brief guide to

The Argument Communication Model

Pause the simulation.

Restart the simulation with specified attitude structure and random initial conditions.

Use Acceleration to speed up the simulation (default: 1000 dyadic interactions per visual frame)

Set the similarity Threshold in between 0 (no interaction) and 2 (maximal attitude difference) and select if similarity is based on both issues, only the First Issue, or a single argument.
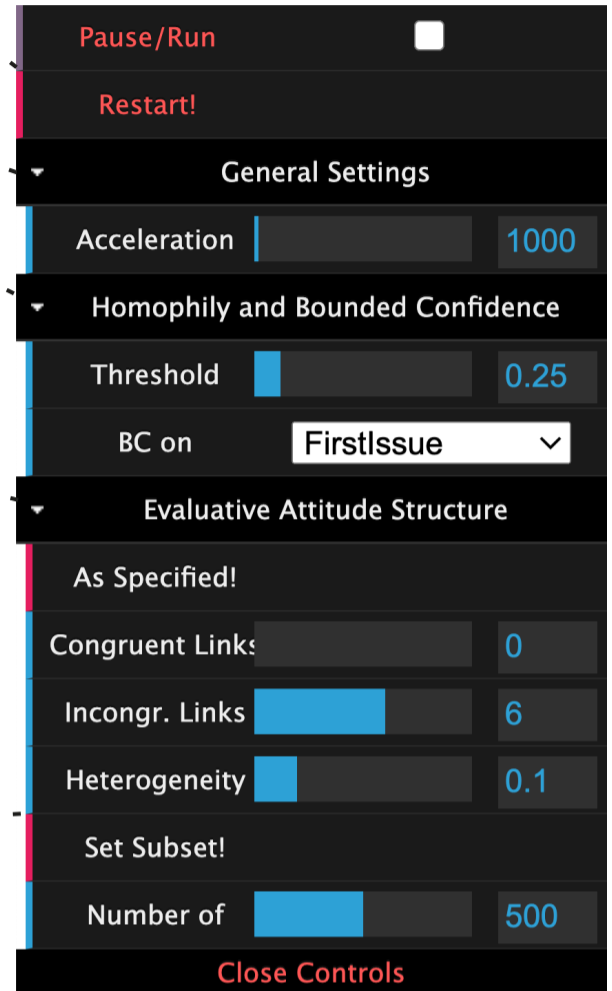
Press As Specified! to apply the attitude structure.

Specify the number of Congruent Links (same evaluation for both issues)

Specify the number of Inongruent Links (reverse evaluation for both issues)

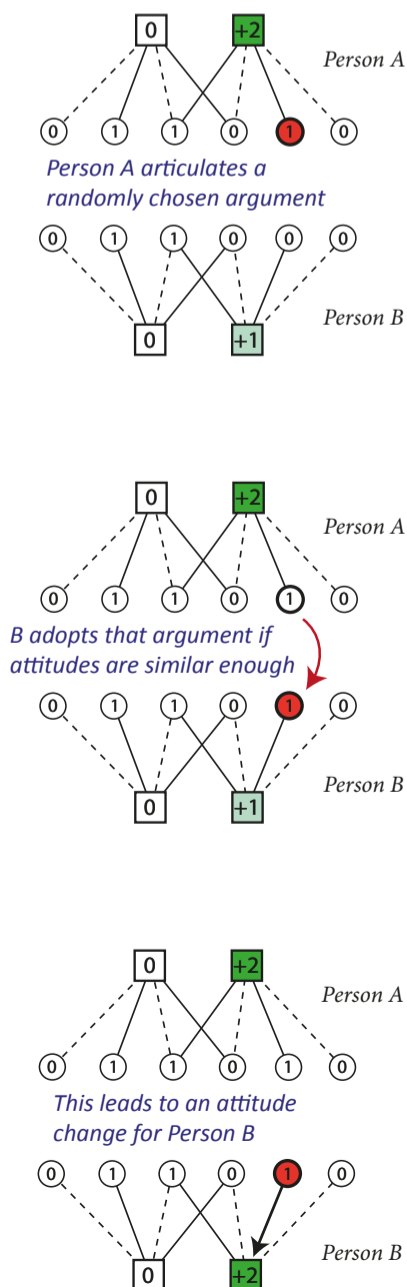Specify Heterogeneity (small random term on the evaluative weights)

Press Set Subset! to apply the specified attitude structure only to a subset of the population.

Choose the Number of agents to which it is applied

Pause/Run	☐	
Restart!		
▾ General Settings		
Acceleration		1000
Homophily and Bounded Confidence		
Threshold		0.25
BC on	FirstIssue ⌄	
▾ Evaluative Attitude Structure		
As Specified!		
Congruent Links		0
Incongr. Links		6
Heterogeneity		0.1
Set Subset!		
Number of		500
Close Controls		

the menu

the model

Person A articulates a randomly chosen argument

B adopts that argument if attitudes are similar enough

This leads to an attitude change for Person B

argument exchange process

There are two issues on which an opinion is formed.

Opinions are based on 20 underlying arguments.

The way in which arguments affect the opinion of an agents depends on the attitude structure (menu).

1000 agents are repeatedly paired at random to exchange arguments and adjust their opinion (left).

Have fun exploring how they evolve!

ODYCCEUS
Opinion Dynamics
and Cultural Conflict
in European Spheres

An Argument Communication Model of Polarization and Ideological Alignment

A multidimensional opinion model to explain how correlations between different political issues (along with polarization along those lines) may come about if issues are conceptually interrelated.
(preprint: arxiv.org/abs/1809.06134)

Two Political Issues

www.universecity.de/demos/IssueAlignmentModel.html