

Mistaking my views for his: Impaired self-other distinction (SOD) in antisocial personality disorder

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Intro

- What is ASPD
 - Enduring and multi-context antisocial behaviors
 - Behaviors suggest disregard for others' welfare and the laws
 - Low threshold for irritability and aggression
 - Poor social functioning, higher risk incarceration or hospitalization
- **Equivocal findings in socio-cognitive performances**
 - No conclusive evidence of cognitive empathy deficit in two reviews (Marsden et al., 2019; Johnson et al., 2022)
 - Evidence of cognitive empathy deficit in two other reviews (Eisenberg, 1988; Campos et al., 2022)

- **Why those equivocal results ?**

H1 : Failure to *specifically* measure the *right* facet of social cognition

- *Not the right facet targeted*
- *Not specific enough*

H2 : Failure to use the appropriate format to capture socio-cognitive deficits

- *Self-report vs. behavioral*
- *Level of stringency*

➔ **Study goal:** target a *specific theory-driven* construct via a *performance-based* measure with *sufficient stringency* **to discriminate ASPD vs healthy controls**

Study goal: target a *specific theory-driven* construct

Bateman et al. (2013) mentalizing framework adapted by Luyten et al. (2017):
Personality disorders as imbalance between self and other oriented processing

→ Poor understanding of others

→ Poor understanding of themselves

➔ **self-other distinction (SOD):** to distinguish the mental states (emotions, perceptions, beliefs, ...) that our own from those that ought to be attributed to others.

➔ SOD failure can lead to...

➔ Unregulated self-oriented → biased by egocentric thinking, projections onto others, blind to alternative viewpoints.

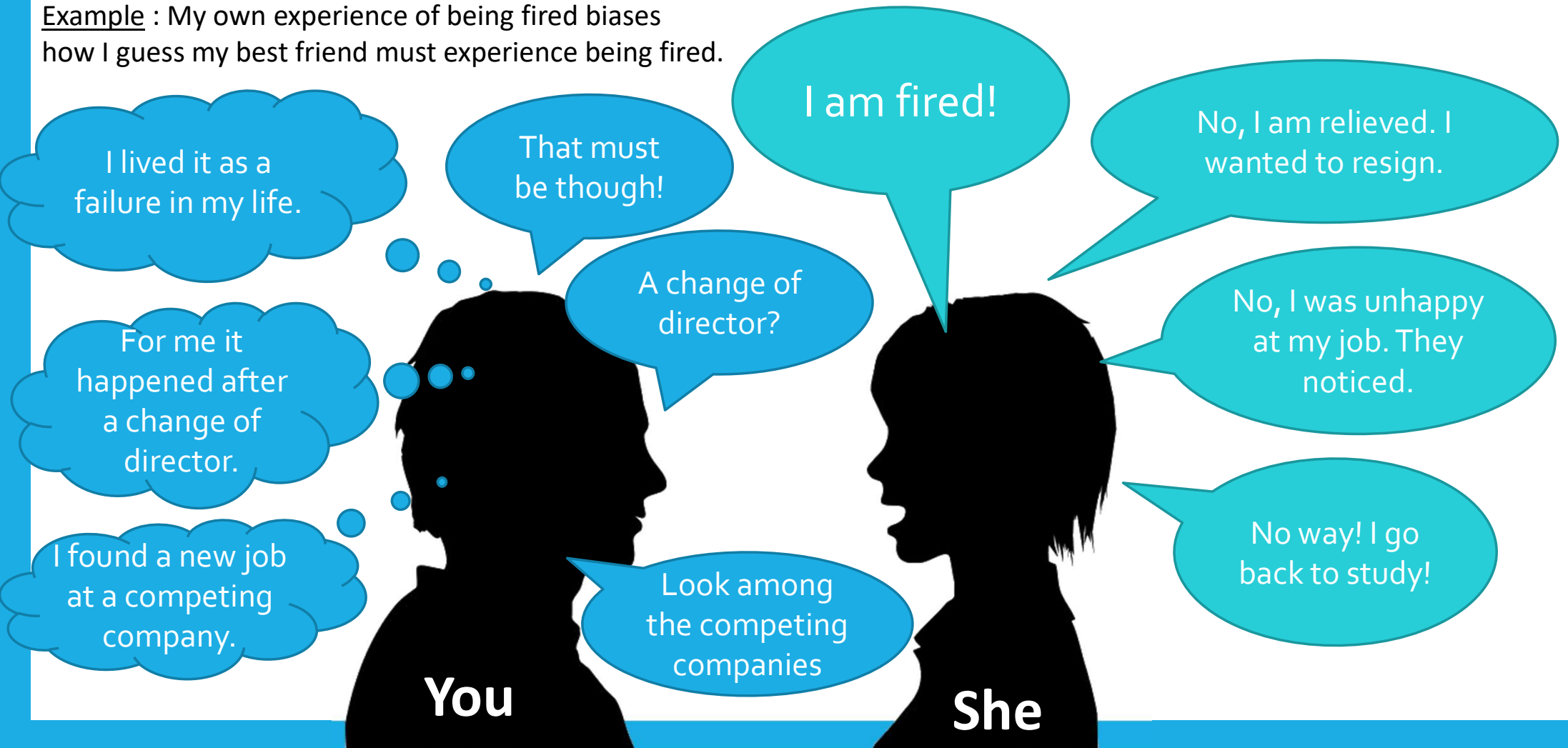
➔ Unregulated other-oriented → biased by others' thinking, excessively influenced by social environment, overwhelmed by others' emotions ("too empathic", personal distress), fear to lose oneself in social relationships

