"It's just some numbers": Awareness of far-right tattoos

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"It's Just Some Numbers": Awareness of Far-Right Tattoos

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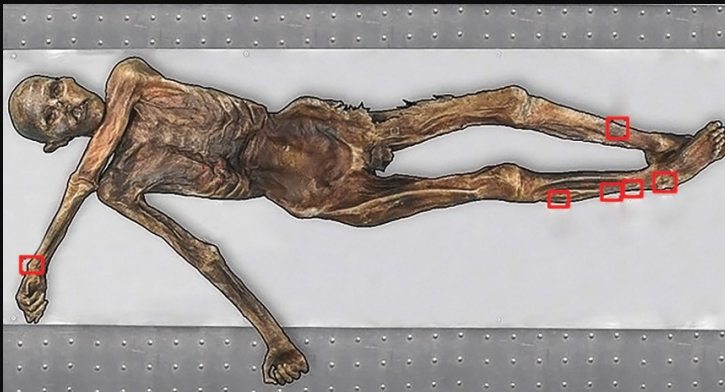British Society of Criminology Annual Conference

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Overview

- Meaning of tattoos
- Far-Right tattoos
- Study design and methodology
- Preliminary results
- Where next

Tattoos

- One of the oldest forms of art
- Variety of meanings, including group affiliation and exclusion
- In the UK, 13% (18-24), 30% (25-39) (Statista, 2015), 40% of UK respondents (Dalia Research, 2018) tattooed
- ~3,000 tattoo shops, 10,000 tattoo artists (Inkably, 2020)
- Guidance on licencing, legislation, practice and health risks… But little on ethics of tattooing
- Criminology of Tattoos: Marking of criminals and outcasts (codification, forced, 'voluntary'), sizeable literature on prison tattoos (e.g. McCarron, 2008)
- Psychology of Tattoos: emotion, self-esteem, self-image, identity, sociocultural environment, extraversion, risk-taking, impulsivity (e.g. Kıvanç Altunay et al, 2021)

Tattoos and the Far-Right

- There is a long history of far-right groups signifying membership with tattoos.

- As can be seen in the ADL Hate Symbols Database, these symbols can be quite opaque in meaning.

- This is further clouded by internet groups and 'meme culture' rebranding and repurposing old symbols.

- This led us to question how well people determined the meaning behind a symbol and what meaning they attributed to symbols they did not know.

Current Examples

- On 20/10/20 Sky History premiered a trailer for their new reality show *The Chop: Britain's Top Woodworker*

- The contestant gave explanations to the producers for his tattoos, but they were unaware of their wider connotations.

- During the Platinum Jubilee parade, viewers noticed the Northern Soul float prominently featured a Nazi Black Sun symbol.

