ARE PEOPLE AWARE OF BIASES IN THEIR JUDGMENT AND DECISION-MAKING?

Adam Morris¹, Noa Perlmutter², Sofia Montinola³, M.J. Crockett¹, & Hedy Kober⁴

¹Princeton, ²Johns Hopkins, ³Massachusetts General Hospital, ⁴UC Berkeley

Participants complete 17 tasks, each inducing a different classic bias. We measure how much each participant was influenced by each bias.

1. Is the average winter temperature in Antarctica higher or lower than -45°F?



2. What is the average winter temperature in Antarctica?

We describe the bias in intuitive language, and ask them how much they think they were influenced by it and in which direction.

3. Before asking the trivia question, we first asked you whether the average winter temperature was higher or lower than -45°F. Do you think the presence of the example value (-45°F) affected your response? If so, how?

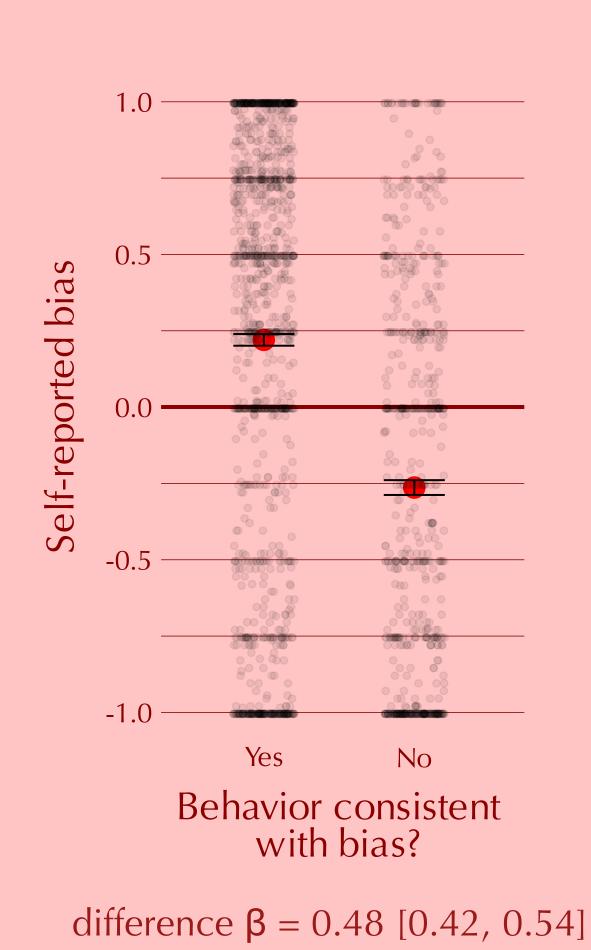
It pushed my answer FURTHER away from the example value

