Psychology 305A: Lecture 16

Begin Evolutionary Perspective

1

Exam 3

- Mean = 68%
- Range = 30% - 100%

2

Problem Items

12. Based on the research discussed in class, each of the following is a way that a parent might influence his/her child's self-esteem, EXCEPT:

a) By expressing negative emotions toward the child
b) Through shared genes
c) By promoting certain peer and teacher interactions
d) By living in a wealthy neighborhood
e) All of the above are ways a parent might influence a child's self-esteem

3

Problem Items

21. All of the following are valid approaches used to develop a trait taxonomy, EXCEPT:

a) Linguistic analyses, to find the words people most frequently use to describe others
b) Observe how people behave and which traits seem to characterize the most frequent behaviors
c) Figure out how the words that people use to describe others group together semantically
d) Come up with a theory about which traits should be most important
e) Use factor analysis to determine the correlations among various trait terms

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Problem Items

27. The genetic approach addresses:

a) whether personality is due to nature or nurture

b) the proportion of variance in a trait that is due to genes

c) the genetic basis of group differences

d) all of the above

e) A and B only

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Problem Items

30. Which of the following is NOT a fundamental question addressed by people who study traits?

a) How many traits exist?

b) How can traits be changed?

c) How can we identify which traits are most important?

d) How can we develop a comprehensive trait taxonomy?

e) What is the best way to measure traits?

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Evolutionary Perspective

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Evolutionary Perspective

- How do heritable traits get passed on?
- Why do humans have some of the traits we have?
- Why are men and women different?
- Why do humans have individual differences in social behavior and personality?
  - Weakest point of evolutionary perspective

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Evolutionary Perspective

- We are *biologically programmed* to engage in behaviors that facilitate survival and reproduction
  - e.g. eating, sex, fighting enemies, cooperating with friends
- These behaviors maximize the likelihood that our genes will be passed down to the next generation
- Natural selection is the process by which adaptive behaviors are selected
  - People with genes for adaptive behaviors live to pass these genes on
- The result is a human nature that reflects behaviors that have been adaptive throughout evolutionary history

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Evolutionary Perspective

- To study personality from an evolutionary perspective, think about how personality traits might be adaptive
  - Does a particular trait increase your likelihood of survival? (*Natural Selection*)
  - Does a particular trait increase your likelihood of finding a mate and reproducing? (*Sexual Selection*)
  - Does a trait influence the likelihood that your relatives will survive (*Inclusive Fitness*)

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INTRODUCTION

Inclusive Fitness

- Explains behaviors that seem maladaptive
  - Altruism, self-sacrifice
    - Prediction: more altruism toward kin than non-kin
    - Evidence supports this, at least in self-report
  - Other examples of seemingly maladaptive behaviors –which may be partly due to genes-- that might benefit our family members?

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Evidence for the Evolutionary Perspective on Personality

- Humans across cultures and non-human primates show similar social behaviors
  - Attachment (parent-child & pair bonding)
  - Affiliation, need to belong
  - Coalitions
  - Status hierarchies
  - Competition for resources
  - Emotion expressions
  - Sexual jealousy
- All of these behaviors promote survival and reproduction

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Evidence for Evolutionary Perspective: Universal Emotions

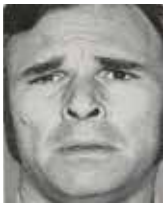
Surprise

Anger

Disgust

Fear

Happiness


Sadness

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INTRODUCTION

Why are emotion expressions adaptive?

- Send messages that can save lives of sender and receiver (natural selection and inclusive fitness)
- Fear
  - "Don't attack!"
- Happy
  - "I'm friendly"
- Sad:
  - "I need comfort"
- Disgust:
  - "This food will make you sick"
- Anger:
  - "I'm going to attack!"
- Surprise
  - "Look over there!"

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Are there other universal emotion expressions?

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INTRODUCTION

17

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Why would a pride expression be adaptive?

- Occurs after success, so may communicate success to others
  - "I'm a successful person who deserves high status"

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Pride Recognition
Forced-Choice Test

"Circle the emotion that best matches the emotion expressed by the person in the photo":

Surprise *Pride* *Happiness* *No emotion*

INTRODUCTION

Pride Recognition
Open-Ended Test

"Which emotion is being expressed in this photo?" _____

Manipulating Components of the Expression

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The Pride Expression

89% Pride Recognition

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Why is it adaptive for pride to look like this?

- Head and neck tilted slightly back
  - Look above others
  - Approach oriented
- Expanded posture
  - Dominance
  - Draws attention
- Slight smile
  - Social cohesion
  - Individual remains within the group

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INTRODUCTION

But, is pride universal?

- Ekman and colleagues (1969)
  - Studied isolated Fore tribe in Papua New Guinea
- Need to study pride in isolated culture

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Is Pride Universal?

