Expanding Racial Ambiguity Beyond the Black-White Binary: Stereotype Misattributions Between South Asian and Latino Faces

Mohammad S. Wiswall, Mercedes A. Munoz, Sarah E. Gaither.

Introduction

- Racial ambiguity research has mainly focused on Black-White and East Asian-White Biracial people
- Thus, other growing racially ambiguous populations such as South Asian and Latinx people remain understudied
- Study 1 measures what stereotypes exist for each group
- Study 2 tests South Asian and Latinx faces are miscategorized racially, does that also lead to incorrect stereotype applications
- We posit stereotypes might be misattributed during face processing due to misattributed racial categorizations

Methods and Procedures

Demographics

Study 1 (N = 289, Prolific)

Race: South Asian 35%, Latinx 30%, White 36%

Gender: Female 48%, Male 51%, Non-Binary/Trans 2%
Age: Mean = 35, (SD = 12.43)

Study 2 (N = 50, SONA)
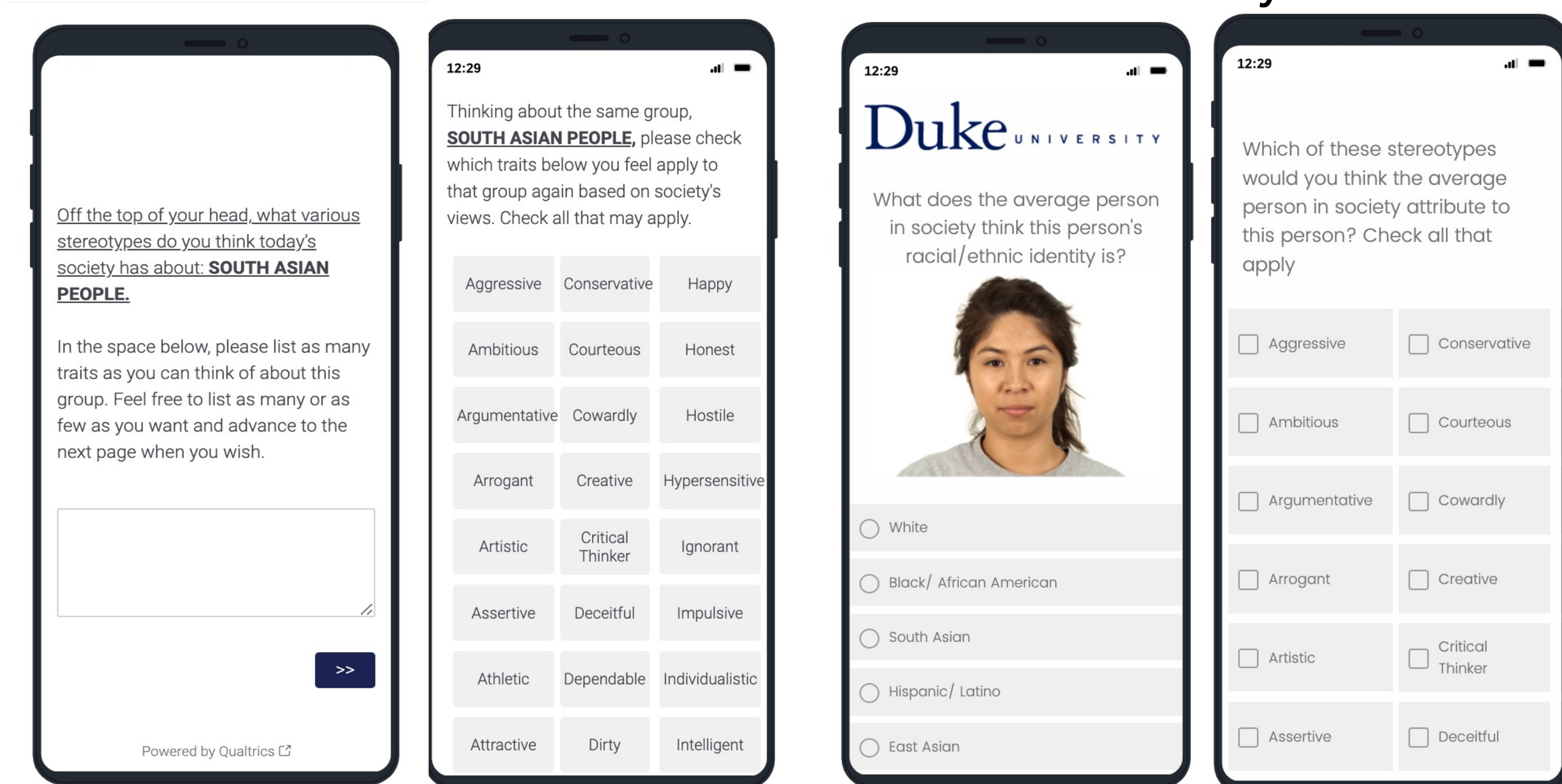Race: White 33%, Black 4%, Asian/South Asian 32%, Latinx 2%, Biracial 28%, South Asian 2%