- Later it was explained that the logo was mislabelled in an internet search.
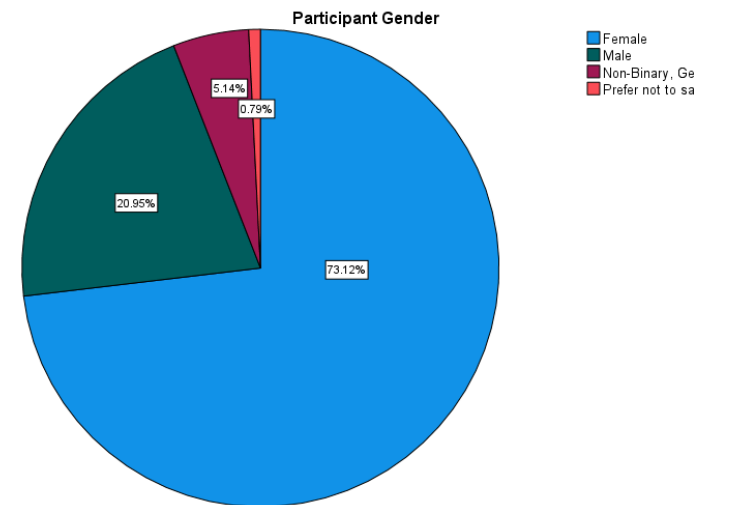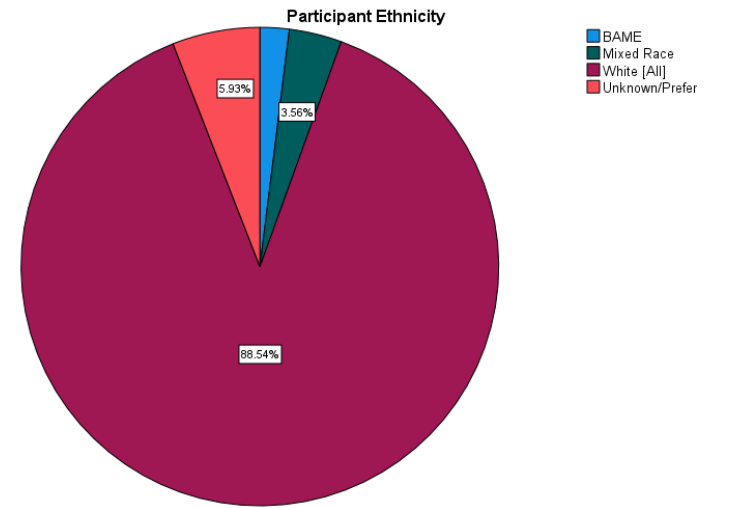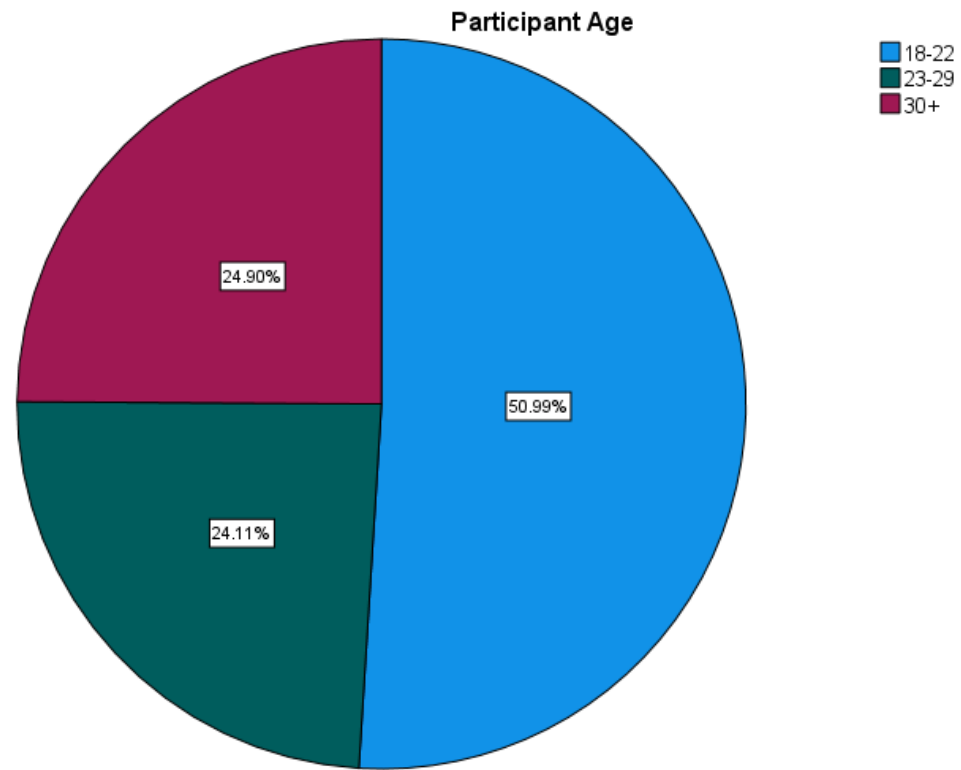
Current Study

