# Partisanship overcomes framing in shaping solar

geoengineering perceptions: Evidence from a conjoint

# experiment

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 $_{8}$  Abstract

The discourse on solar geoengineering (SG) is evolving, yet public perceptions of SG as a climate change solution remain underexplored, especially in the context of today's political polarization in the United States. We examine how different SG narratives—framed as complementary, substitutive, or posing a moral hazard—interact with partisan information sources to shape public attitudes. Using a conjoint experiment with 2,000 American voters, we find that partisan alignment with the information source strongly influences trust in the messenger and support for SG, overshadowing any impact of message framing. When co-partisan sources present information, both Democrats and Republicans are more likely to trust the communicator and support SG. Despite these partisan influences, policy preferences remain consistent with ideological baselines. These findings highlight the importance of political identity in shaping perceptions of emerging climate technologies like SG, even in contexts of low public awareness.

Keywords: Solar geoengineering, climate action, political polarization

## 22 1 Introduction

The discussion surrounding solar geoengineering (SG), also known as solar radiation management 23 (SRM), is evolving rapidly, as attention grows on how these technologies could help mitigate 24 climate change. Solar geoengineering strategies are designed to lower the Earth's temperature 25 through various methods, such as introducing small reflective particles to the upper atmosphere, increasing reflective cloud cover in the lower atmosphere, or thinning high-altitude clouds that can absorb heat (National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2021). The 2021 28 National Academies of Sciences report emphasizes the urgency of addressing climate risks and recommends that the U.S. modestly fund SG research alongside much larger investments in a 30 broader range of climate mitigation and adaptation strategies (National Academies of Sciences, 31 Engineering, and Medicine, 2021).

SG is entering the public conversation at a pivotal moment, but its potential to influence broader climate-related beliefs and behaviors is still largely unexplored, particularly given the U.S.'s politically polarized climate policy landscape. Given the general public's unfamiliarity with SG technologies, early and effective communication will shape perceptions of SG's potential benefits and risks (Borick and Rabe, 2012; Magistro et al., 2024; Raimi et al., 2019; Scheer and Renn, 2014; Debnath et al., 2023; Müller-Hansen et al., 2023). While climate change framing has typically had a limited impact on deeply held beliefs (McCright et al., 2016), SG's relatively low salience offers a unique opportunity to influence public opinion through strategic framing. This insight is supported by recent surveys conducted across 22 countries (Baum et al., 2024; Fritz et al., 2024; Low et al., 2024; Müller-Hansen et al., 2023).

In the United States, climate change discourse is deeply divided along partisan lines, with Republicans and Democrats often holding starkly different views on climate science, policy, and solutions (Dunlap and McCright, 2008; McCright and Dunlap, 2011b). Republicans tend to be more skeptical of the scientific consensus on climate change and less supportive of government regulations to address it (Båtstrand, 2015; Debnath et al., 2021; Hornsey et al., 2016; Hornsey and Lewandowsky, 2022; Karol, 2019; Leiserowitz, 2006; McCright and Dunlap, 2011a,b). This polarization complicates efforts to address climate change and highlights the need to understand how communication on an unfamiliar issue, such as SG, interacts with existing ideological divides.

As discussions around SG evolve, three key perspectives have emerged: some, including the scientific community, see SG as a "complement" to existing climate mitigation and adaptation strategies (National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2021); others see it as a potential "substitute" for reducing greenhouse gas emissions (Campbell and Kay, 2014; Kahan et al., 2015); and some raise concerns about the "moral hazard" SG might create by reducing the urgency for traditional climate actions (Stephens et al., 2023a). These differing frames are likely to shape public perceptions, particularly in a politically polarized environment. For example, a substitutionary framing might appeal to conservatives, who may view SG as a technological fix and a preferable alternative to other regulatory climate measures (Baum et al., 2024; Campbell and Kay, 2014; Kahan et al., 2015). Consistent with this, some studies suggest that SG discussions could help engage a divided public on climate science and offer an entry for discussion of potential solutions (Low et al., 2024; Magistro et al., 2024).

This study examines how different SG frames and partisan sources of information influence public trust in the messenger and support for SG, as well as support for various climate mitigation policies, in a politically polarized context. Using a representative sample of 2,000 American registered voters, we analyze how the interaction between message framing and the partisanship of the messenger shapes attitudes toward SG. This highlights an underexplored area: how differing narratives and sources affect public acceptance of SG in conjunction with existing climate policies. Given the public's limited awareness of SG, the framing of these messages and the partisanship of information sources may significantly shape the direction of SG discourse. To investigate whether public support for SG and climate mitigation policies varies based on message framing and the political identity of the sender, we used a conjoint experiment.

