

Supplementary Appendices

Appendix A: Stimulus news articles provided by HeyWire AI and used in the experiment.

Barbie Takes Hollywood: How Margot Robbie Reinvented the Iconic Toy

BY INTELLIGENT PRESS

Updated 4:42 PM CDT, September 5, 2023

Once upon a time in Hollywood, Margot Robbie was faced with the daunting task of taking on the lead role of Barbie for the highly anticipated summer film. As she delved into the intricacies of the iconic toy, questions arose regarding beauty and sexiness, which she had to ponder on quite a bit.

"If she doesn't have reproductive organs, would she even feel sexual desire?" Robbie questioned in an interview with Vogue. "No, I don't think she could."

Robbie, who is both the lead actress and co-producer of the upcoming film, had quite a task on her hand. She had to honor the 60-year legacy of the brand while acknowledging that there were many people who weren't fans of Barbie. She kept this in mind as she sought actors who had "Barbie energy" to play different iterations of the character.

The movie boasts of an impressive star-studded cast, including names like Issa Rae, Hari Nef, Emma Mackey, Dua Lipa, Alexandra Shipp, Kate McKinnon, Rhea Perlman, and many more.

Ryan Gosling, who plays Barbie's boyfriend Ken, also puts in an appearance, revealing that Robbie helped him find his inner Ken doll.

As the movie approached its release date, the buzz surrounding it continued to grow. One of the earliest choices for the role of the iconic doll, Gal Gadot, was unavailable, but she ended up serving as a template for further casting decisions.

While some questioned the decision to make a movie about Barbie, the Mattel brand had generated over \$1 billion in gross sales the previous year, showing its enduring appeal. The CEO of Mattel, Ynon Kreiz, expressed his excitement about Barbie's long-term prospects, acknowledging that the brand had grown and evolved over time.

As the movie debuted, audiences were treated to a comical scene between Robbie and Gosling discussing spending the night together. The teaser also revealed a hyper-real Barbie-inspired world called "Barbieland," where there were many iterations of the iconic dolls in existence.

However, their plastic-fantastic lives were turned upside down when they traveled to the real world in a car that spun up into the air. The fish-out-of-water comedy had fun with the quirky premise of what the Mattel dolls would get up to if left to their own devices.

Despite speculation that the movie would fail to capture the spirit of Barbie, the trailers went viral, with fans of the iconic toy eagerly anticipating the movie's release. Dua Lipa also played one of the Barbies, releasing a hit written specifically for the movie.

In the end, Margot Robbie and her production company, LuckyChap, managed to transform the Barbie brand into a movie that showed the iconic toy in a new and refreshing light. And so, in Hollywood, another classic brand had been given a new lease on life.

Sources:

- [The Daily Mail \(UK\)](#)
- [Variety](#)
- [People](#)
- [CNN](#)
- [The Independent \(UK\)](#)

The 15th Annual BRICS Summit: Shaping the Geopolitical Landscape

BY INTELLIGENT PRESS

Updated 4:42 PM CDT, September 5, 2023

The 15th annual BRICS summit, opening on August 22nd in Johannesburg, South Africa, underscored significant geopolitical shifts and interplay among Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The five nations have come together to collectively reshape the existing global architecture based on the shared values and interests of the global South. They aim to transform it into a more inclusive and equitable multipolar world, notwithstanding the complex events of the past year.

In the run-up to this significant gathering, President Ramaphosa of South Africa has been lauded for his leadership. Through a consultative process with all BRICS partners, he has managed to find a solution that does not diminish the gravity of the summit amidst the global turbulence. He has been instrumental in bringing about a renewed focus on BRICS, particularly regarding the prospective criteria for the expansion of this impactful consortium.

Interestingly, given the increased number of states seeking to be part of the BRICS group, it is now seen as responsible for creating a logical procedure to manage this potential extension. A ground-level approach has been adopted, targeting deliverables that directly impact their citizens' quality of life. This approach could be a game-changer for the complexities associated with global expansion.

A potential query stemming from these developments is the Western world's potential negative reactions, particularly, in view of Britain's exit from the European Union and its stance towards multiple countries. However, BRICS nations remain steadfast, maintaining a single standard in conducting their business and foreign relations with the world.

Shaping the agenda for the summit earlier in June, the foreign ministers of BRICS countries met in Cape Town. Here, dignitaries critiqued institutions like the World Bank and Security Council for sidelining developing countries, termed 'global south.' India's foreign minister, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, referred to the 'concentration' of global economic power that leaves many nations susceptible to a select few.

