

Baumgartner, POLI 203

Spring 2016

Race, Implicit Bias Studies

February 10, 2016

Some background

- Fernando Bermudez
- LaMonte Armstrong
 - Crime stoppers phone tip...
 - True perpetrator had been his student in 5th grade. Ten years later, he killed not only the victim in LaMonte's crime, but his own father.
 - Blood evidence from crime scene was finally linked to the true guilty party, DA and Greensboro Police cooperated
- I mailed your letters to Mr. Hinton; glad to do the same to any others if you want.

Some other NC cases of interest

- Ron Cotton (will be here in April), first NC exoneree
- Darryl Hunt, Winston Salem
- Calvin Michael Smith, Winston Salem (still in prison)
- Ed Chapman, Hickory
- Bo Jones (you will read about him starting next week)
- We have 36 exonerations in NC...

Innocence Organizations

- Innocence Project (NY, Barry Scheck and Peter Neufield)
- Innocence Network (loose affiliation of state-based projects)
- Innocence Inquiry Commission (official NC state agency, only one of its kind in the nation)
- NC Center on Actual Innocence (Chris Mumma)
- Duke, UNC, Campbell, Wake Law School Innocence Projects
- Conviction Integrity Units (Brooklyn, Dallas...), within the DA's office.

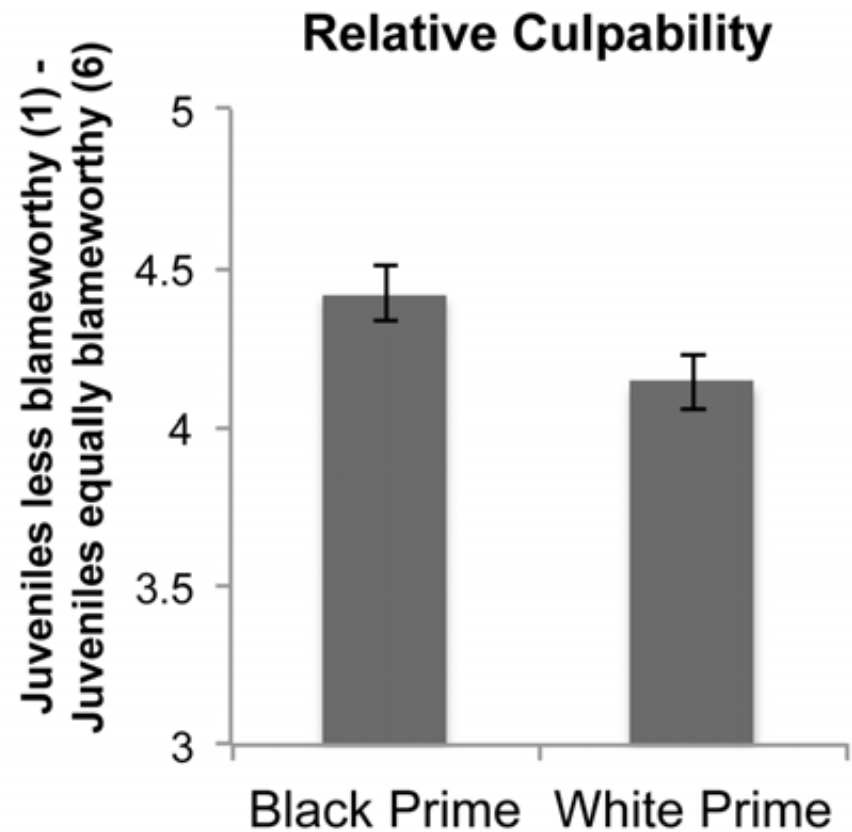
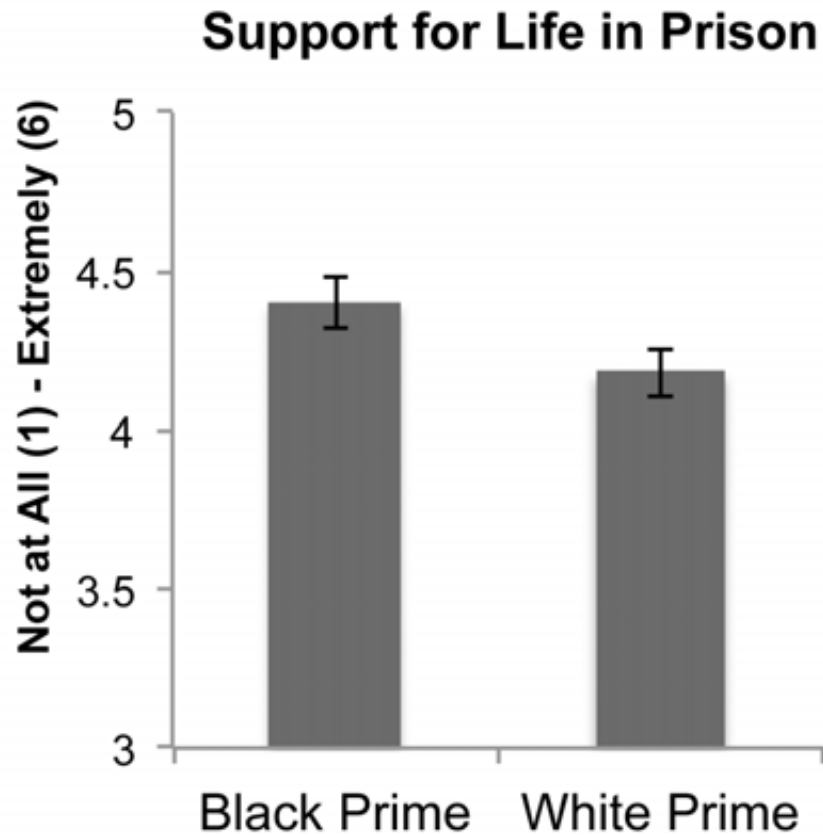
Readings: Rattan et al. 2012

