Role inconsistency versus conflict in Japan and the U.S. (#16813)

Author(s)
Christina Brown (Arcadia University) - browncm@arcadia.edu
Akiko Matsuo (Nagoya University) - matsuo.akiko@k.mbox.nagoya-u.ac.jp

1) Have any data been collected for this study already?
It's complicated. We have already collected some data but explain in Question 8 why readers may consider this a valid pre-registration nevertheless.

2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?
When comparing role inconsistency to the control condition, inconsistency should produce a more negative reaction (less moral self-regard, more impurity, more anxiety) among Americans whereas Japanese should not be negatively affected by inconsistency. Compared to the control condition, role conflict should produce more anxiety among both Japanese and American, but it should only decrease moral self-regard and increase feelings of impurity among Japanese.

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.
The dependent variables are feelings of moral self-regard (10 items), impurity (3 items), and anxiety (6 items). They will be measured with a 7-point scale.

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?
Participants will be randomly assigned to one of three conditions: Control, inconsistency, conflict. Culture (Japan, U.S.) is also included as a factor.

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.
We will conduct 2 (Condition: conflict, inconsistency) x 2 (Country: Japan, U.S.) ANOVAs on three dependent measures: moral self-regard, impurity, and anxiety.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.
We will exclude the data of participants who either report that their country’s language (Japanese in Japan, English in the U.S.) is not their native language or that they lived in another country for 5 or more years. Because this is a cross-cultural study, these participants will be excluded because they might have a different cultural upbringing than the rest of the sample. Lastly, participants will be excluded if there are any procedural problems that occur during the experiment (e.g., experimenter error in running the study) or if their essay is blank, contains only one sentence, or clearly did not follow the instructions (as agreed upon by two independent coders).

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.
Using 30 participants per condition (consistent with common practices in the field) as a minimum goal and allowing for some loss due to exclusion criteria, we will aim for at least 100 participants from each culture for a total of at least 200 participants. However, we will keep data collection open until the end of two participation periods: For the U.S. sample, data collection will close when the Fall 2018 semester ends (December 11, 2018). For the Japan sample, data collection will close at the end of the third week of November (November 23, 2018).

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)
Data collection is currently ongoing in both the U.S. and Japan. No data have been analyzed or inspected in any way yet.

We are collecting the following individual differences variables to explore for potential mediation: self-construal, authenticity, and ingroup/loyalty as moral foundations. (The ingroup/loyalty scale includes two attention check items, and participants who fail these will be excluded from analyses using that measure.) First, we will check if scores on these three measured significantly differ by culture and if they are correlated with the dependent measures. If these prerequisites are met for one or more of these variables, we will conduct a conditional process model to test if differences between the U.S. and Japan in the inconsistency or conflict conditions are mediated by that variable.