Gender: Female: 78% , Male: 20%, Non-Binary /Transgender: 2%
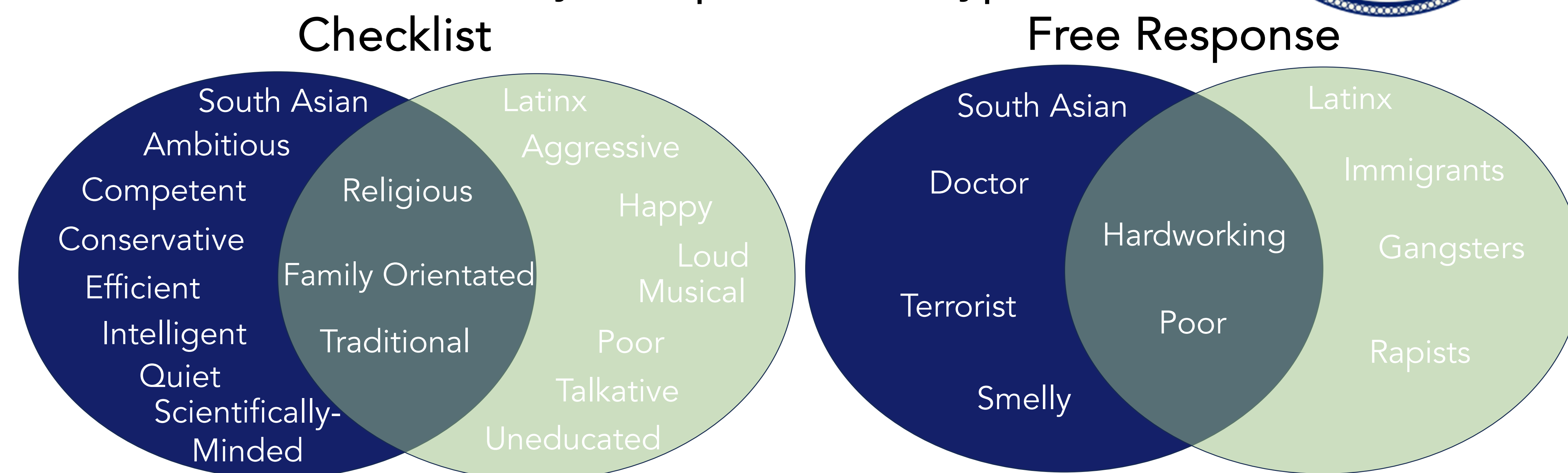Age: Mean = 19, (SD = 0.89)
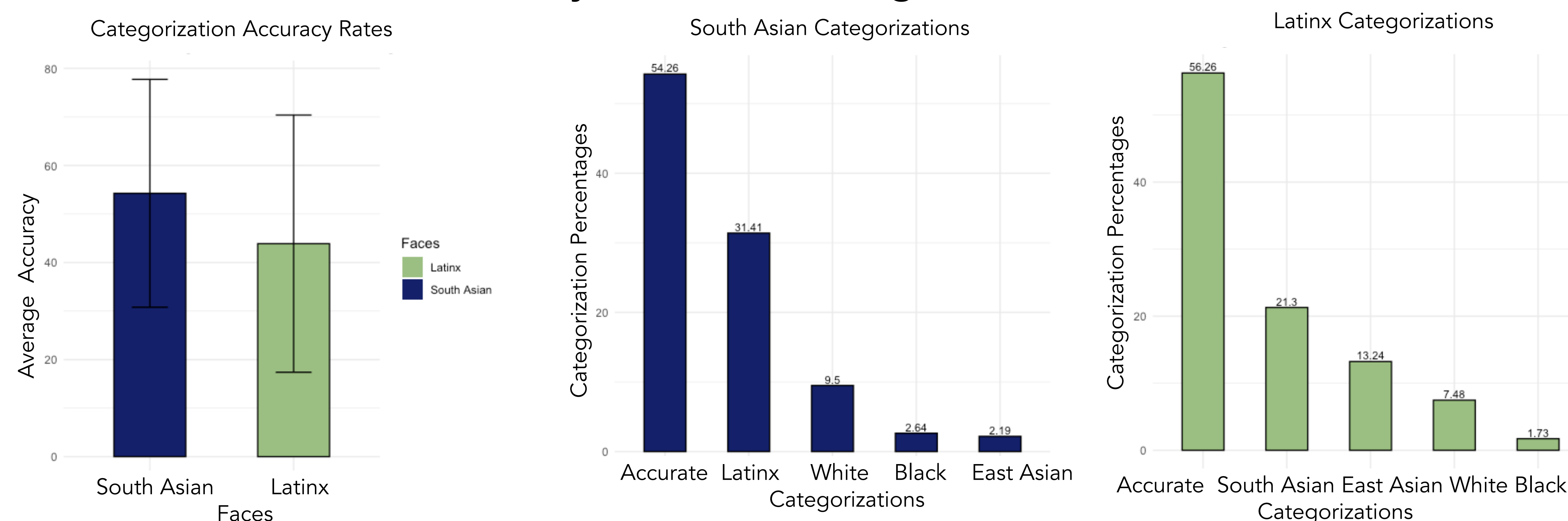
Sample Stimuli

