Counterfactual Thinking- Causality - Revised - Between-Subjects

consent
Research Informed Consent
Attitudes
 
Purpose:
 
We are conducting a research study to examine people’s attitudes. The full purpose of this study will be explained to you after your participation is complete.
 
Procedures:
 
As a participant in this study, you will read a story.  Then, you will be asked to write something about the story and answer some questions about your attitudes. We anticipate that your participation will require approximately 3-5 minutes. In return for participating we will pay you $0.45 in your MTurk account.
 
Eligibility: You must be at least 18 years old to participate.
 
Risks and Benefits:
There are no known risks to participating in this study. Participants in this study experience minimal risk of harm – no more than one would experience during everyday tasks and interactions. Although this study may not benefit you personally, we hope that our results will add to current knowledge about social psychological processes and provide an engaging experience.
 
Confidentiality:
Your responses will remain confidential and the data you provide will be used for research purposes only. We will not ask for, or record, your name or other information that could lead back to you. Only the researchers involved in this study and those responsible for research oversight will have access to the information you provide.
 
Voluntary Participation:
Participation in this study is completely voluntary. You are free to decline to participate and end participation at any time for any reason without penalty or loss of compensation.
 
Questions:
If you have any questions about this study, and/or if you want to obtain copies of the results of this research upon its completion, you may contact the primary investigators by emailing Jamie Luguri at Jamie.luguri@yale.edu. These results may be published in professional journals of psychological research. If you would like to talk with someone other than the researcher to discuss problems or concerns, to discuss situations in the event that a member of the research team is not available, or to discuss your rights as a research participant, you may contact the Yale University Human Subjects Committee, 55 College St, P.O. Box 208010, New Haven, CT 06520-8010, 203-785-4688, human.subjects@yale.edu. Additional information is available at http://www.yale.edu/hrpp/participants/ rights.html. particular study as you can. Your identity will not be revealed to the researcher.
 
Agreement to Participate:
By clicking the link below you are indicating that you have read the informed consent statement above, are at least 18 years of age, and agree to participate in this study.

* I agree (1)

neutInstr Thank you for agreeing to participate in our study! Please imagine the following scenario.

neutVign The receptionist in the philosophy department keeps her desk stocked with pens. Both the administrative assistants and the faculty members are allowed to take the pens, and both the administrative assistants and the faculty members typically do take the pens. The receptionist has repeatedly e-mailed them reminders that both administrators and professors are allowed to take the pens.
 
On Monday morning, one of the administrative assistants encounters Professor Smith walking past the receptionist‘s desk. Both take pens. Later, that day, the receptionist needs to take an important message...but she has a problem. There are no pens left on her desk.

vignInstr Thank you for agreeing to participate in our study! Please imagine the following scenario.

ImmorVign The receptionist in the philosophy department keeps her desk stocked with pens. The administrative assistants are allowed to take pens, but faculty members are supposed to buy their own. The administrative assistants typically do take the pens. Unfortunately, so do the faculty members. The receptionist has repeatedly e-mailed them reminders that only administrators are allowed to take the pens.
 
On Monday morning, one of the administrative assistants encounters Professor Smith walking past the receptionist‘s desk. Both take pens. Later, that day, the receptionist needs to take an important message...but she has a problem. There are no pens left on her desk.

medText Please imagine that two people, Alex and Sam, are discussing what happened with the pens.
Alex: "I wonder how things could have gone differently."
Sam: "Well, Professor Smith could have decided not to take a pen."
Alex: "Really? Of all the ways things could have gone differently, that doesn't seem like the one that's relevant to consider."

prof To what extent do you agree with what Alex said?

* Completely
  disagree (1)
* (2)
* (3)
* (4)
* (5)
* (6)
* Completely
  agree (7)

causeInstr Please rate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about the scenario you read.

profcause Professor Smith caused the problem.

* Strongly disagree (1)
* (2)
* (3)
* (4)
* (5)
* (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

politics Political Orientation

* Very Liberal (1)
* (2)
* (3)
* (4)
* (5)
* Very Conservative (6)

religion How religious are you?

* Not at All Religious (1)
* (2)
* (3)
* (4)
* (5)
* Extremely Religious (6)

gender Your Gender

* Male (1)
* Female (2)

age Your Age:

race Race/Ethnicity:

* White (1)
* Black (2)
* Latino/a (3)
* Asian (4)
* Other, please specify: (5) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

income What is your household income level?

* less than $25,000 (1)
* $25,000 - $49,999 (2)
* $50,000 - $74,999 (3)
* $75,000 - $99,999 (4)
* $100,000 - $149,999 (5)
* $150,000 - $249,999 (6)
* more than $250,000 (7)

debrief
Debriefing
 
Thank you for participating in this research study! You have assisted us in conducting our research and, more broadly, have contributed to knowledge in the field of social psychology. This letter is intended to give you more information about the purpose of our research.
 
The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between counterfactual thinking and judgements about causality. All of you read a story about a professor and an administrative assistant each taking a pen, causing a problem for the receptionist the next time she needs one. Past research has shown that people think that Professor Smith is a bigger cause of the problem than the administrative assistant.  We are examining whether this difference is caused by people thinking about how things could have gone differently. We predict that people think about how Professor Smith could have acted differently, but don't think as much about how the administrative assistant could have acted differently (because he or she was allowed to take a pen, and therefore didn't violate a rule).
 
We could not tell you the full details of this study prior to your participation because it might have biased your responses. We ask that you do not discuss the purpose of this study with any other potential participants, since awareness of the study design could influence results. You may print a copy of this form for your records.
 
If you have any questions about this research, please contact the researcher below. If you have questions about your rights as a research subject, you may also contact the Yale Human Subjects Committee at 203-785-4688 or at human.subjects@yale.edu.
 
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code Please click the button below to submit your results and receive your completion code.