Article Review #1: How Cyber Threats Influence Public Attitudes Toward Security Policies

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Date: 02/24/2026

Introduction/BLUF

The article, Cyberattacks, Cyber Threats, and Attitudes toward Cybersecurity Policies, is about whether being exposed to cyberattacks influences public support for cybersecurity policies or not. In the article, they use the survey research method to determine if watching reports on cyberattacks affect attitudes. They find that exposure does, in fact, increase support for certain cybersecurity policies (Snider et al., 2021).

Relation/Connection to Social Science Principles

There are a few principles that relate closely to the article I have chosen. The experimental research study of this article relies strongly on recorded data instead of opinions or hunches; therefore, I believe empiricism is strongly present in this study. Determinism is another principle that seems to relate closely to the article. The study tests if exposure to cyber-attacks influences policy support and shows that attitudes are determined by previous experiences. Finally, the last principle I would qualify as being closely related to the article is objectivity. Instead of relying on their opinions, the researchers rely on actual evidence.

Research Question /Hypothesis/ Independent Variable/Dependent Variable

The main research question that the experiment addresses is if being exposed to cyberattacks would affect public support for cybersecurity policies (Snider et al., 2021). According to the article, the researchers also produced three different hypotheses. The first hypothesis assumes cyberattacks will lead to greater support for cybersecurity policies. The second hypothesis assumes that individuals who may be exposed to lethal attacks rather than nonlethal may show higher support for using cybersecurity policies. Finally, the third hypothesis

assumed that perception of threats will mediate the relationship between exposure to attacks and cybersecurity policy support (Snider et al., 2021). The independent variable of this study is "exposure to cyberattacks". The dependent variable is "support for cybersecurity policies" (Snider et al., 2021).

Types of Research Methods used

The study used a couple of different research methods such as experimental and survey methods. Experiments and surveys are used quantitatively; therefore, this study used quantitative methods. Data was collected by conducting an experiment with approximately 1022 participants (Snider et al., 2021). The control group did not watch any reports about cyberattacks while the other group watched them (Snider et al., 2021). Afterwards, the people who participated completed surveys which helped reach the conclusion.

Types of Data Analysis used

The types of data analysis techniques used in this study include preliminary analysis and mediation analysis (Snider et al., 2021).

Connections to other Course Concepts

This study relates to the course concepts in various ways such as integrating topics we have previously discussed. The study uses many of the various principles of social sciences. For example, it was previously determined that this study used the principles of determinism, empiricism, and objectivity. Another course concept used in this study is the use of research

methods such as surveys and experiments. In this experiment, independent and dependent variables were used as well as hypotheses which we discussed in class.

Overall societal contributions of the study/Conclusion

In conclusion, this experiment finds that exposure to cyberattacks influence attitudes toward policies for cybersecurity purposes (Snider et al., 2021). It shows been exposed causes individuals to have an increased level of support for cybersecurity policies. The study advances our understanding of cybersecurity and the social sciences by showing that responses to events related to cybersecurity can cause people to follow cybersecurity policies better.

Reference

Snider, K. L. G., Shandler, R., Zandani, S., & Canetti, D. (2021). Cyberattacks, cyber threats, and attitudes toward cybersecurity policies. *Journal of Cybersecurity*, *7*(1). https://doi.org/10.1093/cybsec/tyab019

Article Link: **Cyberattacks, cyber threats, and attitudes toward cybersecurity policies | Journal of Cybersecurity | Oxford Academic**