

Bayesian reasoning in the social domain

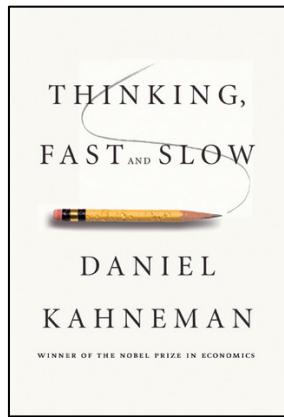
Jack Cao

April 24, 2019

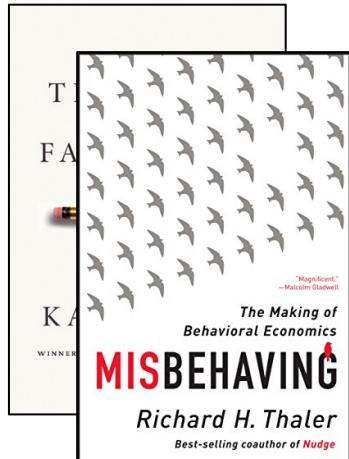
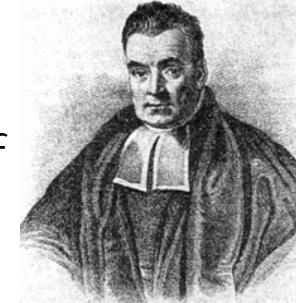
Prior Belief x Quality of New Info = Updated Belief



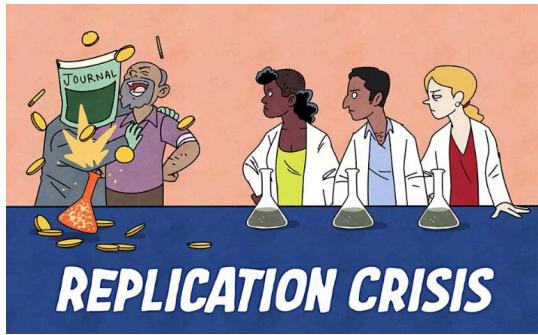
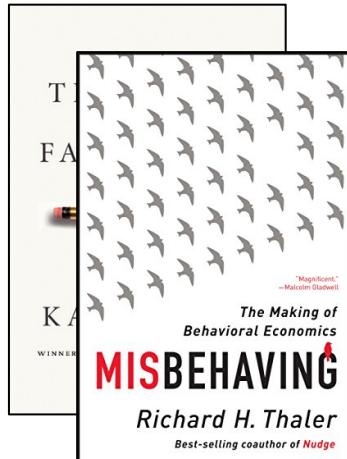
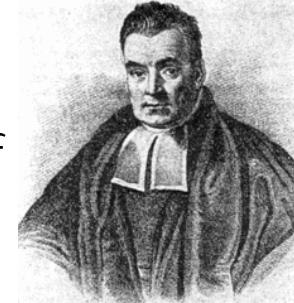
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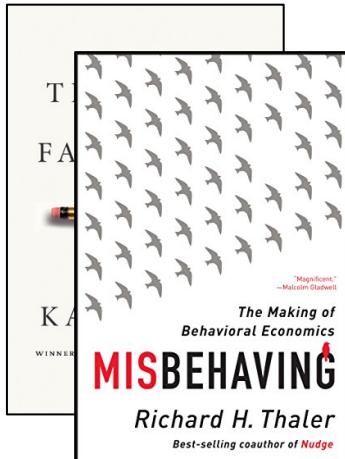
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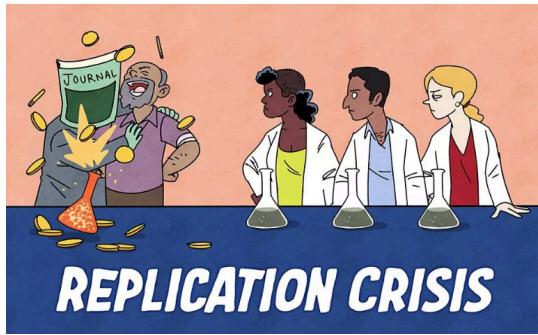
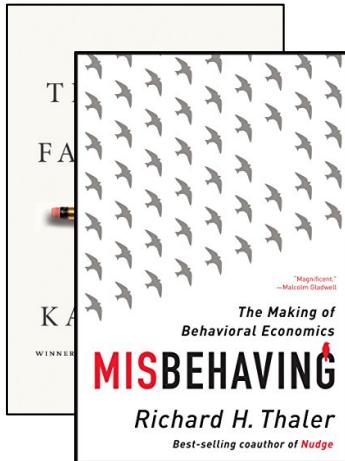
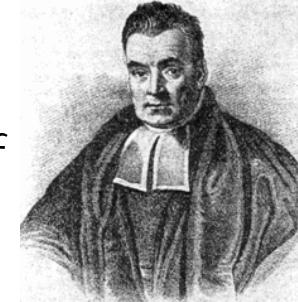
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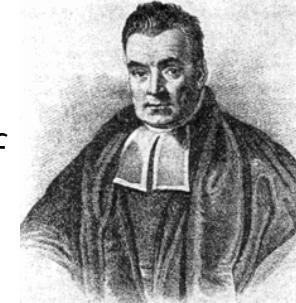
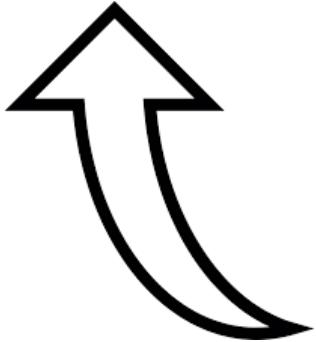
Prior Belief x Quality of New Info = Updated Belief



"The theory that would not die..."
Sharon McGayne, Science Writer

"...arguably the most powerful mechanism created for processing data and knowledge."
Jim Berger, Statistician

Prior Belief x Quality of New Info = Updated Belief



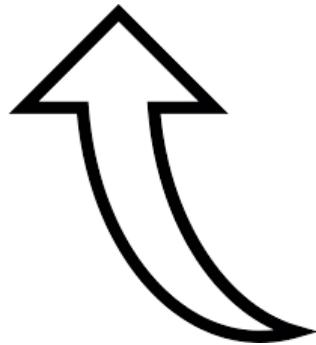
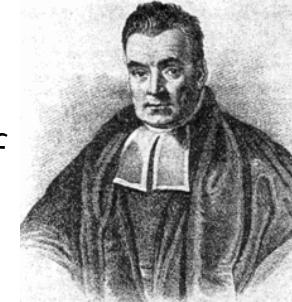
In the social domain, priors are stereotypes.

Locksley et al. (1980)

Krosnick et al. (1990)

Jussim (2012)

Prior Belief x Quality of New Info = Updated Belief



In the social domain, priors are stereotypes.

Locksley et al. (1980)

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The law privileges Egalitarian values
over Bayesian principles.

Artificial Intelligence that's more Bayesian than egalitarian



Translate

The image shows a screenshot of the Google Translate interface. At the top, there are two language selection bars. The left bar shows "English", "Spanish", "French", "Turkish - detected", and a dropdown arrow. The right bar shows "English", "Spanish", "Arabic", and a dropdown arrow. Between these bars is a double-headed arrow icon. To the right of the bars is a blue "Translate" button. Below the bars, the input text "O bir doktor.
O bir hemşire." is displayed in a white box. An "x" icon is in the top right corner of this box. At the bottom of the input box are icons for microphone, camera, and a text entry field. To the right of the input box is a light gray sidebar with a star icon, a square icon, a microphone icon, and a share icon. In the bottom right corner of the input box, the text "28/5000" is visible.

Artificial Intelligence that's more Bayesian than egalitarian



Translate

English Spanish French Turkish - detected ▾



English Spanish Arabic ▾

Translate

O bir doktor.
O bir hemşire.



28/5000

He is a doctor.
She is a nurse.



What judgments do people make when
Bayesian principles and egalitarian values are at stake?

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1. People undermine their commitment to egalitarian values by making Bayesian judgments

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3. Google Images as a proxy for the social environment

What judgments do people make when Bayesian principles and egalitarian values are at stake?

A man performed surgery.

A woman performed surgery.

Who's more likely to be a doctor?

What judgments do people make when Bayesian principles and egalitarian values are at stake?

A man performed surgery.

A woman performed surgery.

Who's more likely to be a doctor?

Man

Prior
belief



Quality
of new
info

=

Updated
belief

Woman

Prior
Belief



Quality
of new
info

=

Updated
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What judgments do people make when Bayesian principles and egalitarian values are at stake?

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Who's more likely to be a doctor?

Man

Higher \times

Quality
of new
info

= Updated
belief

Woman

Lower \times

Quality
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info

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belief

What judgments do people make when Bayesian principles and egalitarian values are at stake?

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Who's more likely to be a doctor?

Man

Higher \times

Great,
but not
perfect

= Updated
belief

Woman

Lower \times

Great,
but not
perfect

= Updated
belief

make a
contribution

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US edition ▾

the guardian

news | opinion | sport | arts | lifestyle | more ▾

Healthcare Network
Nursing in focus

Meet the nurse who will soon perform
surgery on patients alone

Unlike other nursing roles, a surgical care practitioner is involved with the patient
every step of the way

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A man performed surgery.

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Who's more likely to be a doctor?

Man

Higher \times

Great,
but not
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=

More
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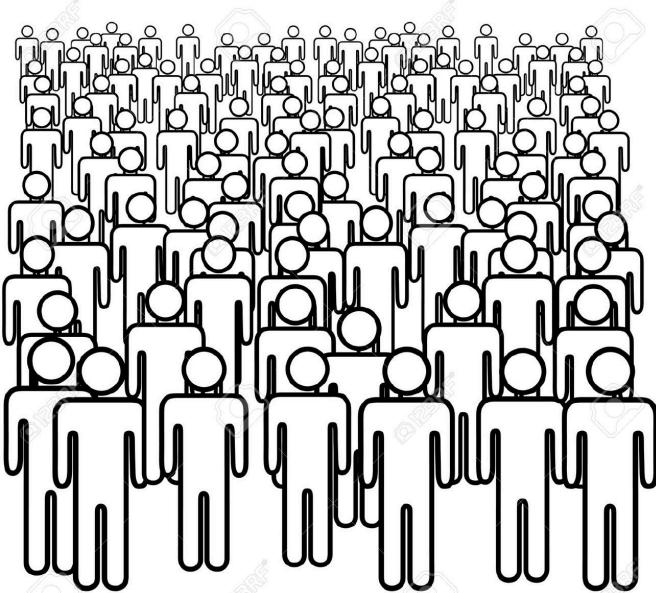
Lower \times

Great,
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perfect

=

Less
likely

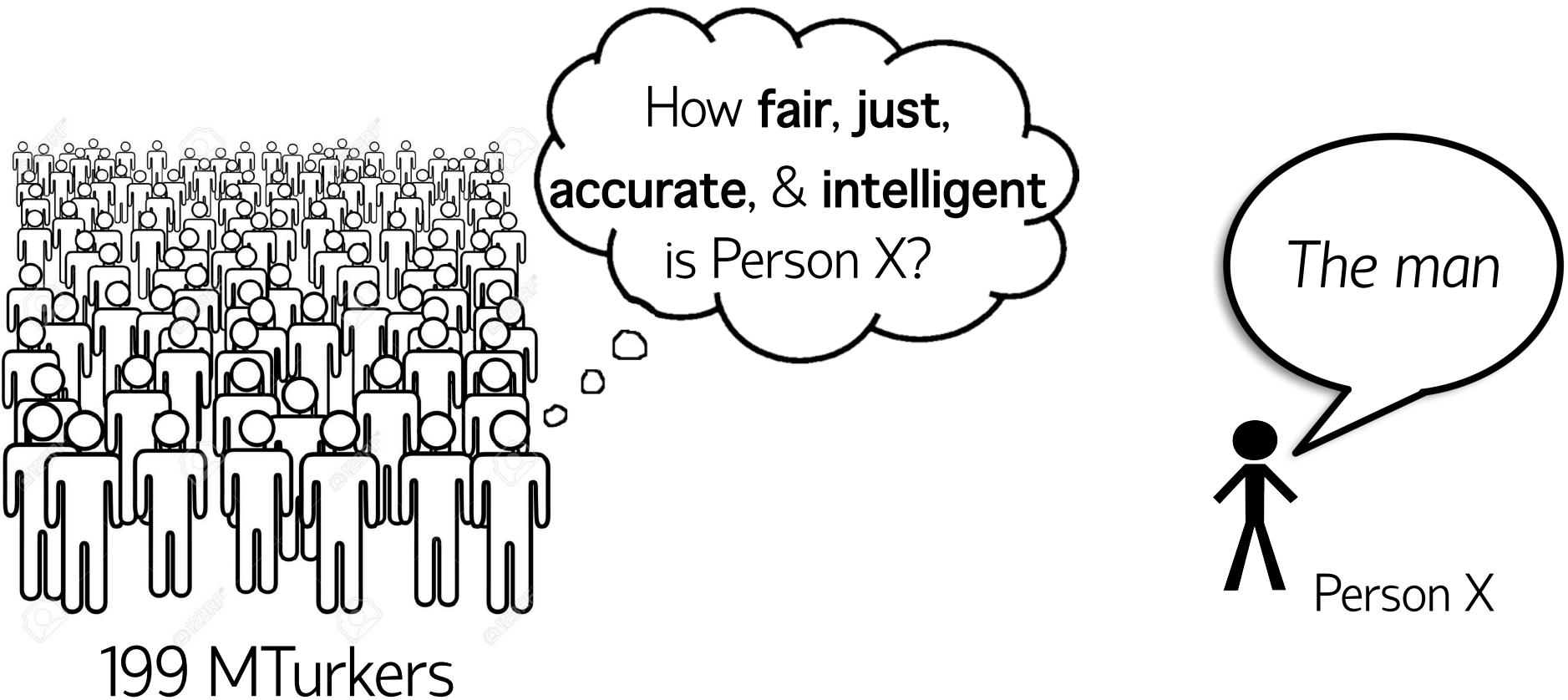
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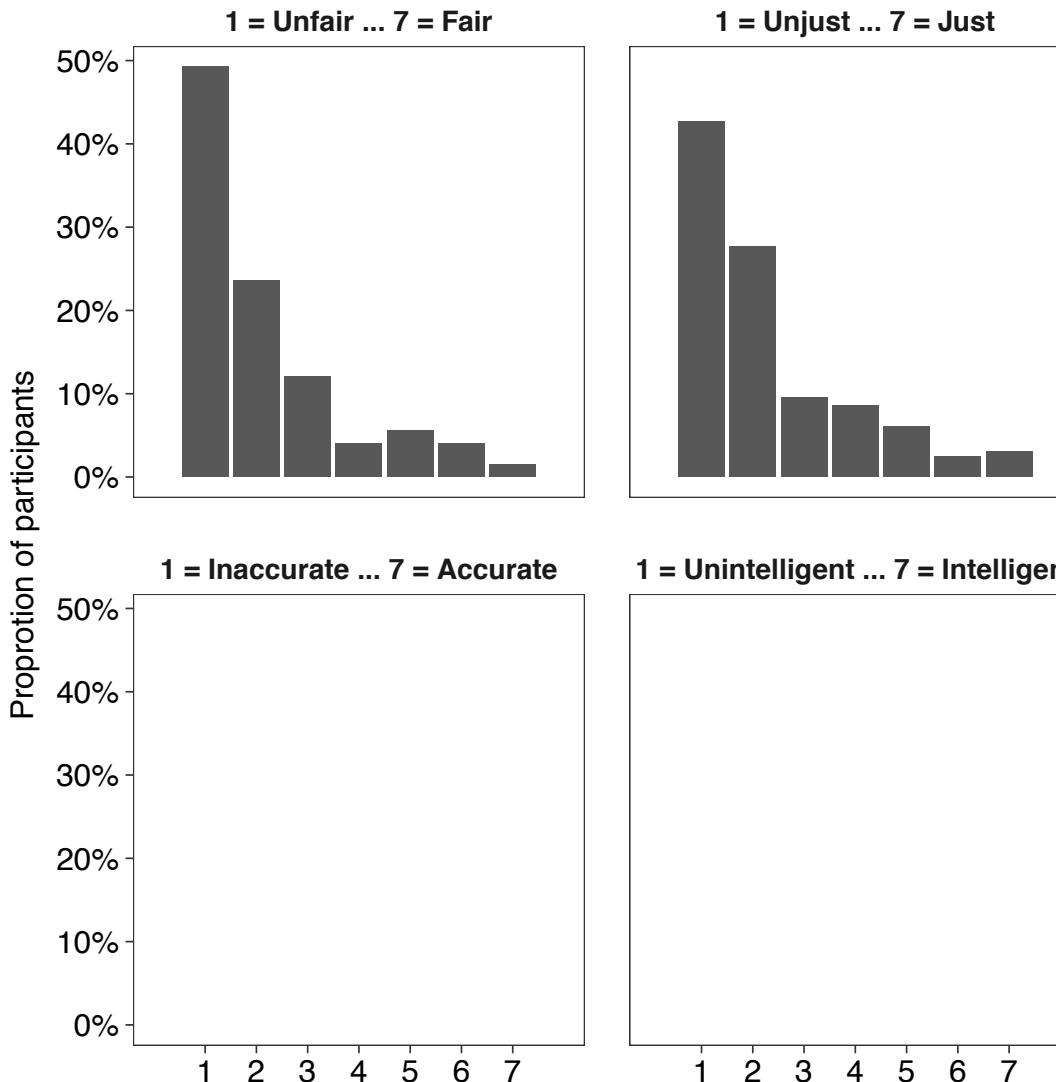
199 MTurkers



