

How Do Psychological Scientists Study Ostracism?

Imagine you are a psychological scientist:

1. You would observe a real world problem. Ask why it happens and how you can fix it.

- How does it feel to be excluded?

Scientists call this the Research Question

2. Find what's already known.

- Do some research at the library, ask other scientists, search trusted computer sources.

3. Create a study to answer your research question.

- Some people will be excluded and some people will be included when they play ball-toss on the computer or in groups

Scientists call this the Independent Variable

6. Ask another question to help you understand the problem!

- Can anything make you feel better after being excluded?
- Does it matter who excludes you?

5. What are the Results?

- Compare the answers from the people who were excluded to those from people who were included.

4. Ask questions to measure the effects of the study on people:

- How did you feel when you played the game?
- What did you think about when you were playing ball-toss?

Scientists call this the Dependent Variable