The Role of Political Affiliations in Initial Trust
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**Background**
- People tend to hold positive beliefs about their own social group (in-group) compared to those not part of their social group (out-group)\textsuperscript{1}
- These beliefs may lead to greater trust for in-group members
- Here we study how political group membership can affect levels of initial trust
- We used a trust game to compare initial levels of trust with trustees who were in participants’ political in-group or out-group
- We hypothesize that levels of trust will be greater for political in-group members than political out-group members

**Results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points Shared by Political Party</th>
<th>Democrat</th>
<th>Republican</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average Points Shared</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

More points shared with political in-group members than out-group members
- Participant Party x Trustee Party
  \( b = -.10, p = .002 \)

**Method**

**Trust Task**
- 4 points endowed to participant per trial
- Participants shares points with trustee (computerized partner)
  - 0-4 points
  - Points shared to trustee are quadrupled
  - Trustee either shares half the points back or keeps all the points
- **Predictor variables:**
  - Participant Party (Democrat or Republican)
  - Trustee Party (Democrat or Republican)
- **Outcome Variable** = share rate of participant

**Conclusions**
- We observed different levels of trust between political in-group and out-group members
  - Democrat participants tend to trust Democrats more than Republicans
  - Republican participants tend to trust Republicans more than Democrats

**Future directions**
- Measuring political affiliation as a continuous variable
- Explore how group membership affects learning to trust

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**References**