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# UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.

Does it show when someone has hostile intentions?

A replication of Wijn et al. (2017)

BACHELOR THESIS

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### **Abstract**

The study of Wijn et al (2017) concluded that environmental cues and cognitive load can increase the possibility of correctly detecting hostile intentions. The current study aims to replicate these findings, after critics doubted the validity of these results. Additionally, behavioural indicators accompanying hostile intentions are researched to gain insight into how much information is needed to be able to detect these malintentions as well as which specific factors are used for the decision. **Methods** 23 participants watched the 143 videos of the original study, followed by a questionnaire regarding the indicators of deception. These results were analysed with a multiple response analysis, coding of the open question as well as a factorial repeated measurement ANOVA. **Results** The environmental cue or cognitive load had no main effect or interaction effect on the ability of detection. Contrary aspects were found between indicators of the innocent condition and the hostile intention. As behavioural indicators, participants used the body language, facial expressions, walking style, looking behaviour and use of hands or how the person handed the bag. **Discussion** Since it was not possible to replicate the findings of Wijn et al. (2017) it is questionable how reliable environmental cues and cognitive load are as methods to improve the detection accuracy of the participants. Implications from this study are that more insight needs to be gained into detection since it is a crucial topic to fight against terrorism and the importance of replication is highlighted.

*Keywords:* deception, detection, environmental cue, hostile intentions

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### **Does it show when someone has hostile intentions?**

Terrorism is a rising issue which gained a lot of media attention during the last years. People are afraid of the terrorist attacks that happen all around the world. According to the Global Terrorism Database (2018), the number of terrorist incidents had its highest point in 2014 where worldwide around 16.000 terrorist attacks occurred. Only eight years before, the number was about one quarter (4.805), which illustrates its rise. A recent study conducted in September 2018 by Statista analyses which countries worry the most about terrorist attacks, estimating France, with 27% and Germany with about 24% in the top five of the rankings of 28 different countries.

To minimise the risk of such terrorist attempts, security programmes have been developed that try to avoid such events by filtering out people that have hostile intentions. An example of such a method are the behaviour-detection officers working at airports all over the United States, as described by Weinberger (2010). A programme called Screening Passengers by Observation Technique (SPOT) is the basis of the work of about 3.000 officers. They are trained to identify people having hostile intentions to detect and eliminate possible threats to the safety of other passengers. For the scientific basis of SPOT, Paul Ekman's research about analysing facial expressions is used (Weinberger, 2010). SPOT is not the only existing programme; others are also used at airports as for example the Future Attribute Screening Technology (FAST) which monitors the vital signs of passengers to spot mal intentions. Nevertheless, as Weinberger (2010) highlights these programs lack scientific evidence and research is not far enough to speak of true detectors of hostile intentions.

So, behavioural analysis methodologies are far from reliable. When looking at the research conducted in the field of determining deception, it becomes apparent that detecting hostile intentions is not as simple as TV series like for instance 'Lie to me' tell us. Instead of being able to judge people simply by their face, it is far more difficult to figure out if a person is hiding something. Accordingly, there is a gap in research that is aimed to be filled to some extent by this study. Here, the study of Wijn et al. (2017) already makes an attempt, which is used as the basis for replication in this research. Furthermore, this is extended to looking at the behavioural indicators which determine if someone is judged as having hostile intentions. With this more insight is gained in developing methodologies that detect potential deceptive behaviour and reduce possible threats to, for instance, the safety at airports. The research question, therefore, is: Which behavioural indicators of a person determine if the judges decide that they have hostile intentions?

### **Theoretical Framework**

To analyse the validity of deception detection methodologies, it is important to have a closer look at the understanding gained in the last decades which is used as a theoretical basis for those techniques. Some research was conducted to examine if people are actually able to correctly identify deceiving people. Johnson and her colleagues (2018) carried out a study on the basis of judging from analysing facial features functions and indeed participants were able to detect criminal persons with a level of accuracy that is greater than chance. Similar results were also found in the study of Valla, Ceci and Williams (2011), who showed images of the faces of convicted criminals and innocent people, as well as the research of Thornton (1939) where participants were successfully able to distinguish between pictures of lawbreakers and lawful persons.

But what goes on in people that deceive? To begin with, a definition of deception is necessary to comprehend the underlying aspects of methodologies such as SPOT. DePaulo et al. (2003) define deception “as a deliberate attempt to mislead others” (p.74). This umbrella term includes different aspects as for instance lying or hostile intentions. Since DePaulos definition is quite a broad one might consider also other descriptions of deception. To be more precise, the example of an actor highlights the difference. While acting one would then, according to DePaulo, also be lying following that the actor misleads others by portraying a different character. Vrij (2008) labels deception as ”a successful or unsuccessful deliberate attempt, without forewarning, to create in another a belief which the communicator considers to be untrue.” (as cited in Garner, 2019), so this definition adds the aspect of deceiving without the knowledge or consent of the other person, excluding situations like the before mentioned.

Lying is one specific form of deceiving a person, although often these terms are used interchangeably. Strictly speaking, lying is presenting knowledge as true although one knows it is not (Stokke, 2013). Deception is more concealing or distorting the truth. So, lies are always a form of deception but one can deceit without lying. To make this clearer, another example, your friends want to smuggle a bomb and asks you what risks there are to consider. When you tell him that there will be no cameras (implying that it is safe) you are not lying, still, you know that there will be a security check he has to go through, and you are deceiving the person.

Studies show that although we are apparently pretty good liars it is difficult for us to detect deception. In Feldman, Forrest and Happ’s study (2002) 60% of the participants admitted that they lied at least once during a short conversation of 10 minutes. When looking at the ability to disclose such forms of deceit, research demonstrated that the true detection probability is with 54% only slightly above chance level (Bond & DePaulo, 2006). So, although we

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apparently often make use of lies in our everyday life, it is quite difficult for us to discover these lies in others.

And how do we discover deception? To answer this question, the research of Aldert Vrij is most useful. His research contributed a lot to the evidence one has about deception and its indicators, with the specific focus on non-verbal behaviour. Vrij (2000) demonstrates that there is no universal set of behaviours that can be used as a guideline to detect deception, especially since deceiving is really personality dependent. This means that different people show different behaviours which makes it so difficult to generalize. Still, some non-verbal indicators are presented by him, as for instance decreased hand and finger movements as well as less activity in the legs or feet (Vrij, 2000).

Another aspect of deception is hostile intentions, which Wijn et al. define as the "individual's intent to act in ways that imply or aim to inflict harm onto others" (p.2, Wijn et al., 2017). When looking at the work already done on deception, most of it focuses on lying, leaving out other aspects. This created a gap in knowledge about deception since it is something different to tell lies, a verbal act, and the attempt of hiding hostile intentions, which is mostly behavioural. As Vrij (2000) makes clear "the vast majority of deception research has addressed a setting in which the target speaks." (p.161).

When looking more in-depth at what kind of features participants use to identify criminal behaviour, there is less research available. One of the most often mentioned researchers connected to this field is the clinical psychologist Paul Ekman, whose scientific evidence tries to give some insight into the discovery of deceptive behaviour by studying emotions (Weinberger, 2010). He claims that certain people are able to spot hidden emotions by analysing specific facial expressions. These facial features are scientifically named 'micro facial' expressions and consist out of short-lasting movements, such as wrinkling one's nose, that represent covert mental states (Weinberger, 2010). Furthermore, he argues that deceiving is accompanied most typically by the emotions of fear, guilt and excitement (Ekman, 1992). Here, the latter two apply to the lying itself whereas the first is more connected to being fearful of getting caught which is more applicable in the case of hostile intention. A typical indicator during the experience of guilt in this context is gaze aversion (Vrij, 2000), whereas for fear and excitement signs of stress are more likely.

Although Ekman gained a lot of media attention with his books and tv show, scientists do not agree completely with his findings. Critics, as for instance Weinberger (2010) say that these are firstly outdated and moreover, it was not possible to replicate and conduct peer-reviewed studies. Moreover, these findings are used to create programmes as the before

mentioned SPOT, which leads to filtering out people and interviewing them without a sufficient scientific basis. Concluding from the research on using behavioural indicators, one can see that already some thought-provoking impulses are given but still too less reliable findings are made.

