

Using a Cross-Cultural Incentivized Lie Paradigm to Investigate Decision-making in the Asylum Setting

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Over eight million people applied for asylum in the past year globally, with many claims being based on social identity

Cross-Cultural Interviews

Individuals from individualistic cultures are more likely than individuals from collectivistic cultures

- to remember more central information than background information
- to reveal more personal information
- to focus more on the *self* in their narratives
- to provide longer accounts of specific events
- be more direct in their narratives



Asylum Interviewing Credibility Assessments

1. *detail and specificity*
2. *internal consistency* (e.g., within the applicant's statements)
3. *external consistency* (e.g., with external information)
4. *plausibility*

Psychological science has contested the validity of these indicators, especially in cross-cultural interviewing context.



Asylum Interviewing Research

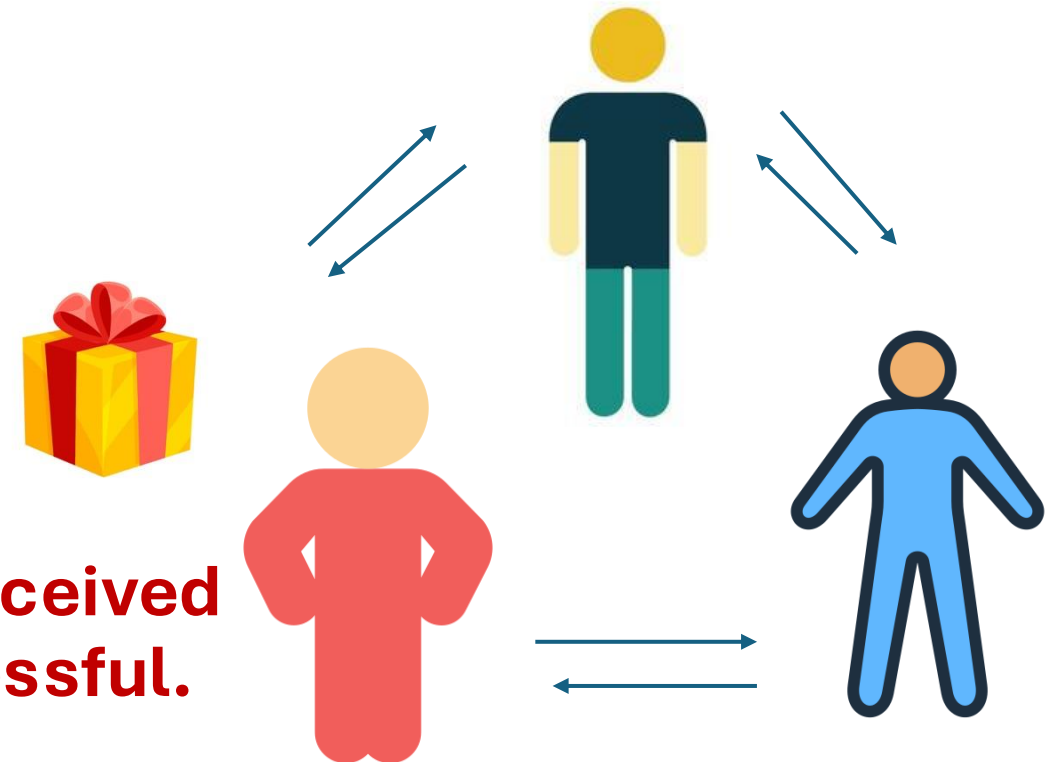
1. Generalizability

2. Ground truth—whether statements are factually true or false



Cross-Cultural **Incentivized** Lie Paradigm

- Builds on the known-groups paradigm: Half of informants are instructed to tell the truth and half to fabricate information
- Establishing ground truth



Informants are incentivized to be perceived as credible through a reward if successful.

Data Collection (ongoing, n = 20/100)

non-heterosexual and/or non-cisgender Turkish interviewees to provide truthful accounts of sexual identity–based experiences in Turkey

&

heterosexual cisgender Turkish informants to fabricate such experiences

Turkish interviewees to provide truthful accounts of police-confrontation experiences in Turkey

&

Turkish informants to fabricate such experiences



Participants (Turkish)

- advertisements on social media, contacting LGBTI networks, university sample pools, & personal networks
- EUR23 via gift cards (EUR20 + EUR3 “incentive”)



Interviewers (Finnish)

- Instructed and trained to ask questions that were based on evidence-based interviewing techniques and guidelines
- Follow a semi-structured interviewing protocol

Interpreters

- Finnish-Turkish interpreters, residing in Finland
- Legal interpreters working with the Finnish Immigration Service with real asylum cases
- Signed confidentiality agreements
- 60 EUR/hour



Maahanmuuttovirasto
Migrationsverket
Finnish Immigration Service



PROCEDURE

Sexual and Gender Identity Question
Police confrontation Question



Deception Consent Form

Truth-teller Consent Form

Consented -> Make a participant code: not personally identifiable (e.g., not Dilbert 100), but r YOLO3)!

