

## SOCIAL SCIENCE

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### **Asymmetry in survey replies: verification of information hypotheses**

This article tries to explain an asymmetrical distribution of the respondents' answers in anonymous questions. First described by D. Rugg, this phenomenon is interpreted with help of «implicit information of anonymous wording» hypothesis; according to this hypothesis anonymous questions effect respondents in a special way and may produce some artifacts. In order to verify this hypothesis authors conducted a methodological experiment. Gathered empirical data, firstly, confirm the existence of mentioned asymmetry and, secondly, provide some evidence for the hypothesis. Moreover, the experiment provided data that show the level of bias produced by applying different versions of one-sided anonymous wording which is opposite to two-sided anonymous wording used in this research doesn't produce bias. In conclusion authors describe further work necessary for comprehensive definition of the forbid/allow asymmetry problem.

Key words: public opinion polls, forbid/allow asymmetry, implicit information hypothesis, question wording.

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