Supplementary Materials

May 11, 2021

1 Experimental Treatment Texts

1.1 Control Group

Dear [NAME],

I am writing to ask if you would be willing to review a manuscript that has recently been submitted to the Canadian Journal of Political Science. You will find the abstract for the manuscript at the bottom of this page.

To accept the review invitation, please click this link: ********. After you have accepted the invitation, you will receive another email with full instructions on how to submit your comments. If you cannot review the manuscript, please click this link: ********.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at cjps@ucalgary.ca.

Sincerely,

[EDITOR NAME] [EDITOR POSITION] Canadian Journal of Political Science

[MANUSCRIPT ID, TITLE, AND ABSTRACT HERE]

1.2 Personal Connection

Dear [NAME],

I am writing to ask if you would be willing to review a manuscript that has recently been submitted to the Canadian Journal of Political Science. You will find the abstract for the manuscript at the bottom of this page.

To accept the review invitation, please click this link: ********. After you have accepted the invitation, you will receive another email with full instructions on how to submit your comments. If you cannot review the manuscript, please click this link: ********.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at cjps@ucalgary.ca.

Sincerely,

[EDITOR NAME] [EDITOR POSITION] Canadian Journal of Political Science

[MANUSCRIPT ID, TITLE, AND ABSTRACT HERE]

In addition to control group email above, the following message is also sent from editor's institutional email address:

Dear [First Name] – As you've probably seen, I recently sent you an invitation to review a manuscript for the Canadian Journal of Political Science. I'm hoping you'll be able to provide us with a review.

Many thanks, [Editor first name]

1.3 Recognition

Dear [NAME],

I am writing to ask if you would be willing to review a manuscript that has recently been submitted to the Canadian Journal of Political Science. You will find the abstract for the manuscript at the bottom of this page.

Should you agree to review this manuscript, we will recognize your contribution by listing your name in the final issue of this year's volume of CJPS and sending you a letter of recognition that we hope will be useful for merit, promotion, and other recognition at your institution.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at cjps@ucalgary.ca. To accept the review invitation, please click this link: ********. After you have accepted the invitation, you will receive another email with full instructions on how to submit your comments. If you cannot review the manuscript, please click this link: ********.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at cjps@ucalgary.ca. Sincerely,

[EDITOR NAME] [EDITOR POSITION] Canadian Journal of Political Science

[MANUSCRIPT ID, TITLE, AND ABSTRACT HERE]

1.4 Prestige

Dear [NAME],

I am writing to ask if you would be willing to review a manuscript that has recently been submitted to the Canadian Journal of Political Science. You will find the abstract for the manuscript at the bottom of this page.

The Canadian Journal of Political Science is the flagship journal of the Canadian political science community. Published quarterly by Cambridge University Press, CJPS is one of few bilingual political science journals and is the official journal of the Canadian Political Science Association and the Soci qucoise de science politique. CJPS publishes peer-reviewed articles of the highest quality from all areas on the discipline and serves as the leading outlet for scholarship focused on Canada and Canadian politics broadly defined.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at cjps@ucalgary.ca. To accept the review invitation, please click this link: ********. After you have accepted the invitation, you will receive another email with full instructions on how to submit your comments. If you cannot review the manuscript, please click this link: ********.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at cjps@ucalgary.ca. Sincerely,

[EDITOR NAME] [EDITOR POSITION] Canadian Journal of Political Science

[MANUSCRIPT ID, TITLE, AND ABSTRACT HERE]

2 Balance Tests

We have four observed variables we can use to test for balance in the experiment: the three predictor variables from the observational analysis (Canadian, familiar, rank) as well as gender, which we manually coded for other purposes for the entire dataset. Figure 1 summarizes these tests. The test suggests that Canadian and familiar reviewers may have been slightly more likely to end up in the recognition treatment than the control group, women were slightly less likely to be in the recognition and prestige groups than the control group, and more senior invitees were more likely to belong to the prestige group than the control group.

