



## INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH SEMINAR



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### Groupy Belief Formation.

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#### Abstract

We analyze how group identity influences the process of political and non-political belief formation. Using an online experiment with nationally-representative participants, deployed the week prior to the 2020 US presidential election, we incentivize subjects to predict policy sensitive statistics one year post-election, conditional on which candidate becomes president. We assess group identity through in-group favoritism in monetary allocations in a minimal group context. Our results show that participants who exhibit ingroup favoritism show a stronger partisan gap in prior and posterior beliefs and spend more resources to avoid articles from politically-opposing sources. Results replicate in a neutral, non-political prediction task, where we can control for participants' subjective beliefs about the quality of out-group information.