Conjoint experiments simulate real-world decision-making processes in a controlled environment, providing insights into the factors that drive individuals' choices. By simultaneously manipulating the framing of solar geoengineering messages and the identity of the information sources while holding other factors constant, we can causally assess how framing strategies and partisan messengers influence public support for SG and quantify the relative importance of these factors.

Our findings reveal that partisan alignment between the information source and the respondent plays a crucial role in shaping attitudes toward SG. Republicans are more likely to trust the communicator and support SG when the information comes from a source aligned with their political identity, while Democrats show similar patterns with co-partisan sources. Interestingly, framing SG as a complement, substitute, or moral hazard had minimal impact compared to the influence of the partisan messenger. These results suggest that in a politically polarized environment, the effectiveness of SG communication strategies will depend more on the perceived political alignment of the messenger than on the content of the message itself. This has significant implications for policymakers and advocates engaging the public on emerging climate technologies like SG, particularly in contexts marked by deep ideological divides.

## 88 2 Background

The literature on solar geoengineering has framed this emerging technology in three primary ways.

The most common perspective in the scientific community is that SG may be "complementary"
to other efforts to reduce GHG emissions. The recent NASEM report, for example, recommends
that the U.S. pursue SG research while clearly stating that SG should not be seen as a substitute

for cutting GHG emissions. Rather, it should be viewed as part of a comprehensive portfolio of climate mitigation and adaptation strategies that should be studied (National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2021).

The second framing views solar geoengineering as a "substitute" for other emissions reduction 96 measures. Research by Magistro et al. (2024) found that although over 50% of Americans have 97 never heard about SG, familiarity with SG could reduce political polarization. Specifically, individ-98 uals familiar with SG—across both liberal/Democratic and conservative/Republican lines—were more likely to believe in its potential impact. The authors hypothesized that increased support 100 among Republicans may result from perceiving SG as a replacement for current climate change 101 mitigation efforts rather than a complement. This perspective aligns with other research suggest-102 ing that conservatives favor SG for its perceived ability to offer a technological solution that avoids 103 regulatory actions and emission cuts (Campbell and Kay, 2014; Kahan et al., 2015). 104

The third framing focuses on the "moral hazard" potential of solar geoengineering. Some re-105 searchers are concerned that SG could diminish other efforts to reduce emissions (Stephens et al., 106 2023a). This "moral hazard" concept suggests that SG might deter traditional mitigation strate-107 gies by offering an alternative that reduces the perceived urgency to directly combat climate 108 change (Cherry et al., 2022; Keith, 2000; Merk and Wagner, 2024; Reynolds, 2019). However, 109 empirical evidence remains on this issue is mixed. Some studies highlight potential moral hazard 110 effects (Raimi et al., 2019), while others find no impact of information or framing on support for 111 mitigation (Fairbrother, 2016; Merk and Wagner, 2024). Still, other research points to a possible 112 "reverse moral hazard" effect, where awareness of SG options could actually increase support for 113 mitigation efforts (Austin and Converse, 2021; Cherry et al., 2021, 2022; Kahan et al., 2015; Merk 114 et al., 2016). 115

These differing frames highlight the challenges of governing and regulating SG research and poten-116 tial deployment. Key concerns include the transboundary effects of large-scale outdoor activities 117 and the global implications of SG implementation (Reynolds, 2019). SG introduces what some see 118 as a "technosolutionist" approach to climate change mitigation, contrasting with environmentalist 119 perspectives that prioritize minimal intervention in nature as a path to sustainability (Brownsword 120 et al., 2017). Additionally, SG's benefits are often designed for a single actor, like a state, even 121 though others may disagree on whether, when, or how SG should be implemented (Reynolds, 122 2019). These uncertainties make SG decisions inherently political, raising questions about inter-123 national cooperation, global climatic targets, and the prioritization of climate objectives relative 124 to other national interests (Sovacool et al., 2023b; Stephens et al., 2023b). In this context, public 125 participation is essential for shaping the direction of SG research, development, and governance (Macnaghten and Szerszynski, 2013; Reynolds, 2019). 127

In the U.S., public opinion on SG is shaped by exposure to climate change information, which

has been shown to increase support for SG research and potential deployment. For example, Hor-129 ton et al. (2023) noted that since 2020, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 130 (NOAA) has received substantial funding for SG-related research, yet an active advocacy coalition 131 supporting SG program development is still lacking. At the individual level, Low et al. (2024) found that public support tends to favor more regionally bounded, non-stratospheric aerosol in-133 jection (SAI) approaches, and there is a strong preference for international collaboration from 134 the early stages of SG research. These findings suggest that SG governance could benefit from 135 deeper engagement with national strategic and security planning communities to address poten-136 tial political and strategic challenges (Low et al., 2024; McLaren and Corry, 2021; Sovacool et al., 137 2023a). 138

