Instructor: David Hauser (he/him)
Email: david.hauser@queensu.ca

Virtual office hours: Wednesday, 10 AM to noon EST (other times available upon request)
Virtual office hours link: here (be aware that clicking this will basically drop you straight into the meeting):

Required Texts
There is no textbook for this class. All readings for the course will consist of journal articles, review articles, or book chapters, available on Course Reserves (which is accessible via the onQ site). Please see the Reading list for a complete list of references for the readings, and please see the Class Schedule for the weeks corresponding to those readings.

Course Overview
This course will explore the science behind how seemingly-innocuous changes in language can impact how people think about social concepts. For instance, do metaphorical frames impact how we think about diseases (such as cancer and COVID-19)? Do subtle variations in wording (such as talking about causing vs producing) influence how we view other people? This course sheds light on how language shapes the mental models that we use to understand and reason about complex social phenomena.

This course is structured as if it were a guided reading and research group. The priorities are to acclimate students to classic and modern research on the link between language and reasoning and to build students’ abilities to develop their own empirical research skills related to this area. There are no tests, no lectures, and because of remote delivery, there are no in person discussions. Additionally, in an effort to keep the course asynchronous, there are no scheduled “zoom” discussion sections. Instead, the majority of the coursework is comprised of weekly readings and weekly discussion with classmates about the readings via the onQ discussions forum. Toward the end of the term, each student will develop and present an original research idea related to language and reasoning, provide feedback upon one another’s presentations, and adapt the presentation into a project proposal (which will serve as the final project of the course).

Intended Student Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of this course, a successful student should be able to:
1. Understand, evaluate, and discuss with classmates major constructs in language and reasoning, such as the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis, conceptual metaphors, and distributed semantics
2. Develop and present an original research project proposal related to language and reasoning
3. Provide constructive feedback on others’ research project proposals
4. Write an APA-style proposal of the original research project

Assessments and Grading Scheme
- Forum discussion of readings – 20% of course grade
- Proposal presentation – 30% of course grade
- Final proposal – 50% of course grade
In this course, some components will be graded using numerical percentage marks. Other components will receive letter grades, which for purposes of calculating your course average will be translated into numerical equivalents using the Faculty of Arts and Science approved scale. Your course average will then be converted to a final letter grade according to the Queen’s Official Grade Conversion Scale.

Please note that there will be no “rounding up” of final grades (as in, a final percentage of 79.6 will receive a B+ and not an A-). The logic is as follows: to treat all students equally, whatever points I add to one student’s grade I must also add to all students’ grades. So, if I bump up a 79.6 to an A-, I effectively add .4 to that student’s grade, which I must then add to all students’ grades. After that, someone else will be on the cusp, and bumping them will put someone else on the cusp, etc, etc. Rinse and repeat and everyone has A+s. For these reasons, final grades receive no rounding up.

Assessment Details:
Forum discussion of readings – 20% of course grade
Content weeks (Weeks 1 – 10) – 80% of forum discussion grade
This course is intended to be a discussion-based course (but delivered asynchronously because of remote delivery). Thus, a major component of the course involves student discussion, and the success of this class rests on the active participation of all students. Each student is expected to make two contributions to the discussion forum each week. See below for examples of contributions. I will provide discussion questions and prompts at the beginning of each week, but students can also ask questions and pose prompts as long as they are made early in the week (prior to Thursday). Students must make a minimum of 2 substantive (longer than 40 words) posts each week by Friday at 2 pm (EST). I will monitor these discussions as posts are made and by logging in throughout the week to offer commentary.

