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Corresponding author(s): Paul Bain

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Reporting Summary

Nature Research wishes to improve the reproducibility of the work that we publish. This form provides structure for consistency and transparency in reporting. For further information on Nature Research policies, see our Editorial Policies and the Editorial Policy Checklist.

Statistics

For all statistical analyses, confirm that the following items are present in the figure legend, table legend, main text, or Methods section.

n/a	Confirmed	
☐	☒	The exact sample size (*n*) for each experimental group/condition, given as a discrete number and unit of measurement
☐	☒	A statement on whether measurements were taken from distinct samples or whether the same sample was measured repeatedly
☐	☒	The statistical test(s) used AND whether they are one- or two-sided *Only common tests should be described solely by name; describe more complex techniques in the Methods section.*
☒	☐	A description of all covariates tested
☐	☒	A description of any assumptions or corrections, such as tests of normality and adjustment for multiple comparisons
☐	☒	A full description of the statistical parameters including central tendency (e.g. means) or other basic estimates (e.g. regression coefficient) AND variation (e.g. standard deviation) or associated estimates of uncertainty (e.g. confidence intervals)
☐	☒	For null hypothesis testing, the test statistic (e.g. *F*, *t*, *r*) with confidence intervals, effect sizes, degrees of freedom and *P* value noted *Give P values as exact values whenever suitable.*
☒	☐	For Bayesian analysis, information on the choice of priors and Markov chain Monte Carlo settings
☐	☒	For hierarchical and complex designs, identification of the appropriate level for tests and full reporting of outcomes
☐	☒	Estimates of effect sizes (e.g. Cohen's *d*, Pearson's *r*), indicating how they were calculated

Our web collection on statistics for biologists contains articles on many of the points above.

Software and code

Policy information about availability of computer code

Data collection	Study 1 data was collected using Qualtrics online survey software. Study 2 data was collected using proprietary software of the contracted commercial survey company.
Data analysis	All analyses were conducted using SPSS.

For manuscripts utilizing custom algorithms or software that are central to the research but not yet described in published literature, software must be made available to editors and reviewers. We strongly encourage code deposition in a community repository (e.g. GitHub). See the Nature Research guidelines for submitting code & software for further information.

Data

Policy information about availability of data

All manuscripts must include a data availability statement. This statement should provide the following information, where applicable:

- Accession codes, unique identifiers, or web links for publicly available datasets
- A list of figures that have associated raw data
- A description of any restrictions on data availability

Study 1: https://osf.io/25398/ (publicly available)
Study 2: https://osf.io/k3wdp (publicly available)

Field-specific reporting

Please select the one below that is the best fit for your research. If you are not sure, read the appropriate sections before making your selection.

☐ Life sciences ☒ Behavioural & social sciences ☐ Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences

For a reference copy of the document with all sections, see nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf

Behavioural & social sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

Study description	Mixed methods. The majority of data collection and analysis was quantitative, but we also report analysis of open-ended text-responses.
Research sample	All 42 samples were community participants recruited through commercial research companies. In Study 2 samples were recruited to be representative on gender and age in each country, and countries were selected to be representative across major world regions. Due to the large number of samples it is impractical to describe all sample details here, but we provide full information in Supplementary Materials Section S2.
Sampling strategy	In Study 1 we sampled from 12 countries (the maximum available in our budget), selected to include developing countries (BRICS countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa; adding South Korea and Argentina to extend Asian/South American samples), developed anglophone countries (Australia, United Kingdom and United States) and developed non-anglophone countries (France and Sweden). Survey Sampling International uses diverse methods to source their national panels but the sample was self-selected by participants who chose to do the study.
Data collection	Study 1 data was collected using Qualtrics online survey software. Study 2 data was collected using proprietary software of the contracted commercial survey company. Participants engaged with materials at a place and time of their convenience. There were no experimental conditions.
Timing	Study 1 data was collected in March 2018. Study 2 data was collected in May-June 2020.
Data exclusions	Data were excluded based on missing data, pattern responding, and country citizenship status. We fully report the criteria and number of exclusions for all samples in Supplementary Materials S2.
Non-participation	In Study 1 the commencement/completion rate (response rate) was 71%. We do not have the response rate for Study 2 as data collection was conducted "in-house" by the commercial research company who provided completed surveys only. However, we expect the response rate was lower as due to exclusions based on gender/age quotas.
Randomization	There were no experimental conditions/groups in this research

Reporting for specific materials, systems and methods

We require information from authors about some types of materials, experimental systems and methods used in many studies. Here, indicate whether each material, system or method listed is relevant to your study. If you are not sure if a list item applies to your research, read the appropriate section before selecting a response.

Materials & experimental systems

n/a	Involved in the study
☒	☐ Antibodies
☒	☐ Eukaryotic cell lines
☒	☐ Palaeontology and archaeology
☒	☐ Animals and other organisms
☐	☒ Human research participants
☒	☐ Clinical data
☒	☐ Dual use research of concern

Methods

n/a	Involved in the study
☒	☐ ChIP-seq
☒	☐ Flow cytometry
☒	☐ MRI-based neuroimaging

Human research participants

Policy information about studies involving human research participants

Population characteristics	See above
Recruitment	Participants were recruited through the panels of the contracted commercial research companies. As participation was online, this means that people without access to computers/internet (e.g., those in poverty) were less likely to participate, as

were people with limited time to participate in research, such as those with high-responsibility/pr and time-consuming jobs. This means we were less likely to obtain participants at the extreme ends of socio-economic status (both rich and poor). However, at least within the range we sampled we did not find significant effects of socio-economic status on responses (meta-analytic effect size, r = .03, with non-significant variation across countries), suggesting that socio-economic status at the extremes would be unlikely to have a dramatic influence on overall responses.

Ethics oversight

Study 1: Queensland University of Technology (Approval Number 1600000223).
Study 2: University of Queensland (Approval Number 2018001124).

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.