant	0.417*** (0.025)	0.231*** (0.025)	0.267*** (0.027)	0.022*** (0.023)	0.274*** (0.030)	0.238*** (0.033)
$R^2$	0.167	0.082	0.078	0.276	0.079	0.079
$n$	1934	1934	1934	1934	1934	1934

Note: All variables rescaled to range from 0-1 so magnitude of effects can be compared. OLS coefficients with standard errors in parentheses. \* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.001$

**Table A11:** OLS regression of **ideological self-identification** on conspiracy belief clusters and controls. March 2020 data.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Education	-0.102*** (0.023)	-0.130*** (0.024)	-0.125*** (0.024)	-0.091*** (0.022)	-0.129*** (0.024)	-0.128*** (0.024)
Religiosity	0.071*** (0.020)	0.133*** (0.021)	0.128*** (0.021)	0.159*** (0.019)	0.140*** (0.021)	0.145*** (0.021)
Age	0.256*** (0.029)	0.234*** (0.031)	0.238*** (0.031)	0.157*** (0.028)	0.222*** (0.031)	0.201*** (0.031)
Income	0.021 (0.023)	0.035 (0.025)	0.036 (0.025)	0.016 (0.022)	0.035 (0.025)	0.036 (0.025)
Female	0.004 (0.013)	-0.009 (0.013)	-0.010 (0.013)	-0.014 (0.012)	-0.012 (0.013)	-0.017 (0.013)
Black	-0.067*** (0.018)	-0.089*** (0.019)	-0.093*** (0.019)	-0.026 (0.017)	-0.088*** (0.019)	-0.084*** (0.019)
Hispanic	-0.011 (0.017)	-0.031 (0.018)	-0.034 (0.018)	-0.001 (0.016)	-0.034 (0.018)	-0.029 (0.018)
Cluster 1	0.344*** (0.023)					
Cluster 2		0.054* (0.024)				
Cluster 3			0.091*** (0.025)			
Cluster 4				-0.423*** (0.020)		
Cluster 5					0.039 (0.028)	
Cluster 6						-0.122*** (0.028)
Constant	0.291*** (0.021)	0.414*** (0.021)	0.391*** (0.023)	0.621*** (0.020)	0.411*** (0.025)	0.515*** (0.027)
$R^2$	0.177	0.085	0.088	0.247	0.083	0.091
$n$	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022

Note: All variables rescaled to range from 0-1 so magnitude of effects can be compared. OLS coefficients with standard errors in parentheses. \* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.001$

**Table A12:** OLS regression of **conspiracy thinking** on conspiracy belief clusters and controls. March 2020 data.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Education	0.033 (0.018)	0.000 (0.017)	0.036* (0.015)	-0.022 (0.018)	0.018 (0.013)	-0.001 (0.016)
Religiosity	0.018 (0.016)	0.010 (0.015)	-0.017 (0.013)	0.079*** (0.016)	0.013 (0.011)	0.082*** (0.014)
Age	-0.137*** (0.023)	-0.042 (0.023)	-0.039* (0.019)	-0.135*** (0.023)	-0.077*** (0.016)	-0.099*** (0.021)
Income	-0.032 (0.019)	-0.022 (0.018)	-0.014 (0.015)	-0.005 (0.019)	-0.024 (0.013)	-0.022 (0.017)
Female	-0.020* (0.010)	-0.008 (0.010)	-0.020* (0.008)	-0.036*** (0.010)	-0.014 (0.007)	-0.020 (0.009)
Black	0.086*** (0.014)	0.044** (0.014)	0.018 (0.012)	0.026 (0.015)	0.019 (0.010)	0.063*** (0.013)
Hispanic	0.053*** (0.014)	0.046*** (0.013)	0.023* (0.011)	0.009 (0.014)	0.000 (0.009)	0.017 (0.012)
Cluster 1	0.342*** (0.018)					
Cluster 2		0.419*** (0.018)				
Cluster 3			0.608*** (0.016)			
Cluster 4				0.299*** (0.017)		
Cluster 5					0.802*** (0.015)	
Cluster 6						0.584*** (0.019)
Constant	0.441*** (0.017)	0.438*** (0.016)	0.302*** (0.014)	0.449*** (0.017)	0.141*** (0.013)	0.187*** (0.019)
$R^2$	0.207	0.273	0.462	0.191	0.612	0.359
$n$	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023

Note: All variables rescaled to range from 0-1 so magnitude of effects can be compared. OLS coefficients with standard errors in parentheses. \* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.001$

