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INTRODUCTION

LIFE HISTORY THEORY EXPLAINS WHY INDIVIDUALS FROM DIFFERENT ECOLOGIES EMPLOY DIFFERENT STRATEGIES AND BEHAVIORS TO SOLVE THEIR ADAPTIVE PROBLEMS.

- Individuals from harsh ecologies (scarce, unpredictable, and high in mortality risk) → Fast life strategies: accelerated reproduction, impulsive behavior, etc.
- Individuals from benign ecologies (abundant, predictable, and low in mortality risk) → Slow life strategies: delayed reproduction, delayed gratification, etc.
- Without a nuanced understanding of how ecologies shape behavior (explained by LHT), one might perceive fast life strategies and behaviors as poor decision-making
- Study 1: Are individuals from harsh, low SES backgrounds more understanding of fast behaviors compared to those of high SES?
- Study 2: Does having knowledge or cues of ecological contexts alter people's perceptions of behaviors originating from those ecologies?

METHODS

STUDY 1: CORRELATIONAL

- We recruited 193 undergraduates from TCU ($M_{age} = 19.11$, $SD = 2.01$).
- Participants rated how wise and moral 12 slow and 12 fast behaviors were.

E.g., "How [wise/moral] would it be for someone to... have multiple sex partners; be monogamous; act on impulses; plan for the future?"

- Participants reported their own SES background:
 - Childhood and adult SES
 - Childhood and adult environmental unpredictability
 - Childhood and adult neighborhood quality

STUDY 2: EXPERIMENTAL

- We recruited 345 undergraduates from TCU ($M_{age} = 20.37$, $SD = 2.31$).
- Participants were randomly assigned to view either a harsh ecology (low SES trailer park) or a benign ecology (high SES neighborhood):



- Participants rated how moral and wise 6 slow and 6 fast behaviors would be **if** carried out by someone in that neighborhood.

E.g., "It is wise for a person in this neighborhood to..."

QUICK RESULTS SUMMARY

- Individuals from low SES neighborhoods were more likely to rate fast behaviors as wise and moral compared to those from high SES neighborhoods.
- Participants were more perceptive of behaviors they considered congruent and adaptive to the target's ecology.

RESULTS

STUDY 1

- Overall, slow behaviors were rated as wiser, more moral, and less threatening than fast behaviors.
- However, people from harsh, low SES ecologies rated fast behaviors as wiser and moral compared to participants from more benign, high SES ecologies.

