The Double-Edged Sword of Neurobiological Association:

Mental Illness Stigma Trends & Implications

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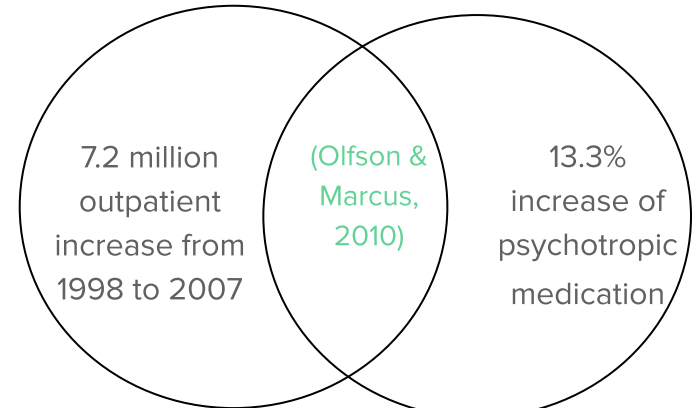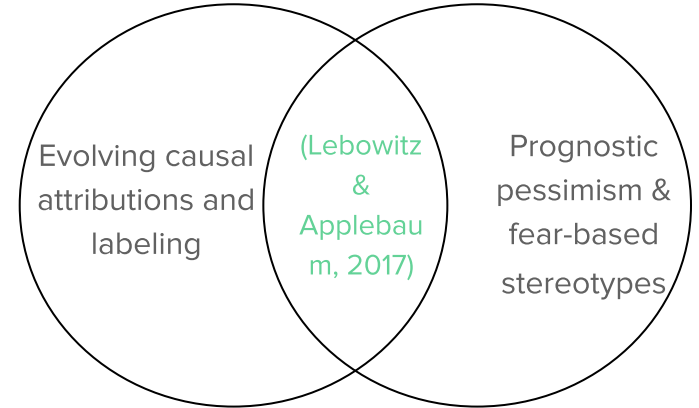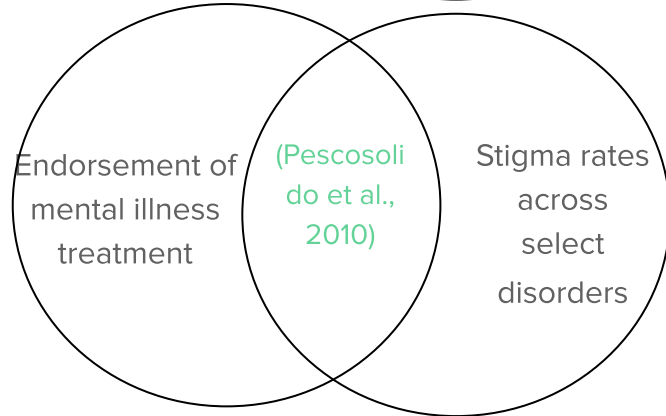
Outline

➔ Trends

➔ Research Design

  ◆ Jenkins et al. 2017

  ◆ Study 1a

  ◆ Study 1b

➔ Implications

➔ Future Steps

Trends: A Change in Approach

→ "Decade of the Brain" President's (Jones & Mendell, 1999)

   ◆ New Freedom Commission on Mental Health (US Department of Health and Human Services, 2003)

→ NIMH and NIH Funding

   ◆ RDoC (Insel et al., 2010)

   ◆ BRAIN Initiative (Schwartz, 2016)

→ Psychotropic Medication (Wilkes et al., 2000)

Change Can Come At a Cost...

Perception of blame and responsibility

(Martin, Pescosolido & Tuch 2000)

Social distance preferences

Evolving causal attributions and labeling

(Lebowitz & Applebaum, 2017)

Prognostic pessimism & fear-based stereotypes

Endorsement of mental illness treatment

(Pescosolido et al., 2010)

Stigma rates across select disorders

7.2 million outpatient increase from 1998 to 2007

(Olfson & Marcus, 2010)

13.3% increase of psychotropic medication

Jenkins et al. 2017

➔ Mechanisms behind social group disparity and societal structure

➔ Societal perception….
   ◆ Warmth and competence
➔ … Translates into societal valuation
   ◆ Resource allocation

