

Appendix A

Experimental Stimuli

Directions: Please CAREFULLY read the following text below about a space discovery made by Harvard University (University of Eastern Minnesota), you will be asked a few questions on it.

Please read the following text below about a space discovery made by Harvard University CAREFULLY, you will be asked a few questions on it:

Published by: The Harvard University Gazette
Research conducted by: Charlotte F. Barlowe, Anna Bialy

Charlotte F. Barlowe, a Harvard Professor of Science, collaborated with postdoctoral fellow Anna Bialy on a paper suggesting that a mysterious figure floating through space which they named "Oumuamua" may be a ship created by an alien civilization. "When I first heard about "Oumuamua" this idea was in the back of my mind. The ship could be propelled with an alternative to traditional rocket propulsion called lightsails. Lightsails are propelled by radiation from the sun or from lasers. Calculations by Barlowe and Bialy show that for solar radiation to push "Oumuamua, it must have an unusual geometry — tens of meters in size, but less than a millimeter thick. In their paper, published this month, Barlowe and Bialy proposed two possibilities for the object's origins — that it is debris from a craft tumbling through the galaxy, or that it was launched as a sort of reconnaissance probe from elsewhere in the galaxy. "We know a quarter of all the stars in the galaxy have planets in the habitable zone of their host star ... so to me it's very likely that there may be life elsewhere and "Oumuamua" may indeed be a craft created by an alien civilization. Please select "purple" as a response to the next question asking about grass, so we know you read this.

Please read the following text below about a space discovery made by Eastern Minnesota University CAREFULLY, you will be asked a few questions on it:

Published by: The University of Eastern Minnesota Gazette
Research conducted by: Charlotte F. Barlowe, Anna Bialy

Charlotte F. Barlowe, an Eastern Minnesota University Professor of Science, collaborated with postdoctoral fellow Anna Bialy on a paper suggesting that a mysterious figure floating through space which they named "Oumuamua" may be a ship created by an alien civilization. "When I first heard about "Oumuamua" this idea was in the back of my mind. The ship could be propelled with an alternative to traditional rocket propulsion called lightsails. Lightsails are propelled by radiation from the sun or from lasers. Calculations by Barlowe and Bialy show that for solar radiation to push "Oumuamua, it must have an unusual geometry — tens of meters in size, but less than a millimeter thick. In their paper, published this month, Barlowe and Bialy proposed two possibilities for the object's origins — that it is debris from a craft tumbling through the galaxy, or that it was launched as a sort of reconnaissance probe from elsewhere in the galaxy. "We know a quarter of all the stars in the galaxy have planets in the habitable zone of their host star ... so to me it's very likely that there may be life elsewhere and "Oumuamua" may indeed be a craft created by an alien civilization. Please select "purple" as a response to the next question asking about grass, so we know you read this.

Please read the following text below about a space discovery made by Eastern Minnesota University CAREFULLY, you will be asked a few questions on it:

Published by: The University of Eastern Minnesota Gazette
Research conducted by: Kevin F. Barlowe, John Bialy

Kevin F. Barlowe, an Eastern Minnesota University Professor of Science, collaborated with postdoctoral fellow John Bialy on a paper suggesting that a mysterious figure floating through space which they named "Oumuamua" may be a ship created by an alien civilization. "When I first heard about "Oumuamua" this idea was in the back of my mind. The ship could be propelled with an alternative to traditional rocket propulsion called lightsails. Lightsails are propelled by radiation from the sun or from lasers. Calculations by Barlowe and Bialy show that for solar radiation to push "Oumuamua, it must have an unusual geometry — tens of meters in size, but less than a millimeter thick. In their paper, published this month, Barlowe and Bialy proposed two possibilities for the object's origins — that it is debris from a craft tumbling through the galaxy, or that it was launched as a sort of reconnaissance probe from elsewhere in the galaxy. "We know a quarter of all the stars in the galaxy have planets in the habitable zone of their host star ... so to me it's very likely that there may be life elsewhere and "Oumuamua" may indeed be a craft created by an alien civilization. Please select "purple" as a response to the next question asking about grass, so we know you read this.

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Appendix B

Dependent Measures

I believe this *source*

Strongly disagree 1	2	3	4	5	6	Strongly agree 7	Prefer not to answer
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The *researchers* are credible

Strongly disagree 1	2	3	4	5	6	Strongly agree 7	Prefer not to answer
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I would use this *source* if I was doing research on the topic

Strongly disagree 1	2	3	4	5	6	Strongly agree 7	Prefer not to answer
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