

Taste uncertainty explains developmental effects on susceptibility to peer influence in adolescence

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1 **Abstract**

2 Adolescence is a time of pronounced cognitive, neural, and social change.
3 Adolescents are prone to social influence from peers, with implications for
4 development, both adaptive and maladaptive. However, the underlying cognitive
5 mechanisms of this influence, as well as their neuro-developmental correlates and
6 real-life social consequences are poorly understood. Here, we replicate a cross-
7 sectional effect of more susceptibility to peer influence in adolescents in a large
8 dataset of 14 to 24 years old. Crucially, we extend this finding by adopting a
9 longitudinal perspective, showing that a within-person susceptibility to social influence
10 decreases over a 1.5 years follow-up time period. Exploiting this longitudinal design,
11 we show that susceptibility to social influences at baseline predicts an improvement in
12 peer relations over the follow-up period. Using a Bayesian computational model, we
13 provide novel mechanistic insight into these effects, showing that in younger
14 adolescents a greater tendency to adopt others' preferences arises out of a higher
15 uncertainty about their own preferences (a phenomenon called 'taste uncertainty').
16 This taste uncertainty decreases over time and, in turn, leads to a reduced
17 susceptibility of one's own behaviour to an influence from others'. Neuro-
18 developmentally, we show that a measure of myelination within medial prefrontal
19 cortex, estimated at baseline, predicts a developmental decrease in taste uncertainty
20 at follow up. Thus, using computational and neural evidence, we reveal adaptive
21 mechanisms underpinning susceptibility to social influence during adolescence.

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24 **Keywords**

25 Adolescence, peer influence, social development, taste uncertainty, myelination

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29 **Significance**

30 Adolescents are particularly susceptible to peer influences, and this can lead to
31 maladaptive behaviours such as binge-drinking or unprotected sexual intercourse (1,
32 2), often linked to impulsivity. Assessing impulsivity with a measure of temporal
33 discounting in a large longitudinal study, we show that younger teenagers are more
34 susceptible to social influence. However, this susceptibility to social influence is not
35 associated with maladaptive real-life behaviours, but instead predicts an increase in
36 quality of real-life social relations. Using computational modelling, we identify a
37 mechanism underlying this higher susceptibility to social influence: younger
38 adolescents' higher uncertainty about what they like drives them to adopt peers'
39 behaviour more strongly. As they grow older, such 'taste uncertainty' decreases,
40 diminishing this susceptibility to social influence. At a neural level, a measure of
41 myelination within the medial prefrontal cortex predicted the observed developmental
42 decrease in taste uncertainty.

43

44 **Introduction**

45 Across many species adolescence is a key period for social development (3). Animal
46 and human studies suggest social interactions are more salient for adolescents than
47 for adults (4). Adolescence is also a period of enhanced susceptibility to peer influence
48 (5-8), an effect which remains highly relevant in the digital age, where adolescents are
49 increasingly exposed to a range of social media (9). Higher susceptibility to social
50 influence is traditionally thought to have particular relevance for the emergence of
51 psychopathology and health damaging real-life behaviours (2, 10-14). Thus,
52 adolescents smoke and drink more alcohol when in the presence of peers, and peers'
53 substance consumption is a predictor of a teenager's own substance use (13, 15, 16).
54 The prevalence of suicidal and self-injury behaviours, as well as unprotected sexual
55 intercourse, are often related to a social contagion effect during adolescence (1, 17,
56 18). However, the directionality of such associations is not clear and alternative
57 accounts frame susceptibility to social influence during adolescence in a less
58 maladaptive context.

59 It is important to recognise that social influence can change behaviour for the better,
60 an effect widely used for adaptive ends both in education and psychotherapy.
61 Susceptibility to peer influence can be associated with *higher* psychosocial functioning
62 in young adolescents (8), while an enhanced impact of social influence is observed in
63 neuro-typically developing, but not autistic, teenagers (19). These findings suggest
64 that a higher tendency to integrate social influence into one's own decisions might be
65 an adaptive ingredient in healthy social development during adolescence, a period of
66 life characterised by a shift in social orientation away from the parents towards one's
67 peer group.

68 Although peer influences on decision-making during adolescence have been widely
69 investigated, several important questions remain unanswered. Firstly, claims on social
70 susceptibility and its real life consequences in adolescents mostly rely on cross-
71 sectional designs and modest sample sizes. Here, we applied a longitudinal design in
72 a large cohort of adolescents and young adults to study peer influence on a well
73 characterised task measuring delay discounting – a key measure of temporal
74 impulsivity relevant for development and psychopathology (20, 21). Longitudinal
75 designs are important for addressing developmental questions as they provide a basis

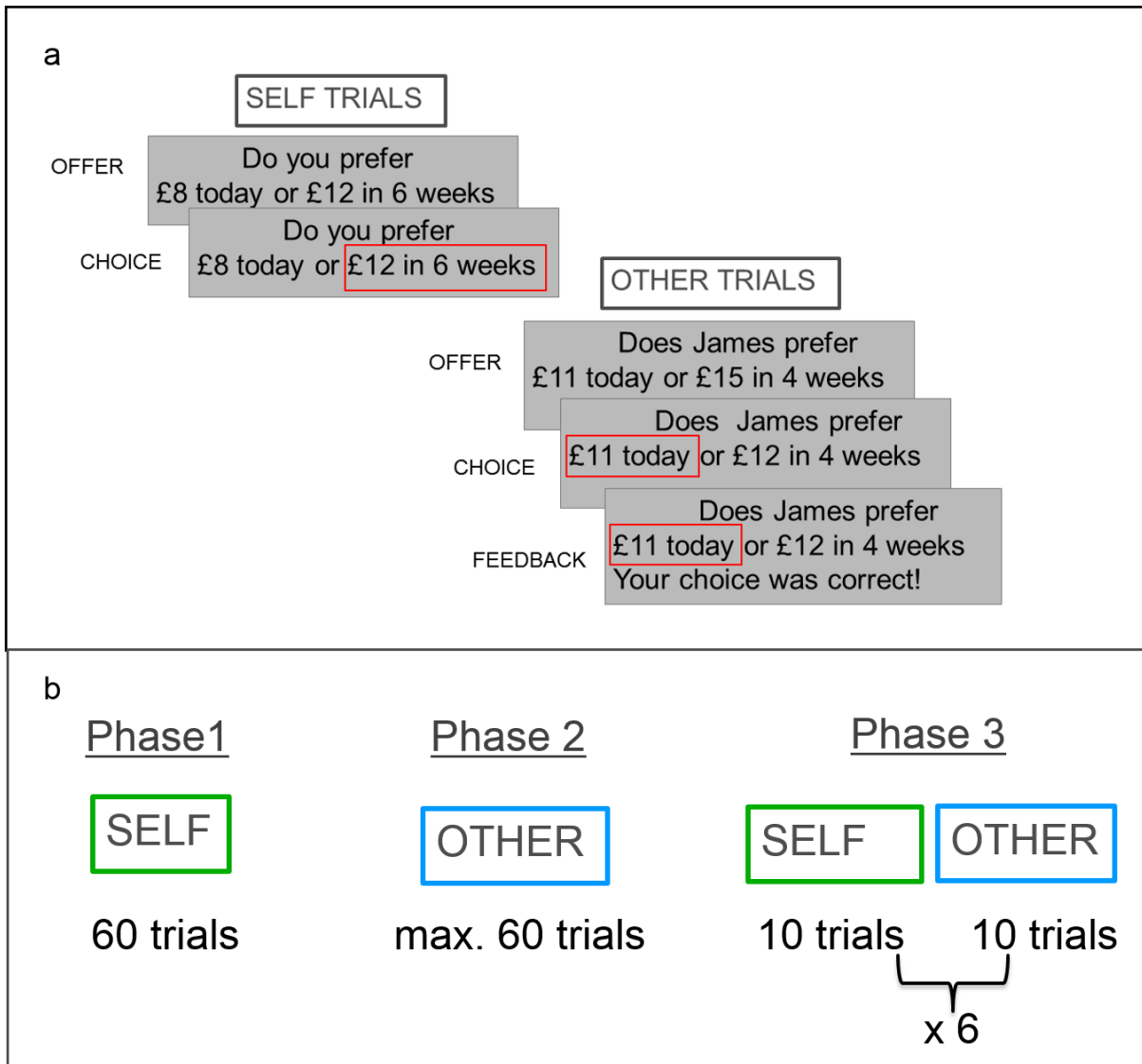
76 for disentangling cohort or sampling effects from developmental trajectories. We show
77 that social susceptibility not only decreases with age cross-sectionally, but also
78 longitudinally. Longitudinally, we demonstrate that susceptibility to peer influence at
79 baseline predicts the quality of peer relationships over follow-up, highlighting an
80 important adaptive role of social susceptibility in healthy adolescents.

81 Secondly, though previous studies have established higher conformity towards
82 peers in adolescents than in adults, it remains unclear *why* this is the case. The adult
83 conformity literature suggests two distinct routes towards conformity, namely
84 *informational influences* ('copy-when-uncertain', observing others to gain information
85 regarding behaviours that are currently adaptive) and *normative influences* (adhering
86 to social norms / expectations of the other, bringing direct benefits through belonging,
87 social tension reduction and acceptance (22, 23). Many findings on peer influence in
88 adolescent psychology are implicitly interpreted within the framework of *normative*
89 *influence*, suggesting the pursuit of social acceptance and sensitivity towards social
90 evaluation by peers is a significant determinant of adolescent decision-making (3, 5,
91 10, 24). Here, we tested an alternative hypothesis, namely that *informational*
92 *influences* underlie higher conformity in adolescence. To this end, we built on our
93 previously validated (Bayesian) probabilistic reasoning model (25) that describes
94 conformity as a learning effect. In brief, If people are uncertain about exactly what to
95 like ('taste uncertainty'(26)), they can learn about what tastes to adopt by adopting the
96 tastes of their peers'. Using this model, we show that such taste uncertainty decreases
97 both with age and over the course of our longitudinal follow-up, and longitudinal
98 change is strongest in the youngest of our sample. Crucially, both cross-sectional and
99 longitudinal developmental effects on social susceptibility are explained by
100 developmental changes in taste uncertainty, suggesting that higher taste uncertainty
101 in younger adolescents is a key mechanism facilitating peer influence in teenagers.

