Appendix A Moral Dilemma

Study 1:

Car Case:

Suppose you are driving a truck and will reach a hairpin turn near a cliff soon. A car in front of you suddenly stops at the edge of the cliff due to some mechanic problems. There are five people inside the car. Even if you brake, it is too late for you to fully stop the truck as the truck is heavily loaded. The only way to avoid hitting that car is to turn your truck left. However, you notice that if you turn left, you are going to hit a passerby who is walking on the left side of the road. Now you have two choices: A. Turn the truck left, and hit the passerby, the person will die. B. Do nothing, and hit the car in front of you, the car will fell off the cliff and the five people inside will die.

Which action do you think is morally better?

A) Turn the truck left and hit the individual

B) Do nothing and let the truck hit the front car
Probability estimates in Study 1:

1. How likely (the percent chance) do you think that the five people in the car will not die in this scenario if you choose to turn the truck and hit the passerby?

2. How likely (the percent chance) do you think that the passerby will die in this scenario if you choose to turn the truck and hit the passerby?

3. How likely (the percent chance) do you think that the passerby will not die in this scenario if you choose to do nothing?

4. How likely (the percent chance) do you think that the five people will die in this scenario if you choose to do nothing?
Hostage Case

Suppose you are passing by a sightseeing with a cliff. You happen to see that a lunatic gangster capture five hostages on the edge of a cliff. The gangster has a gun pointed at the hostages. They are unable to run away or fight the gangster. The gangster catches you and instructs you to push the fat man off the cliff. If you do not follow his order, he will shoot the five hostages instead. The fat man, whose name is James, is also a passerby who walks next to you. You have no special relationship with this fat man. Now you have two options: If you push James off the cliff, James will die; If do nothing, the gangster will shoot all of the five people and the five people will die. Which action do you think is morally better?

A) Push James off the cliff

B) Do nothing and let the gangster shoot the five hostage
We recognized that our illustrator had drawn wrong number of victims in this figure – thus in Study 2, we only used the overhead view versions of illustrations for both cases (first illustration in each case).

**Probability estimates:**

1. How likely (the percent chance) do you think that the five hostages will not die in this scenario if you choose to push James over the cliff?

2. How likely (the percent chance) do you think that James will die in this scenario if you choose to push him over the cliff?

3. How likely (the percent chance) do you think that James will not die in this scenario if you choose to do nothing?

4. How likely (the percent chance) do you think that the five hostages will die in this scenario if you choose to do nothing?
Study 2:

Car Case:

Which action do you think is morally better?

A. Turn the truck and hit the passerby, the person will die and the five people will not die;

B. Do nothing, and hit the car in front of you, the car will fall off the cliff and the five people inside will die and the person will not die.

C. Turn the truck right and keep braking, neither the person nor the five people inside the car will die (For the 3-option condition)
Hostage Case

Which action do you think is morally better?

A. Push James off the cliff, James will die and the five people will not die;

B. Do nothing, the gangster will shoot all of the five people and the five people will die and James will not die.

C. Try to negotiate with the gangster to buy some time for police to come, and neither the five hostages nor James will die (For the 3-option condition)