

Methodology file

This is the methodology file accompanying the manuscript “Implicit stereotypes: Who can resist?”. It provides details of the precise administration of the study’s central measures, as well as instruction texts, and debriefings. The text in italics is a direct translation of the information shown to participants. As a cautionary note, we would like to emphasize that the studies described here were conducted in Dutch. Thus, for replication in other languages it may be necessary to refer to the original materials (in the case of scales) or develop stimuli suited for the language in which the replication is to take place.

Study 1

Introduction

Welcome to the study 'Mental flexibility'. This study will take about 45 minutes to complete.

Introduction

Recently there has been a discussion whether there should be an admission test for applying for universities, besides the usual high school exams. Some countries (like the United States with the SATs) already use a similar system. The goal is to ensure that the applicants are actually motivated and have the envisioned academic level. One of the problems is the fact that the test should be broad enough to be usable in all disciplines, but also specific enough to differentiate between individual students within disciplines. To get an insight in these differences we will ask you to do a couple of assignments that assess different skills, such as social reasoning, abstract reasoning and creative reasoning. If you have any questions, please ask the experimenter. Good luck!

Informed consent

"I consent to taking part in the study with the title 'Mental flexibility'. My participation in this project consists of evaluating words and pictures, and filling in questionnaires. I know that participation in this study is voluntary. I know that I may withdraw my cooperation at any time, and have the data that were obtained from my participation be removed. The duration of this study is 45 minutes, in exchange for my time I will receive 1 SONA credit. At the end of the study, the experimenter will explain what the study was about. The data obtained from my participation will be processed and handled anonymously. Therefore I will not be able to get personalised feedback about my answers."

If you have further questions about this information you can ask the experimenter.

Please fill in your SONA number below, and press continue if you consent to participating in this study. SONA-number:

Please fill in the participant number that the experimenter has given you.

Demographics

First, we would like you to answer these demographic questions

- 1. What is your gender? (free text entry)*
- 2. How old are you?*
- 3. What course are you in?*

Implicit (counter-)stereotype exposure

The manipulation is described in the main text. Here we will provide the instructions given to participants (verbatim) and a list of stimuli used.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Welcome to the first task in this study.

In this part of the task you will see several pictures, and you are asked to indicate whether the picture represents a chore or a leisure activity. If the picture represents a chore, press "F" (chore). If the picture represents a leisure activity press "J" (leisure). Put your index fingers on these buttons so that you can respond quickly. Try to respond as quickly as possible, while minimising the number of mistakes you make.

Before the word appears, you will see a letter string flash on the screen. This is because the computer selects the word from a database. The location of the letters indicates where the word will appear, so direct your attention to the letters that flash on the screen so that you can answer as quickly as possible.

Before the task starts, you will see 4 practice trials.

If you have any questions you can call the experimenter, otherwise press "SPACE" to start the practice trials.

[4x PRACTICE TRIAL WITHOUT PRIME]

The practice trials are over, now we will start with the task.

Remember that you are asked to respond as quickly as possible, while trying to be as accurate as possible. The response-buttons are "F" (Chore) and "J" (Leisure).

Once you are ready to begin the task, please press "SPACE".

[120 TRIALS]

STIMULI AND PRIMES

Primes: "Female" vs "Male"

Targets:

Masculine chores/leisure targets:



Feminine chores/leisure targets:



Moral Choice Dilemmas task

Social reasoning

In this part of the experiment we will ask you to read the following short stories, and to answer the related question. There are no wrong answers; we are mainly interested in the trade-offs you make.

1) You are behind the wheel of a train that's gone out of control and is driving with great speed to a crossing of tracks. On the platform next to the left track there is a group of 5 people. On the platform next to the right track there is one woman [man]. If you decide to do nothing the train will go left and kill the 5 people, the only way to save these people is to push the button and switch tracks so you will take the right track, killing the woman [man]. Would you push the button to take the track on the right?

YES (1)

NO (2)

2) You are the night-guard in a hospital. Due to an accident in a nearby building toxic smoke is coming through the air vents into the hospital. In one of the rooms there are three patients, in the room next to it there is one man. If you decide to do nothing the toxic smoke will flow into the room of the three patients, killing all three. The only way to prevent this is by closing a part of the air vent, causing the smoke to flow into the room of one man [woman] which will result in his death. Would you close the air vent, causing the smoke to change direction?