102 Thirdly, we were interested in the co-development of brain structures that are
103 relevant for the expression of taste uncertainty. We previously found the medial
104 prefrontal cortex (mPFC) mediating the influence of others' preferences (27). Building
105 on this, and using novel in-vivo myelin-sensitive magnetization transfer MRI (28), we
106 identify a myelin marker in medial prefrontal cortex that predicts a developmental
107 decrease in taste uncertainty over our longitudinal follow-up period.

108 **Results**

109 To probe a susceptibility to social influence, we used a social version of a delay
110 discounting task (Figure 1). In short, this task allows us to measure a person's
111 temporal discounting coefficient (how much less a future reward is worth, depending
112 on the delay of its delivery) as well as changes in their discount function pre vs. post
113 learning about someone else's discount preferences (See Figure 1, Supplementary
114 Methods and (25, 27, 29) for details). Here, we defined susceptibility to social influence
115 as the degree of change in one's own discount rate towards the preference of a social
116 partner, following exposure to the preferences of a social partner.



118

119 **Figure 1.** Social Delay Discounting Task. A) Example trial for “self” and “other” trial types. In
 120 self trials, participants see an offer of a smaller amount of money they can receive on the
 121 same day or a larger amount of money they can receive after a variable delay period.
 122 Subjects were instructed to indicate their preference according to their true personal taste
 123 and, to enforce expression of true preferences, they were told that one trial would be chosen
 124 at random to determine their pay out. In “other” trials, subjects chose between the smaller,
 125 immediate and the larger, delayed option on behalf of another person, and received
 126 feedback on these choice thereby enabling them to learn the others’ delay discounting
 127 preferences.

128 **Development of susceptibility to social influence**

129 *Cross-sectional baseline age effects*

130 At baseline, we observed a significant negative association between social
131 susceptibility (indexed as the change in discount rate upon learning about the discount
132 rate of another agent) and age, such that social influence declined with age ($r=-.10$,
133 $df=782$, $t=-2.94$, $p=.003$, Figure 2a). Age explained about 1% of the variance in social
134 susceptibility. Though this is significant, it is substantially lower than what has been
135 observed in previous reports, as is often the case with larger, rigorously controlled,
136 replication studies (30).

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138 *Longitudinal analysis*

139 We tested whether social susceptibility also changed intra-individually, within the 1.5
140 years follow-up period. Indeed, a factor time (baseline vs. follow-up) significantly
141 predicted social susceptibility in a linear mixed effects model ($F(1, 566.64)=5.11$,
142 $p=.02$), along with baseline age. Social susceptibility decreased intra-individually over
143 the 1.5 years follow-up period. The interaction of baseline age with time was not
144 nominally significant ($F(1,568.31)=3.78$, $p=.05$). Although not nominally significant,
145 suggests that intra-individual change in susceptibility was most pronounced in the
146 youngest subgroup of the sample.

147

148 *Retest Subsample - Testing for training vs. developmental effects in a 6-month follow*
149 *up subsample of participants*

150 To determine whether the observed longitudinal differences were predominantly due
151 to retest effects or development, we examined a sample of participants who were also
152 tested 6 months apart ('short follow-up', judged to be a short time with respect to
153 maturation). This comprised a sub-sample of $n=55$ of the total group who came to the
154 lab three times (baseline, 6-month 'short' follow-up, 1.5-years 'long' follow-up), in the
155 same manner as per our main sample (see Methods). Repeating the same analysis
156 of longitudinal effects on social susceptibility in this short follow-up sample, we
157 observed a significant effect of time point (baseline, short follow-up, long follow-up) on
158 social susceptibility ($F(2,104.926)=6.87$, $p=.002$). Post-hoc analysis showed that

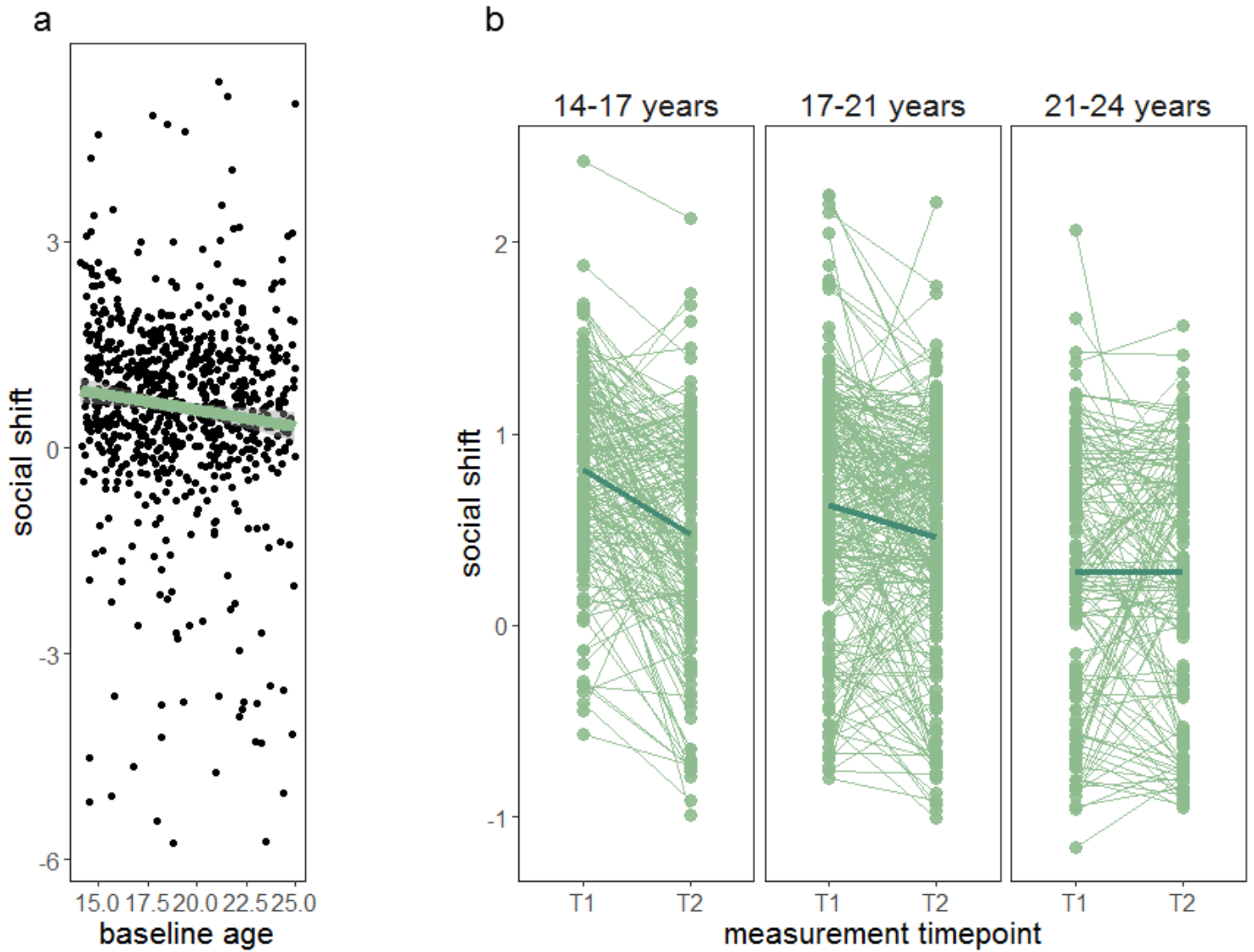
159 susceptibility decreased significantly over the 18-month period ($t=3.47$, $p<.001$), and
160 between 6 and 18 month of follow-up ($t=2.88$, $p=.005$), but critically did not do so over
161 the 6-month period from baseline ($t=.59$, $p=.56$). This pattern does not support a mere
162 training effect, as if this was the case we would expect a stronger change after 6
163 months than after 18 months.

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171 **Figure 2.** *Developmental effects on social susceptibility. A) A tendency to show a*
 172 *peer-induced shift in delay discounting preferences (positive values indicate a change*
 173 *towards the partner) declines with age. B) Susceptibility to peer influence also*
 174 *decreases within person over the course of the longitudinal follow-up period. The*
 175 *longitudinal change depends on baseline age and is more pronounced in younger*
 176 *participants. We plot posterior estimates from our mixed effects model. Note that age*
 177 *entered the model as a continuous regressor, here we plot 4-year-age bins (≤ 17 years*
 178 *old, $>17 \leq 21$ years old, >21 years old), only for visualization purposes.*

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180 **Relationship with the development of psychosocial functioning**

