

Supplementary Information for

Cues to gender and racial identity reduce creativity in diverse social networks

Raiyan Abdul Baten, Richard Aslin, Gourab Ghoshal, and Ehsan Hoque

Corresponding Author: Ehsan Hoque

E-mail: mehoque@cs.rochester.edu

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Supporting Information Text

Capturing Inter-ego Semantic Similarity: Statistical Test Details. From each round, we collected pairs of egos who shared (a) 2 common alters (i.e., exactly the same stimuli), (b) 1 common alter and (c) no common alter. Within these subgroups, we computed the semantic similarities between every ego-pair's stimulated ideas in turn-2.

We adopted a 3×2 factorial design to analyze the data, with 3 levels in the number of common alters (i.e., the a, b and c subgroups above) and 2 levels in the study condition factor (i.e., control and treatment). In doing so, we employed the Aligned Rank Transform (ART) procedure (1), which is a linear mixed model-based non-parametric test. Figure 3 in the main manuscript visualizes the results. We found significant main effects for both of the factors (Number of common alters: $F(2, 25964) = 135.94, P < 10^{-15}$; Study condition: $F(1, 25964) = 369.98, P < 10^{-15}$). We also found a significant interaction between the two factors ($F(2, 25964) = 17.81, P < 10^{-7}$).

Post-hoc analysis on the ART-fitted model revealed that the semantic similarity between ego-pairs increases as their number of common alters increases (0 vs 1 common alter: $t(25964) = -10.18, P < 10^{-4}$; 1 vs 2 common alter(s): $t(25964) = -9.01, P < 10^{-4}$). Further pairwise comparisons using 2-tailed tests showed that this trend holds individually in both of the control and treatment conditions. In the control condition, the inter-ego similarities increased significantly as the number of common alters increased from 0 to 1 and also from 1 to 2 (0 vs. 1 common alter: $t(25964) = -10.61, P < 10^{-4}$; 1 vs. 2 common alters: $t(25964) = -8.55, P < 10^{-4}$). The same held for the treatment condition (0 vs. 1 common alter: $t(25964) = -4.71, P < 10^{-4}$; 1 vs. 2 common alters: $t(25964) = -5.15, P < 10^{-4}$). These trends intuitively follow the argument that inter-follower similarities can stem from having common stimulation sources.

Notably, we observed that the inter-ego semantic similarities are significantly higher in the treatment condition compared to their control counterparts, as revealed by post-hoc analysis on the study condition factor in the ART-fitted model ($t(25964) = 19.24, P < 10^{-4}$). Further pairwise comparisons using 2-tailed tests revealed that this result holds for all of the three common-alter-based subgroups (treatment vs. control; 2 common alters: $t(25964) = 5.27, P < 10^{-4}$; 1 common alter: $t(25964) = 13.79, P < 10^{-4}$; 0 common alter: $t(25964) = 17.87, P < 10^{-4}$). In addition, we observed that with time, the inter-ego semantic similarities in both of the control and treatment conditions show increasing trends (Pearson's correlation, $r=0.13, P < 10^{-4}$ in the treatment condition; $r=0.12, P < 10^{-4}$ in the control condition). All of the P -values reported here have been corrected for multiple comparisons using Holm's sequential Bonferroni procedure whenever needed. SI Tables S5-S10 capture these results.

Supplementary Figures and Tables

The supplementary figures and tables are listed below.

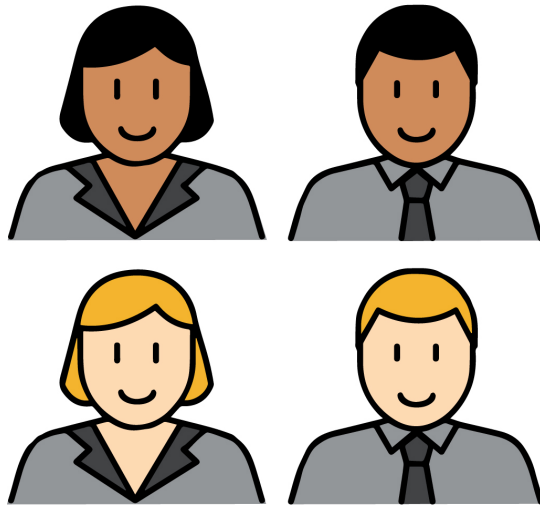


Fig. S1. Avatars used for depicting demographic information. Top row: Non-White female and Non-White male; Bottom row: White female and White male.