QS? -> Make an anonymous email address & reach out

Doodle

zoom

During the interviews: Sexual Identity Topic

- What are your earliest memories of becoming aware of your sexual identity?
- How would you describe the way your sexual identity has developed over time?
- How would you describe the general attitudes toward sexual identity in your home country?
- How do you relate to social norms surrounding your *[disclosed sexual identity]*?
- Does the queer community play a role in your life?

During the interviews: Conflict Topic

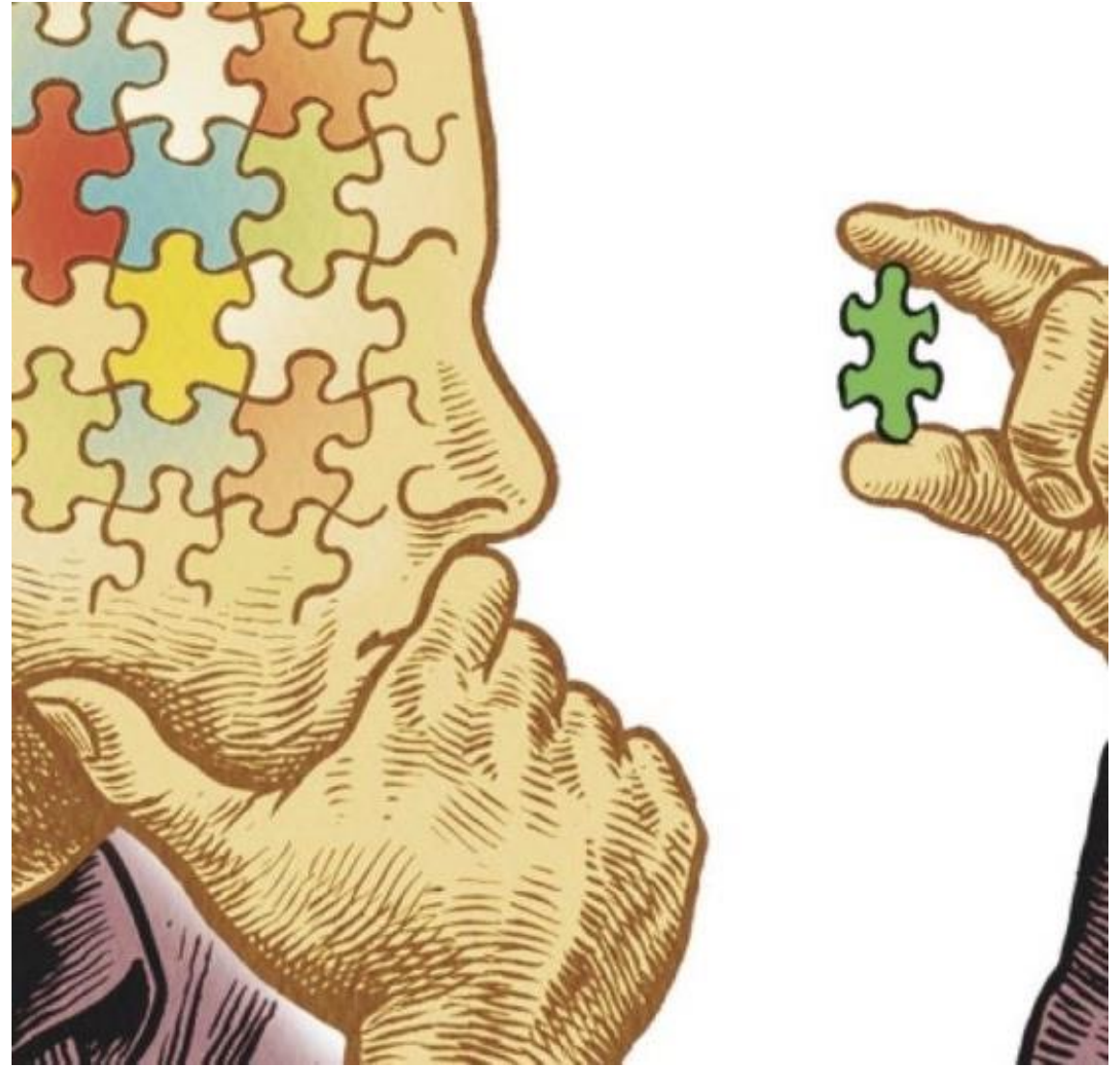
- Can you tell me about an experience you've had with an authority figure that felt negative, harmful, or unjust to you?
- How did you feel you were treated by the *[authority figure or institution involved]*?
- How did this experience affect you afterward?
- How has this experience shaped the way you now relate to authorities in general?
- In your view, how frequently do people in your home country encounter similar treatment from authority figures?

