

# Synchrony in social interactions

For questions or help email:  
[jin.hyun.cheong.gr@dartmouth.edu](mailto:jin.hyun.cheong.gr@dartmouth.edu)

Jin Hyun Cheong  
COSAN Lab  
PSYC 53

1. Examples of synchrony in social interactions.
2. Quick tutorial on how to extract and analyze non-verbal features from your videos.
  - Facial expressions: <https://tinyurl.com/openfacecolab>
  - Body poses: <https://tinyurl.com/openposecolab>

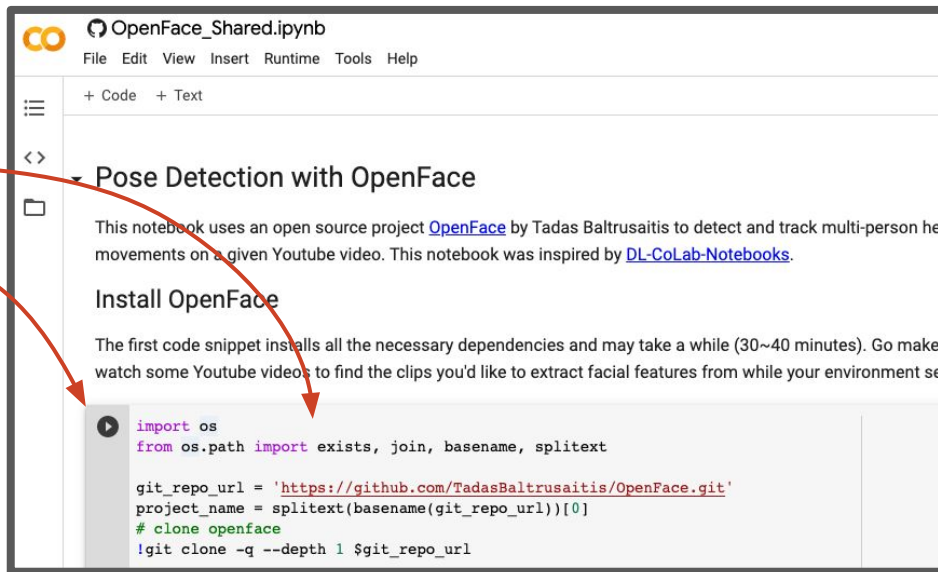
## If you'd like to follow along later...

1. Enter following url in your browser: <https://tinyurl.com/openfacecolab>
2. Click the cell after “Install OpenFace”, and then click the play button.  
(You will need to log in to Google)

You'll see a screen like this.

1. Click in this cell
2. Click the play button to install necessary packages on your cloud computing notebook!

Installation takes ~40 min.



```
OpenFace_Shared.ipynb
File Edit View Insert Runtime Tools Help

+ Code + Text

Pose Detection with OpenFace

This notebook uses an open source project OpenFace by Tadas Baltrusaitis to detect and track multi-person he
movements on a given Youtube video. This notebook was inspired by DL-Colab-Notebooks.

Install OpenFace

The first code snippet installs all the necessary dependencies and may take a while (30~40 minutes). Go make
watch some Youtube videos to find the clips you'd like to extract facial features from while your environment se

▶ import os
from os.path import exists, join, basename, splitext

git_repo_url = 'https://github.com/TadasBaltrusaitis/OpenFace.git'
project_name = splitext(basename(git_repo_url))[0]
# clone openface
!git clone -q --depth 1 $git_repo_url
```

1. **Examples of synchrony in social interactions.**
2. Quick tutorial on how to extract and analyze non-verbal features from your videos.
  - Facial expressions
  - Body poses

# For some reason, we take pleasure in synchronizing.

We like dancing together



We like singing together



We like laughing together

We even like to jump together



# Why is synchrony important?

Chameleon effect (1999).

Therapist-patient synchrony predicts better clinical outcomes (2011).

Neural, emotion, and movement synchrony predict social connection (2018).

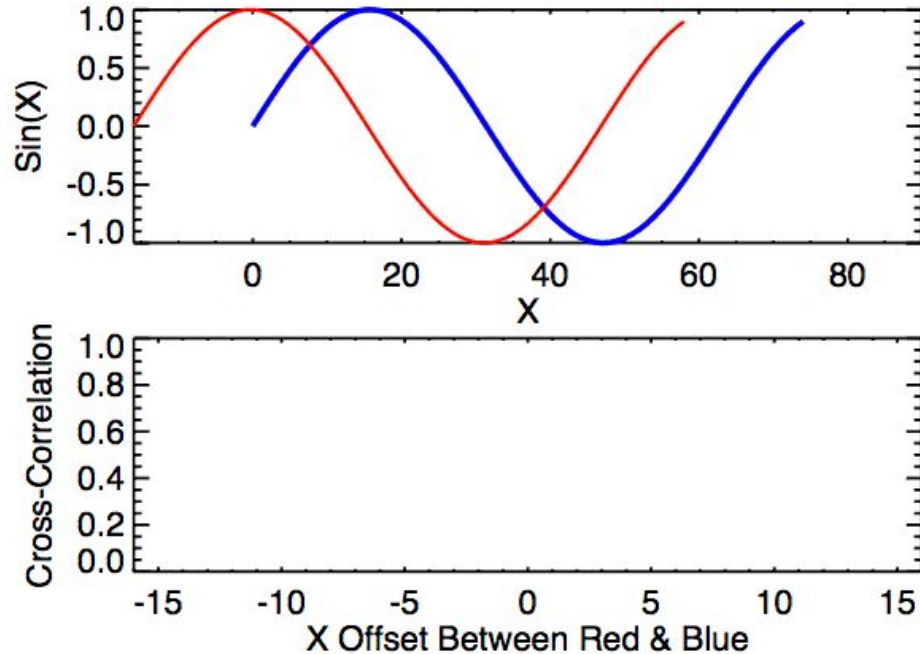
Time-lagged synchrony and social roles (leader-followers; 2015).

But what does synchrony mean?

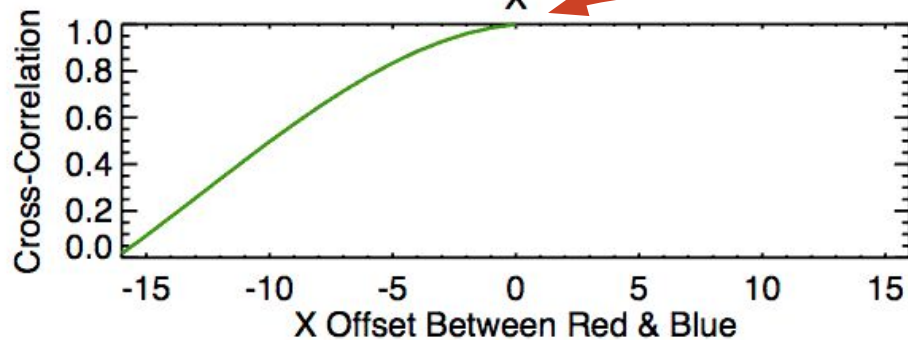
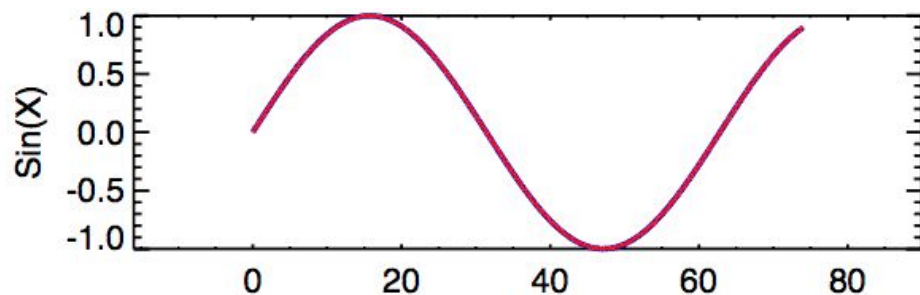
How do we define synchrony?

# How do we define synchrony?

simultaneous action, development or occurrence



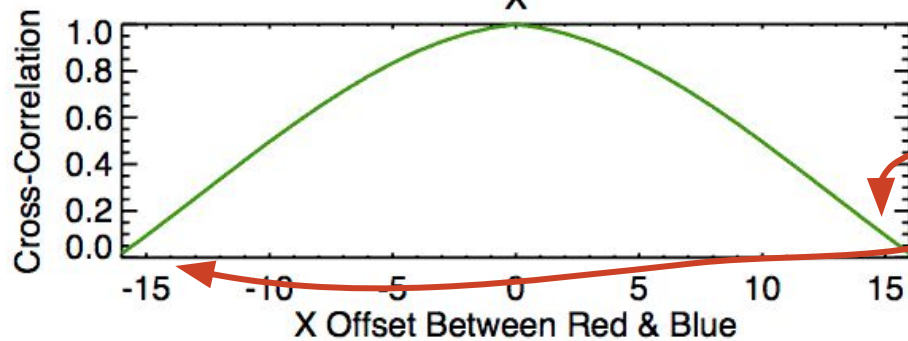
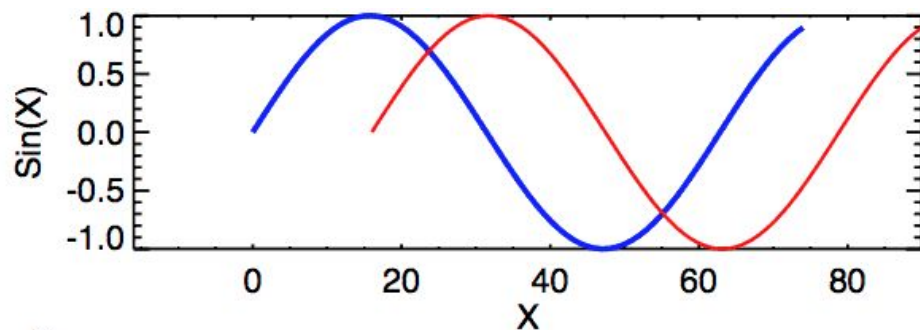
# Perfect synchrony.



Most synchrony!

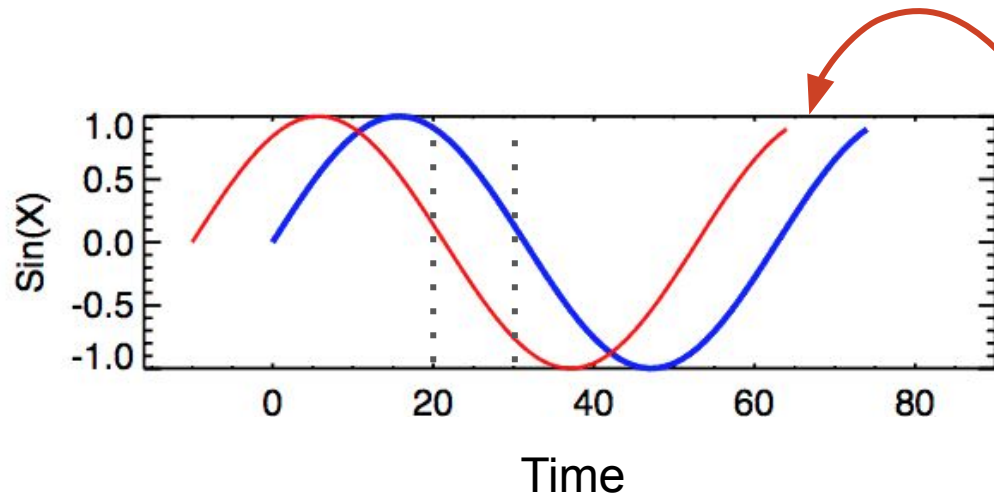


# No synchrony



No synchrony!

# Mimicry or Time-lagged synchrony

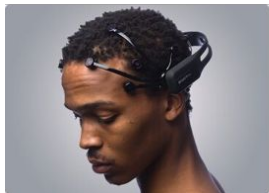


Red: Leader  
Blue: Follower

Red was 0 at  $t=20$ ,  
Blue hits 0 at  $t=30$ .