The entrenched polarization of climate change discourse in the U.S. poses significant challenges 139 for shaping public attitudes toward SG. Climate change has long been a source of sharp division, 140 with Republicans and Democrats frequently adopting opposing views on the validity of climate 141 science, the urgency of the issue, and the appropriate policy responses (Dunlap and McCright, 142 2008; McCright and Dunlap, 2011b). Republicans are generally more skeptical of the scientific 143 consensus on climate change and less supportive of government interventions to mitigate its effects 144 (Båtstrand, 2015; Debnath et al., 2021; Hornsey et al., 2016; Hornsey and Lewandowsky, 2022; Karol, 2019; Leiserowitz, 2006; McCright and Dunlap, 2011a,b). This political divide suggests 146 that attitudes toward SG are shaped not only by the framing of the technology but also by the 147 partisan lenses through which information is interpreted. 148

In this study, we manipulate the framing of SG messages, presenting SG as either complementary 149 to existing climate change mitigation efforts, as a substitute for these efforts, or as a potential moral 150 hazard that detracts from current strategies. We also vary the identity of the sender, considering 151 whether they are perceived as representing the general public (a podcaster) or scientific expertise (a 152 researcher), as well as their political affiliation (Democrat or Republican). Given previous research 153 suggesting that Republicans are less likely to trust scientists, we want to explore whether the source 154 of information influences support for SG across partisan lines (Alvarez et al., 2023). After analyzing 155 the impact of message framing and sender identity on trust for the source, support for SG, and 156 support for different climate mitigation measures, we introduce an additional argument outlining 157 the risks of termination shock. This argument is intended to emphasize the potential consequences 158 of abruptly halting SG while continuing to emit CO2, highlighting the unsustainability of viewing 159 SG as a substitute for current mitigation efforts. 160

We make several predictions regarding the expected responses of Democrats and Republicans to different message framings and sender identities. We anticipate that Republicans will respond more positively to information from Republican-affiliated and podcaster sources, showing higher levels of trust in these senders. In contrast, we expect Democrats to respond more favorably

to Democratic-affiliated and researcher sources, demonstrating greater trust in these messengers. 165 Additionally, we predict that Republicans will show increased support for SG when it is framed 166 as a substitute for current mitigation efforts, while Democrats will likely exhibit stronger support 167 when SG is framed as complementary. Finally, we hypothesize that introducing information about 168 the risks associated with suddenly stopping SG (e.g., termination shock) will significantly alter 169 public support. Specifically, we expect that awareness of these risks may decrease support for 170 SG among both Republicans and Democrats, albeit through different mechanisms: Republicans 171 may become more cautious about relying on SG as a standalone solution, while Democrats may 172 increasingly prioritize traditional emission reduction strategies over SG.

## 3 Methods

Conjoint analysis, a method now widely used in social science research, allows for an in-depth 175 examination of decision-making by presenting participants with hypothetical scenarios that in-176 clude various attributes. In this study on solar geoengineering, we use a conjoint experiment to investigate how two critical factors—the framing of SG (as a substitute, complement, or moral 178 hazard) and the identity of the information sender (based on partisanship and occupation)— 179 influence attitudes toward SG. This approach has several advantages, including the ability to 180 simultaneously assess the causal impact of multiple attributes on a single outcome, closely mir-181 roring real-world decision-making processes where individuals must weigh trade-offs across several dimensions (Bansak et al., 2021; Hainmueller et al., 2014). 183

To test our predictions, we conducted a survey with 2,000 U.S. registered voters, recruited through 184 the survey firm YouGov in December 2023. Before data collection, we preregistered our study 185 protocol on the Open Science Framework (OSF) at https://osf.io/86nc9. Participants were selected from YouGov's opt-in panel to be representative of the U.S. voter population. YouGov 187 employs a stratified random sampling method, ensuring that the sample reflects demographic 188 factors such as age, race/ethnicity, gender, education, geographic region, and 2020 presidential 189 vote. Population targets for these strata were derived from model estimates based on the 2019 190 American Community Survey, the November 2020 Current Population Survey, and TargetSmart 191 This approach produced a representative cross-section of respondents, enhancing 192 the generalizability of our findings. Furthermore, the data collection and analysis procedures 193 were reviewed and deemed exempt by the Institute Research Board at the California Institute of 194 Technology (IR22-1220).