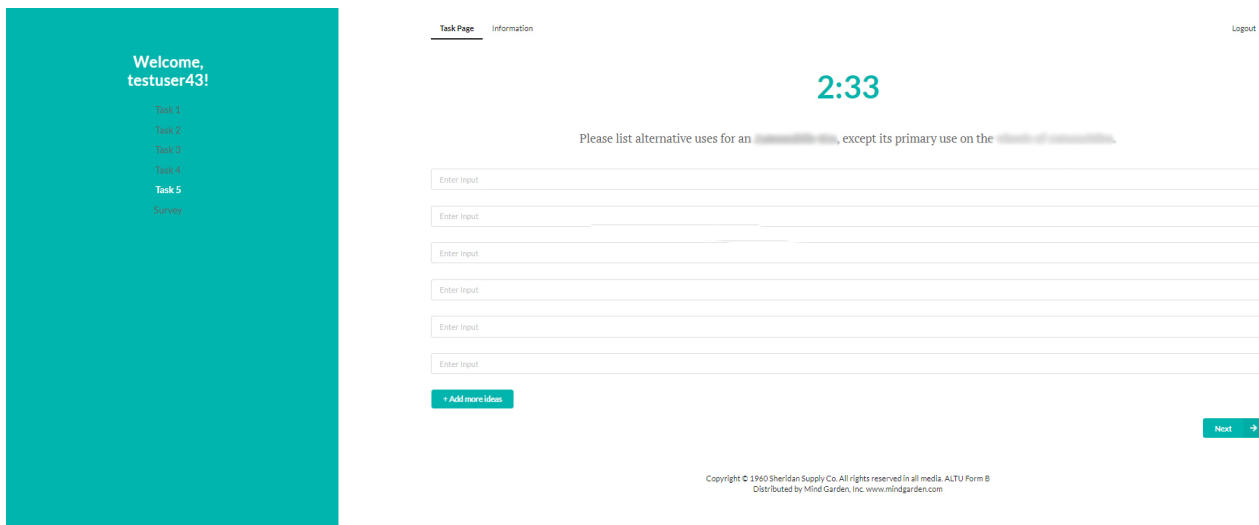
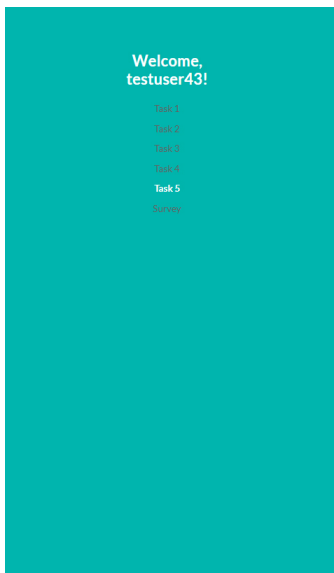


Fig. S2. Study interface: Initial (turn-1) idea submission interface for egos in both of the study conditions. This interface is used for recording the alters' ideas as well.



Task Page Information Logout

2:35

Here's what your peers in the network came up with. Feeling inspired? You can add new ideas to your list. But remember, plagiarized/copied ideas will be discarded! :)

ballistic406
White, Male

make a super thick unicycle with it

Use the rubber to make wheels for several rubber super bouncy balls

Melt it down and seal the hole in your yacht

Make a giant clock

Get from place to place by standing on it and walking backwards

Bury several tires halfway in the ground and make an obstacle course

Spongy
Non-White, Male

Hang from a tree and store food inside during camping

Use to keep firewood together

Fertilizer storage

Tear it apart and use as a door mat

Use as an obstacle to fly drones through

Use in a game of tetherball

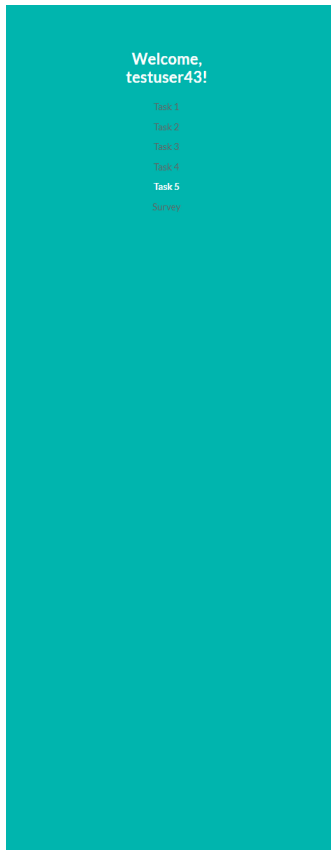
Your ideas so far

- garden decoration
- mailbox bumper
- use as table
- as children's playground flooring

