

Courage in the Eyes of Others

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Introduction

Currently, there is disagreement on whether study participants and informants are accurate judges of personality.

A recent meta-analysis found that while there were minor self –effacement and – enhancement effects, the overall accuracy of participant judgement was within accuracy criterion (Kim et al., 2019).

Other studies have found that the informant's relationship to the participant can change evaluation accuracy, especially when the traits are high in visibility. (Connelly & Ones, 2010).

Lastly, favorable views of the subject caused informant responses to mimick self-enhancement effects (Wood et al., 2010)

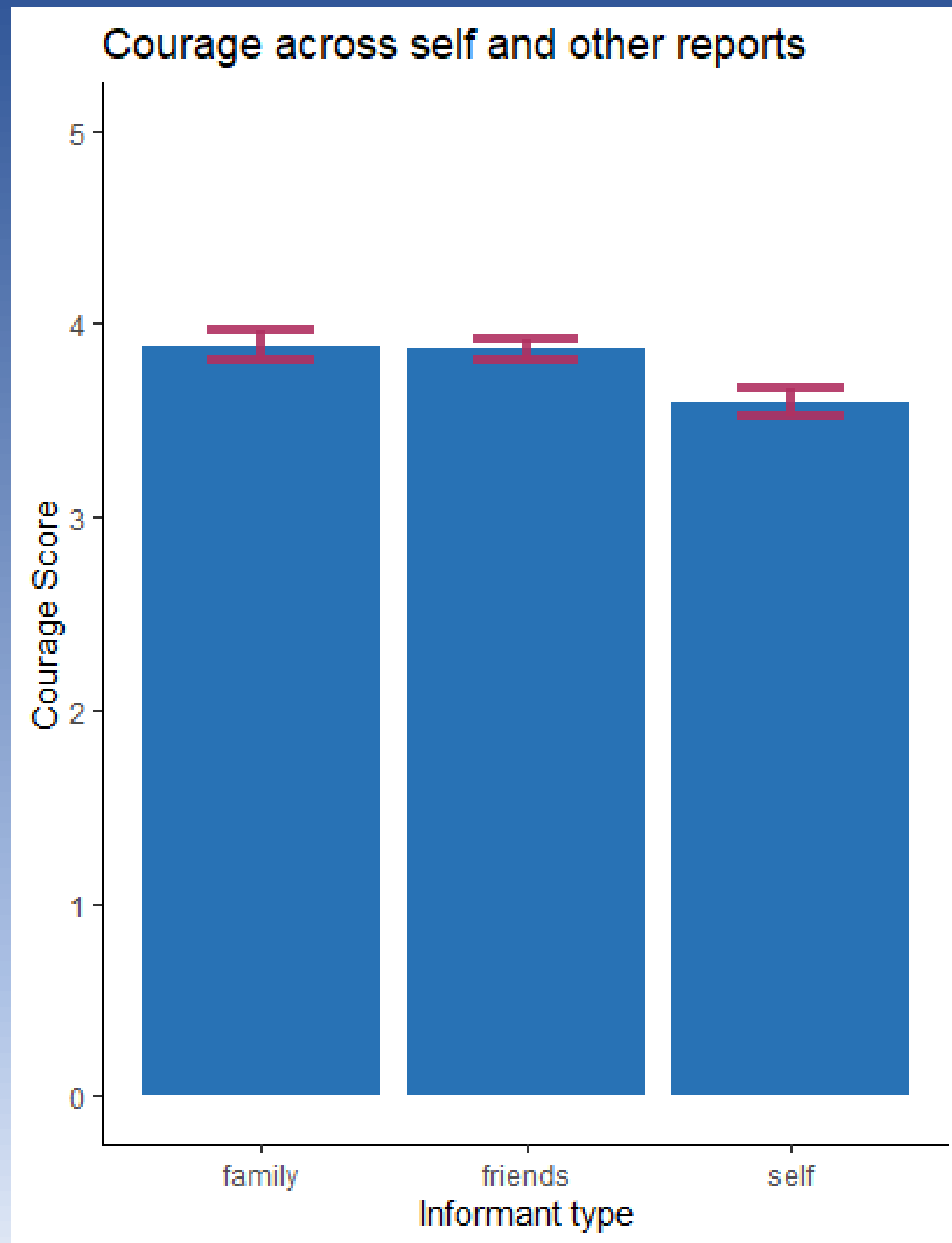
Methods

Using data obtained from the Personality Projects and the Development of Virtue Archive, I compared the difference between informant and subject ratings of courage (DeYoung et al., 2015).

Courage, as part of the Values in Action (VIA) character strengths inventory, was measured via respondent answers to the VIA characters strengths survey. A 5-point Likert scale was employed, with responses ranging from "Strongly disagree" "Disagree", "neither agree nor disagree", "Agree", and "Strongly agree".

