The Spillover Effect in Social and Non-Social Diversity Judgments

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Overview

- **Daniels et al. (2017) first reported the diversity spillover effect.** They found that judgments of the diversity of a group of people on a one dimension (e.g., gender) are biased by the diversity of the group on an irrelevant dimension (e.g., race).

- **Last year, we replicated this effect.** We also did so using a more tightly controlled laboratory paradigm with a within-subjects design (Mijalli & Price, 2020).

- **Our question here was whether this effect extends to non-social stimuli.**

- **We did two new pre-registered experiments.**

  - Experiment 1: Judgments of the ethnoracial diversity of groups of people were affected by the color diversity of circles in the background.

  - Experiment 2: Judgments of the size diversity of groups of circles were affected by the color diversity of the circles.

- **Both experiments replicated the diversity spillover effect.**

- **There is a more general variability spillover bias.** This bias seems likely to affect judgments of variability for a wide variety of stimuli.
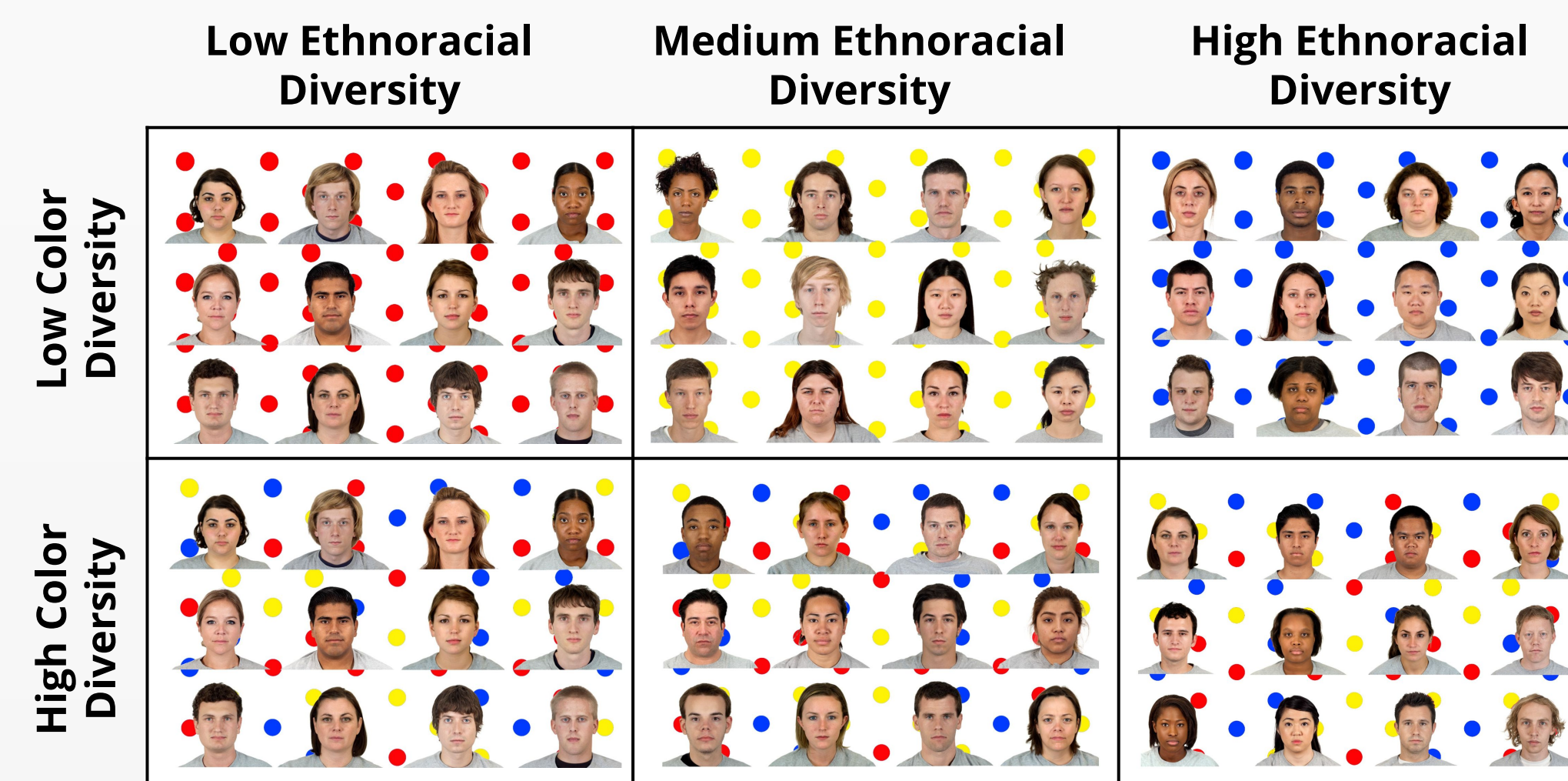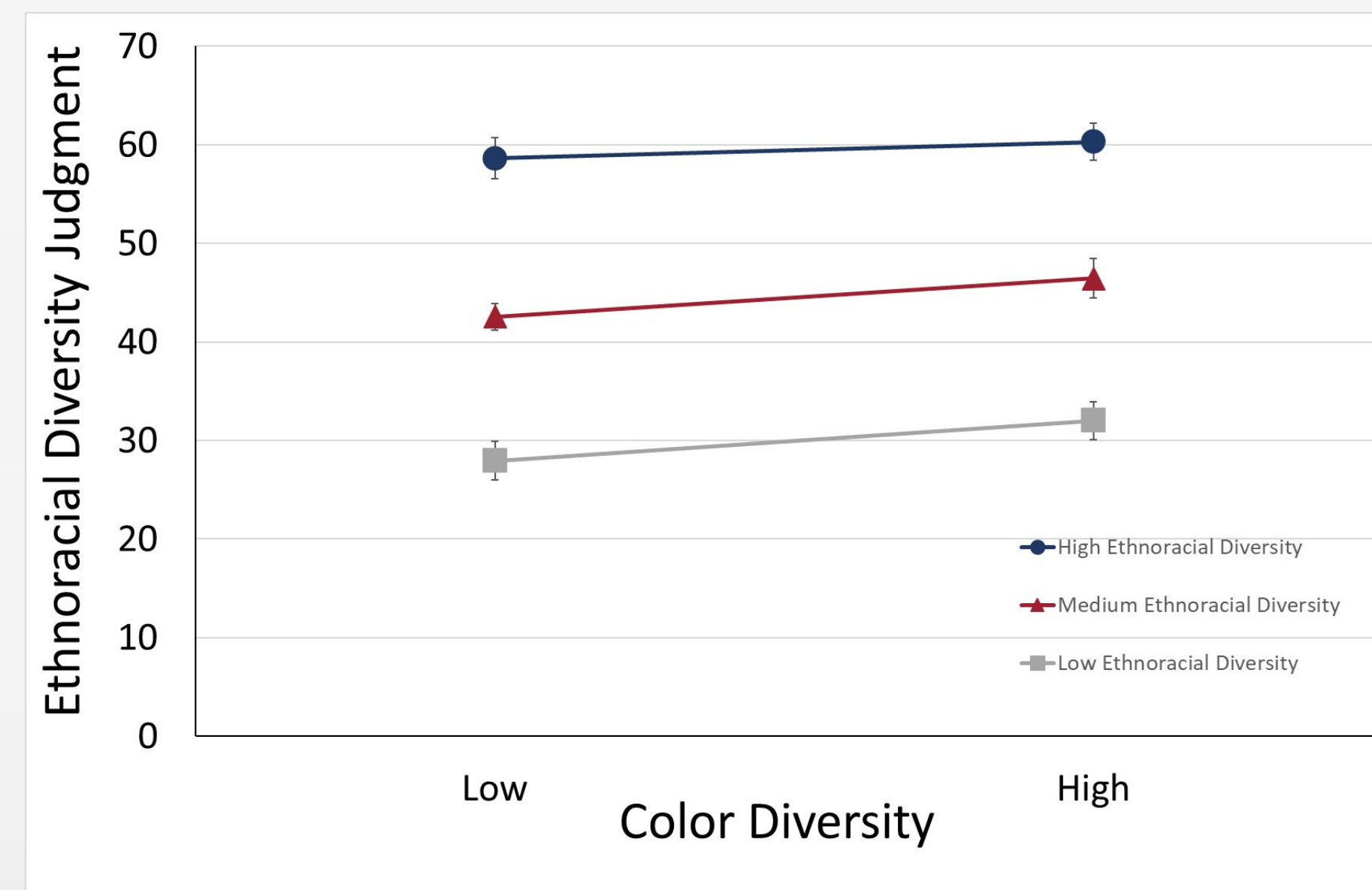
Acknowledgements