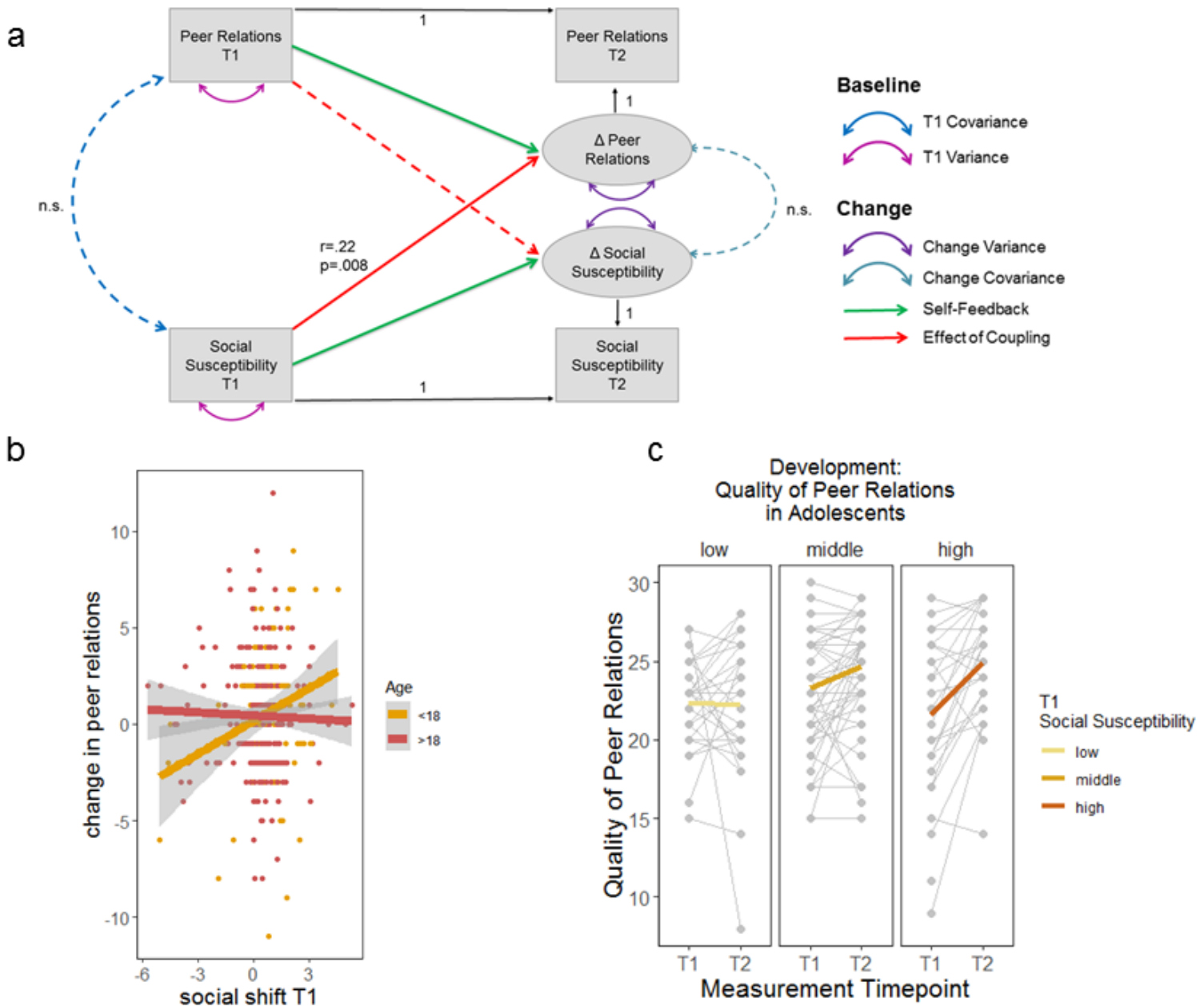
181 In previous work, we observed a positive association of susceptibility to peer influence
182 and sociability in a smaller cross-sectional study, including young adolescents(8).
183 Here we tested for this association again, including in a longitudinal manner, in our
184 larger dataset. We used a bivariate latent change score model (31) to test for a co-
185 development of social susceptibility and quality of peer relationships, as measured by
186 the Cambridge Friendship Questionnaire (CFQ(32, 33)) The model showed that the
187 perceived quality of peer relations increased from baseline to long follow-up
188 (significant intercept of the latent CFQ change score: $z=2.28$, $p=.022$, standardised
189 estimate=.09). There was no significant covariation of social susceptibility and peer
190 relations at baseline ($z=-.77$, $p=.44$, standardised beta=.03). However, the latent-
191 change model revealed a small, but significant, positive association between social
192 susceptibility at baseline on rate of change in peer relation development from baseline
193 to long follow-up. In effect, those who showed a higher tendency to shift their
194 preferences towards their partners' also reported larger gains in social integration from
195 baseline to long follow-up ($z=2.12$, $p=.03$, standardised beta=.08).

196 Previous findings (6, 8) show that developmental effects on social susceptibility might
197 be particularly pronounced in younger teenagers. Thus, we repeated the path analysis
198 separately on age specific subsamples of our main sample, namely a younger
199 (participants who were < 18 at both baseline and long follow-up, $n=116$) and an older
200 (participants who were adults, i.e. ≥ 18 years old, at both measurement time points,
201 $n=248$) subsample. Comparing this model to a model where the path of interest (social
202 susceptibility at baseline \rightarrow quality change in peer relations at long follow-up) was
203 constrained to be equal between the younger and older subsample, revealed a
204 significant advantage of fitting an age-dependent sub-group-specific parameters (Log
205 likelihood Ratio Test, $\Delta\chi^2=6.20$, $\Delta df=1$, $p=.01$). This indicates differences in a younger
206 vs. older subgroup regarding the degree to which social susceptibility at baseline
207 influences real life social development.

208 Analysing the path of interest separately for the younger (<18 years) and older (≥ 18
209 years) subgroup revealed a significant effect of social susceptibility on social
210 development in the adolescent (<18 years) group alone ($z=2.31$, standardised
211 beta=.23, $p=.02$, see Figure 3), whereas there was no significant coupling of social
212 susceptibility on social development in the young adult (<18 years) group ($z=-.06$,

213 beta=.003, $p=.96$). This suggests that greater susceptibility to social influence earlier
214 in adolescence might be an important factor affecting development of integrative social
215 relationships as we grow up. Subsequently, we repeated the structural equation model
216 to analyse an association with selected maladaptive traits, which had been discussed
217 in the context of delay discounting and peer influence in the literature (2, 34-36),
218 namely externalising behaviours, and alcohol consumption, both assessed using the
219 behaviours checklist questionnaire (37). In neither of these models did we find an
220 association of social susceptibility with maladaptive behaviours (all standardised betas
221 $\leq .11$, all $z \leq |1.27|$, all $p > .203$).

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225 **Figure 3.** A) Latent change score model of the longitudinal development of social
 226 susceptibility in our task, the longitudinal development of real-life psycho-social
 227 functioning (perceived quality of peer relations) from baseline to long follow-up (~1.5
 228 years later) as well as their co-development. Social susceptibility at time point 1
 229 significantly predicts an increase in the quality of peer relationships within the follow-
 230 up period. Solid lines: significant path, dashed line: non-significant path. B) This
 231 positive association was driven by the younger (≤ 18 years old) people in our sample,
 232 but was not significant in those aged 18 or older. The full set of parameter estimates
 233 is included in supplementary table 1. C) Change in the Quality of Peer Relations,
 234 plotted as a function of T1 Social susceptibility.

235

236 One reason for conformity is *informational influence*, whereby humans use
237 observational information to reduce uncertainty about what to like, even if, as in our
238 task, this does not produce immediate material benefits (16, 19). We tested the
239 hypothesis that the observed developmental reductions on social susceptibility occur
240 as a consequence of developmentally decreasing uncertainty about own preferences
241 (“taste uncertainty”). Thus, in a next step, we used a previously validated formal
242 computational model (19) to estimate an individual ‘taste uncertainty’ parameter (see
243 supplementary results for effects of other parameters of the model). This allowed us
244 to test for developmental effects on taste uncertainty and whether this accounts for the
245 observed susceptibility to social influence.

246

247 **Computational modelling: Developmental Effects on taste uncertainty**

248 *Taste uncertainty predicts susceptibility to social influences*

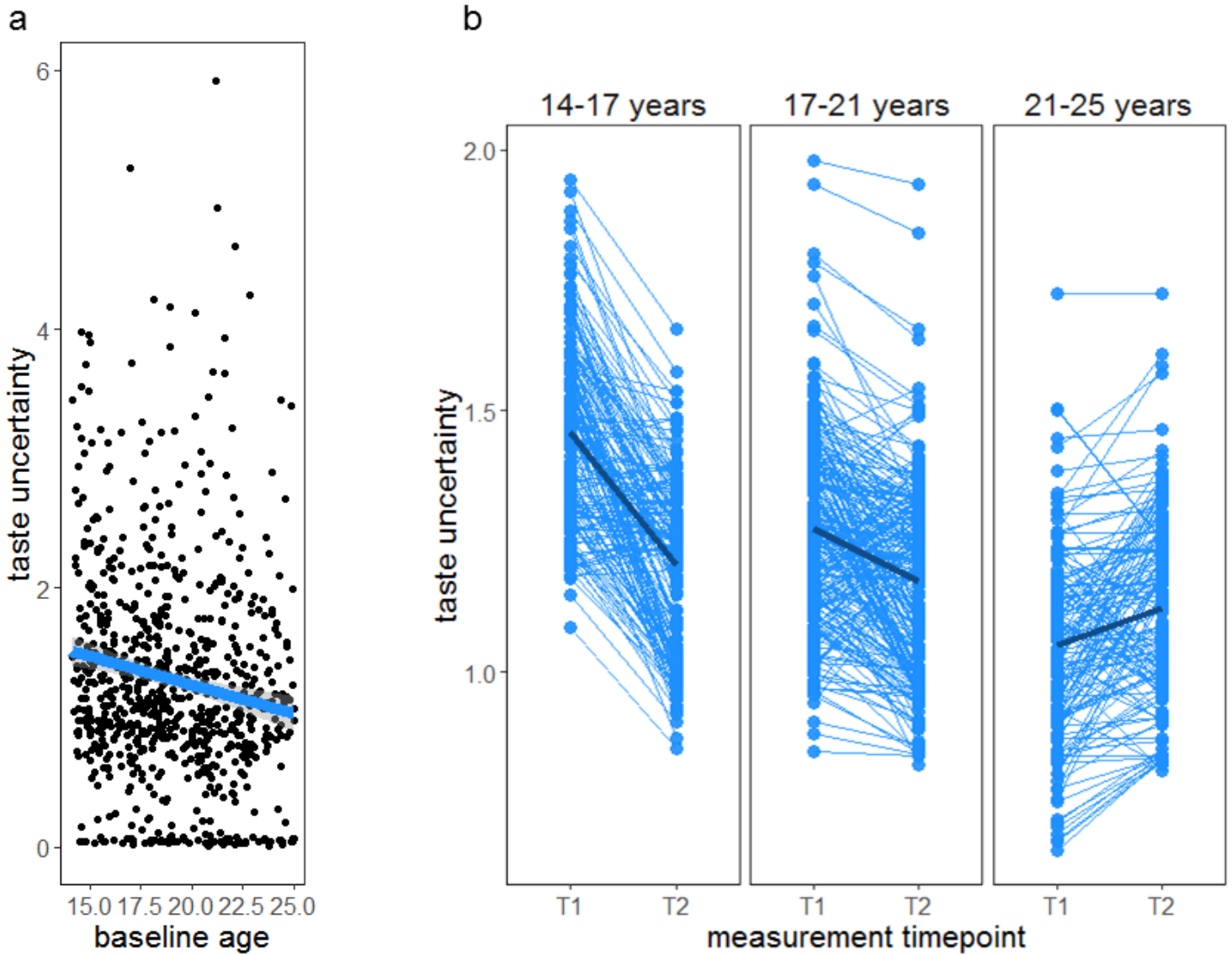
249 Taste uncertainty was significantly associated with social shift at both measurement
250 time points, consistent with an informational account of conformity (all $r > .50$, all
251 $t > 15.57$, all $p < 2.2e-16$, see S-Figure 1).