Participation will be graded on the basis of effort to integrate course material (e.g., you make reference to course readings, outside readings, or readings from past or present Psychology or related disciplines), engagement (evidence that you are responding to other people), and critical thinking. Each post will be graded on a 5-point scale and added so that your total score per week will be X/10. For Content weeks (Weeks 1 – 10), I am only counting your highest 8 weeks’ scores. Your lowest 2 week scores will be dropped (i.e., you can take two weeks off). These dropped week scores will not be reflected in your course grade.
Here are some examples of the discussion contributions you might make:
- Ask a question, prior to Wednesday only
- Answer someone else’s question (Based on the readings this week, or some outside reading I did – link here – I think the answer to your question is X)
- Add to a question (Yes, X, but I also wonder about Y)
- Critically evaluate an answer (I agree/disagree because X, citing evidence)
- Discuss the quality of evidence to support/refute a point made by someone else (I agree/disagree with that point because there is the following issue with the evidence)
- Point out a related literature (This paper reminds me of research on X…)
- Blow it all up (Why does this matter? What connection does this have to real life? Does this ever even happen in real life? Why should people care?)

Discussion Guidelines. University and discussion-based courses are places to share, question, and challenge ideas. Each student brings a different lived experience from which to draw upon. To help one another learn the most we can from this experience, please consider the following guidelines:
1. Make a personal commitment to learn about, understand, and support your peers.
2. Assume the best of others and expect the best of them.
3. Acknowledge the impact of oppression on the lives of other people and make sure your writing is respectful and inclusive.
4. Recognize and value the experiences, abilities, and knowledge each person brings.
5. Pay close attention to what your peers write before you respond. Think through and re-read your writings before you post or send them to others.
6. It’s OK to disagree with ideas, but do not make personal attacks.
7. Be open to being challenged or confronted on your ideas and to challenging others with the intent of facilitating growth. Do not demean or embarrass others.
8. Encourage others to develop and share their ideas.
9. Do not draw from personal experience or provide anecdotal evidence when discussing topics. Students in the class have not consented to hear about your personal life. The discussion should focus upon course materials and be critical while also supportive and inclusive.

Late post submission due dates and grace period. There may be a time when you are unable to complete a discussion board post for personal reasons. This course has been designed with accommodations and considerations for extenuating circumstances in mind. This means that “Short term Requests for Academic Consideration” (submitted through the Faculty of Arts and Science portal without documentation) are not needed and long term requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis if needed.

- Each week’s readings will be made available onQ on Sunday morning at 9 am (EST).
- All forum posts will be due by Friday at 2 pm (EST).
- There is a 72 hour grace period for forum posts, such that late forum posts will be accepted up until Monday at 2 pm (EST), but let me know in advance if you are taking it.
- As mentioned before, the lowest 2 week scores will be dropped (i.e., you can take two weeks off from making any discussion posts).

Presentation weeks (Weeks 11 – 12) – 20% of forum discussion grade
Many of the learning outcomes for this course involve developing an original research project proposal, communicating it to others, and helping others develop their own research project proposals as well. In
the last two weeks of the course, students will be “presenting” their research project proposals and providing feedback on one another’s proposals.

During the two presentation weeks, content will be other students’ project proposal presentations. Students will upload their presentations to the onQ discussion board by the deadline. Presentations will be made available on presentation weeks in onQ by Sunday morning of Week 11 at 9 am. Students are expected to view and provide feedback on each students’ presentation by Friday, Week 12, at 2 pm (with a 72 hour grace period, which must be requested in advance). Feedback should be posted to the onQ discussion board. Feedback will be graded on a pass/fail basis: students receive 10/10 for weeks 11 and 12 if they provided feedback to all presenters, and receive 0/10 for both weeks if they do not provide feedback to all presenters.

Here are some examples of the feedback you might give:
- Ask a question but also give a potential answer (Do you think variable X will be an issue in your study? If so, here might be a way to account for it…)
- Suggest a followup study and why its worth doing (Another study you could do down the road might be X because of Y)
- Point out a related literature (Your idea reminds me of research on X…)
- Note areas of confusion, but be specific about what part was confusing (I liked your design but I was a little confused about the hypotheses. Specifically…)

Notably, there are no “off” weeks or dropped weeks for presentation weeks. This is because it would not be fair to your fellow classmates for you get their feedback on your proposal without you giving them your feedback on their proposal.