# Where can we measure synchrony?

EEG



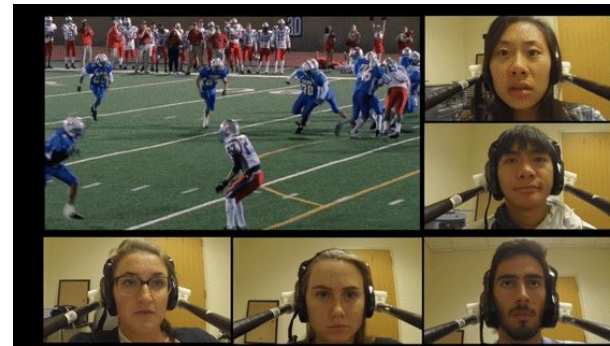
fMRI



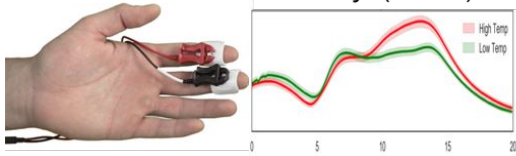
fNIRS



facial expressions



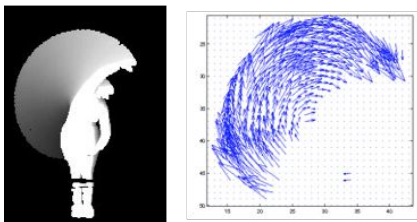
Electrodermal Activity (EDA)



Heart Rate (HR)



motion energy



body movements



# Why is synchrony important?

Chameleon effect.

Therapist-patient synchrony predicts better clinical outcomes.

Neural and emotion synchrony predicts social connection.

Time-lagged synchrony can help predict social roles (leader-followers).

# Chameleon effect

Journal of Personality and Social Psychology  
1999, Vol. 76, No. 6, 893–910

Copyright 1999 by the American Psychological Association, Inc.  
0022-3514/99/\$3.00

## The Chameleon Effect: The Perception–Behavior Link and Social Interaction

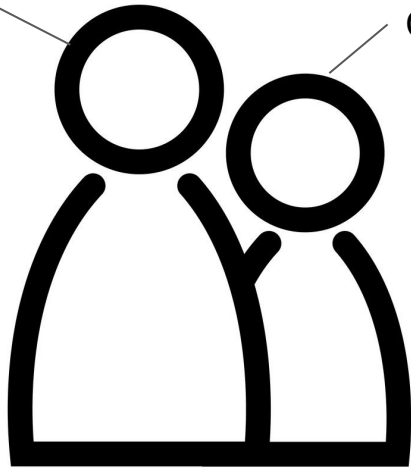
Tanya L. Chartrand and John A. Bargh  
New York University

The *chameleon effect* refers to nonconscious mimicry of the postures, mannerisms, facial expressions, and other behaviors of one's interaction partners, such that one's behavior passively and unintentionally changes to match that of others in one's current social environment. The authors suggest that the mechanism involved is the *perception–behavior link*, the recently documented finding (e.g., J. A. Bargh, M. Chen, & L. Burrows, 1996) that the mere perception of another's behavior automatically increases the

# Chameleon effect

Describe the  
photograph.

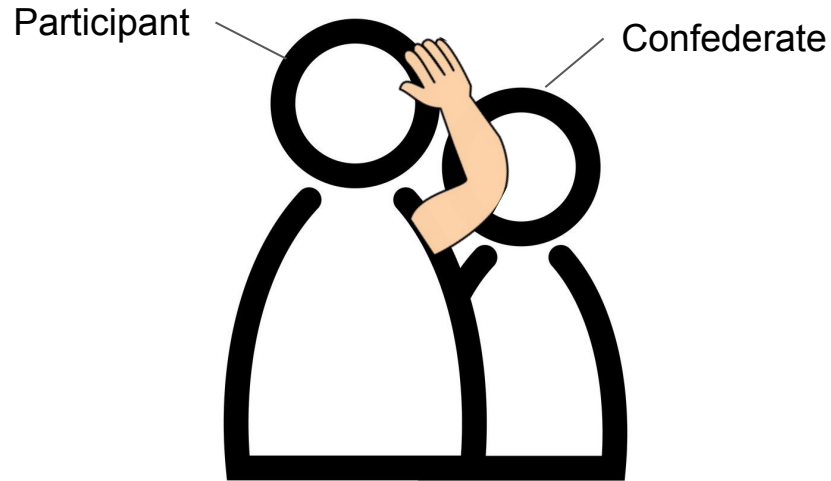
Participant



Confederate

# Chameleon effect

Describe the  
photograph.

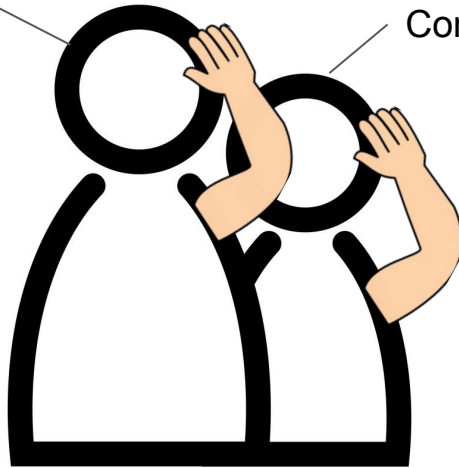


Control Condition

# Chameleon effect

Describe the  
photograph.

Participant



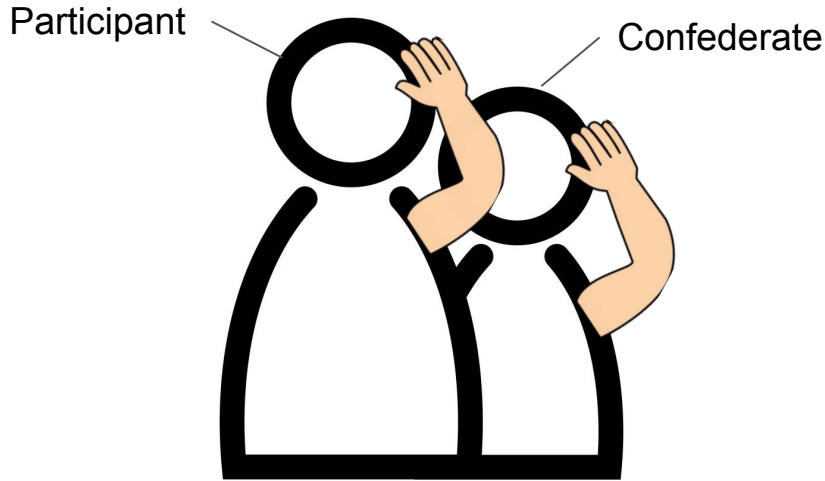
Confederate

Mimicry Condition



# Chameleon effect

Describe the  
photograph.

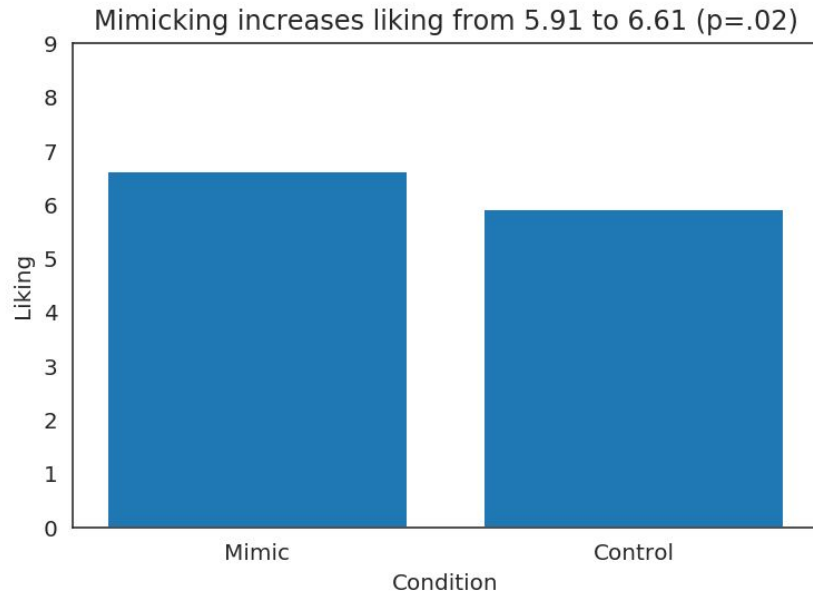


Will participants rate the mimicking confederate more “likable” than non-mimicking confederates (control)?

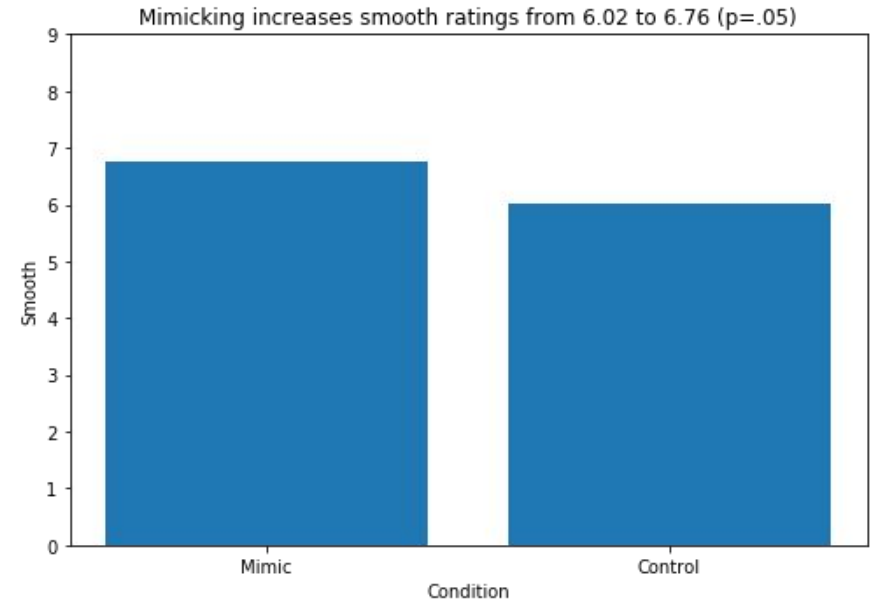
Will participants rate the interaction more “smooth” for mimicking than non-mimicking confederates (control)?

# Chameleon effect

Participants rated the mimicking confederate more “likable” than non-mimicking confederates (control).

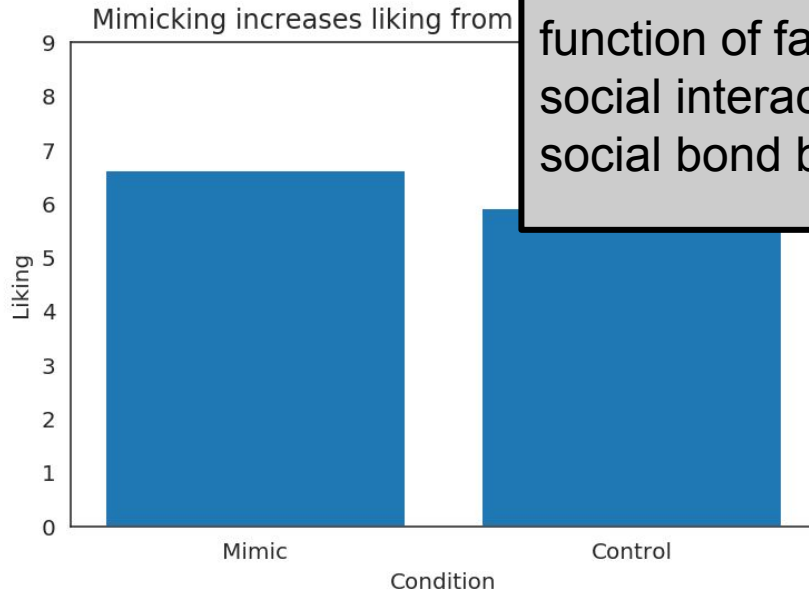


Participants rated the interaction more “smooth” for mimicking than non-mimicking confederates (control).

