Date: 1-2-2019

IRB #: IRB-FY2017-785
Title: Immortality Scale Development
Creation Date: 6-28-2017
End Date: 2-5-2019
Status: Approved
Principal Investigator: Erin Buchanan
Review Board: MSU
Sponsor:

Study History

Submission Type Initial	Review Type Expedited	Decision Approved
Submission Type Renewal	Review Type Unassigned	Decision
Submission Type Modification	Review Type Unassigned	Decision

Key Study Contacts

Member Erin Buchanan	Role Principal Investigator	Contact erinbuchanan@missouristate.edu
Member David Herr	Role Primary Contact	Contact herr316@live.missouristate.edu
Member David Herr	Role Investigator	Contact herr316@live.missouristate.edu

Initial Submission

1. General Information

1A. What is the full title of the research protocol?

The development of a scale of subjective feelings of existential immortality

Abstract/Summary

1B. Please provide a brief description of the project (no more than a few sentences).

This study will use exploratory factor analysis on many potential scale items measuring participants subjective feelings of immortality to create a succinct scale . The study will use confirmatory factor analysis on the created scale to evaluate the scale's psychometric properties. We will search for convergent validity with generativity and meaning in life, and divergent validity with death anxiety.

Who is the Principal Investigator?

1C. *This MUST be a faculty or staff member.*

Name: Erin Buchanan
Organization: Psychology
Address: 901 S National Ave , Springfield, MO 65897-0027
Phone: 417-836-5592
Email: erinbuchanan@missouristate.edu

Who is the primary study contact?

1D. *This person may be the Principal Investigator or someone else (faculty, staff, or student). This person, in addition to the PI, will be included on all correspondence related to this project.*

Name: David Herr
Organization: Psychology
Address: 901, S. National Avenue , Springfield, MO 65897-0027
Phone:
Email: herr316@live.missouristate.edu

Select the Co-Principal Investigator(s).

1E. *This MUST be a faculty or staff member.* ***Persons listed as Co-PIs will be required to certify the protocol*** *(in addition to the PI). This person will also be included on all correspondence related to this project.*

Select the Investigator(s).

1F. *An investigator may be faculty, staff, or student.*

Name: David Herr
Organization: Psychology
Address: 901, S. National Avenue , Springfield, MO 65897-0027
Phone:
Email: herr316@live.missouristate.edu

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2. Research Protocol

Describe the proposed project in a manner that allows the IRB to gain a sense of the project including:

- the research questions and objectives,
- key background literature (supportive and contradictory) with references, and
- the manner in which the proposed project will improve the understanding of the chosen topic.

2A. Various theorists, including Erik Erikson, Robert Lifton and Ernest Becker, have proposed humans are driven towards creating a sense of existential immortality in order to suppress death anxiety (McAdams & de St. Aubin, 1992; Lifton, 1979; Becker, 1973). This existential immortality includes both literal immortality of believing in an afterlife, reincarnation, and symbolic immortality in feeling like one lives on in their children, and creations (Dechesne et al., 2003). Terror Management Theory theory proposes a variety of human behavior is motivated out of a need to suppress the awareness of death/death anxiety, often by creating a sense of immortality, making one less vulnerable to death (Solomon, Greenberg, & Pyszczynski, 2015; Burke, Martens & Faucher, 2010; Dechesne et al., 2003). Despite hundreds of Terror Management Theory studies being conducted which assume behavioral and attitudinal changes occur to create a sense of existential immortality, to our knowledge, none have attempted to measure subjective feelings of immortality. The purpose of the present study is to create a scale to measure subjective feelings of existential immortality, so that the relation between different factors and the sense of immortality can be studied.

2B. Check all research activities that apply:

Audio, video, digital, or image recordings

Biohazards (e.g., rDNA, infectious agents, select agents, toxins)

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Blood drawing

Class Protocol (or Program or Umbrella Protocol)

✓ Data, not publicly available

Data, publicly available

Deception

Devices

Diet, exercise, or sleep modifications

Drugs or biologics

Focus groups

✓ Internet or email data collection

Materials that may be considered sensitive, offensive, threatening, or degrading

Non-invasive medical procedures

Observation of participants

Oral history

Placebo

Record review

Specimen research

Surgical procedures

Surveys, questionnaires, or interviews (one-on-one)

✓ Surveys, questionnaires, or interviews (group)

Other

Describe the procedures and methods planned for carrying out the study. Make sure to include the following:

- site selection,
- the procedures used to gain permission to carry out research at the selected site(s),
- data collection procedures,
- and an overview of the manner in which data will be analyzed.

2C.

