



INTRODUCTION

- **We often believe stupid things¹.**
- Can thinking better and being motivated to form beliefs based on logic and evidence improve our reasoning **when information is inconsistent with our prior beliefs²**?
- Can we reach valid conclusions even if **our prior beliefs are politically motivated³**?

Hypothesis

- Analytic thinking should predict **less** belief bias.
- Valuing epistemic rationality should predict **less** belief bias.
- **Valuing epistemic rationality** should **moderate** the relationship between **analytic thinking** and **belief bias**.

METHODOLOGY

Epistemic Values = Importance of Rationality Scale (IRS⁴)

Analytic Thinking (AT) = CRT1-2⁵⁶

Syllogism Task –Belief Bias

Prior Beliefs = Political Ideology (Study 2) =

Participant's agreement with the items (Study 3)

DV: Assuming the two premises are true, does the conclusion necessarily follow from those premises?

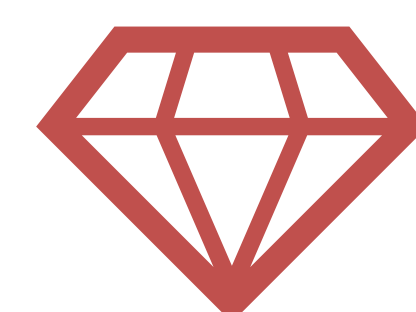
YES/NO

Study 1



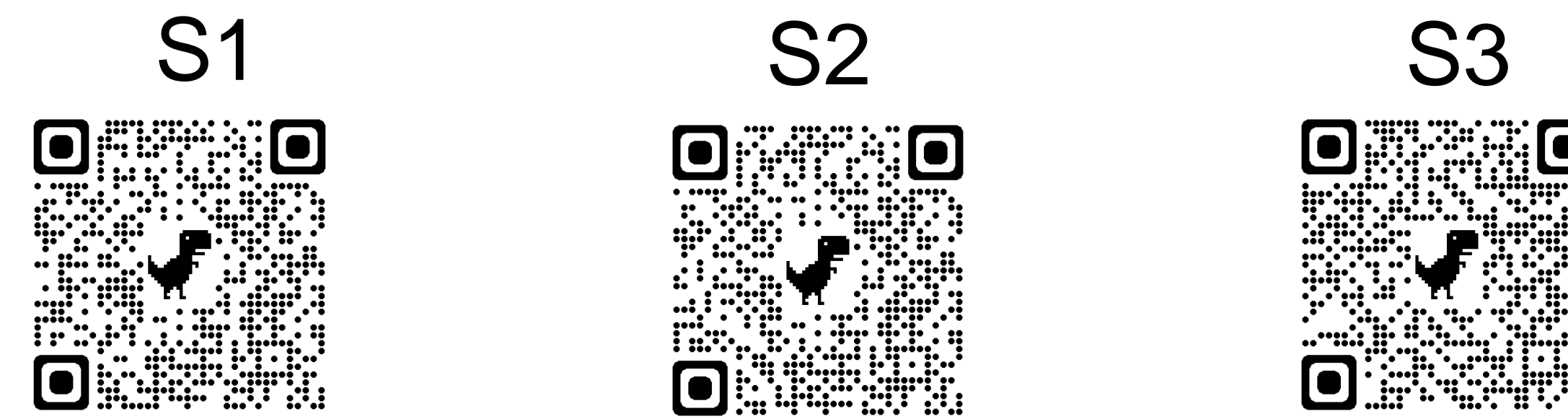
Premise 1. All flowers need light,
Premise 2. Roses need light,
Conclusion. **Therefore, roses are flowers.**

Study 2-3



Premise 1. All heterosexuals can have healthy marriages.
Premise 2. Homosexuals are not heterosexuals.
Conclusion. **Homosexuals cannot have healthy marriages.**

