Research Informed Consent

Intuitions on Social Judgments

Purpose: We are conducting a research study to examine people’s ordinary intuitions about how they make social judgments.

Procedures: Participation in this study will involve filling out a brief questionnaire.  We anticipate that your involvement will require between five and ten minutes.  You will not be compensated financially for participating. You must be at least 18 years of age to participate.

Risks and Benefits: This research will not benefit you directly, but we hope that our results will add to scientific knowledge about people’s ordinary intuitions about happiness.

Confidentiality: All of your responses will be anonymous. Only the researchers involved in this study and those responsible for research oversight will have access to the information you provide.

Voluntary Participation: Participation in this study is completely voluntary.  You are free to decline to participate, to end participation at any time for any reason, or to refuse to answer any individual question without penalty.

Questions: If you have any questions about this study, you may contact the investigator, Joshua Knobe at joshua.knobe@yale.edu. If you would like to talk with someone other than the researchers to discuss problems or concerns, to discuss situations in the event that a member of the research team is not available, or to discuss your rights as a research participant, you may contact the Yale University Human Subjects Committee, Box 208252, New Haven, CT  06520-8252, 203-436-3650, human.subjects@yale.edu. Additional information is available at <http://www.yale.edu/hsc/Subject/subjectsrights.htm>

Do you voluntarily consent to participate in this study?

* Yes
* No

Please carefully read the following story and answer the question below:

Tom always enjoys his job as a janitor at a local community college. What he likes most about his job is how it gives him a chance to meet the young female students who are attending the community college. Almost every single day Tom feels good and generally experiences a lot of pleasant emotions. In fact, it is very rare that he would ever feel negative emotions like sadness or loneliness. When Tom thinks about his life, he always comes to the same conclusion: he feels highly satisfied with the way he lives.

The reason Tom feels this way is that every day he goes from locker to locker and steals belongings from the students and re-sells these belongings to buy himself alcohol. Each night as he's going to sleep, he thinks about the things he will be stealing the next day.

Now please tell us whether you agree or disagree with the following statement:

Tom is happy.

* Completely disagree

* In between

* Completely agree

Now please answer three additional questions about this story:

Tom always enjoys his job as a janitor at a local community college. What he likes most about his job is how it gives him a chance to meet the young female students who are attending the community college. Almost every single day Tom feels good and generally experiences a lot of pleasant emotions. In fact, it is very rare that he would ever feel negative emotions like sadness or loneliness. When Tom thinks about his life, he always comes to the same conclusion: he feels highly satisfied with the way he lives.

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Now please answer the following questions about the story you read.

True or False:

Tom feels good and generally experiences a lot of pleasant emotions.

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Tom rarely experiences negative emotions.

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Tom feels highly satisfied with the way he lives.

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Please carefully read the following story and answer the question below:

Tom always enjoys his job as a janitor at a local community college. What he likes most about his job is how it gives him a chance to see his wife who is attending the community college. Almost every single day Tom feels good and generally experiences a lot of pleasant emotions. In fact, it is very rare that he would ever feel negative emotions like sadness or loneliness. When Tom thinks about his life, he always comes to the same conclusion: he feels highly satisfied with the way he lives.

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The reason Sarah feels this way is that she poisons the sick children by giving them vitamins that have pesticides inside of them. Sarah doesn’t really know how many children have died because of her, but she likes to think about it when she falls asleep at night.

Now please tell us whether you agree or disagree with the following statement:

Sarah is happy.

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Now please answer three additional questions about this story:

After going to nursing school for several years, Sarah got a job at the children’s hospital and sees many different children each day. This is the job she has always wanted. Almost every single day Sarah feels good and generally experiences a lot of pleasant emotions. In fact, it is very rare that she would ever feel negative emotions like sadness or loneliness. When Sarah thinks about her life, she always comes to the same conclusion: she feels highly satisfied with the way she lives.

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Please carefully read the following story and answer the question below:

Garrett is a forty-five year old man who lives in the suburbs of Atlanta with his family. One of his favorite things is when his niece comes over to play with his kids.

Almost every single day Garrett feels good and generally experiences a lot of pleasant emotions. In fact, it is very rare that he would ever feel negative emotions like sadness or loneliness. When Garrett thinks about his life, he always comes to the same conclusion: he feels highly satisfied with the way he lives.

The reason Garrett feels this way is that when his niece comes over to spend the night, Garrett pressures her to have sex with him. After that, they all talk about what they did that day and what they want to be when they grow up. Afterward, Garrett likes to think about what happened that night as he falls asleep.

Now please tell us whether you agree or disagree with the following statement:

Garrett is happy.

* Completely disagree

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Now please answer three additional questions about this story:

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True or False:

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Tom always enjoys his job as a janitor at a local community college. What he likes most about his job is how it gives him a chance to see his wife who is attending the community college.

Almost every single day Tom feels good and generally experiences a lot of pleasant emotions. In fact, it is very rare that he would ever feel negative emotions like sadness or loneliness. When Tom thinks about his life, he always comes to the same conclusion: he feels highly satisfied with the way he lives.

The reason Tom feels this way is that every day he takes the handicapped students from class to class and talks with them about how they are doing and whether they are experiencing any problems. Each night as he's going to sleep, he thinks about the children he will be helping the next day.

Now please tell us whether you agree or disagree with the following statement:

Tom is happy.

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Tom always enjoys his job as a janitor at a local community college. What he likes most about his job is how it gives him a chance to meet the young female students who are attending the community college.

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Now please tell us whether you agree or disagree with the following statement:

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Now please answer three additional questions about each of the stories you just read:

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The reason Sarah feels this way is that she helps the sick children by giving them vitamins that taste like gummy bears. Sarah doesn’t really know how many children have been helped by her, but she likes to think about it when she falls asleep at night.

