

Personal Sacrifice Study – Repeat vs. Novelty (Lab) (#47524)

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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?

Participants who are about to give something up for 1 week as a self-control challenge will be more interested in spending the remainder of the study (i.e., the window before giving anything up) on tasks involving repeat experiences in that domain (vs. novel options), as compared to participants who are not about to give anything up.

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

Choice, two levels: Repeat option vs. novel option. All participants will identify a domain of activities they find enjoyable (e.g., online shopping) before choosing between a task about things in that category they have experienced before and a task about things in that category they have never experienced before. The description of the choice options (repeat option vs. novel option) will be randomized. The order of the choice options will also be randomized.

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

2 (Framing, between subjects: no constraints vs. last time in a while) design, randomly assigned. Participants will be asked if they are willing to give up the domain of activities they indicated they find enjoyable, for 1 week. Only those who indicate "yes" will complete the survey (those who indicate "no" will proceed to complete an unrelated survey for a completely different project. These remaining participants will then be assigned to either follow through with the 1-week personal sacrifice (last time in a while condition) or not (no constraints condition).

Participants in the last time in a while condition will be asked to not engage in this activity for 1 week starting when they leave the study. These participants will be reminded that they will be giving up this domain of activities and will be given a choice between tasks to do for the remainder of the study. Either the tasks will involve (1) activities in the chosen domain that participants have experienced before and enjoyed, or (2) activities in the chosen domain that they have never experienced before, but have been wanting to enjoy.

Participants in the no constraints condition will be asked to behave as usual with regard to their chosen domain of activities for 1 week starting when they leave the study. These participants will be given the same choice between tasks involving repeat and novel experiences (as in the last time in a while condition), except without any text indicating they are expected to give anything up.

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

We will report the results of a logistic regression (condition as IV and choice as DV), and report the effect of condition. Our main prediction is that the "last time in a while" condition will show a significant shift towards repeat experiences compared to novel experiences.

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

Participants will begin by indicating whether they are willing to give up the chosen domain of activities for 1 week (yes vs. no). Only those who indicate "yes" will remain in the current study.

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.

Barring unforeseen issues in subject recruitment, we aim to recruit 300 successfully-screened participants from Chicago Booth CDR lab sites (meaning: 300 participants who indicate "yes" in terms of being willing to complete the challenge).

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

Participants will report their enjoyment of their chosen domain of activities in their everyday life (1 = not at all, 7 = very much) and the number of times they do that activity in a given week. Participants in the last time in a while condition will report how much of a challenge it will be to give up the chosen domain of activities for 1 week (1 = not at all, 7 = very much) and what their perceived chances of success in giving up the chosen domain of activities will be (definitely will succeed; might succeed; definitely won't succeed). Participants in the no constraints condition will report on the challenge and likelihood of succeeding as hypotheticals — how much of a challenge it would have been to give up the domain (1 = not at all, 7 = very much) and what their chances of success in giving up the domain would have been (definitely would have succeeded; might have succeeded; definitely wouldn't have succeeded).

Participants will also complete a short writing task based on their choice (i.e., either about repeat or novel experiences in their chosen domain). These data will not be analyzed.

For exploratory purposes, we will also analyze the data excluding participants who fail a forced-choice attention check where they report which condition they were assigned to (1 of 2 options, representing whether they had or had not been assigned to complete the challenge).

At the end of the study, participants will complete a question asking about whether they had experienced technical errors or confusions, via a binary yes/no response (with “yes” answers allowing for explanation via open response), as well as a manipulation check regarding the degree to which they were imagining that their choice of activity would be their last opportunity to experience their selected domain for a while, via a 1-7 scale. Finally, participants will report demographic information (gender, age, ethnicity). These measures are for descriptive purposes; we plan to conduct our analyses without accounting for these responses.