Ethics application

COVID19 International Collaboration on Social & Moral Psychology

Ethics ID: **202015872211976468**

Expiry date: 18-04-2022

Covers multiple related studies that will use the same methods:

Yes.

Summary

In this muti-lab international projects, we examine examine the attitudes and behavioural intentions related to COVID19. The measures include beliefs in conspiracy theories, cooperation, risk perception, social belonging, intellectual humility, national identification, collective narcissism, moral identity, political ideology, self-esteem, the cognitive reflection task and individual experiences during the coronavirus pandemic. Data will be collected in multiple countries.

Full description of study methodology and procedures

In this multi-lab international projects, we examine examine the attitudes and behavioral intentions related to COVID19. The project is a collaborative effort across multiple labs. Each team will collect measures of beliefs in conspiracy theories, cooperation, risk perception, social belonging, intellectual humility, national identification, collective narcissism, moral identity, political ideology, self-esteem, the cognitive reflection task and individual experiences during the coronavirus pandemic.

Data will be collected in multiple countries (so far, we have teams working in over 60 countries), and questionnaires will be translated to the local languages where appropriate.

The current ethics application is our main ("umbrella") application and covers the main variables used in the project. Each team is asked, however, to ensure they are also fully compliant with their local ethical standards. While we expect that some teams will be able to use this ethics approval, other teams might require additional review in their institution. Each team will be required to send us documentation confirming whether ethics approval has been obtained, waived or is not required from their institution.

Researcher details

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

Co-investigators

Jay van Bavel *(External)* , Paulo Sérgio Boggio *(External)* , Aleksandra Cislak *(External)* , Hallgeir Sjåstad *(External)* , Mark Alfano *(External)* , Valerio Capraro *(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 (1)

covid-19-many-lab-final-ethics.docx (https://psych-ethics.kent.ac.uk/application/file/16115)

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.]*
- ☒ 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).

☒ The study will involve the withholding of information from, or deliberate deception of, participants (please note, withholding hypothesis does NOT fall under this category).

☒ The study could induce psychological stress or anxiety or cause harm or negative consequences beyond the risks encountered in normal life.

☒ Pain or more than mild discomfort is likely to result from the study.

☒ 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.

☒ The study will involve prolonged or repetitive testing (please note, test-retest conditions do NOT automatically fall under this category).

☒ Financial inducements (other than reasonable expenses and compensation for time) be offered to participants.

☑ The study will take place outside of the UK

☒ 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:

☑ Will the researcher/s be collecting data outside of normal office hours (9am-5pm, Monday-Friday)?

How will you ensure their safety travelling to and from the department and also while in the department?

Data will be collected on-line/over the phone.

☒ Will the researcher/s conduct testing for more than 8 consecutive hours without one or more breaks totalling a minimum of 1 hour?

☑ Will data collection occur outside of the University of Kent?

Where will testing occur?

Testing will be conducted on-line in multiple countries. Local teams will organise data collection in their respective countries.

☒ Will the researcher/s travel abroad to collect data?

☒ Will the researcher/s have to handle biological samples?

☒ Will the researcher/s be repeatedly exposed to sensitive materials, such as pornography or distressing images?

☒ 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

Please see the information sheet attached.

Using RPS to recruit participants?

No

Observational research

Not yet completed

Participant details

Participant inclusion

Over 18.

Source of participants and method of recruitment:

Every team is asked to recruit a representative (or close to representative) phone or online sample of at least N=500 participants. Each team will organise data collection in their respective country. Data will be collected by professional survey companies (such as Prolific Academic, Lucid, Ipsos Mori) or, in cases where collecting a representative sample is not feasible, with the use of on-line convenience samples (e.g., advertised on social media).

Participant exclusion

Under 18.

Risk to participants

Because some of the questions will be about the current COVID19 pandemic, participants might experience a certain level of discomfort or anxiety. However, we do not anticipate these to go beyond the everyday experiences. At the end of the survey, participants will be informed how they can receive online/phone support in their respective countries should they experience any distress (e.g., UK participants will be directed to the Samaritans website).

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

At least 500 per country.

Protection of Participants:

Are the participants at risk of physical or psychological harm greater than encountered in ordinary life? OR, are the participants at risk of causing harm to others?

No

Nature of information/samples being gathered:

Is the information gathered from the participants of a sensitive or personal nature? OR, are biological samples being gathered?

No

Use of material covered by the Terrorism Act:

Does the research use records, statements and other documents that can be interpreted as promoting and endorsing terrorist acts?

No

COVID-19 checklist

Proposed study will/will not:

No data available for this application. Application created prior to questions being added.

Consent / debrief information

Consent:

Prior informed consent is to be obtained:

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

From participants

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

> Consent will be obtained online (in some cases it might be obtained over the phone).

Debriefing:

Participants will be debriefed:

In writing

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

> Please refer to the materials attached.

Confidentiality

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

- ☑ 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).
- ☑ 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.
- ☑ **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.

☒ 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.

☑ Any publication resulting from this work will report only aggregated findings or fully anonymized examples that will not identify participants.

☑ A summary of the results will be available from the researcher on request.

As less than 6 items were ticked, an explanation is required.

Anonymised data might be held by research collaborators. Collection of personally identifying information will be minimised, and identifiable data will be destroyed when no longer needed.

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