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Inside Track

Vaccinated People Highly Prejudiced Against Unvaccinated



Chaz Bharji/Stock/Getty Images Plus

Individuals who have been vaccinated against COVID-19 harbor a strong, “one-sided” prejudice against those who have not, believing them to be dangerous, stupid, and untrustworthy, according to a new study from Denmark’s Aarhus University released February 18.

Researchers Alexander Bor, Frederik Jørgensen, and Michael Bang Petersen surveyed 10,740 people in 21 countries, asking them if they would “be unhappy” if a hypothetical individual randomly described as either “fully vaccinated” or “unvaccinated” were to marry one of their “close relatives.” They also asked whether the respondent feared becoming infected with COVID-19 as a result of mingling with the hypothetical individual and whether the respondent considered the individual “unintelligent” or “untrustworthy.”

The researchers found that “vaccinated people have high antipathy towards unvaccinated individuals... On average they are 13 ... percentage points more unhappy, when presented [with] an unvaccinated (versus fully vaccinated) target.” In addition, vaccinated people are significantly more afraid of being infected by unvaccinated people than by vaccinated people, even though the latter can also be quite contagious. Moreover, they perceive the unvaccinated as both incompetent (perhaps “for believing false information regarding vaccinations”) and untrustworthy (possibly “for their failure to contribute to the collective good of increased epidemic control”).

“Unvaccinated people,” by contrast, “do not exhibit antipathy towards vaccinated individuals,” nor do they think vaccinated people are incompetent or untrustworthy, the authors write. “If anything, they fear getting infected with corona by vaccinated people slightly less than by unvaccinated people.”

Another interesting finding is that “countries that managed to keep the death toll of the coronavirus low ... show very strong antipathy towards the unvaccinated,” while those with higher death tolls do not. They attribute this to the willingness of the citizenry in the former countries to implement various restrictions — never mind whether those restrictions actually work — and to condemn “acts of norm-breaking.” Furthermore, countries with a high degree of social trust also have a high degree of prejudice against the unvaccinated, again probably because more-trusting societies tend to enforce



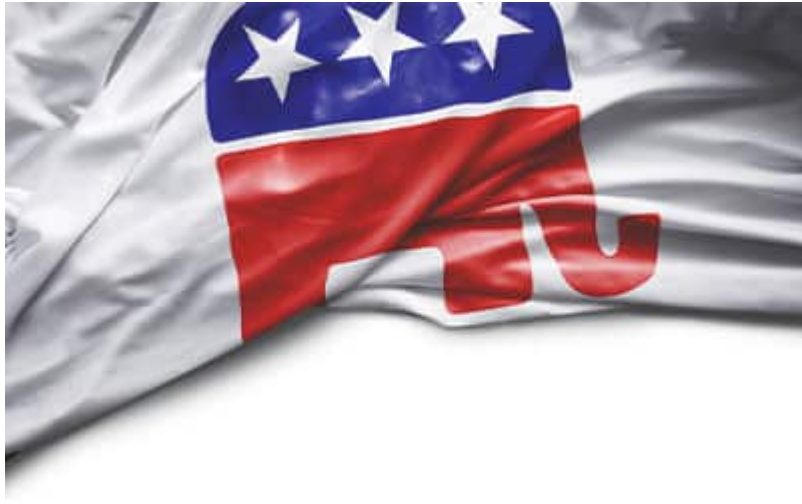
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“social norms.”

By Michael Tennant

Top Democrats Fear Rout if Party Doesn't Change Message



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Top Democratic strategists are terrified about a major blowout come the midterm elections in November. And they've been terrified for some time.

For a February 19 opinion piece at *The New York Times*, columnist Maureen Dowd spoke to James Carville, a former torpedo for Bill Clinton; David Axelrod, a former torpedo for Barack Obama; and Stanley Greenberg, who identified a new species of voter years ago called the “Reagan Democrat.”