In a similar vein, Jair Bolsonaro, Brazil's former president, felt an increased need for BRICS after his ally, Donald Trump, left the White House. In an attempt to understand the bloc's relevance to Russia, an attempted interaction with the country's ambassador to South Africa was made at the meeting, further emphasizing the need for BRICS expansion.

With continued shifts in global relations, BRICS provides an opportunity for countries like Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates to reconsider their longstanding alliances. These nations view

joining BRICS as a chance to realign their relationships with America, as well as establish closer ties with China.

Despite the complexities, BRICS has managed to set annual summits not just for political bigwigs but also for a vast network of academics, firms, ministers, ruling parties, and think-tanks. These meetings have been successful in establishing unconventional connections with officials, thereby fostering diplomatic dialogue.

As BRICS nations gather, anticipation builds regarding the impact this summit could have on the current global order, the expansion of the bloc, and the future dynamics of international relations. Time will tell whether these geopolitical shifts resurrect the bloc's original intention; to challenge the West's dominance in world affairs.

Sources:

- [Reuters](#)
- [The Economist](#)
- [Bloomberg](#)

Hunter Biden's Lead Defense Attorney Seeks Withdrawal from Controversial Case

BY INTELLIGENT PRESS

Updated 4:42 PM CDT, Sept 5, 2023

The ongoing drama surrounding Hunter Biden, son of U.S. President Joe Biden, saw a major breakthrough on Tuesday when his lead defense attorney, Christopher Clark, pleaded for his withdrawal from the case. Clark sought permission from a federal district court judge in Delaware, and if accepted, this move could herald a new twist in the controversial tax and gun offense case against Hunter Biden.

In his request, Clark specified that due to his close involvement with the now-failed plea agreement and several discussions with prosecutors, he could serve as a witness for numerous contested legal actions. The plea agreement and other discussions are at the heart of the new legal dispute that the Biden defense team plans to zealously challenge.

"There are no 'take backs' once the government signs it and delivers it to court," an anonymous member of Biden's team informed CBS News, highlighting their intent to keep intact the broad immunity provisions contained in a diversion agreement signed earlier. This agreement, they argue, needs to be upheld despite the breakdown of the former plea deal.

According to federal prosecutors in Delaware and Biden's defense team, a preliminary agreement on Hunter Biden's plea and diversion had been reached in July, addressing two misdemeanor tax charges and a felony gun charge. The original deals, however, began to crumble in the final moments due to concerns raised by the judge overseeing the case. The ensuing legal spectacle in an open court last month served to thrust the matter into the spotlight.

In a series of newer court filings, the prosecutors revealed that an impasse had been reached between the two parties. With the Biden defense team alleging that the government had backed down from earlier agreements, the likelihood of a trial has increased. The bone of contention lies in the signed and binding diversion agreement on the gun charge, which the government rejected on Tuesday.

Adding intrigue to this legal tussle, the relationship between Hunter Biden and his attorneys saw a reshuffling on Monday. Abbe Lowell, a seasoned Washington D.C. lawyer, formally entered the case's fray. He is known for his representation of top-flight clients, including Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner, and has been guiding Hunter Biden through the ongoing congressional probe into his business dealings.

Additionally, a dramatic turn of events could see the case —originally involving tax crimes and a potential diversion agreement regarding a gun charge— go to trial. Despite potential wide-reaching consequences, Hunter Biden's lawyers remain steadfast in their claim that the prior diversion agreement —which they and prosecutor Weiss signed off on— has legal compulsion. Biden's attorneys recently argued that the pretrial diversion agreement for the gun charge, which

they and Weiss both signed off on, is "valid and binding." Prosecutors are expected to respond to this argument soon.

As the tense legal negotiations between Hunter Biden and the Justice Department escalate into an open fight, the result could see Christopher J. Clark transform from defendant to firsthand witness, further complicating this long-standing legal controversy. The potential departure of Clark, coupled with the entry of Lowell into the defense team, suggests that this high-profile case is far from over.

Sources:

- [Washington Examiner](#)
- [CNBC](#)
- [CNN](#)
- [CBS News](#)
- [New York Times](#)

Appendix B: Descriptive information about the sample

Table B-1. How the Prolific sample compares to the US public.

