

# 2017 Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity (URECA)

## Project Final Report

Within one month of project completion and no later than July 15, 2017, please provide an informative but concise (1-2pp) report that addresses the questions/items below. Please submit reports, along with any project photos that you approve of being distributed or publicized, to both [kmjensen@alaska.edu](mailto:kmjensen@alaska.edu) and [bbuma@alaska.edu](mailto:bbuma@alaska.edu).

---

Your Name: Elizabeth Hawkins

Your Faculty Mentor: Dr. Amanda Sesko

(1) What was the original project objective or purpose?

The goal of this research was to investigate how the race of an informer of White privilege affects the perceived legitimacy and recognition of its existence through either a factual based (central route) or emotion based (peripheral route) message.

(2) With respect to your proposed project activities, what have you achieved thus far?

Upon completion of the project, we found that regardless of informer race, participants who read the fact-based information rated the message more positively, the informer more competent, and predicted higher job success for the applicant than those who read the emotion-based message. Additionally, participants reported significantly higher motivation to attend to the message if the informer was American Indian than when they were White, and marginally so when the informer was Black than when they were White.

(3) Please explain any departures from your original project objectives, proposed activities, and/or notable budget changes.

While working on the project we did not have to make any notable budget changes or deviations from our original design.

(4) What is the current status of your project? If not complete, when do you anticipate completing it? Do you plan to spend any more of the remaining funding?

As mentioned above, the project has been completed according to plan. The funding has been used to compensate participants from Amazon's Mechanical Turk, which is a widely used tool to reach a broad sample of participants.

(5) Please summarize the project outcomes and/or any tangible products that resulted (or will result) from the project.

Since the project's completion, I have been accepted to present this data at the Society of Personality and Social Psychology's annual conference next year in Atlanta, Georgia. This conference is attended by thousands of personality and social psychologists internationally to discuss important research and share ideas with others in

the field. I am grateful to be able to attend and present data in this capacity as an undergraduate student from the University of Alaska Southeast.

(6) Please communicate the personal significance of your project, such as the impacts of the project on your education and experience at UAS; impacts on your future interests and outlook; how this project influenced your relationship with a faculty member; or simply use this space to provide some perspective about research & creative activities for students at UAS.

The URECA grant allowed me to experience the process of a formal social psychology research project from start to finish. It was incredible to work with an experienced psychologist to develop and execute a research project of my choosing. Although I still have a lot to learn, I gained a valued understanding for some of the challenges in creating experimental materials and refining methods. Overall, the process was a highly rewarding challenge which further motivated me to pursue a graduate degree in psychology. I am truly grateful for this opportunity the grant has provided.