

# Subjective Commitment in Homo Sapiens

## Research Question:

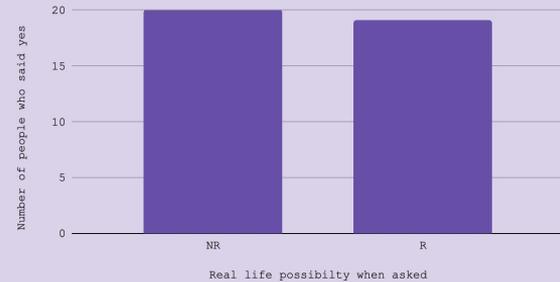
The purpose of this project was to determine how the likelihood of participating in an activity decreases the willingness to do it?

## Methodology:

- ❖ The Research participants are not informed of the purpose of the study
- ❖ They are given a kahoot which asks them questions like "Would you swim with sharks?"
- ❖ Data is collected to determine who was willingly to participate in an eventuality versus who would participate in the moment.

## Data Analysis and Results:

Number of people who said yes vs. Real life possibility when asked



## Interpretation & Conclusions:

From the data collected in this project we can conclude that people have a 96% likelihood of following through on commitments to low-risk activities.

# Introduction

This project is meant to measure a person's willingness to participate in an activity when it is not likely that they will versus their willingness to participate in an activity when the possibility of doing so is imminent. Participants will participate in a Kahoot where they answer questions about activities not likely to happen at the time. At the end of the Kahoot participants will be presented with a question like: "If you are willing to come up to read a poem, answer yes or no". This question will be compared with the same question asked earlier in the kahoot, the question from earlier in the kahoot was asked when the participant believed that they would not take part in the activity.

# Question and Predictions

## **Research Question:**

The purpose of this project was to determine how the likelihood of participating in an activity decreases the willingness to do it?

## **Predictions:**

We predict that our results will show that people are more likely to agree to participating in an event when the possibility of doing so is not present.

# Procedures

1. Participants who have not taken an AP Psychology class were found and signed informed consent form
2. The project was not explained to participants, they were told they were playing a Kahoot and would be debriefed on the purpose of the Kahoot after the experiment concluded
3. Kahoot was created with provided questions
4. Participants provided their own devices to play the Kahoot on
5. Kahoot was set up in a classroom environment
6. All participants who joined the Kahoot will remain anonymous and their data will remain anonymous
7. The Kahoot was started for the participants
8. Participants who answered that they would be willing to participate in one of the activities in the future were then asked if they would like to participate in one of the opportunities listed in the Kahoot in the present.
9. The Kahoot was ended when all participants answered all provided questions
10. The number of participants that took part in the activity were recorded
11. The number of participants who were prepared to participate in the activities was compared with the number who said they would participate.

Kahoot

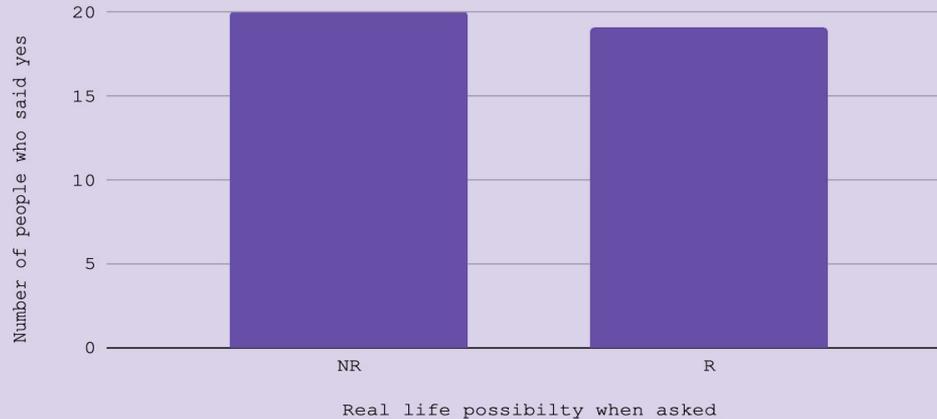
Link: [https://create.kahoot.it/share/sarsef-project-2021/aa19f3b9-72b9-4dff-821b-8a76364b8](https://create.kahoot.it/share/sarsef-project-2021/aa19f3b9-72b9-4dff-821b-8a76364b85f0)

5f0

# Results & Data

NR stands for the possibility of eating a cricket not being real, R stands for the possibility being real. This data shows that when people believed they would not have to participate in the activity they were more likely to say they would, but when the activity became something real they would have to do, they changed their answer. The difference in their commitment is slight, only made by one person.

Number of people who said yes vs. Real life possibility when asked



# Discussion and Interpretation

The data shows that participants are similarly willing to participate in an activity when the possibility of doing so is real as when it is not. The data shows that when the possibility of eating a cricket was unlikely the participants were more likely to say they would eat one. But they were almost as likely to say they would eat a cricket when the possibility of doing so was real. The difference was only made by one person so we can conclude that people will, in most cases, follow through on their commitments.

# Data Analysis and Possible Errors

According to our data people are, in most situations, likely to follow through on their commitments. The possible data errors that could have occurred within this experiment are that participants may have played the kahoot for points, answered the questions untruthfully, been confused with what answer choice was yes and no, clicked on the wrong answer, or were already exposed to a similar experiment in an Ap psychology course.

## Implications and ideas for future research

The data collected in this experiment implies that people have a 96% likelihood of following through on their commitments, this was only tested using a question about eating crickets so it does not apply to more serious scenarios. Considering this theory was tested on a commitment similar to a dare it would be interesting to see the results from an experiment using more emotionally or physically intense activities. This could include skydiving or meeting with someone you are angry at. Future research could use this experiment format but with relation to more extreme or long-term commitments.

# References

Nesse, Randolph M. "The Evolution of subjective commitment." 4 April 2000, pp. 2-25,  
<https://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.409.625&rep=rep1&type=pdf>

Fessler, Daniel M.T. and Quintelier, Katinka. "Cooperation and Its Evolution-Suicide Bombers, Weddings, and Prison Tattoos: An Evolutionary Perspective on Subjective Commitment and Objective." *Cooperation and Its Evolution* 2013, pp. 459-478,  
[https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=mGpwo2ucdHsC&oi=fnd&pg=PA459&dq=strategic+subjective+commitment&ots=8XFNB9932P&sig=aAJ\\_wPAZrJO4VZkuiDG3RLh92ki#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=mGpwo2ucdHsC&oi=fnd&pg=PA459&dq=strategic+subjective+commitment&ots=8XFNB9932P&sig=aAJ_wPAZrJO4VZkuiDG3RLh92ki#v=onepage&q&f=false)

Dugaktin, Lee "Subjective commitment in nonhumans: What should we be looking for, and where should we be looking?" 2021, pp 1.  
<https://psycnet.apa.org/record/2001-05917-006>

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/000163599428643>

Sjostrom, Ove and Holst, Dorte "Validity of a questionnaire survey: the role of non response and incorrect answers" July 2nd, 2009 pp.1  
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/000163599428643>

Miller, David and Weir, Linda et. all. "Experimental Investigation of false positive errors in auditory species occurrence surveys." 1 July 2012, pp 1665-1674, <https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1890/11-2129.1>