

**From photograph to face-to-face:  
Brief interactions change person and personality judgments**

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## Highlights

- Person(ality) judgments before (using photos) and after interaction are studied
- Person(ality) judgments changed after a brief (<5 minute) interaction
- After interaction; some Big Five and psychopathic personalities were more accurate
- After interaction; judgments were more pro-social and less negative
- There was some continuity in judgments made before and after interaction

## Abstract

Research into ‘first impressions’ frequently uses photographs of faces as representations of unknown others. This is the methodological solution to concerns about standardisation, sample size and experimental control. However, there is little work investigating the robustness of these first impressions through to first interactions. A sample of 97 pairs of stranger participants ( $N = 194$ ) completed personality measures (Big Five and Triarchic Model of Psychopathy), made personality and social judgments of a photograph of the face of their to-be partner, then engaged in five minutes (maximum) of unstructured interaction with their partner and then made their judgments again. The behaviour of the participants in the interaction was coded using 76 criteria by 13 trained coders. Results showed that, judgments made before and after interaction were correlated, but different. Personality judgment accuracy at Time 1 was poor overall but improved at Time 2 participants for Neuroticism, Extraversion and psychopathic Boldness. Coded behaviours related to ‘engagement’ were those that influenced the person judgments the most, and these were related to Extraversion, Agreeableness and Boldness of participants. Overall, the results of this study show that first impressions of personality change from photographs to face-to-face interaction. Person judgment research should be aware of the extent to which judgments of photographs relate to first interaction.

**Keywords: First impressions; Person judgment; Photographs; Ecological Validity**

# 1 From photograph to face-to-face:

## 2 Brief interactions change person and personality judgments

### 3 Introduction

4 *“The theories and experiments described here all refer to an essentially passive onlooker,*  
5 *who sees someone do something (or sees two people do something) and then makes a judgment about*  
6 *it. He (this is the generic passive he) doesn’t do anything – doesn’t mix it up with the folks he’s*  
7 *watching, never tests his judgments in action or in interaction.”* Ulric Neisser (1980, p.603, emphasis  
8 and brackets from original).

9 The above Neisser quote is extracted from a commentary the leading psychologist wrote after  
10 attending a symposium on ‘social knowledge’ in 1980. Nearly 40 years ago, Neisser wrote about how  
11 social perception research was reliant on studying how individuals passively observe representations  
12 of social information more than how individuals behave in social settings. Neisser’s critique that the  
13 social perception research does not involve social interaction (Neisser’s ‘mixing it up with folks’) still  
14 stands for most cases of person judgment and social perception research today. The field is populated  
15 with many studies where ‘first impressions’ of another person are tested using photographs of faces or  
16 simple video excerpts. The reasons for this passive, standardised, approach to social perception are  
17 justified in a contemporary social psychology that is facing challenges with the replicability,  
18 reliability and statistical power of findings. However, it could be argued that we do not truly  
19 understand the nature of *in vivo* first impressions, when photograph-based research dominates the  
20 field of person judgment research. Revolution in addressing replicability and reproducibility could be  
21 improving the quality of research that does not well represent the analogous everyday context. The  
22 current study focuses on comparing standard person judgment paradigms to a realistic context. Here,  
23 the stability of person and personality judgments based on the typical experimental task (a photograph  
24 of an unknown person) is compared with judgments based on a first interaction.

25 There is a large body of social psychology that is interested in how we perceive other people.  
26 These perceptions of others can lead to bias or prejudice which could, in turn, lead to later  
27 problematic interaction. However, much of the evidence for first impressions is based on notably

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1 asocial stimuli; static images of faces. Many studies have tested perceptions of others on important  
2 social criteria such as gender (such as Marlowe, Schneider, & Nelson, 1996; Sutherland, Young,  
3 Mootz, & Oldmeadow, 2014), race (such as Gonzalez, Steele, & Baron, 2017; Wilson, Hugenberg, &  
4 Rule, 2017) and sexuality (such as Rule & Ambady, 2008; Rule, Bjornsdottir, Tshkay, & Ambady,  
5 2016) using only photographs of faces. Emotion, which is functionally dynamic in everyday life, is  
6 also often investigated using photographs of faces (such as Masuda, et al., 2008; Olszanowski, et al.,  
7 2015; Sabatinelli et al., 2011). Even studies that highlight the importance of environment and context  
8 of face perception also use photographs of faces (such as Brambilla, Biella & Freeman, 2018; Caroll  
9 & Russell, 1996). It is somewhat surprising, given the widespread use of this methodology, that little  
10 work has investigated the robustness of photograph perceptions after interacting with a person.

11         The reduction of a person to a standardised presentations has four main benefits. A fixed set  
12 of stimuli for presentation enhances: *i*) replicability of the study procedure, *ii*) efficiency of the study  
13 (thus improving opportunities for better statistical power and *N*), *iii*) a decomposition of key features  
14 of interest (for example isolating the face) and *iv*) experimental control over varying components of  
15 the targets (removing glasses, clothing hair style). The first two benefits are easy to justify given the  
16 current issues with replicability in psychology (Open Science Collaboration, 2012) and the need for  
17 larger sample sizes (small effects are typical in social and personality psychology; Richard, Bond &  
18 Stokes-Zoota, 2003). The latter two benefits pose concerns about the ecological validity and  
19 representativeness of research designs (Brunswick, 1956, see Araújo, Davids & Passos, 2007). It is  
20 common to present highly ‘controlled’ faces that lack everyday variability in facial expression, hair  
21 presence, glasses, facial jewellery or makeup (i.e. Carré, Morrisey, Mondloch & McCormick, 2010;  
22 Little, 2014; Talamas, Mavor & Perrett, 2016; Willis & Todorov, 2006). However, these are critical  
23 social signals that individuals use to signal themselves to the world. For example, ‘neutral’ facial  
24 expressions are not normal in social interaction. Smiling or dynamically acknowledging an other  
25 person is an important prosocial process. As such, neutral expressions can carry a negative valence  
26 and even infants consider unmoving faces unpleasant (see Adamson & Frick, 2003). Makeup (Jones  
27 & Kramer, 2016; Jones, Russell & Ward, 2015), hairstyle (Kim & Lee, 2011) and beards (Dixson &

1 Vasey, 2012) are all known to affect various social perceptions, and removing them from facial  
2 stimuli takes away how individuals would choose to present themselves. In fact, despite the large  
3 areas of research on makeup, hairstyle, beards, facial morphology (Carré, & McCormick, 2008; Costa,  
4 Lio, Gomez, & Sirigu, 2017; Deska & Hugenberg, 2018; Deska, Lloyd, & Hugenberg, 2018; Geniole,  
5 Denson, Dixon, Carré, & McCormick, 2015; Hashelhuhn, Ormiston, & Wong, 2015; Hehman,  
6 Leitner, & Gaertner, 2013; Ormiston, Wong, & Haselhuhn, 2017), and many other facial variants, we  
7 know very little about social perception when these factors are all present together – as would be the  
8 case on first meeting. It may well be the case that certain effects (such as pupil dilation as a social cue;  
9 van Breen, De Dreu & Kret, 2018) in research do not survive contact with other effects (such as  
10 gesture; Hillman, Vrij & Mann, 2012), with these ‘bubbles’ of research bursting when brought  
11 together. This ‘bubble-ism’ in the literature has limited everyday application of perception research.  
12 Researchers would struggle to predict, for example, the perceived attractiveness of an individual  
13 presented in a holistic format. We could show evidence that perceived attractiveness is highest for  
14 female targets with a lower face width-to-height ratio (Geniole et al., 2015), wearing cosmetics (Jones  
15 et al., 2015) and a ‘long wave hairstyle’ (Kim & Lee, 2011) *separately*, but the effect of the gestalt  
16 combination of these facets is unknown. Further, we do not know the weighted implication of  
17 cosmetics with a higher face width-to-height ratio or any other opposing effects (for the numerous  
18 other facial variants) in the typical limited stimuli bubbles of research. In sum, through distilling a  
19 stimulus to a simpler, standardised, presentation, person perception research has developed theory for  
20 specific features of a person, but has limited understanding of the acquisition of everyday social  
21 knowledge (as noted by Neisser, 1980).

22         Impoverishing stimuli to introduce experimental control presents opportunities for naturally  
23 occurring variability to inform our research. It is possible to let variance occur and account for  
24 variability with post-hoc coding. This coded information could be used in analytic techniques, such as  
25 Brunswick’s (1952) concept of a lens model, to understand the influence of stimulus variability on  
26 topics of interest (for a review, see Karelaia & Hogarth, 2008). A lens model analyses the relationship  
27 between a stimulus’ *i*) judged qualities, *ii*) observable properties and *iii*) their criterion quality. This

1 procedure explores Brunswick's definition of ecological validity details the relationship between  
2 perceived and 'actual' qualities of the world (for a review see Araújo, et al., 2007). With this  
3 approach, concerns about difference in participants' appearance, such as 'unusual or unconventional  
4 appearance' can be accounted for with post hoc coding (Funder, Furr, & Colvin, 2000).

