

Lab 1 Instructions

BSTA 512/612

Caution

This lab is not ready to be worked on!! Nicky needs to update it.

Directions

Please turn in your `.html` file [on Sakai](#). Please let me know if you greatly prefer to submit a physical copy. We can work out another way for you to turn in the labs.

[You can download the `.qmd` file for this lab here.](#)

Purpose

This lab will serve as an introduction to our quarter long project.

There will be no analysis in this lab. Instead, we are building our knowledge around the research question.

Grading

Each lab will have a slightly different grading rubric. Since this lab does not include coding nor analysis, this portion of the rubric is excluded.

Lab activities

1. Reading and listening activities

1.1 Article: **Implicit and explicit anti-fat bias: The role of weight-related attitudes and beliefs**

This article will serve as a reference point for our project. The article is meant to introduce social scientists' approaches to research and analyses. However, the article is not meant to be a basis for which we perform our analysis.

Warning

This article discusses anti-fat bias. It uses words that may be triggering to larger-bodied people.

Please read sections 1 - 2, through 2.2 ("Procedures and measures"). Answer the following questions:

- In your own words, what is anti-fat bias?
- What were the three social theoretical models that the paper discusses? Which do you personally think is the biggest contributor to anti-fat bias and why?
- From the following measures in section 2.2, select two and discuss why the named measure may or may not accurately represent the italicized statement taken from the IAT questionnaire. *Feel free to answer this question after taking the IAT yourself.*
 - Self-perception of weight
 - Thin/fat group identity
 - Controllability of weight
 - Awareness of societal standards
 - Internalization of societal standards

For example, for Self-perception of weight, the italicized statement is the following state-

Self-perception of weight. Participants completed the statement ***Currently, I am _*** with one of the following responses (coded 1–7): ***Very underweight, Moderately underweight, Slightly underweight, Neither underweight nor overweight, Slightly overweight, Moderately overweight, Very overweight.***

ment outlined in red:

1.2 Podcast: [Anti-Fat Bias by Maintenance Phase](#)

Warning

This podcast shares the experience of one of its hosts that involves anti-fat bias. This may be triggering if you have experienced this type of bias.

This is an optional listening for this lab, but I highly encourage you listen at some point this quarter. This is a really good way to see how research can be integrated into conversation and experience.

If you decide to listen, feel free to share a quote that most impacted you.

2. Familiarizing ourselves with the Implicit Association Test (IAT)

2.1 Learn more about the test

Visit the [Project Implicit site](#), and read about the test. What is your initial reaction to the test? What questions about the test do you have? Do you have any questions about the test's validity? The point here is not to attempt to discredit the test itself, but see what specific questions the test can help us answer and what is outside the scope of our analysis. For example, are there any potential issues with the fact that people are self-selected to take the test? Does that mean our sample is representative of our population? Is it an issue that someone can take the test more than once?

This exercise will serve as a good starting point for the discussion section of our project report. The more effort you put in here and now, the more prepared you will be for the report.

2.2 Take the test

You will spend 15 minutes taking the IAT. You can go to the [Project Implicit website](#), register, and select a specific test to take. Once registered, you can click “Take a Test,” read the Preliminary Information, and then click “I wish to proceed” at the bottom. Then you can click the button “Weight IAT” to take this particular test.

I will not check that you have completed this test, but it will help you understand the data you are analyzing.

3. Get a sense of how you would like to analyze the data

For our project, we will examine the association between the IAT score and one other variable. From the above article, and the introduced variables in section 2.2, which association are you most interested in analyzing? Please write this in the form of a research question.

We will have a chance to adjust our research question once we have explored the data in Lab 2.

4. Organize your “Project” folder

Before downloading the data, go back to Lesson 2 and follow the file setup for our project. This includes making an `.Rproj` file within the main folder. Make sure you are working with the project by using the `here()` function to display your working directory.

Task

Display your working directory using the `here` package and `here()` function.

5. Compile above work into an introduction

At this point, you have done a lot of the work needed to write an introduction for your report. Write a brief description of anti-fat bias, IAT, your research question, and the context for the question. This description should be in complete sentences and written as a single paragraph.

In the next lab, we will work on a summary of the dataset (e.g. where are the data from, when were they collected, how many subjects, what are the variables, what are the exposure and outcomes variables of interest, etc.).