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What Fits the Crime: Does Factors Influence in a Person's Judgment?Amanda Vance⁷

The purpose and rationale for this experiment is to distinguish if factors such as race, prior offences, type of crime, level of seriousness of the crimes plays a role in a person's judgment based on the type and severity of punishment. For this study participants were to state the type of punishment that the criminal were to be given for committing a certain crime. There were two independent variables used for the study, the independent variables were the race of the criminal was changed and if the criminal had prior offenses or were a first time offender. The hypothesis was partially supported based on the responses the participant reported. The only independent variable that tended to show some statistical significance was if the criminal had prior offenses or was a first time offender.

In American society race, ethnicity, and crime all bind together. When talking about these issues in the criminal justice system that include about policing, sentencing, the death penalty, or employment all are effected with the concepts of race and ethnicity. Even the perception of crime and justice are connected in some ways with the issues of race and ethnicity (Walker, Spohn, & Delone, 2007). These concepts are everywhere in this field so if these are common aspects a person may encounter does these effect there judgment in how they may treat the perpetrator.

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Statistics have confirmed that racial minorities are more likely than Caucasians to be serving time in jail or prison. It was found that in 2004 about 12.6% of African American males, 3.6 % of Hispanic males, and 1.7 % of Caucasian males there were all in their later 20s were either in jail or prison. The racial disparity in incarceration rates could also be explained based on the racial difference in offending patterns and the difference in prior criminal records. According to the National Academy of Science Panel, racial discrimination in the sentencing process could have been due to the jurisdiction the crime was committed and also for the certain type of crime it may have been (Walker et al., 2007).

There are two main reasons that Walker et al., (2007) discussed that can contribute to the racial disparity in the sentencing process. The first reason is based on the national statistics, on prison admissions and prison population. For example in 2004 4,919 of every 100,000 African American men, 1,717 of every 100,000 Hispanic men, and 717 of every 100,000 Caucasian men were incarcerated in either a state or federal prison. The second factor was based on studies conducted about judges' sentencing decisions. The studies revealed that African Americans and Hispanics were more than likely than Caucasians to be sentenced to prison. Furthermore, those who were sentenced to prison ended up receiving a longer term than the Caucasians there were sentenced to prison (Walker et al, 2007). One studied that Walker et al, (2007) discussed and researched that in 2002 about 58% of African Americans convicted of violent crimes were sentenced to prison were compared to only 47% of Caucasians convicted violent crimes were sent to prison.

Walker et al, (2007) came up with four explanations as to why there might be racial disparities in sentencing of convicted criminals. The first reason is because African Americans and Hispanics commit more serious crimes and have more serious offenses on their records than Caucasians. The second reason is because of economic discrimination which means for example, that poor defendants are less likely than middle and upper class defendants to have a private attorney or even get released before their trial. The third reason could be based on direct racial discrimination on the judge's part. That is, the judges might take in the race of the criminal when deciding the type of sentence to give the criminal. The fourth reason could reflect the equal treatment and discrimination based on certain factors. These factors were based on the nature of the crime, the racial composite based on the offender and victim relationship, the jurisdiction the crime was committed at, and the age and gender of the criminal (Walker et al, 2007). These explanations suggested by Walker et al, could play a major role in how the sentencing process is brought about but the leading judgment is based on the jury or judge to decide if the perpetrator is guilty or innocent. But once found convicted of the crime the judge's directions is the deciding factor on the type of punishment the criminal will receive. Therefore if someone's fate is up to only one person that happens to be right behind the podium. There is a great possibility that the outcome of the punishment might be based on their opinion. This could be based about what they may think of criminal for many reasons which could consists of the opposite race or ethnicity, the type of crime and how serious the crime committed was and if the criminal was a first time offender or if the criminal were a repeated offender. These types of conditions that a judge would take in are very essential to an individual that is to decide based on their own judgment what the

criminal should receive. They are taught to be fair when deciding this outcome but what if our own judgment can kick in unconsciously and so we do not know that our decision is not just equal at all.

There was a study about rumor that was first administered by the researchers Allport and Postman in 1945 and 1947 which was cited in the research by Treadway and McCloskey (1989). This study was conducted to find out how rumors are first started and spread, and they wanted to learn how the information in the rumor can change from person to person. They would show participants a photo where the white man was holding the weapon and confronting the taller black man. Next they told the participant to tell someone about the photo they saw. After some time, the researchers found that by a certain number of people that were told about the photo the weapon changed from the white man holding the weapon to the black man holding the weapon (Boon & Davies, 1987). Allport and Postman as cited in Treadway and McCloskey (1989) found that after the description of the picture was told to a certain number of people the position of the weapon and the actual situation that was happening in the picture had changed. In the original photograph the white man was whom that was confronting the black man. For most of the participants they stated that the black man was the one confronting the white man. Treadway and McCloskey were both very interested in this study by Allport and Postman. Treadway and McCloskey (1989) administered the same study that Allport and Postman in 1945 but with some changes to the original photo. Treadway and McCloskey (1989) showed the participants the same photo that was used in Allport and Postman's study but the weapon was enlarged. Treadway and McCloskey (1989) had two groups of participants, one group was shown the photo for five seconds and the other

group was shown the photo for thirty seconds. When the participants that saw the photograph for five seconds, the participant did not state any shift in the weapon. Most of the participants that were in this group did not even report that there was a weapon in the photograph. But when the participants were shown the picture for thirty seconds there was no shift of the weapon and they all described the scene correctly (Treadway, & McCloskey, 1989).

