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The Influence of Psychopathic Traits and Affective Feedback on Cooperation in the Iterated  
Prisoner's Dilemma

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## Abstract

### The Influence of Psychopathic Traits and Affective Feedback on Cooperation in the Iterated Prisoner's Dilemma By Hyung Seo (Caroline) Lee

Consistent with interdependence theory (Kelley & Thibaut, 1978; Van Lange et al., 2013), a growing body of behavioral research has examined the interactive influence of structural, psychological, dynamic interaction processes on social cooperation with the Prisoner's Dilemma paradigm (PD; Luce & Raiffa, 1957). Accordingly, the PD paradigm has increasingly served as a framework for examining this interactive influence on social cooperation. Significant impairment in interpersonal-affective processes is a central characteristic of psychopathy in both clinical and non-clinical populations. However, little is known about the interaction of psychopathic traits and affective processes in the interpersonal context of social cooperation. To address this gap in the literature, the current study examined the individual and interactive influence of psychopathy, affective feedback congruence, and Stroop interference on cooperation in PD. A secondary goal was to analyze the relation between psychopathy and emotion perception, as well as the presence of a Dunning-Kruger effect (Kruger & Dunning, 1999) for emotion recognition ability. A total of 237 undergraduate and Prolific participants were recruited for this study. Consistent with previous research on reverse appraisal, the congruence of affective feedback in PD was associated with increased rate and expectation of cooperation across a 20-round iterated PD with a computerized opponent using a tit-for-tat strategy. Psychopathic Personality Inventory – Revised (PPI-R; Lilienfeld & Andrews, 1996) Machiavellian Egocentricity and Blame Externalization were negatively associated with cooperation in PD; additionally, a significant three-way interaction emerged between affective feedback congruence, Stroop Interference, and two PPI-R measures (Stress Immunity and Coldheartedness) for predicting the expectation of cooperation in PD. The relation between actual and estimated emotion recognition ability was assessed with pairwise comparisons by tercile and quartile, as well as with mixed-model regression analyses, yielding patterns that are partially consistent with previous research on the Dunning-Kruger effect. Due to a small sample size, additional research is needed to increase confidence in the validity of the findings for the current study. Future research should replicate the study with human opponents in the modified iterated PD to increase ecological validity, and control for age and gender when exploring the Dunning-Kruger effect for emotion recognition ability.

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## Introduction

Psychopathy represents a constellation of affective (e.g., overall shallow affect, lack of remorse), interpersonal (e.g., superficial charm, egocentricity), and behavioral (e.g., irresponsibility, impulsivity) traits in both clinical and community samples (Cleckley, 1941; Lilienfeld & Andrews, 1996). Contrary to early conceptualizations of psychopathy (psychopathic personality) as a categorical construct (e.g., Harris et al., 1994), a large body of recent research has shown that psychopathy comprises an interpersonally detrimental configuration of continuously distributed trait dimensions (Edens et al., 2006; Lilienfeld et al., 2019).

Highly psychopathic individuals, who might match the archetypal “psychopath” seen in popular media (e.g., individuals with extensive and severe criminal histories) are quite uncommon (approximately 1% of the general population; Hare, 2003). However, levels of psychopathic traits can be reliably detected in non-clinical samples with dimensional measures such as the Psychopathic Personality Inventory – Revised (PPI-R; Lilienfeld & Widows, 2005) and the Levenson Self-Report Psychopathy Scale (LSRP; Levenson et al., 1995). The PPI-R comprises two higher-order dimensions (Fearless Dominance and Self-Centered Impulsivity), as well as an additional dimensional subscale (Coldheartedness) that is independent of the two dimensions. On the other hand, the LSRP comprises two factors: Factor 1 (F1), which captures the interpersonal and affective components of psychopathy, and Factor 2 (F2), which captures behavioral components of psychopathy related to social deviance. By and large, studies have shown associations between high levels of psychopathic traits as measured by PPI-R and LSRP with maladaptive outcomes, including instrumental and reactive aggression (Long et al., 2014), impaired emotional processing (Gordon et al., 2004), and atypical social reward processing (Foulkes, 2015).

Significant impairment in interpersonal relations is central to the conceptualization and maladaptive behavioral outcomes associated with personality disorders more broadly and psychopathy more specifically (see Wilson et al., 2017, for a review). Specifically, the ability to recognize and infer intentions from social signals, such as facial emotional expressions, is critical to the formation and maintenance of interpersonal relations (Blair, 2003). Hence, to better understand maladaptive behavioral outcomes associated with psychopathy, it is important to examine the relations between individual differences in emotion recognition and psychopathy in an interpersonal context.

Studies examining the relation between emotion recognition ability and psychopathy, however, have yielded mixed findings. On the one hand, some studies have found global deficits in emotion recognition in individuals high in psychopathy, supporting Cleckley's (1941) influential account of psychopathy as including pervasive affective detachment (e.g., Dawel et al., 2012; White et al., 2012). On the other hand, some studies have also shown that individuals high in psychopathy do not show global deficits in emotion recognition but exhibit abnormal selective attention (which leads to affective deficits for goal-peripheral stimuli), supporting the attention bottleneck hypothesis of psychopathy (Baskin-Sommers et al., 2011; e.g., Hiatt et al., 2004; Kranefeld & Blickle, 2022). However, studies have yet to clarify these conflicting findings by examining the relation between psychopathy and the processing of affective information in an interpersonal context.

To address this gap in the literature, the current study uses the Prisoner's Dilemma paradigm (PD; Luce & Raiffa, 1957) to investigate the individual and interactive influence of reverse appraisal (i.e., inferring intentions from affective feedback by comparing the congruence of the affective feedback to the decision in an interpersonal context; de Melo et al., 2014), Stroop

interference (i.e., measured by comparing task performance in trials or conditions with congruent and incongruent stimuli; Stroop, 1935), and psychopathy on social cooperation. The PD paradigm has served as a useful framework for exploring the relation between cooperation and individual differences in social preferences (see Thielmann et al., 2020, for a review) as well as attentional and emotional processing (Bell et al., 2016; Gabay et al., 2019), and have only grown in precision and usefulness as a growing body of research has incrementally proposed improvements (see Van Dijk & De Dreu, 2021, for a review). More specifically, the paradigm allows researchers to model social cooperation in a “social decision cascade” comprising three sequential phases in each round: (1) the *decision* phase, in which two players decide to cooperate or defect, (2) the *anticipation* phase, in which players wait to view the interdependent outcome, and (3) the *feedback* phase, in which the outcome is revealed (Thompson et al., 2021). Structural influences of the paradigm (e.g., arrangement of the payoff matrix, length of the game, etc.) shape participants’ behavioral responses, but so do their psychological characteristics (e.g., individual differences in personality, affect, reward responsiveness, etc.) and dynamic interaction processes (e.g., appraisal of the opponent’s strategy in relation to one’s own motives, etc.) (Van Lange et al., 2013).

Additionally, I will conduct auxiliary analyses on the presence of a Dunning-Kruger effect (i.e., the general tendency for lowest performers to overestimate performance and for the highest performers to underestimate performance, showing a curvilinear trend of confidence in relation to ability; Kruger & Dunning, 1999) for emotion recognition ability independent of psychopathy, and assess whether psychopathy explains significant variance in the participant’s estimates of their emotion recognition ability. If psychopathy is associated with a global deficit in emotion recognition, and patterns consistent Dunning-Kruger effect emerge such that

participants with greater deficits in emotion recognition ability and higher levels of psychopathy show significant overestimation of emotion recognition ability, this may influence the inference of intentions from assessing the congruence of affective feedback (i.e., engaging in reverse appraisal) for participants with higher levels of psychopathy in the iterated PD task. To date, few studies have examined the influence of individual differences in personality on the Dunning-Kruger effect (e.g., John & Robins, 1994), and only one study (Ammirati, 2013) has examined the influence of personality specifically on the Dunning-Kruger effect for emotion recognition ability. Therefore, these auxiliary analyses will be exploratory in nature.

### **Prisoner's Dilemma Task**

Given my emphasis on the PD in the present investigation, I will now elaborate on specific elements of the paradigm. The PD paradigm, which is based on mathematical game theory, evaluates social cooperation in an interactive two-person task. In each round of the PD, both players make a simultaneous decision to either cooperate or defect; one-shot PD consists of one round, whereas iterated PD consists of more than one round. Researchers can also implement a sequential one-shot PD, wherein players would play a series of one round of PD against different players. After player A and player B settle on a decision for the round, the outcome is revealed to both players. There are four possible outcomes in PD: CC (mutual cooperation), DD (mutual defection), CD (cooperation by A and defection by B), and DC (defection by A and cooperation by D). Specific payoffs are assigned for each outcome, and may differ for each payoff matrix as long as it satisfies two conditions:  $S$  (payoff for CD)  $<$   $P$  (payoff for DD)  $<$   $R$  (payoff for CC)  $<$   $T$  (payoff for DC), and  $2R > S + T$  (Rapoport & Chammah, 1965). As  $T > R$ , a player would always receive a higher payoff by defecting when the opponent cooperates; as  $P > S$ , a player would always receive a higher payoff by defecting when the opponent defects.

Therefore, as players cannot communicate at any point during the game, participants would always do better by defecting in a one-shot PD. However, achieving the highest payoff by defecting when the opponent cooperates and receives the lowest payoff creates a social dilemma wherein the player would be “betraying” the cooperative opponent in yielding the best outcome for oneself.

This dilemma is amplified in an iterated PD (spanning multiple rounds) as a player must engage repeatedly with the same opponent (Axelrod & Hamilton, 1981). In an iterated PD, unlike the one-shot PD, the constraint of  $2R > S + T$  ensures that continuous selection of R (mutual cooperation) would be preferred over the alternation between S and T (Rapoport & Chammah, 1965).

### ***Influence of Emotions in PD***

As outlined above, players do not receive or provide any form of communication throughout the entire game in a standard PD procedure. Even in the absence of communication, however, cooperative decision-making in PD against a human or computerized opponent is modulated by various factors, including emotions (Angelika-Nikita et al., 2021), reward processing (Wood et al., 2006), and individual differences in social value orientation (Pletzer et al., 2018). The modulating influence of emotions in PD is especially important to consider for studies assessing individual difference variables that may affect emotion-driven decision-making (e.g., psychopathy) in the context of repeated social interactions, such as the iterated PD.

The influence of emotions in PD has been supported by a growing body of research on the neurobiological underpinnings of decision-making processes in iterated PD. Perhaps unsurprisingly, studies probing the *decision phase* of the iterated PD (i.e., the first phase of each iterated PD round wherein players make the decision to cooperate or defect; Thompson et al.,

2021) have identified significant activation in distinct brain regions for cooperation and defection. Most notably, activation in the orbitofrontal cortex have been linked to the decision to cooperate, suggesting that cooperation is the predominant emotional response in iterated PD; the decision to defect, on the other hand, has been primarily linked to activation in the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex, suggesting that defection in iterated PD demands deliberate exertion of cognitive effort to strategically obtain rewards (Emonds et al., 2014; Rilling et al., 2007). This is consistent with a large body of literature in game theory on the evolution of cooperation, which theorizes that cooperative behavior is rewarded in iterated PD via potential benefits of reciprocal altruism over the course of the extended game (Axelrod, 1980a, 1980b; Trivers, 1971).

With regard to the following phase (i.e., the *anticipation phase*, in which players wait to view the interdependent outcome; Thompson et al., 2021), anticipation following cooperation has been commonly associated with activation of anterior insula, pointing to affective responses and exertion of cognitive control elicited by the uncertainty of the opponent either reciprocating cooperation and yielding the ideal outcome (i.e., CC) or betraying the player to reap the best payoff while subjecting the opponent to the worst payoff (i.e., CD) (e.g., Haroush & Williams, 2015). Anticipation following the decision to defect has been commonly linked to regions involved in social and emotional conflict resolution, supporting a broad consensus in the literature that choosing to defect in an iterated PD is perceived to be strategically desirable but costly in repeated social interactions such as the iterated PD, hence establishing a social dilemma (e.g., Thompson et al., 2021).

Lastly, studies examining neural activation in the *feedback phase* (i.e., the last phase of each iterated PD round wherein the outcome is revealed; Thompson et al., 2021) have identified correlates with each of the four possible outcomes in the Prisoner's Dilemma. Consistent with

the general expectation that mutual cooperation should be the most optimal outcome, mutual cooperation (CC) has been associated with activation of areas linked with reward processing (Rilling et al., 2002). Receiving an outcome of unreciprocated cooperation (CD), on the other hand, has been associated with areas implicated in cognitive control, emotion regulation, and processing of aversive emotions (Rilling et al., 2008). Viewing the outcome of DC (i.e., having defected while the opponent cooperated in the previous round) has been commonly linked with activation of the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex, which has been interpreted as indicative of increased cognitive demand in regulating the negative emotion of guilt induced by having not reciprocated the opponent's cooperation (Edmiston et al., 2015; Gradin et al., 2016). As the outcome of mutual noncooperation (DD) yields a relatively low and equal payoff for both players, it has been commonly linked with low activation across a broad range of emotions (Gradin et al., 2016; Rilling et al., 2008). Studies comparing activation following reciprocated (CC/DD) and unreciprocated (CD/DC) feedback have also shown that participants find unreciprocated feedback more aversive (e.g., finding associations with heightened activity in the precuneus and striatal deactivation; Rilling et al., 2002; Thompson et al., 2021). Such results are consistent with findings in the literature that a general human tendency and preference for reciprocity in the iterated PD paradigm influences the rate of cooperation (Fehr et al., 2002; Kujala & Danielsbacka, 2019), although the prevalence and adaptiveness of strong reciprocity in cases of repeated social interactions apart from the PD is debated (Hammerstein, 2003).

Indeed, research has shown that reciprocity can significantly promote cooperation and consequently result in high overall payoff in iterated PD games, as evidenced by the robust success of tit-for-tat as a strategy. Tit-for-tat, which emerged as the most successful strategy in Axelrod's (1980a) round-robin tournament with 14 other programmed strategies in 200 repeated



games, consists of beginning the game with cooperation and replicating the opponent's decision in the previous round thereafter. Subsequent analyses have attributed tit-for-tat's success to four characteristics: being nice, provokable, forgiving, and clear (Axelrod, 1980a, 1980b). Tit-for-tat is a *nice* strategy in signaling cooperative intent by always beginning with cooperation, a *provokable* strategy in not being exploited by always reciprocating opponent's defection with defection, a *forgiving* strategy in returning to cooperation by reciprocating opponent's cooperation even if they have defected previously, and a *clear* strategy in that it has a consistent pattern. Continued research on a vast array of strategies for the iterated PD have affirmed the advantage that reciprocity can provide as a strategy characteristic (Axelrod & Hamilton, 1981). However, cooperative and altruistic behavior can arise without reciprocity (i.e., competitive altruism; Roberts, 1998), and reciprocity may interact with other conditions and characteristics in affecting cooperation (e.g., preferences for smaller amounts of immediate rewards over larger amounts of rewards over a longer period of time, also known as temporal discounting; Stephens et al., 2002). Overall, the stability and level of cooperation in an iterated PD conducted between programmed strategies depend on multiple strategic characteristics.

In considering cooperative behavior in a human–human or human–computer game of iterated PD as opposed to a computer tournament, however, a variety of factors apart from strategic factors also influence decision-making. As explained previously, interdependence theory, proposed by Van Lange and colleagues (2013), suggests that a complex interplay of structural, psychological, and dynamic interaction processes contribute to decision-making in social dilemmas. To assess the interplay of such processes in interpersonal decision-making, researchers have begun to add modifications to the social dilemma paradigms, including the PD (see Van Dijk & De Dreu, 2018, for a review).

To further explore affective processes throughout the decision, anticipation, and feedback phases of PD, facial emotional feedback has been added across recent studies as a modification to the standard PD paradigm. Although there is a wealth of literature supporting the communicative function of facial emotional feedback in social interactions (e.g., Xu et al., 2013), the Emotion as Social Information (EASI) model (Van Kleef et al., 2009) stands out as a theoretical framework via which researchers can systematically parse the interpersonal function of emotional expressions.

According to the EASI model, observing another person's emotional expression in a social interaction can affect the observer's behavior via two pathways: (1) the *inferential pathway*, in which the emotional expression of the other individual allows the observer to infer their mental states, including beliefs, desires, and intentions (i.e., engage in mentalizing) and (2) the *affective pathway*, in which the emotional expression of the other individual elicits affective reactions in the observer.

In the context of modified social dilemma paradigms in which affective feedback (i.e., facial emotional expressions) is presented alongside the outcome in the feedback phase (i.e., each player's previous decision and the resulting payoff), there is an additional layer to this inferential pathway. In addition to the other player's emotional expression, their decision in contrast to the player's decision is presented in conjunction with one another as information from which to infer their mental state. This specific process has been termed *reverse appraisal* (de Melo et al., 2014; Hareli & Hess, 2010; Scherer & Grandjean, 2008).

In a recent study, de Melo and colleagues (2014) examined reverse appraisal in the iterated PD paradigm by testing if the affective feedback paired with the CC and CD outcomes would enable the players to infer their mental state (specifically, their cooperative intent) in

informing their decision-making via reverse appraisal. Accordingly, as the CC outcome allows both players to take the second-highest payoff while the CD outcome results in the highest payoff for the opponent while subjecting the player to the lowest payoff, de Melo and colleagues (2014) hypothesized that players would be able to infer cooperative intent from receiving the affective feedback of a happy facial expression paired with the outcome of CC, whereas they would infer competitive intent when a regretful/guilty expression is paired with the outcome. For the outcome of CD, it was hypothesized that the reverse would be true (i.e., competitive intent would be inferred from a happy facial expression, whereas cooperative intent would be inferred from a regretful/guilty expression). Indeed, in a cooperative context of mutual cooperation (i.e., CC), the opponent's facial expression of joy led to increased expectations of cooperation, whereas the expression of regret led to decreased expectations of cooperation. As hypothesized, the opponent's facial expression of regret in a competitive context (i.e., CD) led to increased expectations of cooperation; however, the opponent's expression of joy in this context did not lead to decreased expectations of cooperation (de Melo et al., 2014). One possible explanation for this finding suggested by the authors is that the expression of joy in the competitive context may not have led the participants to infer a mental state reflective of an intentionally non-cooperative or malicious intent (e.g., experiencing *schadenfreude* in the opponent having received a worse payoff).

### **Psychopathy**

Psychopathic personality is characterized by a constellation of interpersonal, affective, antisocial, and lifestyle features. Although varying conceptualizations of psychopathy exist, the construct operationalized by the Psychopathic Personality Inventory – Revised (PPI-R; Lilienfeld & Widows, 2005) has been widely adopted by personality researchers to assess psychopathy in

both community and prison samples. The PPI-R, developed to capture affective and interpersonal features central to psychopathy, comprises three higher-order dimensions: Fearless Dominance, Self-Centered Impulsivity, and Coldheartedness (Lilienfeld & Widows, 2005). Interpersonal features (e.g., manipulation, dishonesty; Patrick, 2018) and the associated affective features (e.g., fearlessness, guiltlessness; Lilienfeld et al., 2014) are especially important in conceptualizing psychopathy, as these features distinguish psychopathy from related constructs. Broadly, psychopathy can be understood as an emergent interpersonal syndrome (Lilienfeld et al., 2019), characterized by prototypes of interpersonal disturbances (Viding, 2019). Studies exploring neural correlates of psychopathy have supported these findings, with psychopathic traits showing associations with hypoactivity in areas implicated in interpersonal decision making, including but not limited to the orbitofrontal cortex (Yang & Raine, 2008), dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (Koenigs, 2014), and the amygdala (Blair, 2007).

### ***Psychopathy and Emotion***

Both historical and modern accounts of psychopathy have included affective features as central components of conceptualizing the construct. Following Cleckley's seminal (1976) work, which includes "general poverty in major affective reactions" (p. 348) as a defining feature of psychopathy, studies have found associations between psychopathy and more specific indices of emotional functioning, including emotion recognition ability and emotional reactivity (see Nentjes et al., 2022, for a review).

However, there is ongoing debate in the literature regarding a vast array of these indices, which attests to the complexity of conceptualizing psychopathy. With regard to emotion recognition ability, studies have largely focused on the link between deficits in distress (i.e., fear and sadness) recognition and psychopathy (e.g., Marsh & Blair, 2008); however, meta-analytic

findings have suggested that deficits in emotion recognition ability for individuals high in psychopathy may be more pervasive, including facial and vocal expressions of all six basic emotions (i.e., anger, disgust, fear, happiness, sadness, and surprise; Dawel et al., 2012). Research on the relation between psychopathy and emotional reactivity has also resulted in mixed findings, with studies pointing to specific deficits in negative emotional reactivity (e.g., Lykken, 1957), deficits in both positive and negative emotional reactivity (e.g., Blair, 2006), or neither (e.g., Shane & Groat, 2018).

With the emergence of the response modulation hypothesis (RMH; Gorenstein & Newman, 1980) and the attention bottleneck model of psychopathy (Baskin-Sommers et al., 2011), studies have also explored the interplay of attentional mechanisms and emotional functioning in relation to psychopathic traits. According to the RMH, emotional and self-regulatory deficits associated with psychopathy are moderated by response modulation deficits (i.e., deficits in the ability to shift attention to peripheral affective information or take such information into account while engaging in goal-directed behavior; Patterson & Newman, 1993). Specifying the RMH, the attention bottleneck model of psychopathy argues that individuals with higher levels of psychopathy display reduced processing of goal-peripheral information at an early perceptual processing stage, hence experiencing an early attentional “bottleneck” (Baskin-Sommers et al., 2011).

### ***Psychopathy and Cooperation***

In recent years, a growing body of research has assessed the influence of psychopathic traits on social cooperation using the PD paradigm, as it is well-suited for assessing interpersonal-affective features central to the conceptualization of psychopathy in a dynamic interpersonal context. The PD task has also been utilized to assess cooperation in relation to

various psychological disorders, including antisocial personality disorder (Rada et al., 2003), borderline personality disorder (Bartz et al., 2011), social anxiety disorder (Rodebaugh et al., 2013), autism spectrum disorder (Kaartinen et al., 2019), and depression (Gradin et al., 2016).

The first study to assess the impact of psychopathy on social cooperation with PD was conducted by Widom (1976) in a maximum security hospital in England. The analysis revealed no significant differences in cooperative responses in a 30-round iterated PD between the control group and groups of individuals identified as primary or secondary psychopaths based on the criteria outlined by Cleckley (1941) and Hare (1970). Unexpectedly, the primary psychopathy group had the highest average frequency of mutually cooperative strings in the PD; the secondary psychopathy group had a significantly lower average frequency, but only marginally lower than that of the control group.

Subsequently, studies have utilized PD games of varying lengths to examine the relation between psychopathy and social cooperation, using the Levenson Self-Report Psychopathy Scale (LSRP; Levenson et al., 1995) and versions of the Psychopathy Personality Inventory (PPI; Lilienfeld, 1990; Lilienfeld & Andrews, 1996) to operationalize psychopathy. In male undergraduates separately analyzed in a mixed-gender sample of undergraduate participants, the overall frequency of cooperation in a 20-round iterated PD game against a forgiving-tit-for-tat opponent correlated negatively with LSRP Total and Factor 1 scores, but not LSRP Factor 2 or PPI scores (Rilling et al., 2007). Consistent with Rilling et al. (2007), Baggio & Benning (2022) found no significant associations between PPI-R subscale scores and the rate of cooperation or defection across nine 30-round iterated PD games conducted with a computerized opponent using tit-for-tat and eight other strategies with varying degrees of leniency.

