

Table 2

Questionnaire items and variable names

Variable name	Item (R = reverse scored)	Loading ¹
Free market ²		
FMUnresBest	An economic system based on free markets unrestrained by government interference automatically works best to meet human needs.	.802
FMNotEnvQual	I support the free market system but not at the expense of the environmental quality. (R)	(omitted)
FMLimitSocial	The free market system may be efficient for resource allocation but it is limited in its capacity to promote social justice. (R)	.624
FMMoreImp	The preservation of the free market system is more important than localized environmental concerns.	.827
FMThreatEnv	Free and unregulated markets pose important threats to sustainable development. (R)	.887
FMUnsustain	The free market system is likely to promote unsustainable consumption. (R)	.892

¹ Standardized regression weights of manifest variables on their corresponding latent variable in Figure 2. All weights are significant.

² Unless otherwise noted, all items used a 4-point scale ranging from “Strongly Disagree” (1) to “Strongly Agree” (4). Table section headings correspond to latent variable names in Figure 2.

Climate science

CO2TempUp	I believe that burning fossil fuels increases atmospheric temperature to some measurable degree.	.941
CO2AtmosUp	I believe that the burning of fossil fuels on the scale observed over the last 50 years has increased atmospheric temperature to an appreciable degree.	.969
CO2WillNegChange	I believe that the burning of fossil fuels on the scale observed over the last 50 years will cause serious negative changes to the planet's climate unless there is a substantial switch to non CO2 emitting energy sources.	.982
CO2HasNegChange	I believe that the burning of fossil fuels on the scale observed over the last 50 years has caused serious negative changes to the planet's climate.	.921

Problems solved

CFCNowOK	The problem of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) is no longer a serious threat to the ozone layer.	.801
AcidRainNowOK	The problem of acid rain is no longer a serious threat to the global ecosystem.	.927

Conspiracist ideation

CYNewWorldOrder	A powerful and secretive group known as the New World Order are planning to eventually rule the world through an autonomous world government which would replace sovereign governments.	.742 ³
CYSARS	SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) was produced under laboratory conditions as a biological weapon.	.742
CYPearlHarbor	The U.S. government had foreknowledge about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor but allowed the attack to take place so as to be able to enter the Second World War.	.742
CYMLK	The assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. was the result of an organized conspiracy by U.S. government agencies such as the CIA and FBI.	.742
CYMoon	The Apollo moon landings never happened and were staged in a Hollywood film studio.	.742
CYJFK	The assassination of John F. Kennedy was not committed by the lone gunman Lee Harvey Oswald but was rather a detailed organized conspiracy to kill the President.	.742

³ Same loading is shown for all items that entered into composite manifest variable.

CY911	The U.S. government allowed the 9-11 attacks to take place so that it would have an excuse to achieve foreign (e.g., wars in Afghanistan and Iraq) and domestic (e.g., attacks on civil liberties) goals that had been determined prior to the attacks.	.742
CYDiana	Princess Diana's death was not an accident but rather an organised assassination by members of the British royal family who disliked her.	.742
CYOkla	The Oklahoma City bombers Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols did not act alone but rather received assistance from neo-Nazi groups.	.742
CYCoke	The Coca Cola company intentionally changed to an inferior formula with the intent of driving up demand for their classic product later reintroducing it for their financial gain.	.742
CYRoswell	In July 1947 the U.S. military recovered the wreckage of an alien craft from Roswell, New Mexico, and covered up the fact.	.891
CYArea51	Area 51 in Nevada is a secretive military base that contains hidden alien spacecraft and or alien bodies.	.891
CYClimChange	The claim that the climate is changing due to emissions from fossil fuels is a hoax perpetrated by corrupt scientists who wish to spend more taxpayer money on climate research. ⁴	

⁴ This item was not entered as manifest variables to estimate the conspiracist ideation latent variable because it referred to a conspiracy relevant to the scientific proposition being

CYAIDS U.S. agencies intentionally created the AIDS epidemic and administered it to Black and gay men in the 1970s.⁵

Other sciences

CauseHIV	The HIV virus causes AIDS.	.894
CauseSmoke	Smoking causes lung cancer.	.845

Consensus items ⁶

ConsensHIV	Out of 100 medical scientists how many do you think believe that the HIV virus causes AIDS.
ConsensSmoke	Out of 100 medical scientists how many do you think believe that smoking causes lung cancer.
ConsensCO2	Out of 100 climate scientists how many do you think believe that human CO ₂ emissions cause climate change.

queried. People might therefore endorse this item because it represents a convenient way to justify a rejection of climate science actually motivated by other variables.

⁵ This item was not entered as manifest variables to estimate the conspiracist ideation latent variable because they referred to a conspiracy relevant to the scientific proposition being queried. People might therefore endorse this item because it represents a convenient way to justify a rejection of the HIV–AIDS link actually motivated by other variables.

⁶ Responses to the remaining items were numbers in the range of 0 to 100 and were used for the model in Figure 1.