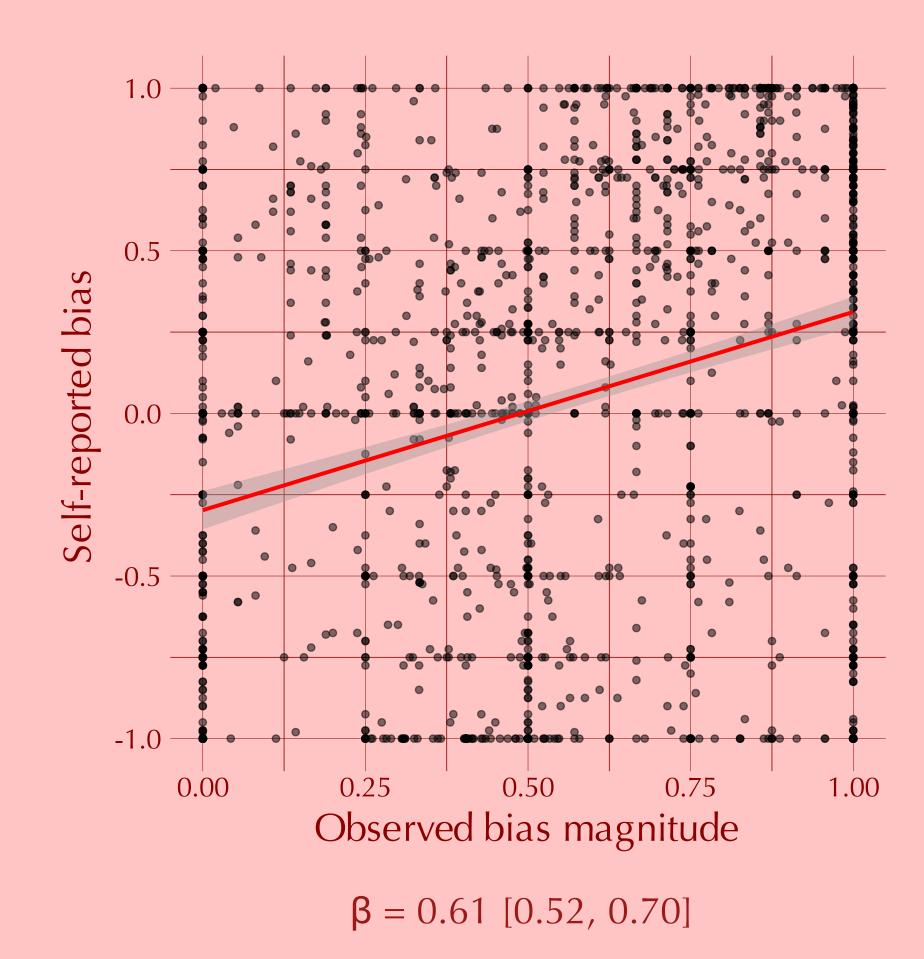
It did not affect my response

It pushed my answer CLOSER to the example value

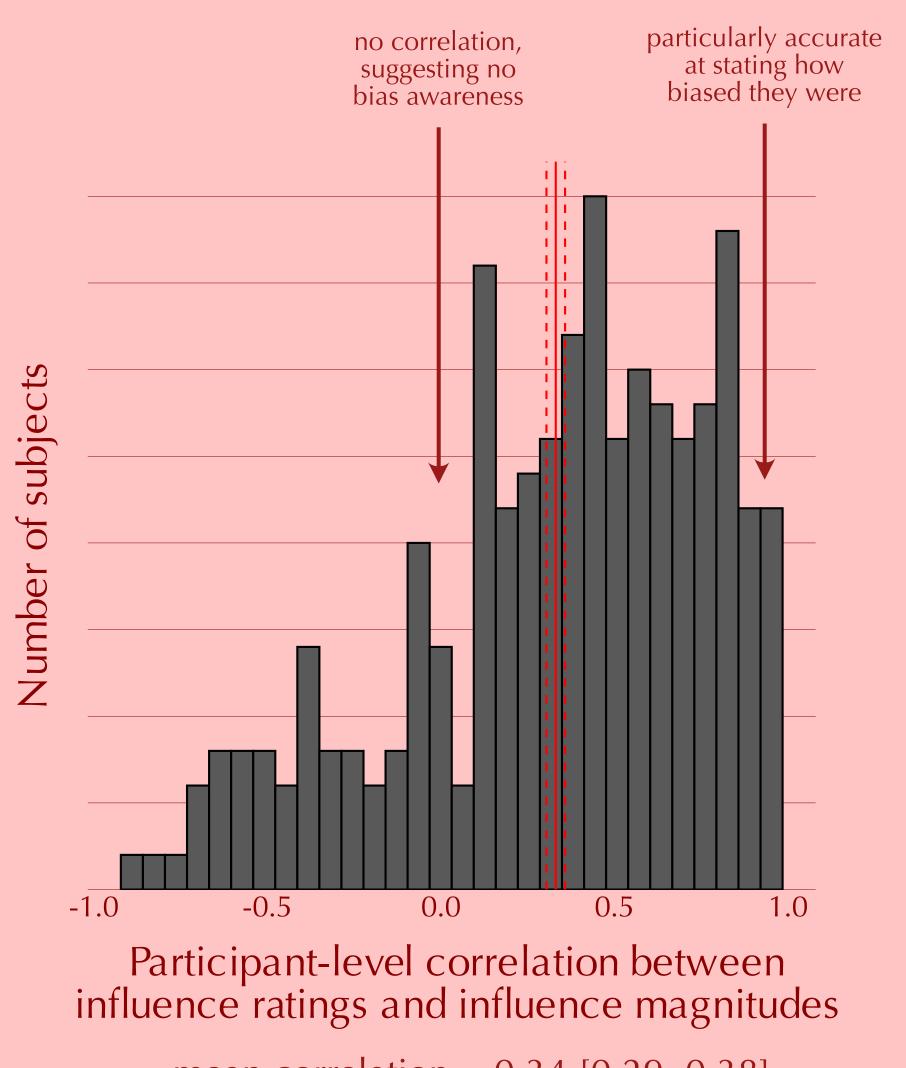
People whose behavior was consistent with the bias reported being more influenced by that bias.

The larger the observed effect of the bias, the larger effect people reported experiencing.





People's awareness of their biases varied substantially across individuals.



mean correlation = 0.34 [0.29, 0.38]