252 *Cross-sectional baseline age effects*

253 At baseline, taste uncertainty negatively correlated with age ($r = -.16$, $t = -4.56$, $df = 780$
254 $p = 5.869e-05$, Figure 4a).

255 *Longitudinal Analysis*

256 A linear mixed effects model revealed a significant effect of baseline age
257 ($F(1,564.53) = 14.22$, $p < .001$), time ($F(1,564.86) = 5.71$, $p = .017$), ($F(1,564.53) = 5.71$,
258 $p = .017$) and an interaction of baseline age and time ($F(1,565.41) = 9.29$, $p = .002$) on
259 taste uncertainty. To visualise the latter interaction, we plot longitudinal (intra-
260 individual) change as a function of age at baseline in Figure 4b. Figure 4b suggests
261 that relevant longitudinal changes in taste uncertainty were strongest in those that
262 were ≤ 17 years of age at baseline.



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Figure 4. Taste uncertainty decreases cross-sectionally (panel a) and over the 1.5 years follow-up (panel b). This decrease is most pronounced in the youngest participants. We plot posterior estimates of our mixed model analysis. Note that age entered the model as a continuous regressor, here we plot 4-year-age bins (≤ 17 years old, $>17 \leq 21$ years old, >21 years old), only for visualization purposes.

272 *Retest Subsample - Testing for training effects in a 6-month follow up subsample of*
273 *participants.*

274 In line with findings in our main study sample, we observed a significant effect of time
275 on taste uncertainty ($F(1,105.29)=3.57$, $p=.032$) in the 'short follow-up' subsample.
276 Post-hoc inspection revealed that taste uncertainty decreased within-person over the
277 three measurement time points in the reduced subsample. Post hoc tests showed that
278 a contrast of first and last (1.5 years follow-up) time points was significant ($t=2.670$,
279 $p=.009$), whereas the change between first and 6-month follow-up was not ($t=1.23$,
280 $p=.220$). This pattern of findings is inconsistent with changes being due to a mere
281 training effect, as we would expect stronger change after 6 compared to 18 months.

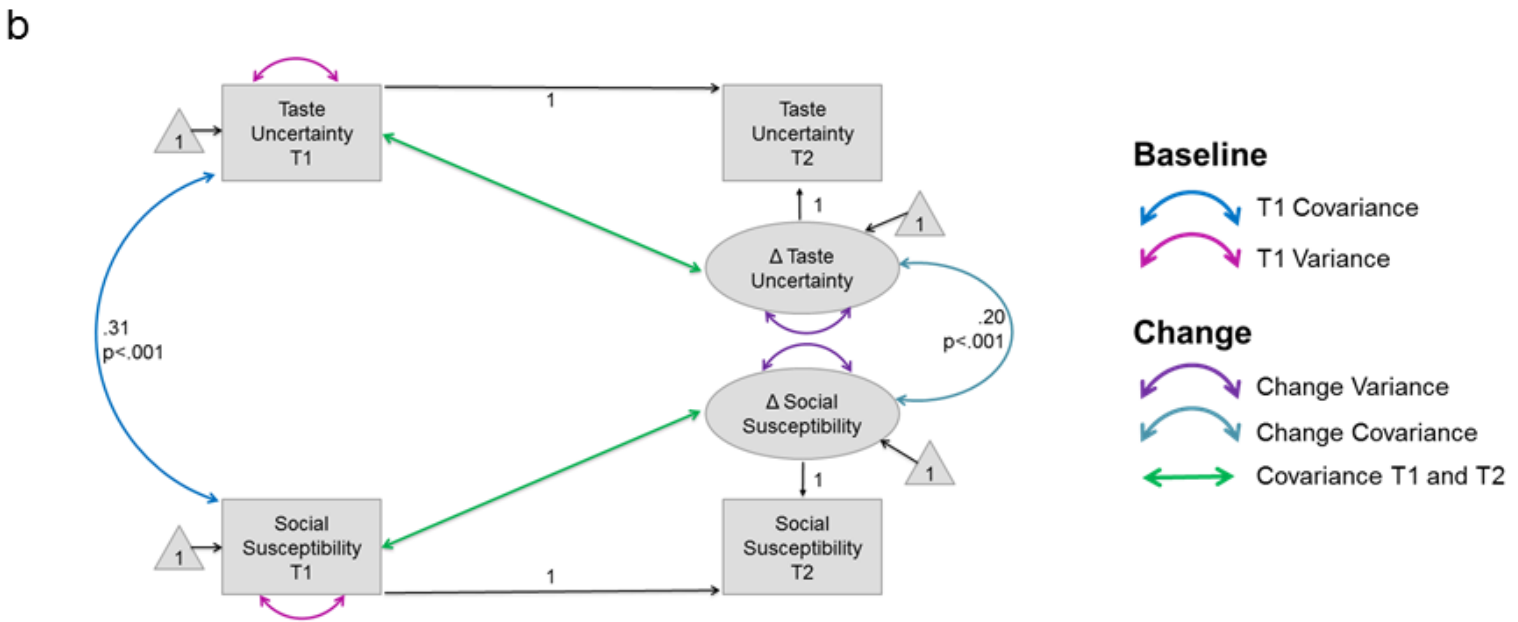
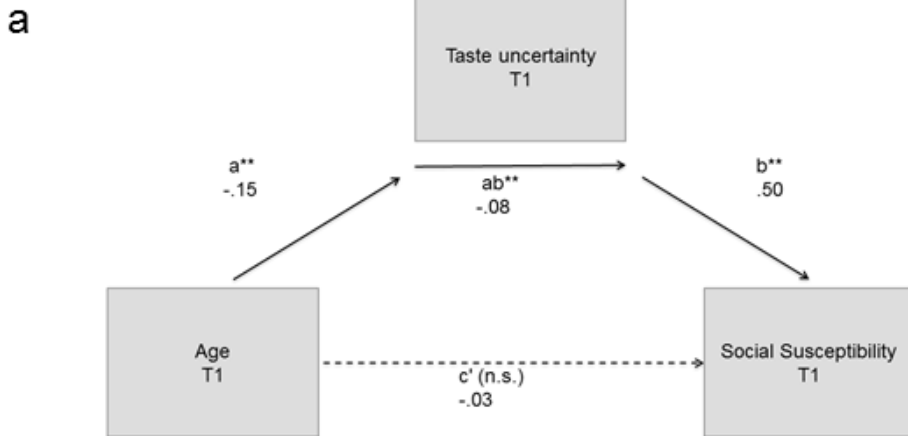
282 **Mediation analyses: Taste uncertainty explains developmental effects of social** 283 **susceptibility**

284 Our computational model of social shifts posits a specific mechanism by which social
285 influence arises, namely a reduction in one's own taste uncertainty by learning how
286 someone else performs a task (22, 25). As taste uncertainty declines with age, and
287 decreases longitudinally within person, this raises a possibility that age-related
288 changes in social susceptibility (as found here and in previous studies) is driven by the
289 age-related change in taste uncertainty. To test this, we first set up a model where we
290 tested a possible mediation of the cross-sectional age effects on preference shift by
291 taste uncertainty on baseline (baseline) data. We found that an effect of age on
292 preference shift was accounted for by the mediating effect of taste uncertainty,
293 corresponding to a significant full mediation (significant proportion of mediation (38):
294 $estimate=.72$, $z=3.03$, $p=.002$, Figure 5A, Table 1). That is, the significant age effects
295 on social susceptibility, as found here and in many previous studies, are, in this study,
296 explained by age effects on taste uncertainty.

297 In a next step, we examined the covariation of longitudinal change in taste uncertainty
298 with longitudinal change in social susceptibility, using latent change score modelling.
299 To do so, we changed the autoregressive and coupling effects to co-variances,
300 to display and model the unconditional change scores. We observed a significant
301 covariation of rates of change in both parameters (raw $beta=.41$, standardised
302 $beta=.21$, $z=3.82$, $p<.001$), in line with our assumption that development of social
303 susceptibility is accounted for by development of taste uncertainty.

path	notation	est (unst)	se	z	p	lower CI	upper CI	est (stand)
social susceptibility ~ age	c'	-0.01	0.02	-0.86	0.39	-0.04	0.02	-0.03
social susceptibility ~ taste uncertainty	b	0.80	0.07	11.82	<.001	0.66	0.93	0.50
taste uncertainty ~ age	a	-0.05	0.01	-4.37	<.001	-0.06	-0.02	-0.15
indirect (mediation) path	a*b	-0.04	0.01	-4.08	<.001	-0.05	-0.02	-0.08
total	c'+(a*b)	-0.05	0.02	-2.71	.007	-0.08	-0.01	-0.11
proportion mediated	indirect/total	.72	.24	3.03	.002	.255	1.19	0.72

