

Callous-Unemotional Traits: Decoding Disruption in the Development of Caring



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Antisocial Behavior

Psychopathy

...in children?

Interpersonal

- glibness/ superficial charm
- grandiose sense of worth
 - pathological lying
- conning/ manipulative

Affective

- lack or remorse
- shallow affect
- callous/lack of empathy
 - Failure to accept responsibility for actions

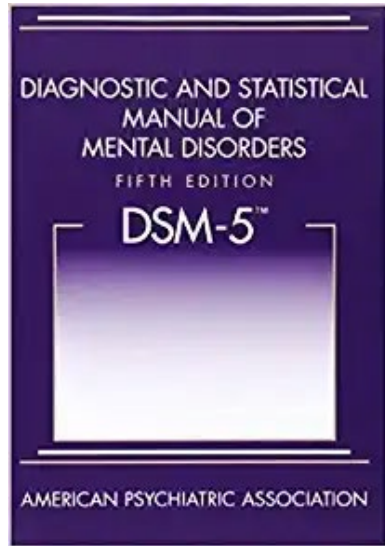
Lifestyle

- need for simulation /boredom-prone
- parasitic lifestyle
- lack of realistic long-term goals
 - Impulsivity
 - irresponsibility

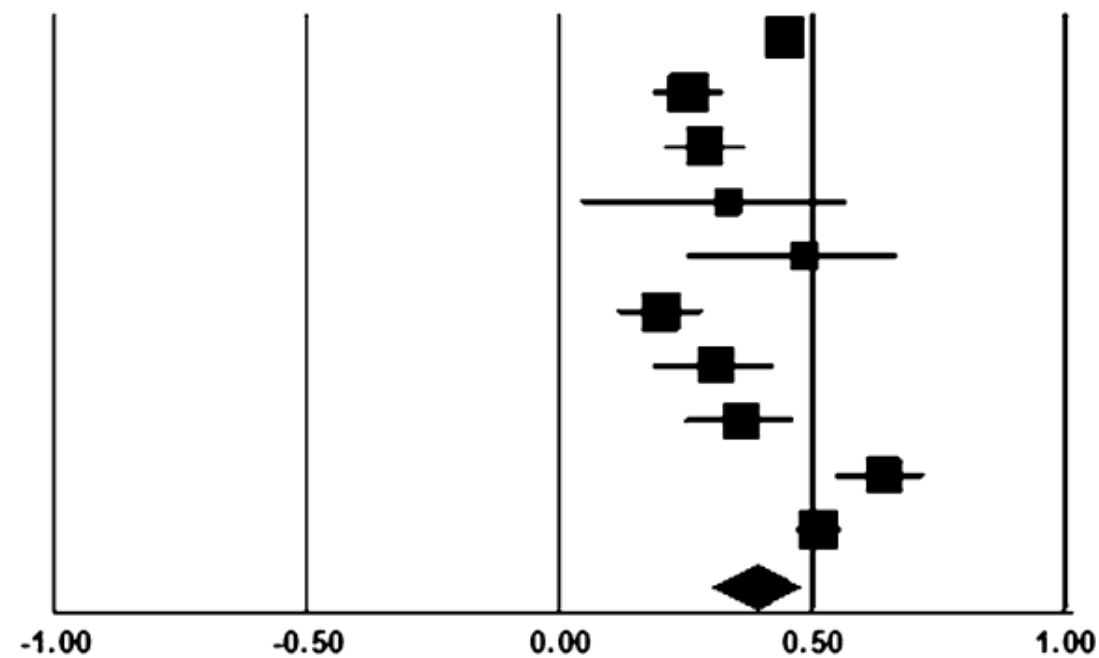
Antisocial

- poor behavioral control
- early behavior problems
 - juvenile delinquency
 - revoked conditional release
- criminal versatility

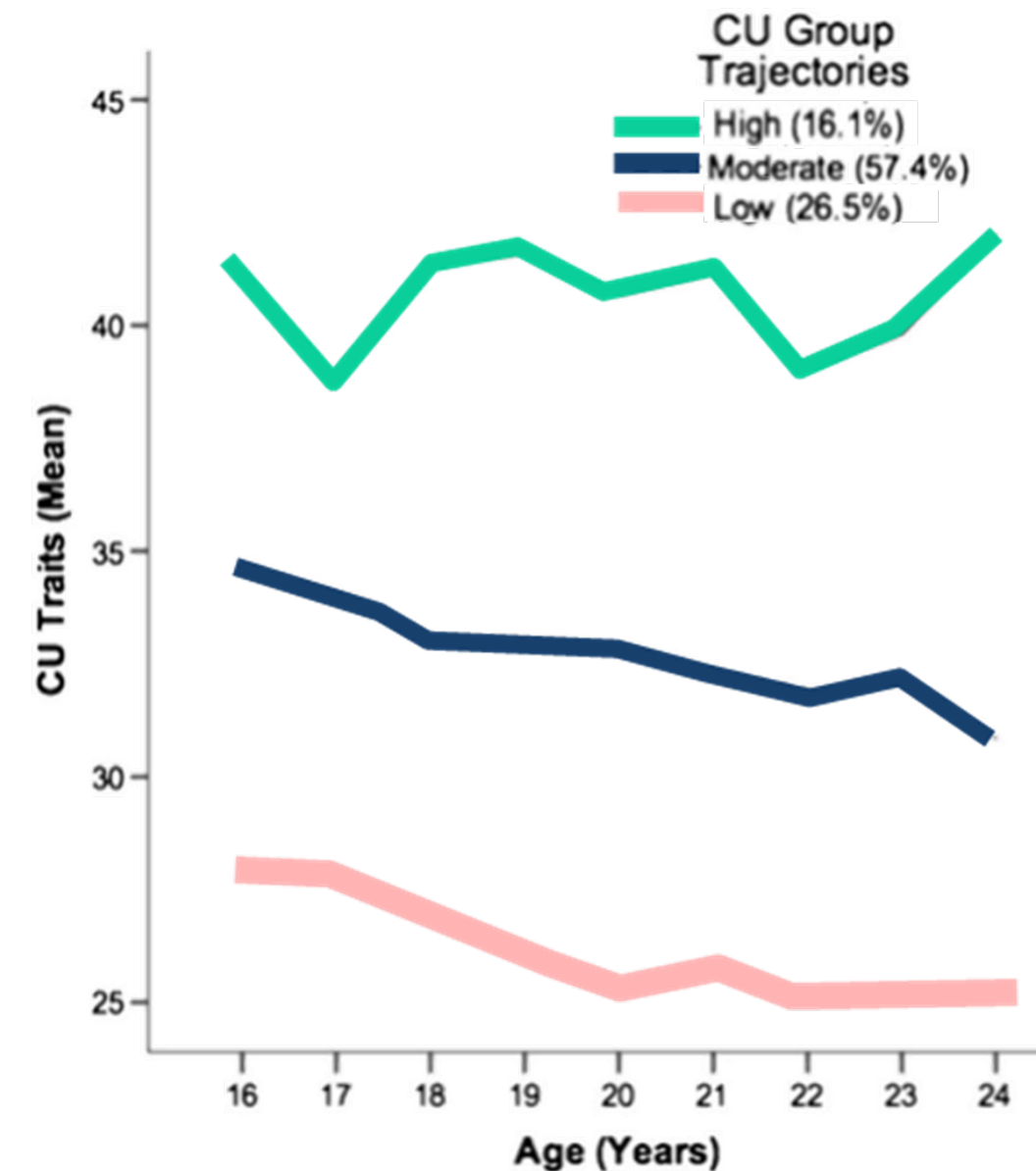
Child callous-unemotional (CU) traits



1. Lack of **empathy**
2. **Uncaring** about school / important activities
3. Shallow or **deficient affect**
4. Lack of **guilt/remorse**