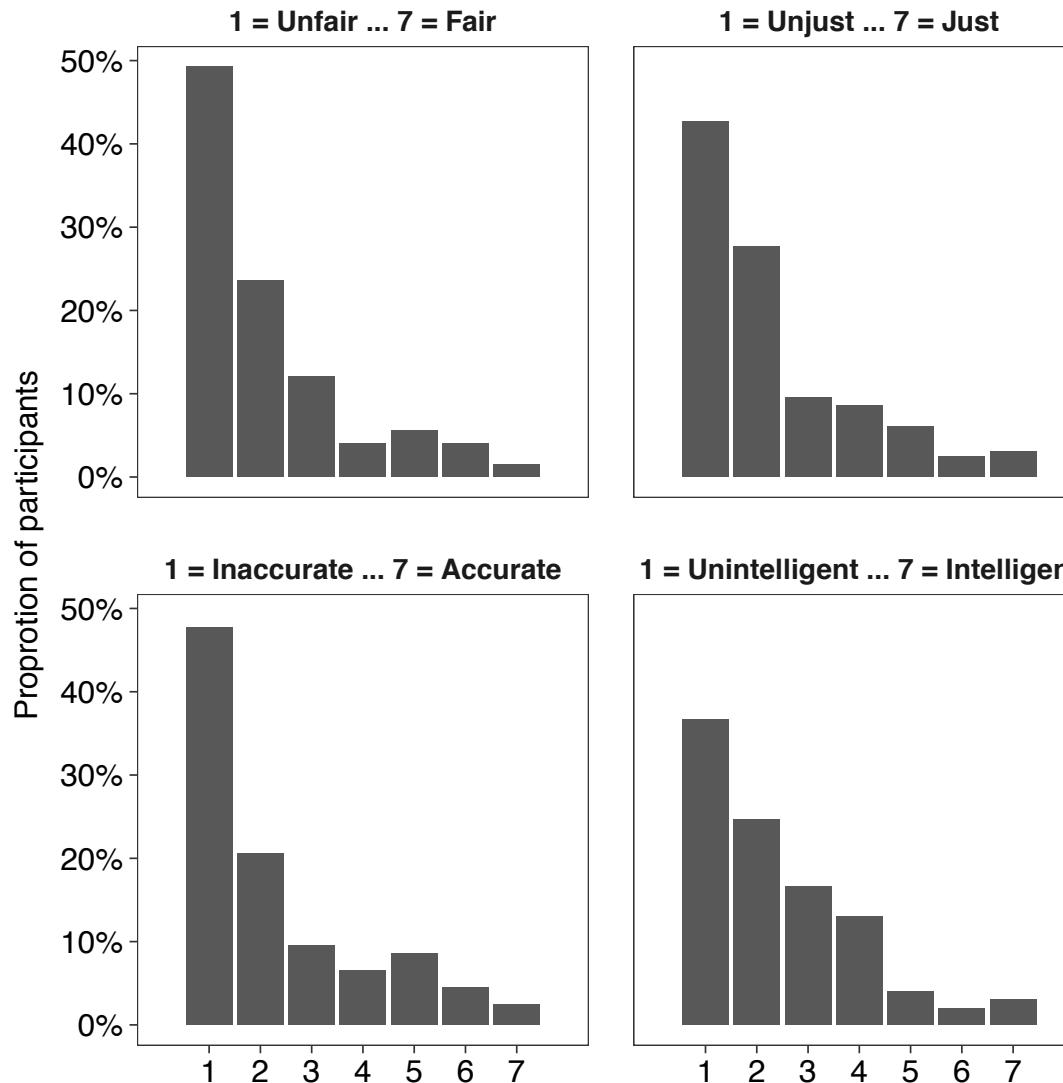
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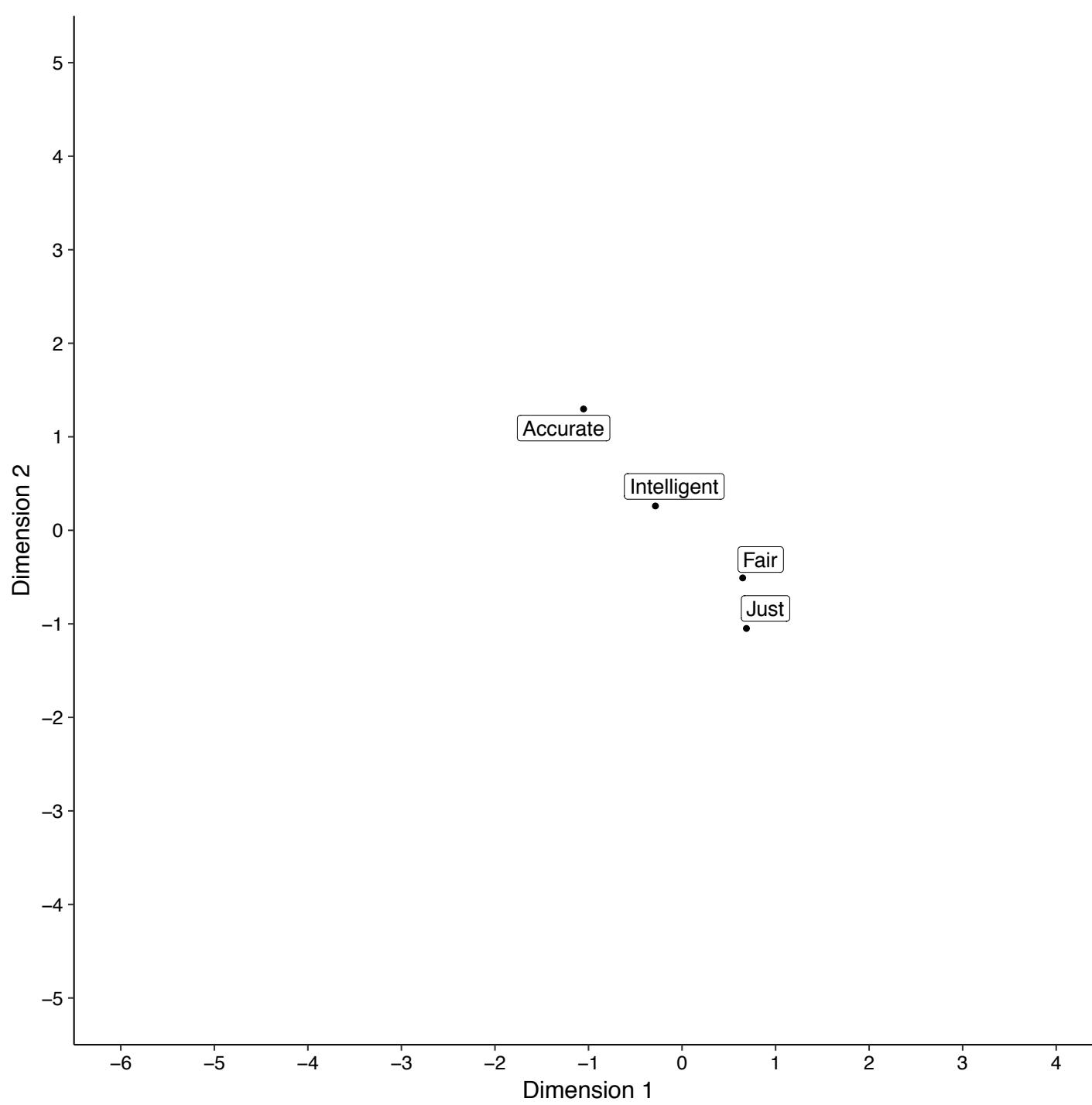


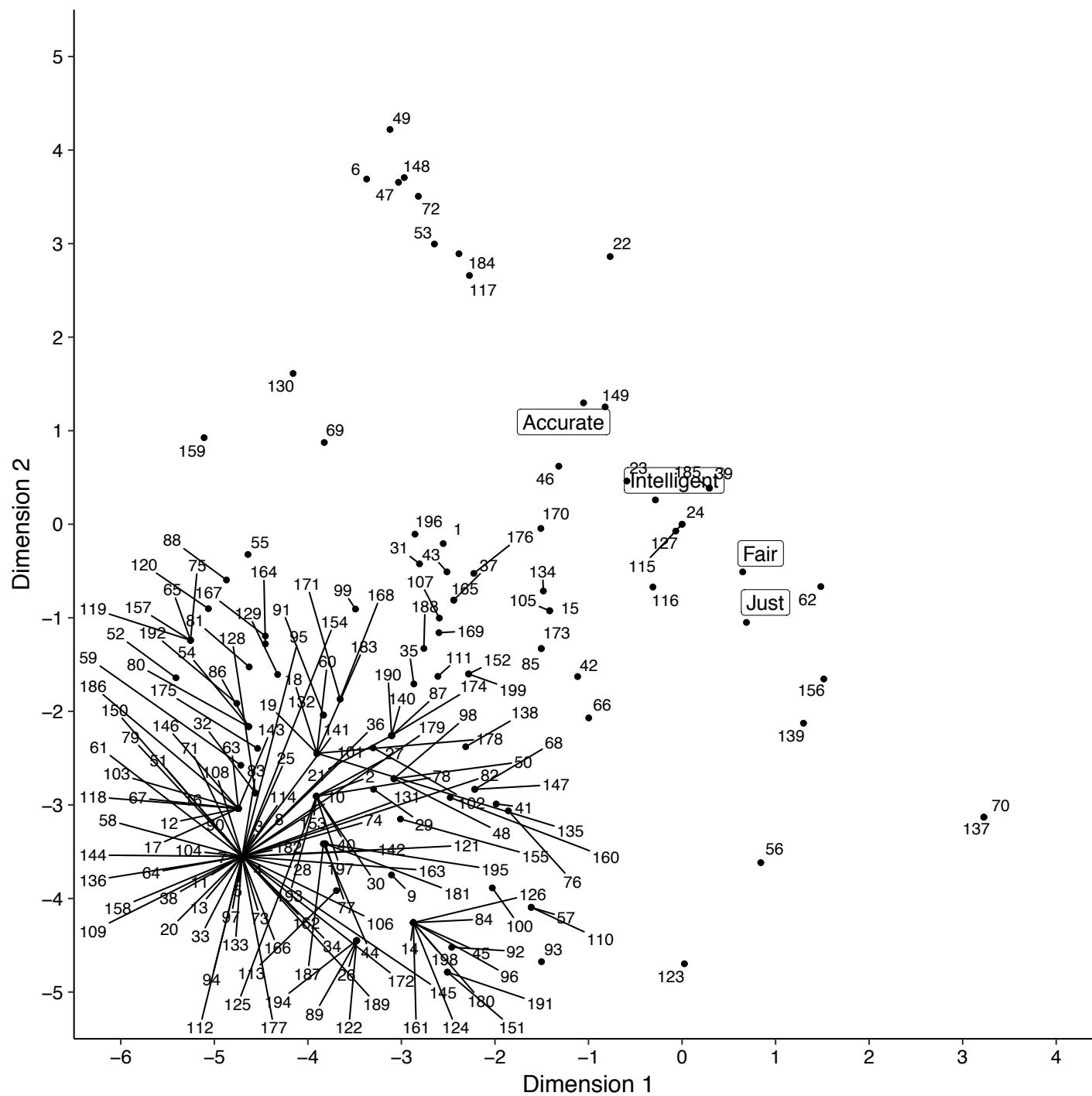
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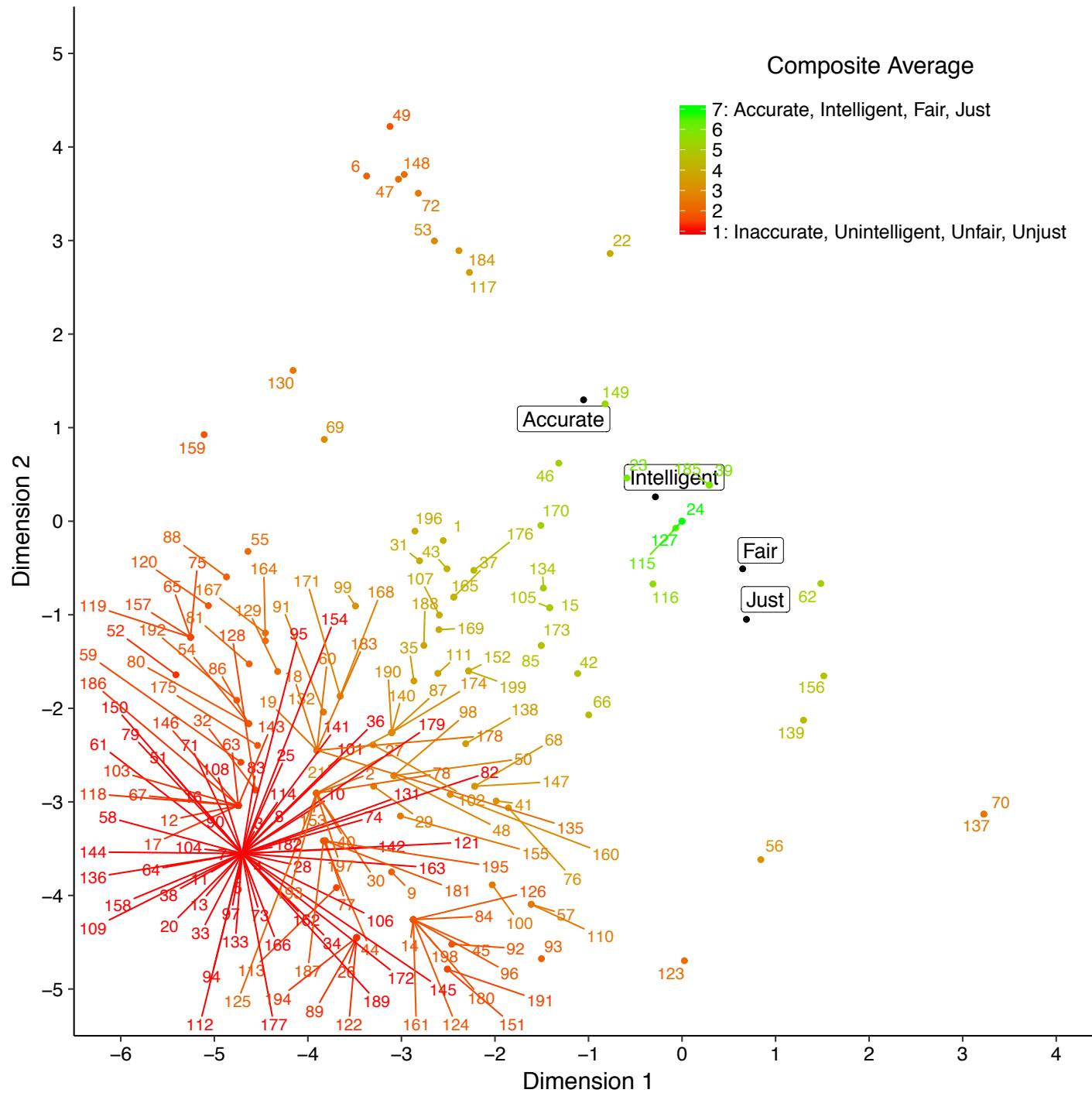


