

DO NOT USE PENCIL!

Q1. Smith, Lingle and Brock are planning to conduct a study to examine reactions to the death of a person who is either similar or dissimilar to the participant. They propose recruiting sixty females, who will be asked to evaluate another person (a confederate) for similarity and dissimilarity to themselves using a Perceived Similarity Scale, ranging from 1 (very dissimilar) to 7 (very similar). For example, the similarity scale asks: To what extent do you find this person similar to yourself?, and participants will be instructed to rate on 7 point Likert scale.

In this study, participants and the confederate will first sit in different waiting rooms before entering a common room for the conversation. The conversation topic will be provided once they are settled in the common room. Upon entering, participants will be informed that the purpose of the study is to assess 'impression formation', and therefore, it is essential that both the individuals (the real participant and the confederate) remain unknown with each other before the conversation begins.

Each participant will be informed about the number of sessions, the materials to be used in the study, and topic of discussion. Then they will be asked to interact for an hour and will be guided to separate rooms to complete an attitude survey, followed by additional surveys assessing their mood and emotional state. After completing the surveys, participants will be asked to return for a follow-up session after a week. They will be instructed not to interact with each other within this interval.

When the real participant returns for the second session, they will be informed that the other person (confederate) who they have met last week has passed away. The researchers then plan to measure participant's reactions to the news of the person's death across similarity index.

You are an IRB committee member and who has been with evaluating the above proposal using following questions:

- a. Discuss the ethical issues arise from this study, particularly regarding beneficence, respect for individuals, and justice.
- b. What are the potential ethical risks associated with learning about another person's death?
- c. How might the researchers mitigate potential risks, discomfort, or harm to participants during and after the study?
- d. Would you reactions to this study be different if the participants had played with an infant and then later been told that the infant had died?

Keywords for thinking: You can use the following reference points , discussed in the class, to evaluate the above proposal: (1) the purpose of the research, expected duration, and procedures; (2) their right to decline to participate and to withdraw from the research once participation has begun; (3) the foreseeable consequences of declining or withdrawing; (4) reasonably foreseeable factors that may be expected to influence their willingness to participate such as potential risks, discomfort, or adverse effects; (5) any prospective research benefits; (6) limits of confidentiality; (7) incentives for participation; and (8) whom to contact for questions about the research and research participants' rights.