**ERGO II Ethics application form – Psychology Committee**

1. **Applicant Details**

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| **1.1 Applicant name** | **Luke Chandaman (lesc1g20@soton.ac.uk)** |
| **1.2 Supervisor** | **Dr Jacob Juhl (j.t.juhl@soton.ac.uk)** |
| **1.3 Other researchers / collaborators (if applicable):** *Name, address, email* |  |

1. **Study Details**

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| **2.1 Title of study** | Respect the Dead 2 (advertised as “Thoughts about Other People”, “Judgements about Other People”, “Evaluations of Other People”, “Evaluations of Other People” or another similar variation.) |
| **2.2 Type of project** (e.g., undergraduate, Masters, Doctorate, staff) | Doctorate |

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| **2.3 Briefly describe the rationale for carrying out this project and its specific aims and objectives.** |
| The ‘death positivity bias’ is a phenomenon that describes the long held cultural tradition of having respect for the dead and not speaking ill of dead people. Despite the pervasiveness of the bias and its acknowledgement in popular culture, research is relatively scant.  Studies have established the bias occurring for evaluations of dead leaders (e.g., CEO’s) and celebrities; however, no research has investigated whether the death positivity bias occurs when evaluating ‘ordinary’ (i.e., non-famous) persons. This study will test whether the death positivity bias extends to evaluations of ordinary people. |

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| **2.4 Provide a brief outline of the basic study design. Outline what approach is being used and why.** |
| The studies for this project will be experimental. We will randomly assign participants to an experimental (dead) condition or a control (alive) condition. For the experimental conditions, participants will read a vignette describing an ostensibly real person.  For participants in the experimental (dead) condition, the vignette will begin by stating the person has passed away. For participants in the control (alive) condition, the vignette will not begin by stating that the person has passed away.  It is possible that the effect of the experimental conditions, could be due to the specific person described in the vignette. To help rule out this possibility, we have created two vignettes, each describe a different person (person 1 and person 2). Participants in both conditions will read one of these two vignettes. The same two vignettes/persons will be used in both conditions, and the specific vignette that participants read will be randomly determined, thus will be a 2 (experimental [dead] condition vs. control [alive] condition) X 2 (Person 1 vs. Person 2).  Additionally, the pronouns of the target person described in the vignette will be matched to the participants’ sex. (As a result of this, participant will need to identify as either male or female.)  After reading the vignette, participants will complete questions evaluating the person described in the vignette on a number of domains: likability, competence, morality, respect, and big five personality traits.  All materials are attached. |

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| **2.5 What are the key research question(s)? Specify hypotheses if applicable.** |
| The primary hypothesis is that participants who believe the person in the vignette to be dead (experimental condition) will evaluate the person described in the vignette more positively than participants who believe the person is alive (control condition). We expect this effect to occur regardless of the vignette/person that the participants evaluate. |

1. **Sample and setting**

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| **3.1 Who are the proposed participants and where are they from (e.g. fellow students, club members)? List inclusion / exclusion criteria if applicable.** |
| Participants for these studies will be recruited via several different avenues:  1. Students enrolled in psychology modules at the University of Southampton.  2. Reddit ([https://www.reddit.com/r/SampleSize/](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.reddit.com%2Fr%2FSampleSize%2F&data=05%7C01%7CJ.T.Juhl%40soton.ac.uk%7C03bb4fec74c44c9658a008da667d8e59%7C4a5378f929f44d3ebe89669d03ada9d8%7C0%7C0%7C637934986682772947%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=GD7gT%2BX%2B%2B25s%2BbiogL7b307kMx%2B4YV0Bus0qKr4Da48%3D&reserved=0) and [https://www.reddit.com/r/takemysurvey](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.reddit.com%2Fr%2Ftakemysurvey&data=05%7C01%7CJ.T.Juhl%40soton.ac.uk%7C03bb4fec74c44c9658a008da667d8e59%7C4a5378f929f44d3ebe89669d03ada9d8%7C0%7C0%7C637934986682772947%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=rjHG5BManjye4xmMEZ80J1Dn5h0vNzziYhtuxPK7z1E%3D&reserved=0))  3. The Student Room (<https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/>)  4. Psychological Research on the Net (<https://psych.hanover.edu/Research/exponnet.html>)  5. Prolific academic (<https://www.prolific.co/>)  Participants need to identify as either male or female to participate. We include this criterion in the study advertisement and Participant Information Sheet. |

