Social topics in the United States (US stratified sample 2) COMPLETED

Start of Block: Background

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consent   
*Please read this consent agreement carefully before deciding whether to participate.*  
Nature of study: This study explores people’s social attitudes and beliefs. You will complete questions about your background, opinions, and perceptions.  
Time required: 10-15 minutes.  
 Risks & benefits: There are no anticipated risks associated with participating. We hope you will benefit through learning about our research.  Confidentiality: Your participation is completely anonymous.   
Participation and withdrawal: Your participation is voluntary. Though full compensation can only be paid if you reach the end of the survey, you may refuse to answer any questions or withdraw by closing your web browser.  
  
Contact: For questions or concerns, please contact: Dr Jonathan Mijs; Email: mijs@essb.eur.nl.  Agreement: By clicking to continue, you agree that the nature and purpose of this study have been sufficiently explained and that you are willing to participate.  
Please enter your Prolific ID here:

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age   
How old are you?

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sex What is your gender?

* Male (1)
* Female (2)
* Other (3)

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race Which racial or ethnic group do you belong to?

* White (non-Hispanic) (3)
* Black / African American (1)
* Asian / Asian American / Pacific Islander (2)
* Latino / Hispanic (4)
* Middle Eastern / Arab (5)
* Native American (6)
* Biracial / Mixed Race (7)
* Other (8)

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usborn Were you born in the U.S.?

* Yes (1)
* No (0)

education What is the highest level of education of you, your mother and your father?

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|  | Less than high school degree (1) | High school (diploma or GED) (2) | Some college, no degree (3) | Associate Degree (4) | College Degree (BA) (5) | MA, Professional degree or PhD (6) | Not applicable / don't know (7) |
| You (1) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mother (2) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Father (3) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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zip What is your ZIP code?

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employment Which best describes your employment status?

* Employed full-time (30+ hours per week) (1)
* Employed part-time (1-29 hours per week) (2)
* Self-employed (3)
* Student (4)
* Not working (unemployed) (5)
* Not working (retired) (6)
* Not working (disabled) (7)

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hhincome Please indicate your household income. If you don't know exactly, please give your best guess.

* Less than $10,000 (10000)
* $10,000 to $19,999 (15000)
* $20,000 to $39,999 (25000)
* $40,000 to $59,999 (35000)
* $60,000 to $79,999 (55000)
* $80,000 to $99,999 (75000)
* $100,000 to $149,999 (125000)
* $150,000 to $200,000 (175000)
* $200,000 to $350,000 (275000)
* $350,000 to $500,000 (425000)
* More than $500,000 (500000)

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marital What is your marital status?

* Married (1)
* Widowed (2)
* Divorced or separated (3)
* Never married (4)

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assets Do you (or your partner) possess one or more of the following assets?

* Savings account (1)
* Life insurance (2)
* Investments (shares, bonds, stocks, options) (3)
* Your own house or apartment (4)
* Real estate other than your home (5)
* Car, motorcycle, boat (6)
* Pension (401k or 403b) (7)

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party Generally speaking, do you (strongly) identify as a Republican, a Democrat or somewhere in between?

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|  | Strong Democrat | Strong Republican | Not Applicable |

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|  | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

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| Your position () |  |

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religion What is your religious preference?

* Protestant (1)
* Catholic (2)
* Jewish (3)
* Muslim (4)
* None (5)
* Other (6)

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reliattend How often do you attend religious services?

* Never (1)
* About once a year (2)
* Several times a year (3)
* Several times a month (4)
* Several times a week (5)

End of Block: Background

Start of Block: Ladder questions

ladder\_intro In our society there are groups which tend to be towards the top (7) and groups which tend to be towards the bottom (1).

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ladder\_present   
Where would you put **yourself** on this ladder?

* 7 (top) (7)
* 6 (6)
* 5 (5)
* 4 (4)
* 3 (3)
* 2 (2)
* 1 (bottom) (1)

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ladder\_past And if you think about the family that you grew up in, where did they fit in?

* 7 (top) (7)
* 6 (6)
* 5 (5)
* 4 (4)
* 3 (3)
* 2 (2)
* 1 (bottom) (1)

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ladder\_future Thinking ahead 10 years from now, where do you think you will be?

