**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** | **Professor Constantine Sedikides (c.sedikides@soton.ac.uk)** |
| **1.3 Other researchers / collaborators (if applicable):** *Name, address, email* | Jodie Bolton ([jb11g21@soton.ac.uk](mailto:jb11g21@soton.ac.uk))  Ben Harman ([bh2u21@soton.ac.uk](mailto:bh2u21@soton.ac.uk))  Evie Parsons ([ep12g21@soton.ac.uk](file:///C:\Users\Luke\Desktop\Work\PhD\Thesis\Ethics%20Apps%20and%20Materials\Year%203\Mediation%20Study%20App\Final%20App\ep12g21@soton.ac.uk)) |

1. **Study Details**

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| **2.1 Title of study** | The Death Positivity Bias (advertised as “Thoughts about Other People”, “Judgements about Other People”, “Evaluations of Other People”, or “Evaluations of Other People”) |
| **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’ (DPB) is a phenomenon that describes the long held cultural tradition of having respect for the dead and not speaking ill of them. Despite the pervasiveness of the bias and its acknowledgement in popular culture, the empirical literature is thin.  Some research have established that the DPB occurs for evaluations of dead leaders (e.g., CEO’s) and celebrities. Our previous studies tested whether the DPB occurs when evaluating ordinary (i.e., non-famous) persons. The current study will test whether the DPB, as applied to ordinary persons, is due, at least in part, to adherence to social norms. |

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| **2.4 Provide a brief outline of the basic study design. Outline what approach is being used and why.** |
| Will randomly assign participants to an experimental (dead) condition or a control (alive) condition. In both conditions, participants will read a vignette describing a person.  For participants in the experimental (dead) condition, the vignette will begin by stating that the person has passed away. For participants in the control (alive) condition, the vignette will convey the notion that the person is alive.  Specifically, we use two names for the vignettes (for generalizabilty). We will use a two-way (experimental [dead] condition vs. control [alive] condition) x (name: Alex vs. Sam) between-subjects design. Additionally, we will match the pronouns of the person described in the vignette to the participants’ gender (He/him for male identifying, She/her for female identifying and They/them for any participants who select other).  After reading the vignette, participants will respond to 12 items assessing adherence to norms – both general societal norms and specific (to how the dead ought the treated) norms. Next, they will be evaluating the person described in the vignette in terms of warmth, competence, morality, respect, and likability.  We attach the protocol. |

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| **2.5 What are the key research question(s)? Specify hypotheses if applicable.** |
| We hypothesise that participants who believe the vignette person is dead (experimental condition) will evaluate the person more positively than those who believe the person is alive (control condition). This effect will occur across the two vignette names. Finally, social norm adherence will mediate the effect of condition on evaluation: participants will show the DPB due to adherence to norms. |

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 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/>) |

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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).** |
| 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/>)  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.** |
| We do not anticipate any relationship between researchers and 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. We will provide participants with the chance to give consent on the first page/screen of the study. They can tick a box if they decide to continue with the study or not tick the box if they decide to terminate their participate (this box 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, participants will read a vignette describing a person who is either dead (experimental condition) or alive (control condition). Subsequently, they will respond to questions about norm adherence and rate the person on items pertaining to warmth, competence, morality, respect, and likability (three each). They then answer a few follow up questions about the vignette, and complete a mood repair task in which they list two positive qualities about themselves and rate several cute/funny pictures. Finally, they will be debriefed.  We estimate that the whole procedure will not last more than 15 minutes. |

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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 they will read are about real people. However, they are not. In order to test the DPB, it is essential that participants think 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 discomfort as a result of taking part in the study. It is possible (although not plausible) that participants in the experimental condition 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?** |
| The study will be anonymous. No personally identifying information will be associated with data collection. |

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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.  Special category data such as demographic information will be used for representation purposes only, we do not have any a-priori predictions that involve demographic data. |

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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 are 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 |