**SIPPS 2023**

**Research Skills Workshop 1**

**Thursday June 12, 2023**

**Worksheet for Generating Your Research Question & Focal Hypothesis**

*Adapted from: Perspectivist worksheets for generating a program of research. In J.T. Jost, M.R. Banaji, & D. A Prentice (Eds.) Perspectivism in social psychology* (pp. 319-332). *Washington, DC: APA Press. These worksheets, which were abridged and assembled by C.D. Hardin and J.T. Jost, are based on McGuire, W. J. (2004).*

**Research Question Generation**

1. Draft your main effect (causal) research question: what is the effect of X (IV) on Y (DV)?

2. To better understand and express what you do (and do not) have in mind, list several synonyms and antonyms of your cause (IV) and effect (DV) terms. *Pay special attention to boundary terms – i.e., similar terms that you could be interested in but are not in this case.*

* + IV synonyms:
  + IV antonyms:
  + DV synonyms:
  + DV antonyms:

3. If this exercise sparked increased specification or other modifications of your research question, write down your new (modified) research question here:

**Focal Hypothesis Identification**

4. **Write down a simple main effect (causal) hypothesis.** Specify the sign of the relationship, as in X (IV) causes an increase (+) or decrease (-) in Y (DV). This is your focal hypothesis.

**Focal Hypothesis Exploration**

5. Can you **come up with two distinctive moderating variables (or processes)** that could influence the strength of the IV-DV relationship described above? Express each in the form of a logical syllogism, so that IV → MV and MV → DV, therefore IV → DV.

* IV → MV:

MV → DV:

Therefore, IV → DV:

* IV → MV:

MV → DV:

Therefore, IV → DV:

6. **Now invert the sign of the focal hypothesis** (i.e., instead of X causes an increase in Y, X causes a decrease in Y) and come up with two distinctive moderating variables (or processes) that could influence the strength of this new IV-DV relationship. Express each in the form of a logical syllogism, so that IV → MV and MV → DV, therefore IV → DV.

* IV → MV:

MV → DV:

Therefore, IV → DV:

* IV → MV:

MV → DV:

Therefore, IV → DV:

7. **Try reversing the causal direction of the original (focal) hypothesis** (i.e., instead of X causes an increase in Y, Y causes an increase in X) and come up with 2 distinctive moderating variables (or processes) that could influence the strength of this new (reversed) IV-DV relationship. Express each in the form of a logical syllogism, so that IV → MV and MV → DV, therefore IV → DV.

* IV → MV:

MV → DV:

Therefore, IV → DV:

* IV → MV:

MV → DV:

Therefore, IV → DV:

8. **Now invert the sign of this reversed hypothesis** (i.e., instead of Y causes an increase in X, Y causes a decrease in X) and come up with 2 distinctive moderating variables (or processes) that could explain this new IV-DV relationship. Express each in the form of a logical syllogism, so that IV → MV and MV → DV, therefore IV → DV.

* IV → MV:

MV → DV:

Therefore, IV → DV:

* IV → MV:

MV → DV:

Therefore, IV → DV: