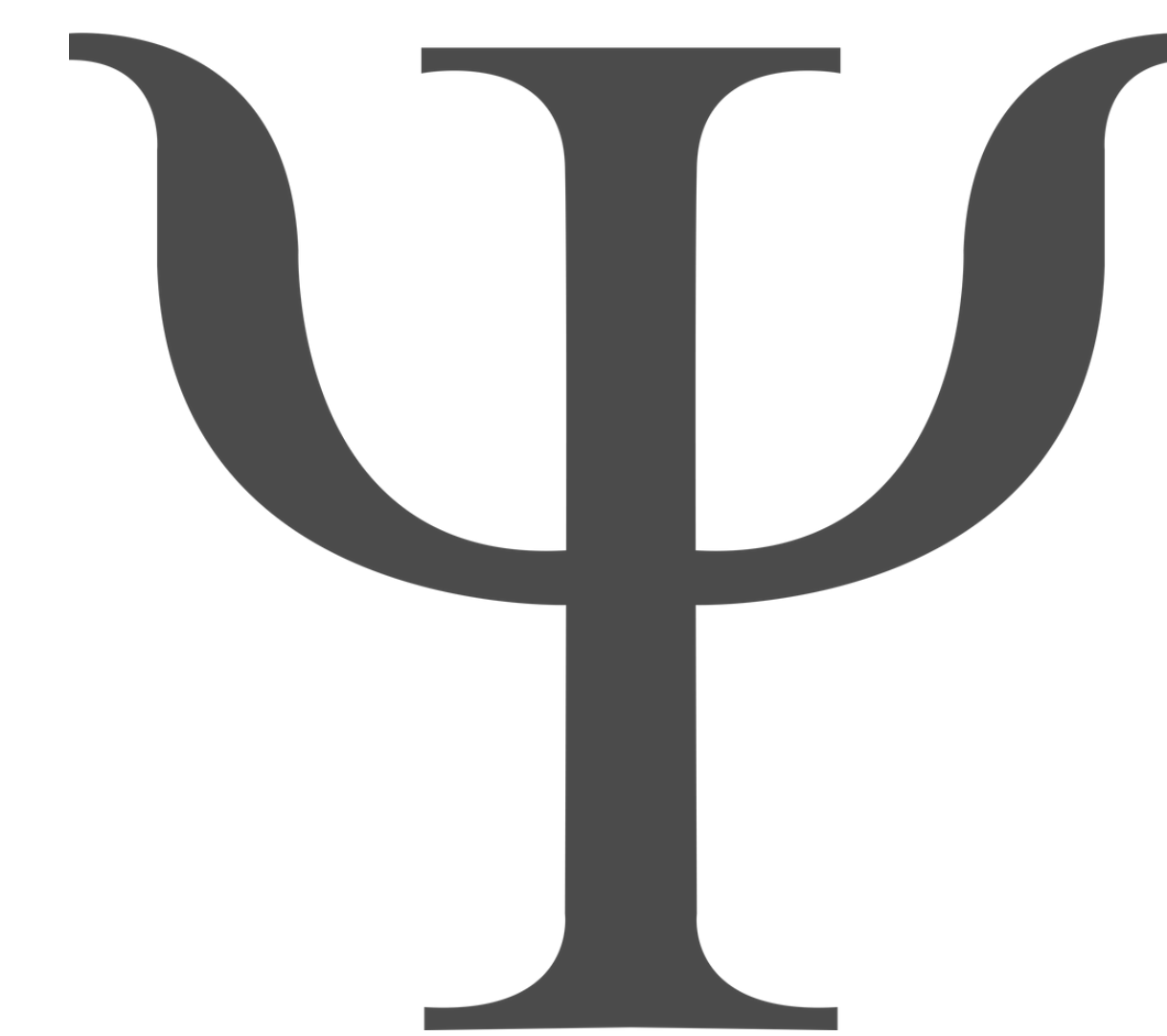




# ADHD and Perceptions of Romantic Relationships

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## 01. Background

What is ADHD?

- a disorder characterized by difficulties with attention, impulsivity, and self-organization
  - 3 different subtypes: inattentive, hyperactive, and combined
- Research has associated it with various relationship difficulties, among other things.
  - Ex: lower satisfaction and more divorces on average (Soares et al., 2021)
- ADHD has also been stigmatized both publicly and more covertly

What are some related relationship processes?

- Commitment - "the intention to maintain a relationship overtime" (Stanley et al., 2010)
- Attributions - "the internal and external process of interpreting and understanding what's behind others' behaviors" (Manusov & Spitzberg, 2008)
  - dimensions of attributions: stability, control, and causal locus



## 02. Hypotheses

- 1) The non-ADHD couple will be rated the most positively, followed by the diagnosed couple, and then the undiagnosed couple
- 2) The couples on average will be rated more positively if the participant has personal experience with ADHD, either getting diagnosed themselves or knowing someone who did.
- 3) The ratings of the ADHD couples will be more positive if the participant has personal experience with ADHD than if they do not.

