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Veronica Boyce[1,*], Maya Mathur[1], Michael C. Frank[1]

[1]Stanford University

Abstract

TODO abstract

Keywords
One keyword; Yet another keyword

1 TODO list

- title
- abstract
- need to do supplement with the stuff we preregistered (sensitivity analysis, all models)
- how to introduce coding methods (outcome measures)
- many citations everywhere
- long list of things to gesture at in intro
- link to open stuffs
- ** verify code for ES ** with someone
- note that 4ish of these papers were previously reported in RP:P

2 Citation slush pile

predict w/ ML Altmejd et al. (2019) prediction with humans Dreber et al. (2015); Forsell et al. (2019)

econ also has replications and issues Camerer et al. (2016)

moving goal posts around replication / interpreting results Nosek & Errington (2020)

some sort of modeling of replications Pawel & Held (2020)

3 introduction

[structure w/i intro?]

[replication: it's a hot issue and concerns around replication have done a lot, see crisis/revolution] Psychology is in the middle of some heated debate around the fields practices and many reform efforts. Many of these issues concern the truthworthiness or not of the published literature, with transparency, openness efforts. A lot of this centers around issues of reproducibility and replicability. Concerns around the practices of science. Replication is a hot topic. Some argue that it is a cornerstone of a cumulative science, and findings of low replication rates are a problem. Concerns about replication rates have become a large

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*Corresponding author. Email: vboyce@stanford.edu

point of discussion in psychology and other fields, with large scale replications spurring these discussions and providing the empirical data analyzed by all sides.

[there's . . . not a lot of empirics] One of the concerns is that published literature may not replicate as much as previously thought or as desired. To quantify and understand this problem, we need empirical data about replication attempts. However, due to the arduous nature of collecting samples of replications, there have not been many large-scale replication efforts, so all of the argumentation around predictors of replications and field-wide replication rates is fit to a small number of data points.

[do we discuss reasons for replications and why many, while valuable in specific phenomena, help less with this question?] Many replications of individual effects have been performed, but these are less useful as pattern analysis because the varied sampling and reporting, and the fact they aren't all in one place. Also pub bias.

3.1 prior literature

We are aware of three large-scale replication efforts replicating experimental results in the existing psychology literature. RP:P sampled roughly 100 studies from top psychology journals in 2008 (Consortium 2015). They found an overall replication rate around 40%, which provided evidence to support growing concerns about the non-reliability of the literature. The RP:P dataset was itself much discussed and reanalyzed (Etz & Vandekerckhove 2016, Gilbert et al. 2016, Patil et al. 2016) [idk, maybe worth framing that this was a big deal study when it came out]. TODO some discussion of how many papers have reanalysed this cutting the data different ways.

The ManyLabs series of studies have also done large-scale replications of effects from psychology. Due to their primary goal of investigating different forms of hetereogeneity, their sampling has been non-representative, focusing on short studies with only two conditions. Across Many labs 1-3 foo bar replicated (Klein et al. 2014, Ebersole et al. 2016, Klein et al. 2018). Many labs 5 was a re-replication attempt on 10 of RP:P and rescued 2/10 (Ebersole et al. 2020). TODO look up details

Camerer et al. (2018) replicated the 21 behaviors studies published in Nature and Science from 2010-2015 that did not require special populations or special equipment. They found a roughly 60% replication rate.

3.2 predictors

In addition to determining estimated overall replicaiton rates for fields and journals, there's also merit in knowing what features of experiments (and replication attempts) are predictive of replication success. Blah blah stakeholders and resources. Scientists may want to build their work on studies that are likely to replicate, so that they can replicate and build on work without wasting resources. Similarly investing in interventions may want to start with things that are more likely to replicate. There's some signal here, as people are able to predict replication success at above chance CITATIONS (Dreber et al. 2015, Camerer et al. 2018, Forsell et al. 2019, Hoogeveen et al. 2019)

RP:P looked at how replication rates varied across subsamples of their studies (Consortium 2015). They found that cognitive psychology studies replicated at higher, but still low rates (50% v 25%) compared to social psychology. They also found that larger effect sizes and smaller p-values of original studies were predictive of replicating. TODO do we talk about any other correlates.

There are reasons to believe that experimental factors such as number of items or between and within subject designs may also be predictive (cite our old paper), and could pontentially be some of the reason for subfield differences. TODO maybe foreshadow that there are reasons to believe there are correlations!

