Counterfactual Thinking- Causality Manipulation - Irrelevant CF - Moral Version

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)

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

Vignette Martin was a star football player in college who needed to complete a science class in order to continue to be eligible to play. He decided to enroll in Professor Smith’s chemistry class. During that semester, Professor Smith gave the same lectures he’d been giving for ten years, and held a single review session before the final exam. Martin was sometimes tired in class and was distracted from the material and he was often busy after class and didn’t have the time or energy to study on his own. By the end of the semester, Martin had earned a 48 on the midterm exam, a 65 in participation and a 55 on the final exam. At the end of the semester, Martin learned that he had failed the class. The athletics department was upset because Martin would not be eligible to play next year.

Relevant Please consider and describe what would have happened if Professor Smith had instead decided to spend additional time making his lectures easier to understand and held additional office hours for students who aren’t understanding the material.

Irrelevant Please consider and describe what would have happened if Professor Smith had instead decided to alter Martin’s grades at the end of the semester so that Martin (but no other student) received an extra 30 points on each of the assignments.

causeInstr Now recall the original story that you read. Please tell us whether you agree or disagree with the following statement:

profcause Martin’s failing of the chemistry class was caused in part by Professor Smith.

* 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.
 
Jamie Luguri
jamie.luguri@yale.edu
 
Department of Psychology
Yale University
2 Hillhouse Ave
New Haven, CT 06511

code Please click the button below to submit your results and receive your completion code.