Does session size influence the perceived chance of bonus payment?

As the group size of each experimental session of the first replication differed from the group size of each experimental session of the original study (original study: 3-6 participants per session, first replication: 225-275 participants per session), we wanted to examine whether this could influence how the vague instruction ”several participants will be randomly selected to receive a monetary reward” would be interpreted. This was tested in an imaginative study where participants had to imagine that they were tested in a session with 3-6 participants, in a session with 225-275 participants or in a session where there were no other participants. All participants received the same instructions.

Method

Participants. One hundred and sixty-seven participants were recruited through the online platform Prolific.ac. They earned £1 for their participation. Participants who did not answer correctly on either one of the two control questions (“How many other participants were there in the dice roll session in which you took part? “ and ‘’Answer ‘three’ on this question.’’) were excluded from all analysis (N = 23). So, we analyzed the data of 144 participant of which 52 in the no-others condition, 47 in the 3-6 others condition and 45 in the 225-275 others condition.

Procedure. Participants were asked to imagine participating in a dice rolling study with either 3-6 others, 225-275 others or no others. All participants received the same instructions (i.e. “At the end of the experiment, the experimenters will randomly select several participants and pay them according to the number that appeared on their dice”) and had to indicate what they thought was the chance that they would receive the monetary reward.

Results

The was no significant difference between the no others condition (M = 65.72%, SD = 34.47%), the 3-6 others condition (M = 58.29%, SD = 32.90%) and the 225-275 others condition (M = 53.88%, SD = 41.47%), $F(2,141) = 1.30$, $p = .28$, $d = 0.22$ (95% CI: [-0.190;0.588]) in how they answered the question “What is the chance that you will receive the reward?”

Discussion

This pilot study served to test whether the instructions from the original paper could be differently interpret when we use another group session size. As there was no significant difference between the three conditions, we concluded that the group size of each experimental

session did not influence how participants perceived the chance that they would get the reward and should therefore not influence the results.