While many replications of individual studies are conducted, these may have been selected for non-representative reasons, such as a high prior on replicating (e.g. as a demonstration), or a low or uncertain prior (e.g. for a high-value study). When sampling is likely related to replicability, the studies are less good for estimating base rates and predictors of replicability in the literature as a whole.

3.3 current work

Prior literature, such as Frank & Saxe ([2012](#)) and Hawkins et al. ([n.d.](#)) have advocated using research methods classes to conduct replications, both for the education and scientific value.

Here we introduce a new dataset of 176 replications of experimental studies from the social sciences, primarily psychology. These replications were conducted by students in graduate-level experimental methods class between 2011 and 2022 as individual course projects. This approximately doubles the set of experiments in the large-scale replication literature. We investigate predictors of replicability in this new dataset.
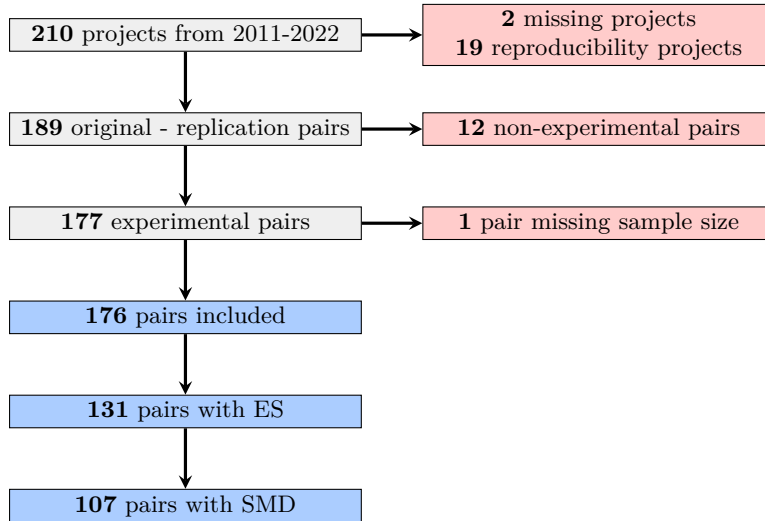

Figure 1: Which studies were excluded for what reasons, and how many original-replication pairs are left.

4   Results

PSYCH 251 is Stanford Psychology's graduate-level experimental methods class taught by MCF. During the 10 week class, students replicate a published finding. They individually re-implement the study, write analysis code, pre-register their study, collect data using an online platform, and write up a structured replication report. Students are free to choose studies related to their research interests, with the default recommendation being an article from a recent year of Psychological Science. While this choice results in a non-random sample from the literature, the sample is representative of studies that are of interest to and doable by first year graduate students.

The sample of replicated studies reflects the variability of the literature, including studies from different subfields, using different experimental methods and statistical outcomes. We leverage the naturally occurring variability in this sample of replications to examine how different demographic, experimental design, and statistical properties predict replication success.

We used a subjective rating of replication success as our primary outcome measure. The instruction team had coded a holistic measure of replication success for each project when they were turned in at the end of the course. For reliability, VB independently code the replication success from the replication reports; discrepancies were resolved by discussion between MCF and VB (ToDO foobar % of cases). This measure was applicable across the range of statistical measures and reporting practices and accommodated studies where there were multiple important outcome measures.

As a complement, we also used two statistical measure of replication on the subset of the data where they were computable (NUMBER, see Figure [1](#)). We measured p-original, the p-value on the null hypothesis that the original and replication statistics are from the same distribution, as a continuous variable, and we also determined whether the replication statistic fell within the prediction interval of the original statistic ([Errington et al. 2021](#)).
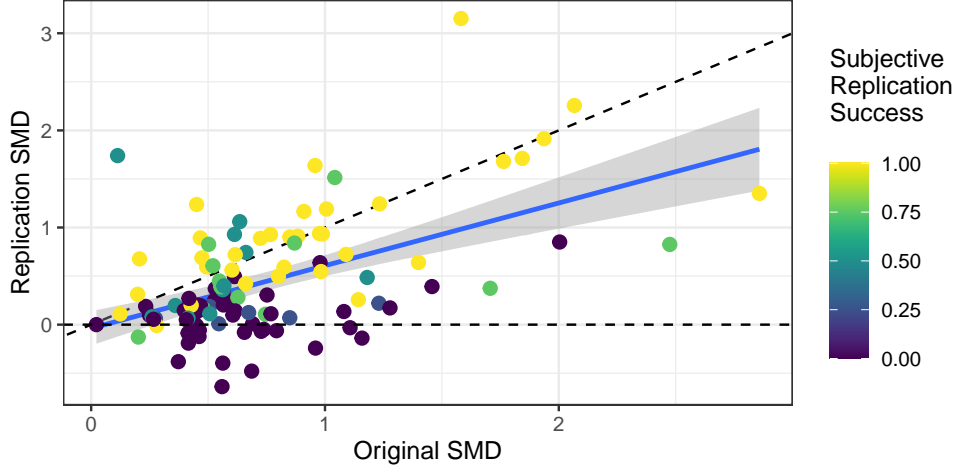
Figure 2: Relationship between SMD of the original study, SMD of the replication study, and subjective replication success rating, for those studies where SMD was applicable.