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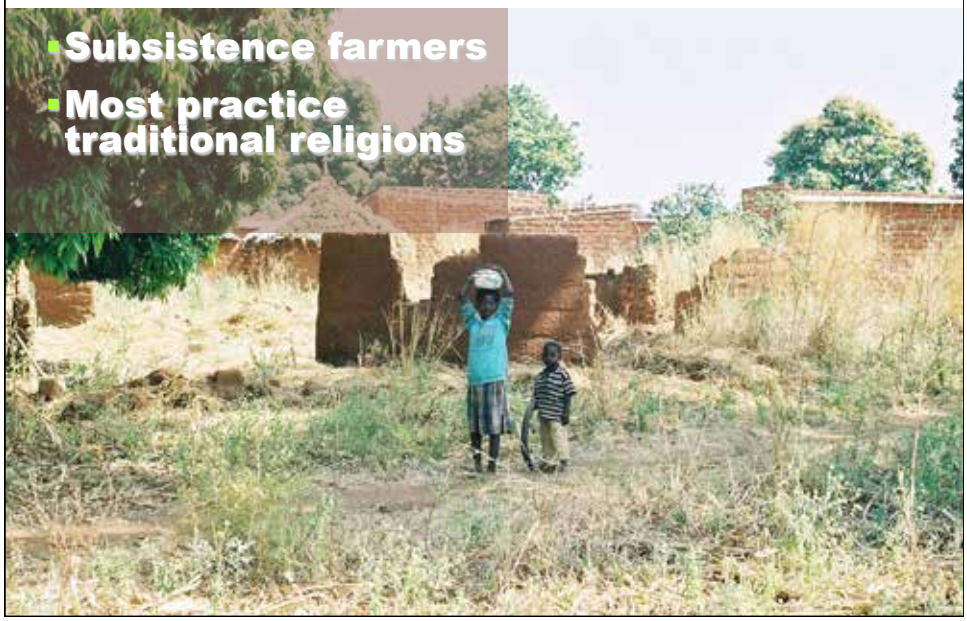
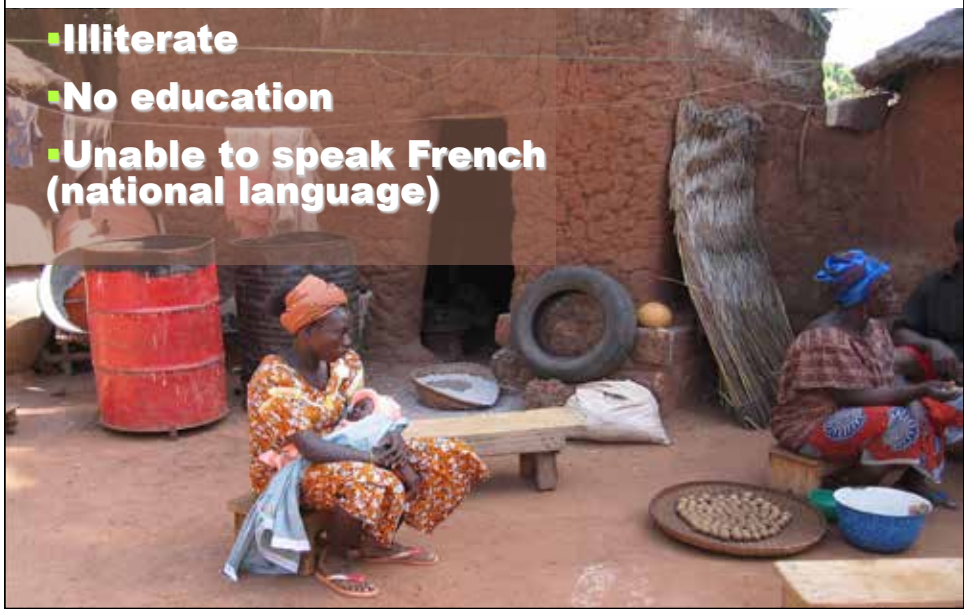
INTRODUCTION

Burkina Faso Study



Burkina Faso Study



INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

George W. Bush: 0%

Tom Cruise: 0%

Tony Blair: 0%

Michael Jordan: 0%

David Beckham: 0%

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President Campore: 69%

Thomas Sankara: 51%

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Burkina Faso Study

Selon vous, laquelle des émotion la personne avait quand la photo a été prise? Choisissez une émotion seulement. *[cocher une réponse]*

Colère Dégoût Peur Content Fier Triste

Surpris Avoir Honte Autre emotion:_____ Je ne sais pas

INTRODUCTION

Could they recognize pride?