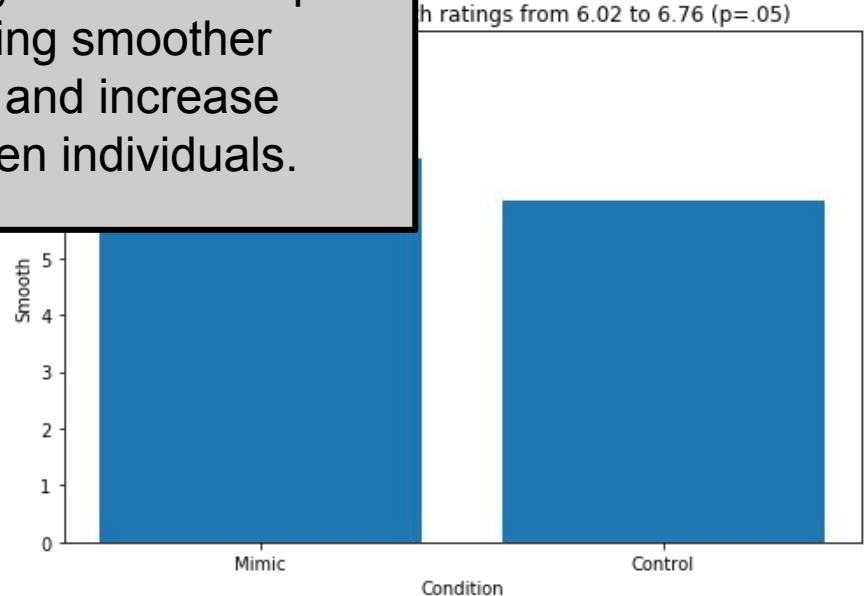


# Chameleon effect

Participants rated the mimicking confederate more “likable” than non-mimicking confederate.



Participants rated the interaction more “smooth” for mimicking than non-mimicking confederates (control).



Motor mimicry may have an adaptive function of facilitating smoother social interactions and increase social bond between individuals.

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Chameleon effect (1999).

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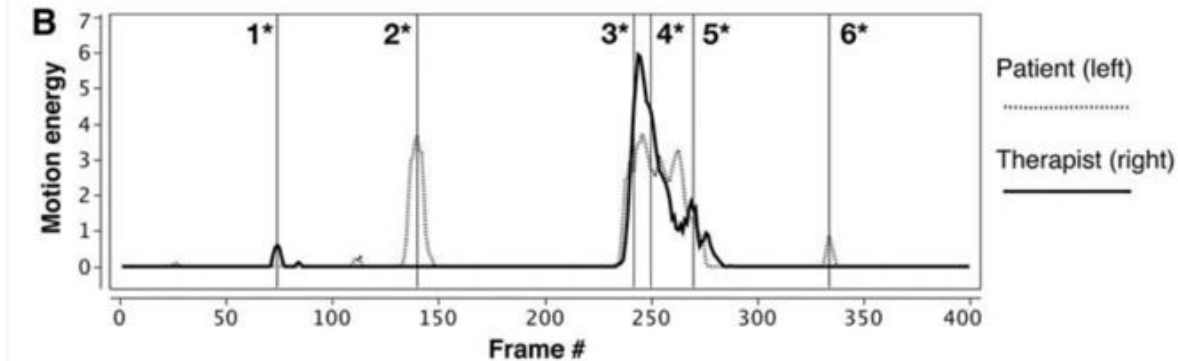
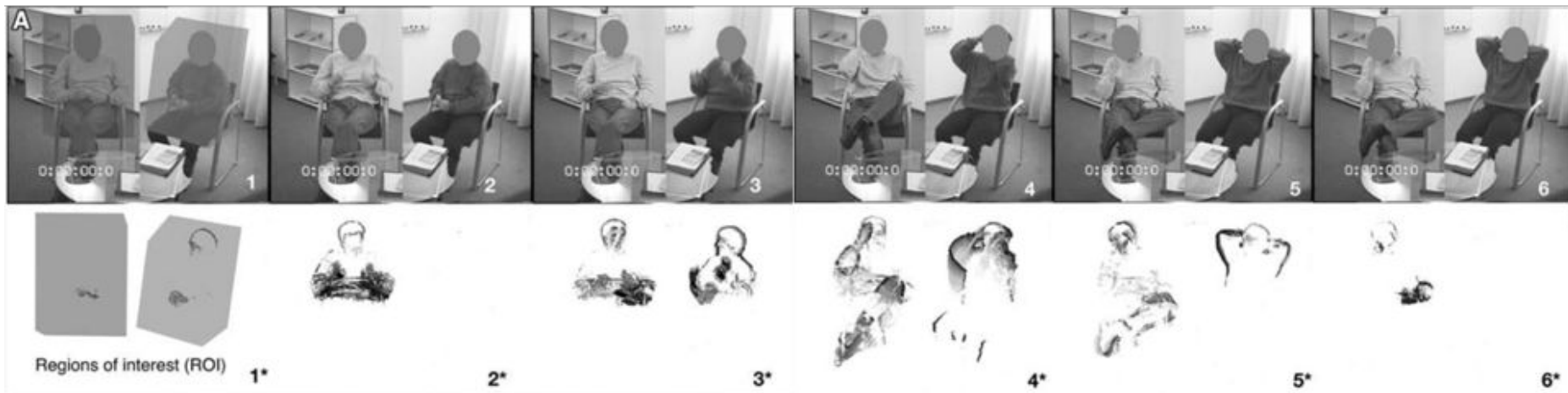
Neural, emotion, and movement synchrony predict social connection (2018).

Time-lagged synchrony and social roles (leader-followers; 2015).



# 70 patients, on average 38 sessions Synchrony of Motion energy

Wolfgang Tschacher

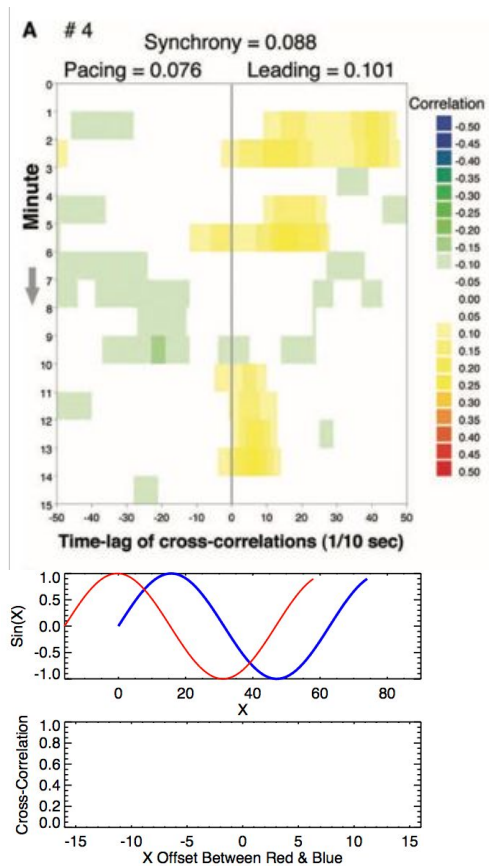




70 patients, on average 38 sessions  
Synchrony of Motion energy

Wolfgang Tschacher

Low synchrony

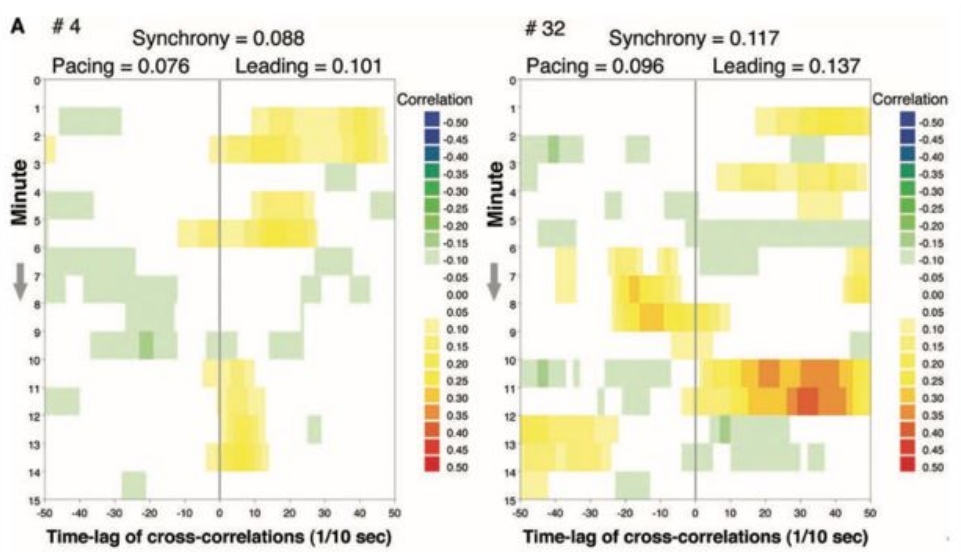




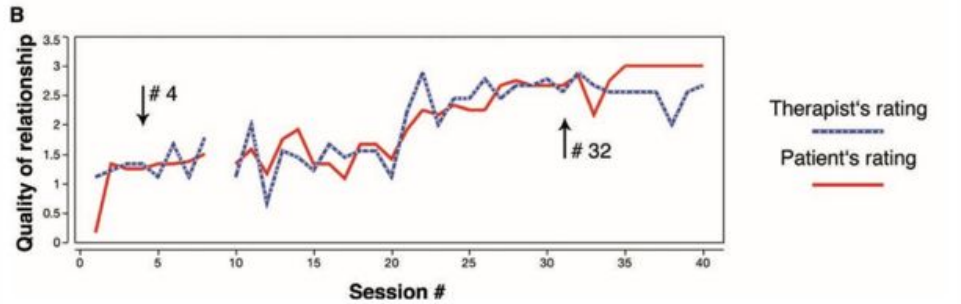
70 patients, on average 38 sessions  
Synchrony of Motion energy

Wolfgang Tschacher

Low synchrony



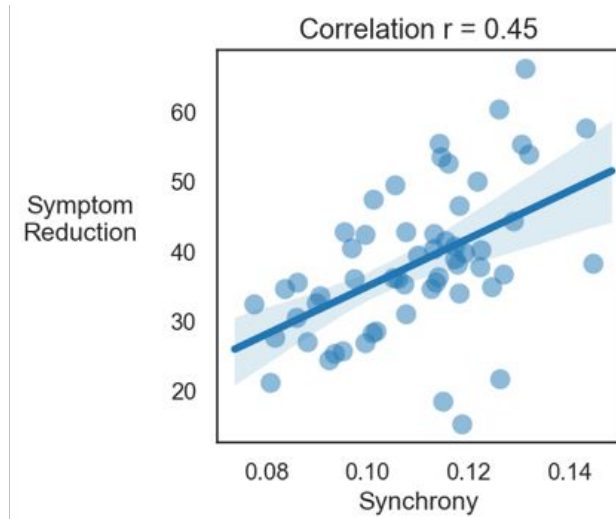
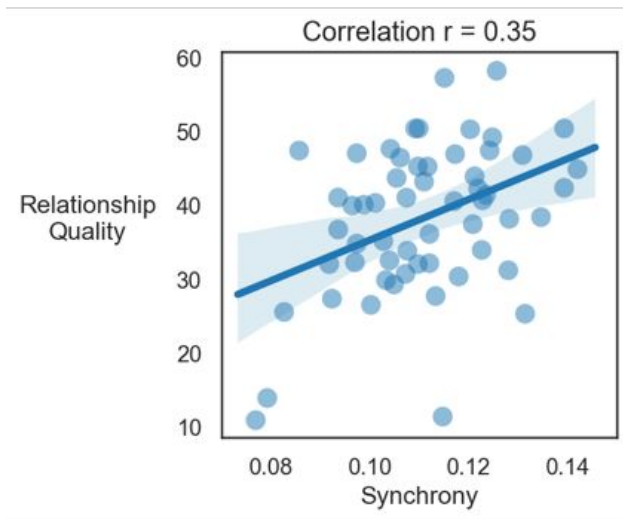
High synchrony





## 70 patients, on average 38 sessions Synchrony of Motion energy

Wolfgang Tschacher



Higher doctor-patient synchrony predicts better relationships and therapy outcomes.