### $_{96}$ 3.1 Analytical strategy

The conjoint experiment serves as our primary empirical component and is divided into two parts.

We use "trust", "support for SG", and "policy preference" as our dependent variables, which we

regress on three attributes: whether the source of information is co-partisan or cross-partisan, 199 whether they are researchers or podcasters, and the framing (complement, moral hazard, or sub-200 stitute). "Trust" and "support for SG" are continuous variables going from 0 to 10, capturing how 201 much the respondent trusts the information source and their level of support for solar geoengineering. The "policy preference" variable has four categories, measuring whether the respondent 203 believes the US should invest in reducing emissions only, pursuing SG only, doing both, or doing 204 neither. We treat each category as a dummy variable and run four separate regression models. 205 In all models, we interact the three attributes with the respondents' partial 206 Democrats and Republicans. To increase power, we include Independents leaning toward the 207 Democratic Party with Democrats and Independents leaning toward the Republican Party with 208 Republicans, leaving us with 1,828 respondents. Results do not differ substantially when Inde-209 pendents are not grouped this way. 210

Each regression model includes 9,140 observations—calculated as 1,828 respondents across five 211 rounds of the conjoint experiment. In the results section, we present marginal means (MMs), 212 which provide descriptive summaries of conjoint data. These MMs reflect the average outcome 213 for a specific attribute level, while averaging across all other attributes. We defer the discussion 214 of causal average marginal component effects (AMCEs) to the Appendix (Leeper et al., 2020). In the second part of the experiment, when we introduce the "termination shock" frame, we again 216 use conjoint analysis and the same outcome variables. In this case, we include only one attribute, 217 the frame (complement, moral hazard, substitute, and termination shock), and interact it with 218 partisanship. Each regression model in this part includes 10,968 observations—calculated as 1,828 219 respondents across five rounds of the conjoint experiment, plus the final post-conjoint frame. All data analyses were conducted using R, specifically the *cregg* package. 221

### 222 3.2 Research Design

223 Socio-demographic Section:

Participants first answered socio-demographic questions and were asked about their awareness of solar geoengineering:

Solar geoengineering (SG) is an emerging technology proposed to cool the Earth's atmosphere by increasing the amount of sunlight reflected from Earth or by reducing the trapping of outgoing thermal radiation.

How much have you heard about solar geoengineering in the last year:

• A lot

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- A little
- Nothing

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- 234 Main Conjoint Experiment:
- Respondents were then shown five repetitions of the treatment, each consisting of two key components:
- Information Senders: There are four hypothetical senders, each with a distinct political alignment and role:
  - Jane Smith is a researcher from Brookings, a liberal think tank that is generally aligned with the Democratic party;
    - Michelle Davis is a researcher from the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank that is generally aligned with the Republican party;
- Sarah Anderson hosts the Sarah Anderson show, a prominent conservative podcast that is generally aligned with the Republican party;
  - Julia Wilson hosts the Julia Wilson show, a prominent liberal podcast that is generally aligned with the Democratic party.
- Framing of Solar Geoengineering: Each sender presented solar geoengineering in one of three frames:
- Substitution frame: this emerging technology offers a solution that can effectively cool the
  Earth's atmosphere without requiring everyone to continue reducing emissions and drastically change their lifestyles.
  - Complementary frame: this emerging technology offers a solution that can effectively cool the Earth's atmosphere, helping reduce some of the risks of climate change. It complements our ongoing efforts of emission reduction, carbon removal and sequestration, and adaptation strategies.
  - Moral hazard frame: while solar geoengineering offers hope for a technological fix to cool the Earth's atmosphere, relying on this solution may delay or even halt urgently needed efforts to reduce emissions.
- Here is one example of one of the five conjoint scenarios that a respondent may see:
- Jane Smith is a researcher from Brookings, a liberal think tank that is generally aligned with the Democratic party. In her most recent publication, she discussed solar geoengineering. She argued that this emerging technology offers a solution that can effectively cool the Earth's atmosphere, helping reduce some of the risks of climate change. It

complements our ongoing efforts of emission reduction, carbon removal and sequestra-264 tion, and adaptation strategies. 265

### Post-Conjoint Questions:

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- After each conjoint scenario, respondents answered the following questions: 267
- 1. How much do you trust this information source? (0-10) 268
  - 2. How likely are you to support solar geoengineering? (0-10)
- 3. Do you think that the US should invest mainly in reducing carbon emissions, invest mainly 270 in solar geoengineering techniques, both, or neither? 271
- Final Prompt on Termination Shock: 272
- Participants received a final prompt attributed to one of the senders. Here is an example:
- Michelle Davis, a researcher from the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative 274 think tank that is generally aligned with the Republican party, also added that: If we 275 pursue solar geoengineering (SG) we must continue reducing emissions and removing and sequestering carbon from the atmosphere. If we kept constant or increased our 277 emissions while pursuing SG, one of the biggest risks would be suddenly stopping SG, 278 because stopping it would cause any carbon dioxide in the air to rewarm the planet 279 faster than before, leading to catastrophic consequences. 280