Now please tell us whether you agree or disagree with the following statement:

Sarah is happy.

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After going to nursing school for several years, Sarah got a job at the children’s hospital and sees many different children each day. This is the job she has always wanted.

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* True
* False

The two passages below differ only in a few words (underlined for easy identification). We want to know whether the difference between the two passages makes a difference in whether the person described in the story is happy. Please read the following passages and answer the questions with this in mind.

After going to nursing school for several years, Sarah got a job at the children’s hospital and sees many different children each day. This is the job she has always wanted.

Almost every single day Sarah feels good and generally experiences a lot of pleasant emotions. In fact, it is very rare that she would ever feel negative emotions like sadness or loneliness. When Sarah thinks about her life, she always comes to the same conclusion: she feels highly satisfied with the way she lives.

The reason Sarah feels this way is that she poisons the sick children by giving them vitamins that have pesticides inside of them. Sarah doesn’t really know how many children have died because of her, but she likes to think about it when she falls asleep at night.

Now please tell us whether you agree or disagree with the following statement:

Sarah is happy.

* Completely disagree

* In between

* Completely agree

After going to nursing school for several years, Sarah got a job at the children’s hospital and sees many different children each day. This is the job she has always wanted.

Almost every single day Sarah feels good and generally experiences a lot of pleasant emotions. In fact, it is very rare that she would ever feel negative emotions like sadness or loneliness. When Sarah thinks about her life, she always comes to the same conclusion: she feels highly satisfied with the way she lives.

The reason Sarah feels this way is that she helps the sick children by giving them vitamins that taste like gummy bears. Sarah doesn’t really know how many children have been helped by her, but she likes to think about it when she falls asleep at night.

Now please tell us whether you agree or disagree with the following statement:

Sarah is happy.

* Completely disagree

* In between

* Completely agree

Please explain why the difference between the two passages either was or was not relevant to the question of happiness.

Now please answer three additional questions about each of the stories you just read:

After going to nursing school for several years, Sarah got a job at the children’s hospital and sees many different children each day. This is the job she has always wanted.

Almost every single day Sarah feels good and generally experiences a lot of pleasant emotions. In fact, it is very rare that she would ever feel negative emotions like sadness or loneliness. When Sarah thinks about her life, she always comes to the same conclusion: she feels highly satisfied with the way she lives.

The reason Sarah feels this way is that she poisons the sick children by giving them vitamins that have pesticides inside of them. Sarah doesn’t really know how many children have died because of her, but she likes to think about it when she falls asleep at night.

Now please tell us whether you agree or disagree with the following statement:

Sarah feels good and generally experiences a lot of pleasant emotions.

* True
* False

Sarah rarely experiences negative emotions.

* True
* False

Sarah feels highly satisfied with the way she lives.

* True
* False

After going to nursing school for several years, Sarah got a job at the children’s hospital and sees many different children each day. This is the job she has always wanted.

Almost every single day Sarah feels good and generally experiences a lot of pleasant emotions. In fact, it is very rare that she would ever feel negative emotions like sadness or loneliness. When Sarah thinks about her life, she always comes to the same conclusion: she feels highly satisfied with the way she lives.

The reason Sarah feels this way is that she helps the sick children by giving them vitamins that taste like gummy bears. Sarah doesn’t really know how many children have been helped by her, but she likes to think about it when she falls asleep at night.

Now please tell us whether you agree or disagree with the following statement:

Sarah feels good and generally experiences a lot of pleasant emotions.

* True
* False

Sarah rarely experiences negative emotions.

* True
* False

Sarah feels highly satisfied with the way she lives.

* True
* False

In this part of the experiment, we'd like you to answer a series of background questions.

Your answers to these questions are very helpful, and are for research purposes only. Remember that your responses are entirely anonymous. If you feel uncomfortable with a question in this section, you can leave the question blank.

What is your age?

What is your gender?

* Male
* Female

What is your ethnicity?

* Black / African American
* Hispanic / Latino
* Asian / Pacific Islander
* Native American / American Indian
* White / Caucasian
* Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Think of this ladder as representing where people stand in the United States. At the top of the ladder are the people who have the most money, most education, and most respected jobs. At the bottom are the people who have the least money, least education, and least respected jobs or no job. The higher up you are on this ladder, the closer you are to the people at the very top, and the lower you are, the closer you are to the people at the very bottom. Where would you place yourself on this ladder? Please select the rung where you think you stand at this time in your life, relative to other people in the United States.

* Rung 10 (Top Rung)
* Rung 9
* Rung 8
* Rung 7
* Rung 6
* Rung 5
* Rung 4
* Rung 3
* Rung 2
* Rung 1 (Bottom Rung)

What is your highest level of education?

* Did not complete high school or equivalent level
* Highschool or equivalent
* College or university level with a degree in: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Graduate or level with a Master's in: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Graduate or level with a Doctorate in: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Are you working in philosophical or scientific research?

* Yes
* No

Please specify the specific field in which you work:

How many years have you been studying this topic?

To what degree do you identify yourself as a happiness / positive psychology researcher?

* Not at all

* In between

* Completely

Have you published papers or presented research at a conference on happiness / positive psychology?

* Yes
* No

To what degree do you consider yourself an emotion researcher / affective scientist?

* Not at all

* In between

* Completely

How familiar are you with the research on positive psychology and happiness?

* Not at all

* In between

* Completely

In a few words, say what your research interests are:

Finally, please let us know if you have any thoughts or suggestions about this questionnaire. If you would like to know the results of the study, include your email address below.

Please copy and paste this code into the box on mturk:  ${e://Field/random}   You must click next to complete the survey!   Thanks for your time.