

Motivated Reasoning -- The Greatest Hits

Silverman, C. (2011), "The backfire effect: More on the press's inability to debunk bad information," *Columbia Journalism Review*, available at http://www.cjr.org/behind_the_news/the_backfire_effect.php?page=all&print=true (accessed 16 July 2014).

- *A user-friendly introduction to motivated reasoning, the backfire effect, and their implications for deliberative democracy.*

Molden, D.C. and Higgins, E. T. (2005), "Motivated thinking," in Holyoak, K.J. and Morrison, R.G. (Eds.), *The Cambridge Handbook of Thinking and Reasoning*, Cambridge University Press, New York, pp. 295-317.

- *A broad review of research in motivated processing of information – sets the stage nicely for more focused studies on motivated reasoning in political contexts.*

Taber, C. & Lodge, M. (2006), "Motivated Skepticism in the Evaluation of Political Beliefs," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 50, No. 3, pp. 755-769.

- *Clearly states the principal hypotheses for motivated reasoning in political contexts and provides empirical evidence for each.*

Redlawsk, D.P.; Civettini, A.J.W.; and Emmerson, K.M. (2010), "The affective tipping point: Do motivated reasoners ever 'get it?'" *Political Psychology*, Vol. 31, No. 4, pp. 563-593.

- *Establishes the existence of an "affective tipping point," a threshold that motivated reasoners reach after encountering a significant amount of challenging evidence, at which point stop they engaging in defensive processing and update their old beliefs in light of new evidence.*

Nyhan, B. & Reifler, J. (2013), "Blank slates or closed minds? The role of information deficits and identity threat in the prevalence of misperceptions," unpublished paper, available at: <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~nyhan/opening-political-mind.pdf> (accessed 17 July 2014).

- *Suggests that affirming the subject's sense of self-worth can mitigate motivated reasoning, as can presenting challenging information in a graphical format (rather than just text).*

Happy reading!

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