Bias Project Ideas

"The Fear of Rejection Black Friend vs White..." article might help you do some preliminary study of bias against Atheists. For example, you could use their method and some of their pictures. Specifically, let's say you set up a 2 (Black vs. White face) by 2 (atheist vs. religious) design to see if White atheists are evaluated more favorably than Black atheists. But this would also allow you to do the simpler analysis comparing White atheist faces with White religious faces. But these are just some random thoughts.

You could follow up this initial study with a study that looks at perceptions of the legitimacy of discrimination against Atheists. The other articles are not all directly related, but I think will offer you some useful frames for your own work.

* S. Jefferson (Nov 2017)

Project Design, Hypotheses and Measures

**Informed Consent Form**

Project Title: Friendship Building in College Students

Principal Investigator: Brier Gallihugh, B.A. Eastern Michigan University  
Faculty Advisor: Stephen Jefferson, Ph.D., Eastern Michigan University

Thank you for your interest in this study! Your participation is greatly appreciated. To participate you must be a student at Eastern Michigan University and be able to read prompts fluently in English as well as respond fluently in English. Participation in research is voluntary and you may pull out of this study at any time (**including after starting the study**). Please feel free to ask any questions you have about participation in this study.  
   
**Study Purpose**

The purpose of this study is to examine your attitudes and assumptions about hypothetical individuals. You will be asked a series of questions relating to those attitudes and assumptions as well as questions concerning you as a participant.

**Basic Study Procedure**  
   
You will be recruited to take place in this online study through the SONA program at Eastern Michigan University.  Upon reading a consent form, you will be redirected to the Qualtrics program which will contain the primary study materials. You will be asked to first complete a demographic survey. After completion of the demographic survey, you will be asked to view a hypothetical person and complete an assessment gauging your thoughts and assumptions about the person. You will also be asked questions relating to you as a participant. Lastly, the study will conclude with one final question regarding whether you wish to receive credit for your participation. The study will take approximately 25-30 minutes to complete.  
   
**Type of Data Collected**  
   
You may be asked to provide data that you find to be sensitive. All data will be kept confidential.   
   
**Risk of Study Participation**  
   
There is no expected risk to participation in this study outside of what a student may face while taking a college examination or listening to a college lecture. However, you may at times potentially experience stress while reading or answering any of the study materials especially any related directly to you. As such, should you feel stress you cannot handle, you are free to withdraw from the study and are encouraged to do so immediately.

**Benefits of Study Participation**  
   
There are no anticipated benefits to you for taking part in this study. Study results may however be used as a basis for potential publications, posters or presentations at conferences or symposiums.  
   
**Data Storage Procedures**  
   
Data for this study will be kept on the Qualtrics server. Qualtrics is an account-based program where only researchers will have access your individual responses and data. Upon completion of the data analysis the data set will be downloaded from Qualtrics to a laptop computer that is password protected. The data file will also be password protected.

**Alternative Task**  
   
Should you choose to not partake in this study for any reason, an alternative task will be given to receive .25 SONA credits. Participants will be asked to free write about their views about the traits important in a friend. Responses must be at least 100 words to receive credit.

**Personal Information Confidentiality**  
   
We plan to publish the results of this study. We will not publish any information that can identify you. We will make every effort to keep your information confidential, however, we cannot guarantee confidentiality. Other groups may have access to your research information for quality control or safety purposes. These groups include the University Human Subjects Review Committee, the Office of Research Development, the sponsor of the research, or federal and state agencies that oversee the review of research, including the Office for Human Research Protections and the Food and Drug Administration. The University Human Subjects Review Committee reviews research for the safety and protection of people who participate in research studies.

You do not need to provide any identifying information to participate in this study. However, if you wish to receive research credit, once you have anonymously completed the main questionnaires of the study, you will then be asked if you wish to receive course credit for participating in this research. If you answer "Yes" to this question, you will be automatically linked to a completely separate survey that will ask for your name. Because the data from these two surveys are never linked, the only way a researcher will know that you have completed the relevant questionnaires of the anonymous portion of this study is to ask for your name with this completely separate, new survey. Completing this second survey will allow the researchers to know to whom they should grant credit in SONA (i.e., if you do not complete this "exit" survey, you will not receive SONA credit). Your instructors will not know which study you have participated in unless you tell them. Also, the researcher will not know what your specific responses were to any items of the surveys you completed (i.e., they will only know that you participated, but not what you reported in your responses)."

**Data Storage For Future Use**  
   
We will not store your information to study in the future. We may share your information with other researchers without asking for your permission, but the shared information will never contain information that could identify you.  
   
**Cost to Participant**  
   
Participation will not cost you anything.  
   
   
**Participation Compensation**  
   
You will not be paid to participate in this research study.  
   
You will receive .5 hours of SONA credit if you complete this study. If you do not complete this study, you will not earn research credit for your participation.  
   
**Study Contact Information**  
   
If you have any questions about the research, you can contact the Principal Investigator, Brier Gallihugh, at bgallihu@emich.edu or by phone at (989)-423-6118.  
   
You can also contact Brier Gallihugh’s faculty adviser, Dr. Stephen Jefferson, at sjeffer2@emich.edu or by phone at 734.487.0097.  
   
For questions about your rights as a research subject, contact the Eastern Michigan University Human Subjects Review Committee at human.subjects@emich.edu or by phone at 734-487-3090.  
   
**Voluntary participation**  
   
Participation in this research study is your choice. You may refuse to participate at any time, even after signing this form, without repercussion. You may choose to **leave the study at any time without repercussion**. If you leave the study, the information you provided will be kept confidential.

**Statement of Consent**  
   
I have read this form. I have had an opportunity to ask questions and am satisfied with the answers I received. I give my consent to participate in this research study.

**Study Debrief**

Thank you for participating in this study! This form provides background about our research to help you learn more about why this study was done. Please feel free direct any questions or concerns you may have to the investigators.

Some studies use deception in situations where there is no other way to conduct the experiment without potentially biasing the results. The current study is one that did involve mild deception. The actual purpose of this study was to investigate the influence of religious ideology on a person’s perceptions of a hypothetical target and thereby your willingness to engage that person in a friendship or feel that target would be willing to engage you in a friendship. The profile you read and the picture you were shown with it were both fictitious.

The data from this study will be presented to groups and potentially in research journals. However, all data will be kept secure and personally identifiable information left out. Data will only be analyzed by trained researchers. However, should you feel uncomfortable, know that your participation is still voluntary, and you are free to withdraw from the study in which case all your data and responses will be deleted. There is no penalty for withdrawing

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| **Investigator** | **Contact Number** | **Email** |
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If you want more information about your rights as a participant or want to report any research-related concerns, please feel free to contact the current researchers (if your concerns relate to this study) or you may contact the Institutional Review Board at (734) 487-3090.