

# The Role of Political Affiliations in Initial Trust

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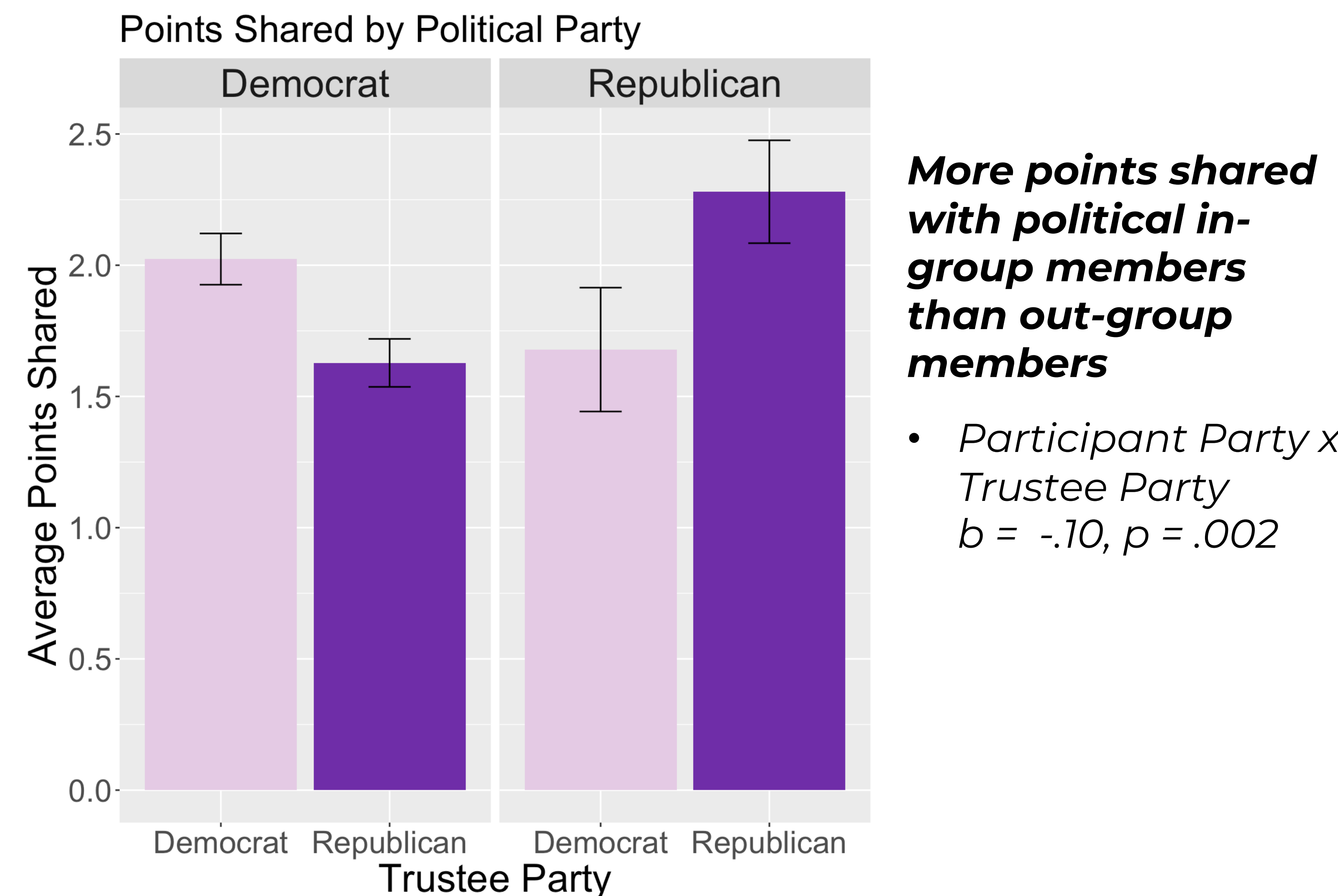
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## Background

- People tend to hold positive beliefs about their own social group (in-group) compared to those not part of their social group (out-group)<sup>1</sup>
- These beliefs may lead to greater trust for in-group members
- Here we study how political group membership can affect levels of initial trust
- We used a trust game to compare initial levels of trust with trustees who were in participants' political in-group or out-group
- **We hypothesize that levels of trust will be greater for political in-group members than political out-group members**

## Results



## Conclusions

- We observed different levels of trust between political in-group and out-group members
- Democrat participants tend to trust Democrats more than Republicans
- Republican participants tend to trust Republicans more than Democrats

