

STUDY 1



**Introductory Statement*

This study is conducted by Dr Margaret Samahita from the School of Economics, University College Dublin.

What is this research about?

I aim to understand the opinions of Americans.

Why have you been invited to take part?

You have been contacted because you are an adult aged over 18 years living in the US.

How will your data be used?

Your answers are anonymous; only aggregate results will be published.

What will happen if you decide to take part in this research study?

You will fill out a **10 minute** survey using your desktop computer.

How will your privacy be protected?

No personal data is collected and all information is fully anonymous.

What are the benefits of taking part in this research study?

Your responses will help researchers better understand Americans' opinions. You may also earn a **small bonus** for correctly answering questions in the survey.

What are the risks of taking part in this research study?

There are no foreseeable risks to taking part in this study.

Can you change your mind at any stage and withdraw from the study?

Yes, if you wish to withdraw at any point, simply close the survey window.

How will you find out what happens with this project?

Future updates to the project will be available by contacting the researcher.

Contact details for further information

margaret.samahita@ucd.ie

I have read and understood the above and want to participate in this study.

☐ Yes

☐ No

*What is your Prolific ID? Please note that this response should auto-fill with the correct ID

*What is your age (in years)?

*What is your gender?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Non-binary / other
- ☐ Prefer not to say

*What is your ethnicity?

- ☐ White
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Hispanic or Latino
- ☐ Asian or Pacific Islander
- ☐ Native American or American Indian
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Prefer not to say

*What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- ☐ Some high school or less
- ☐ High school diploma or GED
- ☐ Some college, but no degree
- ☐ Associates or technical degree
- ☐ Bachelor's degree
- ☐ Graduate or professional degree (MA, MS, MBA, PhD, JD, MD, DDS etc.)
- ☐ Prefer not to say

*Please estimate your gross annual salary.

- ☐ Less than 25,000 USD
- ☐ Greater than/equal to 25,000 USD and less than 50,000 USD
- ☐ Greater than/equal to 50,000 USD and less than 75,000 USD
- ☐ Greater than/equal to 75,000 USD and less than 100,000 USD
- ☐ Greater than/equal to 100,000 USD and less than 125,000 USD
- ☐ Greater than/equal to 125,000 USD and less than 150,000 USD
- ☐ Greater than/equal to 150,000 USD and less than 175,000 USD
- ☐ Greater than/equal to 175,000 USD and less than 200,000 USD
- ☐ Greater than/equal to 200,000 USD and less than 225,000 USD
- ☐ Greater than/equal to 225,000 USD and less than 250,000 USD
- ☐ Greater than/equal to 250,000 USD and less than 275,000 USD
- ☐ Greater than/equal to 275,000 USD and less than 300,000 USD
- ☐ Greater than/equal to 300,000 USD
- ☐ Prefer not to say

*What best describes your employment status?

- ☐ Working full-time
- ☐ Working part-time
- ☐ Unemployed and looking for work
- ☐ A homemaker or stay-at-home parent
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Retired
- ☐ Other

*In which state do you currently reside?

Select one

▼

*What type of community do you live in?

- ☐ Large city
- ☐ Suburb near a large city
- ☐ Small city or town
- ☐ Rural area

*Please tell us, in general, how willing or unwilling you are to take risks.

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Completely unwilling to take risks										Very willing to take risks

*In political matters, people talk of 'the left' and 'the right'. How would you place your views on this scale, generally speaking?

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The Left										The right

*What is your political affiliation?

- ☐ Democrat
- ☐ Independent
- ☐ Republican
- ☐ Other

*What is your religion?

- ☐ Christian
- ☐ Catholic
- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Muslim
- ☐ Buddhist
- ☐ Hindu
- ☐ None/Atheist/Agnostic
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Prefer not to say

We would like to know, for each of the following issues, your **assumptions** regarding **the kind of people who agree** with the statement.

Please consider your response carefully. We will pick one of these questions at random and pay you depending on whether you are correct, based on the responses of real study participants. **A correct answer will earn you a bonus of \$2.**

***Suppose someone states that they agree with the HIGHLIGHTED statement** (choosing 6 or 7 on a 1-7 agreement scale). Which of the options do you think is more likely regarding...

- i) their education and
- ii) their income?

