

Fraternity Cross Sectional Survey Sept 2018 (#13767)

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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?

We predict that failures in performing or completing new member tasks that seem more (vs. less) ritualistic elicit relatively more anger, judgments of immorality and punishment.

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

For each recalled instance of a failed task, participants will rate the extent the new member task is ritualistic. We will use two subscales to measure components of ritual: physical features and symbolic meaning.

For physical features, participants will answer the following questions. For each question, participants will select Yes (3), Somewhat (2), or No (1). We will create a composite measure by averaging the individual items. The specific questions are as follows: "The task tends to occur at the same time during the new member period" (time of process specificity); "The task tends to occur in a fixed order" (procedural order specificity); "The task tends to include the same individuals" (group member specificity); "The task tends to occur at a fixed interval (e.g., once a week, once every new member period), rather than sporadically" (time-interval-specificity); "The task features certain elements that tend to be repeated more than once (for example, high fiving 3 times means there is a repetition, but high fiving just once means there is no repetition)" (repetition); "The task includes physical movements and/or utterances (e.g., chants, shouting, making a noise)" (stereotypy); "The task features mimicking (e.g., someone engages in a certain behavior and others follow by doing the same behavior)" (mimicry); "The task involves performing certain steps in unison (i.e., everyone completing the step(s) at the same time, in synchrony)" (synchrony); "The task feels social (feels like something that is shared by a group)" (sociality).

For symbolic value, participants will answer the following question on a 1-7 point scale (To what extent is task is meaningful?).

In addition, participants will complete a single-item measure assessing perceptions of ritual on a 7-point scale (How ritualistic is the new member task that you described above?).

Participants will complete the above predictor variables once for each recalled hazing behavior. The following outcome variables will also be completed once per recalled behavior.

Anger will be measured with the following five items: I felt angry, mad, irritated, annoyed, frustrated (1 to 7-point scale).

Judgments of immorality will be measured with the following four items: Failing to complete/perform this pledge task was wrong, inappropriate, immoral, offensive (1 to 7-point scale).

Punishment will be measured with the following four items: The consequences were psychologically challenging, embarrassing, physically demanding, harsh (1 to 7-point scale).

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

This study is a cross-sectional survey. Participants will recall up to three events.

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

First, we will run linear mixed-effects models regressing anger, immorality and punishment (separately) on fixed effects for symbolic value and physical features (continuous ratings) and random effects for participant and event. Next, we will add an interaction term for symbolic value x physical features.

We also will run mixed linear models regressing anger, immorality and punishment (separately) on fixed effect for ritual (single-item continuous measure) and random effects for participant and event.

We will also test whether wrongness and anger mediate the relation between ritualistic event (average of physical and psychological features) and punishment.

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

We will exclude a new member event from analysis if it does not constitute a failure. That is, if an event describes a successful performance or completion

of a new member event, then we will not analyze that observation.

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.

The fraternity has approximately 60 active members. We plan to recruit as many fraternity members willing to participate as possible until October 1, 2018.

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

In addition to averaging the four punishment items to yield a composite variable, we plan to repeat the analysis outlined in Section 5 with each individual item separately (psychologically challenging, embarrassing, psychological demanding, harsh).