REPENTANT SINNER – March 2016

Dear Participant,

Please complete this survey on a relevant public policy issue. The survey is anonymous, and no one will know what answers you give. This brief survey should take no more than 15 minutes to complete.

Thank you for your time and help with this effort.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to send me an email at: [survey.iub@gmail.com](mailto:survey.iub@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Dr. Shahzeen Attari

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**VIGNETTES** – participants are shown only one of six vignettes (indicated as V1-V6) at random followed by the rest of the survey

Please read the paragraphs below and answer the questions that follow:

Common language: You are attending a talk by a leading climate researcher. He has been publishing scholarly articles in the field of climate science since 1974, and has over 150 publications in top journals, including many in *Science* and *Nature*.

The researcher explains how an individual’s actions can collectively have a large impact on the environment. He gives examples of these actions, such as air travel and amount of energy used in the home. He also explains how these actions can have negative effects on the environment. Near the end of the talk, the researcher gives advice to the audience on how they can reduce their own energy use. He gives examples such as flying less, using less energy at home, and taking public transportation. He urges the audience to make these changes.

V1 Travel no repentance: You later find out that the researcher flew across the country to give the talk that you attended, and that he regularly flies to give talks all over the world, even though avoiding flying would reduce his carbon footprint.

V2 Travel some repentance: You later find out that the researcher used to fly to give talks all over the world. However, he now flies only twice a year to give talks, and participates in the rest by videoconferencing, which has reduced his carbon footprint.

V3 Travel absolute repentance: You later find out that the researcher used to fly to give talks all over the world. However, he has now given up flying altogether. Instead, he participates in events by videoconferencing, which has significantly reduced his carbon footprint.

V4 Home no repentance: You later find out that the researcher consumes much more energy than the average person at home. He has a large house with a high home energy bill, and does not invest in clean energy or in energy efficient appliances, even though investment in energy efficient appliances would reduce his carbon footprint.

V5 Home some repentance: You later find out that the researcher used to consume much more energy than the average person at home. He had a large house with a high home energy bill, and did not choose to invest in clean energy or in energy efficient appliances. However, he has now installed energy efficient light bulbs in his home. He is also very active in decreasing his home energy use by changing his thermostat settings, which has reduced his carbon footprint.

V6 Home absolute repentance: You later find out that the researcher used to consume much more energy than the average person at home. He had a large house with a high home energy bill, and did not choose to invest in clean energy or in energy efficient appliances. However, he has now moved into a smaller home and has made energy efficient upgrades to his home including installing energy efficient light bulbs, better attic insulation, and better windows. He is also very active in decreasing his home energy use by changing his thermostat settings, and has since installed solar panels on his roof, which has significantly reduced his carbon footprint.

Rest of Survey: Based on the advice provided by the researcher,please check which of the following actions you would be willing to incorporate in your life. *(Check all that apply).*

☐ Fly less

☐ Use less energy in my home

☐ Take public transportation more often

☐ Change no actions, because I already have adopted these behaviors

☐ Change no actions

☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**ATTITUDES** – all participants are asked the following questions, statements are shown in random order.

Based on the previous paragraph, for each statement below please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the statement:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
| I believe that the researcher’s behavior is consistent with his advice | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** |
| The researcher’s advice will probably not influence my behavior | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** |
| I believe the researcher’s advocacy is sincere | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** |
| I do not trust the researcher’s authority with respect to climate science | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** |
| I believe that the researcher has good reasons for his behavior | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** |
| I doubt the researcher’s credibility | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** |
| I believe that the researcher provides quality advice | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** |

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For each statement below, please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the statement:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
| I always practice what I preach | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** |
| Scientists should practice what they preach | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** |
| I would trust an overweight medical doctor to give dieting advice | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** |
| Scientists know better than anyone else what is good for the public | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** |
| It is important for scientists to get research done even if they displease people by doing it | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** |
| Climate scientists need to influence policy decisions that affect how society responds to climate change | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** | **☐** |

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**4.** Recently, you may have noticed that climate change has been getting some attention in the news. Climate change refers to the idea that the world’s average temperature has been increasing over the past 150 years, may be increasing more in the future, and that the world’s climate may change as a result. What do you think? Do you think that climate change is happening?

☐ Yes -- Definitely

☐ Yes -- Probably

☐ No -- Probably

☐ No -- Definitely

**5.** Assuming climate change is happening, do you think it is…

☐ Caused mostly by human activities

☐ Caused mostly by natural changes in the environment

☐ Caused by both human activities and natural changes

☐ None of the above because climate change isn’t happening

☐ Don’t know

☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**6.** Which comes closer to your own view?

☐ Most scientists think climate change is happening

☐ Most scientists think climate change is not happening

☐ There is a lot of disagreement among scientists about whether or not climate change is happening

☐ I don’t know enough to say

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**7.** How important is the issue of climate change to you personally?

☐ Very important

☐ Somewhat important

☐ Not too important

☐ Not at all important

**8.** How sure are you that climate change is happening?

☐ Extremely sure

☐ Very sure

☐ Somewhat sure

☐ Not at all sure

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ATTENTION QUESTION

Thoughts and Motivations

This page is a test to confirm that you are reading the instructions carefully. We are simply testing whether or not you are actually reading this survey. Please ignore the text of the following question, and type in the word “reader” as your answer. Thank you for reading carefully.

On average, how many times a day do you think about things you need to do? Please give your best estimate: [no validation]

**ENERGY USE**

**9.** What is the average monthly electricity bill (in $) for your household?

☐ under $20

☐ about $20

☐ about $40

☐ about $60

☐ about $80

☐ about $100

☐ about $120

☐ about $200

☐ above $200

☐ Do not know

☐ Not applicable

☐ I don’t pay my bill

**10.** On average, how many miles do you drive in one week? \_\_\_\_\_ [numeric validation]

**11.** On average, what is the fuel economy of your primary car in miles per gallon? *(Please enter 0 if you do not use a car.)*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ [numeric validation]

**12.** Please estimate how many round-trip flights you took in 2015:

\_\_\_\_\_ [numeric validation]

**13.** On average, how many days a week do you consume red meat or dairy?\_\_\_\_\_ [numeric validation; 0-7]

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**\*\*\*DEMOGRAPHICS**

**14.** How many people are there in your household (including yourself)? \_\_\_\_\_ [numeric validation]

**15.** How many children do you have? \_\_\_\_\_ [numeric validation]

**16.** How would you describe your political beliefs?

☐ Very Liberal

☐ Liberal

☐ Slightly Liberal

☐ Moderate

☐ Slightly Conservative

☐ Conservative

☐ Very Conservative

**17.** What is your gender?

☐ Male

☐ Female

☐ Other

**18.** What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_ [numeric validation]

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**19**. Do you have any degrees in the physical or natural sciences (such as physics, chemistry, biology, etc.)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

**20.** What is the highest level of education you have attained?

☐ Some schooling, but no diploma or degree

☐ High school diploma or GED

☐ Some college

☐ College degree

☐ Some graduate school

☐ Graduate degree

**20.** During 2015, what was your yearly household income before taxes? Your best estimate is fine.

☐ None

☐ < $20,000

☐ $20,000 - $40,000

☐ $40,000 - $80,000

☐ $80,000 - $120,000

☐ $120,000 - $200,000

☐ > $200,000

**21.** What is your ZIP code?

\_\_\_\_\_\_ [Zip code validation]

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**22.** Do you have any additional thoughts or comments about the survey that you would like to share with us?

[open ended; not required]

Thank you for participating!

Your unique completion code is: [survey taker is presented with a unique completion code]