These differences are consistent with random variation in a relatively small experimental sample; we see little evidence here of systematic variation in group belonging. However, these differences do have the potential to affect our experimental results; for instance, if Canadian and familiar reviewers are more likely to belong to the recognition group, and also much more likely to accept invitations, a positive effect for the recognition treatment may in part be a reflection of the underlying compositional difference. For this reason, we report results with and without covariate controls in the main text and provide additional tables with and without covariate controls in the supplementary material below.

Figure 1: **Balance Tests**
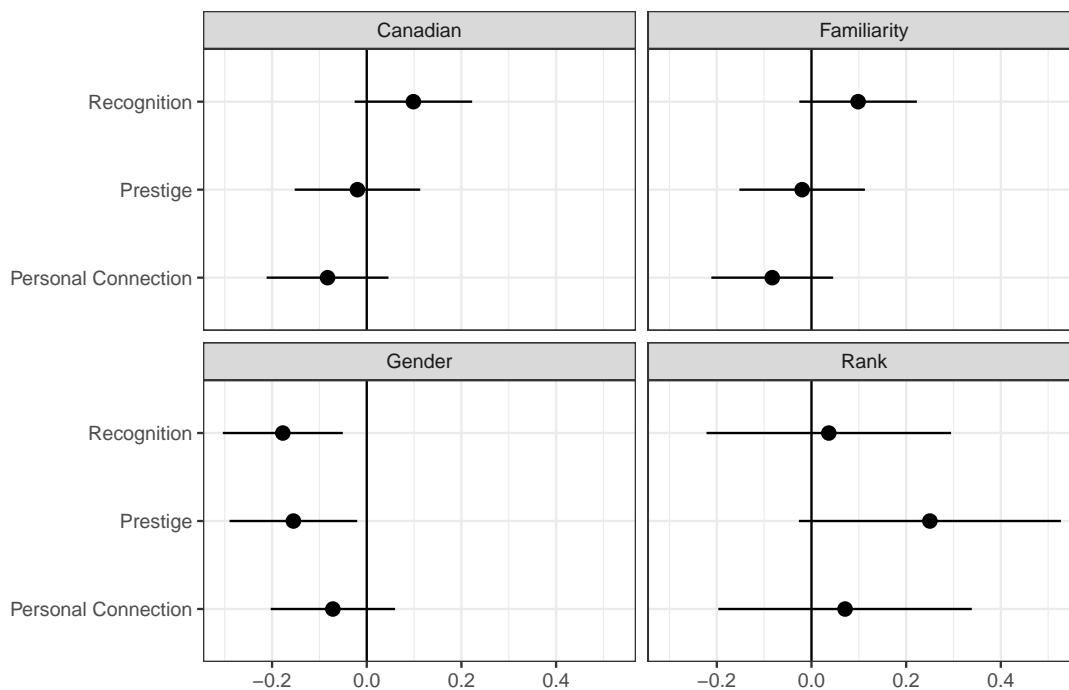
Description: this plot summarizes the relationship between group assignment and observables for the experimental group.

4

3 Regression Tables: Observational Data

The table below provides results for the predictors of invitation acceptance from the observational data, using OLS (left) and logistic (right) models.

Table 1

	Dependent variable:	
	dv	
	OLS	*logistic*
	(1)	(2)
familiar	0.179***	0.770***
	(0.030)	(0.132)
canada	0.120***	0.532***
	(0.028)	(0.124)
rank	−0.135***	−0.592***
	(0.016)	(0.071)
Constant	0.650***	0.664***
	(0.040)	(0.175)
Observations	1,461	1,461
R^2	0.105	
Adjusted R^2	0.103	
Log Likelihood		−928.547
Akaike Inf. Crit.		1,865.093
Residual Std. Error	0.472 (df = 1457)	
F Statistic	57.028*** (df = 3; 1457)	
Note:	*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01	

4 Experimental Regression Results: Full Tables

The tables below summarizes results from the regression analyses reported in the experimental section of the main text.