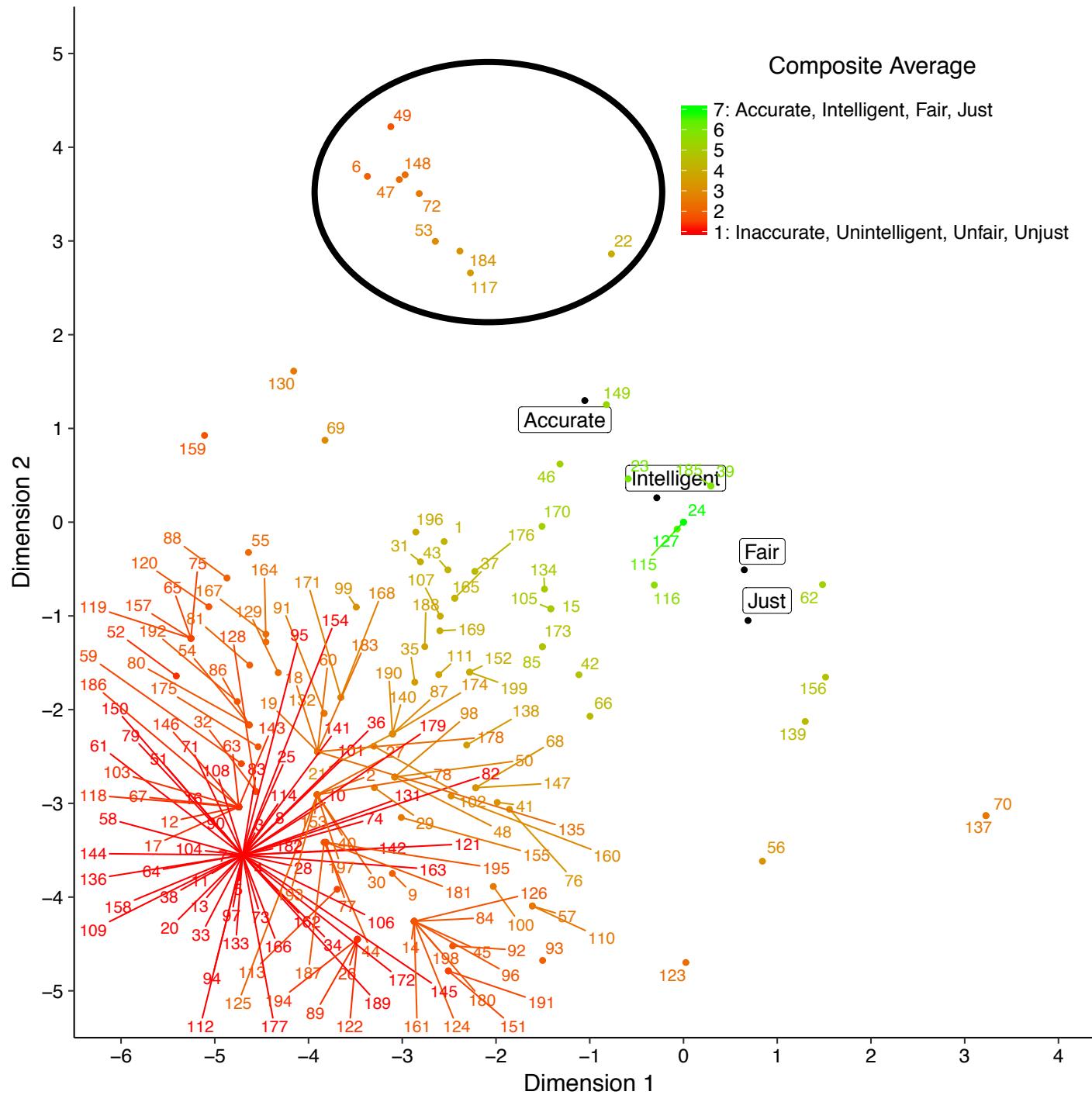
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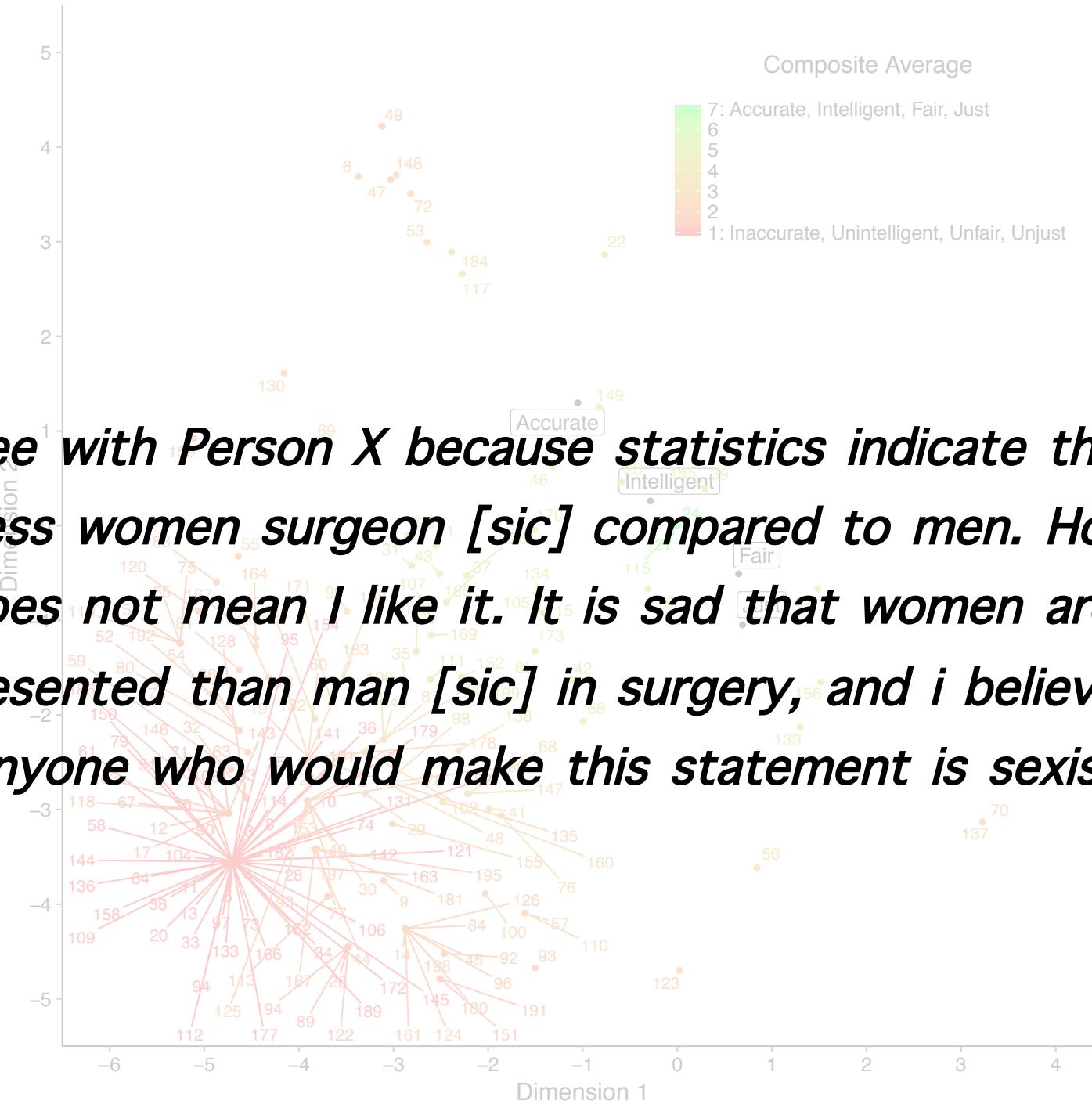


