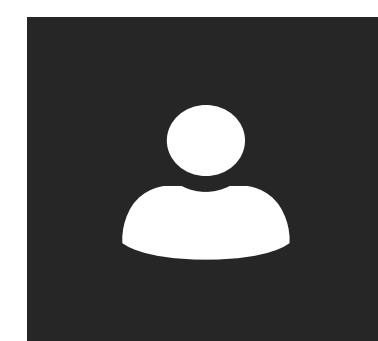


# Delay and Context Reinstatement on Eyewitness Metacognition



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## BACKGROUND

Eyewitness misidentification is a leading cause of wrongful convictions. Since 1989, 300 cases have been overturned due to DNA analysis, and more than 70% of these cases involved eyewitness misidentification (Wixted et al. 2015). Accurate eyewitness testimony is essential. Therefore, this study examines the impact of Post-Identification Context Reinstatement (PICR), a procedure designed to encourage people to mentally re-evaluate their decision-making process to understand its relation to confidence inflation.

## Hypothesis:

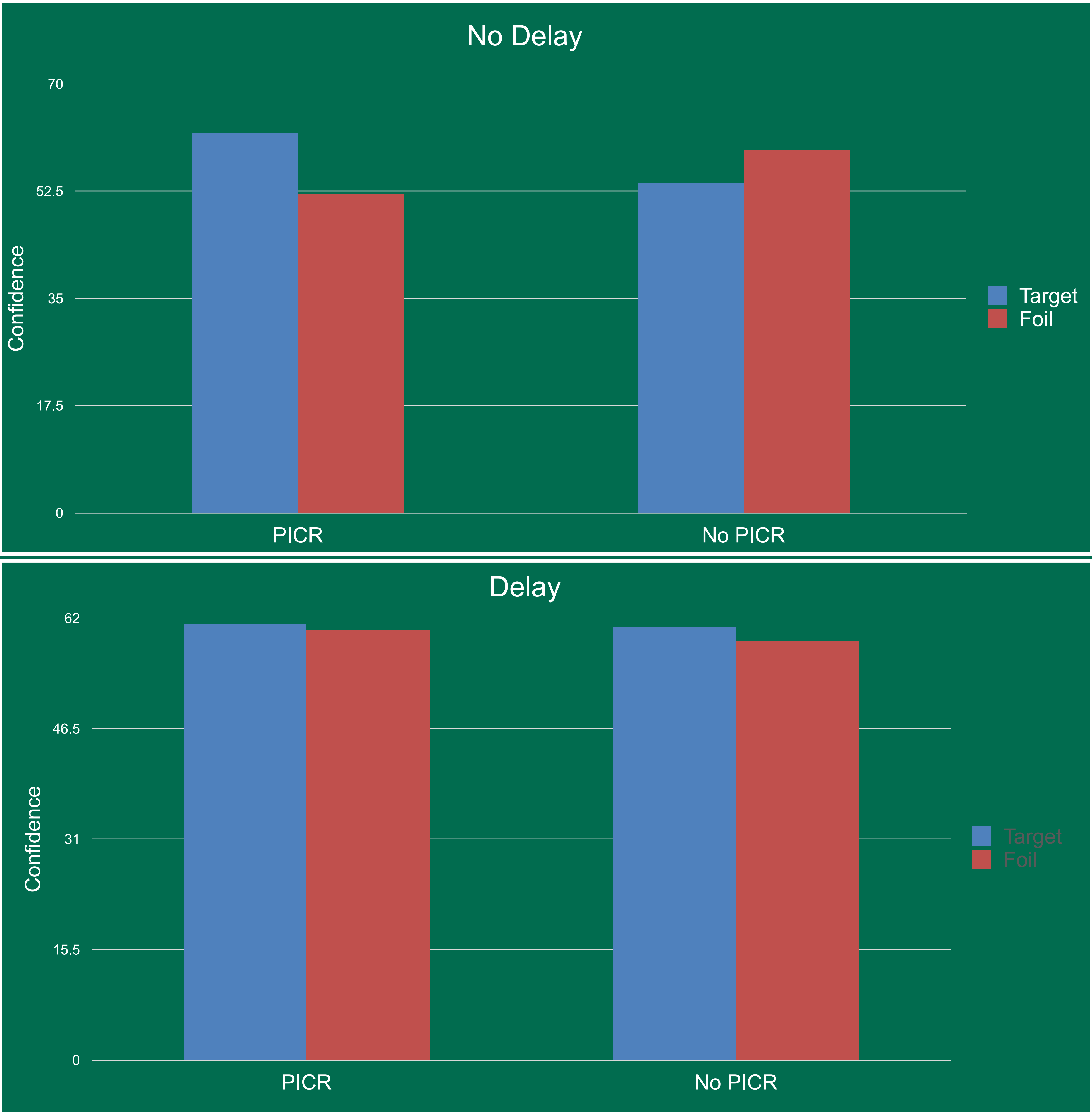
- 1. PICR increases confidence for correct choosers without affecting the confidence levels of incorrect choosers.
- 2. Delayed participants exhibit higher confidence compared to no-delay participants.
- 3. Correct choosers in the PICR delayed condition show no difference from correct Choosers in the PICR no-delay condition.
- 4. Incorrect choosers in the PICR condition are predicted to report lower confidence than those in the condition without PICR.

## Design

2x2x2 between subjects design

- Target Presence (Present or Absent)
- Delay (No Delay or 2 Day Delay)
- PICR (PICR or No PICR)

# Confidence was not significantly affected by our variables.



## Methods

1. Participants consisted of 253 Binghamton University students who completed the Qualtrics survey
2. Regardless on the first day participants answer demographic questions, watch a video of a simulated crime, do a manipulation check, and make a choice from a 6 person simultaneous lineup
3. At this point delay participants leave and complete the following steps on their second day. No delay participants continue
4. Participants listen to a 3 minute recorded script putting them through a context reinstatement meditation or 3 minutes of classical music.
5. Participants then answer meta-cognitive questions about their choice from the lineup and their viewing experience for the crime video derived from Wells & Bradfield (1998).
6. On the second day, the delay condition participants completed steps 4 & 5. No Delay participants were still asked to return and their data was only used if they did return.

## Results

- Choices were coded into Target choices and foil choices
- A MANOVA was run using choice, delay, and PICR as fixed factors and confidence, view of crime, specific features, attention paid, basis for decision, difficulty in deciding, time to choose, willingness to testify, general memory ability, and clarity of memory as dependent variables.
- Confidence was not significantly affected by any variable.
- Participants in the delay condition thought they spent more attention to the crime,  $F(1, 245)= 13.57, p<.001$ ; were more willing to testify,  $F(1, 245)=4.26, p=.040$ ; and reported a clearer memory,  $F(1, 245)=4.55, p=.034$
- Participants who received the PICR manipulation reported a clearer memory,  $F(1, 245)=9.32, p=.003$
- Delay and choice had a significant interaction for attention paid,  $F(1, 245)=4.63, p=.032$ , with delayed Target choosers reporting more attention than the other conditions

## DISCUSSION

- ★Our hypotheses were not supported
- ★We are underpowered for correct choosers with correct chooser cells having 15 or fewer participants
- ★With the data currently available, it seems like a two day delay basically equalizes confidence
- ★The metacognitive changes in the delay condition are concerning given the general inflation in perception of viewing conditions.