

When Being Efficient Is Unfair: Investigating the Role of Fairness in **Task Distribution**

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INTRODUCTION

EFFICIENCY

- People have a drive for maximising action efficiency [1]
- If given a choice, people will choose the easier route for themselves [2]
- In joint actions, people will maximise efficiency of joint action, sometimes compromising individual efficiency [3]

FAIRNESS

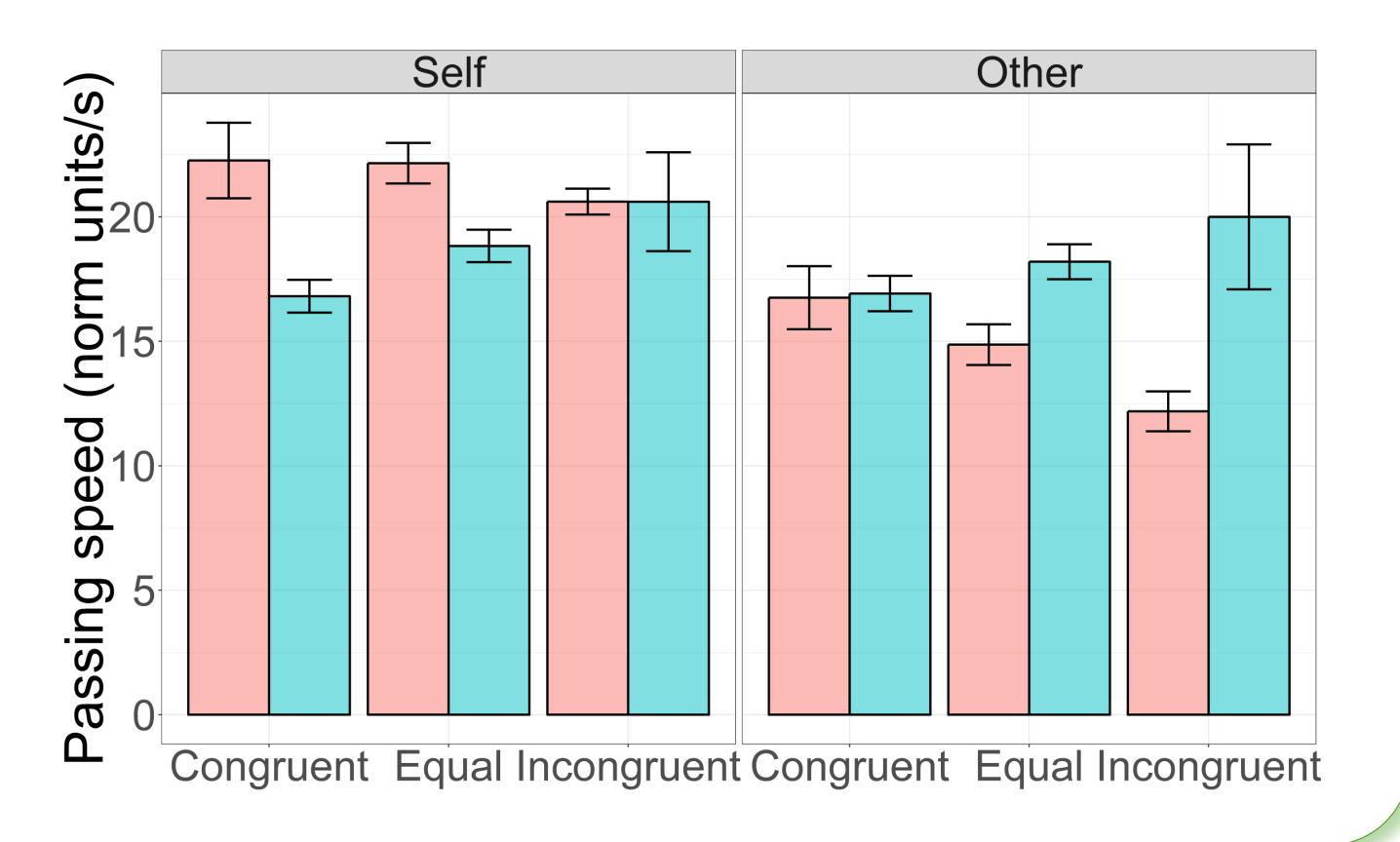
- People are sensitive to fairness judge unfair actors harshly, prefer fair interaction partners [4-5]
- Strong reputational motivation to be seen as fair [6-7]
- Little research on whether people *choose* to be fair

How are conflicts between fairness and task efficiency resolved?

Do individuals distribute tasks in a way that maximises overall efficiency or is fairest to both people?