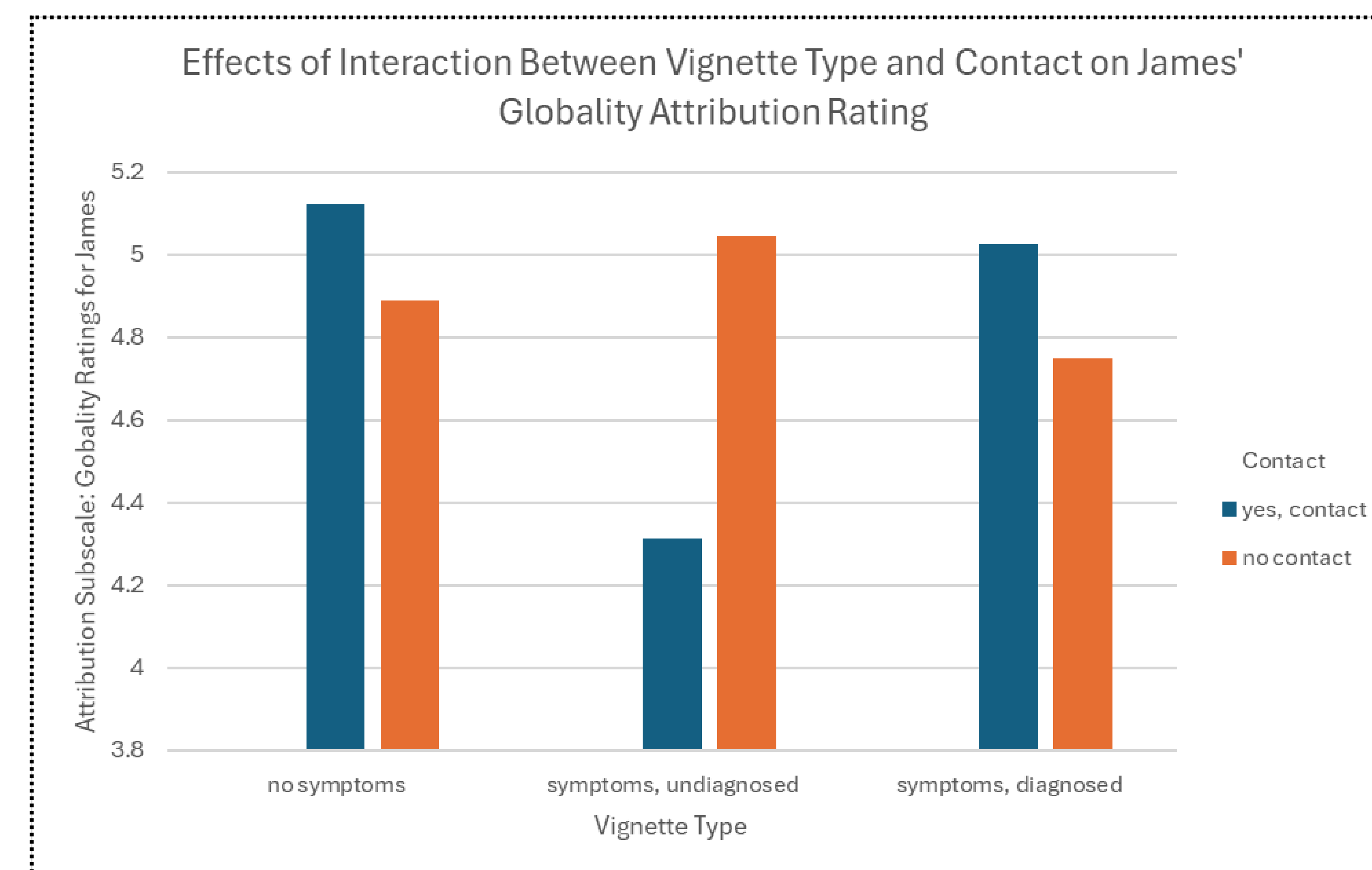
## 03. Method

- Total of 142 Participant survey responses from Could Connect and SONA
- Presented 1 of 3 possible vignettes: diagnosed couple, undiagnosed couple, asymptomatic couple
  - Characters: James (displayed symptoms) and Anna (no symptoms)
- Experience with ADHD measured by asking if participant was diagnosed or if someone close to them was diagnosed
- Participants rated the couple in their vignette on measures of Attribution and Commitment
  - Relationship Attribution Measure (Fincham & Bradbury, 1992)
  - Personal Commitment Scale (Monteiro et al., 2015)
- Analyzed data with a Two-Way MANOVA

## 04. Results and Conclusions

- 1) For majority of significant findings, the diagnosed couple was rated most positively on average, followed by the asymptomatic couple, then the undiagnosed couple
- 2) Participants with personal experience tended to rate the couples, and specifically James more positively
- 3) Ratings for the undiagnosed couple were more positive when the participant had personal experience with ADHD

Overall, people on average are more sympathetic when they receive an explanation for others' behavior and symptomology, but personal experience in specific primed people to give the couples the benefit of the doubt across more situations.



Have more questions?

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