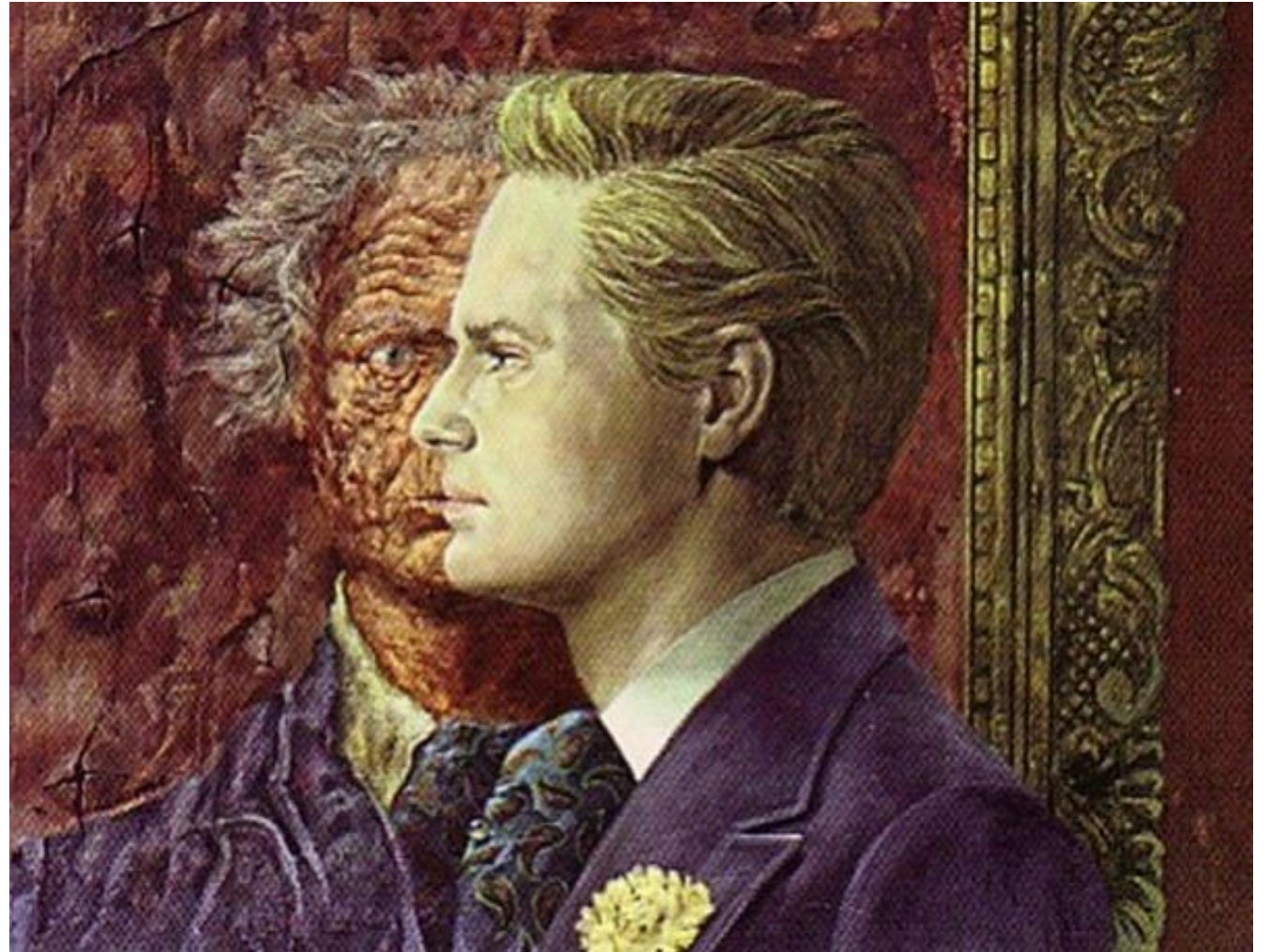


Motivated Misremembering of Selfish Decisions

Carlson et al.

