Abstract:

Title: Do adults perceive more commitment when observing children in higher coordination scenario?

Introduction

Recent research into observed commitment has shown that adults perceive more commitment in interactions with a high degree of coordination between two adults. Building on this, this study will focus on investigating this effect while observing different levels of coordination between an adult and a child. The key new step here is extending the findings to new context of interaction. Natural behaviour in controlled environment rather than actors. Furthermore, exploratory analysis on participants’ experience with children will be conducted and will aim to investigate whether such experience leads to higher accuracy in predicting children’s behaviour.

Method

Between subjects design will be employed. Participants will be randomly assigned to two groups and shown clips of videos from a previous experiment of interactions between an adult and a child in two different conditions – high or low coordination. Each participant will first see one clip and then be asked to estimate whether the child will stay committed to the task. This will be followed by 4 videos (the videos will range from a lesser to a greater degree of commitment as measured by how many rounds the child will complete in a game) from one condition in randomised order. After watching the 4 clips, participants will be asked to estimate how many rounds the child will complete. Independent samples t-test will be conducted to see differences between conditions. Frequency with which they predict the child to be committed will be measured as well as accuracy in terms of child’s actual behaviour.

Results

It is predicted that the results will be concurrent with previous findings and participants will expect the child to show higher level of commitment in a condition with higher level of coordination. We also predict that participants who are more experienced with children will be more accurate at predicting children’s degree of commitment. Participants in general will be more able to predict children’s behaviour within a higher coordination condition.

Matt’s questions:

Which visual factors can be indicators of commitment?

Strategy to chose videos?