**Table A13:** OLS regression of **distrust of government** on conspiracy belief clusters and controls. March 2020 data.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Education	0.061** (0.023)	0.044* (0.022)	0.052* (0.023)	0.050* (0.023)	0.047* (0.023)	0.049* (0.023)
Religiosity	0.141*** (0.020)	0.131*** (0.020)	0.161*** (0.020)	0.177*** (0.020)	0.177*** (0.020)	0.178*** (0.020)
Age	-0.195*** (0.029)	-0.138*** (0.029)	-0.195*** (0.030)	-0.219*** (0.029)	-0.216*** (0.029)	-0.231*** (0.029)
Income	0.095*** (0.023)	0.100*** (0.023)	0.103*** (0.024)	0.101*** (0.024)	0.102*** (0.024)	0.103*** (0.023)
Female	-0.030* (0.013)	-0.022 (0.012)	-0.036** (0.013)	-0.038** (0.013)	-0.039** (0.013)	-0.042*** (0.013)
Black	-0.009 (0.018)	-0.032 (0.018)	-0.025 (0.018)	-0.014 (0.018)	-0.018 (0.018)	-0.017 (0.018)
Hispanic	-0.036* (0.017)	-0.038* (0.017)	-0.048** (0.017)	-0.044** (0.017)	-0.046** (0.017)	-0.043* (0.017)
Cluster 1	0.166*** (0.023)					
Cluster 2		0.236*** (0.022)				
Cluster 3			0.086*** (0.024)			
Cluster 4				-0.031 (0.021)		
Cluster 5					-0.010 (0.027)	
Cluster 6						-0.125*** (0.027)
Constant	0.380*** (0.021)	0.367*** (0.020)	0.409*** (0.022)	0.463*** (0.021)	0.454*** (0.024)	0.533*** (0.026)
$R^2$	0.116	0.140	0.098	0.094	0.093	0.102
$n$	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023

Note: All variables rescaled to range from 0-1 so magnitude of effects can be compared. OLS coefficients with standard errors in parentheses. \* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.001$

**Table A14: OLS regression of support for QAnon movement on conspiracy belief clusters and controls. March 2020 data.**

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Education	0.108*** (0.026)	0.079** (0.025)	0.098*** (0.026)	0.071** (0.027)	0.086*** (0.026)	0.084** (0.026)
Religiosity	0.144*** (0.023)	0.116*** (0.022)	0.141*** (0.022)	0.191*** (0.023)	0.167*** (0.022)	0.197*** (0.023)
Age	-0.195*** (0.035)	-0.092** (0.034)	-0.157*** (0.035)	-0.208*** (0.035)	-0.190*** (0.035)	-0.210*** (0.035)
Income	0.055* (0.027)	0.061* (0.025)	0.064* (0.026)	0.073** (0.027)	0.064* (0.027)	0.064* (0.027)
Female	-0.039** (0.014)	-0.022 (0.014)	-0.042** (0.014)	-0.048** (0.015)	-0.042** (0.014)	-0.045** (0.015)
Black	0.006 (0.020)	-0.028 (0.019)	-0.029 (0.020)	-0.026 (0.020)	-0.024 (0.020)	-0.011 (0.020)
Hispanic	0.004 (0.019)	0.004 (0.018)	-0.016 (0.018)	-0.024 (0.019)	-0.023 (0.019)	-0.021 (0.019)
Cluster 1	0.256*** (0.025)					
Cluster 2		0.374*** (0.024)				
Cluster 3			0.292*** (0.026)			
Cluster 4				0.126*** (0.024)		
Cluster 5					0.290*** (0.030)	
Cluster 6						0.150*** (0.030)
Constant	0.105*** (0.024)	0.077*** (0.022)	0.079** (0.025)	0.162*** (0.024)	0.056* (0.027)	0.117*** (0.030)
$R^2$	0.181	0.253	0.190	0.136	0.175	0.135
$n$	1418	1418	1418	1418	1418	1418

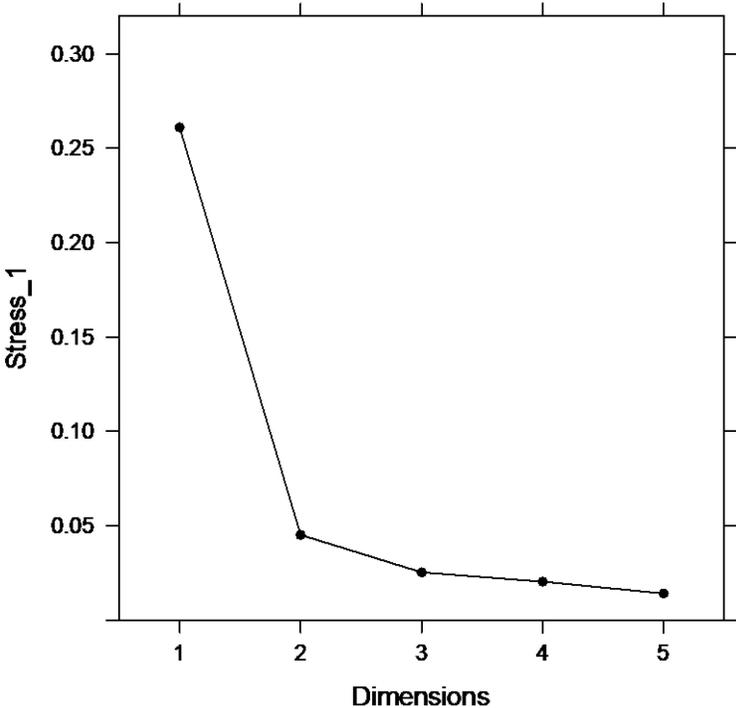
Note: All variables rescaled to range from 0-1 so magnitude of effects can be compared. OLS coefficients with standard errors in parentheses. \* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.001$