Please consider your response carefully. We will pick one of these questions at random and pay you depending on whether you are correct, based on the responses of real study participants. **A correct answer will earn you a bonus of \$2.**

	i) Education			ii) Income		
	Has never attended college	Is attending college	Has a college degree	Earns less than \$50k/year	Earns between \$50k-\$100k/year	Earns over \$100k/year
Racism is NOT a systemic issue and caused only by individuals' prejudices	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

[Repeated for all fifteen statements]

You will now be asked additional questions related to the issues you saw previously. Please read the statements carefully since **we may reverse the way it is stated.**

We would like to know **your position** in relation to a number of issues.

***Where do you stand on the following issue?**

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Promoting the traditional family structure is good for society						All family structures (including polyamory) should be equally recognised in society

[Repeated for all fifteen statements]

Please let us know if you experienced any issue in the study, for example if anything was unclear or did not work (optional).

Thank you for participating in this study.

This study aims to investigate the opinions held by Americans from different social backgrounds.

Bonus earnings will be calculated within the next few weeks and any bonus payment will be paid directly through your Prolific account.

If you wish to remove your data or have any question regarding the study, please contact the researcher through your Prolific account.

Please click the button below to be redirected back to Prolific and register your submission. In case needed, the completion code is C9XKRCHM.

STUDY 2



**Introductory Statement*

This study is conducted by Dr Margaret Samahita from the School of Economics, University College Dublin.

What is this research about?

I aim to understand the opinions of Americans.

Why have you been invited to take part?

You have been contacted because you are an adult aged over 18 years living in the US.

How will your data be used?

Your answers are anonymous; only aggregate results will be published.

What will happen if you decide to take part in this research study?

You will fill out a **10 minute** survey using your computer.

How will your privacy be protected?

No personal data is collected and all information is fully anonymous.

What are the benefits of taking part in this research study?

Your responses will help researchers better understand Americans' opinions.

What are the risks of taking part in this research study?

There are no foreseeable risks to taking part in this study.

Can you change your mind at any stage and withdraw from the study?

Yes, if you wish to withdraw at any point, simply close the survey window.

How will you find out what happens with this project?

Future updates to the project will be available by contacting the researcher.

Contact details for further information

margaret.samahita@ucd.ie

I have read and understood the above and want to participate in this study.

☐ Yes

☐ No

***What is your Prolific ID? Please note that this response should auto-fill with the correct ID**

*What is your age (in years)?

*What is your gender?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Non-binary / other
- ☐ Prefer not to say

*What is your ethnicity?

- ☐ White
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Hispanic or Latino
- ☐ Asian or Pacific Islander
- ☐ Native American or American Indian
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Prefer not to say

*What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- ☐ Some high school or less
- ☐ High school diploma or GED
- ☐ Some college, but no degree
- ☐ Associates or technical degree
- ☐ Bachelor's degree
- ☐ Graduate or professional degree (MA, MS, MBA, PhD, JD, MD, DDS etc.)
- ☐ Prefer not to say

*Please estimate your gross annual salary.

- ☐ Less than 25,000 USD
- ☐ Greater than/equal to 25,000 USD and less than 50,000 USD
- ☐ Greater than/equal to 50,000 USD and less than 75,000 USD
- ☐ Greater than/equal to 75,000 USD and less than 100,000 USD
- ☐ Greater than/equal to 100,000 USD and less than 125,000 USD
- ☐ Greater than/equal to 125,000 USD and less than 150,000 USD
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- ☐ Greater than/equal to 175,000 USD and less than 200,000 USD
- ☐ Greater than/equal to 200,000 USD and less than 225,000 USD
- ☐ Greater than/equal to 225,000 USD and less than 250,000 USD
- ☐ Greater than/equal to 250,000 USD and less than 275,000 USD
- ☐ Greater than/equal to 275,000 USD and less than 300,000 USD
- ☐ Greater than/equal to 300,000 USD
- ☐ Prefer not to say

*What best describes your employment status?

- ☐ Working full-time
- ☐ Working part-time
- ☐ Unemployed and looking for work
- ☐ A homemaker or stay-at-home parent
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Retired
- ☐ Other

*In which state do you currently reside?

Select one

▼

*What type of community do you live in?

- ☐ Large city
- ☐ Suburb near a large city
- ☐ Small city or town
- ☐ Rural area

*Please tell us, in general, how willing or unwilling you are to take risks.

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Completely unwilling to take risks										Very willing to take risks

*In political matters, people talk of 'the left' and 'the right'. How would you place your views on this scale, generally speaking?

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The Left										The right

*What is your political affiliation?

- ☐ Democrat
- ☐ Independent
- ☐ Republican
- ☐ Other

*What is your religion?