Experiment 1 Details

- 78 Undergraduates (16 men, 62 women) Tested Online
- Stimuli: 36 Groups of People on Background of Circles
- Judgment Dimension: Ethnoracial Diversity
- Irrelevant Dimension: Color Diversity of the Circles
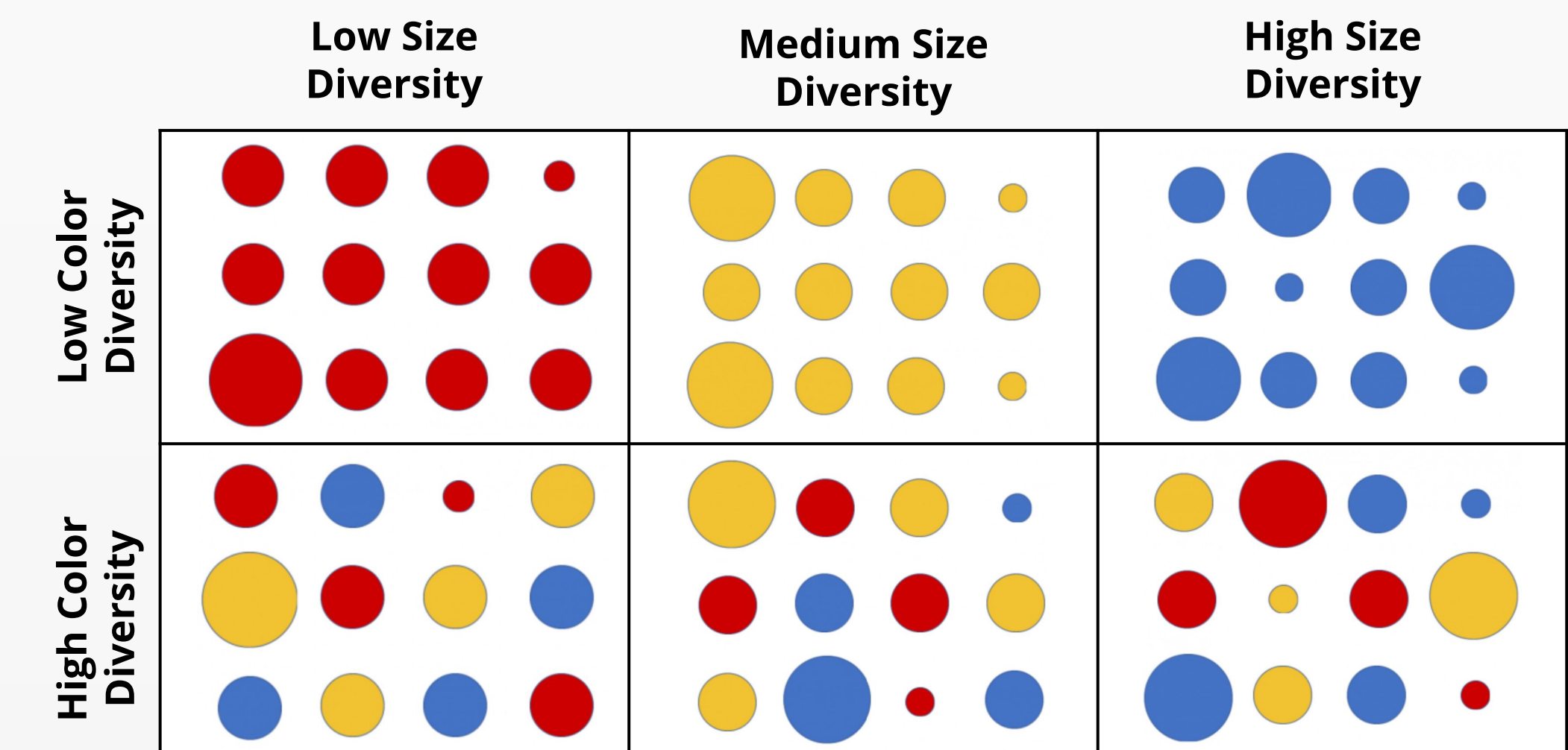
Sample Stimulus Groups