Egocentric bias: I use my *own egocentric* experiences, knowledge, and beliefs to guess what someone thinks BUT....

If she has different experiences/knowledge/beliefs → **inaccurate guess of what she experiences/knows/believes**

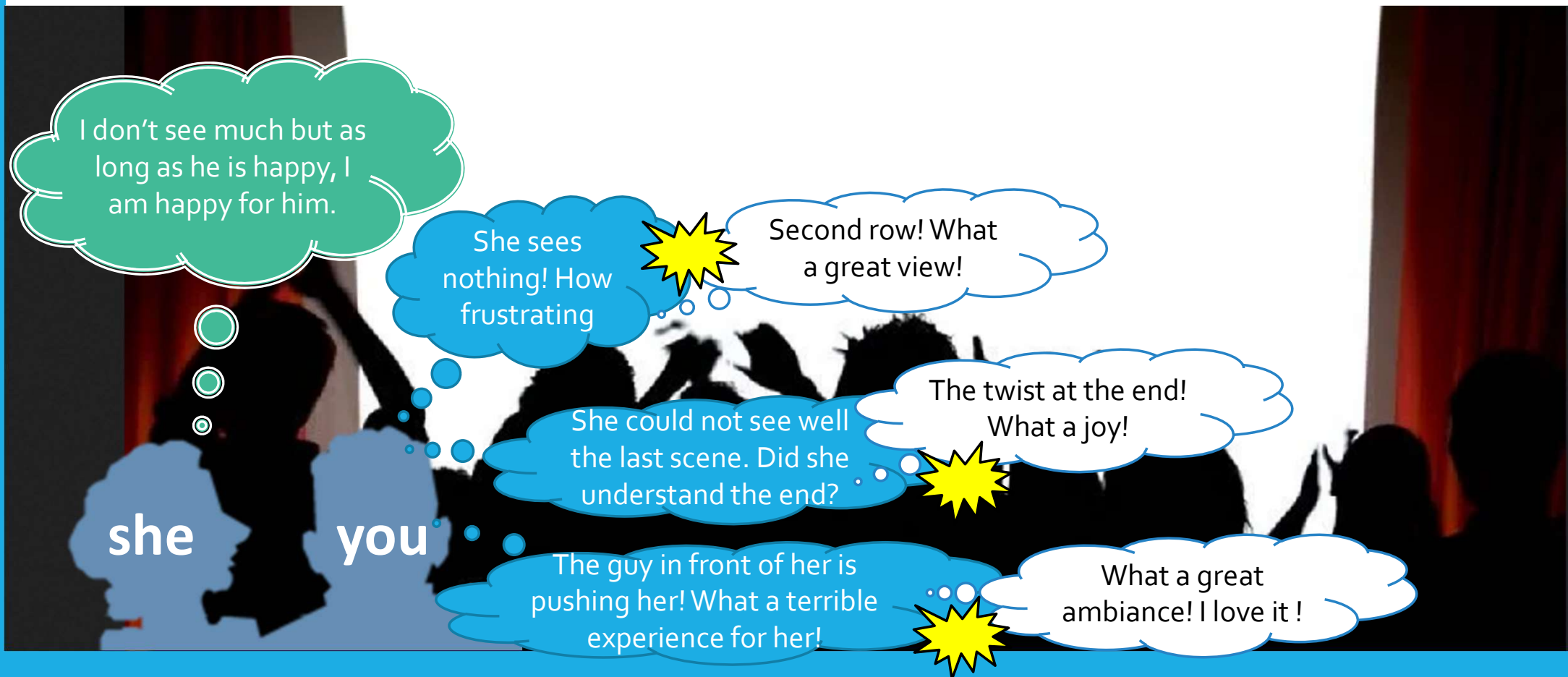
If I struggle to put aside my egocentric perspective → **interference: slower guess**

Example : My own experience of being fired biases how I guess my best friend must experience being fired.



Altercentric bias: the experience, knowledge, and beliefs I am guessing she has (→ her altercentric is biasing how I think!
If the other person has different experiences/knowledge/beliefs → **inaccurate guess of what I experience/know/believe**
If I struggle to put aside her altercentric perspective → **interference: slower guess**

Example : Her *guessed* experience of show biases my own experience of the show.



What could go wrong in understanding others or myself?