	Prolific sample (<i>N</i> = 1483)	2022 General Social Survey
<i>Age</i>		
18 to 24	8.0%	8.7%
25 to 34	27.8%	18.0%
35 to 44	24.0%	17.4%
45 to 54	17.7%	14.6%
55 to 64	13.5%	16.6%
65 years old or older	9.0%	24.7%
<i>Gender</i>		
Identifying as male	49.5%	45.9%
<i>Race and Ethnicity</i>		
Identifying as Black	11.4%	15.9%
Identifying as Hispanic	9.1%	
<i>Education</i>		
College degree	52.4%	34.3%
Graduate degree	12.1%	13.5%
<i>Politics</i>		
Not very/at all interested	19.3%	
Somewhat interested	35.7%	
Very/extremely interested	45.0%	
Identifying as Democrat	48.7%	40.8%
Identifying as Republican	21.1%	31.7%
<i>News Use (Sometimes/Often)</i>		
Online	49.1%	
Social Media	70.2%	
TV	54.5%	
Cable TV	41.1%	
Print	76.9%	
Audio	24.3%	
<i>Trust in News</i>		
Trust completely	1.8%	
Trust somewhat	39.0%	
Neither trust nor do not trust	17.9%	
Do not trust very much	27.9%	
Do not trust at all	13.4%	
<i>Procedural News Knowledge (PNK)</i>		
Answered 4 questions correctly	46.5%	
Answered 3 questions correctly	28.2%	

Answered 2 questions correctly	15.4%
Answered 1 question correctly	8.0%
Answered 0 questions correctly	1.8%

Appendix C: Items Used in Measuring Key Variables

Trust in News in General

Trust_Gen Generally speaking, to what extent do you trust or not trust information from the news media?

- Trust completely
- Trust somewhat
- Neither trust nor do not trust
- Do not trust very much
- Do not trust at all
- Don't know

Procedural News Knowledge (PNK)

PNK_Preface We would like to know more about how familiar you are with aspects of journalism. Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability.

PNK1 In what section does a newspaper's editorial staff endorse candidates and express their opinions about current issues?

- On the front page
- On the editorial page [CORRECT]
- In the business section
- In a special weekly advertising section
- Mainstream newspapers don't endorse candidates or take issue stands

PNK2 Which of the following best describes a press release?

- A short news piece written or produced by a reporter
- A written statement or short video about a newsworthy event given out to reporters by an official or public relations specialist [CORRECT]
- An opinion piece written by a syndicated columnist
- A paid advertisement that appears in newspapers and on news websites with the label "paid advertisement"

PNK3 Which of the following U.S. news outlets does NOT depend primarily on advertising for financial support?

- FOX News
- PBS [CORRECT]
- The New York Times
- Time Magazine

- Don't know

PNK4 When it comes to reporting the news, the main difference between websites like Google News and a website like CNN.com is that:

- Google doesn't have reporters who gather information, while CNN does. [CORRECT]
- Google focuses on national news, while CNN focuses on local news.
- Google has more editors than CNN does.
- Google charges money for the news, while CNN does not.
- Don't know

Trust in News in General

Trust_Gen Generally speaking, to what extent do you trust or not trust information from the news media?

- Trust completely
- Trust somewhat
- Neither trust nor do not trust
- Do not trust very much
- Do not trust at all
- Don't know

Dependent Variables

DV_Trust How trustworthy would you say the news organization is that published this article? Please use the scale below, where 0 is "not at all trustworthy" and 10 is "completely trustworthy."

- 0 Not at all trustworthy
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10 Completely trustworthy

DV_Accuracy To the best of your knowledge, how accurate is the article you just read?

- Very accurate
- Somewhat accurate
- Not very accurate
- Not at all accurate

DV_Fair Generally speaking, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the article you just read.

- The article is fair
 - Strongly agree
 - Tend to agree
 - Neither agree nor disagree
 - Tend to disagree
 - Strongly disagree
- The article is unbiased
 - Strongly agree
 - Tend to agree
 - Neither agree nor disagree
 - Tend to disagree
 - Strongly disagree
- The article tells the whole story
 - Strongly agree
 - Tend to agree
 - Neither agree nor disagree
 - Tend to disagree
 - Strongly disagree
- The article separates facts from opinions
 - Strongly agree
 - Tend to agree
 - Neither agree nor disagree
 - Tend to disagree
 - Strongly disagree

Appendix D: Output from Linear Regression Models

Table D-1. Linear regression models predicting attitudes about stimulus articles as a function of trust in news and exposure to AI labels.

