



Dog and Owner Personalities: A Correlational Study

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INTRODUCTION

Background research

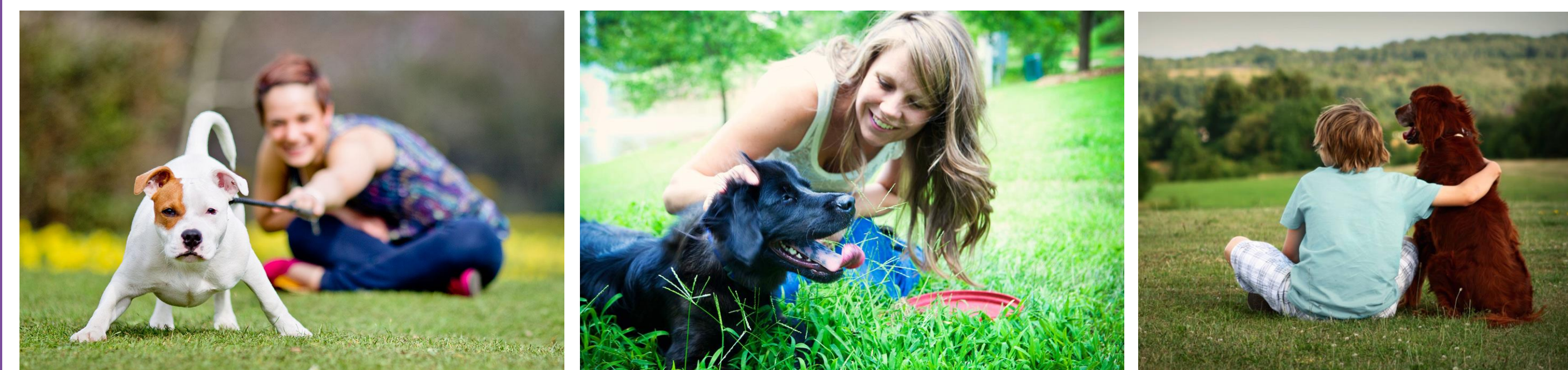
- Previous literature suggests that personality dimensions can be measured within canines (e.g., Gosling & Vazire, 2002), however most research on personality falls within the human domain (Jones and Gosling, 2005).
- There are limited amount studies that interpret human demographics with canine demographics (e.g., Gosling, Kwan, & John, 2003) and even fewer studies that directly compare human personality to canine personality (e.g., Roy & Christenfield, 2004).

Research purpose

- Therefore, the purpose of the current study was to determine if there would be a correlation between an owner's personality and their dog's personality, in addition to the owner's attachment to their dog, and further serve as a stepping-stone to better compare the two.

Hypothesis

- The researchers hypothesized that there would be relationships between canine personality, owner's personality, and owner's attachment.



METHOD

Participants

- N=87 (Male = 11; Female = 76)

Materials

- Participant Demographics
- Dog Demographics
- Big Five Inventory (John & Srivastava, 1999).
- CENSHARE Pet Attachment Survey (Holcomb, Williams, & Richards, 1985),
- Dog Personality Questionnaire (Jones, 2008)

Procedure

- Participants signed up on SONA Systems and signed an informed consent.
- After completing the survey, participants were given feedback.

RESULTS

- Overall, the results of the correlations revealed a significant correlations between owner personality and dog personality, a significant correlations between owner personality and dog attachment, and a significant correlation between dog personality and dog attachment.
- Higher dog attachment was correlated with a less fearful dog ($r=.471, p<.001$).
- Higher neuroticism in the owner was correlated with higher fearfulness in the dog ($r=.229, p<.042$).
- Higher extraversion in the owner was correlated with less fearfulness in the dog ($r=-.299, p<.007$).
- Higher excitability in the dog was correlated with higher dog attachment ($r=.471, p<.000$).
- Higher conscientiousness in the owner was correlated with a more responsive dog ($r=.302, p<.007$).
- Higher openness in the owner was correlated with a more responsive dog ($r=.267, p<.017$).
- Higher aggression in the dog was correlated with less pet attachment ($r=-.321, p<.004$).