**Assessment Details:**

**Proposal presentation – 30% of course grade**

As discussed previously, many of the learning outcomes for this course involve developing an original research project proposal. The remaining assessments relate to that proposal.

Students will develop their own original research project and present a proposal of that project to the class. This is your chance to dive into the topic that you are most interested in learning more about and take a shot at designing your own research project. Project proposals must be unique, meaning two or more students cannot propose the same idea. Project proposals must also incorporate class content in some way, meaning they have to examine some aspect of the link between language and thought.

Project proposals DO NOT need to be projects that you have the capability to run at the moment (as in, I am not expecting you to actually conduct these projects for the class). However, try to make them pre-COVID feasible for a research lab here at Queen’s. Use methods that have either been used before or methods that are easily developed, and avoid projects that you have no idea how it would be implemented. As examples, a project that asks people to read information and make judgments would be feasible. A project that recruits depressive patients, records their conversations using an EAR, and looks at depressive symptoms would also be feasible. A project that records the conversations that take place in a home and measures whether household members purchase products based on their language use would be infeasible (how would you even do that unless you are Jeff Bezos?).

If you have any questions about your project topic and whether it fits, feel free to email me and ask. For tips on developing proposals for research projects (and writing about them), see [https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/grant-proposals-or-give-me-the-money/](https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/grant-proposals-or-give-me-the-money/).
The proposal presentation has two components: an outline and a presentation.

Outline – 20% of proposal presentation grade
Students will submit an outline of their proposal presentation idea to me. Outlines should include the following elements:
- Theoretical rationale – What is the topic and why is it important? What is the research question and why does it need to be answered? What are you planning on studying and what will it tell us that we didn’t know before? (3-5 sentences)
- Hypotheses – What do you expect to happen? (3-5 sentences)
- Method – What will the design look like? What will be the independent variable(s) and what will be the dependent variable(s)? (5+ sentences)
- Expected results – How do you expect the data will pan out? What kinds of statistical tests will be run? (3-5 sentences)

The outline is due by November 12th at 2 pm (with an allowable 72 hour grace period, which must be requested in advance). The purpose of the outline is primarily to nudge students into thinking about their presentations early, so the outline is graded purely pass/fail. If you submit it by the due date, you get full points regardless of the quality of the outline. Outlines submitted outside of the grace period will not be accepted.

Presentation video – 80% of the proposal presentation grade
Students will record a 5 minute video presentation of their project proposal, which will be posted on the onQ site for feedback from other students. The presentation should have the same elements of the outline: theoretical rationale, hypotheses, method, and expected results.

Here are a few general tips:
- Because the presentation is only 5 minutes (max), try not to have any more than 5 slides. More than that and you’ll either go over time, or you’ll be whizzing through slides so fast that viewers will have a hard time even seeing what’s on them.
- Try to not simply narrate what is on your slides (e.g., the presentation is just you reading your slides to us). Instead, use your slides to illustrate themes that you elaborate on in your narration.
- Hypothetical excel graphs are a great way to illustrate your hypotheses and expected results!
- You can keep your method brief. Viewers do not need to know details regarding where you will get your sample from, how many participants you will get, how they will be compensated, etc. We mostly want to know info about what participants will be doing in your study. Viewers will crucially want to know what your independent variable(s) will be, what your dependent variable(s) will be, and how they will be manipulated and/or measured in the context of the study procedure.

Tips, resources, and specific instructions for uploading and sharing the video with the class will be given in a separate document. The presentation video is due by November 19th at 2 pm (with an allowable 72 hour grace period, which must be requested in advance). The grading rubric for presentation videos will be made available in advance in onQ.

Note, videos submitted after the grace period will not be accepted. Presentation videos comprise the content for the last two weeks of the course, so videos that are submitted late cannot be used as content for that week and compromise the purpose of the assignment.