Table 2: Interaction Model: Canadian and Non-Canadian Residence

	Dependent variable:
	dv
Personal Connection	0.295***
	(0.112)
Prestige	0.135
	(0.114)
Recognition	0.152
	(0.110)
Canada	0.375***
	(0.098)
Personal x Canada	−0.356**
	(0.143)
Prestige x Canada	−0.176
	(0.146)
Recognition x Canada	−0.148
	(0.138)
Constant	0.243***
	(0.080)
Observations	390
R^2	0.060
Adjusted R^2	0.043
Residual Std. Error	0.490 (df = 382)
F Statistic	3.491*** (df = 7; 382)
Note:	*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Table 3: Interaction Model: Familiar and Non-Familiar Reviewers

	Dependent variable:
	dv
Personal Connection	0.098
	(0.082)
Prestige	0.026
	(0.086)
Recognition	0.105
	(0.085)
Familiar	0.308***
	(0.099)
Personal x Familiar	−0.073
	(0.156)
Prestige x Familiar	−0.089
	(0.154)
Recognition x Familiar	−0.240*
	(0.139)
Constant	0.395***
	(0.057)
Observations	390
R^2	0.046
Adjusted R^2	0.028
Residual Std. Error	0.493 (df = 382)
F Statistic	2.618** (df = 7; 382)
Note:	*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Table 4: Interaction Model: CJPS Insiders and Outsiders

	Dependent variable:
	dv
Personal Connection	−0.069
	(0.086)
Prestige	−0.070
	(0.089)
Recognition	−0.039
	(0.080)
Outsider	−0.456***
	(0.100)
Personal x Outsider	0.421***
	(0.145)
Prestige x Outsider	0.276*
	(0.148)
Recognition x Outsider	0.262*
	(0.142)
Constant	0.633***
	(0.055)
Observations	390
R^2	0.069
Adjusted R^2	0.052
Residual Std. Error	0.487 (df = 382)
F Statistic	4.052*** (df = 7; 382)
Note:	*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

5 Regression Tables with Covariate Controls

The table below summarizes subsample results with and without covariate controls.

	Full Sample		Non-Familiar		Non-Canadian		Outsider	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Personal Connection	0.06	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.30***	0.29***	0.36***	0.34***
	(0.07)	(0.07)	(0.08)	(0.08)	(0.11)	(0.11)	(0.11)	(0.11)
Prestige	−0.01	0.03	0.03	0.06	0.14	0.15	0.21*	0.21*
	(0.07)	(0.07)	(0.09)	(0.09)	(0.11)	(0.11)	(0.11)	(0.11)
Recognition	0.04	0.01	0.11	0.09	0.16	0.10	0.23**	0.18
	(0.07)	(0.06)	(0.09)	(0.09)	(0.11)	(0.11)	(0.11)	(0.11)
Covariate Controls	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Observations	392	390	263	263	157	157	140	140

Note: $^{*}p<0.1$; $^{**}p<0.05$; $^{***}p<0.01$

6 Logistic Regression Tables

The table below summarizes subsample results using logistic regression rather than OLS. Substantive findings are identical.

|	Full Sample		Non-Familiar		Non-Canadian		Outsider	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Personal Connection	0.23	0.40	0.49	0.42	1.32***	1.37***	1.69***	1.69***
	(0.28)	(0.30)	(0.35)	(0.34)	(0.50)	(0.51)	(0.56)	(0.56)
Prestige	−0.04	0.23	0.34	0.13	0.67	0.81	1.10*	1.18**
	(0.29)	(0.31)	(0.37)	(0.36)	(0.51)	(0.52)	(0.57)	(0.58)
Recognition	0.15	0.19	0.55	0.45	0.75	0.66	1.17**	1.13**
	(0.27)	(0.29)	(0.36)	(0.35)	(0.49)	(0.50)	(0.57)	(0.57)
Covariate Controls	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Observations	392	390	263	263	157	157	140	140
Log Likelihood	−271.02	−245.08	−172.46	−179.68	−101.12	−98.18	−87.11	−86.21
Akaike Inf. Crit.	550.05	504.16	356.91	367.37	210.23	208.37	182.21	182.42

