

Ritual Holiday Study Summer 2018 (#12609)

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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 predict that changes to holidays that seem more ritualistic elicit relatively more anger and judgments of immorality than changes to holidays that seem less ritualistic.

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

For each holiday in the study (there are 15), participants will rate the extent the holiday is a ritual. We will use two subscales to measure components of ritual: physical features and symbolic meaning.

For physical features, participants will answer the following questions. For each question, participants will select Yes (3), Somewhat (2), or No (1). We will create a composite measure by averaging the individual items. The specific questions are as follows: "Do celebrations of this holiday typically occur at the same location each year?" (place specificity); "Do celebrations of this holiday typically occur at the same time of day each year?" (time of day specificity); "Do celebrations of this holiday typically involve activities that occur in a fixed order?" (procedural order specificity); "Do celebrations of this holiday typically involve the same individuals each year?" (group member specificity); "Do celebrations of this holiday typically involve the same activities each year?" (repetition); "Do celebrations of this holiday typically include physical movements and/or utterances—such as, chanting, shouting, singing?" (stereotypy); "Do celebrations of this holiday typically involve performing certain steps in unison—i.e., everyone completing the step(s) (physical movements and/or utterances) at roughly the same time (such as singing "happy birthday", praying together, performing a ceremony together, and so on)." (synchrony); "Are celebrations of this holiday typically social—i.e., they involve more than one person or a group of people?" (sociality).

For symbolic value, participants will answer the following question on a 1-7 point scale (Overall, how meaningful is this holiday?).

In addition, participants will complete a single-item measure assessing perceptions of ritual on a 7-point scale (How much does this holiday (and its celebrations) feel like a ritual?).

Lastly, participants will complete a control variable for each holiday: "How often do you celebrate [holiday]?" (1 -7 point scale).

Participants will complete the above predictor variables once for each holiday. The following outcome variables will also be completed once per holiday.

Anger will be measured with the following five items: I would feel angry, mad, irritated, annoyed, frustrated (1 to 7-point scale).

Judgments of immorality will be measured with the following four items: Changing the date is wrong, inappropriate, immoral, offensive (1 to 7-point scale).

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

This study is completely within-subjects. Participants will rate all 15 holidays.

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

First, we will run linear mixed-effects models regressing anger and immorality (separately) on fixed effects for symbolic value and physical features (continuous ratings) and random effects for participant and holiday (target). Next, we will add an interaction term for symbolic value x physical features. We will also add a control variable (frequency of holiday celebration).

We also will run mixed linear models regressing anger and immorality (separately) on fixed effect for ritual (single-item continuous measure) and random effects for participant and holiday (target). We will also add a control variable (frequency of holiday celebration).

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

We will prevent potential subjects from participating who were not born in the United States.

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 recruit 100 participants.

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