

## (#129955)

**Author(s)**

This pre-registration is currently anonymous to enable blind peer-review.  
It has one author.

**Pre-registered on:**

2023/04/24 11:46 (PT)

**1) Have any data been collected for this study already?**

It's complicated. We have already collected some data but explain in Question 8 why readers may consider this a valid pre-registration nevertheless.

**2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?**

Does increased uncertainty and salient negative thoughts explain dissimilarity pessimism?

**3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.**

We measure people's own interest in talking and their beliefs about others' interest in talking just as we do in two previous studies (AsPredicted #79821; AsPredicted #129737). But here we focus on measuring two further variables: (1) certainty and (2) salient thoughts

To measure people's certainty/uncertainty, after participants reported how interested they were and how interested they believed a dissimilar conversation partner would be, we asked participants "How confident are you in your estimate of how interested you would be in getting to know your conversation partner?" and "How confident are you in your estimate of how interested your conversation partner would be in getting to know you?" (1: not very much, 7: very much).

To measure people's salient thoughts prior to interaction, we asked participants, "What are the top 2 thoughts that come to your mind when you anticipate talking to this conversation partner?" and "Please describe each thought in spaces provided below." Participants then described their two most salient thoughts using an open-ended text box; after describing their thoughts, we asked participants to "indicate the negativity/positivity of each of the moments you described above." Participants responded to the valence of salient thought 1 and the valence of salient thought 2 using a Likert scale (endpoints: 1 - very negative; 7 - very positive).

Participants also answered these same questions while imagining a similar conversation partner.

**4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?**

4 within-subjects conditions: 2 (similarity: same/different personality type) x 2 (who: self/other). But in this study we focus on the dissimilar conditions.

**5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.**

First we will document the basic dissimilarity pessimism effect using a MLM regression with a random effect for participant. Our primary analysis is to see whether, people underestimate how interested someone dissimilar would be in talking (self vs. other). This analysis is the same as 2 previous studies with similar designs, both pre-registered (AsPredicted #79821; AsPredicted #129737)

The main point of this study is to explore mechanism. To do so, we will conduct a sequential mediation model, which we will test using lavaan.

Here is the model:

model higher uncertainty -> salient negative thoughts -> pessimistic assessment of dissimilar others' interest in talking. This is represented in the model by ind\_eff\_3

**6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.**

All data will be included

**7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.**

1000+

**8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)**

The data was collected during the semester, but I'm just now done with teaching and pre-registering the hypotheses before analysis. I did not have time to do it until now.