Note: *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

7 Robustness of Experimental Results: Simulation Analysis

An alternative approach to assessing the robustness of our subsample findings among the "outsider" group is to assess how our results might change if the acceptance rate among the control group were not the unusually low observed rate (17%) but rather the more typical rate for "outsiders" that we observed through the editorial team's full three-year term (33%). To do so, we took a simulation approach. In each iteration of the simulation, we created a data frame consisting of 200 observations: 50 from each of the four experimental groups. In each group, we took a random draw from a binomial distribution with a probability of 33% for the control group (the assumed "typical" acceptance rate for the full term) along with the observed values for each of the treatment groups (53%, 38%, and 40% for personal connection, prestige, and recognition, respectively). Each simulation thus incorporates an element of random variation (the distribution will be near, but not identical to, the expected values). We carried out 1,000 simulations, recording regression results for each analysis, and plot the distribution of resulting p-values in figure 2. Under this very strict simulation test, we find that the personal connection treatment remains significant in more than half of the simulations (54%) while the prestige treatment is significant in just 7% and the recognition treatment in just 10% of simulations. Once again, then, we have more grounds for confidence in the personal connection effect among "outsiders" than in the other effects.

Figure 2: **Distribution of p-values from Simulation Tests**
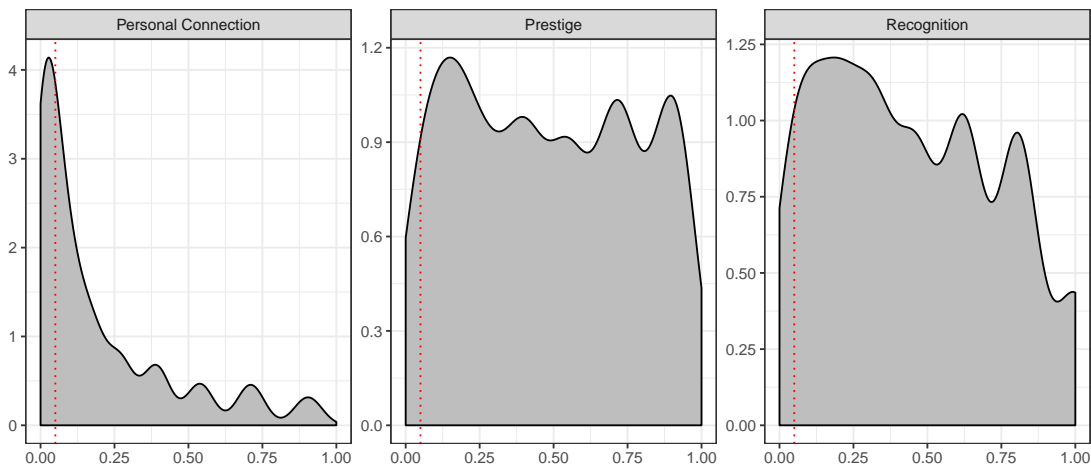
Description: this plot summarizes the distribution of p-values for each treatment from 1,000 simulations, in which the expected acceptance rate is expected to be 33% rather than 17%. The red line marks p=0.05. Observations to the left of the red line represent the proportion of the 1,000 regressions in which the effect was statistically significant.

