

The preference for distributed helping - Unpacked / packed, May 2018 (#11372)

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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 an interaction between the packed and unpacked donation conditions and the group size on donation amount such that in the unpacked condition, people will donate more to a five-child group than a single child but in packed condition, people will donate more to a single child than the five-child group. We further predict that people will be more likely to distribute (vs. concentrate) donations in the unpacked five-child condition.

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

Participants will report how they want to spend their \$1 bonus on themselves and the recipients (number of recipients will vary based on condition). Their total amount allocated must add to \$1.

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

Four conditions:

Five-child, unpacked: Choose how much to donate to each of five children (5 separate donation boxes) and how much goes to the self.

Five-child, packed: Choose how much to donate to five children (1 donation box). Anything left over goes to self.

One-child, unpacked: Choose how much to donate to one child (1 donation box) and how much goes to self.

One-child, packed: Choose how much to donate to one child (1 donation box). Anything left over goes to self.

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

2x2 ANOVA on donation amount (number of children seen x donation design). Interaction on donation amount (number of children seen x donation design). t-tests to check differences in donations when participants saw 1 vs. 5 children. t-tests to check differences in donations when participants saw packed vs. unpacked designs. Chi-square test to check differences in allocation strategy within the five-child-unpacked condition.

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

We will include all collected observations.

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 400 participants for adequate power to test our 4 conditions and the interaction between them.

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

Perception of decisions -

How fair is your donation? (1 = Not at all fair, 7 = Extremely fair)

How much positive impact will your donation have on the child or children's lives? (1 = Not much impact at all, 7 = Extreme impact)

To what extent is your donation a good use of money? (1 = Not a good use of money, 7 = Extremely good use of money)

We plan to examine differences in perception of decisions based on participants' actual allocation strategies. In particular, we predict that the equal-distributors in the five-child-unpacked condition will report that their donation was fairer than concentrators in the same condition. We do not have particular predictions about impact or good use of money and include them on an exploratory basis.

Controls -

Are you a parent? (Y / N)

Do you ever donate money to support the cause of children's health (e.g., St. Jude Children's Hospital)? (1 = Never, 7 = Always)

We will conduct exploratory tests of whether any of the aforementioned results change when including these controls.