



# Knowing Versus Believing: The Effects Evidentials and Authority Have on Certainty

Will Ervin & Dr. Allison Nguyen  
Illinois State University

## Background

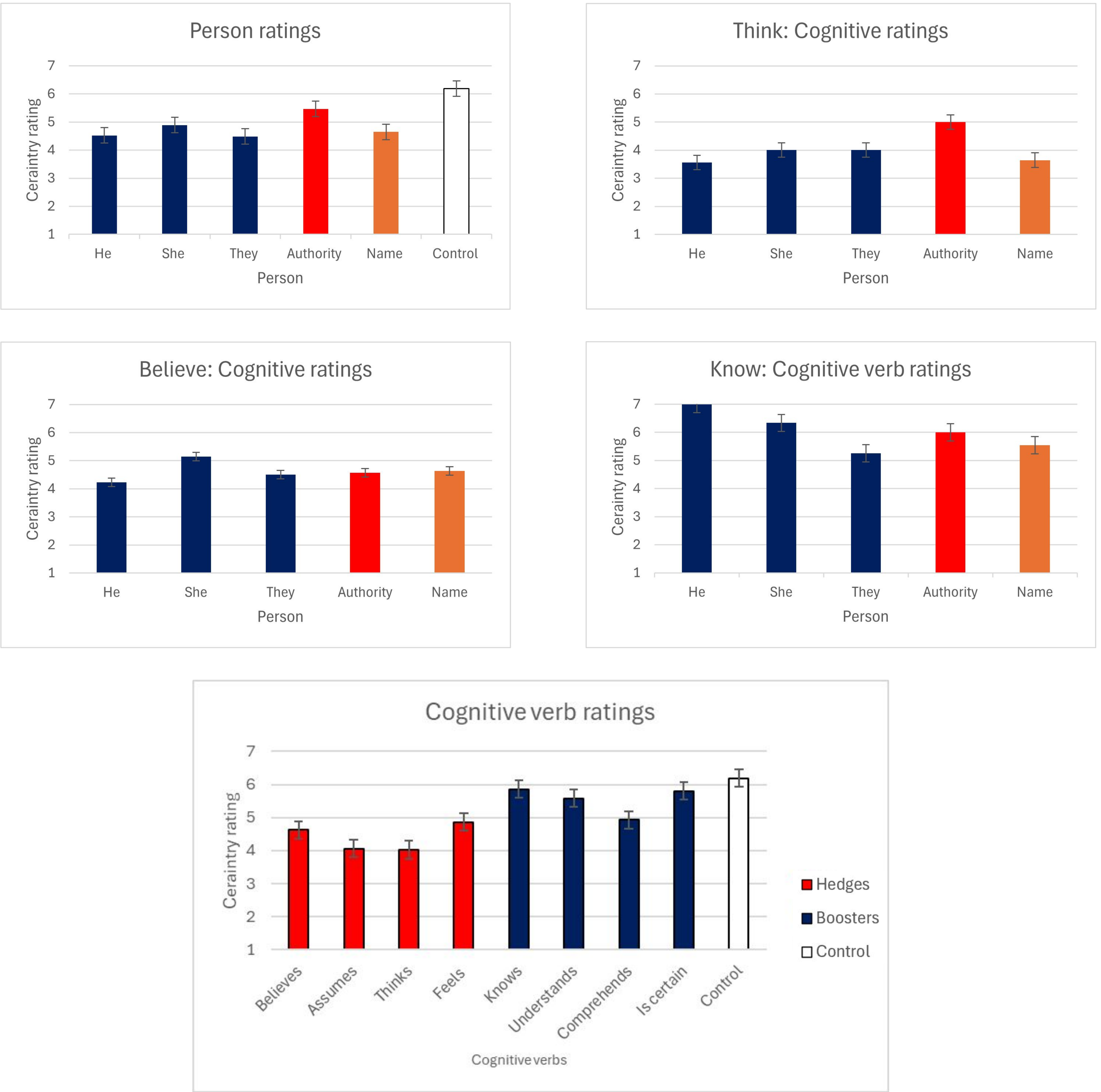
- Semantic gradable adjectives are words like *tall* and *short*, and are dependent on the context they are in (Kennedy & McNally, 2005).
- Cognitive verbs inform the recipient about the credibility of the information offered (Abrusán, 2008).
- Authority figures are also thought to modify certainty via their credibility (Chan et al., 2014; Noroozi, 2023)

## Cognitive verbs

Think	Believe	Know
- Hedge - Lessen impact & rebuttal	- Booster - Express thoughts	- Booster - Assumes truth - Display empathy



Please contact Will Ervin  
[wtervin@ilstu.edu](mailto:wtervin@ilstu.edu) with questions



## Results

- *Booster cognitive verbs* → higher ratings
- *Hedging cognitive verbs* → lower ratings
- *Authority & pronoun* → higher ratings
- Gender neutral *names* and *they* (non-binary) → lower ratings
- *Name* was the source of the interaction

## Future Directions

- We have removed the variables he, she, they, and names.
- We have added additional measures.
- Future work will investigate gender and how it interacts with cognitive verbs and gradable adjectives.

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