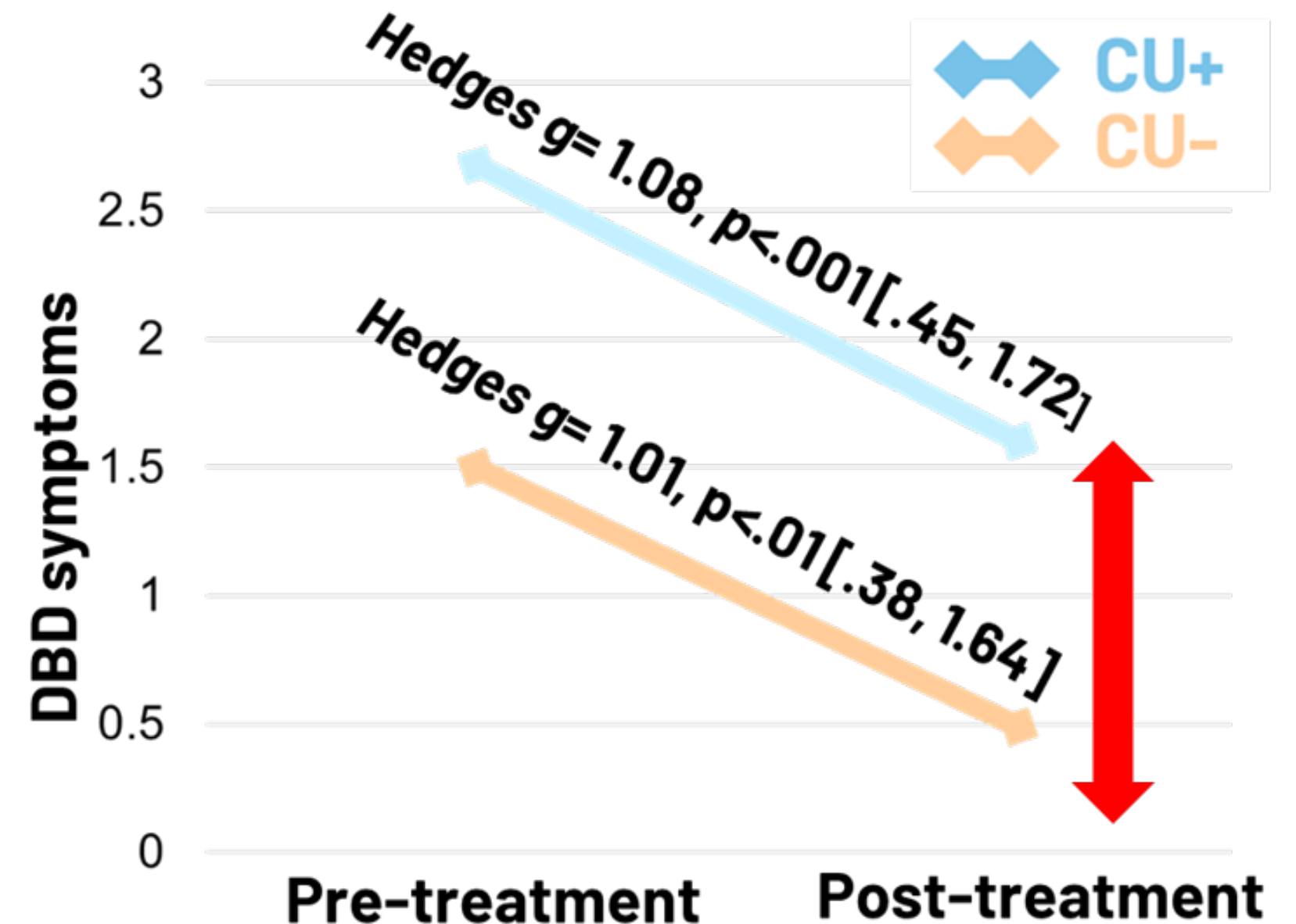
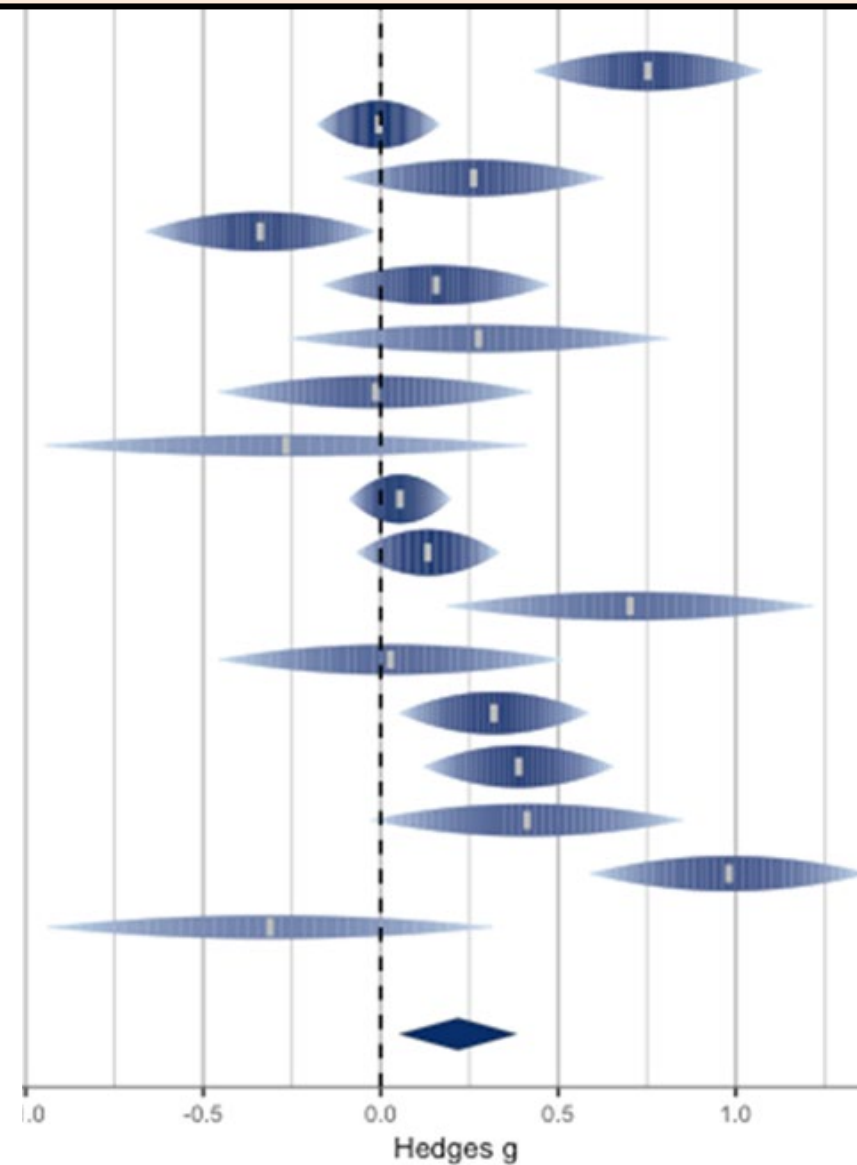
Longman et al., 2016



