

To Be Fair... Investigating the drive towards fairness in task distribution

James W.A. Strachan, Georgina Török, Natalie Sebanz Central European University, Budapest, Hungary



INTRODUCTION

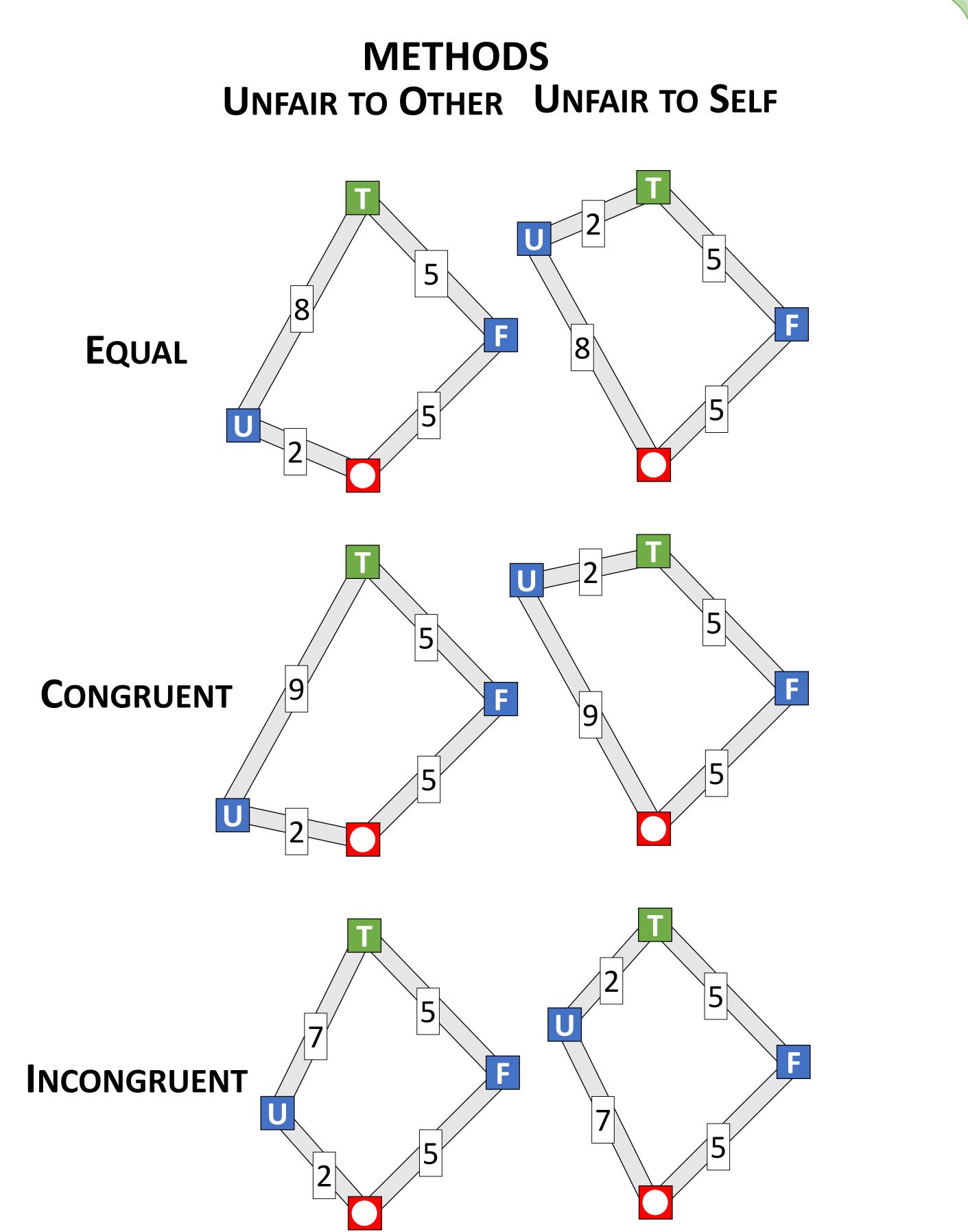
EFFICIENCY

- People have a drive towards maximising action efficiency
- If given a choice, people will choose the easier route for themselves
- In joint actions, people will maximise efficiency of joint action, sometimes compromising individual efficiency

FAIRNESS

- People are sensitive to fairness judge unfair actors harshly, prefer fair interaction partners
- Strong reputational motivation to be seen as fair
- Little research on whether people *choose* to be fair

What happens when fairness and task efficiency are pitted against each other? Do individuals distribute tasks in a way that maximises overall efficiency or is fairest to both people?





