

Topic/Titel	Spontaneous Person Inferences & Meta-inferences in Social Media
Project description	<u>Theoretical Background:</u> The present research proposal focuses on <i>spontaneous trait inferences</i> (STI; Winter & Uleman, 1984) in impression formation from behavior, the tendency of observers to spontaneously attribute dispositional characteristics to others based on behavioral observations (e.g., Bott et al., 2024). Such effects have also been documented in social media settings (e.g., Levordashka & Utz, 2017). For instance, when reading a post by <i>Oliver</i> stating, “<i>I gave the extra ticket away instead of selling it.</i>”, we are likely to infer from the describe behavior that Oliver is a <i>generous</i> person. But do we draw secondary inferences from the fact that Oliver posts about this behavior, maybe that he is a <i>humblebragger</i>? The current research project aims to conduct a first study into the occurrence and strength of such secondary person inferences. <u>Procedure:</u> The project includes an empirical study implementing a standard experimental paradigm from STI research (e.g., probe recognition, false recognition, lexical decision tasks) assessing both primary and secondary person inferences related to concrete behaviors and communications about these behaviors. This research project is developed and conducted in collaboration with Marine Rougier (Ghent Universiteit, Belgium). <u>Specific Knowledge & Abilities:</u> We expect an interest in socio-cognitive research on person perception. It is additionally advantageous to have prior knowledge of the STI literature, for example from the HCP master’s module, and strong methodological skills as you will need to program the experimental paradigm yourself. <i>Please note the special instructions for working on research theses on the website of the Department of Social Psychology.</i>
Literature	Bott, A., Brockmann, L., Denneberg, I., Henken, E., Kuper, N., Kruse, F., & Degner, J. (2024). Spontaneous trait inferences from behavior: A systematic meta-analysis. <i>Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin</i>, 50, 78-102. Levordashka, A., & Utz, S. (2017). Spontaneous trait inferences on social media. <i>Social Psychological and Personality Science</i>, 8(1), 93-101.
Supervision	Prof. Juliane Degner (juliane.degner@uni-hamburg.de)
Capacity	The project can be implemented by one or more MSc students.