

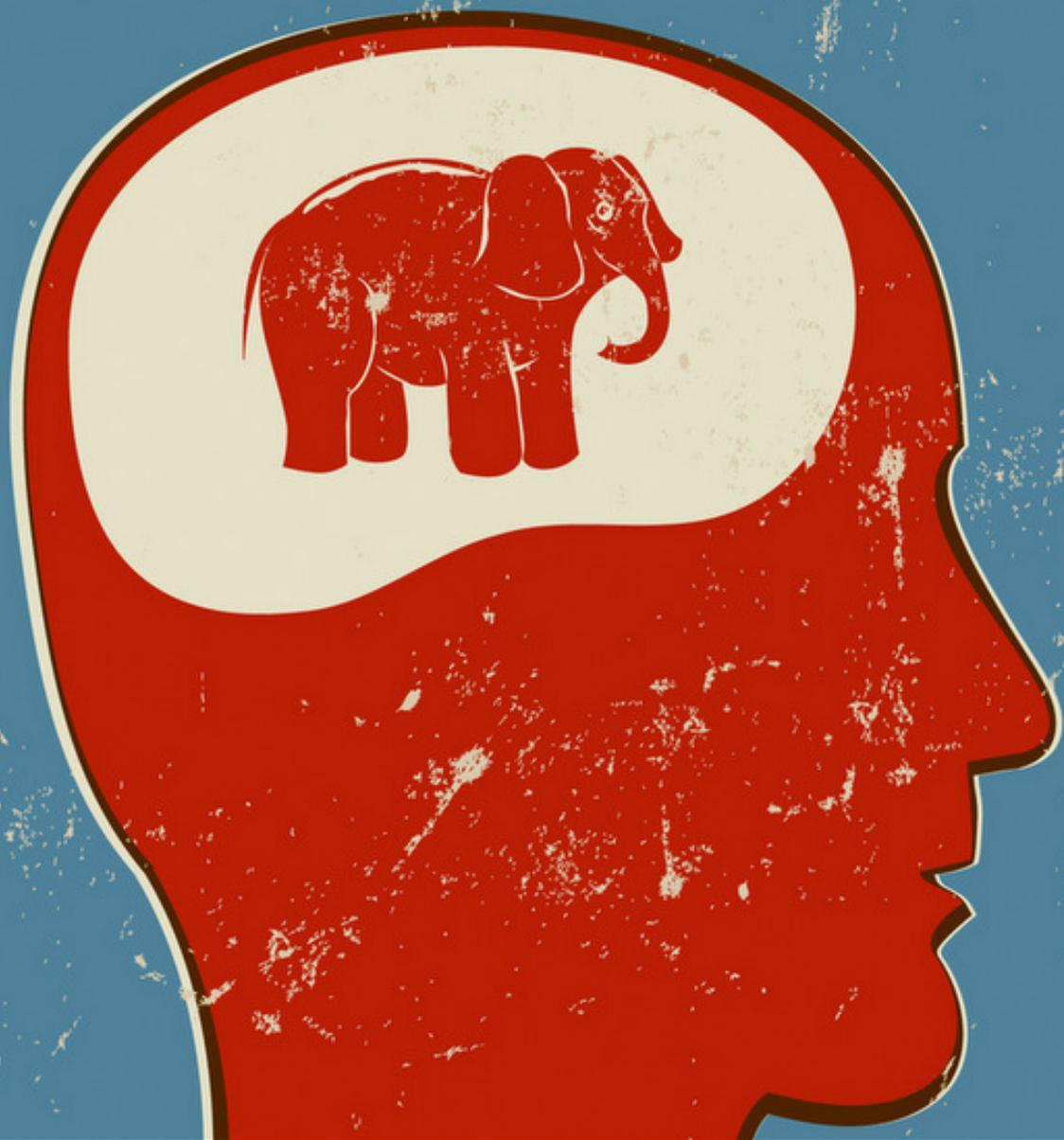
Politicizing research and its impact on research integrity

Bert N. Bakker

@bnbakker

Amsterdam School for Communication Research

University of Amsterdam



These key psychological differences can determine whether you're liberal or conservative

The logo for Business Insider, consisting of the letters 'BI' in white on a dark teal square background.