“All three Dems are speaking out with startling candor about the impending Repubocalypse,” Dowd wrote: “Many Americans are fed up. The jumbled Covid response has eroded an already shaky trust in government. Inflation is biting. War is looming. Things feel out of control. People are anxious and reassessing their lives. Democrats have to connect with that.... Exhausted, confused, isolated and depressed Americans are not buying the Democratic line that things are better than they look.”

“One of Biden's strengths is that, at his best, he speaks the language of America, not Washington. But he has been speaking more in the voice of government officials than he has of Scranton Joe,” Axelrod told Dowd.

Carville still says what he told Vox January 27. Democrats must “not be defined by their left wing or condone nutty slogans like ‘Defund the police.’”

Carville points to San Francisco as the Democrats' canary in the coal mine. “Seventy percent of the people in San Francisco tried to warn us,” he told Dowd about the recall of three leftist school-board members who wanted to erase the names of Abraham Lincoln and George Washington from public schools.

Another sign that Democrats face a crushing loss is the number of retirements from the U.S. House of Representatives: 10. Beyond that, voter surveys conducted January and February included in the RealClearPolitics average of the generic congressional vote show a solid GOP lead of 4.5 points, 45.5-41.



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By R. Cort Kirkwood

“Silent” Majority No More: Winning the Culture War

Representative Jim Banks (R-Ind.) says it is time for the “Silent Majority” to find its voice and speak up loudly. Banks — who has been vilified in the liberal press as a “Trump Republican” — credits President Trump with having “emboldened” the GOP to “fight back against the Left.” Banks is issuing a battle cry, and his message is simple: “Lean into the culture war.”

If the Republican Party follows that advice, it may just find its way home. After a generation of boasting about the Silent Majority, at least some within the party are beginning to realize that the silence of the majority has not only relegated conservatives to minority status, but has also allowed progressive liberals to take the lead on important social issues. While the Silent Majority remained silent, Loud Liberals were busy remaking America into a socialist dystopia. In a February 17 interview with the Daily Signal, Banks said that silence has allowed “the Left to drag our culture in an anti-American direction.”

This is not the first time Banks has urged his party to engage in the culture war. In June 2021, Banks — as chairman of the Republican Study Committee — authored a memo to roughly 154 Republicans imploring them to “lean into the culture war” as a “winning” issue. And from a purely pragmatic point of view, Banks is correct: America already has one party on the left; It doesn’t need two. By acting as “Left Lite,” the Republican Party has placed itself in a losing position. And poll after poll (not to mention actual elections) shows that conservatives want a conservative party.

Banks told the Daily Signal, “Our party leaders for too long preached that we shouldn’t be involved in cultural fights,” adding, “I can remember Republican leaders at the state and national level, throughout the early 2000s, they stressed that these issues weren’t important, that Republicans should shy away from that.”

By C. Mitchell Shaw

CDC Withheld Data on COVID Hospitalizations, Breakthrough Infections





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The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has kept reams of its COVID-related data under wraps for more than a year because it did not trust the public to interpret the information correctly (among other reasons), *The New York Times* reported February 20.

Per the *Times*, “Two full years into the pandemic, the agency leading the country’s response to the public health emergency has published only a tiny fraction of the data it has collected, several people familiar with the data said.”

Among the data being withheld from Americans is a breakdown of COVID hospitalizations by age, race, and vaccination status. The agency also did not report on such findings as the efficacy of booster shots in 18- to 49-year-olds, “the group least likely to benefit from extra shots, because the first two doses already left them well-protected,” even though it collected the information, said the article.

CDC spokeswoman Kristen Nordlund told the newspaper that the agency’s priority has been to collect “accurate and actionable” information, but “fear that the information might be misinterpreted” influenced the CDC’s decision not to publicize all the data. An anonymous CDC official reiterated the concern: “The agency has been reluctant to make those figures public, the official said, because they might be misinterpreted as the vaccines being ineffective.”