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| **3.2. How will the participants be identified and approached? Provide an indication of your sample size. If participants are under the responsibility of others (e.g., parents/carers, teachers) state if you have permission or how you will obtain permission from the third party).** |
| The participants will see the studies advertised at the following websites:  1. E-folio or Sona, which ever the School of Psychology at the University of Southampton is using  2. Reddit ([https://www.reddit.com/r/SampleSize/](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.reddit.com%2Fr%2FSampleSize%2F&data=05%7C01%7CJ.T.Juhl%40soton.ac.uk%7C03bb4fec74c44c9658a008da667d8e59%7C4a5378f929f44d3ebe89669d03ada9d8%7C0%7C0%7C637934986682772947%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=GD7gT%2BX%2B%2B25s%2BbiogL7b307kMx%2B4YV0Bus0qKr4Da48%3D&reserved=0) and [https://www.reddit.com/r/takemysurvey](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.reddit.com%2Fr%2Ftakemysurvey&data=05%7C01%7CJ.T.Juhl%40soton.ac.uk%7C03bb4fec74c44c9658a008da667d8e59%7C4a5378f929f44d3ebe89669d03ada9d8%7C0%7C0%7C637934986682772947%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=rjHG5BManjye4xmMEZ80J1Dn5h0vNzziYhtuxPK7z1E%3D&reserved=0))  3. The Student Room (<https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/>)  4. Psychological Research on the Net (<https://psych.hanover.edu/Research/exponnet.html>)  5. Prolific academic (<https://www.prolific.co/>)  For each study we aim to recruit around 200 participants. |

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| **3.3 Describe the relationship between researcher and sample. Describe any relationship e.g., teacher, friend, boss, clinician, etc.** |
| For participants recruited via eFolio/Sona, the participants may be students of the Jacob Juhl, and Luke Chandaman may be the teaching assistant on modules that some participants may be enrolled in.  For participants recruited from all other websites, there is no relationship between the researchers and the participants. |

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| **3.4 How will you obtain the consent of participants? (***please upload a copy of the consent form if obtaining written consent***) NB. Consent form is not needed for studies collecting data online.** |
| Participants will complete the study online on computers and we’ll provide participants with the chance to give consent on the first page/screen of the study. Participants can tick a box if they decide to continue with the study or not tick the box if they decide to not participate. This will appear at the bottom of the Participant Information Sheet. |

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| **3.5 Is there any reason to believe participants may not be able to give full informed consent? If yes, what steps do you propose to take to safeguard their interests?** |
| No |

1. **Research procedures, interventions and measurements**

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| **4.1 Give a brief account of the procedure as experienced by the participant. Make it clear who does what, how many times and in what order. Make clear the role of all assistants and collaborators. Make clear the total demands made on participants, including time and travel.** *Upload copies of questionnaires and interview schedules to ERGO.* |
| Participants will complete the study remotely online using their personal computer/device. They will first see the advertisement posted on online. If they are interested in participating, they can read the Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form. Those who decide to participate will tick a box to give consent and then be directed to a screen that gives brief instructions.  Once they begin the study, they will first answer some demographic questions (e.g., age, gender).  Next, the participants will read a vignette describing a person who is either dead (experimental condition) or alive (control condition). After that, participants will answer several question in which rate the person describe in the vignette on a number of domains: likability, competence, morality, respect, and big five personality traits. They then answer a few follow up questions about the vignette. They will then complete a mood repair task in which they to list two positive qualities about themselves and rate several cute/funny pictures. Finally, participants will read a debriefing.  We estimate that the whole procedure should take around 15 minutes or less. |

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| **4.2 Will the procedure involve deception of any sort? If yes, what is your justification?** |
| We will tell participants that the vignettes that they’ll read are about real people. However, they are not. In order to test the death positivity bias, it is essential that the participants think that they are reading about and rating a real person. |