BI

Hilary Brueck, Business Insider

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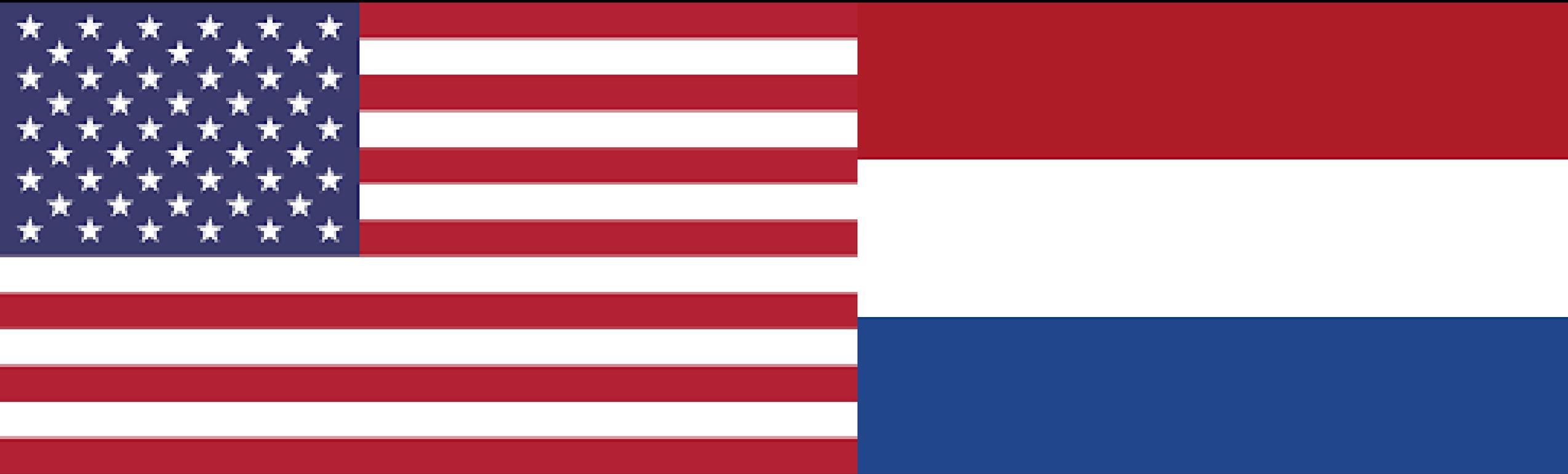
Political Attitudes Vary with Physiological Traits

Douglas R. Oxley,¹ Kevin B. Smith,¹ John R. Alford,² Matthew V. Hibbing,³ Jennifer L. Miller,¹ Mario Scalora,⁴
Peter K. Hatemi,⁵ John R. Hibbing¹

Although political views have been thought to arise largely from individuals' experiences, recent research suggests that they may have a biological basis. We present evidence that variations in political attitudes correlate with physiological traits. In a group of 46 adult participants with strong political beliefs, individuals with measurably lower physical sensitivities to sudden noises and threatening visual images were more likely to support foreign aid, liberal immigration policies, pacifism, and gun control, whereas individuals displaying measurably higher physiological reactions to those same stimuli were more likely to favor defense spending, capital punishment, patriotism, and the Iraq War. Thus, the degree to which individuals are physiologically responsive to threat appears to indicate the degree to which they advocate policies that protect the existing social structure from both external (outgroup) and internal (norm-violator) threats.

