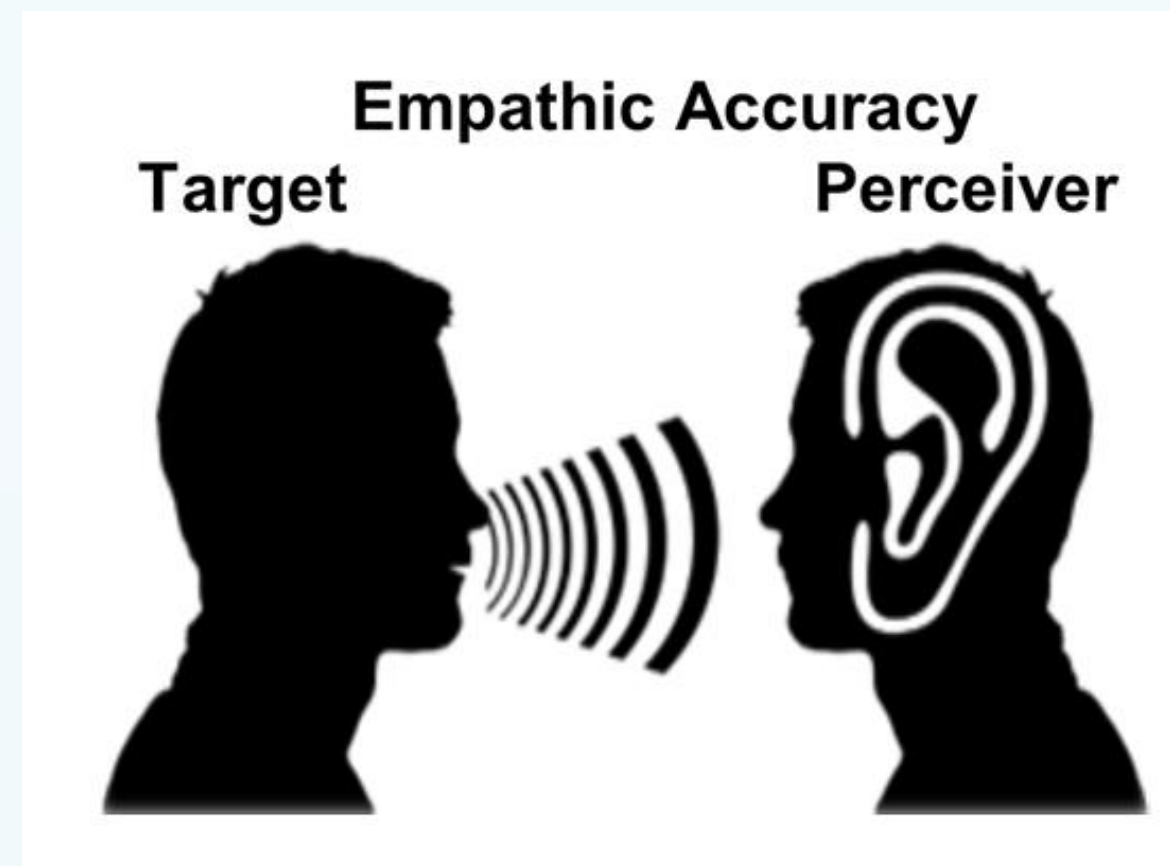


INTRODUCTION

- Making accurate judgments about others is associated with positive social outcomes and higher levels of psychological health and well-being¹



- Empathic Accuracy** was defined as the extent to which judges (referred to as Perceivers) can accurately infer the feelings and thoughts of others (referred to as Targets)²
- Empathic accuracy was shown to be strongly associated with the verbal and non-verbal emotional expressivity of targets³
- Expressive accuracy** refers to the extent to which targets transparently express the aspects of themselves or their subjective experiences that are being judged by perceivers⁴

CURRENT STUDY

- The first to directly investigate the association between expressive accuracy of targets and empathic accuracy of perceivers
- We examine this association in a naturalistic context of supportive dyadic interactions between young adult same-gender friends

KEY PREDICTIONS

- A significant positive correlation between expressive accuracy and empathic accuracy in the context of a dyadic interaction between friends
- Friends will exceed the level of empathic accuracy that would be expected solely on the basis of expressive accuracy due to factors such as shared knowledge, familiarity etc.

