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Fairness - Money/Time Attenuation (#8369)

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1) Have any data been collected for this study already?
No, no data have been collected for this study yet.

2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?
Money and time are often thought of as being interchangeable. We test whether people take this into account and update their beliefs about the fairness of punishments that are expressed in time or money.

We use the following setup: Participants are told about Alan and Bob, who both receive a ticket for running a red light. They are told that Alan earns $50/hour and that Bob earns $25/hour.

In one condition, participants are told that Alan is fined $150 and Bob is fined $100. Participants are asked to rate the relative fairness of this punishment. After providing this rating, participants are then informed that because sometimes people think of money and time as interchangeable, the fines can be thought of as a 3 working hour fine for Alan and a 4 working hour fine for Bob. Participants are then asked to re-rate how fair they believe the punishment is.

In the other condition, participants are told that Alan is required to perform 3 hours of community service and Bob is required to perform 4 hours of community service. Participants are asked to rate the relative fairness of this punishment. After providing this rating, participants are then informed that because sometimes people think of money and time as interchangeable, the fines can be thought of as a $150 fine for Alan and a $100 fine for Bob. Participants are then asked to re-rate how fair they believe the punishment is.

We expect a main effect such that the first condition will initially be perceived more unfair to Alan than to Bob than the second condition is. We also expect an interaction with time (i.e., from the first rating to the second rating) that this difference will be reduced when the punishments are re-expressed in their alternate currency (i.e. money to time and time to money.)

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.
Rating on a 101-point scale anchored from -50 (extremely unfair to Bob) to 50 (extremely unfair to Alan). The midpoint, 0, is defined as equally fair to both.

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?
This is a 2 condition repeated measures design. In one condition, participants rate a fine expressed as money and then re-rate the fine re-expressed as time. In the other condition, participants rate a fine expressed as time and then re-rate the fine re-expressed as money.

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.
We will use a hierarchical linear model predicting participants' fairness ratings from the condition they were assigned to, the time they rated each scenario (i.e., the first rating or the re-rating) and an interaction between the two. The responses will be nested within participants.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.
No exclusions or outliers.

7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.
200 total - 100 per cell.

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)
We do not have an a priori prediction about whether the interaction between condition and time will yield either a partial or total attenuation in the difference of the mean fairness ratings between condition.