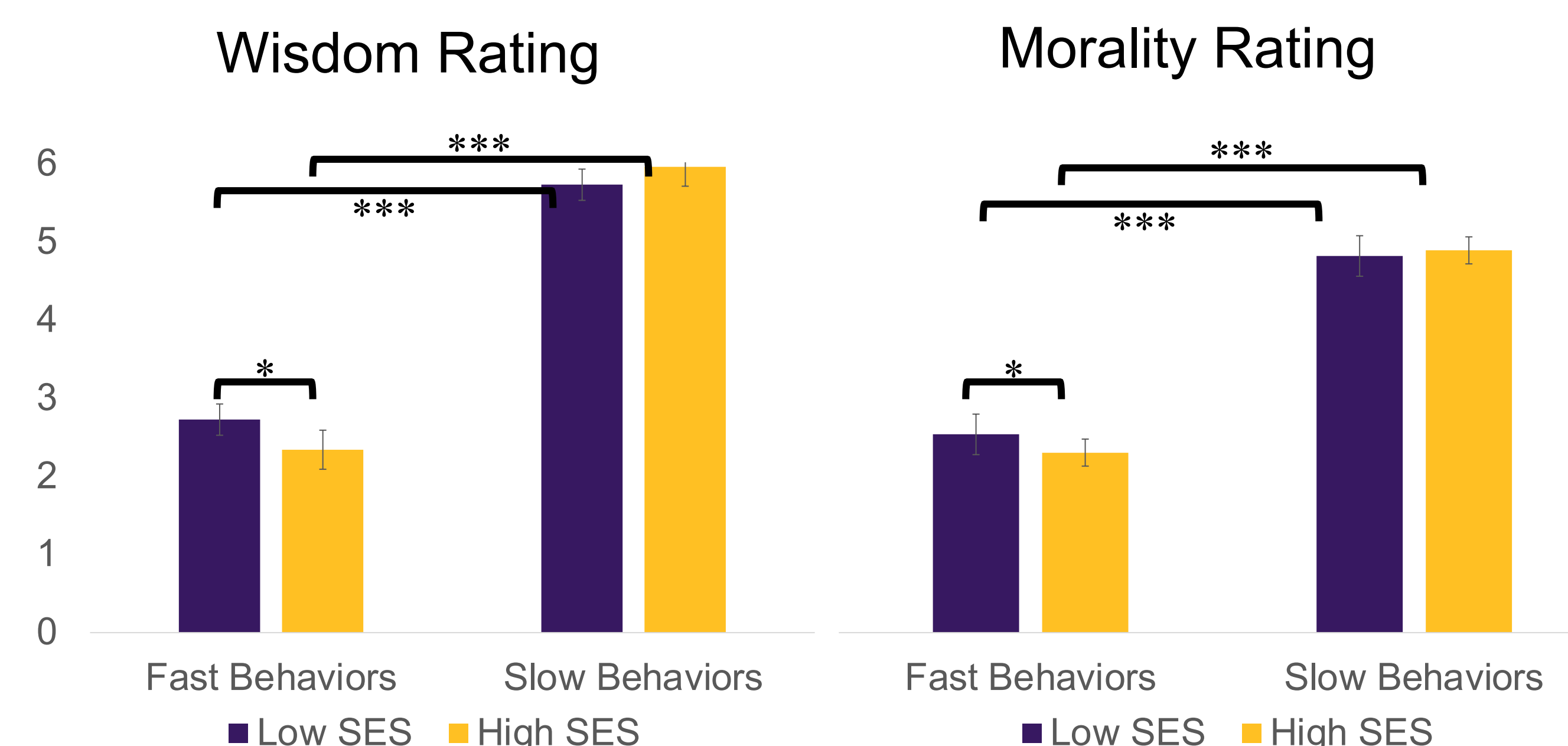


Figure 1. Wisdom and morality ratings of fast strategy behaviors, as a function of participant childhood SES. Error bars represent standard error of the mean. Note, * $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$.

STUDY 2

- Replicated study 1's finding: slow behaviors were rated as wiser, more moral, and less threatening than fast behaviors.
 - However, ecological context **matter**.
- Fast behaviors were rated as wiser and moral in the harsh ecology than in the benign ecology.
- Slow behaviors were rated as wiser and more moral in the benign ecology than in the harsh ecology
- Fast behaviors were equally threatening in harsh and benign ecologies.
 - *Within* fast and slow behaviors, **ecology does matter** for how wise and moral people think those behaviors are

RESULTS (continued)

