

## **Pre-Experimental Information Sheet**

Title: Validating Preference for a Consistent and Explanatory Belief System

Principal Investigators: Dr. Afzal Upal, Mercyhurst University

Research Associate: Martha Funes

### **Study Overview**

Most people have a set of core beliefs that help guide them through life. This worldview influences perception and experience and goes on to shape behavior. In this survey, we are interested in exploring relationships between worldview/ideology and various attitudes and beliefs.

If you volunteer to participate in this study you will be asked various questions about your beliefs and attitudes. There are no right or wrong answers. We are interested in your honest response. At the end of the study you will be debriefed and provided with an opportunity to ask questions.

The study session will take about an hour of your time. You will be remunerated through MTURK. The Mercyhurst University Institutional Review Board has approved this study.

Participation in a research study is time consuming. You will need to spend some time answering survey questions to the best of your ability. We appreciate your participation.

### **Your Rights as a Participant**

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. You may end your participation at any time, and are free to decline answering any question that you do not wish to answer. You may ask to delete or change any or all of the information collected from you in this study at any time and it will be destroyed/changed promptly. If you do choose to participate, we ask you to answer those questions you choose to answer as honestly as possible.

### **Confidentiality**

To ensure that your identity remains confidential, we will not collect any identifying information during the study. All study material will be labeled with a participant code generated by the researchers, which will be used to label the electronic files. This code will not be associated with your identity in any way and will be used in data analysis only. Only authorized personnel will have access to the data. Only aggregated results will be reported in publications. No information may be released that will identify you as an individual.

### **Benefits**

The potential benefits of participation in this research include learning more about your own attitudes and about psychological studies of meaning systems

### **Risks**

There are no anticipated physical, social, psychological, emotional, economic, or other risks associated with the proposed research.

### **Contact Information**

Dr. Afzal Upal

Email: mupal@mercyhurst.edu

Phone: 814-824-2117

## **Consent Form (Web-based, unsigned)**

Title: Validating Preference for a Consistent and Explanatory Belief System

Principal Investigators: Dr. Afzal Upal, Mercyhurst University

Research Associate: Martha Funes

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (MTurk ID) hereby volunteer to be a participant in the study Meaning and Belief Survey. I understand that my participation in this study will involve reading and answering various attitude questionnaires that will help researchers better understand the relationship between people's need for meaning and a desire to control their environment.

I have been told that I will be asked to participate in one session of approximately one hour duration.

Also, I acknowledge that my participation in this study, or indeed any research, may involve risks that are currently unforeseen by Mercyhurst University.

### **Risks**

There are no anticipated physical, social, psychological, emotional, economic, or other risks associated with the proposed research.

### **Risk Management**

Participants will be informed that they will have a chance to learn about the purpose of the study and ask questions at the end. All participants will be fully debriefed at the end of the experiment, and the purpose of the study will be revealed. Thus, any small hesitation should be eliminated by the study's end.

### **The Right to Refuse to Participate or Withdraw**

I understand that I am free to refuse to participate and may withdraw my consent at any time, for any reason, without prejudice or hard feelings.

### **Confidentiality**

I understand that my experimental data will be protected and not revealed to anyone other than the Mercyhurst-affiliated Investigator(s) without my consent except as data unidentified as to source.

I understand that my name will not be identified or attached in any manner to any publication arising from this study. Moreover, I understand that the experimental data may be reviewed by an internal or external audit committee with the understanding that any summary information resulting from such a review will not identify me personally.

### **Payment and Benefits**

I understand that for participating in this research, I am entitled to a remuneration for a total amount of \$ 1.00 if I complete the entire research project as set out in the protocol.

I understand that data collected may also have broad social benefits, including better scientific understanding of individuals' need for a meaning system.

I understand that by signing this consent form I have not waived any legal rights I may have as a result of any harm to me occasioned by my participation in this research project beyond the risks I have assumed. Also, I understand that I will be given a copy of this consent form so that I may contact any of the individuals mentioned below at some time in the future should that be required.

I agree

I disagree

**FOR PARTICIPANT ENQUIRY IF REQUIRED:**

Should I have any questions or concerns regarding this project before, during or after participation, I understand that I am encouraged to contact the appropriate Mercyhurst researcher(s) cited below. This contact can be made by phone or email to any of the Mercyhurst numbers and addresses of individuals listed below:

Principal Investigator: Dr. Afzal Upal (mupal@mercyhurst.edu) Phone: 814-824-2117

**Research at Mercyhurst University which involves human participants is overseen by the Institutional Review Board. Questions or problems regarding your rights as a participant should be addressed to Mr. Timothy Harvey; Institutional Review Board Chair; Mercyhurst University; 501 East 38th Street; Erie, Pennsylvania 16546-0001; Telephone (814) 824-3372.**