

Directions for Running Subjects

- I. Before the experiment-familiarize yourself with the instructions, and make sure all materials are on hand: Props (stack of file folders) for the confederate to drop, debriefing/consent forms, coding sheets for recording data, working radios.
- II. Set up the scene on the first floor of Russell Hall with confederates in position. A lookout (L) with a two-way radio will position his or her self on the outside porch. Confederate 1 (C1) will position his or her self at the top of the right hand stairway in the lobby. He or she will have the items ready to drop and debriefing forms, and will be responsible for acting out the scene and debriefing subjects. Confederate 2 (C2) will be seated in the chairs near the elevator and will have a two-way radio to receive the signal from the lookout. C2 will observe and record data, and debrief any subjects that C1 misses.
- III. Experiment Script
 1. The Porch Lookout will signal by radio to Confederate 2 (C2) that a single subject is approaching, and in turn, C2 records the sex of Confederate 1 (C1, the actor) for that subject. C1 then drops the materials at the top of the Right (L1) staircase. Be careful not to drop anything in the subject's path that might force them to stop. As subject comes into view around corner R2, begin to pick up the papers.

(Teams should rotate positions every 5th to 10th subject: All team members should record at least 10 subjects from the C2 position: However, more data is better.) Please collect data for at least one hour.
 2. If the person walks by without helping, do nothing. Continue to pick up the materials and prepare for the next subject. C2 will record the genders of the subject and the actor (C1), and write "no" in the "Help" column of the data coding sheet corresponding to the subject number. Also record the date, time, and your position as well as any other relevant notes.
 3. If the person asks if help is needed, the confederate will simply reply, "Thank You," implying neither a yes nor a no. Then proceed according to whether they help or not.
 4. If the person helps, defined as picking up at least one dropped item or bending down to move an item closer to the actor, then C2 will record the genders of the subject and the actor, and write "yes" in the "Help" column of the data coding sheet corresponding to the subject number. Also record the date, time, and your position as well as any other relevant notes.
 5. After a person helps, Confederate 1 will supply them with a debriefing/consent form, give them the opportunity to read and ask questions, and have them sign and date the form. Thank them for their cooperation, and let them continue on their way. If C1 is not able to perform the debriefing, then C2 should do it.
 6. Record anything out of the ordinary that happens during the study that may affect results. For example, if a person's gender is not evident by their appearance, we will need to omit their data.
 7. Keep consent forms confidential and turn them in for safe-keeping.

Consent/Debriefing Form

Thank you for participating in the study concerning gender in relation to helping behavior. The purpose of this study is to investigate the tendency for people to help a stranger in need as they encounter a situation. Prior research has shown that members in a group are less likely to intervene, as a result of diffusion of responsibility (Darley & Latane, 1968). In situations involving individuals, there is a higher likelihood of helping, but the genders of both the helper and the person in need of assistance are factors in the decision to assist. In a meta-analytic review, Eagly & Crowley (1986) found that males help more often than females, and that they help females more often than they help other males. Our study will attempt to repeat these findings.

Information obtained as part of this study will remain confidential, and no information on individual participants will be released. Signed consent forms will be stored in a locked filing cabinet in Dr. Asplemeier's office and will be stored separately from data collected. You may withdraw consent and refuse the use of your data in this study.

Taking part in this study is thought to involve minimal risk to research participants, and any parts that may make you psychologically uncomfortable are not thought to be greater than those encountered in everyday life. In the event that you feel emotionally or psychologically distressed by participation in this study, we encourage you to call Dr. Jeff Aspelmeier (email: jaspelme@radford.edu; telephone: 540 831-5520). If you are unable to contact Dr. Aspelmeier we encourage you to contact the Counseling Center at Radford University and make an appointment. Their telephone number is (540) 831-5226.

Again, we thank you for your participation in this study. If you know of any friends or acquaintances that are eligible to participate in this study, we request that you not discuss it with them until after they have had the opportunity to participate. Prior knowledge of our intent to observe reactions can invalidate the results. We greatly appreciate your cooperation. If you have any questions regarding this study, please feel free to ask the researcher at this time, or contact Dr. Aspelmeier (above).

Consent

The investigation and my part in the investigation have been defined and fully explained to me by the researcher, and I understand his/her explanation. I understand the procedures as well as the possible risks and discomforts, and I have been given an opportunity to ask questions and all such questions and inquiries were answered to my satisfaction.

I understand that, in the event of injury resulting from this investigation, neither financial compensation nor free medical treatment will be provided by Radford University for the injury. Further, I agree that I will not hold Radford University responsible for any liability for personal injury I may incur in the course of, or as a result of, the study.

I understand that my participation is voluntary and that my decision about whether or not to participate will not affect any present or future relationship with Radford University. By signing below, I consent to the use of my data for this study.

Participant's Signature

Date