Supporting previous work on the impact of affective feedback in PD (e.g., Reed et al., 2012), Johnston and colleagues (2014) found a negative correlation between LSRP Factor 1 scores and cooperation when PD was accompanied by affective feedback, but not in the absence of affective feedback. In a study by Gervais and colleagues (2013), undergraduate participants participated in one unannounced one-shot PD game with human opponents who they had a chance to have unstructured conversations with for 10 minutes. The results showed that participants with higher LSRP Factor 1 scores defected more frequently with opponents who interrupted them more often during the conversation (Gervais et al., 2013).

Contrary to findings in Rilling et al. (2007), several subsequent studies have found significant associations between PPI-R measures and cooperation in iterated and sequential one-shot PD games. In a sample of high-security psychiatric patients, PPI-R Impulsive Nonconformity and Machiavellian Egocentricity—subscales of PPI-R Self-Centered Impulsivity—were positively associated with the overall rate of defection in a 40-round iterated PD against a tit-for-two tats opponent (Mokros et al., 2008). In sequential one-shot PD games, PPI-R Machiavellian Egocentricity was also negatively associated with the initiation and reciprocation of cooperation (Curry et al., 2011). Additionally, in a sample of undergraduate participants, the overall frequency of defection in a 10-round iterated PD against a tit-for-tat opponent was not only associated with LSRP (Total, Factor 1, and Factor 2) scores, but also PPI-R Self-Centered Impulsivity and Coldheartedness (Berg et al., 2013). However, in a study by Testori et al. (2019), the higher-order dimension of PPI-R Fearless Dominance was negatively associated with the rate of cooperation in a 30-round iterated PD against a tit-for-two-tats opponent, whereas no significant association was found between cooperation PPI-R Self-Centered Impulsivity or Coldheartedness.

## **Current Study**

The primary purpose of the present study was to examine the individual and interactive influence of psychopathy, affective feedback congruence, and Stroop interference on cooperation in PD. A secondary goal for the present study was to conduct exploratory analyses on the relation between psychopathy and emotion perception, as well as the influence of psychopathy on the Dunning-Kruger effect for emotion recognition ability should the effect emerge. In the following subsections, the specific aims and hypotheses for the present study are outlined in greater detail.

### ***Psychopathy and Emotion Perception***

Despite a wealth of research on affective features as central characteristics in operationalizing psychopathy, findings regarding the relation between psychopathy and emotion recognition ability remain opaque. This is due to a continued debate regarding whether psychopathy is associated with deficits specifically in distress (i.e., fear and sadness) recognition (Marsh & Blair, 2008), pervasive deficits in recognition of vocal and facial expressions of all six basic emotions (Dawel et al., 2012), or deficits in emotion recognition specifically when the affective information provided is not included in the goal-relevant attentional set (Baskin-Sommers & Newman, 2014). In one study analyzing personality dimensions in relation to self-reported estimates of confidence in one's emotion recognition skill and the presence of a Dunning-Kruger effect (i.e., the general tendency for lowest performers to overestimate performance and for the highest performers to underestimate performance, showing a curvilinear trend of confidence in relation to ability; Kruger & Dunning, 1999), narcissism and neuroticism were significantly associated with higher and lower comparative estimates of emotion



recognition ability respectively (Ammirati, 2013). However, no study to date has assessed the relation between psychopathy and self-reported estimates of emotion recognition ability.

*Hypothesis 1a:* I predict that actual and estimated emotion recognition ability will be weakly correlated, but consistent with the Dunning-Kruger effect.

*Hypothesis 1b:* Furthermore, I predict that psychopathy will explain significant variance in the participant's estimates of their emotion recognition ability. Specifically, higher levels of psychopathy will be positively associated with estimates of emotion recognition ability.

### ***Individual Difference and Interpersonal Influences on Cooperation in PD***

In the second part of the present study, the individual and interactive influence of psychopathy, affective feedback congruence, and Stroop interference on cooperation in PD were examined. The specific aims and hypotheses for the present study are outlined below.

**Affective Feedback Congruence.** Emerging research on the influence of emotions in decision-making in PD have shown that receiving affective feedback from the opponent can allow the participant to (1) infer the opponent's appraisal of the outcome for each round (i.e., engage in reverse appraisal) and (2) adjust one's own decision and affective feedback according to an updated expectation of the opponent's cooperation in future rounds (de Melo et al., 2014). In a recent study by de Melo and colleagues, players receiving cooperative affective feedback showed increased rates and expectations of cooperation on average, whereas players receiving competitive affective feedback showed decreased rates and expectations of cooperation on average (de Melo & Terada, 2020). This finding suggests that players were able to engage in reverse appraisal, wherein they inferred the opponent's intentions by comparatively assessing whether their decision to cooperate or defect in each round were congruent with their affective feedback (de Melo & Terada, 2020).

*Hypothesis 2a:* I predict that the rate and expectation of cooperation in PD for participants assigned to the cooperative/congruent affective feedback conditions (wherein the computerized opponent expresses joy following mutual cooperation and regret following exploitation) will be higher compared to those of participants assigned to competitive/incongruent affective feedback conditions (wherein the computerized opponent expresses regret following mutual cooperation and joy following exploitation).

**Psychopathy.** Across a small body of studies that have examined the influence of psychopathic traits on the rate of cooperation or defection in PD, measures of psychopathy have shown negative associations with the rate of cooperation or positive associations with the rate of defection. More specifically, mixed findings have separately shown significant negative associations between the rate of cooperation in PD and PPI-R Fearless Dominance (Testori et al., 2019), PPI-R Self-Centered Impulsivity (Berg et al., 2013; Curry et al., 2011; Mokros et al., 2008), PPI-R Coldheartedness (Berg et al., 2013), LSRP Total (Berg et al., 2013; Rilling et al., 2007), and LSRP Factor 1 (Berg et al., 2013; Gervais et al., 2013; Johnston et al., 2014; Rilling et al., 2007), and LSRP Factor 2 (Berg et al., 2013) scores.

*Hypothesis 2b:* Given mixed findings across studies examining the link between psychopathy and the rate of cooperation in PD with variations in measures of psychopathy, strategy of the opponent, and length of the PD games, my hypothesis is exploratory in nature. As I will be using the 40-item PPI-R for measuring the level of psychopathy, and since multiple studies have found a significant negative relation between cooperation in PD and scores on subscales subsumed under the dimension of PPI-R Self-Centered Impulsivity, I predict that the rate and expectation of cooperation in PD will be negatively associated with PPI-R Self-Centered Impulsivity and its subscales.

**Stroop Interference.** The Stroop effect (Stroop interference; Stroop, 1935) is a well-validated attentional phenomenon measured by comparing task performance in trials or conditions with Stroop-incongruent stimuli (i.e., simultaneous presentation of one type of stimuli presenting task-relevant information and another type of stimuli presenting task-irrelevant information, creating conflict) and Stroop-congruent stimuli (i.e., simultaneous presentation of two types of stimuli presenting task-relevant information). Therefore, the verbal-facial Stroop effect for the affective feedback employed in this study may interfere with the processing of information from the affective feedback congruence to infer the opponent's intentions (i.e., by engaging in reverse appraisal).

*Hypotheses 2c:* I predict that the rate and expectation of cooperation in PD for participants assigned to the cooperative x Stroop-incongruent affective feedback condition will be lower compared to those of participants assigned to the cooperative x Stroop-congruent affective feedback condition. Furthermore, I predict that the rate and expectation of cooperation in PD for participants assigned to the competitive x Stroop-incongruent affective feedback condition will be higher compared to those of participants assigned to the competitive x Stroop-congruent affective feedback condition.

**Interactive Influence of Psychopathy, Affective Feedback Congruence, and Stroop Interference.** Since reverse appraisal is a form of Theory of Mind (ToM) reasoning (Gratch & de Melo, 2019), and as studies have shown associations between ToM impairment and psychopathy (e.g., Crick & Dodge, 1994; but see Richell et al., 2003), individuals with higher levels of psychopathy may experience more difficulty utilizing information regarding the opponent's intention via reverse appraisal of cooperative/congruent vs. competitive/incongruent affective feedback provided following mutual cooperation and exploitation in the absence of

Stroop interference. Consistent with the attentional bottleneck hypothesis (Baskin-Sommers et al., 2011), studies utilizing variations of the Stroop task have also shown that psychopathy is associated with reduced Stroop interference (Hiatt et al., 2004; Strohmaier, 2015). These results support the possibility that participants assigned to cooperative x Stroop-incongruent affective feedback and competitive x Stroop-incongruent affective feedback conditions with higher levels of psychopathy may experience less Stroop interference compared to participants in these conditions with lower levels of psychopathy.

*Hypothesis 2d:* I predict that there will be a 3-way interaction between psychopathy, affective feedback congruence, and Stroop interference, such that the interaction of affective feedback congruence and Stroop interference will differ based on the level of psychopathy. More specifically, I predict that participants receiving cooperative and competitive feedback will show decreasing rates and expectations of cooperation at higher levels of psychopathy, with a larger interaction effect in conditions with Stroop interference.

## **Method**

### **Participants**

Participants were recruited from an undergraduate sample ( $n=169$ ) and a community sample ( $n=100$ ) recruited via Prolific Academic, an online crowdsourcing research platform for participant recruitment and data collection. In both samples, participants were required to be at least 18 years of age to be eligible for participation.

Undergraduate participants enrolled in introductory psychology courses for the Spring 2022 semester were recruited via the Emory University Psychology Department's Student Subject Pool via the SONA system, which allows undergraduate participants to identify and access research opportunities for course credit compensation. Repeat submissions were not

allowed, and completing other studies or complete a writing assignment were offered as alternative options for completing the class requirement. Data from 21 participants who failed an implicit attention check item adopted from Oppenheimer et al. (2009) were excluded from analyses. However, all participants received a compensation of 1 class credit for completion of the study.

The community sample was recruited via Prolific Academic, an online crowdsourcing research platform for participant recruitment and data collection. Prolific Academic was selected for this study, as studies have shown higher ratings on multiple indices of data quality (e.g., response rate, naivety, diversity) for Prolific when compared to other major crowdsourcing research platforms (e.g., Amazon Mechanical Turk, CrowdFlower; Palan & Schitter, 2018; Peer et al., 2017). Data from 11 participants who failed an implicit attention check item adopted from Oppenheimer et al. (2009) were excluded from analyses. However, all participants were financially compensated for participation of the study via the platform (\$10.41/hour,  $M = 21.32$  minutes).

Data from the two aforementioned participant pools were combined for all analyses. The resulting final sample ( $n=237$ ) was predominantly female (68.35%), with an age range of 18 to 56 years ( $M = 21.5$ ,  $SD = 5.52$ ). Participants' ethnic and racial background were primarily White (38.4%), followed by Asian (25.74%), Hispanic (15.19%), Mixed (10.55%), Black or African-American (7.59%), Middle Eastern or North African (0.84%), and other (0.84%), with 2 (0.84%) participants declining to answer. The sample size for the final sample was slightly below the lower end of sample size recommended for achieving stable estimates of correlations ( $n=250$ ; Schönbrodt & Perugini, 2013), and much below the sample size estimated by an a priori power analysis with the *InteractionPowerR* package in R (Baranger, 2021) for detecting effects in

interaction models with a power of 80% (approximately  $n=600$ ). However, the final sample size was ultimately determined based on funding and undergraduate participant availability for this study.

### **Procedure**

All procedures were approved by Emory University's Institutional Review Board as compliant with ethical research standards. The study was programmed using jsPsych, a JavaScript framework for behavioral tasks (de Leeuw, 2015). Upon successful registration, participants accessed the study via Cognition, a platform for hosting jsPsych experiments. Prior to beginning the experimental tasks, participants were asked to confirm their understanding of the informed consent and filled out a brief demographic form including basic biographical information on age, gender, race, and ethnicity. Participants were fully debriefed upon completing the experiment, exiting the experiment, or declining to proceed after viewing informed consent.

### **Measures**

**Facial Emotion Recognition Task.** Before completing the Facial Emotion Recognition Task (FERT; Passarelli et al., 2018), participants were asked to complete the non-verbal Self-Assessment Manikin (SAM; Bradley & Lang, 1994)—a picture-oriented, self-report assessment of one's affective state in which participants rate their current state of affective valence (on a five-point scale ranging from *1-happy* to *5-unhappy*) and arousal (on a five-point scale ranging from *1-excited* to *5-calm*)—prior to and after watching a 1-minute clip of a suburban street view. This video is coded in the Open Library for Affective Videos (OpenLAV; Israel et al., 2021) database as a neutral, non-emotional video, and was shown to the participants to settle

distracting emotions before the start of an emotion recognition task, as recommended by Wingenbach et al. (2016).

The 36-item pool of stimuli for the FERT comprises 6 basic emotions (anger, disgust, fear, happiness, sadness, surprise) displayed by 6 Caucasian actors (Passarelli et al., 2018). Following the procedure validated by Passarelli and colleagues (2018), each of the 36 emotional stimuli were randomly shown to participants in conjunction with a neutral picture of the same actor as a reference. For each pair of stimuli presented, participants were asked to select the emotion displayed by the actor (with the options being the six basic emotions: anger, disgust, fear, happiness, sadness, surprise). As the two-parameter logistic (2PL) model for the FERT (test score reliability  $\rho = .92$ ; Raykov et al., 2010) assigned specific item parameters for each of the 36 items, the composite FERT facial emotion recognition ability score for each participant was computed using a Hamiltonian Monte Carlo sampler in the package *rstan* (Guo et al., 2021) for R software version 4.1.2. The R script for this analysis was provided in the Supplementary Materials for Passarelli et al. (2018), and modified to be compatible with the format of the data input.

**Iterated Prisoner's Dilemma.** After completing the FERT, participants were randomly assigned by the Cognition platform to one of the four between-subjects conditions for the type of affective feedback used in a 20-round iterated PD task. Deception was involved, as participants were informed that they would be competing with another participant in real-time; previous studies have found that the perception of playing against a human opponent as opposed to a computer opponent elicits higher engagement in interactive games such as the iterated PD (Kätsyri et al., 2013). To aid in this deception, a loading screen was presented throughout the task to imply delays via the online connection. Before starting the task, participants were

informed that an ID (“Anonymous16”) and a facial character of another individual have been assigned to them to protect their anonymity throughout the task. Static and high-intensity facial emotional expressions by the M06 encoder from the Amsterdam Dynamic Facial Expression Set – Bath Intensity Variations (ADFES-BIV; Wingenbach et al., 2016) were used to represent the participant’s facial character in conveying affective feedback. The opponent’s ID was always “Anonymous35”, with static pictures of facial emotional expressions by the M08 encoder in the ADFES-BIV serving as the facial character.

Similar to previous studies (e.g., de Melo et al., 2020; Kulms et al., 2014), the iterated PD task was recast as a two-person investment game in which investing in ‘project green’ represented cooperation, and investing in the ‘project blue’ represented defection. Thorough instructions and explanations were provided prior to the task without time limits, and the payoff matrix (see Figure 1) remained visible throughout the duration of the task. The instructions noted that the payoff matrix would remain on the screen, and participants proceeded by confirming their understanding of the task.

In each round, the participant began by either pressing G on the keyboard to invest in ‘project green’ or B to invest in ‘project blue’. The loading screen appeared before the opponent’s decision was displayed. The opponent’s decision was programmed to follow the tit-for-tat strategy, wherein cooperation is met with cooperation and defection is met with defection (Axelrod, 1980; McClure et al., 2007). The opponent always cooperated (i.e., chose project green) in the first round regardless of whether the participant chose to cooperate or defect (i.e., chose project blue). In rounds 2-18, the opponent replicated the participant’s decision in the previous round. In the last two rounds, the opponent always defected, as this is most consistent with human behavior (Rilling et al., 2007).



After the participant made their decision for the round and the loading screen was shown, the outcome (including each player's decision and the resulting payoff) was displayed. Immediately after the outcome was shown for the round, the opponent's affective feedback was shown to the participants. Participants assigned to Conditions 1 and 3 always viewed cooperative affective feedback, whereas participants assigned to Conditions 2 and 4 always reviewed competitive affective feedback. Cooperative affective feedback consisted of the opponent always responding with joy (i.e., a happy facial expression or the verbal label of "happy") for the outcome of CC, regret for CD, anger for DC, and with a neutral expression for DD. Competitive affective feedback consisted of the opponent always responding with regret for CC, joy for CD, anger for DC, and with a neutral expression for DD. Facial expression provided in Conditions 1 and 2 had red verbal labels with incongruent emotions superimposed to test for the influence of Stroop interference. Following the receipt of the opponent's affective feedback, the participants were asked to convey their affective feedback by selecting a neutral, angry, happy, or regretful expression of their assigned character (i.e., facial expressions of the M06 encoder from the ADFES-BIV database). After the exchange of affective feedback, the participants rated their expectation of the opponent's cooperation in the following round.

**Psychopathy.** At the end of the experiment, participants were asked to complete the 40-item short-form of the Psychopathic Personality Inventory-Revised (PPI-R-40; Eisenbarth et al., 2015). The PPI-R-40 comprises abbreviated versions of eight subscales in the Personality Personality Inventory–Revised (PPI-R; Lilienfeld & Widows, 2005): Blame Externalization (e.g., "When I'm with people who do something wrong, I usually get the blame"), Rebellious Nonconformity (e.g., "I have always seen myself as something of a rebel"), Coldheartedness (e.g., "If someone is hurt by something I say or do, I usually consider that to be their problem"),

Social Influence (e.g., “I feel sure of myself when I’m around other people”), Carefree Nonplanfulness (e.g., “I generally prefer to act first and think later”), Fearlessness (e.g., “I am a daredevil”), Machiavellian Egocentricity (e.g., “If I can’t change the rules, I try to get others to bend them for me”), and Stress Immunity (e.g., “I can remain calm in situations that would make many other people panic”). The PPI-R measure showed high internal consistency reliability overall ( $\alpha = .80$ ), with PPI-R higher-order dimensional subscales of Fearless Dominance and Self-Centered Impulsivity also showing good internal consistency reliability estimates ( $\alpha = .76 - .79$ ). However, PPI-R Coldheartedness showed low internal consistency, with Cronbach’s alpha of .59.

## Results

The descriptive statistics and intercorrelations between psychopathy and facial emotion recognition measures are presented in Tables 1 and 2. Comparisons of SAM ratings for arousal and valence indicated a statistically significant change in affective state prior to and after watching the 1-minute clip, with average ratings shifting to be closer to neutral (3) after watching the video for both arousal (before:  $M = 2.59$ ,  $SD = 0.99$ , after:  $M = 2.8$ ,  $SD = 0.95$ ,  $t(236) = -3.88$ ,  $p < .001$ ) and valence of affective state (before:  $M = 1.47$ ,  $SD = 0.98$ , after:  $M = 1.58$ ,  $SD = 0.87$ ,  $t(236) = -2.07$ ,  $p = 0.040$ ).

### **Psychopathy and emotional perception.**

Overall, participants’ estimated and actual performance on the FERT as measured by the proportion of correct responses on the FERT were not significantly associated,  $t(235) = 1.53$ ,  $p = 0.13$ ,  $r = 0.10$  (see Figure 4). This finding contrasted with Hypothesis 1a, which predicted that a small correlation would be found.

Consistency with the Dunning-Kruger effect was assessed by (1) conducting paired t-tests to compare average estimated vs. actual proportion of correct responses for FERT in the overall sample, terciles (lower, middle, upper), and quartiles (bottom, second, third, top) (see Table 4 and Figure 2), and (2) conducting multi-model regression analyses with linear, quadratic, and cubic components to test for curvilinearity (see Table 5 and Figure 3). Partial support was found for Hypothesis 1a, as explained in further detail below. However, participants' estimate of accuracy on the FERT exceeded actual performance on the FERT as measured by the proportion of correct responses ( $M_s = 0.65$  and  $0.69$ , respectively,  $t(236) = 3.33$ ,  $p = .001$ ,  $\eta_p^2 = -0.216$ ), and by the composite score calculated via the Bayesian 2PL procedure ( $M_s = 0.65$  and  $-0.92$ , respectively,  $t(236) = -32.44$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ,  $\eta_p^2 = 2.11$ ).

Before conducting paired t-tests, average proportions of correct responses for the FERT by tercile and quartile were computed. Pairwise comparisons for terciles revealed that participants in the lower tercile did not overestimate their performance on the FERT ( $t(94) = 1.73$ ,  $p = 0.086$ ), contrary to the predictions for the Dunning-Kruger effect. However, statistically significant overestimation was found in both middle and upper terciles (2<sup>nd</sup> tercile:  $t(65) = -0.06$ ,  $p = 0.003$ ; 3<sup>rd</sup> tercile:  $t(75) = -0.11$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), consistent with trends of a Dunning-Kruger effect. Pairwise comparisons for quartiles revealed similar patterns, with participants in the bottom quartile not showing statistically significant overestimation of their performance on the FERT ( $t(72) = 1.61$ ,  $p = .111$ ) and participants in the second quartile also not showing statistically significant underestimation of their performance on the FERT ( $t(60) = -1.79$ ,  $p = 0.078$ ). However, consistent with predictions for the Dunning-Kruger effect, participants in upper quartiles underestimated their performance (third quartile:  $t(50) = -3.32$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ; top quartile:  $t(51) = -6.01$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ).

Mixed-model regression analyses were subsequently conducted to test for curvilinearity with linear, quadratic, and cubic components, as recommended by Sanchez & Dunning (2018). Standardized parameters were obtained by fitting the model on a standardized version of the dataset, and 95% Confidence Intervals (CIs) and p-values were computed using the Wald approximation. With the composite score calculated by the Bayesian 2PL procedure as the measure of participants' performance on FERT, a cubic model produced the best fit ( $R^2 = .043$ ). In this cubic model, the linear and cubic trends were both found to be statistically significant (linear:  $b = 0.35$ , 95% CI [0.13, 0.56],  $t(233) = 3.20$ ,  $p = 0.002$ ;  $\beta = 0.35$ , 95% CI [0.13, 0.56]; cubic:  $b = -0.08$ , 95% CI [-0.14, -0.02],  $t(233) = -2.76$ ,  $p = 0.006$ ;  $\beta = -0.31$ , 95% CI [-0.53, -0.09])).

To assess relations between psychopathic traits and facial emotion recognition measures, zero-order correlations were computed (Table 3). The composite FERT score calculated with the Bayesian 2PL procedure was negatively related to PPI-R Machiavellian Egocentricity only ( $r = -0.18$ ,  $p = .0097$ ). Self-report estimates of accuracy for FERT was moderately positively related to PPI-R Fearless Dominance ( $r = 0.17$ ,  $p = 0.0164$ ), Stress Immunity ( $r = 0.18$ ,  $p = 0.0078$ ), and Rebellious Nonconformity ( $r = 0.14$ ,  $p = 0.04$ ). FERT subscales for Fear, Happiness, and Surprise showed moderate negative relations with PPI-R measures ( $r$ s ranged from -0.14 to -0.19), whereas FERT Anger showed moderate positive relations with PPI-R measures ( $r$ s ranged from 0.14 to 0.15).

