

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.
- II. Set up the scene in the lobby of Russell Hall with confederates in position. Confederate 1 (C1) will be in position at the bottom of the left-hand stairway, with the items ready to drop. Confederate 2 (C2) and Confederate 3 (C3) will be seated in the upper & lower lobbies, respectively, and will have debriefing forms and data coding sheets.
- III. Experiment Script
 1. The scene will be prepared where folders have been dropped on the stairway. Confederate 1 (C1, the actor) will be in the process of picking them up as subjects approach.
 2. Confederate 2 (C2) will be in the upper lobby, and will make a record on the data sheet of each individual or group that pass them heading down the stairs. Confederate 3 (C3) will be in the lower lobby, and will make a record on the data sheet of each individual or group that progress up the stairs. Items to record include C1 gender (M/F), group size (1=individual, 2= two persons, 3= three or more together), subject gender (FS-female single, FG-female group, MS-male single, MG-male group, or MXG-mixed gender group), and whether or not help was given (Y/N). Group size is defined as persons in the immediate vicinity of the study set-up at a given moment. In the special case of persons going up & down the stairs at once, they must be treated as one group; C2 & C3 should confer after debriefing to be sure the data was not recorded twice. Also record the day, time, and direction of subjects as well as any other relevant notes.
 3. If the person walks by without helping, continue to pick up the materials and prepare for the next subject. C2 or C3 will record the data, including a "no" in the "help" column, but the subjects will NOT be debriefed.
 4. If the person asks if help is needed, the confederate will simply reply, "Thank You," implying neither a yes nor a no.
 5. After a person or group helps, Confederate 2 or 3 will supply the helper and any obviously lingering group member with a debriefing/consent form, give them the opportunity to read and ask questions, and have them sign and date the form. Be sure to treat the lingering non-helpers as if they were also responsible for helping. Thank them for their cooperation, and let them continue on their way. Confederate 1 should begin preparing for the next subject.
 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.

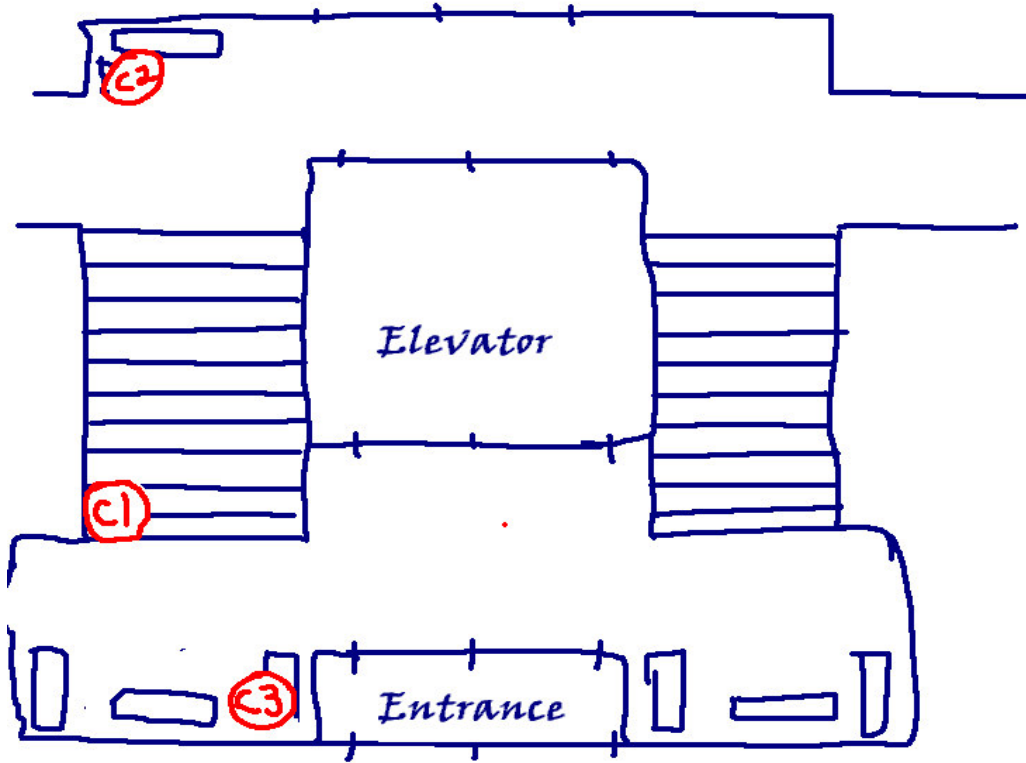
(Teams should rotate positions every 5th to 10th subject: All team members should record at least 10 subjects. However, more data is better.) Please collect data for at least one hour.

CODING SHEET

Name: _____

| SUB # | CONFED GENDER (M/F) | GROUP SIZE (1, 2, or 3+) | SUB GENDER (FS, FG, MS, MG, MXG) ** | HELP (Y/N) | Day | Time | Direction (up or down stairs) | Notes |
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**FS = female single, FG = female group, MS = male single, MG = male group, MXG = mixed gender group



Consent/Debriefing Form

Thank you for participating in our class demonstration regarding gender and group size in relation to helping behavior. The purpose of this demonstration 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). Individuals display 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. We will attempt to repeat these findings.

Any information obtained 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 at any time.

Taking part in this demonstration is thought to involve minimal risk to 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. 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 alter the results. We greatly appreciate your cooperation. If you have any questions regarding this demonstration, please feel free to ask the researcher at this time, or contact Dr. Aspelmeier (above).

Consent

The demonstration and my part in the demonstration have been defined and fully explained to me, and I understand this 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 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 class demonstration.

Participant's Signature

Date