4.1 Overall replication rate

Across the 176 studies, the overall subjective replication rate was 49%. 46% of the studies had replication outcomes within the prediction interval of the original outcome. The median p_original value was 0.03. Figure 2 shows the relationship between original SMD, replication SMD, and subjective replication score. Roughly speaking, there's a cluster of studies that replicate with similar effect sizes to the original and another cluster that fail to replicate with replication effect sizes near zero. On average, there is a diminution of effect sizes from original to replication.

Table 1: The correlation of individual predictors with subjective replication outcomes. For subfield, cognitive psychology is treated as the baseline condition.

Predictors	r	p
Within subjects	0.333	0.000
Log trials	0.182	0.015
Open data	0.150	0.047
Non psych	0.080	0.294
Other psych	0.075	0.322
Publication year	0.064	0.399
Open materials	0.002	0.979
Stanford	-0.027	0.725
Log rep/orig sample	-0.047	0.536
Log original sample size	-0.108	0.155
Switch to online	-0.158	0.037
Social	-0.246	0.001
Single vignette	-0.267	0.000

4.2 Single predictors

Properties of both the original study and the replication can influence whether or not the replication is a success. We chose a set of predictor variables from the correlational results of RP:P and our own intuitions about experimental factors that might impact replication success as well as some covariates related to how close the replication would be. A full description of these features is given in methods.

Many of these predictors individually correlate with subjective replication success (Table 1). Predictors of higher replicability included within-subjects designs, higher numbers of trials, and open data. Predictors of lower replicability included Single vignetted studies, social psychology studies, and original-replication pairs where the replication switched to online.

Distributions of study outcomes across some of these properties are shown in Figure 3. Both social and cognitive psychology studies were well represented, and the cognitive psychology studies replicated at twice the rate of social psychology studies. Within and between subjects designs were both common, and within replicated four times as much. Similarly, studies with multiple vignettes replicated 1.5 times more than single vignetted studies. However, there were strong correlations among these experimental features and between these experimental features and subfield.

Studies with open data, which almost always also had open materials, tended to replicate more than studies without open data, although this may be linked to temporal trends.

Nearly all replications studies were conducted online, but original studies were split between using in-person and online recruitment. Replications that switched to online were less likely to replicate than those that had the same modality as the original (generally both online, in a few cases both in-person). While online studies in general show comparable results to studies conducted in person TODO CITATIONS, switching the modality does decrease the closeness of the replication, and some studies done in person may not have been well adapted (ex. inductions may be weaker or attention checks inadequate to the new sample).
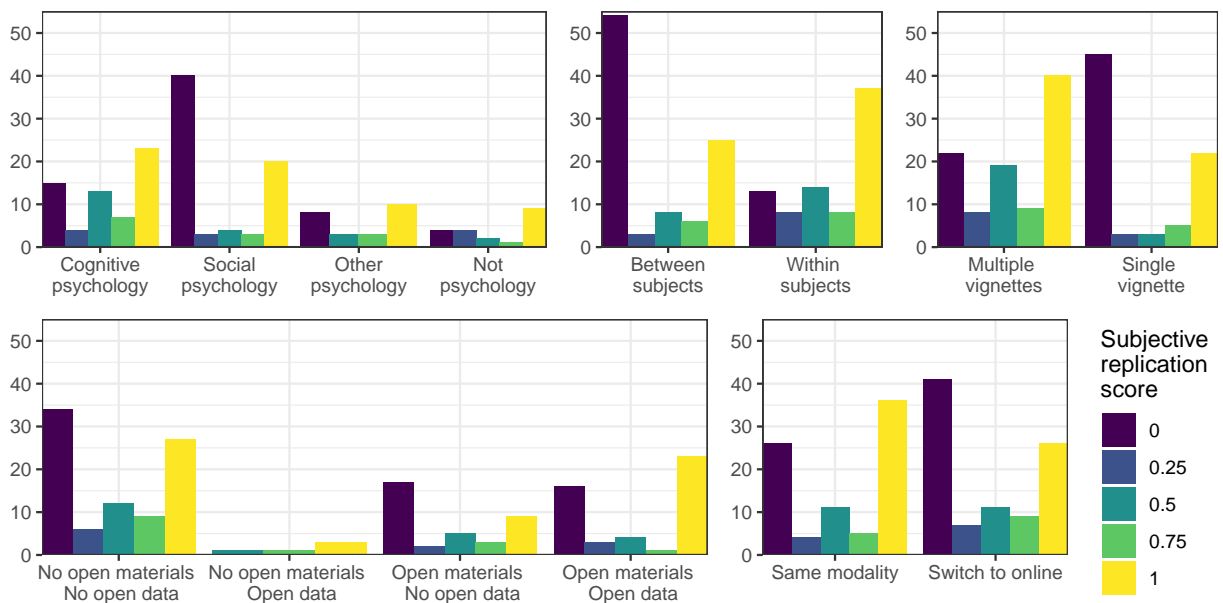