Table 1. Mediation results: T1 data



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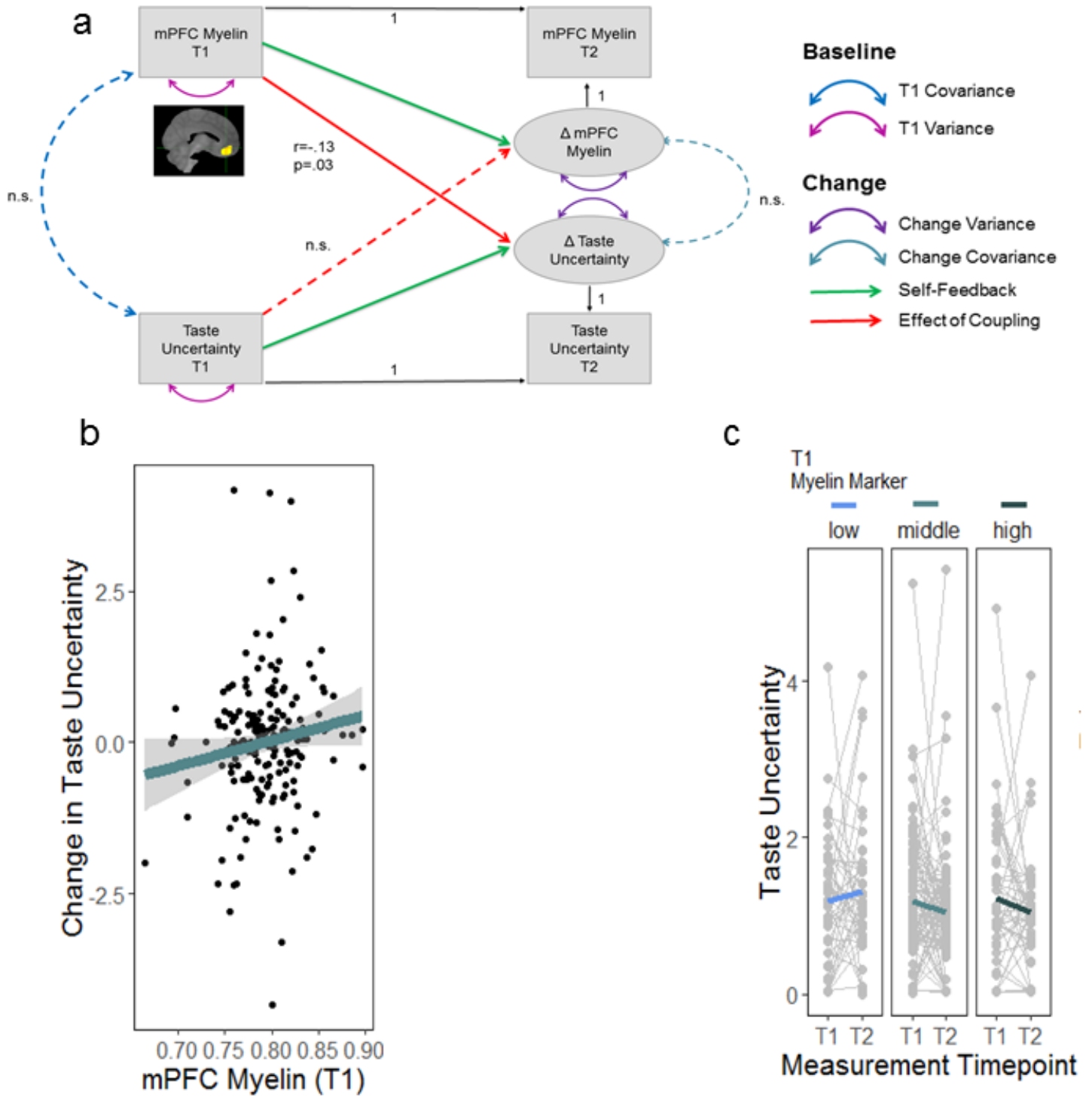
305 **Figure 5.** A) Mediation analysis for preference shift as predicted from age and
 306 mediated by taste uncertainty at T1. Age predicted taste uncertainty (path a). The
 307 mediator (taste uncertainty) predicted preference shift (path b, controlled for the age
 308 effect on taste uncertainty). Importantly, the mediation effect was significant (path
 309 ab). The direct path c', namely the age effect on preference shift after accounting for
 310 the mediation, was not significant. The proportion of total variance explained by the
 311 mediation effect was significant. Thus, the age effect on social susceptibility at
 312 baseline was accounted for by taste uncertainty. See table 1 for the full set of
 313 parameter estimates including standardised and unstandardised betas. B) In line with
 314 our assumption that development of social susceptibility is accounted for by
 315 development of taste uncertainty, the bivariate latent change score model not only
 316 showed a significant covariation of taste uncertainty with social susceptibility at T1,

317 *but also significant covariation of the rate of change in both domains. The full set of*
318 *parameter estimates is included in supplementary table 3.*
319

320 **Co-Development of brain structural correlates and taste uncertainty**

321 To establish whether there is a structural neural correlate for developmental effects on
322 taste uncertainty, we used bivariate latent change score modelling testing for the co-
323 development of cognitive and brain structural development in a subsample of subjects
324 who underwent both our experimental sessions (baseline and 18 months) and
325 structural MRI (n=186, see Methods). Here, we focussed on myelination, given its
326 pivotal role in adolescent brain development, and building on recent findings on its
327 association with trait measures in adolescent development (28). In a similar
328 discounting task, utilizing repetition-suppression to assess neural plasticity, we
329 previously showed that medial prefrontal cortex (mPFC) is the principal region
330 expressing within-task plasticity as preferences shift (27). See supplementary
331 methods for pre-processing of the MRI data.

332 Using an anatomically defined mPFC mask (based on the Harvard-Oxford atlas, see
333 SI), we extracted estimates of a myelin-sensitive marker, Magnetisation Transfer
334 saturation (MT). This allowed us to investigate a *cross-domain coupling* that captures
335 the extent to which *change* in one domain is a function of the starting level in the other
336 using latent change score modelling (model fit indices: $p_{\text{Chi}^2}=.22$, CFI=.96,
337 RMSEA=.04, SRMR=.03). Sex, age, scanning site and general IQ were included in
338 the analysis as covariates (28). We observed that baseline intra-cortical mPFC MT
339 was predictive of the longitudinal change in taste uncertainty (raw beta=-3.92,
340 standardised beta=-.13, $z=-2.12$, $p=.03$, Figure 6), i.e. more intra-cortical mPFC myelin
341 lead to a more pronounced reduction in taste uncertainty over the 1.5 year follow-up.
342 Taste uncertainty did not significantly predict longitudinal brain development, and there
343 was no covariance in rates of change in both domains (all betas $.10 \leq$ all $p_s \geq .13$, see
344 S-Table 3 for full output of the latent change score model). Repeating the same
345 structural equation model using estimates of myelin in the visual cortex as a control
346 region (model fit indices: $\text{Chi}^2=.38$, CFI=.99, RMSEA=.02, SRMR=.03) (39), we did
347 not observe any cross-domain coupling of our task measure with myelination across
348 development (all beta<.033, all $p>.51$).



349

350 **Figure 6.** A) Bivariate latent change score model. Three developmental brain-
 351 behaviour relationships are possible and tested for by the model: 1) differences in
 352 myelin at baseline affect the rate of taste uncertainty decrease; 2) taste uncertainty at
 353 baseline predicts the degree of myelin gain between baseline and long follow-up, 3)
 354 correlated change (the degree of reduction in taste uncertainty is correlated with the
 355 degree of myelin change). While the path indicating the mPFC myelin marker as a
 356 significant predictor of longitudinal change in taste uncertainty was significant (beta=-.

357 13, $p=.03$), the other cross-domain coupling paths were not. Solid lines: significant
358 path, dashed line: non-significant path. No means are displayed for clarity; the full set
359 of parameter estimates is included in supplementary table 3. B) Higher values of the
360 mPFC myelin marker at measurement timepoint 1 led to a more pronounced
361 longitudinal change in taste uncertainty (note that a stronger longitudinal decline is
362 coded as positive (“more change”) for illustration purposes). C) Longitudinal change
363 in Taste Uncertainty as a function of different levels of T1 myelin marker values.
364

365 **Discussion**

366 In adolescence, a greater susceptibility to social influence is considered a driver of
367 maladaptive real-life behaviour (e.g. drinking, reckless driving, delinquency, suicidal
368 behaviours) (10-13, 15, 16). Here, using a longitudinal design involving a large cohort
369 of 14-24 year-olds, combined with quantitative brain imaging, we replicate a finding of
370 increased social susceptibility in adolescents and characterise its neurodevelopmental
371 and computational basis.

372 We replicate previous developmental effects on social susceptibility in the
373 paradigmatic case of delay discounting, showing that social susceptibility decreases
374 with age from adolescence to adulthood. We extend on this previous finding in a
375 number of ways. Firstly, we provide longitudinal evidence for a developmental
376 decrease in susceptibility to social influences. Secondly, we show that social
377 susceptibility in young healthy adolescents is adaptive with respect to longitudinal
378 improvements in peer relationships. Thirdly, we outline a cognitive and computational
379 basis for these effects, showing that higher social susceptibility in younger adolescents
380 is best explained by this age defined population being more uncertain about what they
381 like, thereby rendering them more prone to adopt others' preferences. Over the course
382 of development this 'taste uncertainty' decreases, which in turn attenuates a need,
383 and consequential impact of, social influences on one's own behaviour. Lastly, we
384 identify a candidate neuro-developmental correlate of this effect by showing that a
385 myelin sensitive marker within mPFC, a key region mediating social preference shifts,
386 predicts longitudinal change in taste uncertainty.

387 We replicate our previous finding, from a young adult sample, showing delay
388 discounting preferences can be systematically changed by learning about another's
389 delay discounting preferences (27, 29). Extending these findings, we now show that
390 the degree of a preference shift is, in this sample of 14-24 years olds, most pronounced
391 during younger adolescence, a developmental period characterised by significant
392 social-affective transformations (3). Importantly, our longitudinal design allowed us for
393 the first time to demonstrate a within-person developmental decrease in this social
394 susceptibility. A separate analysis in a retest sample showed that these observations
395 could not be explained by a training effect.

