

Honors Research
Bachelor Project
Institute of
Psychology Leiden
University

Game of Thumbs: does social anxiety influence learning from peer feedback?

Siobhán Hyde and Melle van der Molen

Introduction

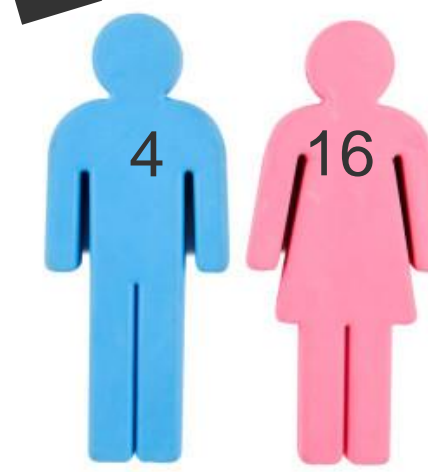
- When people enter social situations they focus on different things. Previous research has shown that this depends on your level of social anxiety; if it is high, you tend to be drawn to the negative social signals others send. If your score is low on social anxiety, you tend to focus on the positive
- However, it is not known if people learn differently from social cues depending on their social anxiety levels

Hypotheses

- Participants will predict more acceptance for positive peers and predict less acceptance from negative peers
- Participants with higher social anxiety will spot the negative peers faster
- Participants with lower social anxiety will spot the positive peers faster



Social Evaluation Learning Through Feedback (SELF) Profile Task



Creates Profile

Participants create a profile by answering 60 personality questions. They are told that 4 other participants (peers) will rate each of their statements

Baseline predictions

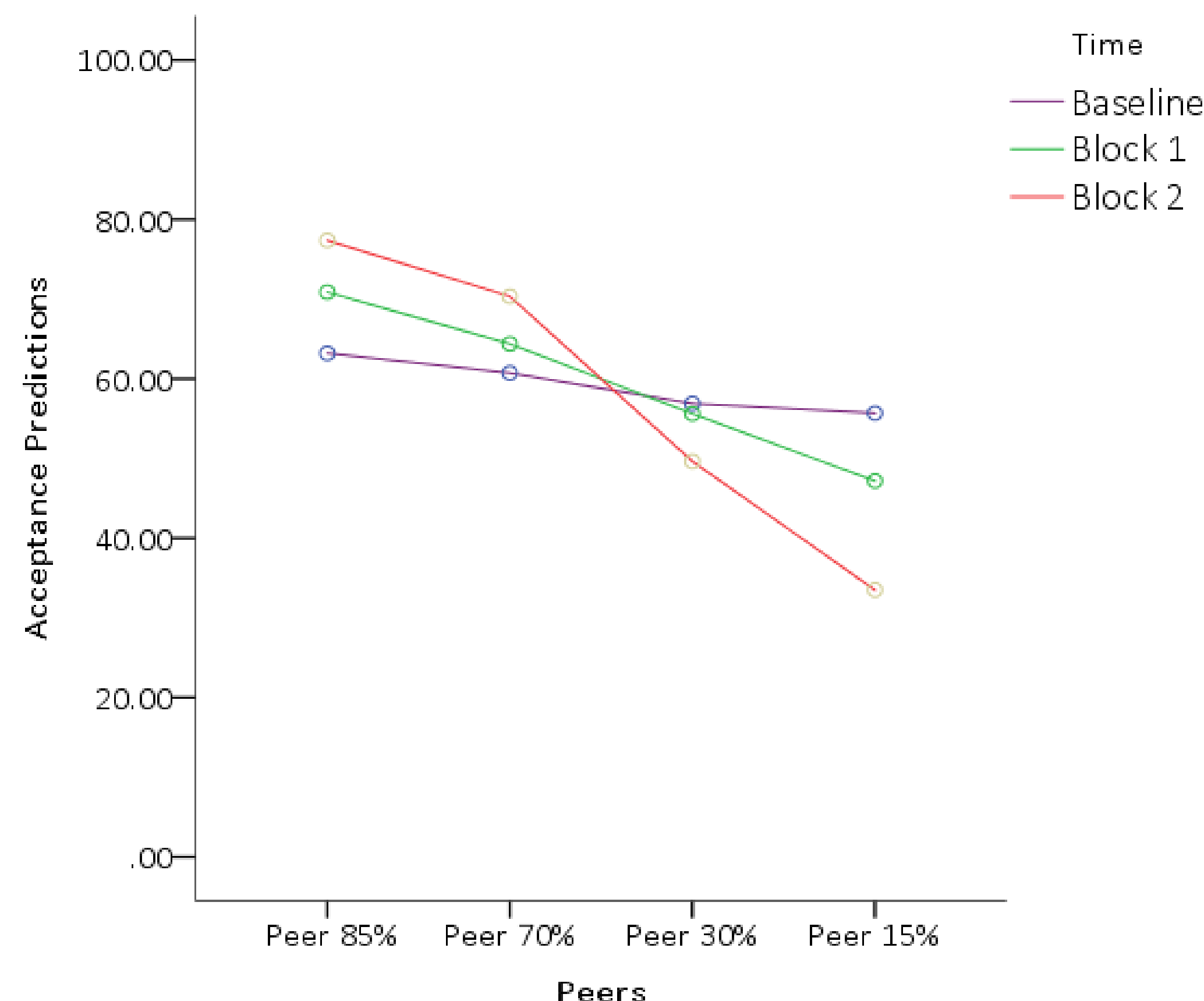
In the lab, participants predict how much acceptance they expect from each peer (1%-100%)

