

Ritual & Task Persistence 1 (#3118)

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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 participants who do ritualized gestures (versus those who do nothing) will persist longer on a spot-the-difference task immediately afterwards.

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

Persistence on task

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

Two conditions: ritual vs. no ritual

Ritual condition will be composed of this sequence of behaviors (completed three times in a row):

- Put your hands on your knees
- Close your eyes
- Take a deep breath, and
- Silently count to 5
- Then, open your eyes

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

If the amount of time spent on the task is skewed, we will log transform this variable.

We will run a one-way ANOVA on time spent (DV) with ritual condition as the IV.

6) Any secondary analyses?

We will try to rule out alternative possible mechanisms for our predicted effect by measuring:

- intrinsic interest in task
- task involvement
- task difficulty
- general affect

We will test whether experimental condition affects any of these measures, and whether they in turn are related to persistence.

We will also control for:

- familiarity with task
- liking of task

We will run our primary analysis without controlling for these variables, and controlling for them, to see if the results are robust.

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.

200 participants (100 per condition)

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

The other authors on this paper are: Gerald Haubl, Jane Risen, Michael Norton, and Francesca Gino