- Survey:
  - Key demographics, including course of study
  - Own tattoos, meaning and research
  - Recognition/meaning of symbols and appeal: mix of far-right and other
  - 253 participants

Participant Level of Study

Foundation — 3.16%
Postgraduate — 13.04%
Undergraduate — 83.79%
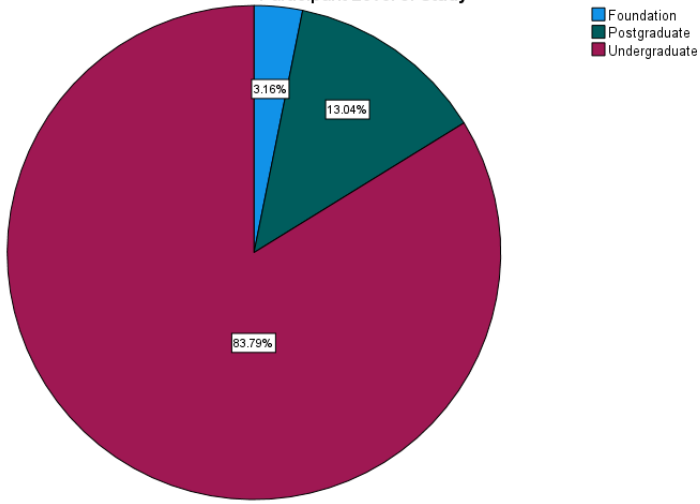
Participant Number of Tattoos

0 — 29.25%
1 — 15.02%
More than one — 55.73%
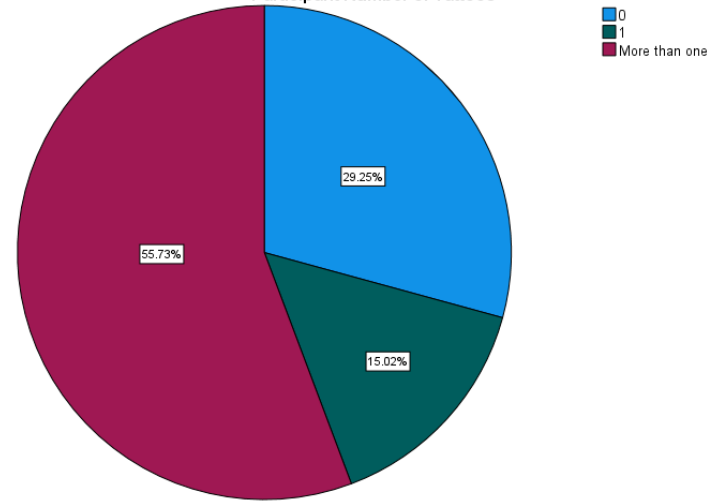
Participant Course Interest

Crime — 22.92%
History, Religion & Politics — 7.51%
Visual Arts — 3.95%
Other — 65.61%

