

## Are people compatibilist to preserve moral responsibility? (#4985)

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**Created:** 07/26/2017 10:12 PM (PT)

**Public:** 01/29/2019 10:32 AM (PT)

**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?**

Will people reduce compatibilist responding (that free will is compatible with determinism) after exposure to an argument that supports moral responsibility even in the absence of free will?

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

The key dependent variable is "If the argument is correct, can people have free will?" responded on a 7-point scale from "Definitely no" to "Definitely yes".

Participants will also respond to the question "If the argument is correct, can people be held morally responsible?" on the same scale.

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

This will be a within subjects design. Participants will first read a determinism argument, respond to the two dependent variables above, and then read a second argument supporting moral responsibility regardless of the existence of free will, and then respond to the same two dependent variables.

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

Paired-sample t-test on the free will DV.

**6) Any secondary analyses?**

Secondary hypothesis is that moral responsibility judgments will not be reduced after exposure to the argument. Same analyses will be performed for the second DV.

**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.**

200 timeslots will be posted, but recruitment will stop at the end of the summer session (Aug 4) regardless of whether this quota is reached. Whichever comes first (200 participants or the end of the session) will determine final sample size.

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

We also have a couple of comprehension checks of the determinism argument (a bypassing comprehension check, and an ability to do otherwise comprehension check "do later events have to happen as they do"). Results will be reported with and without comprehenders. We also have two questions about whether the "moral responsibility regardless of free will" argument is perceived to support or oppose free will and moral responsibility. Results may be reported separately for those who perceive the argument to be irrelevant to the existence of free will, as this is the intention of the researchers, and helps rule out the alternate explanation that the argument opposes the existence of free will.