



# Spreading our stories: Others' personal narratives change our own

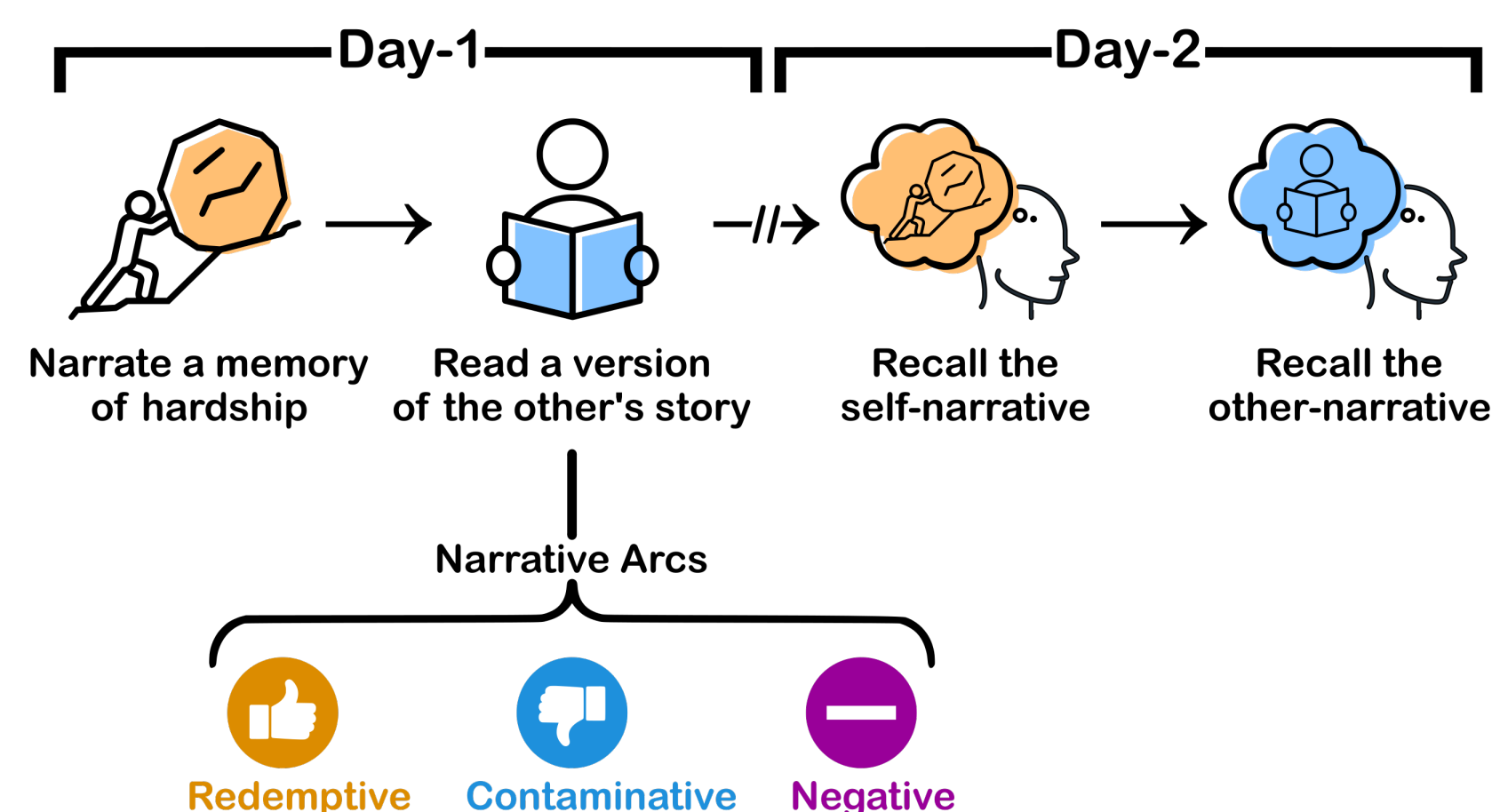
Dhaval Bhatt<sup>1</sup>, Meghan Meyer<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychology, Columbia University



