Consent

Recruitment Statement for Research Participation

- 1. Brendan Molinar, a graduate student and research assistant at Saint Louis University, and Dr. Ruth Warner, a professor of psychology at Saint Louis University, are inviting you to participate in this research study.
- 2. In order to participate in this study, you must be : 1) between the ages of 18 to 89, and 2) a United States citizen
- 3. The title of this study is Political and Societal Perceptions. The purpose of this study is to understand how individuals perceive present and future societies as differing and how this relates to their philosophical beliefs.
- 4. In this study, you will be asked to answer several questions about how you perceive the present, optimal future, and worst future. You will then be asked to complete a few other surveys about your philosophical/political beliefs and answer a few demographic questions. The study should take you between 15-25 minutes to complete.
- 5. The risks to you as a participant are minimal. These include fatigue, boredom, discomfort answering particular items, and loss of anonymity. If you do not wish to answer to a particular item, you have the option of selecting "Prefer not to Answer."
- 6. Once you complete the survey, the computer will not record the IP address of your computer along with the results, this thus protects your anonymity. Furthermore, only the principle researcher (Brendan Molinar) and his advisor (Dr. Ruth Warner) will have access to the data; thus safeguarding confidentiality. You will not be asked to report any identifying information (e.g. name or social security number), and in the event of publication no identifying information will be reported. All results and findings will be published in summarized format without reference to specific responses.
- 7. Participation in this study will not benefit you directly. Your participation may benefit others by identifying any relationship between philosophical beliefs and perceptions about the future.
- 8. You can choose not to participate. If you decide not to participate, there will not be a penalty to you or loss of any benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. You may withdraw from this study at any time. Furthermore, you may refuse to answer any question for any reason and without penalty; if you do choose not to answer a question, please select the "Prefer not to Answer" option. Other questions may prompt you to answer, but you may still decline to answer.
- 9. If you have any questions about this research study, you can call Brendan Molinar at 314-977-2276 (email: molinarbk@slu.edu) If you have questions about your rights as a participant, you may call the Saint Louis University Institutional Review Board at 314-977-7744 and reference IRB #28789

If you consent to participate in this study, please select that option below. If you do not wish to participate in thi	S
study, please select the option "I do not consent to participate in this study."	

0	I consent to participate in this study
0	I do not consent to participate in this study

Present Society

On this page you are asked to indicate how you **perceive our current and present American society** on a number of dimensions. Use the scale of -100 (absolute lowest level) to 100 (absolute highest level) to indicate your perception.

		A	Absolute Lo	owest Lev	A	bsolute Hi					
	100	-80	-60	-40	-20	0	20	40	60	80	100
How much fairness do you believe our present society has?											
How much freedom do you believe our present society has?											
How much prosperity do you believe our present society has?											
How much equality do you believe our present society has?											
How much security do you believe our present society has?											
How much goodness do you believe our present society has?											
Please move the f	follow	ing bar	to the nur	mber 13							
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Best Future Society

On this page you are asked to indicate how you **perceive the future of American society under the best possible conditions** on a number of dimensions. For these questions, we are more interested in your

perceptions of an a indicate your perce			iture. Use	the scale	e of -100	(absolute	e lowes	st level) to	100 (abso	olute higl	nest level) to
		,	Absolute L	owest Leve	el			Absolute H	ighest Lev	rel	
-10	00	-80	-60	-40	-20	0	20	40	60	80	100
How much											
fairness do you											
believe the best											
possible society											
can have?											
How much											
freedom do you											
believe the best											
possible society											
can have?											
How much											
prosperity do you											
believe the best											
possible society											
can have?											
How much											
equality do you											
believe the best											
possible society											
can have?											
How much											
security do you											
believe the best											
possible society											
can have?											
How much											
goodness do you											
believe the best											
possible society											
can have?											
Please indicate on Indicate the outcome	ne is I	Highly	Unlikely								
indicates the result	is son	newha	it likely.								
Highly U	Jnlikel	y								Н	ighly Likely
-10		-80	-60	-40	-20	0	20	40	60	80	100
How likely is it											
that Americans will											
reach the best											
possible future?											
Please move the	follov	ving b	ar to the	number	-51.						
-10	00	-80	-60	-40	-20	0	20	40	60	80	100
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Number											
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Worst Future Society

On this page you are asked to indicate how you **perceive the future of American society under the worst possible conditions** on a number of dimensions. For these questions, we are more interested in your perceptions of an **attainable** future. Use the scale of -100 (absolute lowest level) to 100 (absolute highest level) to indicate your perception.