### What happens when we deceive?

When considering the scientific journey criminology has made, it becomes apparent that although research argues that we are able to determine a criminal based on a picture, it is not really clear in how far people are able to detect hostile intentions. Apart from the theoretical framework about deception, studies need to be conducted to gain more insight into how we can spot hostile intentions and improve behavioural detection methods. This starts with making these intentions visible by experimentally manipulating subjects with certain cues.

The Goa Report from 2013 points out that people, in general, are not that good in detecting deception, reaching a level only slightly above chance. A meta-analysis of Hartwig and Bond (2011) trying to show why this is the case, offers the explanation of weak cues in the experimental situation that lead to the fact that too little information is present to be useful as the basis for judgement. The paper of Wijn and his colleagues (2017) makes an attempt to correct for this, by studying if environmental cues improve the detection of participants with malicious intent. Here, judges determine based on short video clips if people carry hostile intentions. Although this study does not examine what exactly this judgement is based on it is a step in the right direction to investigate the detection of hostile intentions.

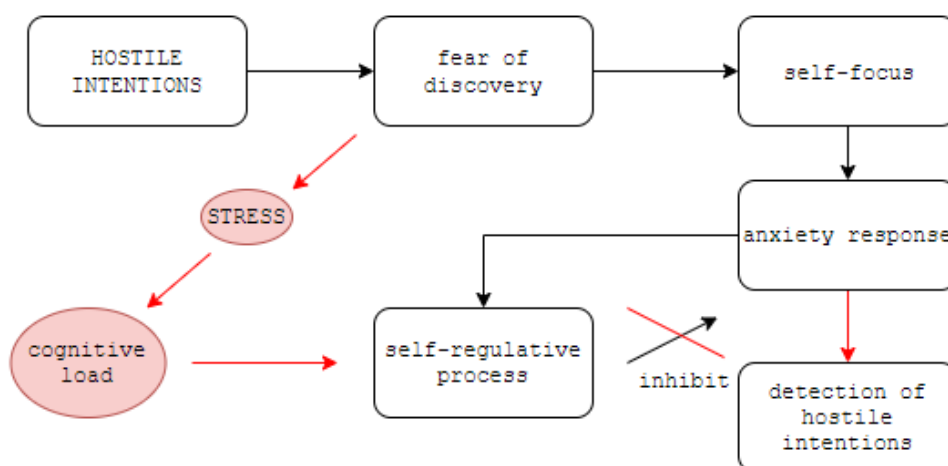


Figure 1. Theoretical Framework of Wijn et al. (2017)

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In Figure 1, one can see the underlying theoretical framework of the article of Wijn et al. (2017), which is used as the basis for this study. To start, Wijn and his colleagues identify that it all starts with having hostile intentions, which often leads to an overestimation of one's own behaviour, by believing that this is more salient to others (Gilovich, Medvec, & Savitsky, 2000). More specifically, this means that for example when cheating during an exam one tends to think that their behaviour is especially remarkable to others and they expose you. The stakes of this malicious intent are high, so is the fear of discovery which leads to heightened self-focused attention (Brown & Stopa, 2007). This means that individuals have the tendency to shift their attention to monitoring and assessing their own behaviour to use this as an inference on how they may appear to others.

This bias of over-perceiving the degree of events directed towards oneself (Fenigstein, 1984) and fear of discovery lead to the activation of anxiety-related response pattern as, for instance, the fight- or flight reply (Wijn et al., 2017). The mind prepares to survive the situation and aims to inhibit the anxiety by restoring one's self-presentation, so, for example, trying to shake less or calm down. To do so, self-regulation is stimulated, meaning the capability to reshape one self's responses and inhibiting behavioural responses incompatible with one's goal of deception (Hofmann, Schmeichel, & Baddeley, 2012; Vohs, Baumeister & Ciarocco, 2005). Undesirable behaviours are suppressed to appear more 'normal' so that observers do not detect the hostile intentions one tries to hide. Problematic about this attempt of impression control is that it is quite effortful to counteract unwanted behaviour (Vohs, Baumeister & Ciarocco, 2005), including a high level of cognitive capacity needed to fulfil this (Baumeister & Heatherton, 1996). Hofmann, Schmeichel and Baddeley (2012) point out that this needed capacity is not given when a person stands for instance under stress, which is a typical by-product of situations including hostile intentions.

The difficulty is that in a situation where someone carries, for instance, a bomb, as in the given study, the stress level of this person is quite high. Due to the cognitive load, which is triggered by a stressful situation, the mind is not possible to inhibit anxiety anymore (displayed in red, see Figure 1) which leads to a higher probability of being detected of having hostile intentions. At this moment one is not able to suppress the undesirable behaviour, ergo is more apparently showing that one does something illegal. This is a bit ironic since the primary goal of the self-regulative processes is to weaken the possibility of getting caught by preventing for instance errors in speech or body language, but with the stress, increase this is more counterproductive due to the cognitive load.



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After Wijn and his colleagues published their article in 2017, criticism came up from the authors Meijer, Verschuere and Merckelbach. They argue that the results of their study can falsely be used as argumentation to build behavioural observation programmes since their conclusion is "fundamentally wrong" (p.2 Meijer et. al., 2017) and the results are not above chance level. As a reaction to these critics, Wijn (2017) argues that the study "focuses on a specific element in behavioural detection programmes" (p.5) and therefore the findings cannot be used, as Meijer and his colleagues argue, as general support for these programmes but only as evidence limited to this specific element.

### **Present Research**

The primary purpose of the current study is to replicate Wijn et al. (2017) and confirm the validity of the previously found results. Moreover, this paper focuses more on the qualitative side of this research, namely on the basis of the question what determines the detection of malicious intent. Which indicators underly the decision of the judges to think someone has hostile intentions or not? By answering this question, it is possible to come closer to the possibility of correct detection of criminals.

For the replication of the Wijn et al. (2017) study, hypothesis 3 and 4 are reused to see if similar findings result.

*Hypothesis 1:* The risk of exposure, signalled by environmental cues, leads to a higher ability of the observers to distinguish between hostile and non-hostile intentions.

*Hypothesis 2:* The probability of detecting hostile intentions will be higher when the participant's cognitive load is constrained, due to the inhibition of the self-regulation processes.

Apart from the quantitative part of this study, also a research question is added to investigate the qualitative aspect of the detection of hostile intentions. Here it is desired to understand what the judges use as the basis for their decision during the replication study of Wijn and his colleagues. This leads to the research question:

*Research Question:* What kind of information is needed to predict the correct detection of hostile intentions? And, what are the specific behavioural indicators that people use for this detection?

## Methods

### Design & Participants

Based on the study of Wijn et al. (2017) a within-participants 2 (Hostile Intent: yes vs. no) x 2 (Cue: present vs. not present) x 2 (Cognitive load: high vs. low) design was employed. The stimulus material used to watch and judge by the participants consisted out of short video clips from the second study of Wijn et al. (2017). This video footage includes the original stimulus material of Wijn et al. (2017). The factors environmental cue and mental load are the independent variables, whereas the recognition of hostile intention is the dependent variable. Furthermore, a qualitative part was included asking questions about specific behaviour indicators that determine if someone is carrying hostile intentions or not. The participants were unknowing of these conditions and the set-up of the above-described design.

The sample includes 23 university students (see Table 1), wherefrom 8 are men and 15 women. The mean age of all participants is 22.35 ( $SD = 2.31$ ). The sample size is based on a G Power test including eight groups and 15 measurements (0.5 f,  $\alpha: 0.05$ , p: 0.8) that resulted in a total sample size of 16 (Faul, Erdfelder, Lang & Buchner, 2007). Moreover, Simonsohn (2014) explains that for replication the sample size should be at least two and a half times the original size, which is in this case 20 so in total 50 (Wijn et al., 2017). Due to cooperation with another researcher, the sample size is increased to 60 but due to time issues it was not feasible to reach the sample size of 60, therefore the goal of 20 was agreed. For further details about the nationality or study programme of the participants see Table 1.