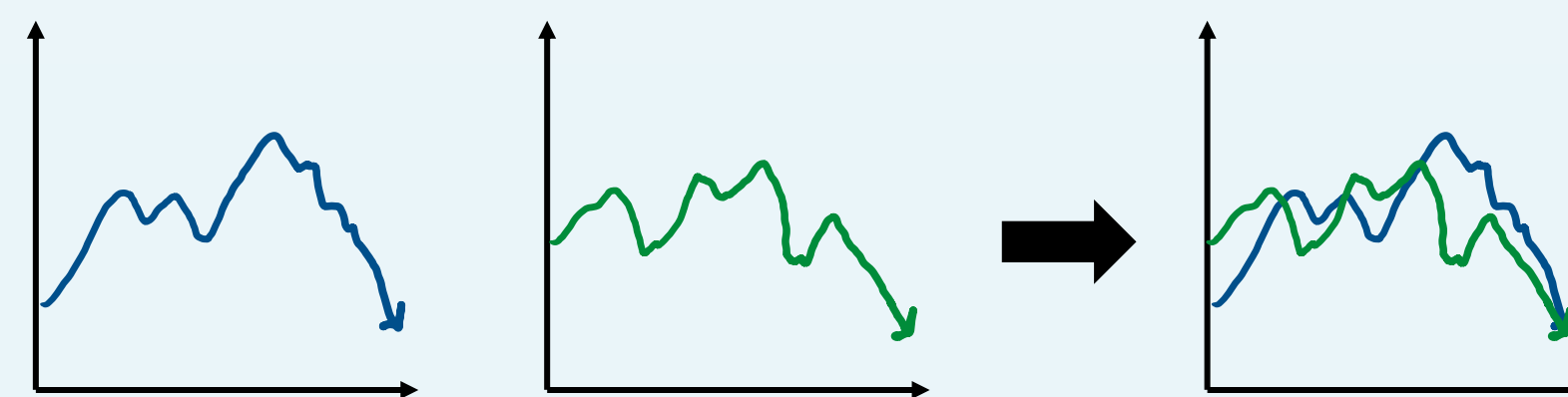
METHODS

Phase 1: Empathic Accuracy

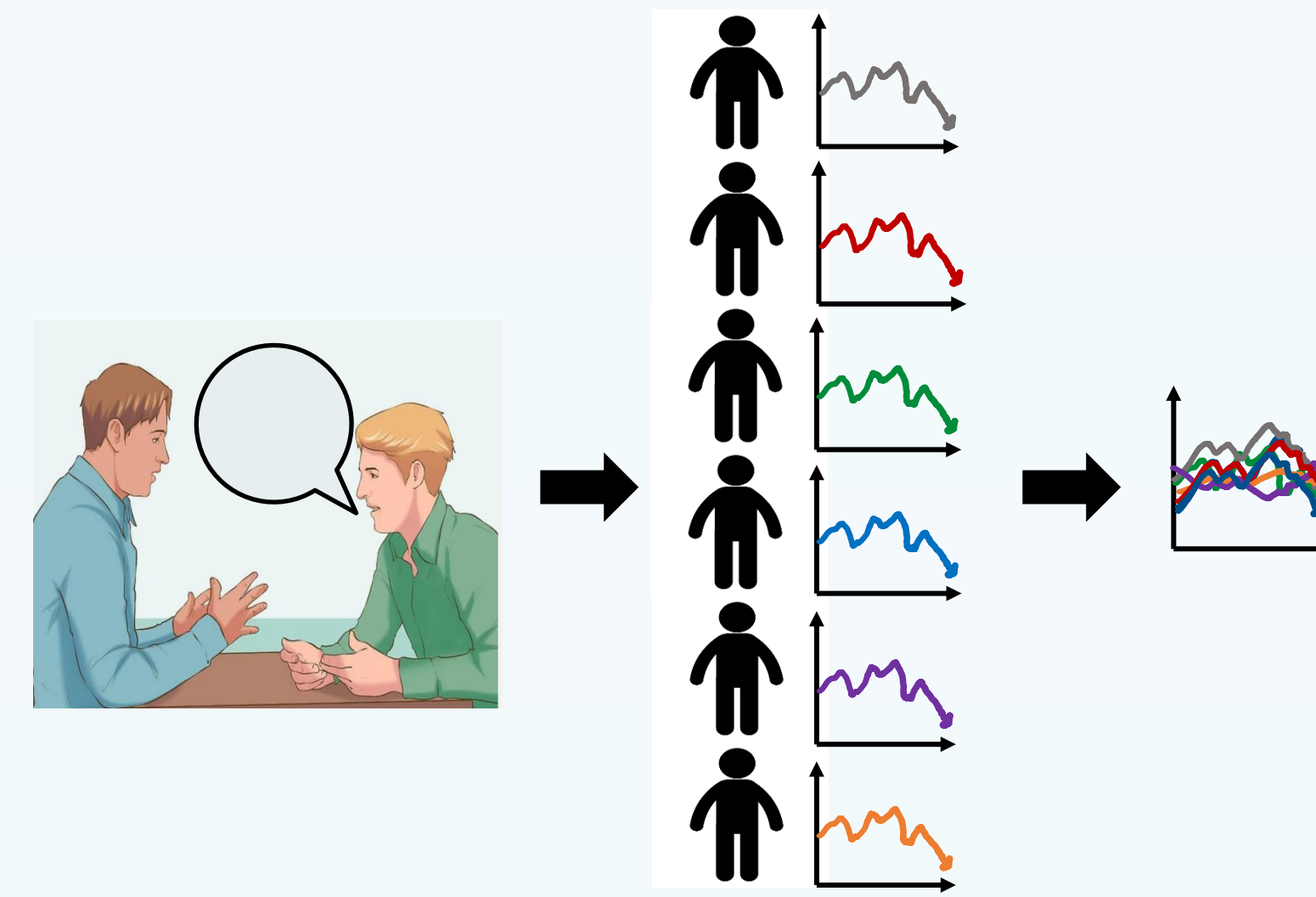
- We used the Problem Talk Task (PTT)⁵



- Participants: 137 young adult same-gender friend dyads (66.4% women, 44.6% men, mean age = 19.61)
- Then they watched video clips of the interaction and continuously rated their affect, or their friend's affect on a 9-point Likert scale from 1 (very negative) to 9 (very positive)^{6,7}
- Empathic Accuracy scores** were obtained by correlating the targets' affect ratings with the inferred affect ratings by perceivers