8 Pre-analysis Plan

Preanalysis Plan: CJPS Reviewer Invitation Analysis and Experiment

Antonio Franceschet, Jack Lucas, Brenda O'Neill, Melanee Thomas

July 2, 2019

1 Introduction

This document outlines our plan for the analysis of observational and experimental data related to patterns of reviewer invitation acceptance and decline for the Canadian Journal of Political Science (CJPS). Observational data will be drawn from the full three-year term of the current CJPS Editorial Team at the University of Calgary. Experimental data will be drawn from the team's final year (2019-20). This plan has been written prior to the beginning of the experiment in July 2019.

This project has received approval from the University of Calgary Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board (REB19-0566).

2 Project Overview and Design

Low reviewer acceptance rates – the rates at which scholars who are invited to review a manuscript actually accept the invitation – are a challenge for journal editors in political science. In this project, our aim is to explore the factors that influence acceptance rates and test the possibility that acceptance rates might be increased by providing potential reviewers with distinct informational cues to inform their decision:

1. Information that increases the *personal* or *human* connection between the journal editor and potential reviewer. In an era of online editorial management software, invitations to review manuscripts are auto-filled form letters, neutral and professional but also somewhat cold in tone. Reviewers may rightfully wonder how many others have received the same invitation. By sending reviewers a short, informal note from our personal institutional email addresses alongside the system's auto-generated invitation email, we aim to understand whether a simple gesture of *personal connection* between editor and potential reviewer increases the probability that a reviewer will accept the invitation.

2. Information that describes the *recognition* that reviewers will receive for completing a review. Past research on reviewer invitation acceptance has noted that political scientists and other academics are sometimes frustrated by the thankless character of

1

reviewing. The Canadian Journal of Political Science has introduced two forms of recognition which we hope will make the task slightly less thankless: public acknowledgement of all reviewers in the final issue of each year's annual volume, and a letter of recognition, distributed to each reviewer at the end of the year, which the reviewer can include in files related to promotion, merit, and other recognition. By including a short paragraph about these forms of recognition within our system's invitation message, we aim to understand whether information about *public recognition* will increase the probability that a reviewer will accept the invitation.

3. Information that describes the *prestige* of the Canadian Journal of Political Science. In general, acceptance rates among high-prestige journals in political science appear to be somewhat higher than other journals. The Canadian Journal of Political Science is a high-reputation journal inside the Canadian political science discipline but less well known outside Canada. By including a short paragraph about the reputation of the Canadian Journal of Political Science within our system's invitation message, we aim to understand whether information about *journal reputation and prestige* will increase the probability that a reviewer will accept the invitation.

To investigate the distinct effect of each of these potential interventions – all of which are positive in character, costless to implement, and involve no sanctions or harms to potential reviewers – we will undertake an experiment using all CJPS review invitations from June 1, 2019 to May 30, 2020. Each potential reviewer will randomly receive either one of the three treatments above or a control invitation, which is simply the standard invitation letter that we currently use.

Randomization will occur at the level of the individual invitation to review, with each reviewer equally likely to be assigned to the control group or one of the three treatments. Practically speaking, each editor will receive a randomly ordered list (e.g. control, treatment 2, treatment 2, treatment 3, treatment 1, control...) which he or she will cross off as reviewers are invited throughout the year. Each potential reviewer will thus have a 25% probability of assignment to each of the four groups.

3   Outcome Variable

Our outcome variable is the proportion of invited reviewers who accept our invitation to review a manuscript. This variable applies only to the *initial* invitation to review, and not to subsequent invitations on R&R manuscripts.

There is a subtlety to our outcome variable that will require two distinct analyses. In many cases, knowing that acceptance rates are far from 100%, we immediately invite more than three reviewers for a particular manuscript. In some cases, three reviewers do accept our initial invitations, meaning that we no longer need reviews from the additional reviewers we have invited. We then "disinvite" surplus reviewers before they have had a chance to respond to the invitation. One might argue that these reviewers should be excluded from the analysis, since they did not have a chance to explicitly communicate their decision to review. On the other hand, their delay in making a decision could be interpreted as an

implicit decline to review, and for the practical purposes of the editorial team, it is precisely the same as a "decline." We will thus analyze the outcome variable using both definitions:

- Definition 1: Acceptance (1) is accepting an invitation to review a manuscript, decline (0) is explicitly declining an invitation to review a manuscript.

