

A CULTURAL EVOLUTION MODEL FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF INTERGROUP RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE

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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.



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

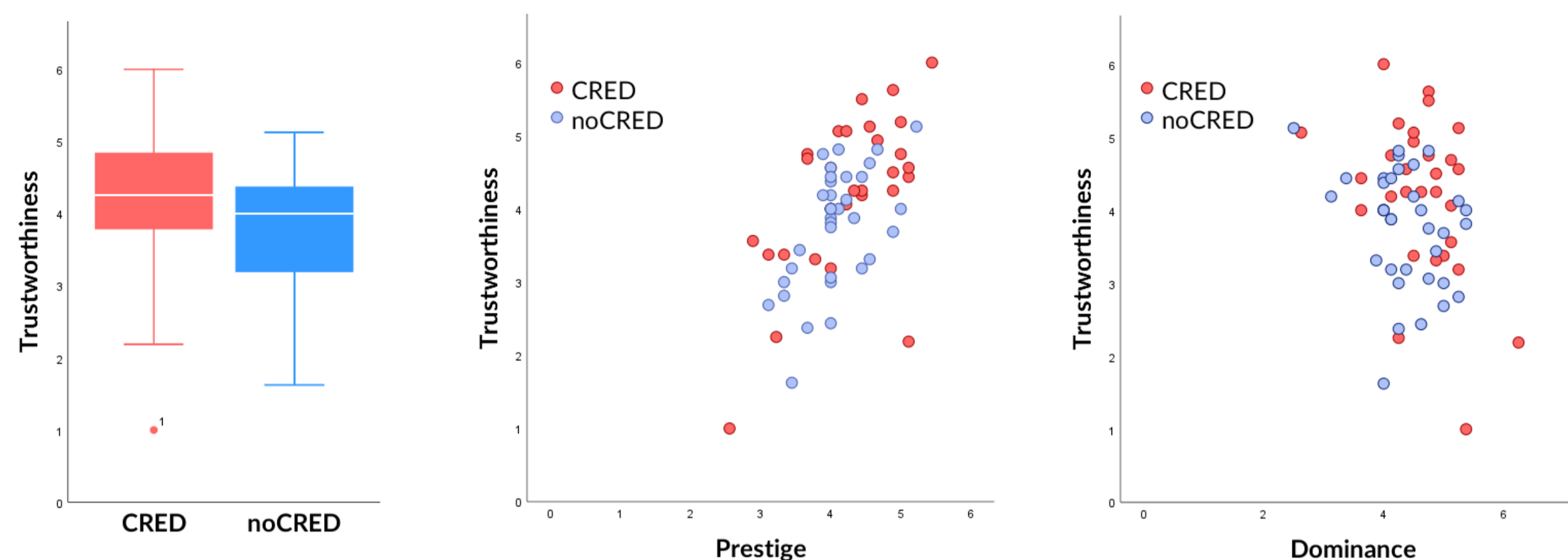
- CREDs: doing as saying shows **commitment** to mental representations and **spreads** beliefs and behaviors.
- Hypothetically, CREDs aggressing out-groups **promote the transmission** of intergroup violence among in-groups.

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.