Participant Course

STEM — 17.00%
Social Sciences — 33.60%
Arts and Hums — 16.60%
Education — 22.13%
Health — 10.67%
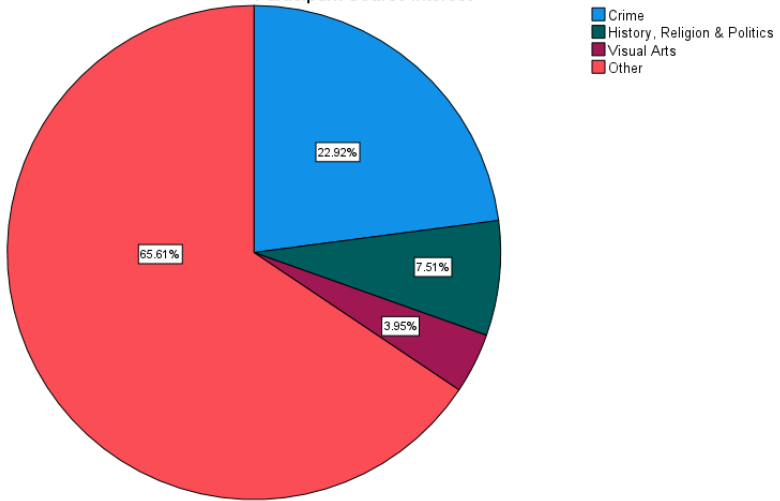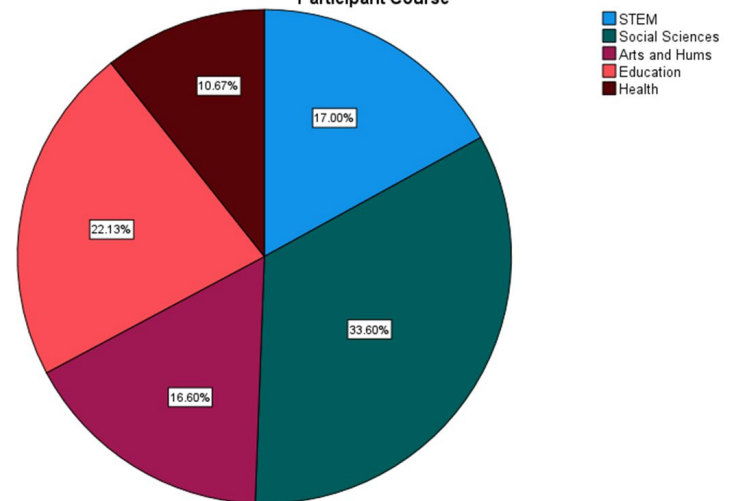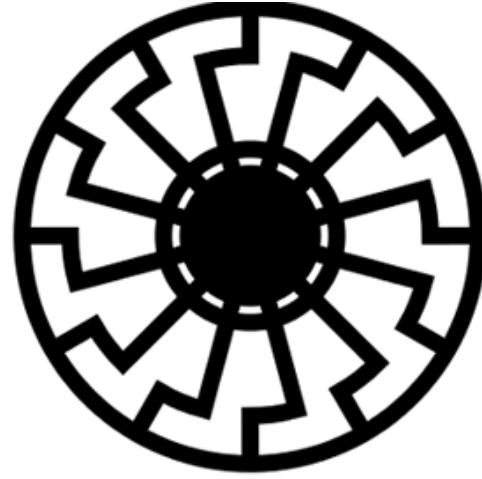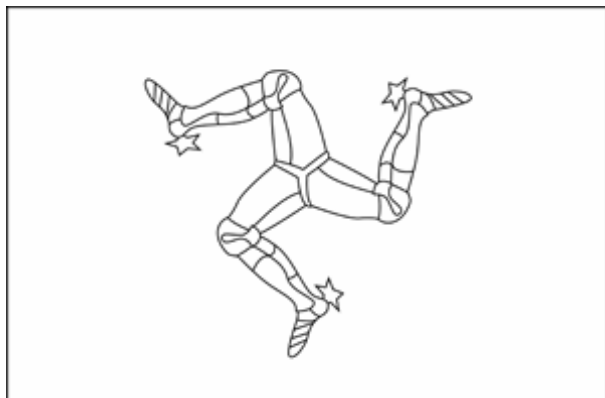
Preliminary Results

- Data exploration
- Recognition coding: Incorrect/no recognition, gist, verbatim
- Subset of 4 symbols:
    - Overwatch
    - Socialist/BLM fist
    - 14/88
    - Pepe the Frog

Socialist/BLM Fist Recognition

Incorrect: 26.48%
Gist = Social Justice/Rights: 8.30%
Exact = BLM/Socialist: 65.22%

Overwatch Recognition

Incorrect: 71.15%
Gist = Computer game logo: 7.51%
Exact = Overwatch: 21.34%

Pepe Recognition

- Incorrect: 28.06%
- Gist = Meme/Pepe: 61.66%
- Exact = Pepe and Far Right: 10.28%