Figure 3: Distribution of subjective replication scores within categories. Bar heights are counts of studies.

4.3 Regression model

While a number of the predictors show individual correlations with the subjective replication score, many of the predictors are also correlated with one another. In order to determine which predictors were the strongest, we ran a pre-registered regularized regression model (see Methods for details). The coefficient estimates are shown in Figure 4. Due to a large number of predictors coupled with a small and noisy dataset, even with strong regularization, there is much uncertainty around the coefficients. The general directions of coefficients are consistent with the effects of the predictors in isolation. Within-subjects designs seem an especially strong indicator of replicability TODO include estimate and range in text!

Results from other models can be found in the supplement. TODO make this a true statement

5 discussion

blah blah we did a thing and it generally aligns with prior results. Overall replication rate is consistent with prior work, and we find cog greater than soc. However, by looking at a greater range of pr
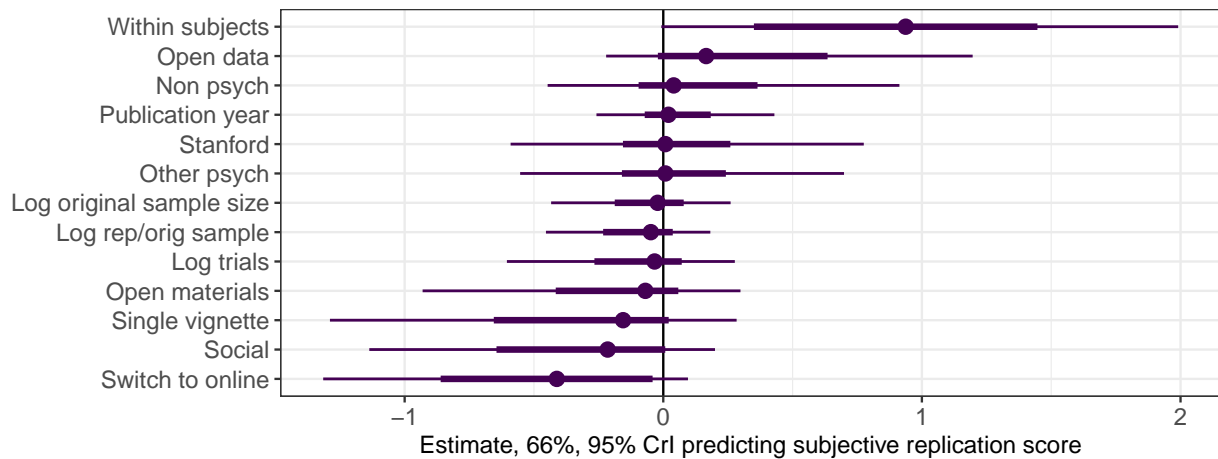
Figure 4: Coefficient estimates and uncertainty from a model predicting subjective replication scores from the full dataset.

[who knows where this paragraph should go] Replications are one way of approximating whether an effect in the target paper is true, and how likely results are to replicate in some sort of platonic ideal world. There is no one answer here; replication projects measure something else that could be treated as an approximation. However, what a replication is really measuring is how likely it to get that effect given some conditions. Which the right conditions are is a potential point of contention (see discussion around closeness and sample size, power etc). Here, we are explicit in what sample of replicators and replication conditions were are sampling, and thus what we can generalize to. We are estimating how likely replication is when done online by a graduate student, under constraints that are typical for graduate students (limited time, limited budget). As much of scientific process is in fact performed by graduate students, we think this in itself is an interesting question. It contrasts with questions like how likely something is to replicate when performed by an expert with a large budget (perhaps this is the right framing on Camerer) or when performed with extensive feedback from the original authors, etc.