# Why is synchrony important?

Chameleon effect.

Therapist-patient synchrony predicts better clinical outcomes.

Neural and emotion synchrony predicts social connection.

Time-lagged synchrony can help predict social roles (leader-followers).



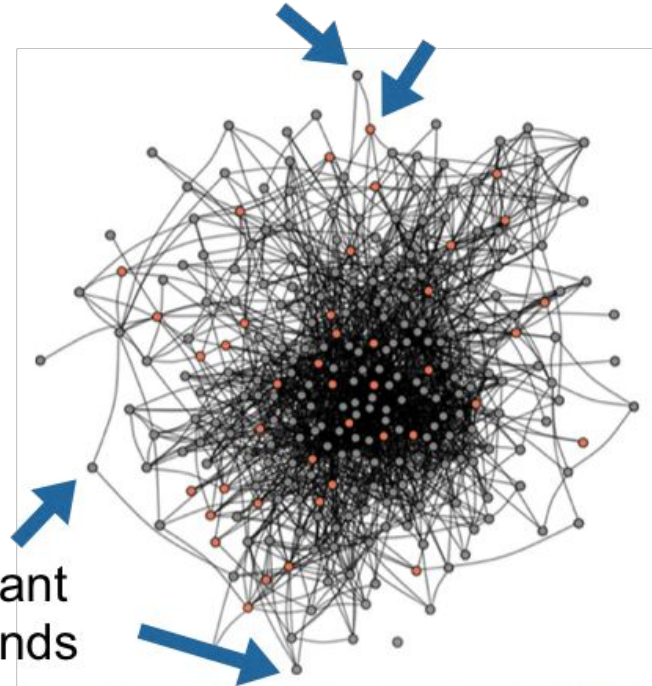
Thalia Wheatley

279 Tuck student friendship network  
42 scanned in fMRI watching various video clips  
Synchrony of neural activity



Network measured in November

Close friends



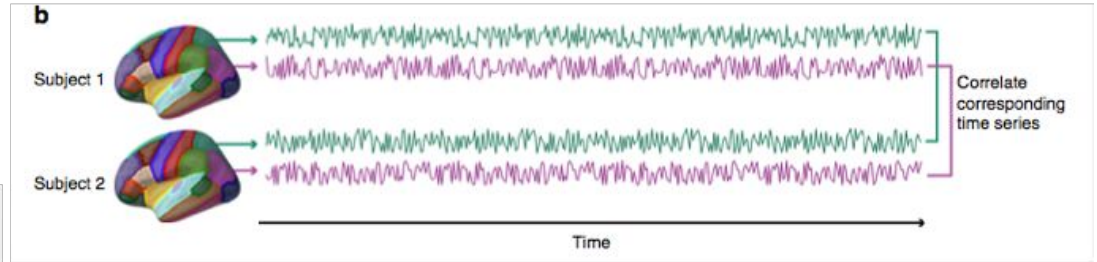
Distant  
Friends

**Fig. 1** Social network. The social network of an entire cohort of first-year graduate students was reconstructed based on a survey completed by all students in the cohort ( $N = 279$ ; 100% response rate). Nodes indicate students; lines indicate mutually reported social ties between them. A subset of students (orange circles;  $N = 42$ ) participated in the fMRI study



Thalia Wheatley

# 279 Tuck student friendship network 42 scanned in fMRI watching various video clips Synchrony of neural activity



fMRI collected next February  
(3 months after network response collected)

Example of videos used in study

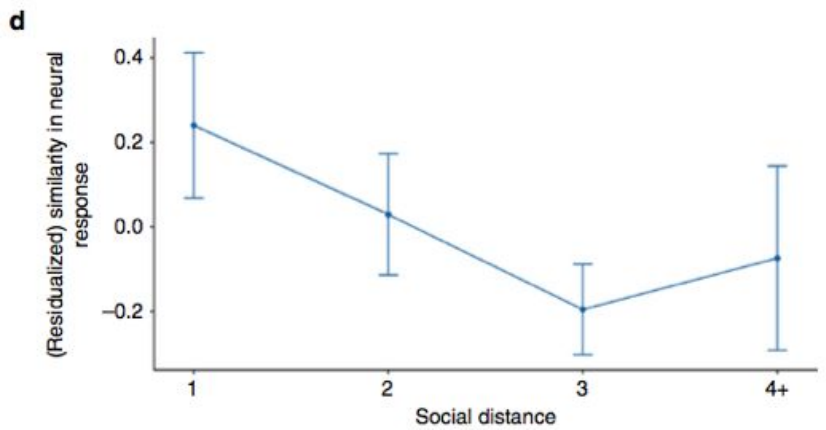
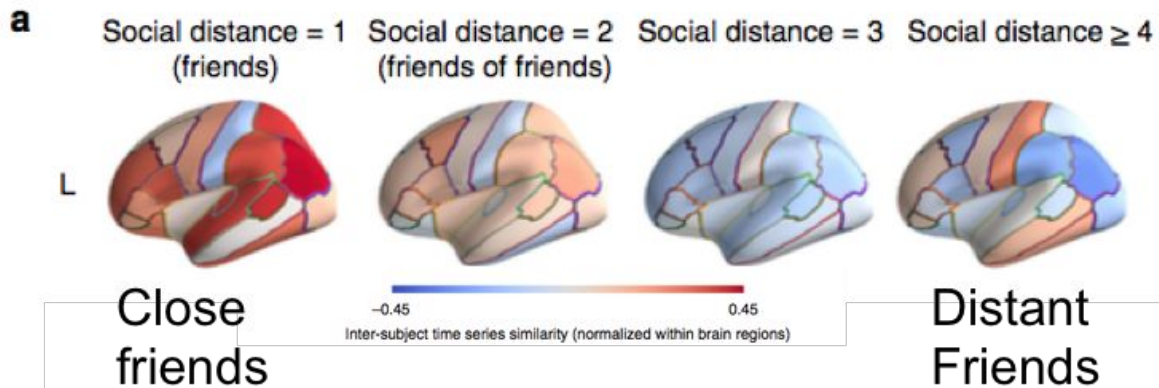
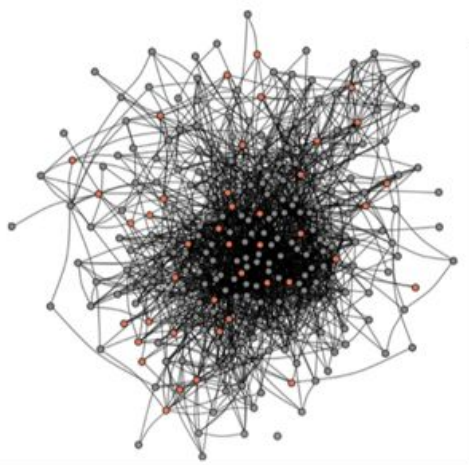


Thalia Wheatley

# 279 Tuck student friendship network

## 42 scanned in fMRI watching various video clips

### Synchrony of neural activity





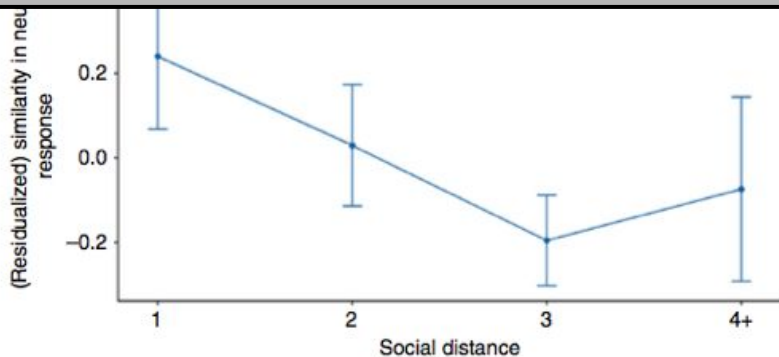
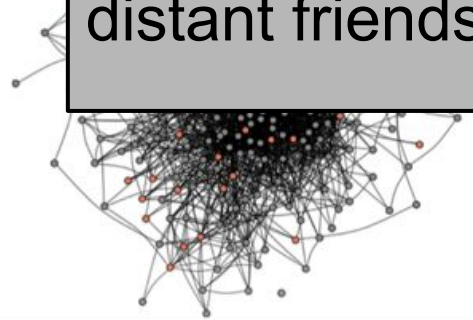
Thalia Wheatley

# 279 Tuck student friendship network 42 scanned in fMRI watching various video clips Synchrony of neural activity

**a** Social distance = 1 (friends)   Social distance = 2 (friends of friends)   Social distance = 3   Social distance  $\geq 4$



Neural response to video clips watched alone are more similar between close friends than distant friends.



stant  
ends





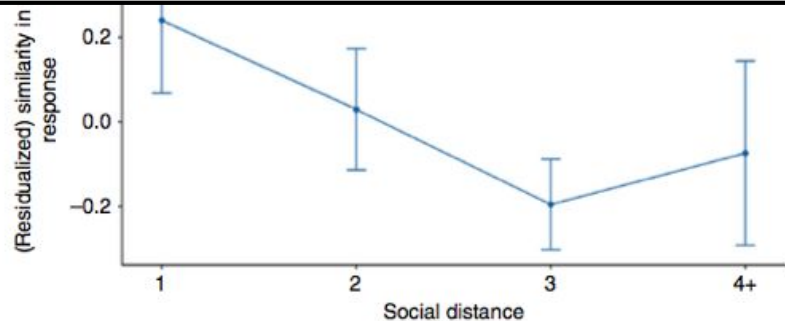
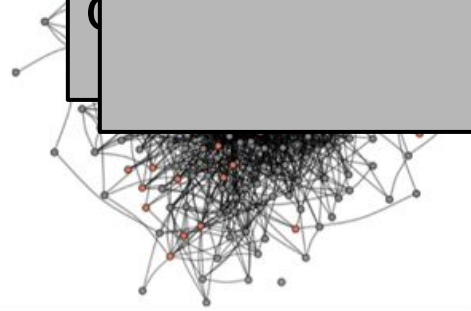
Thalia Wheatley

# 279 Tuck student friendship network 42 scanned in fMRI watching various video clips Synchrony of neural activity

**a** Social distance = 1 (friends)    Social distance = 2 (friends of friends)    Social distance = 3    Social distance  $\geq 4$



What happens in a natural setting where you watch videos with another person?





Sushmita Sadhukha



Zainab Molani



Luke Chang

## Synchrony of emotions through facial expressions







How connected do you feel to the other participant?

How much did you enjoy the episode?

**Session 1 (~3 hrs)**

**Session 2 (~3 hrs)**

ep01

ep02

ep03

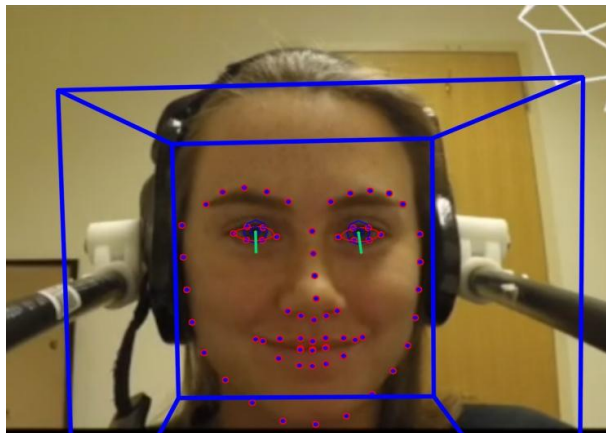
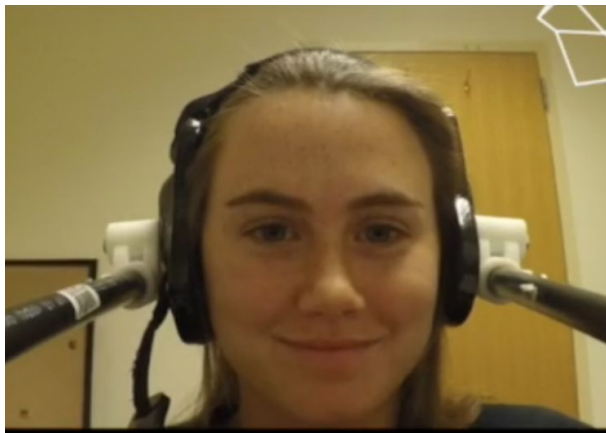
ep04

Group 1  
(Dyad)  
n = 64



Can we predict their connection from their emotional reactions?