1488 Recognition

- Incorrect: 77.47%
- Gist = White supremacist/Nazi: 19.37%
- Exact = 14 Words and Heil Hitler: 3.16%
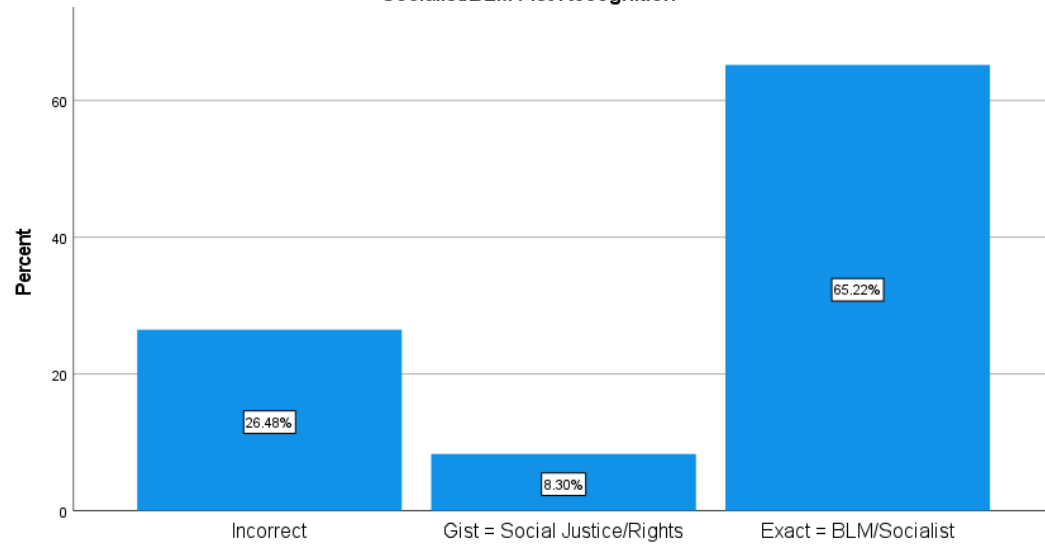