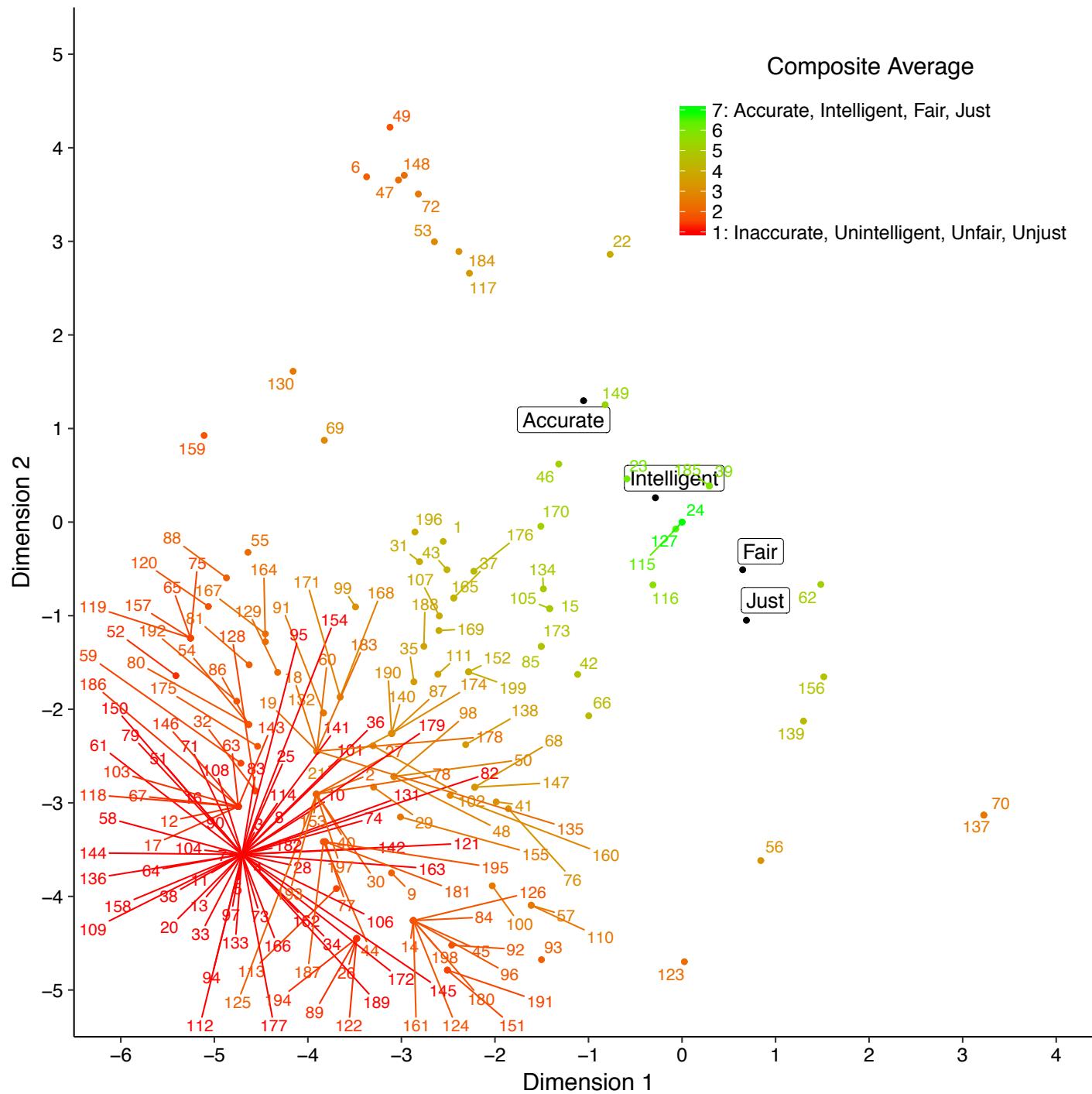


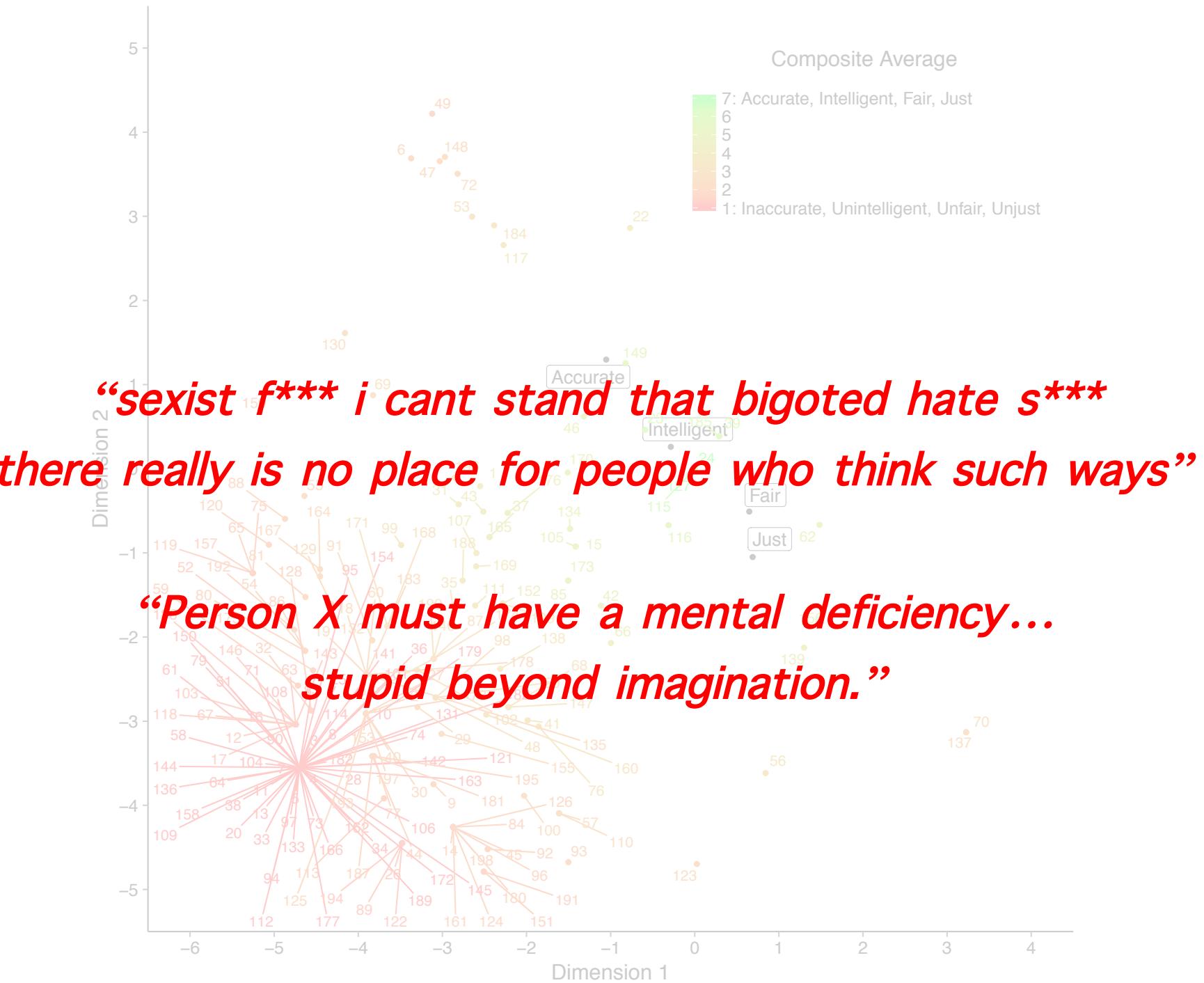


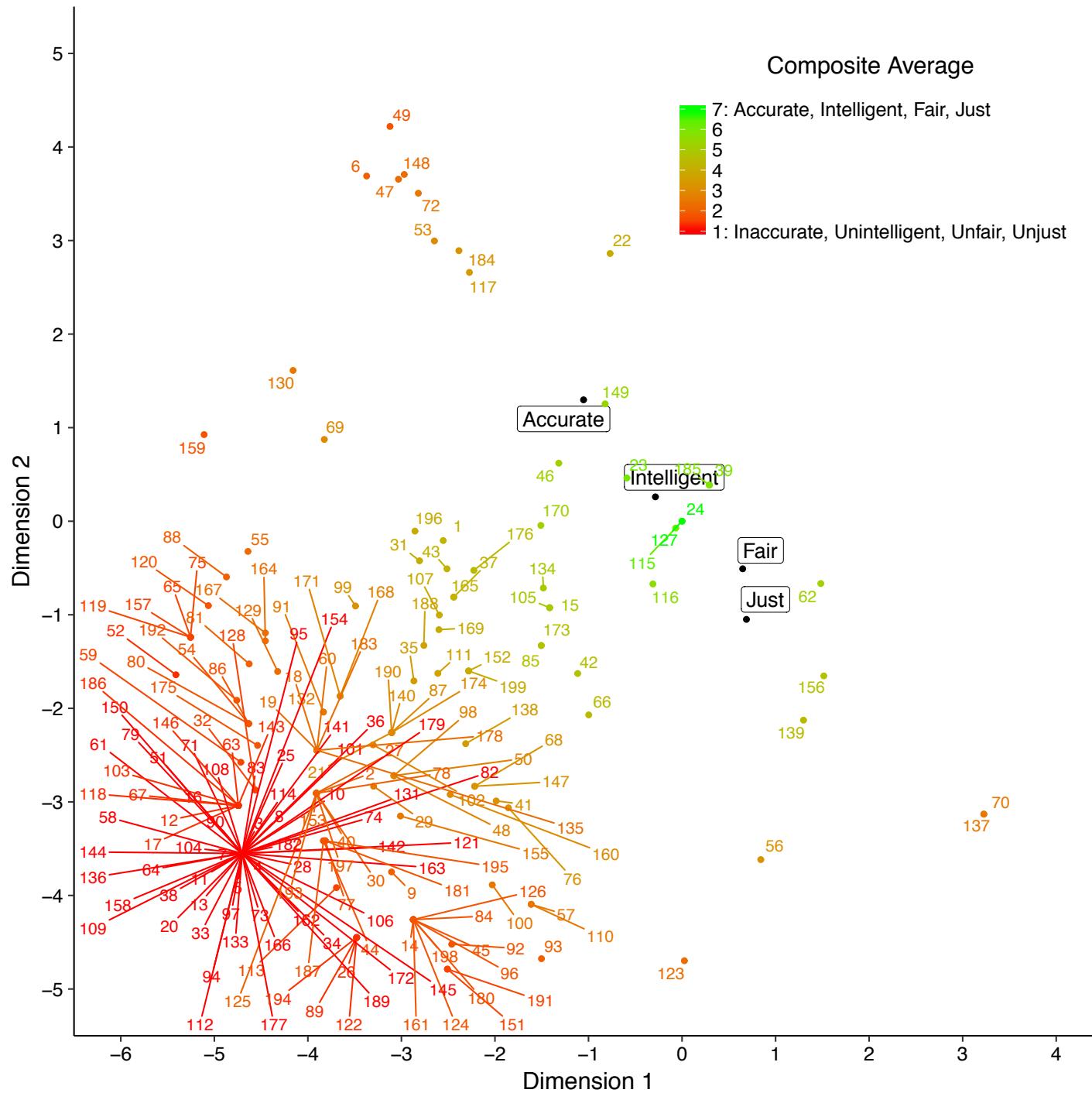


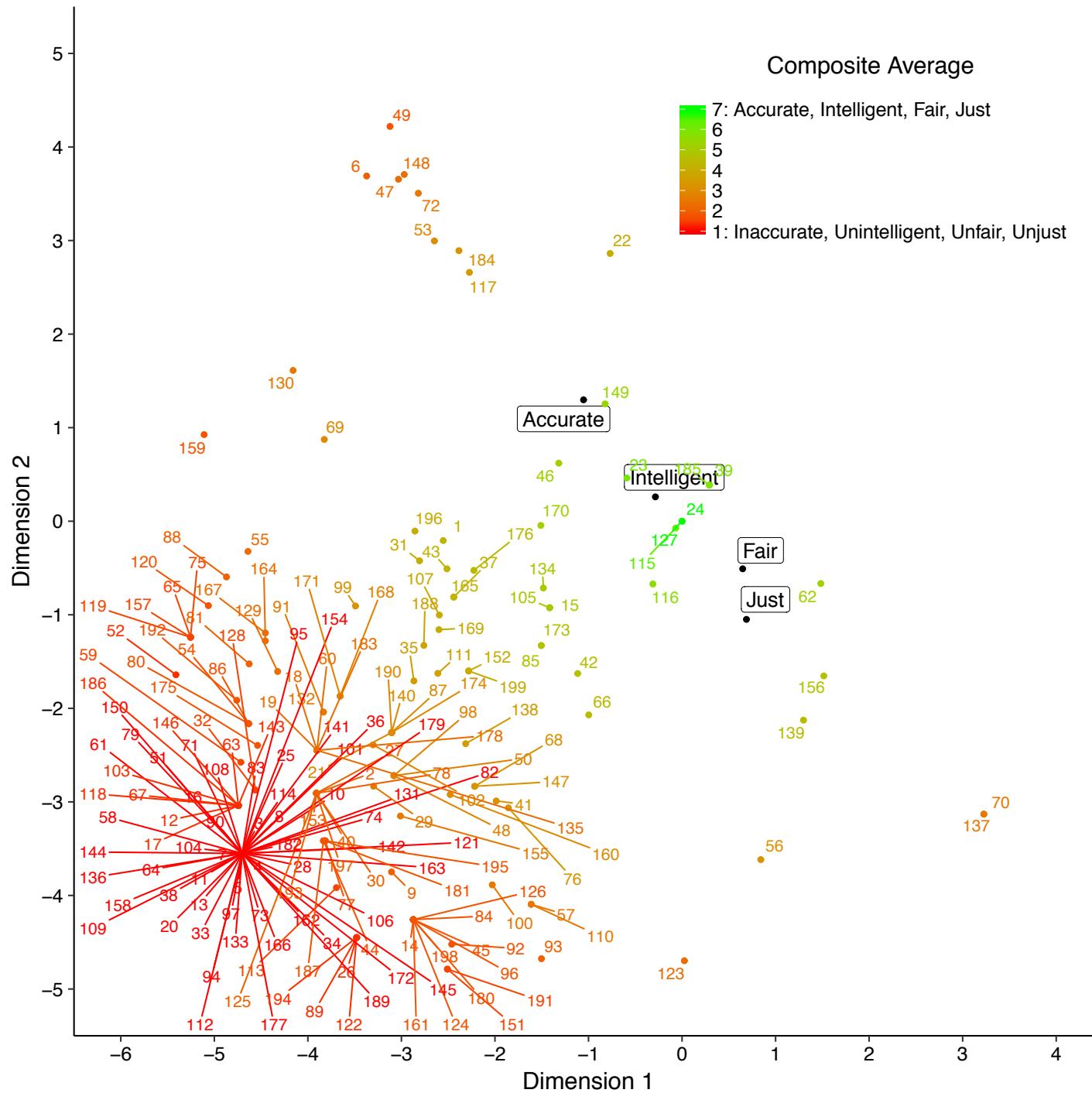
“I agree with Person X because statistics indicate that there are less women surgeon [sic] compared to men. However, this does not mean I like it. It is sad that women are under-represented than man [sic] in surgery, and i believe that anyone who would make this statement is sexist.”









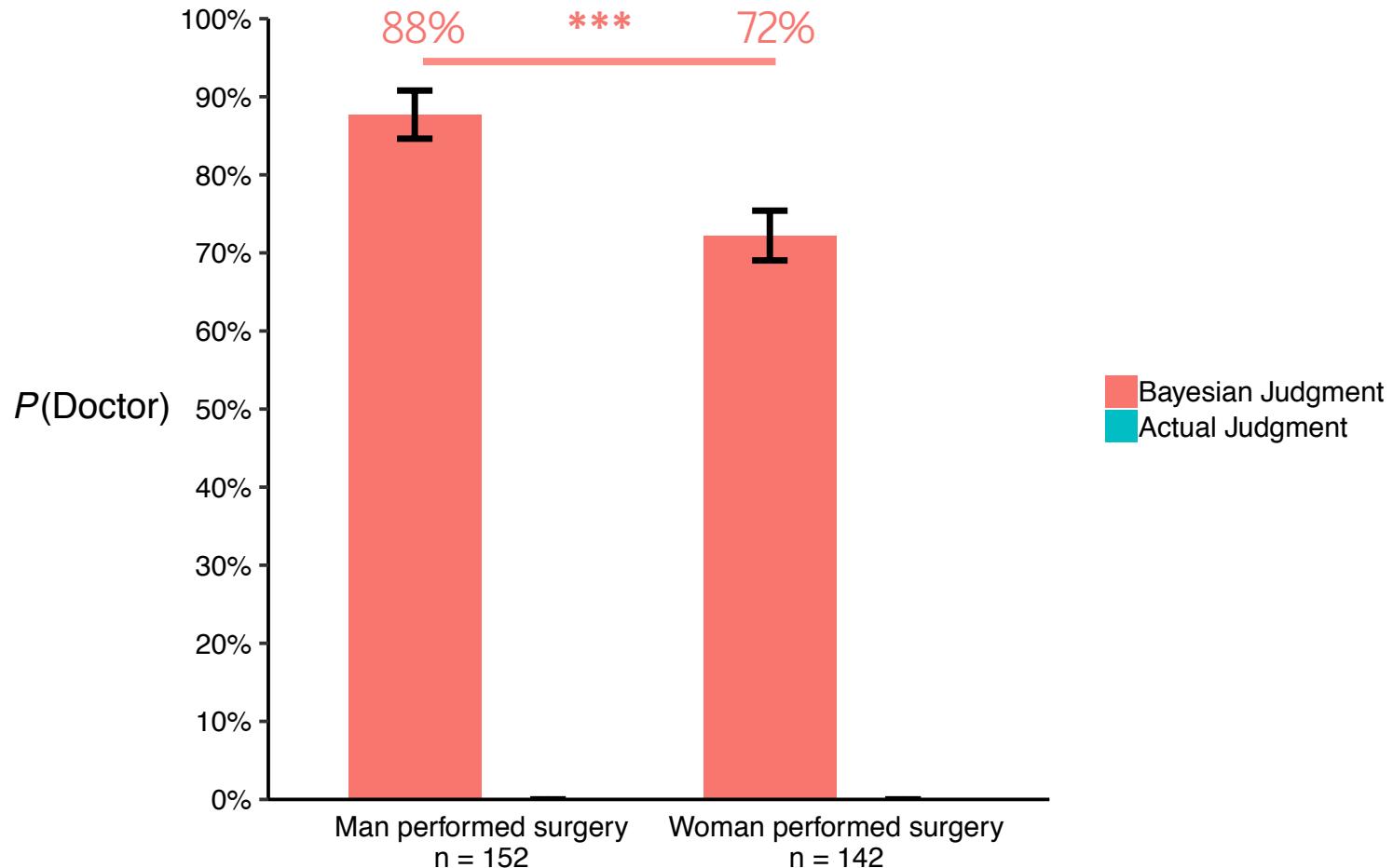




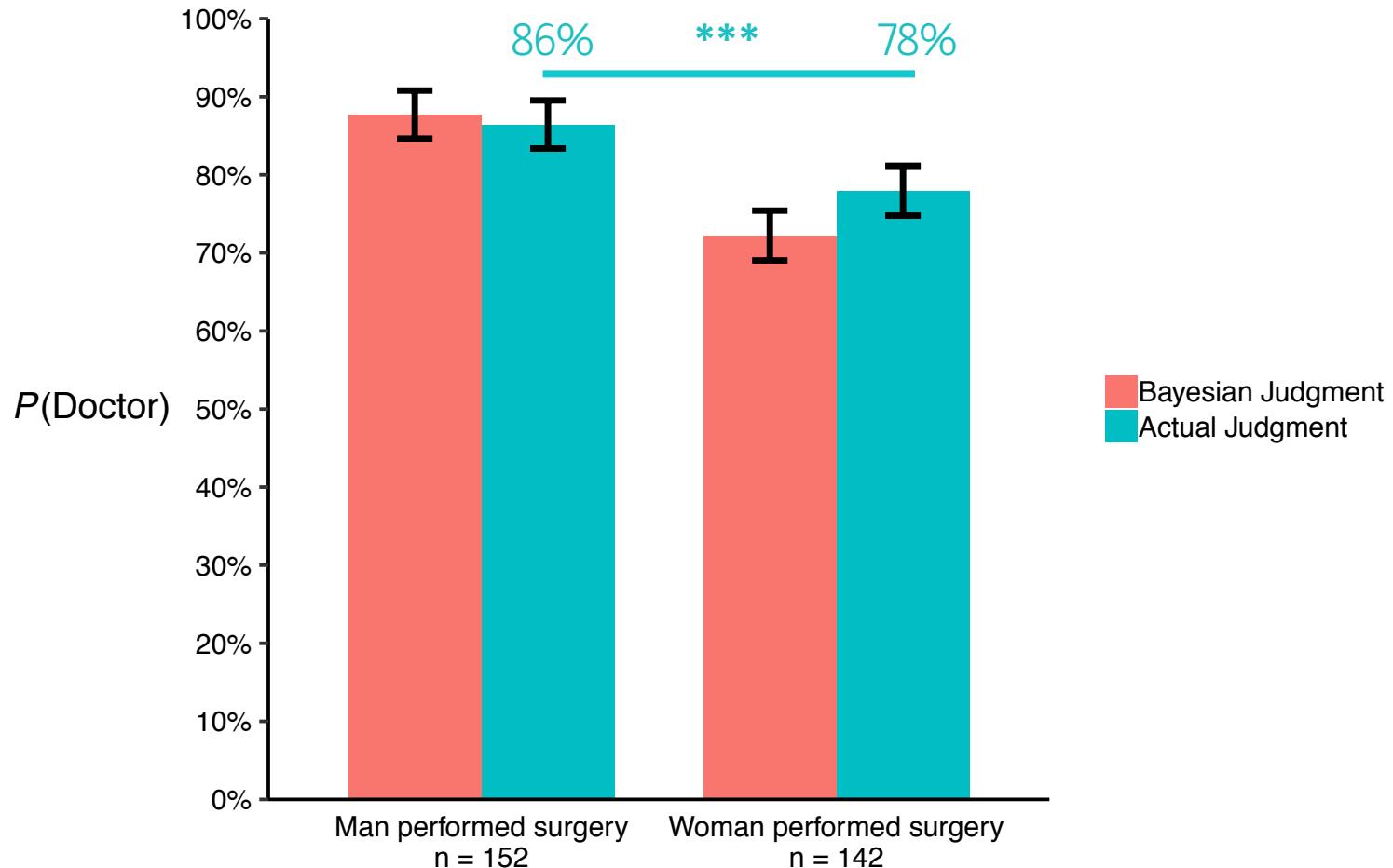
What judgments do people make when
Bayesian principles and egalitarian values are at stake?

How likely is a man vs. a woman to be a doctor given that each
performed surgery?

What judgments do people make when Bayesian principles and egalitarian values are at stake?



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How do you go from something like this...



to something like this...

010111 11100111 00001110 111111
010101 11101100 11010000 110000
000111 00001000 11011011 001111
001111 00010000 11011100 000111
000111 00000110 11001010 001111
00010 01000000 11101010 001111
00011 11111111 11111111 001111

What is unfair in the social domain?

What is unfair in the social domain?

When outcomes depend on social group, *ceteris paribus*

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Policing Correll et al. (2007), *JPSP*

Medicine Hoffman, Trawalter, et al. (2016), *PNAS*

Hiring Moss-Racusin et al. (2012), *PNAS*

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$$P(\text{Shoot} \mid \text{Unarmed, White}) < P(\text{Shoot} \mid \text{Unarmed, Black})$$

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$$P(\text{Hire} \mid \text{Qualified, Female}) < P(\text{Hire} \mid \text{Qualified, Male})$$

$$P(\text{Shoot} \mid \text{Unarmed, White}) < P(\text{Shoot} \mid \text{Unarmed, Black})$$
$$P(\text{Untreat} \mid \text{In Pain, White}) < P(\text{Untreat} \mid \text{In Pain, Black})$$
$$P(\text{Hire} \mid \text{Qualified, Female}) < P(\text{Hire} \mid \text{Qualified, Male})$$

Unequal false positive rates, FPRs

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Unequal false negative rates, FNRs

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Unequal positive predictive values, PPVs

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Not egalitarian

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Egalitarian

Equal false positive rates, FPRs

$$P(\text{Shoot} \mid \text{Unarmed, White}) = P(\text{Shoot} \mid \text{Unarmed, Black})$$

Equal false negative rates, FNRs

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Equal positive predictive values, PPVs

$$P(\text{Hire} \mid \text{Qualified, Female}) = P(\text{Hire} \mid \text{Qualified, Male})$$

Why these three ways of thinking about egalitarian values?

$$\text{FPR}_{\text{Group A}} = \text{FPR}_{\text{Group B}}$$

$$\text{FNR}_{\text{Group A}} = \text{FNR}_{\text{Group B}}$$

$$\text{PPV}_{\text{Group A}} = \text{PPV}_{\text{Group B}}$$

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$$\text{PPV}_{\text{Group A}} = \text{PPV}_{\text{Group B}}$$

When base rates between Group A and Group B differ, all three definitions cannot be simultaneously met. At least one must be given up.