* 7 (top) (7)
* 6 (6)
* 5 (5)
* 4 (4)
* 3 (3)
* 2 (2)
* 1 (bottom) (1)

End of Block: Ladder questions

Start of Block: Network

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network\_childhood1 These questions are about **when you were 15 years old**. To what extent to do you agree or disagree with the following statements?  
  
Most of my friends went to the same school as I did

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Disagree (2)
* Somewhat disagree (3)
* Neither agree nor disagree (4)
* Somewhat agree (5)
* Agree (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

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network\_childhood2 Most of my friends had the same race or ethnicity as mine

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Disagree (2)
* Somewhat disagree (3)
* Neither agree nor disagree (4)
* Somewhat agree (5)
* Agree (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

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network\_childhood3 At school, most students had the same race or ethnicity as mine

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Disagree (2)
* Somewhat disagree (3)
* Neither agree nor disagree (4)
* Somewhat agree (5)
* Agree (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

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network\_childhood4 In the neighborhood where I grew up, most children had the same race or ethnicity as mine

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Disagree (2)
* Somewhat disagree (3)
* Neither agree nor disagree (4)
* Somewhat agree (5)
* Agree (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

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network\_childhood5 In the neighborhood where I grew up, most children were about as rich or poor as my family

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Disagree (2)
* Somewhat disagree (3)
* Neither agree nor disagree (4)
* Somewhat agree (5)
* Agree (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

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network\_adulthood1 How would you describe your friends and colleagues **today**?  
  
Most of my friends have the same level of education as I have

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Disagree (2)
* Somewhat disagree (3)
* Neither agree nor disagree (4)
* Somewhat agree (5)
* Agree (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

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network\_adulthood2 Most of my friends have the same race or ethnicity as mine

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Disagree (2)
* Somewhat disagree (3)
* Neither agree nor disagree (4)
* Somewhat agree (5)
* Agree (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

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network\_adulthood3 At work, most people have the same race or ethnicity as mine

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Disagree (2)
* Somewhat disagree (3)
* Neither agree nor disagree (4)
* Somewhat agree (5)
* Agree (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

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network\_adulthood4 At work, most people have the same level of education as I have

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Disagree (2)
* Somewhat disagree (3)
* Neither agree nor disagree (4)
* Somewhat agree (5)
* Agree (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

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network This is a list of 20 common jobs. Which of these people do you know socially? Please select all the people you know.

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|  | I know (1) | Don't know (2) |
| Cleaner (network\_1) |  |  |
| Administrative assistant (network\_2) |  |  |
| Truck driver (network\_3) |  |  |
| Delivery driver (network\_4) |  |  |
| Customer service representative (network\_5) |  |  |
| Waiter or waitress (network\_6) |  |  |
| Police officer or law enforcement (network\_7) |  |  |
| Food preparation (network\_8) |  |  |
| Cashier (network\_9) |  |  |
| Retail salesperson (network\_10) |  |  |
| Manager (network\_11) |  |  |
| Social worker (network\_12) |  |  |
| Registered nurse (network\_13) |  |  |
| Chief executive (network\_14) |  |  |
| Accountant (network\_15) |  |  |
| Medical doctor (network\_16) |  |  |
| Lawyer (network\_17) |  |  |
| University professor (network\_18) |  |  |
| Dentist (network\_19) |  |  |
| Software developer or programmer (network\_20) |  |  |

End of Block: Network

Start of Block: Experiences

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ineq\_pre1 To what extent to do you agree or disagree with the following statements?  
  
Society is fair when hard-working people earn more than others

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Disagree (2)
* Somewhat disagree (3)
* Neither agree nor disagree (4)
* Somewhat agree (5)
* Agree (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

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ineq\_pre2 Racial diversity makes America stronger

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Disagree (2)
* Somewhat disagree (3)
* Neither agree nor disagree (4)
* Somewhat agree (5)
* Agree (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

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ineq\_pre3 For society to be fair, differences in people's standard of living should be small

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Disagree (2)
* Somewhat disagree (3)
* Neither agree nor disagree (4)
* Somewhat agree (5)
* Agree (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

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expineq1   
I often have contact with people who are a lot **poorer** than me, for instance in the street, in public transportation, in shops, in my neighborhood, or at work

