

Racism Overrides Altruism: Moral Judgment of Racist Altruists

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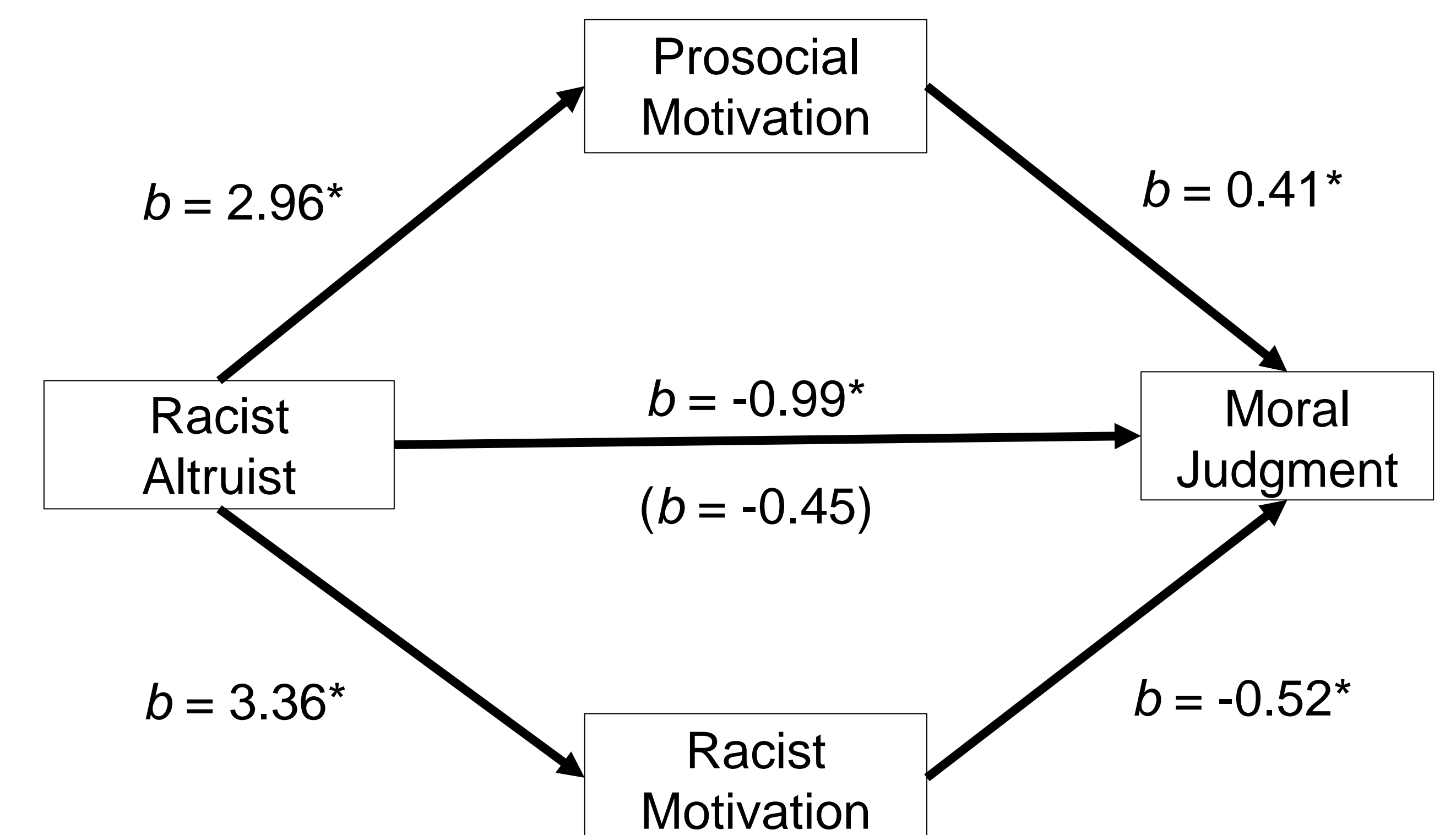


Introduction

- Moral judgments are decisive reactions to distinctly negative or positive actions/agents (e.g., racism vs. kidney donation)
- Extraordinary altruism, characterized by high personal cost for significant benefit to others, often elicits clear positive judgments
- Can be morally ambiguous -- has included restrictions based on race
- How would the racist altruist be judged?

Across 10 studies (N = 1,664), we find that despite saving a life, a White kidney donor who restricted the donation to White people is judged worse than someone who did not donate at all.