#### Post-Final Prompt Questions: 281

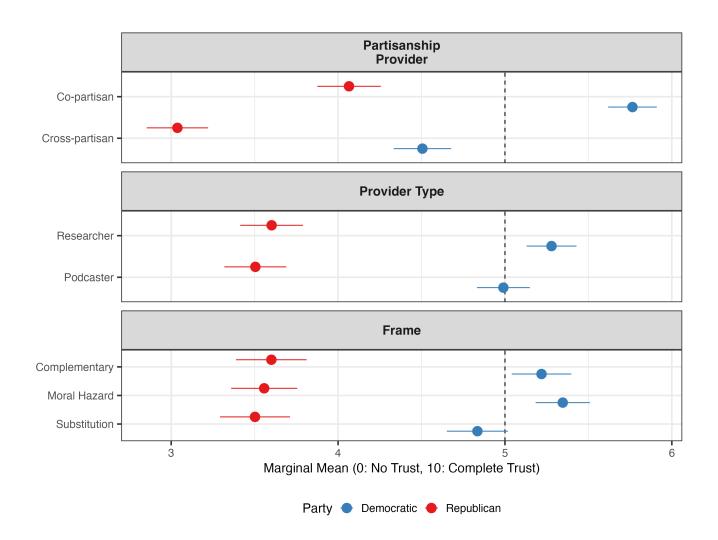
Participants rated their trust in the information source and their likelihood of supporting SG on a 282 scale from 0 to 10. They also indicated their preference for investing in reducing carbon emissions, solar geoengineering techniques, both, or neither.

#### 4 Results

#### The effects of partisanship and framing 4.1 286

- We examine how the partisanship of information sources, their roles as researchers or podcasters, and the framing of messages influence public perceptions of solar geoengineering. Figures 1 and 2 show that partisan alignment between the information source and the respondent significantly 289 impacts both trust in the messenger and support for SG. Contrary to our expectations, the dis-290 tinction between researchers and podcasters does not significantly influence respondents' opinions. 291 Similarly, message framing has only a limited effect on respondents' attitudes.
- Republicans show 10% higher support for SG and 32% greater trust in the messenger when the 293 information comes from co-partisan sources, but they do not display preferential responsiveness for 294

Figure 1: Marginal means of trust of communication



podcasters. In contrast, Democrats show 6% higher support for SG and 26% greater trust for copartisan sources, with a slight preference for researchers over podcasters. However, their support for SG does not significantly change depending on whether the source is a researcher or podcaster. For Republicans, message framing has little to no effect, while Democrats trust messengers less 298 under the substitution frame than the complementary and moral hazard frames. Although framing has some influence on trust levels, partisan alignment plays a much more substantial role in shaping attitudes. 301

Figure 3 indicates that partial partial has less influence on policy preferences, which are more fixed and revert to ideological baselines. Republicans' policy preferences are largely unaffected by any framing or source partisanship, reflecting a strong adherence to their pre-existing opposition to climate change mitigation efforts. Their modal preference is to pursue neither SG nor emission reduction, followed by doing both, reducing emissions only, and lastly, pursuing SG only. Democrats exhibit a more nuanced response to different sources. Support for pursuing both SG and emission

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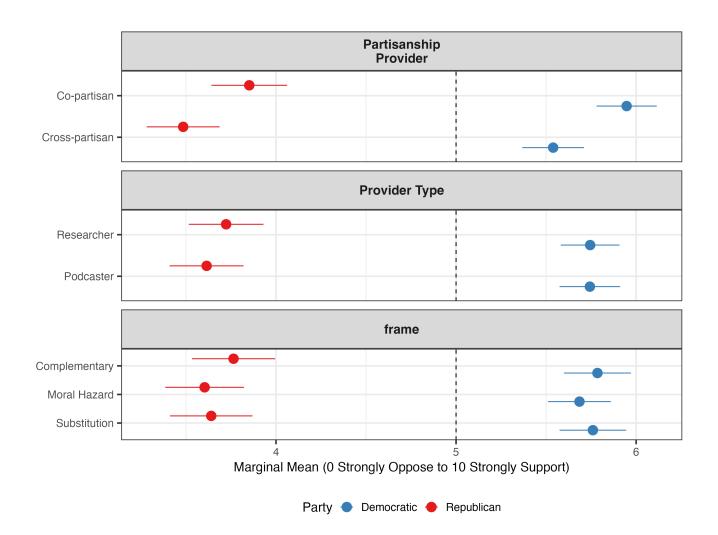
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Figure 2: Marginal means of support for SG



