Choosing a MA topic and forming final project groups

27 March 2020

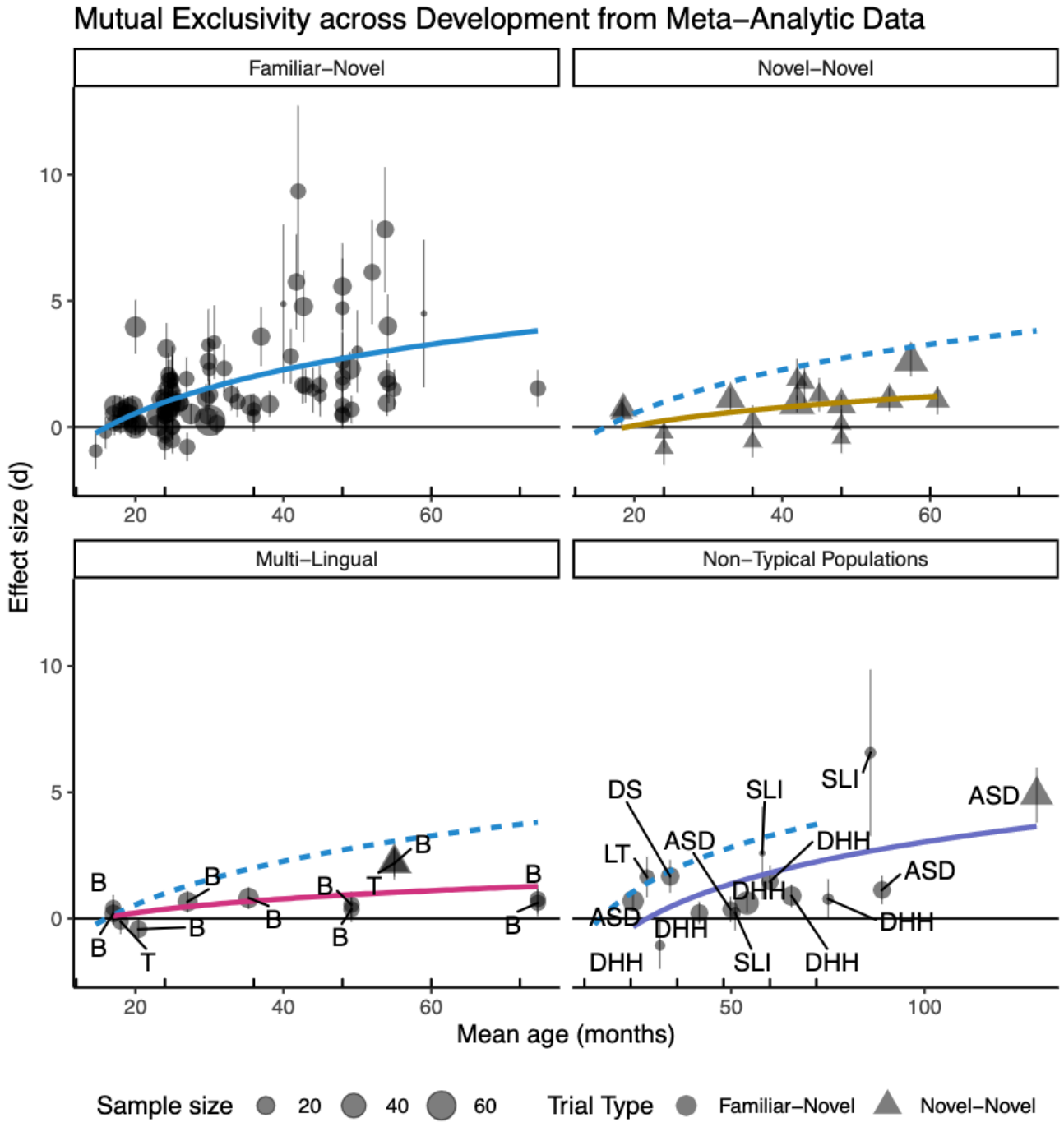
Modern Research Methods

Meta-analytic Moderators

- = anything you think might influence the effect size

- Age
- Design
- Stimuli type
- # of languages spoken
- …

- Metalab



META-ANALYSIS FINAL PROJECT

For the remaining portion of the semester, we will be working on your final projects – an original meta-analysis on a question in developmental, cognitive, or social psychology. You will complete your project in groups of ~4, and you will decide on your topic in consultation with me and your group members. The goal is that you could go on to publish your meta-analysis with a little more work beyond this class.

There are broadly five steps to conducting a meta-analysis:

1. Identify topic
2. Conduct literature search
3. Code studies and calculate effect sizes
4. Plot and analyze data
5. Report and discuss results.

(available on website)

Details

- Complete project as a group, but final paper will be done individually
- Three more assignments (6-8)
  - Each assignment will help you complete part of your final write-up
  - Assignment 6: identifying topic
  - Assignment 7: conducting literature review
  - Assignment 8: coding studies
  - We will give you feedback on your assignment -- this feedback must be incorporated into your final paper.
- Finally, there will be a presentation at the end of the semester.

Final paper details

Introduction to your MA:

-4-6 pages

-introduce the question your MA addresses and why it is important

-introduce seminal paper (method, finding, results)

Methods:

-paper selection method (inclusion criteria)

-description of variables coded

-effect size measure

Results:

-forest plot

-funnel plot

-grand mean effect size

-moderators

Discussion:

-2-3 pages

-summary of findings

-interpretation - What do your findings mean? How does the grand effect size compare to other effects in psychology and in your domain?