		Correlations									
		DPQ_Fearful	DPQ_Excitability	DPQ_Responsive	DPQ_Aggressive	BFF_Extraversion	BFF_Agreeableness	BFF_Conscientiousness	BFF_Neuroticism	BFF_Openness	PetAttachmentScale
DPQ_Fearful	Pearson Correlation	1	-.434**	-.426**	.462**	-.299**	.004	-.143	.229	-.116	-.245*
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000	.000	.007	.969	.208	.042	.308	.030
	N	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79
DPQ_Excitability	Pearson Correlation	-.434**	1	.184	-.057	.314**	-.043	.195	-.127	.016	.471**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.105	.618	.005	.706	.085	.266	.889	.000
	N	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79
DPQ_Responsive	Pearson Correlation	-.426**	.184	1	-.292**	.364**	.123	.302**	-.189	.267	.219
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.105		.009	.001	.280	.007	.096	.017	.053
	N	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79
DPQ_Aggressive	Pearson Correlation	.462**	-.057	-.292**	1	-.028	-.174	-.082	.113	-.105	-.321**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.618	.009		.804	.124	.471	.322	.355	.004
	N	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79
BFF_Extraversion	Pearson Correlation	-.299**	.314**	.364**	-.028	1	.238*	.473**	-.287*	.371**	.147
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.007	.005	.001	.804		.034	.000	.010	.001	.195
	N	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79
BFF_Agreeableness	Pearson Correlation	.004	-.043	.123	-.174	.238*	1	.270*	-.449**	.194	-.072
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.969	.706	.280	.124	.034		.016	.000	.086	.531
	N	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79
BFF_Conscientiousness	Pearson Correlation	-.143	.195	.302**	-.082	.473**	.270*	1	-.085	.234	.135
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.208	.085	.007	.471	.000	.016		.455	.038	.236
	N	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79
BFF_Neuroticism	Pearson Correlation	.229*	-.127	-.189	.113	-.287*	-.449**	-.085	1	-.262*	.008
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.042	.266	.096	.322	.010	.000	.455		.020	.941
	N	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79
BFF_Openness	Pearson Correlation	-.116	.016	.267*	-.105	.371**	.194	.234*	-.262*	1	.172
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.308	.889	.017	.355	.001	.086	.038	.020		.130
	N	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79
PetAttachmentScale	Pearson Correlation	-.245*	.471**	.219	-.321**	.147	-.072	.135	.008	.172	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.030	.000	.053	.004	.195	.531	.236	.941	.130	
	N	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79	79

