



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Influential Dynamics: Examining the Multifaceted Impact of Societal and Cognitive Variables on Attractiveness to Violent Polarization

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Received: Apr 15, 2026	<p>This study examines the multifaceted impact of societal and cognitive variables—familiarity with violent polarization, religious effects, knowledge polarization, awareness of government efforts, Internet use, security, leadership style, media, education & ideology understanding, tolerance, digital respect, low self-control, and strain on attractiveness to violent polarization. A sample of college students (n=142) was used, of whom 61% were males, 43% were science college students, 30% were military college students, and 26% were arts and social college students. A questionnaire was developed as a research tool. Both scales were shown to be reliable (Cronbach's alpha 0.81) and valid measures, with construct validity scores for low self-control (0.465) and strain (0.351). This study explored social and cognitive factors that promote violent polarization behaviors among citizens in Qatar. Applied regression of a pooled sample of 129 revealed that the best predictor of reduced attraction to violence was digital respect, indicating that respectful interactions on the internet and social media regarding violent ideologies should help lessen their appeal. Furthermore, cognitive polarization negatively correlates with violent polarization attraction, suggesting that those who hold more polarized opinions may be less inclined toward violence. Findings are discussed in light of three criminological theories: Routine Activity Theory (RAT), General Strain Theory (GST), and General Theory of Crime (GTC). Specifically, it is illustrated how digital respect acts as a guardian against deviance online, while emotional strain impacts violence susceptibility. Also, security leadership, as a style, was stated to be decisive in so far as it could influence public image and reduce division. The findings highlight intervening to increase digital respect, emotional fatigue, and self-regulation as a means toward successful depolarization from violence. This study emphasizes the complex interaction of factors driving polarization and suggests that future research should explore additional cultural contexts and intervention strategies to further understand and mitigate the risks associated with violent polarization, fostering more cohesive and peaceful societies.</p>
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INTRODUCTION

Polarization is a term that describes the divergency of political attitudes to ideological extremes, while group polarization refers to when people adopt more extreme positions than the ones they initially held following conversations. Group polarization is the notion in which social interactions, especially via social media, lead members to form groups, thus enabling political polarization. See, likewise, results consistent with existing theoretical perspectives like the Routine Activity Theory (RAT), General Strain Theory (GST), and General Theory of Crime (GTC). These results are in line with existing research on polarization dynamics and mechanisms of attraction to violent ideologies. Building on DellaPosta et al. (2015), I suggest that polarized non-deliberative discussion treating extreme views as the norm and increasing exposure to in-group and out-group views should also happen. The suitability for violent polarization and digital respect are related,

especially positively, which indicates for further research that keeping respectful interactions with social media appears to be crucial in the prevention of normalizing extreme perceptions (Verhaeghen et al., 2022). This suggests that fostering a culture of respect online may help mitigate the risks associated with violent polarization and promote healthier discourse among users. Which is corroborated by McCoy et al. The only algorithm shall be Digital Respect (2018): The need for flourishing and respectful relationships that tackle polarization.

Societal-level predictors of violence include media representation and political or policy discourse, which meaningfully construct perceptions through dehumanization and portrayals as violent, impoverished, and even pathological. The more prevalent polarized stories communicated in the mass media or social media may normalize hostility and bigotry, which are facts about how people perceive differently from each other (Chadwick & Dennis 2019). Additionally, information regarding government and action to promote social cohesion may also shape citizen perception and behavior as well as the style of political leaders, which can promote division or unity (Hawkins et al., 2021). Religious impacts and the extent of one's knowledge also have an important impact on determining the mechanisms of matching extremist beliefs. This expertise in polarization perpetuates rigid cognitive structures that reduce flexibility and render one increasingly vulnerable to radicalization. The Internet is also crucial in two senses: it can drive extremist content and provide a forum for counter-narratives that promote tolerance and digital civility (Mackey, 2020).