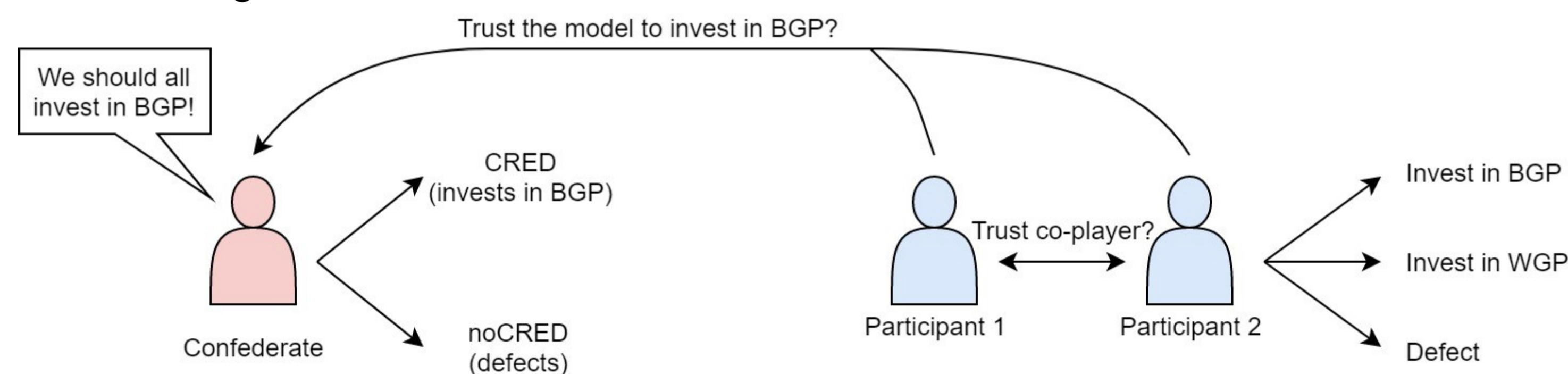
PRELIMINARY RESULTS: VIGNETTE BASED SELF-REPORT STUDY

- 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 – MAXIMIZING DIFFERENCES

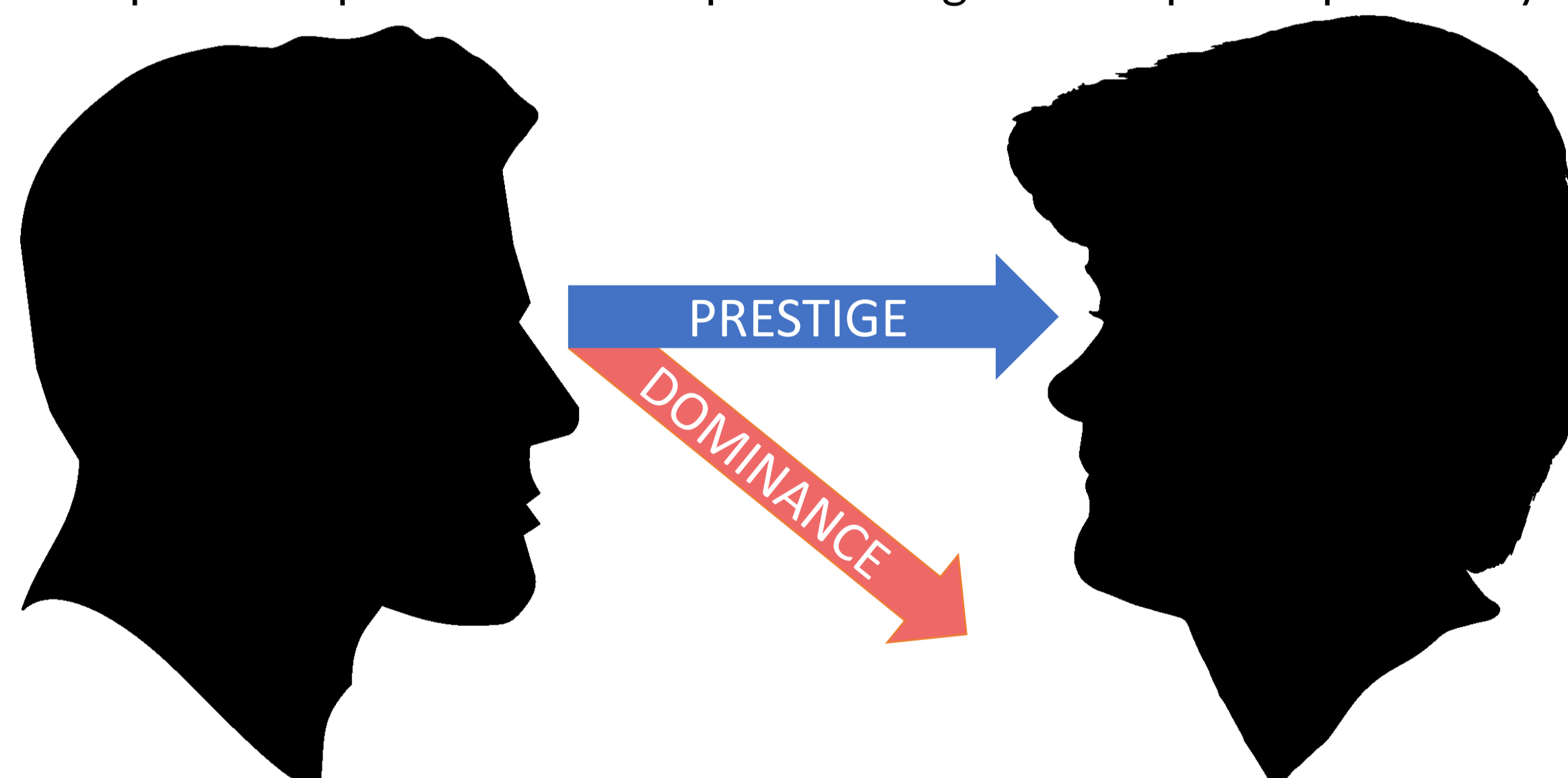
- Hypothesis:** Observing a model performing aggressive CRED against out-group team promotes aggression in learners.
- Economic game:



Notes:
BGP = Between group pool (+1 co-players, -1 opponents), i.e. attack the out-group, benefit the in-group.
WGP = Within group pool (+1 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.
- Facebook profile exploration: Time spent staring into the profile picture eye region.



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