5 Social psychology regularly codes for behaviour (as can personality psychology, see Furr,  
6 2009), so it is not novel to produce measures of stimulus presentation variability in naturalistic  
7 settings. In the personality judgment literature, the Realistic Accuracy Model (RAM; Funder 1999;  
8 2012) highlights the importance of decomposing for behaviour to best understand judgment accuracy.  
9 The RAM has four stages and emphasises that judgments of traits are accurate when behaviours  
10 *relevant* to personality traits are *available* for judges to *detect* and *utilize* for accurate judgment. The  
11 behaviours relevant to personality judgment can be investigated by looking at the relationship  
12 between self-reported trait and actions in the world, for example by using coding schemes such as the  
13 Riverside Q-Sort (Funder et al., 2000). A neat hairstyle could be a relevant behaviour for the judging  
14 of Conscientiousness if a relationship between coded hairstyle tidiness and self-reported target  
15 Conscientiousness was established. Availability refers to the opportunistic manifestation of the  
16 relevant behaviours. For example, the neat hairstyle might be covered by a hat (or selectively removed  
17 in the presentation of a cropped stimulus photo). If hairstyle is indicative of Conscientiousness but the  
18 hairstyle is missing from a presentation, then accuracy at judging a person's traits may be lower than  
19 everyday life. Detection in the RAM is the observation of the available and relevant information. If an  
20 individual's neat hairstyle is relevant and available for observation, a judge's attention may be  
21 distracted or obstructed and thus does not detect the cue. Therefore, even when a target has readily  
22 available relevant behaviours, accuracy can be poor due to inattention. Finally, a judge must utilize  
23 detected behaviour in order to form a judgment. Bias, prejudice, context and other various personal  
24 and environmental influences may lead a judge to interpret the useful information in an incorrect  
25 manner. For example, the 'neat' hairstyle may have a cultural meaning, where it is assumed by the  
26 judge that "people with that hairstyle are unreliable", compromising broader Conscientiousness  
27 judgment accuracy. The RAM is a good framework for understanding personality judgment and

1 highlights the problems with the limitation of available stimulus person information with the intention  
2 of experimental control.

3 In the present investigation, participants are given the most opportunity to act as they wish in  
4 the interaction phase. This creates the natural opportunity for the sample to generate their own  
5 available relevant information for detection and utilization. A participant's personality may lead them  
6 to generate more observable behaviour indicative of their traits. Labelled the 'expressivity halo'  
7 (Bernieri, Gillis, Davis & Grahe, 1996), it is the case that extraverted behaviour is the easiest  
8 behaviour to detect in first impressions research (Albright, Kenny & Malloy, 1998; Bernieri,  
9 Zuckerman, Koestner & Rosenthal, 1994; Funder & Colvin, 1988) as extraverts display the most  
10 relevant behavioural information. The opportunity for many traits to occur at their most natural is  
11 present in this current study due to *i*) moving from photograph presentations to interactive dialogue  
12 and *ii*) unstructuring the interaction time.

13 As other authors have noted, it is increasingly common that the first visual inspection of  
14 another person is by photograph (Vazire & Gosling, 2004; Naumann, Vazire, Rentfrow & Gosling,  
15 2009). Photographs of faces are becoming a normal aspect of online social and business networking  
16 websites and it is important to know how these presentations affect first impressions into first  
17 interactions. Personality judgments from photographs of faces have been shown to be accurate  
18 predictors of traits (Borkenau, Brecke, Möttig & Paelecke, 2009; Gordon & Platek, 2009; Gosling,  
19 Augustine, Vazire, Holtzman & Gaddis, 2011; Naumann, et al., 2009). Face perception research has  
20 suggested that from a variety of possible judgments that can be made of faces, the perceived qualities  
21 of a face can be effectively summarised on two (principal component analysis-derived) domains;  
22 valence and dominance (Oostergof & Todorov, 2008; Walker & Vetter, 2009; Wang, Hahn, DeBruine  
23 & Jones, 2016; *c.f.* Sutherland et al., 2018; Wang et al., 2018). These domains of judgment are  
24 considered to reflect the potential risks and rewards of interacting with the presented person.

25 It is right to focus research on faces too, as the faces attract social attention and are highly  
26 informative (Bruce & Young, 2012). However, social perception can be informed by the body  
27 (Morrison, Wang, Hahn, Jones & DeBruine, 2017) and interactivity (Albright, et al., 1998; Brown &

1 Bernieri, 2017; Biesanz et al., 2011; Paulhus & Reynolds, 1995; Satchell & Pearson, 2017). Indeed,  
2 social interaction is best informed by active perception, where a perceiver can probe another person  
3 for more information about their disposition (see Good, 2007). With this in mind, it is surprising that  
4 there is limited study of the stability of first impressions of target people from photographs to first  
5 impressions of target people from interaction.

6         There has been important recent research on how increased interactivity can benefit person  
7 judgment accuracy. Brown and Bernieri (2017) recently studied accurate first impressions of Big Five  
8 personality traits over a period of 10 weeks. On first meeting, a cohort of students judged the  
9 personality traits of five to seven unacquainted individuals in a round-robin paradigm (see Brown &  
10 Bernieri, 2017, Figure 1). This ‘zero acquaintance’ judgment occurred before opportunities for  
11 interaction. There was evidence of accurate judgments of Extraversion and Openness from this  
12 limited contact. Over the following week participants had dedicated interactions with individuals from  
13 their round-robin group. These lasted five minutes and were seated “getting-to-know-you”  
14 conversation (see Brown & Bernieri, 2017, Figure 2). After these short discussions personality  
15 judgment accuracy improved across all domains, with Extraversion judgments being the most  
16 accurate and there was acceptable detection of Neuroticism, Agreeableness and Conscientiousness.  
17 Over the following weeks there were dedicated activities to provide more information for the  
18 members of the round-robin group. A final personality judgment session, held 10 weeks after the zero  
19 acquaintance session, revealed further improvements to accuracy across the Big Five traits, with  
20 Extraversion and Agreeableness judgments being notably accurate. This study is a highly naturalistic  
21 investigation of how individuals come to know each other better and demonstrates the improving  
22 accuracy of judging personality traits over time. The current study builds on Brown and Bernieri’s  
23 work and investigates the particular behaviours and aspects of self-presentation that may be  
24 facilitating personality judgment accuracy. Further, the participants’ first interaction will be  
25 unstructured and organic, with an open space to interact however they wish, in contrast to previous  
26 work.



1 Previously, research has shown that increased contact with another person reduces the  
2 uncertainty in opinion about an other person (Sunnafrank, 1986). Whether this opinion becomes more  
3 favourable or not after interaction is debated. Norton, Frost and Ariely (2007) investigated perceived  
4 liking of another person before and after a date. They found that liking of the individual on the date  
5 decreased as they learned more information (reported on adjective scales) about them. This result was  
6 questioned by Reis, Maniaci, Caprariello, Eastwick and Finkel (2011a) who observed *in vivo*  
7 interactions between two previously unacquainted individuals, and found that familiarity increased  
8 liking. These two papers were debated in comment articles (Norton, Frost & Ariely, 2011; Reis,  
9 Maniaci, Caprariello, Eastwick, & Finkel, 2011b) before the two labs came together to suggest that  
10 the methodological definitions of ‘familiarity’ matters (Finkel et al., 2015). The present study takes  
11 the form of a ‘get acquainted interaction’, in Finkel et al.’s terminology. These paradigms tend to  
12 improve liking of another in interaction (Reis et al., 2011a; for an overview, see Finkel et al., 2015).  
13 Liking is not a main focus of the current investigation (it is included for general interest), however it  
14 could be the case that general positivity about the targets of the judgments could be affected in similar  
15 ways. This could compromise personality judgment accuracy when the relationship between the  
16 judgments of target traits and targets’ self-reported traits could be affected by undue positivity.

17 **Current study.** Person judgment research based on restricted presentations of other people  
18 (i.e. photographs) has clear advantages to replicability and efficiency. The alternative paradigms, such  
19 as using round-robin groups of interaction (i.e. Albright, et al, 1988; Biesanz et al., 2011; Brown &  
20 Benrieir, 2017; Paulhus & Reynolds, 1995; Satchell & Pearson, 2017) are time consuming and  
21 resource intensive. However *in vivo* interaction studies are a more realistic presentation of  
22 encountering another person for the first time. Thus, the current study investigates the relationship and  
23 differences between photograph and post-interaction person and personality judgments. Person  
24 judgment research frequently focuses on accuracy at judging the Big Five (i.e. Biesanz et al., 2011;  
25 Naumann, et al., 2009) and psychopathic personality (i.e. Holtzman, 2011; Satchell & Pearson, 2017)  
26 and these traits will be used in this study. It could be the case that there will be consistency in  
27 judgments between photograph and in-person judgment. This would provide reassurance to the

1 efficient and replicable photograph research. Alternatively, person judgments could be changed by the  
2 ability to engage in active perception with the unknown other. It is hypothesised that there will be a  
3 change in the person and personality judgment ratings made after interacting with a person previously  
4 seen as a photograph. It is not clear in which directions the judgments will change (towards more  
5 positive or negative perception), but it is expected that personality judgments would become more  
6 accurate.

## 7 **Method**

8 **Participants.** A total of 101 pairs of participants took part in the study. Participants were  
9 recruited separately by research assistants who sampled participants who should not have met (for  
10 example, from various courses across the university). No pairs of participants reported knowing each  
11 other after taking part in the study. Due to incomplete videos and missing data, 97 pairs ( $N = 194$ )  
12 were retained for the study. The collection of approximately 100 pairs was chosen to be as close to the  
13 required sample size ( $N = 176$ ) for a power of .80 with the average effect size in social psychology ( $r =$   
14  $.21$ , Richard et al., 2003). All of the sample were undergraduate students ( $M_{\text{Age}} = 20.24$ ,  $SD_{\text{Age}} = 2.64$ ,  
15 Female = 108, Male = 86) and were reasonably split between same sex (46%) and other-sex (54%)  
16 pairings. There were no consistent or notable effects of dyads being same sex or other-sex pairings on  
17 personality judgments, with the largest difference being a small change in Extraversion judgments  
18 after interaction ( $t(190) = 2.02$ ,  $p(\text{uncorrected}) = .045$ ,  $d = .30$ ). This study did not ask participants to  
19 self-report ethnicity.