We do know “until other
laboratories weigh in”

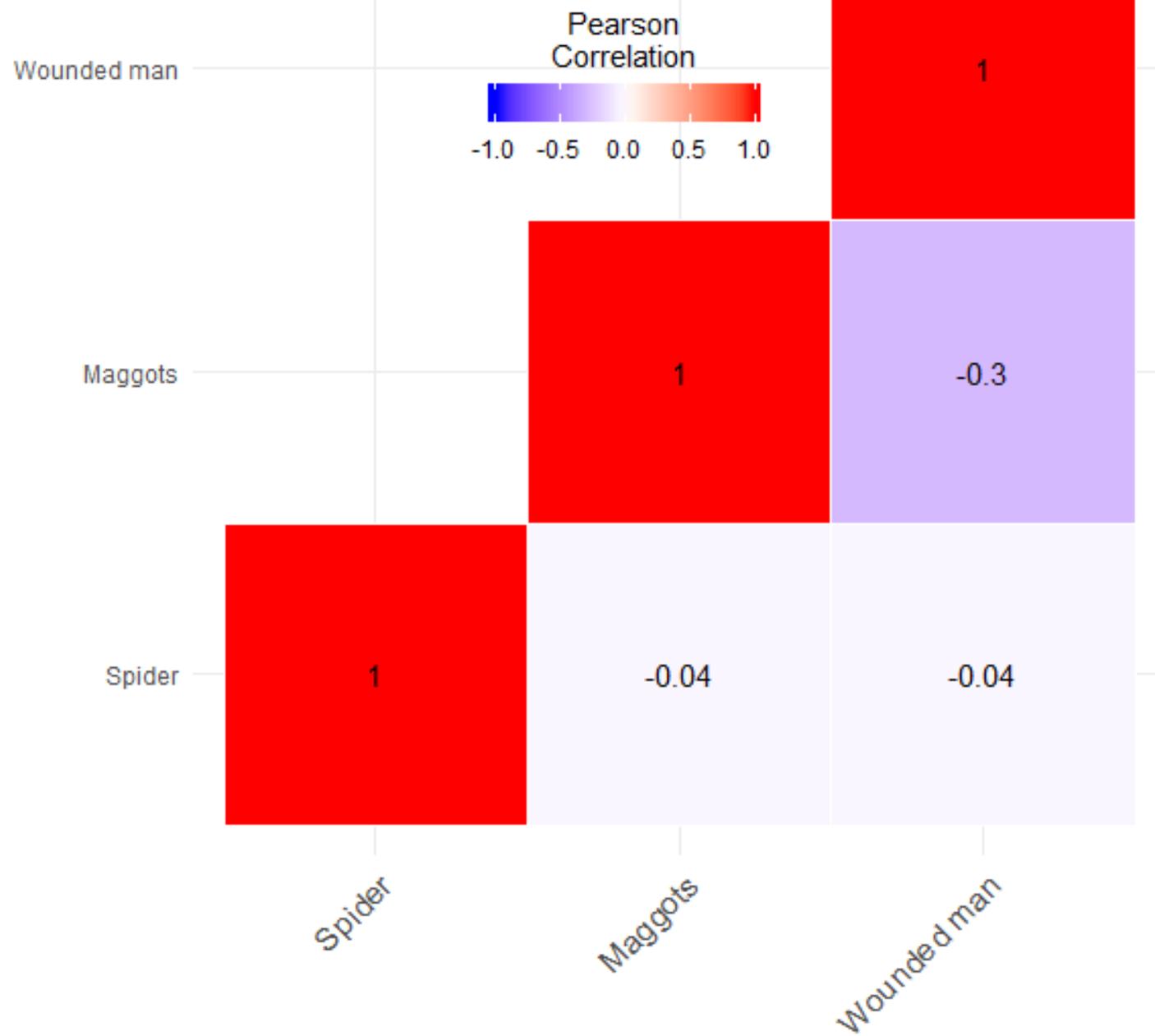
