

Supplemental file

Table S1. Measures to integrate social desirability bias awareness into research activities at the pre-fieldwork stage of research

Activity	Measures to minimize social desirability bias
Develop, pilot and revise research instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-When drafting questions, heed techniques for questioning that reduce social desirability responses-Get a sense of which topics are culturally sensitive and likely to elicit social desirability tendencies; begin with neutral topics, and transition to more sensitive ones
Determine participant recruitment strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-If possible, avoid recruiting participants through individuals that occupy a high-power position; if this is not possible, consider briefing the recruiter about the purpose of the study beforehand, emphasizing the importance of participants providing genuine answers, even if critical-If appropriate, consider avoiding participant/recruiter reimbursement offers
Data collector training	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Brief data collectors on the purpose of the research and the confidentiality and anonymity procedures-Prepare data collectors for the possibility of social desirability bias: discuss known cues and strategies, and how they may be relevant within the research context

Detecting and limiting social desirability bias

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-If data collectors are responsible for transcription tasks, provide training about verbatim transcription methods-Consider establishing a protocol for data collectors to report suspected social desirability tendencies (e.g. through memos on the transcripts, or in individual reflection sessions)
Plan data collection logistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Select a location for data collection that is neutral (e.g. not a government office) and that will provide adequate privacy-Consider matching the participants and the data collector by relevant characteristics (e.g. gender, ethnicity, age)-Reserve time for regular debriefing sessions and team meetings to discuss social desirability issues