#### **Supplementary information**

# Preparation of poly(*N*-vinylcarbazole) using RAFT agents 3-8 at 60 °C. – target molar mass 13750

A stock solution containing a RAFT agent (3-8) (0.154 mmol, see Table S1 for amounts), NVC (2.12 g, 10.94 mmol), AIBN (8.3 mg, 0.051 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane to a volume of 5 mL was prepared in a volumetric flask. The reaction mixture was divided in four and transferred to ampules which were degassed by three repeated freeze–evacuate–thaw cycles and sealed. The ampules were heated at 60 °C for 2, 4, 6, or 16 h (see entries 1-6, Table S2)

Table S1. Amount (mg) of RAFT agent used in NVC polymerization

RAFT agent	Z	R	Amount (mg)
3	$SC_{12}H_{25}$	CH <sub>2</sub> CN	48.9
4	SC <sub>12</sub> H <sub>25</sub>	CH(CH <sub>3</sub> )Ph	58.9
5	N-(4-Py)(4-CNPh)	CH <sub>2</sub> CN	47.8
6	N(4-Py)(CH <sub>3</sub> )	CH <sub>2</sub> CN	34.4
7	OC <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	CH <sub>2</sub> CN	24.8
8	OC <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	CH(CH <sub>3</sub> )Ph	34.8

Preparation of poly(*N*-vinylcarbazole) using RAFT agent 9 at 60 °C. – target molar mass 27000

A stock solution containing RAFT agent (9) (16.2 mg, 0.077 mmol), NVC (2.12 g, 10.94 mmol), AIBN (8.3 mg, 0.051 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane to a volume of 5 mL was prepared in a volumetric flask. The reaction mixture was divided in three and transferred to ampules which were degassed by three repeated freeze–evacuate–thaw cycles and sealed. The ampules were heated at 60 °C for 2, 6 or 20 h (see entry 7, Table S2)

Entry	RAFT agent	Time (h)	Conversion (%)	$M_{\rm n}^{\rm a}$	$M_{\rm n}({\rm calc})^{\rm b}$	$M_{ m w}/M_{ m n}^{ m a}$
1	3	2	6	2390	1140	1.05
		4	37	6360	5350	1.08
		6	60	8900	8450	1.09
		16	92	11500	12600	1.11
		2	0	1060	380	1.00
2	4	4	1	1110	520	$1.00^{\mathrm{f}}$
		6	1	1100	520	1.00
		16	61	9420	8500	1.10
		2	1	1540	450	1.02
3	5	4	2	1790	580	1.03
		6	8	2890	1400	1.08
		16	74	11200	10200	1.10
		2	6	3320	1040	1.17
4	6	4	37	6240	5260	1.20
		6	67	9070	9300	1.16
		16	99	10990	13400	1.15
	7	2	11	3780	1670	1.21
5		4	48	6920	6690	1.24
		6	75	9060	10320	1.21
		16	99	10700	13300	1.20
	8	2	1	2280	360	1.15
6		4	2	2610	500	1.22
		6	5	2670	900	1.22
		16	99	9630	13400	1.28
	9	2	0	700	190	1.03
7		6	0	710	190	1.05
		20	7	8940	1980	1.33

 Table S2. Details of PNVC polymerization<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>GPC DMAc eluent, PSt equivalents <sup>b</sup> $M_n$  (calc) = (([M]<sub>0</sub> – [M]<sub>t</sub>)/([RAFT]<sub>0</sub> + df([I]<sub>0</sub>(1 –  $e^{k_d t}$ )))) × MW<sub>monomer</sub> +MW<sub>RAFT</sub>, (where *d* is number of chains formed by radical-radical termination (= 1), *f* is the initiator efficiency (= 0.23),  $k_d = 9.6 \times 10^6 \text{ s}^{-1}$  and t = time in s)

#### **Preparation of poly**(*n***-butyl acrylate**)

A stock solution containing cyanomethyl dodecyltrithiocarbonate **3** (60.0 mg), BA (1.79 g, 2.0 mL), AIBN (3.3 mg) and toluene to a volume of 5 mL was prepared in a volumetric flask. The reaction mixture was divided in two and transferred to ampules which were degassed by three repeated freeze–evacuate–thaw cycles and sealed. The ampules were heated at 70 °C for either 2 or 6 h (see Table S3).

Table S3. Molar mass and conversion data for PBA using 3 at 70 °C

Entry	time/h	M <sub>n</sub>	$M_{\rm n}$ theory	$M_{\rm w}/M_{\rm n}$	Conversion (%)
1	2	8260	8080	1.14	85
2	6	9000	9120	1.20	96

### **Preparation of polystyrene**

A stock solution containing cyanomethyl dodecyltrithiocarbonate **3** (72.0 mg) and St (4.54 g, 5.0 mL), were prepared in a volumetric flask. The reaction mixture was divided in two and transferred to ampules which were degassed by three repeated freeze–evacuate–thaw cycles and sealed. The ampules were heated at 110  $^{\circ}$ C for either 6 or 16 h (see Table S4).

Table S4. Molar mass and conversion data for PSt using 3 at 110 °C

Entry	time/h	M <sub>n</sub>	$M_{\rm n}$ theory	$M_{\rm w}/M_{\rm n}$	Conversion (%)
1	б	5040	4200	1.12	25
2	16	10600	9400	1.09	47



Figure S1: Apparent transfer coefficient plot of 3 in NVC polymerization

## Figure S2: Pseudo-first order kinetic analysis of NVC conversion with respect to time



for block extension of 3-PBA

Figure S3: Pseudo-first order kinetic analysis of NVC conversion with respect to time

for block extension of 3-PSt



Figure S4: LCCC analysis of 3-PSt (black) and 3-PNVC (red) near critical conditions

for PSt on a reversed phase column (18% THF/82%DMF)



Figure S5: LCCC analysis of 3-PBA (black) and 3-PNVC (red) near critical conditions

for PBA on a normal phase column (13% MeCN/87%DCM)