Nature Communications volume 11,
Article number: 2100 (2020)



Why and how our self-image is preserved when we act selfishly

Why

- Psychological/Physical Health
- Social Benefits

How

- Motivated reasoning (beliefs, Attitude, behavior...)
- Justification (uncertainty, situational pressure)

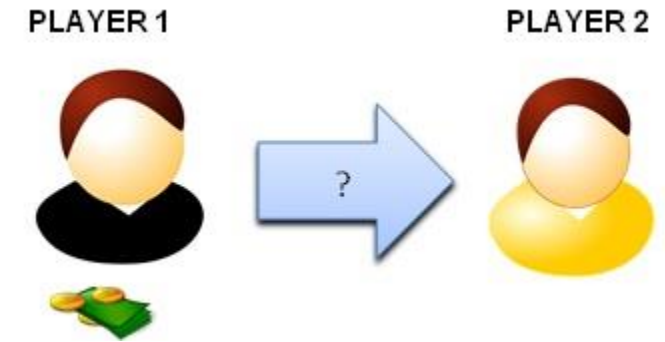
Memory Distortion

What is the target of this paper?

- 1- Memory performs poorly in remembering selfish acts (e.g. cheating). Is it a self-serving mechanism to protect us from feeling immoral?
- 2- Is misremembering motivated or just rational inference?
- 3- What is the role of responsibility and moral standards in this game?

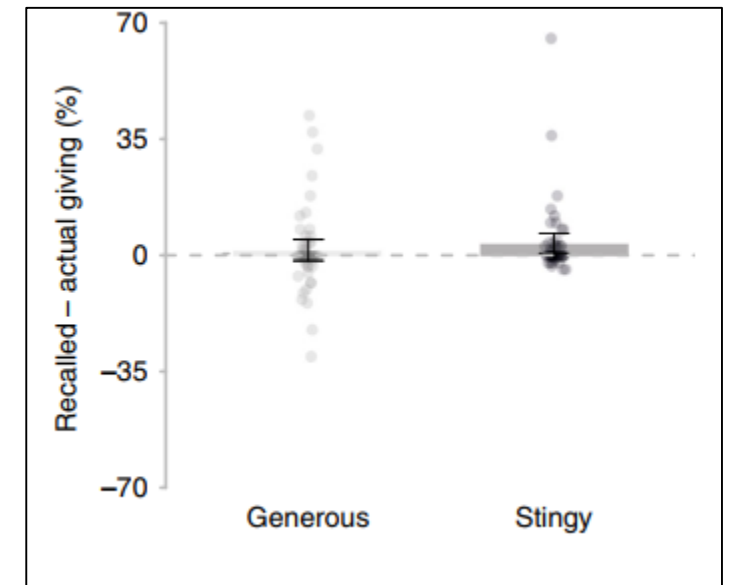
Experiments

Dictator Game: share an amount of money between yourself and the other player



1 (Is memory distorted and how?)

