Ethics application

National identity and mobility during the pandemic - ICSMP

Ethics ID: **202116246212477235**

Expiry date: 25-06-2023

Covers multiple related studies that will use the same methods:

No.

Summary

The study examines country level national identity scores and changes in human mobility during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Full description of study methodology and procedures

In this study, we compare aggregate indices of national identity (taken from the World Values Survey) and measures of actual behavior change during the COVID-19 pandemic (taken from Google mobility reports).

Data of the World Value Survey were accessed at the World Values Survey Association website (https://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/) and downloaded in line with their "Conditions of use", which allow the use of the data files for non-profit purposes.

Google COVID-19 Community Mobility Reports were accessed at https://www.google.com/covid19/mobility/. The use of data for publication is freely open upon based on Google "Terms of Service" and source attribution.

We examined whether countries with higher average national identification would also show stronger change in mobility in response to COVID-19 restrictions during April and May 2020. We created an index of national identification using the two relevant items from the World Value Survey (i.e., national pride and closeness to their nation) and an index of physical mobility by averaging community movement across all available places. We analysed all 42 countries in which aggregate data was publicly available for both for the national identification and the mobility scores.

National identification was computed based on indices from the first release of data from Wave 7 of the World Value Survey. The surveys were conducted between early 2017 to mid-2020.

Community mobility was computed based on Google Community Mobility Reports, which indicate how people’s aggregate physical movement has changed over time. The reports show movement trends over time across different categories of places: retail and recreation, groceries and pharmacies, parks, transit stations, workplaces, and residential. Percentage change for each day is computed relative to a baseline, which is a median value, for the corresponding day of the week, during the 5-week period from Jan 3–Feb 6, 2020. To create our overall index of reductions in community mobility, we computed average indices for each of the places over April and May 2020.

Researcher details

Name: Aleksandra Cichocka (akc9)
Reason for application: Staff Project
Status: Staff member

Co-investigators

Jay van Bavel *(External)* , Paulo Boggio *(External)* , Hans Tung *(External)* , B. Gronfeldt-Gunnarsson *(Internal)* , Ming-Jen Lin *(External)*

Supervisor (Forename + Surname):

Not applicable, as member of staff.

Level of technical support anticipated:

No technical support required

Submitted agreement

The researcher should have confirmed all of the following before submitting their application. Any unticked boxes should result in a rejected application.

- ☑ Clear descriptions of all tasks and the procedure have been added
- ☑ Full versions of all questionnaires have been added (if your study does not include questionnaires, please tick this box anyway to proceed).
- ☑ Final versions of participant information, consent and debrief forms have been added.
- ☑ Supporting documents have been merged where possible into single files before uploading.

Supporting application files (0)

No supporting files

Supporting application links (open in a new tab) (0)

No supporting links

Research checklist

- ☒ The study will involve recruitment of patients or staff through the NHS or the use of NHS patient data or samples*.
  [When your application involves the NHS you must first follow the department's ethics approval process, then notify the university's Research Governance team and then make an application to NHS ethics. Disclaimer: Students working on pre-approved NHS projects can log their approval letters without starting a new application.]*
- ☒ The study will involve the collection of human tissue (including blood, saliva, urine etc.) or other biological samples from participants.
- ☒ The study will involve participants who are particularly vulnerable or unable to give informed consent (e.g., children, people with learning disabilities, clinical populations).
- ☒ The study will require the co-operation of a gate-keeper for initial access to the groups or individuals recruited (e.g. students at school, members of self-help groups, residents of a nursing home).
- ☒ It will be necessary for participants to take part in the study without their knowledge and consent at the time (e.g. covert observation of people in non-public places).
- ☒ The study will involve the publication, sharing or potentially insecure electronic storage and/or transfer of data that might allow identification of individuals, either directly or indirectly (e.g. publication of verbatim quotations from an online forum; sharing of audio/visual recordings; insecure transfer of personal data such as addresses, telephone numbers etc.; collecting identifiable personal data on unprotected** internet sites.)
  *[**Please note that Qualtrics and Sona Systems provide adequate data security and comply with the requirements of the EU-US Privacy Shield.]*

- [x] The study will involve questions related to topics that are personal to the respondent and/or potentially stigmatizing to answer (e.g. referring to sexual, illegal, or deviant activities/beliefs).
- [x] The study will involve the withholding of information from, or deliberate deception of, participants (please note, withholding hypothesis does NOT fall under this category).
- [x] The study could induce psychological stress or anxiety or cause harm or negative consequences beyond the risks encountered in normal life.
- [x] Pain or more than mild discomfort is likely to result from the study.
- [x] Drugs, placebos or other substances (e.g., food substances, vitamins) are to be administered to the participants or the study will involve invasive, intrusive or potentially harmful procedures of any kind, including brain stimulation methods such as TMS, tDCS, tACS, and GVS.
- [x] The study will involve prolonged or repetitive testing (please note, test-retest conditions do NOT automatically fall under this category).
- [x] Financial inducements (other than reasonable expenses and compensation for time) be offered to participants.
- [x] The study will take place outside of the UK
- [x] The research will involve access to or use of material covered by the Terrorism Act**, OR have the potential to radicalise people who are vulnerable to supporting terrorism or becoming terrorists themselves.
  *[**The Terrorism Act (2006) outlaws the dissemination of records, statements and other documents that can be interpreted as promoting and endorsing terrorist acts. By answering 'yes' you are registering your legitimate use of this material with the Research Ethics Committee. In the event of a police investigation, this registration will help you to demonstrate that your use of this material is legitimate and lawful].*