As the composite FERT score calculated with the Bayesian 2PL procedure was negatively related to PPI-R Machiavellian Egocentricity only ( $r = -0.18$ ,  $p = .0097$ ), fixed-effects ANOVAs were conducted to assess whether the level of Machiavellian Egocentricity significantly differ between the terciles and quartiles for emotion recognition ability. Results

indicated that the level of Machiavellian Egocentricity did not vary significantly between terciles ( $F(2, 205) = 1.57, p = 0.211; \eta_p^2 = 0.02, 95\% \text{ CI } [0.00, 1.00]$ ) or quartiles ( $F(3, 204) = 1.67, p = 0.174; \eta_p^2 = 0.02, 95\% \text{ CI } [0.00, 1.00]$ ), not supporting Hypothesis 1b. Therefore, the relation between Machiavellian Egocentricity and the Dunning-Kruger effect for emotion recognition ability was not examined.

### **Individual difference and interpersonal influences on cooperation in PD.**

As Bartlett's test for homogeneity of group variances across the four between-group conditions for the iterated PD did not reveal significant heteroscedasticity for the rate of cooperation (i.e., proportion of rounds wherein the participant cooperated across 20 rounds; K-squared = 1.88,  $df = 3, p = 0.598$ ) or the expectation of cooperation (K-squared = 2.4585,  $df = 3, p = 0.483$ ), Fisher's one-way ANOVAs were used to examine participants' rate and expectation of cooperation across the PD conditions. Results from the ANOVA demonstrated differences across the four between-subjects conditions for the rate of cooperation in PD ( $F_{fisher}(3, 233) = 6.00, p < 0.001$ ; see Figure 5A), as well as the expectation of cooperation in PD ( $F_{fisher}(3, 233) = 7.76, p < 0.001$ ; see Figure 5B). The effect sizes for both ANOVAs ( $\hat{\omega}_p^2 = 0.06$  and  $0.08$ ) were medium, as per Murphy and Myers's (2004) criteria.

Supporting Hypothesis 2a, Holms-Sidak post-hoc pairwise multiple comparisons revealed that (1) participants in Condition 1 (i.e., participants who received Stroop-incongruent and cooperative affective feedback) cooperated more and expected more cooperation by the opponent in PD compared to participants in Condition 4 (i.e., participants who received Stroop-congruent and competitive affective feedback) ( $p < .05$ ), and (2) participants in Condition 3 (i.e., participants who received Stroop-congruent and cooperative affective feedback) cooperated more and expected more cooperation by the opponent in PD compared to participants in

Condition 4 (i.e., participants who received Stroop-congruent and competitive affective feedback) ( $p < 0.001$ ). As hypothesized, participants in Condition 2 (i.e., participants who received Stroop-incongruent and competitive affective feedback) cooperated more in PD compared to participants in Condition 4 (i.e., participants who received Stroop-congruent and competitive affective feedback) ( $p = 0.04$ ). However, the pairwise comparison for the expectation of cooperation was not statistically significant.

In line with Hypothesis 2b, the rate of cooperation in PD was moderately negatively associated with two subscales of PPI-R Self-Centered Impulsivity: Machiavellian Egocentricity ( $r = -0.15, p = 0.033$ ) and Blame Externalization ( $r = -0.17, p = 0.014$ ). However, the expectation of cooperation in PD was moderately negatively associated with Machiavellian Egocentricity only ( $r = -0.14, p = 0.038$ ) (see Table 6).

Subsequently, a 2 (Stroop-incongruent vs. Stroop-congruent) x 2 (Cooperative vs. Competitive) Factorial ANOVA was conducted to test for the interaction effect between the two conditional manipulations for affective feedback in PD on the rate of cooperation in PD (see Table 7, Figure 6A, and Figure 6B). The main effect of affective feedback congruence was found to be statistically significant and small,  $F(1, 233) = 9.90, p = 0.002; \eta_p^2 = 0.04, 95\% \text{ CI } [9.32\text{e-}03, 1.00]$ . However, the main effect of Stroop interference was found to be statistically not significant and very small,  $F(1, 233) = 1.35, p = 0.247, \eta_p^2 = 5.75\text{e-}03, 95\% \text{ CI } [0.00, 1.00]$ . These main effects were qualified by a statistically significant and small interaction between Stroop interference and affective feedback,  $F(1, 233) = 6.76, p = 0.010; \eta_p^2 = 0.03, 95\% \text{ CI } [3.77\text{e-}03, 1.00]$ . Tukey's Honest Significant Differences (HSD) post-hoc comparisons replicated the results from Fisher's one-way ANOVA. The comparisons indicated that (1) the rate of cooperation in PD by participants who received Stroop-incongruent and competitive affective

feedback was 0.155 higher than participants who received Stroop-congruent and competitive affective feedback (in line with Hypothesis 2c;  $p = 0.043$ , 95% CI of the difference = 0.003 to 0.307), (2) rate of cooperation in PD by participants who received Stroop-congruent and cooperative affective feedback was 0.231 higher than participants who received Stroop-congruent and competitive affective feedback ( $p < 0.001$ , 95% CI of the difference = 0.084 to 0.379), and (3) the rate of cooperation in PD by participants who received Stroop-incongruent and cooperative affective feedback was 0.172 higher than participants who received Stroop-congruent and competitive affective feedback ( $p = 0.016$ , 95% CI of the difference = 0.024 to 0.322).

#### A 2 (Stroop-incongruent vs. Stroop-congruent) x 2 (Cooperative vs. Competitive)

Factorial ANOVA was conducted to test for the interaction effect between the two conditional manipulations for affective feedback in PD on the expectation of cooperation in PD (see Table 8, Figure 6C, and Figure 6D). The main effect of affective feedback congruence was found to be statistically significant and medium,  $F(1, 233) = 15.46$ ,  $p < .001$ ;  $\eta_p^2 = 0.06$ , 95% CI [0.02, 1.00]. However, the main effect of Stroop interference was found to be statistically not significant and very small,  $F(1, 233) = 0.10$ ,  $p = 0.749$ ,  $\eta_p^2 = 4.40e-04$ , 95% CI [0.00, 1.00]. These main effects were qualified by a statistically significant and small interaction between Stroop interference and affective feedback,  $F(1, 233) = 7.71$ ,  $p = 0.006$ ;  $\eta_p^2 = 0.03$ , 95% CI [5.30e-03, 1.00]. Tukey's Honest Significant Differences (HSD) post-hoc comparisons replicated the results from Fisher's one-way ANOVA. The comparisons indicated that (1) the expectation of cooperation in PD by participants who received Stroop-congruent and cooperative affective feedback was 0.22 higher than participants who received Stroop-congruent and competitive affective feedback ( $p < 0.001$ , 95% CI of the difference = 0.1 to 0.34), and (2) the expectation of cooperation in PD by

participants who received Stroop-incongruent and cooperative affective feedback was 0.14 higher than participants who received Stroop-congruent and competitive affective feedback ( $p = 0.018$ , 95% CI of the difference = 0.017 to 0.26). Statistically significant and negative 3-way interactions were found between affective feedback congruence, Stroop interference, and two PPI-R subscales (Stress Immunity and Coldheartedness) in predicting the rate and expectation of cooperation in PD (see Figures 7, Figure 8, Supplemental 6, Supplemental 14; Stress Immunity:  $b = -0.60$ , 95% CI [-1.13, -0.08],  $t(200) = -2.25$ ,  $p = 0.025$ ; Coldheartedness:  $b = -0.61$ , 95% CI [-1.13, -0.08],  $t(200) = -2.28$ ,  $p = 0.023$ ). This finding did not support Hypothesis 2d, which predicted that participants receiving cooperative and competitive feedback will show decreasing rates and expectations of cooperation at higher levels of psychopathy, with a larger interaction effect in conditions with Stroop interference.

### Discussion

The primary aim of the current study was to examine the individual and interactive influence of psychopathy, affective feedback congruence, and Stroop interference on cooperation in PD. Furthermore, exploratory analyses were conducted to examine the relation between psychopathy and emotion perception, as well as the consistency of the relation between estimated and measured emotion recognition ability with the Dunning-Kruger effect. The findings were consistent with previous research on the influence of reverse appraisal on social cooperation, and provided novel insights into the interactive influence of interpersonal-affective processes associated with psychopathy in the context of social cooperation.

As recent studies have shown that adults with typical facial expression recognition ability have only modest cognitive insight into their ability (see Palermo et al., 2017, for a review), it was hypothesized that facial emotion recognition ability as measured by the proportion of correct



responses on the FERT would be weakly correlated with estimated measures of performance. The relation between measured and estimated emotion recognition ability has been debated; some studies have found small or non-significant associations (Bowles et al., 2009; Hall et al., 1999), whereas other studies have found robust associations that demonstrate increased cognitive awareness of emotion recognition ability in comparison to other cognitive abilities (Arizpe et al., 2019; Zell & Krizan, 2014). Consistent with previous research (e.g., Hall et al., 1999), the present study found a statistically insignificant relation between actual and estimated emotion recognition ability.

The two-part analyses for Dunning-Kruger effect of facial emotion recognition ability yielded mixed findings. Although participants in upper quartiles (i.e., third and top quartiles) underestimated their performance on the task, no statistically significant differences were found at lower quartiles (i.e., bottom and second quartiles) despite marginal, non-significant overestimation and underestimation at the bottom and second quartiles, respectively. This is partially consistent with the Dunning-Kruger effect, which expects underestimation of performance at the top quartile and overestimation of sequentially decreasing magnitudes in the lower three quartiles (Kruger & Dunning, 1999). Similar patterns were found when the sample was divided into terciles for emotion recognition ability, with underestimation of performance at the upper two terciles and marginal, non-significant overestimation of performance at the lower tercile. In conducting a mixed-model regression analyses to explore the fit of linear, quadratic, and cubic trends for the relation between estimated and actual emotion recognition ability as measured by the composite FERT score, the cubic model yielded the best fit with both linear and cubic trends showing statistical significance. This is consistent with previous studies that have found a significant cubic trend for the relation between actual and estimated ability (Hood, 2015;

Sanchez & Dunning, 2018; Sanchez & Dunning, 2021). There are notable differences, however, as the cubic model for the present study included a significant linear trend and showed a tail-end decrease in the estimate of performance as opposed to an increase as shown in some studies (McKenzie et al., 2008; Sanchez & Dunning, 2018; but see Ericsson & Smith, 1991; Wallsten & Budescu, 1983).

Machiavellian Egocentricity was the only PPI-R measure to be significantly correlated with the actual measures of emotion recognition ability (the composite score as well as the proportion of correct responses for the FERT), suggesting that this subscale may partially explain variance in participants' estimates of their emotion recognition ability. The correlation was negative in direction, supporting the prediction that higher levels of psychopathy would be associated with lower estimates of emotion recognition ability. However, as the level of Machiavellian Egocentricity did not significantly differ between the terciles and quartiles for emotion recognition ability, and as prior analyses in this study only partially supported the hypothesis that a Dunning-Kruger effect would emerge for emotion recognition ability, the relation between Machiavellian Egocentricity and the Dunning-Kruger effect for emotion recognition ability was not examined.

As hypothesized, there was a significant main effect of affective feedback congruence on the rate and expectation of cooperation in PD such that participants who received Stroop-congruent x cooperative affective feedback showed higher rate and expectation of cooperation in PD compared to participants who received Stroop-congruent x competitive affective feedback. Contrary to predictions, the main effect of Stroop interference on the rate and expectation of cooperation in PD were both statistically not significant, qualified by a small but significant interaction between Stroop interference and affective feedback. Demonstrating the interaction

effect, Stroop interference only had a significant influence on the rate of cooperation in PD for competitive affective feedback.

In analyzing relations between PPI-R measures and rate and expectation of cooperation in PD, the rate of cooperation was found to be moderately negatively correlated with both Machiavellian Egocentricity and Blame Externalization, whereas the expectation of cooperation was found to be moderately negatively correlated with Machiavellian Egocentricity only. This finding is partially consistent with previous studies that have found significant relations between PPI-R Self-Centered Impulsivity and its subscales (Berg et al., 2013; Curry et al., 2011; Mokros et al., 2008), as the higher-order dimension of Self-Centered Impulsivity (which includes dimension includes Machiavellian Egocentricity and Blame Externalization as its subscales) was not related to either rate or expectation of cooperation in this study.

However, the current study's finding of a moderate negative relation between Machiavellian Egocentricity and the rate of cooperation is consistent with two previous studies that have hypothesized that Machiavellian Egocentricity would be negatively related to cooperation in PD (Curry et al., 2011; Mokros et al., 2008), as Machiavellian Egocentricity reflects an orientation of interpersonal manipulateness, and prioritizing one's interests over others' with "ruthless practicality" (Lilienfeld & Andrews, 1996). This hypothesis was supported in both studies, with Mokros et al. (2008) finding a moderate negative association between Machiavellian Egocentricity and cooperation in an iterated PD, and Curry et al. (2011) finding a negative association between Machiavellian Egocentricity and initiation and reciprocation of cooperation in a sequential one-shot PD. No study to date has examined the relation between PPI-R measures and the expectation of cooperation in PD. Therefore, this study presented a

novel finding that Machiavellian Egocentricity is negatively related to the expectation of cooperation in an iterated PD.

The current study's finding of a negative relation between Blame Externalization and the rate of cooperation in PD is consistent with Mokros et al. (2008), which found a positive relation between Blame Externalization and the rate of defection in an iterated PD. This is also consistent with the operationalization of Blame Externalization in the PPI-R (i.e., an inclination to blame others as the cause of one's hardship and rationalizing one's own behavior; Lilienfeld & Andrews, 1996), and also with studies that have shown that attributions of blame mediate the relationship between anger and the inferring non-cooperative intentions, possibly contributing to increased rates of defection (Quigley & Tedeschi, 1996; Seip et al., 2014). Accordingly, studies have hypothesized that Blame Externalization should be negatively associated with the rate of cooperation, as cooperation depends on continuous positive interpersonal interactions in an iterated PD (e.g., Curry et al., 2011). However, it should be noted that some studies have found a positive relation between Blame Externalization and the rate of cooperation in PD (e.g., Baggio & Benning, 2011).

Finally, three-way interactions between affective feedback congruence, Stroop interference, and two PPI-R measures were detected in predicting the expectation of cooperation in PD: Stress Immunity (a subscale of Fearless Dominance) and Coldheartedness. Parallel trends emerged for the two three-way interactions between affective feedback congruence, Stroop interference, and the two PPI-R measures (Stress Immunity and Coldheartedness), with inverse trends emerging for the influence of affective feedback on cooperation in PD for higher levels of Stress Immunity and Coldheartedness depending on the presence or absence of Stroop interference (see Figure 9C and Figure 9K). In the absence of Stroop interference, participants

who received cooperative affective feedback showed increasing expectations of cooperation in PD at higher levels of Stress Immunity and Coldheartedness, whereas participants who received competitive affective feedback showed decreasing expectations of cooperation in PD at higher levels of Stress Immunity and Coldheartedness. With Stroop interference, participants who received cooperative affective feedback showed decreasing expectations of cooperation in PD at higher levels of Stress Immunity and Coldheartedness, whereas participants who received competitive affective feedback showed increasing expectations of cooperation in PD at higher levels of Stress Immunity and Coldheartedness.

### **Limitations and Future Directions**

Several limitations are to be noted in interpreting the results for the present study. First, the total sample size was below the sample size required to reliably estimate correlations and detect effects, as indicated by an a priori power analysis. As this limitation qualifies the generalizability of the results for the present study with a high likelihood of making a Type II error, subsequent replications would need to be conducted to increase confidence in the validity of the findings for the current study. Subsequent replications may also benefit from utilizing a longer version of the PPI-R, as the reliability of the data for the current study may have been affected by the low internal consistency ( $\alpha=.59$ ) for PPI-R Coldheartedness with the 40-item PPI-R (PPI-R-40). Although the internal consistency of the overall measure and the two other higher-order dimensional measures were in the acceptable range ( $\alpha=.76-.80$ ), analyses specifically conducted for relations with PPI-R Coldheartedness may have resulted in low validity, as the reliability of an instrument is closely associated with its validity (Tavakol & Dennik, 2011). As PPI-R Coldheartedness comprises fewer items compared to PPI-R Fearless Dominance and Self-Centered Impulsivity (Lilienfeld & Andrews, 1996), and as Cronbach's

alpha is affected by the length of the measure (Nunnally & Bernstein, 1994), internal consistency may increase with longer versions of the PPI-R wherein more items are used to derive the subscale score.

Second, the ecological validity of the study may be improved by replicating the study with a human opponent with software such as z-Tree Unleashed (Zurich Toolbox for Ready-made Economic Experiments - Unleashed; Duch et al., 2020). Although the credibility of the deception (i.e., believing that the opponent is a real-life participant as stated rather than a computerized opponent) was not assessed in this study, it is possible for this deception to have had low credibility. This may have had a confounding influence on the participants' rate and expectation of cooperation in PD, as previous studies have shown that (the belief of) playing against a human opponent results in more positive affective responses and higher engagement (Kätsyri et al., 2013; Ravaja et al., 2004). As this study also relied on the assumption that participants would not be able to predict the pattern of the opponent's tit-for-tat strategy throughout the 20 rounds of the iterated PD or look past the deception implemented in this study to realize that the opponent is computerized due to the consistency of the strategy, it is possible that this may have contributed as a confounding variable. Future studies could also investigate the presence of a Dunning-Kruger effect for emotion recognition ability by controlling for the participants' age and gender, as a recent study by DeGutis and colleagues have shown that human awareness of emotion recognition ability varies significantly by age and gender (DeGutis et al., 2021).

Overall, the present study adds to the growing body of literature on the influence of personality and emotion on social cooperation more broadly, and the influence of interpersonal-affective processes of psychopathy on social cooperation more specifically. This study also

further explored the relationship between psychopathy and emotion recognition ability, given the ongoing debate in the field regarding this relation. Exploratory analyses conducted on the Dunning-Kruger effect of emotion recognition ability and the influence of individual differences in personality on the variation of the relation between actual and estimated emotion recognition ability also adds to the sparse literature on the relationship between personality and cognitive awareness. Further advancing research on individual difference and interpersonal influences on cooperation will help in clarifying the interplay of structural, psychological, and dynamic interaction processes in influencing social cooperation, and should strive to model these interactive processes in more ecologically valid contexts.

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### Tables

**Table 1.** Means, standard deviations, and correlations with confidence intervals for psychopathy measures.

Variable	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	1	2	3	4
1. PPI-R Total	85.25	11.61	(.80)			
2. PPI-R Fearless Dominance	35.00	6.40	.69*** [.13, .76]	(.76)		
3. PPI-R Self-Centered Impulsivity	40.63	7.67	.80*** [.75, .84]	.17* [.03, .30]	(.79)	
4. PPI-R Coldheartedness	9.42	2.45	.43*** [.31, .53]	.13 [-.01, .26]	.13** [-.01, .26]	(.59)

*Note.* \* is  $p < .05$ , \*\* is  $p < .01$ , and \*\*\* is  $p < .001$ . PPI-R = Psychopathic Personality Inventory – Revised. *M* and *SD* are used to represent mean and standard deviation, respectively. Values in square brackets indicate the 95% confidence intervals for each correlation. The confidence interval is a plausible range of populations correlations that could have caused the sample correlation (Cumming, 2014). Internal consistencies (Cronbach’s alpha) are reported along the diagonal.

**Table 2.** Means, standard deviations, and correlations with confidence intervals for facial emotion recognition measures.

Variable	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. FERT Score	-0.92	0.74							
2. FERT Estimate	0.65	0.17	.10 [-.02, .23]						
3. FERT Anger	0.73	0.22	.69*** [.62, .75]	.13* [.00, .25]					
4. FERT Disgust	0.65	0.20	.43*** [.32, .53]	.02 [-.10, .15]	.11 [-.02, .24]				
5. FERT Fear	0.48	0.23	.59*** [.50, .66]	-.00 [-.13, .13]	.16* [.03, .28]	.17** [.04, .29]			
6. FERT Happiness	0.79	0.10	.39*** [.28, .50]	.03 [-.10, .15]	.20** [.08, .32]	.19** [.06, .31]	.04 [-.09, .17]		
7. FERT Sadness	0.63	0.16	.35*** [.23, .46]	.02 [-.11, .15]	.11 [-.02, .23]	-.04 [-.17, .09]	.07 [-.06, .19]	-.05 [-.18, .08]	
8. FERT Surprise	0.88	0.15	.38*** [.26, .48]	.11 [-.02, .23]	.17** [.04, .29]	.24*** [.12, .36]	-.01 [-.14, .12]	.28*** [.16, .39]	.14* [.02, .27]

*Note.* \* is  $p < .05$ , \*\* is  $p < .01$ , and \*\*\* is  $p < .001$ . FERT = Facial Expression Recognition Task. *M* and *SD* are used to represent mean and standard deviation, respectively. Values in square brackets indicate the 95% confidence intervals for each correlation. The confidence interval is a plausible range of population correlations that could have caused the sample correlation (Cumming, 2014).

**Table 3.** *Correlations between psychopathic traits and facial emotion recognition measures.*

Variables	FERT Composite Score	FERT Correct Responses	FERT Estimate	FERT Anger	FERT Disgust	FERT Fear	FERT Happiness	FERT Sadness	FERT Surprise
PPI-R Total	-0.02	-0.05	0.13	0.14*	-0.03	-0.12	-0.14*	-0.05	-0.01
PPI-R Fearless Dominance	0.02	-0.03	0.17*	0.13	-0.05	-0.06	-0.05	-0.08	-0.02
Stress Immunity	-0.02	-0.05	0.18**	0.07	-0.11	-0.02	-0.03	-0.11	0.02
Social Influence	0.02	-0.02	0.07	0.03	-0.02	-0.03	0.04	0.06	-0.14*
Fearlessness	0.03	-0.01	0.11	0.15*	0.01	-0.07	-0.11	-0.10	0.05
PPI-R Self-Centered Impulsivity	-0.08	-0.07	0.03	0.06	-0.01	-0.13	-0.18**	-0.01	-0.01
Carefree Nonplanfulness	0.10	0.12	-0.04	0.10	0.11	0.06	-0.02	0.04	0.04
Machiavellian Egocentricity	-0.18**	-0.18**	0.02	-0.05	-0.09	-0.18**	-0.18*	0.03	-0.10
Blame Externalization	-0.09	-0.08	-0.06	0.00	-0.03	-0.08	-0.19**	0.03	-0.05
Rebellious Nonconformity	-0.02	-0.03	0.14*	0.13	0.01	-0.15*	-0.09	-0.11	0.08
PPI-R Coldheartedness	0.10	0.08	0.11	0.14*	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.07

*Note.* \* is  $p < .05$ , \*\* is  $p < .01$ , and \*\*\* is  $p < .001$ . PPI-R = Psychopathic Personality Inventory – Revised. FERT = Facial Expression Recognition Task. Values in square brackets indicate the 95% confidence intervals for each correlation. The confidence interval is a plausible range of population correlations that could have caused the sample correlation (Cumming, 2014).

**Table 4.** Paired *t*-tests of actual vs. estimated proportion of correct responses on the Facial Expression Recognition Task.