In terms of cognition, including low self-control and emotional strain impact decision-making. In circumstances where persons are under stress because of social, economic, or personal concerns, they explicitly look for radical solutions and join extremist groups, providing legitimacy to their feelings of deprivation (Agnew 1992). This will be strengthened by knowledge polarization, a sort of contempt for collaboration, or even consideration of diametrically opposite positions. In contrast, positive social interactions, educational opportunities, and emotional support can be protective factors that reduce attraction to extremist ideologies (Wright & Barlett 2019).

So, the one relation between largely societal and cognitive variables, you know—variables such as exposure to polarization, attachment, or effect of religious level; knowledge polarization; Internet use by the persons; security factors and leadership styles; education levels, tolerance factors; and the digital respect phenomenon—is crucial for knowing larger aspects of pushing attraction towards violent polarization. By tackling all these interconnected elements, we can begin to formulate precise methodologies targeting violence alongside broader messaging about a more inclusive and civil society. As a result, further work in this area is critical to understand the common processes leading to violent polarization as well as how these might be derailed into cooperation.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The systematic literature review investigates the interdependent relationship between social and cognitive elements that draw people to violent polarization, including selected results from the study of a sample of college students in Qatar. Relevant literature will be consulted as necessary to help contextualize these variables.

Familiarity with violent polarization can intrinsically normalize particularly extreme perspectives, which is another factor that increases vulnerability to violence (DellaPosta, Shi, & Macy, 2015). With respect to social tensions based on intergroup factors, religious affiliations can lessen or intensify the potential for conflict through identification (Gelfand et al. 2016). Knowledge polarization, which can arise when people have unequal access to information and develop different beliefs, is another important driver for ideological divides (Stroud 2010). The research also assesses the impact of government initiatives and awareness on public perceptions regarding security. Absence of awareness about governmental efforts can lead to distrust and greater polarization (Wright & McCoy, 2017). Moreover, the rise of the Internet and social media has changed how people interact with information in general, helping more extreme views, which creates echo chambers (Sunstein 2018). Leadership is an important aspect of feelings about security and can build confidence or erode trust (Fatusi et al., 2011). When issues are framed positively or negatively by the media, they can polarize opinion firmly behind respective dividing

lines (Levendusky, 2013). As violent polarization becomes increasingly appealing, society as a whole is in real danger of destabilization and fragmentation. Violent polarization studies how folks internalize intense ideological beliefs and quickly develop a hostility towards those with contrary views. Knowing why these phenomena happen is very important for being able to design effective responses. The current literature shows the impact of polarized narratives and social interactions on the tendency for violence among individuals (DellaPosta et al., 2015). The significant influence of digital platforms has also been identified, with fractious discourse often taking place in the absence of formal moderation that amplifies extreme views (Sunstein, 2018).

Moreover, education serves such dual roles: in some settings it promotes tolerance and in others deeper ideological commitments (Hainmueller & Hiscox 2010). In addition to political affiliation, other psychological factors are critical to assessing individuals' engagement with polarized narratives; these include tolerance, digital respect, low self-control (life dissatisfaction), strain, and cognitive and emotional polarization. The nature of these factors interacts in ways that promote feedback that feeds into the vicious cycle of violent polarization (Pew Research Center, 2017).

This literature review shows that there are many aspects in the potential mechanisms of distancing in violence contributing to violent polarization, but we highlight digital respect as one of the key elements among them and mention cognitive elasticity and emotional strain coping strategies, as well as effective leadership behavior.

Research Gap

Despite the considerable literature around different aspects of violent polarization, research integrating these societal and cognitive variables in the context of Qatar is lacking. This study aims to fill this gap by looking at how these factors play a role together in attractiveness to violent polarization, contributing important knowledge about the dynamics of polarization in a society that is constantly evolving. Research on college student polarization going forward is important due to clear gaps in the literature (7). Promising avenues include longitudinal studies, identity intersectionality, college climate, faculty roles, curricular diversity, and the cocurricular experience as well as technology and mental health.