➔ **Takeaway:** Assumptions about "outgroups" affect behavior in a predictable pattern
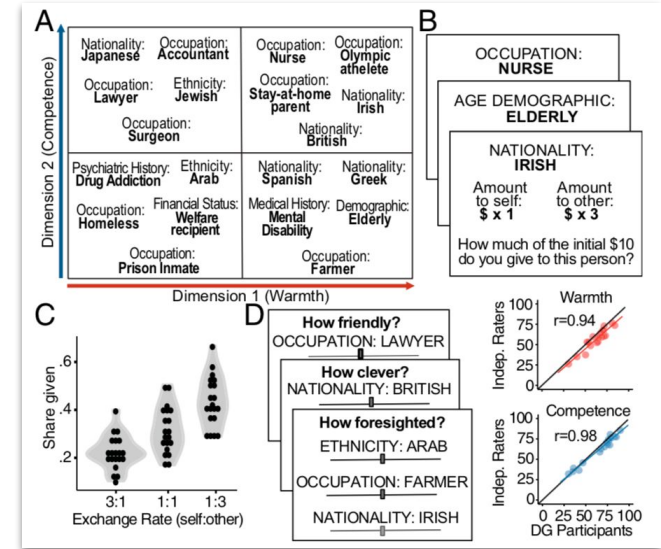
Study 1, Part A: Design

➔ Participants rated two syndromes on 21 traits each (0-100 scale, 0 = not at all, 100 = very)

Unpredictable	Dangerous
Sincere	Trustworthy
Friendly	Helpless
Moral	Understanding
Intelligent	Skilled
Confident	Creative
Capable	Angry
Desirable	Embarrassed
Lazy	Proud
Joyful	Violent
Successful	

Here is some information about another person:

DIAGNOSED WITH DEPRESSION

Here some information about another person:

DIAGNOSED WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA

➔ MTurk Sample, *n* = 347
   ◆ Average age 35.28 years (SD = 10.84), 41% female, 70% White, 12% Asian

Organization of Stereotypes Onto Underlying Factors

Depression

Component Matrix[a]

	Component		
	1	2	3
d.unpredic	-.362	.598	.397
d.sincere	.789	-.066	.363
d.danger	-.335	.775	.041
d.trust	.834	-.040	.084
d.friendly	.804	.173	-.043
d.helpless	-.330	.445	.433
d.moral	.777	-.031	.254
d.understanding	.769	.034	.206
d.intelligent	.796	-.034	.325
d.skilled	.820	.118	.183
d.confident	.498	.491	.518
d.creative	.732	.115	.154
d.capable	.786	-.018	-.054
d.angry	-.217	.737	.231
d.desirable	.747	.196	-.240
d.happy	.471	.531	-.558
d.violent	-.213	.854	-.005
d.success	.760	.170	-.142

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

a. 3 components extracted.

Schizophrenia

Component Matrix[a]

	Component		
	1	2	3
s.unpredict	-.501	.591	-.233
s.sincere	.769	.058	-.288
s.danger	-.455	.767	.106
s.trust	.813	-.063	.074
s.friendly	.798	.078	-.036
s.helpless	-.189	.529	-.224
s.moral	.729	.132	-.350
s.understanding	.836	.097	-.067
s.intelligent	.673	.322	-.343
s.skill	.825	.182	-.030
s.confident	.701	.191	.391
s.creative	.546	.378	-.345
s.capable	.779	.077	.015
s.angry	-.294	.734	.121
s.desirable	.772	.045	.262
s.joyful	.684	.105	.376
s.violent	-.348	.741	.326
s.success	.811	.139	.294