Add new ideas

[+ Add more ideas](#)[Next →](#)

Fig. S3. Study interface: Turn-2 interface for the egos in the treatment condition. The alters' ideas are shown on the left-side cards. In the control condition, only the usernames and ideas of the alters are shown.



Task Page Information Logout

All Users

Please rate all the ideas on their novelty. 1 star: not novel, 5 stars: highly novel.
Click the top of a card to follow/unfollow peers. Remember, you will get to see your chosen peers' ideas in the next round.

<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Following</div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 5px;"> <p>ballistic406 White, Male</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> make a super thick unicycle with it ***** Use the rubber to make wheels for several rubber super bouncy balls ***** Melt it down and seal the hole in your yacht ***** Make a giant dock ***** Get from place to place by standing on it and walking backwards ***** Bury several tires halfway in the ground and make an obstacle course ***** 	<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Following</div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 5px;"> <p>Spongy Non-White, Male</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hang from a tree and store food inside during camping ***** Use to keep firewood together ***** Fertilizer storage ***** Tear it apart and use as a door mat ***** Use as an obstacle to fly drones through ***** Use in a game of tetherball ***** 	<div style="background-color: #9E9E9E; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Follow</div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 5px;"> <p>sprinkles White, Female</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> melt down the rubber into rubber balls ***** use to hide contraband ***** melt down the rubber and create barriers for landscaping and gardens ***** fill the center with dirt and make a flower bed ***** put a wooden plank on top and use as a table ***** use as an alternative to a donut tailbone cushion *****
<div style="background-color: #9E9E9E; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Follow</div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 5px;"> <p>A1PUH White, Male</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> tire swing ***** Tire fort ***** Chair ***** road border guard ***** Obstacle course ***** Flower bed ***** 	<div style="background-color: #9E9E9E; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Follow</div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 5px;"> <p>jmiran Non-White, Male</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make a tire into a backyard swing ***** Use as a pot for plants outside ***** Use tire as a base for a table ***** Stack tires and use as a trashcan ***** Use tire as a hanging outdoor Christmas wreath ***** Use a tire and create a chandelier ***** 	<div style="background-color: #9E9E9E; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Follow</div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 5px;"> <p>nini Non-White, Female</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> stool ***** decorative frame ***** table ***** raft ***** fantasy pool for kids ***** exercise tool *****

Please let us know the rationale behind your choice of which 2 peers to follow

Your rationale

Next →

Fig. S4. Study interface: Rating and rewiring interface for the egos in the treatment condition. In the control condition, only the usernames and ideas of the alters are shown.

Table S1. Link formation dynamics in the control condition. Summary results from the Monte Carlo Maximum Likelihood Estimation fit in the STERGM model. * $P < 0.001$**

	β	Std. Error	Z value	Pr(> Z)	
Edges	-4.496	0.295	-15.220	< 1e - 04	***
Alters' non-redundant idea count	0.324	0.059	5.505	< 1e - 04	***
Gender-based homophily	-0.014	0.145	-0.094	0.925	
Race-based homophily	0.056	0.144	0.389	0.698	

Table S2. Link persistence dynamics in the control condition. Summary results from the Monte Carlo Maximum Likelihood Estimation fit in the STERGM model. * $P < 0.001$, * $P < 0.05$**

	β	Std. Error	Z value	Pr(> Z)	
Edges	-0.577	0.290	-1.989	0.0467	*
Alters' non-redundant idea count	0.417	0.060	6.952	< 1e - 04	***
Gender-based homophily	-0.202	0.167	-1.207	0.2275	
Race-based homophily	0.179	0.166	1.077	0.2815	