After the interviews

- Audio recordings are stored in a password-protected local storage without internet access
- Interviews will be transcribed using BuzzAI, a local AI that does not upload or transmit data to external servers
- Interview transcripts will be further checked for accuracy, in relation to audio recordings, by individuals proficient in Finnish and Turkish.

Ongoing Study

RQ: Do truth-tellers' and liars' narratives differ based on diagnostically useful criteria?



What are we *quantitatively* coding for?

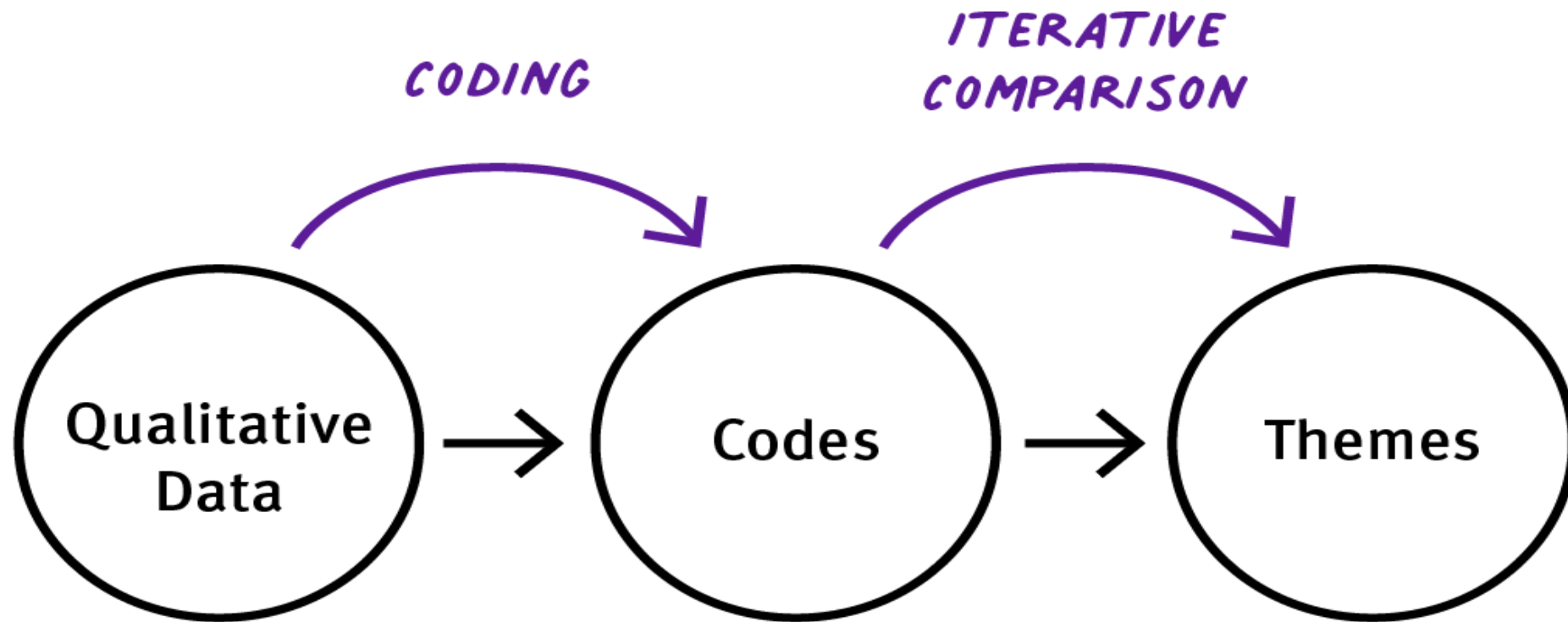
1. Credibility indices (UNHCR, EUAA)
2. Criteria-Based Content Analysis (CBCA; Köhnken & Steller, 1988; Steller & Köhnken, 1989), 19 items, such as descriptions of interactions with others, spontaneous corrections, and unusual details

CBCA in Asylum Context?