The present experiment was conducted in order to determine whether people's judgment is influenced by certain concepts for sentencing a person for a crime. Do the factors of race, prior offences, the type of crime and the level of seriousness of the crime play a role in the person's judgment on what kind of punishment he/she would give to the person that committed a crime? Which, if any of these factors play a bigger role in a person's decision? The purpose for this experiment is to find out which factors may influence a person's judgment in the type and the severity of punishment they may decide on. These factors include race, prior offences, type of crime, and level of seriousness of the crimes.

The rationale for the experiment is to find out if the participant's judgment is affected the race or ethnicity of the criminal. Will this influence the type of punishment they may decide on for that person? Like if the participant was to be given background information about the criminal that may have committed a crime. For example, if the criminal has been a repeat offender, which they have committed multiple offenses in their life. Another example is, if the criminal was a first time offender, which this is their first offence. With this information given to the participant will it contribute in the participant's judgment on what type and how serious the punishment would be? Do the

type of crime and the level of seriousness of the crime that is presented to the participant interfere with their judgment? The experimenter hypothesized that the participant based their decision on how severely they punish the perpetrator that committed the crime depending on if the criminal had prior offenses, the race of the perpetrator, and the type and the level of seriousness of the crime committed. It is predicted that the offender with prior offences and of the darker skin will receive the harshest punishment out of the all the other offenders.

Method

Participants

Participants that were included in the experiment were undergraduate students from Lindenwood University. All undergraduate students were either recruited from the Lindenwood Participant Pool or from Professor Marhanka's criminology class.

Participants that were not from Lindenwood University were adults at least 18 years of age or older from the greater St. Charles community. In the experiment, there were a total of 114 participants included. The experiment was conducted on the Lindenwood University campus in the psychology labs in the basement of Young Hall, a classroom on campus. If the participant was not on campus the experiment was conducted in a separate room that was off campus where the lighting was good and the noise level was at a minimum. The participants either took the experiment alone or with a group.

The study had 114 participants which none were excluded in the results. There were a told of 38 men and 76 women that participated. The age range for the participants' population was between 18 to 29 years old. The mode for the age was 19 to 20 and which made up about 57.9% o the participants. The highest level of education for

the participants was at least 1 year of undergraduate studies, with a mean of 1.76 years, and the standard deviation of 1.016 years.

There were two ways the participants were recruited for the experiment. The experimenter placed a description sheet and a sign-up sheet on the Lindenwood Participant Pool (LPP) board to recruit participants from the Lindenwood Participant Pool (see Appendix A). Then the experimenter asked other professors if they could have either one or more of their classes participate in the experiment. The professor was present while the experiment was being administered but all the students were given the option to decline on taking the experiment at anytime. There was only one classroom used to administer the experiment. The class that was used was Professor Marhanka's lower level criminology class that way it was not just students that were majoring in criminal justice. They did not receive any type of compensation for participating in the experiment it was strictly only volunteers.

Materials and Procedure

The experiment was administered the same in all condition that the participants were recruited by. Except for in the classroom, the experimenter came during the class and administered the packet with the informed consent forms, instructions, questionnaire, the criminal sheet that was used to place that type of punishment they decided that criminal would receive also the sheet it described if the perpetrator had prior offences or was a first time offender along with their criminal was either Caucasian or African American, and feedback letter to the class (see Appendix B for the classroom script)

During the experiment the participants were given two informed consent forms to read over. The informed consent form was also briefly read to all the participants (see

Appendix C). The participants were told they can terminate the experiment at anytime while the experiment is being administered. The participants were asked to sign both the informed consent forms and were given one of the informed consent forms to keep. Participants were then given an instruction sheet to read over, along with the experimenter also explaining what they were going to do.

There were two sets of instructions depending on which group the participant was placed. In the instructions only stating that the criminal did have prior offences or if this was their first time offence. Once the participants finished reading over the instructions, they were told they could ask questions about the experiment any time if they did not understand something about the experiment (see Appendix D and E).

Next, the participants were asked to fill out the short questionnaire (see Appendix F). Some of the questions that were presented on the questionnaire were about sex, age, highest level of education, major and race. Other questions that were asked were about how much media the participant is associated with that is primarily about crime. Also the participant was asked about how much information about the criminal justice system they may know about, that pertained to the type of punishments that are given.