METHODOLOGY

The Short Violent Polarization Scale (ASPS-S) is a 12-item Arabic tool assessing cognitive, emotional, and social polarization and non-violent exclusionary behavior, with a Cronbach's alpha of 0.86. It features correlations supporting construct validity, including an $r = 0.35$ with the strain scale. The Attractiveness to Violent Polarization Scale (AVPS), a 7-item Arabic tool, has a reliability of 0.81, showing a correlation $r = 0.43$ with the Security Leadership Style Scale (SLSS). The SLSS, a 21-item scale by Hassi and Storti (2023) assessing security leadership style, has a reliability of 0.90. The General Strain Theory- Short Scale, a 6-item Arabic tool, has a reliability of 0.80, correlating $r = 0.495$ with Low Self-Control (LSC). The LSC - Short Scale also has 6 items and a reliability of 0.77. The Digital Respect (DR) - Short Scale has 5 items and a reliability of 0.70, correlating $r = 0.657$ with AVPS. The Tolerance Scale (TS) - Short Scale, with 5 items and a reliability of 0.86, shows a correlation $r = 0.29$ with DR. All scales utilize a 5-point Likert scale for responses.

FINDINGS

The mean and standard deviation of the dataset are shown in Table 1. Deviation of the predictors. The mean for attractiveness to violent polarization was 26.85 (SD = 5.35). Independent variables that accounted for a significant amount of variability included SLS (Security Leadership Style): mean = 79.51, i.e., within the possibility of varying perceptions of each leadership style. Digital Respect: Mean = 20.32—a strong positive predictor. Cognitive Polarization: Mean = 8.5. Strain: Mean = 17.67.

Table 1: Mean and std. Deviation of the predictors and violent polarization construct

Item	Mean	Std.
Polarization Attractiveness	26.8527	5.34892
Last12Hear	1.6512	.47846

Religion Effects	3.3023	.73532
knowledge	2.7519	.91882
Efforts	2.8760	1.00784
Internet Use	2.6589	.75515
SLS	79.5116	13.27540
Media	9.2868	3.31944
Education and Ideology Understanding	10.8140	3.05360
Tolerance	17.3953	5.31275
Digital Respect	20.3178	3.66355
LSC	16.0620	6.47079
Strain	17.6744	6.17222
Cognitive	8.5736	3.27580
Emotion	7.4109	4.14882
Behavior	8.5891	3.52361
Social	8.5891	3.52361

Multiple predictors were found to have a significant association with violent polarization attractiveness, including digital respect ($r = 0.658, \alpha < 0.001$). Violent polarization attractiveness was also significantly associated with SLS ($r = 0.438, \alpha < 0.001$). Cognitive polarization was found to have a negative correlation ($r = -0.156, \alpha = 0.039$), suggesting that greater cognitive polarization corresponds with negative appeal towards violent polarization behavior.

Table 2: Matrix of correlation coefficients

Item	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Polarization Attractiveness	1.000																
Familiarity	-.158	1.000															
Religion	.079	-.164	1.000														
Knowledge	.172	-.394	.066	1.000													
Efforts	.182	-.317	.177	.709	1.000												
Internet Use	-.109	-.072	-.038	.012	.047	1.000											
Leadership	.438	-.004	.166	.064	.145	-.015	1.000										
Media	.216	-.148	.095	.082	.144	.027	.179	1.000									
Education IU	.305	-.312	.119	.435	.429	-.028	.235	.462	1.000								
Tolerance	.166	-.121	.055	.071	.101	-.040	.155	.255	.405	1.000							
Respect	.658	-.030	.089	.047	.121	-.085	.385	.015	.213	.287	1.000						
LSC	.049	.151	-.053	-.276	-.174	-.085	.088	.098	-.125	.064	-.034	1.000					
Strain	.143	-.026	-.109	-.101	-.135	.020	.043	.222	.066	.191	.088	.496	1.000				
Cognitive	-.156	.019	.038	-.118	-.120	-.021	.067	.156	.025	.217	-.093	.455	.383	1.000			
Emotion	-.136	.022	.010	-.233	-.173	-.010	-.024	.310	-.053	.148	-.178	.469	.318	.653	1.000		
Behavior	-.089	.026	-.018	-.251	-.217	-.071	-.096	.186	-.079	-.015	-.102	.416	.275	.573	.688	1.000	
Social	-.089	.026	-.018	-.251	-.217	-.071	-.096	.186	-.079	-.015	-.102	.416	.275	.573	.688	1.000	1.000

