

Article 1 - Review

“Cyberattacks, cyber threats, and attitudes toward cybersecurity policies”

The article by Snider, Shandler, Zandani, and Canetti discusses the significance of cyberattack exposure in shaping individuals' perceptions and attitudes toward cybersecurity policies through controlled experimental conditions. In this article, the research suggests that exposure to various types of cyberattacks amplifies perceptions of cyber threats and has a notable influence on political attitudes, favoring the adoption of more rigid cybersecurity policies. Their studies found that exposure to lethal cyberattacks heightened perceptions of cyber threats to a greater degree than nonlethal or economic cyberattacks. As a result, participants were more willing to consider trade-offs between civil liberties and privacy in exchange for enhanced security measures. In addition, the study delved into public support for three distinct types of cybersecurity policies: prevention policies, alert policies, and oversight policies, and found that exposure to different types of cyberattacks influenced support for specific cybersecurity policies. These findings suggest that exposure to cyberattacks can be a valuable predictor of support for cybersecurity policies through the mediating effect of threat perception.

Although this study did not highlight any relations to contributions of marginalized groups, it emphasizes the need for public input in cybersecurity policy-making and suggests that governments will increasingly need to engage the public as one of the stakeholders in effecting new cyber regulations. Additionally, the study raises questions about the role of public exposure and opinion in cybersecurity and how it can translate to real outcomes in the context of private sector dominance in cybersecurity.

As mentioned in the article, they gathered their data and analysis through “three primary variables: the predictor variable (exposure to cyberattacks), the dependent variable (support for cybersecurity policies), and the mediator variable (threat perception). Sociodemographic measures were also collected” (Snider, Shandler, Zandani, Canetti).

Overall, the findings highlight the potential impact of considering public perception of cyber threats and exposure to cyberattacks in the formulation of cybersecurity regulations, underscoring the urgency and relevance of the research for policymakers.

Works Cited

Snider, K. L. G., Shandler, R., Zandani, S., & Canetti, D. (2021, October 7). Cyberattacks, cyber threats, and attitudes toward cybersecurity policies. OUP Academic.
<https://academic.oup.com/cybersecurity/article/7/1/tyab019/6382745?searchresult=1>

Link:

<https://academic.oup.com/cybersecurity/article/7/1/tyab019/6382745?searchresult=1>