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Trait Parochial Empathy: A New Scale

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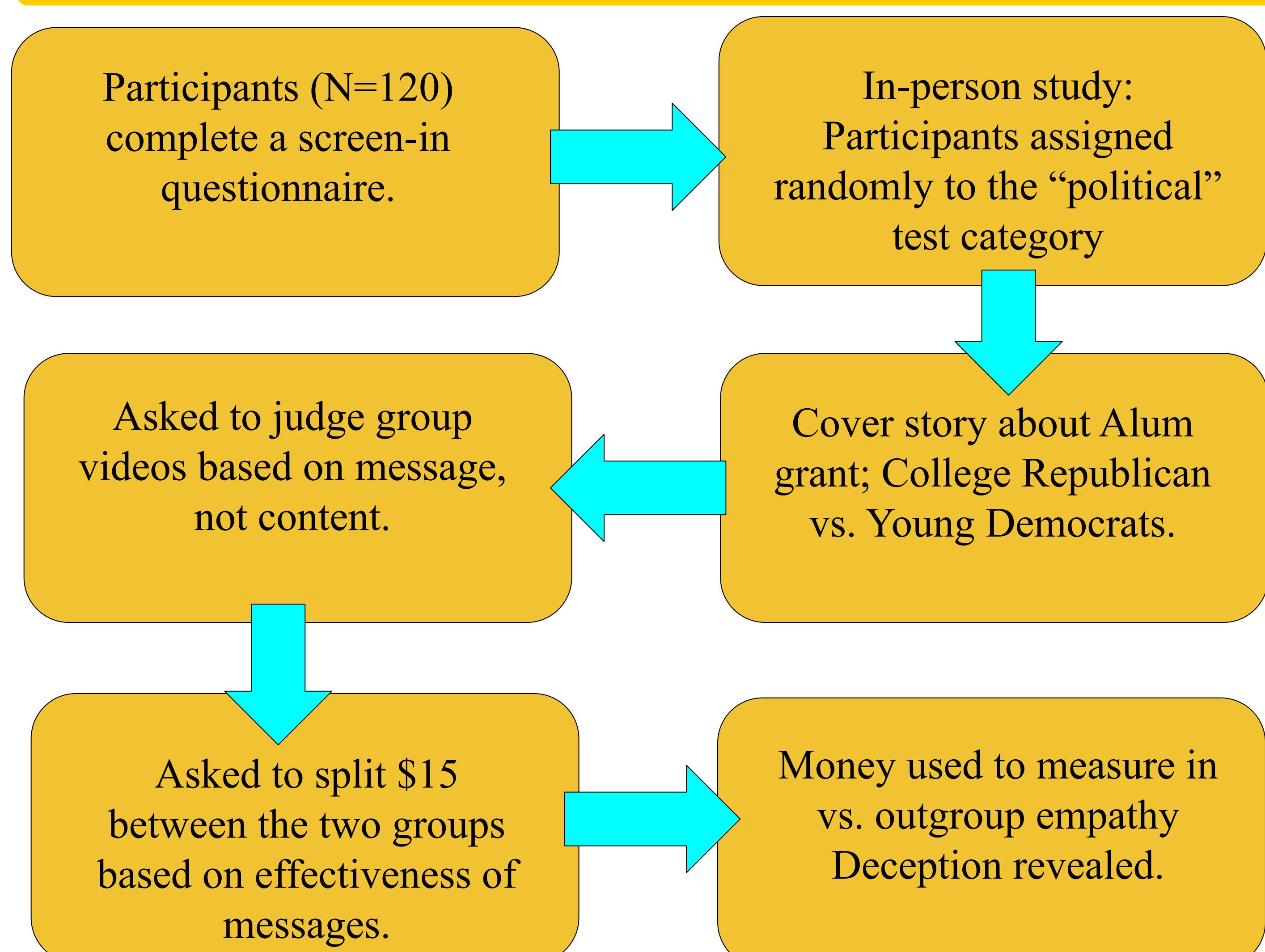
Background

- Empathy is an individual's ability to feel and/or understand another individual's emotional state.
- Parochial empathy is an individual's tendency to display *intergroup empathy bias*. An individual is more likely to help members of their ingroup than their outgroup.



- This study is intended to validate the Trait Parochial Empathy Scale (TPES). We specifically tried to assess the predictive validity of the TPES *in vivo* behavior.
- Although multiple validated measures exist to assess trait empathy, this is the first scale to measure the specific concept of *parochial empathy*.
- Hypothesis: TPES scores will predict greater helping for ingroup versus outgroups over and above trait empathy.**

Method



Results

Value	Ingroup	Outgroup
Δr^2	.06	.07
p value	.026	.013
Ingroup β	.20	-.20
Ingroup p	.045	.033
Ingroup Confidence Interval	At 95% [.03, 2.95]	At 95% [- 2.74, -.12]
Outgroup β	-.21	.22
Outgroup p	0.34	0.17
Outgroup Confidence Interval	At 95% [-2.99, -.12]	At 95% [2.92, 2.89]
Predictive value	Significant	Significant
Overall model effect size	r^2 .08: small	r^2 .11: moderate

- We calculated separate ingroup donation and outgroup donation scores as outcome measures. For example, if a participant identified as Democratic or Liberal, then money given to 'Young Democrats' counted as an ingroup donation, and money given to 'College Republicans' counted as an outgroup donation.

- Ingroup and outgroup scales of TPES used to predict their funding allocations. TPES scores only explained 4% of variance in both ingroup and outgroup donation amounts.
- A manipulation check suggested that participants were likely convinced by the presumed political affiliation of the student in the video rather than the message itself.
 - 82% of participants selected the Young Democrats as most persuasive regardless of the order of videos presentation.
 - In-line with a majority democratic sample, donations to Young Democrats was significantly higher than to the College Republicans.

Discussion

- The evidence provided from the results of this study was not enough to suggest that the TPES is a significant predictor of behavior.
- Notably, the sample was underpowered and future data collection is necessary. Therefore the obtained effect size was smaller than anticipated.
- Another limitation was the use of money as an outcome variable in a lab setting. If participants were using their own money, they may have been more invested which may have led to a stronger effect.
- Future directions include increasing the amount of monetary donations and including an item to assess how helpful participants think their donation might be. It may also be helpful to assess participants' level of parochial empathy and their actual donations to groups of interest.

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