Time: 34:12

Joy: .99

Sadness: .01

Fear: .05

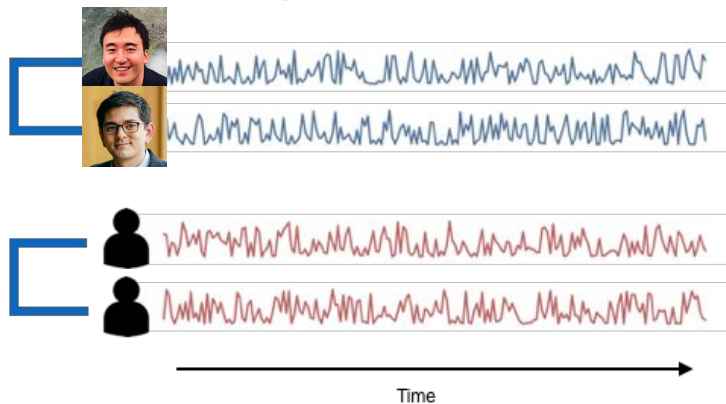
Disgust: .07

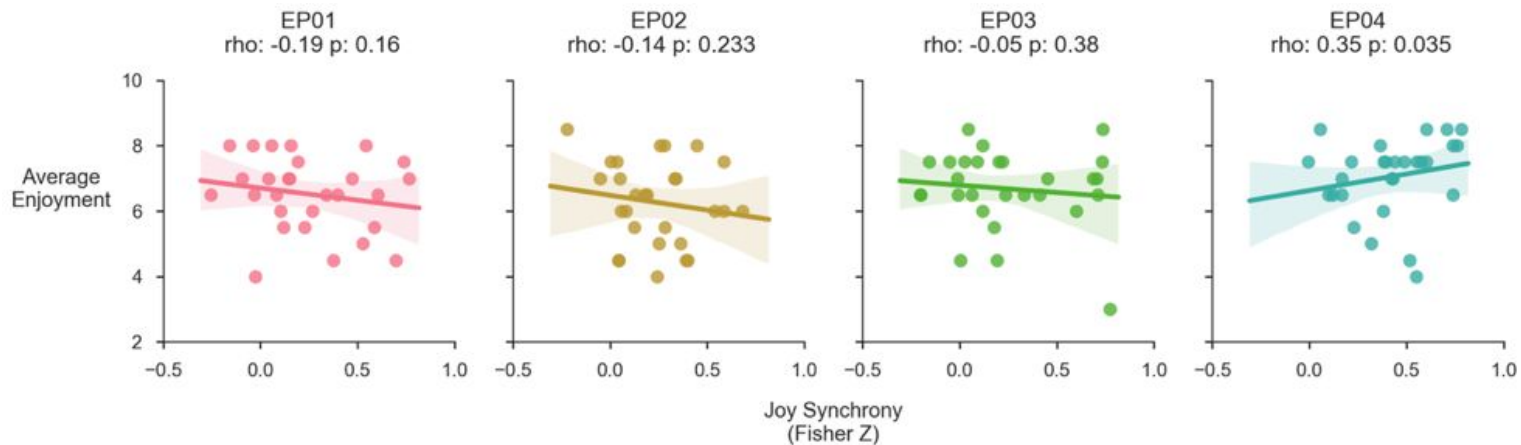
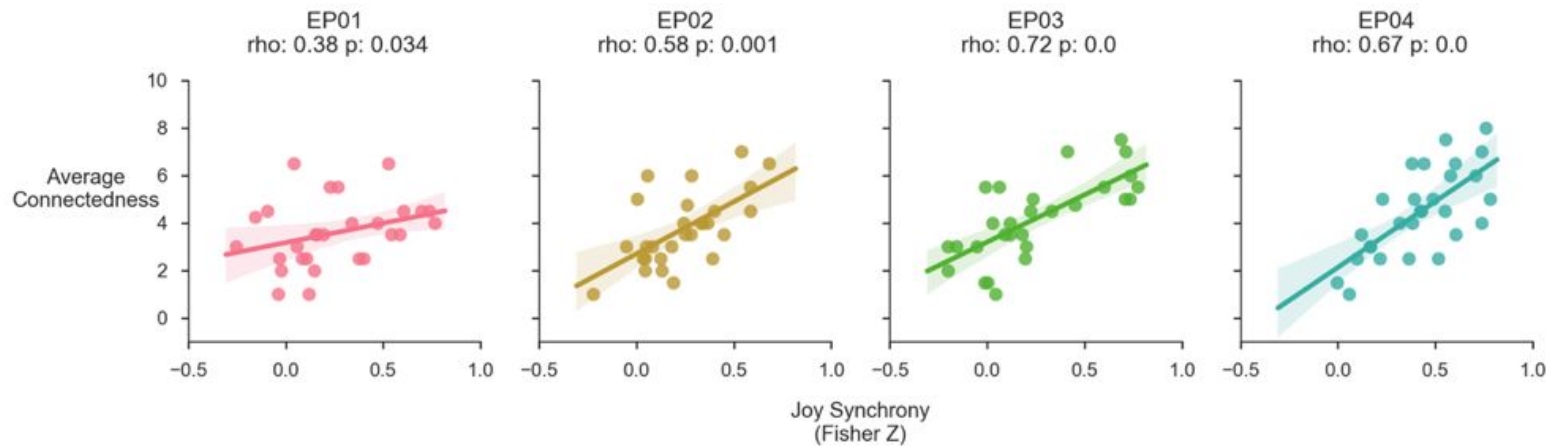
Surprise: .00

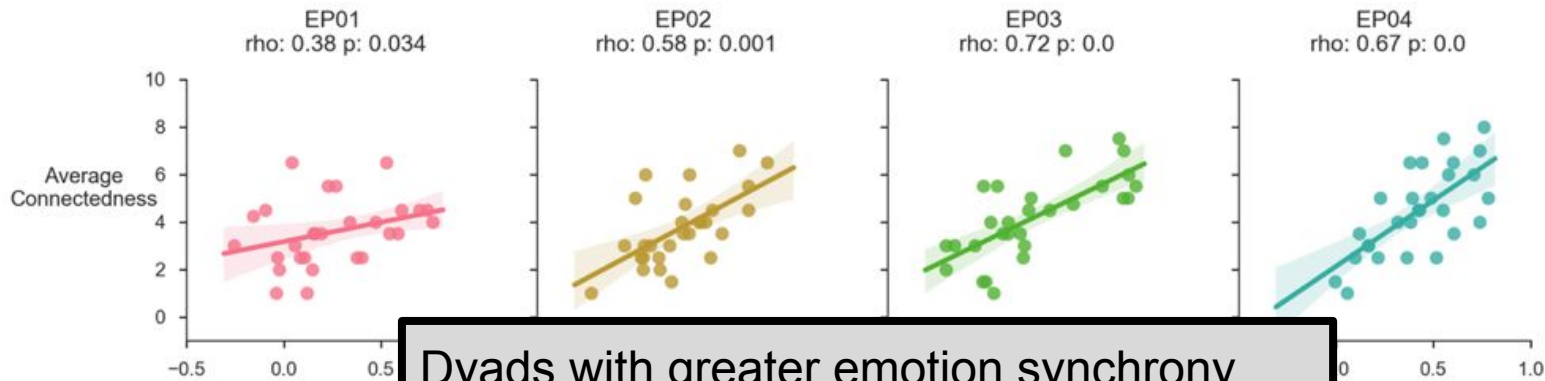
Anger: .02

Synchrony of Dyad Pairs

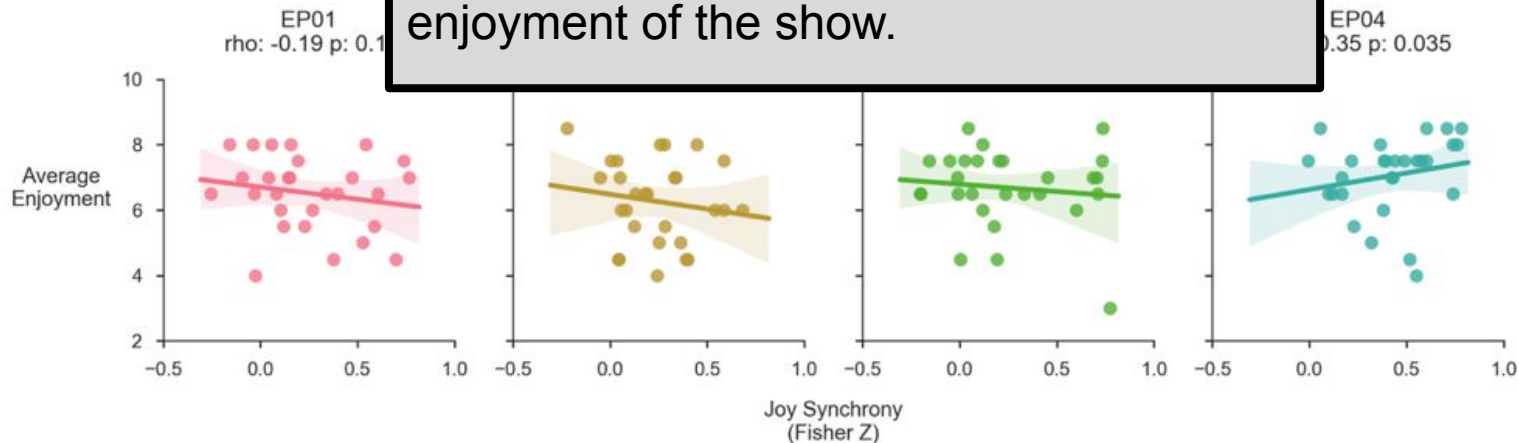
Joy Facial Expressions







Dyads with greater emotion synchrony felt more connected to each other but emotion synchrony did not affect enjoyment of the show.





Please decide how to divide your support between these two fundraising campaigns.

Donate to Option 1

50



Stephanie's College Tuition

Who am I?

Hi, my name is Stephanie Mercado and I'm a first-generation college student enrolled to attend CSU Monterey Bay this Fall. I have worked very hard over the last four years to pursue my passion of becoming a veterinarian. I am also excited to discover all of the new opportunities my experience at CSU Monterey Bay will offer.

