1) What’s the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?
There is a negative relationship between perceived economic inequality and perceived mobility. Leading participants to perceive economic inequality as low would lead them to believe that economic mobility is high. In contrast, leading participants to perceive economic inequality as high would lead them to believe that economic mobility is low.

2) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.
The main dependent variable is perceived future mobility. Participants will be asked to predict their own relative standing (as a percentile) in the income distribution 10 years into the future as well as the relative standing (as a percentile) in the income distribution of their children when they are in the participant’s current age. I will also measure participant’s perceived current standing (as a percentile).

3) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?
Two conditions. Participants will be randomly assigned to the high-economic inequality or the low-economic inequality condition.

4) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.
Two linear regression models will be conducted, using participants’ assigned condition to predict either mobility measure (own future standing and children’s future standing) while controlling for participants perceived current relative standing.

5) Any secondary analyses?
1. After completing the main DV of interest (above), participants will also complete the System Justification Scale. I will run a t-test to examine whether perceiving economic inequality as high influences participants’ likelihood of justifying the system.

2. A linear regression model with condition, current relative standing, and their interaction as predictors of either mobility measures. It may be the case that the effect of perceived economic inequality will be higher for those who perceive themselves as currently lower on the income distribution.

6) 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.
Using TurkPrime Panels, I will collect data from all five income quintiles in the U.S., hopefully getting an equal number of respondents from each quintile. Budget permitting, I aim to collect data from 1000 participants.

7) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., data exclusions, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)
Data from participants whose responses will be more than 3 standard deviations away from the mean on either DVs will be excluded from analysis.

8) Have any data been collected for this study already?
No, no data have been collected for this study yet.

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