Baskin-Sommers*, Waller* et al., 2015

What about treatment?

Treatments with a parenting component produce modest reductions in CU traits



Children with CU traits improve but start & end treatment with greater severity

How can we close the treatment gap?

Empathy

Compassion

Recognizing, feeling,
knowing

Caring, responding

Empathy

Prosocial

Guilt

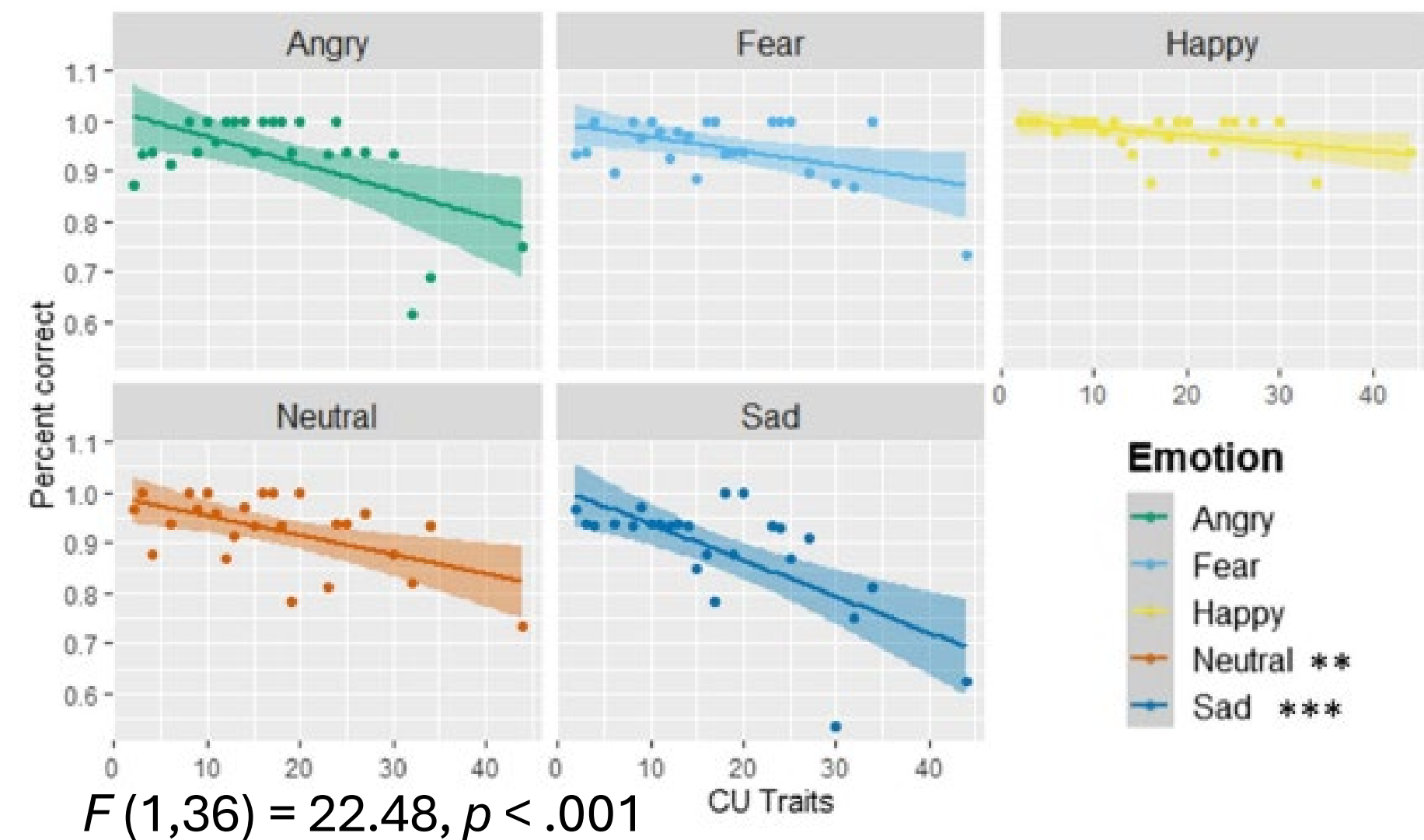
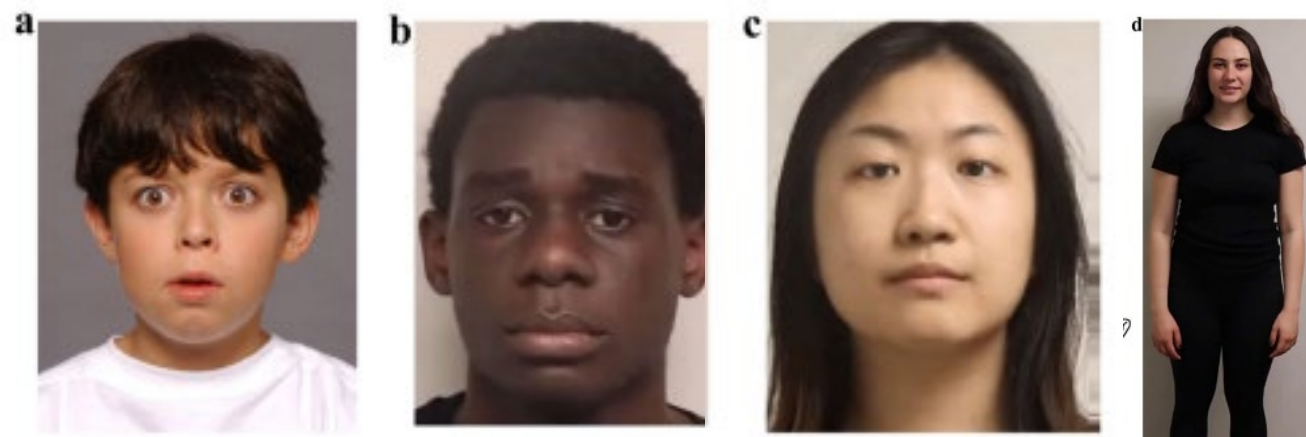
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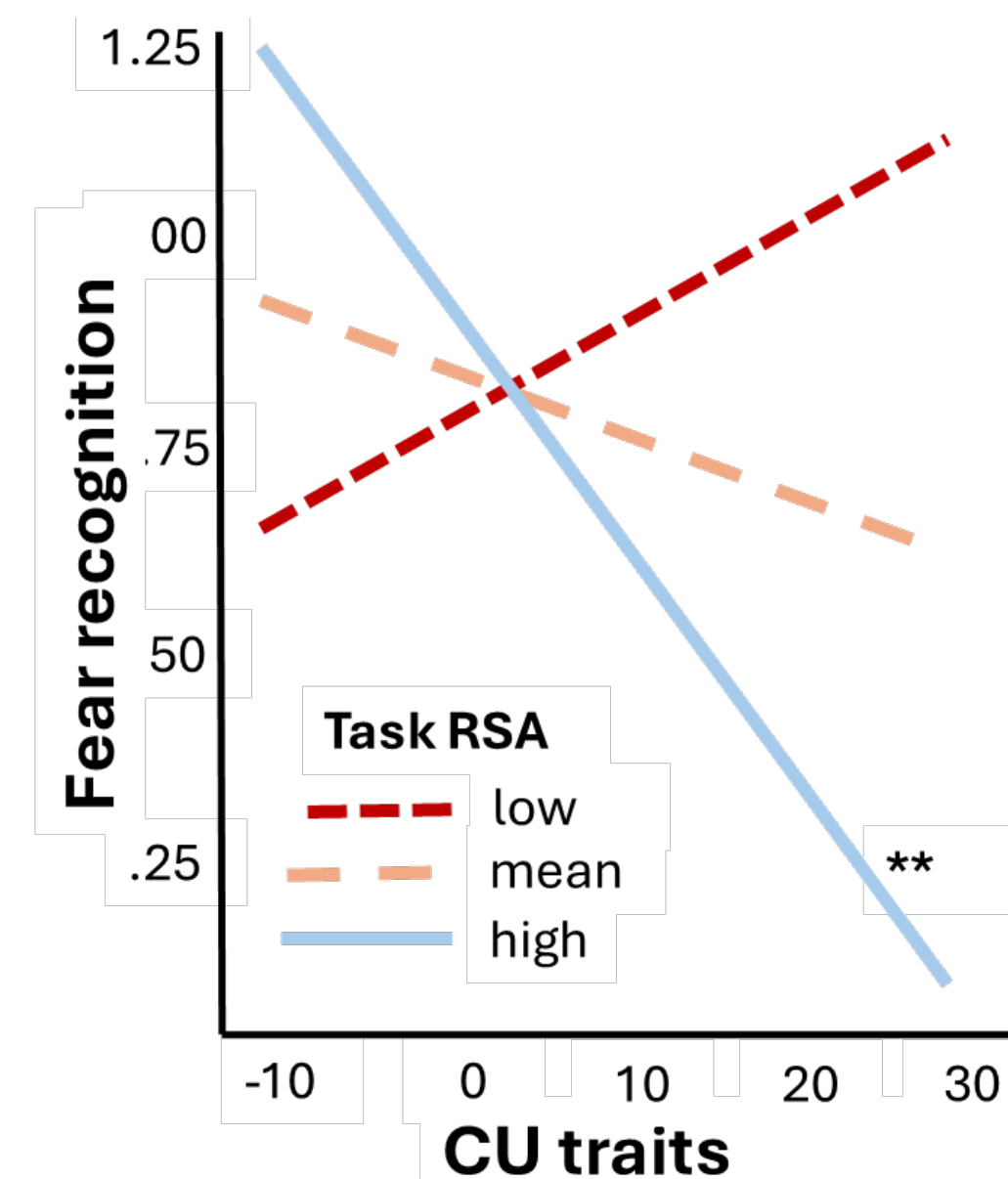
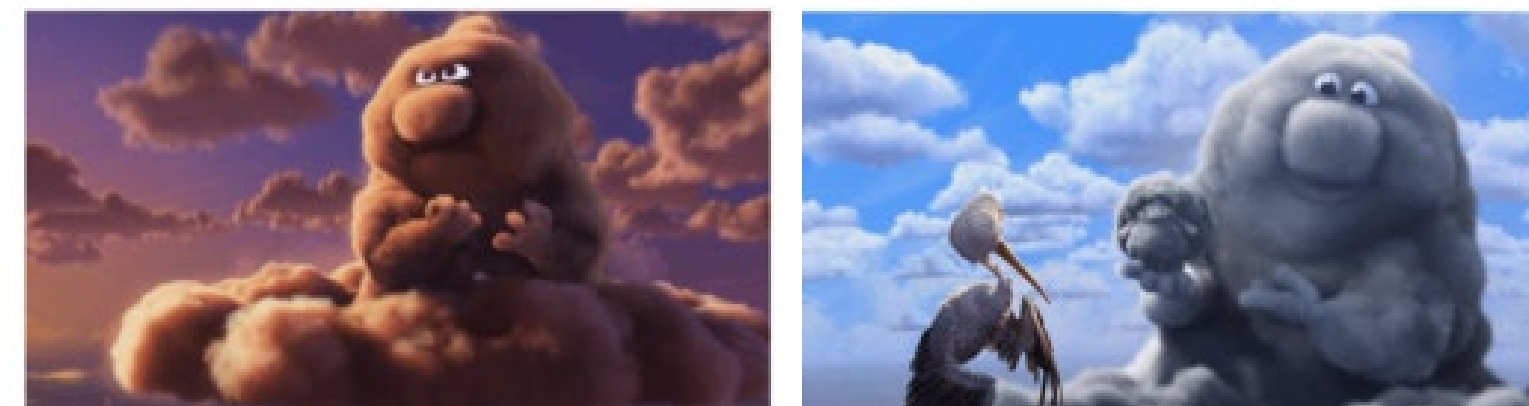
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Population estimates of ρ