Table S3. Link formation dynamics in the treatment condition. Summary results from the Monte Carlo Maximum Likelihood Estimation fit in the STERGM model. * $P < 0.001$**

	β	Std. Error	Z value	Pr(> Z)	
Edges	-3.740	0.246	-15.230	< 1e - 04	***
Alters' non-redundant idea count	0.197	0.050	3.933	< 1e - 04	***
Gender-based homophily	-0.117	0.134	-0.879	0.379	
Race-based homophily	0.096	0.134	0.714	0.475	

Table S4. Link persistence dynamics in the treatment condition. Summary results from the Monte Carlo Maximum Likelihood Estimation fit in the STERGM model. * $P < 0.001$, ** $P < 0.01$**

	β	Std. Error	Z value	Pr(> Z)	
Edges	-0.751	0.290	-2.588	0.0097	**
Alters' non-redundant idea count	0.355	0.058	6.075	< 1e - 04	***
Gender-based homophily	0.599	0.160	3.743	0.0002	***
Race-based homophily	-0.067	0.158	-0.425	0.671	

Table S5. Omnibus test results for analyzing the inter-ego semantic similarities under various conditions. The cosine similarity between idea-sets of pairs of egos is the response variable. The analysis of variance of Aligned Rank Transformed data is run on a model with two factors: the number of popular alters of the egos (3 levels) and the study condition (2 levels). The degrees of freedom are specified using the Kenward-Roger method.

	Df	Df.res	<i>F</i>	Pr(> <i>F</i>)
Number of Popular Alters	2	25964	135.944	< 2.22e – 16
Condition	1	25964	369.983	< 2.22e – 16
NumPopularAlters:Condition	2	25964	17.811	1.86e – 8

Table S6. Post-hoc contrast analysis among the three levels in the 'number of popular alters' factor from the fitted model reported in Table S5. The degrees of freedom are specified using the Kenward-Roger method. The *P*-values are adjusted using Holm's sequential Bonferroni procedure.

Contrast	SE	df	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>
0 common alter-1 common alter	102	25964	-10.176	< 0.0001
0 common alter-2 common alters	141	25964	-15.999	< 0.0001
1 common alter-2 common alters	136	25964	-9.014	< 0.0001

Table S7. Post-hoc contrast analysis among the two levels in the ‘study condition’ factor from the fitted model reported in Table S5. The degree of freedom is specified using the Kenward-Roger method. The *P*-value is adjusted using Holm’s sequential Bonferroni procedure.

Contrast	SE	df	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>
control-treatment	104	25964	−19.235	< 0.0001

Table S8. Comparisons of cosine similarities among the three levels of ‘number of popular alters’ factor in the control condition. 2-tailed tests. The *P*-values are adjusted using Holm’s sequential Bonferroni procedure.

Contrast	SE	df	<i>t</i>	<i>P</i>
0 common alter-1 common alter	0.00225	25964	-10.614	< 0.0001
0 common alter-2 common alters	0.00302	25964	-16.067	< 0.0001
1 common alter-2 common alters	0.00288	25964	-8.551	< 0.0001

Table S9. Comparisons of cosine similarities among the three levels of 'number of popular alters' factor in the treatment condition. 2-tailed tests. The *P*-values are adjusted using Holm's sequential Bonferroni procedure.

Contrast	SE	df	<i>t</i>	<i>P</i>
0 common alter-1 common alter	0.00216	25964	-4.709	< 0.0001
0 common alter-2 common alters	0.00312	25964	-8.274	< 0.0001
1 common alter-2 common alters	0.00304	25964	-5.152	< 0.0001

Table S10. Comparisons of cosine similarities between the two study conditions. 2-tailed tests. The *P*-values are adjusted using Holm's sequential Bonferroni procedure.

Contrast	SE	df	<i>t</i>	<i>P</i>
control-treatment; 2 common alters	0.00365	25964	-5.271	< 0.0001
control-treatment; 1 common alter	0.00205	25964	-13.786	< 0.0001
control-treatment; 0 common alter	0.00235	25964	-17.865	< 0.0001

References

1. JO Wobbrock, L Findlater, D Gergle, JJ Higgins, The Aligned Rank Transform for nonparametric factorial analyses using only ANOVA procedures in *Proceedings of the SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*. pp. 143–146 (2011).