- Clarity of writing evaluated in addition to content
- Write paper using package called *papaja* (we'll talk about this in lab next week)

Three Topics

- Each group can work on one topic
- Decide on topics today

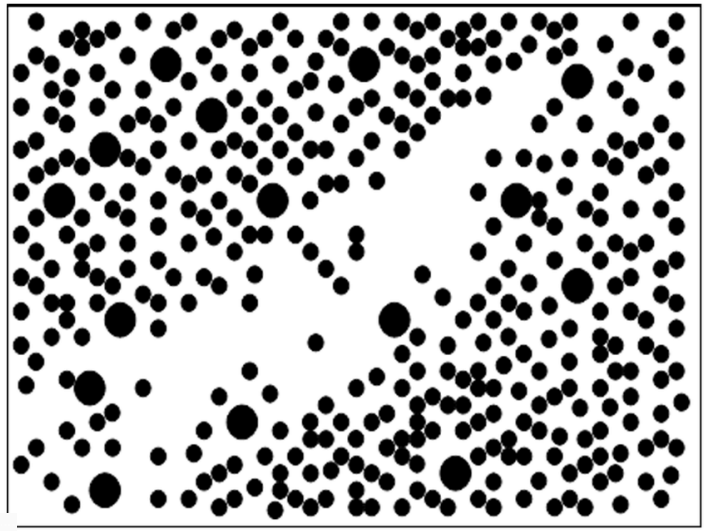
Topic 1: Ingroup/outgroup biases

Assigning participants to groups that are arbitrary leads people to be biased toward the ingroup

Experiments in Intergroup Discrimination

Can discrimination be traced to some such origin as social conflict or a history of hostility? Not necessarily. Apparently the mere fact of division into groups is enough to trigger discriminatory behavior

by Henri Tajfel



Social Categorization and the Formation of Intergroup Attitudes in Children

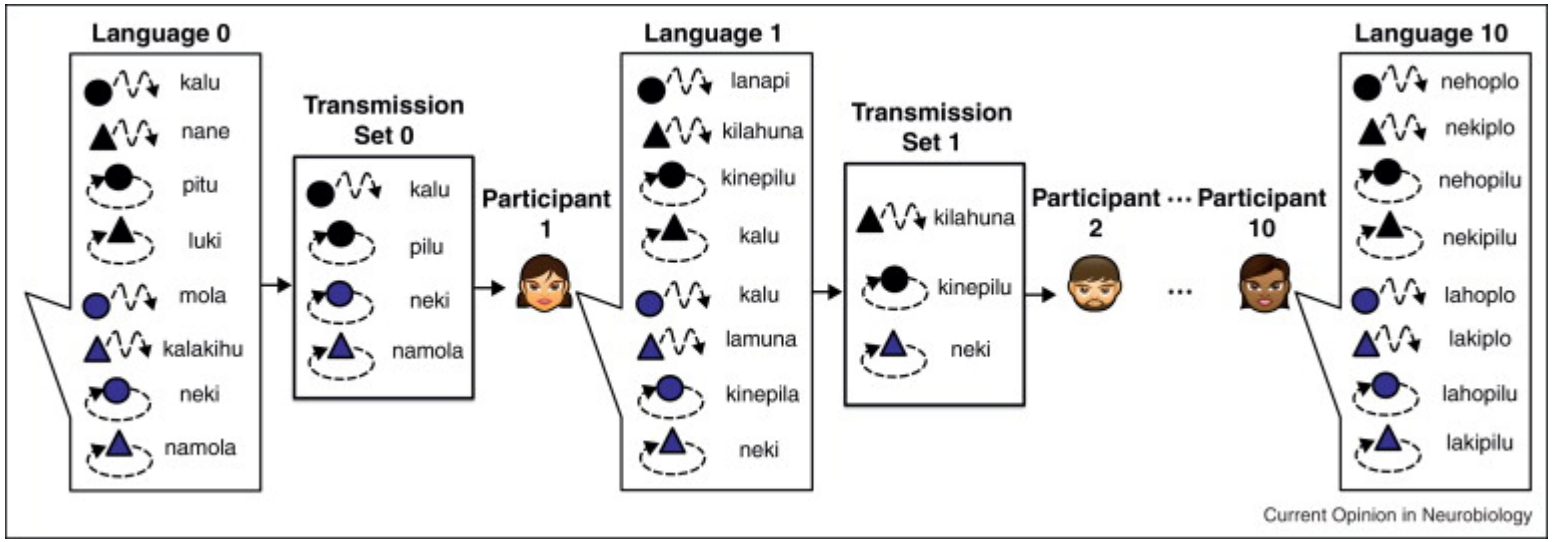
Rebecca S. Bigler, Lecianna C. Jones, and Debra B. Lobliner

Topic 2: Language evolution

- How do languages change over many, many years?
- Hard to study in the lab!

Cumulative cultural evolution in the laboratory: An experimental approach to the origins of structure in human language

Simon Kirby*†, Hannah Cornish*, and Kenny Smith‡



Less error in transmission across generations, and more "structure" over time

Topic 3: Cognitive Biases ("The Linda Problem")

Linda is thirty-one years old, single, outspoken, and very bright. She majored in philosophy. As a student, she was deeply concerned with issues of discrimination and social justice, and also participated in antinuclear demonstrations.

1. Linda is a bank teller.
2. Linda is a bank teller and is active in the feminist movement.

Extensional Versus Intuitive Reasoning:
The Conjunction Fallacy in Probability Judgment

Amos Tversky
Stanford University

Daniel Kahneman
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

- "Conjunction fallacy"
- P(teller) > P(teller & feminist)
- Representative Bias (judge probability based on similarity to stereotype)

Assignment 6

- Form group/decide on topic
- Write “Introduction” part of your final paper
- Read seminal paper
- Write “meat” of intro
- Write in Google Docs

Breakout groups

- Discuss logistics
- Send me an email proposing three times your group can meet next week (earlier probably better)