The students participated in exchange for 1.5 Sona System credits that they need to obtain for their bachelor. The requirement to participate was the ability to fluently speak English. They were recruited either via the Sona System, by giving out flyers in different classes of the Psychology Programme, reciprocity of other researchers or personal messages to close friends.

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Table 1  
*Characteristics of students (N = 23)*

Variable	n	%
<hr/>		
Sex		
Female	15	65.2%
Male	8	34.8%
Other	0	0.0%
Nationality		
Dutch	7	30.4%
German	14	60.9%
Other	2	8.7%
Study subject		
Psychology	16	69.6%
Com.Sciences	1	4.3%
Other	6	26.1%

### Materials

**Stimulus material.** The quantitative part of this study includes the video footage of Study 2 of Wijn et al. (2017), which consists of 148 video clips, lasting from 19 - 43 seconds with a total of about one hour. Each video provided the watcher with one case, followed by the decision-screen including the question: ("Ik denk dat deze persoon het explosief in zijn/haar tas heeft zitten") "I think this person is carrying a bomb in their bag." and the answer possibilities ("Ja" of "Nee") "Yes" or "No" (see Figure 3).

The persons seen in the videos carry a laptop case (see Figure 2.2), containing either books (non-hostile intentions) or mock explosives (hostile intention), through a 20 meter long hallway to a certain checkpoint where a preceding participant is waiting (see Figure 2.1) Halfway an environmental cue was administered of a white noise resembling a police walkie-talkie's static noise (cue) versus no noise (no cue). Later on, in the cue videos, the noise was deleted to not prime the judges. Also, a grey square was edited in the videos, so the participant was not able to see the preceding person waiting (see Figure 2.1).

Furthermore, as cognitive load manipulation, the experimental assistants had to count their steps in the high cognitive load version, contrary to not receiving more load. To increase the stakes, Wijn et al.'s participants in the hostile-intentions observation received the instruction

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that if they fail they would have to fill out another time-consuming questionnaire, whereas if they would succeed smuggling the bag they had a higher chance of winning a monetary price of 100€. This potential gain or loss was used to motivate the actors to not stand out at the checkpoint and be detected. After reaching the end of the hallway and queuing up, the video ends.

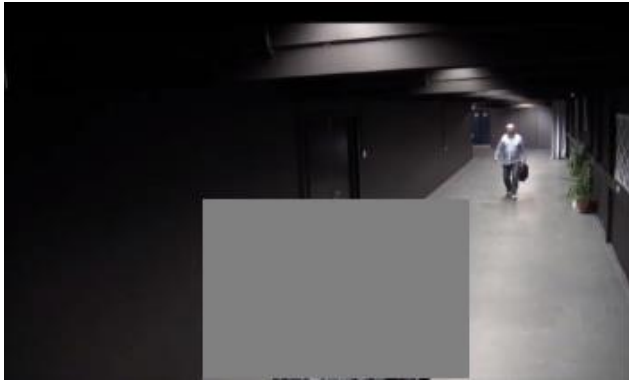


Figure 2.1. Screenshots of the example video 1

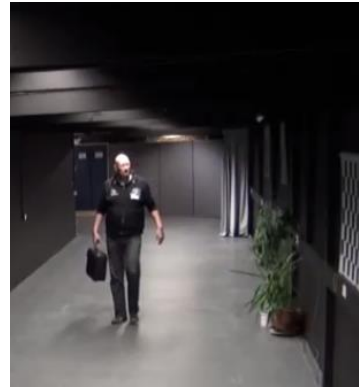


Figure 2.2. Close shot of the participant in the example video 2



Figure 3. Screenshot of the decision-screen

**Questionnaire.** In the qualitative part of this study, a questionnaire was used to find out which behavioural indicators were involved in the hostile vs. non-hostile decision (Appendix C). This was conducted through Qualtrics, containing a total 19 of questions. At the end of the study, the first questionnaire asks for demographics like age, gender and nationality as well as an examination of the participation in terms of for instance concentration (see Appendix C2). The second questionnaire, containing 12 questions, was used to gain insight into the behavioural indicators determining hostile intentions. First, an open question was placed to find out what features the participant used. The open question: "What behavioural indicators did you use for your decision?" is followed by multiple-choice questions (for further information see Appendix D). These are about either indicators for hostile intentions or in the second half for innocence

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and another open question to see if anything remaining is not included but was important in the decision (“*Are there any other behavioural indicators that are not mentioned above but were important during your decision while watching the videos?*”).

These questions were based on the answers people gave in a previously conducted pilot study together with the before mentioned results regarding behavioural indicators according to Vrij (2000). For this pilot study, four different persons were asked to watch eight, individually chosen, random videos and make notes about which behavioural indicators they used during their decision making. Here, hostile and non-hostile indicators were asked, which ended as the basis for the final questionnaire.

Multiple answers were possible to the questions, as for instance: “*Did you use the body language of the person as an indication for hostile intentions?*”, “*Did you use the person's walking style as an indicator of innocence?*” (see for the total questionnaire Appendix D). Furthermore, the scales of neuroticism & agreeableness of the personality test NEO-PI-R were included which is part of a related study. These results will not be discussed and analysed any further in this current study.

### **Procedure**

The judges were invited to the university facilities and told that they were going to watch some videos. In the beginning, a brief explanation was given about the purpose of the research followed by the informed consent via Qualtrics (see Appendix A). After signing the informed consent, a short instruction was given based on the original study of Wijn et al. (2017). Since the original instruction integrated into the Matlab file is in Dutch, this was translated into English and included in Qualtrics (see Appendix B). This informs the judges that half of the people displayed in the videos carry a bag with a bomb whereas the other half carried books through the hallway. Matlab was opened and the participants viewed the original instruction. After this, the participants had the chance to practice the procedure with five example videos to get familiar with the study.

Then a summary of the instructions is shown, the videos start, followed by the decision screen where the “yes” or “no” answer was recorded for each video. After the first half, a screen pops up to explain to the participant that he or she can do a short break before finishing the study. Then Matlab has closed automatically and the participant had to give heads up so that the researcher could come and open Qualtrics were the remaining questionnaires were shown.

After this, a short debriefing was given to the participant. It was explained, via Qualtrics, that a manipulating cue (the walkie-talkie sound), as well as a cognitive load (counting steps),

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was used during the videos as well as the expectations of having better detecting rates with these (see Appendix 2.5). At the end of the procedure, the participants had the opportunity to fill their email in a list to provide them with feedback on their hit rate. The study lasted around 90 minutes in total.

### **Analysis**

**Quantitative Part.** To analyse the found data mixed methods were applied. To start off, with the quantitative part of the study to answer the hypotheses, no participant was excluded from our data set. Furthermore, 9 videos had to be deleted due to unknown conditions, resulting in a total of 143 videos. Then the raw data from Matlab was exported for each participant to Excel. As feedback for the participants on how good they scored, their hit rates and false alarms were calculated. Then the data of the descriptive statistics and frequencies of aspects age, gender and nationality were imported from Qualtrics to SPSS. All calculated values were rounded to the second number after the decimal point.

Then, the answers of the participants in form of yes and no were recoded into the new variables called miss, hit, false alarms and correct rejections distinguished by the conditions of the videos (cue x load, no cue x no load, load x no cue, cue x no load). Then the means were calculated per category and used for the ANOVA. Factorial repeated-measurements ANOVA's were conducted with cue and load as independent variables as well as hits, misses, false alarms or correct rejections as dependent variables.

Moreover, the signal detection theory by Zhang and Müller (2005) was used as a basis (see Table 2). Here, there are two categories, namely how the participants 'rated' as well as the true 'intention' of the persons in the video. The answers are, therefore, rated as guilty (yes) or not guilty (no) for both. This results into a hit, when the participant rated the person as guilty and they are actually guilty and miss if one is not rated as guilty but is indeed guilty. A false alarm is when the judge decided that this person is carrying a bomb although, in fact, they are not. Lastly, a correct rejection is when the judge correctly decided the person in the video does not have hostile intentions.