## 20 **Materials.**

21 **Personality measures.** Participants completed the 44-item Big Five Inventory (John,  
22 Naumann & Soto, 2008) and the 58-item Triarchic Psychopathy Measure (TriPM, Patrick, 2010) as  
23 assessments of their personality traits. We detail the scales and assess the reliability of the factors  
24 using average Intraclass Correlations (ICC) below.

25 The Big Five Inventory measures Conscientiousness (diligence, tidiness) with nine items  
26 ( $ICC = .74$ , 95%  $CI [.68, .79]$ ), Agreeableness (friendliness, sociability) with nine items ( $ICC = .66$ ,  
27 95%  $CI [.59, .73]$ ), Neuroticism (anxiety) with eight items ( $ICC = .79$ , 95%  $CI [.75, .83]$ ), Openness

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1 (creativity, aesthetic interests) with 10 items ( $ICC = .71$ , 95%  $CI [.65, .77]$ ) and Extraversion with  
2 eight items ( $ICC = .69$ , 95%  $CI [.62, .75]$ ). Responses are gathered on a scale of *Disagree Strongly* (1)  
3 to *Agree Strongly* (5) on person descriptions such as “I am someone who is talkative”.

4 The TriPM measures three domains of psychopathic personality. There are 19 items to assess  
5 Boldness ( $ICC = .80$ , 95%  $CI [.75, .84]$ ) a measure of confidence, risk-taking and sensation seeking.  
6 Disinhibition is assessed with 20 items ( $ICC = .79$ , 95%  $CI [.75, .83]$ ) detailing impulsivity and poor  
7 self-control. Finally, 19 items report Meanness ( $ICC = .76$ , 95%  $CI [.72, .81]$ ) the antisocial facet of  
8 the TriPM. Responses are gathered on a scale of *False* (0) to *True* (1) in response to descriptive  
9 statements such as “How other people feel is important to me”.

10 **Judgments.** There are two typical methods of gathering judgments in personality judgment  
11 research; social-named and trait-named ratings. Participants completed the social-named judgments  
12 and then the trait-named judgments in this study. They completed both of these ratings after viewing  
13 the photograph and after the interaction.

14 ‘Social-named’ ratings is used as a term to refer to more everyday judgments of traits.  
15 Participants first rated their partners on rating scales based on everyday language, designed to imitate  
16 a more naturalistic presentation of the personality traits. For example, Carney, Colvin and Hall (2007)  
17 asked their participants to judge how “moody, talkative, curious” (p. 1063) they perceived target  
18 individuals to be. They rated their partners on a scale of [*not judgment*] (1) to [*judgment*] (9). The  
19 social-named judgments were *Organised* (reflecting high Conscientiousness and low Disinhibition),  
20 *Friendly* (high Agreeableness and low Meanness), *Anxious* (Neuroticism), *Creative* (Openness),  
21 *Energetic* (Extraversion) and *Thrillseeking* (which is a term associated with Boldness; Patrick et al.,  
22 2009, p.926). This is not only important for following the extant literature, but also it is the case that  
23 asking participants to infer how another person responded to a personality measure (see trait-named  
24 judgments description below) is a different task to general social perceptions of another person. Trait-  
25 named judgments are a perspective taking exercise, where the judges have to, not only remember the  
26 trait definitions, but also consider how another person may think of themselves. Instead, social named  
27 judgments are possibly more efficient, simply reflecting on a more organic, natural perception of their

1 dyad partner. We further asked for social-named ratings which could affect interactions, asking for  
2 their judgments of how Threatening, Aggressive, Confident and Likeable they perceived their partner  
3 to be.

4 'Trait-named' judgments are when participants are given brief definitions of the academic  
5 usage of the personality traits domains (for example Neuroticism is 'anxiety, worry') and judges are  
6 asked to rate how they think the target scored on the measure. For example, Fowler, Lilienfeld, and  
7 Patrick (2009) asked participants "the degree to which the target [...] matched one- to two sentence  
8 descriptions of overall psychopathy, Factor 1 (affective and interpersonal) psychopathy features, and  
9 Factor 2 (antisocial and criminal lifestyle) psychopathy features" (p.71). Here we ask participants to  
10 report their thoughts on whether their partner *Scored Lowly* (1) to *Scored Highly* (9) on each of the  
11 Big Five and TriPM domains when given brief definitions (see supplemental materials). Participants  
12 had previously completed the personality measures themselves and were aware of how the trait  
13 measures were collected.

14 **Coding.** To code for the behaviours displayed by participants during the interaction, a team of  
15 13 coders rated the prevalence (from *Not at all* (1) to *Always* (5)) of 76 different behaviours from  
16 video recordings of the dyads' interactions. These were the 64 behaviours detailed in the Riverside  
17 Behavioural Q-Sort (Funder et al., 2000) with 12 additional items added by the research team on  
18 watching the pairs engaging, and informal comments from participants as they explained their  
19 reasoning behind their judgments in debriefing with the research team. These were features such as  
20 coding for fashionable clothing, shared body space ('head is oriented towards partner') and self-  
21 grooming behaviours. The complete list of items can be found in the supplemental materials. It is to  
22 be noted that this is not the intended use of the Q-sort behaviours, but the listed behaviours create a  
23 good framework for personality-behaviour research.

24 All 13 coders rated an overlapping subset of the pairs (16 pairs, 32 participants). The  
25 consistency of the coders was high when tested on a same subset of 16 pairs (average  $ICC = .87$ , 95%  
26 CI [.86, .88]). All pairs were rated by at least four coders and we retain the median coding for  
27 analysis.

1 For efficiency, an unrotated principal components analysis was used to define a summary of  
2 the 76 criteria. A 15-factor solution provided the last solution with an eigenvalue greater than 1  
3 (eigenvalue = 1.06, 72.35% of variance explained). However, the purpose of a principal components  
4 analysis is to provide efficiency of analysis and a 15-factor solution does not provide this. Further,  
5 this solution did not provide a clear summary of behaviours (some factors had no best-loadings). On  
6 observing the scree plot (see supplemental materials), the curve of eigenvalues normalises at three  
7 factors (eigenvalue = 3.59, 44% of variance) with more components only providing minor  
8 improvements. We retain regression-derived factor scores for a three factor solution for analysis.  
9 The first factor summarised ‘Engaging’ behaviour, being most strongly associated with coding a  
10 participants’ enjoyment, interest, likeability and energy in the interaction (see supplemental  
11 materials). The second factor was related to insecurities in the interaction, irritability, hostility and  
12 seeking advice from interacting partner. We summarised this factor as ‘Insecure’ behaviour. The third  
13 factor can be summarised as ‘Dominant’ behaviour, relating to participants being more competitive,  
14 taking a position of superiority and initiating physical contact in the interaction.

15 **Procedure.** Participants arrived at the lab separately and were told to meet the researchers at  
16 two different rooms. Both of these rooms connected to a third space where the interaction would take  
17 place. On arriving and providing informed consent, a research assistant took a photograph of the  
18 participants’ faces (from shoulders upwards), holding a neutral expression. The neutral expression  
19 was chosen to keep the taken photograph as close to the extent literature precedent as possible, it  
20 should be noted that some participants struggled to hold a neutral face. Then each participant began  
21 completing the Big Five and TriPM personality measures on paper. Whilst participants were  
22 completing the psychometric measures, the research assistants emailed each other the photographs.  
23 The photograph of participant ‘A’ was sent to the research assistant working with participant ‘B’, and  
24 the photograph of participant ‘B’ was sent to the research assistant working with participant ‘A’. After  
25 completing the personality measures, the participants were shown the photograph of their to-be  
26 partner and made their social and trait judgments (henceforth Time 1). When both participants  
27 completed this, they were informed that they would now be engaging in a short interaction. In the

1 main study room was a rectangle marked on the floor with white tape (approximately 250x100cm, see  
2 figure 1). This space was marked so that participants had the most space possible for interaction,  
3 whilst still being in range of the cameras for video recording of the dyads. Participants were given  
4 limited instructions for how they spent their time in the room. They were told (verbatim):

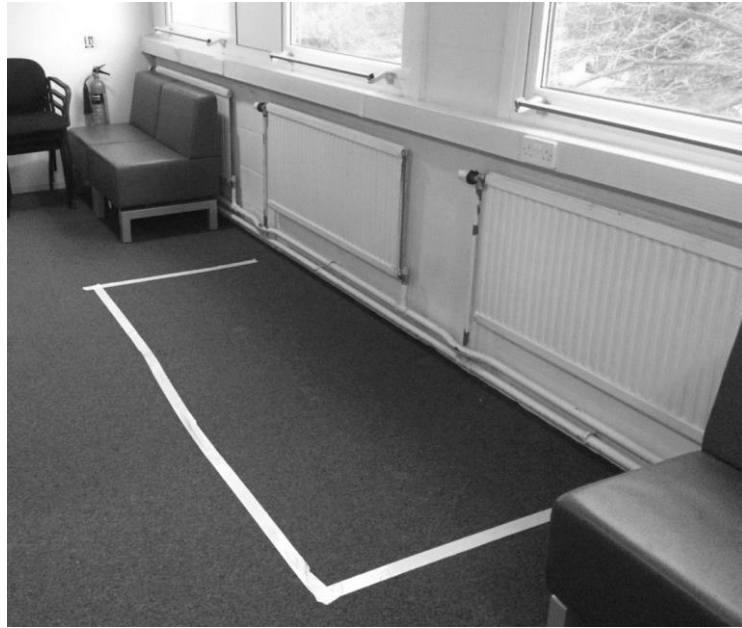
5

6 *“The only thing we’d like you to do is to head into the room and stand between the white line and the*  
7 *window. There you will interact with another person. It is up to you what you do in that space but*  
8 *bear in mind that we will be asking your first impressions of that person after you have completed the*  
9 *study. You will be allowed to stay in the room for a maximum of five minutes. We would highlight that*  
10 *you can leave whenever you like, by simply leaving through this door.”*

11

12 It is worth highlighting that these instructions were designed with giving the participants the  
13 upmost freedom in how they may choose to interact in the space. One dyad chose not to talk during  
14 this time, one dyad chose to move chairs into the interaction space but most dyads used this space to  
15 stand and talk. We did not prescribe any behaviour to the participants in this study, but the  
16 instructions do remind participants that they will be later making judgments of their interacting  
17 partner.

