Assistance games

Debriefing Form

What are we trying to learn in this research?

The goal of this research is to investigate how humans seek and provide help in cooperative scenarios. We are specifically interested in the cognitive underpinnings of helping behavior – what kinds of inferences are needed before you can help someone else? How might a person in need of help coordinate their actions so that they can be helped?

Why is this important to scientists or the general public?

This experiment has both theoretical and practical implications. Theoretically, it will help scientists better understand the situations in which humans decide to help or choose not to help, therefore improving our cognitive models of assistance. Practically, it will help us understand how to build better assistive AI models, which have broad applications in medicine, entertainment, and manufacturing.

Where can I learn more?

Warneken, F., & Tomasello, M. (2006). Altruistic helping in human infants and young chimpanzees. *Science*, 311(5765), 1301-1303.

Carlson, S. M., Koenig, M. A., & Harms, M. B. (2013). Theory of mind. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Cognitive Science*, 4(4), 391-402.

What if I have questions?

If you have any questions about the research study, please contact Abhilasha Kumar at: a.kumar@bowdoin.edu

Thank you for participating!