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Table 2

*Hits and Misses*

		INTENTION	
		yes	no
RATED	yes	HIT	FALSE ALARM
	no	MISS	CORRECT REJECTION

To find out the individual scores of the participants to be able to give them feedback the hit rates (H) and false alarm rates (F) were imported from Matlab to Excel. Hit rates consist of the number of people rated guilty divided through the number of people with a hostile intention. The false alarm rates are calculated by dividing the number of people rated as guilty with the number of people with a non-hostile intention.

**Qualitative Part.** To answer the research question, the answers to the questionnaires regarding the behavioural indicators were analysed. This can be divided into the analysis of the open questions as well as the multiple-choice questionnaire.

**Open Question.** With a deductive approach, the answers to the open questions were coded with the program Atlas.ti 8. To ensure inter-rater reliability, this coding process was conducted independently by two researchers. It was not necessary to exclude any of the answers. First, the answers were first of all categorized according to the condition, so either hostile intentions or innocence. Due to the small length of the total answers, the whole set was coded once by both researchers. To ensure the intersubjectivity, only similar codes were used for further analysis. As overarching categories, the subject areas from the results of the pilot study were used as a basis, and advanced categories were created when something new was mentioned. Then, the coding was conducted once more with the final coding scheme (see Appendix F). Important to mention is that the behavioural indicators or group of these were only coded once per answer, meaning that even if the participant mentioned them more often it is only counted once.

In the end, after independently coding all answers, the two investigators ended up with a per cent agreement of 77.7% and high inter-rater reliability (Krippendorff's c-Alpha binary 0.839), analyses with Atlas.ti. Here, Krippendorff's alpha is used since it assesses the interrater-

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agreement, corrected for chance agreement and Cronbach's alpha measures more the internal consistency of a unidimensional scale.

Regarding the analysis of the coding, first frequency tables were created to have an overview of the total frequency of the code groups. Moreover, the percentages were used as a basis for comparison to answer the research question regarding the behavioural indicators. The frequency tables are used to compare the comments about hostile as well as non-hostile behaviour.

**Multiple Choice Questionnaire.** Since the MC-Questionnaire had the option of choosing multiple responses as an answer, a multiple response analysis was conducted to partly answer the research question regarding the behavioural indicators. Therefore, the results of Qualtrics were transferred to SPSS and frequency tables were created for each question. By this, insight was gained in which aspects determined if a person was judged as carrying a bomb or only books.

## Results

### Quantitative Part

**Concentration.** In order to test in how far the participants were able to concentrate while watching the videos, a five-point Likert scale was used to test their participation level with three questions (see Figure 3). When looking at the answer, no outliers were found. Regarding how serious they took the study, one can say that the participants showed overall agreement with the statement ( $M = 4.61$ ,  $SD = 0.50$ ). When looking at the concentration of the participants ( $M = 3.57$ ,  $SD = 0.95$ ), the majority agreed that they were able to do so (60% for Agree), still five people disagreed (22%). For the last question, most of the participants were not distracted while taking part in the study ( $M = 4$ ,  $SD = 0.85$ ). The majority agreed to the statement (56.5%).



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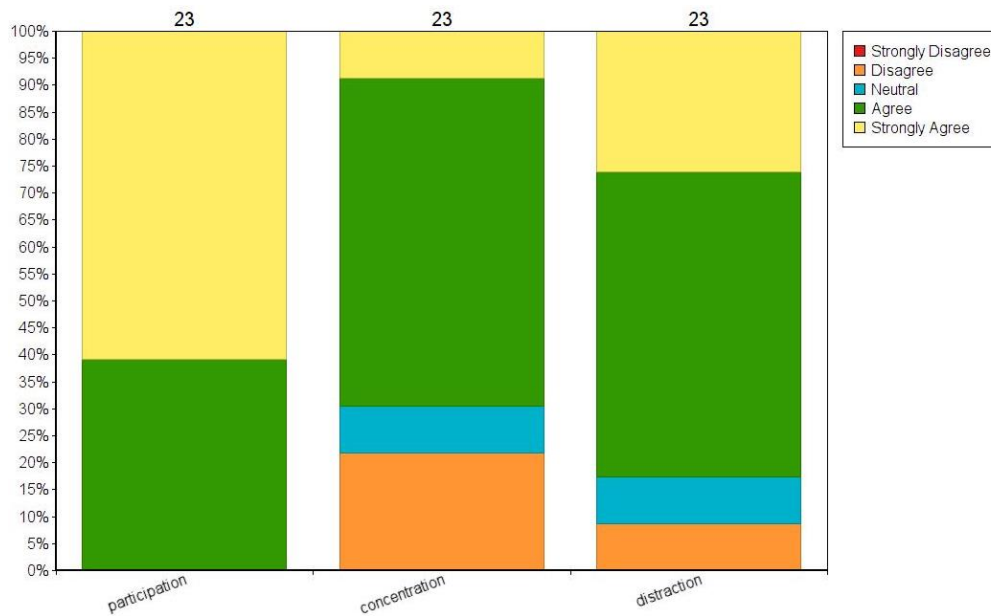


Figure 3. Participation Questionnaire

**Hits and Misses.** When looking at the descriptive statistics of the hits and misses, it is apparent that the misses are most common ( $M = 0.63$ ,  $SD = 0.14$ ). This is followed by the correct rejections ( $M = 0.6$ ,  $SD = 0.13$ ), with hits as the least common one (see Table 3). So, most participants detected non-guilty persons correctly but true guilty people wrongly. Moreover, more people were judged as having hostile intentions than they actually had.

Table 3

*Descriptive Statistics of Hits and Misses*

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
hits	23	.07	.58	0.37	0.14
misses	23	.42	.93	0.63	0.14
false alarms	23	.06	.57	0.40	0.13
correct rejections	23	.43	.94	0.6	0.13

**Detection of hostile intent.** The factorial repeated measures ANOVA showed no statistically significant effect of cue or load on either hits, misses, false alarms or correct rejections (displayed in Table 4). The calculations for the hits and misses as well as the false alarms and correct rejections resulted in the same numbers, therefore they are displayed together in Table 4.

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No significant main effect was found of cue on the hits and misses,  $F(1,18) = 0.72, p = .407$ , as well as the false alarms and correct rejections,  $F(1,18) = 3.72, p = .07$ . So, detection rates of the participants were not better when the person seen in the video received the cue of the walkie talkie noise in comparison to no given cue. This is similar for the cognitive load, here also no statistically significant main effect was found (see Table 4). This means that when the people had to count their steps, judges were not better able to decide if this person carries a bomb in their bag or not.

When looking at the interaction between cue and load (see Table 4), no significant interaction effect was found for the hits and misses ( $p = .33$ ) as well as for the false alarms and correct rejections ( $p = .68$ ). Overall, this means that the findings of Wijn et al.'s (2017) could not be replicated. So, no significant differences were found for the factors cue and load, which was the original hypothesis of Wijn et al. (2017).

Table 4  
*Tests of Within-Subject Effects of ANOVA*

Factor	Hits & Misses			False Alarms & Correct rejections		
	df	F	p	df	F	p
Cue	(1,18)	0.72	.41	(1,18)	3.72	.07
Load	(1,18)	0.90	.35	(1,18)	1.65	.22
Cue x Load	(1,18)	1.02	.33	(1,18)	0.18	.68

### Qualitative Part

**Multiple Response Analysis.** For the research question "*Which behavioural indicators of a person determine if the judges decide that they have hostile intentions?*", the answers regarding the non-verbal behaviour of people carrying a bomb or books were examined. For each question, there is one table including the frequencies split up in the two conditions of hostile and non-hostile intentions.

**Body Language.** Firstly, the condition of the hostile role was explored starting off with the indicator body language. Here it is remarkable, that the indicator about seeming uncomfortable was mentioned most often (19.2%; 65.2%, see Table 5). Furthermore, people mentioned that trying to behave normally was an important aspect (17%) as well as looking relaxed (14%) and being conspicuous, where the latter two are mentioned both by 11 people. This indicates that all mentioned aspects regarding body language are important for the decision, with seeming uncomfortable and trying to behave normally being most indicative.