YES (1)

NO (2)

3) A train that has gone out of control is racing towards a train station at high speed. Five people waiting on the platform are in danger of being run over by the train and killed. You are standing on a bridge over the track between the train and the train station. Next to you there is a man [woman] who, by chance, is very fat. The only way to save the lives of the people on the platform is by pushing the man [woman] off of the bridge, causing him [her] to fall on the tracks and stop the train. The man [woman] will die if you do this, but the five people on the platform would be saved. Would you push the man [woman] on the tracks to stop the train?

YES (1)

NO (2)

4) You are on a cruise ship when a fire starts, leading to the evacuation of the ship. In the lifeboats there are more people than the actual capacity for which they are designed. The lifeboat you are in is so crowded that it almost sinks. The sea is getting rough and water starts to fill the lifeboat. If you do nothing the boat will sink before the coastguard arrives and

everyone will drown. There is a woman [man] on board who is wounded and who will die anyway. If you throw her [him] out of the boat, the boat will keep floating and the passengers will be saved. Would you push the wounded woman [man] overboard to keep the lifeboat afloat?

YES (1)

NO (2)

5) You are part of a space shuttle mission. An explosion inside of the shuttle has damaged the oxygen supply, and one of the female [male] crewmembers was badly wounded. The woman [man] is unconscious and will die anyway. There is not enough oxygen to keep the whole crew alive until you are saved. The only way to survive is by shooting the wounded astronaut, killing her [him], leaving just enough oxygen to keep the rest alive. Would you kill the wounded astronaut to leave enough oxygen?

YES (1)

NO (2)

6) A virus epidemic has spread over the world and is killing millions of people. You got a hold of two different substances. You know one of them is the cure to the deadly virus, but you also know the other substance is a deadly poison. You also do not know which one is the antidote and which one is the poison. If you know which one is the cure you are able to save millions of people. There are two men [women] under your supervision, and the only way to find out which substance is the medicine and which one is the poison is by injecting each of the two men [women] with one of the substances. One person will live, the other will die, but you will be able to start saving lives. Would you inject the men [women] with the substances to find the cure?

YES (1)

NO (2)

7) Your plane has crashed in the Himalayas. There are three survivors: You and two other women [men]. The three of you walk through the mountains for days, through extreme cold and wind. The only way to survive is by reaching a small village on the other side of the mountain as quickly as possible. One of the women [men] has a broken leg and moves very slowly. Her [his] chances of survival are almost none. For you and the other woman [man] time starts to run out to get back to civilization. The other woman [man] proposes that the

two of you leave the woman [man] with the broken leg to increase the odds of you reaching the village on the other side of the hill. Would you leave the wounded woman [man] so you and the other woman [man] can survive?

YES (1)

NO (2)

8) You are a doctor in a warzone. You have 5 patients, each of them in danger of dying from organ failure. You have another patient who is in a coma; you do not know if he [she] will ever wake up. The only way to save the lives of the 5 patients is by transplanting the organs of the man [woman] who is in a coma to the other patients, without being able to get his [her] consent. The man [woman] in the coma will die because of this, but the other 5 will be saved. Would you transplant the organs of the man [woman] who is in coma to save the other patients?

YES (1)

NO (2)

Math task

Abstract reasoning

This part will exist of a several math questions. Choose the answer you think is right. The questions are in increasing order of difficulty. If you do not know the answer you can ask the help of another student by clicking “Need Help”, you will then see a clue on your screen. If you really don't know the answer you can skip the question by choosing “Skip”

Problem 1 $56 : 8$

- a. 7
- b. 9
- c. 6
- d. 8

Need Help

Skip

If Need Help Is Selected

TIP: "The answer is an odd number"

$56 : 8$

- a. 7
 - b. 9
 - c. 6
 - d. 8
- Skip

Problem 2 $\sqrt{81}$

- a. 7
- b. 8.5
- c. 9
- d. 9.5

Need Help

Skip

If Need Help Is Selected

TIP: "The answer is a round number"

$\sqrt{81}$

- a. 7
 - b. 8.5
 - c. 9
 - d. 9.5
- Skip

Problem 3 $163 + 847 : 8 =$

- a. 268,875
- b. 234,242
- c. 126,251
- d. 128,408

Need Help

Skip

If Need Help Is Selected

TIP: "B is not the right answer"

$$163 + 847 : 8 =$$

a. 268,875

b. 234,242

c. 126,251

d. 128,408

Skip

Problem 4 $2^{10} =$

a. 1550

b. 1024

c. 2000

d. 1200

Need Help

Skip

If Need Help Is Selected

TIP: "D is not the right answer"