Variable	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i> ( <i>SD</i> )	<i>t</i>	Estimate
<i>Lower Tercile Performance Group</i>				
Actual	95	0.60 (0.06)	1.73	Over ( <i>ns</i> )
Estimated	--	0.63 (0.19)	--	
<i>Middle Tercile Performance Group</i>				
Actual	66	0.71 (0.01)	-3.13 **	Under
Estimated	--	0.64 (0.17)	--	
<i>Upper Tercile Performance Group</i>				
Actual	76	0.79 (0.04)	-6.42 ***	Under
Estimated	--	0.68 (0.15)	--	
<i>Bottom Quartile Performance Group</i>				
Actual	73	0.58 (0.06)	1.61	Over ( <i>ns</i> )
Estimated	--	0.63 (0.21)		
<i>Second Quartile Performance Group</i>				
Actual	61	0.68 (0.01)	-1.79	Under ( <i>ns</i> )
Estimated	--	0.65 (0.17)		
<i>Third Quartile Performance Group</i>				
Actual	51	0.74 (0.01)	-3.32 **	Under
Estimated	--	0.67 (0.14)		
<i>Top Quartile Performance Group</i>				
Actual	52	0.81 (0.01)	-6.01 ***	Under
Estimated	--	0.15 (0.15)		

*Note.* \* is  $p < .05$ , \*\* is  $p < .01$ , and \*\*\* is  $p < .001$ . *ns* = Not significant. Over = Overestimate. Under = Underestimate.

**Table 5.** Regression results using estimated facial expression recognition ability as the criterion.

Predictor	$b$	$b$		$\beta$	$\beta$		$sr^2$	$sr^2$		$r$	Fit	Difference
		95% CI	[LL, UL]		95% CI	[LL, UL]		95% CI	[LL, UL]			
(Intercept)	0.00	[-0.13, 0.13]										
Linear	0.10	[-0.02, 0.23]		0.10	[-0.02, 0.23]		.01	[.00, .05]		.10		
											$R^2 = .011$	
											95% CI[.00, .05]	
(Intercept)	-0.01	[-0.17, 0.15]										
Linear	0.11	[-0.02, 0.23]		0.11	[-0.02, 0.23]		.01	[-.02, .04]		.10		
Quadratic	0.01	[-0.08, 0.10]		0.01	[-0.11, 0.14]		.00	[-.00, .00]		.00		
											$R^2 = .011$	
											95% CI[.00, .05]	$\Delta R^2 = .000$
(Intercept)	0.02	[-0.13, 0.18]										
Linear	0.35**	[0.13, 0.56]		0.35	[0.13, 0.56]		.04	[-.01, .09]		.10		
Quadratic	-0.03	[-0.13, 0.06]		-0.05	[-0.18, 0.09]		.00	[-.01, .01]		.00		
Cubic	-0.08**	[-0.14, -0.02]		-0.31	[-0.53, -0.09]		.03	[-.01, .07]		-.02		
											$R^2 = .043^*$	
											95% CI[.00, .09]	$\Delta R^2 = .031^{**}$

*Note.* \* is  $p < .05$ , \*\* is  $p < .01$ , and \*\*\* is  $p < .001$ . Linear = Linear trend for the Facial Expression Recognition Task score. Quadratic = Quadratic trend for the Facial Expression Recognition Task score. Cubic = Cubic trend for the Facial Expression Recognition Test score. A significant  $b$ -weight indicates the beta-weight and semi-partial correlation are also significant.  $b$  represents unstandardized regression weights.  $\beta$  indicates the standardized regression weights.  $sr^2$  represents the semi-partial correlation squared.  $r$  represents the zero-order correlation. *LL* and *UL* indicate the lower and upper limits of a confidence interval, respectively.

**Table 6.** Correlations between psychopathic traits and indices for the modified Prisoner's Dilemma.

	Cooperation	Expectation of Cooperation
PPI-R Total	-0.01	-0.01
PPI-R Fearless Dominance	0.08	0.08
Stress Immunity	0.08	0.04
Social Influence	0.01	-0.01
Fearlessness	0.07	0.12
PPI-R Self-Centered Impulsivity	-0.09	-0.08
Carefree Nonplanfulness	0.09	0.03
Machiavellian Egocentricity	-0.15*	-0.14*
Blame Externalization	-0.17*	-0.12
Rebellious Nonconformity	0.00	0.02
PPI-R Coldheartedness	0.05	-0.01

*Note.* \* is  $p < .05$ , \*\* is  $p < .01$ , and \*\*\* is  $p < .001$ . PPI-R = Psychopathic Personality Inventory – Revised.

**Table 7.** Fixed-Effects ANOVA results using rate of cooperation in PD as the criterion.

Predictor	Sum of Squares	<i>df</i>	Mean Square	<i>F</i>	<i>p</i>	partial $\eta^2$	partial $\eta^2$ 90% CI [LL, UL]
(Intercept)	0.00	1	0.00	0.00	.989		
Stroop	1.30	1	1.30	1.38	.241	.01	[.00, .03]
Affective Feedback	8.71	1	8.71	9.26	.003 **	.04	[.01, .09]
Stroop x Affective Feedback	6.36	1	6.36	6.76	.010*	.03	[.00, .07]
Error	219.07	233	0.94				

*Note.* \* is  $p < .05$ , \*\* is  $p < .01$ , and \*\*\* is  $p < .001$ . LL and UL represent the lower-limit and upper-limit of the partial  $\eta^2$  confidence interval, respectively.



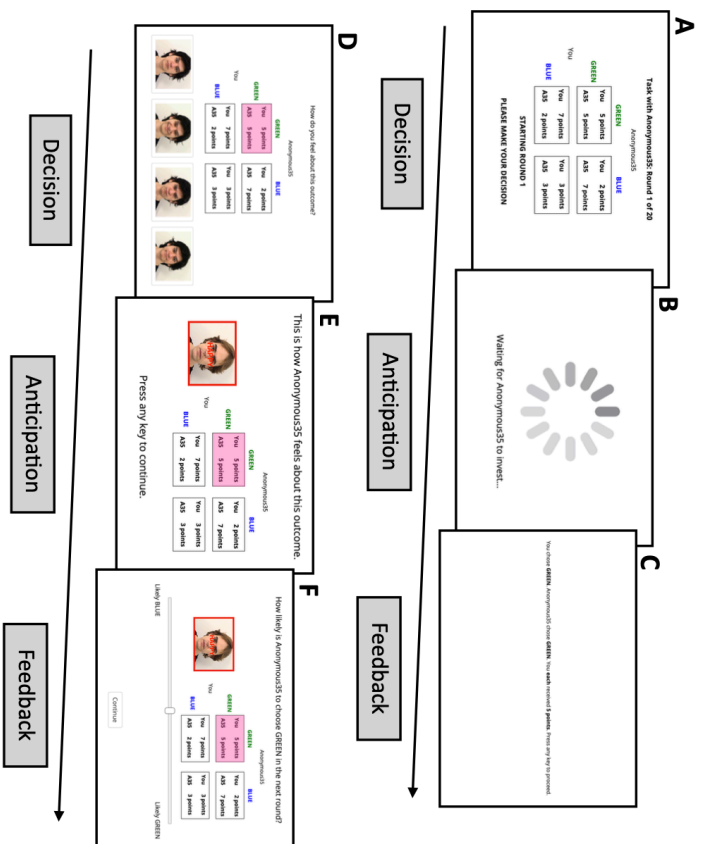
**Table 8.** Fixed-Effects ANOVA results using expectation of cooperation in PD as the criterion.

Predictor	Sum of Squares	<i>df</i>	Mean Square	<i>F</i>	<i>p</i>	partial $\eta^2$	partial $\eta^2$ 90% CI [LL, UL]
(Intercept)	0.00	1	0.00	0.00	.974		
Stroop	0.10	1	0.10	0.11	.743	.00	[.00, .01]
Affective Feedback	13.45	1	13.45	14.61	.000 ***	.06	[.02, .11]
Stroop x Affective Feedback	7.10	1	7.10	7.71	.006 **	.03	[.01, .08]
Error	214.57	233	0.92				

*Note.* \* is  $p < .05$ , \*\* is  $p < .01$ , and \*\*\* is  $p < .001$ . LL and UL represent the lower-limit and upper-limit of the partial  $\eta^2$  confidence interval, respectively.

Figures

Figure 1. Experimental procedure for one round of the PD (left, A-F), payoff matrix (upper right), and affective feedback congruence for each outcome (lower right).



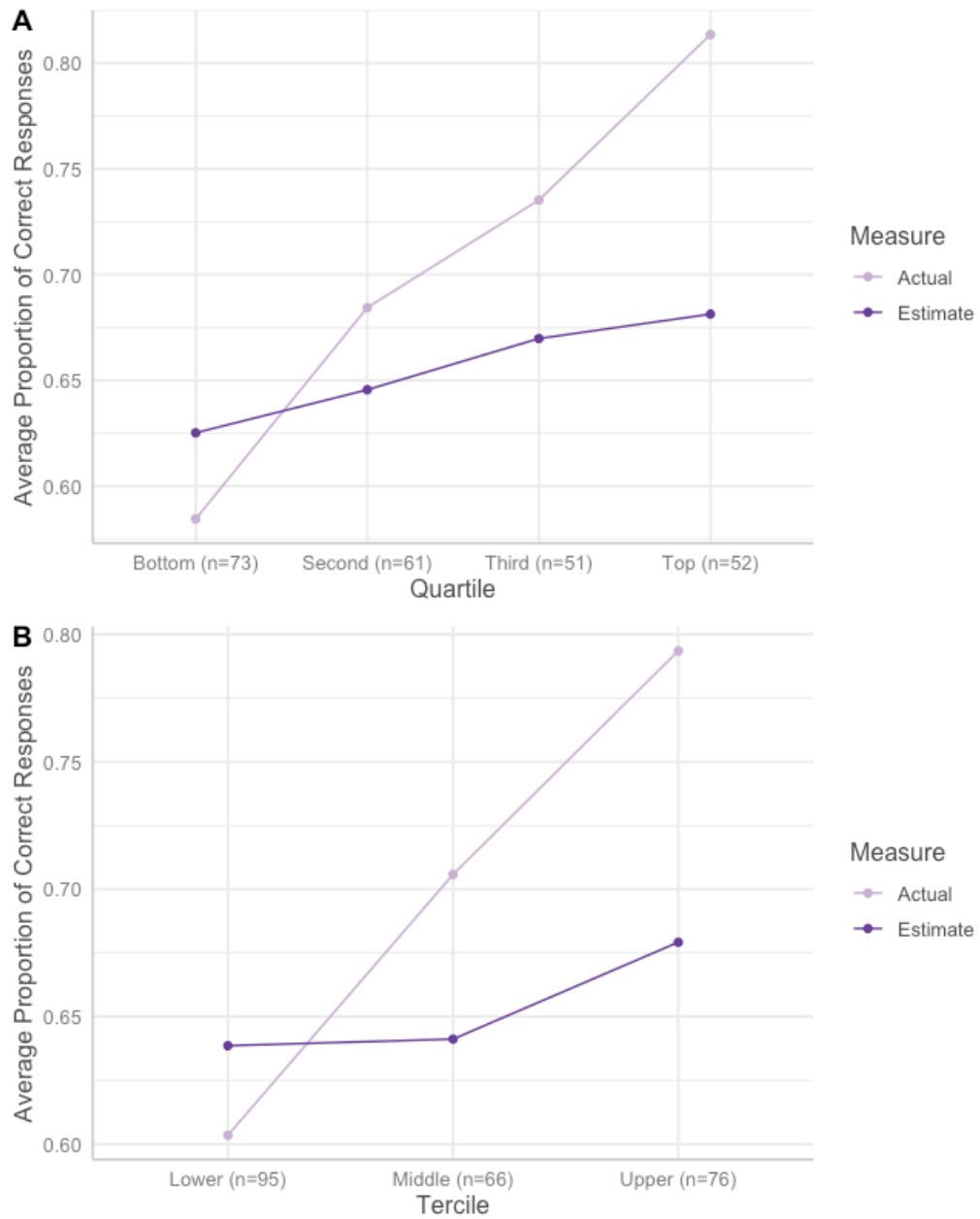
**Payoff Matrix**

	Cooperate Project Green	Defect Project Blue
Cooperate Project Green	5	2
Defect Project Blue	7	3

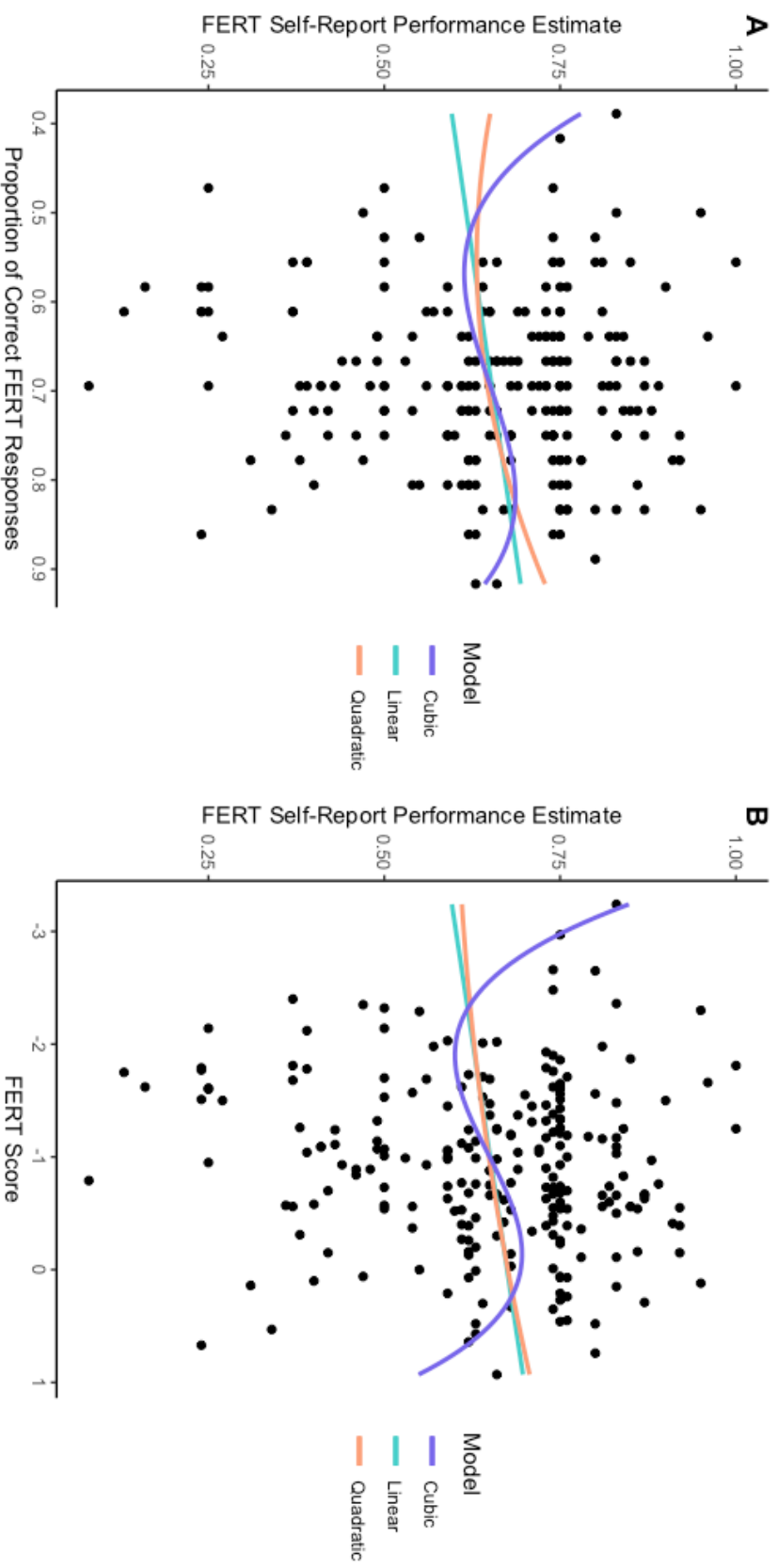
**Affective Feedback Congruence**

	Cooperate Project Green	Defect Project Blue
Cooperative	Happiness	Regret
Competitive	Regret	Happiness

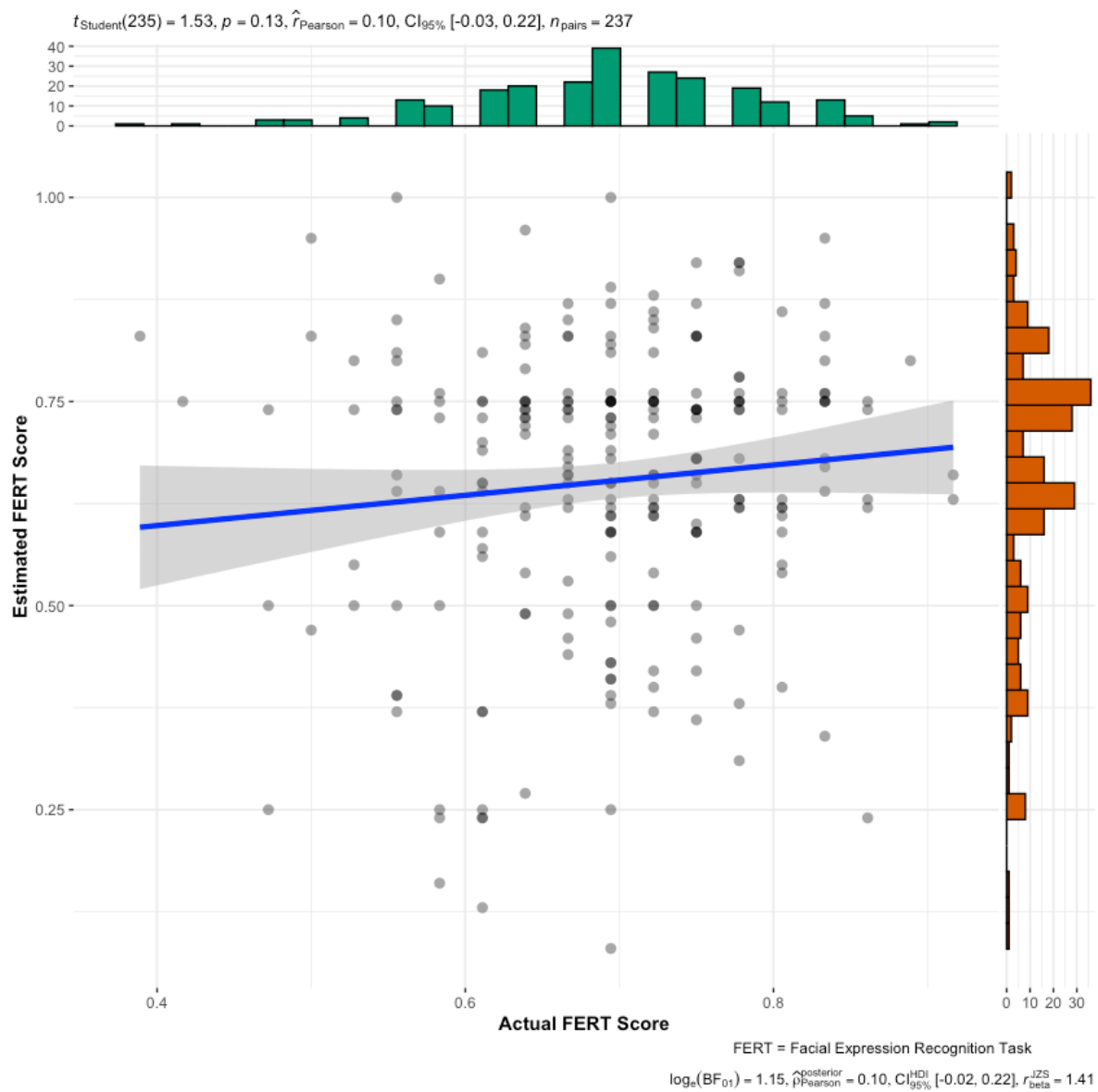
**Figure 2.** Average proportion of correct responses for the Facial Expression Recognition Task by tercile and quartile.



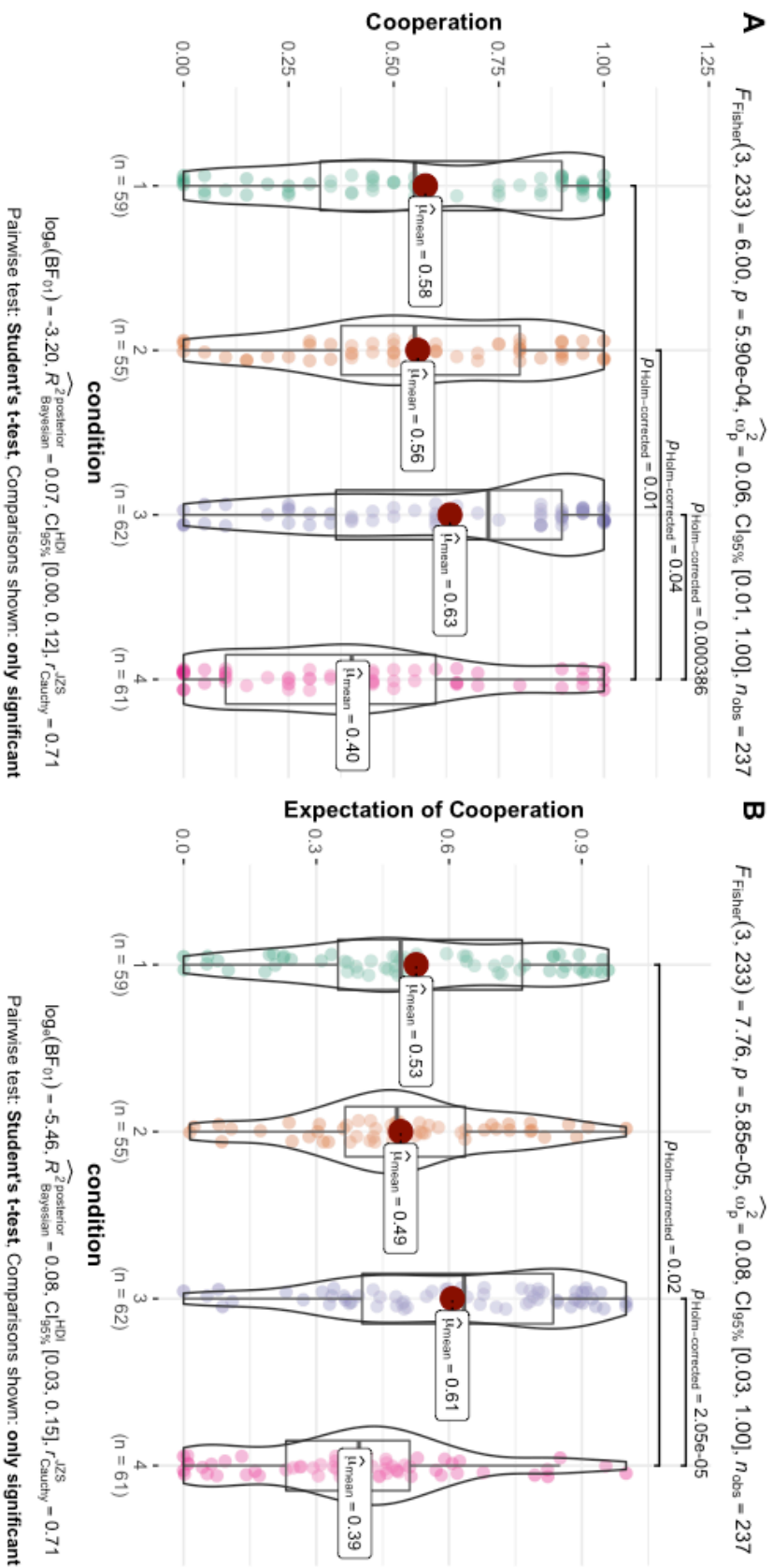
**Figure 3.** Linear, quadratic, and cubic trends for the relation between estimated and actual emotion recognition ability as measured by the proportion of correct FERT responses (left panel) and the composite FERT score (right panel).