Donate to Option 2

50



Daniel Rodriguez - Recovery fund

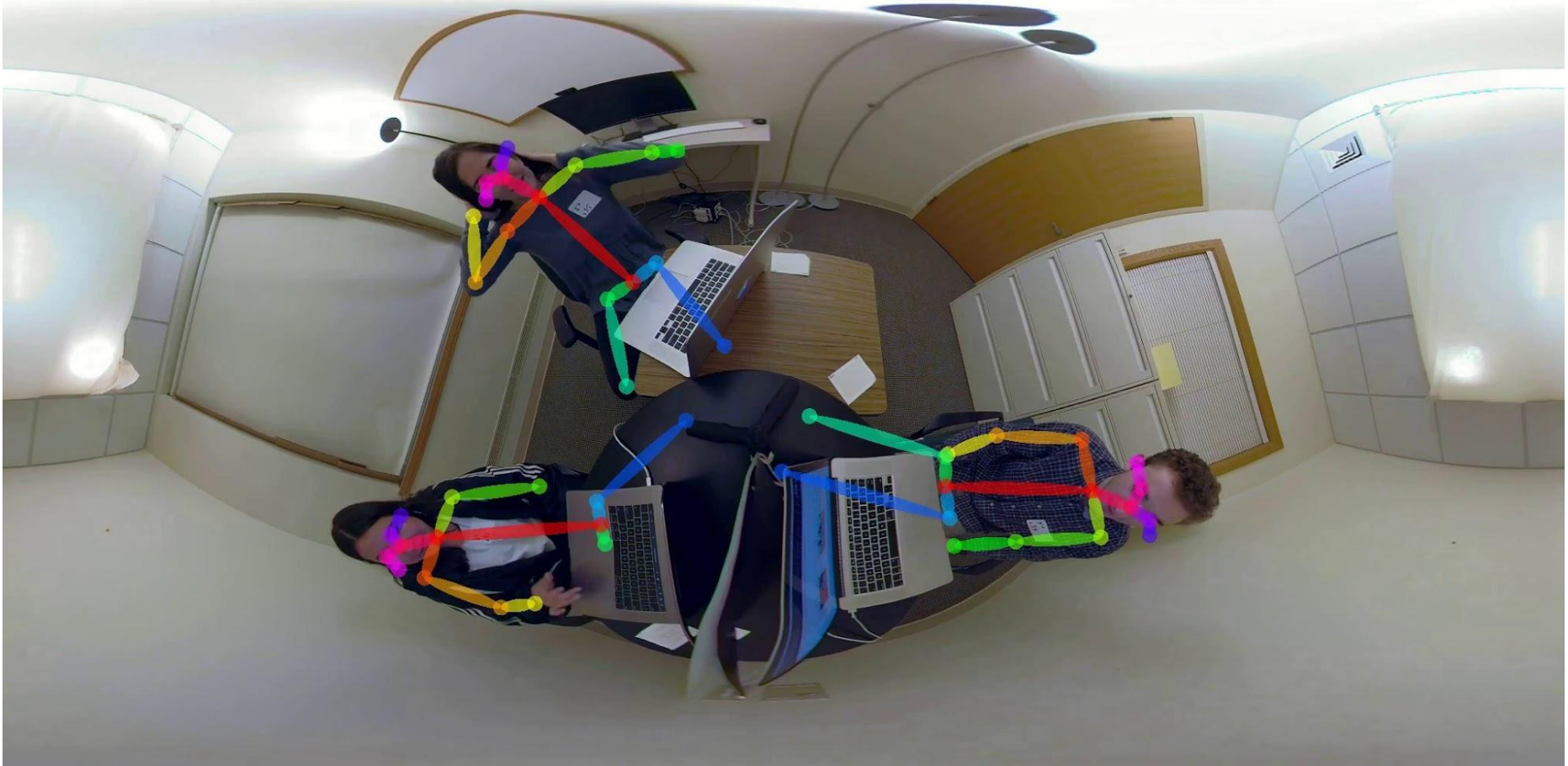
On October 20th, 2018, Daniel Rodriguez Obregon suffered a severe accident due to diving into a pool; the accident has caused trauma to his spinal cord at the C6 level and has left him in stable but critical condition at the Intensive Care Unit of Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami.

On the day on the accident, Daniel was rushed to the Ryder Trauma Center where he underwent immediate corpectomy surgery in order to

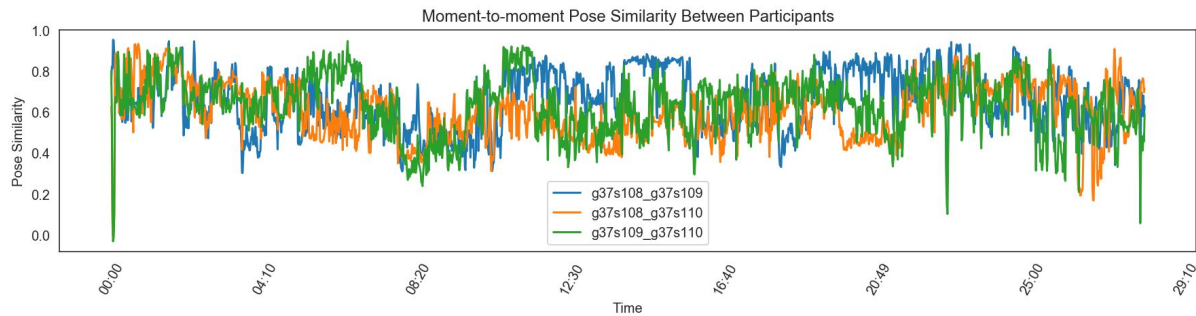
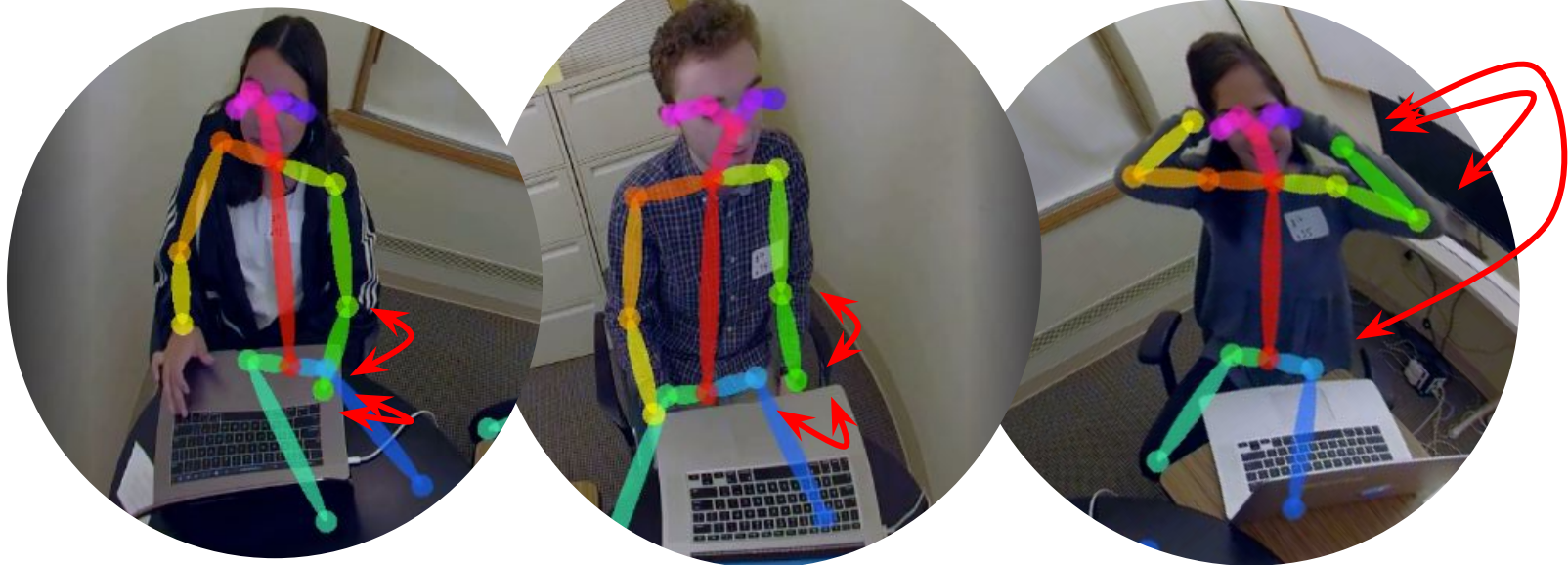
Next

Remaining time: 02 : 36



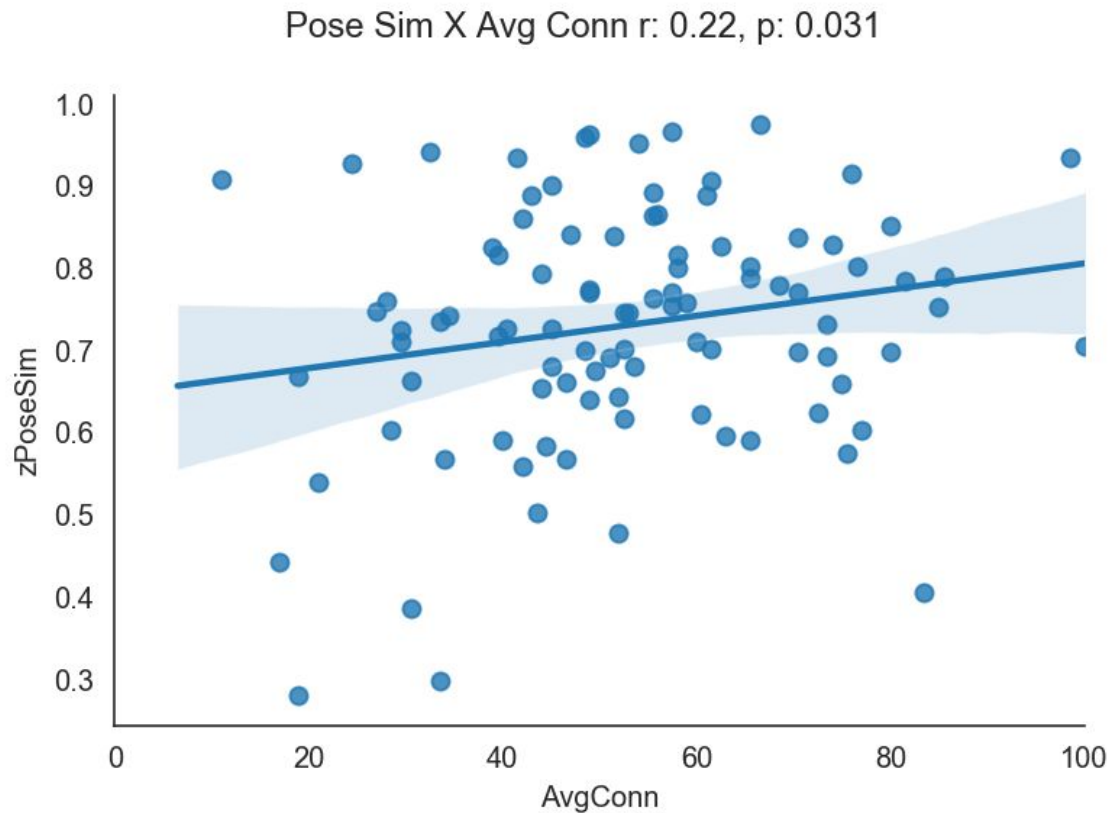


# Is social connection driven by pose synchrony?





# Is social connection driven by pose synchrony?



# Why is synchrony important?

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Neural and emotion synchrony predicts social connection.

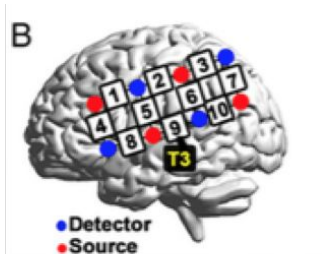
Time-lagged synchrony can help predict social roles (leader-followers).