	<u>Perceived Trustworthiness</u> (H2a)		<u>Article Accuracy</u> (H2b)		<u>Article Fairness</u> (H2c)	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
(Intercept)	6.03*** (0.08)	5.87*** (0.29)	2.07*** (0.02)	1.98*** (0.08)	0.39*** (0.03)	0.45*** (0.11)
Treatment (AI label)	-0.54*** (0.12)	-0.51*** (0.12)	-0.04 (0.03)	-0.04 (0.03)	-0.04 (0.04)	-0.04 (0.04)
Trust in news	0.68*** (0.07)	0.65*** (0.08)	0.10*** (0.02)	0.09*** (0.02)	0.16*** (0.02)	0.16*** (0.03)
Trust X Treatment	-0.18# (0.10)	-0.21* (0.10)	-0.03 (0.03)	-0.04 (0.03)	-0.01 (0.04)	-0.01 (0.04)
<i>Demographic Controls</i>						
Age	—	0.06 (0.05)	—	-0.01 (0.01)	—	-0.04* (0.01)
Gender (Male)	—	0.10 (0.12)	—	0.07# (0.04)	—	0.01 (0.05)
Race (Black)	—	-0.28 (0.12)	—	-0.11* (0.06)	—	-0.07 (0.07)
Ethnicity (Hispanic)	—	-0.27 (0.20)	—	-0.20*** (0.06)	—	-0.05 (0.08)
Education	—	-0.05 (0.05)	—	0.01 (0.01)	—	-0.01 (0.02)
<i>Political Controls</i>						
Political interest	—	-0.08 (0.06)	—	-0.02 (0.02)	—	0.01 (0.02)
Party ID	—	-0.07 (0.08)	—	-0.05* (0.02)	—	0.03 (0.03)
<i>News Consumption</i>						
News use (Online)	—	-0.03 (0.07)	—	0.00 (0.01)	—	-0.03 (0.02)
News use (Soc Med)	—	0.05	—	-0.01	—	0.03

		(0.06)		(0.02)		(0.02)
News use (Print)	—	-0.03	—	-0.00	—	-0.02
		(0.08)		(0.02)		(0.03)
News use (Audio)	—	-0.01	—	-0.00	—	0.00
		(0.08)		(0.02)		(0.03)
News use (TV)	—	0.03	—	0.03	—	0.06*
		(0.08)		(0.02)		(0.03)
News use (Cable TV)	—	0.17*	—	-0.02	—	-0.03
		(0.08)		(0.02)		(0.03)
News use (Fox News)	—	0.18*	—	0.02	—	0.03
		(0.08)		(0.02)		(0.03)
<i>N</i> (respondents)	1483	1483	1483	1483	1483	1483
<i>R</i> ²	0.21	0.11	0.02	0.21	0.04	0.05
Adj. <i>R</i> ²	0.21	0.10	0.02	0.20	0.04	0.04

Notes: *** $p < 0.001$; ** $p < 0.01$; * $p < 0.05$; # $p < 0.10$.

Table D-2. Linear regression models predicting attitudes about stimulus articles as a function of PNK and exposure to AI labels.

	<u>Perceived Trustworthiness (H3a)</u>		<u>Article Accuracy (H3b)</u>		<u>Article Fairness (H3c)</u>	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
(Intercept)	5.64*** (0.26)	5.87*** (0.29)	1.83*** (0.07)	1.85*** (0.10)	0.36*** (0.10)	0.40*** (0.13)
Treatment (AI label)	0.22 (0.38)	0.26 (0.37)	0.03 (0.11)	0.02 (0.11)	-0.01 (0.14)	-0.00 (0.14)
PNK	0.35 (0.32)	0.38 (0.32)	0.29** (0.09)	0.26** (0.09)	0.01 (0.12)	0.11 (0.13)
PNK X Treatment	-0.87# (0.47)	-0.95* (0.44)	-0.07 (0.13)	-0.08 (0.13)	-0.02 (0.17)	-0.06 (0.17)
<i>Demographic Controls</i>						
Age	—	0.06 (0.05)	—	-0.01 (0.01)	—	-0.04* (0.02)
Gender (Male)	—	0.10 (0.12)	—	0.06 (0.05)	—	0.00 (0.05)
Race (Black)	—	-0.27 (0.19)	—	-0.09* (0.05)	—	-0.06 (0.07)
Ethnicity (Hispanic)	—	-0.29 (0.20)	—	-0.19** (0.06)	—	-0.05 (0.08)
Education	—	-0.05 (0.05)	—	0.00 (0.01)	—	-0.01 (0.02)
<i>Political Controls</i>						
Political interest	—	-0.06 (0.06)	—	0.01 (0.02)	—	0.01 (0.02)
Party ID	—	-0.06 (0.09)	—	-0.04# (0.03)	—	0.03 (0.03)
<i>News Consumption</i>						
News use (Online)	—	-0.03 (0.06)	—	0.00 (0.02)	—	-0.03 (0.02)
News use (Soc Med)	—	0.05 (0.06)	—	-0.01 (0.02)	—	0.03 (0.02)
News use (Print)	—	-0.06 (0.07)	—	-0.02 (0.02)	—	-0.02 (0.03)

