

Plan Overview

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Title: Loving Thy Neighbor in Theory and Practice

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Project abstract:

The familiar injunction to "love thy neighbor as thyself" (Matthew 22: 37-39) has received little sustained philosophical or psychological attention. Our project will answer three key questions: What is love of neighbor? How does it differ from other, related constructs, such as altruism, volunteerism, and other forms of prosocial behavior? Can a scale be developed to measure love of neighbor? We will carry out conceptual, qualitative, and quantitative analyses to answer these questions. Ongoing collaborations between team members will be used to refine the concept of neighborly love and to inform empirical research that will result in the development of a scale, the efficacy of which we will test with a series of experiments. Our project is needed because we believe neighborly love has the potential to bridge divides and thus to ameliorate societal polarization. We will publish the scale, 21 articles, edit a special journal issue and a volume with Routledge Press, produce a website, blog, and podcast series, give 13 conference presentations, and possibly host an online conference and edit an associated volume. Our project will set the stage for a subsequent project that will design and test interventions to promote neighborly love in various settings.

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Loving Thy Neighbor in Theory and Practice

Expected Data

The development of the Love of Neighbor Scale (LNS) will begin with the focus group study, two psychometric studies, and the longitudinal study. Following the development of the LNS, we will conduct 9 experiments with 7 research paradigms (one experiment will be repeated in each of the three locations). The data to be gathered is listed below. All data sets will be fixed.

Focus Group Study (Exploratory)

One digital audio recording from each of three focus groups. One digital transcript from each of three focus groups. The data will be textual. The file format will be Word files.

First Psychometric Study (Exploratory)

One digital spreadsheet dataset containing the responses to the research scales by 600 adults. The measures in the data set will be marked and described for other investigators' use. The measures include: the Sense of Community Scale (Perkins et al. 1990), Compassion for Others Scale (Schlosser et al., 2023), Volunteerism Scale (Gillath et al., 2005), Brief Scale of Prosocial Perception (Taylor & Wood, 2014), the Communal Orientation Scale (Mills & Clark, 1994), Altruistic Personality Scale (Rushton et al., 1981), the Loyola Generativity Scale (McAdams & de St. Aubin, 1992) the Balanced Inventory of Desirable Responses (Hart et al., 2015), the Machiavellianism Scale, Narcissism Scale, and the Psychopathy Scale, known as the "dark triad" (Jones & Paulhus, 2014). The dataset will also include responses to a set of cognitive tasks: verbal generativity (Woods et al., 2005), visual scanning and set shifting from the Trail Making Test (Reitan, 1992), and the Torrance Test of Creative Thinking (Torrance 1974). Finally, the dataset will include responses to the items of the LNS, created through the studies in this project. There will be a large pool of initial LNS items (~60) and responses to the entire pool of items will be included. The data will be numerical. The file format will be a spreadsheet with Comma Separated Values (.csv).

Second Psychometric Study (Confirmatory)

One digital spreadsheet dataset containing the responses to the research scales by 200 adults. The measures in the data set will be marked and described for other investigators' use. The measures include: the Sense of Community Scale (Perkins et al. 1990), Compassion for Others Scale (Schlosser et al., 2023), Volunteerism Scale (Gillath et al., 2005), Brief Scale of Prosocial Perception (Taylor & Wood, 2014), Communal Orientation Scale (Mills & Clark, 1994), Altruistic Personality Scale (Rushton et al., 1981), Loyola Generativity Scale (McAdams & de St. Aubin, 1992) Balanced Inventory of Desirable Responses (Hart et al., 2015), and Experiences in Close Relationships scale (Lo et al., 2009). The dataset will also include responses to a set of cognitive tasks: verbal generativity (Woods et al., 2005), visual scanning and set shifting from the Trail Making Test (Reitan, 1992), and Torrance Test of Creative Thinking (Torrance 1974). Finally, the dataset will include responses to the items of the LNS, as it was determined in the first psychometric study. That is, the data for this study and for all subsequent studies will be determined through the exploratory first psychometric study. The data will be numerical. The file format will be a spreadsheet with Comma Separated Values (.csv).

Longitudinal Study (Confirmatory)

One digital spreadsheet dataset containing the responses to the research scales by 200 adults at the initial timepoint and at timepoint 2 (three weeks later). The measures in the data set will be marked and described for other investigators' use. The measures at the initial timepoint include: the Sense of Community Scale (Perkins et al. 1990), Compassion for Others Scale (Schlosser et al., 2023), Volunteerism Scale (Gillath et al., 2005), Brief Scale

of Prosocial Perception (Taylor & Wood, 2014), Communal Orientation Scale (Mills & Clark, 1994), Altruistic Personality Scale (Rushton et al., 1981), Loyola Generativity Scale (McAdams & de St. Aubin, 1992) Balanced Inventory of Desirable Responses (Hart et al., 2015), Experiences in Close Relationships scale (Lo et al., 2009), and the LNS created as created in the first two psychometric studies. The measures used in the second timepoint will be the LNS. The data will be numerical. The file format will be a spreadsheet with Comma Separated Values (.csv).

