

Inaction we trust - study 1 (#14653)

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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?

The central hypothesis is that advisors that do not act will be preferred compared to those who do take action, assuming that both action and inaction have led to negative outcomes. Additionally, we predict that the advisor who does not act will be seen as more competent, and that his decision will be seen as more in line with norms.

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

We will measure preferences for the two advisors, perceived competence, perceived normativity, and perceived regret:

Which advisor – Paul or George – would you prefer to hire?

Which advisor – Paul or George – is more competent?

Which advisor's behavior – Paul's or George's – is more in line with norms?

Which advisor – Paul or George – regrets their decision more?

Responses will be made on a scale from -5 (Definitely Paul for not switching) to +5 (Definitely George for switching).

The four items will be treated as separate measures, and will not be aggregated.

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

There are no conditions. We will randomize the order of the four questions.

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

We will compare participant's responses to each item to the scale midpoint (0) using one-tailed t-tests.

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

We will conduct separate analyses excluding participants who fail the attention check (one question).

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 330 participants on Prolific Academic. This is enough participants to detect a small-sized effect ($d = .20$) for a one-sample t-test with 95% power, $\alpha = .05$.

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

We will also look at the correlations between regret, competence, normativeness, and hiring preferences. We will also attempt to replicate the finding that action is associated with greater regret than inaction.