- Lots of literature review shows different outcomes by race. Blacks are:
 - Seen as more criminal
 - Assigned greater punishment
 - More quickly shot at in computer / video simulations (e.g., seen as dangerous)
- Their research
 - Are they seen as more adult than juvenile?

Rattan et al. (2012) con't

- National sample of 658 white adults
- All read a story explaining that the US Supreme Court was considering the constitutionality of LWOP for juveniles.
- Manipulation (1/2 each): a 14-year-old [Black/White] male with 17 prior juvenile convictions who brutally raped an elderly woman
- Dependent variables: do you support LWOP for juveniles? Are juveniles less blameworthy than adults?

Results, that one race word changed the results significantly



Eberhardt et al. (2006), “Looking Deathworthy”

- Methods:
 - They used 600 death-eligible cases from Philadelphia, 1979-1999, **real cases**
 - 44 had BM defendants with W victims
 - Photographs of these 44 defendants, rated by “stereotypical blackness”
 - Let’s discuss what is that, anyway? Can you do it?
 - Stanford students rated the faces after looking at a screen shot for 4 seconds, scale of 1-11
 - Raters did not know the purpose of the study, just did the rating.

Low stereotypicality (left), high (right)



Results from first part of the study

- Lower half on scale: 24.4 got death
- Higher half of the scale: 57.7 got death
- Note: this was the part of the study with white defendants.
- Part II, black defendant, black victim

Results, part II

- 308 BM defendants with B victims
 - Death sentence in 27 percent of case, compared to 41 percent with white victims
 - So they oversampled death cases, getting 118 of the 308 cases with 46 percent getting death.
 - Note, these were real cases in Philadelphia where real juries assigned death or not.
- Low stereotypicality: 45%, High, 46.6%, n.s.

Rob Smith and Ben Cohen

- Implicit Bias
 - Subtle, unconscious, “automatic” bias, just reflexive actions, not conscious, motivated, explicit racial animus or hatred.
- Schemes
 - Something with four legs and a flat seat is a chair, and we sit on it. We recognize things very quickly.
- Narratives
 - We can filling the blanks on familiar stories
 - We expect stories to “make sense”
- Whom do we recognize as a criminal?

Ed Chapman's perp photo

2A - The Hickory (N.C.) News, Thursday, January 7, 1993

Charged in murder

Man has a record of viole

The man arrested and charged with the murder of former nurse Betty Jean Ramseur has a record of violence. Glenn Edward Chapman, 25, was arrested last week in an early morning raid on his Hickory apartment.

The man held in her death is known well by Hickory police officers. He was acquitted this past summer of first degree burglary and assault on his aunt. He was charged with pulling a plastic bag over her head and beating her with an iron pipe. He was found not guilty back in the summer, says Detective Dennis Rhoney, who directed the capture of the accused man.

Betty Jean is the story of a respected nurse who became hooked on drugs. She lost her job and took up shoplifting to support the habit. Her body was found in the crawl space of an abandoned home in the Highland section of Hickory. The skeletal remains were identified by the state medical examiner through dental records.

There was little left of the partially-clothed body, beneath the house for four to six weeks. The

house had been burned, once and perhaps twice. Death was by trauma, perhaps a blunt instrument to the head.

Will the arrest of Edward Chapman clear more than one unsolved murder?

"Not at this time," said Det. Rhoney. "I will say this for the record: we have had three female nude or partially-nude bodies this past summer. Sometimes I think that things that look like a duck, walk like a duck, quack like a duck, then it's probably a duck."

The detective says it remains to be seen whether other arrests will be made, but he added, "I wouldn't exclude that."

Does the partially-clothed body of another female, discovered a week earlier, have any connection with Miss Ramseur's death? "I wouldn't comment one way or the other," the detective answered.

"We have a great case here. Things are still coming from the (state) lab that we're excited about. Once I've confirmed my theories, it's going to open a lot of other doors."



Angry Glenn Edward Cha

Ed Chapman as you might see him



Motivated Reasoning

- Things we want to believe, or are accustomed to / familiar with, we demand very little confirming evidence. We use a low threshold.
 - Apple falls from the tree, this is “normal” – no need to think twice about it.
- Things we disagree with, are not used to, or which don't “make sense”, we use a high threshold, are skeptical.
- Tunnel vision in investigations: we know who did it, we just have to prove it now.
- Problem: this is human nature!