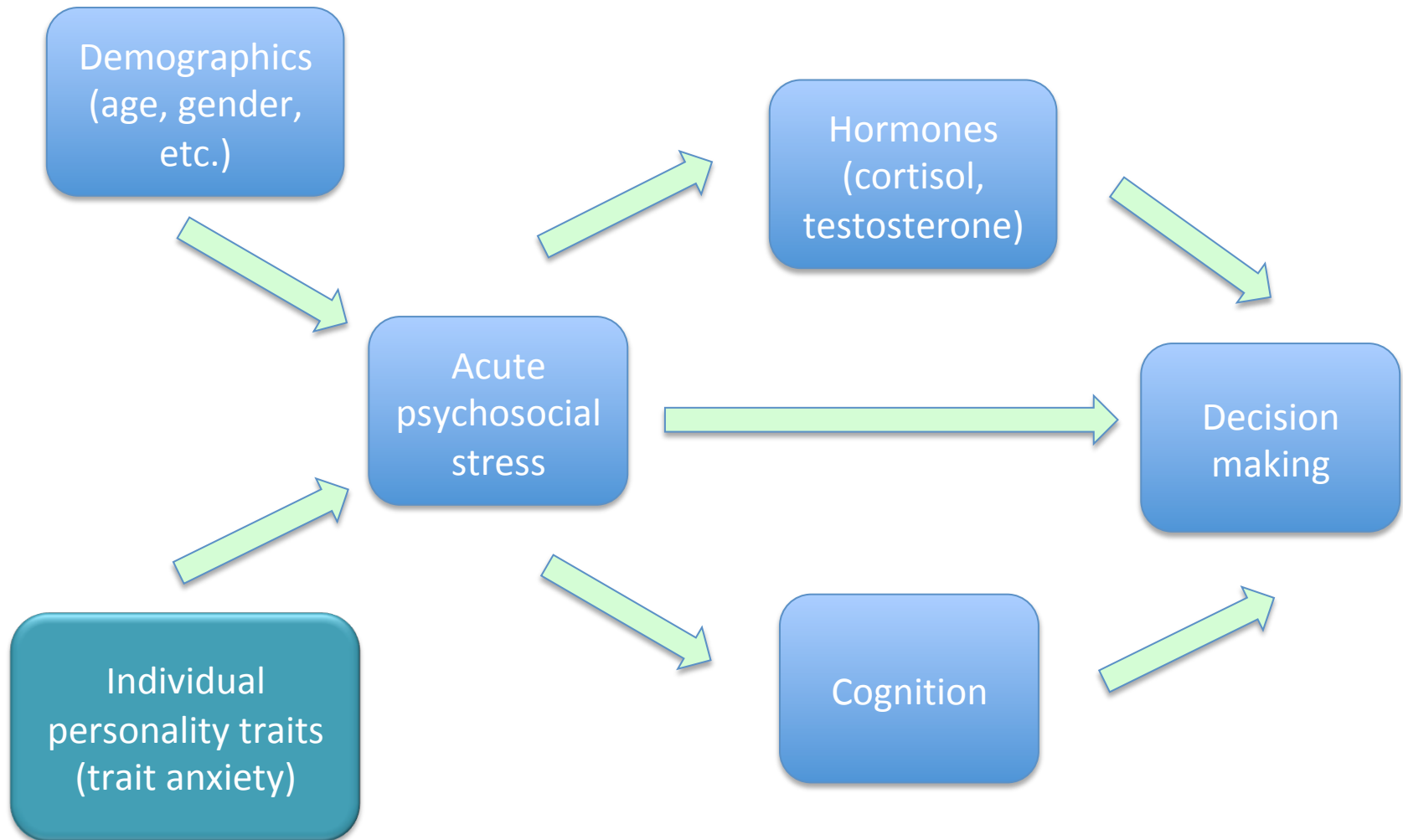# A digital survey investigation of the stability of the Trait Anxiety Inventory in the UChicago community

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Background

Research Question

- In psychology research, to measure stable traits of personality and individual differences, we use questionnaire / survey data.
- In my study, to save money/time, some of these trait questionnaires are taken outside of the lab.

- RQ: How stable is the Trait Anxiety Inventory in my dissertation research population; specifically, does setting, time of day, and mood relate to trait anxiety responses of UChicago community members when the T.A.I. is taken outside of a controlled laboratory setting?

What do we know?

- The State-Trait Anxiety Inventory
  - Long standing, frequently used, sensitive, valid (Spielberger, 1989; Chapman & Cox, 1977)
  - Retest correlations show reliability (Spielberger et al, 1983)

- Long-term studies have examined the temporal and retest stability other types of trait questionnaires

- Benefits of online questionnaire vs. in person questionnaire (Murthy, 2008)

What don't we know?

- Bias of digital questionnaire
  - In person, have more environmental control

- Is the trait anxiety questionnaire susceptible to responses that may reflect state anxiety?
  - Extraneous effects of mood, time of day, and setting

- Stability of responses of specific UChicago undergrad population
  - Stressful environment

Model / Theory

- WEIRD population
- In person vs. digital survey distribution
- If the TAI measures trait anxiety as a stable trait, then <u>trait anxiety scores</u> should not by statistically significantly related to <u>setting factors</u> that are not stable, such as:
  - Time of day
  - Mood
  - Setting (where the survey was taken)

Methods

- Qualtrics survey (digitally-enhanced)
  - Administer the TAI
  - Administer post-survey questions:
    - Time of day
    - Setting
    - Mood
- Qualtrics
  - Software that enables users to collect and analyze data online
  - Benefits of digital design

Methods

- Recruitment:
  - Goal: To test questionnaire validity within UChicago sample
  - Population: UChicago community
  - Sampling frame: UChicago community members accessible via listservs, Martketplace, Facebook
  - Sample: actual respondents of recruitment
  - Target: 200 respondents

Analyses

- Descriptive statistics:
  - Distribution of anxiety scores

- Regression models:
  - Exogenous variables:
    - Setting, time of day, mood
  - Endogenous variable:
    - Trait anxiety score

Connection to research question: If extraneous factors of setting do not affect questionnaire responses, should see no relationship between the extraneous / exogenous factors of setting, time of day and mood, and anxiety scores.

Questions?

References:

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