SELF Task

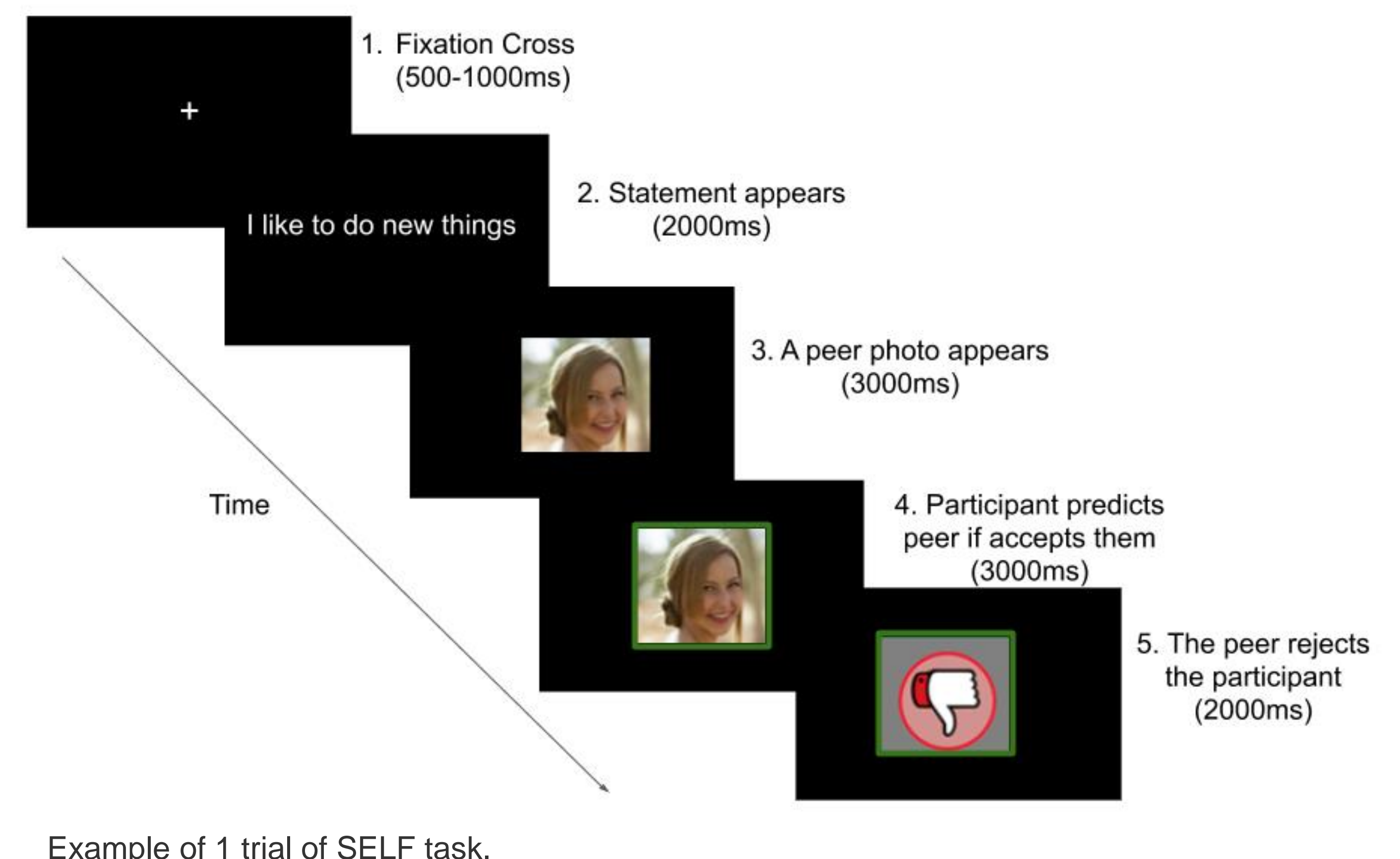
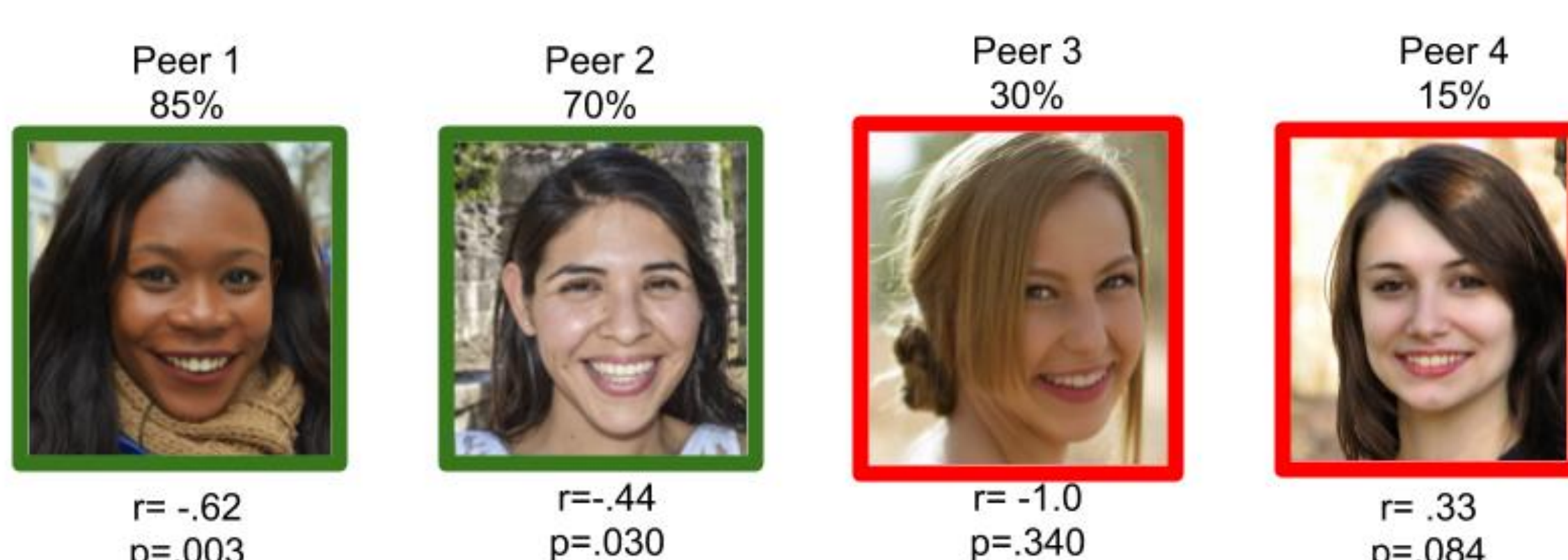
Participants predict for each statement if the peer will accept or reject them. **The Twist:** each peer has a set acceptance rate! (85%, 70%, 30%, 15%)

