

Introduction

Premise:

Universities are instituting affirmative consent campaigns to educate students and prevent sexual violence.

Affirmative Consent:

- Enthusiastic "yes" to sexual activity.
- Process of *freely choosing*, without pressure or threats.
- Active and Ongoing
- Everyone's right and responsibility.

Issues:

- Program effectiveness often not evaluated.
- Judging consent requires sifting through ambiguous signals to find meaning. Cognitive biases are likely to influence judgments.

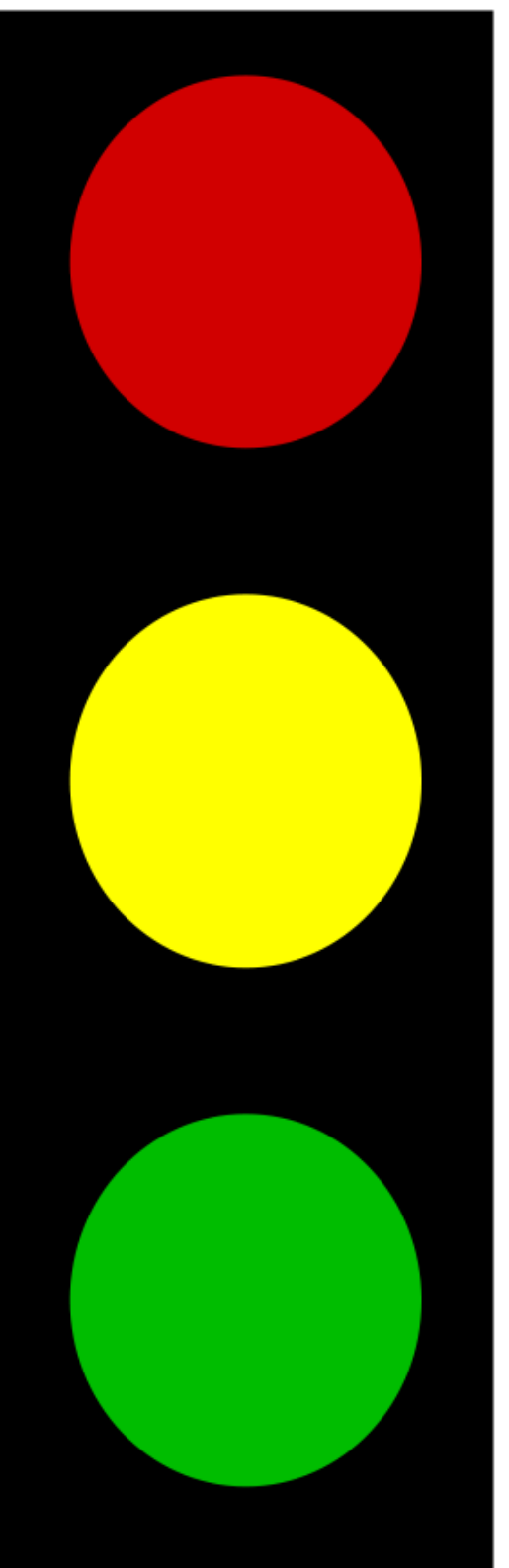
Goals:

- Develop a training intervention that views consent as a family resemblance category and using the best practices in developing reasoning expertise.
- Examine effectiveness of the programs through pre-post and group comparative evaluation.

Methods

Research suggests the best way of training judgement is through a mix of memorized rules and experience. The rules train our explicit analytical reasoning and experience trains our non-analytical intuitions. Our program is designed to capitalize on both.

