

UVA Wave 4 - Redemption - Decline Effect (#27649)

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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?

Participants will read vignettes about people who had a run in with the law in their past. They will see photos of the transgressors at the time of their transgression and a present-day photo. We predict that the transgressors who appear to have incurred an appearance change (e.g., haircut, weight loss) since the time of their transgression will be perceived as more remorseful than transgressors who have not incurred an appearance change. All participants will read about and rate 4 targets (2 male and 2 female.)

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

The primary dependent variable will be participant's average response across the four targets to the item, "How remorseful does [target] seem?" rated on a 7-point scale ranging from 0 (Not at all remorseful) to 6 (Extremely remorseful).

The primary dependent variable will be embedded in a scale consisting of 6 items.

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

Participants will be assigned to one of two conditions - appearance change or no appearance change. The type of appearance change, the gender of the transgressor, and the nature of transgression will be counterbalance across participants.

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

We will conduct a two-sample t-test comparing participants' average responses to the remorseful item across the 4 transgressors between the appearance change and control (no appearance change) condition.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.

We will exclude participants who incorrectly respond to either of two attention check items which will be embedded within the 6-item scale that includes the DV. The attention checks will be present for two of the targets and instruct participants to select "Not at all" or "Extremely."

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 the first study in a 20-minute session that will continue data collection until at least 1,500 participants have both completed the entire session and correctly responded to both attention check items in this study. This means there will be a minimum of 1,500 participants who will complete the study. It is possible that more than that 1,500 participants will complete this study due to participant dropout between the beginning and the end of the study session.

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)

Participants will also complete an implicit theory of morality scale.