Based on the premise that experience-based statements are generally of higher quality than fabricated ones and therefore more likely to contain a greater number of CBCA criteria (Vrij, 2005)

- Oberlader et al. (2016): the presence of a criterion in the tool increases the likelihood that a statement is based on personal experience, but the absence of a criterion does not diminish a statement's credibility
- Selim et al. (2024): the use of CBCA in the asylum context should serve only to support, rather than challenge, the credibility of a claim

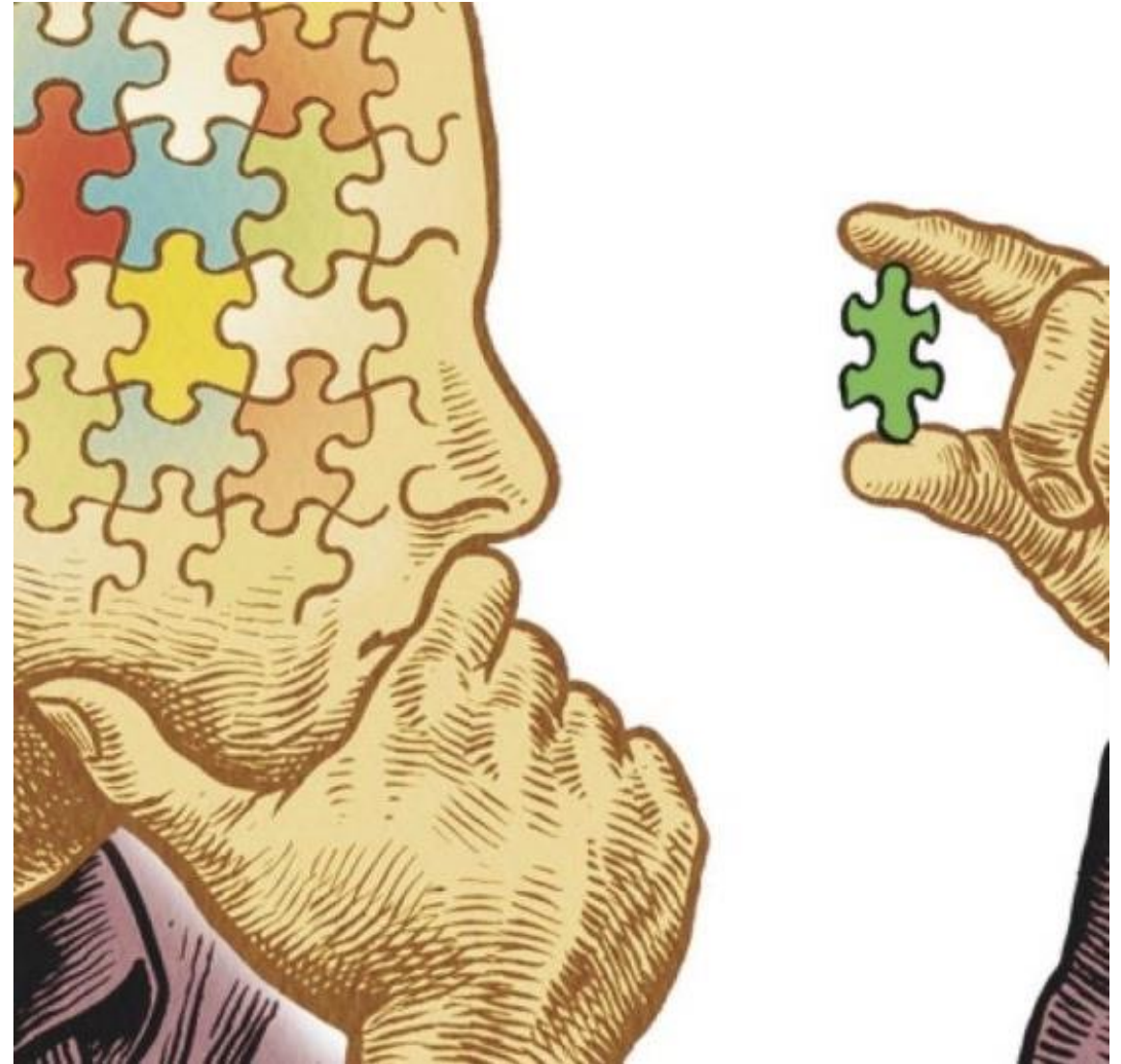
Thematic Analysis



Starting studies

RQ1: What is the accuracy of decision-makers?

RQ2: Whether informing the decision-makers on cross-cultural differences influence their accuracy



Thank you for your attention!

I welcome your thoughts/questions.

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