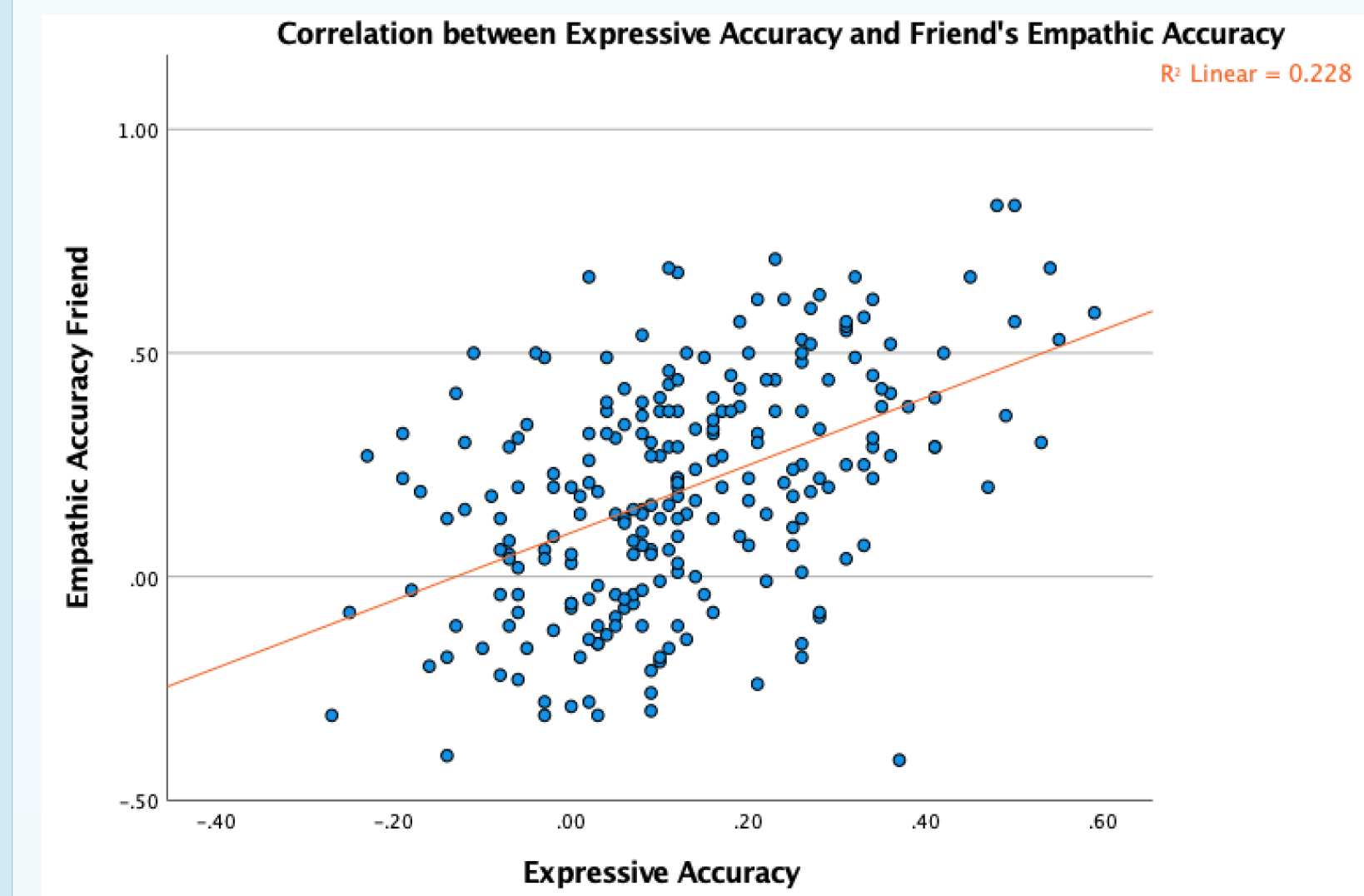
Phase 2: Expressive Accuracy



- 15 independent raters were recruited (8 men and 7 women, mean age = 21.07)
- For each video, 6 raters (50% men/women) watched and rated each video from phase 1
- Raters acted as perceivers using the same procedure as in phase 1
- Expressive Accuracy scores** were computed as the average Empathic Accuracy across raters

RESULTS

- Approximately 22.8% of the variance in empathic accuracy of the perceiver was accounted for by expressive accuracy of the target, $r(234) = 0.478, p < .001$.
- Linear mixed model analysis confirmed that expressive accuracy significantly predicted empathic accuracy $b(217) = 0.733, t = 8.172, p < .001$, even after controlling for the gender of the target and whether English was their first language.



- Empathic accuracy scores ($M=0.194, SD = 0.258$) were significantly higher than expressive accuracy scores ($M = 0.126, SD = 0.163$), $t(235) = 4.51, p < .001$.
- Linear mixed model analysis interclass correlations (ICC) indicated that dyad membership accounted for 0.217 of the total variance in empathic accuracy but only 0.015 of the total variance in expressive accuracy

CONCLUSIONS

- 1) Expressive accuracy is a key predictor of empathic accuracy
- 2) Characteristics of friendship (e.g., shared knowledge between friends) might be associated with higher empathic accuracy scores than expressive accuracy scores, and with similarity between friends in empathic accuracy but not in expressive accuracy

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