





## Persons, Situations, and Time: Idiographic Behavior Prediction

Emorie D Beck
Northwestern University Feinberg

School of Medicine

Joshua J Jackson

Washington University in St. Louis





## **Background**

Behavior is often thought to be a function of person and situation factors. Despite this, accurate prediction of behavior has remained elusive, which we argue is due to the level of analysis (nomothetic v idiographic).

#### **Research Questions**

(1) Can we predict behavior? (2) Are there individual differences in predictability? (3) Do person or situation factors predict behavior more strongly / frequently and (4) are there individual differences in this? (5) Do some features more frequently predict behavior?

### Design

4x / day, 2 weeks

N = 104 (5970 total assm) 72.82% female

 $M_{age}$ = 19.49 (SD = 1.31)

Inclusion: >= 40 assm Variability in training/test sets for each outcome

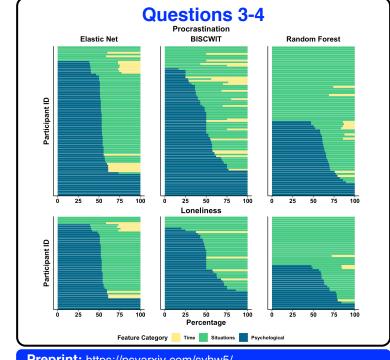
#### (Lagged) Features

- Psychological:
  - Personality: BFI-2
  - Affect (PANAS-X)
- Situations:
  - DIAMONDS
  - Binary
- Time (e.g., diurnal cycles)
  Outcomes
- Procrastination (0/1)
- Loneliness (0/1)

### **Conclusions**

- (1) We can predict behavior at the individual level, but (2) there are individual differences in predictability. (3) Neither person nor situation features dominate but
- (4) there are individual differences in this.
- (5) No features dominate but there are also individual differences in this.

# **Elastic Net Random Forest** Results 3 methods: Classification **Accuracy and AUC Question 1** Procrastination Loneliness Accuracy Accuracy BISCW **Question 2** Lonely BISCWIT



Preprint: https://psyarxiv.com/syhw5/
GitHub: https://github.com/emoriebeck/behavior-prediction
Shiny App: https://emoriebeck.shinyapps.io/behavior-prediction/
OSF: Prereg: https://osf.io/4nm5p Rep: https://osf.io/8ebyx/

