

Rejection Exaggerates Egocentric Perception of Fairness

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Abstract

The present research tests the idea that rejection may exaggerate egocentric perception of fairness. Rejection was manipulated by social exclusion by peer participants. In the rejection condition, participants were told that the other participants in their group did not like to work with them. In the acceptance condition, participants were informed that the other people wanted to work with them. All participants were then asked to distribute a monetary compensation fairly between self and an anonymous stranger. The compensation was for some noise they endured. In the self-suffered-more condition, participants were told that they had endured more noise than the other person. In the partner-suffered-more condition, participants were told that they had endured less noise than the other person. The results showed that the rejected participants kept more money as their fair compensation than the accepted participants, especially when they encountered the prospect of receiving less payment than their partner.

Key Words: Rejection, the Self, Egocentric Perception of Fairness, Dictator Games, Decision Making