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.
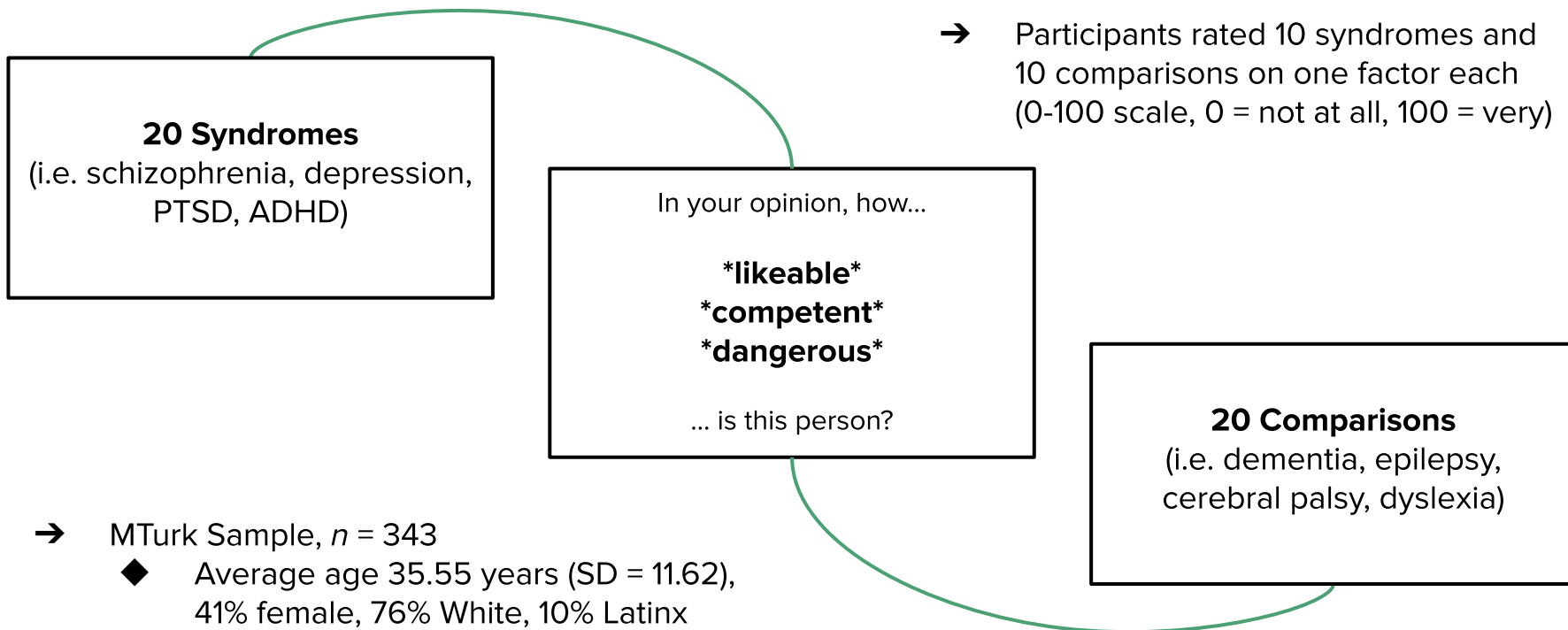
a. 3 components extracted.

Factors
1. Competence
2. Danger
3. Likeability

Matched T-Test

Pair	Correlation	Sig.
Unpredictable	.391	.00
Dangerous	.477	.00
Sincere	.331	.00
Trustworthy	.381	.00
Friendly	.514	.00
Helpless	.418	.00
Moral	.453	.00
Understanding	.416	.00
Intelligent	.641	.00
Skilled	.476	.00
Confident	.510	.00
Creative	.456	.00
Capable	.417	.00
Angry	.403	.00
Desirable	.593	.00
Joyful	.484	.00
Violent	.392	.00
Successful	.450	.00

Study 1, Part B: Design

20 Syndromes
(i.e. schizophrenia, depression, PTSD, ADHD)

In your opinion, how...

likeable
competent
dangerous

... is this person?

→ Participants rated 10 syndromes and 10 comparisons on one factor each (0-100 scale, 0 = not at all, 100 = very)

20 Comparisons
(i.e. dementia, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, dyslexia)

→ MTurk Sample, *n* = 343
  ◆ Average age 35.55 years (SD = 11.62), 41% female, 76% White, 10% Latinx

Initial Peak at the Data...

And Another One...