		Abs	solute Lov	vest Level	Absolute High	hest Level					
-1	100	-80	-60	-40	-20	0	20	40	60	80	100
How much fairness do you believe the worst possible society can have?											
How much freedom do you believe the worst possible society can have?]			
How much prosperity do you believe the worst possible society can have?]			
How much equality do you believe the worst possible society can have?											
How much security do you believe the worst possible society can have?											
How much goodness do you believe the worst possible society can have?]			

Please indicate on the following scale how likely you believe the following outcome to be. A value of -100 Indicate the outcome is Highly Unlikely and a value of 100 indicate the outcome is Highly Likely. A value of 0 indicates the result is somewhat likely.

Highly Unlikely
-100 -80 -60 -40 -20 0 20 40 60 80 100

How likely is it that Americans will reach the worst possible future?	
Please move the following bar to the number 67.	

-100 -40 -20 20 40 60 100 Select Specified Number

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Free Will Survey

Please rate the extent to which you agree with the following statements using the scale of "Strongly Disagree" to "Strongly Agree." If you prefer not to rate your agreement with a particular statement, please select the "Prefer not to Answer" option at the far right-hand side of the screen.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Prefer not to Answer
People have complete control over the decisions they make.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
People must take full responsibility for any bad choices they make.	0	Ο	0	0	0	0	0	0
People can overcome any obstacles if they truly want to.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
People are totally responsible for the bad things they do.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
People have complete free will.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Criminals are totally responsible for the bad things they do.	0	Ο	0	Ο	0	Ο	0	0
People are always at fault for their bad behavior.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Strength of mind can always overcome the body's desires.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Political Issues/Policies

Please indicate the extent to which you feel positively or negatively towards each issue. Scores of -100 indicate greater negativity, and scores of 100 indicate greater positivity. Scores of 0 indicate that you feel neutral about the issue. If you are unfamiliar with an issue or prefer not to respond select the option "Don't Know about Issue."

_	-100	-80	-60	-40	-20	0	20	40	60	80	Not Applicable 100
Abortion											
Limited Government	t										
Funding for Military and National Security											
Prayer in Public Schools											
Welfare Benefits	s										
Gun Ownership											
Gay Marriage											
Drug Legalization	1										
Fiscal Responsibility											
Private Ownership of Companies											
Privatizing Government Services (e.g. roads, social security, etc.)											
The War on Terror											
Amnesty for Undocumented Workers	1										
Building a Wall on the Mexican Border											
Corporate Taxation	1										
High Taxes on Wealthy People											
Government Control of the Economy											
Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare")											
Free Trade Agreements											
Unemployment Benefits	t										
Social Security	7										
Medicare/Medicaid	1										

							Applica	
Government Regulation of Industry								
Environmental Protection Agency								
Charter Schools								
Capital Punishment ("Death Penalty")								
Minimum Wage								
Stem Cell Research								
Nationalizing (Government Control of)								
Companies/Industries								
Mandatory Minimum Sentences for Criminals								
Administration								
Please indicate the extent to	which you	feel positiv	.1	-4:14	1 1	1' 1 6"	G	
indicate greater negativity, about a person. If you are u	and scores o	of 100 indica	ate greater	positivity.	Scores of	0 indicate th	nat you fee	
indicate greater negativity, about a person. If you are u Very Nega	and scores on an and scores on an and scores on an	of 100 indication ith a politication	ate greater al figure, p Very Positi	positivity. lease selective	Scores of the option	0 indicate the on "Don't Kn Neutr	nat you fee now." Tal Not Applica	el neutral
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indicate greater negativity, about a person. If you are u Very Nega -100 -80 Barack Obama Donald Trump Gary Johnson Bernie Sanders Hilary Clinton George W. Bush Gov Please rate the extent to wh "Strongly Agree." If you pr	and scores of infamiliar wintive -60 arich you agreefer not to refer not to reference of the second secon	ee with the fate your agr	following steement with	positivity. lease selective 20 4	Scores of the option of the op	0 indicate the on "Don't Kn Neutre 80 scale of "Str	nat you fee now." ral Not Applica 100	el neutral able agree" to

	Strongly Disagree	Moderately Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Slightly Agree	Moderately Agree	Strongly Agree	Prefer not to Answer
Hardly anyone in the government is corrupt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The government exists for the benefit of a few big interest groups	0	Ο	Ο	0	0	Ο	0	0
The government is very capable of achieving its goals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
When the government passes a new law or policy, it is generally implemented as it was intended	0	0	0	Ο	0	0	0	0
Government policies and laws are often implemented with damaging effects to society	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Ο

Optimism

Please rate the extent to which you agree with the following statements using the scale of "Strongly Disagree" to "Strongly Agree." If you prefer not to rate your agreement with a particular statement, please select the "Prefer not to Answer" option at the far right-hand side of the screen.