We do not interpret our results as saying that all non-replications were false positives (presumably some are replicable under other circumstances and others are not). Some of the factors we look at are more easily interpreted as being about the original study than others. We do not assign causal explanation to the predictors because there are multiple plausible interpretations: they could be correlates of QRPs in the original, they could be correlates of harder-to-detect or more fragile effects, they could be correlates of less-close replications, they could even be correlates of another stronger predictor.

[there is controversy here, but to even discuss it, we need empirics] Even those who argue that replication is not so essential still rely on data from replications to make their cases that replication rates are not as low as they seem and that these replication rates are acceptable. Lewandowsky & Oberauer (2020)

circle back to the idea that student replications (either as class or before extension into their own work) would be valuable

6   Methods

Our pre-registration, code, and coded data are available at TODO OSF REPO.

6.1   Dataset

The dataset of replication projects comes from class projects conducted in PSYCH 251 (earlier called PSYCH 254) a graduate-level experimental methods class taught by MCF from 2011 to 2022. This class is commonly taken by first year graduate students in psychology and related disciplines, and it has been a requirement of the Psychology PhD since around 2015. Each student chose a study to replicate, implemented the study, wrote analysis code, pre-registered their replication, ran the study, and turned in

a structured final report including methods, analytic plan, changes from the original study, confirmatory and exploratory analyses, and discussion of outcomes. Students were encouraged to do experimental replications, but some students chose to replicate correlational outcomes or do computational reproducibility projects instead. We cannot include the full student reports for confidentiality reasons, but we include an example as well as the template given to students in the repo. TODO example and template

Students were free to choose what study they replicated; the recommended path for students who did not have their own ideas was to pick an interesting study from a recent year of Psychological Science (this led to a high fraction of Psych Science articles in the replication sample FOOBAR %).

6.2 Coding procedure

We relied primarily on student reports to code the measured variables for the replications. We supplemented this with spreadsheets of information about projects from the time of the class and the original papers.

6.2.1 Measures of replication success

Our primary replication outcome is experimenter and instructor rated replication success (0-1). The subjective replication success was recorded by the teaching staff for the majority of class replications at the time they were conducted. Where the values were missing they were filled in by MCF on the basis of the reports. For all studies, replication success was independently coded by VB on the basis of the reports. Where VB's coding disagreed with the staff/MCF's code, the difference was resolved by discussion between VB and MCF. These were coded on a [0, .25, .5, .75, 1] scale. TODO rate of coding discrepancy

This subjective replication outcome was chosen because it already existed, could be applied to all projects (regardless of type and detail of statistical reporting), and did not rely solely on one statistical measure. As a complement, we also identified a "key" statistical test for each paper (see below for details), and if possible, computed p_original and prediction interval at this statistic, following Errington et al. (2021). p_original was a continuous measure of the p-value on the hypothesis that the original and replication samples come from the same distribution. Prediction interval was a binary measure of whether the replication outcome fell within the prediction interval of the original outcome measure.

6.2.2 Demographic properties

We coded the subfield of the original study as a 4 way factor: cognitive psychology, social psychology, other psychology, and non-psychology. For each paper, we coded its year of publication, whether it had open materials, whether it had open data, and whether it had been conducted using an online, crowd-sourced platform (i.e. MTurk or Prolific).

6.2.3 Experimental design properties

We coded experimental design on the basis of student reports, which often quoted from the original methods, and if that did not suffice, the original paper itself. To assess the role of repeated measures, we coded the number of trials seen per participant, including filler trials and trials in all conditions, but excluding training or practice trials.

We coded whether the manipulation in the study was instantiated in a single instance ("single vignette"). Studies with one induction or prime used per condition across participants were coded as having a single vignette. Studies with multiple instances of the manipulation (even if each participant only saw one) were coded as not being single vignette. While most studies with a single vignette only had one trial and vice versa, there were studies with a single induction and multiple test trials, and other studies with multiple scenarios instantiating the manipulation, but only one shown per participant.

We coded the number of subjects, post-exclusions. We coded whether a study had a between-subjects, within-subjects, or mixed design; for analyses mixed studies were counted as within-subjects designs. In the analysis, we used a log-scale for number of subjects and numbers of trials.

