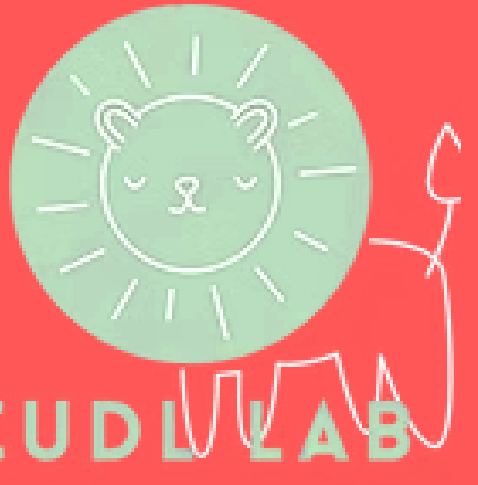


“LOOKING SMART”: EXAMINING PROTOTYPICALITY AS A PREDICTOR OF GENDER BRILLIANCE ATTRIBUTION IN BRITISH CHILDREN

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BACKGROUND

- Who children believe to be smart influence choices and life outcomes (girls less likely to take part in game for “smart kids”)
- Children link “brilliance” more with men and “kindness” more with women by age 8
- However, US & Chinese children only endorse these stereotypes for European individuals, not East Asians

PROTOTYPICALITY

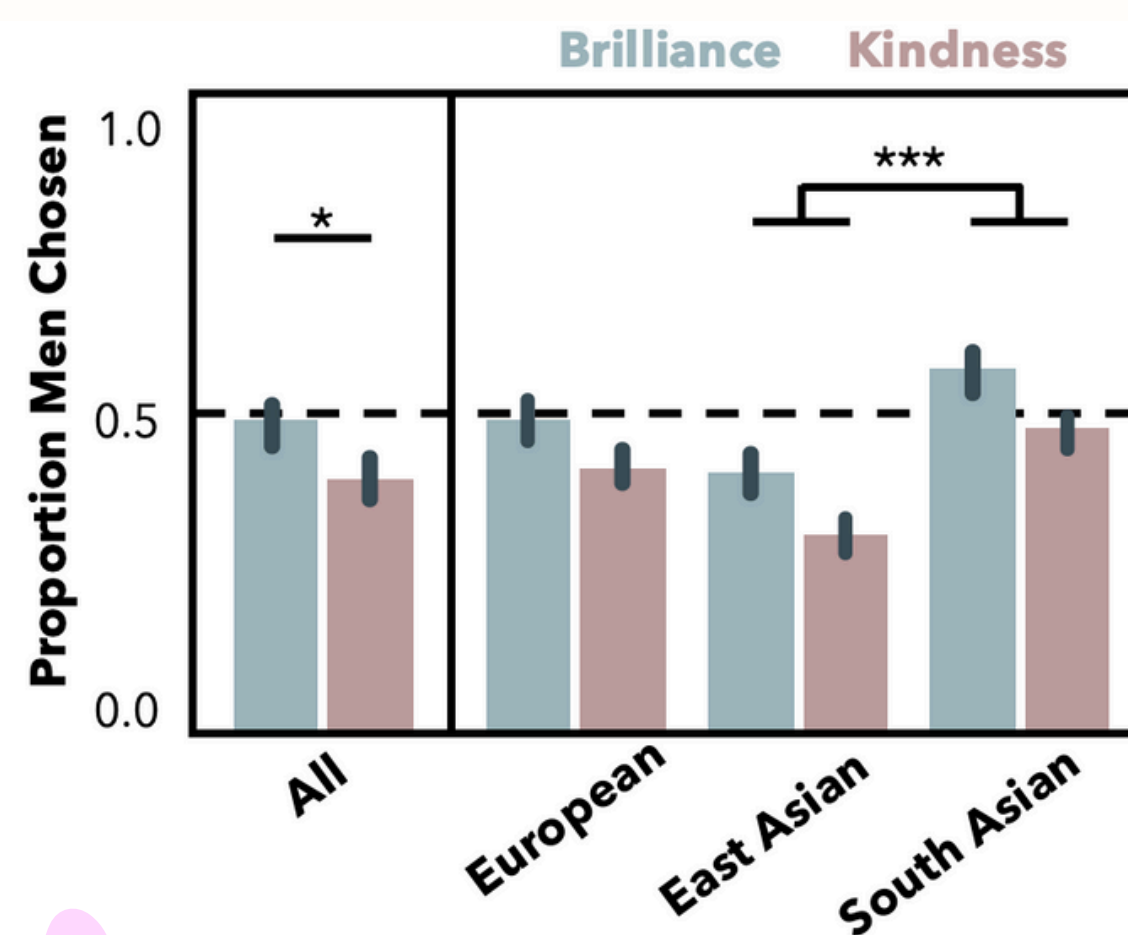
- **Prototype** - mental representation of a concept; the closer an individual or object is to this mental representation, the more prototypical they are.
- Prototype theory hypothesises that the more prototypical an individual is, the more strongly a stereotype is applied.