## VII. Details of Replication and Extension Analyses

**Table A15:** Conspiracy belief questions and the percentage of respondents who agree with them. October 2020 data.

Conspiracy Belief Question ( <i>label</i> )	% Agree	Difference from March
<u>Overlap Items</u>		
1.) The one percent (1%) of the richest people in the U.S. control the government and the economy for their own benefit. ( <i>1%</i> )	56	+1
2.) Jeffrey Epstein, the billionaire accused of running an elite sex trafficking ring, was murdered to cover-up the activities of his criminal network. ( <i>Epstein</i> )	52	+2
3.) Donald Trump colluded with Russians to steal the presidency. ( <i>Collusion</i> )	36	-1
4.) The threat of coronavirus has been exaggerated by political groups who want to damage President Trump. ( <i>Threat</i> )	31	+2
5.) The dangers of vaccines are being hidden by the medical establishment. ( <i>Anti-Vaxx</i> )	28	-2
6.) The dangers of 5G cellphone technology are being covered up. ( <i>5G</i> )	23	-3
7.) Republicans won the presidential elections in 2016, 2004, and 2000 by stealing them. ( <i>RepSteal</i> )	20	-7
8.) Climate change is a hoax perpetrated by corrupt scientists and politicians. ( <i>Climate</i> )	19	-3
9.) School shootings, like those at Sandy Hook, CT and Parkland, FL are false flag attacks perpetrated by the government. ( <i>FalseFlag</i> )	12	-5
<u>New Items</u>		
10.) President Trump is covering up the extent of his COVID-19 infection. ( <i>CoverUp</i> )	49	
11.) Donald Trump is battling the deep state. ( <i>DTBattle</i> )	33	
12.) President Trump is faking COVID-19 in order to help his chances at reelection. ( <i>DTFaking</i> )	26	
13.) Satanic sex traffickers control the government. ( <i>Satanic</i> )	14	
14.) Groups wanting to hurt president Trump intentionally infected him with COVID-19. ( <i>InfectedDT</i> )	14	
15.) Hillary Clinton has been arrested for crimes involving human trafficking. ( <i>HRCArrested</i> )	11	
16.) I am a believer in QAnon. ( <i>QAnon</i> )	7	

**Figure A5:** Scree plot of Stress values against the number of dimensions. October 2020 data.



The coefficients used to orient the new dimensions in Figure 5, along with other details about each of the 6 regression models, appear in the tables below.

**Table A15:** Results from OLS regression of **ideological self-identification** on MDS point coordinates. October 2020 data.

	Coefficient	Standard Error	<i>p</i> -value
MDS Axis 1	0.913	0.003	<0.001
MDS Axis 2	0.379	0.003	<0.001

$R^2 = 0.990$

**Table A16:** Results from OLS regression of **partisanship** on MDS point coordinates. October 2020 data.

	Coefficient	Standard Error	<i>p</i> -value
MDS Axis 1	0.919	0.002	<0.001
MDS Axis 2	0.367	0.002	<0.001

$R^2 = 0.992$

**Table A17:** Results from OLS regression of **sociopathy** on MDS point coordinates. October 2020 data.

	Coefficient	Standard Error	<i>p</i> -value
MDS Axis 1	0.871	0.115	<0.001
MDS Axis 2	-0.282	0.115	0.029

$R^2 = 0.829$

**Table A18:** Results from OLS regression of **predisposition to spread false information online** on MDS point coordinates. October 2020 data.

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	Coefficient	Standard Error	<i>p</i> -value
MDS Axis 1	0.712	0.107	<0.001
MDS Axis 2	-0.602	0.107	<0.001

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$R^2 = 0.852$

**Table A19:** Results from OLS regression of **Machiavellianism** on MDS point coordinates. October 2020 data.

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	Coefficient	Standard Error	<i>p</i> -value
MDS Axis 1	0.571	0.194	0.011
MDS Axis 2	-0.441	0.194	0.041

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$R^2 = 0.511$

**Table A20:** Results from OLS regression of **narcissism** on MDS point coordinates. October 2020 data.

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	Coefficient	Standard Error	<i>p</i> -value
MDS Axis 1	0.675	0.125	<0.001
MDS Axis 2	-0.597	0.125	<0.001

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$R^2 = 0.797$