$$2^{10} =$$

a. 1550

b. 1024

c. 2000

d. 1200

Skip

Problem 5 $7^4 =$

a. 28

b. 2401

c. 2240

d. 2896

Need Help

Skip

If Need Help Is Selected

TIP: "D is not the right answer"

$$7^4 =$$

a. 28

b. 2401

c. 2240

d. 2896

Skip

Problem 6 $1,247.812 - 987.432 =$

a. 260.380

b. 340.928

c. 381.904

d. 220.467

Need Help

Skip

If Need Help Is Selected

TIP: "D is not the right answer"

$$1.247.812 - 987.432 =$$

a. 260.380

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Skip

Problem 7 $88 \times 89 : 8 =$

a. 880

b. 979

c. 879

d. 945

Need Help

Skip

If Need Help Is Selected

Q6B TIP: "The answer is either B or C"

$$88 \times 89 : 8 =$$

a. 880

b. 979

c. 879

d. 945

Skip

Problem 8 $7032 : 4 - 758 =$

a. 1000

b. 2001

c. -1090

d. -1023

Need Help

Skip

If Need Help Is Selected

TIP: "The answer is a positive number"

$$7032 : 4 - 758 =$$

a. 1000

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Problem 9 $16 \times 63 - 1214 =$

a. -1246

b. -160

c. -18416

d. -206

Need Help

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TIP: "B is not the right answer"

$$16 \times 63 - 1214 =$$

- a. -1246
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Problem 10 (unsolvable) $\sqrt{1331} =$

- a. 37,23
- b. 36,48
- c. 35,33
- d. 39,42

Need Help

Skip

If Need Help Is Selected

TIP: 'The answer is either A or B'

$$\sqrt{1331} =$$

- a. 37,23
 - b. 36,48
 - c. 35,33
 - d. 39,42
- Skip

Women's identification

For the following questions, please indicate to what extent you agree with the statement. Do this by clicking one of the boxes. Do not skip any items.

	Not at all	No	Not really	Neutral	A little bit	Yes	Completely
I identify with women							
I feel a strong connection to other women							
Over all, being a woman is an important part of my self-image.							
Being a woman is an important part of how I see myself.							

Feminist identification

For the following questions, please indicate to what extent you agree with the statement. Do this by clicking one of the boxes. Do not skip any items.

	Not at all	No	Not really	Neutral	A little bit	Yes	Completely
I identify with feminists							
I feel a strong connection to (other) feminists.							
Over all, being a feminist is an important part of my self-image.							
Being a feminist is an important part of how I see myself.							

Exit questions

You are almost done with the study. We would like to ask you a few about your opinion of the study.

- *Do you have any idea what the hypotheses of the study could be?*

- *Did you notice anything about the pictures shown in the first task? If so, what?*

- *Did you notice anything about the words that flashed in the screen before the pictures in the first task? If so, what?*

- *Do you have any other comments about this study?*

You are finished with the study! Please read the debriefing on the next pages, afterwards you can call the experimenter.

Debriefing

Debriefing study “Mental Flexibility”

Thank you for your participation in this study. In this summary we will briefly inform you about the goal of the research. We want to ask you not to share this summary with others, to prevent that new participants know the goals of the study.

Background & Hypotheses

Previous research on social identity has shown that under certain circumstances people are able to resist threats to their social identities, like discrimination. In this study we research whether people are also able to resist threats to their identity that occur subconsciously, that is, outside of conscious awareness.

The research

During the first part of the research half of the participants were exposed to a threat to their female identity, by associating the word “female” with stereotypically feminine activities. In the second part we looked at how participants reacted to the threat, by asking you to do a few tasks and questionnaires.

Expected outcomes.

We hope to find that the participants whose identity was threatened resist or counteract this threat, for instance by performing better in the math task (a stereotypically ‘masculine’ task). Moreover, we want to see how other factors, such as feminism, might affect the way people experience threats and resist them.

The experimenter will be happy to answer any further remarks or questions. Thanks again for participating!

Study 2

Introduction

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Introduction

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Please ask the experimenter to fill in your participant number here: _____.

Demographics

1. *What is your gender? (free text entry)*
2. *How old are you?*
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Implicit (counter-)stereotype exposure

The manipulation is described in the main text. Here we will provide the instructions given to participants (verbatim) and a list of stimuli used.

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[120 TRIALS]

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Moral Choice Dilemmas task

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YES (1)

NO (2)

2) You are the night-guard in a hospital. Due to an accident in a nearby building toxic smoke is coming through the air vents into the hospital. In one of the rooms there are three patients, in the room next to it there is one man. If you decide to do nothing the toxic smoke will flow into the room of the three patients, killing all three. The only way to prevent this is by closing a part of the air vent, causing the smoke to flow into the room of one man [woman] which will result in his death. Would you close the air vent, causing the smoke to change direction?