18 Only 16 pairs left the session early, and the rest of the pairs were asked to return to their  
19 individual rooms after five minutes. Wall-mounted cameras in the study room were placed and moved  
20 in real-time so that the both participants could be seen face-on for later coding. Participants returned  
21 to their own rooms and completed the same ratings (henceforth Time 2). They were then thanked for  
22 their time and debriefed.



1  
2 *Figure 1.* A photograph of the 250 x 100cm marked area for interaction. It should be  
3 noted that one dyad chose to move the chairs into the interaction area for their session.  
4

5 **Analysis.** Linear mixed models will be used to estimate the consistency between Time 1 and  
6 Time 2, including random factors for the dyads to assess for the amount of variation between pairs  
7 when making judgments (Kuznestova, Brockhoff & Christensen, 2017). It should be noted that the  
8 random factor variation may be difficult to interpret with 97 levels (dyads) and  $n = 2$  per level.  
9 Within-subjects' Cohen's  $d$  will be used to estimate the difference in Time 1 to Time 2 ratings.  
10 Personality judgment accuracy will also be tested by correlating the personality traits of a participant  
11 with the ratings they received for both Time 1 and Time 2. A comparison in the size of these  
12 correlations can be conducted using William's  $T$  (Steiger, 1980). This tests for the difference between  
13 two correlations with a shared dependent variable (target traits). Further, Cross-Intraclass Correlation  
14 (CICC) will be used to assess the accuracy of judgments whilst accounting for shared dyad  
15 personality, rating behaviour and the judge's own traits on perception (see Rogers, Wood & Furr,  
16 2018). The CICC is analysed for size of effect using a standard  $z$  output.



1 An unrotated principal components analysis will be used to investigate how the social  
2 judgments shared variance, imitating previous similar studies (i.e. Oostergof & Todorov, 2008;  
3 Sutherland et al., 2018; Walker & Vetter, 2009; Wang, et al., 2016; Wang et al., 2018). It is of interest  
4 to see if the judgments share variance in the same manner before and after the interaction.

5 Further correlations will demonstrate the relationship between the behaviours exhibited by the  
6 participants with the Time 1 and Time 2 judgments and participant self-reported traits. The  
7 relationship between coded behaviours and personality could be due to reciprocal interpersonal  
8 activity (i.e. Extraversion brings out Extraversion in an interacting partner), thus CICC's will again be  
9 used to attempt for these cross-dyad effects. Cases of missing data will be treated as missing and not  
10 replaced with computed variables.

11 **Results.** The data for this study are all open access on the Open Science Framework  
12 (<https://osf.io/bx8zv/>).

13 ***Judgment consistency and change.*** It should be noted that there were the expected  
14 correlations between the social- and trait-named judgments which were expected to assess the same  
15 traits (i.e. Creative and Openness) but these were moderate correlations at best (Mean correlation =  
16 .33 largest correlation: Agreeableness and Friendliness  $r = .57$ ).

17 First, the agreement and divergence for the trait- and social-named judgments is evaluated.  
18 Table 1 presents the consistencies and differences between Time 1 (after viewing photograph) and  
19 Time 2 (after interaction) in trait-named judgments, and Table 2 presents this information for social-  
20 named judgments. In almost all cases, judgements at Time 1 correlated with Time 2; a target who was  
21 rated as more [judgment] at Time 1 was also rated as more [judgment] at Time 2. However, the  
22 ratings were also different on average. The changes were typically towards the pro-social, such as  
23 judgments for Agreeableness and likeable becoming more agreeable and likeable and judgments of  
24 Meanness and threatening becoming less mean and threatening (Figure 2).

25 Trait-named judgments of Neuroticism and social-named judgements of Anxiety and  
26 Creativity (and to a certain extent Organisation) did not change after interaction. The random effects



1 of the dyads were near zero in almost all cases, with the exception of Extraversion and Boldness (in  
 2 line with the expressivity halo; Bernieri et al., 1996).

Table 1. *The consistency and difference in trait-named judgments made by participants after viewing a photograph (Time 1) and after interacting (Time 2) with their partner*

Trait	Mean judge rating (SD)		Mixed model test for consistency <sup>b</sup>		
	Time 1	Time 2 <sup>a</sup>	Consistency (s.e.)	Dyad (SD)	Difference (d)
Conscientiousness	5.74 (1.57)	6.21 (1.61)	0.37 (0.07)***	0.00 (0.00)	0.27***
Agreeableness	6.38 (1.44)	7.06 (1.39)	0.31 (0.07)***	0.05 (0.22)	0.41***
Neuroticism	4.19 (1.68)	4.25 (2.04)	0.27 (0.06)***	0.11 (0.33)	0.03
Openness	5.61 (1.70)	5.35 (1.71)	0.26 (0.07)***	0.15 (0.39)	0.13***
Extraversion	5.58 (1.70)	6.19 (1.73)	0.34 (0.07)***	0.21 (0.45)	0.31***
Boldness	5.59 (1.68)	6.01 (1.88)	0.33 (0.06)***	0.37 (0.60)	0.21**
Meanness	3.02 (1.69)	2.24 (1.38)	0.32 (0.09)***	0.00 (0.00)	0.41***
Disinhibition	4.25 (1.80)	4.19 (1.96)	0.32 (0.06)***	0.00 (0.00)	0.03

\* $p < .05$ , \*\* $p < .01$ , \*\*\* $p < .001$

<sup>a</sup>Due to incomplete data for Time 2,  $N=190$ .

<sup>b</sup>Mixed models built using formula  $\text{fit} \leftarrow \text{lmer}(\text{Time1} \sim \text{Time2} + (1|\text{Dyad}))$  where time change is a fixed effect and with a random effect of dyad

Significance provided for  $d$  is computed using a paired-samples t test.

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Table 2. *The consistency and difference in social-named judgments made by participants after viewing a photograph (Time 1) and after interacting (Time 2) with their partner*

Social judgment	Mean judge rating (SD)		Mixed model test for consistency <sup>b</sup>		
	Time 1	Time 2 <sup>a</sup>	Consistency (s.e.)	Dyad (SD)	Difference (d)
Organised	5.56 (1.76)	5.88 (1.93)	0.38 (0.06)***	0.00 (0.00)	0.16*
Friendly	6.36 (1.90)	7.54 (1.71)	0.38 (0.08)***	0.00 (0.00)	0.57***
Anxious	4.23 (1.82)	4.45 (2.11)	0.15 (0.06)*	0.00 (0.00)	0.09
Creative	5.62 (1.50)	5.87 (1.65)	0.30 (0.06)***	0.00 (0.00)	0.14
Energetic	5.26 (1.81)	6.06 (1.80)	0.32 (0.07)***	0.36 (0.60)	0.38***
Thrillseeking	4.91 (1.78)	5.39 (1.78)	0.38 (0.07)***	0.00 (0.00)	0.24**
Confident	5.81 (1.66)	6.36 (1.89)	0.33 (0.06)***	0.00 (0.00)	0.28***
Threatening	2.25 (1.46)	1.64 (0.99)	0.21 (0.11)*	0.00 (0.00)	0.37***
Aggressive	2.27 (1.38)	1.70 (1.09)	0.27 (0.09)**	0.00 (0.00)	0.36**
Likeable	6.52 (1.49)	7.47 (1.41)	0.42 (0.07)***	0.00 (0.00)	0.60***

\* $p < .05$ , \*\* $p < .01$ , \*\*\* $p < .001$

<sup>a</sup>Due to incomplete data for Time 2,  $N=190$ .

<sup>b</sup>Mixed models built using R formula:  $\text{lmer}(\text{Time1} \sim \text{Time2} + (1|\text{Dyad}))$

Significance provided for  $d$  is computed using a paired-samples t test.

9

1 **Personality judgment accuracy.** In person judgment research, accuracy can be defined as the  
 2 relationship between perceptual judgments and the partner's self-reported personality traits (Funder,  
 3 2012). In this study, there was no consistent evidence of personality judgment accuracy at Time 1 in  
 4 this study using trait-named judgments (Table 3). There was a notable correlation between Time 1  
 5 judgments of Creativity and target Openness (see Table 4, Figure 2) and slightly weaker evidence that  
 6 judgments of Thrillseeking detected target's Boldness, but these were exceptions.

Table 3. *The accuracy of trait-named judgments at detecting target's personality traits after viewing a photograph (Time 1) and after interacting (Time 2) with their partner*

Trait	Raw accuracy ( <i>r</i> )		Difference	CICC Accuracy ( <i>z</i> )	
	Time 1	Time 2 <sup>a</sup>	William's <i>T</i>	Time 1	Time 2 <sup>a</sup>
Conscientiousness	.00	.05	0.62	0.02	0.84
Agreeableness	-.11	.07	2.11*	-1.65*	0.93
Neuroticism	.01	.27***	3.17**	1.28	3.85***
Openness	.07	.17*	1.14	0.99	2.27*
Extraversion	.11	.22**	1.34	1.50	2.76**
Boldness	.09	.19**	1.22	1.20	2.34*
Meanness	.07	.07	0.00	0.92	0.91
Disinhibition	.03	.08	0.60	0.40	1.06

\**p* < .05, \*\**p* < .01, \*\*\**p* < .001

<sup>a</sup>Due to incomplete data for Time 2, *N* = 190.