Provide all information necessary for the IRB to be clear about **all** of the contact human participants will have with the project.

Adults will be recruited online to take a survey composed of potential scale items on qualtrics.com. Survey responses will be analyzed using exploratory factor analysis to determine a set of items with high internal reliability. Confirmatory factor analysis will be conducted on the selected scale items to determine their psychometric properties. A second survey will be conducted online in which adults will take the newly developed scale, as well as the Meaning in Life Scale, Loyola Generativity Scale, and Death Anxiety Questionnaire to determine existential immortality's convergent validity with meaning and generativity and divergent validity with death anxiety.

Attach surveys, questionnaires, and other social-behavioral measurement tools, if applicable.

2D.

Immortality Items.docx
Meaning in Life Questionnaire
Loyola Generativity Scale
Death Anxiety Questionnaire
Death Anxiety Scale

3. Participants

3A. Specify the participant population(s). Check all that apply.

- ✓ Adults
- Children (<18 years)
- Adults with decisional impairment
- Non-English speaking
- Student research pools (e.g. psychology)
- Pregnant women or fetuses
- Prisoners
- Unknown (e.g., secondary use of data/specimens, non-targeted surveys, program/class/umbrella protocols)

3B. Specify the age(s) of the individuals who may participate in the research.

Participants will be adults ages 18 and up.

3C. Describe the characteristics of the proposed participants, and explain how the nature of the research requires/justifies their inclusion.

Any participant who speaks English may take our study, as we are interested in a wide range of diverse responses.

3D. Provide the total number of participants (or number of participant records, specimens, etc.) for whom you are seeking Missouri State IRB approval.

We intend to have at least 500 participants across both parts of the study.

3F. Estimate the time required from each participant, including individual interactions, total time commitment, and long-term follow-up, if any.

Each participant is estimated to take 15-30 minutes to answer survey questions.

3G. Describe how potential participants will be identified (e.g., advertising, individuals known to investigator, record review, etc.). Explain how investigator(s) will gain access to this population, as applicable.

Participants will be recruited using Amazon.com MTurk and the undergraduate participant pool for the psychology department.

3H. Describe the recruitment process; including the setting in which recruitment will take place. Provide copies of proposed recruitment materials (e.g., ads, flyers, website postings, recruitment letters, and oral/written scripts).

Participants will be recruited using Amazon.com MTurk , and for the undergraduate participants, we will post our study on SONA.

3H.1. Attach recruitment materials, if applicable.

3l. Will participants receive compensation or other incentives (e.g., free services, cash payments, gift certificates, parking, classroom credit, travel reimbursement, etc.) to participate in the research study?

✓ Yes

Describe the incentive, including the amount and timing of all payments.

Mechanical Turk participants will be paid $1.00 for their time, and undergraduate participants will be given course credit for their completion of the study.

No

4. Informed Consent

4A. From the list below, indicate how consent will be obtained for this study.

Check all that apply.

- ✓ Written/signed consent by the subject
- Written/signed consent (permission) for a minor by a Parent or Legal Guardian
- Written/signed consent by a Legally Authorized Representative (for adults incapable of consenting).
- Request for Waiver of Documentation of Consent (e.g. Verbal Consent)
- Waiver of parental permission
- Consent will not be obtained from subjects (Waiver of Consent)

4B. Describe the consent process including where and by whom the subjects will be approached, the plans to ensure the privacy of the subjects and the measures to ensure that subjects understand the nature of the study, its procedures, risks and benefits and that they freely grant their consent.

Participants taking the online survey will be required to agree with consent statement before taking the survey. Data will be kept on a password protected website, as well as on the researchers password protected computers. No identifying information will be connected with participants responses.

4B.1. Attach all copies of informed consent documents (written or verbal) that will be used for this study.

IRB consent.docxSample documents: Informed Consent Examples

4B.2. Attach all copies of assent documents that will be used for this study, if applicable.

Sample documents: Assent Examples

5. Risks and Benefits

5A. Describe all reasonably expected risks, harms, and/or discomforts that may apply to the research. Discuss severity and likelihood of occurrence.

Consider the range of risks - physical, psychological, social, legal, and economic.

There are no foreseeable risks, as this study is similar to taking a computer exam.

5B. Describe the steps that will be taken to minimize risks and the likelihood of harm.

Participants are informed during the consent process that they may leave the survey at any time they wish with no penalty.

5C. List the potential benefits that participants may expect as a result of this research study. State if there are no direct benefits to individual participants.

Participants may gain personal insight from considering and answering questionnaire items. Additionally, participants will be paid or receive course credit for their time.

