

Survey exploring the priority of social situations

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Introductory page:

Please read this carefully before you start.

Humans are social beings, and in our daily lives we are constantly presented with social situations such as meeting other people. These situations may be characterized by different aspects, ranging from their time and location to your relationship with the other people. This study will explore the priority that people assign to different social situations.

First of all, you will be asked to describe your relationship with five different people from your social circle. Then, you will be shown eight meeting situations each involving one of these people, and you will be asked some questions about those situations. Afterwards, you will be shown five pairs of situations and you will have to answer which one you would attend if you had to choose only one. Lastly, you will be shown some characteristics of a hypothetical individual and you will be asked "How much like you is this person?"

Throughout the survey, there will also be some control questions regarding the content of the survey. Their aim is not to trick you, but rather to make sure you are comprehending the concepts as intended. The survey will end with a control question to check if you have read the whole survey.

Before you start, please switch off phone/e-mail/notifications so you can focus on the survey.

Thank you!

Part 1

Introduction

In this part, we ask you to describe the relationship with five people from your social circle. For each person, we will ask a series of questions about the relationship. You are asked for their initials simply so we can refer to specific people in the second part of the study, in the stored data that information will be replaced with a numeric ID value.

For each person, the following questions were asked:

- What are the initials of this person? (e.g. AB)
- What is the age of AB?
- What is the gender of AB? (options: *female, male, other*)
- What is the role of AB towards you? (options: *partner, parent, sibling, child, friend, extended family member, neighbor, coworker, supervisor, member of the same group (e.g., sports team), other*)
- What's the hierarchy rank (from a formal point of view) of AB towards you? (options: *higher, lower, same, n.a.*)
- How would you consider the quality of your relationship with AB? (options: *very positive, positive, neither positive nor negative, negative, very negative*)
- Typically, how long do you have to travel in order to meet AB? (options: *0-1hr, 1-2hr, 2-4hr, I would need to take a flight*)
- For how long have you known AB? (options: *<2 years, 2-5 years, 5-10 years, >10 years*)
- How well do you know AB? (options: *a great deal, a lot, a moderate amount, a little, not at all*)
- How often are you in touch with AB? (options: *a great deal, a lot, a moderate amount, a little, not at all*)
- How many interest do you and AB share? (options: *a great deal, a lot, a moderate amount, a little, not at all*)
- How formal is your relationship with AB? (options: *a great deal, a lot, a moderate amount, a little, not at all*)

Part 2

Introduction

In this part, you will be presented with eight different meeting scenarios involving you and one of the people from your social circle that you mentioned in the first part of the study. The meeting scenarios are simple situations which people can encounter in their daily lives. Try to imagine that you and the other person are the only ones attending the meetings. The meeting-person combination is performed randomly, so it is possible that some of the meeting scenarios will sound odd/unlikely, however please try to think about them as if they were actually planned.

For each meeting, we will ask you a series of questions. The first one is the priority you would assign to the meeting. When thinking about the priority level, consider things such as how difficult would it be for you to cancel it, how important it is for you to be punctual for the meeting, or any other information that you find relevant. There is no right/wrong answer to that question.

Next, you will be asked how characteristic of that meeting would the following concepts be:

Duty is about situations where a job has to be done, minor details are important, and rational thinking is called for.

Intellect is about situations that afford an opportunity to demonstrate intellectual capacity.

Adversity is about situations where you or someone else are (potentially) being criticized, blamed, or under threat.

Mating is about situations where potential romantic partners are present, and physical attractiveness is relevant.

Positivity is about playful and enjoyable situations, which are simple and clear-cut.

Negativity is about stressful, frustrating, and anxiety-inducing situations.

Deception is about situations where someone might be deceitful. These situations may cause feelings of hostility.

Sociality is about situations where social interaction is possible, and close personal relationships are present or have the potential to develop.

Lastly, you will be asked how likely are you to encounter similar situations in your daily life.

The list of possible scenarios was the following:

- You agreed to meet AB because they need your expertise in their project.
- You asked AB for a meeting because you want some feedback on a new project proposal that you are working on.
- The monthly project meeting with AB where the recent progress of the project will be discussed is taking place next Tuesday.
- On Monday, you have your regular dinner with AB (restricted to family members, for the family setting).
- You have planned to go hiking with AB next weekend, and if the weather is nice you will also have a picnic (restricted to family members, for the family setting).
- AB has invited you to their place for their birthday party on Wednesday (restricted to family members, for the family setting).
- On Thursday evening you are meeting AB for your weekly sports training.
- You have accepted AB's invitation to practice sports together on the weekend. For this situation, assume that you don't regularly practice sports with AB.
- You have planned the regular movie night with AB on Tuesday.
- You need help with some simple repairs in your apartment which you have been neglecting for a while, so you ask AB to help and they agree to come over next weekend.
- AB has asked you to go shopping next weekend because they would need some advice, and you have agreed to join.

- You have planned to meet AB to go for drinks on Friday evening to a bar that has opened recently.

For each scenario, the following questions were asked:

- What priority would you assign to this meeting? (options: *very high, moderately high, slightly high, neither high nor low, slightly low, moderately low, very low*)
- How characteristic are each of the following concepts in this situation? (options: *very characteristic, moderately characteristic, slightly characteristic, slightly uncharacteristic, moderately uncharacteristic, very uncharacteristic*)
 - *Duty*
 - *Intellect*
 - *Adversity*
 - *Mating*
 - *Positivity*
 - *Negativity*
 - *Deception*
 - *Sociality*
- How likely is it for you to encounter a similar situation in your daily life? (options: *very likely, somewhat likely, neither likely nor unlikely, somewhat unlikely, very unlikely*)