reduction increases by 5% (from 0.62 to 0.65) when the information comes from a co-partisan.
For Democrats, the most common preference is to do both SG and emission reduction, followed
by reducing emissions only, pursuing SG only, and doing neither. Democrats are also somewhat
sensitive to framing: compared to the complementary framing, the moral hazard framing increases
the level of support for reducing emissions only by 8% (from 0.25 to 0.27) and decreases support
for doing both by 5% (from 0.65 to 0.62). In contrast, the substitution framing increases support
for pursuing SG alone by 30% (from 0.05 to 0.07), relative to the complementary frame.

Figures 4 and 5 show the effects of exposing respondents to the concept of termination shock—the rapid warming that could occur if SG were suddenly halted. Republicans exhibit slightly lower trust in the information source and reduced support for SG compared to the other frames, along-side a small but notable shift toward favoring emission reductions (a 14% increase compared to the complementary and substitution frames, from 0.14 to 0.16). Democrats, who trust messengers communicating about the termination shock frame more than the substitution frame and simi-

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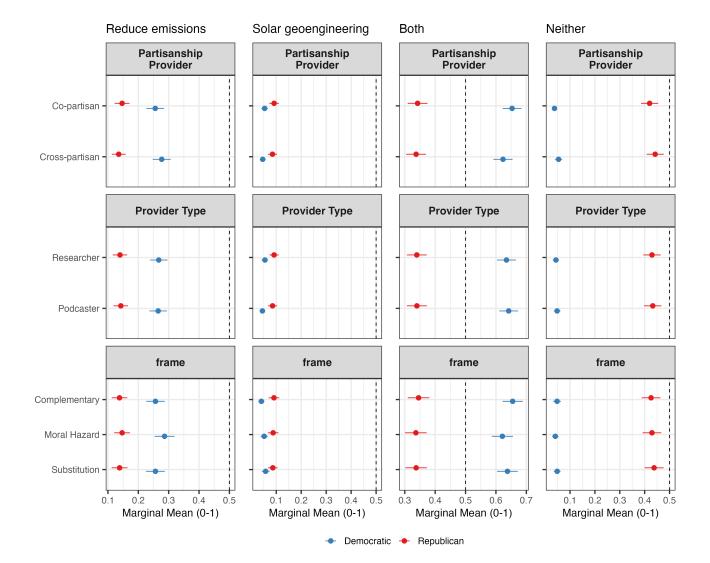


Figure 3: Marginal means of policies

larly to the other frames, show a slight decline in support for SG relative to the complementary frame. However, their overall policy preferences remain mostly unchanged after encountering the termination shock scenario.

## 5 Discussion

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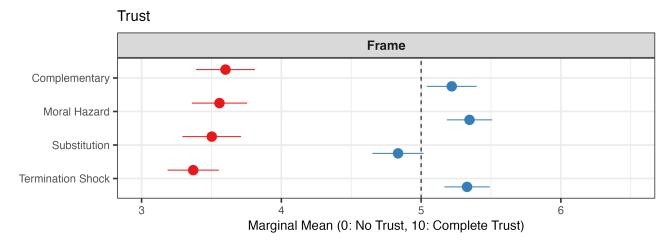
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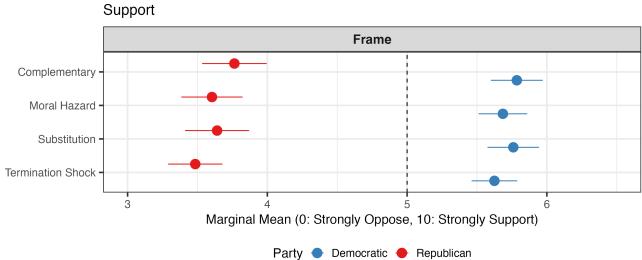
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In this study, we investigated how different message frames of solar geoengineering—whether presented as a complement to existing climate mitigation efforts, as a substitute, or as a potential moral hazard—along with the identity of the information sender (researcher or podcaster, Republican or Democrat), influence public attitudes toward SG. Our goal was to assess the relative importance of these factors in shaping public perceptions of SG, while also overcoming many limitations of past studies by relying on a high-quality, large-n, representative survey from YouGov,

Figure 4: Marginal means of trust and support with termination shock





which ensures the reliability and generalizability of our findings.