- Definition 2: Acceptance (1) is accepting an invitation to review a manuscript, decline (0) is *not* accepting an invitation to review a manuscript conditional on having been invited.

We see little reason why a treatment, if effective, should not be effective using both definitions, and we will thus test each treatment using both definitions and consider a treatment robust if it is statistically significantly different from the control group using both definitions.

4 Observational Analysis

Our own and experience as the editorial team of the Canadian Journal of Political Science suggests that a number of factors shape potential reviewers' decisions to accept or decline an invitation. Our analysis will begin by describing patterns of acceptance and declines based on these factors, using data from the editorial team's full three-year tenure. The outcome variable is the same as above; the factors that we will analyze independently and in a multivariate regression analysis are as follows:

1. Editor familiarity with reviewer. We have found that reviewers with whom we are personally familiar are more likely to accept our invitations. This variable is coded as (1) if we are familiar with the individual at the time of the invitation (operationalized as, "are you familiar enough with this person to say hello at a conference without needing to introduce yourself or be introduced?") and (0) otherwise.

2. Editor familiarity with the manuscript. When editors are deeply familiar with the topic of a manuscript, they may be better able to quickly identify reviewers who would be a good fit – and thus to produce higher acceptance rates. This variable is coded as follows: (0) Not at all familiar; (1) Somewhat familiar; (2) Very familiar; (3) Extremely familiar. Since it is rare for an editor to be assigned a manuscript with which he or she is not at all familiar, this variable's (0) category may be dropped for lack of data.

3. Reviewer rank. Research on reviewer motivations suggests that motivations for accepting an invitation may evolve through an academic's career, and acceptance rates may be higher among junior scholars than senior scholars. We are unsure if this is the case for the CJPS but include the variable here for descriptive purposes, coded as follows: (0) ABD or postdoctoral fellow; (1) Assistant Professor or other tenure-track position; (2) Associate or Full Professor or other tenured position; (3) Other position (non-academic, LTA, sessional, etc.). If the ABD/postdoc category is very small, we will fold those observations into the assistant professor or other tenure-track category.

4. Geography. CJPS is more well known in Canada than in other countries. We thus expect acceptance rates outside Canada are lower than inside Canada, coded as follows: (0) Institutional affiliation outside Canada, (1) Institutional affiliation inside Canada.

5 Additional Analysis

In a few cases, we have expectations about the relationship between the treatments outlined in section 3 and the factors outlined in section 4. We outline those expectations and related subsample analyses here.

1. We expect that the *prestige* treatment will be more effective for non-Canadian reviewers than for Canadian reviewers, since Canadian reviewers are likely to be more familiar with the reputation of the CJPS. We will analyse the prestige treatment within each of the Canadian and non-Canadian sub-populations.

2. We expect that the *recognition* treatment will be more effective for pre-tenure reviewers than for post-tenure reviewers, since pre-tenure reviewers are likely to be more concerned with career progress and promotion. We will analyse the recognition treatment within the pre-tenure and post-tenure sub-populations.

3. We are unsure about the effect of the *personal connection* treatment on reviewers with whom the editor is and is not familiar. On the one hand, the treatment may build on an already existing familiarity and thus be more effective within the "familiar" category. On the other hand, the treatment may be more effective for those with whom the editor is not familiar, since it substitutes for an already existing personal connection. Since we think this analysis could have practical implications for future editorial teams, the practical benefits outweigh the potential dangers of a false positive due to multiple tests. Thus we will analyse the personal connection treatment within the familiar and non-familiar sub-populations.

