

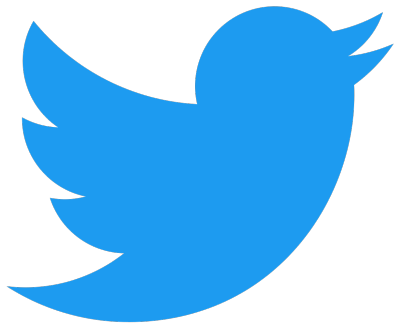
Overperception of moral outrage in online social networks inflates beliefs about intergroup hostility

William J. Brady, Killian L. McLoughlin, Mark P. Torres, Kara F. Luo,
Maria Gendron & M. J. Crockett

SIPPS 2023 Journal Club

Ben Silver

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Who am I?



- I'm Ben (shameless plug: Benjamin-silver.com)
- 5th year PhD student working with Kevin Ochsner
- Research interests: motivated cognition, impression formation/updating, internet behavior
- Non-research interests: Science writing and science outreach
- Who are you?
 - Name, year, mentor
 - How closely you read this paper on a 1-5 scale

What is this paper about?

Perceiving something as more than it is

An emotional expression rooted in anger over a moral action

Twitter, but also different Twitter newsfeeds

Overperception of moral outrage in online social networks inflates beliefs about intergroup hostility

Feeling negatively towards people with different political beliefs

Summary of paper

- 5 studies, with 3 primary questions

Are levels of moral outrage in people who write tweets aligned with levels of moral outrage in people who read them?



Studies 1, 2*, 3*

Do perceptions of moral outrage in individuals skew perceptions of moral outrage in a network?



Studies 4, 5*

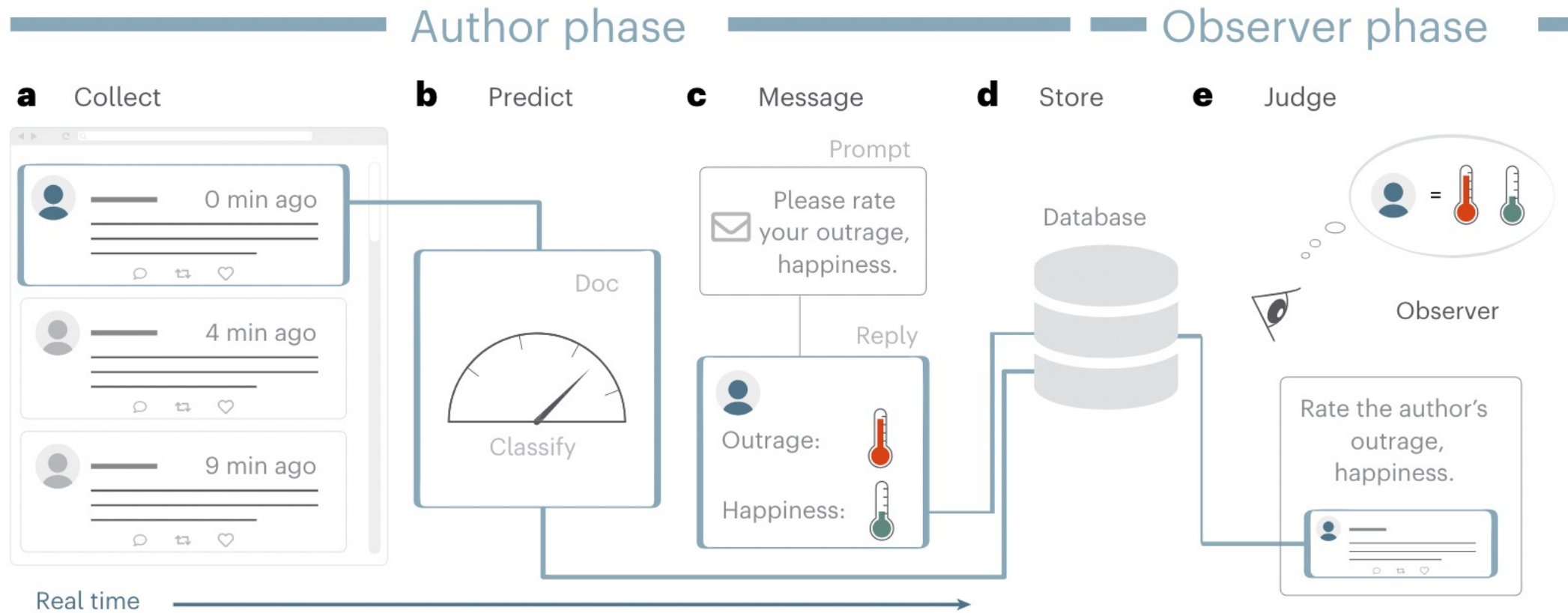
Do skewed perceptions of moral outrage impact perceptions of norms in online environments?