STUDY 1: STEREOTYPING BY BRITISH CHILDREN

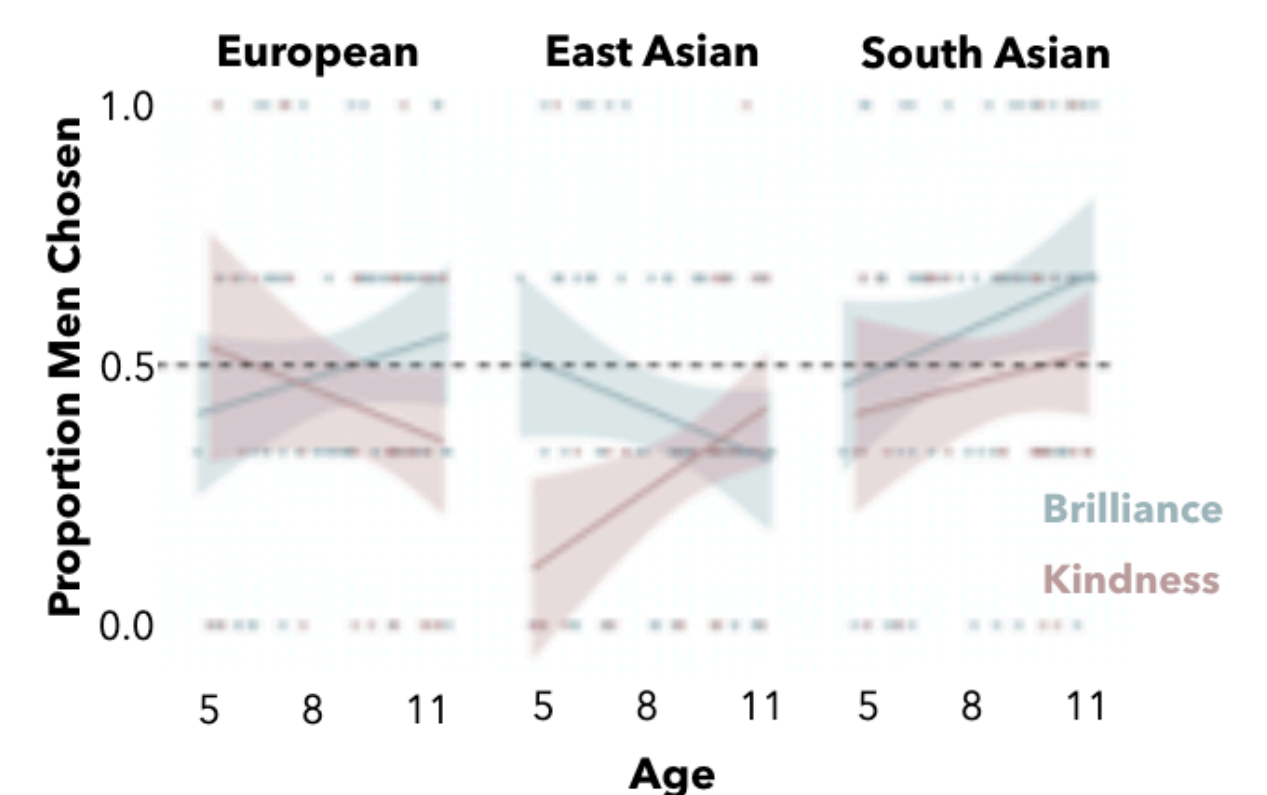
142 British 5 to 11-year-olds completed stereotype task



Stereotypes about brilliance & kindness varied by ethnicity ($p < .001$)



Age moderated the relation between stereotypes & target ethnicity ($p = .001$)



Analysis with a 2 (Stereotype Type: Clever vs. Kind; between-subjects) × 3 (Ethnicity: white, EA, SA; within-subjects) mixed-design ANOVA was conducted

REFERENCES + ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



STUDY 1 CONCLUSIONS

- Children displayed stronger kindness than brilliance stereotypes across target ethnicities.
- Stereotypes were strongest when evaluating South Asian individuals.
- With age, traditional stereotypes emerged for European targets, but not East Asian targets.
- Intersectionality could not be explained by status or prototypicality differences, and may instead be tied to facial dominance.

