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## Introduction

Thank you for participating in this study. You will be asked to read a short text about psychological science and provide your opinion. Please read the text carefully and answer some questions about it.

## replicability

Please read the following text carefully. **You will be asked a couple of questions about this text.**

Psychological science explores human behavior and experience by means of the scientific method. To this end, established scientific methodology is used like experiments, surveys, and statistical analysis. However, some psychological disciplines are currently struggling with doubts about their credibility. A thorough analysis conducted by a team of 270 international scientists has now attempted to quantify the problem. The team replicated 100 different psychological studies trying to verify their results. Their results were published in the renowned journal *Science*: Of those 100 studies, they were able to replicate the results of 39, meaning that the results of 61 could not be verified.

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### **Additional Information about Explanations**

Please read the following text carefully. **You will be asked a couple of questions about this text.**

How can this low replication rate be explained?

Many experts believe that questionable research practices cause this low replication rate. Researchers primarily look for new and spectacular results which can lead to bad research practices, for example repeating an experiment until a surprising effect emerges. Often researchers only publish the spectacular results, while less spectacular – but potentially more reliable – results end up in a drawer somewhere. Thus, these and other questionable research practices will inevitably lead to non-replicable results.

How can this low replication rate be explained?

Many experts believe that the complexity of studying the human mind causes this low replication rate. When studying humans, unknown or hidden factors such as individual differences between participants, participants' current state, or minimal differences in the experimental procedure can affect the results. It is very difficult to always have absolute control over these conditions and keep possible influencing factors constant. Thus, unknown or hidden factors will inevitably lead to non-replicable results.

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### manipulation\_check and text understanding questions

Please answer the following questions about the text you just read.

Experiments are used in psychological research.

Strongly  
disagree

☐☐☐☐☐☐

Strongly agree

☐

Psychologists never use statistical analyses.

Strongly  
disagree

☐☐☐☐☐☐

Strongly agree

☐

A research team replicated 100 different psychological studies trying to verify their results.

Strongly  
disagree

☐☐☐☐☐☐

Strongly agree

☐

Unknown or hidden factors explain the low replication rate.

Strongly  
disagree

☐☐☐☐☐☐

Strongly agree

☐

Questionable research practices explain the low replication rate.

Strongly  
disagree

☐☐☐☐☐☐

Strongly agree

☐

### Trust in science

Thank you for answering the questions about the text. We are now interested in your personal opinion about the psychological science community. Please answer the following questions. Please note: The items of the “trust in the psychological science community”-measure are not presented here for copyright reasons. They can be found in: Nisbet, E. C., Cooper, K. E., & Garrett, R. K. (2015). The Partisan Brain: How Dissonant Science Messages Lead Conservatives and Liberals to (Dis)Trust Science. *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 658, 36–66. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0002716214555474>

This item is not presented for copyright reasons.

Strongly  
disagree

☐☐☐☐☐☐

Strongly agree

☐

This item is not presented for copyright reasons.

Strongly  
disagree

☐☐☐☐☐☐

Strongly agree

☐

This item is not presented for copyright reasons.

Strongly  
disagree

☐☐☐☐☐☐

Strongly agree

☐

This item is not presented for copyright reasons.

Strongly  
disagree

☐☐☐☐☐☐

Strongly agree

☐

This item is not presented for copyright reasons.

Strongly  
disagree

☐☐☐☐☐☐

Strongly agree

☐

## Demographics

To conclude, please answer these final questions. Note that all responses will be anonymous.

Gender:

☐ Male

☐ Female

☐ Open entry

Age

Is English your first language?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If English is not your first language:

For how many years have you been speaking English?

Which of the following best represents your racial or ethnic heritage?

- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- ☐ White
- ☐ Other/Mixed

## Completion

Thank you for taking part in our study. **The MTurk completion code is on the next page.**

### Debriefing

The replication project described in the beginning of this study was carried out from 2011 to 2015 and is known as *Reproducibility Project: Psychology*.

In our study, we investigated how the explanation of the results of this project might influence the public perception of psychological science. To gain further insights into this, we reported different explanations.

In our project, some participants were told that most experts believe that questionable research practices caused the low replication rate. Another group of participants was told that most experts believe unknown or hidden factors caused the low replication rate. A final group of participants received no explanation at all. Please know that in reality experts do not perfectly agree on what caused the low replication rate and the debate is still ongoing.

Thank you for completing our study!

For further questions about this study, please contact: removed to ensure blind peer review

Please copy and paste this completion code to the MTurk survey window:

**REP7575**