Kleinberg, Mullainathan, & Raghavan (2016)

The sinister tradeoff

$$P(\text{cancer} \mid \text{pos}) = \frac{P(\text{pos} \mid \text{cancer}) \times P(\text{cancer})}{P(\text{pos} \mid \text{cancer}) \times P(\text{cancer}) + P(\text{pos} \mid \text{no cancer}) \times P(\text{no cancer})}$$

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$$\text{PPV} = \frac{[1 - \text{FNR}] \times \text{BR}}{[1 - \text{FNR}] \times \text{BR} + \text{FPR} \times [1 - \text{BR}]}$$

The sinister tradeoff

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$$\text{PPV} = \frac{[1 - \text{FNR}] \times \text{BR}}{[1 - \text{FNR}] \times \text{BR} + \text{FPR} \times [1 - \text{BR}]}$$

$$\text{FPR} = \frac{\text{BR}}{[1 - \text{BR}]} \times \frac{[1 - \text{PPV}]}{\text{PPV}} \times [1 - \text{FNR}]$$

The sinister tradeoff

$$FPR_w = \frac{BR_w}{1-BR_w} \times \frac{1-PPV_w}{PPV_w} \times [1-FNR_w]$$

$$FPR_m = \frac{BR_m}{1-BR_m} \times \frac{1-PPV_m}{PPV_m} \times [1-FNR_m]$$

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Meet two definitions of fairness

$$PPV_w = PPV_m$$

$$FNR_w = FNR_m$$

$$\frac{FPR_w}{FPR_m} = \frac{\frac{BR_w}{1-BR_w} \times \frac{1-PPV_w}{PPV_w} \times [1-FNR_w]}{\frac{BR_m}{1-BR_m} \times \frac{1-PPV_m}{PPV_m} \times [1-FNR_m]}$$

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$$\frac{FPR_w}{FPR_m} = \frac{\cancel{\frac{BR_w}{1-BR_w}}}{\cancel{\frac{BR_m}{1-BR_m}}}$$

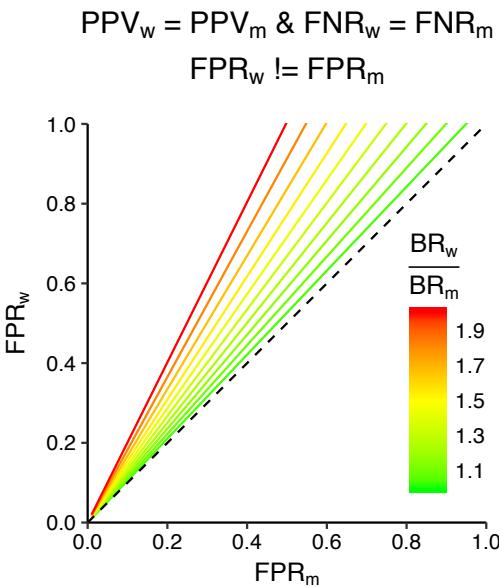
$$FPR_w = \frac{BR_w}{BR_m} \times \frac{[1-BR_m]}{[1-BR_w]} \times FPR_m$$

Cannot meet third definition of fairness

$$FPR_w \neq FPR_m$$

Breast cancer is more common among women than men

The sinister tradeoff



$$FPR_w = \frac{BR_w}{1-BR_w} \times \frac{1-PPV_w}{PPV_w} \times [1-FNR_w]$$

$$FPR_m = \frac{BR_m}{1-BR_m} \times \frac{1-PPV_m}{PPV_m} \times [1-FNR_m]$$

$$\frac{FPR_w}{FPR_m} = \frac{\frac{BR_w}{1-BR_w} \times \frac{1-PPV_w}{PPV_w} \times [1-FNR_w]}{\frac{BR_m}{1-BR_m} \times \frac{1-PPV_m}{PPV_m} \times [1-FNR_m]}$$

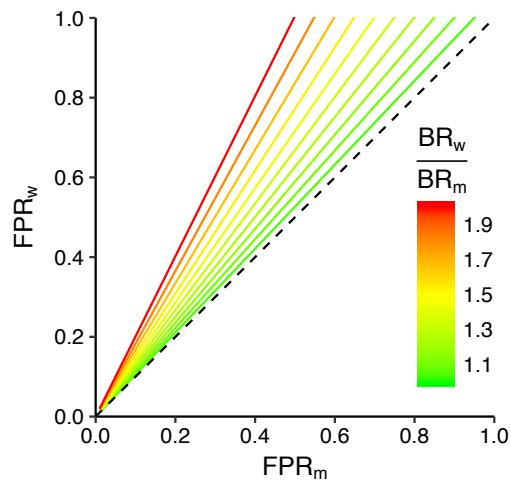
$$\frac{FPR_w}{FPR_m} = \frac{\frac{BR_w}{1-BR_w}}{\frac{BR_m}{1-BR_m}}$$

$$FPR_w = \frac{BR_w}{BR_m} \times \frac{[1-BR_m]}{[1-BR_w]} \times FPR_m$$

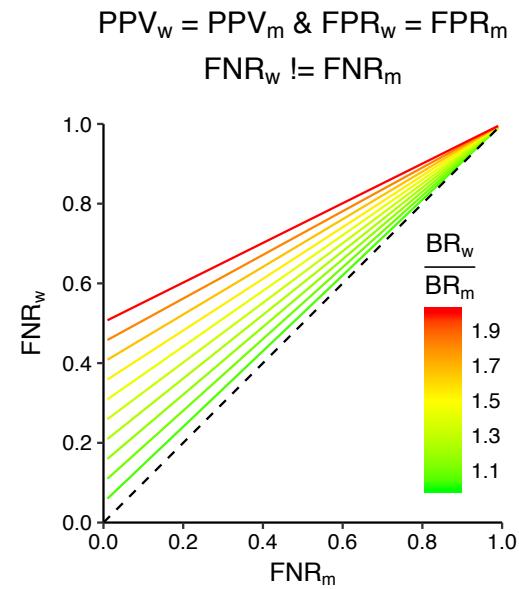
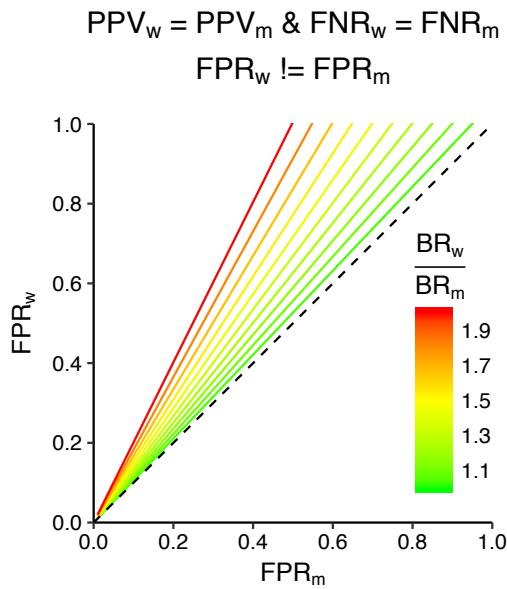
The sinister tradeoff

$$\text{PPV}_w = \text{PPV}_m \text{ & } \text{FNR}_w = \text{FNR}_m$$

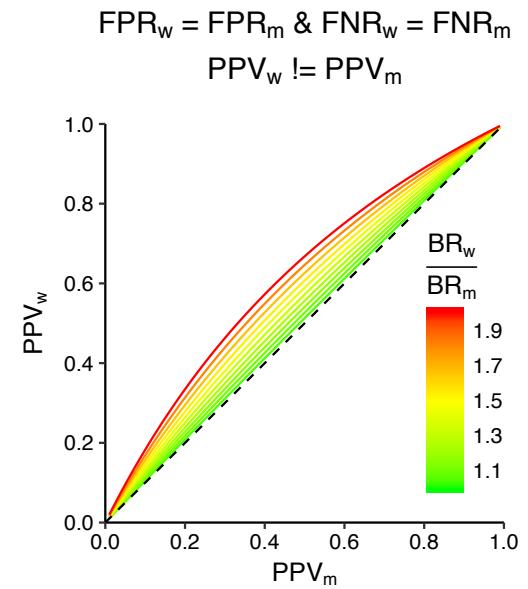
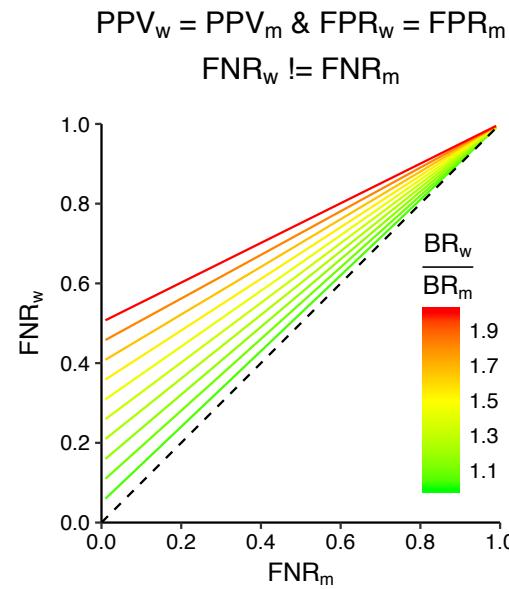
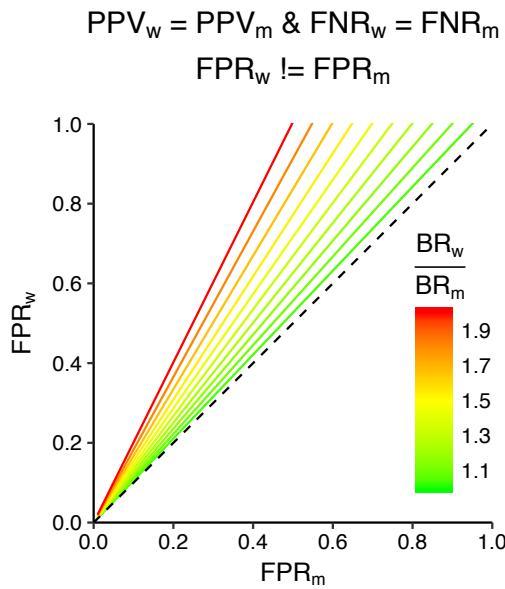
$$\text{FPR}_w \neq \text{FPR}_m$$



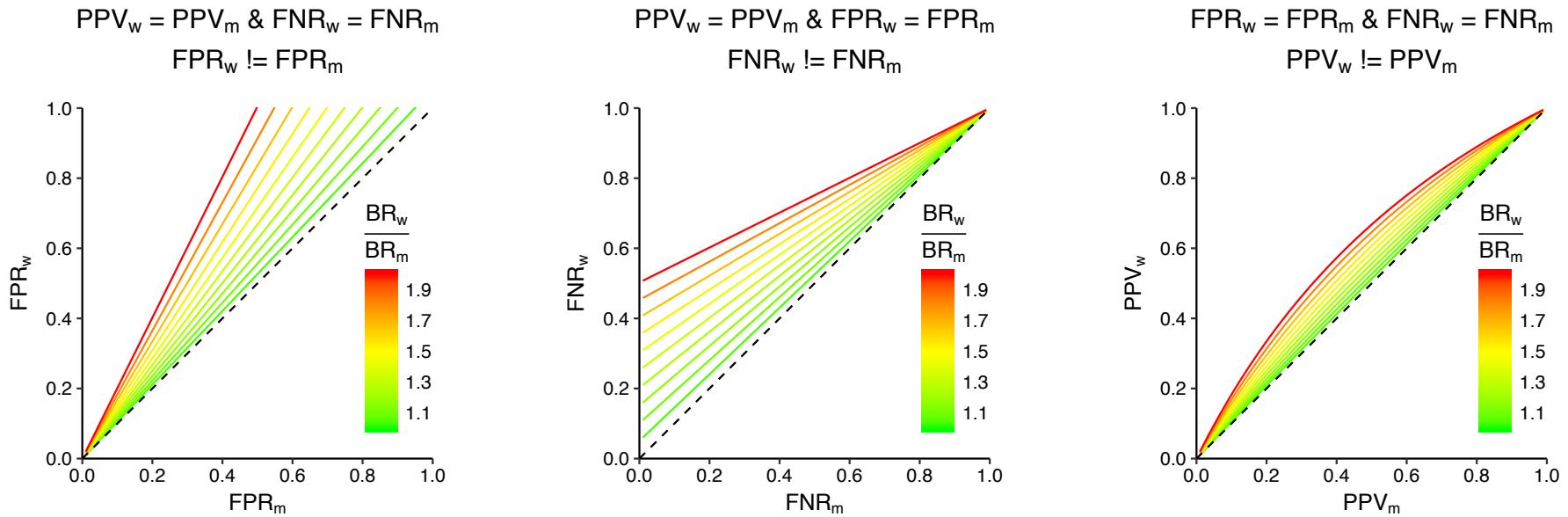
The sinister tradeoff



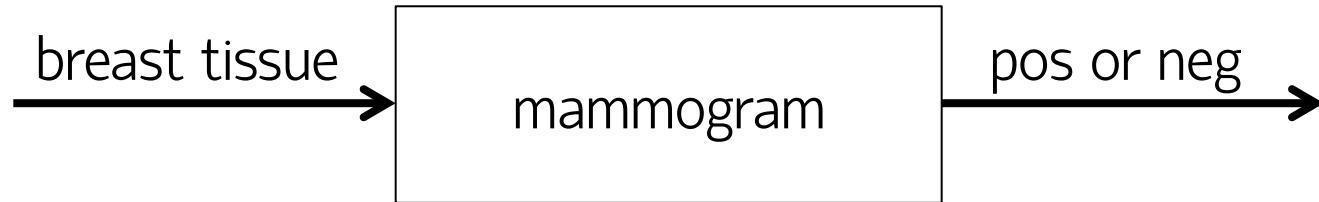
The sinister tradeoff



The sinister tradeoff



Of the three "worlds" depicted above, which is preferred?
Which notion of fairness is valued more? Which is valued less?



Bail eligibility for defendants

Bank loans

Whether a post is fake news

Machine Bias

There's software used across the country to predict future criminals. And it's biased against blacks.

by Julia Angwin, Jeff Larson, Surya Mattu and Lauren Kirchner, ProPublica

May 23, 2016

Machine Bias

There's software used across the country to predict future criminals. And it's biased against blacks.

by Julia Angwin, Jeff Larson, Surya Mattu and Lauren Kirchner, ProPublica

May 23, 2016

Two Drug Possession Arrests

DYLAN FUGETT

Prior Offense

1 attempted burglary

Subsequent Offenses

3 drug possessions

BERNARD PARKER

Prior Offense

1 resisting arrest
without violence

Subsequent Offenses

None

LOW RISK

3

HIGH RISK

10

Machine Bias

There's software used across the country to predict future criminals. And it's biased against blacks.

False Positives, False Negatives, and False Analyses: A Rejoinder to "Machine Bias: There's Software Used Across the Country to Predict Future Criminals. And It's Biased Against Blacks."