Then, the participants were given one of the criminal sheets and depending on which group they were placed in the criminal sheet described if the perpetrator had prior offences or if they were a first time offender and the criminal picture was printed on this sheet. The criminal was either Caucasian or African American that was created by the experimenter using a computer program called FACES (FACES 4.0 EDU for Education). The faces used for the sheet that was given to the participant only differed in their type of hair and the color of skin. The participants were placed randomly in one of the four

groups since there were four different criminal sheets. One group was given a photo of a light skin criminal with no prior offences (see Appendix G). The next group had a dark skinned criminal with no prior offences (see Appendix H). The third group had a photo of a light skinned criminal that had prior offences that they were convicted and served time for when they were younger (see Appendix I). The last group had a dark skinned criminal that had the same prior offences and information as the light skinned criminal that had prior offences (see Appendix J).

The participants were asked to state what type of punishment the criminal should receive for committing that type of crime. The types of crimes that the criminal committed were burglary, an assault, rape and murder. Once the experiment was completed the participants were given a feedback letter with the experimenter's number and email to contact if they have any follow-up questions or if they want to know the results of the experiment when it is completed (see Appendix K). Only participants that were recruited through the LPP received extra credit for participating in the experiment. The questionnaires had a participant number that matched with the same participant number on the criminal sheet that the participant used to determine that type of punishment the criminal should receive. However, these numbers were not traceable to any particular participant, thereby protecting the identity of the respondents.

The participants were tested in the basement of Young hall in lab 105 B. These rooms were equipped with two tables/desks with about 6 chairs. The room had good lighting and was very quiet so the participant was not distracted or could not see the papers. These rooms were used for the participants that were recruited from the LPP.

Participants that were not from the LPP were tested either in a well lit and quiet classroom or in the nearest room that had the same type of atmosphere.

Results

To test the hypothesis that that prior offenses and the race of the criminal could influence that participants judgment on deciding the type of punishment they should receive. A 2 (PRIOR) X 2 (RACE) Analysis Variance (ANOVA) was conducted on the severity of punishment for each classification for each crime.

The participants' responses were all coded into four different responses which consisted of Incarceration, Fine, Supervision, and Life or Death. For each of these categories there were sub-categories which were the ranking order of punishment based on how severe the punishment was. This can be found on Appendix M below.

The results were based on that there were four groups included in the experiment. The color of skin and background information that the participant received were the changing variables but all received the same information on the type of crime that perpetrator may have committed and was found guilty for committing these crimes.

For each crime they were all analyzed individually to see the level of seriousness and the type of crime had an influence on the participants decision making. For crime one which were about a robbery, first the priors were analyzed for the type incarceration the computed f-value was $F(1,88)=8.977$, $p<.05$, the computed f-value for the type of fine was $F(1,25)=1.061$, $p>.05$, for the type of supervision the computed f-value was $F(1,42)=1.044$, $p>.05$. For crime one next the race of the criminal was just analyzed for the type incarceration the computed f-value was $F(1,88)=.856$, $p>.05$, the computed f-value for the type of fine was $F(1,25)=.118$, $p>.05$, for the type of supervision the

computed f-value was $F(1,42)=2.273, p>.05$. Then for crime one next the race and priors of the criminal was just analyzed for the type incarceration the computed f-value was $F(1,88)=.942, p>.05$, the computed f-value for the type of fine was $F(1,25)=.118, p>.05$, for the type of supervision the computed f-value was $F(1,42)=.042, p>.05$.

For crime two which were about an assault, first the priors were analyzed for the type incarceration the computed f-value was $F(1,104)=5.361, p<.05$, for the type of supervision the computed f-value was $F(1,28)=.137, p>.05$. For crime two next the race of the criminal was just analyzed for the type incarceration the computed f-value was $F(1,104)=.183, p>.05$, for the type of supervision the computed f-value was $F(1,28)=.003, p>.05$. Then for crime two next the race and priors of the criminal was just analyzed for the type incarceration the computed f-value was $F(1,104)=.556, p>.05$, for the type of supervision the computed f-value was $F(1,28)=.1475, p>.05$.

For crime three which were about a rape, first the priors were analyzed for the type incarceration the computed f-value was $F(1,109)=1.181, p>.05$. For crime three next the race of the criminal was just analyzed for the type incarceration the computed f-value was $F(1,109)=2.597, p>.05$. Then for crime three next the race and priors of the criminal was just analyzed for the type incarceration the computed f-value was $F(1,109)=.010, p>.05$.