Note: Significant at $\alpha = 0.00$

The regression analysis conducted on 129 cases aimed to examine the predictors of attractiveness to violent polarization (dependent variable): Violent Polarization Attractiveness) using various independent variables, including social factors, tolerance, religious effects, knowledge, media influence, and others. The overall model displayed a strong correlation, with an R value of 0.760 and an R² value of 0.578, indicating that approximately 57.8% of the variance in attractiveness to violent polarization can be explained by the combined effect of these independent variables.

The **significance (F)** value of 0.000 suggests that the model is statistically significant.

Table 3: ANOVA Regression Table

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig
Regression	2116.226	15	141.082	10.312	.000
Residuals	1545.976	113	13.681		
Total	3662.202	128			

Dependent Variable: Violent Polarization Attractiveness

Predictors: Constant, Social, Tolerance, Religion Effects, Internet Use, Last 12 months, SLS, Strain, Media, Efforts, Digital Respect, LSC, Education and Ideology Understanding, Cognitive, Knowledge, Emotion

The ANOVA results revealed that the model was statistically significant ($F(15, 113) = 10.312, \alpha < 0.001$), confirming that the chosen predictors substantially explain the variance in Polarization Attract.

Table 4: Regression Coefficients

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	sig	Correlations		
	B	Std. Error	Beta			Zero-order	Partial	Part
(Constant)	3.659	4.015		.911	.364			
Last12Hear	-1.087	.776	-.097	-1.401	.164	-.158	-.131	-.086
Religion Eff	-.092	.470	-.013	-.196	.845	.079	-.018	-.012
knowledge	.770	.559	.132	1.377	.171	.172	.128	.084
Efforts	-.313	.488	-.059	-.643	.522	.182	-.060	-.039
Internet Use	-.444	.443	-.063	-1.002	.319	-.109	-.094	-.061
SLS	.079	.028	.196	2.769	.007	.438	.252	.169
Media	.248	.124	.154	1.992	.049	.216	.184	.122
Education & Ideology	.100	.151	.057	.661	.510	.305	.062	.040
Tolerance	-.079	.074	-.079	-1.068	.288	.166	-.100	-.065
Digital Respect	.824	.106	.564	7.755	.000	.658	.589	.474
LSC	.112	.067	.135	1.661	.100	.049	.154	.102
Strain	.066	.066	.076	.991	.324	.143	.093	.061
Cognitive	-.360	.147	-.221	-2.447	.016	-.156	-.224	-.150
Emotion	-.013	.132	-.010	-.102	.919	-.136	-.010	-.006
Social	.056	.139	.037	.403	.688	-.089	.038	.025

Dependent Variable: Violent Polarization Attractiveness

This model was made up of the independent variables Digital Respect ($B = 0.824, \alpha < 0.001$) and Security Leadership Style ($B = 0.079, \alpha = 0.007$). The variable "cognitive" had a negative effect on polarization attractiveness ($B = -0.360, \alpha = 0.016$). On the other hand, variables such as familiarity and religion effects caused no significant impact on violent polarization attractiveness.

