Revealing hidden perceptions of SuDS through Implicit Association Tests

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GREEN BLUE-

'弹性'

怪放"

'Room for the River'

Water Sensitive Urban Design











The challenges

 Socio-political barriers typically exert the strongest negative influence on widespread implementation of (blue-green) SuDS











The challenges

- Socio-political barriers typically exert the strongest negative influence on widespread implementation of (blue-green) SuDS
- SuDS are often highly visible ("novel?") interventions that require support from residents and local Government to be effectively implemented and maintained
- Positive public perceptions are key to generating greater levels of awareness, acceptance, value and stewardship
- Perceptions of residents living in close proximity (and wider?) to SuDS are poorly understood



Public perceptions of SuDS: Typically evaluated by explicit (self-report) measures e.g. questionnaires, Likert scale tests, feeling thermometers, interviews



*Everett et al., 2018. Journal of Flood Risk Management

Interactive poll 1: Blue-green vs. grey



Source: https://www.susdrain.org/delivering-suds/using-suds/sudscomponents/retention_and_detention/retention_ponds.html



Source: https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/article/201850

Go to <u>www.slido.com</u> and enter the event code #3274



Interactive poll 2: greenspace with SuDS vs. greenspace without SuDS



Interactive poll 3: which do you think is more attractive? greenspace with SuDS vs. greenspace without SuDS



Advantages of implicit measures

Implicit Association Tests can help reveal how people feel about SuDS, moving beyond stated preferences and improving our understanding of implicit and explicit perceptions

Explicit measures	Implicit measures
Deliberate	Automatic
Conscious	Subconscious
Introspective	Associative
Self-report	 Reaction time (response latency)
 Assumes an individual knows and can 	 Not dependent on participants' awareness
articulate their beliefs	of the strength of associations
 Influenced by external factors 	 Not affected by external influences
 Potential bias (social desirability, self- enhancement, self-ignorance), purposefully or inadvertently 	 Less bias, hard to 'fake' results
• N/A	 Reaction times can be affected by age, understanding of images and words (target concepts) external distractions



Implicit Association Test (IATs): method

Comparing reaction times to different pairings of **target-concept** (greenspace with SuDS vs. greenspace without SuDS) and **attribute** (positive and negative words) stimuli presented on a computer screen (5 blocks, 2 tests)





Block 2. Evaluative attribute discrimination





Block 3. Initial combined task





Blocks 4 and 5. Reversed target-concept discrimination and reversed combined task



Preferences for SuDS in Bristol (method trial 2018)

Investigating preferences for public greenspace with SuDS vs. greenspace without SuDS. IAT and two explicit tests. Evaluative attributes: attractiveness, safety, tidiness

Feeling thermometer

100 - Extremely safe

We would like to indicate on this scale how safe you feel these public open space are?

Draw an X at whichever point on the scale best indicates your feelings.

0 \perp Extremely unsafe

Likert scale

Draw a cross on the line that shows how far you agree with each of the statements below.

1. I would like to live close to these types of public green space

Strongly	Disagree
disagree	

Neither disagree nor agree Agree

Strongly

agree

2. I would like more places like this where I live

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
		nor agree		

3. I would like to spend time in these types of public green space

Strongly	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly
disagree		disagree		agree
		nor agree		



Preferences for SuDS in Bristol (method trial 2018, n=44)

- No overall **implicit** preference for SuDS or no-SuDS in public greenspace
- Overall **explicit** preferences for greenspace without SuDS in both tests
- No significant correlation between the implicit and explicit scores
 - > Typical for socially sensitive, controversial topics or if explicit tests are biased
 - Fundamental difference between implicit and explicit attitudes?
 - Or people don't have a pre-formed implicit attitude towards SuDS?



More insight from the preferences of individual respondents

- > 7% both explicitly and implicitly prefer greenspace with SuDS
- > 18% both explicitly and implicitly prefer greenspace without SuDS



More insight from the preferences of individual respondents



More insight from the preferences of individual respondents



Nest steps: investigating preferences for SuDS in Newcastle

Site 1. Near SuDS (Newcastle Great Park)



Site 2. Near greenspace (Benton, near Northumbria University Coach Lane Campus)



Q1. Does the local environment influence implicit and explicit preferences for SuDS?Q2. Do explicit and implicit preferences differ among members of the public?

Market research company conducting surveys in January 2019 (~250 responses)

IAT vs. feeling thermometer Newcastle survey (n = 94)



Public green spaces that contain SUDS (sustainable urban **Online IAT** drainage systems) https://afternoon-dusk-Please spend one minute studying the following images of public green spaces that contain SUDS (sustainable urban drainage systems) 80317.herokuapp.com/ 25 seconds remaining Continue SUDS NO SUDS Your IAT Score is 6.66 6.66 0 10 Highcharts.com If the E and I keys do not work, clic Your IAT score suggests that you have a preference for public green space with SuDS If the red X appears, press the other 46 people have completed this test so far and the average score was 5.67.

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