Study 1

Study 2

Study 1: Top 10 Stereotypes

Checklist

South Asian: Ambitious, Competent, Conservative, Efficient, Intelligent, Quiet, Scientifically-Minded

Shared: Religious, Family Orientated, Traditional

Latinx: Aggressive, Happy, Loud, Musical, Poor, Talkative, Uneducated

Free Response

South Asian: Doctor, Terrorist, Smelly

Shared: Hardworking, Poor

Latinx: Immigrants, Gangsters, Rapists

- South Asian stereotypes reflected "model minority myth" beliefs
- Latinx stereotypes echoed recent anti-immigration rhetoric
- Shared stereotypes might reflect "perpetual foreigner" beliefs
- Occupational and descriptive stereotypes appeared in free response

Study 2: Racial Categorizations

Categorization Accuracy Rates

Faces: Latinx, South Asian

South Asian Categorizations: Accurate 54.26, Latinx 31.41, White 9.5, Black 2.64, East Asian 2.19

Latinx Categorizations: Accurate 56.26, South Asian 21.3, East Asian 13.24, White 7.48, Black 1.73

- Accuracy results suggest both South Asian and Latinx Faces are similarly ambiguous
- The next most frequent categorization for South Asian faces were Latinx
- The next most frequent categorization for Latinx faces were South Asian

Discussion and Conclusions

- One of the first studies to include South Asian and Latinx people in racial ambiguity work
- Expands our understanding of other ambiguities that don't fit within the Black-White Binary
- Results indicate these two distinct groups have some similarities and differences
- Tests downstream consequences that racially ambiguous targets may experience additive discrimination alongside intersectional discrimination
- Some of the first work to disaggregating the term "Asian" beyond East Asian

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