

REPLICATIONS AND REFINEMENTS

Under this heading appear summaries of studies which, in 500 words or less, provide useful data substantiating, not substantiating, or refining what we think we know; additional details concerning the results can be obtained by communicating directly with the investigator or, when indicated, by requesting supplementary material from Microfiche Publications.

The Journal of Social Psychology, 1982, 116, 145-146.

EFFECTS OF SELF-ESTEEM AND SEX ON PARTICIPATING IN A PSYCHOLOGY EXPERIMENT*

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There is good reason to suspect that American undergraduates who volunteer for a psychology experiment are somehow different from those who refuse to participate.¹ In their synthesis of the literature on volunteering, Rosenthal and Rosnow² hypothesized that the relationship between self-esteem and volunteering is U-shaped for females but is an inverted-U for males. The purpose of the present study was to test this hypothesis.

One hundred and fifty-eight Ss (77 females and 81 males) were randomly selected from a pool of 504 psychology undergraduates at a large Midwestern American university. Early in the semester, these Ss were classified as high, moderate, or low in self-esteem on the basis of an equal three-way split of their scores on the Texas Social Behavior Inventory.³ Within a two-week period in the second month of the semester, a female research assistant telephoned each S during the evening hours and asked whether he or she would be willing to participate in a psychology experiment on

* Received in the Editorial Office, Provincetown, Massachusetts, on February 2, 1981. Copyright, 1982, by The Journal Press.

¹ Adair, J. G. *The Human Subject: The Social Psychology of the Psychological Experiment*. Boston, Mass.: Little, Brown, 1973.

² Rosenthal, R., & Rosnow, R. L. The volunteer subject. In R. Rosenthal & R. L. Rosnow (Eds.), *Artifact in Behavioral Research*. New York: Academic Press, 1969.

³ Helmreich, R., Stapp, J., & Ervin, C. The Texas Social Behavior Inventory (TSBI): An objective measure of self-esteem or social competence. *J. Suppl. Abst. Serv. Cat. Selected Documents in Psychol.*, 1974, 4, 79.

"information processing ability." She also provided many optional dates and times for participating. A behavioral measure of volunteering was computed for each S; those who refused to volunteer received a score of 1; those who volunteered but failed to keep their appointment received a 2; and those who volunteered and kept their appointment received a 3. (Eighteen Ss who refused because they had already accumulated enough participation credit from other psychology experiments were omitted from the analyses.)

A 3×2 (self-esteem \times sex) analysis of variance on the behavioral measure of volunteering produced no significant effects (all F s were less than 1.00, Grand $M = 2.493$). Thus, the present study does not support the hypothesis concerning an interaction of self-esteem and sex on volunteering. Instead, the results corroborate the findings of previous researchers who reported no sex differences⁴ and no self-esteem differences⁵ on volunteering for a psychology experiment.

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⁴ Schachter, S., & Hall, R. Group-derived restraints and audience persuasion. *Hum. Relat.*, 1952, 5, 397-406.

⁵ Siegman, A. Responses to a personality questionnaire by volunteers and nonvolunteers to a Kinsey interview. *J. Abn. & Soc. Psychol.*, 1956, 52, 280-281.

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