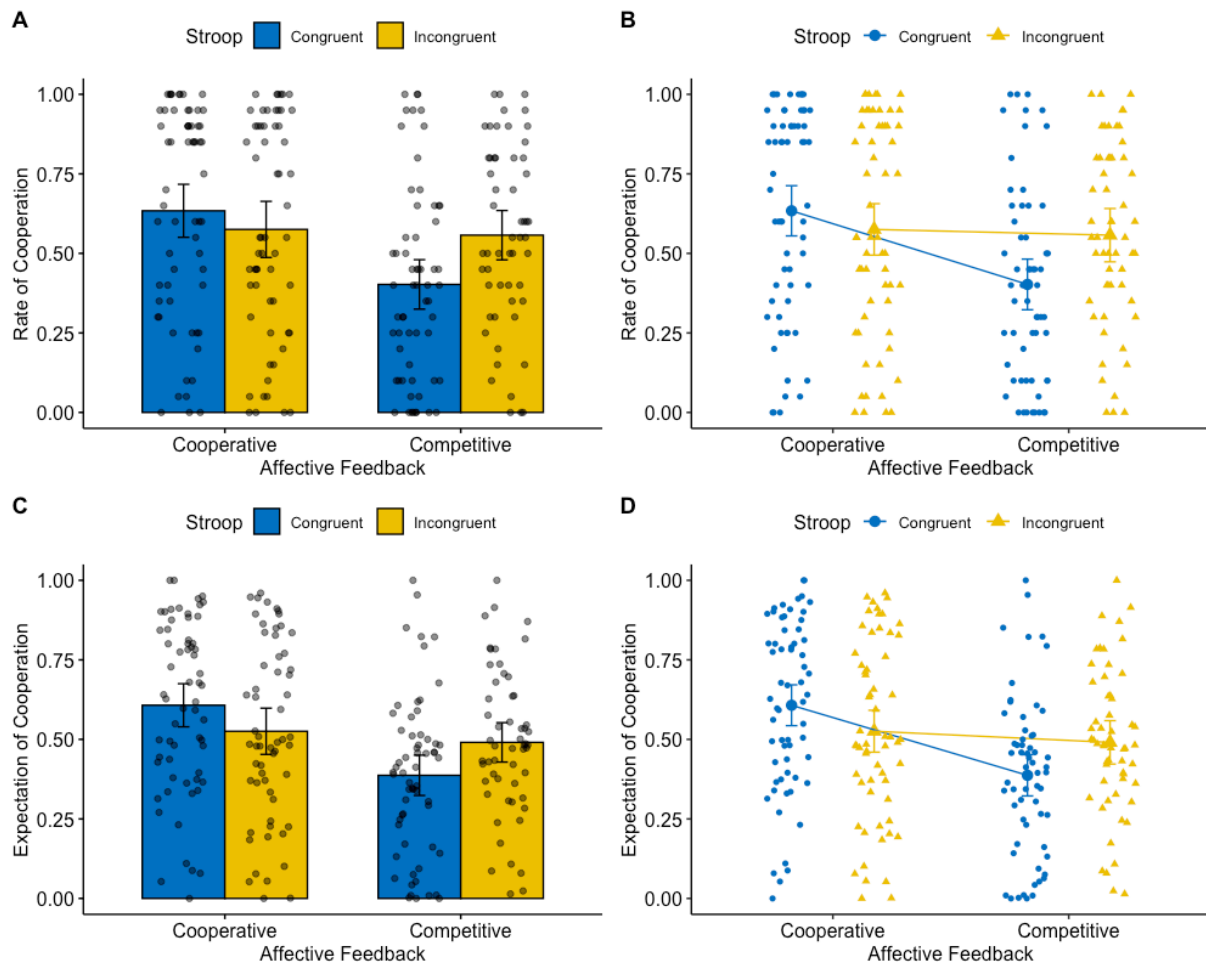
**Figure 4.** *Estimated vs. actual proportion of correct responses on the Facial Expression Recognition Task.*



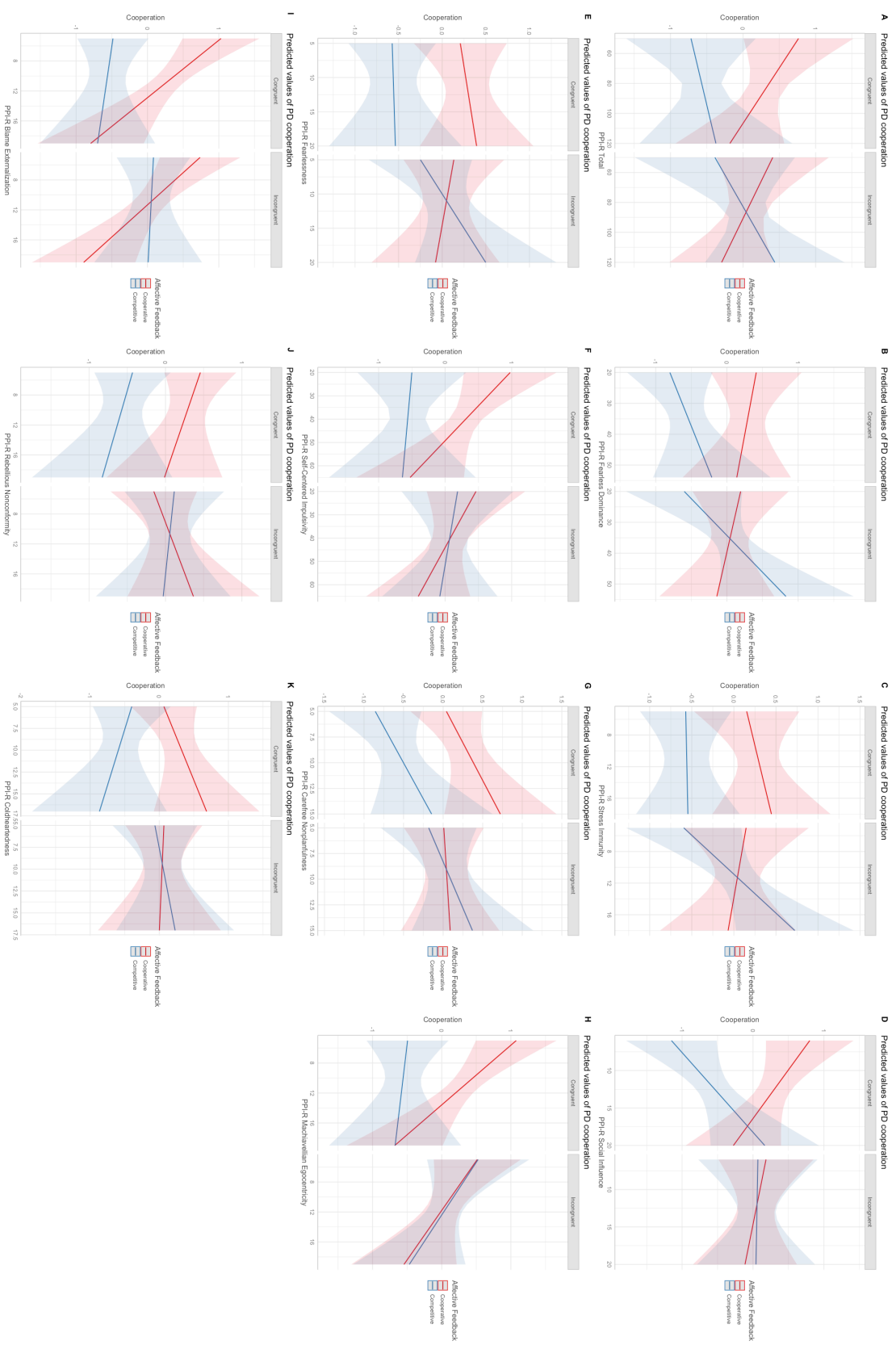
**Figure 5.** Box-violin plots of the rate and expectation of cooperation in PD across conditions.



**Figure 6.** Interaction plots of the rate and expectation of cooperation in PD across conditions.

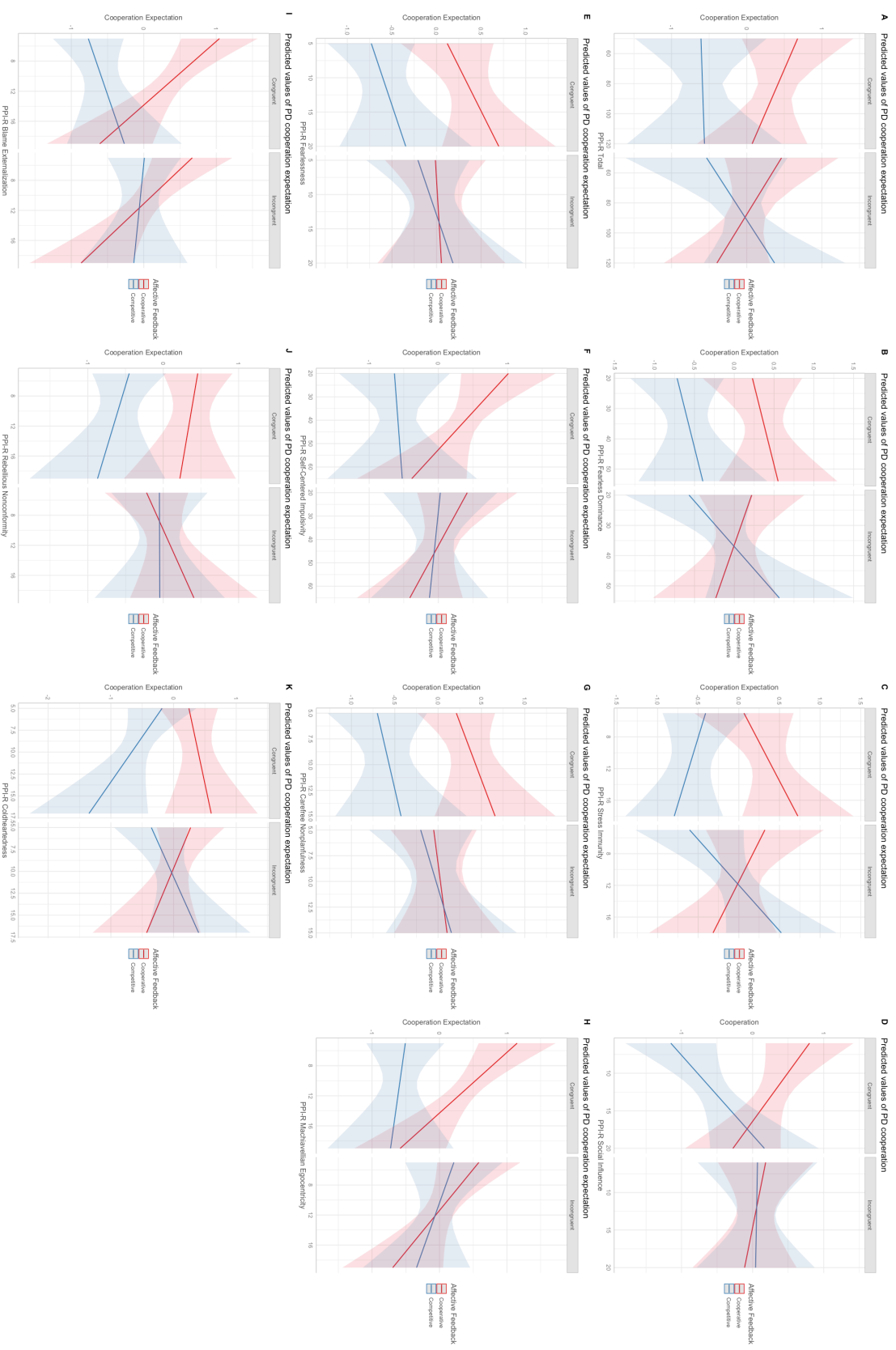


**Figure 7.** *Three-way interactions between affective feedback congruence, Stroop interference, and PPI-R measures on the rate of cooperation in PD.*





**Figure 8.** *Three-way interactions between affective feedback congruence, Stroop interference, and PPI-R measures on expectation of cooperation in PD.*



### Appendices

**S1. Fixed-Effects ANOVA results using PPI-R Machiavellian Egocentricity as the criterion.**

Predictor	Sum of Squares	<i>df</i>	Mean Square	<i>F</i>	<i>p</i>	partial $\eta^2$	partial $\eta^2$ 90% CI [LL, UL]
(Intercept)	10534.05	1	10534.05	1395.55	.000 ***		
Tercile	23.65	2	11.82	1.57	.211	.02	[.00, .05]
Error	1547.41	205	7.55				

*Note.* \* is  $p < .05$ , \*\* is  $p < .01$ , and \*\*\* is  $p < .001$ . LL and UL represent the lower-limit and upper-limit of the partial  $\eta^2$  confidence interval, respectively. PPI-R = Psychopathic Personality Inventory – Revised. Tercile = Tercile for average proportion of correct responses for the Facial Expression Recognition Task.

**S2. Fixed-Effects ANOVA results using PPI-R Machiavellian Egocentricity as the criterion.**

Predictor	Sum of Squares	<i>df</i>	Mean Square	<i>F</i>	<i>p</i>	partial $\eta^2$	partial $\eta^2$ 90% CI [LL, UL]
(Intercept)	8120.07	1	8120.07	1080.34	.000 ***		
Quartile	37.76	3	12.59	1.67	.174	.02	[.00, .06]
Error	1533.30	204	7.52				

*Note.* \* is  $p < .05$ , \*\* is  $p < .01$ , and \*\*\* is  $p < .001$ . LL and UL represent the lower-limit and upper-limit of the partial  $\eta^2$  confidence interval, respectively. Quartile = Quartile for average proportion of correct responses for the Facial Expression Recognition Task.

**S3.** Means and standard deviations for cooperation in PD as a function of a 2 (Cooperative) X 2 (Stroop) design.

Affective Feedback	Stroop				Marginal	
	Congruent		Incongruent			
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>
Competitive	0.40	0.30	0.56	0.29	0.48	0.30
Cooperative	0.63	0.33	0.58	0.34	0.61	0.33
Marginal	0.52	0.34	0.57	0.31		

*Note.* *M* and *SD* represent mean and standard deviation, respectively.

**S4.** Three-way interaction between PPI-R total score, affective feedback congruence, and Stroop interference on the rate and expectation of cooperation in PD.

Predictors	Cooperation				Expectation of Cooperation					
	<i>b</i>	$\beta$	<i>b</i> 95% CI [LL, UL]	$\beta$ 95% CI [LL, UL]	<i>b</i>	$\beta$	<i>b</i> 95% CI [LL, UL]	$\beta$ 95% CI [LL, UL]	<i>p</i>	
(Intercept)	-0.04	-0.01	[-0.18, 0.09]	[-0.14, 0.13]	0.529	-0.07	-0.02	[-0.20, 0.07]	[-0.15, 0.12]	0.332
PPI-R Total	-0.02	-0.02	[-0.16, 0.12]	[-0.16, 0.12]	0.781	-0.02	-0.02	[-0.16, 0.12]	[-0.16, 0.12]	0.761
Cooperative	-0.21	-0.21	[-0.35, -0.08]	[-0.35, -0.08]	<b>0.002</b>	-0.27	-0.27	[-0.40, -0.13]	[-0.40, -0.14]	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
Stroop	-0.08	-0.08	[-0.22, 0.55]	[-0.22, 0.05]	0.217	-0.04	-0.04	[-0.17, 0.09]	[-0.17, 0.09]	0.540
PPI-R Total *	0.12	0.12	[-0.02, 0.26]	[-0.02, 0.26]	0.104	0.10	0.10	[-0.04, 0.24]	[-0.04, 0.24]	0.154
Cooperative *	-0.03	-0.03	[-0.17, 0.11]	[-0.17, 0.11]	0.676	-0.03	-0.03	[-0.16, 0.11]	[-0.16, 0.11]	0.721
Stroop	-0.20	-0.20	[-0.34, 0.07]	[-0.33, -0.07]	<b>0.004</b>	-0.21	-0.21	[-0.34, -0.08]	[-0.35, -0.08]	<b>0.002</b>
PPI-R Total *	-0.01	-0.01	[-0.15, 0.13]	[-0.15, 0.13]	0.889	-0.05	-0.05	[-0.18, 0.09]	[-0.18, 0.09]	0.511
Cooperative *	-0.01	-0.01	[-0.15, 0.13]	[-0.15, 0.13]	0.889	-0.05	-0.05	[-0.18, 0.09]	[-0.18, 0.09]	0.511
Stroop	-0.01	-0.01	[-0.15, 0.13]	[-0.15, 0.13]	0.889	-0.05	-0.05	[-0.18, 0.09]	[-0.18, 0.09]	0.511
Observations	208		208		208		208		208	
R <sup>2</sup> / R <sup>2</sup> adjusted	0.115 / 0.084		0.136 / 0.106		0.136 / 0.106		0.136 / 0.106		0.136 / 0.106	

Note. Bolded is  $p < .05$ . *b* represents unstandardized regression weights.  $\beta$  indicates the standardized regression weights. *LL* and *UL* indicate the lower and upper limits of a confidence interval, respectively. PPI-R Total = Psychopathic Personality Inventory – Revised Total. Cooperative = Cooperative affective feedback. Stroop = Stroop-incongruent affective feedback.

**S5.** Three-way interaction between PPI-R Fearless Dominance, affective feedback congruence, and Stroop interference on the rate and expectation of cooperation in PD.

Predictors	Cooperation				Expectation of Cooperation					
	<i>b</i>	$\beta$	<i>b</i> 95% CI [LL, UL]	$\beta$ 95% CI [LL, UL]	<i>b</i>	$\beta$	<i>b</i> 95% CI [LL, UL]	$\beta$ 95% CI [LL, UL]	<i>p</i>	
(Intercept)	-0.04	-0.01	[-0.18, 0.09]	[-0.14, 0.12]	0.522	-0.06	-0.01	[-0.19, 0.07]	[-0.14, 0.12]	0.335
PPI-R FD	0.07	0.07	[-0.07, 0.20]	[-0.07, 0.20]	0.335	0.06	0.06	[-0.07, 0.20]	[-0.07, 0.20]	0.353
Cooperative	-0.21	-0.21	[-0.34, -0.08]	[-0.34, -0.08]	<b>0.002</b>	-0.26	-0.26	[-0.39, -0.13]	[-0.39, -0.13]	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
Stroop	-0.08	-0.08	[-0.21, 0.05]	[-0.21, 0.05]	0.266	-0.04	-0.04	[-0.17, 0.09]	[-0.17, 0.09]	0.550
PPI-R FD *	0.12	0.12	[-0.01, 0.26]	[-0.01, 0.26]	0.074	0.07	0.08	[-0.06, 0.21]	[-0.06, 0.21]	0.268
Cooperative	-0.04	-0.04	[-0.17, 0.10]	[-0.17, 0.10]	0.594	-0.00	-0.00	[-0.13, 0.13]	[-0.14, 0.13]	0.978
Stroop	-0.20	-0.20	[-0.34, -0.07]	[-0.34, -0.07]	<b>0.003</b>	-0.21	-0.22	[-0.34, -0.09]	[-0.35, -0.09]	<b>0.001</b>
PPI-R FD *	-0.04	-0.04	[-0.18, 0.09]	[-0.18, 0.09]	0.538	-0.07	-0.07	[-0.21, 0.06]	[-0.21, 0.06]	0.269
Cooperative *										
Stroop										
Observations	208				208					
R <sup>2</sup> / R <sup>2</sup> adjusted	0.117 / 0.086				0.134 / 0.104					

Note. Bolded is  $p < .05$ . *b* represents unstandardized regression weights.  $\beta$  indicates the standardized regression weights. *LL* and *UL* indicate the lower and upper limits of a confidence interval, respectively. PPI-R FD = Psychopathic Personality Inventory – Revised Fearless Dominance. Cooperative = Cooperative affective feedback. Stroop = Stroop-incongruent affective feedback.

**S6. Three-way interaction between PPI-R Stress Immunity, affective feedback congruence, and Stroop interference on the rate and expectation of cooperation in PD.**

Predictors	Cooperation				Expectation of Cooperation					
	<i>b</i>	$\beta$	<i>b</i> 95% CI [LL, UL]	$\beta$ 95% CI [LL, UL]	<i>b</i>	$\beta$	<i>b</i> 95% CI [LL, UL]	$\beta$ 95% CI [LL, UL]	<i>p</i>	
(Intercept)	-0.05	-0.01	[-0.18, 0.08]	[-0.15, 0.12]	0.465	-0.07	-0.02	[-0.20, 0.06]	[-0.15, 0.11]	0.305
PPI-R STI	0.08	0.08	[-0.06, 0.21]	[-0.06, 0.21]	0.268	0.04	0.04	[-0.09, 0.17]	[-0.09, 0.17]	0.539
Cooperative	-0.22	-0.22	[-0.35, -0.08]	[-0.35, -0.08]	<b>0.001</b>	-0.26	-0.27	[-0.39, -0.14]	[-0.39, -0.14]	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
Stroop	-0.09	-0.09	[-0.22, 0.05]	[-0.22, 0.05]	0.202	-0.04	-0.04	[-0.17, 0.09]	[-0.17, 0.09]	0.535
PPI-R STI *	0.07	0.07	[-0.07, 0.20]	[-0.07, 0.20]	0.325	0.04	0.04	[-0.09, 0.17]	[-0.09, 0.17]	0.566
Cooperative	-0.04	-0.04	[-0.18, 0.09]	[-0.18, 0.09]	0.541	-0.01	-0.01	[-0.14, 0.12]	[-0.14, 0.12]	0.864
Cooperative *	-0.21	-0.21	[-0.34, -0.08]	[-0.34, -0.08]	<b>0.002</b>	-0.22	-0.22	[-0.35, -0.09]	[-0.35, -0.09]	<b>0.001</b>
Stroop	-0.10	-0.10	[-0.23, 0.04]	[-0.23, 0.04]	0.162	-0.15	-0.15	[-0.28, -0.02]	[-0.28, -0.02]	<b>0.025</b>
PPI-R STI *										
Cooperative *										
Stroop										
Observations	208				208					
R <sup>2</sup> / R <sup>2</sup> adjusted	0.119 / 0.088				0.147 / 0.117					

*Note.* Bolded is  $p < .05$ . *b* represents unstandardized regression weights.  $\beta$  indicates the standardized regression weights. *LL* and *UL* indicate the lower and upper limits of a confidence interval, respectively. PPI-R STI = Psychopathic Personality Inventory – Revised Stress Immunity. Cooperative = Cooperative affective feedback. Stroop = Stroop-incongruent affective feedback.