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Disagree (2)
* Somewhat disagree (3)
* Neither agree nor disagree (4)
* Somewhat agree (5)
* Agree (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

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expineq2   
I often have contact with people who are a lot **richer** than me, for instance in the street, in public transportation, in shops, in my neighborhood, or at work

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Disagree (2)
* Somewhat disagree (3)
* Neither agree nor disagree (4)
* Somewhat agree (5)
* Agree (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

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expineq3   
I know rich people and I know poor people

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Disagree (2)
* Somewhat disagree (3)
* Neither agree nor disagree (4)
* Somewhat agree (5)
* Agree (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

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expineq4 I know people who go on vacation multiple times a year and others who cannot afford a vacation

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Disagree (2)
* Somewhat disagree (3)
* Neither agree nor disagree (4)
* Somewhat agree (5)
* Agree (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

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expineq5 I know people who own large houses and others who live in small rental apartments

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Disagree (2)
* Somewhat disagree (3)
* Neither agree nor disagree (4)
* Somewhat agree (5)
* Agree (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

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expineq6 I know people who can afford a good education and others who cannot

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Disagree (2)
* Somewhat disagree (3)
* Neither agree nor disagree (4)
* Somewhat agree (5)
* Agree (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

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expineq8 I know people who can afford to save or invest and others who don't make ends meet

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Disagree (2)
* Somewhat disagree (3)
* Neither agree nor disagree (4)
* Somewhat agree (5)
* Agree (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

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expineq10 I know people who work hard and long hours but make less money than other people I know

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Disagree (2)
* Somewhat disagree (3)
* Neither agree nor disagree (4)
* Somewhat agree (5)
* Agree (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

End of Block: Experiences

Start of Block: Treatment instructions

instructions On the next page you will see information based on academic research.   
  
  
It is very important that you take a moment to **study the graph and read the text**.

End of Block: Treatment instructions

Start of Block: Treatment C (Coronavirus)

stimulus3a

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stimulus3b Research shows: The economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic will be worse than that of the 1920 Great Depression, the two World Wars and the 2008 Great Recession. But the coronavirus pandemic has impacted different groups of Americans unequally. Over 50 million Americans lost their jobs during the pandemic. Most people who lost their jobs were low-income and middle-income workers. At the same time, the wealthiest Americans saw their fortune grow by $565 billion.   
    
Please write "Yes" in the box below to confirm you've read this graph and text:

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End of Block: Treatment C (Coronavirus)

Start of Block: Treatment D (Control)

stimulus4a

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stimulus4b Research shows:  Some Americans exercise and are more physically active than others. People who get enough exercise are healthier.  Getting enough exercise means swimming, walking or cycling for at least 2.5 hours a week. Plus a minimum of two sessions of sports or fitness that strengthen the muscles.  Of young Americans, ages 18 to 24, about a third gets enough physical exercise. Of adults aged 25 to 44, only a quarter of people get enough exercise.  Among people aged 45 to 64, most do not get enough exercise.  Please write "Yes" in the box below to confirm you've read this graph and text:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

End of Block: Treatment D (Control)

Start of Block: Inequality (attitudes)

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ineq\_post1 To what extent to do you agree or disagree with the following statements?   
    
Differences in **income** in the United States are too large

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Disagree (2)
* Somewhat disagree (3)
* Neither agree nor disagree (4)
* Somewhat agree (5)
* Agree (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

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ineq\_post2   
Differences in **wealth** in the United States are too large

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Disagree (2)
* Somewhat disagree (3)
* Neither agree nor disagree (4)
* Somewhat agree (5)
* Agree (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

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ineq\_post3 Children in poor families do not have the same opportunities for getting ahead as children in rich families

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Disagree (2)
* Somewhat disagree (3)
* Neither agree nor disagree (4)
* Somewhat agree (5)
* Agree (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

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ineq\_post4 Black children do not have the same opportunities for getting ahead as white children

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Disagree (2)
* Somewhat disagree (3)
* Neither agree nor disagree (4)
* Somewhat agree (5)
* Agree (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

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ineq\_post5 It is the responsibility of the government to reduce the differences in income between people with high incomes and those with low incomes

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Disagree (2)
* Somewhat disagree (3)
* Neither agree nor disagree (4)
* Somewhat agree (5)
* Agree (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

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ineq\_post6 It is the responsibility of the government to combat racial and ethnic discrimination

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Disagree (2)
* Somewhat disagree (3)
* Neither agree nor disagree (4)
* Somewhat agree (5)
* Agree (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

End of Block: Inequality (attitudes)

Start of Block: Inequality explanations

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belief This question is about factors that may be important for achieving economic success. How important would you say is  ...

