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As Predicted: "IU for R&R with Similarity Mediator" (#14195)

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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?

- (1) To what extent do adults see their own goodness and other people's goodness, badness, and shyness in essentialist terms?
- (2) How does providing essentialist versus non-essentialist explanations for another person's badness influence generosity toward that person?
- (3) If essentialist explanations for badness predict lower generosity, is this relation mediated by how much similarity participants perceive between the character and themselves?
- (4) Are participants' responses associated with social desirability?

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

Essentialism will be measured by using questions adapted from Gelman, Heyman, and Legare (2007). Generosity will be measured by asking participants to distribute entries into a lottery. For example, they will read a description of a person who is bad for essentialist reasons and a description of a person who is bad for non-essentialist reasons. Participants will then be told that they should distribute five entries into a lottery between those two people. Similarity will be measured by asking participants to rate perceived similarity toward the characters. Social desirability will be measured using Crowne & Marlowe's (1960) scale.

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

This is a completely within-participants study. (Participants will answer questions about characters who match their own gender, but the content of these questions will be identical except for gender pronouns.) All participants will answer all questions and read both essentialist and non-essentialist descriptions of characters.

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

- (1) I will calculate essentialism scores for own goodness, others' goodness, others' badness, and others' shyness as outlined in Gelman et al (2007). I will then enter these scores into a one-factor, four-level ANOVA. If the omnibus test is significant, pairwise comparisons will determine which characteristics significantly differ from which other characteristics.
- (2) I will conduct one-sample t-tests comparing the number of lottery entries given to each character described in non-essentialist terms to 2.5 (chance, since participants will be splitting five entries between two characters).
- (3) For any characteristic(s) where the participants' generosity toward the character described in non-essentialist terms differs from chance, I will use MEMORE to conduct a mediation analysis with 5,000 bootstrapped samples. In these analyses, description (essentialist vs. non-essentialist) of the characteristic will serve as the predictor, perceived similarity will serve as the mediator, and number of lottery entries assigned to characters possessing the relevant characteristic will serve as the dependent measure.
- (4) On the social desirability scale, responses of "true" will be coded as 1 and "false" as 0, except for reverse-scored items, which will receive the opposite codes. I will sum responses across all items to obtain the final score and then correlate this score with participants' responses in the sharing task.

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

Participants will be excluded for the following reasons:

- (1) If they reside outside the U.S. and/or have an approval rating lower than 95% on MTurk. My HIT listed these as criteria for people to be able to sign up for the study.
- (2) I included an attention check question at the end of the study asking participants to type one question that they answered previously in the study. Participants must answer this question correctly to be included in analyses. In prior studies using this type of attention check, it has been very easy to determine which participants were not answering correctly, either because they did not answer the question at all or because they wrote phrases that did not actually answer the question, such as "good." However, it is difficult to predict a priori all the different things that people might write, and therefore it is not possible to determine in advance all of the responses that would not count as correct. Therefore, in addition to the main analyses conducted on participants who passed the exclusion criteria, I will report whether patterns change when including all respondents.
- (3) Participants will be excluded if they have completed prior studies as part of this project (e.g., studies that included the essentialism measure and the sharing measure).

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.

I am aiming for a sample of 50 participants and will post a HIT requesting 70 participants to account for potential exclusions.

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

This study is intended to supplement a series of studies that have already been packaged together in a manuscript. Therefore, in addition to the main analyses described above, I will also conduct analyses similar to those reported for the other studies in this paper (e.g., correlations between participants' age in years and responses to dependent measures). These results are not the focal point of this study, but readers may wonder about them because they were presented for earlier studies in the paper.

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