For crime four which were about a murder, first the priors were analyzed for the type of picking life or death, the computed f-value was $F(1,106)=1.056, p>.05$. For crime four next the race of the criminal was just analyzed for the picking of life or death the computed f-value was $F(1,106)=.182, p>.05$. Then for crime four next the race and priors

of the criminal was just analyzed for the picking of life or death computed f-value was $F(1,106)=.084, p>.05$.

The results showed that the hypothesis stated above was partially supported because the only variable that had significances was if the criminal had prior offenses or if the criminal was a first time offender. This was only true for the first and second crime when picking the type of incarceration for the criminal. But the race of the criminal seemed do no effect on the judgment for determining the type of punishment. When the two variables, race and priors, were analyzed together there were not significances in their computed f-values for all the different crimes and for the categories of each crime. So it concludes that the null hypothesis was not rejected since there were not full significances but on the offenses and race category combined.

Discussion

From analyzing the results it was concluded that with having a perpetrator of a different race but with the same background information such as a Caucasian and African American that were a first time offender would receive different punishment for the same type of crime. These implications, as stated above, it also true for the other group that received either a Caucasian or African American perpetrator that had prior offences. But the only variable that seemed to influence the participants' judgment was if the offender was a repeated offender of a first time offender. Even though the background information and crimes are the same it did show that the color of skin can play a role in a person's perception and judgment on what type of consequence the perpetrator should receive. But it did not show in the results that there was significance for this though.

There was some other interesting information about the means for each crime.

For crime one about robbery the main type of incarceration answered was to be in prison for about one to three years. But when looking at the means between the races and the prior it was found that the African American criminal with prior offenses was found to be incarcerated to go to jail at least a year or less. This was also true based on looking at the mean score for both races with prior offenses. The type of fines that were given the most for this crime was to pay at least \$1000 or more to the family. The type of supervision that most people stated they would give the criminals was some form of community service.

For crime two which was about an assault the majority of participants stated that the criminal should receive at least one to three years in prison. When looking at the meaning between the type of race and if there was no priors and having priors participants stated that the African American criminal with no priors have more responses on that he should be imprisoned for at least four to six years in prison. For the type of supervision that was suggest more often was also some form of community service. But when looking at the means between each race and the priors it was found that African American criminals with no prior offenses and Caucasian criminals with prior offenses were to be places on parole. One other interesting suggestion that many of the participants' stated, was that the criminal should go to some form of anger management program.

For crime three which was about a rape most of the participants treated this as a very harsh crime. There were many responses of putting the criminal, no matter about the race or priors, in prison for life or even giving them the death sentence. The most

widely reported sentence for this crime was to be imprisoned for at least 7 to 10 years. It was found that African American criminals with and without prior offenses had the greatest mean for this type of sentence. One other finding about this crime was that the participants' reported that they should pay for the victim's therapy. Most of the participants stated that the victim was always a female that the criminal committed a rape offense towards.

For crime four which was the murder offense the most widely reported sentence for this criminal was to be put in prison for life. When looking at the means between race and priors it was found that Caucasians had a greater response for being sentenced to life on prison. As for the African Americans they had more responses for being sentenced to the death penalty. One other supposition that was reported by many of the participants were that this criminal should get some form of psychological help.

Some other findings from this study were that some of the participants reported the race of the criminal incorrectly. They would say the Caucasian criminal could have been Hispanic, mixed-interracial, or African American at times. Some reported that the African American criminal was could have also been Hispanic or mixed-interracial. Some of the participants stated that if more information about the crimes were reported they might have given the criminal a different type of punishment. This is because they would know more about the crime instead of the minimize information that was provided.

This type of study it can help with understanding why the incarceration rates are so high for another group and low for others. The results of this study could help explain the actions of punishment towards others that could be subconscious to the participant. This study could increase a self-awareness regarding the prejudicial attitudes and

stereotyping behavior that happens with giving a criminal their prison sentence. Also the participant may become aware that from their experiences of how much they do see crime they could be basing their judgments from this information they see and hear.

Some benefits that this experiment can give to society are it can create awareness on that a judge's own judgment can be based on their opinion. With the judge's opinion playing a role in the sentence decision, it can play could explain why some criminals may get a lesser sentence. Even though the participants in this study are not judges they are just like the typical jury member that would sit in court and determine if the criminal is guilty or innocent. Therefore the jury members are the ones that are using their judgment on if the criminal is guilty or innocent for committing the crime. Also this study shows how other factors can play a role of what type of punishment and how harsh the punishment the criminal may get sentenced with. It is beneficial knowing this type of information because it can give one reason to why some races are in prison more often than the others. Another beneficial finding that this study can help with is determining if the media has an influence on the participants' judgment when distinguishing the type of crime the criminal should receive.

Some limitations for the study were that there was a small sample size. Even though there were well over 100 participants that were in the study it does not cover all ages, ethnicity, and races of people. So if there were more participants the results could have been different. Since they were all tested in a group setting this could have created reverse racism. This is where the participant did not truthfully answer the question, because of the fear that the other person next to them could have seen their answer. Therefore, they could have changed their answer to more of a culturally moral answer.