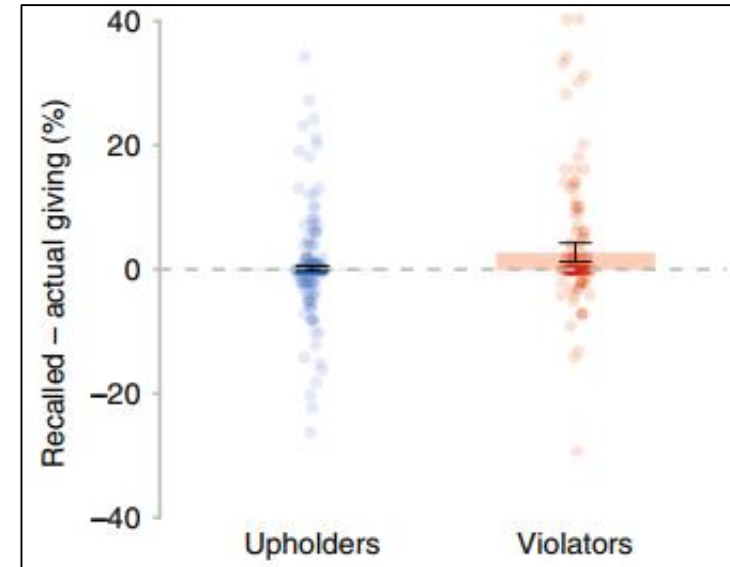
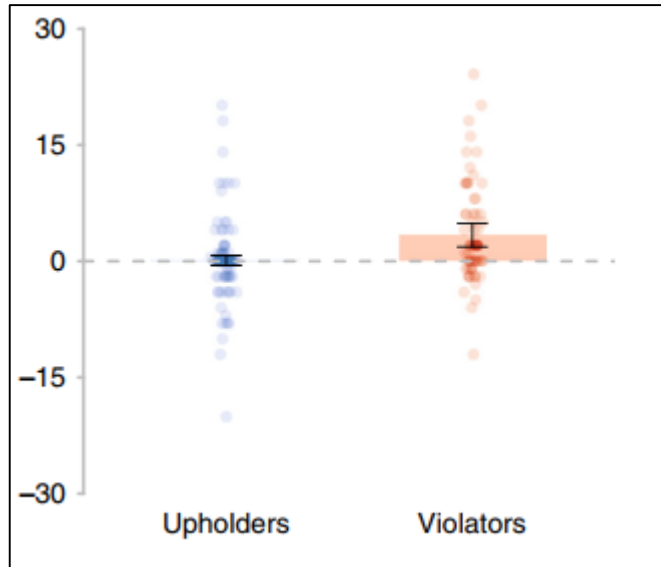
- Overall the group saw themselves more generous than they actually were
- As predicted, Stingy players remembered themselves more generous significantly
- But this does not justify why people misremember



Experiments

2 & 3 (are moral standards involved?)

- Same as 1, only participants are asked about fairness
- Violators are guilty
- It's not important how much you give, the amount you deviate from your own standard is important