PRE-REGISTRATIONS



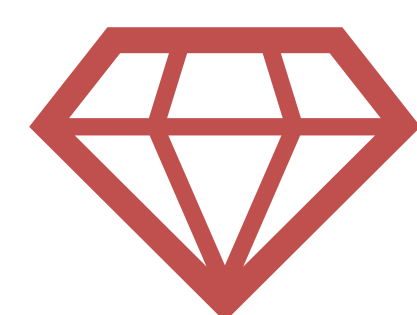
RESULTS

Study 1

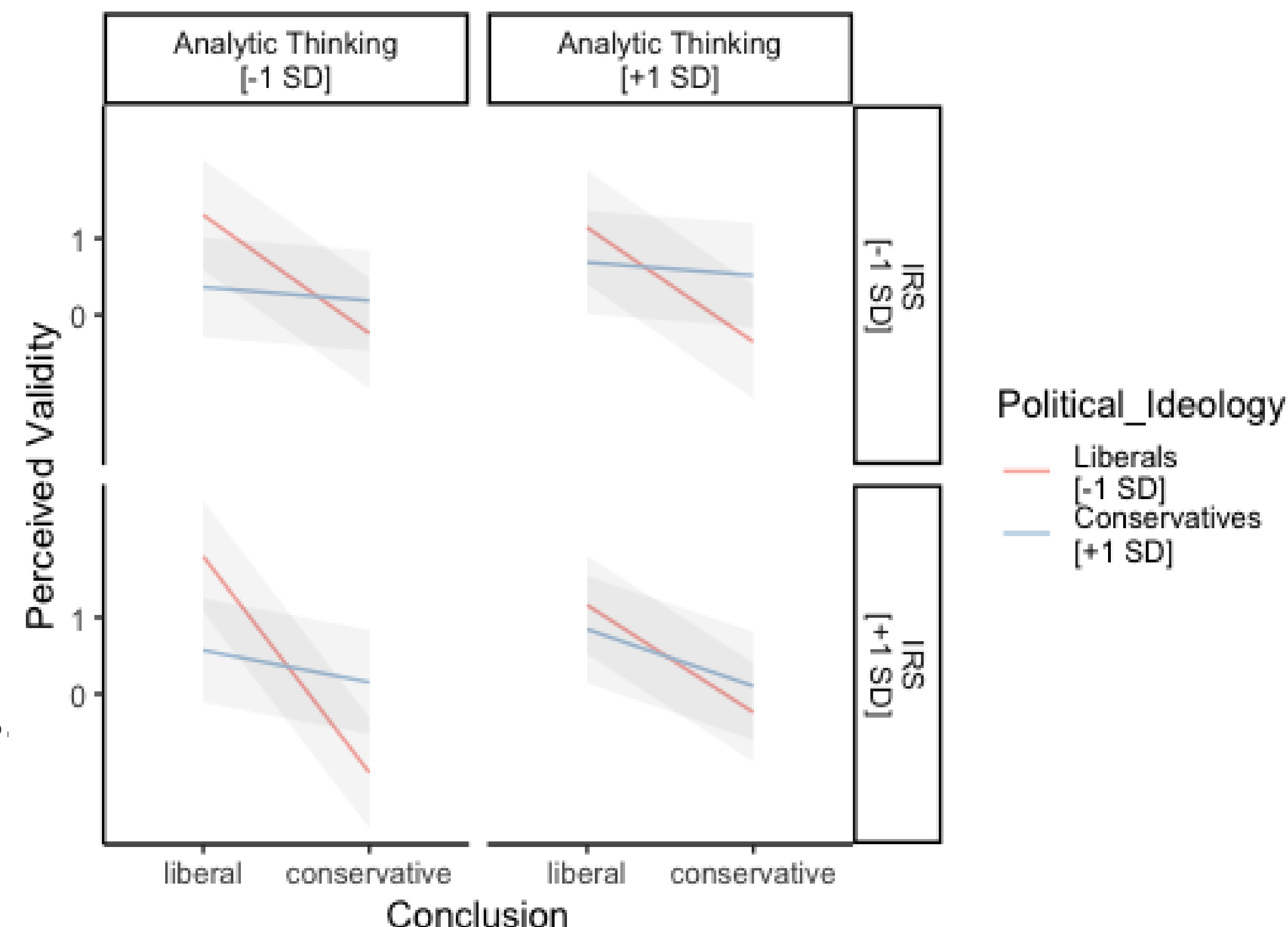


- People exhibit belief bias, $p < .0001$
- Neither AT nor IRS predicts less belief bias.