Supplemental Table A provides mixed models controlling for same sex or not dyads with these effects. The pattern of results is highly similar.

CICC = Cross-Intra-class Correlation given by Rogers et al.'s (2018) code

7

8 At Time 2, personality judgment improved (and notably so in some William's *T* tests).  
 9 Judgments of Neuroticism and Anxiety indicated partner's Neuroticism, Extraversion judgments  
 10 indicated partner's Extraversion and judgments of Creativity indicated partner's Openness. Boldness  
 11 was accurately rated in judgments of Boldness and Thrillseeking. Many other correlations improved  
 12 in size (according to William's *T*) but were still not of noteworthy accuracy (such as for Meanness  
 13 and Agreeableness). In general interaction improved personality judgment but accuracy was still  
 14 generally poor.

15 The CICCs and the raw correlation results were highly similar. Figure 2 summarises  
 16 judgment accuracy at Time 1 and Time 2.

Table 4. *The accuracy of social-named judgments at detecting target's personality traits after viewing a photograph (Time 1) and after interacting (Time 2) with their partner*

	Raw accuracy ( <i>r</i> )	Difference	CICC Accuracy ( <i>z</i> )
--	---------------------------	------------	----------------------------

Judgment	Target trait	Time 1	Time 2 <sup>a</sup>	William's <i>T</i>	Time 1	Time 2 <sup>a</sup>
Organised	Conscientiousness	-.04	.11	1.92	-0.74	1.75*
Friendly	Agreeableness	-.05	.06	1.33	-0.77	0.91
Anxious	Neuroticism	.13	.19*	0.65	2.03*	2.65**
Creative	Openness	.28***	.20*	0.99	4.06***	2.96**
Energetic	Extraversion	.12	.21**	1.07	1.58	2.66**
Thrillseeking	Boldness	.18*	.20**	0.25	2.73**	2.66**
Friendly	Meanness	-.02	-.11	3.59***	-0.61	-1.45
Organised	Disinhibition	.03	-.08	3.93***	0.82	-1.22

\* $p < .05$ , \*\* $p < .01$ , \*\*\* $p < .001$

<sup>a</sup>Due to incomplete data for Time 2,  $N=190$ .

Supplemental Table B provides mixed models controlling for same sex or not dyads with these effects. The pattern of results is highly similar.

CICC = Cross-Intraclass Correlation given by Rogers et al.'s (2018) code

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**Principal components of judgments.** Other research has summarised the variance in multiple person judgments as order factors such as perceived 'valence' and 'dominance' (Oostergof & Todorov, 2008) or 'approachability' and 'capability' (Wang et al., 2018) of other people. Following the method used in these previous studies, an unrotated principal components analysis was conducted on the social judgments at Time 1, and then a second analysis was conducted at Time 2 (see Table 5). In this study, using the same eigenvalue selection criteria to suggest number of factors, a three factor solution was most appropriate at Time 1 and at Time 2. The three factors emerged as 'Positive' ratings (i.e. Organised, Friendly, Energetic), 'Negative' ratings (i.e. Threatening, Aggressive) and Anxiety (containing Anxious alone). The component loadings were largely consistent between Time 1 and Time 2, with the notable exception of Confidence and Thrillseeking. These were initially loading with Negative factors when based on judgments made of the photographs, however after interaction these were loading with the Positive domain. This shift is important to note as this relates to the 'approachability' and 'valence' attributes referred to in previous research.

Table 5. *Principal components analysis results showing the loadings of the judgments at Time 1 and Time 2.*

	Time 1			Time 2 <sup>a</sup>		
	'Positive'	'Negative'	'Anxiety'	'Positive'	'Negative'	'Anxiety'
Threatening	-.56	<b>.67</b>	.26	-.28	<b>.87</b>	.12
Aggressive	-.55	<b>.72</b>	.28	-.19	<b>.88</b>	.17
Organised	<b>.56</b>	-.09	.40	<b>.45</b>	-.14	.37
Friendly	<b>.81</b>	-.18	.04	<b>.74</b>	-.26	.20
Anxious	-.01	-.17	<b>.86</b>	-.43	-.12	<b>.78</b>
Creative	<b>.64</b>	.28	.21	<b>.62</b>	.12	.33
Energetic	<b>.69</b>	.38	.03	<b>.80</b>	.30	-.05

19

Confident	.49	<b>.69</b>	-.22	<b>.82</b>	.26	-.22
Thrillseeking	.35	<b>.64</b>	-.15	<b>.60</b>	.41	.01
Likeable	<b>.82</b>	-.05	.07	<b>.80</b>	-.19	.13

Notes

Top loading factor in each analysis is highlighted in bold.

Time 1 produces a three factor solution with an eigenvalue= 1.17, explaining 68.15% of variance.

Time 2 produces a three factor solution with an eigenvalue= 1.01, explaining 67.75% of variance

<sup>a</sup>Due to incomplete data for Time 2, N=190.

1

2 **Behaviour, judgments, and traits.** Participants' behaviours in the interaction were coded on a  
3 series of items, summarised as Energetic, Insecure, and Dominant behaviours. Primarily the coding  
4 allows an investigation into what behaviours affect Time 2 judgments. The relationship between Time  
5 1 judgments and coded behaviours were analysed, demonstrating any ability of the photograph  
6 judgments to predict behaviours. William's *T* comparisons between the Time 1 and Time 2  
7 correlations demonstrate the extent to which behaviour changed perceptions.

8 In general, Time 1 judgments did not relate to coded behaviour in the study, suggesting that  
9 trait- (Table 6) and social- (Table 7) named judgments from photographs did not *anticipate* the  
10 behaviour of the partner. At Time 2 many judgments were related to the Engaging behaviours  
11 demonstrated by partners, with no general evidence that Insecure or Dominant behaviours correlated  
12 with judgments (see Tables 6 and 7). Overall, these Engagement behaviours, such as talkativeness,  
13 energy, smiling, laughing, playfulness, questioning and fluency (see supplemental material), were  
14 related to generally more prosocial judgments at Time 2. Engaging behaviours increased ratings of  
15 Agreeableness, Friendliness, Openness, Extraversion, Energetics, Boldness, Thrillseeking and  
16 Likeability (but also Disinhibition) and ratings of Neuroticism and Meanness decreased a little.

Table 6. *Correlations between received trait-named judgments made after viewing a photograph (T1) and after interacting (T2) with their partner and the coded behaviours in the interaction with William's T (T) comparisons of the difference*

Trait	Engaging Behaviour			Insecure Behaviour			Dominant Behaviour		
	T1	T2 <sup>a</sup>	<i>T</i>	T1	T2 <sup>a</sup>	<i>T</i>	T1	T2 <sup>a</sup>	<i>T</i>
Conscientiousness	.08	.09	0.12	-.06	-.02	0.49	.04	-.10	1.74
Agreeableness	.05	.31***	3.17***	-.03	-.17*	1.65	.03	-.03	0.70
Neuroticism	.03	-.15*	2.15*	.07	.13	0.71	-.05	.09	1.66
Openness	.06	.31***	2.96***	-.09	-.08	0.11	.07	-.04	1.25
Extraversion	.03	.27***	2.98***	-.05	.00	0.60	.05	-.06	1.32
Boldness	-.02	.28***	3.80***	.01	-.11	1.46	.07	-.12	2.32*

20

Meanness	-.12	-.18*	0.69	.15*	.03	1.37	-.04	.04	0.91
Disinhibition	.03	.27***	2.98***	.07	.07	0.00	.01	.09	0.96

\* $p < .05$ , \*\* $p < .01$ , \*\*\* $p < .001$

<sup>a</sup>Due to incomplete data for Time 2,  $N=190$ .

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Table 7. *Correlations between received social-named judgments made after viewing a photograph (T1) and after interacting (T2) with their partner and the coded behaviours in the interaction with William's T (T) comparisons of the difference*

Social Judgment	Engaging Behaviour			Insecure Behaviour			Dominant Behaviour		
	T1	T2 <sup>a</sup>	T	T1	T2 <sup>a</sup>	T	T1	T2 <sup>a</sup>	T
Organised	-.00	.16*	2.06*	-.01	-.06	0.64	-.09	-.19*	1.29
Friendly	.06	.27***	2.61*	-.05	-.01	-0.05	.00	-.08	0.96
Anxious	.08	-.07	1.60	.11	.08	0.32	-.08	.08	1.71
Creative	.04	.18	1.68	.02	.01	0.12	.01	.00	0.12
Energetic	.02	.30***	3.42***	-.04	-.10	0.70	.05	.00	0.58
Thrillseeking	.04	.25**	2.66*	-.02	-.00	0.25	.08	-.02	1.23
Confident	.10	.29***	2.43*	-.08	-.11	0.37	.11	-.08	2.37*
Threatening	-.07	-.13	0.63	.11	-.04	1.58	.11	.15*	0.42
Aggressive	-.05	-.06	0.11	.13	.01	1.32	.10	.15*	0.55
Likeable	.08	.36***	3.74*	.02	-.05	0.88	-.04	-.03	0.12

\* $p < .05$ , \*\* $p < .01$ , \*\*\* $p < .001$

2

3 Table 8 demonstrates the relationship between self-reported traits and behaviours. We find  
4 small, weak evidence that Extraversion, Agreeableness and Boldness related to more Engaging  
5 behaviour. Thus it could be the case that Engaging behaviours facilitated Extraversion personality  
6 judgment accuracy, but it is more likely that the behaviours supporting person judgment accuracy  
7 were not captured in the coding in this study.