Study 3 – Motivational mediators
Participants (N = 98) judged RA and control on morality, prosocial & racist motivations.

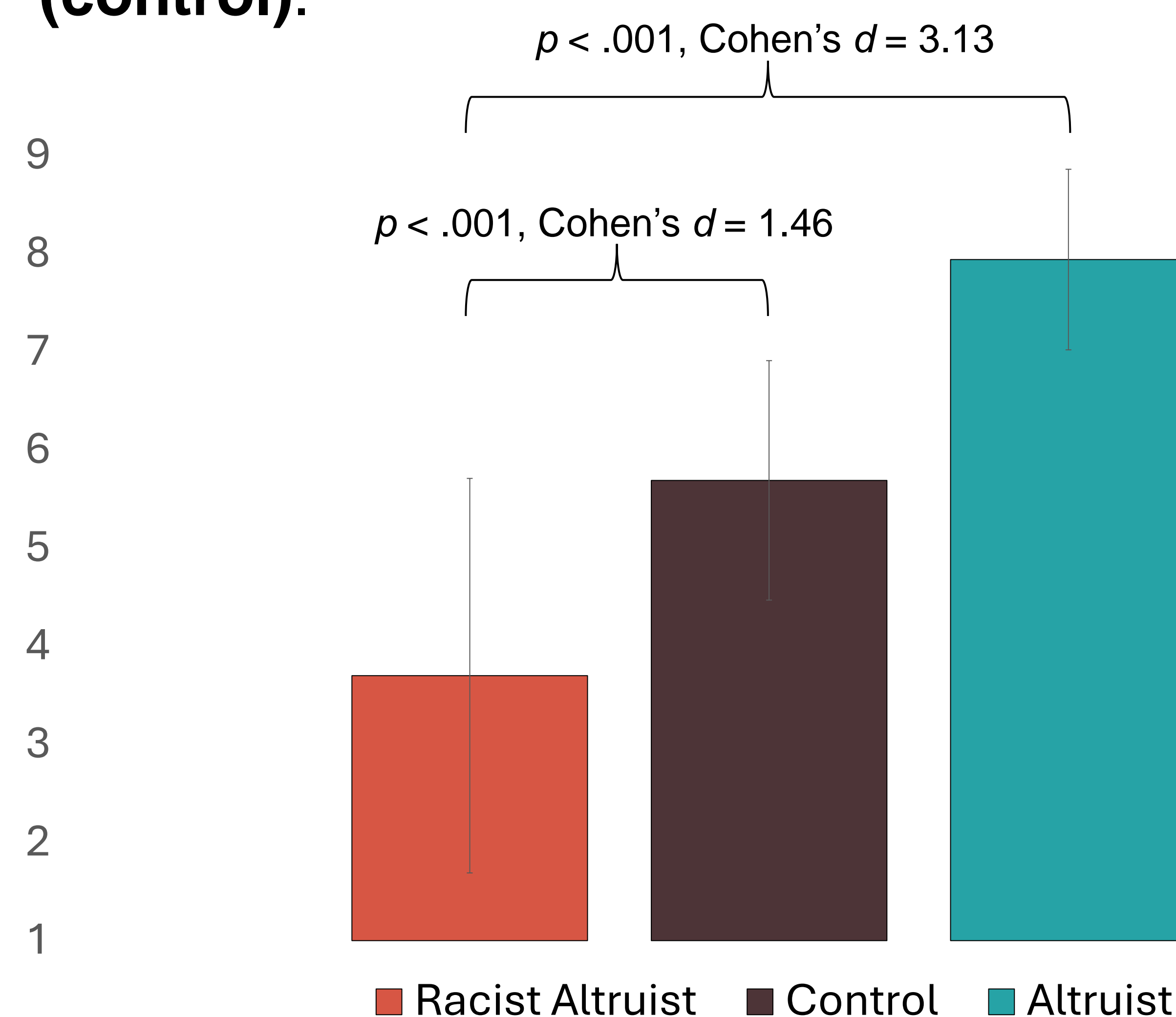


Indirect:

Prosocial: B = 1.20*; Racist: B = -1.75*
 $\Delta B = 0.73$, CI_{95%}: [0.18, 1.29]