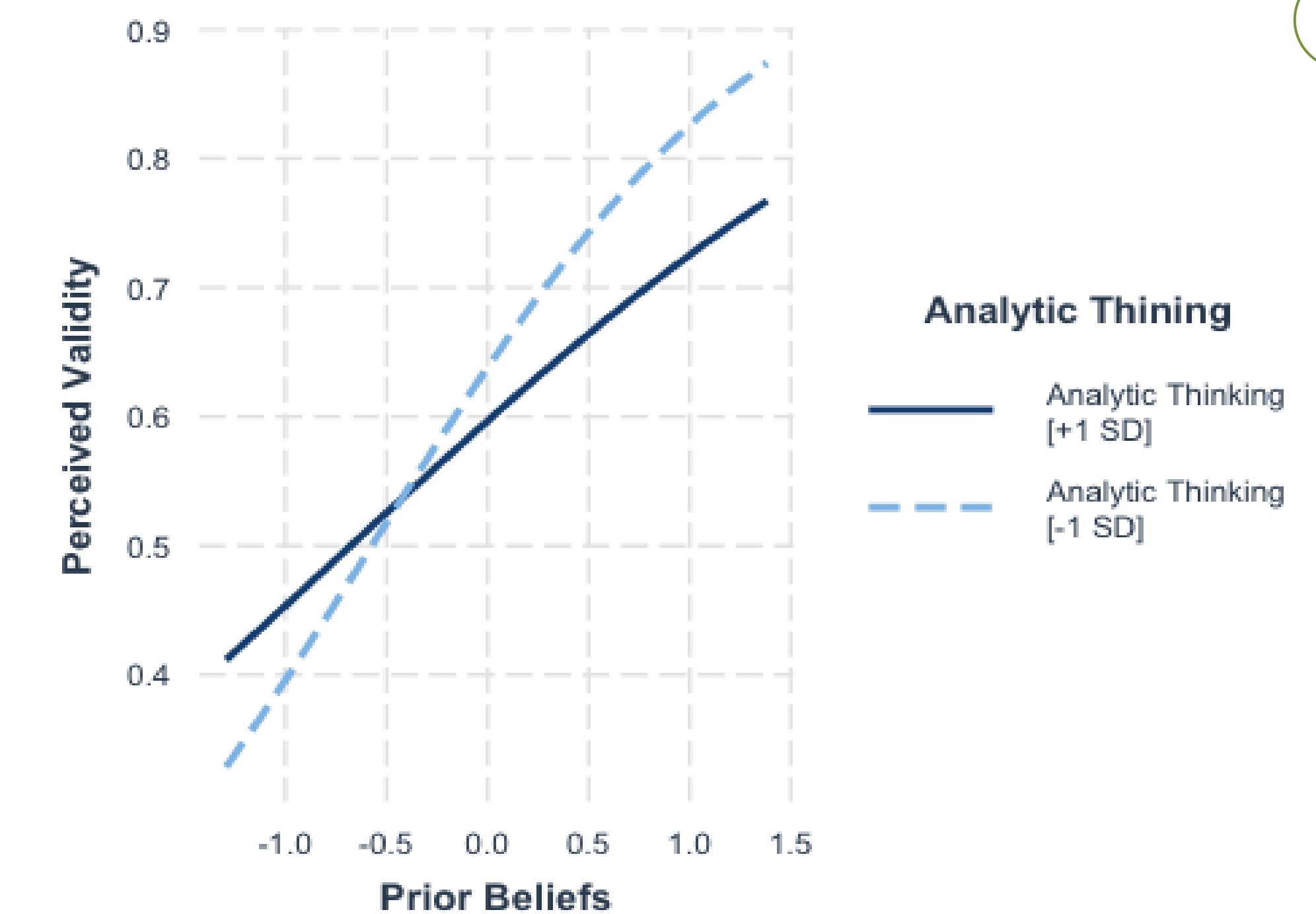
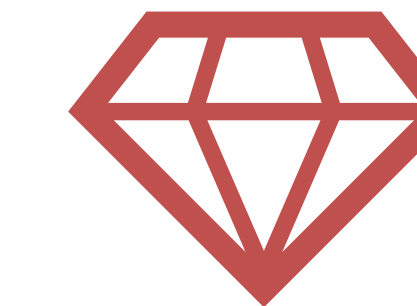
Study 2