8 Figure 2 summarises the relationships between behaviour, judgments at Time 1, judgments at  
9 Time 2 and the coded behaviours.

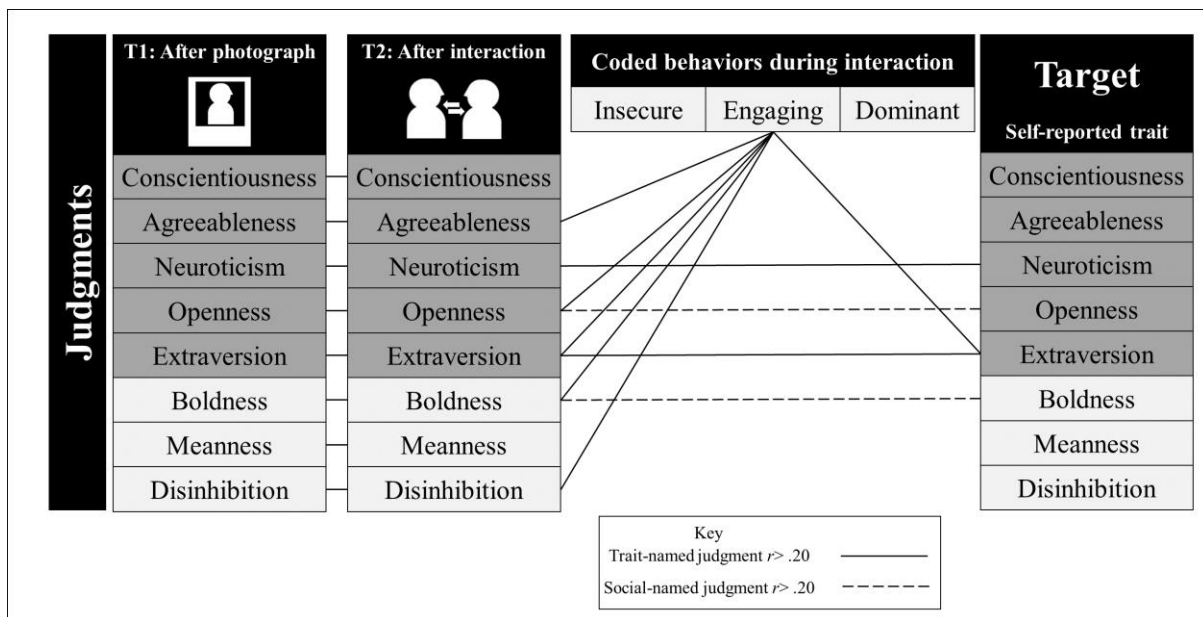
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Table 8. *Correlations between participant self-reported trait and the coded behaviour during the interaction*

Trait	Engaging Behaviour		Insecure Behaviour		Dominant Behaviour	
	Raw $r$	CICC ( $z$ )	Raw $r$	CICC ( $z$ )	Raw $r$	CICC ( $z$ )
Conscientiousness	.07	0.76	-.13	-1.41	-.07	-0.72
Agreeableness	.15*	1.56	.01	0.08	.04	0.45
Neuroticism	-.10	-1.04	.04	0.36	-.02	-0.25
Openness	.07	0.76	-.01	-0.10	.01	0.05
Extraversion	.20**	2.03*	-.06	-0.65	-.10	-0.10
Boldness	.15*	1.61	-.11	-1.16	.01	0.10
Meanness	-.11	-1.11	-.05	-0.52	-.02	-0.16
Disinhibition	-.08	-0.79	-.05	-0.55	.04	0.41

\* $p < .05$ , \*\* $p < .01$ , \*\*\* $p < .001$

21



2

3 *Figure 1.* A visual summary of the results from tables 1, 2, 4 and 5. Only correlations larger  
 4 than .20 between traits, behaviours Time 1 (T1) judgments and Time 2 (judgments) are presented for  
 5 efficiency. Readers should consult the tables for exact sizes of effects.

6

## 7 Discussion

8 This study investigated the effect of interaction on person and personality judgment.  
 9 Participants first rated interacting partners from observing a photograph of their face and then rated  
 10 their partners again after a brief (less than five minute) interaction. Judgments before and after  
 11 interaction were consistent but different. A target rated more friendly at Time 1 (before interaction)  
 12 was still considered more friendly at Time 2 (after interaction), but was more strongly rated as such.  
 13 Although there was notable consistency between Time 1 and Time 2 judgments, the stability of the  
 14 ratings was only moderate (average stability correlation  $r = .31$ ) and therefore only approximately  
 15 10% of the variance in Time 2 ratings can be explained with Time 1 ratings (on average). It was  
 16 possible to account for some of the variance in changed ratings by coding for behaviours in the  
 17 interaction. It was primarily Engaging behaviours such as smiling, acting interested, being energetic,  
 18 being relaxed and being talkative that related to more positive person judgments.

1           These results can be interpreted in two ways. First, we have some evidence that judgments of  
2 other people from photographs show some stability for impressions after interaction – photographs of  
3 faces are an efficient proxy for studying interpersonal interaction. However, this stability is arguably  
4 small, and the pre-interaction judgments were more negative than the more pro-social judgments  
5 made after interaction. This is similar to the increased liking seen in other ‘get-acquainted interaction’  
6 studies (see Finkel et al., 2015).

7           Secondly, the current results could be seen to support the evidence that interaction changes  
8 perceptions. Personality judgments were more accurate at Time 2, when participants had the  
9 opportunities to be active perceivers (Good, 2007). Everyday person judgment involves  
10 conversational probes and (re)action with a partner. This relates to the Uncertainty Reduction Theory  
11 that posits that increases in verbal and non-verbal communication decreases uncertainty about our  
12 perceptions of others (Sannafrank, 1986). The more pro-social ratings observed at Time 2, could be  
13 the sign of participants using the interaction to gain more certainty about their partners.

14           It should be noted that there is an unavoidable order-effect in this study. Participants were  
15 exposed to the photograph of the partner before interaction. This is an inevitable consequence of the  
16 study design as participants could not be provided with a more information-rich (*in vivo*) exposure  
17 followed by an information-poor (photograph) exposure. As such, it could be the case that seeing the  
18 photograph of the partner may shape the following interaction. It is possible that without the  
19 photograph ‘priming’ expectations of the interaction, judgments could be further different. Future  
20 research could randomly either see a photograph of their to-be partner or not before an interaction, to  
21 investigate if this methodological confound affects studies of this type.

22           In person judgment studies it is most ideal to account for variance in ‘good’ judges and  
23 ‘good’ targets (Funder, 1999). Some judges of personality will be better at *detecting* and *utilizing* (in  
24 RAM terms) traits than others (see Funder, 2012; Powell & Bourdage, 2016; Schmid Mast, Bangerter,  
25 Bulliard & Aerni, 2011; Satchell, Morris, Akehurst & Morrison, 2017). Some targets will make their  
26 *relevant* personality behaviours more *available* to be detected (see Funder, 1999). This is what  
27 Benrieri et al. (1996) refer to as the ‘expressivity halo’, and the present results provide further support



1 to the ease of detecting extraversion over other traits (Albright et al., 1988; Bernieri et al., 1994;  
2 Bernieri et al., 1996; Funder & Colvin, 1988). This was the case in the current study where it was  
3 Extraversion and Boldness judgments that were most influenced by variation in dyads, suggesting that  
4 there is an element of reciprocity affecting perceptions of expressivity. Research could further explore  
5 judge and target variance using round-robin paradigms (Albright et al., 1998; Cronbach, 1955; Kenny  
6 & Albright, 1987; Warner, Kenny & Stoto, 1979). Brown and Bernieri (2017) do this well in their  
7 study of developing first impressions, by following interacting polyads of six to eight individuals over  
8 a series of weeks. By doing this they were best able to account for judges' response patterns and  
9 targets' salience of traits. In the present investigation accounting for this variance was not possible,  
10 and so the results may be affected by the judges' rating preferences, the judges' ability to detect traits  
11 and the salience of the targets' traits. Future research could better distil person judgment accuracy of  
12 photographs and later interaction using a round-robin method where multiple actors would rate  
13 multiple targets. This method would synthesise the current work with the work of other person-  
14 judgment researchers (such as Brown & Bernieri, 2017). A study of this type would be logistically  
15 difficult, but would offer key theoretical insight and statistical control.

16 This paper opened with a quote from Neisser's (1980) critique on the use of "passive  
17 onlookers" (p.603) in social perception research. The current study was an effort to adjust this  
18 particular issue. However, there is a second point raised in Neisser's piece. He comments on the usage  
19 of overt rating scales, evaluating a target person on a (perhaps) 1-9 scale:

20

21 *"Who actually behaves in this way? Not everybody: in some societies and social groups, hardly*  
22 *anybody. Of course, it might – and has been argued- that everyone makes judgments covertly [...] But*  
23 *I know of no evidence to support such a view, and it strikes me as prime facie implausible"* (p.604).

