

Duncan Espenshade: Knowledge of Job Insecurity and Policy Preferences

I am requesting an additional **\$3,115** on top of my dissertation grant to collect more N for my studies. I have previously had a dissertation experiment funded by the department. Since there are no matching extant experiments from which to take effect sizes, I theoretically justified the expected effect sizes in my power analysis.

Specifically, in my original analysis, I assumed that my main effect would be medium (.5) and that the correlation between the pre- and post-outcome answers would be medium (.5) or high (.8). If the true main effect size is smaller than this theoretic expectation (.2), or the correlation between my pre-and post-outcome answers are weak (.2), my current experiment would not be powered enough to find these true effects. Similarly, I assumed medium effect sizes in my pilot experiment (.5).

Given this opportunity for additional funding, I have rerun the power analyses for my pilot experiment and my full experiment, now assuming that my effect sizes and pre/post correlation are as low as possible. This ensures that if there is a true relationship between my IV and DV, regardless of its potential size, this experiment should be able to find evidence for it.

This update power analysis finds that 2,500 respondents are needed for a fully powered survey in the experiment, and 750 respondents are needed for the pilot experiment.

TABLE 1. *Original Budget for POLS Dissertation Grant (1)*

Category	Item	Expense Estimated Unit Cost (USD)	Number	Total Estimated Cost (USD)	Estimated Date	Notes
A: Direct Data Costs	Payment to Survey Subjects	\$2	550	\$1100.00	03/2024	10 minutes of work at a rate of \$12 USD per hour.
	Prolific Fees	\$366.67	1	\$366.67	03/2024	
	VAT fees	\$73.33	1	\$73.33	03/2024	
	Subtotal for Direct Data Costs			\$1,540.00		
B: Research Assis- tance	Open-Ended Occupation Coding Total Hourly Wages	\$12	94 (hours)	\$1,128.00	03/2024	Coding assistance for open-ended occupation questions at a rate of \$ 12 USD for 550 responses at a rate of 5 minutes per response coding. Including recoding of 25% of responses to establish intercoder reliability. Plus four hours of training for each of the four employees, and 10 weekly 30-minute meetings for four workers $\left[\left(\frac{550 \times 5}{60} \times 1.25 \right) + (4 \times 4) + (10 \times .5 \times 4) \right] \times \$12 = \$1,128.00$
	Fringe Benefits	\$12	20	\$121.00	03/2024	Fringe benefits at a rate of .107 for non-exempt FICA undergraduate workers
	Subtotal for Research Assistance Costs			\$1,249.00		
C: Travel Costs	Round trip to Florence Italy from CLL	\$1,507.00	1	\$1,507.00	09/2024	Round trip flight from CLL to FLR from November 11/7 to 11/11 for IPES 2024.
Subtotal for Travel Costs				\$1,507.00		
Subtotal for Travel Costs				\$1,507.00		
Total Expenses				\$4,295.00		
Funds Granted by the Dissertation Grant				\$5,000.00		

One of the comments on my original dissertation enhancement grant was that my original power analysis was overly optimistic and that I would likely need a larger N than I originally budgeted for. Following this comment after receiving guidance from Dr. Clifford, I updated my power analysis—and following approval from Dr. Taylor–Robinson, removed the IPES trip from this budget and used it to collect a greater sample of respondents and to fund a pilot experiment. Additionally, I realized that the VAT fees for Prolific do not apply to this study, as it is being conducted entirely in the United States. This updated budget is shown on the next page.

TABLE 2. Updated Budget for POLS Dissertation Grant (2)

Category	Item	Expense Estimated Unit Cost (USD)	Number	Total Estimated Cost (USD)	Estimated Date	Notes
A: Direct Data Costs	Payment to Survey Subjects	\$2	1000	\$2000.00	06/2024	[Full Experiment] 10 minutes of work at a rate of \$12 USD per hour.
	Prolific Fees	\$1000.00	1	\$1000.00	03/2024	
	Payment to Survey Subjects	\$1	500	\$500.00	06/2024	[Pilot Experiment] 5 minutes of work at a rate of \$12 USD per hour.
	Prolific Fees	\$166.67	1	\$167.67	03/2024	
Subtotal for Direct Data Costs				\$3,666.67		
B: Research Assis- tance	Open-Ended Occupation Coding Total Hourly Wages	\$12	94 (hours)	\$1,128.00	03/2024	Coding assistance for open-ended occupation questions at a rate of \$ 12 USD for 550 responses at a rate of 5 minutes per response coding. Including recoding of 25% of responses to establish intercoder reliability. Plus four hours of training for each of the four employees, and 10 weekly 30-minute meetings for four workers $\left[\left(\frac{550 \times 5}{60} \times 1.25 \right) + (4 \times 4) + (10 \times .5 \times 4) \right] \times \$12 =$ \$1,128.00
	Fringe Benefits	\$12	20	\$121.00	03/2024	Fringe benefits at a rate of .107 for non-exempt FICA undergraduate workers
Subtotal for Research Assistance Costs				\$1,249.00		
Total Expenses				\$4,915.67		
Funds Granted by the Dissertation Grant				\$5,000.00		

This is the current budget for this project at the time of this request. Since this update, two things have changed. First, I reran the power analyses with the least optimistic assumptions on my effect sizes as described above. Second, after discussions with Dr. Li, Dr. Jo, and Dr. Clifford, the need to hire research assistants was questioned. Since occupations should only mediate the treatment effect—and they should be randomly distributed across treatment conditions—this coding should not be strictly needed for the main results.

I still intend to code these occupation categories for robust checks, but instead of manually coding the responses with research assistants, I intend to automatically code the responses using the CASCOT program and other automatic occupation coding software. As a result, funding for research assistants has been removed from the budget and replaced with a software budget to purchase the CASCOT program.

TABLE 3. Requested Budget for Additional Funding (3)

Category	Item	Expense Estimated Unit Cost (USD)	Number	Total Estimated Cost (USD)	Estimated Date	Notes
A: Direct Data Costs	Payment to Survey Subjects	\$2	2500	\$5000.00	06/2024	[Full Experiment] 10 minutes of work at a rate of \$12 USD per hour.
	Prolific Fees	\$1666.67	1	\$1666.67	03/2024	
	Payment to Survey Subjects	\$1	750	\$750.00	06/2024	[Pilot Experiment] 5 minutes of work at a rate of \$12 USD per hour.
	Prolific Fees	\$250.00	1	\$250.00	06/2024	
Subtotal for Direct Data Costs				\$7666.67		
B: Software Expenses	CASCOT	\$448.33	1	\$448.33	06/2024	Price of the CASCOT occupation coding software converted from £ 350.
Subtotal for Software Expenses				\$448.33		
Total Expenses				\$8,115.00		
Funds Granted by the Dissertation Grant				\$5,000.00		
Additional Funds Requested				\$3,115.00		

Above is the final budget for my second dissertation chapter. I would need an additional \$3,115 to expand my sample to be appropriate after the new power analysis.