Given that there was a wide range of responses and the responses had to be condensed down into categories could have changed the results. Since the experimenter was the one decoding the answers it may have been decoded wrong where the participant meant one thing but actually was recorded wrong. Another limitation that happened during the study was that the participants did not see the criminal's race as the race that was trying to be presented to the participant. Also some of the participant did not understand the instructions, so they did not know what they were to report.

Some future directions for the study is looking at the results based on using the response the participants gave on the race they thought the criminal was. This could change the results of using what the experimenter was trying to show with the pictures. See if genders have different responses on the type of punishment they would give someone. Since some of the participants stated that if more information was provided then they would give them a different punishment. Test to see if there is a difference in the responses based on the information about the crime is provided to the participant. Instead of using an open-ended response use more of a close-ended response where the participant picks out of the different categories what they would get the criminal. Next time using photos state the race of the criminal instead of not telling the participant the race of the criminal and thinking they would see the same race. Use different photos that are more similar to the type of race the experimenter was trying to get across towards the participant. If the use of different prior offenses, such as more serious offenses, would influence the participant to choose a different type of punishment. Would there be significance in letting the participant determining if the criminal was guilty or innocent for that crime. This would be just like if they were sitting in as a jury member for a court

hearing. Finally would there be a difference in the victim and offender relationship on determining the punishment.

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Appendix A

Participant Recruitment Description for LPP Board

For this experiment you will be given a short questionnaire to complete. Next you will be reading about one criminal that has committed certain crimes. You will be addressing the type of punishment the criminal should receive for committing that kind of crime. This experiment should take about 15 minutes to complete.

Appendix B

Classroom recruitment script

My name is Amanda Vance and I am conducting an experiment for my senior research project for psychology. I am here today to ask for you to participate in my experiment. This should take no more than 15 minutes to complete. It is your choice to participate or not. If you choose to not participate it will not affect your grade in the class and extra credit will not be given if you do participate. For this experiment you will be given a short questionnaire to complete. Next you will be reading about one criminal that has committed certain crimes. You will be addressing the type of punishment the criminal should receive for committing that kind of crime. I will be given you a packet that contains two informed consent forms, instructions, feedback letter, questionnaire, information about the criminal. Once you get the packet please read over the informed consent forms and sign both. Please keep the informed consent form that is signed by the experimenter and hand back the other one signed. Next fill out the questionnaire and once you finished you may go on to reading the criminal. Once you have read about the background of the criminal there will be four different types of crimes they committed you will decide what type of punishment they will receive such as one year in jail or a year or more they will be sent to prison, receive a fine or put on parole etc. Once you have finished please tear off the informed consent form, feedback letter and those are yours to keep and bring up the rest of the packet to me. Thanks very much for participating in my experiment I greatly appreciate it. If you have any questions you may ask at any time during the experiment. If you would like to know the results for the experiment when the experiment is finished my contact information is on the informed consent form and feedback letter.

Appendix C

Informed Consent Form

I, _____ (print name), understand that I will be taking part in a research project that requires me to complete a short questionnaire asking about how much exposure I have to stories about crime and what I may know about the criminal justice system. Following this questionnaire, I understand that I will be reading one fictional criminal that may have committed four different types of crimes and based on my own judgment I will decide what type of punishment this criminal should receive. I understand that this experiment contains crimes that deal with burglary, assault, rape, and murder. I understand that I will not experience a level of discomfort beyond what is normally encountered in everyday life or when watching the news coverage about similar crimes. I understand that I should be able to complete this project within 15 minutes. I am aware that my participation in this study is strictly voluntary and that I may choose to withdraw from the study at any time without any penalty or prejudice. I should not incur any penalty or prejudice because I cannot complete the study. I understand that the information obtained from my responses will be analyzed only as part of aggregate data and that all identifying information will be absent from the data in order to ensure anonymity. I understand that my ethnic background may be used in the results of the experiment. I am also aware that my responses will be kept confidential and that data obtained from this study will only be available for research and educational purposes. I understand that any questions I may have regarding this study shall be answered by the researcher(s) involved to my satisfaction. Finally, I verify that I am at least 18 years of age and am legally able to give consent or that I am under the age of 18 but have on file with the LPP office, a completed parental consent form that allows me to give consent as a minor.

 (Signature of participant) Date: _____

 (Signature of researcher obtaining consent) Date: _____

Student Researcher's Names and contact information:

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Supervisor's name and contact information:

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Appendix D

Instructions for Group A

Instructions

You will first be asked to fill out a short survey. You may choose not to answer some questions. You will be given one information sheet that has a fictional criminal on the sheet that is waiting to receive that type of punishment that they will be given for committing that type of crime. You are the person that is deciding what type of punishment this criminal should receive. He was already tried and was found guilty for the crime. The sheet contains the photo of the criminal and this person does not have any other prior offences, therefore this is their first time offence.