Studies 4, 5*

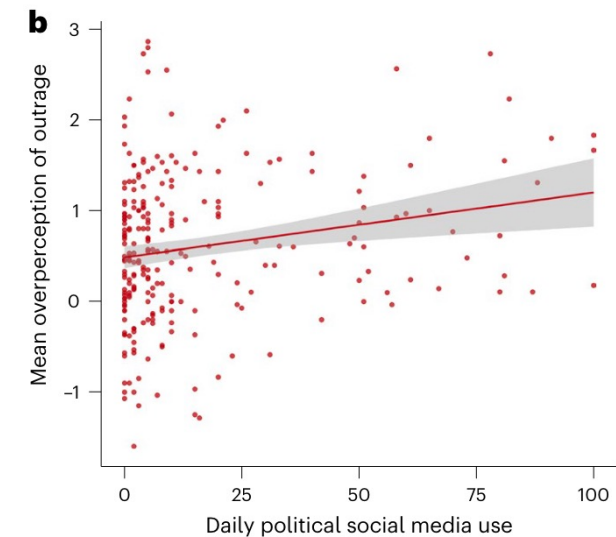
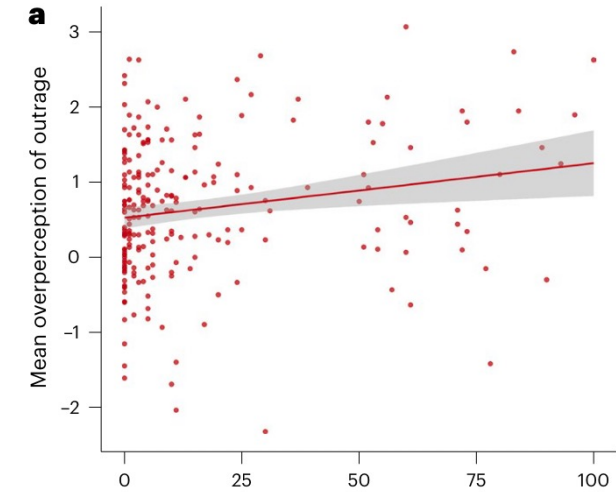
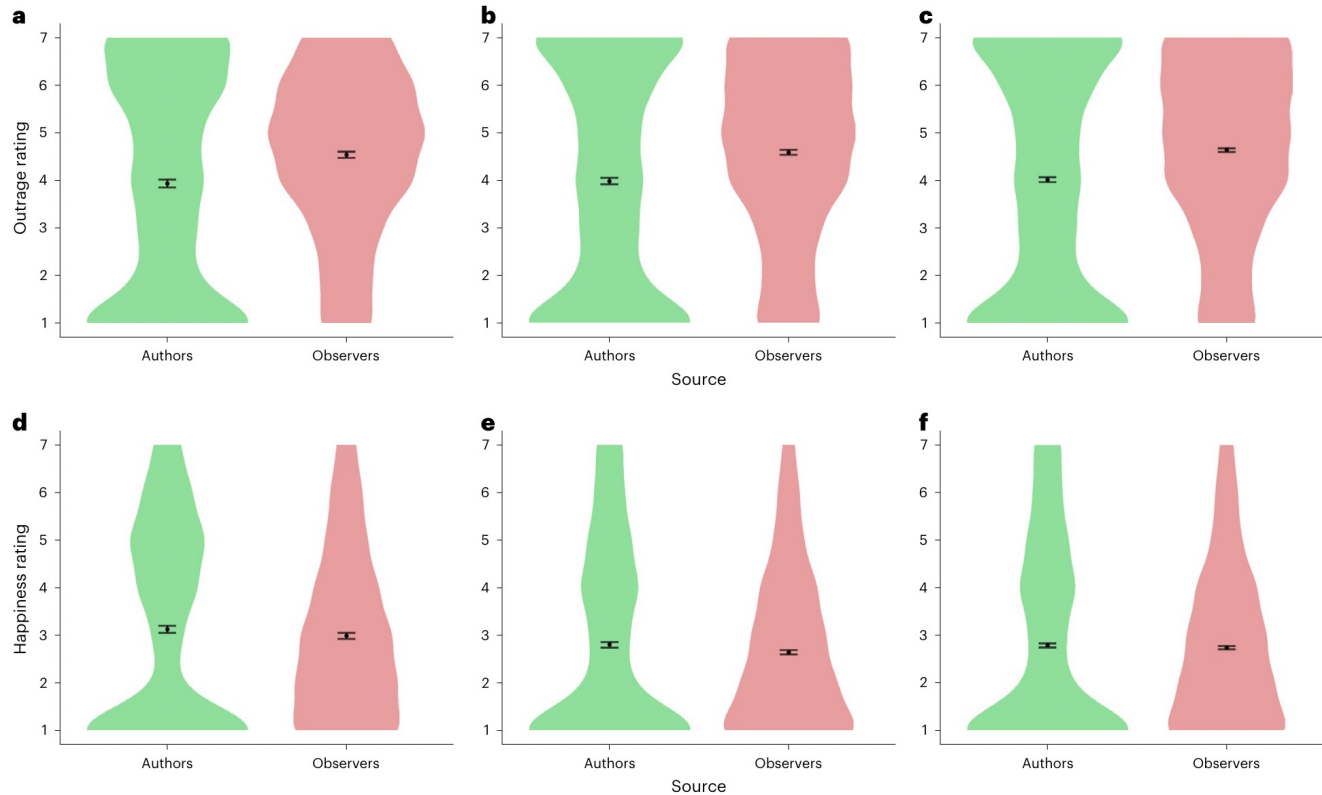
* Pre-registered replication