- ☐ Christian
- ☐ Catholic
- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Muslim
- ☐ Buddhist
- ☐ Hindu
- ☐ None/Atheist/Agnostic
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Prefer not to say

You will now be matched with another participant and be partners for the remainder of the study. One of you will be assigned the role of Participant A and the other will be Participant B.

You will then see a series of statements. After each statement, you will be asked how much you agree/disagree with it.

After you have both completed the study, the responses of Participant A will be shown to Participant B. For example: "Your partner Participant A states that they [level of agreement] with [statement]."

The responses of Participant B will NOT be shown to Participant A.

You are **Participant A**.

You will now see a series of statements. After each statement, you will be asked how much you agree/disagree with it.

Remember that **your responses will be shown to your partner Participant B after both of you have completed the study.**

*The one-cent coin (i.e. the penny) should be removed from circulation

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Strongly disagree						Strongly agree

[Repeated for all fifteen statements]

You have now completed the responses that will be shown to your partner Participant B.

From here on, your responses will NOT be shown to your partner Participant B.

[illegible]

*How important is the opinion that others hold about you to you?

☐ Not important at all 0

☐ 1

☐ 2

☐ 3

☐ 4

☐ 5

☐ 6

☐ 7

☐ 8

☐ 9

☐ Extremely important 10

[illegible]

Please let us know if you experienced any issue in the study, for example if anything was unclear or did not work (optional).

Thank you for participating in this study.

This study aims to investigate the opinions held by Americans from different social backgrounds.

If you were Participant B, the responses of Participant A will be sent to you via Prolific message after the study is complete.

If you wish to remove your data or have any question regarding the study, please contact the researcher through your Prolific account.

Please click the button below to be redirected back to Prolific and register your submission. In case needed, the completion code is C1DAOC0L.

STUDY 3



**Introductory Statement*

This study is conducted by Dr Margaret Samahita from the School of Economics, University College Dublin.

What is this research about?

I aim to understand the opinions of Americans.

Why have you been invited to take part?

You have been contacted because you are an adult aged over 18 years living in the US.

How will your data be used?

Your answers are anonymous; only aggregate results will be published.

What will happen if you decide to take part in this research study?

You will fill out a **15 minute** survey using your desktop computer.

How will your privacy be protected?

No personal data is collected and all information is fully anonymous.

What are the benefits of taking part in this research study?

Your responses will help researchers better understand Americans' opinions. You may also earn a **small bonus** for correctly answering questions in the survey.

What are the risks of taking part in this research study?

There are no foreseeable risks to taking part in this study.

Can you change your mind at any stage and withdraw from the study?

Yes, if you wish to withdraw at any point, simply close the survey window.

How will you find out what happens with this project?

Future updates to the project will be available by contacting the researcher.

Contact details for further information

margaret.samahita@ucd.ie

I have read and understood the above and want to participate in this study.

☐ Yes

☐ No

*What is your Prolific ID? Please note that this response should auto-fill with the correct ID

*What is your age (in years)?

*What is your gender?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Non-binary / other
- ☐ Prefer not to say

*What is your ethnicity?

- ☐ White
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Hispanic or Latino
- ☐ Asian or Pacific Islander
- ☐ Native American or American Indian
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Prefer not to say

*Are you currently attending a four-year college/university?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

*Please estimate your gross annual salary.

- ☐ Less than 25,000 USD
- ☐ Greater than/equal to 25,000 USD and less than 50,000 USD
- ☐ Greater than/equal to 50,000 USD and less than 75,000 USD
- ☐ Greater than/equal to 75,000 USD and less than 100,000 USD
- ☐ Greater than/equal to 100,000 USD and less than 125,000 USD
- ☐ Greater than/equal to 125,000 USD and less than 150,000 USD
- ☐ Greater than/equal to 150,000 USD and less than 175,000 USD
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- ☐ Greater than/equal to 200,000 USD and less than 225,000 USD
- ☐ Greater than/equal to 225,000 USD and less than 250,000 USD
- ☐ Greater than/equal to 250,000 USD and less than 275,000 USD
- ☐ Greater than/equal to 275,000 USD and less than 300,000 USD
- ☐ Greater than/equal to 300,000 USD
- ☐ Prefer not to say

*What is your civil status?

- ☐ Single
- ☐ Co-habiting with partner
- ☐ Married
- ☐ Divorced/Separated
- ☐ Widowed
- ☐ Prefer not to say

*In which state do you currently reside?

Select one

▼

*Please tell us, in general, how willing or unwilling you are to take risks.