**S7. Three-way interaction between PPI-R Social Influence, affective feedback congruence, and Stroop interference on the rate and expectation of cooperation in PD.**

Predictors	Cooperation				Expectation of Cooperation					
	<i>b</i>	$\beta$	<i>b</i> 95% CI [LL, UL]	$\beta$ 95% CI [LL, UL]	<i>b</i>	$\beta$	<i>b</i> 95% CI [LL, UL]	$\beta$ 95% CI [LL, UL]	<i>p</i>	
(Intercept)	-0.03	0.00	[-0.17, 0.10]	[-0.17, 0.10]	0.608	-0.06	-0.01	[-0.19, 0.07]	[-0.14, 0.12]	0.379
PPI-R SOI	-0.00	-0.00	[-0.14, 0.13]	[-0.14, 0.13]	0.951	-0.02	-0.02	[-0.15, 0.12]	[-0.15, 0.12]	0.819
Cooperative	-0.20	-0.20	[-0.33, -0.07]	[-0.33, -0.07]	<b>0.003</b>	-0.25	-0.25	[-0.38, -0.12]	[-0.38, -0.12]	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
Stroop	-0.08	-0.08	[-0.22, 0.05]	[-0.22, 0.05]	0.210	-0.04	-0.04	[-0.17, 0.09]	[-0.17, 0.09]	0.557
PPI-R SOI *	0.13	0.13	[-0.00, 0.27]	[-0.00, 0.27]	0.055	0.11	0.11	[-0.02, 0.25]	[-0.02, 0.25]	0.092
Cooperative	0.03	0.03	[-0.11, 0.16]	[-0.11, 0.16]	0.684	0.02	0.02	[-0.11, 0.16]	[-0.11, 0.16]	0.724
Cooperative *	-0.21	-0.21	[-0.34, -0.08]	[-0.34, -0.08]	<b>0.002</b>	-0.22	-0.22	[-0.35, -0.09]	[-0.35, -0.09]	<b>0.001</b>
Stroop										
PPI-R SOI *	0.10	0.10	[-0.03, 0.24]	[-0.03, 0.24]	0.125	0.03	0.03	[-0.10, 0.17]	[-0.10, 0.17]	0.606
Cooperative *										
Stroop										
Observations	208				208					
R <sup>2</sup> / R <sup>2</sup> adjusted	0.131 / 0.101				0.139 / 0.109					

Note. Bolded is  $p < .05$ . *b* represents unstandardized regression weights.  $\beta$  indicates the standardized regression weights. *LL* and *UL* indicate the lower and upper limits of a confidence interval, respectively. PPI-R SOI = Psychopathic Personality Inventory – Revised Social Influence. Cooperative = Cooperative affective feedback. Stroop = Stroop-incongruent affective feedback.



**S8.** Three-way interaction between PPI-R Fearlessness, affective feedback congruence, and Stroop interference on the rate and expectation of cooperation in PD.

Predictors	Cooperation				Expectation of Cooperation					
	<i>b</i>	$\beta$	<i>b</i> 95% CI [LL, UL]	$\beta$ 95% CI [LL, UL]	<i>b</i>	$\beta$	<i>b</i> 95% CI [LL, UL]	$\beta$ 95% CI [LL, UL]	<i>p</i>	
(Intercept)	-0.04	-0.01	[-0.18, 0.09]	[-0.14, 0.12]	0.531	-0.06	-0.01	[-0.19, 0.07]	[-0.14, 0.12]	0.353
PPI-R F	0.04	0.04	[-0.09, -0.18]	[-0.09, 0.18]	0.526	0.08	0.08	[-0.05, 0.21]	[-0.05, 0.21]	0.226
Cooperative	-0.21	-0.21	[-0.34, -0.07]	[-0.34, -0.07]	<b>0.002</b>	-0.25	-0.25	[-0.38, -0.12]	[-0.38, -0.12]	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
Stroop	-0.09	-0.09	[-0.23, 0.04]	[-0.23, 0.04]	0.161	-0.05	-0.05	[-0.18, 0.08]	[-0.18, 0.08]	0.490
PPI-R F *	0.05	0.05	[-0.09, 0.18]	[-0.09, 0.18]	0.502	0.01	0.01	[-0.12, 0.14]	[-0.12, 0.14]	0.910
Cooperative	-0.02	-0.02	[-0.15, 0.12]	[-0.15, 0.12]	0.793	0.03	0.03	[-0.10, 0.16]	[-0.10, 0.16]	0.668
Stroop	-0.21	-0.21	[-0.35, -0.08]	[-0.35, -0.08]	<b>0.002</b>	-0.22	-0.22	[-0.35, -0.09]	[-0.35, -0.09]	<b>0.001</b>
PPI-R F *	-0.06	-0.06	[-0.20, 0.07]	[-0.20, 0.07]	0.357	-0.03	-0.03	[-0.16, 0.10]	[-0.16, 0.10]	0.660
Cooperative *										
Stroop										
Observations	208				208					
R <sup>2</sup> / R <sup>2</sup> adjusted	0.106 / 0.075				0.131 / 0.101					

Note. Bolded is  $p < .05$ . *b* represents unstandardized regression weights.  $\beta$  indicates the standardized regression weights. *LL* and *UL* indicate the lower and upper limits of a confidence interval, respectively. PPI-R F = Psychopathic Personality Inventory – Revised Fearlessness. Cooperative = Cooperative affective feedback. Stroop = Stroop-incongruent affective feedback.

**S9.** Three-way interaction between PPI-R Self-Centered Impulsivity, affective feedback congruence, and Stroop interference on the rate and expectation of cooperation in PD.

Predictors	Cooperation				Expectation of Cooperation					
	<i>b</i>	$\beta$	<i>b</i> 95% CI [LL, UL]	$\beta$ 95% CI [LL, UL]	<i>b</i>	$\beta$	<i>b</i> 95% CI [LL, UL]	$\beta$ 95% CI [LL, UL]	<i>p</i>	
(Intercept)	-0.04	-0.01	[-0.17, 0.09]	[-0.14, 0.13]	0.553	-0.06	-0.01	[-0.19, 0.07]	[-0.14, 0.12]	0.393
PPI-R SCI	-0.12	-0.12	[-0.25, 0.02]	[-0.25, 0.02]	0.088	-0.10	-0.10	[-0.23, 0.04]	[-0.23, 0.04]	0.154
Cooperative	-0.21	-0.21	[-0.34, -0.08]	[-0.34, -0.08]	<b>0.002</b>	-0.26	-0.26	[-0.39, -0.13]	[-0.39, -0.13]	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
Stroop	-0.10	-0.10	[-0.24, 0.03]	[-0.23, 0.03]	0.131	-0.05	-0.05	[-0.18, 0.08]	[-0.18, 0.08]	0.437
PPI-R SCI *	0.08	0.08	[-0.05, 0.22]	[-0.05, 0.22]	0.227	0.09	0.09	[-0.04, 0.23]	[-0.04, 0.23]	0.170
Cooperative	-0.02	-0.02	[-0.16, 0.11]	[-0.16, 0.11]	0.752	-0.01	-0.01	[-0.15, 0.12]	[-0.15, 0.12]	0.851
Cooperative *	-0.21	-0.21	[-0.35, -0.08]	[-0.34, -0.08]	<b>0.002</b>	-0.22	-0.22	[-0.35, -0.09]	[-0.35, -0.09]	<b>0.001</b>
Stroop	-0.21	-0.21	[-0.35, -0.08]	[-0.34, -0.08]	<b>0.002</b>	-0.22	-0.22	[-0.35, -0.09]	[-0.35, -0.09]	<b>0.001</b>
PPI-R SCI *	0.03	0.03	[-0.10, 0.17]	[-0.10, 0.17]	0.639	0.04	0.04	[-0.10, 0.17]	[-0.10, 0.17]	0.599
Cooperative *	0.03	0.03	[-0.10, 0.17]	[-0.10, 0.17]	0.639	0.04	0.04	[-0.10, 0.17]	[-0.10, 0.17]	0.599
Stroop	0.03	0.03	[-0.10, 0.17]	[-0.10, 0.17]	0.639	0.04	0.04	[-0.10, 0.17]	[-0.10, 0.17]	0.599
Observations	208		208		208		208			
R <sup>2</sup> / R <sup>2</sup> adjusted	0.125 / 0.094		0.145 / 0.115		0.145 / 0.115		0.145 / 0.115			

*Note.* Bolded is  $p < .05$ . *b* represents unstandardized regression weights.  $\beta$  indicates the standardized regression weights. *LL* and *UL* indicate the lower and upper limits of a confidence interval, respectively. PPI-R SCI = Psychopathic Personality Inventory – Revised Self-Centered Impulsivity. Cooperative = Cooperative affective feedback. Stroop = Stroop-incongruent affective feedback.

**S10.** Three-way interaction between PPI-R Carefree Nonplianfulness, affective feedback congruence, and Stroop interference on the rate and expectation of cooperation in PD.

Predictors	Cooperation				Expectation of Cooperation					
	<i>b</i>	$\beta$	<i>b</i> 95% CI [LL, UL]	$\beta$ 95% CI [LL, UL]	<i>b</i>	$\beta$	<i>b</i> 95% CI [LL, UL]	$\beta$ 95% CI [LL, UL]	<i>p</i>	
(Intercept)	-0.04	-0.01	[-0.17, 0.09]	[-0.14, 0.13]	0.550	-0.06	-0.01	[-0.19, 0.07]	[-0.14, 0.12]	0.367
PPI-R CN	0.12	0.12	[-0.02, 0.26]	[-0.02, 0.25]	0.083	0.07	0.07	[-0.06, 0.21]	[-0.06, 0.21]	0.285
Cooperative	-0.22	-0.22	[-0.35, -0.09]	[-0.35, -0.09]	<b>0.001</b>	-0.26	-0.26	[-0.39, -0.13]	[-0.39, -0.13]	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
Stroop	-0.08	-0.08	[-0.22, 0.05]	[-0.21, 0.05]	0.220	-0.04	-0.04	[-0.17, 0.09]	[-0.17, 0.09]	0.565
PPI-R CN *	0.03	0.03	[-0.11, 0.17]	[-0.11, 0.16]	0.667	0.00	0.00	[-0.13, 0.14]	[-0.13, 0.14]	0.981
Cooperative	0.04	0.04	[-0.09, 0.18]	[-0.09, 0.18]	0.515	0.01	0.01	[-0.12, 0.15]	[-0.12, 0.15]	0.854
Cooperative *	-0.22	-0.22	[-0.35, -0.09]	[-0.35, -0.09]	<b>0.001</b>	-0.23	-0.23	[-0.36, -0.10]	[-0.36, -0.10]	<b>0.001</b>
Stroop	-0.03	-0.03	[-0.16, 0.11]	[-0.16, 0.11]	0.705	-0.02	-0.02	[-0.16, 0.11]	[-0.16, 0.11]	0.744
PPI-R CN *										
Cooperative *										
Stroop										
Observations	208				208					
R <sup>2</sup> / R <sup>2</sup> adjusted	0.116 / 0.085				0.128 / 0.098					

Note. Bolded is  $p < .05$ . *b* represents unstandardized regression weights.  $\beta$  indicates the standardized regression weights. *LL* and *UL* indicate the lower and upper limits of a confidence interval, respectively. PPI-R CN = Psychopathic Personality Inventory – Revised Carefree Nonplianfulness. Cooperative = Cooperative affective feedback. Stroop = Stroop-incongruent affective feedback.

**SI1.** Three-way interaction between PPI-R Machiavellian Egocentricity, affective feedback congruence, and Stroop interference on the rate and expectation of cooperation in PD.

Predictors	Cooperation				Expectation of Cooperation					
	<i>b</i>	$\beta$	<i>b</i> 95% CI [LL, UL]	$\beta$ 95% CI [LL, UL]	<i>b</i>	$\beta$	<i>b</i> 95% CI [LL, UL]	$\beta$ 95% CI [LL, UL]	<i>p</i>	
(Intercept)	-0.03	0.01	[-0.16, 0.11]	[-0.12, 0.14]	0.690	-0.05	-0.00	[-0.18, 0.08]	[-0.13, 0.13]	0.448
PPI-R ME	-0.20	-0.20	[-0.33, -0.06]	[-0.33, -0.06]	<b>0.004</b>	-0.19	-0.19	[-0.32, -0.06]	[-0.32, -0.06]	<b>0.005</b>
Cooperative	-0.21	-0.21	[-0.34, -0.08]	[-0.34, -0.08]	<b>0.002</b>	-0.26	-0.27	[-0.39, -0.14]	[-0.40, -0.14]	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
Stroop	-0.10	-0.10	[-0.23, 0.03]	[-0.23, 0.03]	0.131	-0.05	-0.05	[-0.18, 0.08]	[-0.18, 0.08]	0.433
PPI-R ME *	0.08	0.08	[-0.05, 0.21]	[-0.05, 0.21]	0.234	0.11	0.11	[-0.02, 0.24]	[-0.02, 0.24]	0.098
Cooperative	0.01	0.01	[-0.13, 0.14]	[-0.13, 0.14]	0.931	-0.01	-0.01	[-0.14, 0.12]	[-0.14, 0.13]	0.926
Cooperative *	-0.23	-0.23	[-0.36, -0.10]	[-0.36, -0.10]	<b>0.001</b>	-0.24	-0.24	[-0.37, -0.11]	[-0.37, -0.11]	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
Stroop										
PPI-R ME *										
Cooperative *	0.07	0.07	[-0.06, 0.21]	[-0.06, 0.21]	0.273	0.04	0.04	[-0.09, 0.17]	[-0.09, 0.17]	0.557
Stroop										
Observations	208				208					
R <sup>2</sup> / R <sup>2</sup> adjusted	0.154 / 0.125				0.177 / 0.148					

Note. Bolded is  $p < .05$ . *b* represents unstandardized regression weights.  $\beta$  indicates the standardized regression weights. *LL* and *UL* indicate the lower and upper limits of a confidence interval, respectively. PPI-R ME = Psychopathic Personality Inventory – Revised Machiavellian Egocentricity. Cooperative = Cooperative affective feedback. Stroop = Stroop-incongruent affective feedback.

**SI2.** Three-way interaction between PPI-R Blame Externalization, affective feedback congruence, and Stroop interference on the rate and expectation of cooperation in PD.

Predictors	Cooperation				Expectation of Cooperation					
	<i>b</i>	$\beta$	<i>b</i> 95% CI [LL, UL]	$\beta$ 95% CI [LL, UL]	<i>b</i>	$\beta$	<i>b</i> 95% CI [LL, UL]	$\beta$ 95% CI [LL, UL]	<i>p</i>	
(Intercept)	-0.03	0.01	[-0.16, 0.10]	[-0.12, 0.14]	0.678	-0.04	0.01	[-0.17, 0.09]	[-0.12, 0.14]	0.526
PPI-R BE	-0.20	-0.20	[-0.33, -0.08]	[-0.33, -0.07]	<b>0.002</b>	-0.15	-0.15	[-0.28, -0.03]	[-0.28, -0.03]	<b>0.017</b>
Cooperative	-0.23	-0.23	[-0.36, -0.10]	[-0.36, -0.10]	<b>0.001</b>	-0.27	-0.27	[-0.40, -0.14]	[-0.40, -0.14]	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
Stroop	-0.10	-0.10	[-0.23, 0.03]	[-0.23, 0.03]	0.120	-0.05	-0.05	[-0.17, 0.08]	[-0.17, 0.08]	0.455
PPI-R BE *	0.17	0.17	[0.04, 0.30]	[0.04, 0.30]	<b>0.009</b>	0.19	0.19	[0.07, 0.32]	[0.07, 0.32]	<b>0.003</b>
Cooperative	-0.02	-0.02	[-0.15, 0.11]	[-0.15, 0.11]	0.779	0.03	0.03	[-0.10, 0.15]	[-0.10, 0.16]	0.657
Stroop	-0.21	-0.21	[-0.34, -0.08]	[-0.34, -0.08]	<b>0.002</b>	-0.21	-0.21	[-0.34, -0.09]	[-0.34, -0.09]	<b>0.001</b>
PPI-R BE *	0.00	0.00	[-0.13, 0.13]	[-0.13, 0.13]	0.964	0.04	0.04	[-0.08, 0.17]	[-0.09, 0.17]	0.519
Cooperative *	0.00	0.00	[-0.13, 0.13]	[-0.13, 0.13]	0.964	0.04	0.04	[-0.08, 0.17]	[-0.09, 0.17]	0.519
Stroop	0.00	0.00	[-0.13, 0.13]	[-0.13, 0.13]	0.964	0.04	0.04	[-0.08, 0.17]	[-0.09, 0.17]	0.519
Observations	208				208					
R <sup>2</sup> / R <sup>2</sup> adjusted	0.169 / 0.140				0.185 / 0.156					

Note. Bolded is  $p < .05$ . *b* represents unstandardized regression weights.  $\beta$  indicates the standardized regression weights. *LL* and *UL* indicate the lower and upper limits of a confidence interval, respectively. PPI-R BE = Psychopathic Personality Inventory – Revised Blame Externalization. Cooperative = Cooperative affective feedback. Stroop = Stroop-incongruent affective feedback.

**S13.** Three-way interaction between PPI-R Rebellious Nonconformity, affective feedback congruence, and Stroop interference on the rate and expectation of cooperation in PD.

Predictors	Cooperation				Expectation of Cooperation					
	<i>b</i>	$\beta$	<i>b</i> 95% CI [LL, UL]	$\beta$ 95% CI [LL, UL]	<i>b</i>	$\beta$	<i>b</i> 95% CI [LL, UL]	$\beta$ 95% CI [LL, UL]	<i>p</i>	
(Intercept)	-0.05	-0.01	[-0.18, 0.09]	[-0.15, 0.12]	0.479	-0.07	-0.02	[-0.20, 0.06]	[-0.15, 0.11]	0.306
PPI-R RN	-0.03	-0.03	[-0.16, 0.11]	[-0.16, 0.11]	0.710	-0.00	-0.00	[-0.13, 0.13]	[-0.14, 0.13]	0.985
Cooperative	-0.21	-0.21	[-0.34, -0.08]	[-0.34, -0.07]	<b>0.002</b>	-0.26	-0.26	[-0.39, -0.13]	[-0.39, -0.13]	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
Stroop	-0.10	-0.10	[-0.23, 0.04]	[-0.23, 0.04]	0.150	-0.05	-0.05	[-0.18, 0.08]	[-0.18, 0.08]	0.462
PPI-R RN *	-0.03	-0.03	[-0.17, 0.11]	[-0.17, 0.10]	0.656	-0.04	-0.04	[-0.18, 0.09]	[-0.18, 0.09]	0.535
Cooperative	-0.06	-0.06	[-0.20, 0.07]	[-0.20, 0.07]	0.350	-0.07	-0.07	[-0.20, 0.07]	[-0.20, 0.07]	0.321
Cooperative *	-0.22	-0.22	[-0.36, -0.09]	[-0.35, -0.09]	<b>0.001</b>	-0.23	-0.23	[-0.36, -0.10]	[-0.36, -0.10]	<b>0.001</b>
Stroop	-0.22	-0.22	[-0.36, -0.09]	[-0.35, -0.09]	<b>0.001</b>	-0.23	-0.23	[-0.36, -0.10]	[-0.36, -0.10]	<b>0.001</b>
PPI-R RN *	0.04	0.04	[-0.10, 0.17]	[-0.10, 0.17]	0.579	0.02	0.02	[-0.11, 0.16]	[-0.11, 0.16]	0.735
Cooperative *	0.04	0.04	[-0.10, 0.17]	[-0.10, 0.17]	0.579	0.02	0.02	[-0.11, 0.16]	[-0.11, 0.16]	0.735
Stroop	0.04	0.04	[-0.10, 0.17]	[-0.10, 0.17]	0.579	0.02	0.02	[-0.11, 0.16]	[-0.11, 0.16]	0.735
Observations	208				208					
R <sup>2</sup> / R <sup>2</sup> adjusted	0.107 / 0.076				0.129 / 0.099					

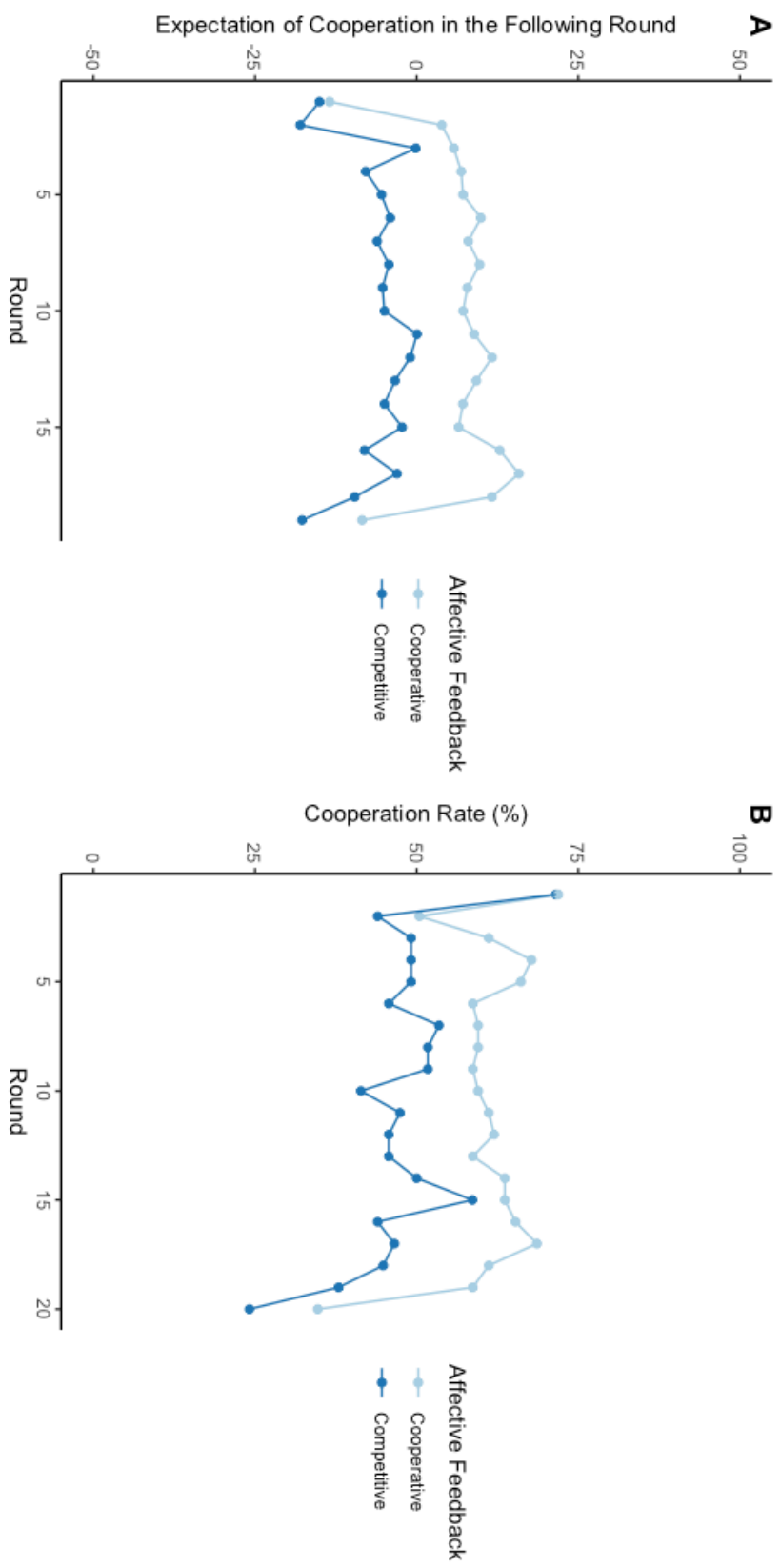
Note. Bolded is  $p < .05$ . *b* represents unstandardized regression weights.  $\beta$  indicates the standardized regression weights. *LL* and *UL* indicate the lower and upper limits of a confidence interval, respectively. PPI-R RN = Psychopathic Personality Inventory – Revised Rebellious Nonconformity. Cooperative = Cooperative affective feedback. Stroop = Stroop-incongruent affective feedback.