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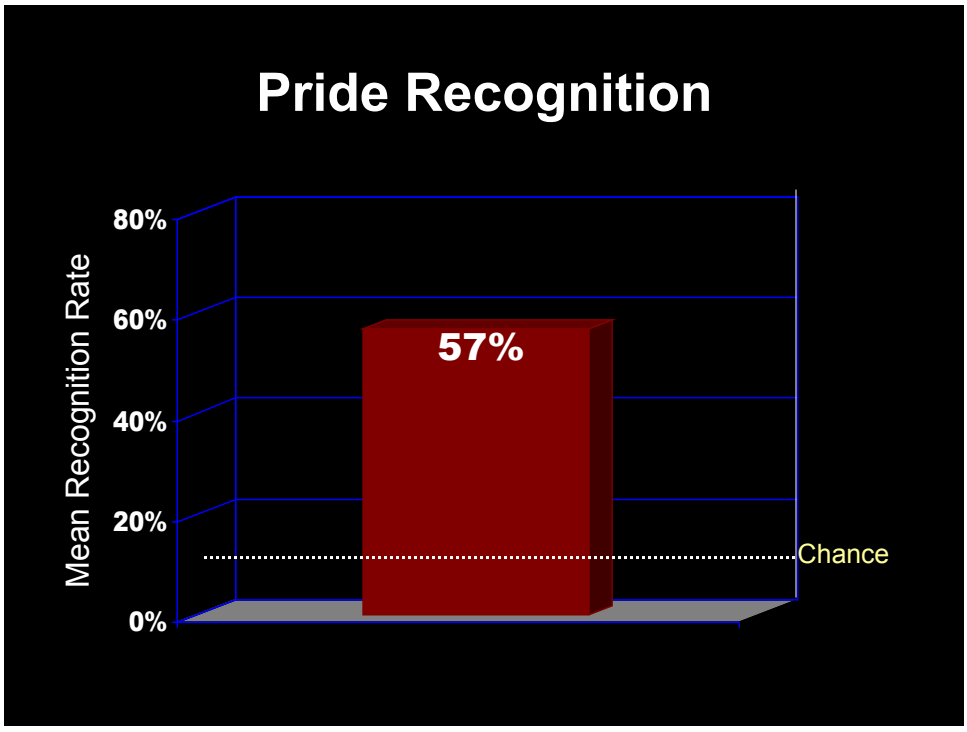

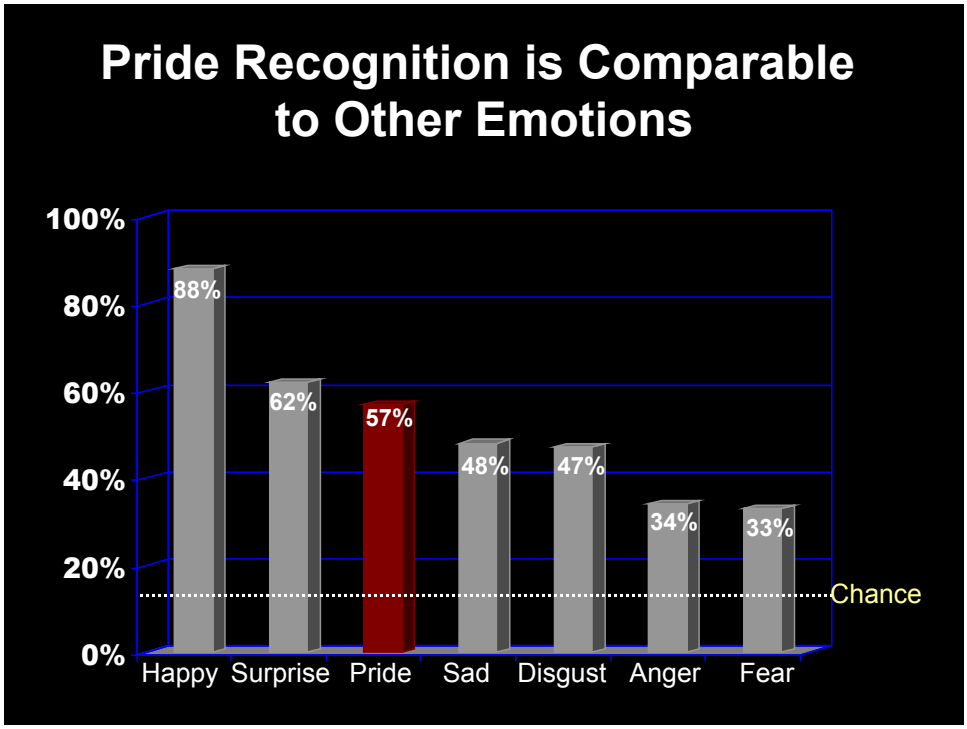

Next Class

- Film: Body Doubles
  - Will begin right at 2 pm; please be on time.
- Monday, March 2: Finish Evolutionary Approach
  - Read Larsen & Buss, Ch. 8

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