Risk Assessment:

- [x] Will the researcher/s be collecting data outside of normal office hours (9am-5pm, Monday-Friday)?
- [x] Will the researcher/s conduct testing for more than 8 consecutive hours without one or more breaks totalling a minimum of 1 hour?
- [x] Will data collection occur outside of the University of Kent?
- [x] Will the researcher/s travel abroad to collect data?
- [x] Will the researcher/s have to handle biological samples?
- [x] Will the researcher/s be repeatedly exposed to sensitive materials, such as pornography or distressing images?
- [x] Will the researcher/s be exposed to risk of physical or verbal abuse?

Please note that it is your responsibility to follow the Departmental Guidelines for Conducting Research with Human Participants. This includes providing appropriate information sheets and consent forms, and ensuring confidentiality in the storage and use of data. Any significant change in the question, design or conduct over the course of the research should be notified to the Ethics Committee.

Study details

Information about the study given to Participants

The study uses publicly available data, no new participants are recruited.

Using RPS to recruit participants?

No

Participant details

Participant inclusion

The study uses publicly available data, that have already been collected.

Participant exclusion

N/A

What is the target sample size? (if secondary data analysis, provide the existing sample size)

42 countries

Consent / debrief information

Please refer to the main application details and supporting files for any attached consent/debrief sheets.

Consent:

Prior informed consent is to be obtained:

Please refer to the main application details and supporting files for any attached consent/debrief sheets.

Prior informed consent is not going to be obtained

Describe the means of obtaining prior consent, **or** if prior informed consent is not to be obtained, give reasons for this:

Consent was handled by the original teams collecting data.

Debriefing:

Participants will be debriefed:

Participants will not be debriefed

Please write a debriefing in the box below (ignore if you have selected no debriefing):

We use publicly available country-level data.

Confidentiality

For a normal study, seven items must be ticked below.

- [x] Information collected during this study will be held confidentially by the researchers in line with the UK Data Protection Act 2018 (https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/data-protection-act-2018) (Opens in a new window). Guidance for researchers summarising the main principles of the Act and implications for data processing and storage can be found here: https://www.kent.ac.uk/psychology/local/ethics/GDPR-guidance-for-researchers.pdf (https://www.kent.ac.uk/psychology/local/ethics/GDPR-guidance-for-researchers.pdf) (Opens in a new window).
- [x] Only researchers involved in the study and, if required, the body funding this research will be authorized to access the data, but anonymised responses may be shared with other researchers or made available in online data repositories.
- [x] **Either**: Participants' data files will not include identifying personal information (name, address, contact details, birthdate, etc.)
- [ ] **Or**: To ensure confidentiality of participants' data, they will be asked to create a unique participant identification number (PIN) to label their data (e.g., survey answers, EEG, task responses, etc.). Any identifying details (name, address, contact details, birthdate, etc.) will be stored separately and securely and linked to the data only by the PIN.
- [x] Anonymized and non-anonymized data (e.g. consent forms, email addresses, etc.) will be held securely on University of Kent computers or by an off-site data collection partner (e.g. Qualtrics, Sona Systems, Prolific Academic, Mechanical Turk), and any paper forms will be stored securely in locked filing cabinets within the School of Psychology. Collection of personally identifying information will be minimised, and identifiable data will be destroyed when no longer needed.
- [x] Any publication resulting from this work will report only aggregated findings or fully anonymized examples that will not identify participants.
- [x] A summary of the results will be available from the researcher on request.

COVID-19 checklist

Proposed study will/will not:

- [ ] 1. Involve the testing participant groups considered high-risk/vulnerable in relation to COVID-19 infection (e.g., over 70, pregnant, pre-existing health concerns, BAME)*
- [ ] 2. Involve testing participants who are NOT already based on campus (i.e., students)?
- [ ] 3. Require equipment to be reused?
- [ ] 4. Require physical contact between the participant and the researcher?
- [ ] 5. Be conducted in a space where the researcher is also present?
- [ ] 6. Be conducted in a room without natural ventilation?
- [ ] 7. Be conducted in a space that is shared with other researchers?
- [ ] 8. Involve back-to-back testing sessions?