396 Importantly, we found that such higher susceptibility at a younger age has an important
397 adaptive, rather than maladaptive, role in this healthy population. Exploiting our
398 accelerated longitudinal design (28, 31, 33, 40), we demonstrate that the
399 developmental improvements in real-life psycho-social functioning, assessed by the
400 perceived quality of peer relations after 1.5 years, is predicted by higher susceptibility
401 to social influence, particularly in younger teenagers. This extends cross-sectional
402 findings in healthy younger adolescents which showed that behavioural contagion
403 was associated with a higher degree of social functioning (6). Notably, in previous
404 accounts, susceptibility to social influence was mostly highlighted in the context of
405 maladaptive real-life behaviours in teenagers. For example, both real-life and digital
406 peer influence is suggested to lead to higher rates of delinquency, real-life risk-taking,
407 unprotected sexual intercourse, substance consumption and suicidal behaviours (1,
408 2, 10-16, 18). In this study of healthy adolescents however, susceptibility to social
409 influences did not relate to externalizing psychiatric symptoms or substance
410 consumption, nor did it predict such potentially maladaptive behavioural tendencies in
411 a longitudinal fashion. This discrepancy might suggest that the impact of higher
412 susceptibility to peer influence in teenagers depends on the very nature of social
413 influence, including the nature of the role models who exert this influence. Being
414 behaviourally responsive to peers may be generally thought of as functional and
415 predictive of resilience in the face of adversity. In our sample of relatively healthy
416 teenagers, it indeed led to successful social adaptation in real life, a key requirement
417 of adolescent development. However, it is equally the case that maladaptive
418 consequences might arise if teenagers have to navigate less advantageous or
419 unstable conditions, where they are likely to be confronted with less desirable role
420 models. For example, as recent models of conduct problems emphasize, sensitivity to
421 peer influence for youth in distressed urban neighbourhoods may carry risk when a
422 teenager overgeneralizes and automatically, without mentalizing, deploys a learnt
423 response (e.g. fighting back aggressively when challenged) in a setting where it is not
424 adaptive, such as in school (41).

425 Finally, using computational modelling, we provide a mechanistic account for the
426 frequent previous observation of adolescents being more prone to peer influence than
427 adults (e.g.(5, 6, 8)). In principle, two routes to conformity are possible, *normative*
428 *influences* (adhering to social norms and expectations to gain interpersonal benefits

429 such as being part of a group (16), and *informational influences* (reducing uncertainties
430 about the world and the self by observing others). In the existing literature, peer
431 influences on decision-making are generally implicitly interpreted within a normative
432 account of conformity. Using a Bayesian model, previously validated on this same task
433 (19), we specifically probed the latter hypothesis. We show that uncertainty about
434 one's own preferences predicted social shift, and that developmental differences in
435 susceptibility to social influences are fully explained by decreasing uncertainty as
436 participants aged. This provides a novel interpretation of our current and previous
437 findings. Intriguingly, it places susceptibility to social influence into an adaptive context
438 – as a rational means to reduce one's own uncertainty.

439 Future studies of adolescent development may usefully manipulate both informational
440 and normative sources of conformity to disentangle their respective effects on
441 adolescent behaviour, and to test for putative interactions between these processes.
442 For example, is social influence on adolescents highest when they are uncertain and
443 feel an enhanced need to conform in order to be accepted by peers? The Bayesian
444 model applied here might prove useful for this question, as it enables modelling of
445 relevance of the source of social influence in addition to taste uncertainty (19). Future
446 studies should investigate the ecological selection of influencers and modulation of
447 taste shift, as a function of the quality of earlier development. Bayesian modelling can
448 then dissect the cognitive process of healthy social adaptation, a key requirement of
449 adolescent development, as opposed to the maladaptive influence of undesirable role
450 models.

451 In our structural brain imaging analysis, we uncovered a neural correlate of taste
452 uncertainty. Using the same social delay discounting task, during functional
453 imaging, we have shown that mPFC expresses neuronal plasticity that predicts
454 preference malleability (27). Myelin maturation unfolds throughout adolescence and
455 into young adulthood and is a key mechanism underlying neuronal plasticity (42, 43).
456 This motivated an hypothesis that a marker of myelin in the mPFC would relate to
457 developmental effects on taste uncertainty. Indeed, we found that baseline MT in this
458 region was predictive of a greater reduction in taste uncertainty over time. In contrast,
459 baseline taste uncertainty did not predict changes in MT, and there was no association
460 between the rates of change in both measures. This suggests that the observed
461 longitudinal reduction in taste uncertainty over time is accelerated when myelin in the

462 mPFC is at a more mature absolute level, underscoring the importance of brain
463 structural maturation in cognitive development during adolescence. This is consistent
464 with myelination specifically being a key neuro-developmental process relating to
465 important dispositional differences in this period of life (28).

466 Notably, the effect size of the developmental effects on susceptibility to social
467 influence was lower than previously reported in theoretical accounts and lower sample
468 size studies. This is consistent with reports on large-scale replication efforts of original
469 findings in psychological science in bigger sample sizes, which reported only effect
470 sizes on average of $\frac{1}{2}$ the originally reported effects (30). On the one hand, it highlights
471 the need for larger sample sizes and replication in order to estimate meaningful effect
472 sizes in the field of developmental psychology. It may, however, also be dependent on
473 precise methodological details and the specific demographics of our sample, e.g., on
474 the fact that our sample did not include very young adolescents for whom strong
475 susceptibility effects have been reported previously (6, 8). Our findings stress the
476 importance of longitudinal designs for developmental psychology. Indeed, the
477 association of peer susceptibility with real-life social functioning, as well as neuro-
478 developmental markers, were only observed within-person, but not across-participant,
479 potentially due to the higher power of within-subject designs as compared to between-
480 subject designs.

481 In sum, our study showcases the role of computational modelling and large-scale,
482 longitudinal developmentally sensitive studies (44, 45), identifying the psychological
483 mechanisms and neuro-developmental processes which underpin the phenomenon of
484 susceptibility to social influences over adolescent to young adult development.

485

486 **Materials and Methods**

487 **Main Sample**

488 The experimental task was delivered as part of a task battery administered to a sample
489 of community dwellers between the ages of 14 and 24 in Cambridgeshire and London,
490 as part of the Neuroscience in Psychiatry Network (NSPN) project (40). All participants
491 provided written informed consent. The Cambridge Central Research Ethics
492 Committee approved the study (12/EE/0250). Data for this task was available from
493 n=784 (401 female) participants for baseline. N=738 of this baseline data has informed
494 a previously published computational model validation paper (25). Participants were
495 14.10-24.99 years old (mean=19.05, sd=2.96) at baseline. 569 (284 female)
496 participants returned for a second assessment approximately 1.5 years later. Mean
497 age at follow-up was 20.28 years (range: 15.11- 26.48 years, sd=2.97) while mean
498 time between first and second assessment was 1.48 years (range: 0.98-2.62 years,
499 sd = 0.30). Structural imaging and task data were available (and passed quality
500 assessment) for n=184 participants for both measurement time points (97 females).

501 **Retest Subsample: Testing for training effects in a 6-month follow up subsample** 502 **of participants**

503 A subsample of n=55 participants completed the task three times, with an additional
504 interim session after a ~6 month follow-up period. This “retest sample” allows us to
505 index short-term changes (over 6 months), indicative of training effects, from long-term
506 changes (over ~1.5 years) indicative of developmental change.

507

508

509

510 **Computational Modelling**

511 Our model was first introduced and validated on the majority of baseline datasets of
512 this study in (25). In short, we adopt a Bayesian approach to model a change in belief
513 in one’s own delay discounting preferences as a function of i) “taste uncertainty” (as
514 reflected in a participants’ choice variability), that is how uncertain a person is about
515 their own preferences in the delay discounting task prior to any social exposure in the
516 task and ii) relevance of the social influence source. The model describes that subjects
517 hold a Gaussian belief distribution over their log-discounting coefficient (they are
518 uncertain about their discounting preferences). In previous work (25) we found based
519 on model selection that decision variability during the task was best described as
520 reflecting uncertainty about discounting preference, as opposed to decision noise
521 added after evaluation (as, for example, in the softmax rule). See SI and (25) for
522 details.

523

524 **Statistical Analysis**

525 All data were analysed using R (46) . Mixed models for longitudinal analyses included
526 a categorical within-subject factor ‘measurement time point’ (baseline vs. follow-up)
527 and a random intercept per subject. They were fit and p-values were calculated based
528 on a Kenward-Roger approximation for degrees-of-freedom using the R package *afex*
529 (47). In all mixed models, discounting preference of the other was included as a
530 covariate. When analysing social susceptibility, i.e. social shift towards the other, own
531 discounting preference was included as a covariate. All continuous predictors were
532 centred on zero. Post-hoc contrasts were computed using the R package *emmeans*
533 (48). Latent change score models were fit using the package *lavaan* (49) with R code
534 provided in (31), freely available at <https://osf.io/4bpmq/files/>. In all models, we used
535 a robust estimation procedure (‘mlr’ implemented in *lavaan*) to account for non-
536 normality in the data. Plots were generated using *ggplot2* (50). Scripts for all statistical
537 analyses are available via <https://osf.io/9qu4w/>.

Supplemental Material

Supplementary Methods

Task

We used a social version of a delay discounting task (Figure 1) described in detail elsewhere (25, 27). The task consisted of three phases. In phase 1, participants played 60 trials of a temporal discounting task where they had to decide whether to choose between a smaller amount of money paid out immediately or a larger amount paid out at an indicated time in the future. Phase 1 decisions were used to determine their initial value k_{phase1} in a standard hyperbolic discounting model (51):

$$V_D = \frac{R_D}{1 + KD}$$

where V_D is the delay-discounted value of a reward, R is the reward, D is the delay, and K is the hyperbolic discounting parameter.

The 60 trials of phase 1 included 30 offer pairs from a standard set covering a wide range of values of K . Half of the trials were an interleaved set of 30 from an adaptive algorithm which calculated a probability distribution over possible values of K and then selected a pair of options likely to reduce the entropy of that distribution as much as possible (see (25) for details). Participants were instructed to respond according to their own true preferences.

In phase 2, a second player was introduced. Participants were instructed to make choices in the same delay discounting task for the other player so as to learn the discounting preferences of the other. This preference of the other person was based on the baseline preference of our participant. In a between-subjects manner, the observee's delay discounting preferences was manipulated such that the other was chosen to be either *more* or *less* patient than the participant himself. More specifically, in 2/3 of the cases, the observee was chosen to have k_{other} shifted from k_{self_phase1} by one standard deviation towards the mean of the population distribution, and in 1/3 of cases away from it (in log space). Participants received feedback as to whether their choice on behalf of the other was correct in terms of the other's discounting preference. where correct choices were defined using a simulation of the other's choice based on their discounting preference. In case the participant's response matched the

simulation's prediction, the choice was coded as correct. These "learning about the other" trials were presented until either the participant got 8 correct answers out of the most recent 10, or until 60 learning trials were completed.