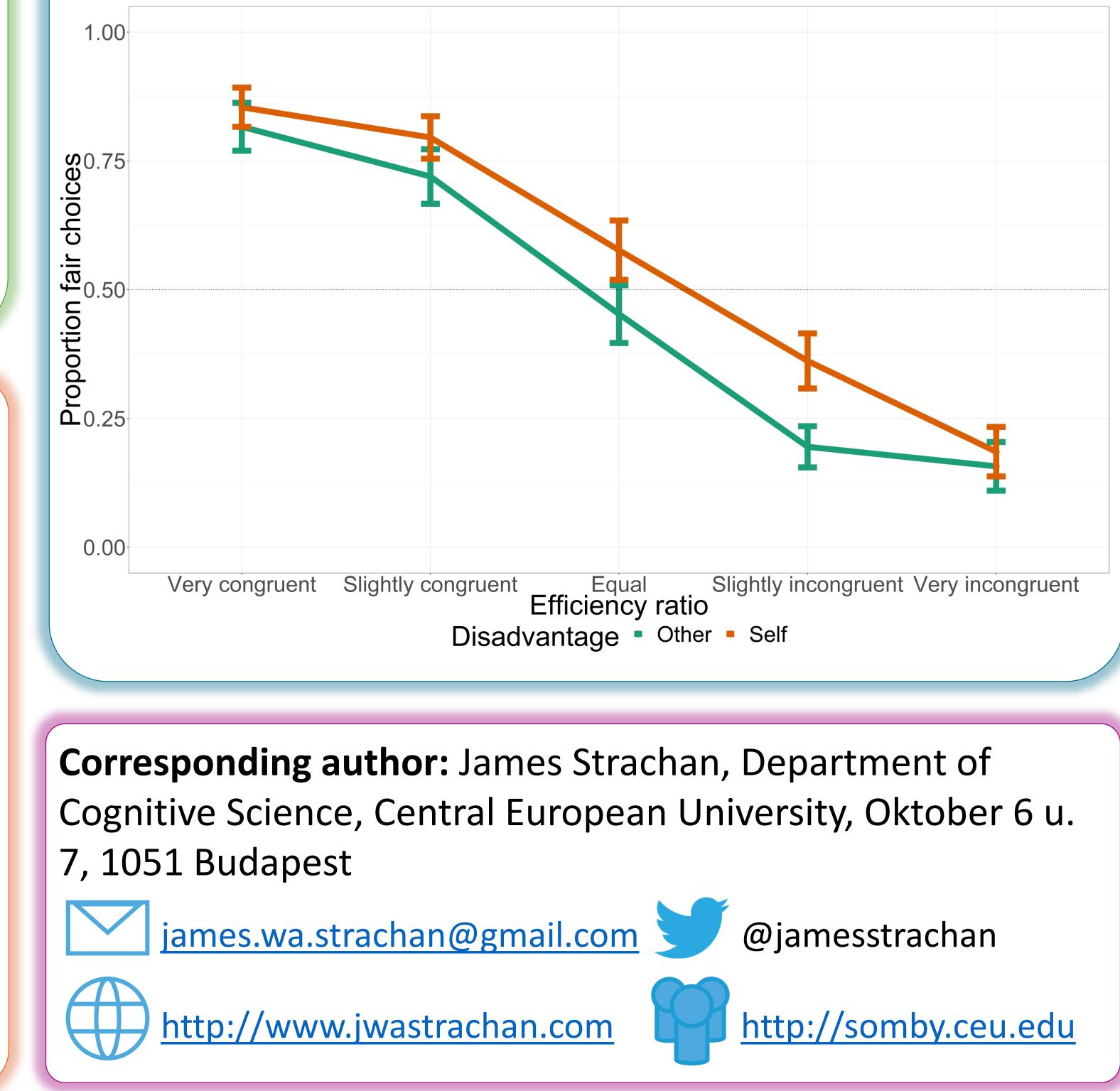
- N=24
- Task distribution task; questionnaire; length judgement
- Participant exclusions: poor performance on length judgement, suspicion of partner
- Questionnaire: What strategy did you use?

CONCLUSIONS

People show a strong drive to maximise efficiency of joint actions

0.00 Congruent Equal Incongruent Congruent Equal Incongruent Condition Chosen Fair Unfair

Congruent and incongruent each collapsed across two levels, with different imbalances between sides. Broken down:



- Unfairness in task distribution does not seem to be a priority
- No evidence for generosity, even when this does not compromise efficiency
- Same pattern seen even for people who report making decisions based on fairness
- Fairness does not seem to be a driving decision factor in task distribution