Results

- Low Color Diversity: $M = 43.05$, $SD = 12.88$
- High Color Diversity: $M = 46.25$, $SD = 15.21$
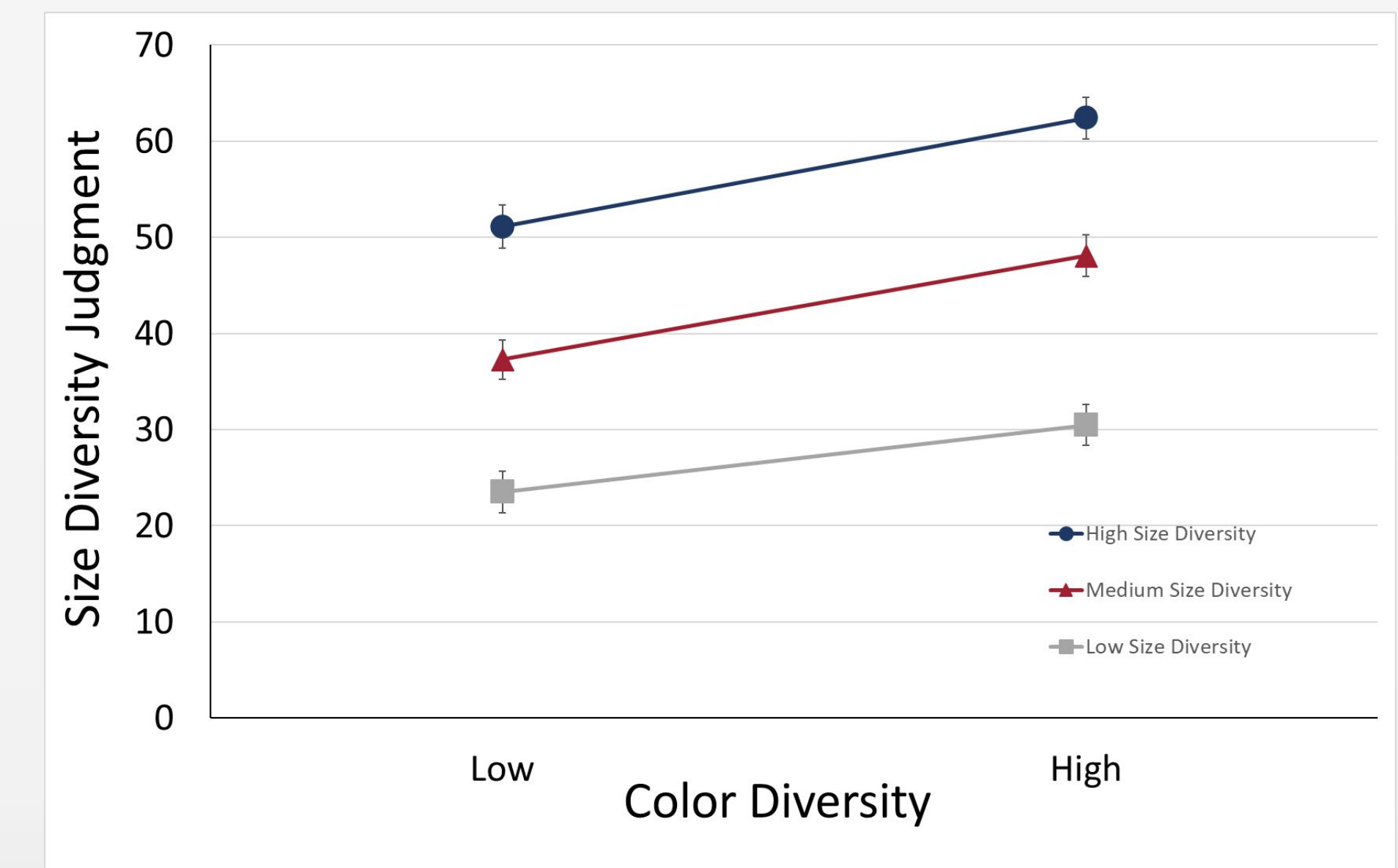- $t(78) = 4.68$, $p < 0.001$, $d = 0.53$

Experiment 2 Details

- 74 Undergraduates (22 men, 52 women) Tested Online
- Stimuli: 36 Groups of Circles
- Judgment Dimension: Size Diversity
- Irrelevant Dimension: Color Diversity of the Circles

Sample Stimulus Groups

Results

- Low Color Diversity: $M = 37.30$, $SD = 16.39$
- High Color Diversity: $M = 47.00$, $SD = 15.57$
- $t(73) = 8.37$, $p < 0.001$, $d = 0.61$