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As Predicted: "UCSB Self-Control" (#5931)

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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?

If a person (J---) commits a violent act due to below-average self-control (assaults a stranger causing him to go blind in one eye), participants are more likely to find him guilty of assault if the reduced self-control is the result of a genetic condition as opposed to a traumatic brain injury.

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.

Participants' binary response indicating whether they think J--- is guilty of assault and battery (1 = yes, 0 = no).

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?

Two conditions - J---'s behavior is caused by low self control due to 1.) a genetic condition or 2.) a traumatic brain injury.

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.

A probit regression analysis predicting whether participants will find J--- guilty or not based on the condition they were assigned to.

6) Any secondary analyses?

Other measures included in the survey are how much J---'s condition indicates something is wrong with them, how much self-control J--- indicated, whether J--- is truly a violent person, whether J--- should be sentenced to prison or probation, how much at fault J--- is for their actions, and how much the victim should blame J--- for what happened.

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.

This will be included as part of a 20-minute data collection session that will continue until 1500 participants have completed the entire 20-minute session. As this is the first study in the session, and because there is usually a significant amount of participant dropout before completing the full session, there will be at least 1500 participants who complete this study. However, as we cannot predict the rate of dropouts from the first study to the end of the session, there will likely be substantially more than 1500 participants who complete this study.

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register?

(e.g., data exclusions, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)

We will include an attention check in which participants are asked to recall which condition they were in (i.e., whether J---'s below-average self-control is caused by genes or due to tbi.) We will exclude participants who incorrectly answer this attention check.

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