Conceptual replications



Pre-registered replication

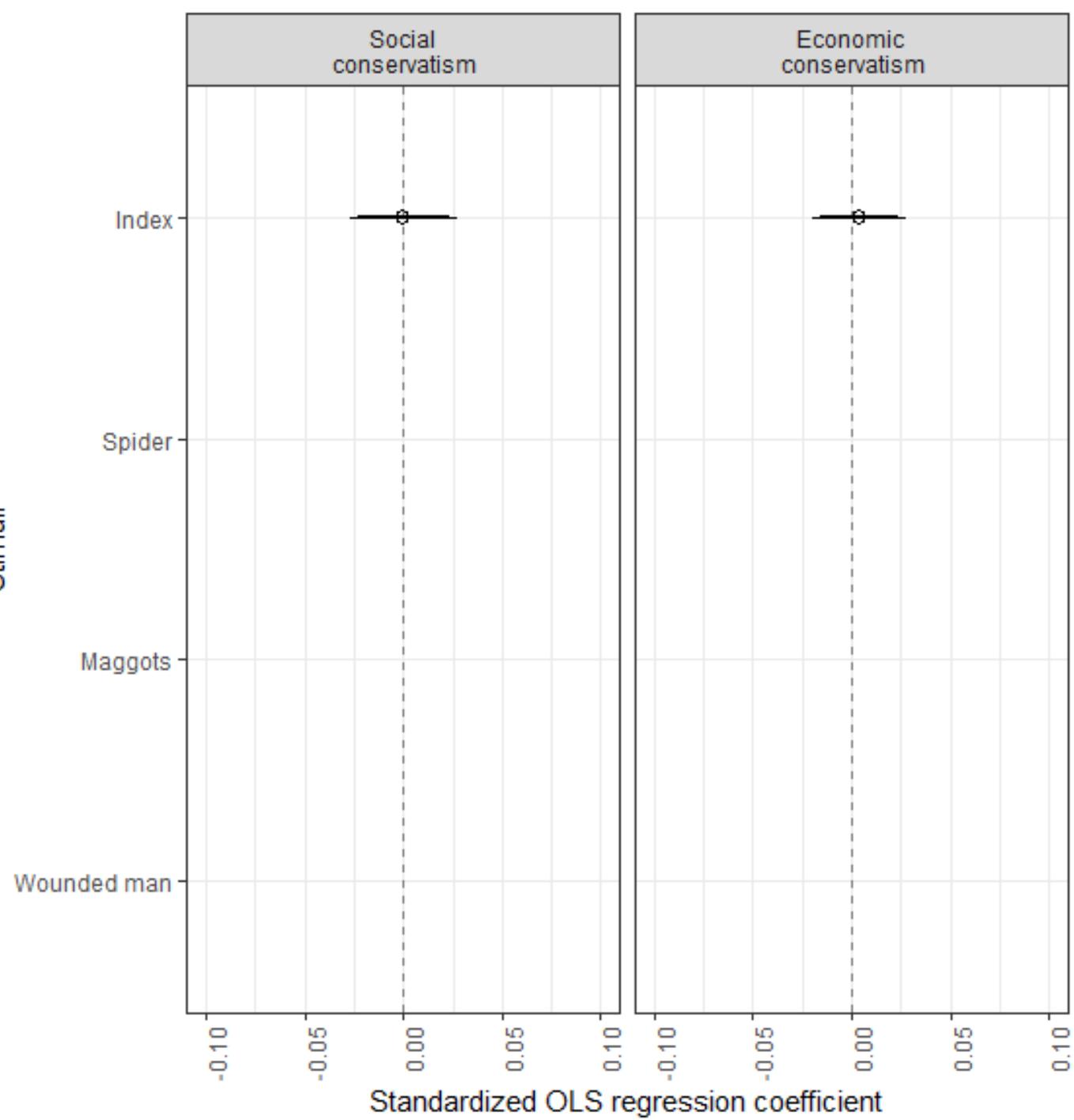