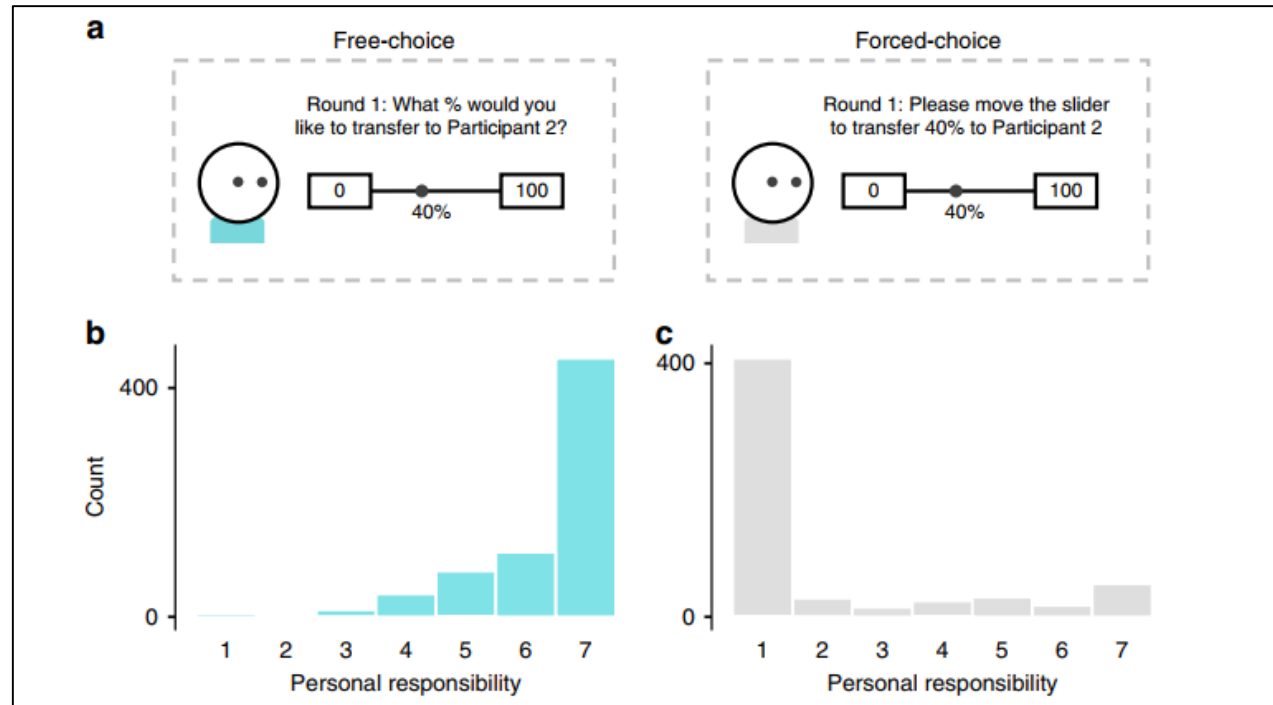
Experiments

Again 2 & 3 (is it motivated?)

- Violators are compared with exceders
- Inference: Violators will remember more, exceders less
- Motivated: exceders are accurate

Experiments

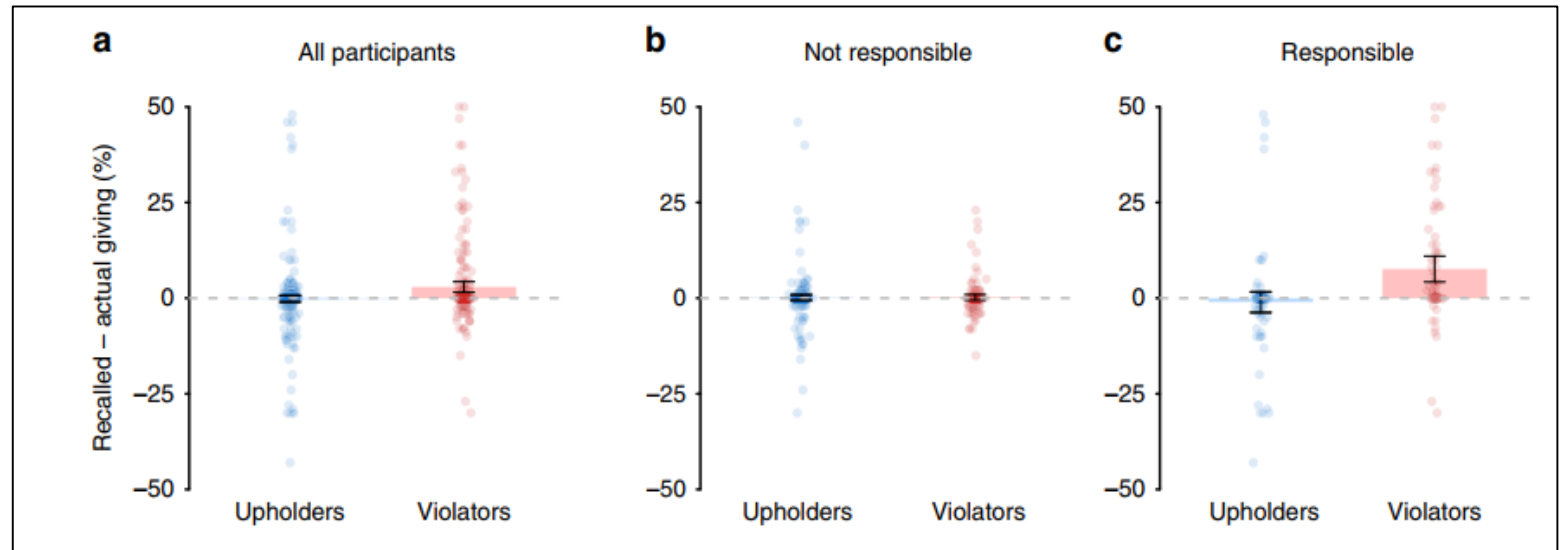
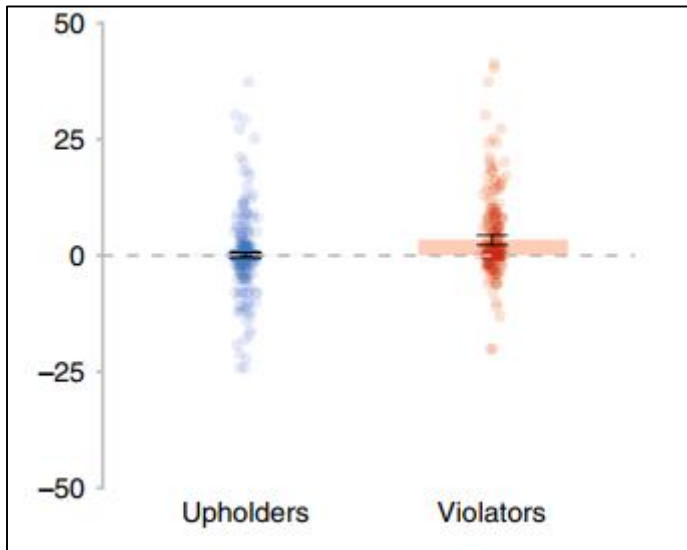
4a,b (ok, but what is the motive? is choice involved?)



