

Pre-analysis plan update:

Racial Discrimination in Seeking Advice

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MOTIVATION

This is an update to the PAP from May 27, 2021 (AEARCTR-0007737), last modified on July 27, 2021.

Past studies: Our first study from May 11, 2020 (AEARCTR-0005812) demonstrated, on average, the lack of statistical and tasted-based discrimination in seeking advice. The experiment was conducted on MTurk. Our second study PAP from May 27, 2021 (AEARCTR-0007737), however, showed that (compared to a national representative sample) the original MTurk sample was highly selected. Particularly, on MTurk, there are fewer individuals whom we can classify as “white-favoring individuals” (individuals proposing higher rewards for a white than for a black recipient in a simple money allocation task). Given these findings, we decided to repeat our experiment in a national representative sample.

Goals: Our follow-up study has two goals. First, we aim at repeating our main experiment with a larger US national representative sample to test whether there is, on average, discrimination in seeking advice in a more representative population. Second, we aim at conducting sub-sample analysis along the individuals’ types. Particularly, we separately study the behavior of three groups of individuals in our main experiment:

- (a) white-favoring individuals: individuals proposing higher rewards for a white than for a black recipient in a simple allocation task
- (b) black-favoring individuals: individuals proposing lower rewards for a white than for a black recipient
- (c) egalitarian individuals: individuals proposing the same reward for a white and a black recipient

To enable this sample split, we increase the statistical power such that we can study discrimination in seeking advice in the three subsamples of subjects.

DESIGN

Overview of new design: Our design combines our two previous studies (AEARCTR-0007737 and AEARCTR-000581). First, we invite participants for our classification survey described in AEARCTR-0007737. Second, we invite the same participants for our main experiment on discrimination in seeking advice described in AEARCTR-000581.

Minor changes to original design: We slightly adjusted our main experiment on discrimination in seeking advice in two dimensions. First, we dropped the surveys where subjects evaluated the instructors (after each of the trailers). Second, we shortened the final survey. The reason for these changes is that Dynata advised us to shorten our main experiment.

NATIONALLY REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE

Data provider: To obtain a national representative sample, we continue to work with the data provider Dynata. They provide a largely nationally representative sample (18+ years old) along the dimensions (a) gender, (b) age, and (c) region.

Sample: classification survey: We plan to recruit 6,000 respondents in total for the classification survey. This survey is identical to the Qualtrics survey described in the July 27, 2021 update of the PAP (AEARCTR-0007737). Given that we already collect about 500 observations in the study described pre-registered as AEARCTR-0007737, we plan to collect about 5,500 additional observations.

Sample: experiment on discrimination in seeking advice: About two weeks after subjects have participated in the classification survey, Dynata will contact them again and invite them to participate in the study on racial discrimination in seeking advice described in AEARCTR-0005812 (“main study”). Dynata will administer the invitations. Hence, it will not be clear to subjects that both studies are conducted by the same team of researchers.

Representative sampling: To make sure that the sample of subjects taking both studies is nationally representative, the data collection will proceed in batches: After each batch of participants in the classification task has been invited to the main study, we will check the representativity of the sample of the main study. If the actual sample composition in the main study deviates significantly from a nationally representative sample, Dynata will adjust the weights in the composition of the sample of invited subjects to correct for the deviation. We expect to be able to recruit about 50% of the subjects from the classification study for the main study, resulting in a sample of about 3000 subjects.

ANALYSIS

First, we will run the full analysis described in the PAP of the main study on racial discrimination in seeking advice (AEARCTR-0005812). The analysis will be done on the full sample of subjects who completed the main study. In addition, we will run the same analysis by type according to behavior in the classification task (i.e., separately for white-favoring individuals, egalitarians, and black-favoring individuals).