Assessment Details:
Final proposal – 50% of course grade

Finally, to cap off the course, students will submit a written APA style research proposal of their project (10 pages minimum, double-spaced, times new roman font, 1 inch margins). This paper should contain many of the same elements as the proposal outline and proposal video presentation but written in APA format (title page, abstract, introduction, method, expected results, discussion, and references). However, because those assessments are focused on the methods and results, the paper should include a more extensive literature review of past research relevant to your topic and theoretical rationale. More details on the paper and the rubric for grading it will be made available in advance in onQ.

This paper will be due during the final exam period (on the date set for the final exam for the course) and worth 50% of the final course grade. For more details on writing in APA style, see the follow link (https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/apa_sample_paper.html)

Regrading policy for papers and exams

Sometimes, I make mistakes in grading. If I make a clerical error in grading your assignment (e.g., I added up your paper score incorrectly), please reach out to me and I’ll be happy to correct it.

Students who believe that an assignment has not been appropriately graded (e.g., you believe you got a lower grade than you deserve) must contact me to resolve the issue within ten (10) working days of the date when the graded work is returned to the class. Grades not questioned within this period will not be recalculated at a later date. Students are required to submit a written formal request for re-grading. This request must clearly and concisely state why the work warrants a higher grade, must refer to the specific areas of the rubric where the points that were assigned were lower than warranted, and must provide compelling reasons why a higher rubric score is more appropriate than the assigned rubric score. I will respond within five (5) working days. A reassessment may result in the grade remaining the same, being raised, or being lowered. For reference, about 85% of regrade requests result in the same grade, about 10% result in a higher grade, and about 5% result in a lower grade. Students will receive feedback that addresses their rationale for requesting a re-grading of the work.

Location and timing of final examination

The exam dates for each Term are listed on the Faculty of Arts and Science webpage under Important Dates. Student exam schedules for the Fall Term are posted via SOLUS immediately prior to the Thanksgiving holiday; they are posted on the Friday before Reading Week for the Winter Term and for the summer term, they are individually noted on the Arts and Science Online syllabi. Students should delay finalizing any travel plans until after the examination schedule has been posted. Exams will not be moved or deferred to accommodate employment, travel/holiday plans or flight reservations.

Diversity and Inclusiveness

In an ideal world, science would be objective. However, much of science is subjective and is historically built on a small subset of privileged voices. In this class, we will make an effort to read papers from a diverse group of scientists, but limits still exist on this diversity. I acknowledge that it is possible that there may be both overt and covert biases in the material due to the lens with which it was written, even though the material is primarily of a scientific nature. Integrating a diverse set of experiences is important for a more comprehensive understanding of science. I would like to discuss issues of diversity in psychology as part of the course from time to time. Please contact me (in person or electronically) or submit anonymous feedback if you have any suggestions to improve the quality of the course materials.
Furthermore, I would like to create a learning environment for my students that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honors your identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, etc.) To help accomplish this:

- If you have a name and/or set of pronouns that you prefer, please let me know!
- If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please do not hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you. Remember that you can also submit anonymous feedback (which will lead to me making a general announcement to the class, if necessary, to address your concerns).

I (like many people) am still in the process of learning about diverse perspectives and identities. If something was said in class (by anyone) that made you feel uncomfortable, please talk to me about it. (Again, anonymous feedback is always an option.)

As a participant in course discussions, you should also strive to honour the diversity of your classmates.

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**Accommodations for Disabilities**

Queen's University is committed to achieving full accessibility for people with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all their academic activities. The Senate Policy for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities was approved at Senate in November 2016. If you are a student with a disability and think you may need academic accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Queen's Student Accessibility Services (QSAS) and register as early as possible. For more information, including important deadlines, please visit the [QSAS website](#).

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**Academic Consideration for Students in Extenuating Circumstances**

Academic consideration is a process for the university community to provide a compassionate response to assist students experiencing unforeseen, short-term extenuating circumstances that may impact or impede a student’s ability to complete their academics. This may include but is not limited to:

- Short-term physical or mental health issues (e.g., stomach flu, pneumonia, COVID diagnosis, vaccination, etc.)
- Responses to traumatic events (e.g., Death of a loved one, divorce, sexual assault, social injustice, etc.)
- Requirements by law or public health authorities (e.g., court date, isolation due to COVID exposure, etc.)