24

25 It is highly unlikely that individuals make such concrete ratings of others in day-to-day life.  
26 Such judgments may manifest as feelings or likings towards others and, as such, the current activity of  
27 putting to paper how "Good (9) to Bad (1)" an other person is unusual. As such, the current research

24



1 falls short of another ecological psychology target; *action fidelity* (Stroffregen, Bardy, Smart &  
2 Pagulayan, 2003). The activities participants engage in should be reflective of the activity we wish to  
3 study. Arguably, paradigmatic change is needed to find a way of studying first impressions in a  
4 naturalistic, yet well powered and replicable manner. In the current work, the ecological qualities of  
5 active perception (Good, 2007) and representative design (Brunswick, 1956) have been addressed, but  
6 further work should consider improving the action fidelity of *in vivo* person perception.

7         **Summary.** The current study suggests that social- and trait-named judgments of first  
8 impressions from photographs show some consistency with judgments made after first interactions.  
9 The accuracy of personality judgments were improved after a short interaction, with opportunities to  
10 engage in active perception, but even these judgments were still generally poor. This study highlights  
11 the importance of the ecological validity (representative design) of the methodology and how proxies  
12 for first interaction changes conceptual understanding of first impressions. Whilst photographs have  
13 their place in first impressions, it is still the case that most first contact with another person involves  
14 ‘mixing it up with folks’ (to paraphrase Neisser) and research should reflect this. More work needs to  
15 be done to understand the issue of ‘bubble-ism’ in person perception research where the studies focus  
16 on one body feature at a time, such as face width, eye colour, hair style, etc, rather than part of a  
17 complete whole. Much more methodological and theoretical work is needed to increasingly naturalise  
18 research on ‘first impressions’.

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**Supplemental materials.**

**Trait definitions provided to participants.**

*The person in the photo has completed the same personality measures as you did. The personality measures measure the following domains. Please read the definitions with care.*

<b>Trait</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Trait</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Conscientiousness	Tidiness, organisation	Boldness	Confident, self-assured
Agreeableness	Sociability, friendliness	Meanness	Manipulator, cheater
Neuroticism	Anxiety, worry	Disinhibition	Spontaneous, uncontrolled
Openness	Creativity, 'art-yness'		
Extraversion	Energetic, outgoing		

## Behaviour coding scheme definitions and factor loadings.

Notes.

Items 1 to 64 are those detailed in the Riverside Behavioural Q-Sort (Funder, Furr & Colvin, 2000)

Items 65 to 76 are additional items added by the current researchers.

The factor loadings for the three-factor dimension reduction solution are found in the right hand columns. The process of dimension reduction is found in text.

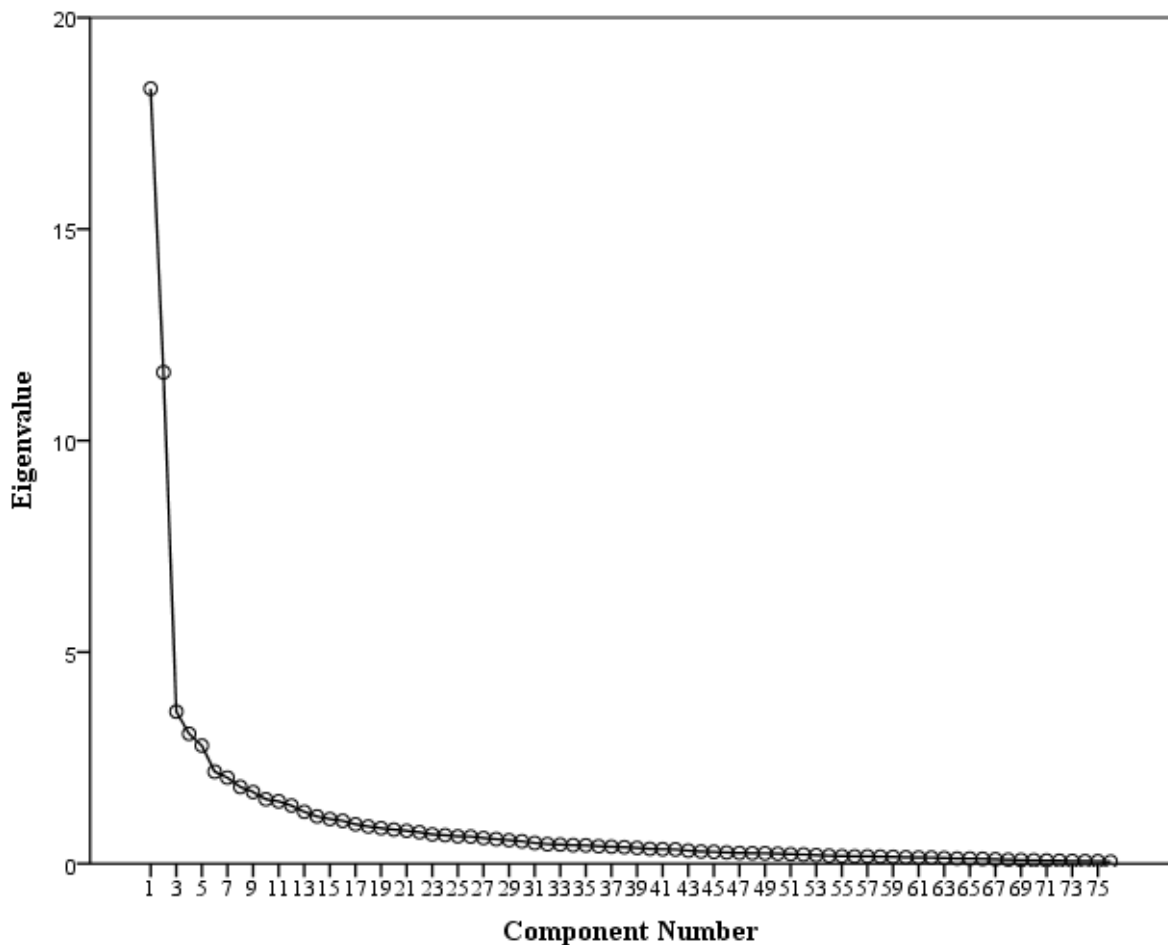
No.	Code	Detail	PCA loading		
			Engaging	Insecure	Dominating
1	Aware	Expresses awareness of being on camera or in an experiment (regardless of whether reaction is positive or negative).	-0.04	0.50	0.03
2	Questioning	Interviews his or her partner (e.g., asks a series of questions).	0.65	-0.09	-0.18
3	Offering	Volunteers a large amount of information about self.	0.77	-0.14	-0.12
4	Interested	Seems interested in what partner has to say.	0.86	-0.24	-0.08
5	Controlling	Tries to control the interaction (disregard whether attempts at control succeed or not).	0.54	0.24	0.02
6	Dominating	Dominates the interaction (disregard intention, e.g., if subject dominates Interaction "by default" because the partner does very little, this item should receive high placement)	0.63	0.17	0.01
7	Relaxed	Appears to be relaxed and comfortable.	0.77	-0.28	-0.11
8	Social	Exhibits social skills (e.g., does things to make partner comfortable, keeps conversation moving, entertains or charms the partner)	0.72	-0.35	-0.20
9	Reserved	Is reserved and inexpressive (e.g., expresses little affect (emotion); acts in a still, formal manner).	-0.34	0.43	-0.25
10	Laughs	Laughs frequently (disregard whether or not laughter appears to be "nervous" or genuine).	0.74	-0.06	-0.01
11	Smiles	Smiles frequently.	0.75	-0.24	-0.07
12	Animated	Is physically animated; moves around a great deal.	0.57	0.23	0.28
13	Liking	Seems to like partner (e.g. would probably like to be friends with partner).	0.71	-0.20	-0.17
14	Awkward	Exhibits an awkward interpersonal style (e.g., seems to have difficulty knowing what to say; mumbles; fails to respond to partner's conversational advances)	-0.54	0.48	-0.15
15	Comparative	Compares self to other(s) (whether others are present or not).	0.47	0.58	-0.18
16	Energetic	Shows high enthusiasm and a high energy level.	0.80	-0.21	0.13
17	Broad	Shows a wide range of interests. (e.g., talks about many topics).	0.67	-0.22	-0.12
18	Monologue	Talks at, rather than with, partner (e.g., conducts a monologue, ignores what partner says).	0.37	0.63	-0.23

19	Agreement	Expresses agreement frequently (high score implies agreement is expressed unusually often, e.g., in response to each and every statement partner(s) makes. Low score implies unusual lack of expression of agreement).	0.61	-0.15	0.19
20	Criticism	Expresses criticism (of anybody or anything; low score implies expresses praise).	0.30	0.39	0.48
21	Talkative	Is talkative (as observed In this situation).	0.76	-0.26	-0.13
22	Insecure	Expresses insecurity (e.g., seems touchy or overly sensitive }.	-0.12	0.75	-0.17
23	Anxious	Shows physical signs of tension or anxiety (e.g., fidgets nervously, voice wavers). (Lack of signs of anxiety = middle score; low score = lack of signs under circumstances where you would expect to see them.)	-0.35	0.54	0.05
24	Intelligence	Exhibits a high degree of intelligence (NB: At issue is what is displayed in the interaction, not what may or may not be latent. Thus give this item a high score only if subject actually says or does something of high intelligence. A low score implies exhibition of low intelligence; medium score = no information one way or another).	0.46	0.22	0.44
25	Sympathy	Expresses sympathy toward partner (low placement implies unusual lack of sympathy).	0.46	0.21	0.33
26	Humorous	Initiates humour.	0.75	-0.06	0.05
27	Fishing	Seeks reassurance from partner (e.g., asks for agreement, fishes for praise).	0.50	0.64	-0.20
28	Superiority	Exhibits condescending behaviour (acts as if self is superior to partner in one or more ways. Low score implies acting inferior)	0.28	0.33	0.54
29	Likable	Seems likable (to others present).	0.80	-0.29	-0.02
30	Seeks	Seeks advice from partner.	0.29	0.68	-0.13
31	Narcissism	Appears to regard self as physically attractive (nonverbal cues probably will be used to judge this item; examples might include preening, posing, etc.).	0.18	0.59	-0.12
32	Irritable	Acts irritated.	0.00	0.71	-0.10
33	Warmth	Expresses warmth (to anyone, e.g., include any references to “my close friend”, etc.)	0.60	0.33	-0.10
34	Saboteur	Tries to undermine, sabotage, or obstruct (either the experiment or partner)	-0.06	0.60	-0.28
35	Hostile	Expresses hostility (no matter toward whom or what – including the experiment or partner)	-0.15	0.70	-0.19
36	Unusual	Is unusual or unconventional in appearance.	-0.07	0.73	-0.11
37	Timid	Behaves in a fearful or timid manner	-0.28	0.66	-0.21
38	Expressive	Is expressive in face, voice, or gestures.	0.70	-0.05	0.06
39	Daydreamer	Expresses interest in fantasy or daydreams (low score only if such interest is explicitly disavowed, middle score if not mentioned).	0.00	0.21	0.60
40	Guilt	Expresses guilt (about anything).	0.26	0.47	-0.09
41	Distance	Keeps partner at a distance, avoids development of any sort of interpersonal relationship (low	-0.27	0.33	0.33

