

Interpersonal Valence of Ethnocultural Empathy

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INTRODUCTION

- Ethnocultural empathy involves feeling for others who are culturally, ethnically, and/or racially different.
- Levels of ethnocultural empathy differ across racial and ethnic groups, with minoritized groups having higher levels than majority groups.
- Less clear is whether the interpersonal meaning of ethnocultural empathy differs.
- Having been historically misunderstood, for marginalized racial/ethnic groups, ethnocultural empathy may be associated with greater connection.
- Understanding this can offer insight on how to enhance connection, and thereby bridge social divides.
- One tool that is useful in understanding interpersonal valence is the interpersonal circumplex (IPC).
- The IPC plots overt and covert interpersonal behavior across two axes: warmth and dominance.
- We might expect that for marginalized racial/ethnic groups, ethnocultural empathy would have a warmer connection than for non-marginalized groups.
- The purpose of this poster was to examine this.

METHODS

- Participants were 443 workers on MTurk (see Table 1).
- Measures: *Scale of Ethnocultural Empathy, Revised Interpersonal Adjectives Scales*.

RESULTS

- Correlations between ethnocultural empathy and IPC subscales were on average medium-sized ($r_{\text{mean}} = |.23|$).
- Across race, ethnocultural empathy projected into the warm area of the IPC, although for Native Americans it projected warm-dominant (see Figure 1).
- Across ethnicity, the projection was less specific and less warm for Latinx relative to non-Latinx people (Figure 2).

DISCUSSION

- In general, ethnocultural empathy was associated with warmth, although this differed by race/ethnicity.
- The warm-dominant projection of ethnocultural empathy for Native Americans may reflect a more agentic sense of communal behavior.
- We might understand the comparatively cooler projection of ethnocultural empathy in Latinx group in terms of *familismo*.
- Specifically, *familismo* may entail prioritizing connection to family over empathy for others.

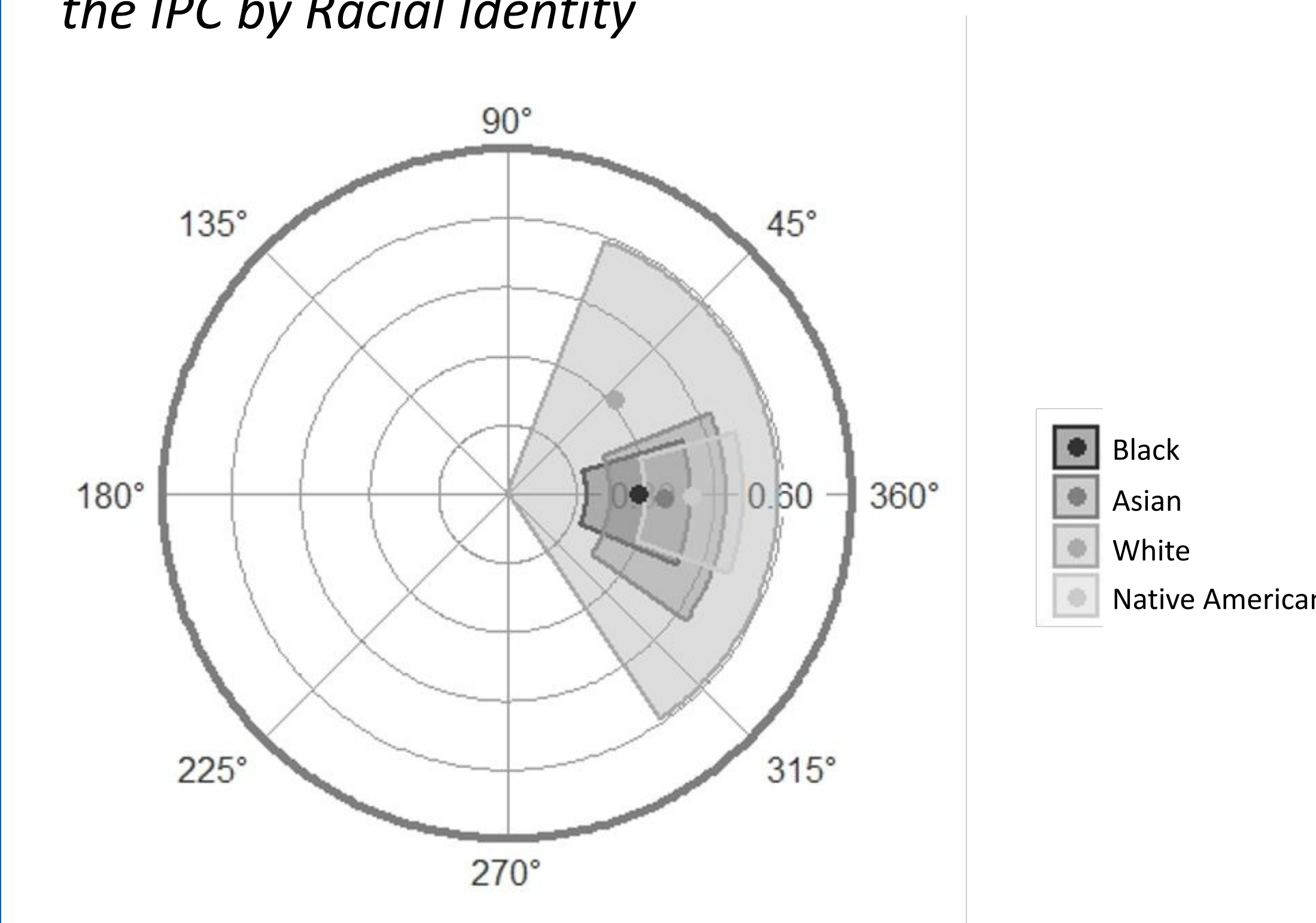
Understanding people who are different is about connection.



Table 1
Sample Demographics

	n (%)
Gender	
Male	284 (64)
Female	159 (36)
Race	
Asian	133 (30)
Black	71 (16)
White	204 (46)
Native American	22 (5)
Multiracial or Other	13 (3)
Latinx	151 (34)

Figure 1
Projection of Ethnocultural Empathy Across the IPC by Racial Identity



Note. People identifying as multiracial or with another racial identity were omitted from this analysis due to low sample size.

Figure 2
Projection of Ethnocultural Empathy Across the IPC by Latinx Identity