Likability

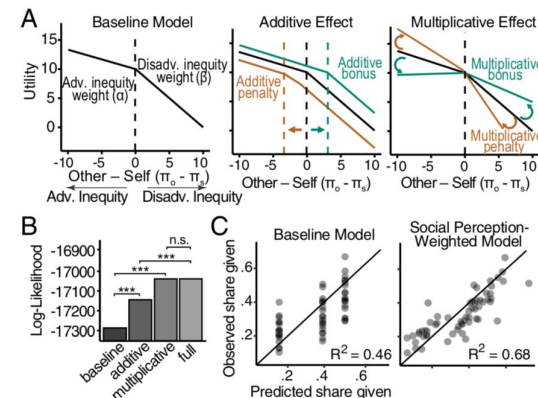
Competence

Dangerousness
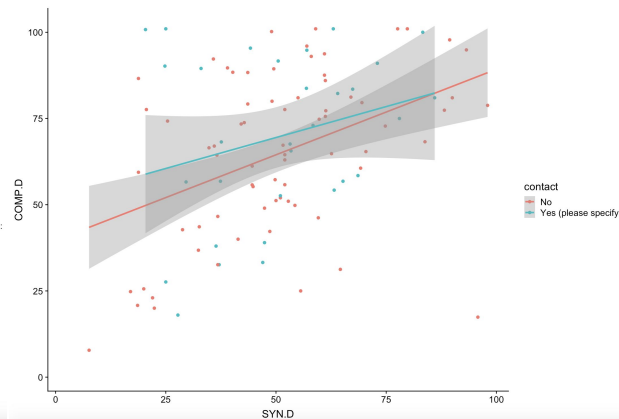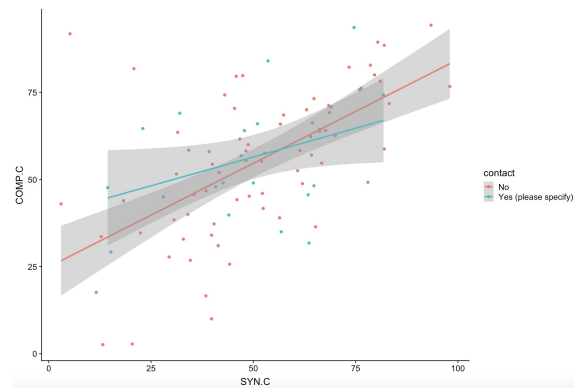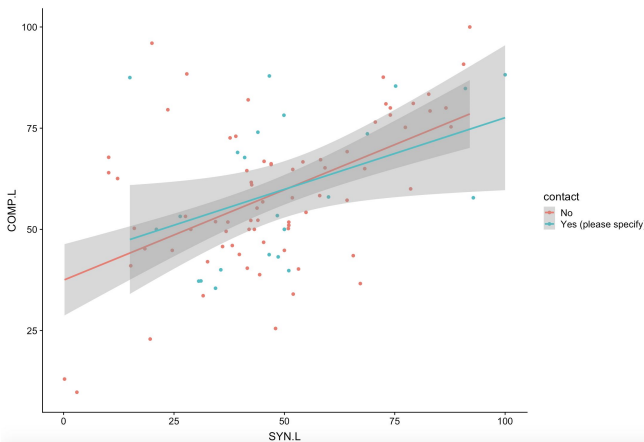
Future Steps

➔ **Study 1 cont.:** Social valuation via Dictator Game
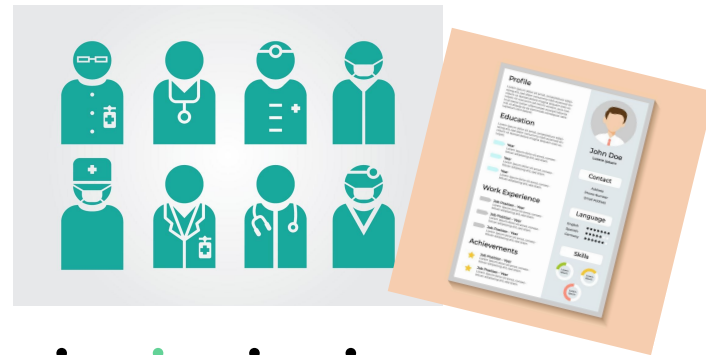 ◆ Geo-location and exposure to MI effects
  ◆ Computational models

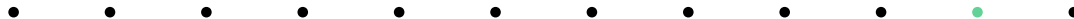➔ **Study 2:** Testing for generalizability of findings

  across populations

➔ **Even further:** Trends & field settings

Jenkins et al., 2017

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