News use (Audio)	—	-0.01 (0.08)	—	-0.00 (0.02)	—	0.00 (0.03)
News use (TV)	—	0.02 (0.08)	—	0.03 (0.02)	—	0.06* (0.03)
News use (Cable TV)	—	0.17* (0.08)	—	-0.03 (0.02)	—	-0.03 (0.03)
News use (Fox News)	—	0.17* (0.08)	—	0.03 (0.02)	—	0.03 (0.03)
Trust in news	—	0.56*** (0.06)	—	0.07*** (0.02)	—	0.16*** (0.02)
<i>N</i> (respondents)	1483	1483	1483	1483	1483	1483
<i>R</i> ²	0.01	0.11	0.01	0.05	0.00	0.05
Adj. <i>R</i> ²	0.01	0.10	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.04

Notes: *** $p < 0.001$; ** $p < 0.01$; * $p < 0.05$; # $p < 0.10$.

Table D-3. Linear regression models predicting attitudes about stimulus articles as a function of both treatment conditions interacted with each other (H4b).

	<u>Perceived Trustworthiness</u>		<u>Article Accuracy</u>		<u>Article Fairness</u>	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
(Intercept)	5.90*** (0.12)	5.86*** (0.32)	2.05*** (0.03)	1.87*** (0.09)	0.36*** (0.10)	0.40*** (0.12)
Treatment (AI label)	-0.60*** (0.17)	-0.63*** (0.16)	-0.09# (0.05)	-0.09# (0.05)	-0.06 (0.06)	-0.09 (0.06)
Treatment (Source list)	0.02 (0.17)	0.06 (0.16)	0.00 (0.05)	0.02 (0.05)	0.01 (0.06)	0.03 (0.06)
Labels X Source	0.31 (0.24)	0.29 (0.23)	0.12# (0.07)	0.10 (0.07)	0.09 (0.09)	0.09 (0.09)
<i>Demographic Controls</i>						
Age	—	0.07 (0.05)	—	-0.01 (0.01)	—	-0.04* (0.02)
Gender (Male)	—	0.12 (0.12)	—	0.06 (0.04)	—	0.01 (0.05)
Race (Black)	—	-0.29 (0.19)	—	-0.09* (0.06)	—	-0.07 (0.07)
Ethnicity (Hispanic)	—	-0.24 (0.21)	—	-0.18*** (0.06)	—	-0.04 (0.08)
Education	—	-0.05 (0.05)	—	0.00 (0.01)	—	-0.01 (0.02)
<i>Political Controls</i>						
Political interest	—	-0.07 (0.06)	—	0.01 (0.02)	—	0.01 (0.02)
Party ID	—	-0.07 (0.09)	—	-0.05# (0.03)	—	0.03 (0.03)
<i>News Consumption</i>						
News use (Online)	—	-0.03 (0.07)	—	0.00 (0.02)	—	-0.03 (0.02)
News use (Soc Med)	—	0.05 (0.06)	—	-0.00 (0.02)	—	0.03 (0.02)
News use (Print)	—	-0.05 (0.07)	—	-0.02 (0.02)	—	-0.02 (0.03)
News use (Audio)	—	-0.02	—	-0.00	—	0.00

		(0.08)		(0.02)		(0.03)
News use (TV)	—	0.03	—	0.03	—	0.06*
		(0.08)		(0.02)		(0.03)
News use (Cable TV)	—	0.15 [#]	—	-0.03	—	-0.04
		(0.08)		(0.02)		(0.03)
News use (Fox News)	—	0.18*	—	0.03	—	0.03
		(0.08)		(0.02)		(0.03)
Trust in news	—	0.56***	—	0.08***	—	0.16***
		(0.06)		(0.02)		(0.02)
PNK	—	-0.06	—	0.23***	—	0.08
		(0.25)		(0.07)		(0.10)
<i>N</i> (respondents)	1483	1483	1483	1483	1483	1483
<i>R</i> ²	0.01	0.11	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.05
Adj. <i>R</i> ²	0.01	0.10	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.04

Notes: *** $p < 0.001$; ** $p < 0.01$; * $p < 0.05$; # $p < 0.10$.