Are levels of moral outrage in people who write tweets aligned with levels of moral outrage in people who read them?



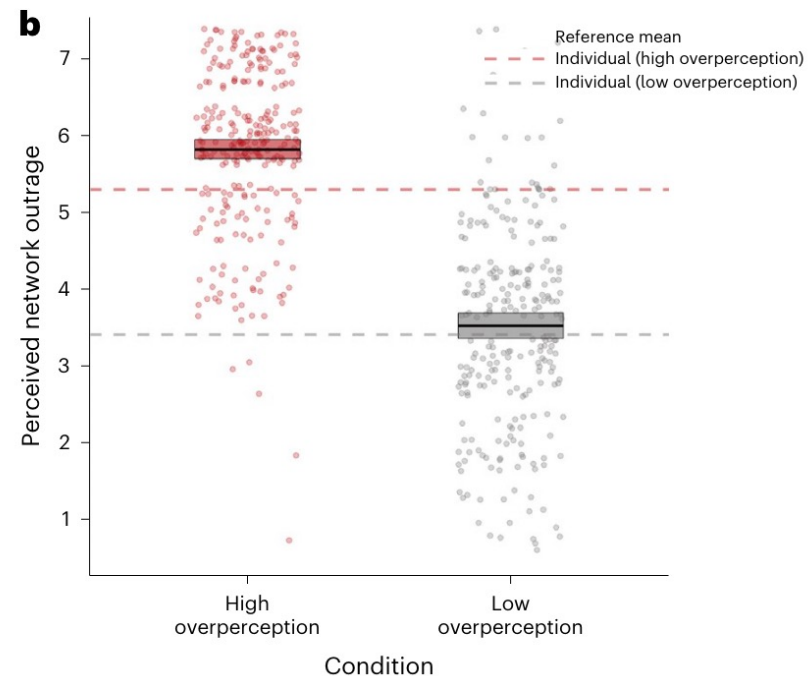
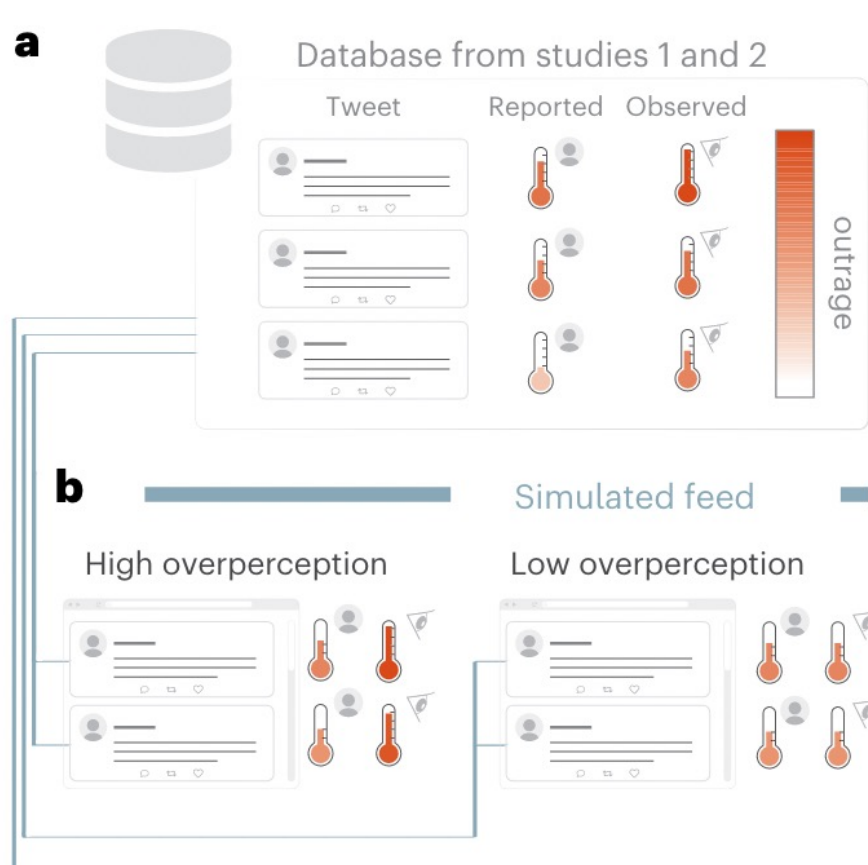
Summary: They messaged people on Twitter who expressed moral outrage (creepy), asked them to rate their emotions when writing the tweet, and then asked participants to read the tweets and estimate the author's emotions