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everyone will drown. There is a woman [man] on board who is wounded and who will die anyway. If you throw her [him] out of the boat, the boat will keep floating and the passengers will be saved. Would you push the wounded woman [man] overboard to keep the lifeboat afloat?

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5) You are part of a space shuttle mission. An explosion inside of the shuttle has damaged the oxygen supply, and one of the female [male] crewmembers was badly wounded. The woman [man] is unconscious and will die anyway. There is not enough oxygen to keep the whole crew alive until you are saved. The only way to survive is by shooting the wounded astronaut, killing her [him], leaving just enough oxygen to keep the rest alive. Would you kill the wounded astronaut to leave enough oxygen?

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6) A virus epidemic has spread over the world and is killing millions of people. You got a hold of two different substances. You know one of them is the cure to the deadly virus, but you also know the other substance is a deadly poison. You also do not know which one is the antidote and which one is the poison. If you know which one is the cure you able to save millions of people. There are two men [women] under your supervision, and the only way to find out which substance is the medicine and which one is the poison is by injecting each of the two men [women] with one of the substances. One person will live, the other will die, but you will be able to start saving lives. Would you inject the men [women] with the substances to find the cure?

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YES (1)

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Math task

Abstract reasoning

This part will consist of several math questions. Choose the answer you think is right. The questions are in increasing order of difficulty. If you do not know the answer you can ask the help of another student by clicking "Need Help", you will then see a clue on your screen. If you really don't know the answer you can skip the question by choosing "Skip"

Problem 1 $56 : 8$

- a. 7
- b. 9
- c. 6
- d. 8

Need Help

Skip

If Need Help Is Selected

TIP: "The answer is an odd number"

$56 : 8$

- a. 7
 - b. 9
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 - d. 8
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Problem 2 $\sqrt{81}$

- a. 7
- b. 8.5
- c. 9
- d. 9.5

Need Help

Skip

If Need Help Is Selected

TIP: "The answer is a round number"

$\sqrt{81}$

- a. 7
 - b. 8.5
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- Skip

Problem 3 $163 + 847 : 8 =$

- a. 268,875
- b. 234,242
- c. 126,251
- d. 128,408

Need Help

Skip

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TIP: "B is not the right answer"

$$163 + 847 : 8 =$$

a. 268,875

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Skip

Problem 4 $2^{10} =$

a. 1550

b. 1024

c. 2000

d. 1200

Need Help

Skip

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TIP: "D is not the right answer"

$$2^{10} =$$

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Problem 5 $7^4 =$

a. 28

b. 2401

c. 2240

d. 2896

Need Help

Skip

If Need Help Is Selected

TIP: "D is not the right answer"

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Skip

Problem 6 $1,247.812 - 987.432 =$

a. 260.380

b. 340.928

c. 381.904

d. 220.467

Need Help

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If Need Help Is Selected

TIP: "D is not the right answer"

$$1.247.812 - 987.432 =$$

a. 260.380

b. 340.928

c. 381.904

d. 220.467

Skip

Problem 7 $88 \times 89 : 8 =$

a. 880

b. 979

c. 879

d. 945

Need Help

Skip

If Need Help Is Selected

Q6B TIP: "The answer is either B or C"

$$88 \times 89 : 8 =$$

a. 880

b. 979

c. 879

d. 945

Skip

Problem 8 $7032 : 4 - 758 =$

a. 1000

b. 2001

c. -1090

d. -1023

Need Help

Skip

If Need Help Is Selected

TIP: "The answer is a positive number"

$$7032 : 4 - 758 =$$

a. 1000

b. 2001

c. -1090

d. -1023

Skip

Problem 9 $16 \times 63 - 1214 =$

a. -1246

b. -160

c. -18416

d. -206

Need Help

Skip

If Need Help Is Selected

TIP: "B is not the right answer"

$$16 \times 63 - 1214 =$$

- a. -1246
 - b. -160
 - c. -18416
 - d. -206
- Skip

Problem 10 (unsolvable) $\sqrt{1331} =$

- a. 37,23
- b. 36,48
- c. 35,33
- d. 39,42

Need Help

Skip

If Need Help Is Selected

TIP: 'The answer is either A or B'

$$\sqrt{1331} =$$

- a. 37,23
 - b. 36,48
 - c. 35,33
 - d. 39,42
- Skip

Anagram task

In this task you will see a series of anagrams. An anagram is a collection of letters which you can use to create new words. The assignment is to create a word with the letters given.