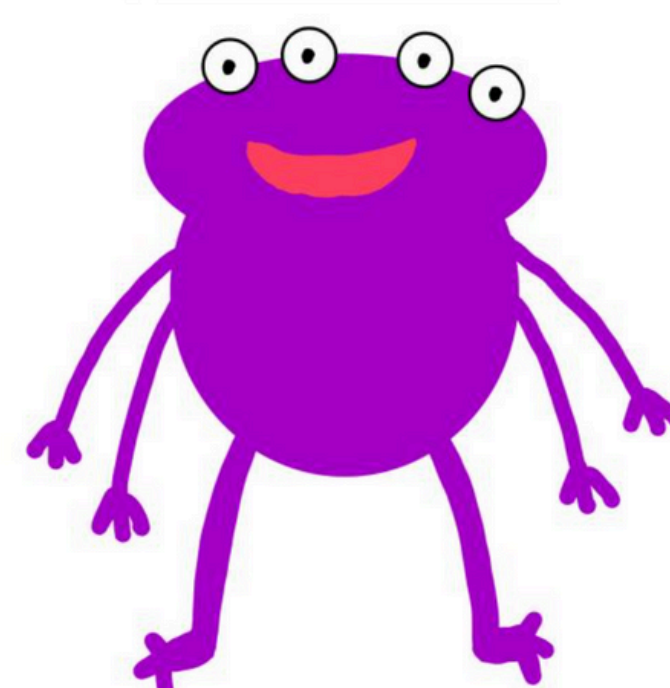
LIMITATIONS

- Forced choice → Unknown direction of stereotype
- Compared genders within race → unknown multiple identities rank

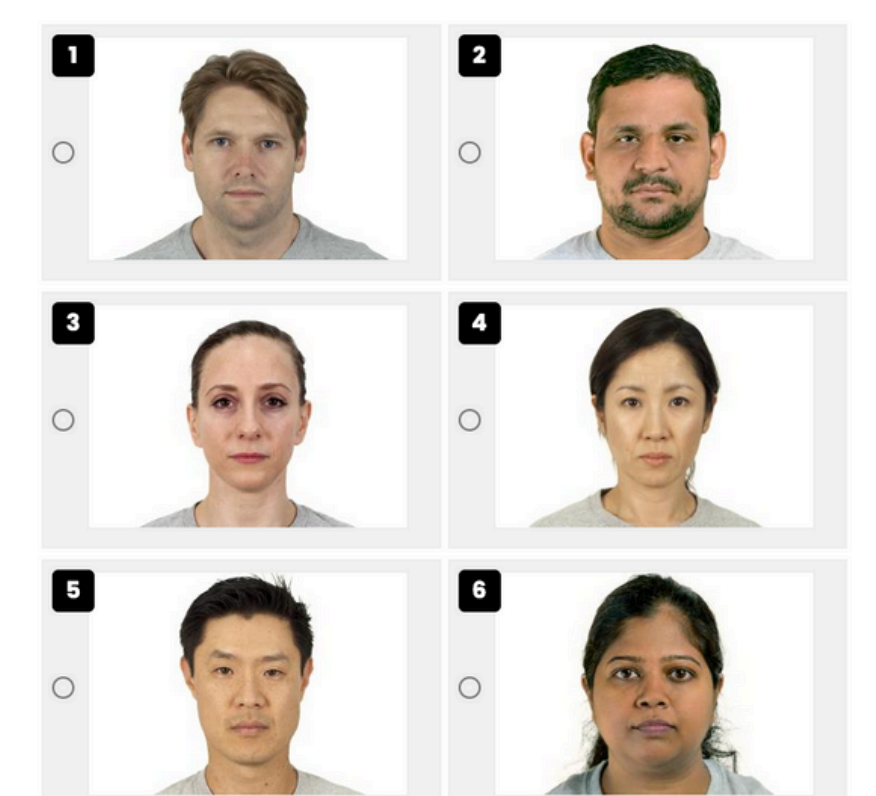
STUDY 2: EXAMINING PROTOTYPICALITY

Data collection ongoing, expect completion Dec 2025

These are the **Caellens**! They are aliens from another planet. They have never seen humans before and are curious to learn more about humans



Which of these people should we teach the Caellens about humans?



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