What she thinks,
her perspective,
her mental states

What I think,
my perspective,
my mental states

≠ Self-Other distinction

 Inferential process

 Affect computation

 Belief computation

 Intention computation

 Object orientation computation

 etc

Info on her
(salient)

Her expression,
what I know on her,
her behaviour, etc

Info
on
me

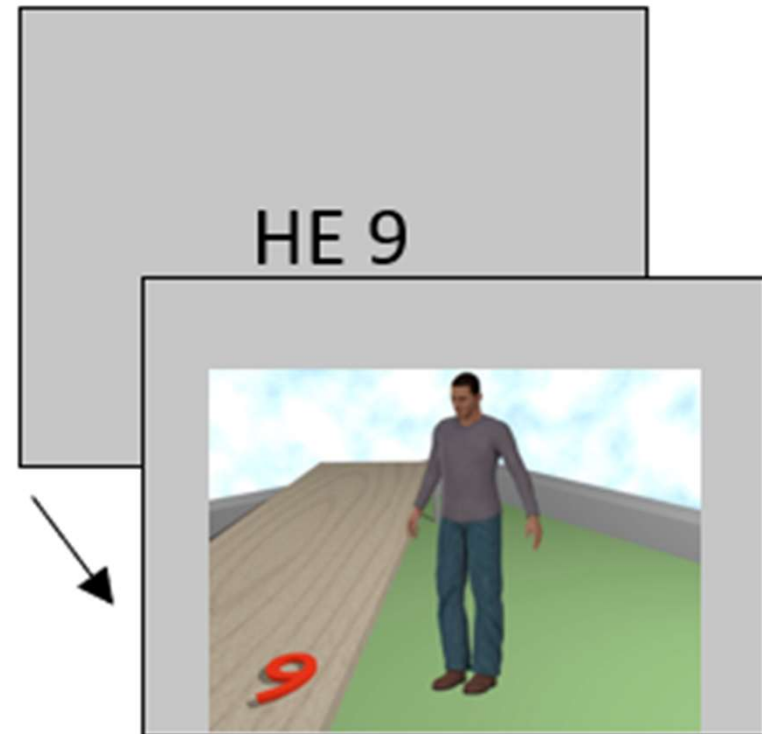
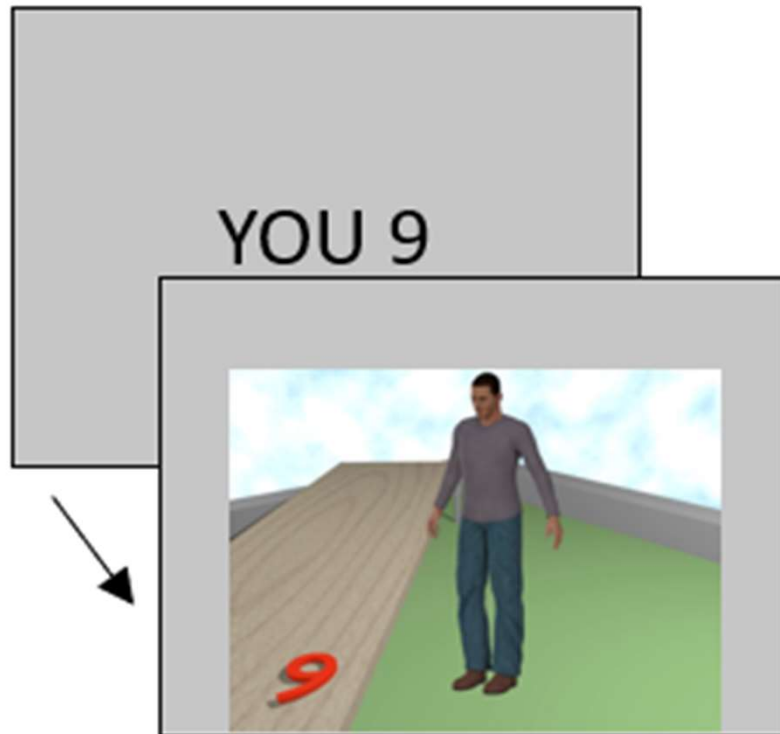
Self-Other
priority

Me

She

Study goal: target SOD a *performance-based* measure with *sufficient stringency* to discriminate **ASPD** vs healthy controls

VPT level 2: visual perspective-taking task: RT & accuracy



Study goal: target SOD a *performance-based* measure with *sufficient stringency* to discriminate **ASPD vs healthy controls**

- VPT level 2: visual perspective-taking task:
RT & accuracy

VPT Self-Other distinction (SOD):

Performance loss due when two perspectives need to be separated (Incongruent views vs. Congruent main effect)

VPT Self-Other priority: General performance advantage for self-perspective trials over other-perspective (Self vs. Other main effect)

Egocentric bias: Performance loss when self-perspective is interfering at judging other-perspective

Altercentric bias: Performance loss when spontaneously computed other person's perspective is interfering with self-perspective