In phase 3, we interleaved mini-blocks of 10 trials 'choose for self', which were as in phase 1, and 10 trials 'choose for other', in order to keep the other's discounting preference. This allowed us to estimate social shift scores ($\log k_{self_phase3} - \log k_{self_phase1}$) that evaluate a change in delay discounting preference pre- vs. post learning about the other, and thus inter-individual differences in susceptibility to social influence.

We informed participants that one of the 'choose for self' trials from the entire task would be chosen at random and the choice they made paid out for real at the appropriate delay. Participants were instructed that there was no financial incentive to make correct choices in the 'choose for other' trials. The task was programmed in MATLAB 2012a using the Cogent graphics toolbox (<http://www.vislab.ucl.ac.uk/Cogent/>).

Computational Modeling

The model assumes that both the subject and the social partner come from the same reference distribution $N(k, \sigma^2)$, the width of which describes the relevance of the other and is a fitted parameter of the model (see supplementary results). By observing the preference choice data of the other, d_o , subjects can update their own preference belief distribution $p(k)$ in light of what they learn about the other. In this Bayesian formulation, the more uncertain subjects are about their preferences, the more they shift after learning about others. Thus, this model formalizes the notion of *informational conformity*, namely conforming with others to reduce one's own uncertainty. Please refer to (25) for the algorithmic implementation. In this previous model validation study, we found that participants' behaviour showed evidence for taste 'shifting' correlated to their baseline decision variability, as would be expected if the latter represented uncertainty, upon which Bayesian updating then operated (25).

Psychometric Measures

Perceived quality of peer relations

We used the Cambridge Friendship Questionnaire (CFQ) to assess the perceived quality of peer relations (33), a measure available as part of a Home Questionnaire Pack delivered close in time to the in-lab measurements (40). The CFQ assesses the number, and quality of friendships via self-report (e.g. “Do you feel that your friends understand you”, “Can you confide in your friends”). Higher scores signify higher satisfaction with peer relations.

MRI pre-processing and Region of Interest extraction

Of the participants who completed the task, 318 participated in an additional MRI arm of the study. Participants were scanned at T1 (N=318) and T2 (N=235) on identical Siemens Magnetom TIM Trio whole-body 3T MRI scanners in Cambridge and London as per the quantitative multi-parameter mapping (MPM) protocol (Weiskopf et al. 2013). This included a whole-brain multi-echo FLASH magnetization transfer weighted contrast at 1mm isotropic resolution (TR: 23.7, $\alpha = 6^\circ$, 176 sagittal slices, FOV=256 mm \times 240 mm, matrix = 256 \times 240 \times 176). Quantitative magnetization transfer saturation (MT) maps were derived using biophysical models with the hMRI toolbox (www.hmri.info) for SPM (Wellcome Centre for Human Neuroimaging, London, UK, <http://www.fil.ion.ucl.ac.uk/spm>). These maps have been shown to correlate highly with histological measures of myelin (52, 53).

MT maps were spatially pre-processed using a standard pipeline as implemented in the hMRI toolbox. Maps were segmented using unified segmentation (54) and normalised to MNI space using Diffeomorphic Anatomical Registration using Exponentiated Lie Algebra (DARTEL(55)), followed by spatial smoothing (6mm full-width half-maximum) using tissue-weighted smoothing to preserve grey matter / white matter boundaries. Rigorous quality assessment was applied (for details compare(28)) which led to the exclusion of a total of n=55 datasets.

We created an anatomically defined mask of the mPFC based on the probabilistic Harvard-Oxford cortical structural atlas (thresholded at 30%). Mean MT values from within this mask region were extracted from each map using FSL

(www.fmrib.ox.ac.uk/fsl/) as a proxy for intra-cortical mPFC myelination. Using the same approach, we also extracted mean MT values of the visual cortex (V1) as a control region.

Supplementary Results

Computational Modelling – ‘relevance of the social partner’

Note that apart from taste uncertainty, which is the focus of our developmental study here, also a second parameter, namely ‘relevance of the other’ (see (25) and Methods for details) accounts for social shift in our computational model (all $r < -.25$, all $t < -6.24$, all $p < 8.4e-10$). There was no significant age correlation with the ‘relevance of the other’ parameter ($r = .006$, $t = 0.19$, $df = 780$ $p = .848$). Whilst our developmental hypothesis and the current design was indeed focussed on the taste uncertainty parameter of the model, it is interesting to speculate that a different experimental design explicitly manipulating the relevance of the social influence (e.g., as a function of age group (compare, e.g. (6, 8)), might indeed lead to age-related differences in the ‘relevance of the social partner’ parameter.

539

S-Table 1

540

Bivariate latent change score model: Co-development of Social susceptibility and Perceived Quality of Peer Relationships

541

(Cambridge Friendship Questionnaire). est: unstandardized estimate, se: standard error, CI: confidence interval. est (stand):

542

standardised estimate.

Parameter	est	se	z	p	CI low	CI up	est (stand)
Adults (≥18)							
Change Intercept in Social Susceptibility	0.0401	0.5564	0.0721	0.9425	-1.0505	1.1307	0.0215
Mean social Susceptibility at T1	0.3940	0.0925	4.2609	<.001	0.2128	0.5752	0.2706
Change Variance in Social Susceptibility	2.1064	0.3715	5.6704	<.001	1.3783	2.8345	0.6032
Social Susceptibility at T1 Variance	2.1206	0.3170	6.6891	<.001	1.4993	2.7420	1.0000
Intercept Change in Friendship Quality	11.6726	1.2558	9.2953	<.001	9.2114	14.1338	3.4302
Mean Friendship Quality at T1	23.2946	0.2414	96.4908	<.001	22.8214	23.7678	6.1825
Change Variance Friendship Quality	8.3720	0.9609	8.7127	<.001	6.4887	10.2554	0.7230
Friendship Quality at T1 Variance	14.1965	1.7565	8.0823	<.001	10.7538	17.6391	1.0000
Regression Paths							
Change in Friendship Quality~Social Susceptibility at T1	0.0070	0.1256	0.0561	0.9553	-0.2392	0.2532	0.0030
Change in Social Susceptibility ~ Friendship Quality at T1	0.0096	0.0231	0.4141	0.6788	-0.0357	0.0548	0.0193
Self Feedback: Change in Friendship Quality	-0.4754	0.0518	-9.1750	<.001	-0.5770	-0.3739	-0.5264
Self Feedback: Change in Social Susceptibility	-0.8090	0.0771	10.4906	<.001	-0.9602	-0.6579	-0.6305
Covariance Paths							
Social Susceptibility at T1 Friendship Quality at T1	0.2496	0.3262	0.7652	0.4441	-0.3897	0.8889	0.0455
Change in Social Susceptibility and Change in Friendship Quality	0.6662	0.2816	2.3657	0.0180	0.1143	1.2182	0.1586
Adolescents (<18)							

Intercept Change in Social Susceptibility	0.5961	0.6313	0.9442	0.3450	-0.6412	1.8335	0.3267
Mean social Susceptibility at T1	0.7942	0.1358	5.8486	<.001	0.5281	1.0604	0.5430
Change Variance in Social Susceptibility	1.1585	0.3369	3.4389	<.001	0.4982	1.8187	0.3479
Social Susceptibility at T1 Variance	2.1391	0.4851	4.4093	<.001	1.1883	3.0900	1.0000
Intercept Change in Friendship Quality	12.5330	2.0764	6.0358	<.001	8.4633	16.6027	3.1627
Mean Friendship Quality at T1	22.6078	0.3622	62.4240	<.001	21.8980	23.3177	5.8212
Change Variance in Friendship Quality	10.6887	2.6383	4.0514	<.001	5.5177	15.8596	0.6807
Friendship Quality at T1 Variance	15.0832	2.2863	6.5973	<.001	10.6022	19.5642	1.0000
Regression Paths							
Change in Friendship Quality~ Social Susceptibility at T1	0.6240	0.2697	2.3138	0.0207	0.0954	1.1526	0.2303
Change in Social Susceptibility ~ Friendship Quality at T1	-0.0025	0.0283	-0.0885	0.9295	-0.0580	0.0529	-0.0053
Self Feedback: Friendship Quality	-0.5132	0.0906	-5.6673	<.001	-0.6907	-0.3357	-0.5030
Self Feedback: Social Susceptibility	-1.0079	0.0881	11.4428	<.001	-1.1805	-0.8353	-0.8078
Covariance Paths							
Social Susceptibility at T1 Friendship Quality at T1	-0.3267	0.4426	-0.7380	0.4605	-1.1942	0.5409	-0.0575
Change in Social Susceptibility and Change in Friendship Quality	-0.2359	0.4264	-0.5533	0.5801	-1.0715	0.5997	-0.0670

543

S-Table 2

Latent change score model: Longitudinal development of Social susceptibility and Taste uncertainty. Taste uncertainty covaries with social susceptibility at T1 and longitudinal change in taste uncertainty covaries with longitudinal change in social susceptibility. est: unstandardised estimate, se: standard error, CI: confidence interval, est (stand): standardised estimate.