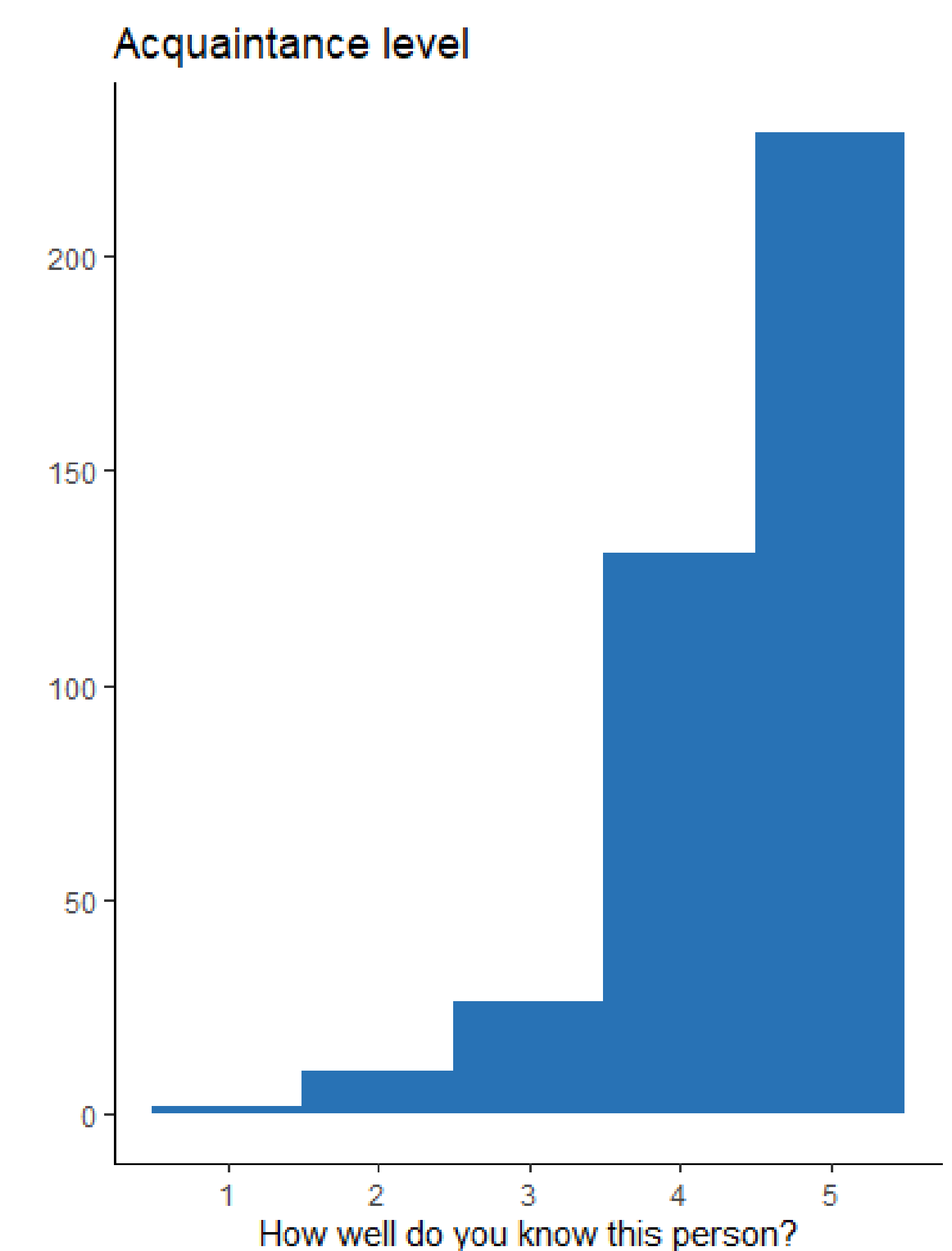
The sample consisted of 149 participants, along with 350 informants. Of the participants, 72% identified as female, 27% male, and <1% identified as other. The participant's median age was 19, the mean 18.79. Informant mean median age was 19, and the mean was 29.29.

Compared to the subject's view of their own **courage**, friends and family tended to rate the subject **higher**.



Of the informants, 201 identified as friends, and 149 identified as family members. Participants could have more than one informant.

A paired T-test was used to compare the averaged informant and subject VIA courage scores.



Results

Inconsistent with the primary hypothesis, self-rating of courage was lower than informant ratings, $t(200) = -6.22, p < .001$. Additionally, there was little difference between informant type: Friend informants had a 95% CI [-0.32, -0.15], and family had a 95% CI [-0.31, -0.21].., suggesting that they are not significantly different.

References

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