Preferences for cognitive-based options in self-other decision making

Congjiao (Elsa) Jiang, Colin Tucker Smith, Kate A. Ratliff University of Florida

INTRO

	For self	For others
Framing perspective	Idiosyncratic preferences	What makes most people happy
Motivational perspective	Little motivation to justify	Motivated to choose the justifiable option
Construal level theory	Affective-based Lower construal	Cognitive-based Higher construal

• This research examines whether people rely on affect and cognition differently when they make decisions for the self compared to when they make decisions for others.

METHODS

Participants

• 782 Project Implicit volunteers (*M*_{age} = 33 years, 64% women, 72% White)

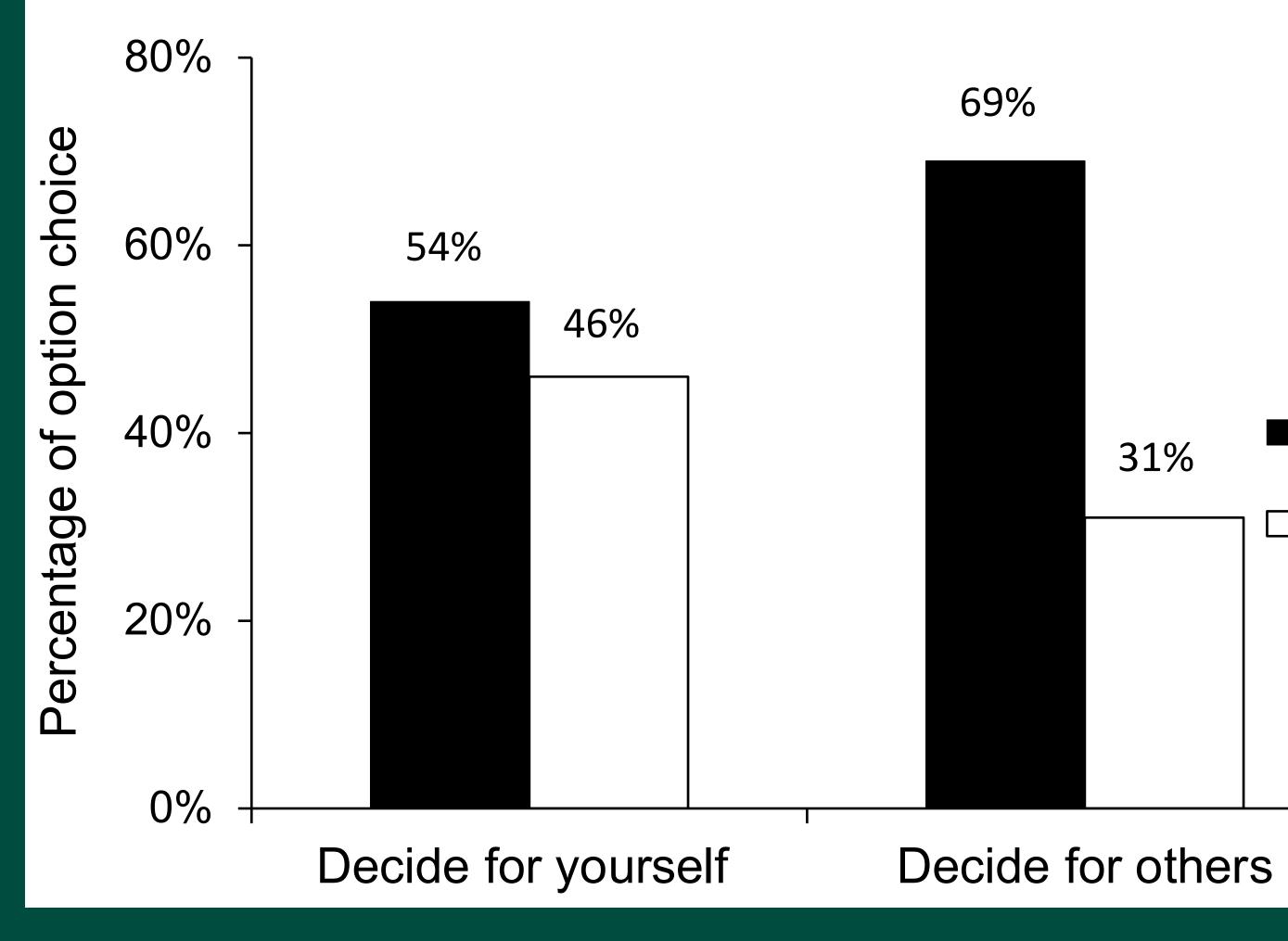
Manipulation

- *Decide-for-yourself condition:* imagine choosing an apartment between two options for themselves
- Decide-for-others condition: imagine choosing an apartment between two options for a friend of a friend

Dependent Measures

- Between the two options, which one will you choose for your friend's friend (vs. yourself)?
- Please indicate your preference for your friend's friend (vs. yourself) between the two options
 - 7-point scale

People more strongly prefer a cognitive-based option to an an affective-based option when they to for themselves



congjiaojiang@ufl.edu

make decisions for others compared

31%

Cognitive option □ Affective option

https://congjiaojiang.weebly.com







Cognitive-based option



RESULTS

Affective-based option

- Making decisions for others led to stronger preference for the cognitivebased option, $x^2 (N = 782, df = 1) =$ 18.665, *p* < 0.001, *phi* = .15.
- When people indicated their preference on scale, we found the same effect as above, t(777) = 4.11, p < .001, Cohen's d = 0.29.

DISCUSSION

• These results — replicated in two studies suggest that affect and cognition weigh differently in self-other decision making, providing insight into the discrepancies between first-person view and third-person view.