# Neural synchrony in discussions

Chunming Lu

Leaderless  
Group Discussion  
5 minutes



fNIRS (functional Near Infrared Spectroscopy)  
Measurement of local hemodynamic effect

Independent raters  
rate who the leader was

**Leader**



**Follower**

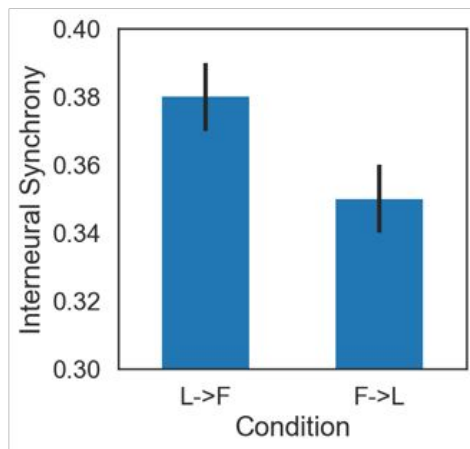
**Follower**



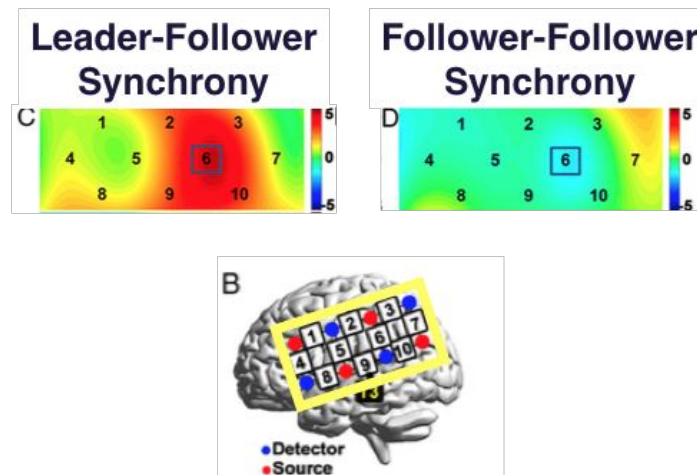


Chunming Lu

## Neural synchrony in discussions

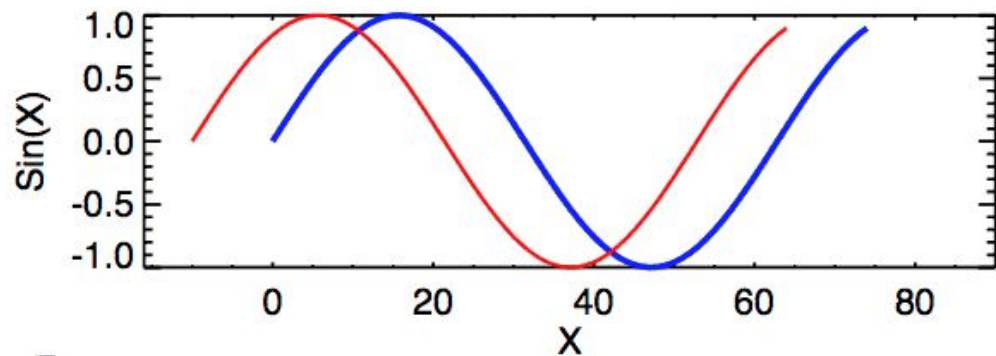


**Greater neural synchrony in Leader-initiated communication (L->F) than in Follower-initiated communication (F->L)**

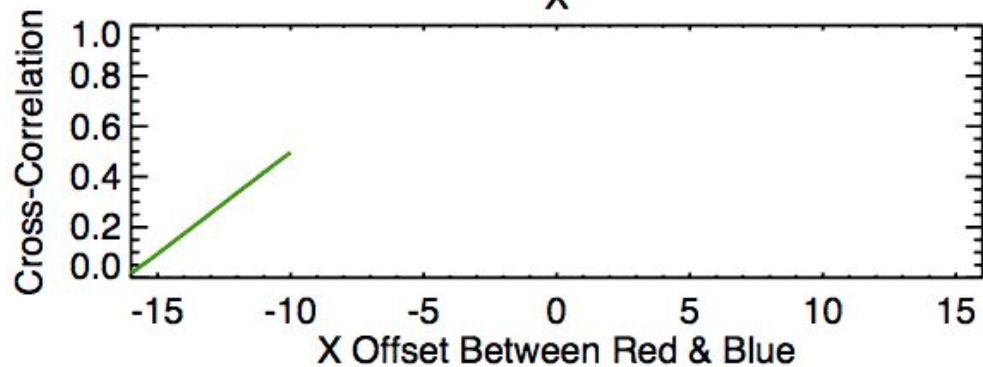


**Greater neural synchrony (more red) along TPJ between Leader-Follower than between Follower-Follower**

# Mimicry or Time-lagged synchrony



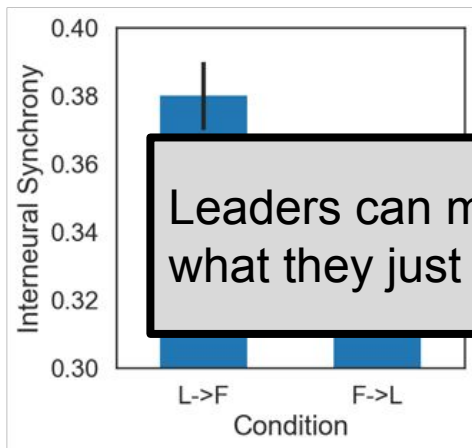
Blue: Leader  
Red: Follower





Chunming Lu

## Neural synchrony in discussions



Leaders can make followers think about what they just said.

### Leader-Follower Synchrony



### Follower-Follower Synchrony



**Greater neural synchrony in Leader-initiated communication (L->F) than in Follower-initiated communication (F->L)**

**Greater neural synchrony (more red) along TPJ between Leader-Follower than between Follower-Follower**

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1. Examples of synchrony in social interactions.
2. Quick tutorial on how to extract and analyze non-verbal features from your videos.
  - Facial expressions: <https://tinyurl.com/openfacecolab>
  - Body poses: <https://tinyurl.com/openposecolab>



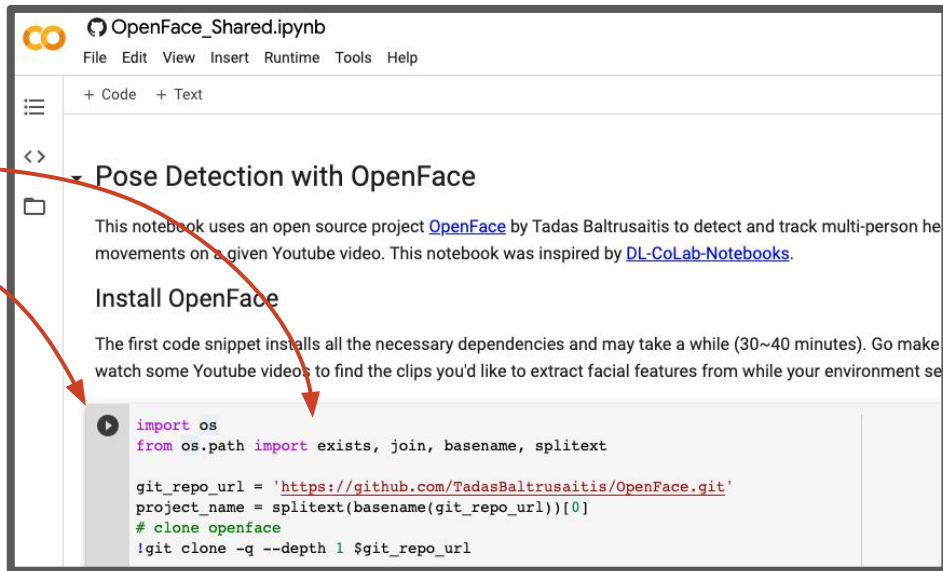
## If you'd like to follow along later...

1. Enter following url in your browser: <https://tinyurl.com/openfacecolab>
2. Click the cell after “Install OpenFace”, and then click the play button.  
(You will need to be logged in with a Google account)

You'll see a screen like this.

1. Click in this cell
2. Click the play button which will install the necessary programs on a virtual notebook!

Installation takes ~40 min.



The screenshot shows a Jupyter Notebook titled "OpenFace\_Shared.ipynb". The notebook content includes a section titled "Pose Detection with OpenFace" with a description of the project and a section titled "Install OpenFace" with a warning that the first code snippet may take 30-40 minutes. Below this is a code cell with the following Python code:

```
import os
from os.path import exists, join, basename, splitext

git_repo_url = 'https://github.com/TadasBaltrusaitis/OpenFace.git'
project_name = splitext(basename(git_repo_url))[0]
# clone openface
!git clone -q --depth 1 $git_repo_url
```

Red arrows in the image point from the text instructions to the code cell and its play button.

# Google Colab

Free computing cluster - Think Google Docs for coding!

- Free 12 GB of RAM memory!
- Free GPU (for 12 hours)!
- Download and install software without filling up your laptop.
- Share code with friends.
- Organize your results with the code that produced it.



# Why use automated feature extraction?

## Pros

- ~~No~~ Less elbow grease required.
- Reliable & Reproducible.
- Analyze every frame of video.

## Cons

- Requires computing power.
- Limited by the model.

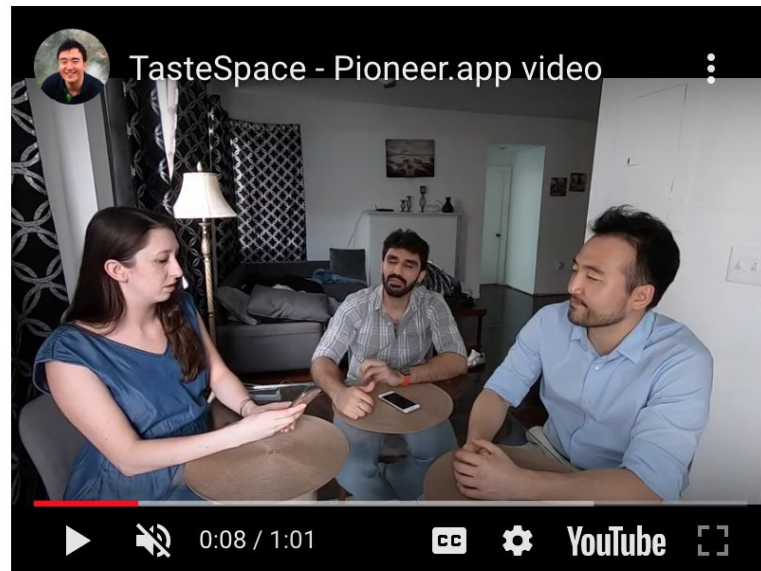
## ▼ Detect poses on a test video

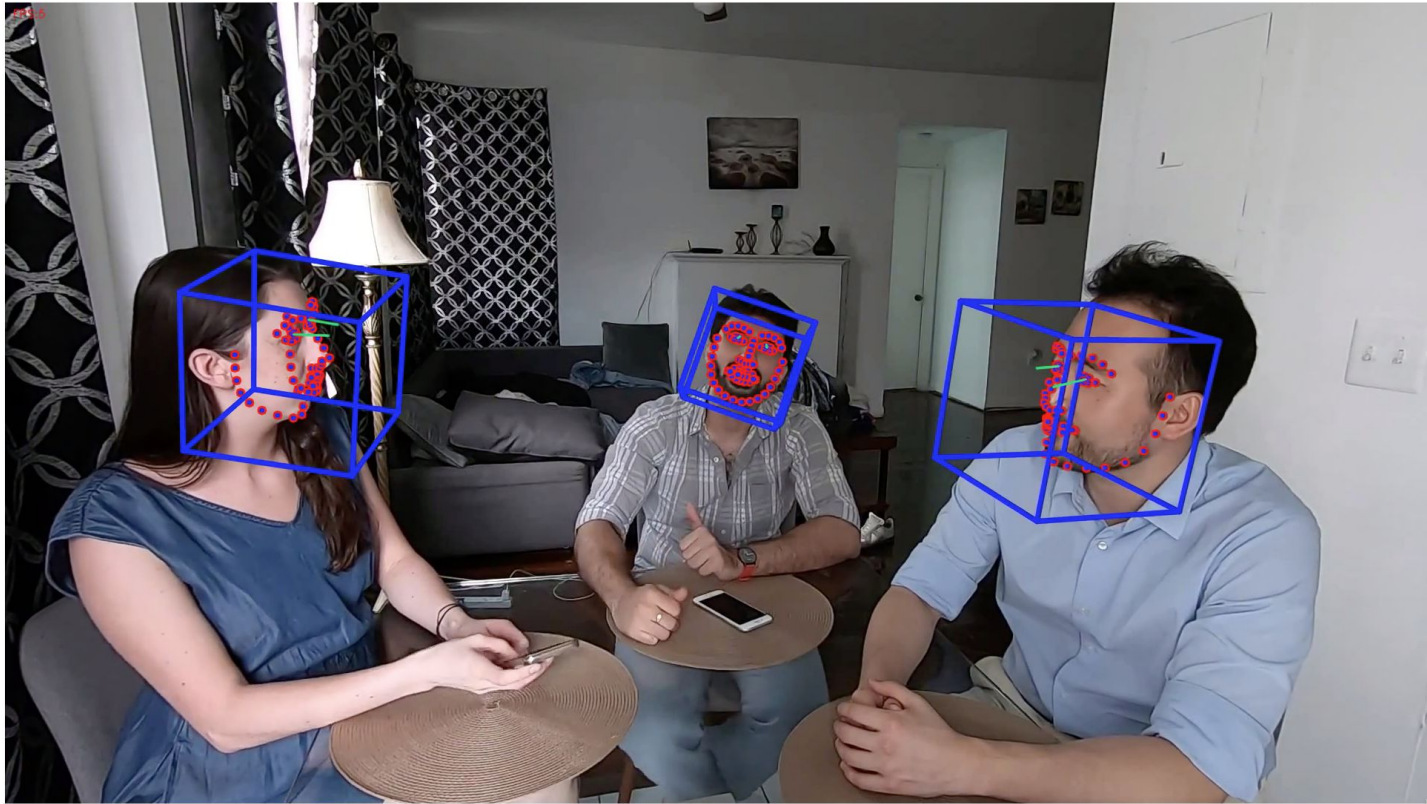
We are going to detect facial features on the following Youtube video:

```
[ ] from IPython.display import YouTubeVideo

# Change the Youtube_ID with the link to your group's video.
YOUTUBE_ID = 'XtA6FQz8BHQ'

YouTubeVideo(YOUTUBE_ID)
```







+ Code + Text

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Code snippets

Files X

Upload Refresh Mount Drive

..

