

Wishful Thinking in the 2020 U.S. Presidential Election: Does Perspective Taking Mitigate the Preference-Expectation Link?

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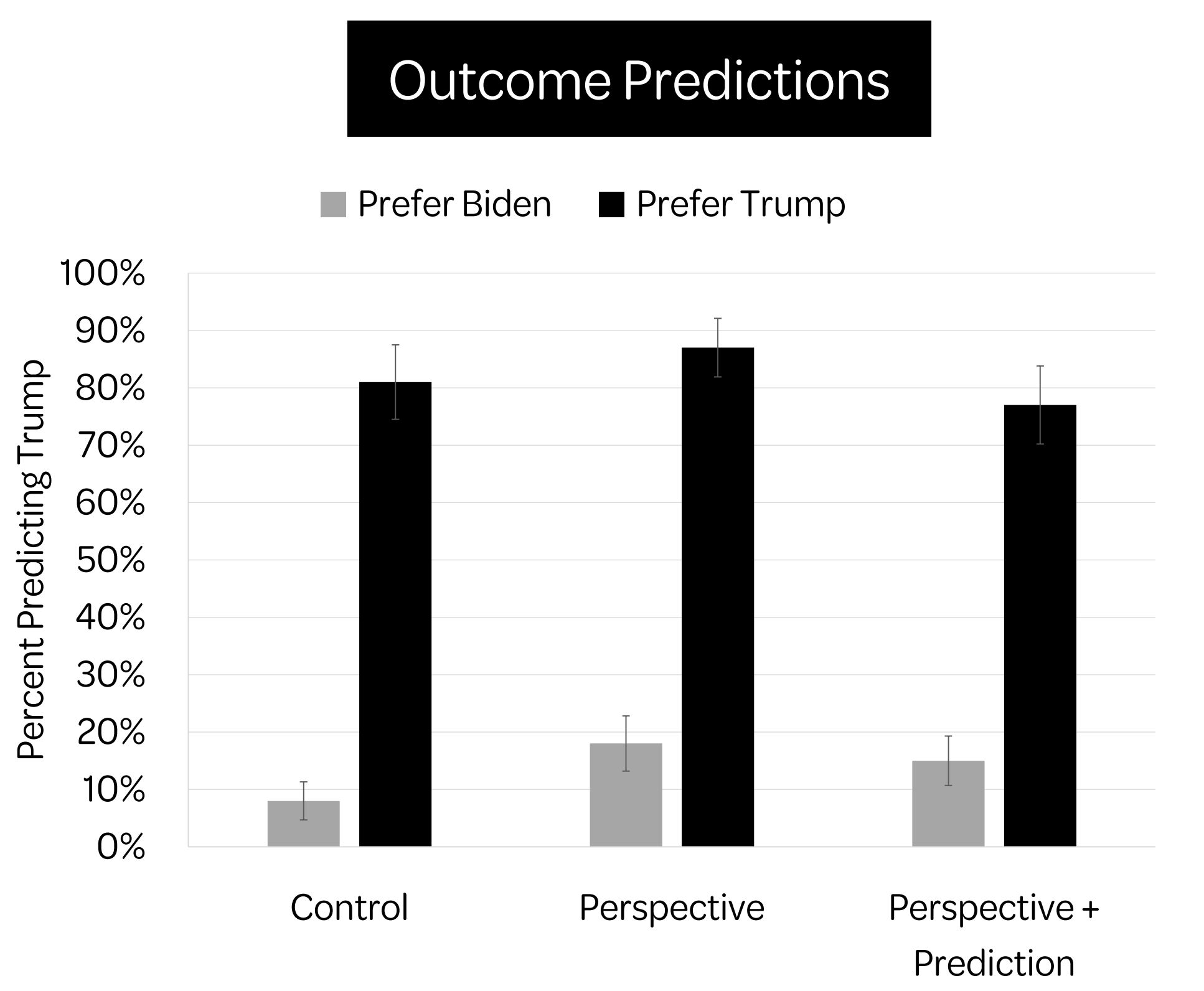
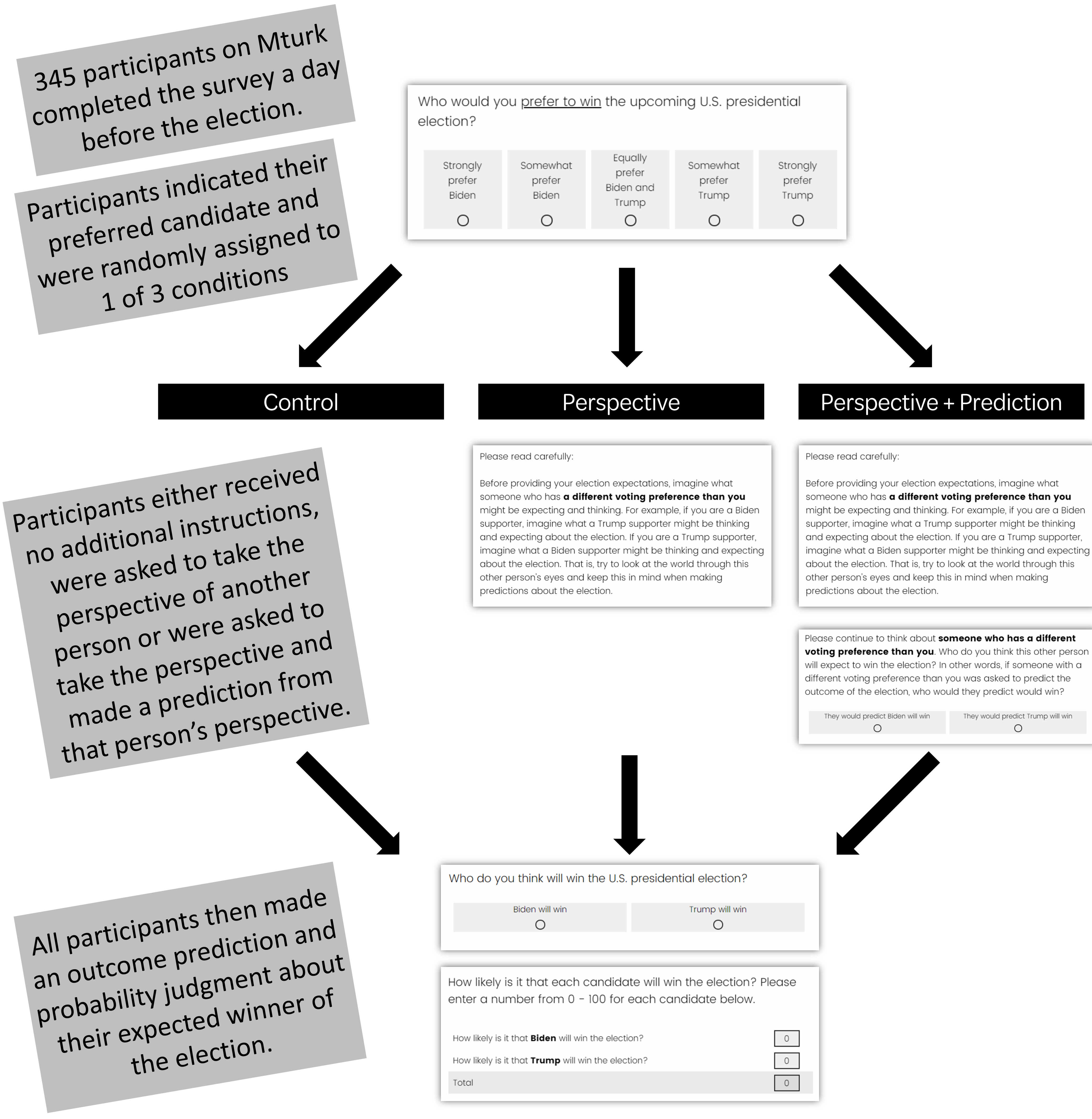
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People's expectations about the outcomes of elections are closely tied to their preferences—that is, people exhibit wishful thinking (Granberg & Brent, 1983). Rose and Aspiras (2020) tested whether perspective taking could reduce wishful thinking in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