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Table 5

*Frequencies for Question 1 (body language), hostile intentions*

		Responses		% of Cases
		N	Per cent	
body language (hos. int.)	The person was trying to look relaxed.	11	14.1%	47.8%
	The person was trying too much to behave normally.	13	16.7%	56.5%
	The person tried to hide him- or herself.	9	11.5%	39.1%
	The person seemed uncomfortable.	15	19.2%	65.2%
	The person seemed concerned.	9	11.5%	39.1%
	The person displayed closed body language.	9	11.5%	39.1%
	The person's behaviour was conspicuous.	11	14.0%	47.8%
	I used none of the above.	1	1.3%	4.3%
Total		78	100%	339.1%

When looking at the aspect of body language in the innocence questionnaire, it is remarkable that here behaving normally (16%) and feeling comfortable (18.5%) are also mentioned the most (see Table 6). This is followed by being relaxed (N = 14) and not being concerned (N = 13). So, the opposite of the indicators of hostile intentions applies to being innocent.

Table 6

*Frequencies for Question 1 (body language), innocence*

		Responses		% of Cases
		N	Percent	
body language (innocence)	The person was relaxed.	14	15.2%	60.9%
	The person behaved normally.	16	17.4%	69.6%
	The person did not try to hide him- or herself.	11	12%	47.8%
	The person seemed comfortable.	17	18.5%	73.9%
	The person did not seem concerned.	13	14.1%	56.5%
	The person displayed open body language.	8	8.7%	34.8%
	The person's behaviour was unobtrusive.	3	3.3%	13%
	The person behaved confidently.	10	10.9%	43.5%
I used none of the above.		0	0%	0%
Total		92	100%	400%

**Looking Behaviour.** For the indicator 'looking behaviour', regarding the hostile intentions condition, it is apparent that looking backwards, towards the sides and around are mentioned more or less equal, ranging between 16-14 per cent (see Table 7). So, apparently, all

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of these were seen as indicators of carrying a bomb, contradicting to the results regarding the innocent condition. Here, although less often, looking towards the sides was mentioned most (9%). Still, a total of ten people said that they used none of the aspects (see Appendix G, Table 13).

Table 7

*Frequencies for Question 2 (looking behaviour), hostile intentions*

		Responses		% of Cases
		N	Percent	
looking behaviour (hos.int.)	The person was looking backwards.	16	34%	69.6%
	The person was looking towards the sides.	15	31.9%	65.2%
	The person was looking around.	14	29.8%	60.9%
	I used none of the above.	2	4.3%	8.7%
Total		47	100%	204.3%

**Use of Hands.** The third question dealt with the use of hands of the persons with the result that fiddling at their clothes was used as an indicator for hostile intentions with 40.6% (see Appendix G, see Table 14). Regarding this category, for the innocent condition, no aspect resulted in more than ten responses (Appendix G, Table 15).

Table 8

*Frequencies for Question 3 (walking style), hostile intentions*

		Responses		% of Cases
		N	Percent	
walking style (hos.int.)	The person was walking slowly.	13	23.2%	56.5%
	The person was walking too fast.	11	19.6%	47.8%
	The person had a tense way of walking	14	25%	60.9%
	The person walked down the hallway in a straight line.	6	10.7%	26.1%
	The person's walking style was determined.	10	17.9%	43.5%
	I used none of the above.	2	3.6%	8.7%
Total		56	100%	243.5%

**Walking Style.** For the category 'walking style' more responses were recorded for the different aspects of hostile intentions, included in Table 8. A tense way of walking was indicated most often as an important aspect with 25%, together with a slow walking style (23.2%). This is followed by walking too fast with eleven responses and a determined walking style (10

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responses). For the innocent part of this question, 23 responses were recorded for *"The person had a normal way of walking"*, so a total of 57.5 per cent (see Appendix G, Table 16).

**Facial Expressions.** The last category included the facial expressions of the people seen in the videos (Table 9). Here, for the hostile intentions, having tense facial expressions was distinctive for the decision of the judges (16, 25%). Avoiding eye contact and looking at the ground were other important indicators (both 21.9%, 14). Lastly, trying to look cool was a response from ten people (see Table 9). Regarding the indicators of innocence, 19 judges mentioned that having relaxed facial expressions is decisive for being innocent (see Appendix G, Table 17). Smiling was mentioned by 14 persons as a sign of having no bomb in their bag. This total of around 39 % is in contrast to the 11% that choose smiling as a sign for having a bomb.

Table 9

*Frequencies for Question 3 (facial expressions), hostile intentions*

		Responses		% of Cases
		N	Per cent	
facial expression (hos.int.)	The person was smiling.	7	10.9%	30.4%
	The person was avoiding eye contact.	14	21.9%	60.9%
	The person was looking at the ground.	14	21.9%	60.9%
	The person was trying to look cool.	10	15.6%	43.5%
	The person had tense facial expressions.	16	25%	69.6%
	I used none of the above.	3	4.7%	13%
Total		64	100%	278.3%

**Open Question.** In total, 31 responses were collected regarding the open question: *"What behavioural indicators did you use for your decision?"*. These answers ranged from shortest 2 words to 75 words for the longest one. For the second open question regarding remaining behavioural indicators, only two persons gave an answer, speaking about the interaction of the person seen in the video. The rest of the participants did not mention something additional after the multiple response questions.

When coding the 525 words in total, eight codes developed (see Table 10). Participants mentioned most often that they used the 'looking behaviour' of the person (24 %) as an indicator for hostile intentions. This includes, for instance, looking *"around; all over the place; into the camera"* or *"repeated left/right looks"*. Next, the walking style was mentioned 14 times, including consistency, speed and disruptions. *"Unusual speed"*, walking *"too fast; overly slow; very energetic"* or the *"goal-directedness"* were mentioned here.

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Next, the body language, namely their impression of the person or more general movements, was the third mentioned indicator. Here, answers varied from seeming *"nervous; guilty or rather insecure"* to *"fast, twitched movements; statistic walking posture"* or being *"overconfident"*.

Regarding the way the person held their bag, 10 % mentioned that, for instance, *"put[ting] down their bag"* or *"the bag loosely hanging or held with firm grip"* as a sign that the person was having a bomb with them. Moreover, someone mentioned that he/she thought *"if you have explosives you probably not want them just standing around"*. Their facial expressions and use of hands were mentioned with a similar number, eight and seven times. Here, *"looking tedious; grinning for no apparent reason"* and *"extreme smiling"* were seen as having hostile intentions.

Also, the code "innocence" was applied twice, including that either not doing something *"obvious"* or *"talking to other people waiting"* made them seem innocent. This is contradicting to other answers since three people indicated that this interaction was for them an indicator for hostile intentions. Moreover, seeming *"trustworthy when started smiling"* was used, which others saw as negative was mentioned in terms of innocence.

Lastly, three people mentioned the interaction the person had with others in the scene was an indication for carrying a bomb. Either *"how close to another person the person stopped"* or *"seeking contact with other people"* in line was decisive.

Table 10

*Frequencies of Open Question (total = 68)*

Coding categories	Frequency	Percentage
looking behaviour	16x	23.5 %
walking style	14x	20.6 %
body language	11x	16.2 %
facial expression	8x	11.8 %
bag	7x	10.3%
use of hands	7x	10.3 %
interaction	3x	4.4 %
innocence	2x	2.9 %

## Discussion

### Main findings

**Conclusion.** Overall, one can conclude that the findings of this research do not confirm the results of the original study of Wijn and colleagues (2007). The environmental cue or cognitive load had no main effect or interaction effect on the ability of the observers to correctly detect hostile intentions. Originally hypothesized was first that the risk of exposure, signalled by the cue, would lead to a higher detection accuracy, which is proven to be rejected based on the results. Moreover, the probability of judging correctly was not higher when the participants had to count their steps, so the second hypothesis about the cognitive load is also rejected.