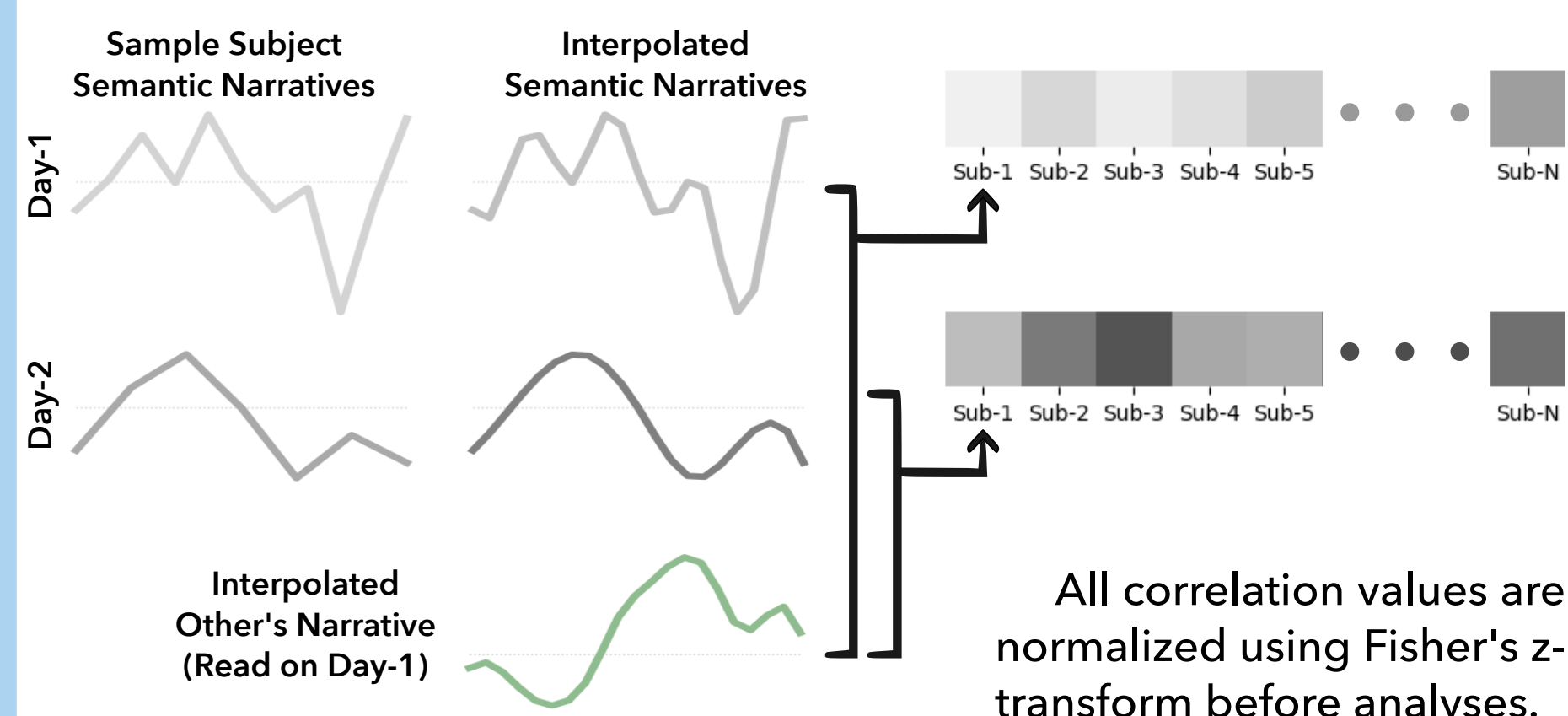
## Introduction

Stories are a prominent form of human expression. How stories are shared or received include perceptions of the communicator<sup>1</sup>, listener<sup>2</sup>, and the story itself<sup>3,4</sup>. Here, we find that encoding others' stories changes how we communicate our own<sup>5</sup>. Furthermore, different structures of others' narrative interact with the affect of our own personal stories, exhibiting changes across the emotional tones and arcs differently in how the personal narrative begins, is expressed in the middle, and ends.