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Completely unwilling to take risks										Very willing to take risks

*In political matters, people talk of 'the left' and 'the right'. How would you place your views on this scale, generally speaking?

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The Left										The right

*What is your political affiliation?

- ☐ Democrat
- ☐ Independent
- ☐ Republican
- ☐ Other

*What is your religion?

- ☐ Christian
- ☐ Catholic
- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Muslim
- ☐ Buddhist
- ☐ Hindu
- ☐ None/Atheist/Agnostic
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Prefer not to say

First, you will now be matched with another participant and be partners for the remainder of the study.

You will then see a series of statements. After each statement, you will be asked how much you agree/disagree with it.

After you have both completed the study, your responses will be shown to your partner.

For example, they will see: "Your partner states that they [**your level of agreement**] with [statement]."

You will also see your partner's responses after the study.

Your partner is a self-identified **Democrat**.

You will now see a series of statements. After each statement, you will be asked how much you agree/disagree with it.

Remember that **your responses will be shown to your partner, a Democrat, after both of you have completed the study.**

*The one-cent coin (i.e. the penny) should be removed from circulation

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Strongly disagree						Strongly agree

[Repeated for all fourteen statements]

You will now be asked additional questions related to the issues you saw previously. Please read the statements carefully.

*We are interested in studying the topic of "**luxury beliefs**". Have you ever heard of the term "**luxury beliefs**"?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

[If "No" is selected:]

For the purpose of this study, luxury beliefs are defined as ***"ideas and opinions that confer status on the rich at very little cost, while taking a toll on the lower class. The chief purpose of luxury beliefs is to indicate evidence of the believer's social class and education."***

Can you think of any examples of "luxury beliefs"?

[If "Yes" is selected:]

*You said that you have heard of the term "luxury beliefs". How would you define it, if you were asked to explain it to a friend/family member? Please keep it to 1-2 sentences, only a brief **definition** is needed, you will be asked to give examples in the next question.

Do you know any examples of "luxury beliefs"?

For the purpose of this study, luxury beliefs are defined as ***"ideas and opinions that confer status on the rich at very little cost, while taking a toll on the lower class. The chief purpose of luxury beliefs is to indicate evidence of the believer's social class and education."***

Given this definition, would you like to revise your examples of "luxury beliefs"?

[End branch]

You will soon be presented with a series of statements and asked to identify which, if any, is a luxury belief as per the definition "***ideas and opinions that confer status on the rich at very little cost, while taking a toll on the lower class. The chief purpose of luxury beliefs is to indicate evidence of the believer's social class and education.***"

At the end of the study, a lottery for an additional \$100 bonus will be conducted. You will earn 1 lottery ticket for each answer that matches the **majority** opinion in this US-based survey. Therefore, please consider your answers carefully since each correct answer will increase your chance of winning the \$100 bonus.

*Which of the following is a luxury belief, as per the definition "***ideas and opinions that confer status on the rich at very little cost, while taking a toll on the lower class. The chief purpose of luxury beliefs is to indicate evidence of the believer's social class and education.***"?

Please consider your answers carefully since each answer that matches the majority opinion will increase your chance of winning the \$100 bonus.

- ☐ Societies should prioritise economic growth over social and ecological well-being
- ☐ Societies should prioritise social and ecological well-being instead of economic growth
- ☐ Neither

[Repeated for all fourteen statements]

In the next section, we would like to hear your thoughts on 1 of the statements presented. There are **no right or wrong answers**; we are genuinely interested in your personal opinion. Please take your time and respond thoughtfully, providing your full consideration.

Please consider the following statement.

Casual drug use should be legalised

*How important is the issue discussed in the statement to you?

- | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 1 Not important at all | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 Extremely important |

*Imagine a scenario where **policies are decided by people who agree** with the statement. How do you think it will affect the following groups in society?

	Harmed	Neutral	Helped
Lower and working classes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Middle class	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Upper-middle and upper classes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*What do you think of **someone who agrees** with the statement? Does agreement with the statement indicate anything about that person's status (income, education) or other characteristics?

Please let us know if you experienced any issue in the study, for example if anything was unclear or did not work (optional).

Thank you for participating in this study.

This study aims to investigate the opinions held by Americans from different social backgrounds.

The responses of your partner will be sent to you via Prolific message after the study is complete.

Bonus earnings will be calculated within the next few weeks and any bonus payment will be paid directly through your Prolific account.

If you wish to remove your data or have any question regarding the study, please contact the researcher through your Prolific account.

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