For example: A R C

Answer: C A R

Note: You may only create one word and all letters have to be used. As you make progress the assignments will get more difficult. If you don't know the answer you can ask for help by choosing "Need help", a clue will then appear on the screen. You can also choose to skip the question by clicking "Skip".

Problem 1: O S P E T

Your answer: _____

Need help

Skip

If Need help Is Selected

TIP: "The answer starts with ST---"

O S P E T

Your answer: _____

Skip

Problem 2: V A L O A

Your answer: _____

Need help

Skip

If Need help Is Selected

TIP: " The answer starts with O----"

V A L O A

Your answer: _____

Skip

Problem 3: T E V S I I

Your answer: _____

Need help

Skip

If Need help Is Selected

TIP: "The answer ends with ----TE"

T E V S I I

Your answer: _____

Skip

Problem 4: E L A K E N

Your answer: _____

Need help

Skip

If Need help Is Selected

TIP: "The answer contains ---EE-"

E L A K E N

Your answer: _____

Skip

Problem 5: I C O R I S

Your answer: _____

Need help

Skip

If Need help Is Selected

TIP: " The answer ends with ----CO"

I C O R I S

Your answer: _____

Skip

Problem 6: D A L O K O S

Your answer: _____

Need help

Skip

If Need help Is Selected

TIP: " The answer starts with DA-----"

D A L O K O S

Your answer: _____

Skip

Problem 7: K I L M A T A

Your answer: _____

Need help

Skip

If Need help Is Selected

TIP: " The answer contains ----AA-"

K I L M A T A

Your answer: _____

Skip

Problem 8: D O N R A D E G D

Your answer: _____

Need help

Skip

If Need help Is Selected

TIP: " The answer contains -OND-----"

D O N R A D E G D

Your answer: _____

Skip

Problem 9: E I N D K R A A G

Your answer: _____

Need help

Skip

If Need help Is Selected

TIP: " The answer ends with -----IER

E I N D K R A A G

Your answer: _____

Skip

Problem 10 (unsolvable): A I B I G N A T N U

Your answer: _____

Need help

Skip

If Need help Is Selected

TIP: " The answer starts with UI-----"

A I B I G N A T N U

Your answer: _____

Skip (1)

Women's identification

In the next questionnaire, please indicate to what extent you agree with the statement. Do this

by clicking one of the boxes. Do not skip questions.

	Not at all	No	Not really	Neutral	A little bit	Yes	Completely
I identify with women							
I feel a strong connection to other women							
Over all, being a woman is an important part of my self-image.							
Being a woman is an important part of how I see myself.							

Feminist identification

In the next questionnaire, please indicate to what extent you agree with the statement. Do this

by clicking one of the boxes. Do not skip questions.

	Not at all	No	Not really	Neutral	A little bit	Yes	Completely
I identify with feminists							
I feel a strong connection to (other) feminists.							
Over all, being a feminist is an important part of my self-image.							
Being a feminist is an important part of how I see myself.							

Exit questions

You are almost done with the study. We would like to ask you a few about your opinion of the study.

- *Do you have any idea what the hypotheses of the study could be?*
- *Did you notice anything about the pictures shown in the first task? If so, what?*
- *Did you notice anything about the words that flashed in the screen before the pictures in the first task? If so, what?*
- *Do you have any other comments about this study?*

You are finished with the study! Please read the debriefing on the next pages, afterwards you can call the supervisor.

Debriefing

Debriefing study “Mental Flexibility”

Thank you for your participation in this study. In this summary we will briefly inform you about the goal of the research. We want to ask you not to share this summary with others, to prevent that new participants know the goals of the study.

Background & Hypotheses

Previous research on social identity has shown that under certain circumstances people are able to resist threats to their social identities, like discrimination. In this study we research whether people are also able to resist threats to their identity that occur subconsciously, that is, outside of conscious awareness.

The research

During the first part of the research half of the participants were exposed to a threat to their female identity, by associating the word “female” with stereotypically feminine activities. In the second part we looked at how participants reacted to the threat, by asking you to do a few tasks and questionnaires.

Expected outcomes.

We hope to find that the participants whose identity was threatened resist or counteract this threat, for instance by performing better in the math task (a stereotypically ‘masculine’ task). Moreover, we want to see how other factors, such as feminism, might affect the way people experience threats and resist them.

The experimenter will be happy to answer any further remarks or questions. Thanks again for participating!