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|  | Not important at all (1) | Not very important (2) | Fairly important (3) | Very important (4) | Essential (5) |
| coming from a wealthy family (belief\_1) |  |  |  |  |  |
| having highly educated parents (belief\_2) |  |  |  |  |  |
| having a good education (belief\_3) |  |  |  |  |  |
| hard work (belief\_4) |  |  |  |  |  |
| knowing the right people (belief\_5) |  |  |  |  |  |
| race or skin color (belief\_6) |  |  |  |  |  |
| legal or immigration status (belief\_7) |  |  |  |  |  |
| religion (belief\_8) |  |  |  |  |  |
| being born a man or woman (belief\_9) |  |  |  |  |  |

End of Block: Inequality explanations

Start of Block: Inequality (perceptions)

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perceived   
We would like to know how much people in these jobs make. Please give us your best estimate.    
    
What is the annual income (before taxes) of a ....

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|  | Annual income ($) (1) |
| Medical doctor (perceived\_1) |  |
| CEO of a large national corporation (perceived\_2) |  |
| Retail worker (perceived\_3) |  |
| Delivery driver (perceived\_4) |  |
| Cabinet member of the federal government (perceived\_5) |  |

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desired What do you think people in these jobs **ought to be paid**, regardless of what they actually make?    
    
What **should be** the annual income (before taxes) of a ...

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|  | Annual income ($) (1) |
| Medical doctor (desired\_1) |  |
| CEO of a large national corporation (desired\_2) |  |
| Retail worker (desired\_3) |  |
| Delivery driver (desired\_4) |  |
| Cabinet member of the federal government (desired\_5) |  |

End of Block: Inequality (perceptions)

Start of Block: Wrap-up

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corona1 To what extent to do you agree or disagree with the following statements?  
  
  
The most vulnerable in society are hit hardest by the coronavirus (also known as COVID-19)

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Disagree (2)
* Somewhat disagree (3)
* Neither agree nor disagree (4)
* Somewhat agree (5)
* Agree (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

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corona2 The measures taken against the coronavirus are more harmful than the virus itself

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Disagree (2)
* Somewhat disagree (3)
* Neither agree nor disagree (4)
* Somewhat agree (5)
* Agree (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

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corona3 Other countries are to blame for the coronavirus

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Disagree (2)
* Somewhat disagree (3)
* Neither agree nor disagree (4)
* Somewhat agree (5)
* Agree (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

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racialattitudes1   
People of some races or ethnic groups are born more intelligent than others

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Disagree (2)
* Somewhat disagree (3)
* Neither agree nor disagree (4)
* Somewhat agree (5)
* Agree (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

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racialattitudes2 People of some races or ethnic groups are born more hard working than others

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Disagree (2)
* Somewhat disagree (3)
* Neither agree nor disagree (4)
* Somewhat agree (5)
* Agree (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

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racialattitudes3 Thinking about the world today, some cultures are better than others

* Strongly disagree (1)
* Disagree (2)
* Somewhat disagree (3)
* Neither agree nor disagree (4)
* Somewhat agree (5)
* Agree (6)
* Strongly agree (7)

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attention   
Earlier we showed you a graph and a brief text. What was the topic?

* Exercise (1)
* Dining (4)
* Coronavirus (5)
* Don't know (6)

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change Did participating in this survey make you more or less worried about inequality?

* A lot less worried (1)
* Less worried (2)
* A little less worried (3)
* Unchanged (4)
* A little more worried (5)
* More worried (6)
* A lot more worried (7)

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| Page Break |  |

outro Thank you for your participation. Your contribution to this study is valuable. Click on continue to collect your compensation.

End of Block: Wrap-up

Start of Block: Block 11