Explaining Atheism: Pilot 1 Preregistration

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Study Information

Title	Explaining Atheism: Pilot 1 Preregistration

Description   The present work is part of the broader Explaining Atheism project, which looks to examine popular and scientific causes of belief/non-belief and how these vary across cultures.

Across 3 stages we will examine variables which have been argued in popular and scientific discourse to cause belief and non-belief. In this initial pilot we will look at the largest number of variables in order to test some of the clearest hypotheses and to run explanatory tests to exclude possible variables for the later stages of the project which will have larger samples and a greater proportion of confirmatory tests.

Pre-registrations for this initial pilot, and follow on pilots can be found on our pages on the Open Science Framework, our Figshare (insert link), and on my personal GitHub (insert link).

Hypotheses   Whilst all of the variables included for testing in this initial pilot have scientific justification for their inclusion, some have a greater body of theoretical or empirical evidence in favour of **specific** directional hypotheses, or greater public interest. As such in the initial pilot we will test certain confirmatory hypotheses, and run exploratory analysis for

Confirmatory Hypotheses

The following confirmatory hypotheses will be tested:

Planned Exploratory Analyses

Exploratory statistical analysis will include, but not necessarily be limited to the following:

Design Plan

Study type   **Experiment**. A researcher randomly assigns treatments to study subjects, this includes field or lab experiments. This is also known as an intervention experiment and includes randomized controlled trials.

Observational Study. Data is collected from study subjects that are not randomly assigned to a treatment. This includes surveys, natural experiments, and regression discontinuity designs.

Meta-Analysis. A systematic review of published studies.

Other. Please explain.

Blinding   No blinding is involved in this study.

For studies that involve human subjects, they will not know the treatment group to which they have been assigned.

Personnel who interact directly with the study subjects (either human or non-human subjects) will not be aware of the assigned treatments.

Personnel who analyze the data collected from the study are not aware of the treatment applied to any given group.

Study design   Enter your response here.

Randomization   Enter your response here.

Sampling Plan

Existing data   **Registration prior to creation of data**. As of the date of submission of this research plan for preregistration, the data have not yet been collected, created, or realized.

Registration prior to any human observation of the data. As of the date of submission, the data exist but have not yet been quantified, constructed, observed, or reported by anyone - including individuals that are not associated with the proposed study. Examples include museum specimens that have not been measured and data that have been collected by non-human collectors and are inaccessible.

Registration prior to accessing the data. As of the date of submission, the data exist, but have not been accessed by you or your collaborators. Commonly, this includes data that has been collected by another researcher or institution.

Registration prior to analysis of the data. As of the date of submission, the data exist and you have accessed it, though no analysis has been conducted related to the research plan (including calculation of summary statistics). A common situation for this scenario when a large dataset exists that is used for many different studies over time, or when a data set is randomly split into a sample for exploratory analyses, and the other section of data is reserved for later confirmatory data analysis.

Registration following analysis of the data. As of the date of submission, you have accessed and analyzed some of the data relevant to the research plan. This includes preliminary analysis of variables, calculation of descriptive statistics, and observation of data distributions. Please see https://cos.io/prereg for more information.

Explanation of existing data	Enter your response here.
Data collection procedures	Enter your response here.
Sample size	Enter your response here.
Sample size rationale	Enter your response here.
Stopping rule	Enter your response here.

Variables

Manipulated variables	Enter your response here.
Measured variables	Enter your response here.
Indices	Enter your response here.

Analysis Plan

Statistical models	Enter your response here.
Transformations	Enter your response here.
Inference criteria	
Data exclusion	Enter your response here.

Missing data   Enter your response here.

Exploratory analyses (optional)   Enter your response here.

Other

Other (Optional)   Enter your response here.

References