Our results show that partisan alignment between the information source and the respondent significantly affects both trust in the messenger and support for SG. Specifically, Republicans exhibit 10% higher support for SG and 32% greater trust in the communicator when information is provided by co-partisan sources compared to cross-partisan sources. Similarly, Democrats show 6% higher support for SG and a 26% increase in trust in the messenger when the information comes from a source aligned with their political affiliation.

Interestingly, the occupation of the messenger—whether they are researchers or podcasters—does not significantly influence respondents' opinions. Similarly, the impact of message framing—whether SG is presented as a complement, substitute, or moral hazard—is minimal relative to the influence of partisanship.

Despite the influence of partian alignment on trust in the messenger and support for SG, we find

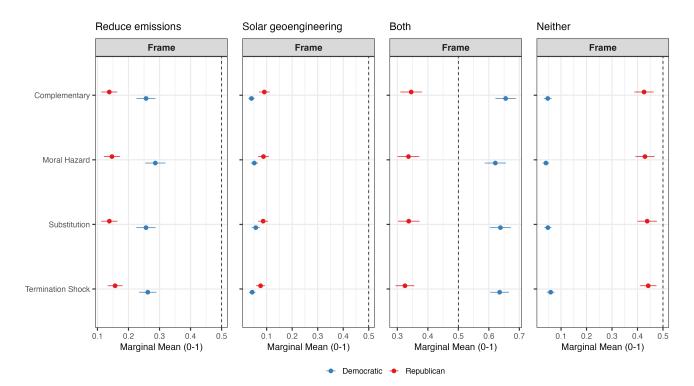


Figure 5: Marginal means of policies with termination shock

that policy preferences generally revert to ideological baselines. For Republicans, the modal response remains consistent with their ideological predispositions—a preference for investing neither in SG nor in emissions reductions. In contrast, while Democrats exhibit a more nuanced response, their policy preferences also largely reflect their ideological beliefs, with a preference for pursuing both SG and emission reductions.

The introduction of the concept of termination shock—a scenario emphasizing the potential consequences of abruptly halting SG while continuing CO2 emissions—causes a slight shift in Republicans' preferences, increasing their support for emission reductions and decreasing their support for SG alone. However, this scenario does not significantly affect Democrats' support for SG or their policy preferences.

Overall, we show that the alignment between the partisan identity of the information source and the respondent plays a crucial role in shaping public perceptions of solar geoengineering. In a politically polarized landscape, the impact of partisan alignment outweighs other factors, such as message framing or the professional background of the messenger. Despite the potential credibility associated with scientific expertise, the messenger's occupation is overshadowed by the influence of partisan alignment. Similarly, different types of framings (whether complementary, substitute, moral hazard, or termination shock) have minimal impact and are consistently overshadowed by partisanship.

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Moreover, our results highlight the difficulty of changing policy attitudes through information campaigns alone, especially in a context where deeply held political beliefs strongly influence preferences for SG and climate change mitigation strategies. The limited effect of message framing on public opinion suggests that effective communication strategies must account for underlying ideological predispositions.

## 366 Ethical Statement

- The data collection and analysis procedures were reviewed by Caltech's Institutional Research
- Board and were ruled exempt (IRB 22-1220). Informed consent was obtained from all partici-
- 369 pants.

## 370 Code and Data Availability

- Upon publication, the code and data necessary to reproduce the results reported in this paper will
- be made available in a permanent and public data repository, subject to any limitations imposed
- by human subjects considerations.

## 374 Author contributions

- BM, RMA, and RD contributed to the survey design and implementation; BM analyzed the data.
- 376 BM wrote the original draft. The authors participated equally in editing the paper.

## 377 Competing Interests

The author(s) declare no competing interests.

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# A Online Appendix

Table A.1: Descriptive statistics of participant demographics

Variable	Category	Count (Percentage)
Gender		
Female		$1,150 \ (54\%)$
Male		973~(46%)
Age Group		
18 to 29		207 (9.8%)
30 to 44		407 (19%)
45 to 64		865 (41%)
65 or older		644 (30%)
Education		
HS or less		605~(28%)
Some college		683 (32%)
College grad		535~(25%)
Postgrad		300 (14%)
Region		
Northeast		382 (18%)
Midwest		503 (24%)
South		798 (38%)
West		440~(21%)
Party ID		
Democratic		779 (37%)
Republican		662 (31%)
Other		682 (32%)
Party ID (with leaners)		
Democratic		946~(44.5%)
Republican		882 (41.5%)
Other		295 (14%)