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

* . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

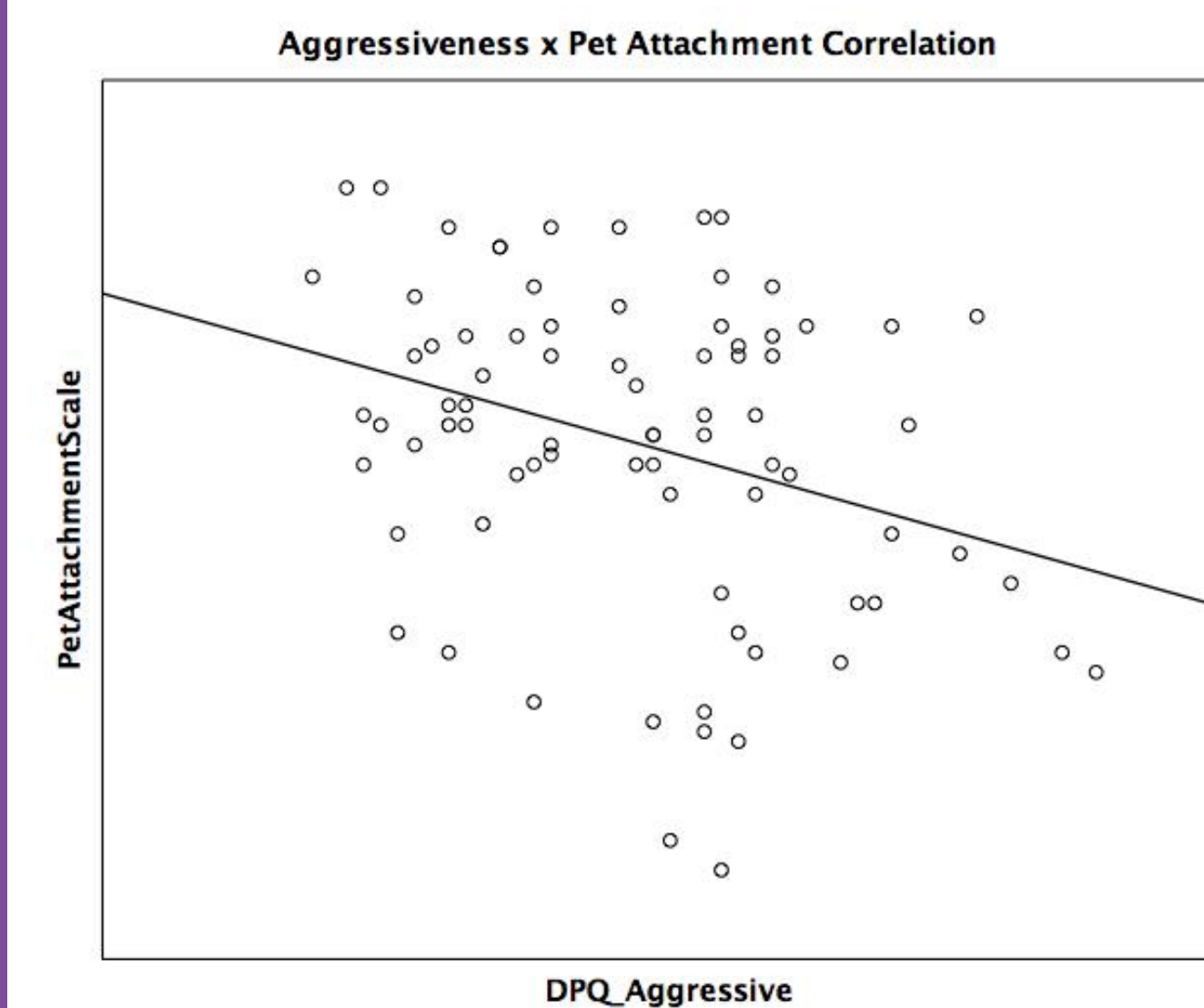


Figure 1. Pet attachment and aggressiveness.

