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Recreation of Asch Experiment

The Asch experiment is honestly a very interesting thing to think about. It was named after “Solomon Asch” who was the person who conducted this experiment (Franzen 2023). He was able to place an “Individual” or innocent, with a group of “confederates” who acted as members of the research, but in reality were in on the experiment (Gudehus 2023). They were told to “estimate” the “line length”, in an attempt to see which of three lines replicated the test line best (Neto 1995). During the trials the actors would start off by giving the correct answer, but then would have to “unanimously choose an incorrect line”(Walker 1996). The whole idea revolved around social conformity which basically is how the concept that others tend to change their own perceptions based on the crowd they are in to fit in. The original experiment was able to find that more than likely the innocent in the experiment with no clue about anything, would conform to the group's beliefs. Most of the time this is seen in meetings or places with large groups of people, where people don’t want to be the one to stand out so they say what others do to fit in.

In my version of this experiment where I tried recreating this, I wanted to see mostly how it affected a younger person. I was able to grab 4 of my family members that were present at home to conduct this experiment on. My eldest brother, Mario, 25 years old, my little brother, Andres, 16 years old, and my mom, in her 40s were the “confederates” of this experiment (Walker 1996). My little sister, Guadalupe, being the youngest in the household, was the

“individual” or the innocent of the experiment (Walker 1996). I sat them all in the living room and placed the papers on the back of a spinning chair and I would have Mario go first, then Andres, and then my mom, in that exact order each and every time, having my little sister Lupita go last. I chose this setup because it was difficult to capture the subject's reactions any other way, and there were technical difficulties with the TV, so I chose to just put it on a chair and do it the way I did. What I told them was basically that I was doing a little test to just see what they would say for each one best fit the line, or was the copy of the line.

For my results, I was able to get a reaction immediately on the first trial. My little sister, the individual in this, had no idea what to say and looked at me for an answer and glanced around the room nervously. In the end however, she did not conform to the group but still chose the completely wrong answer. The second trial, the same thing happened, she was unsure of what to say, but she still did not conform and gave the wrong answer, just a different one from the one my confederates had said. Finally in the last trial, she did conform to this one. The confederates gave the wrong answer, but my little sister conformed with them and chose the same wrong answer they did. I was able to make a chart to compare and contrast the results and similarities a little more clearly.

COMPARISON CHART

| My experiment | Similarities | Asch Experiment |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Made up of equal men and women -Many different ranging ages (12, 16, 25, 40s) - Subject was only 1 young person - Consisted of only 4 people - Conformed to 1/3 trials | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Subjects conformed at least once -Looking for the answer to: does peer pressure really affect the perception or beliefs of people? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Made up of mostly white men in college - 75% of the time subjects conformed - Consisted of 6-8 people - Many different test groups/subject |

After doing a post-interview with my individual subject, my little sister, I was able to learn the thought process she had going when choosing a line to best fit the test line. Mostly, it was just that she was guessing because she did not know what exactly to choose. So when in doubt she thought of something that just kind of felt like a sign to choose a certain letter over another. In the first trial, that's why she chose the letter she did. It reminded her of her crush and she saw it as a sign to choose that one. However, when I asked her about the third trial she came out and said "I just followed them" telling me that social conformity did take place and she followed what they said because she on her own had no clue what to say.

My findings basically show me that age really does matter when it comes to social conformity. It seems as though "conformity declines with age" and one can assume that "increasing age" also aligns with an increase in "one's grasp of reality"(Walker 1996). So from the experiment conducted from my article essentially came with the same conclusion. This can honestly be understood since younger people are still developing their brain and morality, and finding a structure within themselves. Older people have already lived and gotten experience from life and education that the younger folk don't have. This may also be why younger people also seem to tend to conform more to someone who is seen as an authority figure, younger people think, "since they have all of that experience and education they know more so it'd be best to agree than disagree". This authority figure kind of overrides "ethics, sympathy, and moral conduct", which is something found based off of the Milgram experiment, which can be connected to Asch's experiment well because the authority figure can influence their decision by just being there (Bridgman 2023).

Thinking on this more thoroughly though, social conformity is also mainly influenced by social media. Social media is a very large platform where people's ideas and beliefs can be

streamed across the globe. This means that when something is popular on there, whether it be an item or idea, people see that and tend to conform to the tens of thousands of people who agree with that one post saying some theory, even if they don't agree. Another Million people liked it so they are just going to like it too. No evidence or interest needed.

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