When looking at the distribution of the hits and misses, it is apparent that most participants missed the actual wrongdoer in the sense that they falsely judged an innocent person as guilty. This was followed by the ‘correct rejections’, so rightly determine the innocent person. Most unlikely were the hits, so the least people were able to correctly detect the person having hostile intentions. Therefore, both hypotheses can be rejected, which is contradicting to the results of Wijn et al. (2017), who concluded that ”cues that may signal exposure can improve the detection of hostile intention [...] provided that potential wrongdoers have a relatively high cognitive load” (p.18, Wijn et al., 2017).

Moreover, this paper had the intention to gain more insight into the behavioural indicators accompanying hostile intentions. Here, the results of the multiple-choice questionnaire as well as the coding of the open question revealed that there are several indicating factors. For the open question, the way a person looks was most indicative for participants regarding if a person is carrying mock explosives with them. Also, their walking style as well as their body language determined if the participants judged them as guilty or innocent.

This is in contrast to the results of the multiple response questions since the indicators ‘looking behaviour’ and ‘walking style’ were only mentioned in the top three. For this method, body language was mentioned as the most important. This can be explained by the order of the questions since the open question was to start of what you think you used for your decision, whereas the multiple response questions go more into depth about the different specific indicators. For the questions regarding innocence, body language was also the most mentioned indicator in the open question, followed by the walking style of the person, which is rated here, in this condition, as much more important than for the hostile intentions.

When looking more closely into the results of the multiple response questionnaire, no differences were found between the indicators of innocence and the one with hostile intentions.

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In most of the aspects, somehow contrary aspects, for instance, walking slowly and walking too fast were chosen by the participants. Body language, i.e. feeling uncomfortable or trying to behave normally, were indicative of carrying a bomb as well as looking to all kinds of directions. Moreover, participants used the way of walking and use of hands as behavioural indicators. The only contrast between the innocent and guilty condition was seen when it came to the behaviour of smiling, which was judged in both directions.

Concluding, when it comes to the results of the behavioural indicators it is difficult to name specific aspects one could use to determine if a person is carrying a bomb or not. Results showed that many different aspects were a basis for the decision of the participant, but no specific indicator was standing out.

**Specific Points. Deception Detection.** In the following, the found results regarding the behavioural indicators are compared to the existing literature in this field. Firstly, participants stated that when the person was avoiding eye contact, this was an indication for them that they had something to hide. Previous research about eye movement concerning deception has stated diverse opinions. Some researchers describe that truth-telling implies a longer duration in eye contact (Knapp et al. as cited in Hocking & Leathers, 1980), but, for instance, McClintock and Hunt argue that, while deceiving, one has more eye contact and lastly Matarazzo examined that there is no difference in eye contact (both cited in Hocking & Leathers, 1980).

In the current study, participants also mentioned the looking behaviour of the people in the videos. Looking backwards, to the ground or the sides were, for the participants, an indicator of carrying a bomb. This can be connected to the programme Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP), which uses the position of the eyes as an indication if the person is lying or not (Bandler & Grinder, 1975). Results of NLP argue that humans tend to look to the left when they remember past events, whereas looking to the right is more connected to constructing a false truth to conceal one's lies. Although this is a widely spread theory (Hocking & Leather, 19808), the scientific evidence for this is weak and replications could not find support for these findings (Witkowski, 2010).

Another indicator mentioned was the facial expression, which is in line with research that claims that through facial movements, in terms of contracting or relaxing, one can detect deception better. For this, the Facial Action Coding System (FACS) is used to monitor differences in facial expressions during deceiving (Ekman, Friesen & Hager, 2002). Mondal and her colleagues (2018) argue that conscious activation in the facial muscles is used to mask one's emotions, which would be, in the present case, the fear of being detected. This is also in line with the research of Ekman and Friesen (1969), who identify that the face is an important



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but challenging source for deception since the deceiver has the most ability to control his face. However, the wrongdoer has less control over his outer extremities, e.g. legs or feet, which bring us to another indicator: body language.

Literature shows that a decrease in leg and foot movements, as well as hand and arm movements, are nonverbal behaviour indicators, and, in general, the overall liveliness is reduced (Hocking & Leathers, 1980; Vrij, 1996). Also, in deceivers, fewer head movements are displayed, which is contrary to the results found in this study. Participants mentioned a lot of movement, from fiddling on one's clothes to the way the person in the video was holding their bag. As a meta-analysis shows, this can be explained due to their misbelief that people who want to hide something are nervous, which, in their imagination, would lead to the increased movement (DePaulo, 1992; DePaulo et al., 1985; Ekman, 1989 cited in Vrij, 1996). However, this is actually not the case.

Lastly, one has to keep in mind that there is no consistent pattern of behaviour when it comes to deception and carrying hostile intentions. Not only personality differences but also the individual ability to monitor one's behaviour influences the probability of detecting hostile intentions. These individual differences make it difficult to create a general and reliable source of deceit detection.

**Replication.** When looking at the fact that this current research was a replication of the study Wijn and colleagues (2017), one has to have a look at how closely it was conducted to the original one. One main aspect here is that the study of Wijn and others (2017) was conducted in Dutch, thus, the instruction, as well as the decision screen, were written in Dutch. Although all these texts were translated into English and the participant was instructed about this language issue, it could have still influenced the study.

**Concentration.** Results of the participation questionnaire indicated that the participants took the study seriously, were overall able to concentrate and were not distracted. This is somehow contradicting to the feedback the researchers got from the participants as well as the personal expectations. The study took the participants a total of 90 minutes, wherefrom 60-70 minutes entailed watching the videos. These clips were rather monotonous, watching a person walking down the same hallway for about 160 times. Although after half of the videos, there was the possibility to take a break, participants explained that they wanted to 'get it over with quickly' and only one person made actually use of the offered break. Therefore, it was expected that the rates for the question regarding the concentration would be lower. The study by Cornish and Dukette (2009) indicates that adults can focus their attention for approximately twenty

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minutes. Due to individual differences in attention, it is difficult to claim a fixed amount of time, still, a total of 90 minutes of the current study exceeds this number by far.

Nevertheless, although some people answered with disagree on the question about their concentration, the overall score showed that they agreed. This could be the result of a social desirability bias, meaning that people did not answer honestly but more in the way of what answer they thought would be expected of them (Stuart & Grimes, 2009). This response bias interferes with the truth since the participant tends to answer in a manner to be seen favourably by the researchers. Most of the participants were psychology students, also currently writing their bachelor thesis and, due to that, knew about what makes a good study and what does not. One explanation, therefore, could be that they expected the reliability of the questionnaire to decrease if they stated they were not concentrated. Still, the questionnaire was anonymous, whereas the feedback was given personally to the researchers, so the social desirability bias only partly explains the received feedback. Since the participants admitted personally that it was really hard for them to focus, it is difficult to find a clear explanation for the difference between the results and the feedback.

Moreover, the original study used a grey square in the videos to cover up the person preceding in the queue, probably to not distract the participant so he or she was able to fully concentrate on the person walking the hallway. For this study, it was more contrary meaning that most participants were distracted and asked the researcher if it was a problem with the PC or it is intended.

### **Strengths & Suggestions**

The main strength of this research is the aspect that it is a replication of the study of Wijn et al. (2017). Close communication was possible with the researchers of this paper and instructions were used from the original study to reconstruct the study as accurately as possible. The field of psychology is currently experiencing a lack of replications and, if they are done, they are likely to be unsuccessful or differ from the original as in this study (Maxwell, Lau & Howard, 2015). Especially with topics like the one of deception, where less research is available, it is important to be certain of the results since these also have consequences for the real world.

Imagine you are walking nervously at the airport (due to reasons like fear of flying) and some SPOT officers stop you and wrongly claim you are carrying a bomb, for instance, based on your facial expressions. This is something one wants to avoid such a controversial aspect like deception detection. As Weinberger (2010) concludes, the field should be cautious about

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posting evidence that does not have high enough statistical power so one can speak, for instance, about universal behavioural indicators. With replications, this power is enhanced, and this study attempted to do so. Wijn et al. (2017) suggested in their paper to focus future research on the actual behaviour of wrongdoers portraying hostile intentions, which is done in this study. Therefore, more insight is gained in the ability to detect such intentions, which highlights the contribution of this paper to the development of knowledge in the field of behavioural detection methodologies.

