

Individuals Across Cultures

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Introduction

- The dominant Hypodescent framework argues that Multiracial people are categorized as their lowest status racial group (Ho et al., 2013)
- The Ingroup Overexclusion framework argues that racially ambiguous individuals are categorized as one's salient outgroup (Leyens & Yzerbyt, 1992)
- We directly test the universality of these two theories with a cross-cultural Asian sample from China and the USA

Methods

Demographics

Chinese Nationals (Guangzhou Region)

(N = 330; M Age = 21),

Han Chinese = 99%; Male = 52%, Female = 48%

Asian Americans (Duke University, University of Utah)

(N = 196; M Age = 20),

East Asian = 78%; Male = 34%, Female = 65%, Trans or Non-Binary = 0.01%

Procedures

- Participants were randomly assigned to a 2 (Task Type: 2-choice or 3-choice) x 2 (Stim Set: Asian/White or Asian/Black)
- Participants were asked to categorize 20 Biracial faces
- Categorizations and response times were recorded (DirectRT in the US, MATLAB in China)

Sample stimuli



Pre-testing information

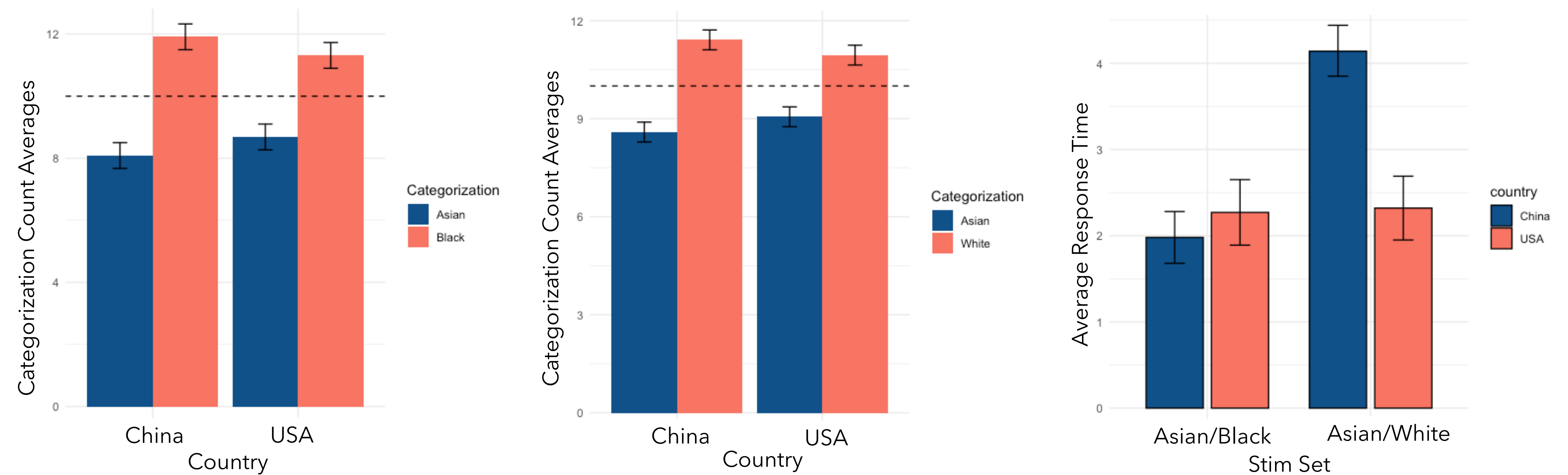
- We pre-tested faces on several dimensions (e.g., attractiveness, prototypicality)
- Black/Asian faces were computer generated
- Asian/White faces were real Asian/White people
- The term "Mixed" was pretested in China

References

Multiracial in America. Pew Research Center; Demographic Trends Project. (2022, May 10), from <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2015/06/11/multiracial-in-america/>,
 Ho, A. K., Sidanius, J., Cuddy, A. J., & Banaji, M. R. (2013). Status Boundary Enforcement and the Categorization of Black-White Biracials. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*,
 Yzerbyt, V. Y., Leyens, J. P., & Bellour, F. (1995). The Ingroup Overexclusion Effect: Identity Concerns in Decisions About Group Membership. *European Journal of Social Psychology*.

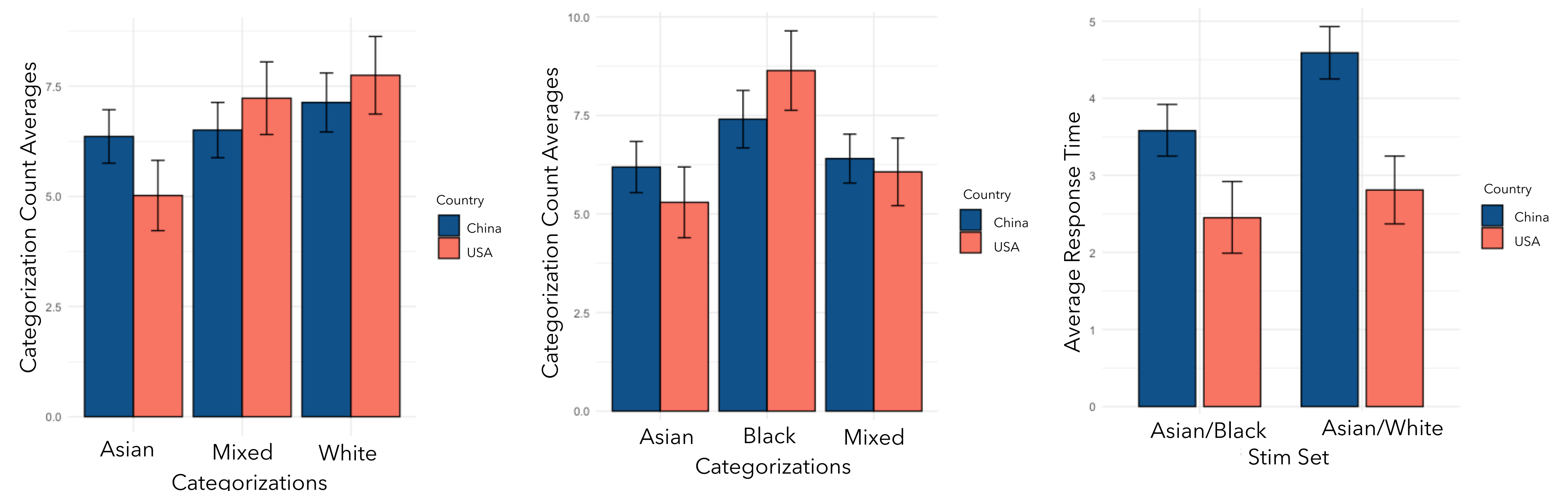
2-Choice Results

Chinese Nationals and Asian Americans categorized both Asian/Black and Asian/White faces most often as their respective outgroup (i.e Not Asian)



3-Choice Results

Chinese Nationals were more likely to choose ingroup categorizations (i.e Asian) compared to Asian Americans, when categorizing Asian/White faces. There were no other country differences.



Discussion and Conclusions

- 2-choice results imply IOE as a more universal theory than hypodescent
- Both samples applied "Mixed" categorizations to Biracial Asian faces
- Response time differences might be reflective of within culture racial diversity
- Diversifying our participant samples and face stimuli provides critical insights about theories of racial ambiguity process beyond WEIRD constraints

Limitations and Future Directions

- Computer generated faces may have caused differential categorization outcomes
- We do not account for the intersection of gender when categorizing faces