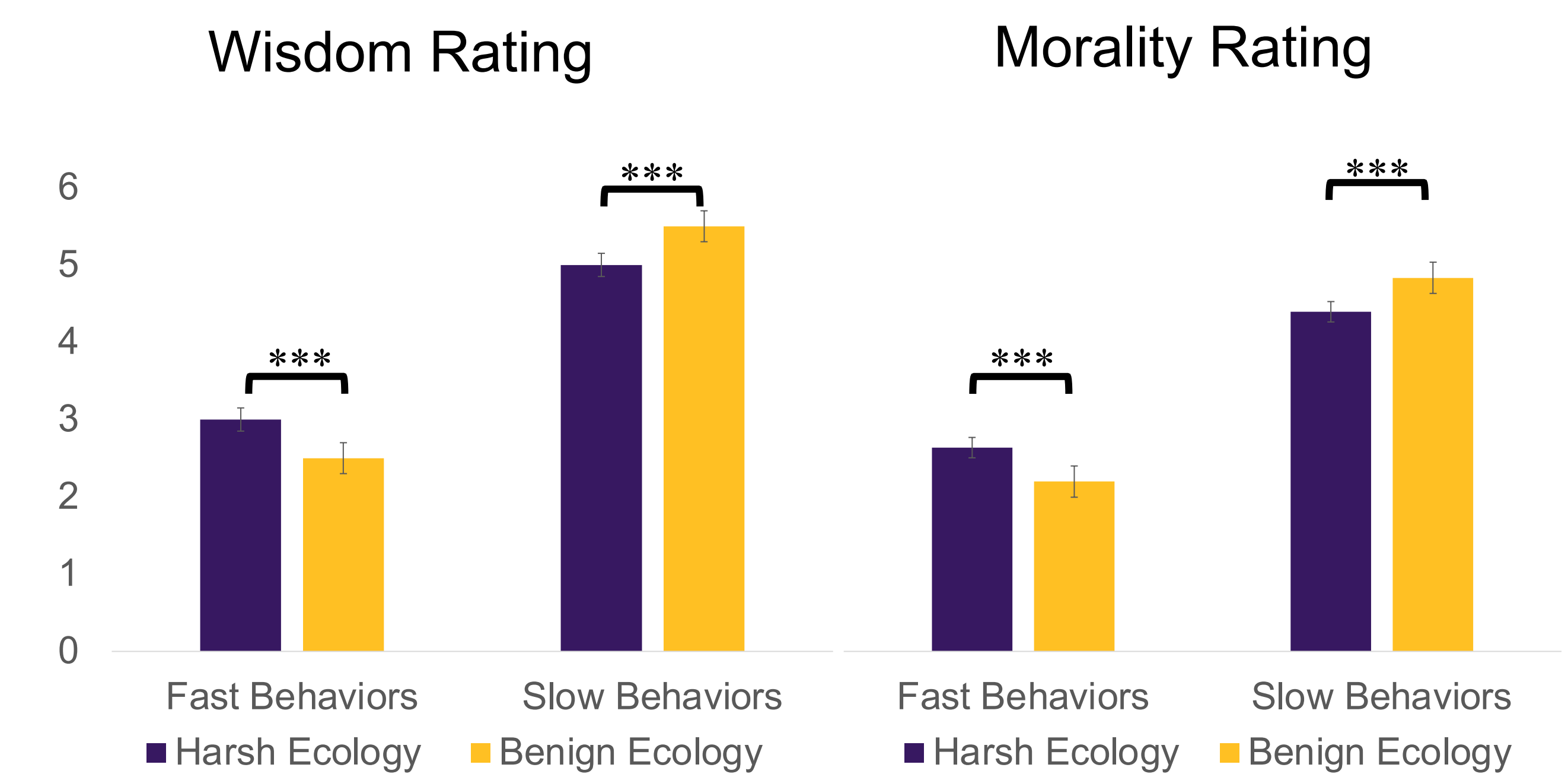


Figure 2. Wisdom and morality ratings of fast and slow strategy behaviors, as a function of ecological context. Error bars represent standard error of the mean. Note, *** $p < .001$.

DISCUSSION

- The results supported our hypothesis.
- Having insight into one's ecology significantly influences how people view that individual's behaviors and life strategies.
- With a nuanced understanding or knowledge of a person's living environment (based on context or personal experiences), people are more understanding fast life history behaviors.
- Future research can explore whether providing cues of an individual's socioeconomic status and living situation can be critical to changing implicit bias and behaviors
- Limitation: This study was conducted on a high SES sample, who are more likely to pursue and prefer slow life history strategies. Future research should utilize a more representative sample.

REFERENCES

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