There are four different crimes on the criminal sheet read the first crime and then write down what type of offence this person should receive. Next go to the second crime but disregard the information about the first crime and state what you would give this person if they committed this type of crime as their first offence. You will do the same for the next two crimes also.

If you feel like not finishing this experiment you are allowed to stop at any time. Also you are allowed to ask questions throughout the experiment while it is being administered if you do not understand something.

Some examples you can write down for punishment and be a year in jail, or more than a year in prison, so many years in prison and then parole, a fine of so much, community service or ever harsher punishment etc.

Appendix E

Instructions for Group B

Instructions

You will first be asked to fill out a short survey. You may choose not to answer some questions. You will be given one information sheet that has a fictional criminal on the sheet. They are waiting to receive the type of punishment that they will be given for committing that type of crime. You are the person that is deciding what type of punishment this criminal should receive. He was already tried and were found guilty for the crime. The sheet contains the photo of the criminal and this person does have other prior offences that they committed years before. This information is stated under the criminal's picture.

There are four different crimes on the criminal sheet read the first crime and then write down what type of offence this person should receive. Next go to the second crime but disregard the information about the first crime and state what you would give this person if they committed this type of crime instead of the first crime. You will do the same for the next two crimes also.

If you feel like not finishing this experiment you are allowed to stop at any time. Also you are allowed to ask questions throughout the experiment while it is being administered if you do not understand something.

Some examples you can write down for punishment and be a year in jail, or more than a year in prison, so many years in prison and then parole, a fine of so much, community service or ever harsher punishment etc.

Appendix F

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Are you MALE FEMALE?
 2. What is your age? _____ Years old
 3. What ethnic background are you?
Asian or Pacific Islander Black, Non-Hispanic Hispanic
American Indian or Native Alaskan White, Non-Hispanic
Non-resident Alien or Other
 4. Highest level of educational background completed?
High school Or _____ years of college undergraduate and beyond
 5. What is your major if you went to college?

 6. Do you watch the news often to find out what crimes are committed?
 YES NO
 7. Do you read the newspaper/internet journals to see what crimes have been committed?
 YES NO
 8. Are you more interested in watching a certain show that is based on a certain subject that deals with crime? (such as serial killers, lifetime shows cops, CIS, Criminal minds etc.)
 YES NO
- if so please write below all programs you watch to that deals with a specific crime(s).
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
9. Do you know much about the criminal justice system?
 YES NO
 10. Do you know any information about what type of punishments a perpetrator would receive for committing a certain crime?

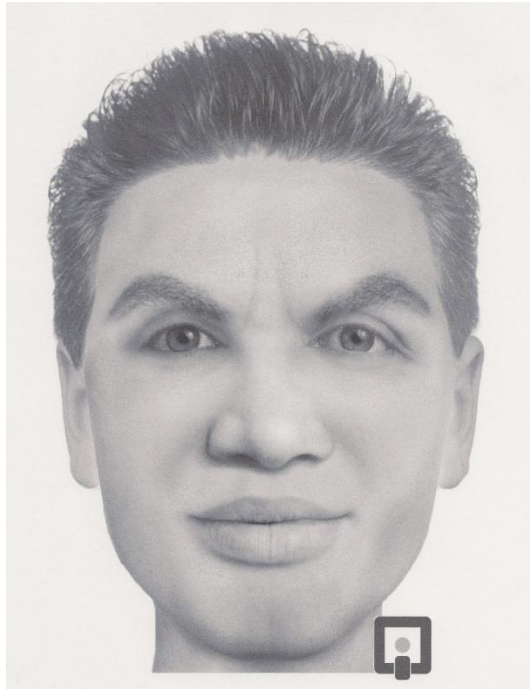
YES

NO

SUBJECT ID NUMBER: _____ (Assigned by Researcher)

Appendix G

Group A1



This man pictured above has never committed a crime, therefore this is his first time offence. Treat each crime below as if he were to commit that offense only for the first time.

1. The person pictured was found guilty on the account of committing a burglary; they stole the family's computer, 52' T.V., all their valuable jewelry and anything that was electronic. Based on the information above and that this is their first time offence what type of punishment should they receive?

2. The person pictured was found guilty on the account of committing an assault, the criminal was at the bar one night and a fight broke out between the criminal and victim. The criminal ended up stabbing the victim which wounded the victim, therefore the victim pressed charges against the criminal. Based on the information above and that this is their first time offence what type of punishment should they receive?

3. The person pictured was found guilty on the account of committing a rape; the victim did not know the criminal in anyway. The criminal happened to be stalking the victim and so one night the criminal broke into the victim's house and raped the victim. Based on the information above and that this is their first time offence what type of punishment should they receive?

