

## Does belief in free will influence attitudes towards economic inequality? (#6273)

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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?

In this study, we experimentally test whether belief in free will leads to greater support for economic inequality and greater support for meritocracy.

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

Belief in free will: Belief in free will will be measured using the Free Will subscale of the Free Will Inventory (Nadelhoffer, Shepard, Nahmias, Sripada, & Ross, 2013).

Support for meritocracy: Support for meritocracy will be measured using the Value of Meritocracy scale (Horberg, Kraus, & Keltner, 2013).

Support for inequality: Support for inequality will be measured using the Support for Inequality scale, which contains the following items:

1. The negative consequences of economic inequality have been largely exaggerated
2. Economic inequality is causing many of the world's problems.
3. I am very disturbed by the amount of economic inequality in the world today.
4. We need to do everything possible to reduce economic inequality in the world.
5. Economic inequality is not a problem.

Endorsement of Contextual explanations for Inequality: To measure contextual explanations for inequality, we will use the Explanations of Economic Inequality measure from Kraus, Piff and Keltner (2009).

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

Participants will be randomly assigned to one of two videos: one designed to increase belief in free will (Pro Free Will), one designed to decrease belief in free will (Anti Free Will).

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

Because we have directional hypotheses, we will use one tailed t-tests to compare conditions.

As a manipulation check, we will test whether belief in free will is higher in the Pro Free Will condition compared to the Anti Free Will group.

To test the effects of our main dependent variables, we will test whether support for inequality and support for meritocracy are higher in the Pro Free Will condition compared to the Anti Free Will condition.

Additionally, we will test whether the differences between conditions in support for meritocracy and support for inequality are mediated by a greater belief in contextual explanations for Inequality.

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

Near the end of the survey, one attention check question will ask participants to indicate what the video they saw at the start of the survey was about. Only participants who successfully answer this question will be included in analysis.

### 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 collect a total sample of  $n = 1010$  (505 per condition)

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

As a secondary analysis, we will test whether support for redistribution is higher in the Anti Free will condition. However, because past research has found that preferences for redistribution tend to be stable, we think it is unlikely that the conditions will differ in support for redistribution.

Support for redistribution will be measured by asking participants the extent to which they agree with the following 3 statements:

1. The government should take measures to reduce differences in income levels
2. People who earn larger incomes should pay higher taxes than people with smaller incomes

3.The government should take responsibility to ensure that everyone is provided for