

Covid-19 Quarantine Study (independent measures) (#37981)

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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?

People will be more likely to choose old favorite restaurants (over new favorite restaurants) when they are in a "last chance" mindset (when they are induced to feel like their next opportunity will be their last chance in a while to get food from a restaurant, either because restaurants will be shutting down sooner rather than later in response to the coronavirus or because the option to dine-in will become unavailable in the near future, unlike the option to order takeout).

Additionally, we will also examine the reasons for this preference shift, by measuring people's ratings of meaning, enjoyment, and uncertainty underlying their choice. Previous studies indicate that "meaning" should be a significant driver of choosing old favorites.

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

Choice (new favorite vs. old favorite). All participants will be offered two choices, both between getting food from a restaurant they have been to before or getting food from a restaurant they have never been to before. The order of the choices will be randomized and the order of the choice options will also be randomized.

Degree of influence on choice. All participants will be asked after each choice to indicate the amount that each of three factors influenced their choice, specifically, the desire to maximize amount of enjoyment, the desire to maximize certainty, or the desire to have a personally meaningful experience. Each of these ratings will be on an independent 1-7 Likert scale (1 = not an especially big part of my thinking here, 7 = an especially big part of my thinking here).

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

Participants will be randomly assigned to one of two conditions in two separate studies:

2 (Time Frame, between subjects: 1 week ago vs. 2 months ago) design, randomly assigned. Participants in the 1 week ago condition will imagine that they are choosing a restaurant to go to 1 week in the past, just before restaurants started closing down due to concerns over the coronavirus. Participants in the 2 months ago condition will imagine that they are choosing a restaurant to go to 2 months in the past, long before restaurants started closing down due to concerns over the coronavirus.

2 (Dining Opportunity, between subjects: restaurant vs. takeout) design, randomly assigned. Participants in the restaurant condition will be asked about the restaurant they dined in most recently, before restaurants stopped serving dine-in customers due to concerns over the coronavirus. Participants in the takeout condition will be asked about which restaurant they would like to order their next takeout meal from, since restaurants are still delivering food for takeout despite concerns over the coronavirus.

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

We will report the results of two logistic regressions, one for each study (with condition as IV and choice as DV), and report the effect of condition. Our main predictions are that the 1 week ago condition will show a significant shift toward old favorites compared to the 2 months ago condition, and that the restaurant condition will show a significant shift toward old favorites compared to the takeout condition.

For the degree of influence questions, we will run independent-samples t-tests with condition as the IV and each degree of influence rating as DVs. As stated earlier, we care most about testing whether "meaning" significantly differs and is correlated with choice (there may or may not be differences on the other variables).

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

No plans at this time.

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 request 600 participants from Amazon Turk.

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

Depending on the results of our main analyses, we may also run mediation analyses to test whether personal meaning explains the relationship between time frame and choice, and also whether it explains the relationship between dining opportunity and choice.

For exploratory purposes, we will also run mediation analyses to test whether the uncertainty and enjoyment maximization explain the relationship between time frame and choice, and whether they explain the relationship between dining opportunity and choice.

After the time frame choice and degree of influence questions, participants will complete a manipulation check question asking about the extent to which their hypothetical restaurant choice from 1 week ago felt like their last time going out to a restaurant for a while (if they were in the 1 week ago condition), or the extent to which their hypothetical restaurant choice from 2 months ago felt like their last time going out to a restaurant for a while (if they were in the 2 months ago condition). After the dining opportunity choice and degree of influence questions, participants will complete a manipulation check question asking about the extent to which their most recent restaurant experience felt like their last time going out to a restaurant for a while (if they were in the restaurant condition), or the extent to which their takeout preferences felt like their last time ordering takeout for a while (if they were in the takeout condition).

At the end, participants will report demographic information (gender, age, ethnicity). We will also ask participants whether they plan to self-quarantine, have already self-quarantined, or if they do not plan to self-quarantine. For exploratory purposes, we will analyze the data excluding participants who indicate they have no plans to self-quarantine.

Finally, participants respond to an overall item about the effect of the quarantine on their general thought processes: first, they will rate whether things are already generally shut down or will about to be shut down; next, they will rate the extent to which this is has made them/is making them feel like pursuing old favorites and exploring new options (each rated from 1 = didn't feel like this at all, 7 = felt like this a lot). We hypothesize that participants will report a greater pursuit of old favorites than exploring of new options.