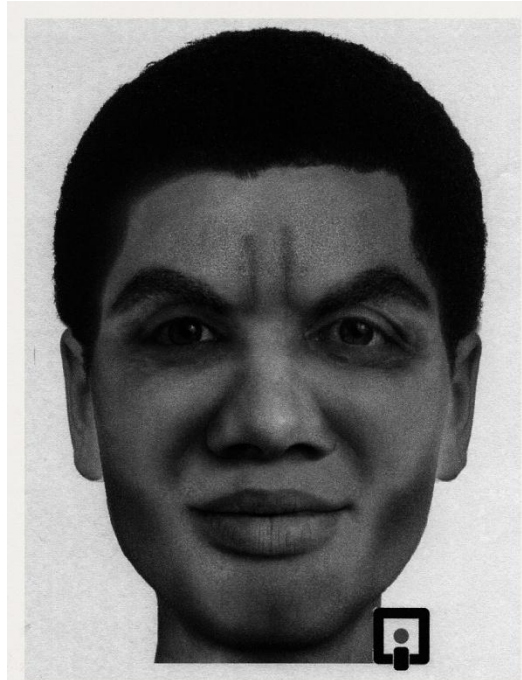
4. The person pictured was found guilty on the account of committing a murder; the victim was found stabbed multiple times by the perpetrator in the victim's home. There was no motive to why the perpetrator committed this murder. Based on the information above and that this is their first time offence what type of punishment should they receive?

Can you please report the race of the criminal that is picture above?

SUBJECT ID NUMBER: _____ (Assigned by Researcher)

Appendix H

Group B1



This man pictured above has never committed a crime, therefore this is his first time offence. Treat each crime below as if he were to commit that offense only for the first time.

1. The person pictured was found guilty on the account of committing a burglary; they stole the family's computer, 52' T.V., all their valuable jewelry and anything that was electronic. Based on the information above and that this is their first time offence what type of punishment should they receive?

2. The person pictured was found guilty on the account of committing an assault, the criminal was at the bar one night and a fight broke out between the criminal and victim. The criminal ended up stabbing the victim which wounded the victim, therefore the victim pressed charges against the criminal. Based on the information above and that this is their first time offence what type of punishment should they receive?

3. The person pictured was found guilty on the account of committing a rape; the victim did not know the criminal in anyway. The criminal happened to be stalking the victim and so one night the criminal broke into the victim's house and raped the victim. Based on the information above and that this is their first time offence what type of punishment should they receive?

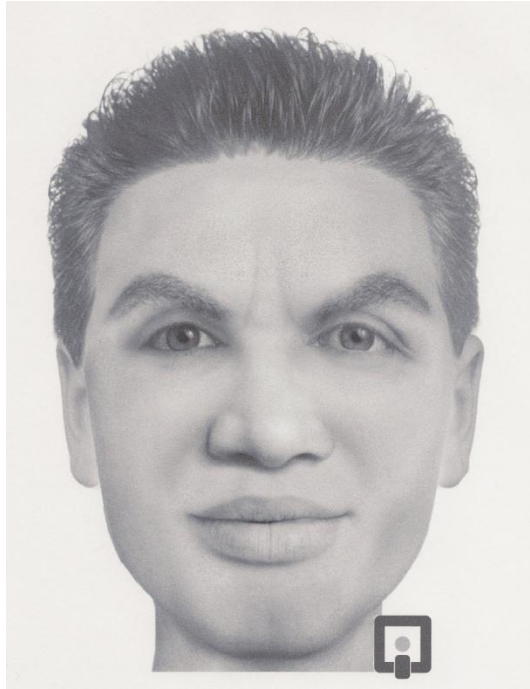
4. The person pictured was found guilty on the account of committing a murder; the victim was found stabbed multiple times by the perpetrator in the victim's home. There was no motive to why the perpetrator committed this murder. Based on the information above and that this is their first time offence what type of punishment should they receive?

Can you please report the race of the criminal that is picture above?

SUBJECT ID NUMBER: _____ (Assigned by Researcher)

Appendix I

Group A2



The person picture here has committed past crimes in their childhood and teenage years.

The type of crimes they committed and served time for was 4 counts of robbery, 2 counts of assault, and just served for committing identify theft.

1. The person pictured was found guilty on the account of committing a burglary; they stole the family's computer, 52' T.V., all their valuable jewelry and anything that was electronic. Based on the information above and their past criminal record what type of punishment should they receive?

2. The person pictured was found guilty on the account of committing an assault, the criminal was at the bar one night and a fight broke out between the criminal and victim. The criminal ended up stabbing the victim which wounded the victim, therefore the victim pressed charges against the criminal. Based on the information above and their past criminal record what type of punishment should they receive?

