

MECHANISMS OF VIOLENCE TRANSMISSION: CREDIBLE DISPLAYS, PRESTIGE, DOMINANCE, AND RELIGION

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TRANSMITTING INTERGROUP VIOLENCE

- Incidents of intergroup violence can be studied as „epidemics“ in which humans learn to behave violently via **social learning strategies (SLSs)**.
- Ordinarily, violent individuals are **not suitable cultural models** to learn from.
- However, during the **intergroup conflict**, decreasing the fitness of out-groups by hurting them increases the fitness of the in-groups, making intergroup violence **parochially altruistic** behavior that is morally permissible.



SOCIAL LEARNING STRATEGIES

PRESTIGE AND DOMINANCE

- Humans have evolved two ways how to achieve social status – **dominance** (forcing and manipulating others) and **prestige** (attracting others as learners).
- Hypothetically, violence becomes associated with prestige during intergroup conflicts, making **violence learnable**.

CREDIBILITY ENHANCING DISPLAYS

- CREDs: doing as saying shows **commitment** to mental representations and **spreads** beliefs and behaviors.
- Hypothetically, CREDs aggressing out-groups **promote the transmission** of intergroup violence among in-groups.

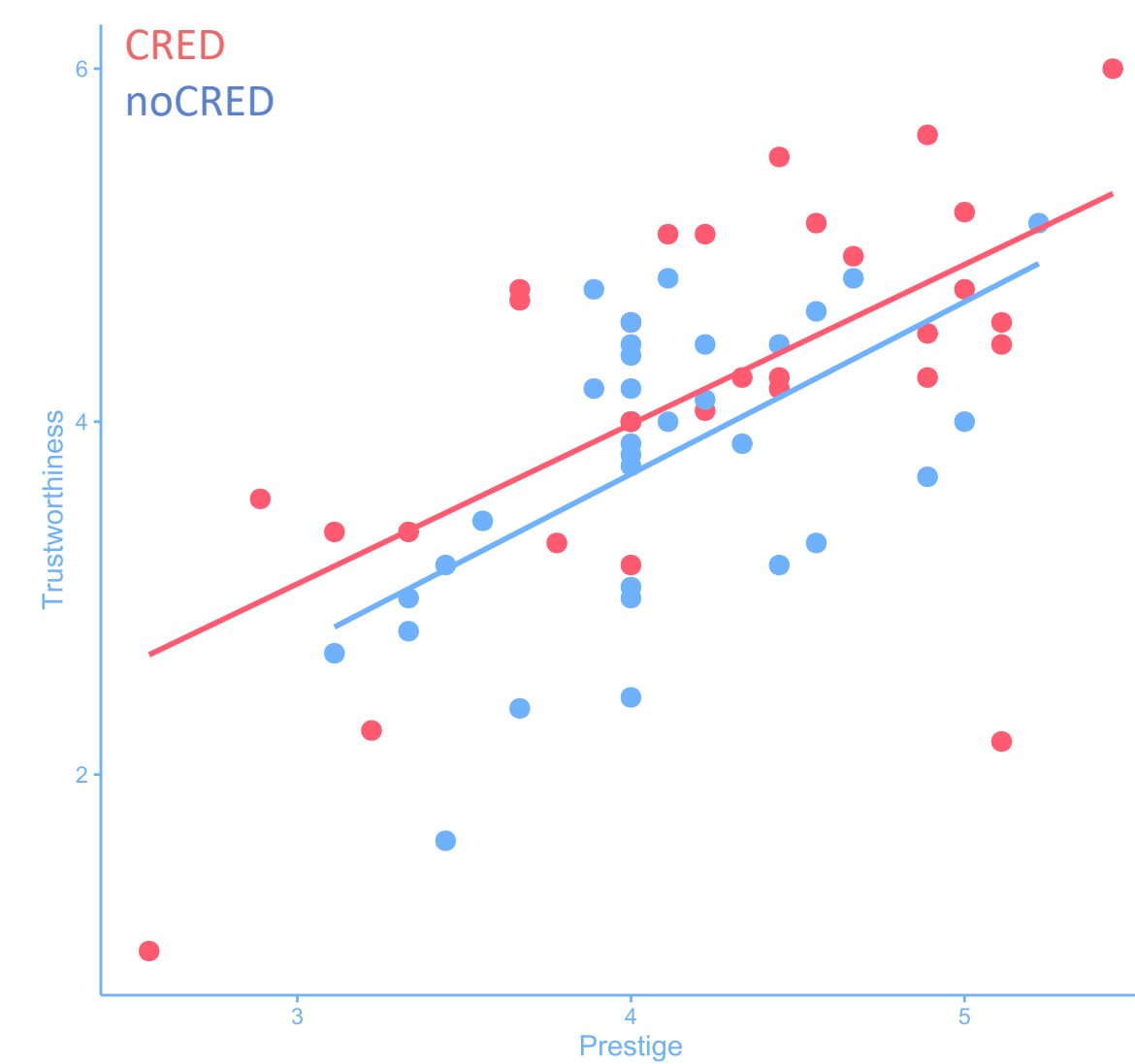
RELIGION

- Religious people are perceived as more **trustworthy**.
- Hypothetically, supporting SLSs by religion **increases the chances** of transmission of intergroup violence.
- Religion is not to be considered a cause of intergroup conflict, but rather an **effective catalyst** that may motivate individuals to participate in intergroup conflict.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS: VIGNETTE BASED SELF-REPORT STUDY

HYPOTHESIS: Performing a violent CRED hurting an out-group increases the perceived trustworthiness of an in-group model.

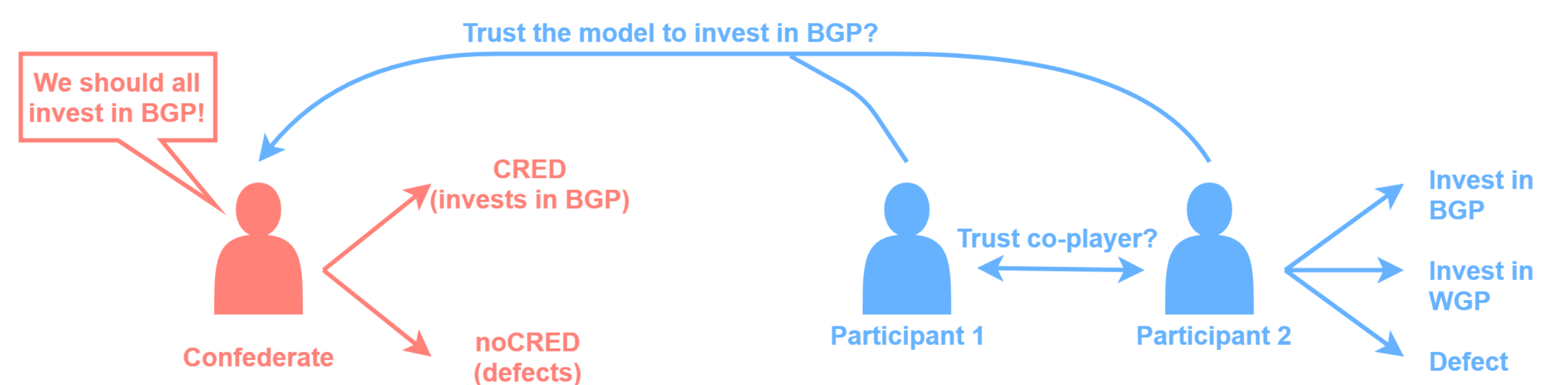
ONLINE VIGNETTE: A Czech guerilla fighter killed an SS officer during WW2.



TO-DO: INTERGROUP PRISONER'S DILEMMA – MAX DIFFERENCES

HYPOTHESIS: Observing a model performing aggressive CRED against out-group team promotes aggression in learners.

ECONOMIC GAME:



Notes:

BGP = Between-group pool (+1 to self and co-players, -1 to each opponent), i.e., benefit the in-group and attack the out-group.

WGP = Within-group pool (+1 to self and co-players), i.e., benefit the in-group.