Figure A.1: Average marginal component effects of trust

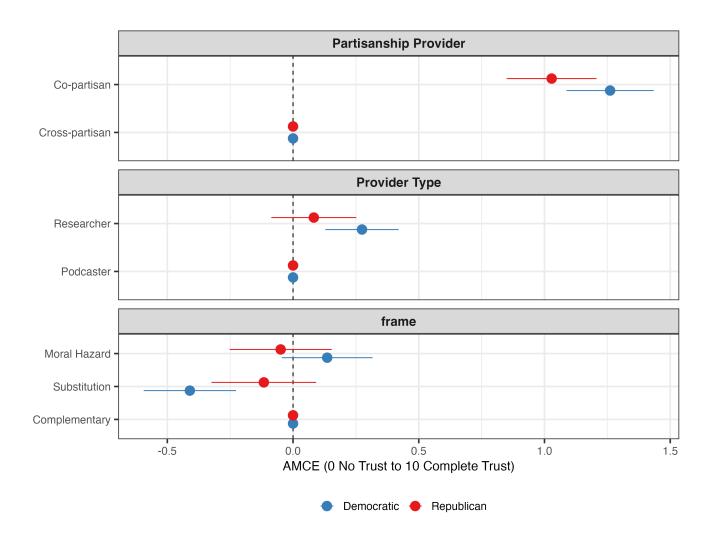
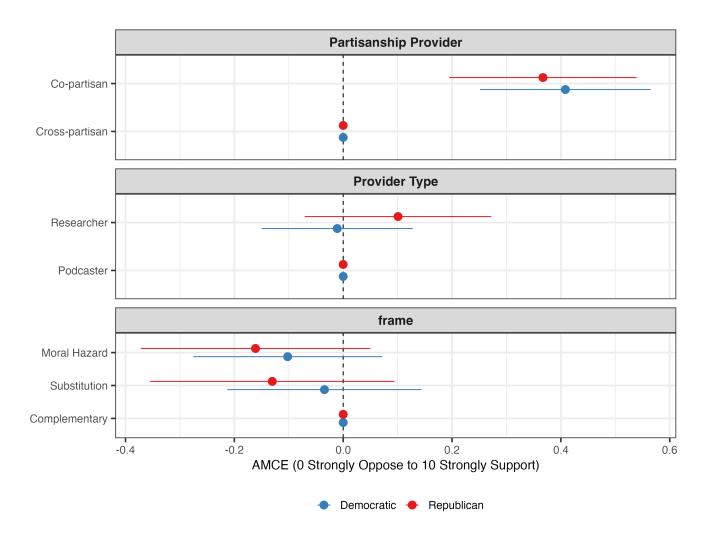


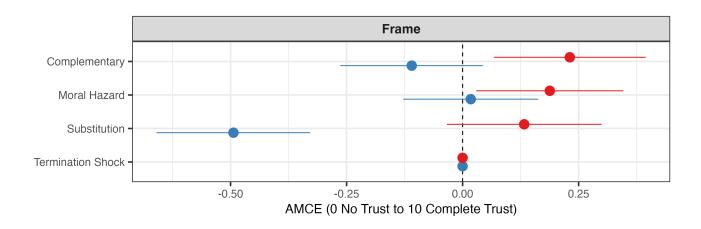
Figure A.2: Average marginal component effects of support



Solar geoengineering Neither Reduce emissions Both Partisanship Provider Partisanship Provider Partisanship Provider Partisanship Provider Co-partisan Cross-partisan **Provider Type Provider Type Provider Type Provider Type** Researcher Podcaster **Frame Frame** Frame **Frame** Moral Hazard Substitution Complementary · -0.03 0.00 0.03 0.06 -0.02-0.010.00 0.01 0.02 0.03 -0.04 0.00 0.04 -0.050 -0.025 0.000 0.025 0.050 **AMCE AMCE AMCE AMCE** Democratic
 Republican

Figure A.3: Average marginal component effects of policies

Figure A.4: Average marginal component effects of trust and support (including termination shock)



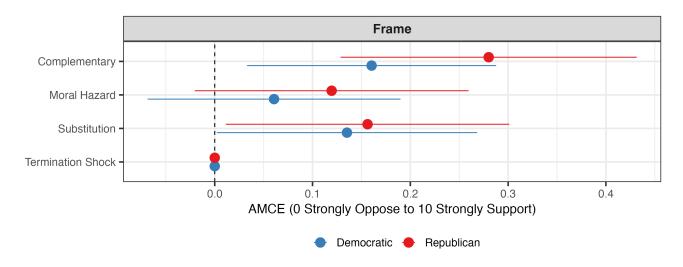


Figure A.5: Average marginal component effects of policies (including termination shock)