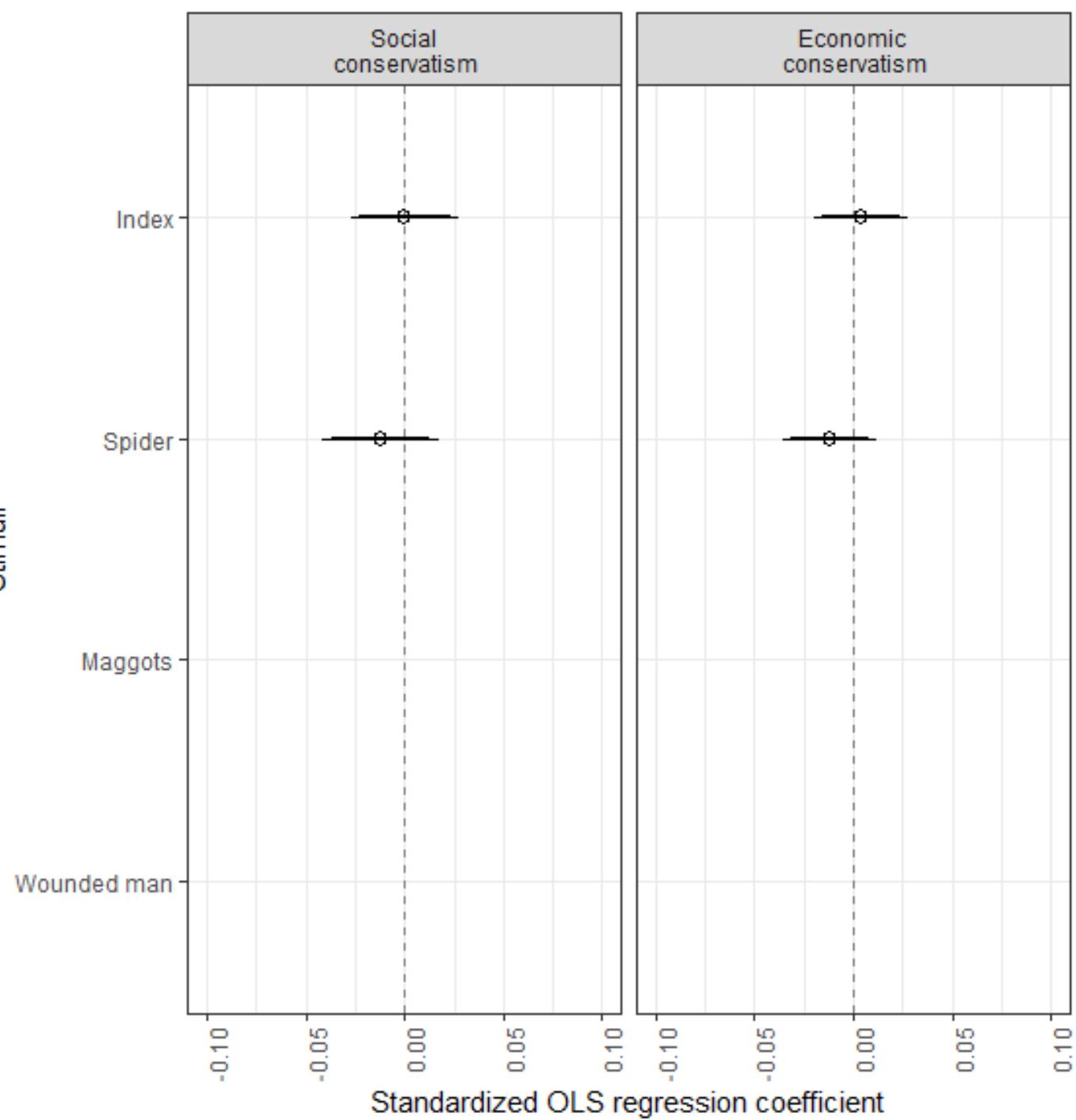


Q2: Do political attitudes vary with physiological trait?