5D. Describe any potential indirect benefits to future subjects, science, and society.

This survey will be disseminated for other researchers to use in future studies.

5E. Discuss how risks to participants are reasonable when compared to the anticipated benefits to participants (if any) and the importance of the knowledge that may reasonably be expected to result.

Participant risk is low, and the benefit is the ability to better measure a psychological phenomenon that is shown to be related to negative life outcomes.

6. Data Collection

6A. Statement of Principal Investigator Responsibility for Data

The principal investigator of this study is responsible for the storage, oversight, and disposal of all data associated with this study. Data will not be disseminated without the explicit approval of the principal investigator, and identifying information associated with the data will not be shared.

✓ By checking this box, all personnel associated with this study understand and agree to the Statement of Principal Investigator Responsibility for Data.

6B. How will the data for this study be collect/stored?

Check all that apply.

✓ Electronic storage format

On paper

6C. Describe where the data will be stored (e.g., paper forms, flash drives or removeable media, desktop or laptop computer, server, research storage area network, external source).

Data will be stored on password protected websites (qualtrics.com) and a password protected OneDrive account.

6D. Describe the plan to protect the confidentiality of records (e.g., locked office, locked file cabinet, password-protected computer or files, encrypted data files, database limited to coded data, master list stored in separate location).

No participant identifying information will be connected with their responses. Data will be stored on password protected websites (qualtrics.com) and a password protected OneDrive account.

6E. Describe how data will be disposed of and when disposal will occur.

Data will be uploaded to the Open Science Framework (osf.io), for open review by researchers and public.

7. Funding

Is this study externally funded?

7A.

For example, this research is funded by a source outside Missouri State; a federal agency, non-profit organization, etc.

Yes

✓ No

Potentially (this study is being submitted for funding, but has not yet been awarded)

Is this study internally funded?

7B.

For example, this research is funded by a source inside Missouri State; departmental funds, the Graduate College, etc.

Yes

✓ No

Potentially (this study is being submitted for funding, but has not yet been awarded)

8. HIPAA

Does your study contain protected health information (PHI)?

8A.

PHI is any information in a medical record or designated record set that can be used to identify an individual and that was created, used, or disclosed in the course of providing a a health care service, such as a diagnosis or treatment.

Yes

✓ No

9. Supporting Documentation

Human Subjects Training Certificates

9A.

Attach human subjects training certificates for all listed personnel. To access your training documents, please go to CITI Training*.*

David Herr CITI.pdf
buchanan msu citi.pdf

HIPAA Training Certificates

9B.

Attach HIPAA training certificates for all listed personnel, if applicable. To get more information about HIPAA training and/or to access your training documents, please go to HIPAA Information for Researchers*.*

Informed Consent Documents

9C.

Attach all copies of informed consent documents (written or verbal) that will be used for this study.

IRB consent.docxSample documents: Informed Consent Examples

Assent Documents

9D.

Attach all copies of assent documents (written or verbal) that will be used for this study.

Sample documents: Assent Examples

9E. Recruitment Tools

Attach copies of proposed recruitment tools.

Surveys/Questionnaires/Other Social-Behavioral Measurement Tools

9F. *Attach surveys, questionnaires, and other social-behavioral measurement tools.*

Immortality Items.docx
Meaning in Life Questionnaire
Loyola Generativity Scale
Death Anxiety Questionnaire
Death Anxiety Scale

9G. Other Documents

Attach any other documents that have not been specified in previous questions, but are needed for IRB review.

10. Additional Information

10A. Would you like to add additional information?

Yes

✓ No

Renewal Submission

1 Project Status

This Renewal Request is intended to continue your previously approved study for an additional period of time, if approved. Any modifications to the research study must be submitted via a Modification Request.

1A. Indicate the current status of the research:

- Research has not yet started at any location
- Research is open to accrual of new participants (for specimen/data only research, the collection of new specimens or records is ongoing)
- ✓ Closed to accrual: accrual is temporarily on hold
- Closed to accrual: clinical interventions, surveys, or similar participant interactions are continuing.
- Closed to accrual: remaining activity is limited to collection of participant long-term follow-up data.
- Closed to accrual: remaining activities limited to analysis of data/specimens already collected.
- Other

2 General Information

2A. Please provide a summary of your progress with this research to date, including any interim findings since the last review.

We have collected the first round of data and are working on analyzing that data (new students added, as the previous grad student has graduated and is no longer interested in the project).

2B. Have there been any significant problems or issues with the research since the last review?

Yes

✓ No

Have there been any changes in the research, new risk information, or any other new information since your last review which would alter the following presumptions about the research?

