



Smartphone Use Decreases Trustworthiness



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SUMMARY

Trust is crucial for social, economic, and political relationships. We study **how smartphone use affects interactions with and trust in strangers.**

We find that **limiting phone access increased the proportion sent back in the trust game.** We explore interaction among participants during the waiting period as a potential mechanism.



METHOD

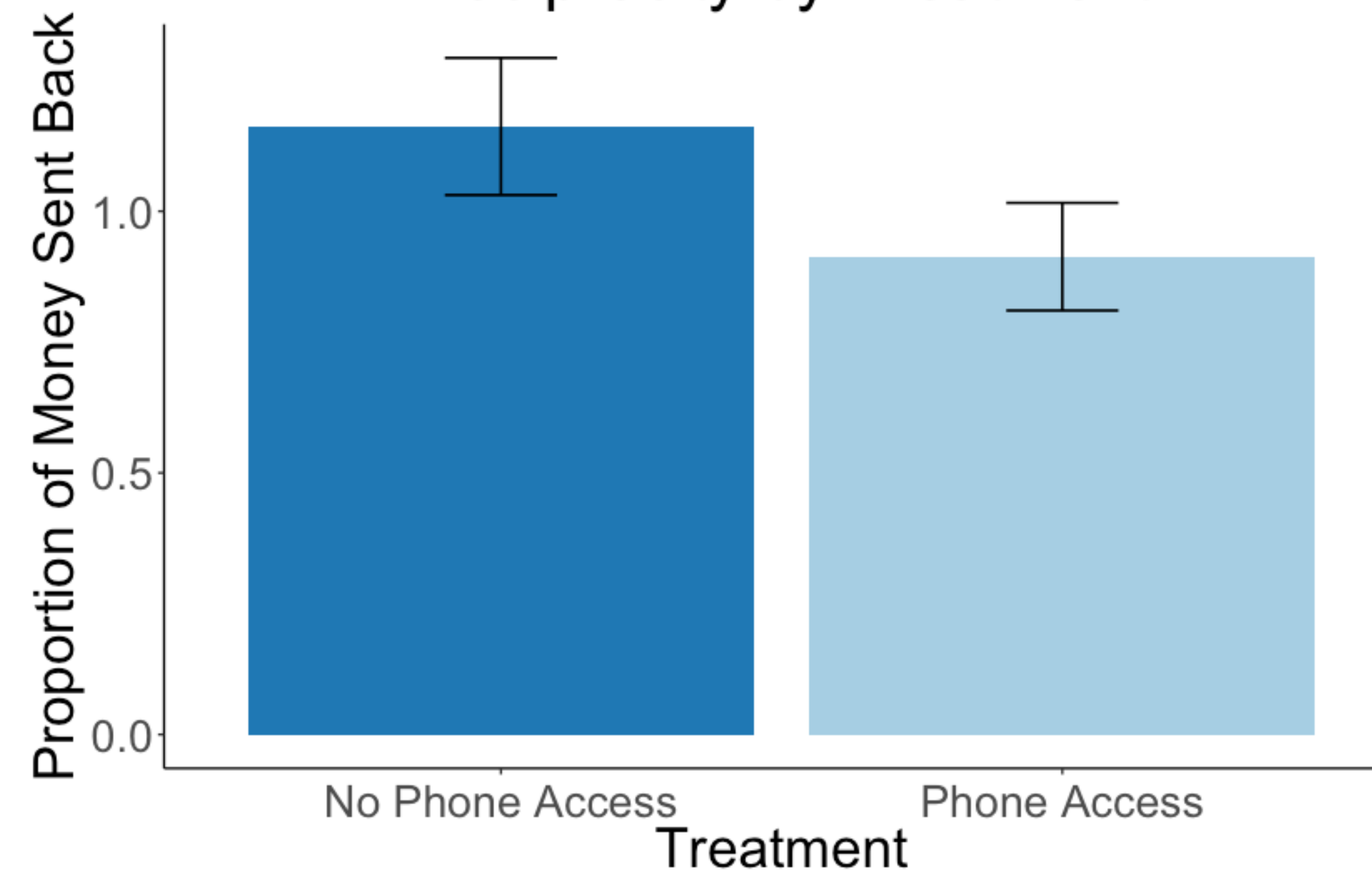
Participants:

- ❖ Were randomly assigned in groups of six to two treatments: Phone Access vs. No Phone Access
- ❖ Waited in their groups for 20 minutes and were allowed to interact as they wished
- ❖ Randomly paired to play the trust game

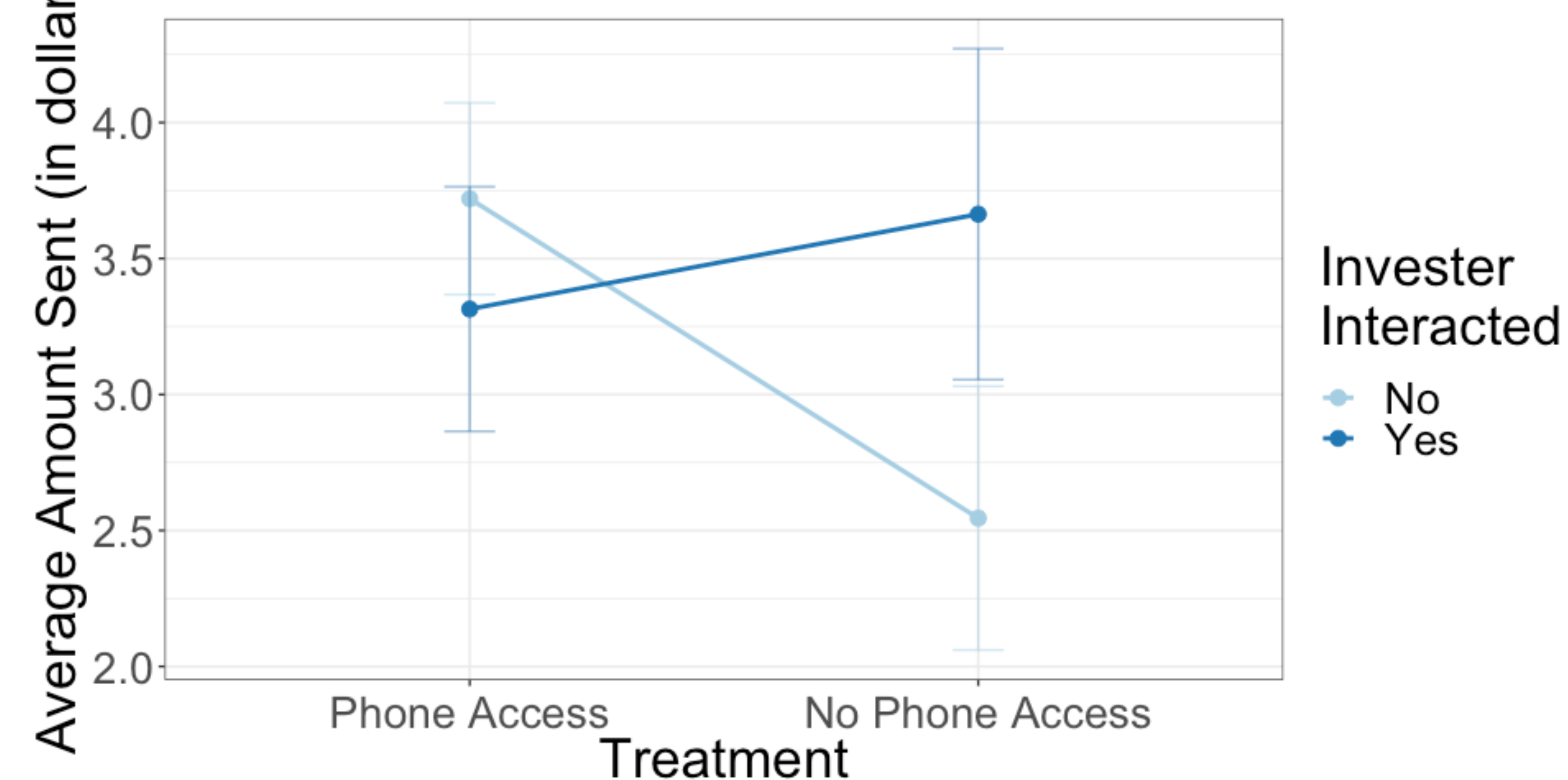
RESULTS

Treatment	Sent Amount	Sent Back Amount	Sent Back Proportion	# of Pairs
No Phone Access	\$3.46	\$4.10	1.16	60
Phone Access	\$3.48	\$3.50	0.91	60