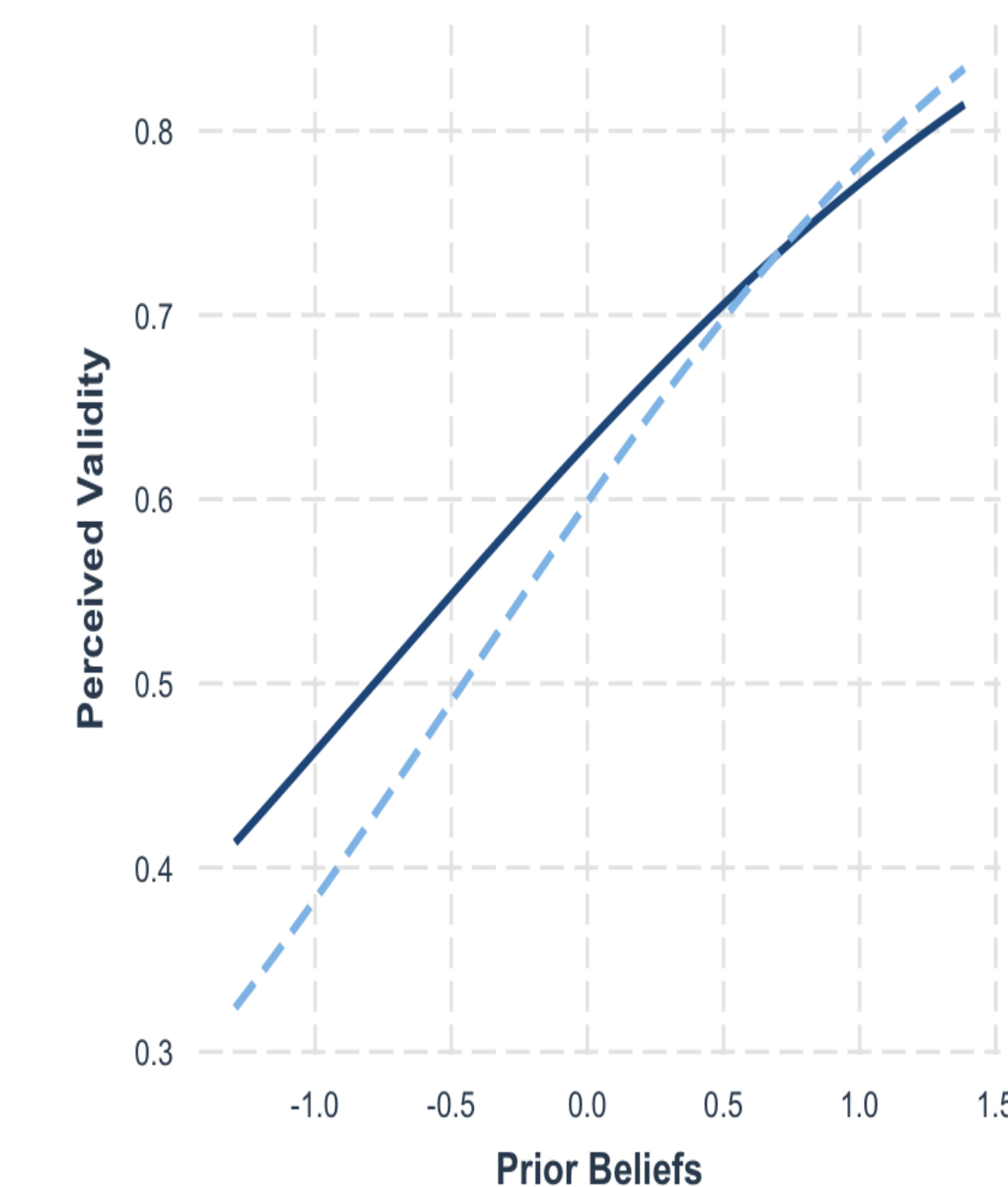
- Political belief bias among liberals, $p < .0001$.
- Political belief bias was **less** pronounced among high analytic thinkers (+1 AT), $p = .001$.
- **Valuing rationality moderates** the relationship between **analytic thinking** and political belief bias, $p = .003$.



Study 3

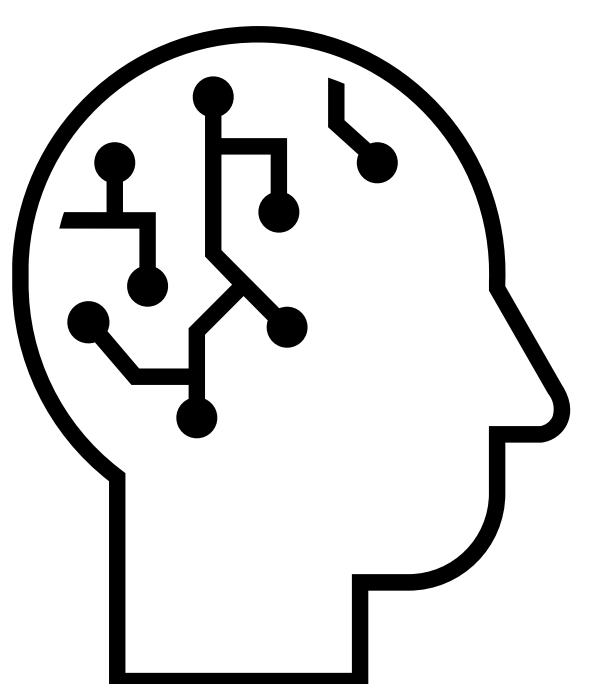


Analytic thinking is associated with **less** belief bias, $p < .001$



Valuing rationality is associated with **less** belief bias, $p < .001$

CONCLUSION



- **Analytic thinking** and **valuing rationality reduce** belief bias, especially for politically relevant content.
- Promoting these skills may help reduce biased reasoning.