Experiments

4a,b (ok, but what is the motive? is choice involved?)

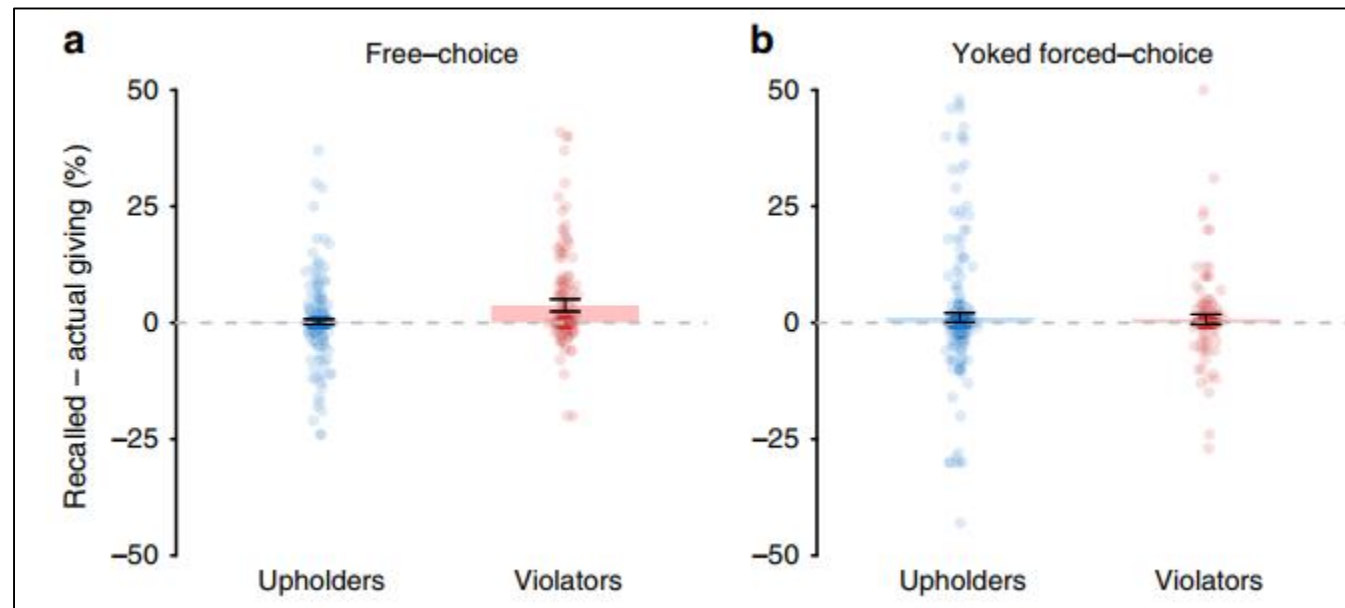
- If people feel responsible for their action, and it violates their standard they tend to misremember



Experiments

4a,b (ok, but what is the motive? is choice involved?)

- The choice does not effect the player no matter



Thanks

Let's discuss the paper