Reciprocity by Treatment

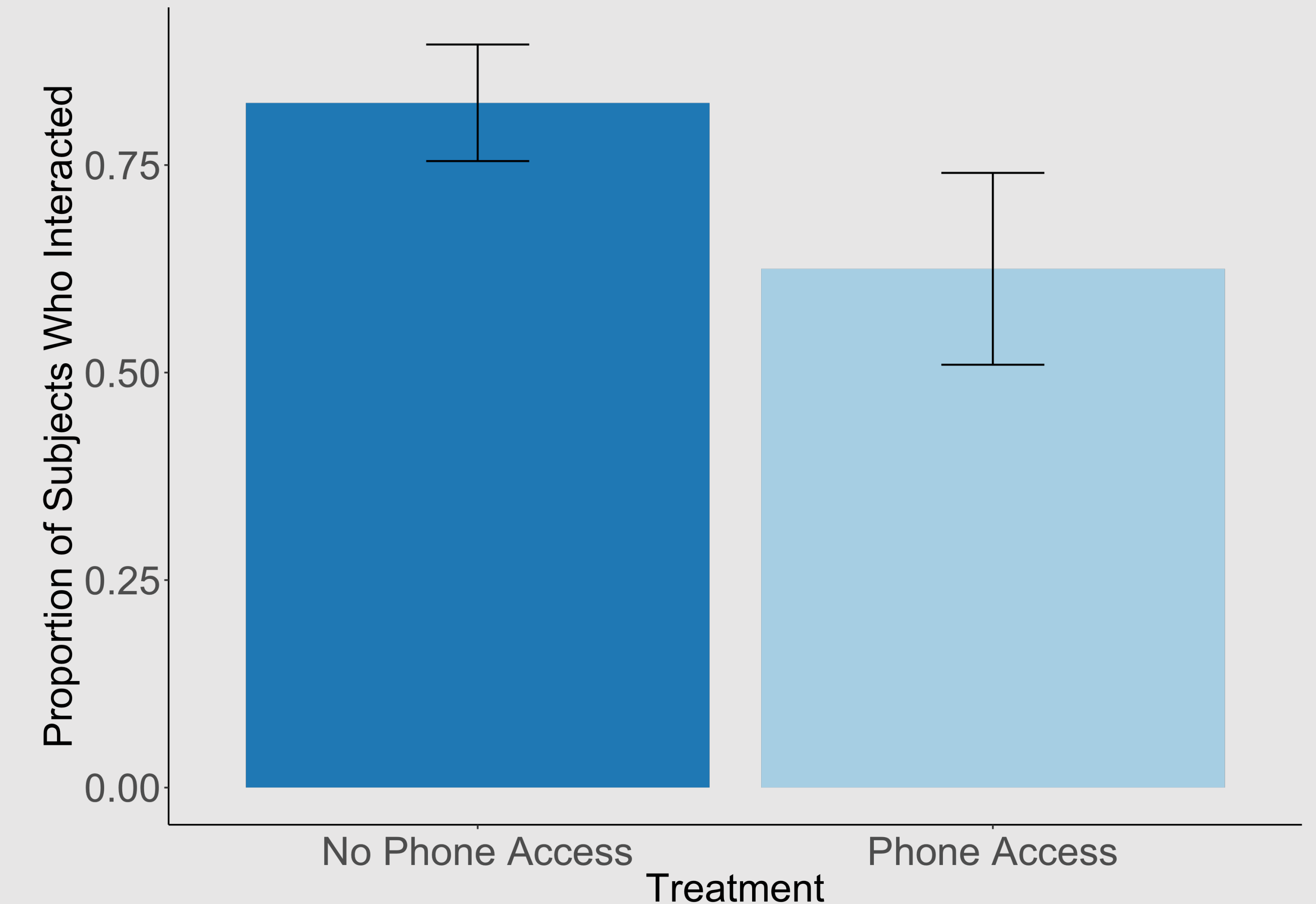


Effect of Treatment and Investor Interaction on Amount Sent



MECHANISM

Proportion of Subjects Who Interacted by Treatment



CONTRIBUTIONS

- ❖ Studies the economic consequences of phone use with respect to social interactions, with a focus on trust behavior.
- ❖ Phone access impacts trustworthiness, such that participants without access to their phones sent a higher proportion back than those with.
- ❖ Please scan the QR code for study details, references, and pre-registration.

