

Free Will Thought Experiment Within Subjects Replication (#25731)

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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?

Are people more accepting of economic inequality in an imaginary universe with free will relative to an imaginary universe without free will?

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

Participants will read about two hypothetical universes. One universe will be described as a place where people have free will, the other universe will be described as a place where people do not have free will. The key dependent variable will be support for inequality in each universe.

This will be measured using the following questions:

Imagine that, in Universe A, (where everything is completely caused by what happened before it), there are also differences in how much money, status and resources people have. That is, some people have a great deal of money, status, and resources, while others have very little. How acceptable do you think it is that these differences exist in Universe A?

1 = not at all acceptable

10 = completely acceptable

Imagine that, in Universe B, (where human decision making is not caused by what happened before it), there are also differences in how much money, status and resources people have. That is, some people have a great deal of money, status, and resources, while others have very little. How acceptable do you think it is that these differences exist in Universe B?

1 = not at all acceptable

10 = completely acceptable

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

Participants will not be assigned to any conditions. All participants will read the description of both universes and will complete the dependent measures.

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

To test whether participants perceived the universes as we intended, we will compare how much free will participants believe people in each universe have. This will be measured using the following questions:

How much free will do you think people have in Universe A (where everything is completely caused by what happened before it)?

1 = no free will

10 = complete free will

How much free will do you think people have in Universe B (where human decision making is not caused by what happened before it)?

1 = no free will

10 = complete free will

Using a one-tailed, paired samples t-test, we will test whether participants perceive more free will in the free will universe relative to the universe without free will. If this test confirms that the universes were perceived as we intended, we will then use a one-tailed, paired samples t-test to test whether participants find inequality more acceptable in the universe with free will relative to the universe without free will.

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

We will exclude any participants who spend less than 5 seconds on the page with the universe descriptions.

Additionally, we will exclude any participants who do not correctly answer an attention check question ("Because you're paying attention to this survey, please select 'Agree' for this question"). This question will be included within a scale measuring belief in free will (see 8).

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.

858 participants will be collected.

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

We will include the Free Will Inventory (Nadelhoffer, Shepard, Nahmias, Sripada, & Ross, 2014) for exploratory analyses. Additionally, we will include some



questions about mental illness following the Free Will Inventory. These questions are for a separate, unrelated study.