Parameter	est	se	z	p	lower CI	upper CI	est (stand)
Intercept Change in Social Susceptibility	-0.17589	0.08154	-2.1573	0.03099	-0.3357	-0.01609	-0.09404
Mean Social Susceptibility at T1	0.598969	0.06001	9.98161	<.001	0.481357	0.716582	0.598969
Variance Change in Social susceptibility	3.498715	0.39361	8.88881	<.001	2.727256	4.270175	1
Variance Social susceptibility at T1	1.925826	0.20384	9.44770	<.001	1.526306	2.325347	1
Intercept change in taste uncertainty	-0.1064	0.04591	-2.3173	0.0205	-0.19639	-0.01641	-0.09957
Mean taste uncertainty at T1	1.276897	0.03625	35.2251	<.001	1.205849	1.347945	1.276897
Variance Change in Taste uncertainty	1.141947	0.10468	10.9093	<.001	0.936786	1.347109	1
Variance Taste uncertainty at T1	0.674559	0.06177	10.9208	<.001	0.553495	0.795623	0.674559
Covariation taste uncertainty at T1 and change in Taste uncertainty	-0.55496	0.07682	-7.2240	<.001	-0.70553	-0.40439	-0.51932
Covariation Social Susceptibility at T1 and Change in Social susceptibility	-1.60497	0.24836	-6.4622	<.001	-2.09175	-1.11819	-0.85805
Covariation Social Susceptibility at T1 and Taste uncertainty at T1	0.309783	0.04521	6.85223	<.001	0.221175	0.398391	0.309783
Covariation Change in Social Susceptibility ~ Change in Taste uncertainty	0.409025	0.10722	3.81476	<.001	0.198874	0.619177	0.204632

S-Table 3

Bivariate latent change score model: Co-development of Taste uncertainty and intra-cortical myelin in mPFC. est: unstandardised estimate, se: standard error, CI: confidence interval, est (stand): standardised estimate.

Parameter	est	se	z	p	lower CI	upper CI	est (stand)
Change intercept taste uncertainty	5.10494	1.592517	3.205579	0.001	1.983663	8.226217	4.572613
Mean taste uncertainty at T1	3.09042 1	0.606216	5.097891	<.001	1.90226	4.278582	3.555317
Change variance taste uncertainty	0.59380 8	0.118516	5.010384	<.001	0.361522	0.826094	0.476424
Taste uncertainty at T1 variance	0.72562 4	0.128672	5.639346	<.001	0.473432	0.977816	0.960358
Change intercept mpfc myelin	0.52287 1	0.053562	9.761948	<.001	0.417891	0.627851	14.52002
Mean mpfc myelin at T1	0.73812 5	0.029111	25.35556	<.001	0.681068	0.795181	20.59784
Mpfc myelin change variance	0.00077	0.000105	7.308699	<.001	0.000563	0.000976	0.593755
Mpfc myelin variance	0.00116 2	0.000156	7.438966	<.001	0.000856	0.001468	0.904871
Regression Paths							
Change mpfc myelin ~ mean taste uncertainty at T1	0.00398	0.002608	1.525937	<.001	-0.00113	0.009092	0.096068
Change taste uncertainty ~ mean mpfc myelin at T1	- 3.88844	1.815342	-2.14199	0.031	-7.44645	-0.33044	-0.12481
Self Feedback mpfc myelin	- 0.63165	0.071022	-8.8938	<.001	-0.77085	-0.49245	-0.62858
Self Feedback taste uncertainty	- 0.91709	0.070924	-12.9306	<.001	-1.0561	-0.77808	-0.71405
Covariance Paths							
Covariance Taste uncertainty at T1 and mpfc myelin at T1	0.00086 8	0.001911	0.454303	0.645	-0.00288	0.004614	0.000868
Covariance change in taste uncertainty and change in mpfc myelin at T1	- 0.00149	0.001421	-1.05187	0.293	-0.00428	0.00129	-0.06988
Covariates							
Age							
Taste uncertainty~age	- 3.28956	1.925836	-1.70812	0.087	-7.06413	0.485012	-0.11019
Change in taste uncertainty ~ age	1.98188 8	2.146281	0.923406	0.356	-2.22475	6.188522	0.05169
Myelin at T1 ~ age	0.25454 1	0.094091	2.705261	0.007	0.070126	0.438957	0.206826
Change in myelin ~ age	0.07330 1	0.076986	0.952137	0.341	-0.07759	0.224191	0.059271
Age variance	0.00084 8	6.50E-05	13.03554	<.001	0.00072	0.000975	1
Age intercept	0.18921 9	0.002135	88.62727	<.001	0.185035	0.193404	6.498467
Sex (dummy-coded)							
Taste uncertainty~sex	0.04286 2	0.123555	0.346903	0.729	-0.1993	0.285025	0.024649
Change in taste uncertainty ~ sex	0.19574 5	0.113827	1.719663	0.085	-0.02735	0.418843	0.087646

Myelin at T1 ~ sex	0.00814 9	0.004967	1.640642	0.1008 72	-0.00159	0.017883	0.113671
Change in myelin ~ sex	0.00916 4	0.004113	2.228238	0.0258 65	0.001103	0.017224	0.127208
Sex variance	0.24988 4	0.000788	317.0144	<.001	0.248339	0.251429	1
Sex intercept	0.48924 7	0.036653	13.34797	<.001	0.417408	0.561086	0.978721
IQ							
Taste uncertainty~IQ	-1.1602	0.467127	-2.48369	0.013	-2.07575	-0.24465	-0.15027
Change in taste uncertainty ~ IQ	- 1.32668	0.468555	-2.83142	0.005	-2.24503	-0.40833	-0.13379
Myelin at T1 ~ IQ	0.00643 6	0.021587	0.298161	0.766	-0.03587	0.048746	0.020221
Change in myelin ~ IQ	- 0.03075	0.015901	-1.93363	0.061	-0.06191	0.000419	-0.09613
IQ variance	0.01267 5	0.0013	9.749059	<.001	0.010127	0.015224	1
IQ intercept	1.10865 6	0.008258	134.2551	<.001	1.092471	1.124841	9.847329
Site (dummy-coded)							
Myelin at T1 ~ site 1 at T1	- 0.01503	0.006667	-2.25512	0.024	-0.0281	-0.00197	-0.14548
Myelin at T1 ~ site 2 at T1	- 0.01614	0.007867	-2.05094	0.040	-0.03155	-0.00072	-0.15614
Myelin at T2 ~ site at T2	- 0.00178	0.004757	-0.37521	0.708	-0.01111	0.007538	-0.01906
Site 1 at T1 variance	0.12024 5	0.018318	6.56445	<.001	0.084343	0.156147	1
Site2 at T1 variance	0.12024 5	0.018318	6.56445	<.001	0.084343	0.156147	1
Site at T2 variance	0.11634 3	0.018287	6.3621	<.001	0.080501	0.152185	1
Site 1 at T1 intercept	0.13978 5	0.025426	5.497727	<.001	0.089951	0.189619	0.403113
Site2 at T1 intercept	0.13978 5	0.025426	5.497727	<.001	0.089951	0.189619	0.403113
Site at T2 intercept	0.13440 9	0.02501	5.374196	<.001	0.08539	0.183427	0.394055
Residual Covariances							
Age~~IQ	0.00040 1	0.000231	1.733565	0.082	-5.24E- 05	0.000854	0.122298
Sex~~IQ	- 0.00198	0.004081	-0.48616	0.623	-0.00998	0.006014	-0.03525
Site1 at T1 ~~Site at T1	- 0.01954	0.0046	-4.24791	<.001	-0.02856	-0.01052	-0.1625
Site1 at T1 ~~Site at T2	0.11562	0.018188	6.357108	<.001	0.079973	0.151267	0.977531
Site2 at T1 ~~Site at T2	- 0.01879	0.004484	-4.19015	<.001	-0.02758	-0.01	-0.15885

S-Table 4

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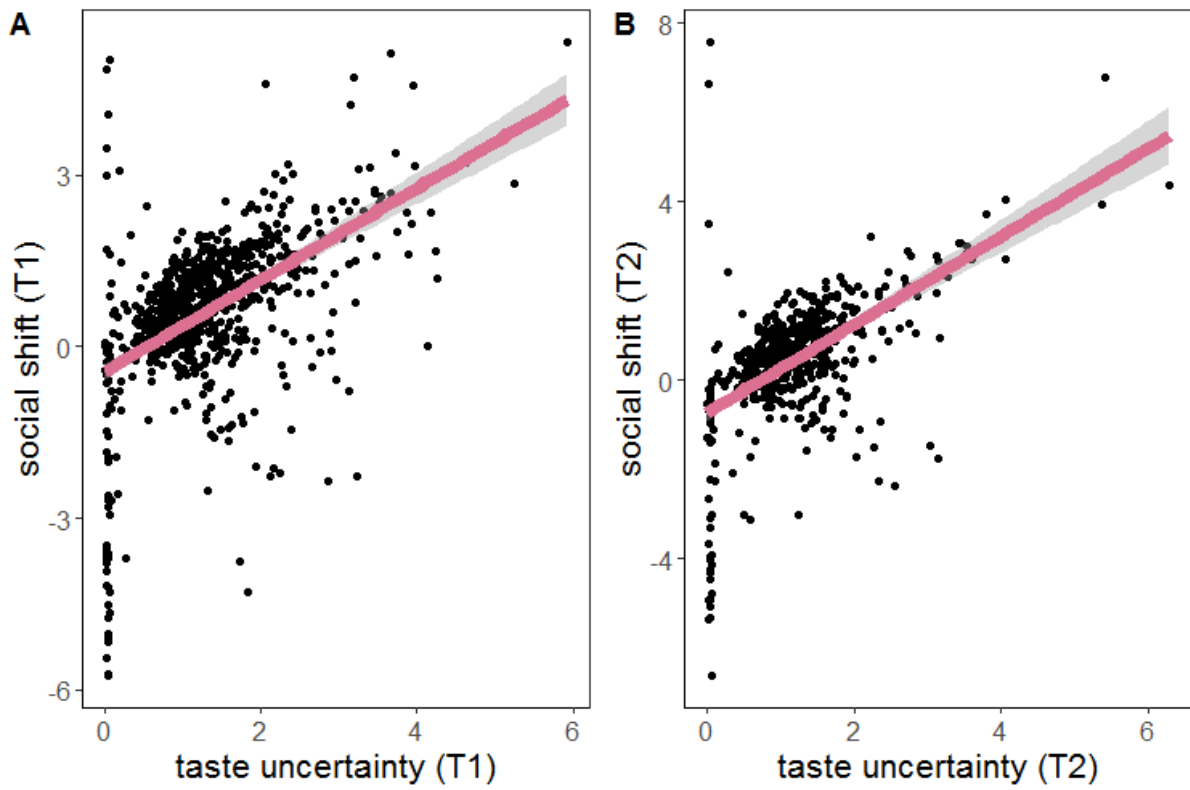
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S-Figure 1



Taste uncertainty significantly predicted social susceptibility at both T1 and T2, in line with an informational account of conformity(22).

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