



Effect of Framing Inequality as Ingroup Privilege on White Bystanders Confronting Racism

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Introduction

- **Confronting prejudicial remarks mitigates their future occurrence** (Czopp & Monteith, 2003; Mallett & Wagner, 2011) **and reduces the use of stereotypes up to one week past the initial confrontation** (Chaney & Sanchez, 2017). This confrontation of prejudice is a product of guilt that can cause the individual to self-reflect and ultimately reduce the prejudicial attitude of the individual they are confronting (Czopp, Monteith, & Mark, 2006; Fazio & Hilden, 2001).
 - Due to the fact that confronting behavior has the ability to reduce prejudicial attitudes, more research needs to be done to discern the most effective ways to increase confronting behavior.
- **Previous research has shown that educating students about issues related to prejudice in their courses leads to greater intentions to confront instances of prejudice** (Dessel, Goodman, & Woodford, 2017). This education can be from the perspective of minority disadvantage or White privilege, the latter proving to increase White empathy and guilt (Case, 2007; Case & Rios, 2017; Soble, Spanierman, & Liao, 2011; Swim & Miller, 1999).
- Additionally, research has shown that **close contact with racial outgroup members can reduce biases in Whites** (e.g., Pettigrew & Tropp, 2013). Thus, measuring outgroup social contact is a crucial part of assessing one's confronting behavior (Walker et al., 2008).

Study Objective

This study investigated strategies to induce people to confront racist comments.

Method

Participants

- n = 159 undergraduates
- M age = 19.20
- All participants were white

Manipulation

- Participants were randomly assigned to one of the following conditions:
 - **Black disadvantage:** A series of statements meant to evaluate the extent to which participants agree or disagree with disadvantages experienced by Black Americans. 24 statements, e.g. "If Black Americans get pulled over by a police officer, they cannot be confident they haven't been singled out because of their race."
 - **White privilege:** A series of statements evaluating the extent to which participants agree or disagree with privilege White Americans experience. 24 statements, e.g. "If White Americans get pulled over by a police officer, they can be confident they haven't been singled out because of their race."
 - **Environment:** A series of statements that evaluate the extent to which participants agree or disagree with environmental issues. 24 questions, e.g. "Climate change is real and is an issue that should be taken seriously."

Methods Continued

Other Measures:

Social Contact (Walker et al., 2008): Determines the level of participant's outgroup social contact by asking participants to rate the accuracy of statements such as "I often talk to Blacks in college."

Procedure:

- Participants are asked how they would respond to the statement ... "at this point we basically have reverse discrimination against white people which isn't okay."
- Independent researchers coded responses using the following scale

Which of the following responses is most consistent with the participant's responses?

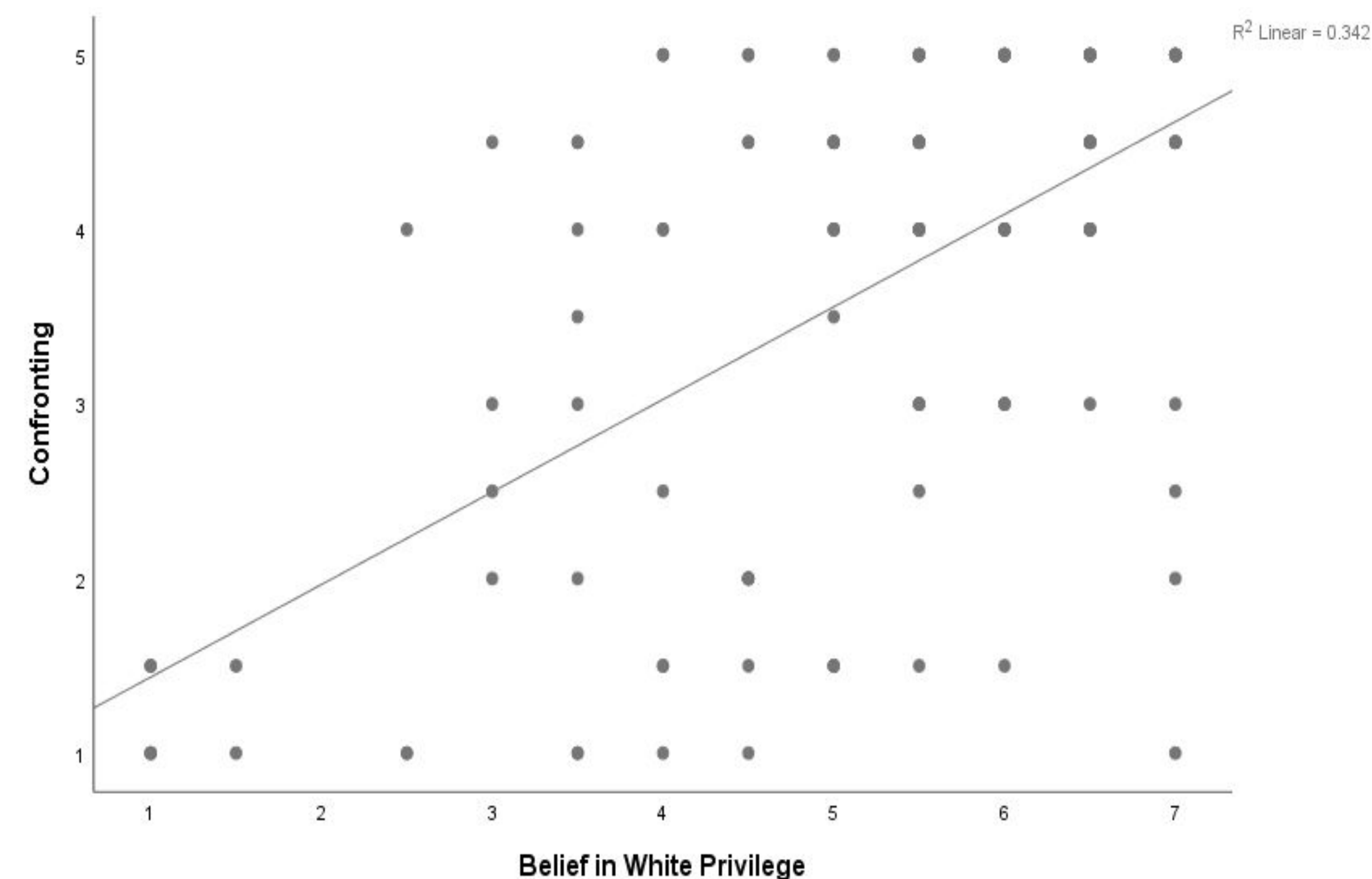
- 1 S/he made a similar comment, endorsing what this person said.
- 2 S/he showed some agreement with the comment.
- 3 S/he did/said nothing, ignore the comment.
- 4 S/he showed some disagreement with the comment.
- 5 S/he verbally reprimanded this person by telling him/her that they were wrong or that they were offended.

