

Are there reliable interindividual differences in drawing Spontaneous Trait Inferences?

Theoretischer Hintergrund:

When observing others' behavior, we have a strong tendency to draw conclusions about the personal characteristics of the acting person. There is a huge body of research documenting such spontaneous trait inference (STIs) in impression formation (Bott et al., 2024).

Several theoretical accounts have argued that there should be interindividual differences in engaging in trait inferences, for example based on the perceivers' attribution styles or other variables, such as their need for structure or their need for cognition. The few examples of studies testing such interindividual differences, however, have not been replicated, making conclusions regarding the robustness of their results difficult. Additionally, there are methodological considerations with regard to the experimental paradigms usually employed to measure STIs, that may limit their use for research on interindividual differences.

Vorgehensweise:

This thesis project is embedded into a series of studies testing different paradigms with regard to their applicability as measures of individual differences in impression formation.

Specifically, this project aims at implementing a *savings-in-relearning paradigm* with a test-retest design in order to judge the reliability of interindividual differences in drawing STIs and their relationship to other person variables.

Students will program and run an independent lab study – using the computer lab of the department of social psychology.

Spezifische Kenntnisse & Besonderheiten:

This project is best suited for students of the Research Master who have completed the class on person perception, have a strong interest in social cognition research and indirect measures.

Note.

Due to the currently limited supervision capacities of the Department of Social Psychology, students are expected to work very independently.

Please also note the special instructions for working on final topics on the website of the Department of Social Psychology.

Literatur

Bott, A.*, Brockmann, L.*, Denneberg, I.*, Henken, E.*, Kuper, N.*, Kruse, F., & Degner, J. (2024). Spontaneous trait inferences from behavior: A systematic meta-analysis. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 50, 78-102.

Degner, J. (2025). Revisiting spontaneous trait inferences: Questions, challenges, and interdisciplinary connections. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*.

Betreuung

Prof. Juliane Degner, N.N.; Anmeldung unter juliane.degner@uni-hamburg.de

Kapazität

Das Thema kann von einer:m oder mehreren Masterstudierenden (u.a. auch im Team) bearbeitet werden.