

Illuminating Theology With Psychological Science

Realities of Psychological Research



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REALITIES OF PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH

IN-LAB EXPERIMENTS

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ELEMENTS

Topic

Measures

Ethics

Timeline

TOPIC: EMPATHY AND SELF- FORGIVENESS



- Empathy with victim of transgression will
 - Increase guilt
 - Decrease self-forgiveness
 - Increase conciliatory behavior

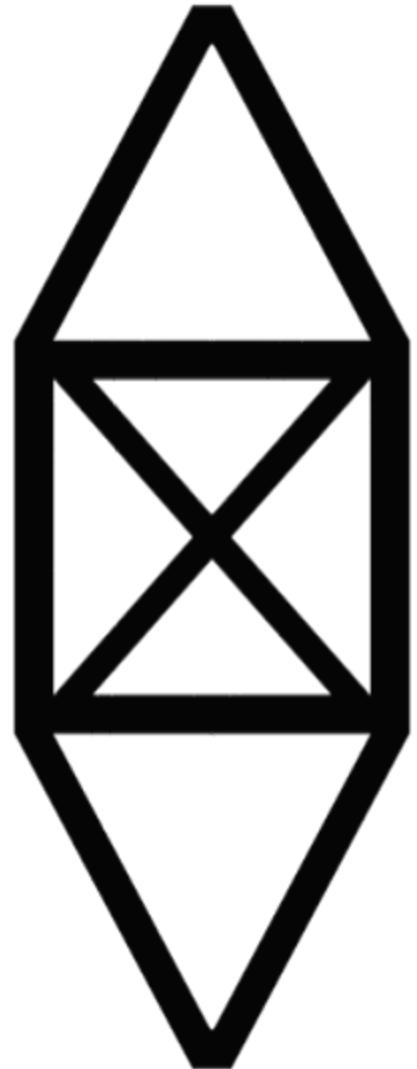
MEASUREMENT AND OPERATIONALIZATION:

Engineered Transgression



MEASUREMENT AND OPERATIONALIZATION

- **Independent variable: Empathy**
 - **objective** condition, do not get too caught up in the partner's introduction/narrative, approach the study objectively.
 - **empathy** condition: see the study from the partner's point of view.
 - **personal-distress** condition: imagine how they would feel in the partner's situation throughout the study



MEASUREMENT AND OPERATIONALIZATION

- Transgression: failure to help person in need
- Dependent variables:
 - Apologetic content in note
 - Self reported guilt, shame, and self-forgiveness
 - Behavioral self-forgiveness

ETHICS

- Deception and debriefing
- Participant distress



TIMELINE

- IRB proposal: April 2011
- Script: January 2013
- Evaluation form to address distress:
December 2013
- Analyses and write-up: 3+ months
- Review: 3+ months