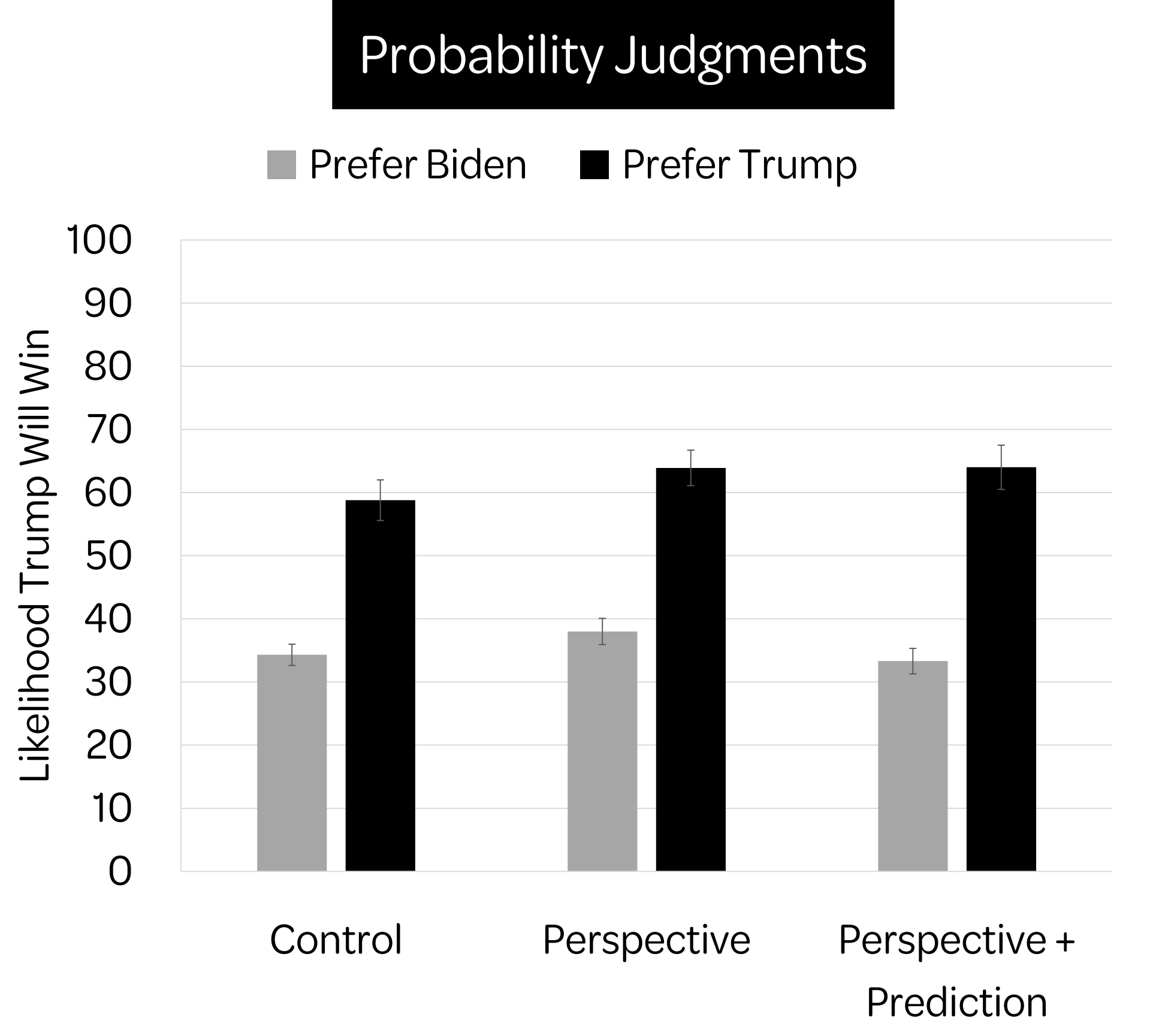
Their participants were asked to take the perspective of someone with a different preference (e.g., a Trump supporter taking the perspective of a Clinton supporter).

Rose and Aspiras (2020) found that perspective taking reduced wishful thinking (i.e., the perspective taking manipulation reduced the difference between Trump and Clinton supporters).

We replicated and extended their research in the 2020 U.S. presidential election. Specifically, we included the same perspective taking condition and added a new condition that took another person's perspective and made a prediction from that person's perspective.



Main effect of preference ($p < .001$, $\eta_p^2 = .450$)
No interaction ($p = .546$, $\eta_p^2 = .004$)



Main effect of preference ($p < .001$, $\eta_p^2 = .356$)
No interaction ($p = .426$, $\eta_p^2 = .005$)

Participants exhibited a strong preference-expectation link (i.e., Trump supporters predicted Trump would win while Biden supporters predicted Biden would win).

Most importantly, perspective taking did not reduce wishful thinking in the 2020 U.S. presidential election, a finding that did not replicate Rose & Aspiras (2020)

Questions or comments:
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