6 Control and Treatment Materials

Dear [NAME],

I am writing to ask if you would be willing to review a manuscript that has recently been submitted to the Canadian Journal of Political Science. You will find the abstract for the manuscript at the bottom of this page.

To accept the review invitation, please click this link: %ACCEPT_REVIEW_INVITATION%. After you have accepted the invitation, you will receive another email with full instructions on how to submit your comments. If you cannot review the manuscript, please click this link: %DECLINE_REVIEW_INVITATION%.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at cjps@ucalgary.ca.

Sincerely,

Jack Lucas, Ph.D.
Assistant Editor
Canadian Journal of Political Science

Ref.: Ms. No. CJPS-RCSP-D-19-00041
[MANUSCRIPT TITLE]
[MANUSCRIPT ABSTRACT]

Figure 1: **Control Group**

Dear [FIRSTNAME] – As you've probably seen, I recently sent you an invitation to review a manuscript for the Canadian Journal of Political Science. I'm hoping you'll be able to provide us with a review.

Many thanks,
[Editor first name]
|
==

Dear [NAME],

I am writing to ask if you would be willing to review a manuscript that has recently been submitted to the Canadian Journal of Political Science. You will find the abstract for the manuscript at the bottom of this page.

To accept the review invitation, please click this link: %ACCEPT_REVIEW_INVITATION%. After you have accepted the invitation, you will receive another email with full instructions on how to submit your comments. If you cannot review the manuscript, please click this link: %DECLINE_REVIEW_INVITATION%.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at cjps@ucalgary.ca.

Sincerely,

Jack Lucas, Ph.D.
Assistant Editor
Canadian Journal of Political Science

Ref.: Ms. No. CJPS-RCSP-D-19-00041
[MANUSCRIPT TITLE]
[MANUSCRIPT ABSTRACT]

Figure 2: **Treatment 1 - Personal Connection**

TREATMENT 2 LETTER - RECOGNITION FRAME

Dear [NAME],

I am writing to ask if you would be willing to review a manuscript that has recently been submitted to the Canadian Journal of Political Science. You will find the abstract for the manuscript at the bottom of this page.

Should you agree to review this manuscript, we will recognize your contribution by listing your name in the final issue of this year's volume of CJPS and sending you a letter of recognition that we hope will be useful for merit, promotion, and other recognition at your institution.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at cjps@ucalgary.ca.
To accept the review invitation, please click this link: ********. After you have accepted the invitation, you will receive another email with full instructions on how to submit your comments. If you cannot review the manuscript, please click this link: ********.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at cjps@ucalgary.ca.

Sincerely,

[EDITOR NAME]
[EDITOR POSITION]
Canadian Journal of Political Science

[MANUSCRIPT ID, TITLE, AND ABSTRACT HERE]

Figure 3: **Treatment 2 - Recognition**

TREATMENT 3 LETTER - PRESTIGE FRAME

Dear [NAME],

I am writing to ask if you would be willing to review a manuscript that has recently been submitted to the Canadian Journal of Political Science. You will find the abstract for the manuscript at the bottom of this page.

The Canadian Journal of Political Science is the flagship journal of the Canadian political science community. Published quarterly by Cambridge University Press, CJPS is one of few bilingual political science journals and is the official journal of the Canadian Political Science Association and the Société québécoise de science politique. CJPS publishes peer-reviewed articles of the highest quality from all areas on the discipline and serves as the leading outlet for scholarship focused on Canada and Canadian politics broadly defined.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at cjps@ucalgary.ca.
To accept the review invitation, please click this link: ********. After you have accepted the invitation, you will receive another email with full instructions on how to submit your comments. If you cannot review the manuscript, please click this link: ********.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at cjps@ucalgary.ca.

Sincerely,

[EDITOR NAME]
[EDITOR POSITION]
Canadian Journal of Political Science

[MANUSCRIPT ID, TITLE, AND ABSTRACT HERE]

Figure 4: **Treatment 3 - Prestige**