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| **4.3. Detail any possible (psychological or physical) discomfort, inconvenience, or distress that participants may experience, including after the study, and what precautions will be taken to minimise these risks.** |
| We do not foresee any reason why participants would experience any discomfort as a result of participating in the study. It is possible (although not that plausible) that participants in the experimental condition may very briefly feel mild sadness when they read that the person in the vignette is dead. We thus include a mood repair task at the end of the study in which we ask participants to list 2 positive qualities about themselves and then rate 5 funny/cute pictures.  Additionally, as with all studies, we invite participants to contact the below resource if any psychological or physical discomfort and/or distress arises. We invite participants to do this both before and after the completion of the study.  **For Southampton Students recruited via eFolio or Sona**   * Find a counsellor at www.bacp.org * The Student Well-Being Team (https://www.southampton.ac.uk/edusupport/mental\_health\_and\_wellbeing/index.page) * Nightline, on 023 8059 5236 (free from halls on (78)25236) or visit https://southampton.nightline.ac.uk/) * Worldwide: [www.allaboutcounseling.com](http://www.allaboutcounseling.com) * Get general mental health support at: <https://www.nami.org/Home> * <https://adaa.org/> * What's Up? A Mental Health App’ download from any app store * MIND <https://www.mind.org.uk/> * NHS: <https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/talking-therapies-medicine-treatments/talking-therapies-and-counselling/nhs-talking-therapies/>   **For participants recruited via all other platforms.**   * Find a counsellor at <https://locator.apa.org> * Worldwide: [www.allaboutcounseling.com](http://www.allaboutcounseling.com) * Get general mental health support at: <https://www.nami.org/Home> * <https://adaa.org/> * ‘What's Up? A Mental Health App’ download from any app store * NHS: <https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/talking-therapies-medicine-treatments/talking-therapies-and-counselling/nhs-talking-therapies/> * MIND <https://www.mind.org.uk/> |

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| **4.4 Detail any possible (psychological or physical) discomfort, inconvenience, or distress that YOU as a researcher may experience, including after the study, and what precautions will be taken to minimise these risks. If the study involves lone working please state the risks and the procedures put in place to minimise these risks (**[**please refer to the lone working policy**](https://www.southampton.ac.uk/assets/sharepoint/intranet/hr/How%20to/Policy%20-%20Lone%20working.pdf)**).** |
| We cannot foresee experiencing any discomfort ourselves. |

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| **4.5 Explain how you will care for any participants in ‘special groups’ e.g., those in a dependent relationship, are vulnerable or are lacking mental capacity), if applicable:** |
| Not applicable. |

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| **4.6 Please give details of any payments or incentives being used to recruit participants, if applicable:** |
| Payment and incentives will be different for the different samples of participants:  1. Southampton students recruited via E-folio or Sona will received 3 research credits because this is an online study lasting 15 minutes.  2. Participants recruited via Reddit will completing the survey voluntarily—there will not be any payments or incentives.  3. Participants recruited via The Student Room will completing the survey voluntarily—there will not be any payments or incentives.  4. Participants recruited via The Psychological Research on the Net website will completing the survey voluntarily—we do not provide any payments or incentives.  5. Participants recruited via Prolific academic will received approximately £2.25 (an hourly rate of £9.00 for a 10 minutes). However, we may not include all the measures in studies conducted on Prolific in order to make the study shorter and to reduce costs. Regardless, we will maintain an hourly rate of £9.00. For example, if we reduce the study to 10 minutes, the pay will be £1.50. |

**5. Access and storage of data**

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| **5.1 How will participant confidentiality be maintained? Confidentiality is defined as non-disclosure of research information except to another authorised person. Confidential information can be shared with those already party to it and may also be disclosed where the person providing the information provides explicit consent. Consider whether it is truly possible to maintain a participant’s involvement in the study confidential, e.g. can people observe the participant taking part in the study? How will data be anonymised to ensure participants’ confidentiality?** |
| These studies will be completely anonymous. No personally identifying information will be associated with the data collected for the study. |

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| **5.2 How will personal data and study results be stored securely during and after the study. Who will have access to these data?** |
| Raw data will be collected and stored on iSurvey, which is password protected. The downloaded anonymised data will be stored on the researcher’s computers and may be uploaded to the open science data repositories. |

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| **5.3 How will it be made clear to participants that they may withdraw consent to participate? Please note that anonymous data (e.g. anonymous questionnaires) cannot be withdrawn after they have been submitted. If there is a point up to which data can be withdrawn/destroyed e.g., up to interview data being transcribed please state this here.** |
| In the participant information sheet, we tell participants “You have the right to change your mind and withdraw at any time without giving a reason. Because the data is anonymous, however, we are unable to delete your responses once you have submitted them.” |

**6. Additional Ethical considerations**

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| **6.1 Are there any additional ethical considerations or other information you feel may be relevant to this study?** |
| No |