Supplementary material for the following publication:

**Coding instructions for key variables**

Below are the coding instructions for the key variables used in this study. As media and journalism are the target of interest in this study, *social media are not included.*

- **Sample platform:** Twitter.
- **Sampling period:** 31 October 2020–31 October 2021.
- **Sample tweets:** Tweets from all Swedish members of parliament (MPs) at time of sampling.
- **Selection criteria:** All Swedish MPs identified with a Twitter account at time of sampling.
- **Sampling units:** Stand-alone tweets at time of sampling.

**Presence of media criticism**

**DESCRIPTION:** Code “Yes” if the tweet contains any criticism towards media or journalism, regardless of whether the criticism targets media or journalism in general, specific media types, specific media outlets, or specific journalists or specific news stories. Media in this context do not include social media. (Note: The specific characteristic of the criticism is not important to take into account in this variable. Moreover, criticism alludes in this study context to cues and expressions marked by an explicit or implicit underlying negativity.)

**Presence of media support**

**DESCRIPTION:** Code “Yes” if the tweet contains any support for media or journalism, regardless of whether the support targets media or journalism in general, specific media types, specific media outlets, specific journalists, or specific news stories. Media in this context do not include social media. Guiding characteristics that should be taken into account in the assessment are whether the tweet contains any form of positive mention of media and/or journalism. This can, for example, include tweets that praise specific journalists, media outlets, or credit particular journalistic performances, and/or tweets that mention the importance of media and journalism for democracy, and/or express worries for a decline in trust for media and journalism.

**Presence of incivility in media criticism**

**DESCRIPTION:** Code “Yes” if the tweet contains any presence of incivility, regardless of whether the tweet targets media or journalism in general, specific media types, specific media outlets, specific journalists, or specific news stories. Media in this context do not include social media. Presence of incivility alludes to tweets that give clear indications of a lack of respect towards its target. Guiding characteristics that should be taken into account in the assessment are whether the tweet contains rude and/or unneces-
sarily disrespectful language, name-calling and/or attempted character assassination, ideologically extremizing language, and/or sarcastic or caricaturing language.

Presence of absence of reasoning in media criticism
DESCRIPTION: Code “Yes” if the tweet indicates any absence of reasoning, regardless of whether the tweet targets media or journalism in general, specific media types, specific media outlets, specific journalists, or specific news stories. Media in this context do not include social media. Guiding characteristics that should be taken into account in the assessment are whether the criticism lacks substantial and/or factual ground, and hence is difficult to constructively respond to. Lack of reasonable, substantial, and/or factual ground can, for example, include claims that media coverage, journalistic performance, or a journalistic actor is misleading, biased, and/or incorrect, and/or is produced with an intention to deceive without backing up the criticism with any reasonable, substantial, and/or factual explanations or examples.

Presence of criticism towards quality of media
DESCRIPTION: Code “Yes” if the tweet contains any criticism toward the quality of media or journalism, regardless of whether the support is directed towards media or journalism in general, specific media types, specific media outlets, specific journalists, or specific news stories. Media in this context do not include social media. Guiding characteristics that should be taken into account in the assessment are whether the tweet contains claims that media and/or journalistic practices hold a poor standard, are sensationalistic, and/or are sloppy. (Note: Do not code if the tweet accuses the media of being biased in this variable; such criticism should be coded under the variable “Presence of bias accusations towards media”. Nor if the tweet accuses media for being false; such criticism should be coded under variable “Presence of falsehood accusations towards media”. Nor if the tweet makes explicit use of the Fake News label; such criticism should be coded under variable “Presence of ‘fake’ (news) attributions towards media”).

Presence of criticism towards quality of media: Poor standard and/or sloppiness
DESCRIPTION: Code “Yes” if the tweet claims that media coverage, journalistic performance, or a news story holds a poor and/or sloppy standard.

Presence of criticism towards quality of media: Sensationalism
DESCRIPTION: Code “Yes” if the tweet claims that media coverage, journalistic performance, or a news story is sensationalistic.

Presence of criticism towards quality of media: Selective coverage
DESCRIPTION: Code “Yes” if the tweet claims that media coverage, journalistic performance, or a news story engages in selective coverage of context.

Presence of bias accusations towards media
DESCRIPTION: Code “Yes” if the tweet contains any bias accusations towards media
or journalism, regardless of whether the tweet targets media or journalism in general, specific media types, specific media outlets, specific journalists, or specific news stories. Media in this context do not include social media. Guiding characteristics that should be taken into account in the assessment are whether the tweet contains claims that media and/or journalistic practices are not objective but partisan and favor the perspective of a certain ideology, group, or interest.

**Presence of bias accusations towards media: Left-wing bias**
**DESCRIPTION:** Code “Yes” if the tweet claims that media coverage, journalistic performance, or a news story is biased towards the left-wing of the political spectrum.

**Presence of bias accusations towards media: Right-wing bias**
**DESCRIPTION:** Code “Yes” if the tweet claims that media coverage, journalistic performance, or a news story is biased towards the right-wing of the political spectrum.

**Presence of falsehood accusations towards media**
**DESCRIPTION:** Code “Yes” if the tweet contains any falsehood accusations towards media and journalism, regardless of whether the support targets media or journalism in general, specific media types, specific media outlets, specific journalists, or specific news stories. Media in this context do not include social media. Guiding characteristics to consider when coding this variable are whether the tweet contains claims that media and/or journalistic practices contain errors or are incorrect. Tweets that make use of concepts such as “propaganda”, “manipulation”, and like should also be coded “Yes”. (Note: Do not code this variable if the tweet makes explicit use of “Fake News” accusations in this variable, as these should be coded under variable “Presence of ‘fake’ (news) attributions towards media”).

**Presence of information aimed at correcting media**
**DESCRIPTION:** Code “Yes” if the tweet contains information that is claimed to be, corrective, and/or compensate for false, misleading, or unreported information produced by media or journalism, regardless of whether the target is media or journalism in general, specific media types, specific media outlets, specific journalists, or specific news stories. Media in this context do not include social media.

**Presence of “Fake” (News) attributions towards media**
**DESCRIPTION:** Code “Yes” if the tweet contains explicit “Fake News” accusations towards media and journalism, regardless of whether the tweet targets media or journalism in general, specific media types, specific media outlets, specific journalists, or specific news stories. Media in this context do not include social media. (Note: Only code “Yes” if the “fake” (news) label is present. Do not code tweets that make use of concepts such as “propaganda”, “manipulation” and like, these should be coded under variable “Presence of falsehood accusations towards media”).
Target of media criticism

DESCRIPTION: This variable category captures the target of media criticism and is coded in free text.