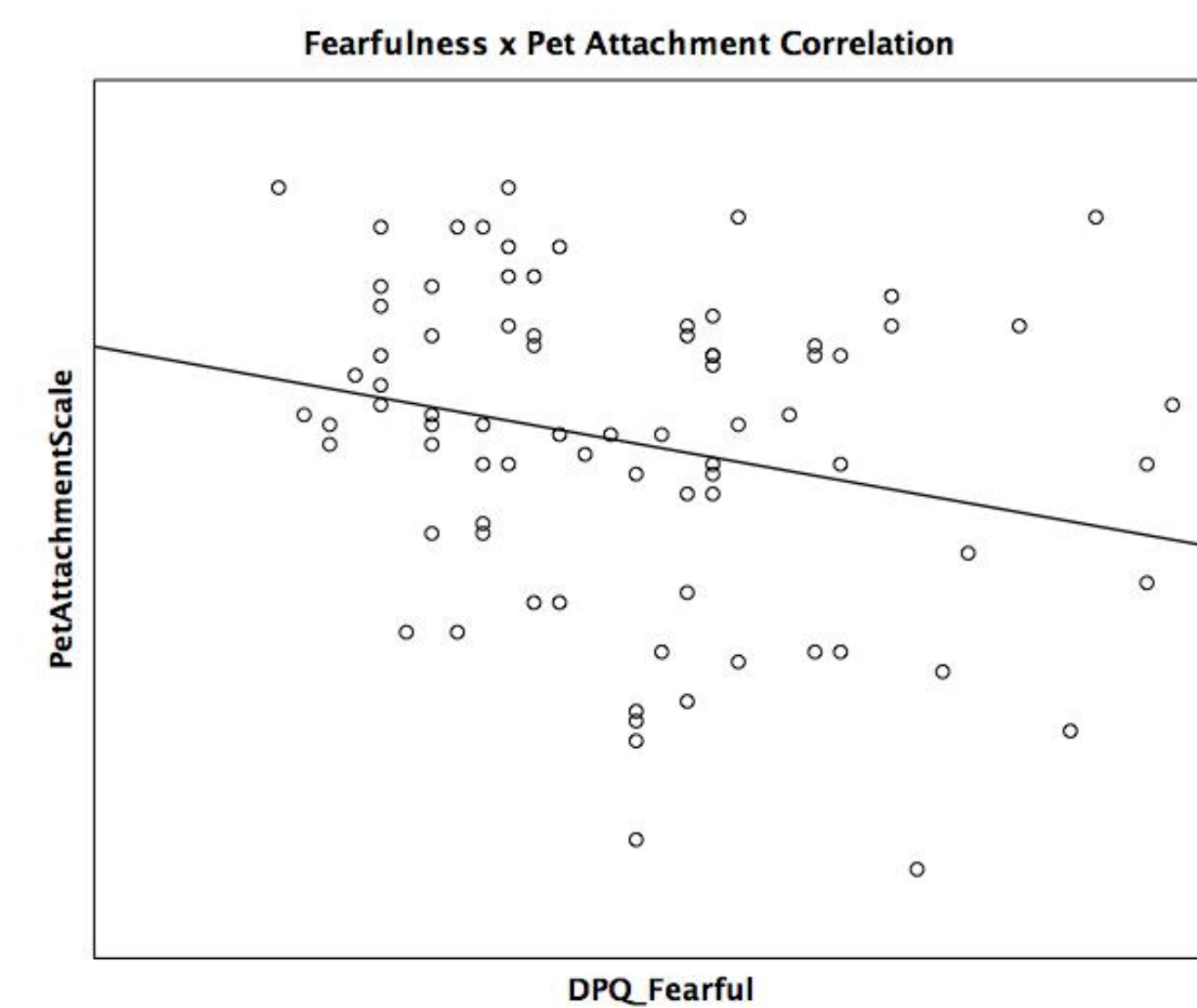


Figure 2. Pet attachment and fearfulness.