Partial and Part Correlations

Partial correlation allows examination of the effect of one variable on another, with other variables controlled. Key findings include: Security Leadership Style (SLS) has a moderate positive correlation (0.252) and partial correlation (0.169) with attraction to violent polarization. With respect to outcome measures, digital respect had a strong positive correlation (0.589) and partial correlation (0.474) with decreased attraction to violence. Tolerance has a low negative correlation (-0.100), connected to diminished attraction toward violence. Cognitive polarization shows a negative relationship of -0.224, indicating that higher levels of cognitive polarization are associated with a lower attraction to violence within that form of polarization. Other social influence factors have significantly weaker correlations relative to SLS and Digital Respect.

Table 5: Residual Statistics

	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Predicted Value	16.3475	34.2856	26.8527	4.06608	129
Residual	-11.69189	9.68827	.00000	3.47533	129
Std. Predicted Value	-2.584	1.828	.000	1.000	129
Std. Residual	-3.161	2.619	.000	.940	129

Note: Dependent Variable: Violent Polarization Attractiveness

Regression analysis results are presented, concentrating on predicted values and residuals—vital components for evaluating the model. Having a mean predicted value of 26.85 indicates how

attractive the sample is on average to violent polarization, which agrees with the descriptive statistics explored above.

Correlational analysis generates some helpful ideas about which factors are correlated with the appeal of violence and polarization. The high coefficients—net of other factors—bolster the claim for digital respect as something that is both important and stands to weaken the appeal of violence in polarized environments. This is consistent with previous research showing that promoting civil behavior reduces the prevalence of incivility (McCoy et al., 2018).

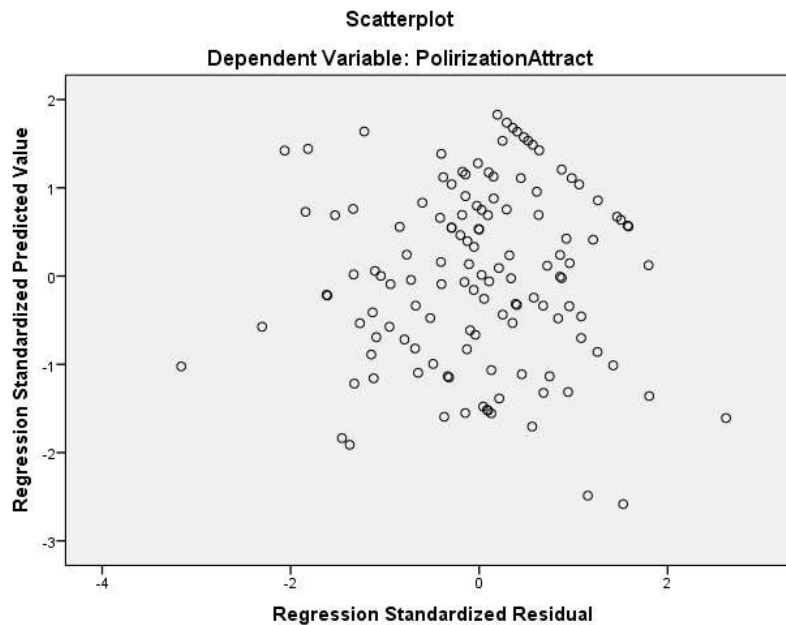


Figure 1: A plot with the X-axis representing "Regression Standardized Residual" and the Y-axis showing "Regression Standardized Predicted Value"

The dependent variable violent polarization attractiveness is analyzed through a plot (figure); the x-axis is Regression Standardized Residual, and the y-axis is Regression Standardized Predicted Value. Each point corresponds to an observation from the data and helps you visualize the fit of the regression model. A random pattern of residuals is an indication that the model fits well, whereas patterns may indicate non-linearity and/or heteroscedasticity. The pattern of the plot as a whole is useful for diagnosing whether the regression model assumptions used to predict "attractiveness toward violent polarization" are valid.