Another reason was the agency’s “outmoded” data systems, said Dr. Daniel Jernigan, the agency’s deputy director for public health science and surveillance. While the CDC is currently “trying to modernize the systems,” right now it is simply “not up to handling large volumes of data,” the official added.

Furthermore, the nation’s top public-health agency takes its cues from politicians, the *Times* report revealed. While the Biden administration continuously reassures the public that it always “follows the science” and swears that it bases its policies on the “best scientific advice,” it actually influences the agency’s recommendations. In other words, science follows politics, not the other way around.

By Veronika Kyrylenko

Linguists Claim to Have Cracked Q’s Identity



AP Images

It appears as if “Q” has been unmasked. According to two teams of Swiss and French researchers



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working independently, Q was actually two men — neither of whom had any inside information.

Since the identity of Q had managed to remain anonymous (thus often being referred to as “QAnon”) since the first “drop” in October 2017, many speculated as to who Q may be. But, according to two independent groups of computer scientists who independently used different approaches and machine-learning software to analyze Q’s roughly 5,000 drops, Q was two men: Paul Furber, a South African software developer; and Arizona congressional candidate Ron Watkins.

According to those researchers, Furber was the first to write under the pseudonym, though Watkins occasionally shared in that role. Then, after Q switched over to Watkins’ father’s 8chan message board, Watkins took over, becoming the only person posting as Q.

As *The New York Times* reported February 19,

The two teams of Swiss and French researchers used different methodologies to come to the same conclusion. The Swiss one, made up of two researchers from startup OrphAnalytics, used software to break down Q’s missives into patterns of three-character sequences. They then tracked how often those sequences repeated. The French team, meanwhile, trained an AI to look for patterns in Q’s writing. Both techniques broadly fall under an approach known as stylometry that looks to analyze writing in a way that is measurable, consistent and replicable. To avoid the possibility of confusing their respective programs, the teams limited their analysis to social media posts. Among all the other possible authors they put through the test, they say the writing of Furber and Watkins stood out the most for how similar it was to that of Q’s.

The French team, made up of computational linguists Florian Cafiero and Jean-Baptiste Camps, told the *Times* their software correctly identified Furber’s writing in 98 percent of tests and Watkins’ in 99 percent. “At first most of the text is by Fur-ber,” said Cafiero. “But the signature of Ron Watkins increased during the first few months as Paul Furber decreased and then dropped completely.”

With the French team able to identify “Furber’s writing in 98 percent of tests and Watkins’ in 99 percent,” those teams are “confident in [their] identification” of Furber and Watkins as Q.

According to these researchers, Q is not Trump or anyone associated with the Trump administration. In fact, if they are correct, Q was not (as claimed) a “top military insider” with secret knowledge of the inner workings of Trump’s epic battle against pedophile satanists within the U.S. government. If the researchers are correct, Q was two trolls using the internet to do what trolls do.

For their part, both Furber and Watkins have stated they are not Q. According to Furber, the similarity between Q’s writings and his own were due to his emulation of Q, reported the *Times*. Furber also said that Q’s messages “took over our lives, literally,” and that “we all started talking like him.” According to the *Times* report, two prominent experts in the type of linguistic research that went into the machine learning that appears to have unmasked Furber and Watkins “said that was implausible, and the scientists who conducted the studies noted that their analyses included tweets by Mr. Furber from the first days Q emerged.”

Watkins has stated of Q’s posts, “There is probably more good stuff than bad.” But as we have taken pains to point out in previous articles in this magazine, that is simply not so. With nearly 5,000 cryptic posts spanning just over three years, Q drops ran the full range from the incredible to the ridiculous — *and they were all false*. Not *one* thing Q predicted ever came to pass. And even the claims of things that



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were supposedly taking place in the present were bogus.

But even with all of that, some true believers have held on for dear life, with a faith that mirrors religious conviction.

By C. Mitchell Shaw



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