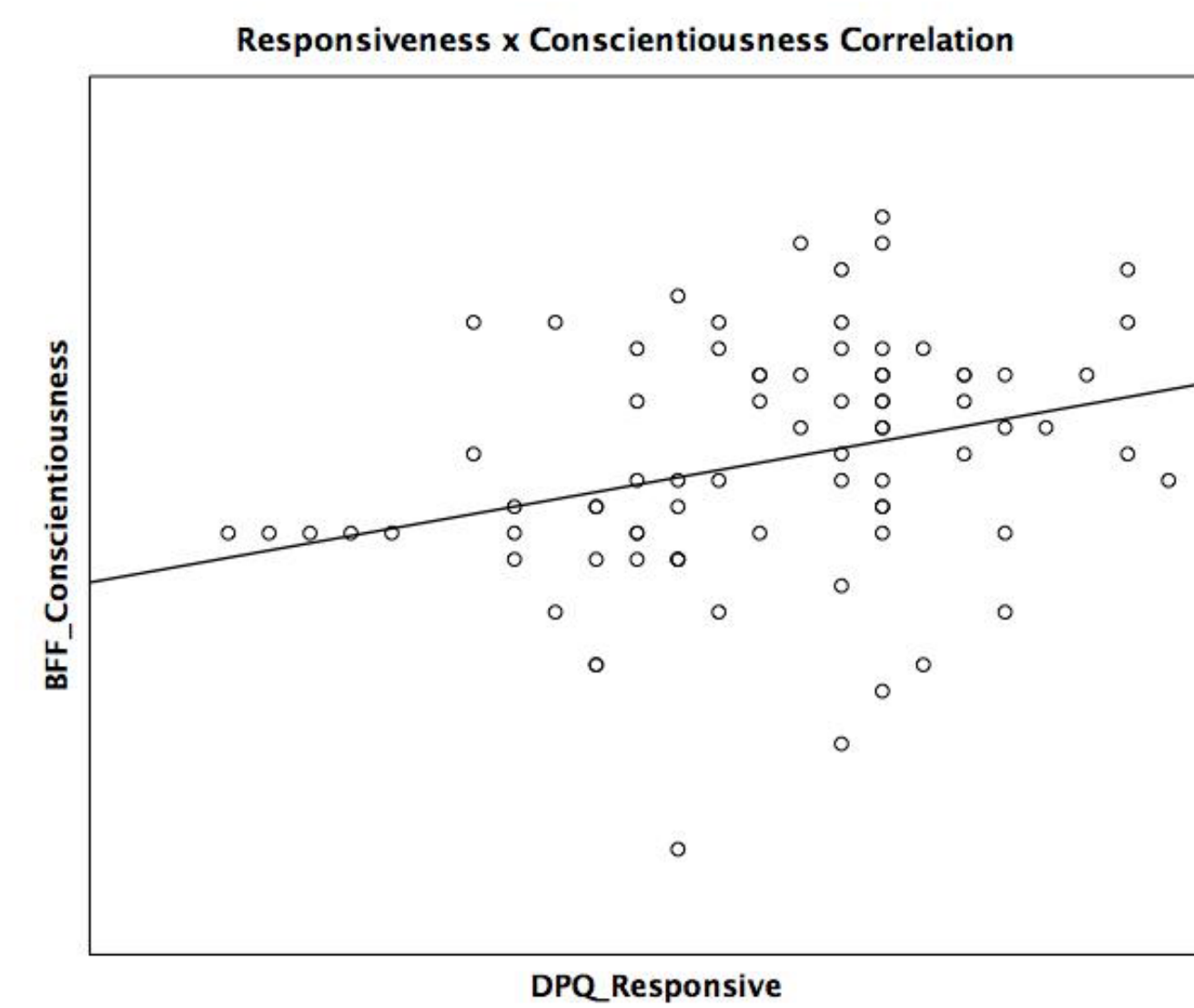


Figure 3. Responsiveness in dog owner conscientiousness.

DISCUSSION

Conclusion

- The current results showed significant relationships between owner personality, dog personality, and dog attachment.

Implications

- The findings are relevant because they may be able to better establish the relationship between human personality and dog personality.
- The findings also help better define how attachment may be a useful tool in human and dog personality.

Limitations

- Small sample size.
- Sample specific to college students.

Future Research

- Future research should look into attachment and personality between humans and other pet animals (e.g., pocket pets, cats).

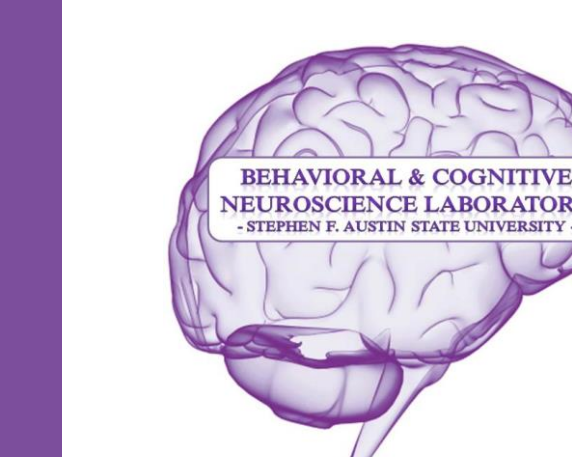
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