Results

- A Repeated measures ANOVA showed that participants learned that peer 1 was the most accepting peer and peer 4 was the least accepting peer. They did not learn peer 2 and 3



- Contrary to predictions, participants with higher social anxiety did not spot the negative peers faster
- Participants with lower social anxiety did spot the positive peers faster with a significant Pearson correlation for peer 1 & 2

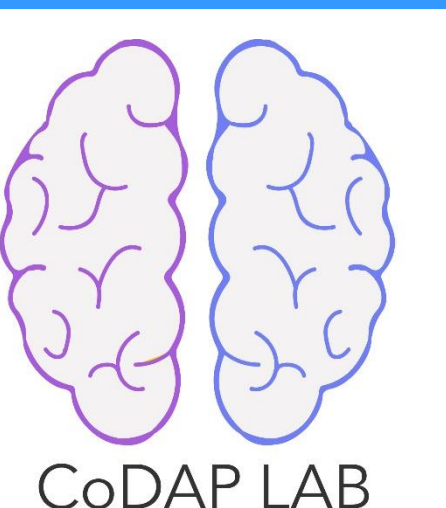


Conclusion

- Participants find it easier to learn when peers are very positive or very negative but not in-between
- Participants with higher social anxiety, do not learn better with negative peer feedback
- Participants with lower social anxiety do learn better with positive peer feedback



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