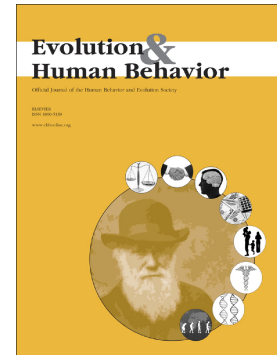


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Origins of sinister rumors: a preference for threat-related material in the supply and demand of information

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### **Ethics statement**

The Institutional Review Board at [redacted] reviewed and approved all studies included in this article. Before participating in the study, all participants read a description of study procedures, potential risks and benefits (of which there were none), anonymity, and their options to freely opt out. This section also detailed conditions for compensation. After reading this description, all participants indicated their consent to participate using a live button on the survey: “I Agree” or “I Do Not Agree”. Individuals could advance only if they selected “I Agree”. We collected Amazon Mechanical Turk™ worker ID numbers in order to verify survey completion and compensate participants for their participation. We requested participants’ gender, age and ethnicity, but collected no personally identifiable information.

### **Conflict of interest – financial disclosure**

This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

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