**SI4.** Three-way interaction between PPI-R Coldheartedness, affective feedback congruence, and Stroop interference on the rate and expectation of cooperation in PD.

Predictors	Cooperation				Expectation of Cooperation					
	<i>b</i>	$\beta$	<i>b</i> 95% CI [LL, UL]	$\beta$ 95% CI [LL, UL]	<i>b</i>	$\beta$	<i>b</i> 95% CI [LL, UL]	$\beta$ 95% CI [LL, UL]	<i>p</i>	
(Intercept)	-0.05	-0.01	[-0.18, 0.09]	[-0.15, 0.12]	0.486	-0.07	-0.03	[-0.20, 0.05]	[-0.15, 0.10]	0.254
PPI-R C	0.02	0.02	[-0.12, 0.15]	[-0.12, 0.15]	0.780	-0.04	-0.04	[-0.17, 0.09]	[-0.17, 0.09]	0.562
Cooperative	-0.22	-0.21	[-0.35, -0.08]	[-0.35, -0.08]	<b>0.002</b>	-0.27	-0.27	[-0.40, -0.14]	[-0.40, -0.14]	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
Stroop	-0.09	-0.09	[-0.22, 0.04]	[-0.22, 0.04]	0.180	-0.04	-0.04	[-0.17, 0.09]	[-0.17, 0.09]	0.506
PPI-R C *	-0.04	-0.04	[-0.17, 0.10]	[-0.17, 0.10]	0.589	-0.00	-0.00	[-0.13, 0.13]	[-0.14, 0.13]	0.959
Cooperative	-0.00	-0.00	[-0.14, 0.13]	[-0.14, 0.13]	0.954	-0.04	-0.04	[-0.18, 0.09]	[-0.18, 0.09]	0.509
Stroop	-0.22	-0.22	[-0.35, -0.08]	[-0.35, -0.08]	<b>0.002</b>	-0.22	-0.23	[-0.35, -0.10]	[-0.36, -0.10]	<b>0.001</b>
PPI-R C *	-0.07	-0.07	[-0.21, 0.06]	[-0.21, 0.06]	0.285	-0.15	-0.15	[-0.28, -0.02]	[-0.28, -0.02]	<b>0.023</b>
Cooperative *										
Stroop										
Observations	208				208					
R <sup>2</sup> / R <sup>2</sup> adjusted	0.107 / 0.076				0.146 / 0.116					

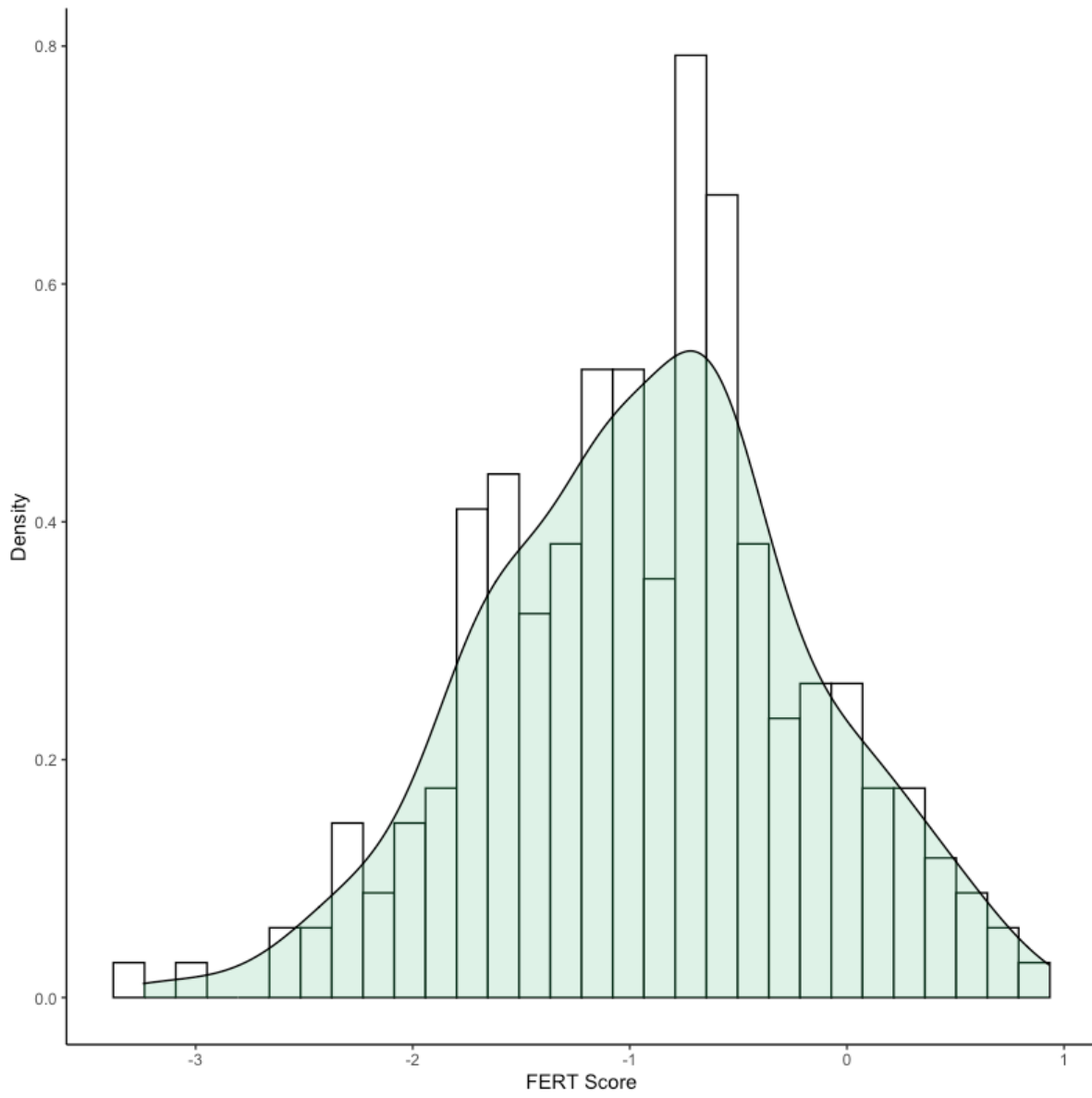
Note. Bolded is  $p < .05$ . *b* represents unstandardized regression weights.  $\beta$  indicates the standardized regression weights. *LL* and *UL* indicate the lower and upper limits of a confidence interval, respectively. PPI-R C = Psychopathic Personality Inventory – Revised Coldheartedness. Cooperative = Cooperative affective feedback. Stroop = Stroop-incongruent affective feedback.

**S15.** Rate and expectation of cooperation across the 20-round iterated PD.

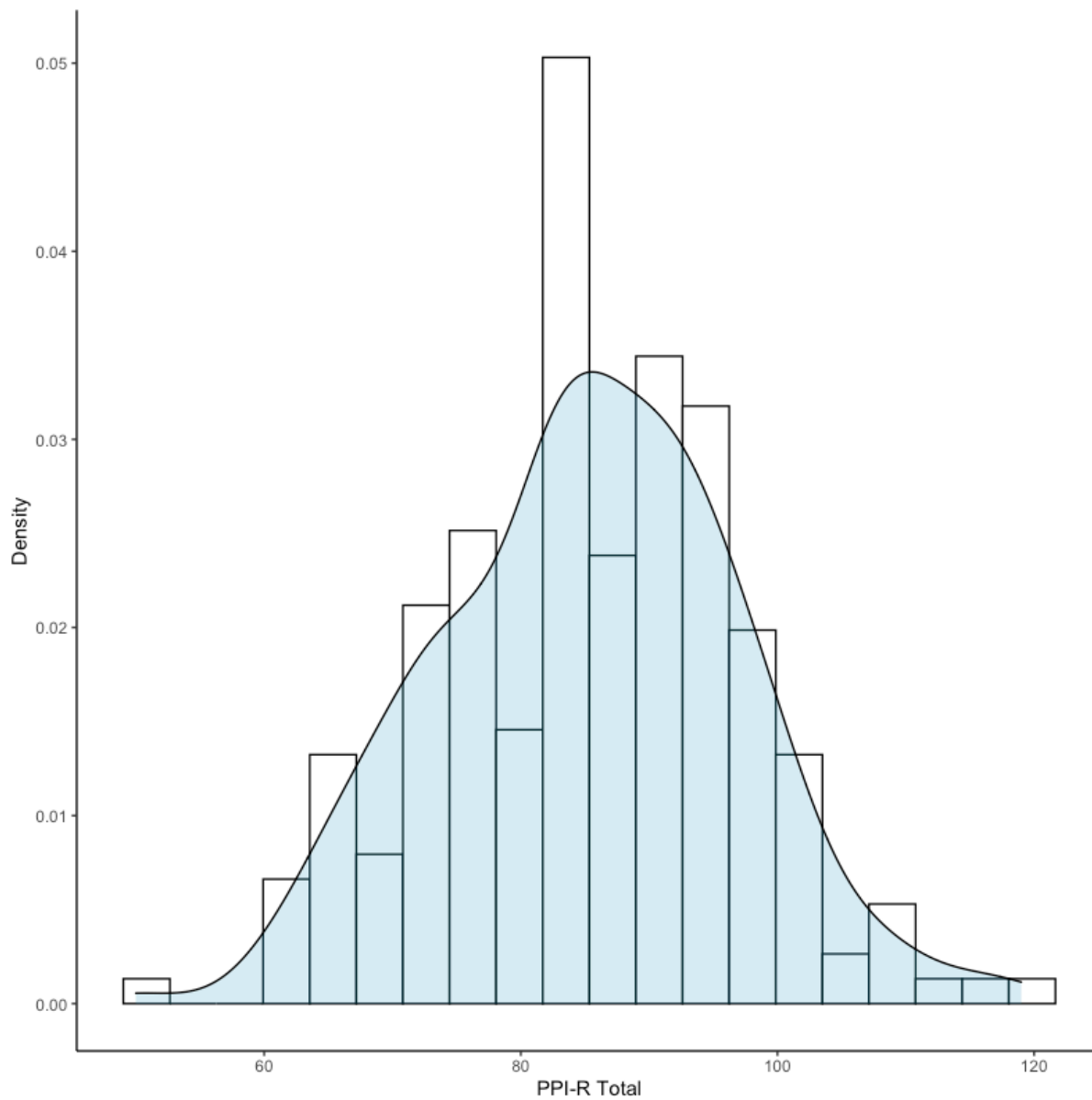




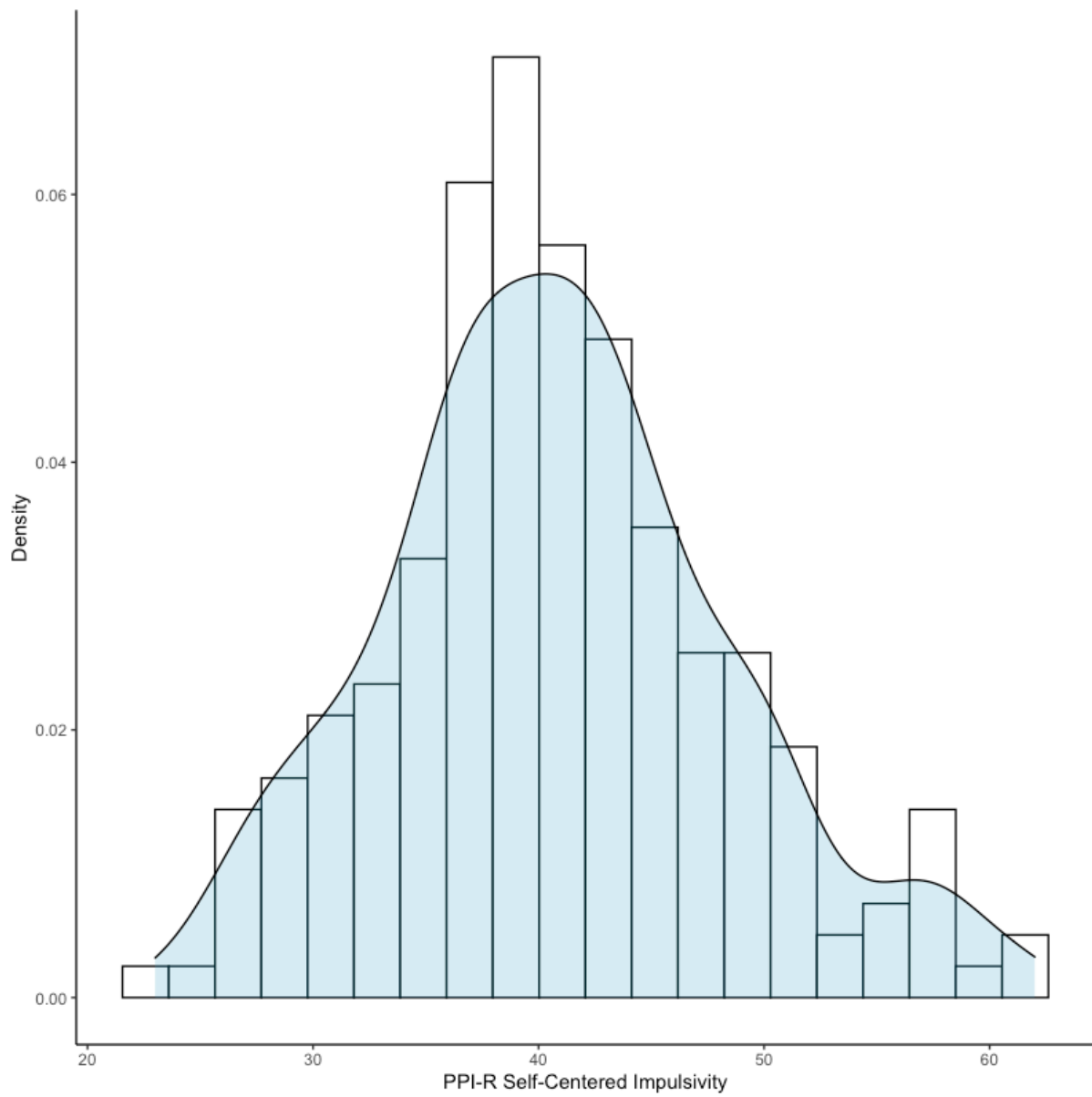
**S16.** *Distribution of the Facial Expression Recognition Task scores.*



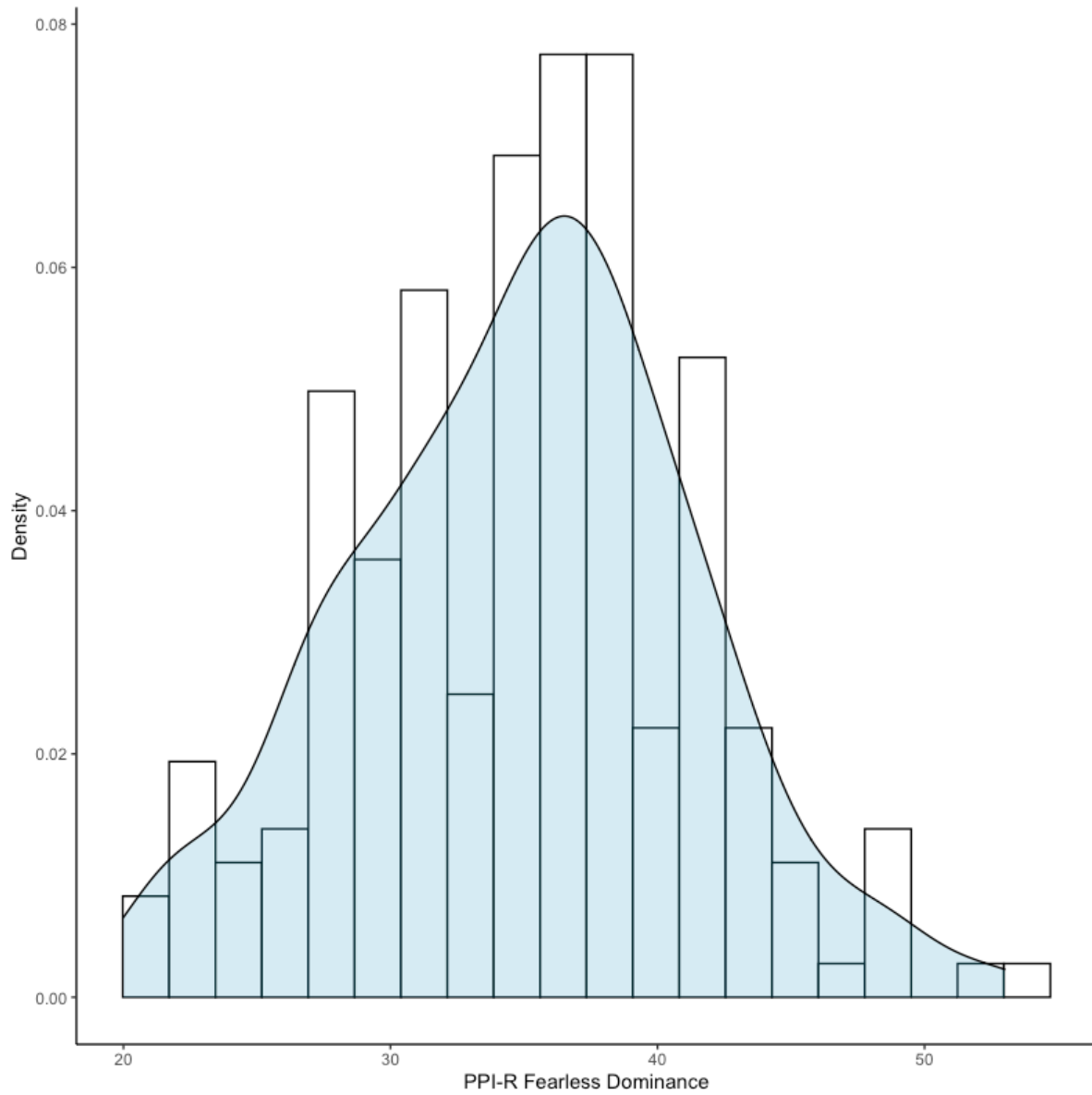
**S17.** *Distribution of the Psychopathic Personality Inventory – Revised total scores.*



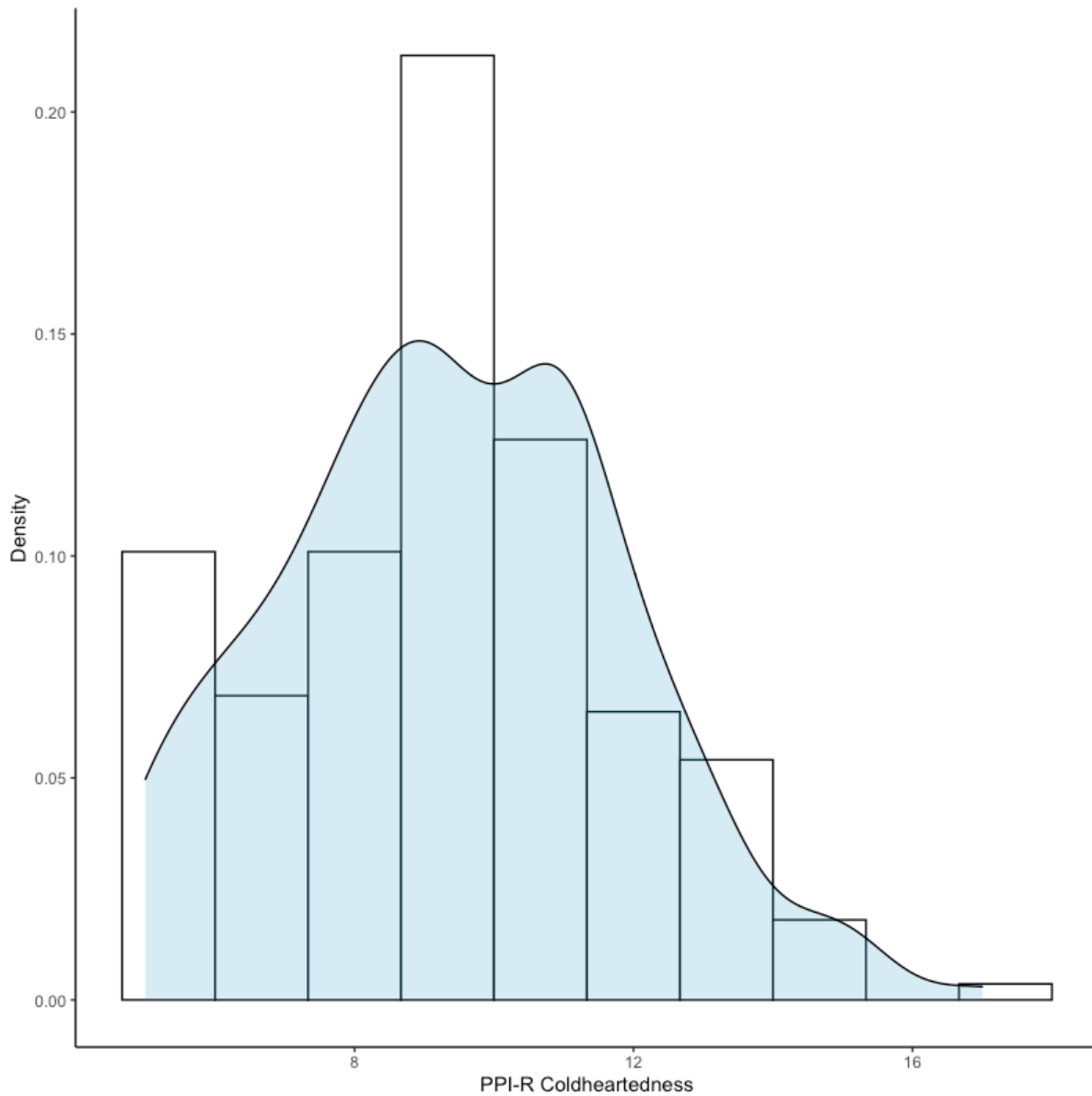
**S18.** *Distribution of the Psychopathic Personality Inventory – Revised Self-Centered Impulsivity Scores.*