Anthony W. Flores

California State University, Bakersfield

Kristin Bechtel

Crime and Justice Institute at CRJ

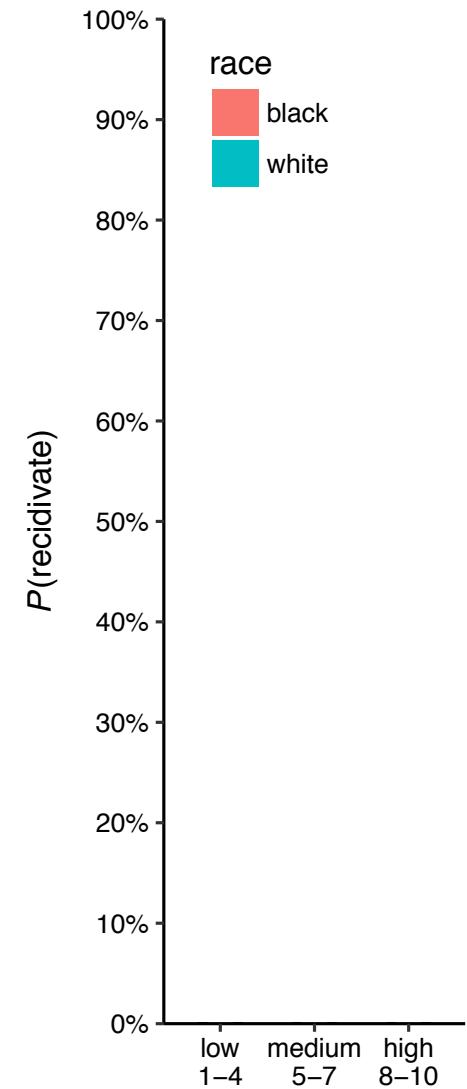
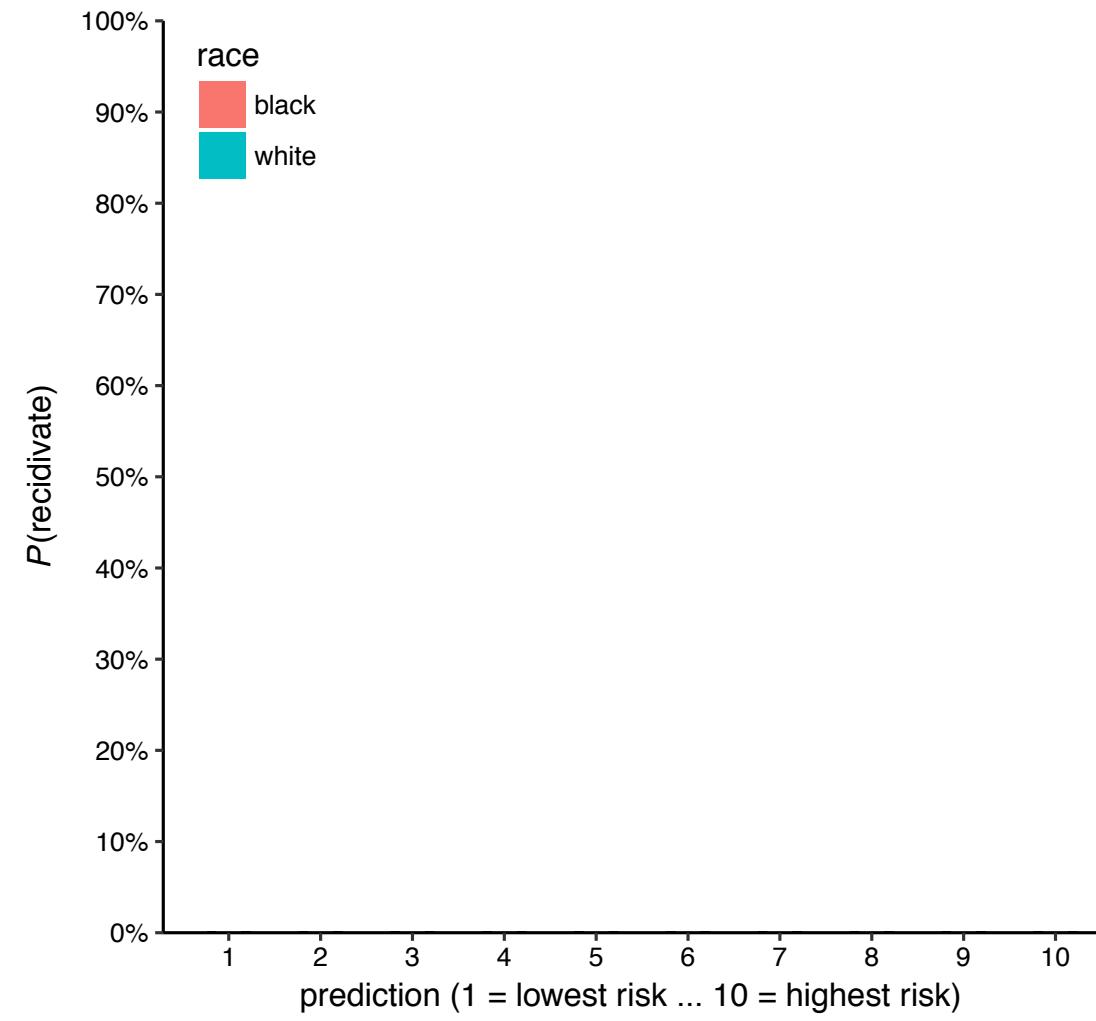
Christopher T. Lowenkamp

Administrative Office of the United States Courts

Probation and Pretrial Services Office

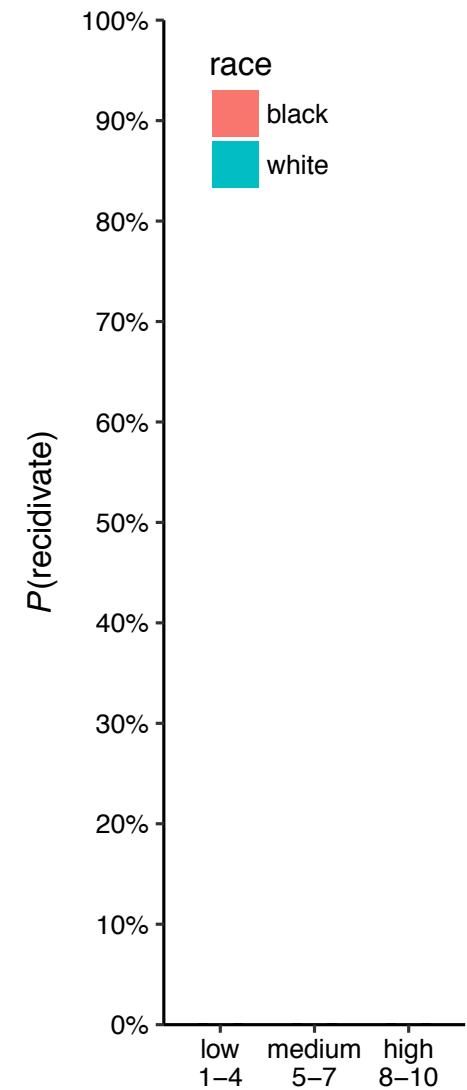
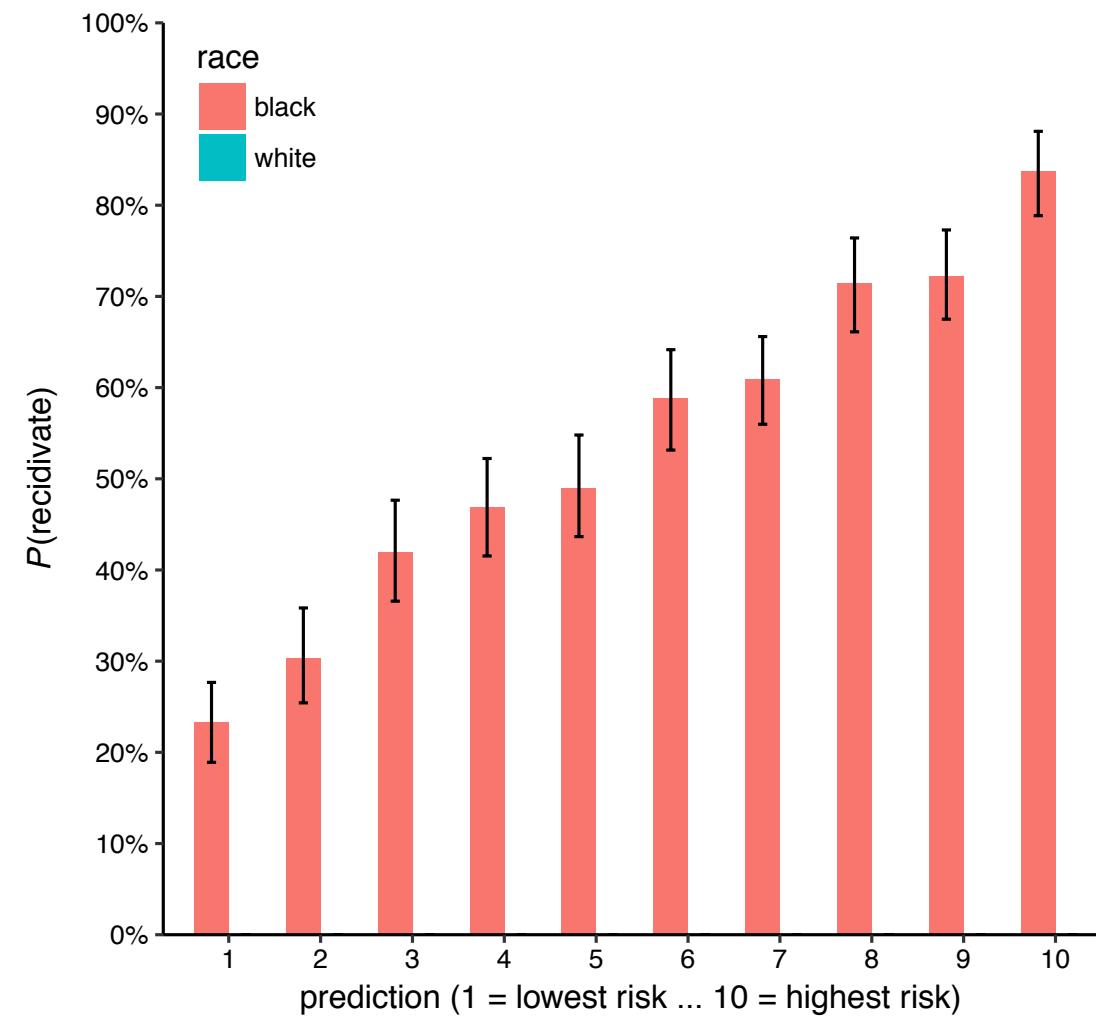
$$\text{PPV}_{\text{black}} = \text{PPV}_{\text{white}}$$

$$P(\text{recidivate} \mid \text{risk score, black}) = P(\text{recidivate} \mid \text{risk score, white})$$



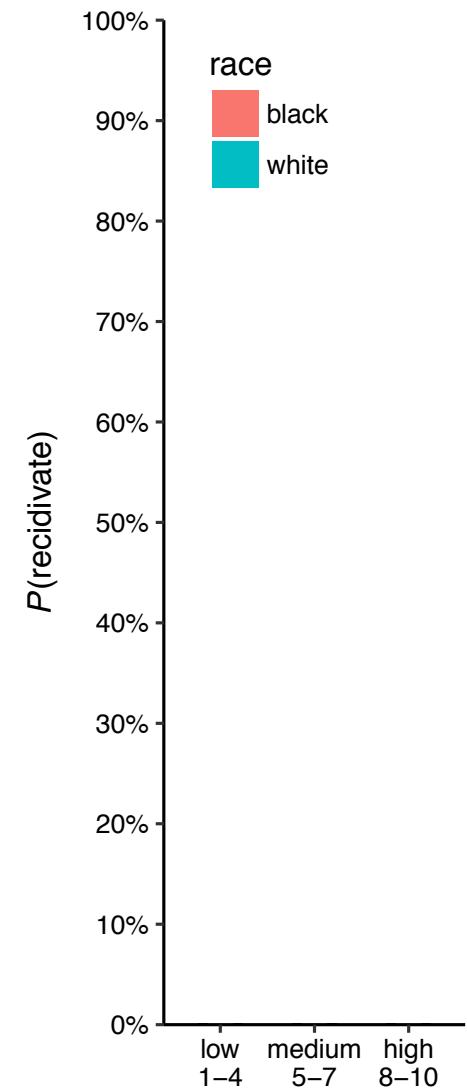
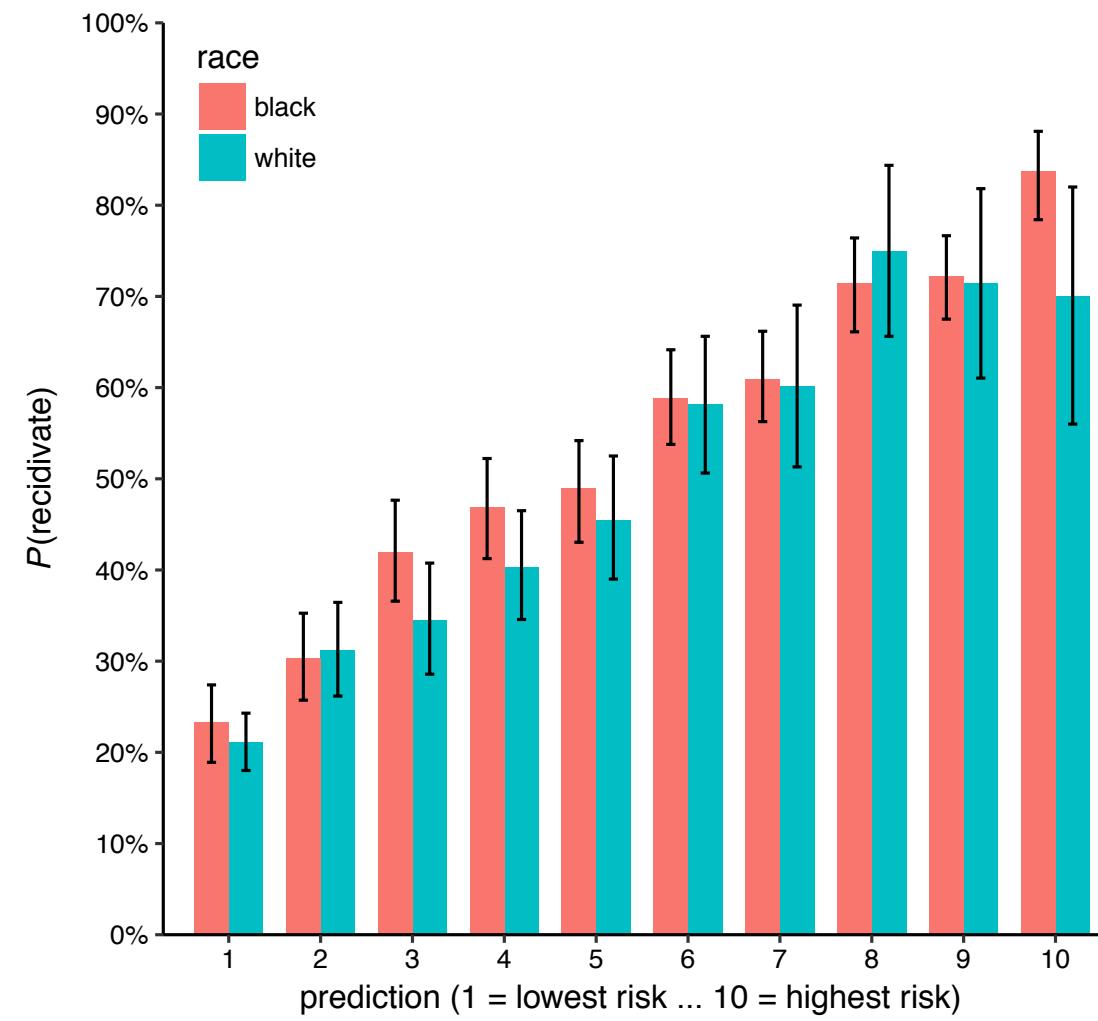
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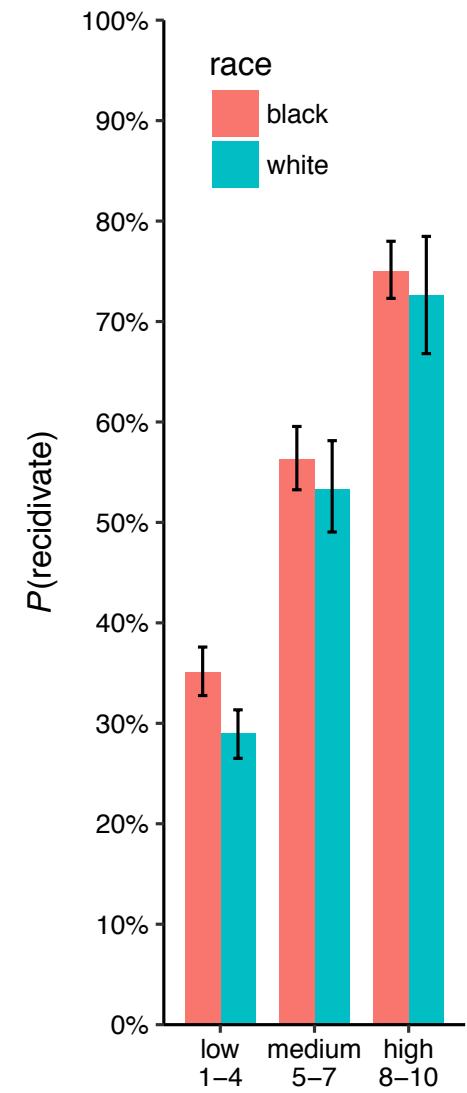
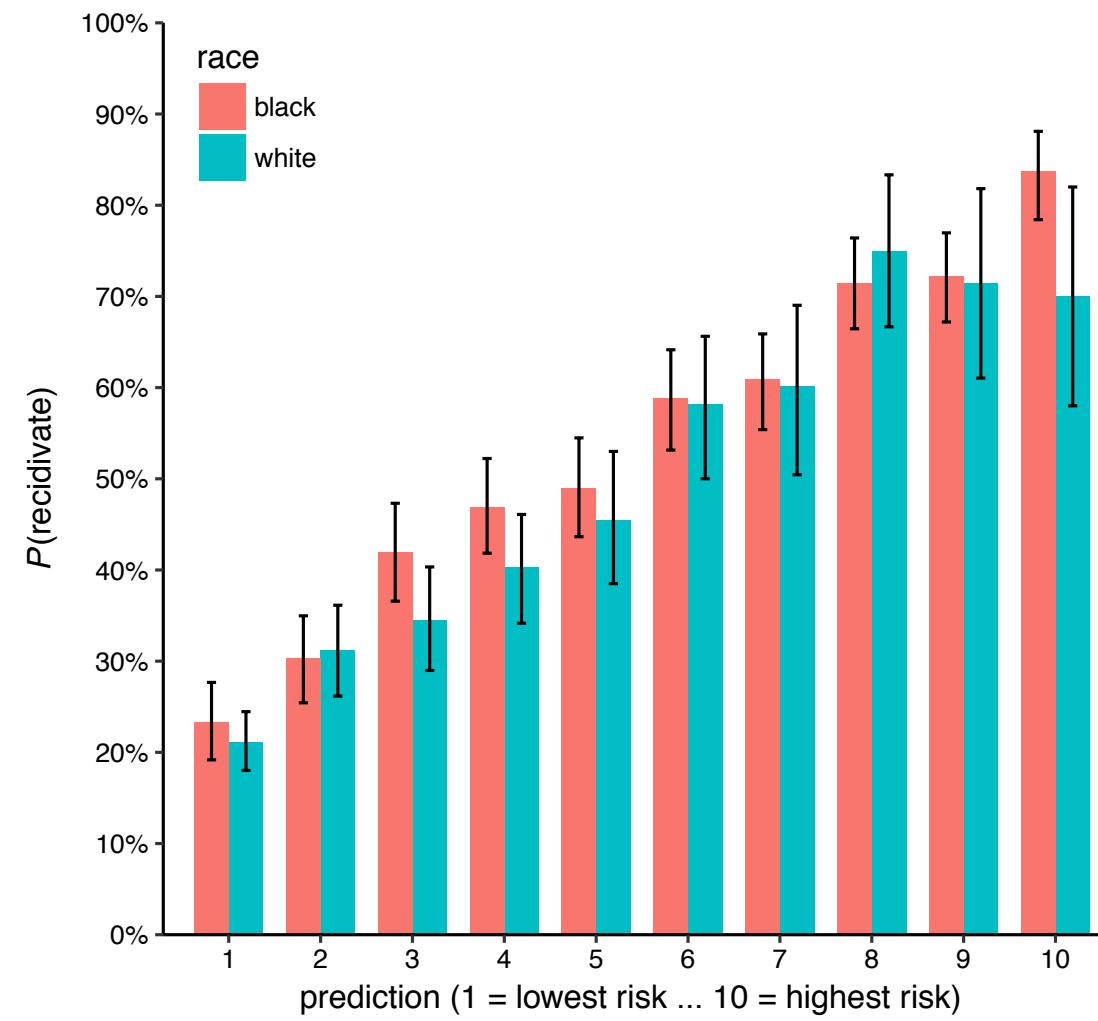
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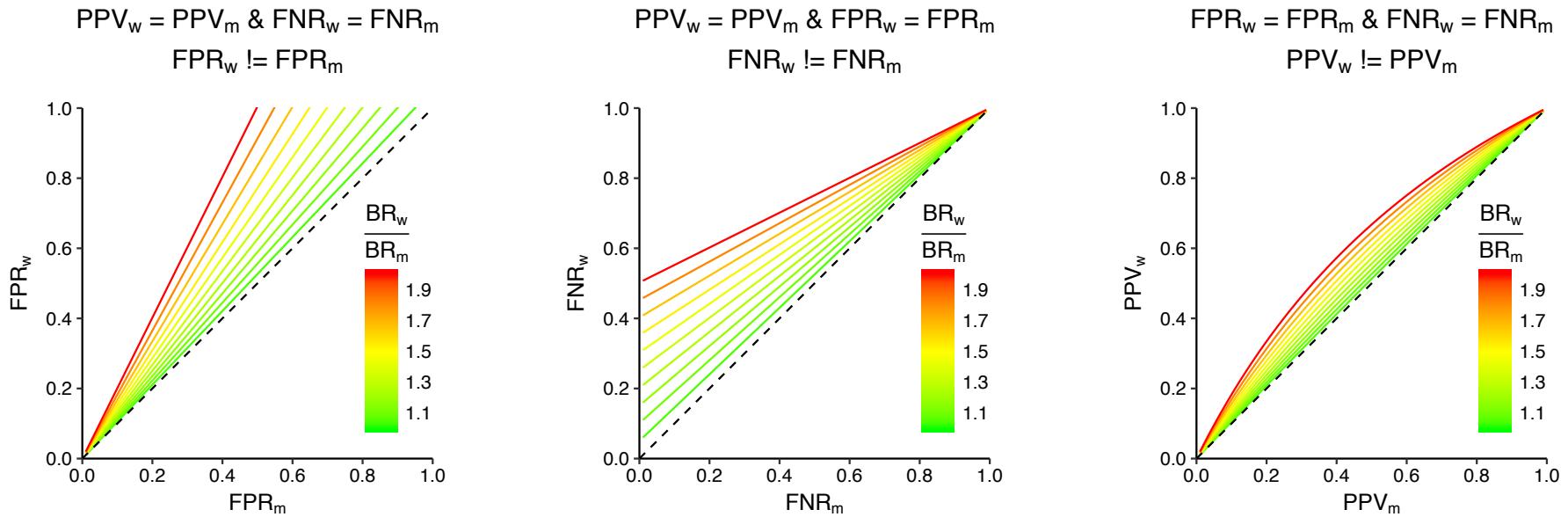