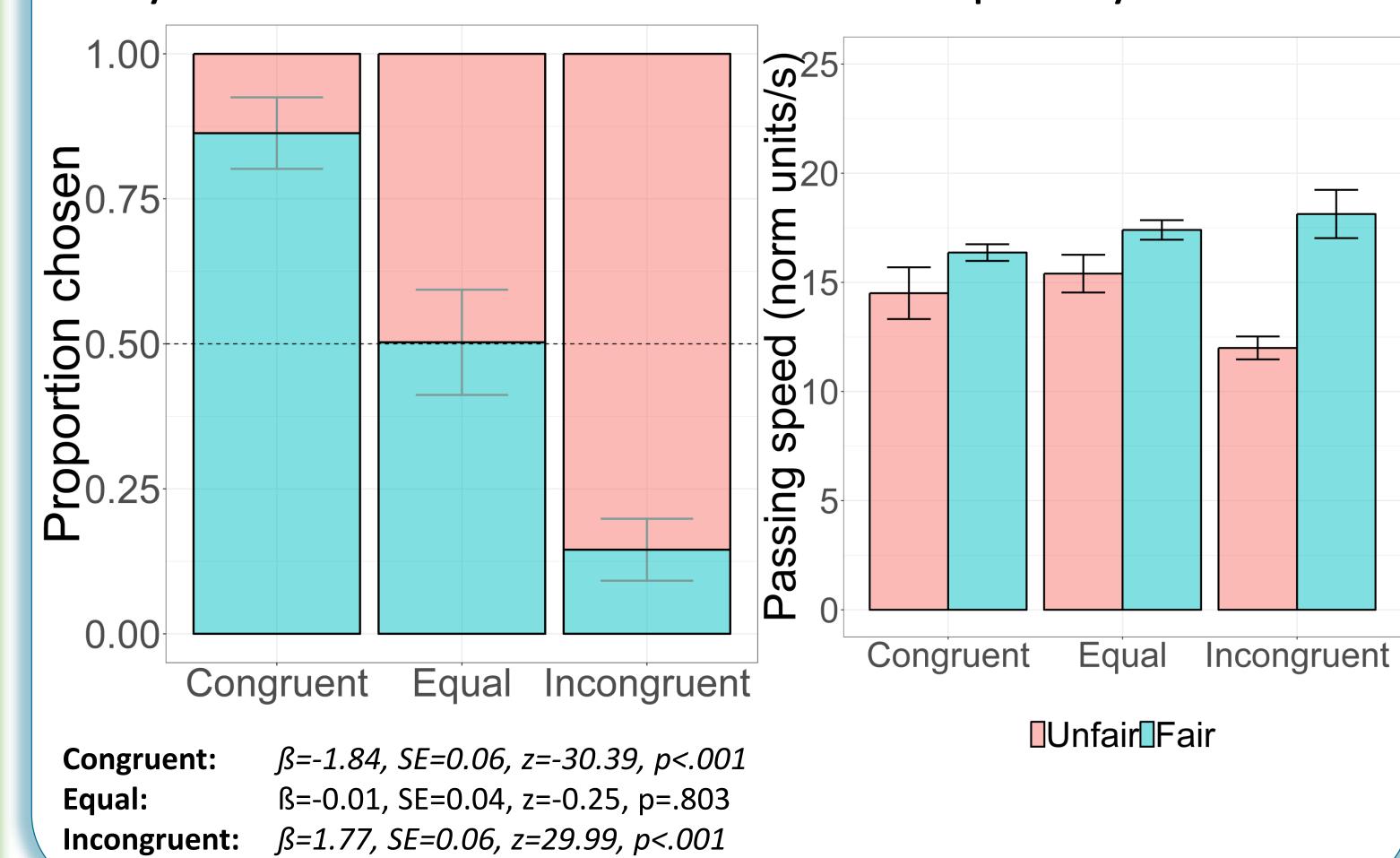
EXPERIMENT 1 EQUAL CONGRUENT INCONGRUENT UNFAIR TO UNFAIR TO SELF N=24Self Other 1.00 Proportion chosen 0.00 Congruent Equal Incongruent Congruent Equal Incongruent

 β =-1.45, SE=0.08, z=-19.30, p<.001 β =-0.02, SE=0.13, z=-0.14, p=.890 **Congruent:** β =-0.16, SE=0.06, z=-2.77, p=.006 β = 0.26, SE= 0.08, z=3.17, p=.002 **Equal: Incongruent:** β = 1.06, SE=0.07, z= 15.70, p<.001 β = 0.19, SE= 0.13, z=1.45, p=.147



EXPERIMENT 2 EQUAL CONGRUENT INCONGRUENT **UNFAIR TO**

N=24Only unfair to Other - no chance of reciprocity



CONCLUSIONS

- Prioritisation of efficiency in joint actions
- Consistent use of co-efficiency maximising strategy regardless of unfairness
- Even when no chance of reciprocity (no disadvantage to self)
- Joint efficiency over individual efficiency
- Movement speed drops when giving a partner not oneself an unfair task distribution
- Hesitating to be unfair but doing it anyway

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