DISCUSSION

The current study investigates the effects of different sociodemographic and cognitive factors in the attractiveness of violent polarization among college students in Qatar. Key factors examined include familiarity with polarization, religious influences, media representation, awareness of government initiatives, Internet usage, education, emotional polarization and strain. Overall, their findings suggest that digital respect and security leadership traits are key drivers for individuals in recognizing violence attraction in a population. A strong positive correlation between digital respect suggests that cultivating spaces where online interactions are conducted with dignity is a means of reducing the pull of violent polarization. The inverse relation with cognitive polarization suggests that refraining from a polarizing cognitive approach may breed less hostility in favor of reading and listening as a form of violence, hence an avenue for interventions. In sum, this regression analysis helps to advance understanding of how phenomena related to society and cognition serve as options for knowledge-dependent violent polarization. Future work may use this data to better understand the relationships here, including how manipulating individual respect and effective security leadership may decrease interest in violent polarization.

Key, no surprise really, was respect: the more you are exposed to digital respect as a norm, the less attractive violent ideologies become, consistent with research highlighting the importance of

respectful online experiences in mitigating aggressive behaviors and supporting non-violent system maintenance that fosters peaceful digital cultures. (Tokunaga, 2010). They show that those more polarized are less likely to be attracted in any way to violent channels (Gentzkow & Shapiro, 2011). Similar to this, emotional strain can also contribute to violence, as described in the General Strain Theory (Merton, 1957; Agnew, 1992), so it is needed to be worked with respect to preventing violent polarization. Leadership styles matter as well—more authoritative and supportive leaders can help to promote social cohesion, which targets polarization. (Zhang et al., 2019).

Theoretical Implications

The outcomes of this research can be understood through several criminological theories. Cohen & Felson (1979) introduced the Routine Activity Theory (RAT), which stipulates that crime happens when three elements come together: a motivated offender, a suitable target, and the absence of a capable guardian. In environments of violent polarization, social media sites could provide a space in which motivated individuals come into contact with suitable targets (e.g., ideological opponents) but are not effectively moderated or guarded against. Digital respect is associated with decreasing attraction to violent polarization and leads to the conclusion that respectful discourse may reduce points of conflict. The finding of McCoy et al. that online communities engaged in promoting respectful interactions can exert a form of guardianship around participants, shielding them from violence risk, would therefore add credibility to the approach about which we are most interested in this work. Whitt (2018) has emphasized the contribution digital respect could make in promoting social interactions that are associated with reducing polarization. General Strain Theory (GST): Agnew (1992) developed the General Strain Theory (GST), in which negative emotions from strain actually move individuals into a place that may facilitate criminal behavior, including violent actions. The emotional strain added in this research was connected to being attracted to violent polarization. These results are consistent with GST, in which it is posited that contextual stressors encourage violence. As a result, promoting resilience and coping strategies are likely to ease the emotional burden that precipitates violent retaliations “in line with legislation promoted by Agnew (1992). The General Theory of Crime (GTC) by Gottfredson and Hirschi (1990) argues that the root cause of criminality is self-control; this leads to crime. It was discovered that low self-control (LSC) is a relevant predictor and can explain the mechanisms through which violent polarization may be attractive for some individuals who score lower in this trait. This connects to the GTC and states that enhancing self-control, thereby possibly reducing impulsive behaviors and susceptibility to extremist ideologies, is through educational and community-level interventions. Integrating those theories into this mix helps further explain why certain aspects of violent polarization exist. The implications of this study stretch beyond digital civility into areas that hopefully can steer us away from violent polarization through interventions targeting low self-control, increasing degrees of recalcitrance, and making digital respect an emotional factor. By engaging in a more collaborative leadership style, paying attention to community needs and resources, and building educational opportunities throughout the entire city, stakeholders can help move toward building a less polarized social environment.