Results

White privilege $M = 3.63, SE = 0.21$

Black disadvantage $M = 3.72, SE = 0.22$

Control $M = 3.64, SE = 0.21$



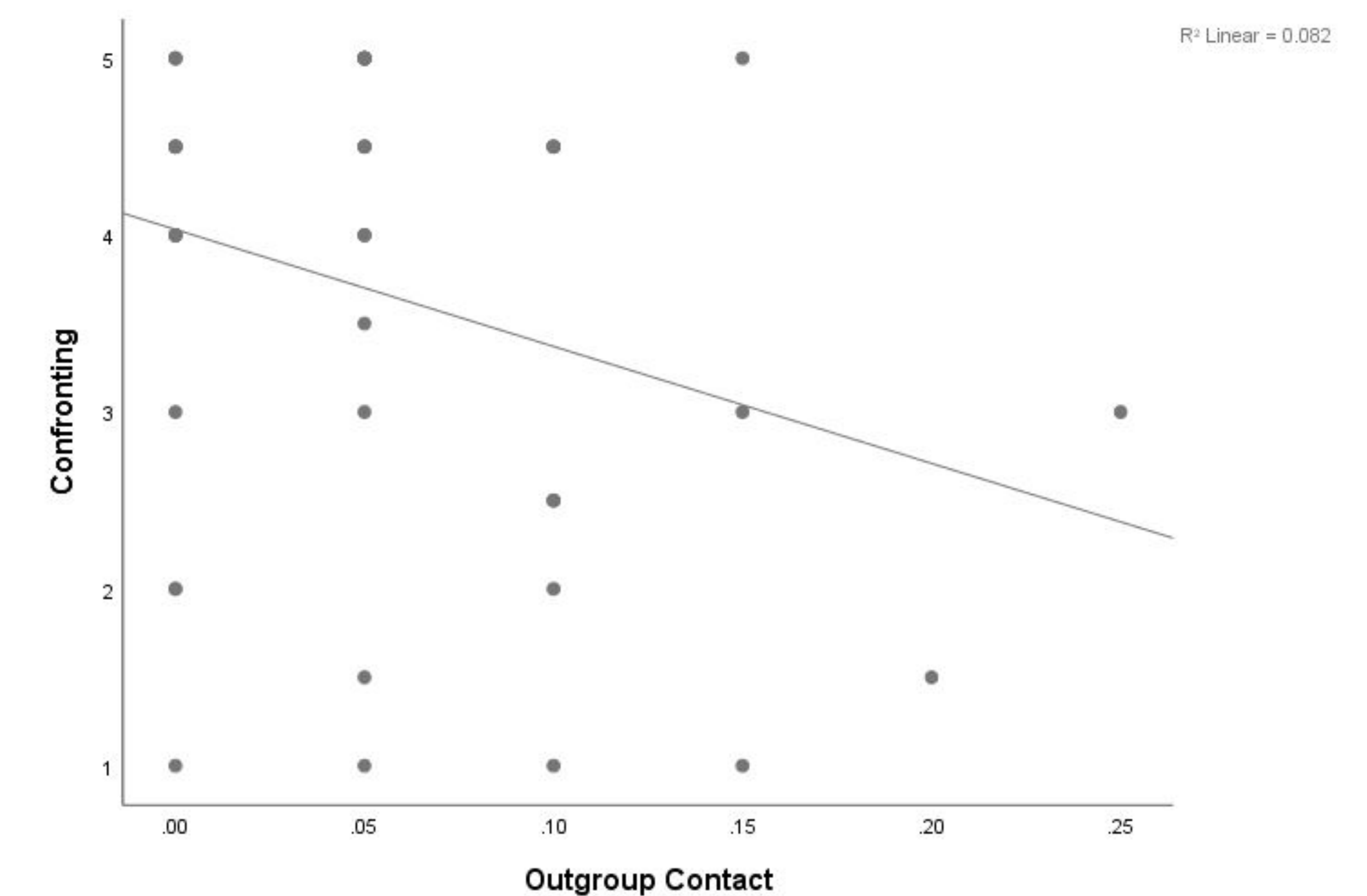
Results Continued

Correlation between Contact and Confronting

White privilege $r = -.286, p = .063$

Black disadvantage $r = .018, p = .911$

Control $r = -.191, p = .221$



Discussion

- In line with what we expected, participants' belief in white privilege made them more likely to confront prejudicial remarks.
- Unexpectedly, the more outgroup contact an individual had, the less likely they were to confront.

Acknowledgements

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