				Neither					
	Strongly Disagree	Moderately Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Agree Nor Disagree	Slightly Agree	Moderately Agree	Strongly Agree	Prefer not to Answer	
In uncertain times, I usually expect the best.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
If something can go wrong for me, it will.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
I'm always optimistic about my future.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
I hardly ever expect things to go my way.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
I rarely count on good things happening to me.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Overall, I expect more good things to happen to me than bad.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Values Suvey

Please, rate the importance of the following values as a life-guiding principle for you. Please use the following scale of "Not Important" to "Of Supreme Importance" to indicate which values are most important to you. If a value is against you belief system, please indicate that by selecting "Opposed to my Principles." If you prefer not to answer, please select "Prefer not to Answer."

	Opposed to my Principles	All	-	0 2	-	-	0 ,	Of Supreme Importance	
POWER (social power, authority, wealth)	0	0	0	0	0	0	Ο	Ο	0

	Opposed to my Principles	Not At All Important	Not Very Important		Moderately Important		Highly Important	Of Supreme Importance	Prefer Not to Answer
ACHIEVEMENT (success, capability, ambition, influence on people and events)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HEDONISM (gratification of desires, enjoyment in life, self-indulgence)	0	Ο	0	Ο	0	Ο	Ο	0	0
STIMULATION (daring, a varied and challenging life, an exciting life)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SELF-DIRECTION (creativity, freedom, curiosity, independence, choosing one's own goals)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UNIVERSALISM (broad- mindedness, beauty of nature and arts, social justice, a world at peace, equality, wisdom, unity with nature, environmental protection)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BENEVOLENCE (helpfulness, honesty, forgiveness, loyalty, responsibility)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRADITION (respect for tradition, humbleness, accepting one's portion in life, devotion, modesty)	0	Ο	0	0	Ο	0	0	0	0
CONFORMITY (obedience, honoring parents and elders, self- discipline, politeness)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SECURITY (national security, family security, social order, cleanliness, reciprocation of favors)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Demo									
Please indicate how old yo	ou are in y	ears							
Which of the following or	otions best	describes	your gen	der identit	y? Select a	ll that app	oly.		
☐ Male									
☐ Female									
☐ Gender Non-binary ☐ Transgender									
☐ Prefer not to Answer									

Which of the following options best describes your racial identity?
O European-American or White
O African-American or Black
O Latino-American or Hispanic
O Native American or Pacific Islander
O Asian-American or Asian
O Arab-American or Arab
O Multiracial or Other (please specify)
O Prefer not to Answer
Which of the following options best describes your political orientation?
O Strongly Liberal
O Moderately Liberal
O Slightly Liberal
O Moderate or Centrist
O Slightly Conservative
O Moderately Conservative
O Strongly Conservative
O Prefer not to Answer
Which of the following political parties do you tend to identify with the most? O Republican Party
O Democratic Party
O Democratic Party O Libertarian Party
_
O Libertarian Party O Green Party O Socialist Party
O Libertarian Party O Green Party O Socialist Party O Constitution Party
O Libertarian Party O Green Party O Socialist Party
O Libertarian Party O Green Party O Socialist Party O Constitution Party
O Libertarian Party O Green Party O Socialist Party O Constitution Party O Other (Please Specify) O Prefer not to Answer/None
O Libertarian Party O Green Party O Socialist Party O Constitution Party O Other (Please Specify)
O Libertarian Party O Green Party O Socialist Party O Constitution Party O Other (Please Specify) O Prefer not to Answer/None Please indicate the highest level of education you have completed O Less than High School
O Libertarian Party O Green Party O Socialist Party O Constitution Party O Other (Please Specify) O Prefer not to Answer/None Please indicate the highest level of education you have completed O Less than High School O High School or GED
 Libertarian Party Green Party Socialist Party Constitution Party Other (Please Specify) Prefer not to Answer/None Please indicate the highest level of education you have completed Less than High School High School or GED Some College or Two Year Degree
 Cibertarian Party Green Party Socialist Party Constitution Party Other (Please Specify) Prefer not to Answer/None Please indicate the highest level of education you have completed Less than High School High School or GED Some College or Two Year Degree Bachelor's or Four Year Degree
O Libertarian Party O Green Party O Socialist Party O Constitution Party O Other (Please Specify) O Prefer not to Answer/None Please indicate the highest level of education you have completed O Less than High School O High School or GED O Some College or Two Year Degree O Bachelor's or Four Year Degree O Graduate or Professional Degree
 Cibertarian Party Green Party Socialist Party Constitution Party Other (Please Specify) Prefer not to Answer/None Please indicate the highest level of education you have completed Less than High School High School or GED Some College or Two Year Degree Bachelor's or Four Year Degree
O Libertarian Party O Green Party O Socialist Party O Constitution Party O Other (Please Specify) O Prefer not to Answer/None Please indicate the highest level of education you have completed O Less than High School O High School or GED O Some College or Two Year Degree O Bachelor's or Four Year Degree O Graduate or Professional Degree