Queen’s University is committed to providing academic consideration to students experiencing extenuating circumstances. For more information, please see the [Senate Policy on Academic Consideration for Students in Extenuating Circumstances](#).

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Each Faculty has developed a protocol to provide a consistent and equitable approach in dealing with requests for academic consideration for students facing extenuating circumstances. Arts and Science undergraduate students can find the Faculty of Arts and Science protocol and the [portal where a request can be submitted](#). Students in other Faculties and Schools who are enrolled in this course should refer to the protocol for their home Faculty. If you need to request academic consideration for this course, you will be required to provide the name and email address of the instructor/coordinator. Please use the following contact information:
Students are encouraged to submit requests as soon as the need becomes apparent and to contact their Professors/Course Coordinators as soon as possible once Consideration has been granted. Any delay in contact may limit the Consideration options available.

For more information on the Academic Consideration process, what is and is not an extenuating circumstance, and to submit an Academic Consideration request, please see our website.

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**Academic Integrity**

Queen’s students, faculty, administrators and staff all have responsibilities for upholding the fundamental values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage (see [www.academicintegrity.org](http://www.academicintegrity.org)). These values are central to the building, nurturing and sustaining of an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive. Adherence to the values expressed through academic integrity forms a foundation for the "freedom of inquiry and exchange of ideas" essential to the intellectual life of the University (see the Senate Report on Principles and Priorities [http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/policies/senate/report-principles-and-priorities](http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/policies/senate/report-principles-and-priorities)).

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulations concerning academic integrity and for ensuring that their assignments and their behaviour conform to the principles of academic integrity. Information on academic integrity is available in the Arts and Science Calendar (see Academic Regulation 1 [http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academic-calendars/regulations/academic-regulations/regulation-1](http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academic-calendars/regulations/academic-regulations/regulation-1)), on the Arts and Science website (see [https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/students-at-queens/academic-integrity](https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/students-at-queens/academic-integrity)), and from the instructor of this course. Departures from academic integrity include plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation, forgery and falsification, and are antithetical to the development of an academic community at Queen's. Given the seriousness of these matters, actions which contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning or the loss of grades on an assignment to the failure of a course to a requirement to withdraw from the university.

Relevant to academic integrity is plagiarism, intended or not. Regardless of how and where you retrieve information, the principles of academic integrity apply with regard to plagiarism. Please visit these helpful websites to help you make sure that you are able to write things in your own words:

- [https://www.queensu.ca/academicintegrity/students/avoiding-plagiarismcheating](https://www.queensu.ca/academicintegrity/students/avoiding-plagiarismcheating)
- [https://integrity.mit.edu/handbook/academic-writing/avoiding-plagiarism-paraphrasing](https://integrity.mit.edu/handbook/academic-writing/avoiding-plagiarism-paraphrasing)

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**Turnitin**

This course makes use of Turnitin, a third-party application that helps maintain standards of excellence in academic integrity. Normally, students will be required to submit their course assignments through onQ to Turnitin. In doing so, students’ work will be included as source documents in the Turnitin reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism.

Turnitin is a suite of tools that provide instructors with information about the authenticity of submitted work and facilitates the process of grading. Turnitin compares submitted files against its extensive database of content, and produces a similarity report and a similarity score for each assignment. A similarity score is the percentage of a document that is similar to content held within the
database. Turnitin does not determine if an instance of plagiarism has occurred. Instead, it gives instructors the information they need to determine the authenticity of work as a part of a larger process.

Please read Turnitin’s Privacy Pledge, Privacy Policy, and Terms of Service, which governs users’ relationship with Turnitin. Also, please note that Turnitin uses cookies and other tracking technologies; however, in its service contract with Queen’s Turnitin has agreed that neither Turnitin nor its third-party partners will use data collected through cookies or other tracking technologies for marketing or advertising purposes. For further information about how you can exercise control over cookies, see Turnitin’s Privacy Policy.