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The sinister tradeoff



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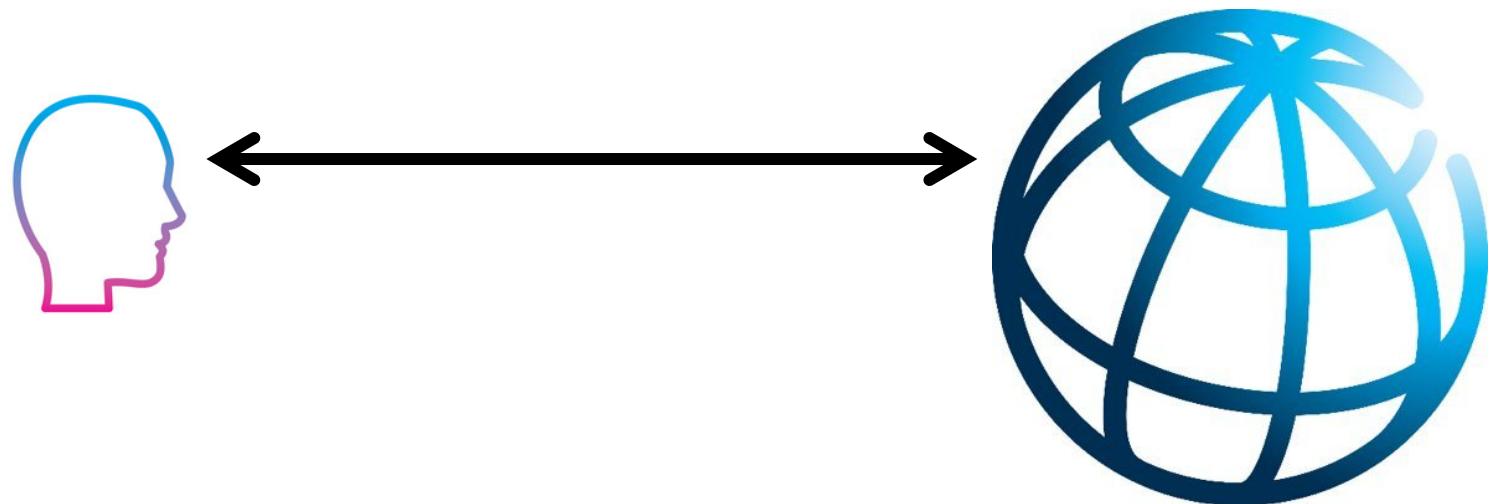
What judgments do people make when Bayesian principles and egalitarian values are at stake?

1. People undermine their commitment to egalitarian values by making Bayesian judgments
2. Formalizing "egalitarian values"
3. Google Images as a proxy for the social environment

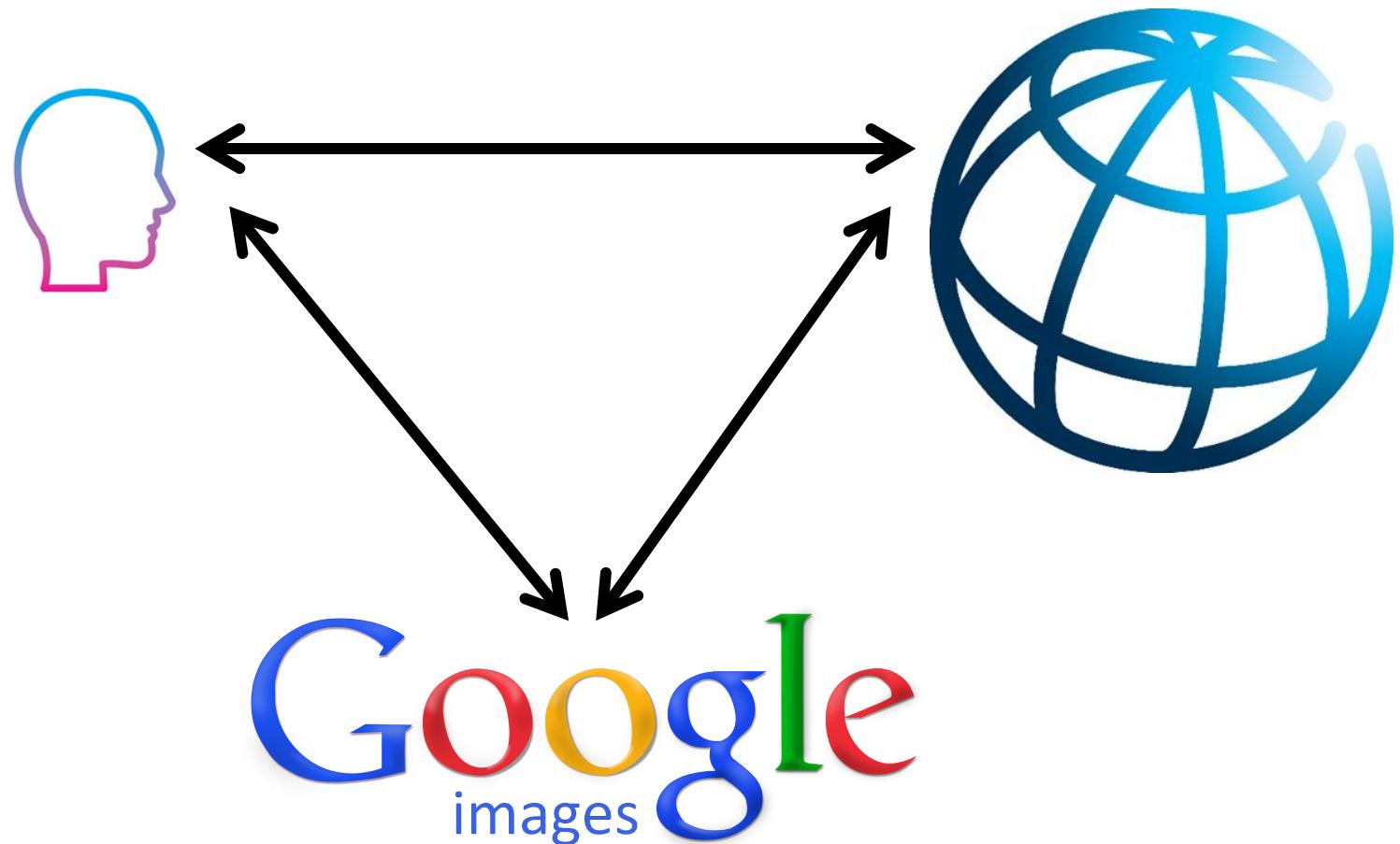
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1. Pictures of people matter a great deal
2. There's some relationship between the content in our minds and the content in the world



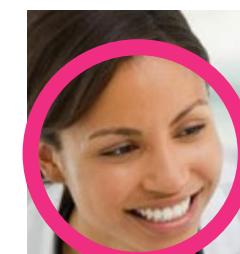
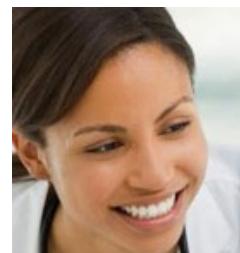
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doctor

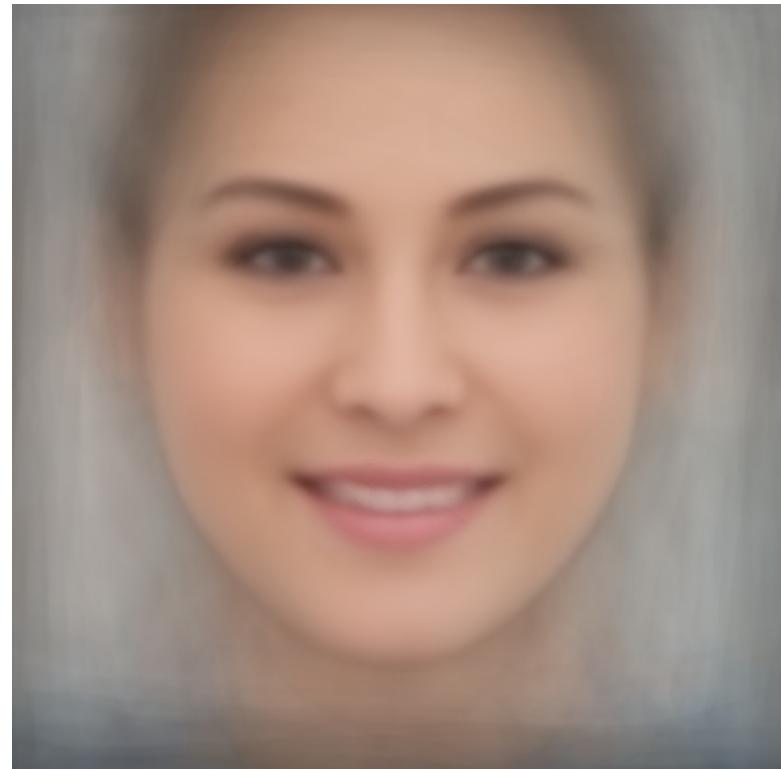
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"doctor"