Are levels of moral outrage in people who write tweets aligned with levels of moral outrage in people who read them?



Summary: Observers overestimate authors' negative emotions, and amount of overestimation is related to social media use

Do perceptions of moral outrage in individuals skew perceptions of moral outrage in a network?



Summary:
Individual overperception exacerbated estimates of mean overperception

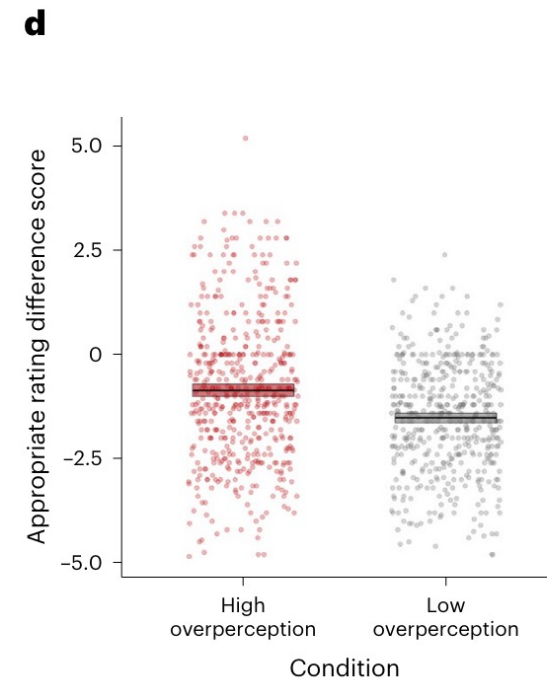
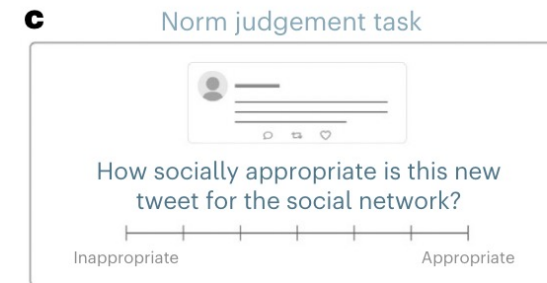
Summary: They divided tweets into high and low overestimation of moral outrage to make two conditions

Do skewed perceptions of moral outrage impact perceptions of norms in online environments?



Summary: They asked people to rate the social appropriateness of new tweets. The difference in social appropriateness between outrage and neutral tweets was smaller for high overperception than low

What do we make of it still being negative? Do we agree with the authors' claims?



Discussion questions

Anything else that
you found
confusing or didn't
understand?

Initial thoughts
when reading the
paper? Ideas for
follow up studies?

Discussion questions

- Are the findings about collective outrage interesting? Are they psychologically meaningful?
- How do we provide “accurate social information,” as the paper suggests we need to do?
- What do we think of studies that investigate reactions to social media outside of the social media context? Can they tell us anything meaningful?
- Do studies conducted in online environments allow us to make claims about behavior offline?