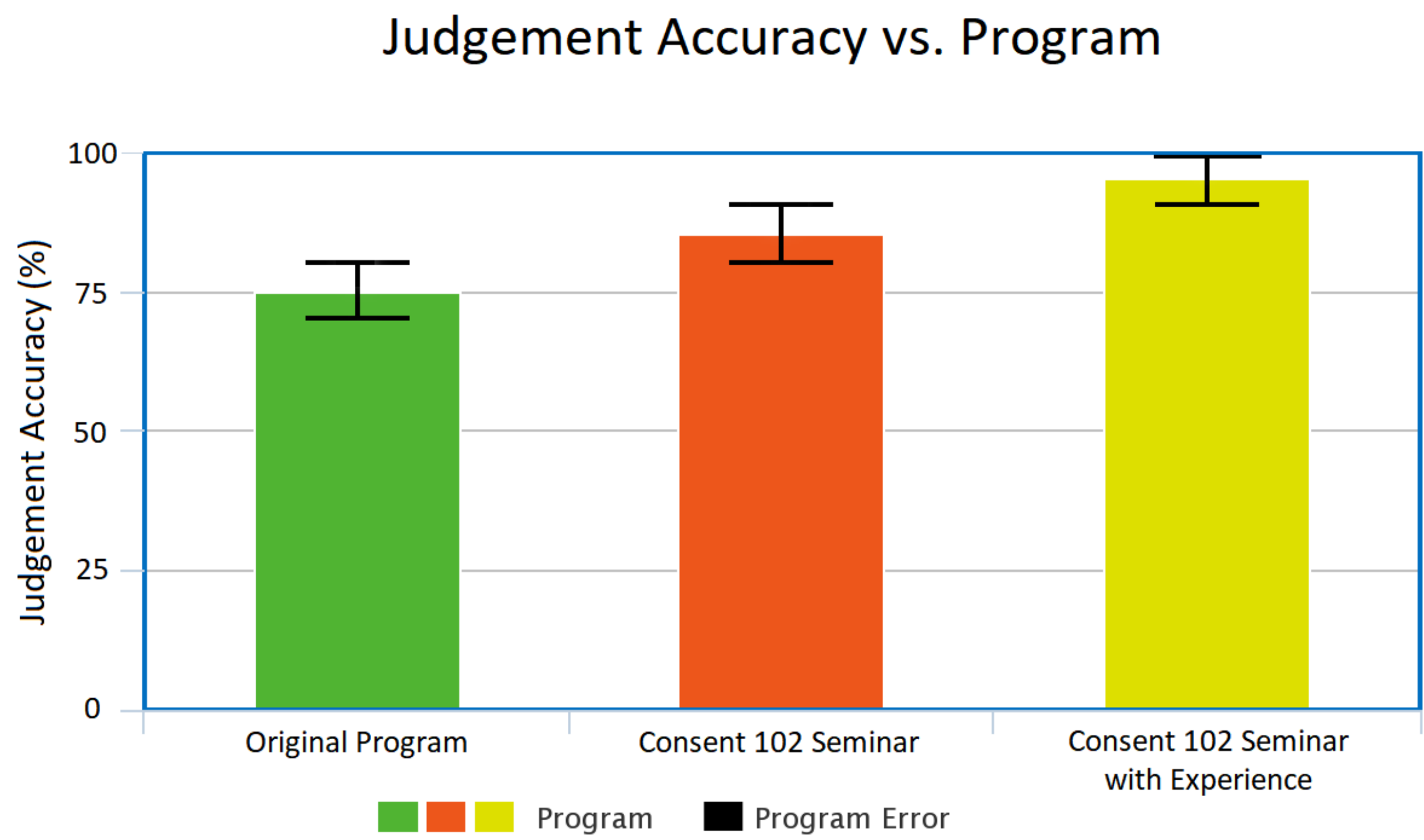
1. The first step is to educate students about the facets of affirmative consent and the cognitive biases that afflict our judgement, such as mental shortcuts called heuristics. (Rules/Criteria for Consent and Debiasing Strategies.)
2. Second they will have a chance to take this information and apply judgement to case vignettes. Each vignette is a short story that describes an interaction. They will judge the consensual nature of the interaction and indicate if there are cautions or clear red flags. They go through this case judgements and are given feedback. (Experience and Feedback.)
3. To evaluate program efficacy will preform a pretest evaluation of judgement accuracy before individuals receive any education/training. We will have post program evaluations for all programs. One for the original affirmative consent initiative. Another for the Consent 102 seminar that defines affirmative consent, explains cognitive biases, and describes debiasing strategies. Finally an evaluation for the Consent 102 seminar coupled with vignette experience and feedback.



Expected Results

Findings

- We expect to moderate accuracy in judgment for the original consent program.
- We predict there will be gains in judgement accuracy in the partial Consent 102 program. This is due to participant education of cognitive biases.
- We predict The most accuracy gains will be seen with the full consent 102 program. They will integrating their analytical reasoning with their nonanalytical experiences.



Impact

- Sexual violence is not just an issue on campuses. Strategies in these programs could be used in other domains such as the workplace, or offender rehabilitation programs.
- This establishes a method to measure the efficacy of this program and those similar to it.
- In addition this research provides a direct comparison of effectiveness between consent education programs.