OpenFace

processed

sample\_data

cmake-3.13.0-Linux-x86\_64.tar.gz

output.mp4

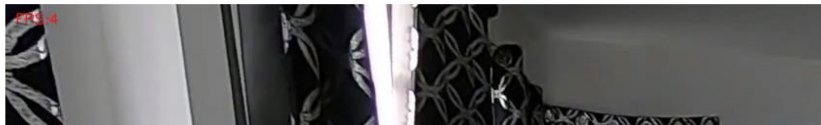
video.mp4

youtube.mp4

- Download
- Delete file
- Rename file
- Copy path
- Refresh











Finally, visualize the result:

```
[102] def show_local_mp4_video(file_name, width=640, height=480):  
    import io  
    import base64  
    from IPython.display import HTML  
    video_encoded = base64.b64encode(io.open(file_name, 'rb').read()).decode('utf-8')  
    return HTML(data='''<video width="{0}" height="{1}">  
        <source src="data:video/mp4;base64,{2}" type="video/mp4"/>  
    </video>'''.format(width, height, video_encoded))  
  
show_local_mp4_video('output.mp4', width=960, height=720)
```


















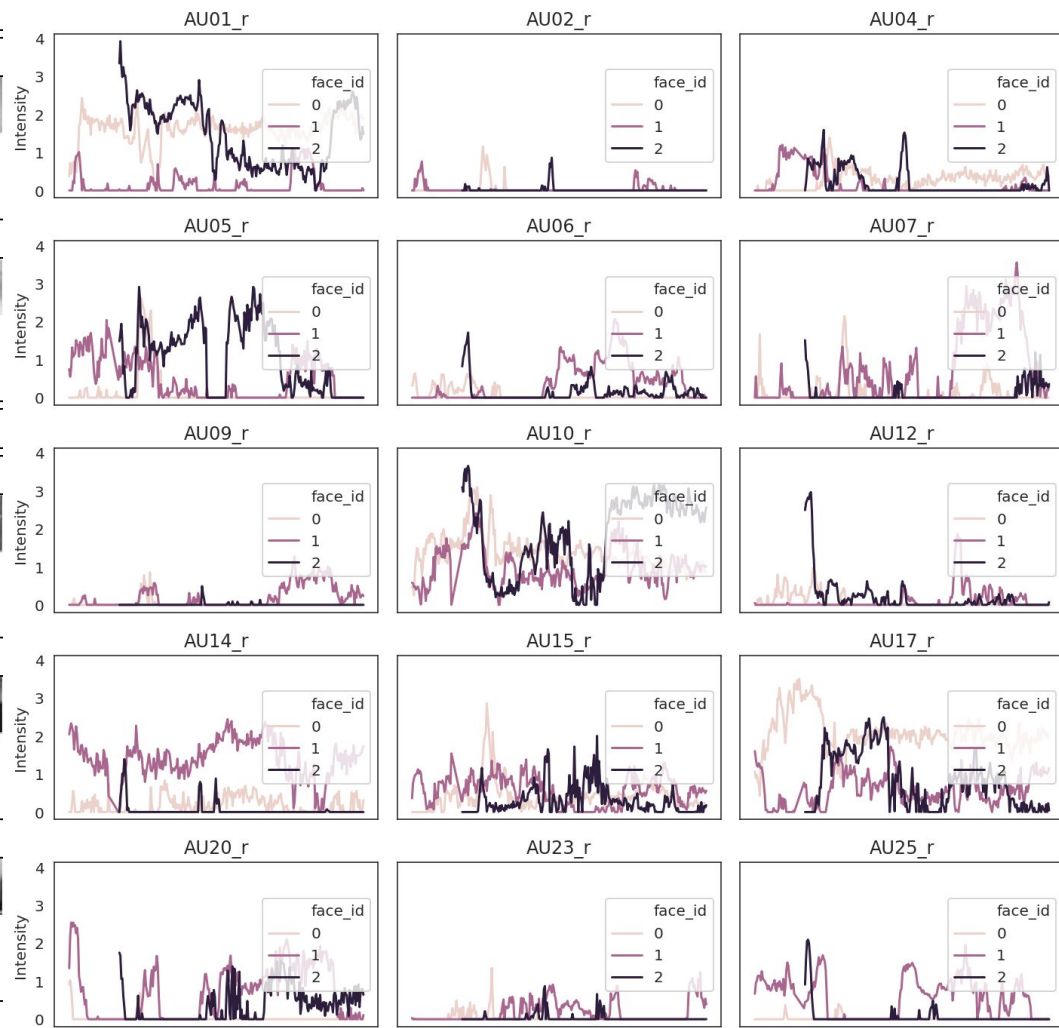


## Upper Face Action Units

AU 1	AU 2	AU 4	AU 5	AU 6
				
Inner Brow Raiser	Outer Brow Raiser	Brow Lowerer	Upper Lid Raiser	Cheek Raiser
*AU 41	*AU 42	*AU 43	AU 44	AU 45
				
Lid Droop	Slit	Eyes Closed	Squint	Blink

## Lower Face Action Units

AU 9	AU 10	AU 11	AU 12	AU 13
				
Nose Wrinkler	Upper Lip Raiser	Nasolabial Deepener	Lip Corner Puller	Cheek Puffer
AU 15	AU 16	AU 17	AU 18	AU 20
				
Lip Corner Depressor	Lower Lip Depressor	Chin Raiser	Lip Puckerer	Lip Stretcher
AU 23	AU 24	*AU 25	*AU 26	*AU 27
				
Lip Tightener	Lip Pressor	Lips Part	Jaw Drop	Mouth Stretch



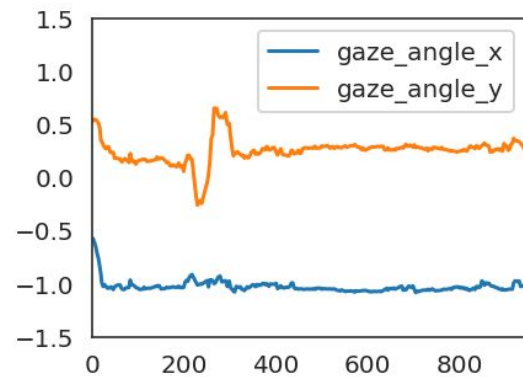
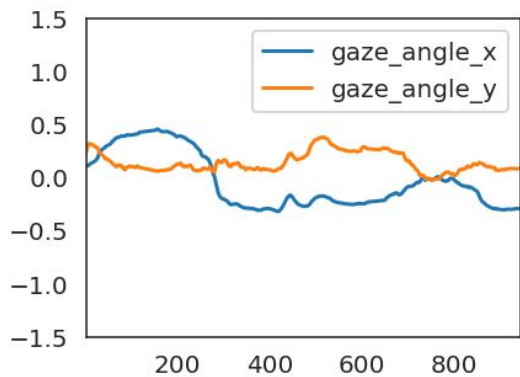
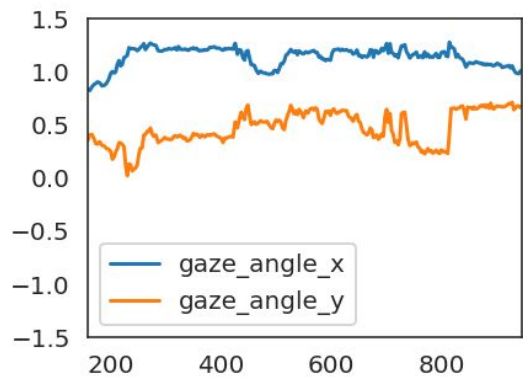
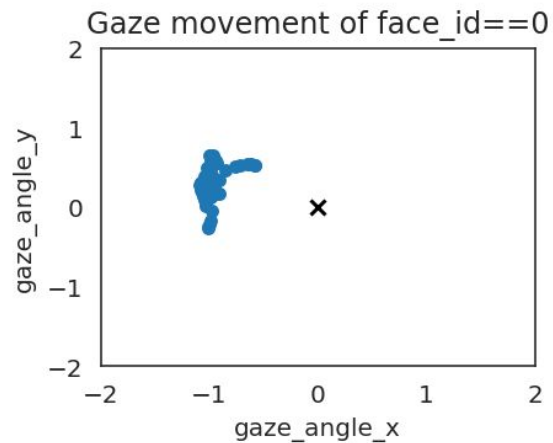
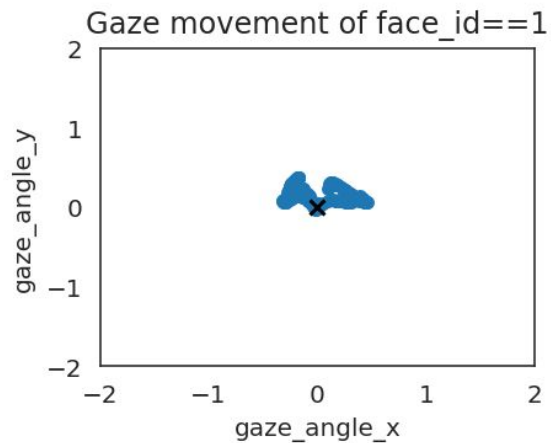
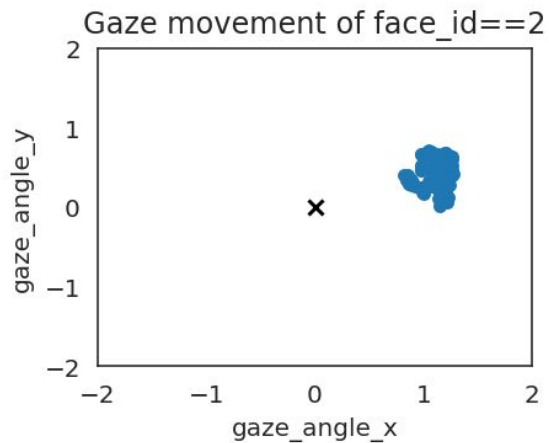
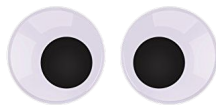
▶ # Let's compare how much AU12 (smiling) activity occurs at similar times across people.  
df\_clean.pivot(index='frame', columns='face\_id', values='AU12\_r').corr()

face\_id            0            1            2

face\_id

0	1.000000	-0.145006	0.451838
1	-0.145006	1.000000	-0.124261
2	0.451838	-0.124261	1.000000





# Resources

[Learn about the package OpenFace](#)

[Colab notebook for extracting faces.](#)

[Learn about the package OpenPose](#)

[Colab notebook for extracting pose data.](#)

[Tutorial on four different ways of analyze synchrony.](#)

wikiHow

## How to Increase Your Social Status at School



1 Assert your dominance. T-posing will let other students know you are superior.