Entitlement after bad luck (#20675)

Author(s)
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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 are examining whether people who have a greater sense of entitlement are more likely to feel angry after experiencing bad luck than people with a lesser sense of entitlement. We hypothesize that there will be a positive correlation between entitlement and anger when bad luck affects the self but not when bad luck affects another person.

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.
We will ask participants to rate on a 7-point scale the extent to which they feel the following emotions after imagining the scenario: anger, irritation, pity, and sympathy. We will conduct our analyses using the average of anger and irritation and then also the average of pity and sympathy as our DVs.

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?
There are two within-subjects conditions. Specifically, participants will read a scenario about outcomes after a flight cancellation in which either they experience bad luck (self condition) or someone else experiences bad luck (other condition).
The order in which participants read the scenarios will be counterbalanced.

We will also ask participants to fill out the Psychological Entitlement Scale (Campbell et al., 2004).

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.
We will conduct a linear mixed model analysis (with a random intercept for the participant) to test whether there is an interaction between condition and entitlement on the anger/irritation mean (indicating a stronger relationship in the self condition than the other condition). We will follow this up with a simple slopes analysis to confirm that there is a positive correlation between entitlement and anger/irritation in the condition where bad luck affects the self.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.
We have an attention check question that asks people to select a 2 if they are reading it. We will exclude people who do not select 2.

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.
We will run this study in the extra credit pool at Cornell. The number of participants who choose to sign up will make up our sample. It is usually around 120.

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)
We are also going to check to make sure the mean of sympathy and pity does not follow the same pattern as the mean of anger and irritation. Specifically, we expect that people higher in psychological entitlement will feel less sympathy/pity after someone else experiences bad luck as compared to people lower in entitlement.