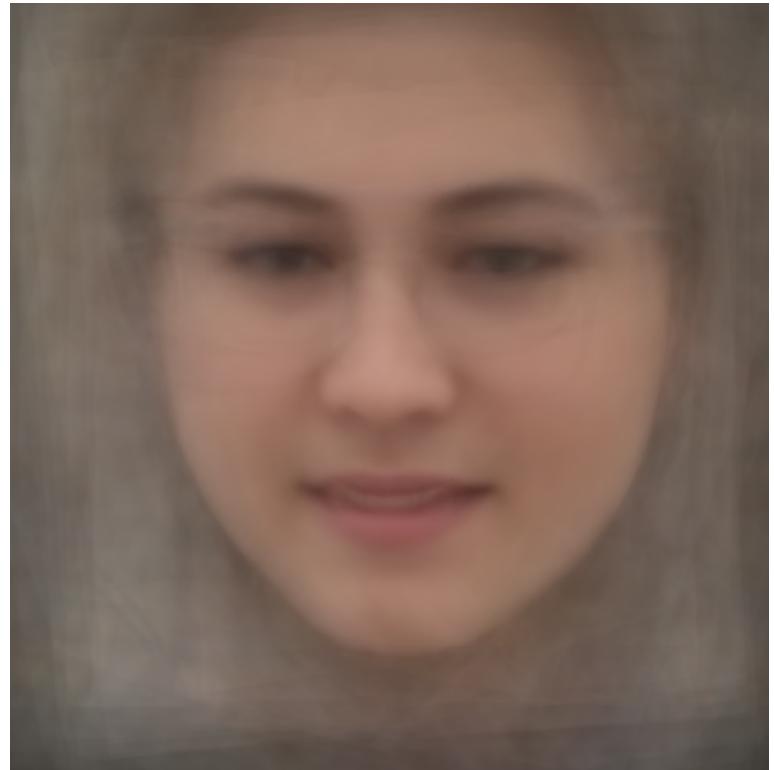
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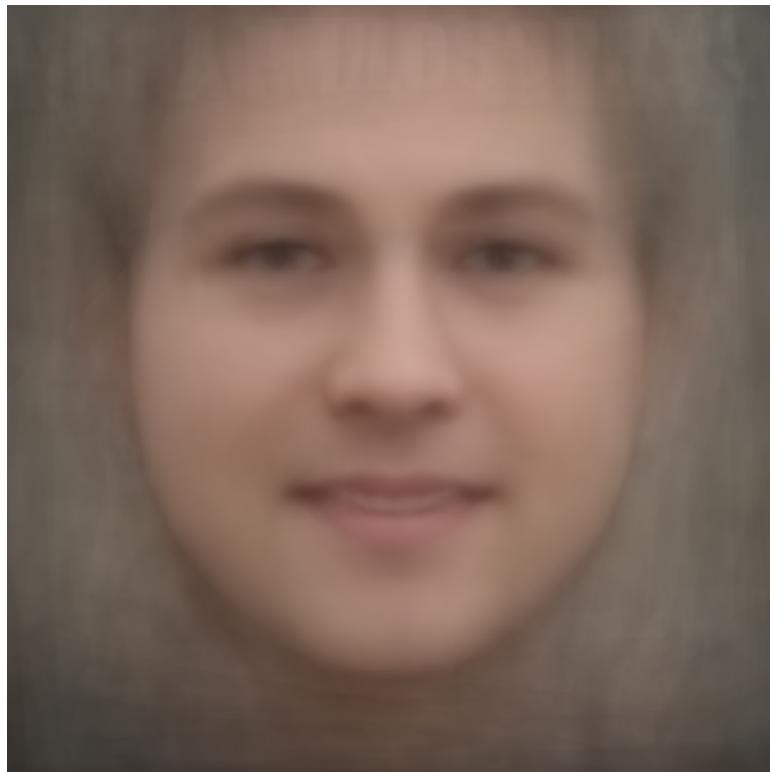
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student"



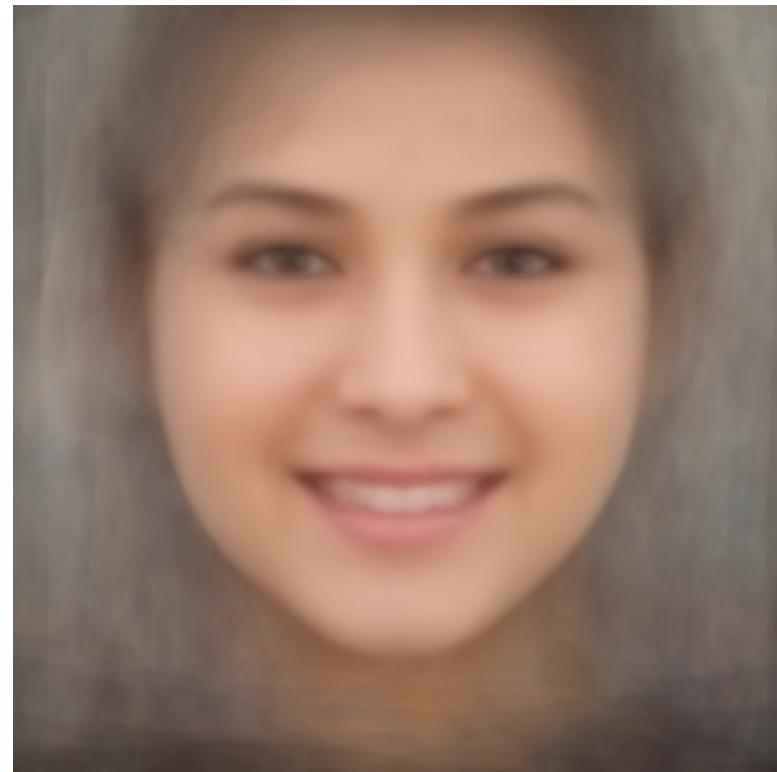
"biology
student"



"philosophy
student"



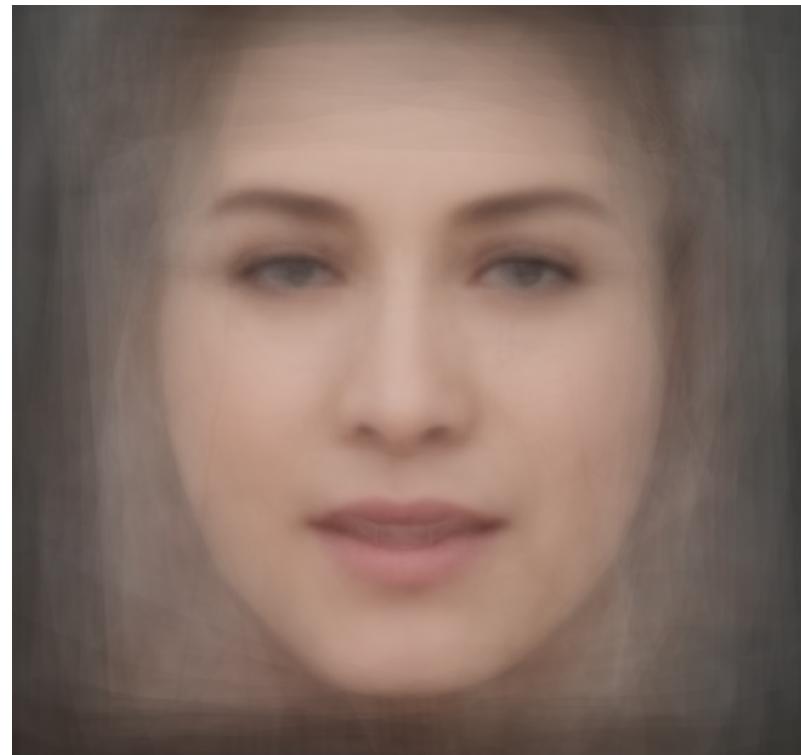
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student"



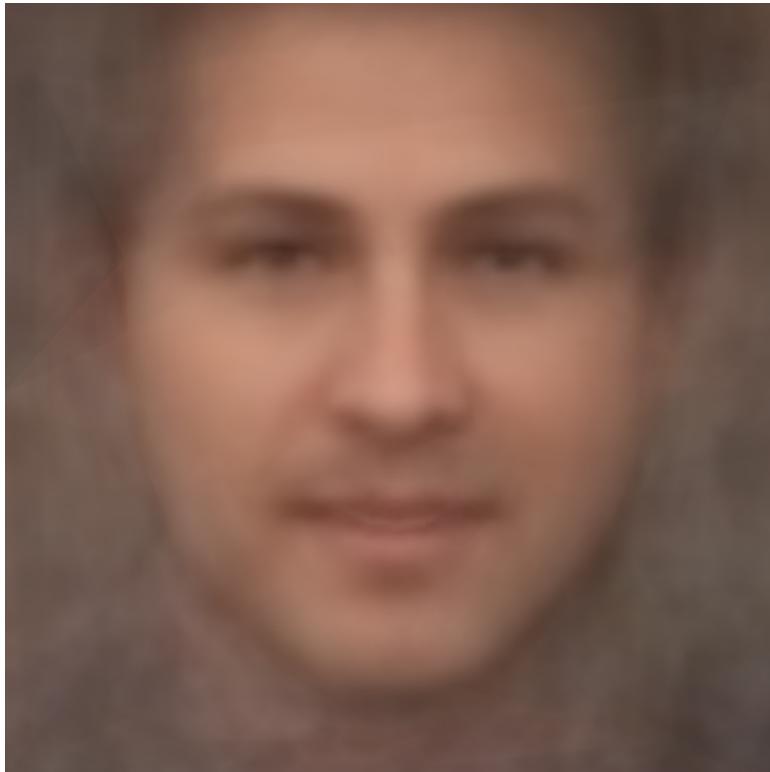
"intelligent
person"



"sensitive
person"



"person drinking
whiskey"



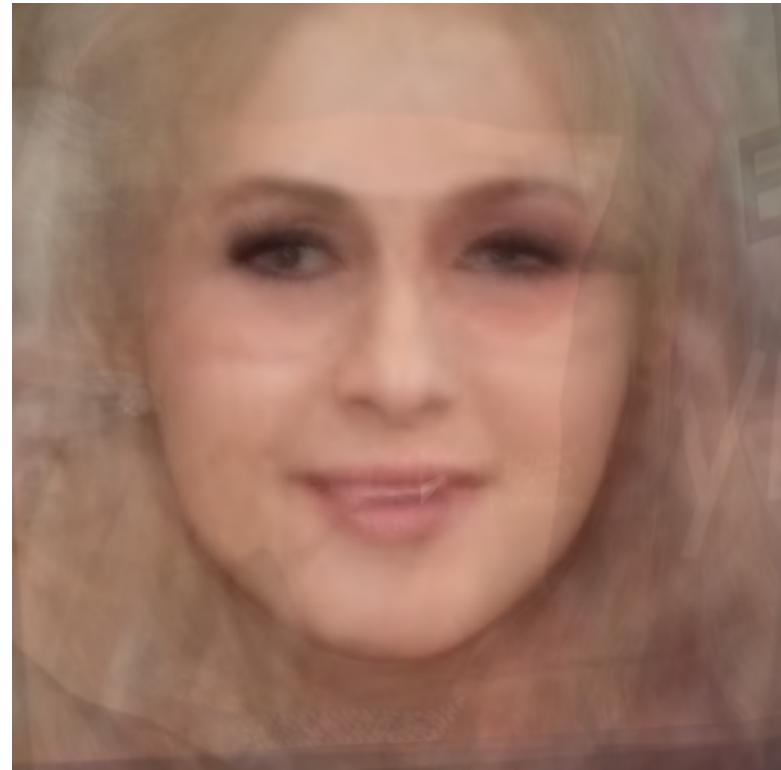
"person drinking
cosmopolitan"



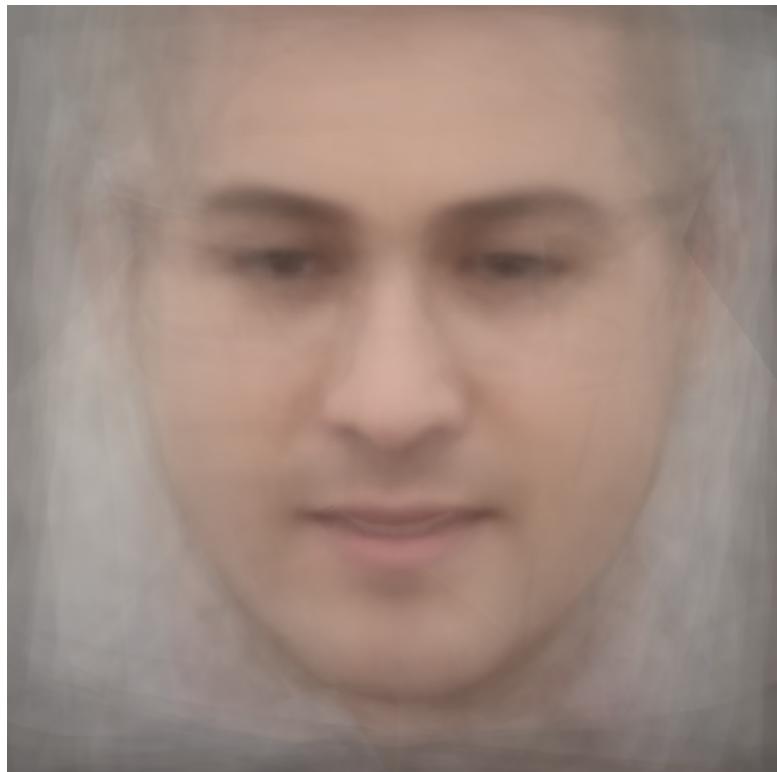
"bulldog
owner"



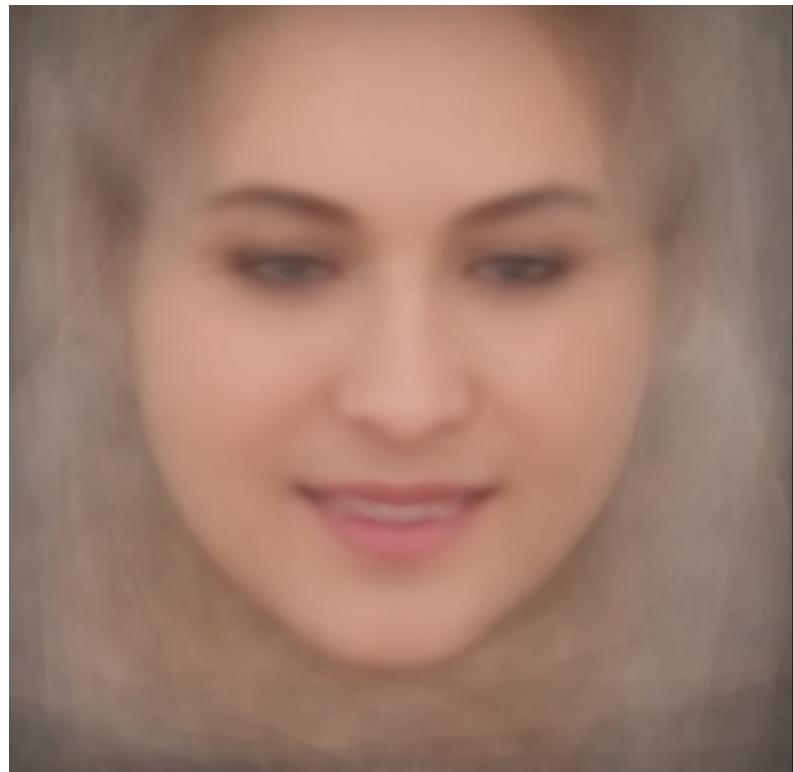
"chihuahua
owner"



"person reading a
newspaper"



"person reading a
cookbook"



Beliefs
&
Desires

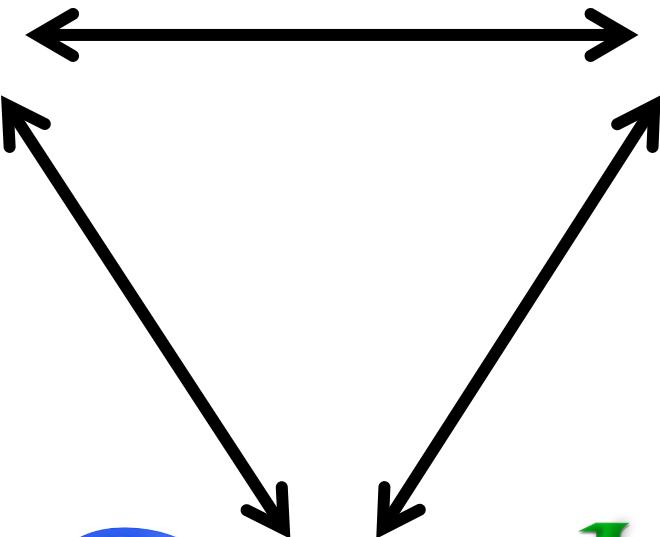


Reality



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Summary

1. People undermine their commitment to egalitarian values by making Bayesian judgments
2. Formalizing "egalitarian values"
3. Google Images as a proxy for the social environment

Closing thoughts

Life is mostly between-subjects.

Make it more within-subjects.

Need for theory on specifying egalitarian principles.

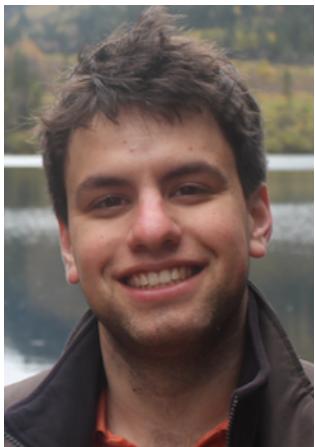
Relatively low-cost tweaks might go a long way towards promoting inclusion.

Thank you



Photo Credit: Robert Taylor www.taylor-photo.co.uk

Mahzarin R. Banaji



Max Kleiman-Weiner

Harvard Social Cognition Lab

Jason Mitchell & Jim Sidanius

Research Assistants

Kirsten Morehouse
Juan Lopez Martin



HARVARD
Mind Brain Behavior



HARVARD Kennedy School
MALCOLM WIENER CENTER
for Social Policy