Turnitin may provide other services that are not connected to the purpose for which Queen’s University has engaged Turnitin. Your independent use of Turnitin’s other services is subject solely to Turnitin’s Terms of Service and Privacy Policy, and Queen’s University has no liability for any independent interaction you choose to have with Turnitin.

**Copyright of Course Materials**
The material presented in class is designed for use as part this course at Queen’s University and is the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as the book chapters and articles found on onQ) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law. Copying this material for distribution (e.g., uploading material to a commercial third-party website) can lead to a violation of Copyright law. Find out more about copyright here: [http://library.queensu.ca/copyright](http://library.queensu.ca/copyright).

**Changes to the syllabus**
In extreme circumstances, the syllabus and/or course schedule may be modified at my discretion. I will announce all changes via onQ.

**Grace periods and late policies**
There may be a time when you are unable to complete an assignment by the due date for personal reasons. This course has been designed with accommodations and considerations for extenuating circumstances in mind. This means that “Short term Requests for Academic Consideration” (submitted through the Faculty of Arts and Science portal without documentation) are not needed and long term requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis if needed.

At the same time, because this is a discussion-based course, many assessments are designed to promote/facilitate discussion among the class (namely, the discussion posts and the proposal presentation). In these circumstances, late submissions deprive classmates of the opportunity to respond or are akin to making a contribution after everyone else has moved on to a new topic. This is the reasoning behind the following polices.

**Forum discussion.** Each week, forum posts will are due by Friday at 2 pm (EST). There is a 72 hour grace period for forum posts, such that late forum posts will be accepted up until Monday at 2 pm (EST) the following week, but let me know in advance if you are taking it. Additionally, in line with universal design learning principals, each student is permitted two penalty-free weeks off from forum discussions (excluding presentation weeks). So, two weeks (out of eight weeks) do not count toward your course grade, washing away those zeros.

**Proposal presentation outline.** The outline is due by November 12th at 2 pm. There is an allowable 72 hour grace period (which must be requested in advance of the due date). The purpose of the outline is
primarily to nudge students into thinking about their presentations early, so the outline is graded purely pass/fail. If you submit it by the due date (or the grace period if it is requested), you get full points regardless of the quality of the outline. Outlines submitted outside of the due date (or grace period if it is requested) will not be accepted.

**Proposal presentation videos.** The presentation video is due by November 19\textsuperscript{th} at 2 pm. There is an allowable 72 hour grace period (which must be requested in advance of the due date). Proposal presentation videos make up the content for the last two weeks of class. Other students will be providing feedback on them, and they cannot provide feedback on submissions that are not there. Therefore, presentation videos submitted outside of the due date (or grace period if it is requested) will not be accepted.

**Final proposal papers.** Final proposal papers will be due on the date assigned “final exam date” (although we won’t have a final exam, this paper is it). The due date will be announced in onQ once it is set. There is an allowable 72 hour grace period (which must be requested in advance of the due date). Proposal papers will be penalized 10 percentage points for every day that they are late.
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Reading list

Week 1, Sept 7: Welcome, read the syllabus plz and ask questions!

Week 2, Sept 13: Introduction to the Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis

Week 3, Sept 20: Sapir-Whorf and colours

Week 4, Sept 27: Sapir-Whorf and time

Week 5, Oct 4: Introduction to conceptual metaphors

Week 6, Oct 18: Metaphors and sensory states
Week 7, Oct 25: Metaphoric frames and health

Week 8, Nov 1: Distributional semantics and collocation

Week 9, Nov 8: Distributional semantics and word embeddings
- [http://jalammar.github.io/illustrated-word2vec/](http://jalammar.github.io/illustrated-word2vec/)

Week 10, Nov 15: Distributional semantics and bias
- Caliskan, A., & Lewis, M. (2020, July 16). Social biases in word embeddings and their relation to human cognition. [https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/d84kg](https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/d84kg)