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Research Methods in Psychology (PSYC 362) Posters: Benevolent Sexism on Perceived Competence and Indirect Aggression in Women

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Benevolent Sexism on Perceived Competence and Indirect Aggression in Women

Elsa Baumgartner, Emily Beitzell, Avery Prater and Marissa Walia



Introduction

Research Question

Do women who feel less competent after exposure to benevolent sexism more likely to display indirect aggression toward other women?

Benevolent Sexism

A form of sexism that may seem harmless or even positive, while still pushing for detrimental notions of traditional gender roles (Glick & Fiske, 1996).

Examples include comments such as “You will make such a good mother some day”, or “Women have a sort of purity that a man lacks”.

Perceived Competence

Perceived competence is how capable people believe they are.

Women exposed to benevolent sexism can lead to impaired cognitive abilities (Dardenne et al., 2007).

Indirect Aggression

Indirect aggression can be passive aggressive behavior, or sley, derogatory comments (Parks-Stamm et al., 2007).

Women who reported lower levels of perceived competence exhibited more indirect aggression towards other women.

Hypothesis

Women who feel less competent after exposure to benevolent sexism are more likely to display indirect aggression towards other women.

Method

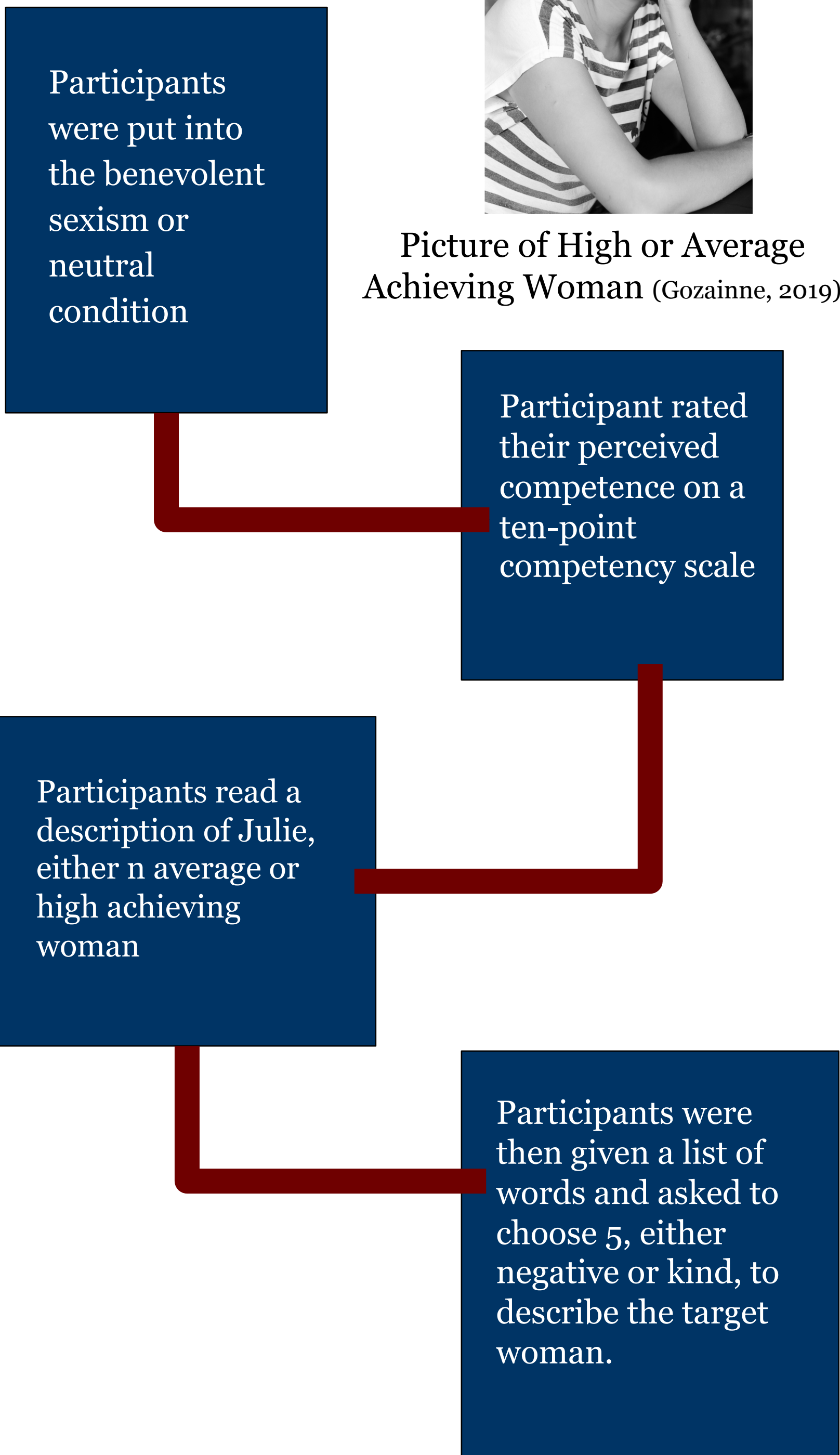
Participants

N:	100
Gender:	100% Female
Age:	Mean age: 19.33 Age Range: 18-38
Ethnicity:	Caucasian: 72% African American: 8% Hispanic/Latinx: 11% Asian/Pacific Islander: 3% Biracial/Multiracial: 6%

Materials and Procedure



Picture of High or Average Achieving Woman (Gozainne, 2019)



Results

2x2 ANOVA

Main Effect of **Sexism**:

Non-significant - $F(1, 96) = 0.91, p = .342, R^2 = 0.03$

Main Effect of **Achievement**:

Non-significant - $F(1, 96) = 0.12, p = .73, R^2 = .001$

Interaction Effect:

Non-significant - $F(1, 96) = 0.46, p = .267, R^2 = .013$

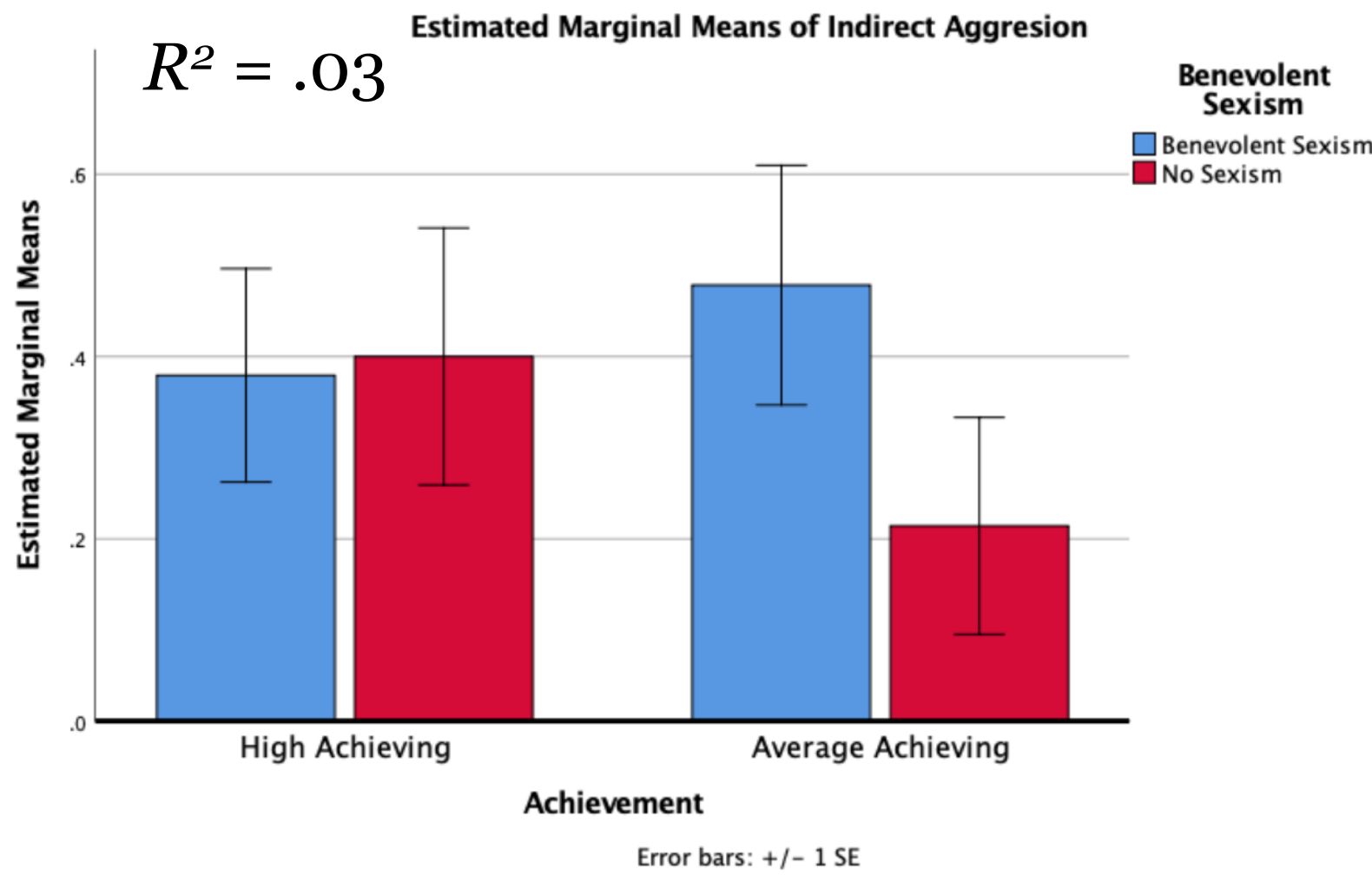
Table 1
Mean (SD) Score of Indirect Aggression by Benevolent Sexism and Achievement Level

	Benevolent Sexism	No Sexism
Achievement Level		
High Achieving	0.38 (0.56)	0.40 (0.60)
Average Achieving	0.48 (0.90)	0.21 (0.42)

Independent-Samples t-Test

Comparing competence scores among the benevolent sexism and no sexism conditions.

Non-significant - $t(98) = .585, p = .560, R^2 = .03$



Discussion

Implications

There was not a significant effect of benevolent sexism on indirect aggression or perceived competence.

We also did not find any significant effects of achievement type on the level of indirect aggression displayed.

Limitations

- Weak manipulation
- Dependent variable measure was not sensitive enough
- Limited to UMW only students
- Participants not taking appropriate time to engage with the manipulation

Future Research

- Consider using a validated measure of competence.
- Pilot the study before hand.
- Examine variables other than competence.

References

Dardenne, B., Dumont, M., & Bollier, T. (2007). Insidious dangers of benevolent sexism: Consequences for women's performance. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 93(5), 764–779. [https://doi-org.umw.idm.oclc.org/10.1037/0022-3514.93.5.764](https://doi.org/umw.idm.oclc.org/10.1037/0022-3514.93.5.764)

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