Recognizing – emotional faces



Powell...Waller, 2024; Marsh & Blair, 2008; Marsh & Cardinale, 2012



Lynch...Waller^, Wagner^, 2024

Recognizing & feeling

“know the **words** but **not the music**...” Johns & Quay, 1962

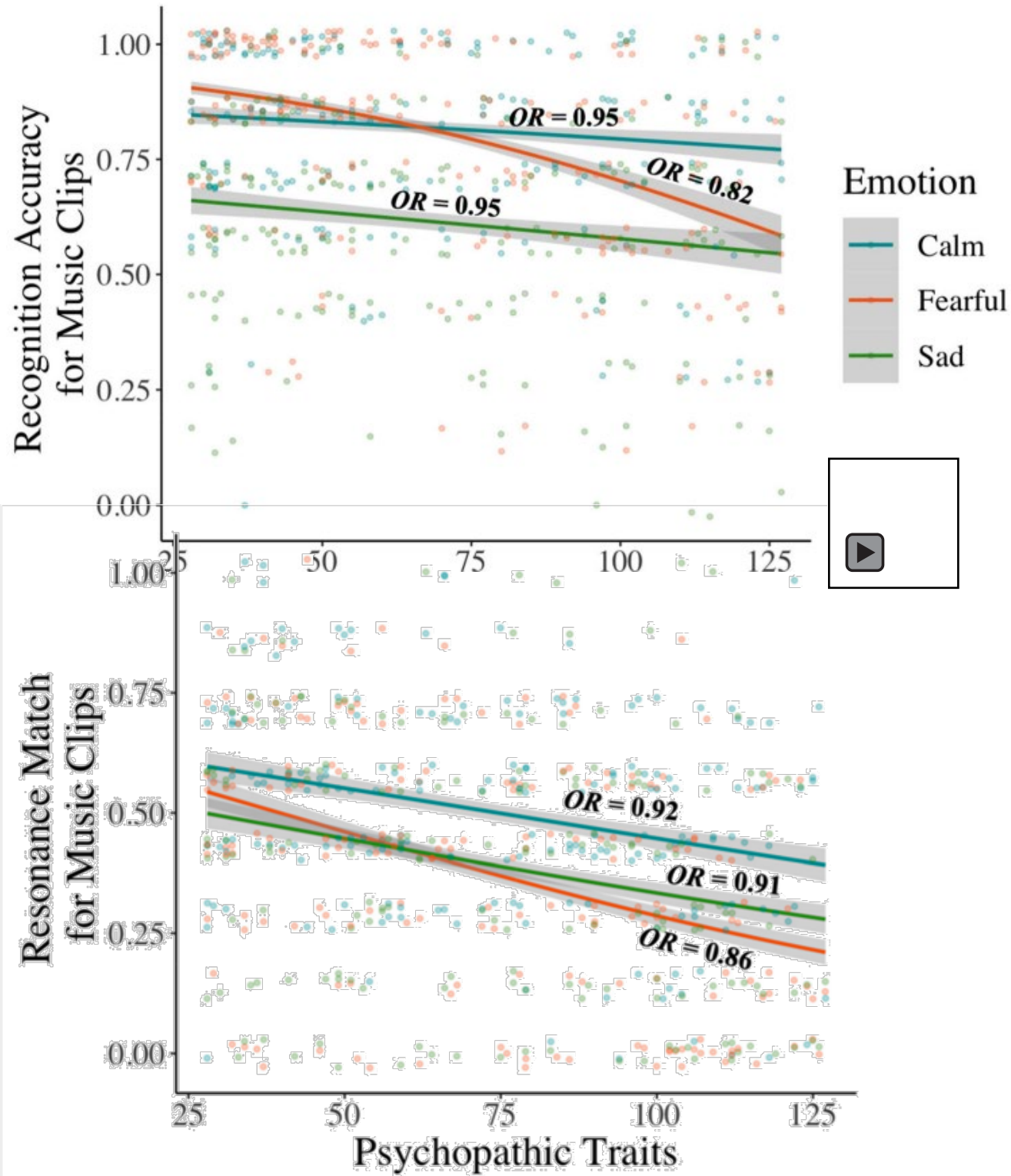
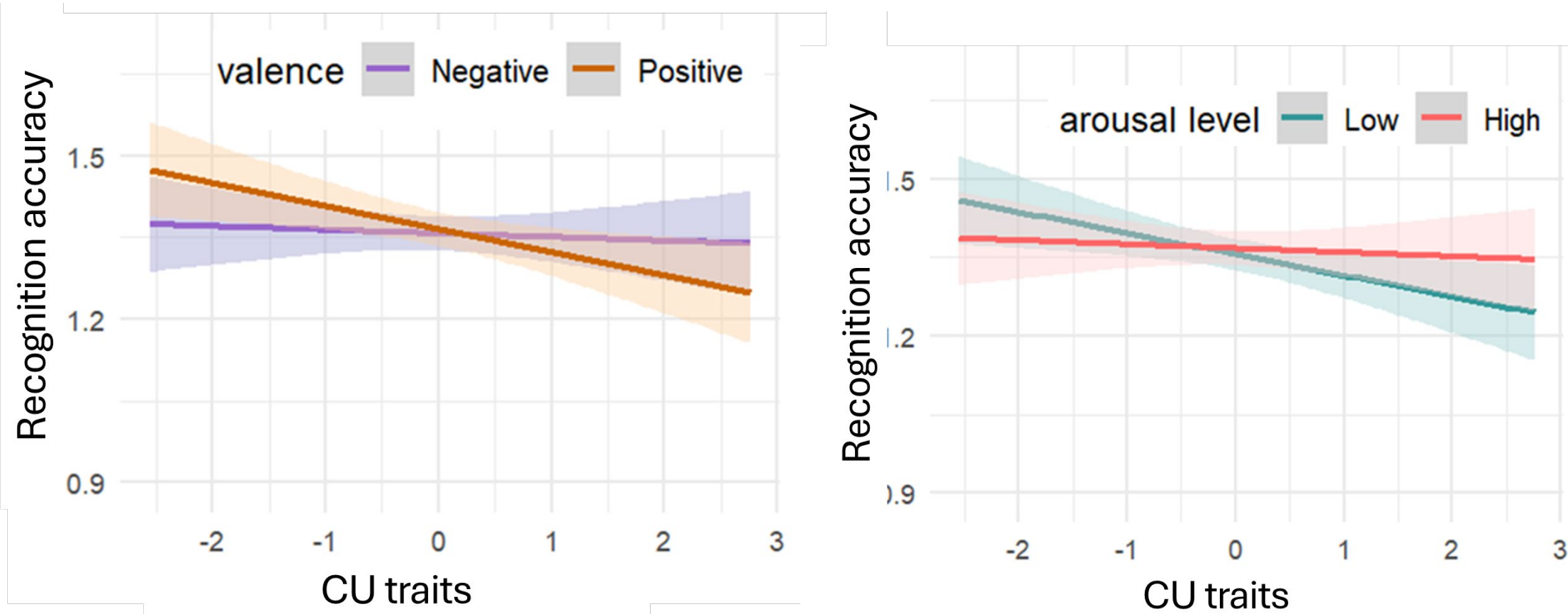