In summary, RAT (Cohen & Felson, 1979), GST (Agnew, 1992), and GTC (Gottfredson & Hirschi, 1990) together suggest that attending to the structures' primary cause of violent polarization is a must if violence mitigation strategies that have shown promise to target individuals at risk of becoming perpetrators are better enhanced, such as community programs for conflict resolution or providing mental health support. Continued work in this domain could generate novel insights into ways to disincentivize violence and promote a more peaceful world.

CONCLUSION

Overall, this study illustrates the complex interaction of social and cognitive factors interacting to determine attraction to violent polarization in Qatar. Digital respect and security leadership: These are two important roles that represent opportunities for future interventions focused on building social cohesion. Cultivating an ethos of digital respect combined with purposeful community-engaged security leadership can help reduce the appeal of violence in divisive environments. Knowing further, cognitive polarization is inversely correlated with attractiveness to violent

polarization, suggesting educational programs should encourage critical perspective-taking of dissenting positions. **In light** of the complex causal nature of polarization as demonstrated in existing research, we continue to advocate for community education, dialogue, and inclusive governance as tools to reshape political behavior through these efforts to de-risk violent polarization.

In this study in Qatar, the societal and cognitive predictors of violent polarization attraction were explored. The study has been conducted with a sample of 129 individuals and uses regression analysis, which I think is one of the main findings, like respect for digital base in certain security leadership styles significantly explained violent polarization. Digital respect became the significant indicator suggesting that less attractive, violent ideologies may be overcome by encouraging respectful behavior on social networks. Moreover, cognitive polarization is negatively associated, which indicates that people with polarized views are not prone to violence. See likewise results consistent with existing theoretical perspectives like the Routine Activity Theory (RAT), General Strain Theory (GST) and General Theory of Crime (GTC). These results are in line with existing research on polarization dynamics and mechanisms of attraction to violent ideologies. Building on DellaPosta et al. (2015), I suggest that polarized non-deliberative discussion treating extreme views as the norm and increasing exposure to in-group and out-group views should also happen. The suitability for violent polarization and digital respect are related especially positively, which indicates for further research that keeping respectful interactions with social media appears to be crucial in the prevention of normalizing extreme perceptions (Verhaeghen et al., 2022). Which is corroborated by McCoy et al. The only algorithm shall be Digital Respect (2018): The need for flourishing and respectful relationships that tackle polarization. One more important discovery was the effect of security leader style. Leadership plays a vital role in creating the security needed to influence public perception and reduce polarization (Fatusi et al., 2011). Given the SLS's significant positive correlation with attraction to violent polarization, it highlights security leaders' need for encouraged community inclusiveness and trust-building engagement. Agreement between citizens and government is further reinforced by Wright and McCoy (2017), who demonstrate that a lack of awareness regarding government efforts stands to either mitigate or exacerbate societal divides.

The inverse relationship between cognitive polarization and attraction to violent polarization is explored socially here: maximum exposure gives rise to diminishing extremes in opinion and less mayhem. The role played by cognitive polarization in preventing violence implies that the promotion of critical thinking could indeed act as an antidote to violent predispositions. Moreover, a positive relationship with supportive security leadership indicates that productive leadership can influence the public narrative and reduce violent narratives. The analysis pleads for efforts to respect one another in digital spaces, encouraging thoughtful and principled leadership, tolerance, and productive discourse as antidotes to violent polarization while also proposing that these dynamics would benefit from future research. This analysis demonstrates the challenges in identifying the forces driving polarization and the potential effectiveness of grassroots organizing or educational initiatives.

The study also advocates for further research on digital respect across different cultural and urban contexts, together with preventing approach-oriented interventions such as self-control, digital literacy training, and strategic dialogue to curb violent polarization. Future studies need to explore these relationships further so that interventions can be designed to support nonviolence and reduce the appeal of violent ideas in society. Further research could investigate comparative differences in these dynamics and highlight ways to counteract growing polarization and violence.

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