Counterfactual Thinking- DoingVsAllowing - Revised

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 $0.30 in your MTurk account.
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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)

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

neutral Dr. Bennett is an emergency-room physician. An unconscious homeless man is brought in, and his identity is unknown. His organ systems have shut down and a nurse has hooked him up to a respirator. Without the respirator he would die. With the respirator and some attention from Dr. Bennett he would live for a week or two, but he would never regain consciousness and could not live longer than two weeks.
 
Dr. Bennett thinks to himself, “This poor man deserves to die with dignity. He shouldn’t spend his last days hooked up to such a horrible machine. The best thing to do would be to disconnect him from the machine.”
 
For just that reason, Dr. Bennett disconnects the homeless man from the respirator, and the man quickly dies.

bad Dr. Bennett is an emergency-room physician. An unconscious homeless man is brought in, and his identity is unknown. His organ systems have shut down and a nurse has hooked him up to a respirator. Without the respirator he would die. With the respirator and some attention from Dr. Bennett he would live for a week or two, but he would never regain consciousness and could not live longer than two weeks.
 
Dr. Bennett thinks to himself, “This bum deserves to die.  He shouldn't sit here soaking up my valuable time and resources. The best thing to do would be to disconnect him from the machine.”
 
For just that reason, Dr. Bennett disconnects the homeless man from the respirator, and the man quickly dies.

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

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

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

dv Is it more appropriate to say that Dr. Bennett ended the homeless man's life, or that he allowed it to end?

* Allowed to end (1)
* (2)
* (3)
* (4)
* (5)
* (6)
* Ended (7)

moraljudg Was the doctor&#39;s behavior morally wrong?

* not at all (1)
* (2)
* (3)
* somewhat (4)
* (5)
* (6)
* very much (7)

political 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 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 action vs. omission. All of you read a story about a doctor and his decision to disconnect his patient from a respirator. Half of you read that the doctor disconnected the man out of sympathy, whereas the other half of you read he disconnected him out of malice. We predict that people who read about the malicious doctor would be more likely to think things could have gone differently.
 
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 be directed to your completion code.