Experimental Studies

We will conduct 9 experiments with 7 research paradigms (one experiment will be repeated in each of the three locations). Each experiment will result in a digital spreadsheet database. The data will include a written description of each paradigm and its methods, a manipulation check for each paradigm, a set of control variables, the LNS, and the dependent variables. The seven paradigms are the ingroup/outgroup paradigm, the attachment security priming paradigm, the social norm paradigm, the communal relations paradigm, the public goods paradigm, and the reputation paradigm, each described more fully in the Research Methods Description. The data will be numerical. The file format will be a spreadsheet with Comma Separated Values (.csv).

The data for the focus group study will be collected in-person in three focus group interviews at the three locations (Lawrence KS, Miami, FL, and Provo, UT). The data will consist of digital recordings of the focus group discussions.

The data for the two psychometric studies will be collected through online surveys managed by Cloudresearch. The data will be sent to the Co-PI (Fowers) in the form of a spreadsheet with Comma Separated Values (.csv).

The data for the longitudinal study will be collected through online surveys managed by Cloudresearch. The data will be sent to the Co-PI (Fowers) in the form of a spreadsheet with Comma Separated Values (.csv).

The data for the experimental studies will be collected through research labs at the three locations (Lawrence KS, Miami, FL, and Provo, UT). The data will be self-report and behavioral responses to experimental prompts. Each location will have a spreadsheet containing the data with Comma Separated Values (.csv).

A codebook will accompany each data set.

All studies will be submitted for Institutional Review Board approval at the University of Kansas. This will require documented research consent from all participants. All participants will be at least 18 years old and not a member of a vulnerable group. The data for all studies will be anonymized, with identifying information kept in a separate, password protected server location. There may be some identifying information in the focus group study audio files. These data will not be released to the public. We will keep the data for seven years after the publication of the results.

We will not be releasing any copyrighted material. The PI (Snow), the Co-PI (Fowers) and the Co-Is (Gillath and Leonhardt) will be co-owners of the data. We have indicated the Creative Commons license we plan to use for the data.

The data will be stored on password protected servers at the Universities of Kansas, Miami, and Brigham Young. All files on these servers are backed up daily, and access to the back-up files is limited to the owners of those files. The back-up operations are conducted automatically and retrieval can be accomplished with the aid of the IT Departments at each university.

The only people who can access the data include those who have the username and password for the appropriate file. The key personnel for the studies will be the file users. All have training in ethical research methods and will be listed in the appropriate IRB applications.

Question not answered.

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Potential users will find out about the data by its entry into an Open Science Foundation database, through conference presentations and publications. They will also learn about the data through the John Templeton Foundation's website.

The data will be stored on an Open Science repository, and use of the anonymized data and codebooks will follow the licensing we have indicated on that site. This repository has persistent identifiers.

Restrictions are indicated by the license we used on the OSF site.

The Co-PI of the studies (Fowers) will be responsible for overall data management.

Servers and personnel funding are required resources. Software, hardware, and expert assistance are available in all three university locations.

Planned Research Outputs

Dataset - "Focus group study"

The digital recordings of the focus group studies.

Dataset - "Loving Thy Neighbor Psychometric Studies 1 and 2"

There will be two datasets in spreadsheets with Comma Separated Values (.csv).

Dataset - "Loving Thy Neighbor Experimental Studies"

These data will be in 9 spreadsheets with Comma Separated Values (.csv).

Dataset - "Loving Thy Neighbor Longitudinal Study"

This data will be in a spreadsheet in two waves of data with Comma Separated Values (.csv).

Planned research output details

Title	Type	Anticipated release date	Initial access level	Intended repository(ies)	Anticipated file size	License	Metadata standard(s)	May contain sensitive data?	May contain PII?
Focus group study	Dataset	2027-12-11	Restricted	None specified	40 MB	Creative Commons Attribution Non Commercial No Derivatives 4.0 International	None specified	Yes	Yes
Loving Thy Neighbor Psychometric Studies 1 and 2	Dataset	2027-12-11	Restricted	None specified	2 MB	Creative Commons Attribution Non Commercial No Derivatives 4.0 International	None specified	No	No
Loving Thy Neighbor Experimental Studies	Dataset	2029-06-11	Restricted	None specified	20 MB	Creative Commons Attribution Non Commercial No Derivatives 4.0 International	None specified	No	No
Loving Thy Neighbor Longitudinal Study	Dataset	2026-06-11	Restricted	None specified	2 MB	Creative Commons Attribution Non Commercial No Derivatives 4.0 International	None specified	No	No