# Article information:

Are Republicans and Conservatives More Likely to Believe Conspiracy Theories? - PubMed
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35909894/>

# Article summary:

1. A study conducted by Adam Enders et al. found no systematic evidence of a political asymmetry in the belief in conspiracy theories between Republicans/conservatives and Democrats/liberals.

2. The strength and direction of the relationship between political orientations and conspiricism is dependent on the specific conspiracy beliefs employed by researchers and the socio-political context in which those ideas are considered.

3. Conspiracy theory beliefs are associated with dangerous orientations and behaviors, making it imperative for social scientists to better understand the connection between conspiracy theories and political orientations.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article "Are Republicans and Conservatives More Likely to Believe Conspiracy Theories?" by Adam Enders et al. examines the relationship between political orientation and belief in conspiracy theories. The authors argue that while there is a sizable literature suggesting that Republicans and conservatives are more likely to believe conspiracy theories, the evidence for this proposition is mixed.

The study employs 20 surveys of Americans from 2012 to 2021, as well as surveys of 20 additional countries spanning six continents, to investigate the asymmetry thesis. The authors examine the relationship between beliefs in 52 conspiracy theories and both partisanship and ideology in the U.S., as well as beliefs in 11 conspiracy theories across 20 more countries. They also hold constant the content of the conspiracy theories investigated, manipulating only the partisanship of the theorized villains, to decipher whether those on the left or right are more likely to accuse political out-groups of conspiring. Finally, they inspect correlations between political orientations and the general predisposition to believe in conspiracy theories over the span of a decade.

The authors find no systematic evidence of a political asymmetry. Instead, they argue that the strength and direction of the relationship between political orientations and conspiricism is dependent on the characteristics of specific conspiracy beliefs employed by researchers and socio-political context.

Overall, this article provides a thorough analysis of the relationship between political orientation and belief in conspiracy theories. However, it is important to note that there may be potential biases in this study. For example, while the authors examine beliefs in conspiracy theories across multiple countries, they do not account for cultural differences that may influence these beliefs. Additionally, while they hold constant the content of specific conspiracy theories investigated, they do not account for how different types of conspiracies may be more appealing or believable to certain groups based on their values or experiences.

Furthermore, while this study provides evidence against a political asymmetry in belief in conspiracy theories, it does not explore potential reasons for why this belief persists. For example, it may be that certain political groups are more likely to promote or amplify conspiracy theories, even if they do not necessarily believe in them themselves.

Overall, while this article provides valuable insights into the relationship between political orientation and belief in conspiracy theories, it is important to consider potential biases and limitations in the study's methodology.

# Topics for further research:

* Cultural differences and belief in conspiracy theories
* Psychological factors influencing belief in conspiracy theories
* Political groups promoting conspiracy theories
* Historical context and belief in conspiracy theories
* Media influence on belief in conspiracy theories
* Conspiracy theories and social identity theory

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