

A photograph showing several hands of different skin tones holding a globe of the Earth. The hands are positioned around the globe, with some pointing at specific locations. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and white.

Challenging response latencies in faking detection: The case of few items and no warnings

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- Faking detection is an ongoing challenge in psychological assessment (e.g., Röhner & Schütz, 2019; Röhner et al., 2021; Ziegler et al., 2012)
- A notable approach for detecting fakers involves the inspection of response latencies and is based on the *congruence model of faking*, which has been validated in various experimental faking studies (e.g., Brunetti et al., 1998; Esser & Schneider, 1998; Holden et al., 1992; Holden & Lambert, 2015)
 - Example: Respondents who fake good will provide favorable responses (congruent answers) faster than they provide unfavorable (incongruent answers) responses
- To date, research has focused on scales with large numbers of items and fakers have usually been warned that faking could be detected (Röhner & Holden, 2021)

Research Questions

- 1) Can the congruence model also be applied to self-report measures with few items?
- 2) Is warning participants about faking detection necessary for a successful application of the congruence model?

Procedure

- Re-analyses on data sets of two studies that investigated faking good and faking bad on extraversion ($n = 255$) and need for cognition ($n = 146$) scales
- Baseline assessment followed by randomly assignment to faking good, faking bad, control condition

Measures

- Extraversion scale: German adaptation of the 12-item extraversion scale from NEO-Five Factor Inventory (Borkenau & Ostendorf, 2008; English version: Costa & McCrae, 1992); 5-point ratings from 0 (“strongly disagree”) to 4 (“strongly agree”); $M = 27.74$, $SD = 43.08$, coefficient $\alpha = .83$ at baseline; $M = 25.76$, $SD = 204.83$, coefficient $\alpha = .96$ under faking/retest
- Need for cognition scale: German adaptation of the 16-item need for cognition scale (Bless et al., 1994; English version: Cacioppo & Petty, 1982); 7-point ratings ranging from -3 (“strongly disagree”) to +3 (“strongly agree”); $M = 15.73$, $SD = 11.31$, coefficient $\alpha = .85$ at baseline; $M = 5.64$, $SD = 986.19$, coefficient $\alpha = .98$ under faking/retest

Response Time Analyses

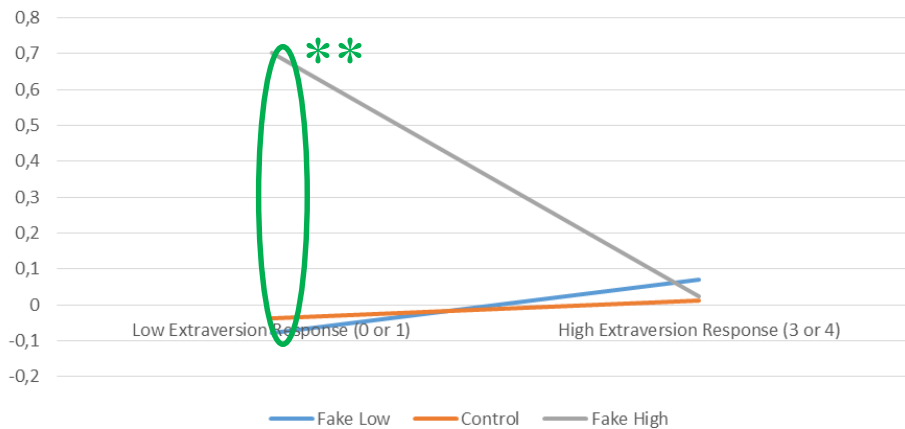
- Raw item response times for the second administration of items were adjusted to control for the effects of statistical outliers and were twice standardized (Holden, 1998; Holden et al., 1992)
 - 1) Adjustment for confounding respondent factors (e.g., reading speed, sex)
 - 2) Adjustment for confounding item variables (e.g., length, vocabulary level)

Manipulation Check

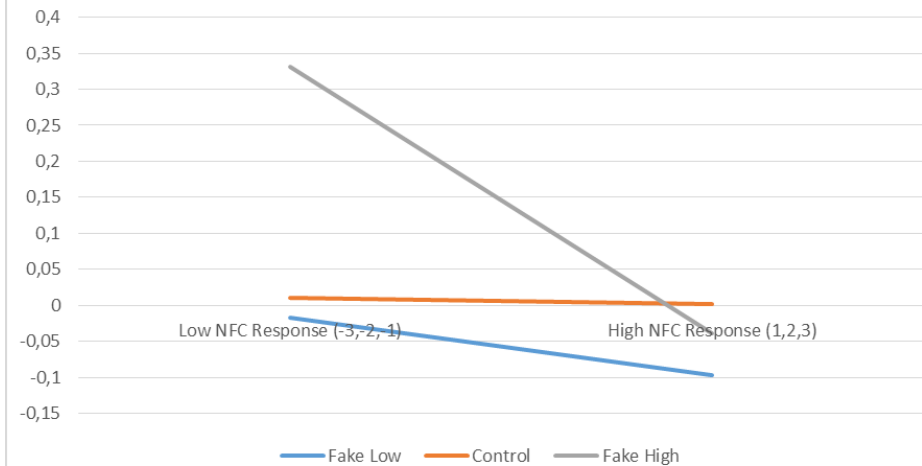
Measurement occasion	Extraversion Scale			Need For Cognition Scale		
	Experimental <u>group</u>			Experimental <u>group</u>		
	Faking bad	Control	Faking good	Faking bad	Control	Faking good
	<i>M (SD)</i>	<i>M (SD)</i>	<i>M (SD)</i>	<i>M (SD)</i>	<i>M (SD)</i>	<i>M (SD)</i>
Baseline	2.37 _{a1} (0.50)	2.30 _{a1} (0.58)	2.25 _{a1} (0.57)	0.98 _{a1} (0.77)	0.98 _{a1} (0.70)	1.00 _{a1} (0.66)
Faking	0.88 _{b2} (0.64)	2.33 _{a1} (0.55)	3.49 _{c2} (0.37)	-2.01 _{b2} (0.81)	0.90 _{a1} (0.70)	2.33 _{c2} (0.62)

Note. $N = 255$ for the extraversion scale. $N = 146$ for the need for cognition scale. Different lettered subscripts indicate significant differences between experimental groups (i.e., columns); different numbered subscripts identify significant differences between measurement occasions (i.e., rows) at $p < .05$.

Extraversion Mean Response Latencies (Studies 1 & 2 Combined)



Need for Cognition Mean Response Latencies



- Congruence model of faking was only partly confirmed
- Few items per scale and not warning participants represent a challenge for the congruence model of faking
- Faking good on extraversion was associated with the expected longer latencies for incongruent answers
- All other conditions remained non-significant
- Properties of the measurement and properties of the procedure affect the successful application of the congruence model

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