To further enhance the strength and validity of this study, some suggestions are formulated to gain more insight into deception detection. The main suggestion based on the aforementioned issues with this replication study is to improve and adapt the study setting. This research was already conducted two times (Fokkens, 2018; Schenk, 2018; Wijn et al., 2017) resulting in non-significant results. Here, the feedback of the participants, as well as information from other literature, could enhance the reliability and validity of the study setting.

Another suggestion is regarding the duration of the study. Some participants mentioned they would have liked some indication on the screen in terms of how far they already are or how many videos are left. Here, one could include, for instance, a bar showing the progress or using percentages of how many videos are left (for instance in steps: 25%, 50% and so on). With this, the motivation and effort of the participants could be increased which may have been a problem which caused the non-significant results. Another suggestion could be to include larger sample size and, therefore, reduce the number of videos to achieve higher concentration and still maintain high reliability and validity.

Furthermore, the environment of the stimulus material is another aspect that could be improved. As Wijn (2017) already mentions in his response to the critics, the videos only show a controlled environment with no real terrorists carrying a bomb. He suggests that future research should be conducted in more naturalistic settings. In the videos of Wijn et al. (2017) the neutral hallway has no associations with an environment where behavioural detection methodologies are normally used. Therefore, Pérez-Rosas et al. (2015) did exactly this, they observed people in a real-life setting, namely TV street interviews, and this resulted in a better than chance level detection of deception. This might be more fitting for lying than hostile intentions, but it already shows what influence an environmental change can have.

The aspect of the environment can also be connected to what Wijn et al. (2017) mention as a limitation in the original study, namely, that their participants may not have experienced hostile intentions due to the absence of the egoistic interpretation of situational cues. When the

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experimental assistant is not able to empathize with the role of a terrorist, this could also influence how far the observes can decide if this person is portraying hostile intentions.

Making videos in, for instance, the setting of an airport or on the train would be more fitting to the experiment. With this, it could increase the experience of hostile intentions, which in turn could also increase the ability to correctly identify people that are carrying a bomb. With these adjustments, the people would not only execute the instruction of carrying a bomb but would sense to some extent how it actually feels to be a deceiver wanting to hide from the security officers. Moreover, one could arrange a different camera angle not including the proceeding person in the queue to not distract, as mentioned by the participants, so there is no need to cover it up with the grey square.

In conclusion, one can say that it is difficult to answer the question: How much information is needed to predict the correct detection of hostile intentions? And, what are the specific behavioural indicators what person use for this detection? To answer this, more research needs to be done to compare the different indicators. Moreover, the field of deception has to focus its research on the question if environmental cues can increase the sensitivity of people to correctly detect hostile intentions.

Lastly, the growing concern regarding the replication crisis shows how urgent it is to recreate studies to enhance the statistical power and to be certain about the results. Finding out more about deception, so it can be used as a valid basis for behavioural detection methodologies, is necessary to decrease terrorism in the future. Therefore, instead of misusing the evidence found, it should be used as support to increase sensitivity in the handling, for instance, of passengers at airports.

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## **Appendix**

### **Appendix A. Informed Consent**

#### **INFORMED CONSENT**

This research is conducted by Julie Müller and Lisa Ebben. We invite you to participate in this research project, which is part of our bachelor's thesis. We are investigating whether people are able to detect hostile intentions. Research already showed that people are indeed quite good at spotting malicious intent, but insight is not yet gained in the indicators that people use to decide whether someone has hostile intentions. In our study, we therefore want to gain more information about what people focus on when determining if someone has hostile intentions. Furthermore, we are examining the role of personality traits and gender in the ability to detect.

#### **Procedures**

You will participate in a study lasting approximately 90 minutes. You will watch videos of people walking down a hallway with a laptop case towards a security checkpoint where the person's bag will be checked by a security man. Either their bags contain something illegal (a bomb) or legal (books) and it is up to you to decide whether people are carrying the bomb (i.e. have hostile intentions), or the books. Afterwards you will be asked to fill in a questionnaire. Please be aware that you need to be at least 18 years old to participate in our study.

#### **Potential Risks or Discomforts**

There are no obvious physical, legal or economic risks associated with participating in this study. You do not have to answer any questions you do not wish to answer. Your participation is completely voluntary and you are free to discontinue your participation at any time.

#### **Confidentiality**

Your privacy will be protected to the maximum extent allowable by law. No personally identifiable information will be reported in any research product. Moreover, only trained research staff will have access to your responses. Within these restrictions, results of this study will be made available to you upon request. At the start of the research your name will be replaced by a pseudonym; your name will be coded. At the end of the study you can put your email on a list, if you wish to receive your results of the study.

## STATEMENT OF CONSENT

Your signature indicates that you are at least 18 years of age; you have read this consent form or have had it read to you; your questions have been answered to your satisfaction and you voluntarily agree that you will participate in this research study. I agree to participate in a research project led by Julie Müller & Lisa Ebben. The purpose of this document is to specify the terms of my participation in the project through being interviewed.

1. I have been given sufficient information about this research project. The purpose of my participation in this project has been explained to me and is clear.
2. My participation in this project is voluntary. There is no explicit or implicit coercion whatsoever to participate.
3. I have the right not to answer any of the questions. If I feel uncomfortable in any way during the research, I have the right to withdraw from the study.
4. I have been given the explicit guarantees that, if I wish so, the researcher will not identify me by name or function in any reports using information obtained from this study, and that my confidentiality as a participant in this study will remain secure.
5. I have been given the guarantee that this research project has been reviewed and approved by Julie Müller & Lisa Ebben and by the BMS Ethics Committee. For research problems or any other question regarding the research project, the Secretary of the Ethics Commission of the faculty Behavioural, Management and Social Sciences at University Twente may be contacted through [ethicscommittee-bms@utwente.nl](mailto:ethicscommittee-bms@utwente.nl).
6. I have read and understood the points and statements of this form. I have had all my questions answered to my satisfaction, and I voluntarily agree to participate in this study.

If you have any complaints about this research, please direct them to the secretary of the Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Behavioural, Management and Social Sciences at the University of Twente, Drs. L. Kamphuis-Blikman P.O. Box 217, 7500 AE Enschede (NL), telephone: +31 (0) 53 489 3399; Email: [I.j.m.blikman@utwente.nl](mailto:I.j.m.blikman@utwente.nl)). For general questions about the participation, confidentiality or data processing, direct them to Julie Müller, [j.c.muller@student.utwente.nl](mailto:j.c.muller@student.utwente.nl)

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### **Appendix B. Instruction**

#### **INSTRUCTION**

Every answer you give in this research will be dealt with confidentially and anonymously. Please do not discuss with other people during this research.

This research is about recognising incidents. The goal is that you will try to recognise deviant (odd) behaviour. This is the behaviour that precedes an incident.

In a few minutes, you will watch a lot of short videos. In these videos, you will see people who are participating in a research to test the security of the Marechaussee (an institute that is concerned with the security of the Netherlands).

Each person in the videos carries a laptop bag. *Half of the people carry a bag with an explosive*, which they try to smuggle past the Marechaussee.

**We would like to know if you are able to detect who these people are, by looking at who is showing deviant behaviour.**

You will get a point for every explosive-smuggler you recognise correctly, but one point will be subtracted each time you think an innocent person is a smuggler.

Please look at the behaviour of the people very carefully. Sometimes it may feel as if you are taking a wild guess. Still, try to do it seriously and trust on your intuition.

You will first see 5 videos to practice with.

A tip: pay special attention to the last part of the hallway, where the black and white chequered board is hanging on the right side. Here you will sometimes see more deviant behaviour.

When you are ready and have understood the instructions, please give the researcher a sign.