6.2.4 Properties of replication

We coded whether the replication was conducted on a crowd-sourced platform; this was the norm for the class projects, but a few were done in person. As the predictor variable, we used whether the recruitment platform was changed between original and replication. This groups the few in-person replications in with the studies that were originally online and stayed online in a "no change" condition, in contrast with the studies that were originally in-person with online replications.

We coded the replication sample size (after exclusions). This was transformed to the predictor variable log ratio of replication to original sample size.

As a control variable, we included whether the original authors were faculty at Stanford at the time of the replication. This is to account for potential non-independence of the replication (ex. if replicating their advisor's work, students may have access to extra information about methods).

We made note of studies to exclude from some of the sensitivity analyses, due to not quite aligned statistics, extremely small or unbalanced sample sizes, or where the key statistical measure the student chose was not of central importance to the original study.

6.2.5 Determination and coding of key statistical measure

For each study pair, we used one key measure of interest for which we calculated the predictor variables of p-value and effect size and the statistical outcome measures p_original and prediction interval. If the student specified a single key measure of interest and this was a measure that was reported in both the original paper and replication, we used that measure. If a student specified multiple, equally important, key measures, we used the first one. When students were not explicit about a key measure, we used other parts of their report (including introduction and power analysis) to determine what effect and therefore what result they considered key. In a few cases, we went back to the original paper to find what effect was considered crucial by the original authors. When the measures reported by the student did not cleanly match their explicit or implicitly stated key measure, we picked the most important (or first) of the measures that were reported in both the original and replication. These decisions could be somewhat subjective but importantly they were made without reference to replication outcomes.

Whenever possible, we used per-condition means and standard deviations, or the test statistic of the key measure and its corresponding degrees of freedom (ex. T test, F test). We took the original statistic from the replication report if it quoted the relevant analysis or from the original paper if not. We took the replication statistics from the replication report.

We then calculated p values, ES, p_orig, and predInt. We choose to recalculate p values and effect sizes from the means or test statistic rather than use reported measures when possible because we thought this would be more reliable and transparent. The means and test statistics are more likely to have been outputted programmatically and copied directly into the text. In contrast, p-values are often reported as <.001 rather than as a point value, and effect size derivations may be error prone. By recording the raw statistics we used and using our available code to calculate other measures, we are transparent, as the test statistics can be searched for in the papers, and all processing is documented in code.

In some cases, p-values and or effect sizes were not calculable either due to insufficient reporting (ex. reporting a p-value but no other statistics from a test) or key measures where p-values and effect sizes did not apply (ex. PCA as measure of interest). Where studies reported beta estimates and standard errors or proportions, SMD isn't an applicable measure, but we were still able to calculate p_original and prediction interval.

We separately coded whether the original and replication effects were in the same direction, using raw means and graphs. This is more reliable than the statistics because F-tests don't include the direction of effect, and some students may have flipped the direction in coding for betas or t-tests. In the processed data, the direction of the effect of the replication was always coded consistently with the original study's coding, so a positive effect was in the same direction as the original and a negative effect in the opposite direction.

In regressions, we used SMD and log p-value as predictors.

6.3 Modelling

Due to the monotonic missingness of the data, we had more predictor variables and outcome variables for some original-replication pairs than others. To take full advantage of the data, we ran a series of models, with some models having fewer predictors, but more data, and others having more predictors, but more limited data.

We ran a model predicting the subjective replication score on the basis of demographic and experimental predictors on the entire dataset; we ran two models predicting p_original and prediction interval from demographic and experimental predictors on the subset of data where we had p_original and prediction intervals. Then, on the smaller subset of the data where we had SMD and p-values, we re-ran these three models with those as additional predictor variables.

The subjective replication scores were coded on [0, .25, .5, .75, 1], and we ramapped these to 1-5 to run an ordinal regression predicting replication score. We ran logistic regressions predicting prediction interval and linear regressions predicting p_original.

All models used a horseshoe prior in brms. All models will include random slopes for predictors nested within years of the class (year) to control for variation between cohorts of students. We did not include any interaction terms in the models. All numeric predictor variables were z-scored after other transforms (e.g., logs) to ensure comparable regularization effects from the horseshoe prior.

As a secondary sensitivity analysis, we examined the subset of the data where the statistical tests had the same specification, the result was of primary importance in the original paper (i.e. not a manipulation check), and there were no big issues with the replication.

Results of more models in supplement. TODO

Acknowledgements

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Appendix A

Some appendix text.

Appendix B

More appendix text.