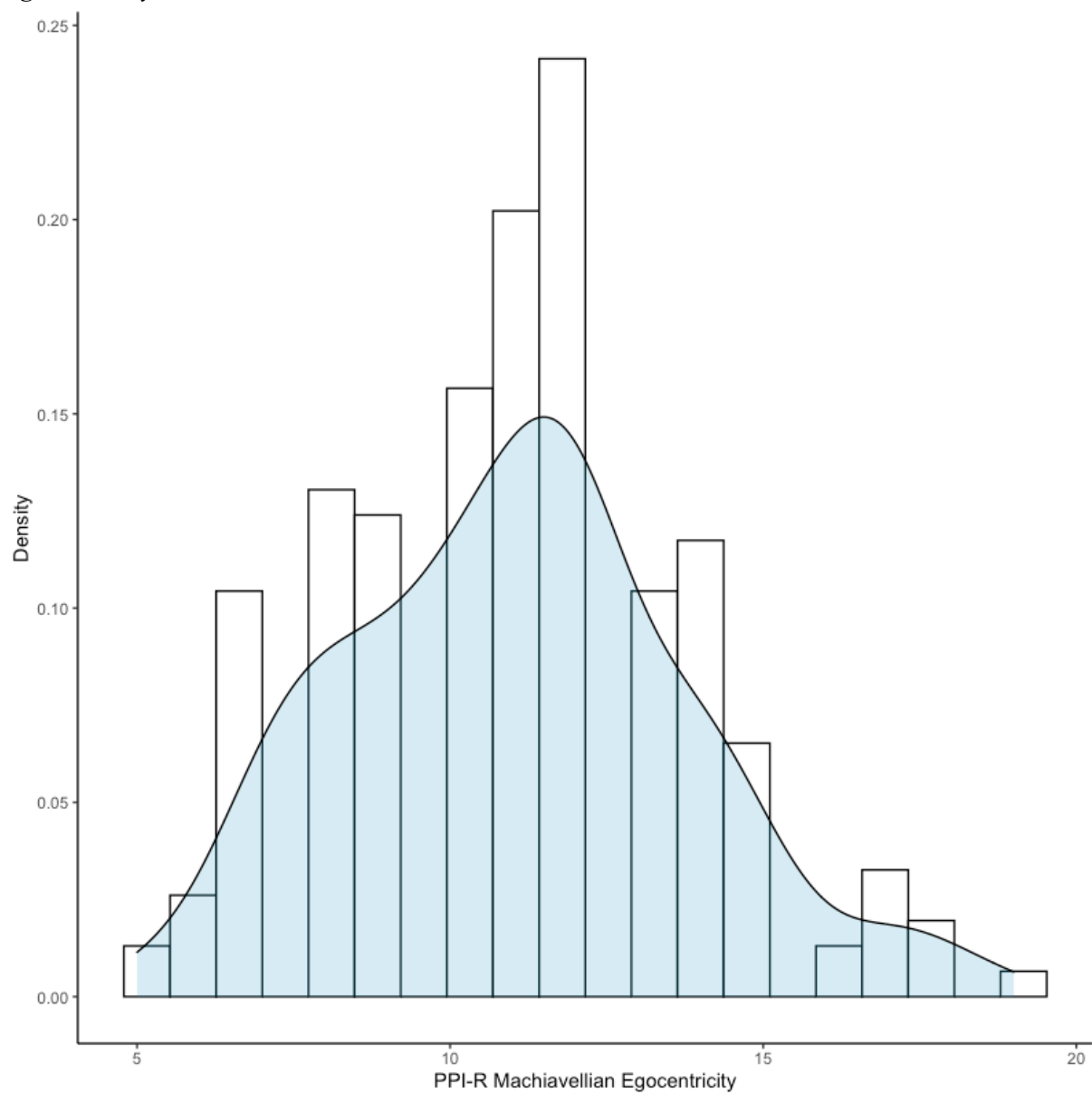
**S19.** *Distribution of the Psychopathic Personality Inventory – Revised Fearless Dominance Scores.*



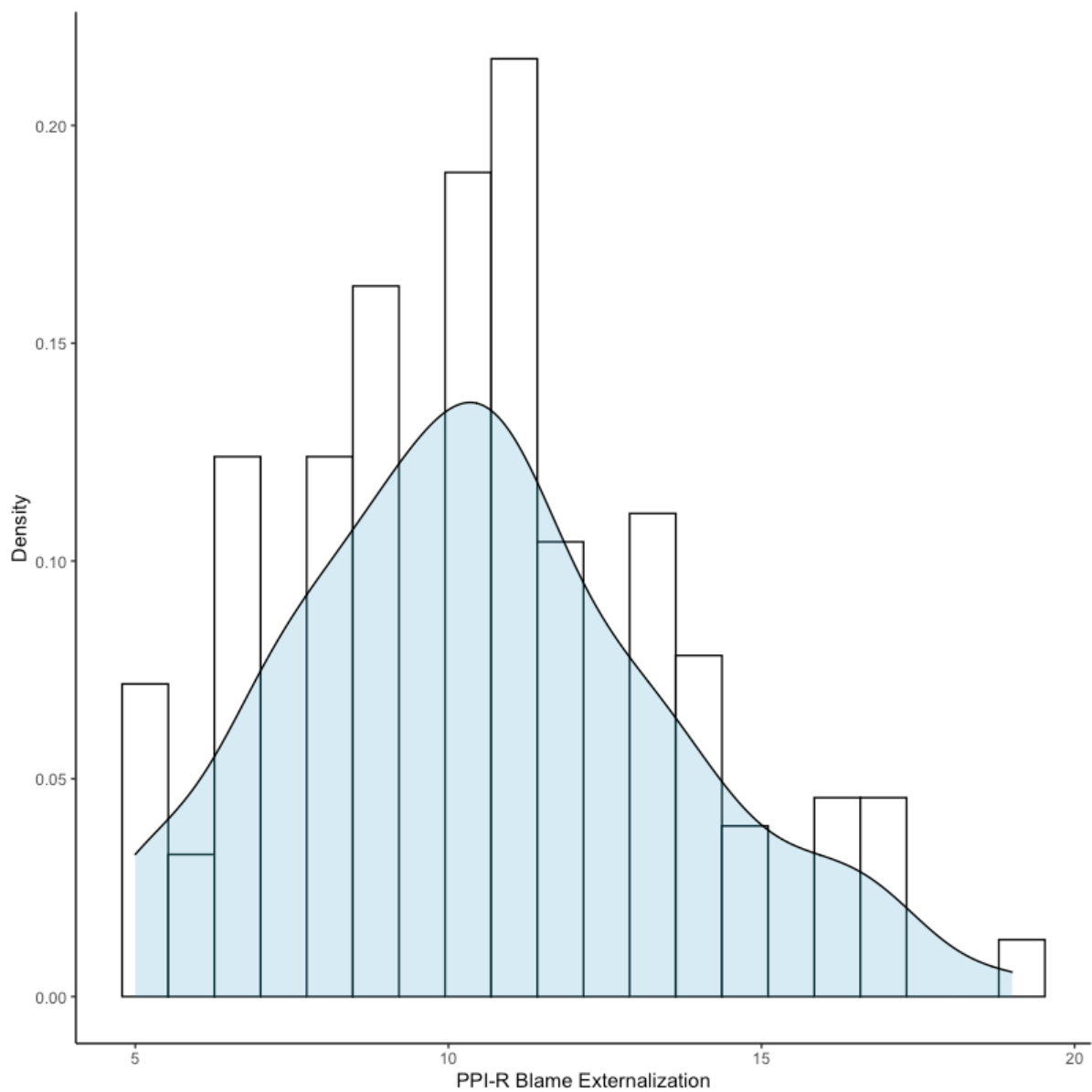
**S20.** *Distribution of the Psychopathic Personality Inventory – Revised Coldheartedness scores.*



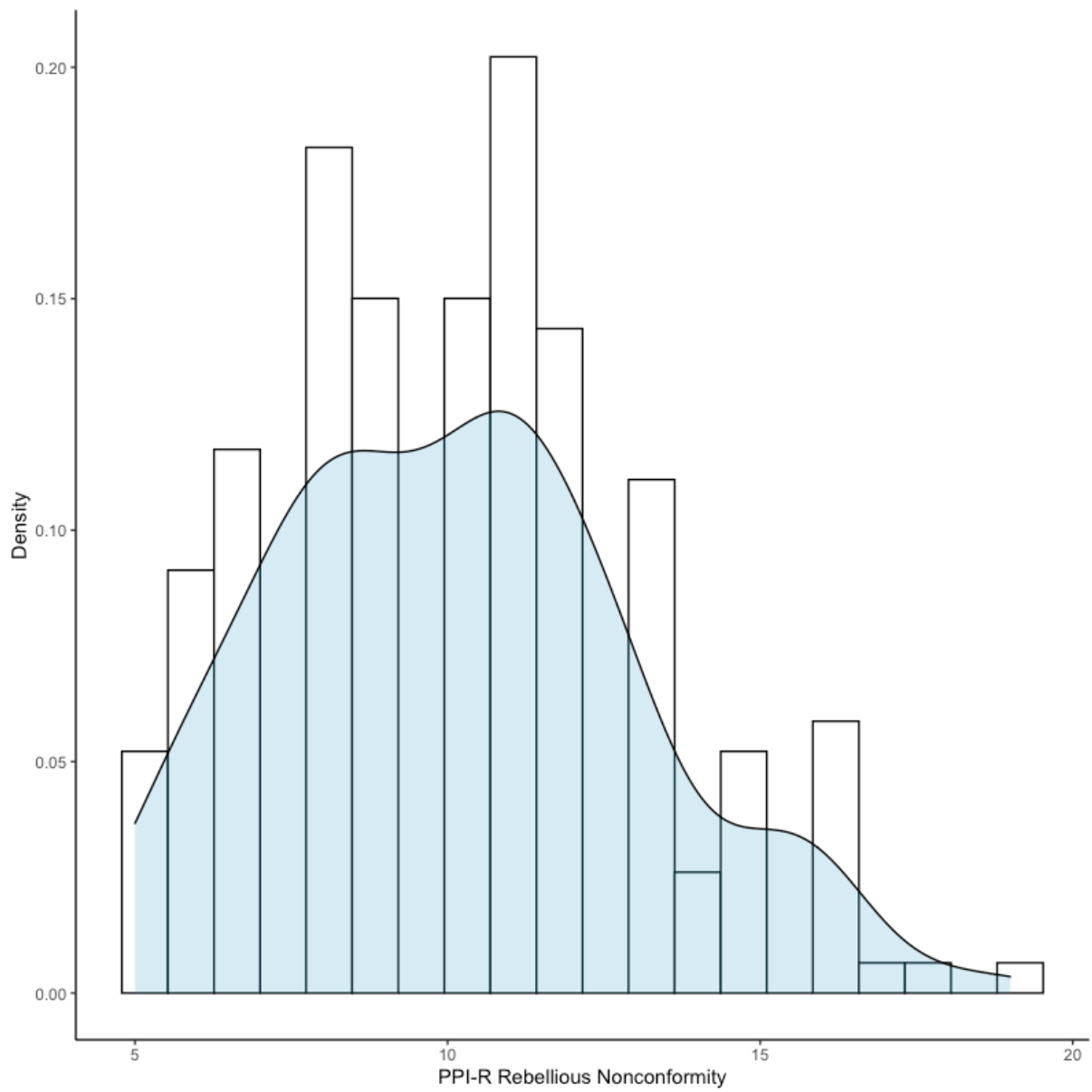
**S21.** *Distribution of the Psychopathic Personality Inventory – Revised Machiavellian Egocentricity scores.*



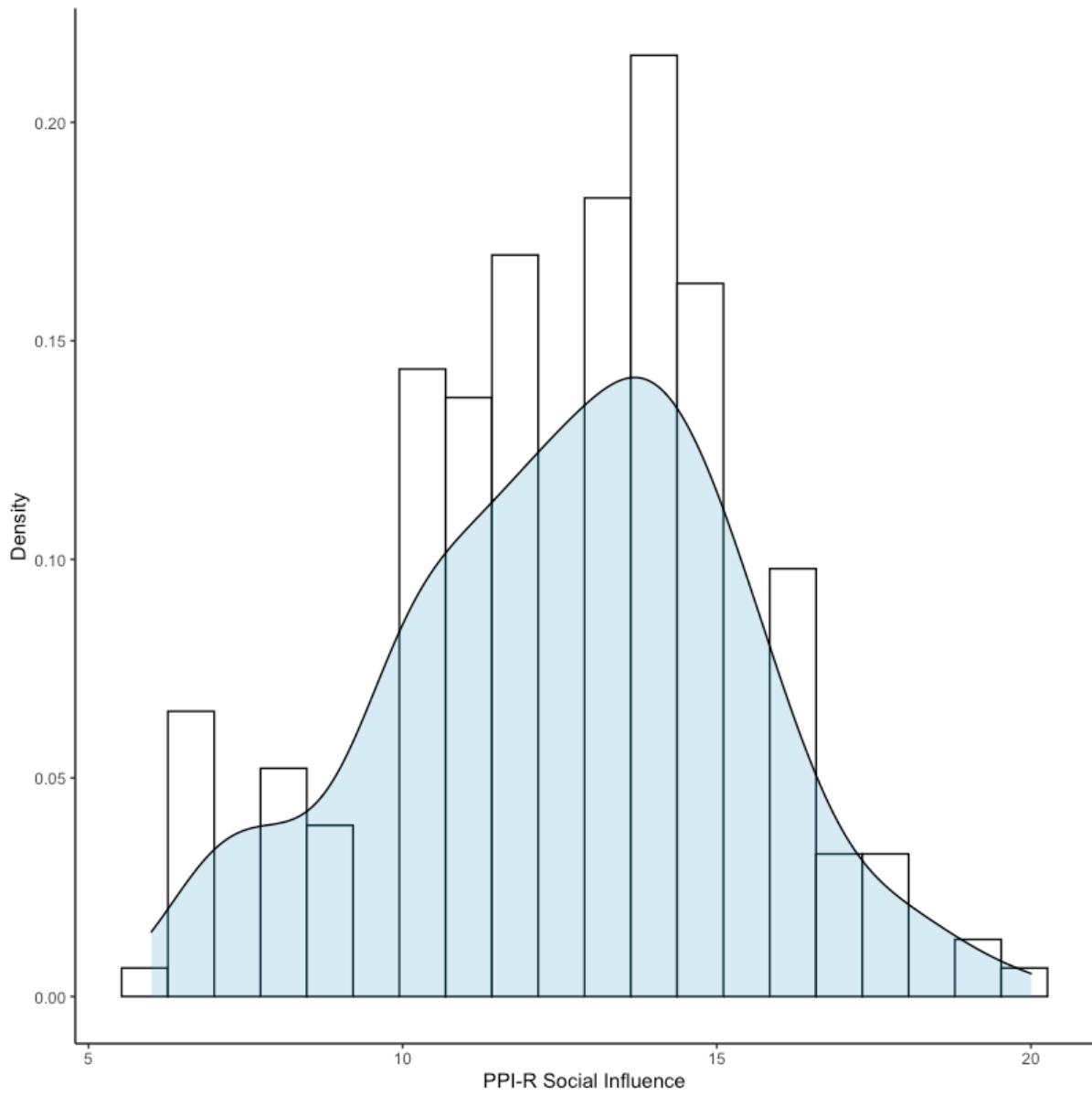
**S22.** *Distribution of the Psychopathic Personality Inventory – Revised Blame Externalization scores.*



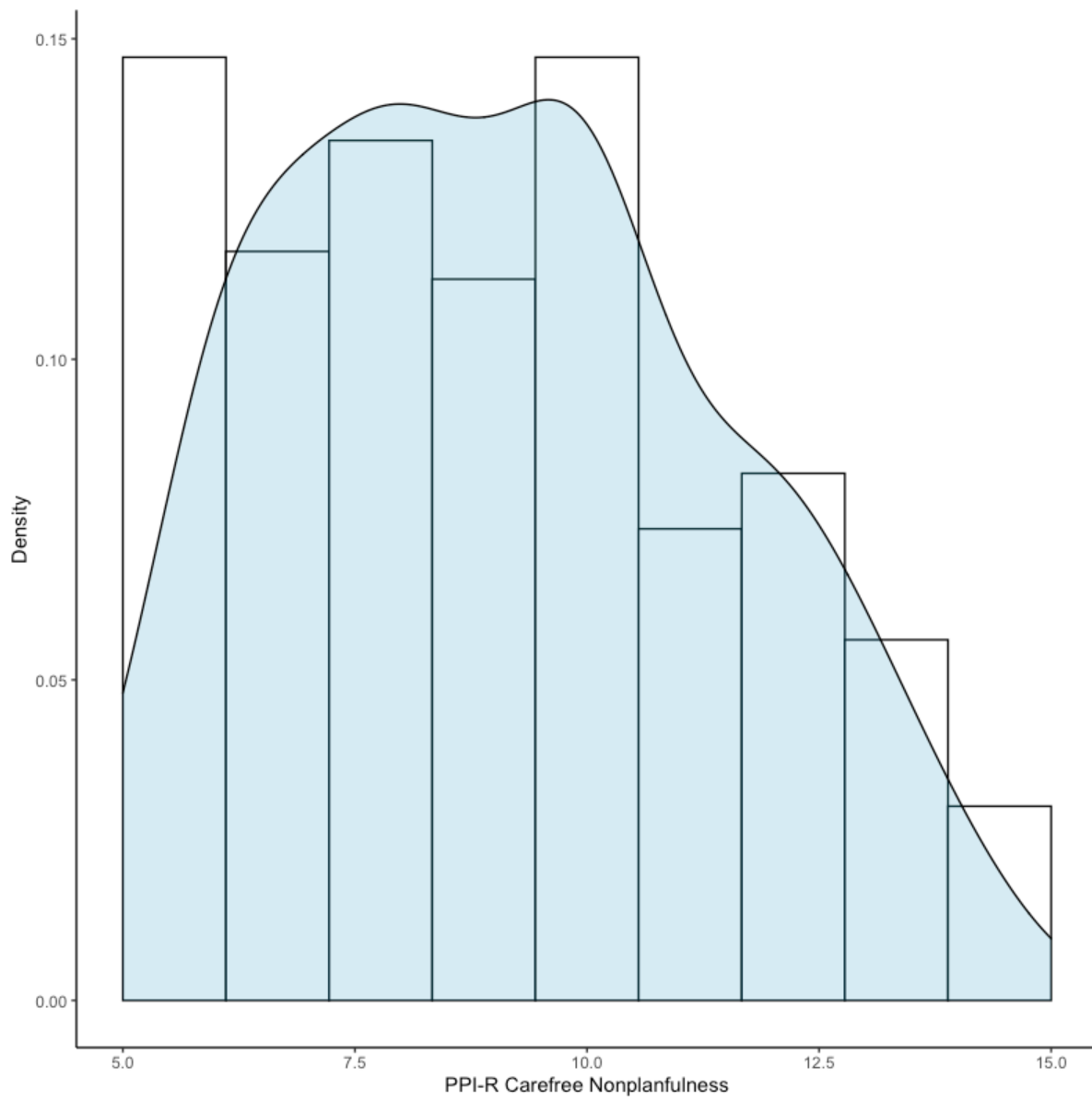
**S23.** *Distribution of the Psychopathic Personality Inventory – Revised Rebellious Nonconformity scores.*



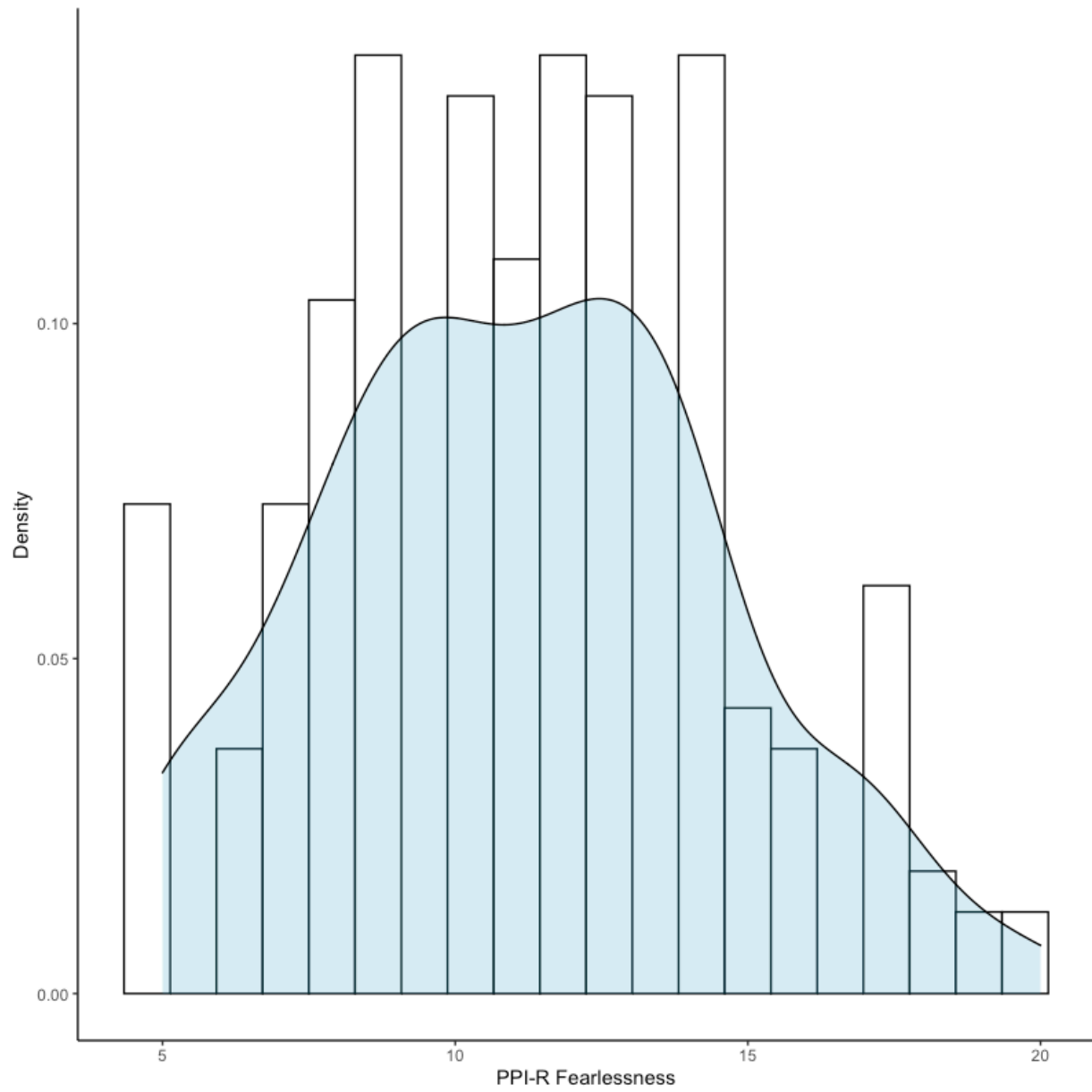


**S24.** *Distribution of the Psychopathic Personality Inventory – Revised Social Influence scores.*

**S25.** *Distribution of the Psychopathic Personality Inventory – Revised Carefree Nonplanfulness scores.*



**S26.** *Distribution of the Psychopathic Personality Inventory – Revised Fearlessness scores.*



**S27.** *Distribution of the Psychopathic Personality Inventory – Revised Stress Immunity scores.*