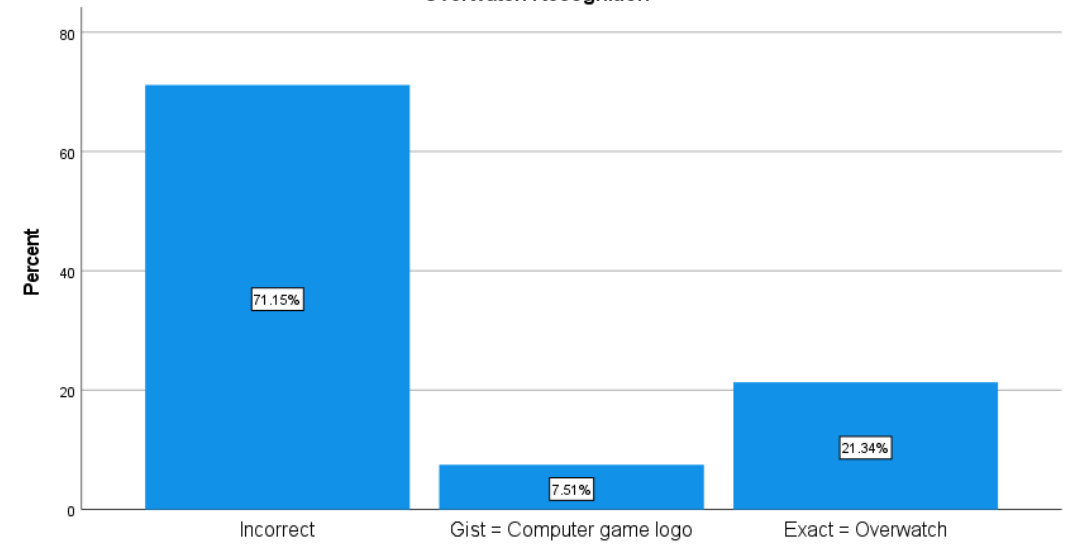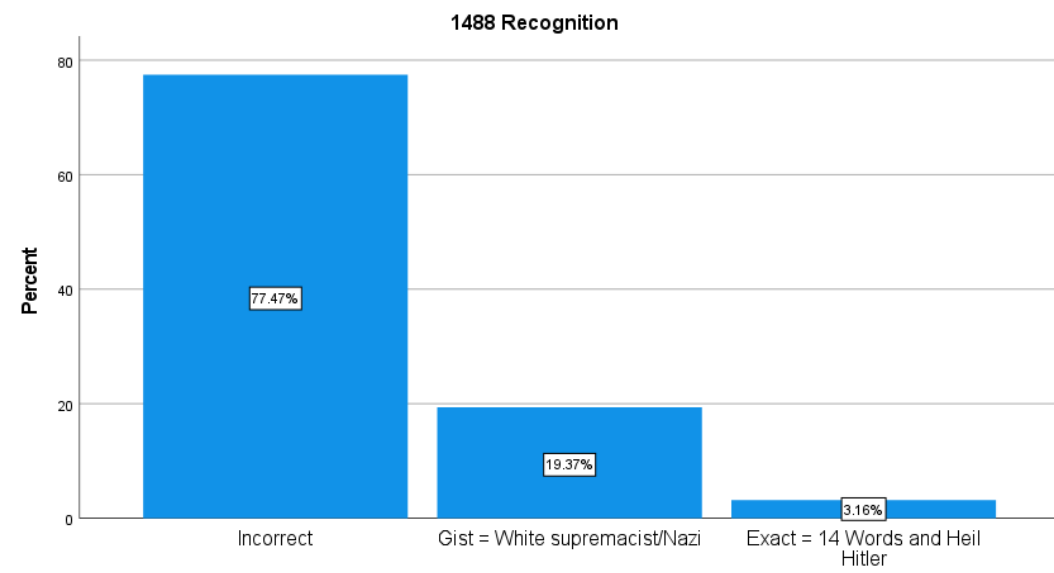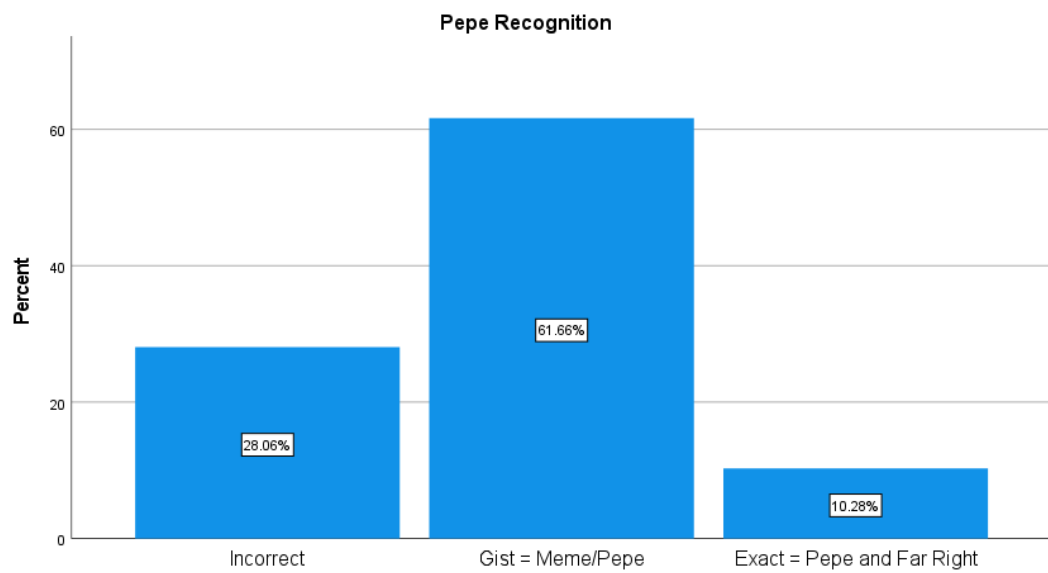
Recognition_score