Which of the following ranges best approximates your annual family household income (in US currency)?
O Less than \$20,000
O Between \$20,000 and \$40,000
O Between \$40,000 and \$65,000
O Between \$65,000 and \$105,000
O Between \$105,000 and \$160,000
O More than \$160,000
O Prefer not to Answer
Which of the following options best describes the economic class you belong to?
O Poor/Struggling
O Working Class/Lower Middle Class
O Middle Class
O Upper Middle Class
O Wealthy/Affluent
O Prefer not to Answer
Are you currently a citizen of the United States of America?
O Yes O No
What region of the United States do you currently reside in?
O New England (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont)
O Mideast (Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania)
O Great Lakes (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin)
O Plains (Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota)
O Southeast (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia)
O Southwest (Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas)
O Rocky Mountain (Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming)
O Far West (Alaska, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington)
O US Territory (Please Specify)
O Prefer not to Answer
With which of the following religious groups do you most identify with?
O Protestant
O Catholic
O Muslim
O Jewish
O Buddhist

O Hindu
O Agnostic
O Atheist
O Other (Please Specify)
O Prefer not to Answer
How religious do you consider yourself to be?
O Not At All Religious
O Not Religious
O Somewhat Not Religious
O Neither Very Religious nor Not Religious
O Somewhat Religious
O Religious
O Devoutly Religious
O Prefer Not to Answer
How often do you attend religious services?
O Never
O Seldom
O Often
O Very Often
O Prefer not to Answer
How often do you engage in prayer or other religious based reflection?
O Never
O Seldom
O Often
O Very Often
O Prefer not to Answer
How often do you engage in other church or religious based activities besides attending services?
O Never
O Seldom
O Often
O Very Often
O Prefer not to Answer
NOTE: YOU CAN VIEW YOUR PAYMENT CODE ON THE NEXT PAGE. ENTER THIS CODE INTO THE

NOTE: YOU CAN VIEW YOUR PAYMENT CODE ON THE NEXT PAGE. ENTER THIS CODE INTO THE SPACE PROVIDED TO YOU ON MTURK IN ORDER TO RECEIVE PAYMENT. <u>BEFORE YOU CLOSE OUT THIS WINDOW, REMEMBER TO HIT THE FORWARD ARROW ON THE NEXT PAGE OR YOUR RESPONSES WILL NOT BE SAVED.</u>

Dear Participant,	
Thank you for taking the time to participate in this study! The primary goal of this study is to understand how people view the potential for society to get worse/better and how it relates to political ideology and philosophical beliefs, such as free will. Your participation will help to improve our understanding of this topic. If you have any comments/thoughts about your experience taking this study, please feel free to share them in the textbox provided below. If you have any questions your participation in this study, please feel free to contact the primary investigator of this study, Brendan Molinar, at the following email address: molinarbk@slu.edu .	
Sincerely,	
Brendan Molinar Psychology Department	
Saint Louis University	
Please feel free to include any comments or thoughts you had about the study here	
You are finished with this survey. To receive your compensation, type this 5-digit code number\${e://Field/random}in the text box on the MTurk page.	
PLEASE HIT THE "DONE" BUTTON AND SELECT THE "FORWARD" BUTTON NOW TO RECORD YOUR RESPONSES. Thank you for participating!	
O Done	

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