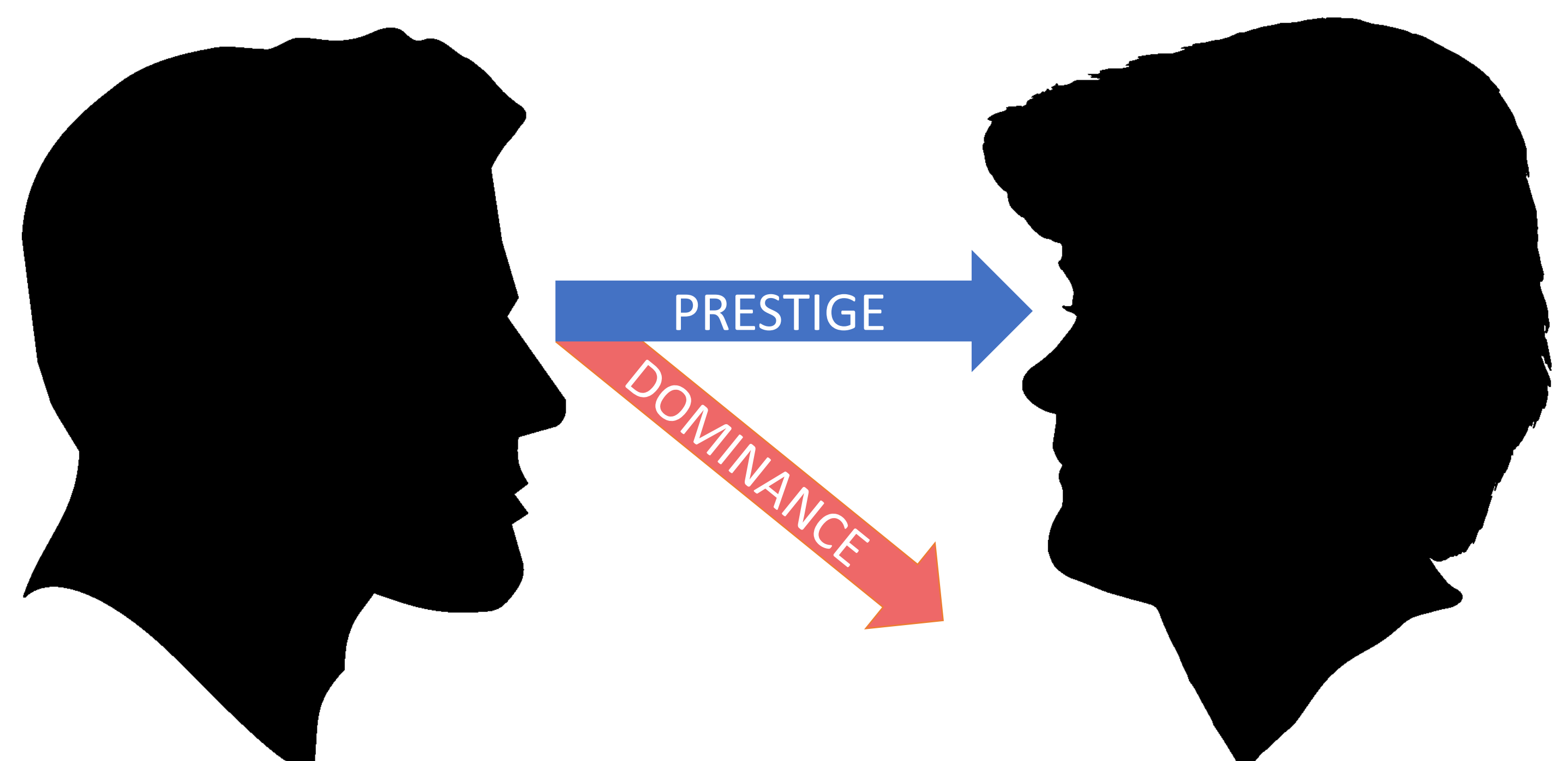
Defect (+2 to self), i.e., benefit self.

TO-DO: EYE-TRACKING THE PRESTIGE AND DOMINANCE

HYPOTHESIS: Subjects stare into model's eyes longer if he performs a violent CRED against an out-group.

- Prestigious model – attentive and prolonged gaze.
- Dominant model – careful and short glances.

FACEBOOK PROFILE EXPLORATION: Time spent staring into the profile picture eye region.



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