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 approximately seven minutes.  You will be compensated financially for participating. You must be at least 18 years of age to participate.

Risks and Benefits: You will be paid for participation through Amazon's Mechanical Turk. Further, we hope that our results will add to scientific knowledge about people’s ordinary social judgments.

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

We are sorry you declined to participate in our survey. Have a great day.

This study has two parts. For the first part, we are interested in your views on some new research about happiness. On the next page, you will hear a lecture and see a powerpoint presentation about recent scientific research on happiness by a Yale psychology professor. Please listen to the summary very carefully. You will be asked to report three facts about the research after you watch the video.

Please tell us three facts you learned about happiness that you did not know before. Fact 1:

Fact 2:

Fact 3:

Now that you've read this research, please tell us the extent to which you now agree with the following statement:

Happiness is a good thing.

* Strongly disagree

* In between

* Strongly agree

Please tell us whether you think this research changed your views on happiness.

* Yes, I now value happiness a lot less
* Yes, I now value happiness somewhat less
* Yes, I now value happiness a little less
* No, I now value happiness the same amount
* Yes, I now value happiness a little more
* Yes, I now value happiness somewhat more
* Yes, I now value happiness a lot more

Please tell us how happy you feel right now.

* Not at all

* In between

* Extremely

For the second part of this study, we are interested in what you think about other people and what makes them happy. Please follow the instructions in the next section.

Please read the following story

Maria is the mother of three children who all really love her. In fact, they couldn’t imagine having a better mom. Maria usually stays pretty busy taking care of her children. She often finds herself rushing from one birthday party to the next, and is always going to pick up some groceries or buy school supplies. While Maria has been preoccupied with her children, she still makes an effort to be nice and spend time with her old friends. Almost every night she ends up helping her children or planning something for her children’s future.

Day to day, Maria usually feels excited and really enjoys whatever she is doing. When she reflects on her life, she also feels great. She can’t think of anything else in the world that she would want to spend her time doing and feels like the success she’s had is definitely worth whatever sacrifices she has made.

Now tell us whether you agree or disagree with the following statement. Please use the scale below.

Maria is happy.

* Strongly Disagree

* Neither Agree Nor Disagree

* Strongly Agree

Please read the following story

Maria wants to live the life of a celebrity in L.A. In fact, she has even started trying to date a few famous people. Maria usually works hard to become popular. She often finds herself rushing from one social gathering to the next, and is always going to pick up some alcohol or a dress. Maria is so preoccupied with becoming popular that she is no longer concerned with being honest or nice to her old friends unless they know someone famous. Almost every night she ends up drinking or partying with famous people she wants to be like.

Day to day, Maria usually feels excited and really enjoys whatever she is doing. When she reflects on her life, she also feels great. She can’t think of anything else in the world that she would want to spend her time doing and feels like the success she’s had is definitely worth whatever sacrifices she has made. Now tell us whether you agree or disagree with the following statement. Please use the scale below.

Maria is happy.

* Strongly Disagree

* Neither Agree Nor Disagree

* Strongly Agree

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? (You may select more than one response.)

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

Please indicate the highest level of education completed.

* Grammar School
* High School or equivalent
* Vocational/Technical School (2 year)
* Some College
* College Graduate (4 year)
* Master's Degree (MS)
* Doctoral Degree (PhD)
* Professional Degree (MD, JD, etc.)
* 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)

Please tell us what you think this study was testing.

Please copy and paste this random code into the box in Mechanical Turk. Then go to the next screen.

Random Code: ${e://Field/random}