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	.00	33	13.0	13.0	13.0
	.25	23	9.1	9.1	22.1
	.50	37	14.6	14.6	36.8
	.75	76	30.0	30.0	66.8
	1.00	36	14.2	14.2	81.0
	1.25	20	7.9	7.9	88.9
	1.50	16	6.3	6.3	95.3
	1.75	10	4.0	4.0	99.2
	2.00	2	.8	.8	100.0
	Total	253	100.0	100.0	

Report

Recognition_score

Course_Coded_Specific	Mean	N	Std. Deviation
Crime	.7802	58	.46613
History and Religion	1.0658	19	.49189
Visual Arts	1.0250	10	.50621
No Interest	.6747	166	.44930
Total	.7421	253	.47134

Group Statistics

	Special_Interest	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Recognition_score	1	87	.8707	.48803	.05232
	2	166	.6747	.44930	.03487

Independent Samples Test

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means					95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	Lower	Upper
Recognition_score	Equal variances assumed	.624	.430	3.199	251	.002	.19599	.06127	.07532	.31666
	Equal variances not assumed			3.117	162.647	.002	.19599	.06288	.07183	.32015

Group Statistics

	TattooNumber_Recoded	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Recognition_score	0	74	.7500	.50849	.05911
	1	179	.7388	.45655	.03412

Independent Samples Test

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference		Lower	Upper
Recognition_score	Equal variances assumed	.647	.422	.171	251	.864	.01117	.06527		-.11737	.13971
	Equal variances not assumed			.164	124.112	.870	.01117	.06825		-.12392	.14627

Overwatch - Recognition/appeal

Count		Overwatch		
		Unappealing	Appealing	Total
Recognition	No	94	36	130
	Some/exact	21	33	54
Total		115	69	184

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	18.180[a]	1	.000		
Continuity Correction[b]	16.782	1	.000		
Likelihood Ratio	17.878	1	.000		
Fisher's Exact Test				.000	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	18.081	1	.000		
N of Valid Cases	184				

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 20.25.

b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

Socialist/BLM Fist - Recognition/appeal

Count		Fist		
		Unappealing	Appealing	Total
Recognition	No	28	16	44
	Some/exact	19	133	152
Total		47	149	196

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	48.947[a]	1	.000		
Continuity Correction[b]	46.182	1	.000		
Likelihood Ratio	43.711	1	.000		
Fisher's Exact Test				.000	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	48.697	1	.000		
N of Valid Cases	196				

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 10.55.

b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

14/88 - Recognition/appeal

		Unappealing	Appealing	Total
		14/88		
Recognition	No	114	30	144
	Some/exact	54	1	55
Total		168	31	199

Count

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	10.942[a]	1	.001		
Continuity Correction[b]	9.544	1	.002		
Likelihood Ratio	14.799	1	.000		
Fisher's Exact Test				.000	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	10.887	1	.001		
N of Valid Cases	199				

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 8.57.

b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

Pepe - Recognition/appeal

		Unappealing	Appealing	Total
		Pepe		
Recognition	No	52	110	162
	Some/exact	8	51	59
Total		60	161	221

Count

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	7.516[a]	1	.006		
Continuity Correction[b]	6.608	1	.010		
Likelihood Ratio	8.276	1	.004		
Fisher's Exact Test				.006	.004
Linear-by-Linear Association	7.482	1	.006		
N of Valid Cases	221				

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 16.02.

b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

Where Next?

- Recoding of recognition to hit, miss, false positive, correct rejection → further quantitative analysis of full data set

- Analysis of qualitative answers

- Stage 2: Interviews with tattoo artists re ethical decision-making

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