2C.

- Risks to participants in this research project are minimized.
- Risks to participants are reasonable in relation the the anticipated benefits to the participant or importance of the generalizable knowledge expected as a result of this research.
- The selection of participants, specimens or data is equitable.
- Provisions for obtaining and documenting informed consent are adequate.
- Appropriate data monitoring is in place to ensure safety of participants.
- Appropriate safeguards are in place to protect participants' privacy and confidentiality.
- Appropriate safeguards are in place to protect participants who my be vulnerable to coercion or undue influence.

Yes

✓ No

2D. Have all members of the research team received and remained up-to-date on the required training on Human Subjects Protection?

Note: Any new members to the research team must be added via a Modification Request.

✓ Yes

No

Modification Submission

Modification Summary

Please make changes to the original protocol sections below. In addition, provide a summary of the changes by completing the questions on this page.

A. To which of the following aspects of research does this modification request apply?

Check all that apply.

- ✓ Change in personnel

  Please include the name of the researcher(s) added to section 1 and attach their CITI training certificates in section 9.

- Research design
- Risks to participants or others in relation to anticipated benefits
- Participant selection or recruitment process
- Consent process and/or compensation
- Methods for documenting consent
- Change in supporting documentation or attachments
- Potential willingness of research participants to continue to take part in this study
- Monitoring of the data being collected
- Privacy of the research participants and/or confidentiality of research participants' data
- Other

B. Please provide a brief rationale for each of the changes being requested.

New graduate student added to the project.

1. General Information

1A. What is the full title of the research protocol?

The development of a scale of subjective feelings of existential immortality

Abstract/Summary

1B. Please provide a brief description of the project (no more than a few sentences).

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Name: Erin Buchanan
Organization: Psychology
Address: 901 S National Ave , Springfield, MO 65897-0027
Phone: 417-836-5592
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Who is the primary study contact?

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Name: David Herr
Organization: Psychology
Address: 901, S. National Avenue , Springfield, MO 65897-0027
Phone:
Email: herr316@live.missouristate.edu

Select the Co-Principal Investigator(s).

1E.

This MUST be a faculty or staff member. ***Persons listed as Co-PIs will be required to certify the protocol*** *(in addition to the PI). This person will also be included on all correspondence related to this project.*

Select the Investigator(s).

An investigator may be faculty, staff, or student.

Name: David Herr
Organization: Psychology
1F. Address: 901, S. National Avenue , Springfield, MO 65897-0027
Phone:
Email: herr316@live.missouristate.edu

Name: Arielle Cunningham
Organization: Psychology
Address: 901, S. National Avenue , Springfield, MO 65897-0027
Phone:
Email: arielle924@live.missouristate.edu

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2. Research Protocol

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3. Participants

3A. Specify the participant population(s). Check all that apply.

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4. Informed Consent

4A. From the list below, indicate how consent will be obtained for this study.

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- ✓ Written/signed consent by the subject
- Written/signed consent (permission) for a minor by a Parent or Legal Guardian
- Written/signed consent by a Legally Authorized Representative (for adults incapable of consenting).
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IRB consent.docxSample documents: Informed Consent Examples

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6A. Statement of Principal Investigator Responsibility for Data

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6B. How will the data for this study be collect/stored?

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✓ Electronic storage format

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6C. Describe where the data will be stored (e.g., paper forms, flash drives or removeable media, desktop or laptop computer, server, research storage area network, external source).

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Data will be uploaded to the Open Science Framework (osf.io), for open review by researchers and public.

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Does your study contain protected health information (PHI)?

8A.

PHI is any information in a medical record or designated record set that can be used to identify an individual and that was created, used, or disclosed in the course of providing a a health care service, such as a diagnosis or treatment.

Yes

✓ No

9. Supporting Documentation

Human Subjects Training Certificates

9A. *Attach human subjects training certificates for all listed personnel. To access your training documents, please go to* CITI Training*.*

David Herr CITI.pdf
buchanan msu citi.pdf
citi_ari cunningham.pdf

HIPAA Training Certificates

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Informed Consent Documents

9C. *Attach all copies of informed consent documents (written or verbal) that will be used for this study.*

IRB consent.docxSample documents: Informed Consent Examples

Assent Documents

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Attach copies of proposed recruitment tools.

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9F. *Attach surveys, questionnaires, and other social-behavioral measurement tools.*

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Death Anxiety Questionnaire
Death Anxiety Scale

9G. Other Documents

Attach any other documents that have not been specified in previous questions, but are needed for IRB review.

10. Additional Information

10A. Would you like to add additional information?

Yes

✓ No