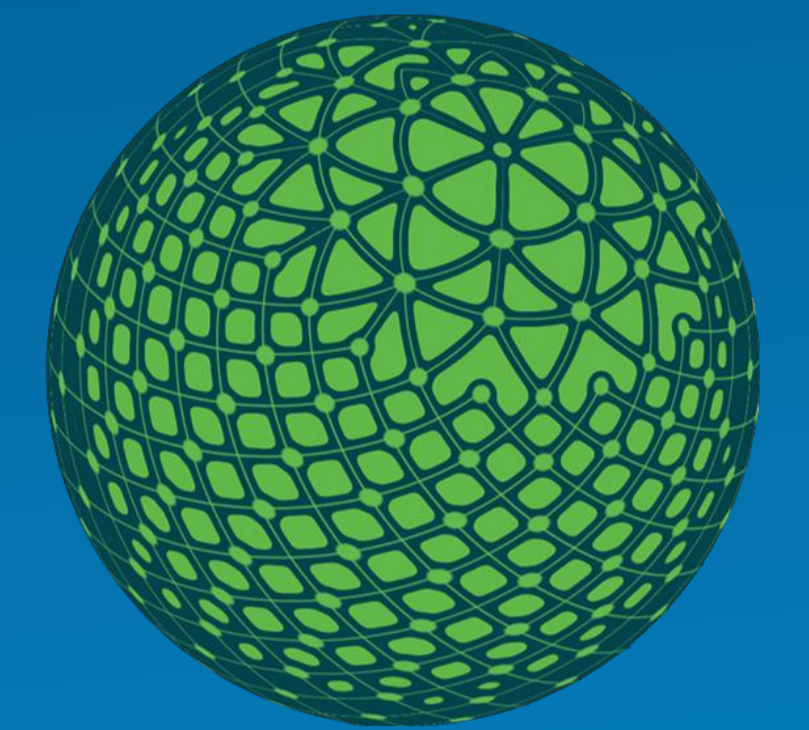


No food pleasure without food concepts: Neophobic children's food categorization



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Introduction

- Conceptual knowledge is foundational to children's recognition, understanding, and interaction with their surroundings [1].
- The food domain is particularly liable to different structures of conceptual knowledge (i.e. meal scripts, functional relations, thematic associates, etc.) [2].
- Thus, if conceptual knowledge is underdeveloped in the food domain, children may face uncertainty when confronted with novel foods or food-based situations.
- Specific conceptual knowledge structures underpins feelings of novelty and subsequent food rejection in young children.

Study 2

- In A second study, 72 children completed 12 trials repeated across 2 framed conditions (see figure 3).
- The task was designed to determine if food rejection tendencies (namely food neophobia and food pickiness), using the Child Food Rejection Scale [3] influenced knowledge and reasoning in food scripts and associations.

Conclusion

- Food neophobia results in a reduced knowledge and understanding of both scripts and thematic associations in the food domain.
- These results demonstrate that children's food education should incorporate thematic and script conceptual knowledge in addition to taxonomic knowledge structures, to foster greater food acceptance in young children.

[1] [3] Rioux, C., Lafraire, J., and Picard, D. (2017). The child food rejection scale: development and validation of a new scale to assess food neophobia and pickiness among 2-to 7-year-old French children. *Eur. Rev. Appl. Psychol.* 67, 67-77. doi: 10.1016/j.erap.2017.01.003

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Study 1

Condition A: Event Scripts	Condition B: Food-Food Thematic
<p>Target</p> <p>Distractor: A baseball glove. Match: A party hat.</p>	<p>Target</p> <p>Distractor: A bowl of popcorn. Match: A cookie.</p>
Condition C: Food-Utensil Thematic	Condition D: Meal Scripts
<p>Target</p> <p>Distractor: Chopsticks. Match: A knife.</p>	<p>Target</p> <p>Distractor: A stack of pancakes. Match: A plate of spaghetti.</p>