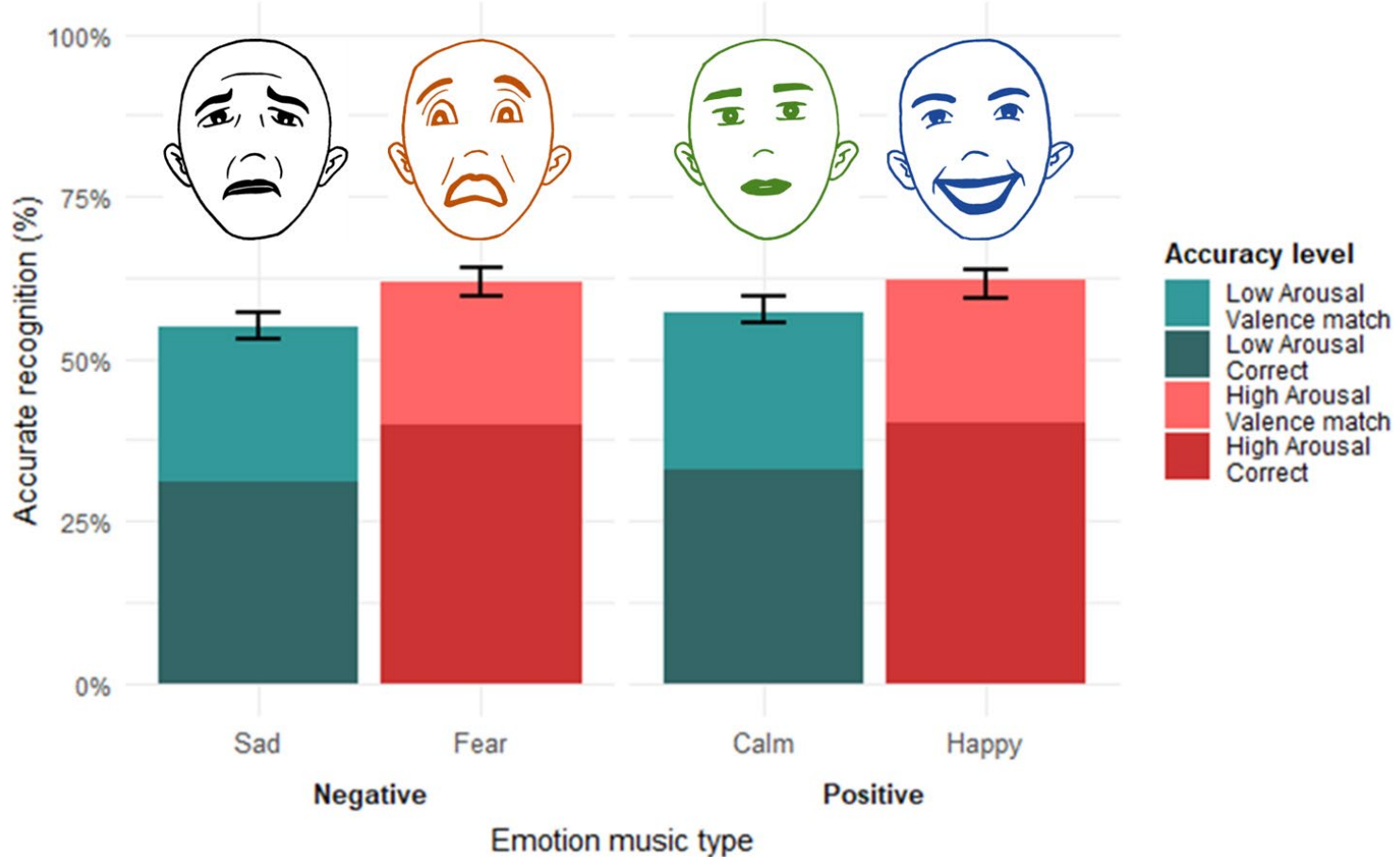
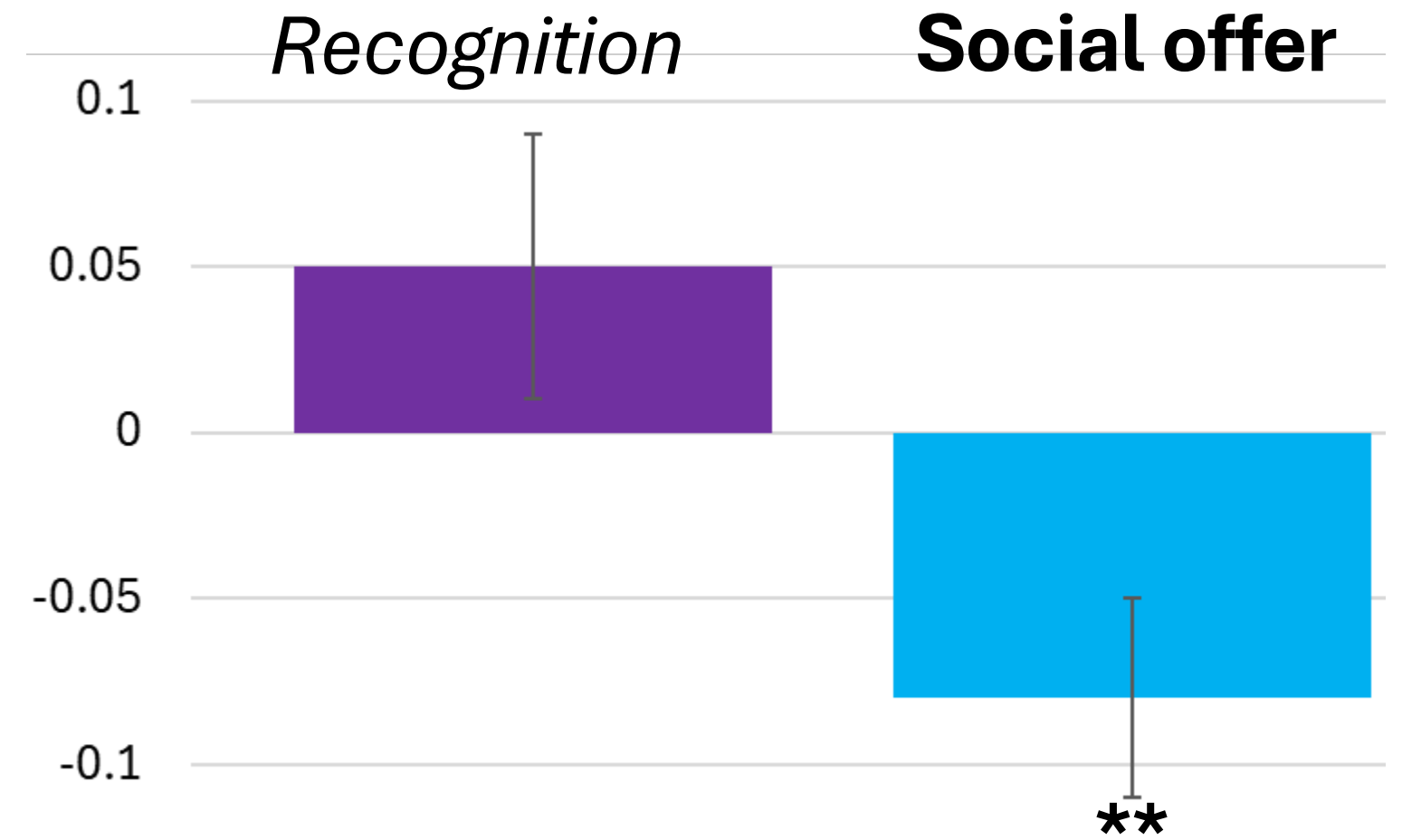
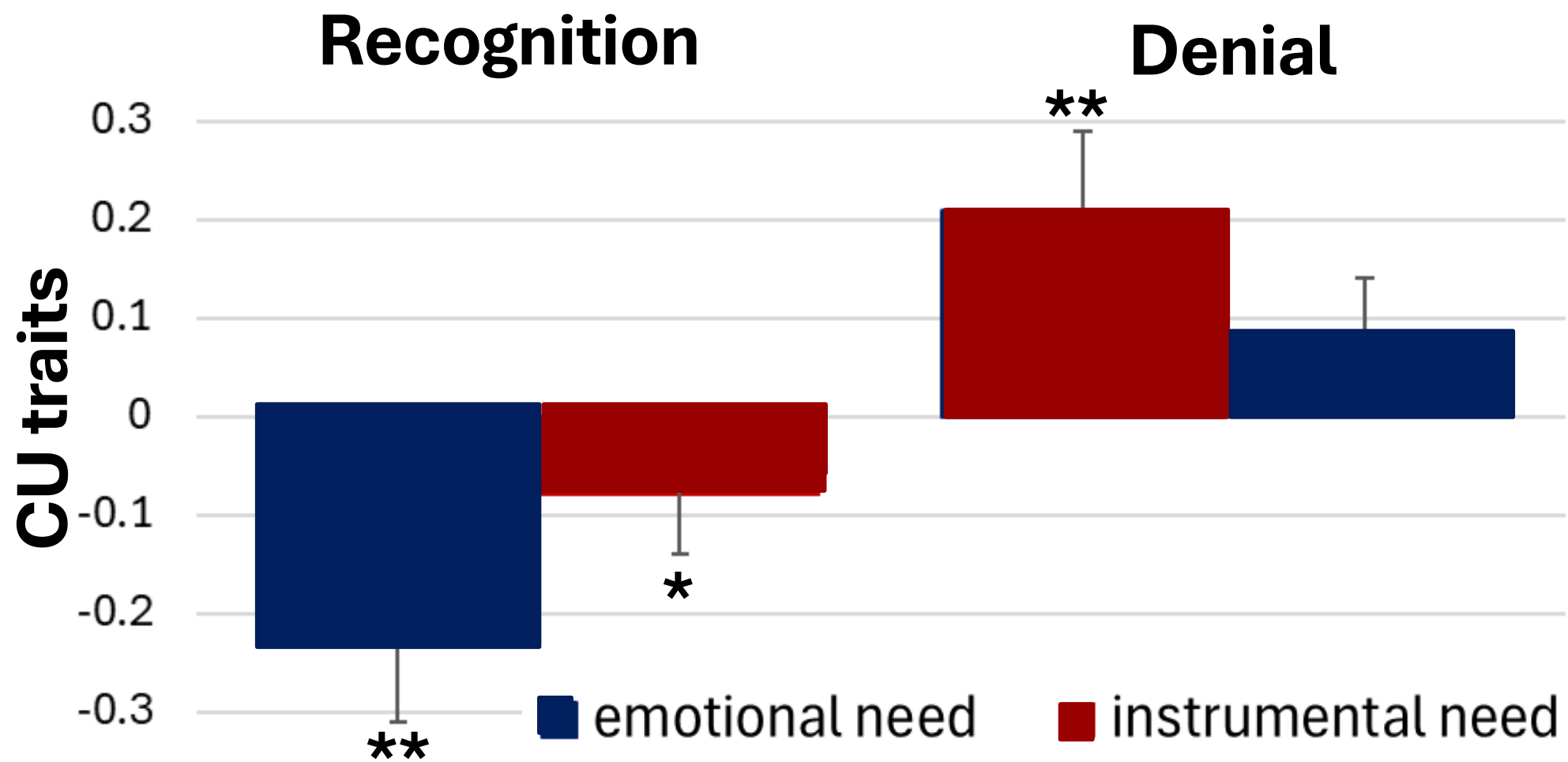