## Appendix C. Questionnaires

### Appendix C1. Demographics

Table 11

*Questionnaire 1: Demographics of students*

<i>Question</i>	<i>Answer</i>
How old are you?	____ (OQ)
What gender are you?	Female, Male, Other
What nationality are you?	Dutch, German, Other: namely ____ (OQ)
What do you study?	Psychology, Other: namely ____ (OQ)

### Appendix C2. Participation & Concentration

- I took my participation in this study seriously.
  - Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly Disagree
- During the study, it was able to concentrate.
  - Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly Disagree
- During the study, I was not distracted.
  - Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly Disagree

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### Appendix D. Behavioural Indicators

#### *Behavioural Indicators*

What behavioural indicators did you use for your decision?

Please shortly describe which features of the person you used to decide that he or she has hostile intentions.

#### **BEHAVIOURAL INDICATORS**

In the following, we want to find out how specifically people can detect hostile intentions. We are interested in the bodily indicators that show the observer if a person carries a bomb or only books.

Therefore, please try to remember these clips again and think about what you used to make your decision and then fill out the following questions.



#### **INDICATORS OF HOSTILE INTENTIONS**

Some short multiple-choice questions are presented about which features you used to determine if a **person carries an explosive** with them. Please indicate whether you used each of these in at least one of the videos. For each question you can check multiple features. Did you use the **body language** of the person as an indication for hostile intentions?

If yes, which of the below were applicable?

- The person was trying to look relaxed.
- The person was trying too much to behave normally.
- The person tried to hide him- or herself.
- The person seemed uncomfortable.
- The person seemed concerned.
- The person displayed closed body language.
- The person's behaviour was conspicuous.

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- I used none of the above.

Did you use the **looking behaviour** of the person as an indication for hostile intentions?

If yes, which of the below were applicable?

- The person was looking backwards.
- The person was looking towards the sides.
- The person was looking around.
- I used none of the above.

Did you use the person's **use of hands** as an indicator?

If yes, which of the below were applicable?

- The person was fiddling at their clothes.
- The person had their hands in their pockets.
- The person put their bag on the ground when reaching the checkpoint.
- I used none of the above.

Did you use the person's **walking style** as an indicator?

If yes, which of the below were applicable?

- The person was walking slowly.
- The person was walking too fast.
- The person had a tense way of walking.
- The person walked down the hallway in a straight line.
- The person's walking style was determined.
- I used none of the above.

Did you use the **facial expressions** of the person as an indicator for hostile intentions?

If yes, which of the below were applicable?

- The person was smiling.
- The person was avoiding eye contact.
- The person was looking at the ground.
- The person was trying to look cool.
- The person had tense facial expressions.
- I used none of the above.

## INDICATORS OF INNOCENCE

We would now like to know which factors indicated for you that someone was **innocent** and **did not carry a bomb** with them.

Did you use the **body language** of the person as an indicator for innocence?

If yes, which of the below were applicable?

- The person was relaxed.
- The person behaved normally.
- The person did not try to hide him- or herself.
- The person seemed comfortable.
- The person did not seem concerned.
- The person displayed open body language.
- The person was unobtrusive.
- The person behaved confidently.
- I used none of the above.

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Did you use the **body gestures** of the person as an indicator for innocence?

If yes, which of the below were applicable?

- The person was looking backwards.
- The person was looking towards the sides.
- The person was looking around.
- I used none of the above.

Did you use the person's **looking behaviour** as an indicator for innocence?

If yes, which of the below were applicable?

- The person was fiddling at their clothes.
- The person had their hands in their pockets.
- The person put their bag on the ground when reaching the checkpoint.
- I used none of the above.

Did you use the person's **walking style** as an indicator for innocence?

If yes, which of the below were applicable?

- The person was walking slowly.
- The person was walking too fast.
- The person had a normal way of walking.
- The person walked down the hallway in a straight line.
- The person's walking style was determined.
- I used none of the above.

Did you use the **facial expressions** of the person as an indicator for innocence?

If yes, which of the below were applicable?

- The person was smiling.
- The person was avoiding eye contact.
- The person was looking at the ground.
- The person was trying to look cool.
- The person had relaxed facial expressions.
- I used none of the above.

## OTHER BEHAVIOURAL INDICATORS

Are there any other behavioural indicators that are not mentioned above but were important during your decision while watching the videos?

Please write them down below

---

## **Appendix E. Debriefing**

### **DEBRIEFING**

You came to the end of our study, thanks for your time and effort. Before ending your participation we want to inform you about some aspects of this study we did not tell you in the beginning in order to not influence your results.

The participants that you saw in the videos were manipulated by a cue: a static noise (similar to a walkie-talkie sound) was used when the participants walked by to influence their ability to hide their hostile intentions. Besides, we tried to increase participants' cognitive load by having them count their steps. With this cue and cognitive load manipulation, we expected that it would become harder for these participants to hide their hostile intent and, thus, that it would be easier for you to detect their hidden intentions.

If you have further questions please feel free to contact Julie Müller (j.c.muller@student.utwente.nl) or Lisa Ebben (l.ebben@student.utwente.nl).



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### Appendix F. Coding Scheme

Table 12

*Coding Scheme*

Coding Categories	Explanation	Example
<i>looking behaviour</i>		looking around (often, too much), all over the place, into the camera, repeated left/right looks
<i>walking style</i>		unusual speed of walking, too fast, overly slow, very energetic, goal-directedness when walking, taking longer than necessary
<i>body language</i>	body gestures/movements	fast, twitch movements, static walking posture, turning around, acting strange, overconfidence
	impression of person	nervous, guilty or rather insecure
<i>bag</i>	how the bag was held while walking	carried really stable, putting the case on the ground
<i>facial expression</i>		tentious or not, extreme smiling even though the person was alone
<i>use of hands</i>		touching face/hair/clothing, nervous hand-movements
<i>interaction</i>		how closely to another person stopped, seeking contact with other people, interaction with other people in the line
<i>innocent</i>		trustworthy when started smiling, talking to other people waiting at the elevator

**Appendix G. Frequency Tables**

Table 13

*Frequencies for Question 2 (looking behaviour), innocence*

		Responses		% of Cases
		N	Percent	
looking behaviour (innocence)	The person was looking backwards.	1	3.8%	4.3%
	The person was looking towards the sides.	9	34.6%	39.1%
	The person was looking around.	6	23.1%	26.1%
	I used none of the above.	10	38.5%	43.5%
Total		26	100%	113%

Table 14

*Frequencies for Question 3 (use of hands), hostile intentions*

		Responses		% of Cases
		N	Percent	
use of hands (hos.int.)	The person was fiddling at their clothes.	13	40.6%	56.5%
	The person had their hands in their pockets.	8	25%	34.8%
	The person put their bag on the ground when reaching the checkpoint.	7	21.9%	30.4%
	I used none of the above.	4	12.5%	17.4%
Total		32	100%	139.1%

Table 15

*Frequencies for Question 3 (use of hands), innocence*

		Responses		% of Cases
		N	Percent	
use of hands (innocence)	The person was fiddling at their clothes.	1	4.5%	4.5%
	The person had their hands in their pockets.	7	31.8%	31.8%
	The person put their bag on the ground when reaching the checkpoint.	5	22.7%	22.7%
	I used none of the above.	9	40.9%	40.9%
Total		22	100%	100%

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Table 16

*Frequencies for Question 3 (walking style), innocence*

		Responses		% of Cases
		N	Percent	
walking style (innocence)	The person was walking slowly.	5	12.5%	21.7%
	The person was walking too fast.	0	0%	0
	The person had a normal way of walking	23	57.5%	100%
	The person walked down the hallway in a straight line.	8	20%	34.8%
	The person's walking style was determined.	4	10%	17.4%
	I used none of the above.	0	0%	0
Total		40	100%	173.9%

Table 17

*Frequencies for Question 3 (facial expressions), innocence*

		Responses		% of Cases
		N	Percent	
facial expression (innocence)	The person was smiling.	14	38.9%	60.9%
	The person was avoiding eye contact.	0	0%	0
	The person was looking at the ground.	0	0%	0
	The person was trying to look cool.	1	2.8%	4.3%
	The person had relaxed facial expressions.	19	52.8%	82.6%
	I used none of the above.	2	5.6%	8.7%
Total		36	100%	156.5%