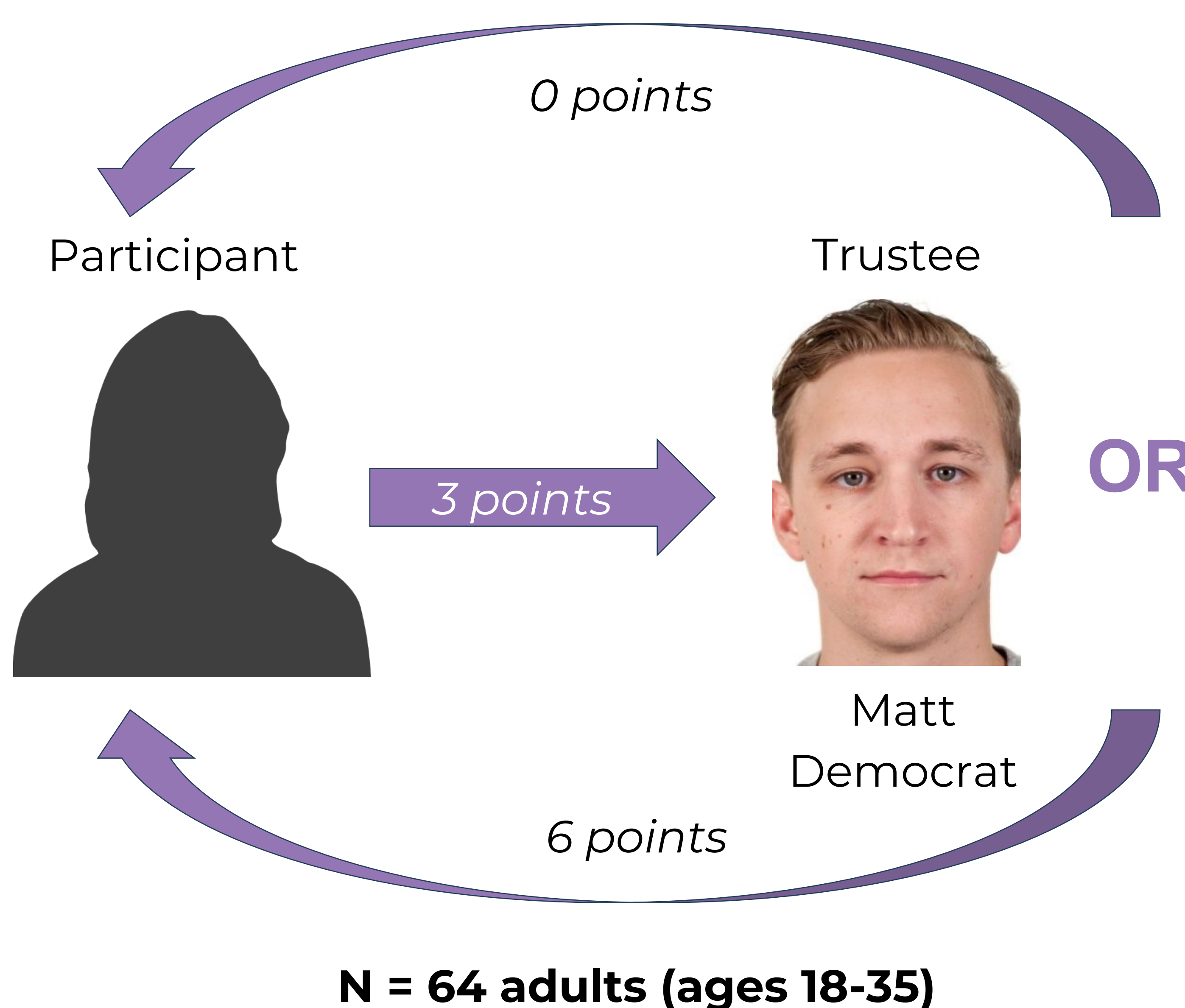
## Future directions

- Measuring political affiliation as a continuous variable
- Explore how group membership affects learning to trust

## Method

### Trust Task

- 4 points endowed to participant per trial
- Participants shares points with trustee (computerized partner)
  - 0-4 points
- Points shared to trustee are quadrupled
- Trustee either shares half the points back or keeps all the points
- **Predictor variables:**
  - Participant Party (Democrat or Republican)
  - Trustee Party (Democrat or Republican)
- **Outcome Variable** = share rate of participant



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## References

<sup>1</sup>Brewer, M., & Kramer, R. M. (1985). The psychology of intergroup attitudes and behavior. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 36(1), 219-243. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.psych.36.1.219>