		score implies behaviour to get close to the partner)			
42	Intellectual	Shows interest in intellectual or cognitive matters (e.g., by discussing an intellectual idea in detail or with enthusiasm).	0.58	0.25	0.04
43	Enjoy	Seems to enjoy the interaction.	0.87	-0.27	-0.07
44	Interesting	Says or does interesting things in this interaction.	0.77	-0.07	-0.06
45	Self-critical	Says negative things about self (e.g., is self-critical; expresses feelings of inadequacy).	0.48	0.53	-0.20
46	Ambitious	Displays ambition (e.g., passionate discussion of career plans, course grades, opportunities to make money).	0.50	0.23	-0.19
47	Blame	Blames others (for anything).	0.26	0.56	-0.25
48	Victim	Expresses self-pity or feelings of victimization.	0.20	0.58	-0.24
49	Attracted	Expresses sexual interest (e.g., acts attracted to partner; expresses interest in dating or sexual matters).	0.49	0.45	-0.09
50	Cheerful	Behaves in a cheerful manner.	0.74	-0.17	0.10
51	Gives up	Gives up when faced with obstacles (low score implies unusual persistence).	-0.39	0.40	0.34
52	Stereotypical	Behaves in a stereotypical masculine/feminine style or manner (apply the usual stereotypes appropriate to the subject's sex. Low score implies behaviour stereotypical of opposite sex)	0.14	0.34	0.29
53	Advisory	Offers advice.	0.45	0.56	-0.07
54	Fluent	Speaks fluently and expresses ideas well.	0.61	-0.16	-0.17
55	Accomplished	Emphasizes accomplishments of self, family, or housemates (low score = emphasizes failures of these individuals).	0.33	0.31	0.18
56	Competitive	Competes with partner(s) (low score implies cooperation).	0.23	0.35	0.56
57	Loud	Speaks in a loud voice.	0.52	-0.06	0.10
58	Sarcastic	Speaks sarcastically (e.g., says things (s)he does not mean; makes flippant comments that are not necessarily funny).	0.45	0.44	0.05
59	Physical	Makes or approaches physical contact with partner (of any sort, including standing unusually close without touching). (Low score implies unusual avoidance of physical contact, such as large interpersonal distance.)	0.42	0.18	0.51
60	Eyecontact	Engages in constant eye contact with partner. (Low score Implies unusual lack of eye contact.)	0.52	-0.13	-0.05
61	Detached	Seems detached from the interaction.	-0.40	0.58	-0.21
62	Quick	Speaks quickly (low score = speaks slowly).	0.20	0.13	0.26
63	Playful	Acts playful.	0.66	0.19	0.30
64	Advisor	Partner seeks advice from subject.	0.45	0.53	0.07
65	Head	Head is oriented towards partner during interaction	0.37	-0.25	-0.19
66	Body	Body is oriented towards partner during interaction	0.23	-0.34	-0.24

67	Pockets	Has hands in pockets during Interaction	-0.31	0.08	0.22
68	Props	Interacts with 'props' (i.e. phones, water bottles, pens)	0.02	0.49	-0.10
69	Window	Looks out of window	-0.17	0.36	0.19
70	Hair	Has fashionable hair (is following a trend)	0.09	0.52	0.08
71	Clothes	Has fashionable clothes (is following a trend)	0.25	0.08	0.00
72	Healthy	Looks generally healthy (a high score is notably healthy, low score is notably unhealthy, middle score is as would be expected)	0.19	0.02	-0.18
73	Fit	Looks physically fit (a high score is fitter than average, a low score is less fit than average, medium score is in sufficient fitness)	0.20	0.04	-0.18
74	Tidy	Touches/adjusts own clothes/jewellery	0.19	0.53	0.02
75	Groom	Touches/adjusts own body	0.23	0.39	0.16
76	Opening	Has a friendly opening gambit (a high score is overly friendly, middle is as would be expected, a low score is notably unfriendly)	0.74	-0.13	-0.01

**Supplemental Figure.**





*Supplemental Figure.* Scree plot to identify a three-factor solution for the behaviour coding dimension reduction, see Method section, Coding subsection.

**Supplemental tables.**

Supplemental Table A. *The estimates the effect of same sex dyads on the nature and accuracy of judgments at Time 1 (T1) with standard error of estimates (s.e.)*

Judgment	Target trait	T1 Accuracy	Same Sex Dyad	Interaction
Conscientiousness	Conscientiousness	-0.03 (0.31)	-0.01 (1.38)	0.07 (0.41)
Organised	Conscientiousness	-0.05 (0.35)	0.45 (1.54)	-0.11 (0.46)
Agreeableness	Agreeableness	-0.79 (0.37)*	-2.83 (1.87)	0.80 (0.51)
Friendly	Agreeableness	-0.60 (0.49)	-2.60 (2.45)	0.70 (0.67)
Neuroticism	Neuroticism	0.52 (0.23)*	2.06 (1.02)*	-0.66 (0.34)
Anxious	Neuroticism	0.55 (0.25)*	1.37 (1.11)	-0.44 (0.37)
Openness	Openness	-0.13 (0.28)	-3.08 (1.57)	1.00 (0.47)*
Creative	Openness	0.62 (0.25)*	-1.24 (1.33)	0.45 (0.40)
Extraversion	Extraversion	0.15 (0.21)	-0.36 (1.18)	0.18 (0.34)
Energetic	Extraversion	0.32 (0.23)	0.62 (1.25)	-0.13 (0.36)
Boldness	Boldness	-0.13 (0.38)	-1.82 (0.99)	1.05 (0.57)
Thrillseeking	Boldness	0.45 (0.40)	-0.62 (1.04)	0.54 (0.60)
Meanness	Meanness	0.03 (0.38)	-0.47 (0.57)	0.55 (0.58)
Friendly	Meanness	-0.46 (0.43)	-0.59 (0.64)	0.59 (0.64)
Disinhibition	Disinhibition	-0.04 (0.46)	-0.57 (0.69)	0.34 (0.66)
Organised	Disinhibition	-0.24 (0.44)	-0.82 (0.67)	0.95 (0.64)

Estimates are produced by a generalised liner model with the R formula: glm(Judgment ~Trait + SameSex + Trait\*SameSex)

Same Sex Dyad is coded as 1= SameSex, 0= Not SameSex.

Uncorrected p values \*p< .05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p< .001

Supplemental Table B. *The effect of same sex dyads (or not) on the nature and accuracy of judgments at Time 1 (T2)*

Judgment	Target trait	T2 Accuracy	Same Sex Dyad	Interaction
Conscientiousness	Conscientiousness	-0.01 (0.32)	-0.65 (1.41)	0.25 (0.42)
Organised	Conscientiousness	0.48 (0.38)	1.03 (1.69)	-0.22 (0.50)
Agreeableness	Agreeableness	-0.23 (0.36)	-3.13 (1.79)	0.90 (0.49)
Friendly	Agreeableness	0.26 (0.45)	0.11 (2.24)	0.05 (0.61)
Neuroticism	Neuroticism	0.98 (0.27)***	1.26 (1.20)	-0.47 (0.40)
Anxious	Neuroticism	0.57 (0.29)	0.05 (1.28)	-0.08 (0.42)
Openness	Openness	0.43 (0.28)	-0.91 (1.55)	0.33 (0.47)
Creative	Openness	0.56 (0.27)*	-0.19 (1.51)	0.20 (0.45)
Extraversion	Extraversion	0.54 (0.21)*	0.88 (1.16)	-0.14 (0.33)
Energetic	Extraversion	0.86 (0.22)***	3.27 (1.21)**	-0.92 (0.35)**
Boldness	Boldness	0.66 (0.42)	-0.48 (1.09)	0.36 (0.63)
Thrillseeking	Boldness	0.90 (0.40)*	0.51 (1.04)	-0.20 (0.60)
Meanness	Meanness	0.04 (0.31)	-0.31 (0.47)	0.42 (0.47)
Friendly	Meanness	-0.57 (0.39)	-0.04 (0.58)	0.33 (0.59)
Disinhibition	Disinhibition	0.71 (0.49)	0.62 (0.74)	-0.63 (0.71)
Organised	Disinhibition	-1.00 (0.48)*	-0.88 (0.73)	1.25 (0.70)

Estimates are produced by a generalised liner model with the R formula: glm(Judgment ~Trait + SameSex + Trait\*SameSex)

Uncorrected p values \*p< .05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p< .001

