## **Supplementary Information**

## Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> morphology in the preferential oxidation of CO

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Figure S1: In situ XRD scans and degree of reduction from magnetometer measurements for nanosheets/SiO<sub>2</sub>. A: in situ XRD on top view. B: effluent flow rate of CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and O<sub>2</sub>. C: degree of reduction measured in the magnetometer. (Temperature: 450 °C, Heating rate: 50 °C to 450 °C back to 50 °C holding for 1 hr every 25 °C with a ramp rate of 1 °C/min, magnetic readings: taken at -20, 0, 20 and 0 kOe every 10 min).



Figure S2: In situ XRD scans and degree of reduction from magnetometer measurements for nanobelts/SiO<sub>2</sub>. A: in situ XRD on top view. B: effluent flow rate of CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and O<sub>2</sub>. C: degree of reduction measured in the magnetometer. (Temperature: 450 °C, Heating rate: 50 °C to 450 °C back to 50 °C holding for 1 hr every 25 °C with a ramp rate of 1 °C/min, magnetic readings: taken at -20, 0, 20 and 0 kOe every 10 min).



*Figure S3: TEM micrographs of spent Co*<sub>3</sub>*O*<sub>4</sub>/*SiO*<sub>2</sub> *model catalysts after exposure to CO-PROX reaction conditions at maximum temperature of 450* °C.



Nanocubes/SiO<sub>2</sub>

Nanosheets/SiO<sub>2</sub>



 $Nanobelts/SiO_2$ 



Figure S4: TEM micrographs of  $Co_3O_4/SiO_2$  model catalysts after exposure to CO-PROX reaction conditions up to a temperature of 270°C for the nanocubes and 250°C for the nanosheets and nanobelts. XRD confirms the reduction to CoO.





*Figure S6: XPS profiles of wide spectrum, Co 2p in the Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> (nanocubes)* 



Figure S7: XPS profiles of wide spectrum, Co 2p in the  $Co_3O_4/SiO_2$  (nanosheets)



*Figure S8: XPS profiles of wide spectrum, Co 2p in the*  $Co_3O_4/SiO_2$  (nanobelts)



*Figure S9: Cumulative area under the* H<sub>2</sub>*-TPR for the supported nanoparticles, nanocubes, nanosheets and nanobelts model catalysts*