Appendix E: Tests for heterogeneous treatment effects by story topic

We estimated additional models (output available on request) testing for three-way-interactions when including story topic as an additional variable in the models. Below we visualize the results of these analyses, holding all other variables at their mean values.

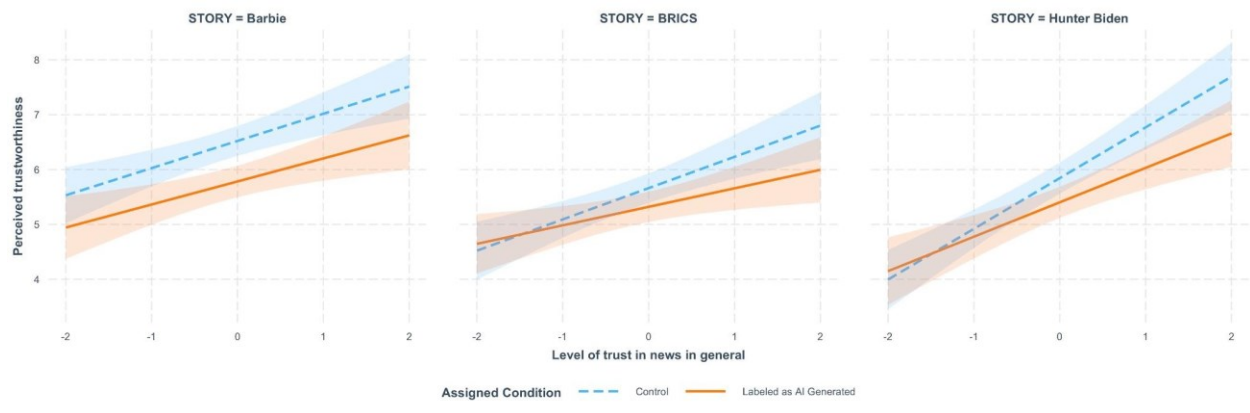


Figure D-1. Differences in heterogeneous treatment effects by prior levels of trust in news are plotted for each of the three story topics. The largest differences gaps in perceived trustworthiness are apparent for the most politically contentious of the three stories (Hunter Biden) although the largest treatment effects in general are apparent for the least politically contentious story (Barbie). Our sample size makes assessing the significance of these differences limited.

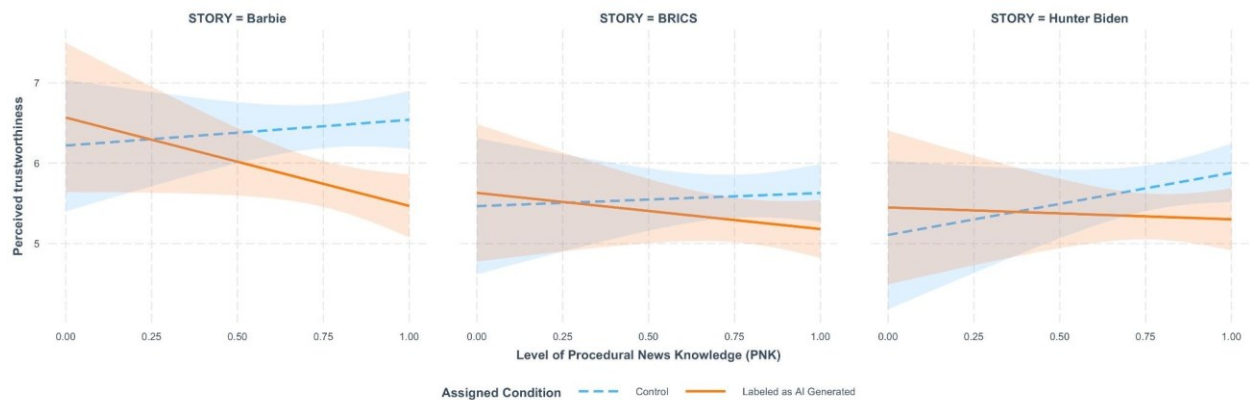


Figure D-2. Differences in heterogeneous treatment effects by PNK are plotted for each of the three story topics. Here we see the largest treatment effects associated with the least politically contentious of the three stories (Barbie). Our sample size makes assessing the significance of these differences limited.