Plate ...Waller, 2023, *Cognition & Emotion*



Paz...Waller, under review

Knowing & caring

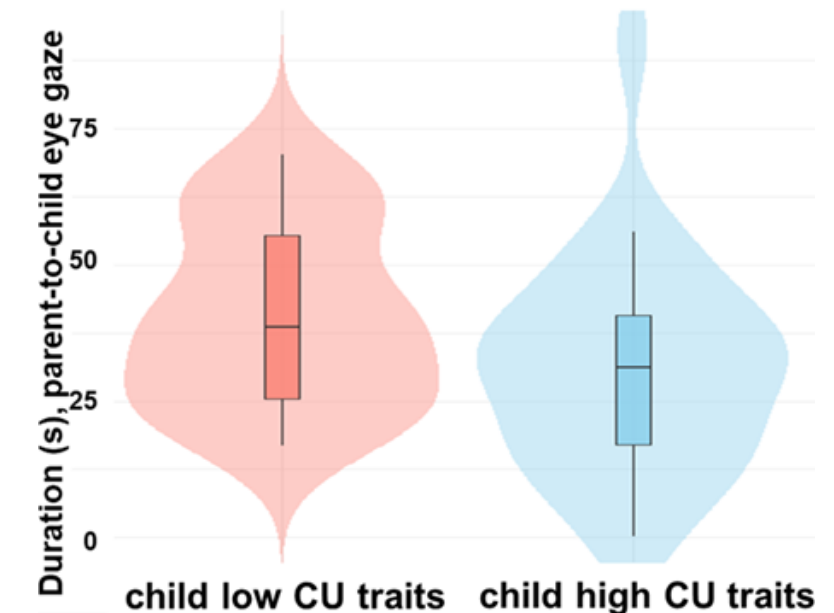
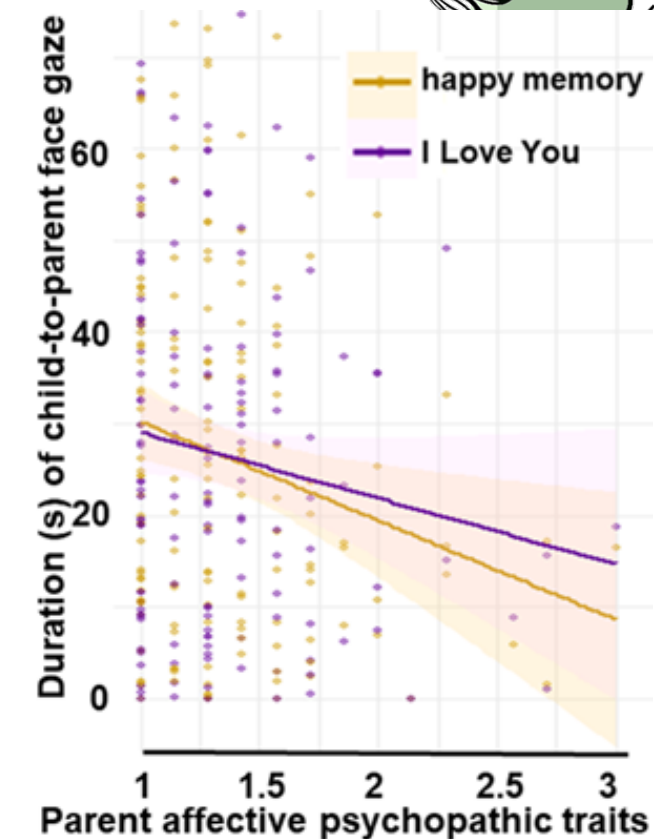
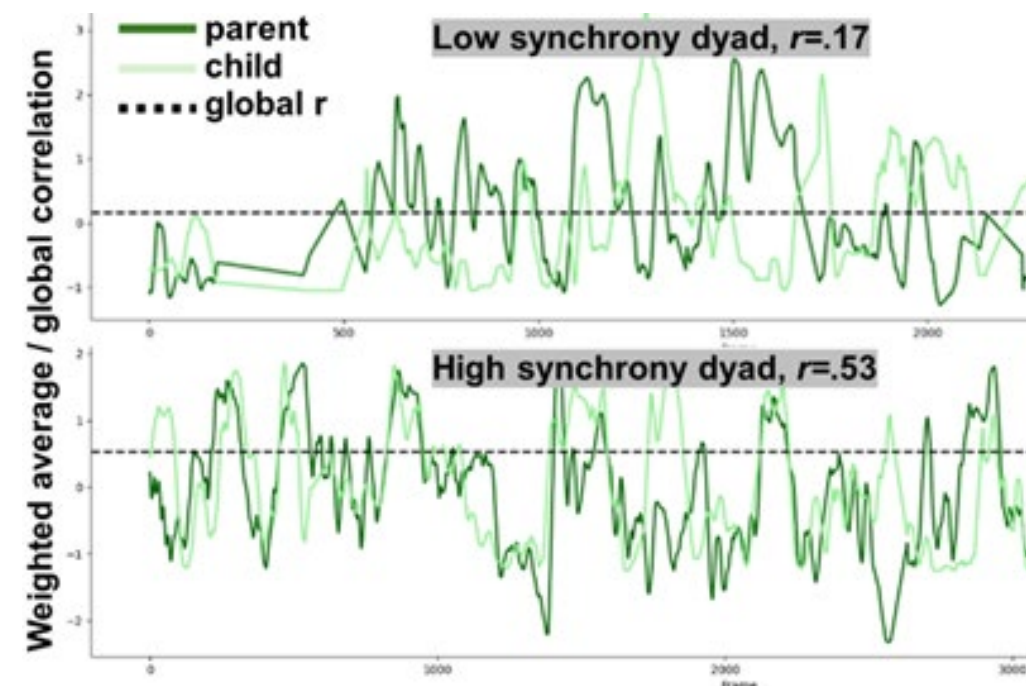
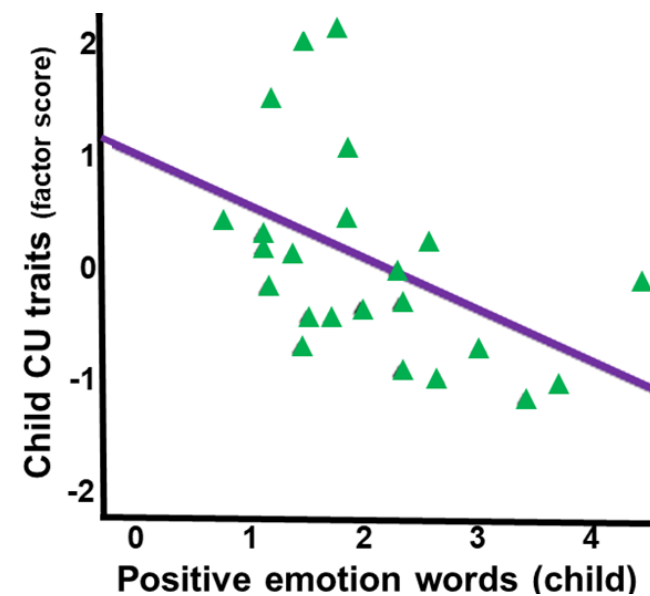
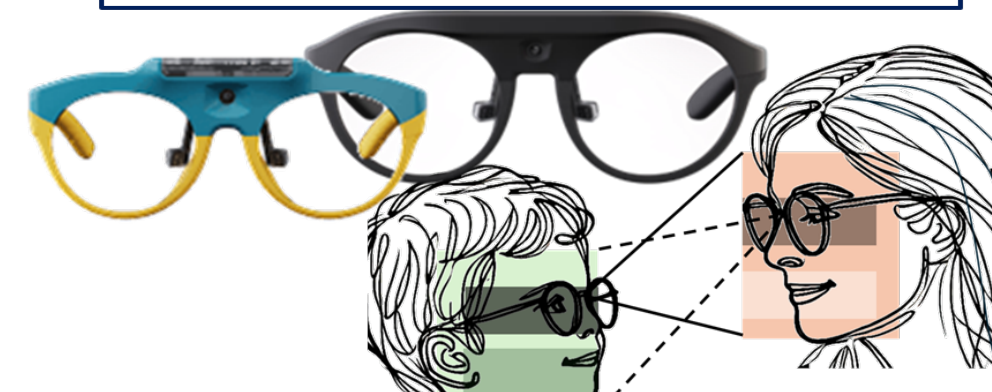
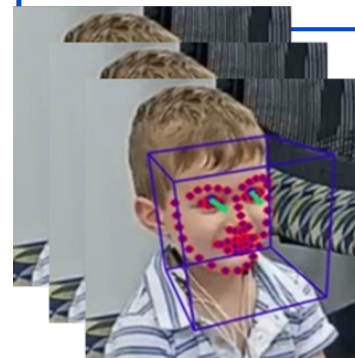
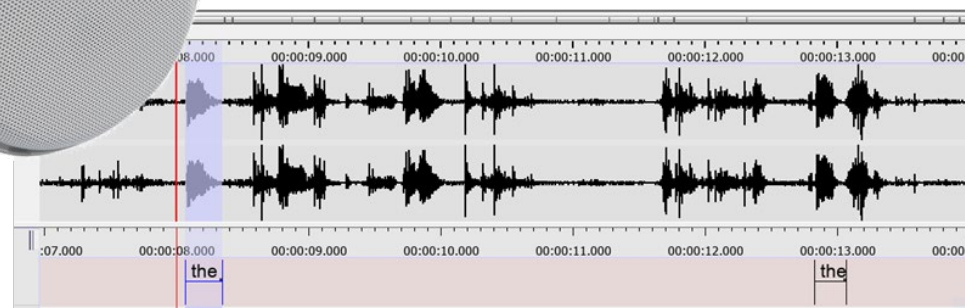


Automated detection of empathy & compassion?

Speech & language markers

Facial affect & movement markers

Dyadic markers



Thank you



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