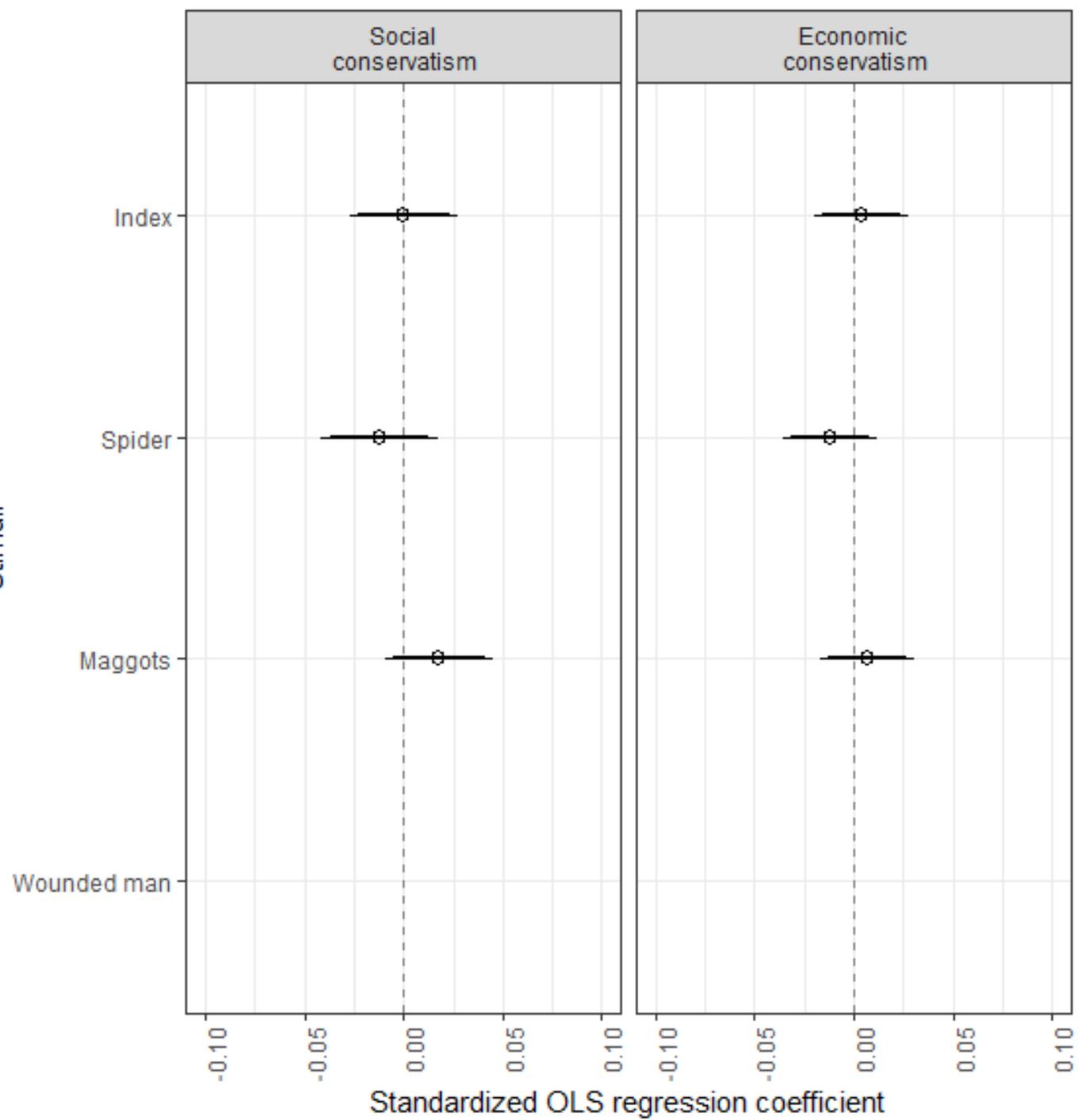
Stimuli

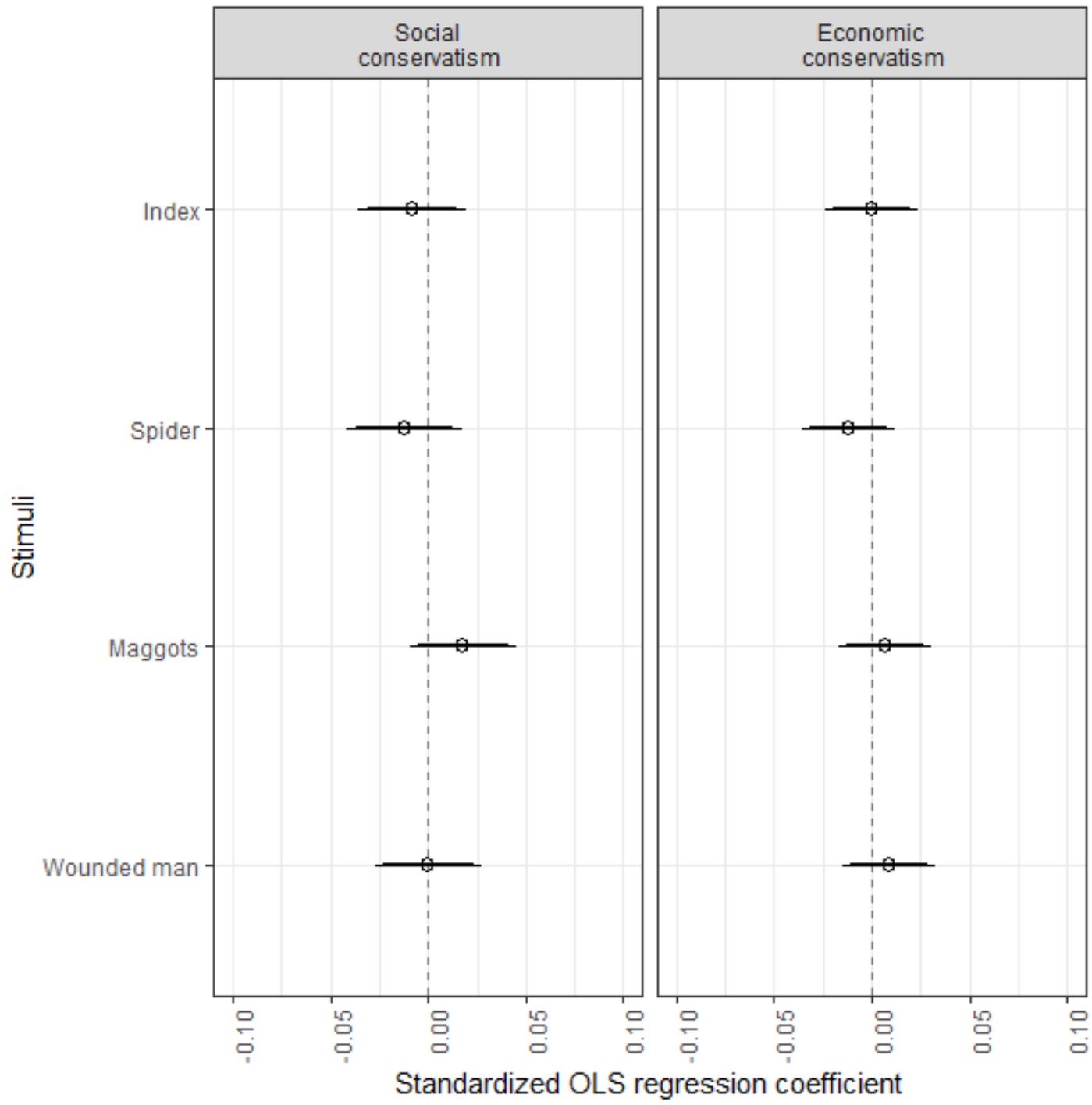


Stimuli



Stimuli





Conservatives and liberals have similar physiological responses to threats

Bert N. Bakker ^{1*}, Gijs Schumacher ², Claire Gothreau³ and Kevin Arceneaux ⁴

Preprint: <https://psyarxiv.com/vdpyt/>

What did I learn?

1. Question your own beliefs
2. Replication, replication, replication!
3. Preregistration