3. The person pictured was found guilty on the account of committing a rape; the victim did not know the criminal in anyway. The criminal happened to be stalking the victim and so one night the criminal broke into the victim's house and raped the victim. Based on the information above and their past criminal record what type of punishment should they receive?

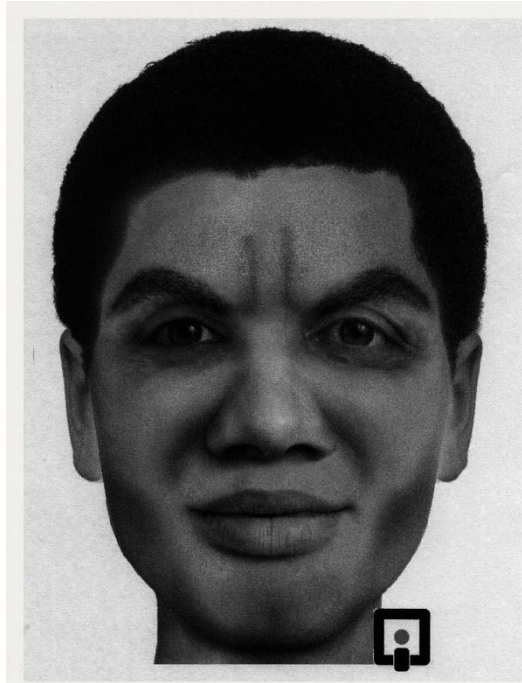
4. The person pictured was found guilty on the account of committing a murder; the victim was found stabbed multiple times by the perpetrator in the victim's home. There was no motive to why the perpetrator committed this murder. Based on the information above and their past criminal record what type of punishment should they receive?

Can you please report the race of the criminal that is picture above?

SUBJECT ID NUMBER: _____ (Assigned by Researcher)

Appendix J

Group B2



The person picture here has committed past crimes in their childhood and teenage years.

The type of crimes they committed and served time for was 4 counts of robbery, 2 counts of assault, and just served for committing identify theft.

1. The person pictured was found guilty on the account of committing a burglary; they stole the family's computer, 52' T.V., all their valuable jewelry and anything that was electronic. Based on the information above and their past criminal record what type of punishment should they receive?

2. The person pictured was found guilty on the account of committing an assault, the criminal was at the bar one night and a fight broke out between the criminal and victim. The criminal ended up stabbing the victim which wounded the victim, therefore the victim pressed charges against the criminal. Based on the information above and their past criminal record what type of punishment should they receive?

3. The person pictured was found guilty on the account of committing a rape; the victim did not know the criminal in anyway. The criminal happened to be stalking the victim and so one night the criminal broke into the victim's house and raped the victim. Based on the information above and their past criminal record what type of punishment should they receive?

4. The person pictured was found guilty on the account of committing a murder; the victim was found stabbed multiple times by the perpetrator in the victim's home. There was no motive to why the perpetrator committed this murder. Based on the information above and their past criminal record what type of punishment should they receive?

Can you please report the race of the criminal that is picture above?

SUBJECT ID NUMBER: _____ (Assigned by Researcher)

Appendix K

Feedback letter

Thank you for participating in my study. The questionnaire was used in order to determine the base of experience people is exposed to crime information and how much information people do know about the criminal justice system. I am interested in finding out weather a person's judgment plays a role in the type of punishment a criminal would receive based on two factors. These factors that I am interested in looking at are the race of the criminal and if the criminal had prior offences or was a first time offender. There were a total of four groups in the experiment which you were randomly placed in. The only difference in each group was the race of the criminal and if they also had prior offences. I predict that the criminal with the darker skin and prior offences will be punished harsher than the other criminals. This is important information to study to see if factors can contribute to the prison rates of minorities.

Please note that I am not interested in your individual results; rather, I am only interested in the results of a large group of consumers, of which you are now a part of. No identifying information about you will be associated with any of the findings.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding any portion of this study, please do not hesitate to bring them up now or in the future. My contact information is found at the bottom of this letter. If you are interested in obtaining a summary of the findings of this study at a later date, please contact me and I will make it available to you at the completion of this project.

Thank you again for your valuable contribution to this study.

Sincerely,

Amanda Vance

Cell phone: (314) 520-7687 Email: Av419@lionmail.lindenwood.edu

Supervisor:

Dr. Michiko Nohara-LeClair 636-949-4371 (mnohara-leclair@lindenwood.edu)

Appendix M

Value Sets for Results

Incarceration

- 1- 1- Jail a year or less
- 2- Prison a 1 to 3 years
- 3- Prison 4 to 6 years
- 4- Prison 7 to 10 years
- 5- Prison 11 and more years

Supervision

- 1- Community Service
- 2- Parole
- 3- Probation

Fine

- 1- Fine \$100-399
- 2- Fine \$400-699
- 3- Fine \$700- 999
- 4- Fine \$1000 and more

Life or Death

- 1- Life
- 2- Death