Figure 1 - Example of presented stimuli in studies 1 and 2

Thematic Framed Food-Scenarios



Script Framed Food-Scenarios

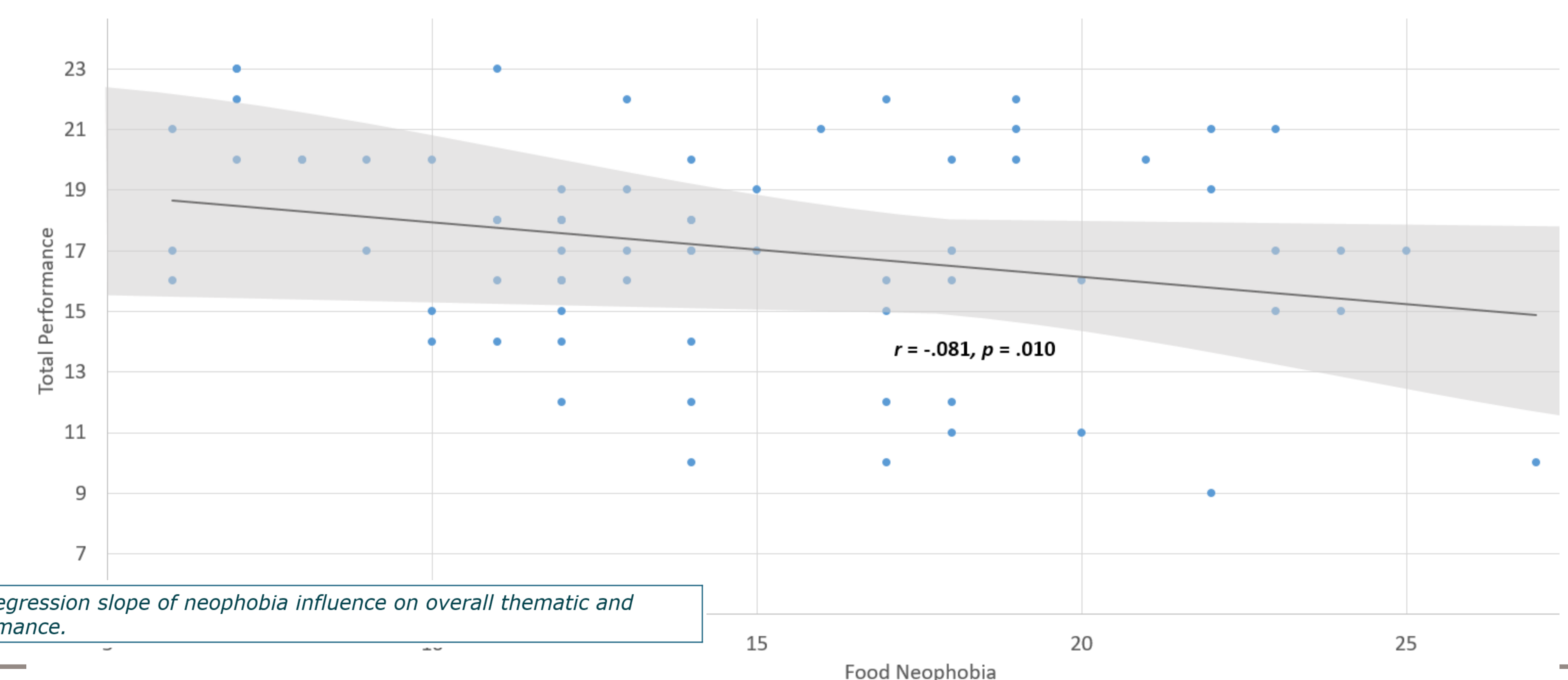
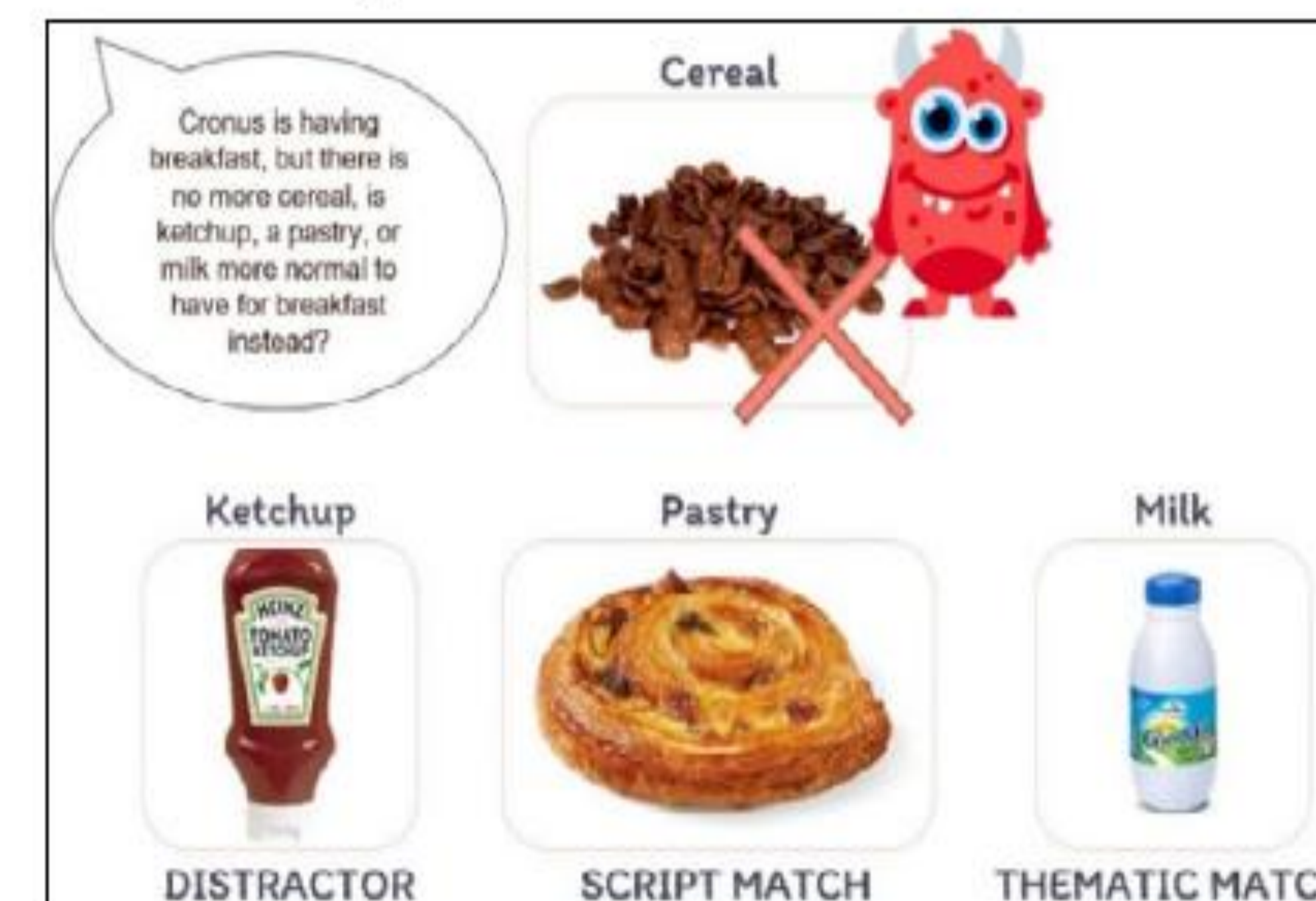


Figure 4 - Regression slope of neophobia influence on overall thematic and script performance.