Study 1 – White Donor and Recipient

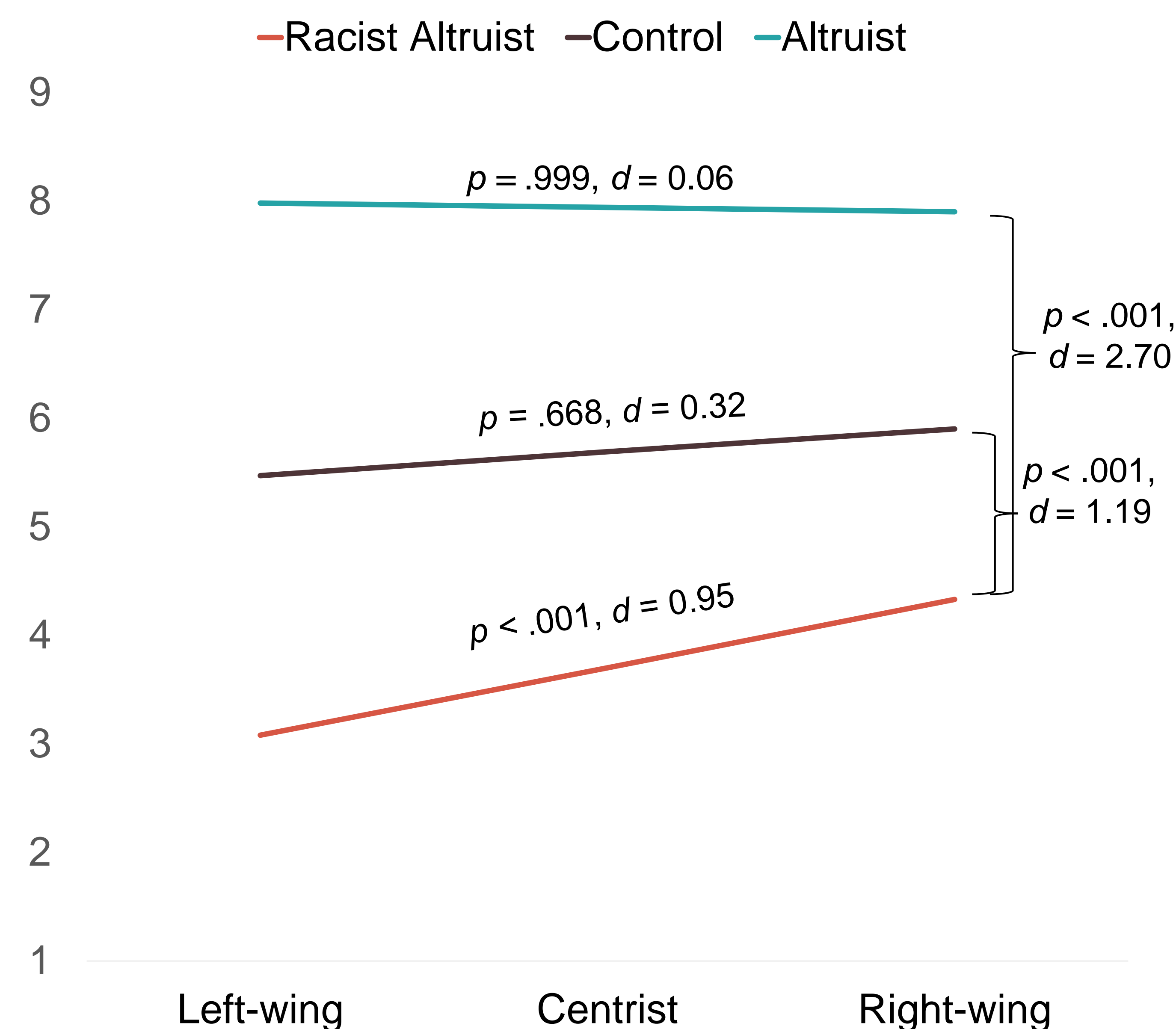
Participants (N = 99) judged someone who donated a kidney but conditioned his recipient on being White (**racist altruist**), someone who put no conditions (**altruist**), and a non-donor (**control**).



- Racist altruist is judged worse than control and regular altruist

Study 2 – Moderation by Politics

Same design as Study 1.



Interaction: $F(2,290) = 5.54$, $p = .004$

- Negative judgment of racist altruist decreases along political spectrum

More Studies

Same effect in other designs.
Happy to chat about them!

Discussion

- Even in case of supererogatory act, the positive judgment is diminished by racist motivation
- Deontology > Utilitarianism
- Unlike tainted altruism & white lies – both negative and positive aspects impact others

References

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