

"If you agree with me, it must be true"

Social verification creates shared reality and consolidates impressions

Matteo Masi, Gerrit Lamers, Gerald Echterhoff
University of Münster

Shared reality with peers satisfies epistemic and relational needs. In doing so, it shapes memory and accessibility of person-specific information (Wagner et al., 2024).

Social verification increases the sense of shared reality (Rossignac-Milon et al., 2024), **but its influence on impression formation remains unclear.**

METHODS

4 experiments (1 pre-registered), N = 1342

Self-reported experience of shared reality (SR-T)

Evaluative choice-consistency: tendency to assign positive vs. negative traits to chosen applicants.

Accessibility: reaction times in trait attributions

See figure for procedure →

RESULTS

Verification increased **shared reality** and **evaluative choice-consistency** (Exps 1-2), especially when traits were domain-relevant (Exp 3), without increasing recognition rates for traits presented or implied in applicants' descriptions (Exp 4).

Across studies, shared reality correlated positively with evaluative choice-consistency ($r = .17^{***}$)

Accessibility's results were inconsistent.

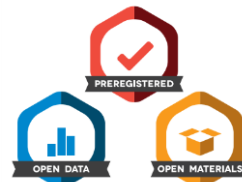
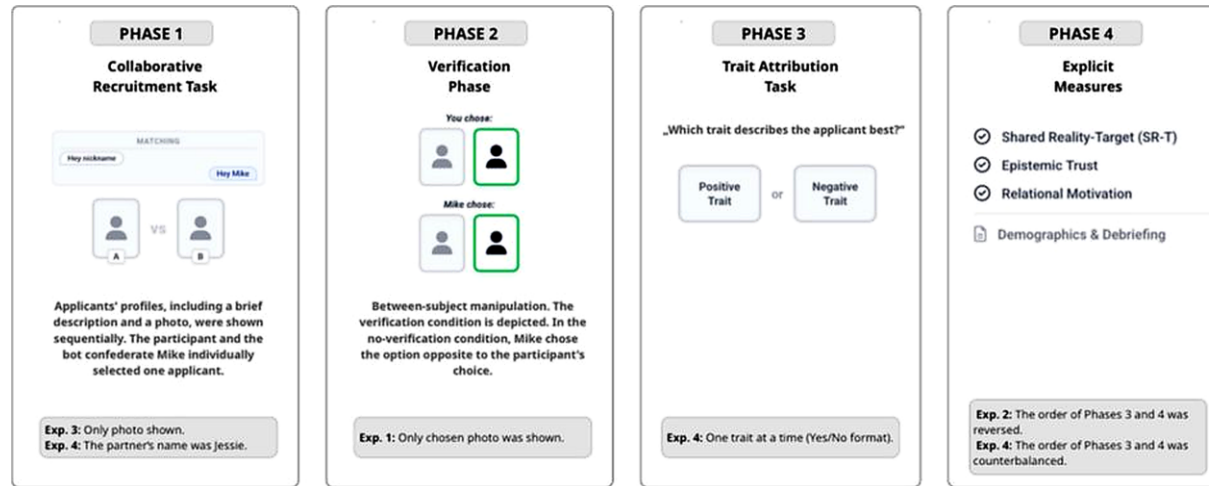
DISCUSSION

Verification effects consolidated evaluations but not accurate semantic representations and accessibility, which was more context-dependent: this pattern can be a genuine psychological dissociation. Future research is needed to better disentangle their effects and examine the impact.

1. In a collaborative task, the **experience of shared reality** increased when peers verified decisions about job applicants.

2. Verification increased **evaluative choice-consistency** in trait attributions, and this latter correlated positively with the experience of shared reality.

3. Verification and shared reality shape social cognition and judgments.



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

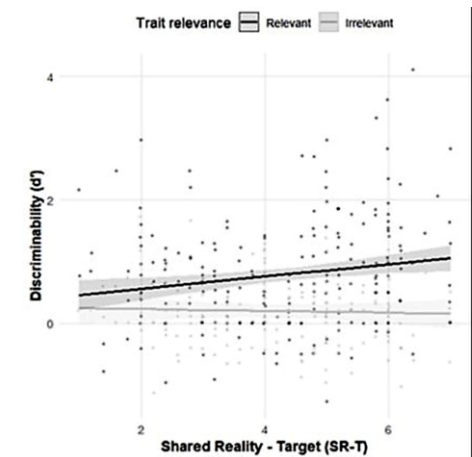
Shared Reality - Target (SR-T, Rossignac-Milon et al., 2024)

- I think that X and I are on the same wavelength with regard to Y.
- I feel the same way about Y as X does.
- I agree with X's point of view of Y.
- X and I see Y in the same way.
- I agree with X's perception of Y.

Evaluative choice-consistency calculation

Evaluative choice-consistency (Exps 1-3) and trait-specific recognition (Exp 4) were calculated adapting signal detection theory's discriminability (d') to our design and attribution task.

Experiment 3 moderation



Shared-reality effect on evaluative consistency as a function of domain-relevance of traits used in the attribution task.

Domain relevant traits: competent, intelligence

Domain-irrelevant traits: musical, athletic