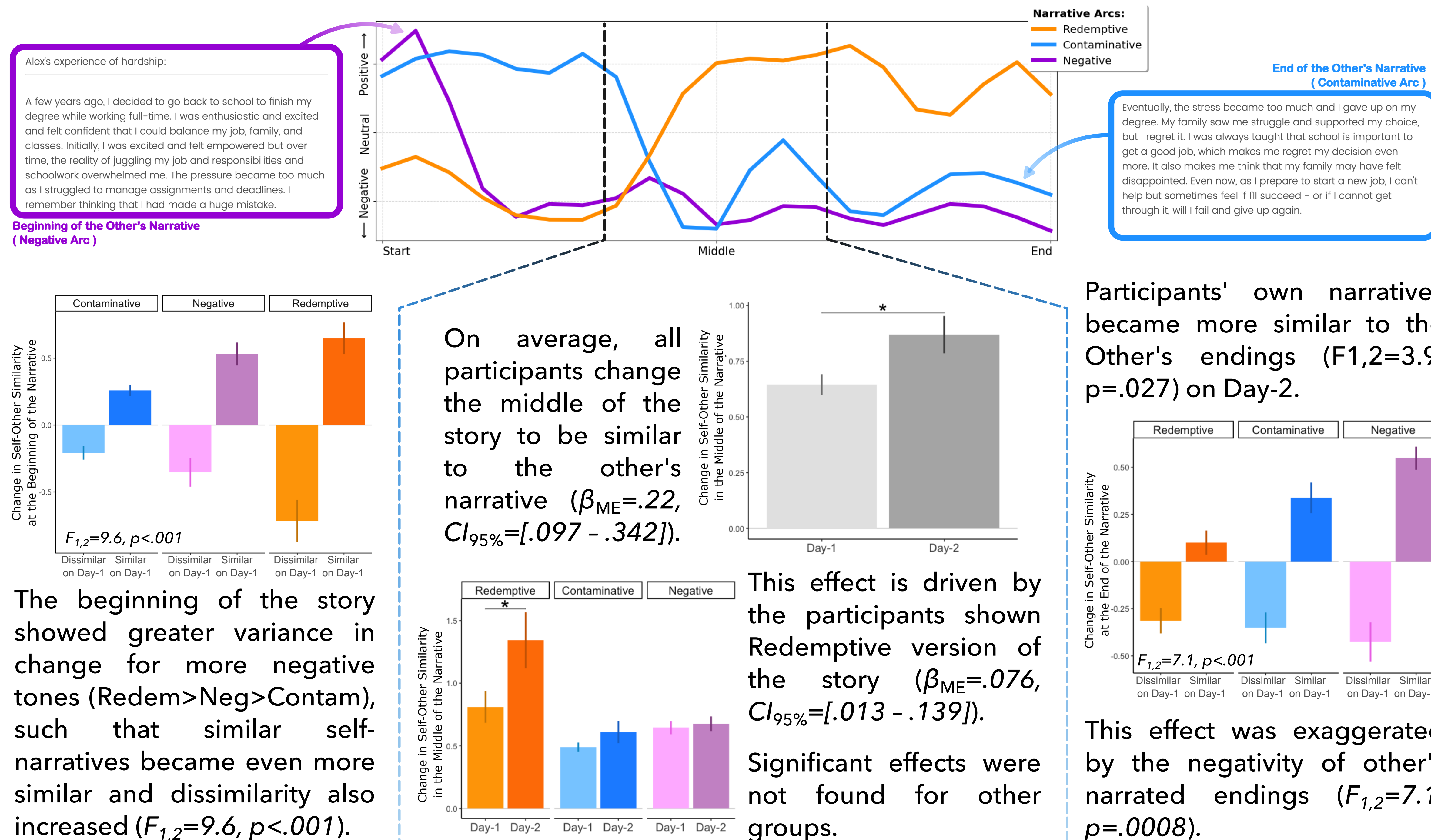
## Methods



We used NLTK to extract sentence-wise semantics from the participants' narratives and obtained the Spearman correlation of these pairs of semantic vectors with the Other's story.



## Results



## References

- <sup>1</sup> Zadbood et al., 2022 (eLife); DOI:10.7554/eLife.79045
- <sup>2</sup> Meyer, Zhao, & Tamir, 2019 (Journal of Experimental Psychology) DOI:10.1037/xge0000565
- <sup>3</sup> McAdams & Jones, 2017 (Academic Press) DOI:10.1016/B978-0-12-803015-8.00001-2
- <sup>4</sup> Speer, et al., 2021 (Nature Communications) DOI: 10.1038/s41467-021-26906-4
- <sup>5</sup> Fivush, Habermas, & Reese, 2019 (Qualitative Psychology) DOI: 10.1037/qap0000150

## Relevant Information

### Materials repository



We have made a *Project GitHub repository* (left) containing our materials, designs and the current version of the *conference poster* (right).

Feel free reaching out to me at:  
[dhaval.b@columbia.edu](mailto:dhaval.b@columbia.edu)

### Electronic Poster:

