Social Status, Empathy, and Religious Background. A Study on Honest Behavior With Lost Wallets in Two Cities

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Leipzig: DFG

Preregistration of hypothesis, research design, sampling, statistical analysis by OSF

OSF https://osf.io/jwhm4

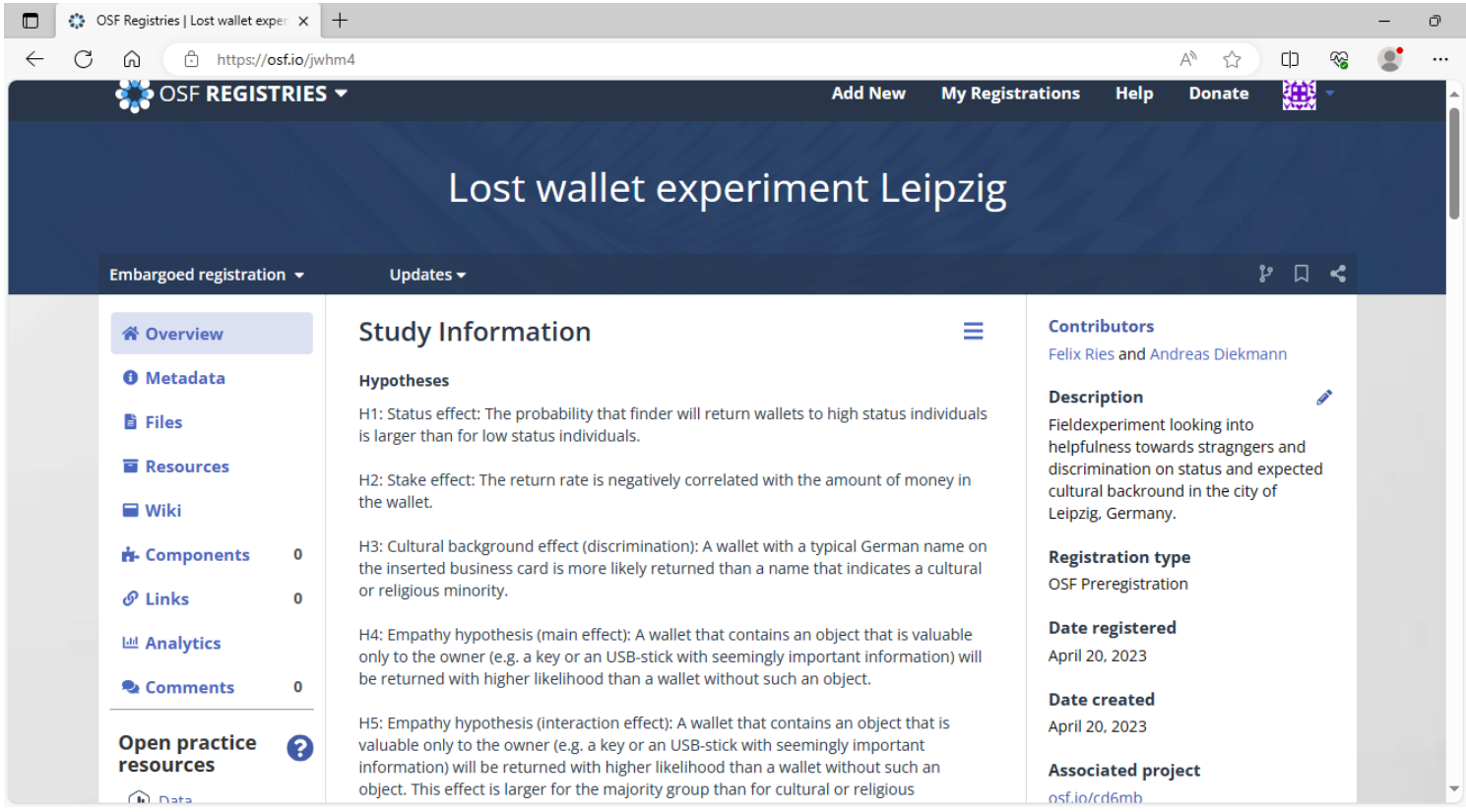
Return rate (RR)

H1 **Status** of victim icreases RR

H2 **Stake** effect: amount of money is negatively c correlated with RR

H3 **Discrimination** of Muslim or Jewish name

H4 **Empathy** effect increases RR, especially when same group (H5)



Kurztrip in die Ferne
ZOO LEIPZIG
Ihr nächster Termin
Kundendaten
Stadt Leipzig
Leipziger Städtische Bibliotheken
SILVER
MEMBER
Dr. oec. Abraham Goldstein
Geschäftsführer / Managing Director

Choice of names validated in pretest

Online-Questionnaire with 10 Names, 3 cultural/religious backgrounds, 2 status

N = 1400 respondents, Prolific.org

Results

- Paul Schneider – 90,1% German name
- Hussain al Awadhi – 87,3% Arab name
- Abraham Goldstein – 78,4% Jewish name

Schneider (Taylor)

Abraham Goldstein

Paul Schneider

Hussain Al Awadhi

Geschäftsführer (Managing director)

Dr. oec Abraham Goldstein

Dr. oec. Paul Schneider

Dr. oec. Hussain Al Awadhi

Lost wallets at tram stations in Leipzig and Zurich

Leipzig

Legten das Portemonnaie an einer VBZ-Haltestelle aus: Die wissenschaftlichen Mitarbeiter Matthias Näf und Anouk Widmer. Foto: Urs Jaudas

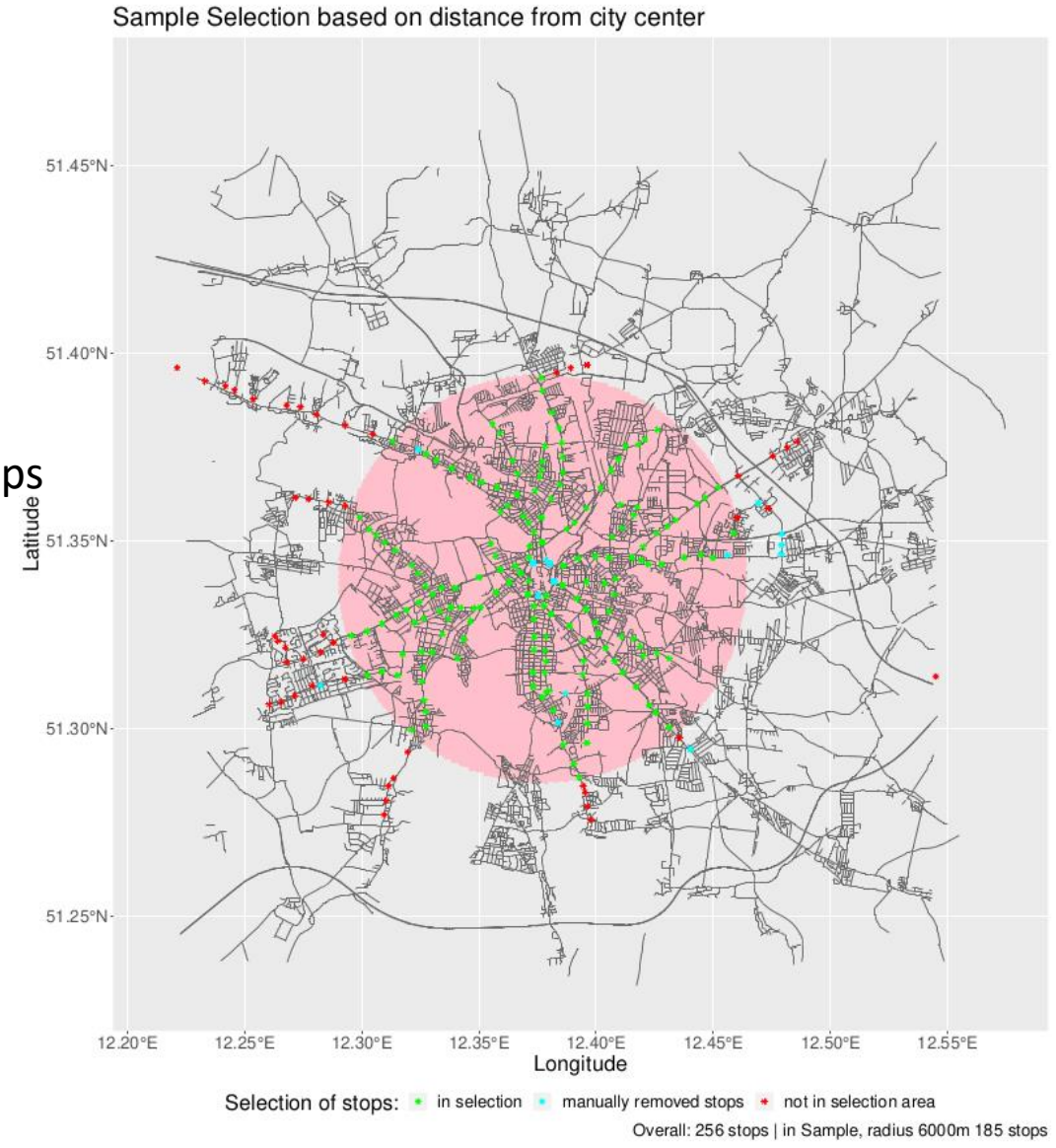
Tagesanzeiger 31.5.2021

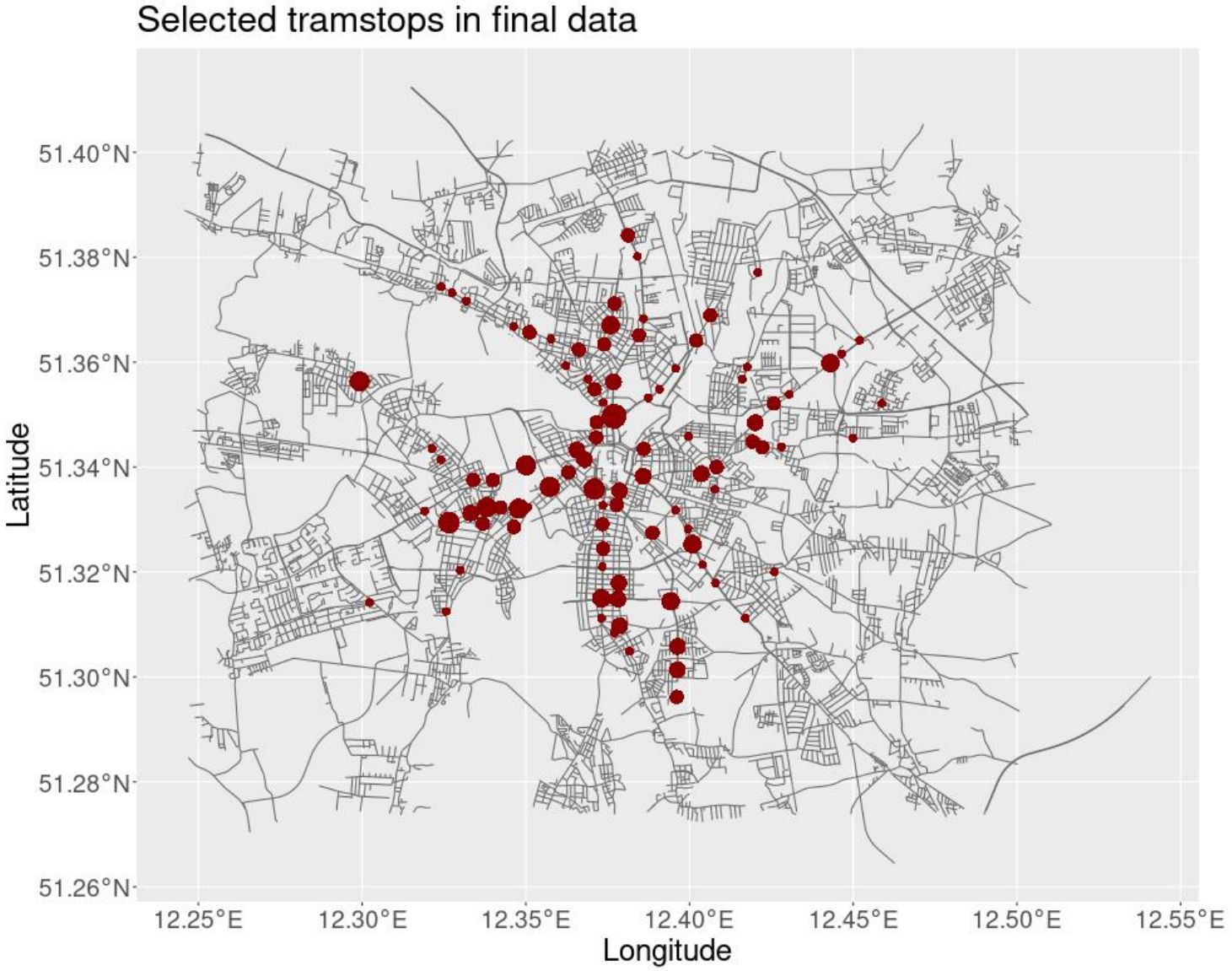
Zurich

Leipzig tram stops

►Randomization of Experimental tram stops

►Randomization of purses (business card caracteristics, money, key/USB-stick)




Selected tramstops in final data
51.40°N
51.38°N
51.36°N
51.34°N
51.32°N
51.30°N
51.28°N
51.26°N
Latitude
12.25°E
12.30°E
12.35°E
12.40°E
12.45°E
12.50°E
12.55°E
Longitude
Count ranges from 1 up to 9. The mean count is 2.1. In total 95 unique tramstops.

Leipzig overall return rate ?

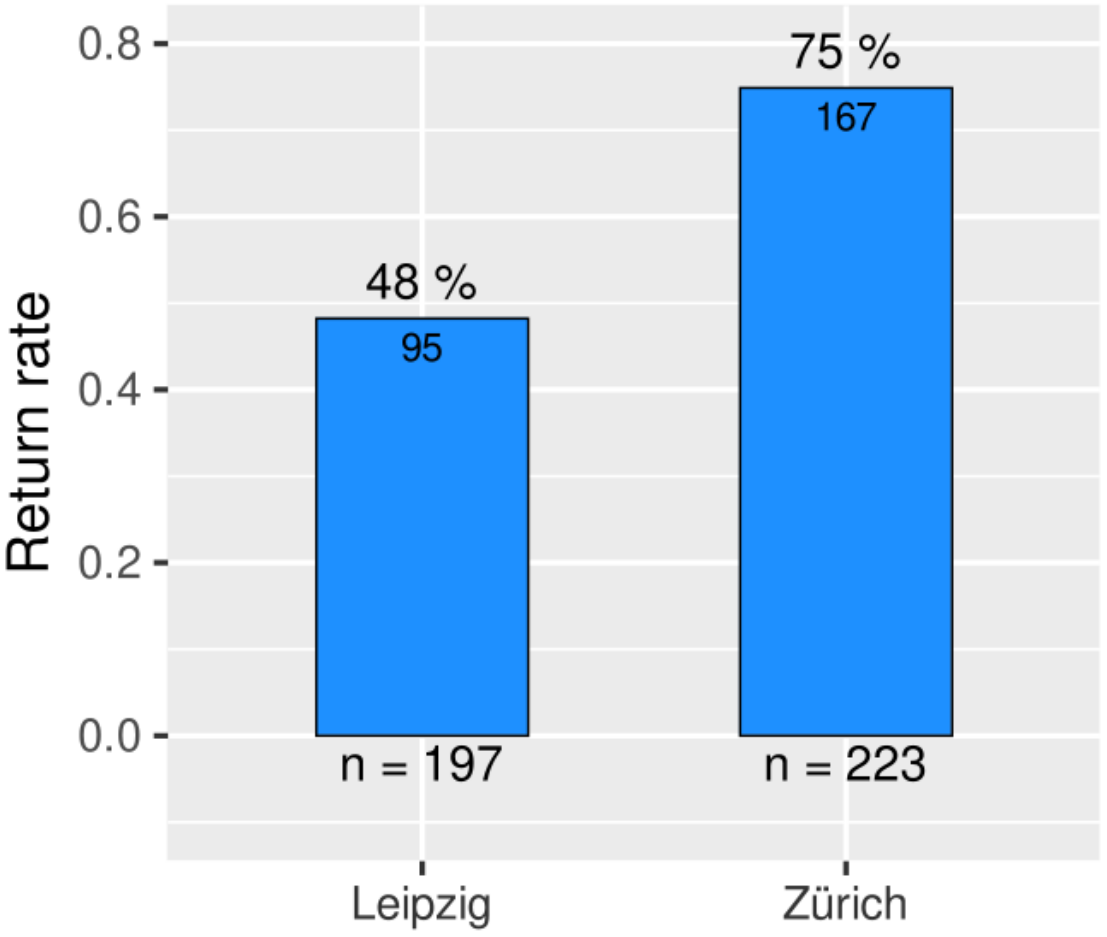
Overall return rate

Leipzig: **48 %**

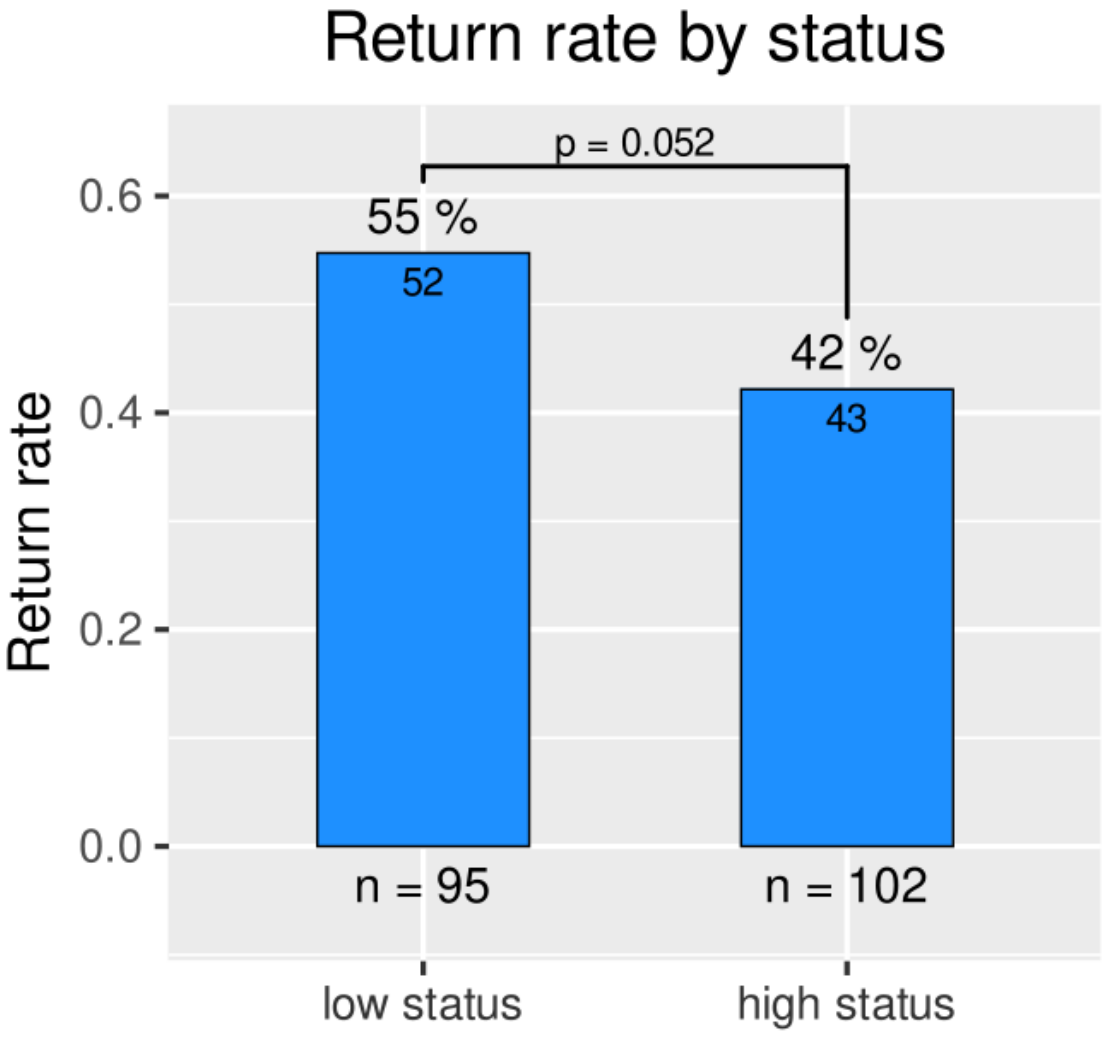
(95 of 197)

Zurich ?

Overall return rate by city

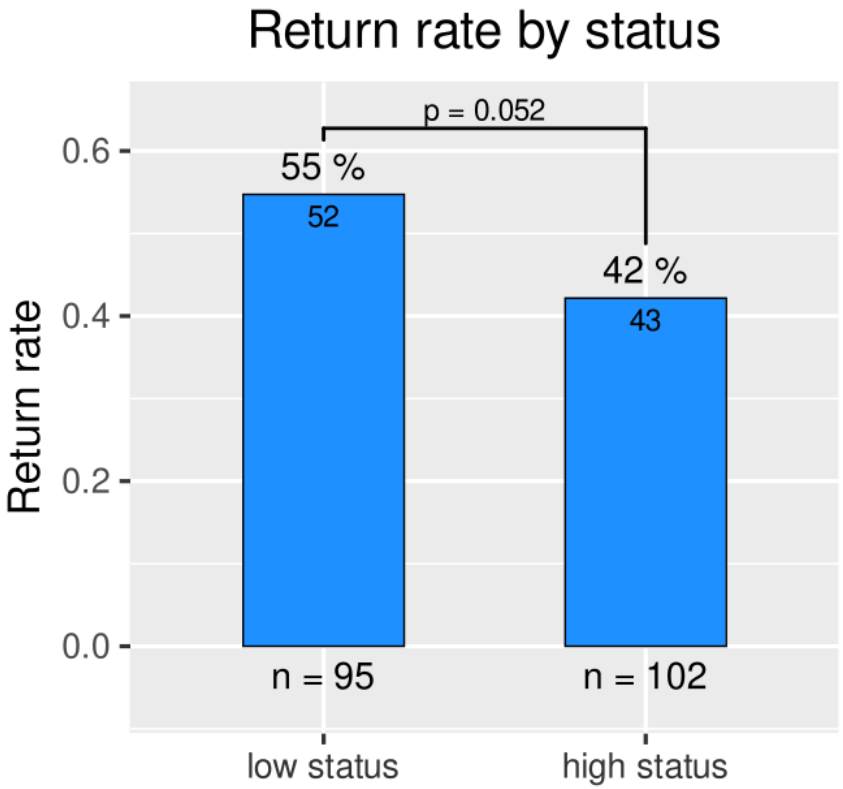


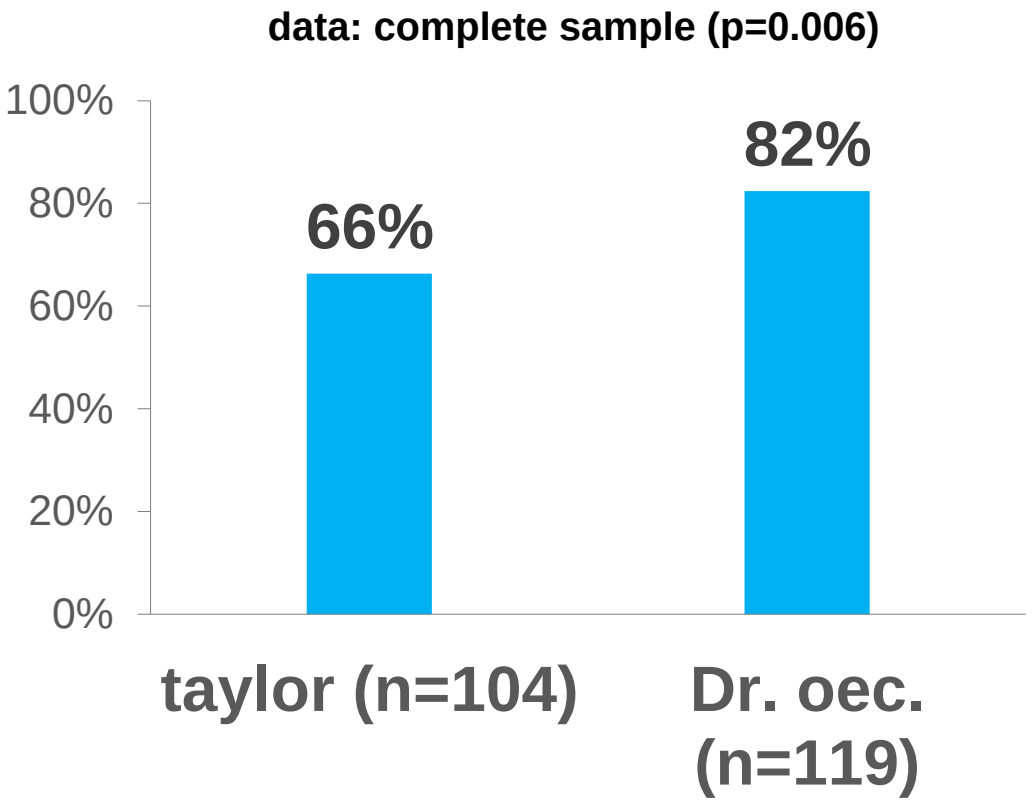
Status – Helping the taylor or the manager?



H1 Status effect –
In contrast to expectation!

Leipzig:
„Giving to the poor!“



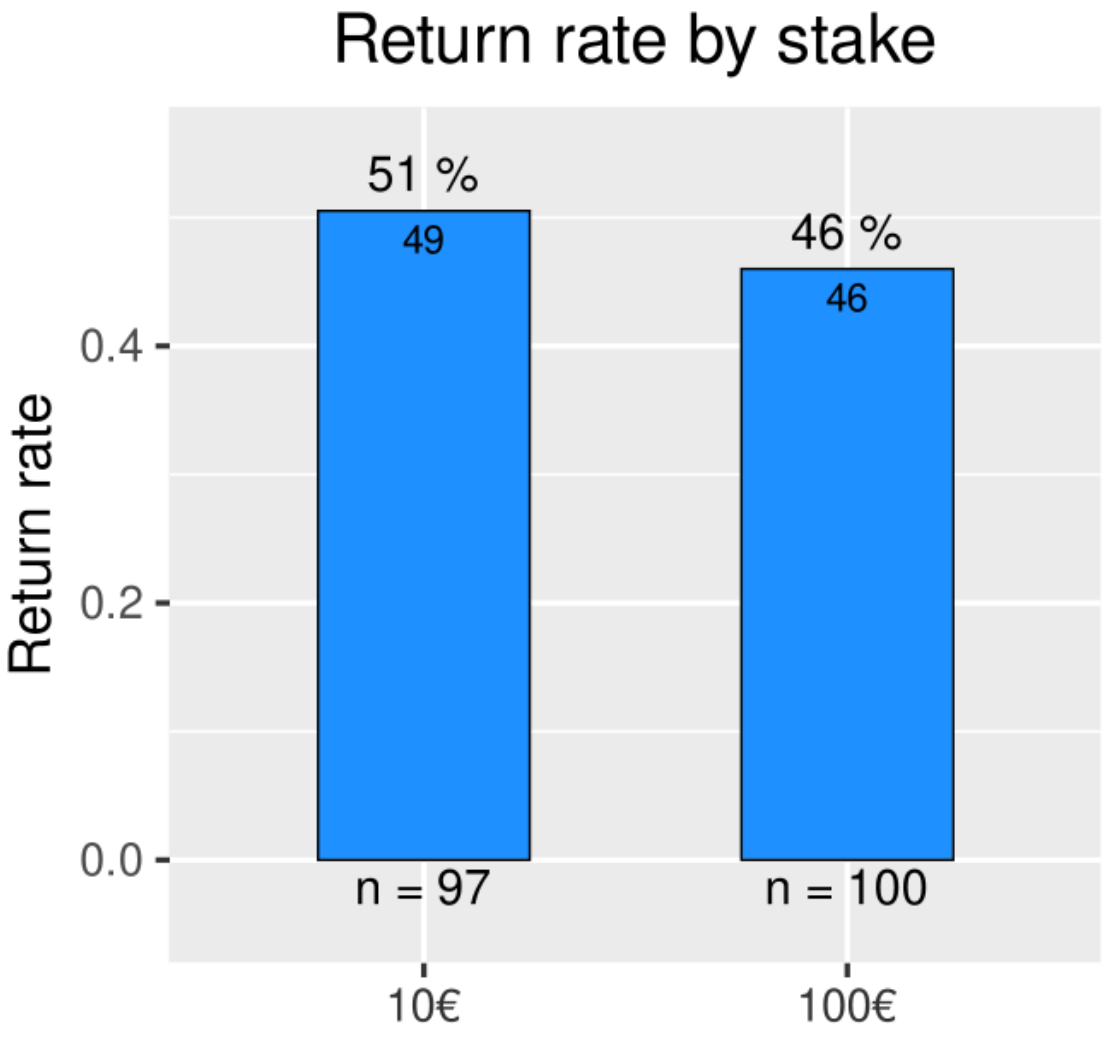


Leipzig: „Giving to the poor!“

Zurich: „Giving to the rich“

100 € versus 10 €
Does Money Matter?

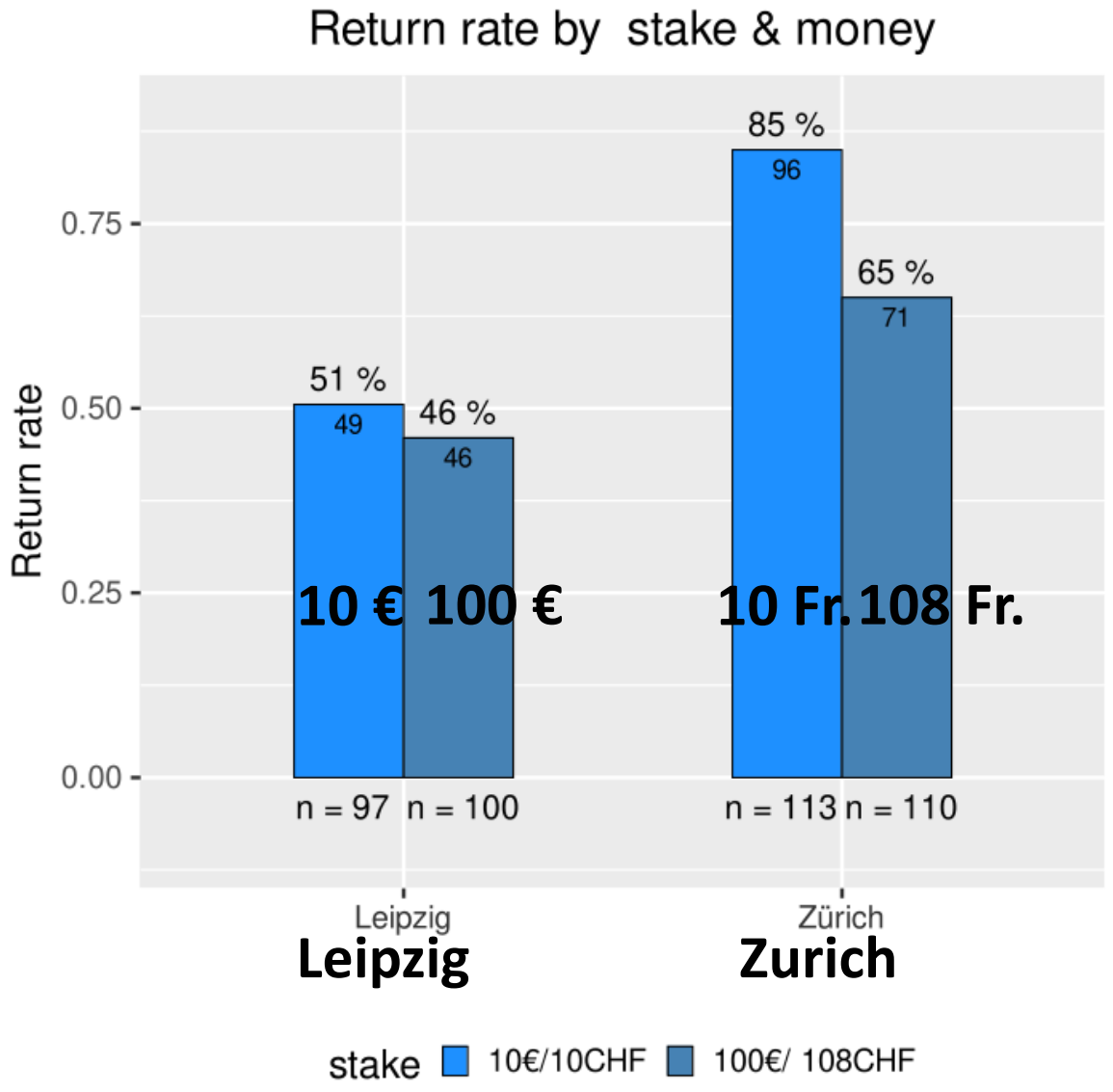
Das Portemonnaie blieb das gleiche, der Inhalt variierte. Foto: Urs Jaudas



Leipzig

H2 In contrast to expectation:

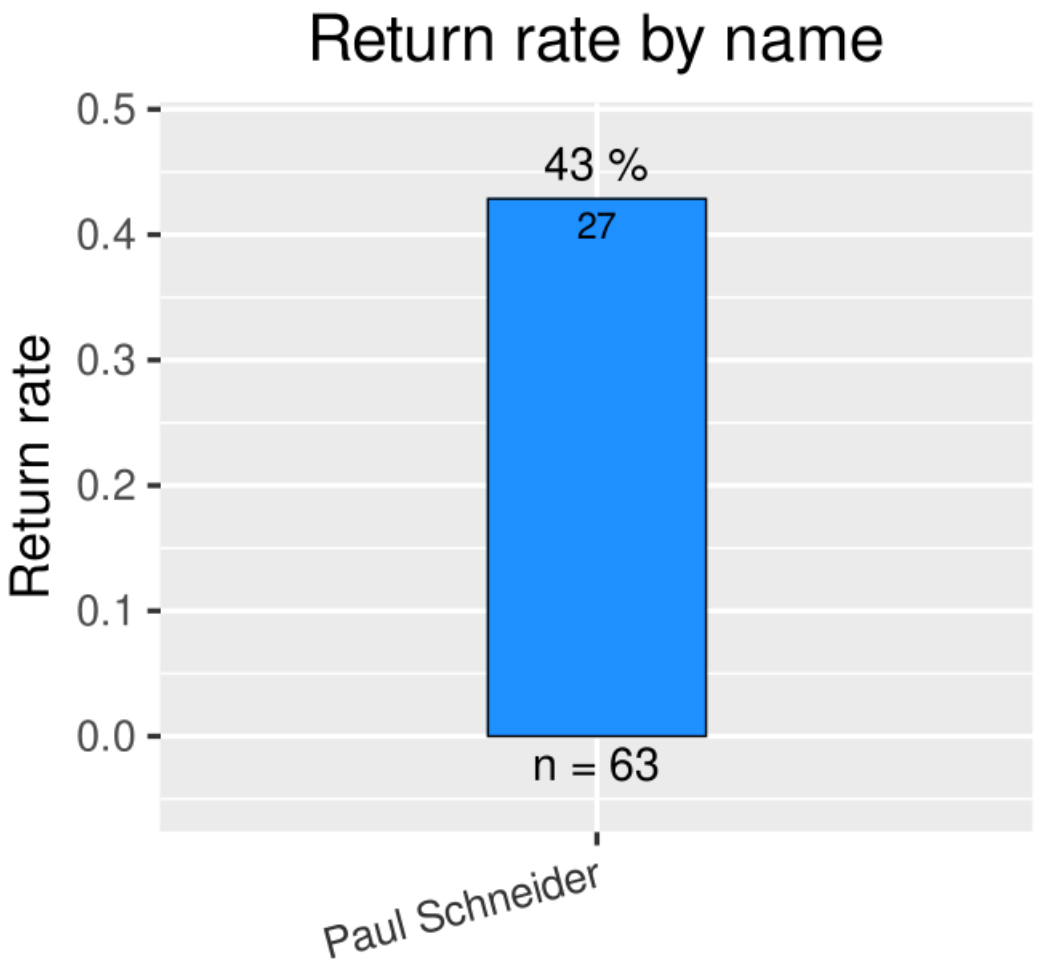
No (significant) stake effect!



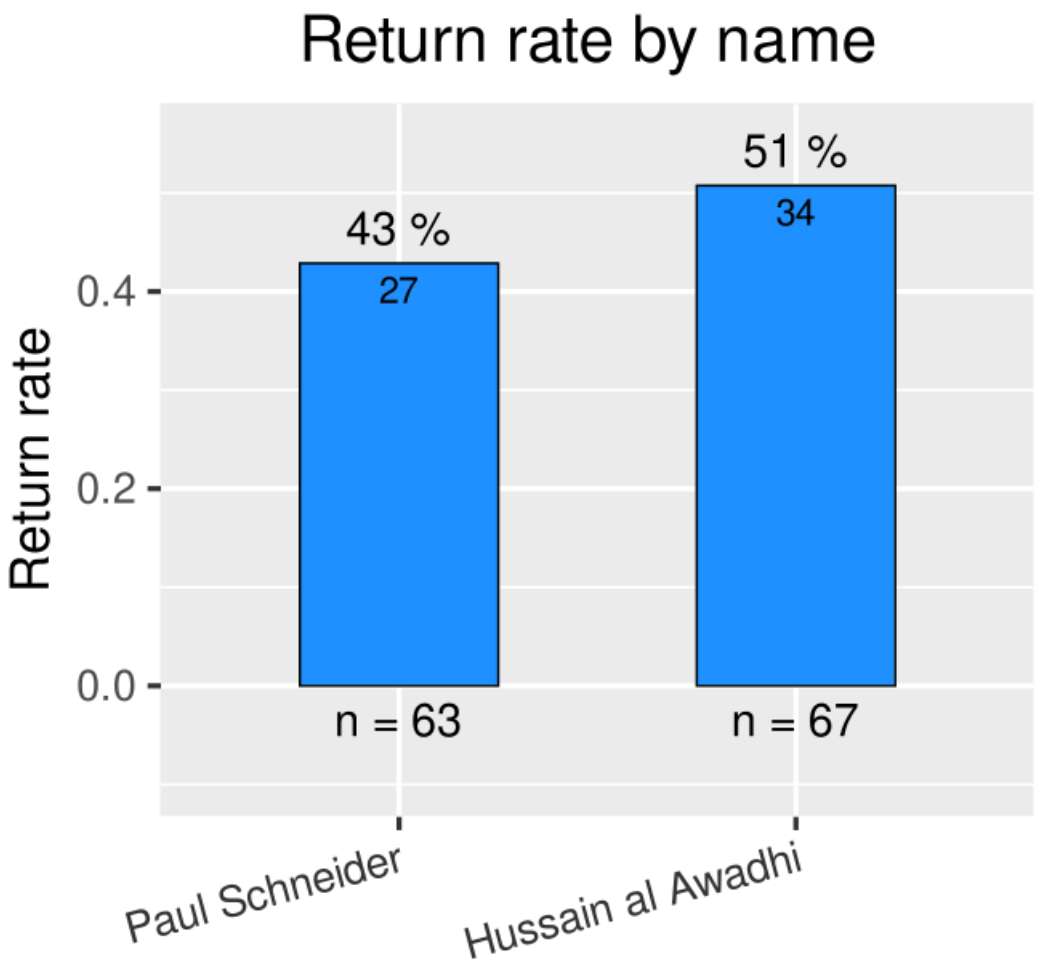
Leipzig: weak tendency, no significant stake Effect!

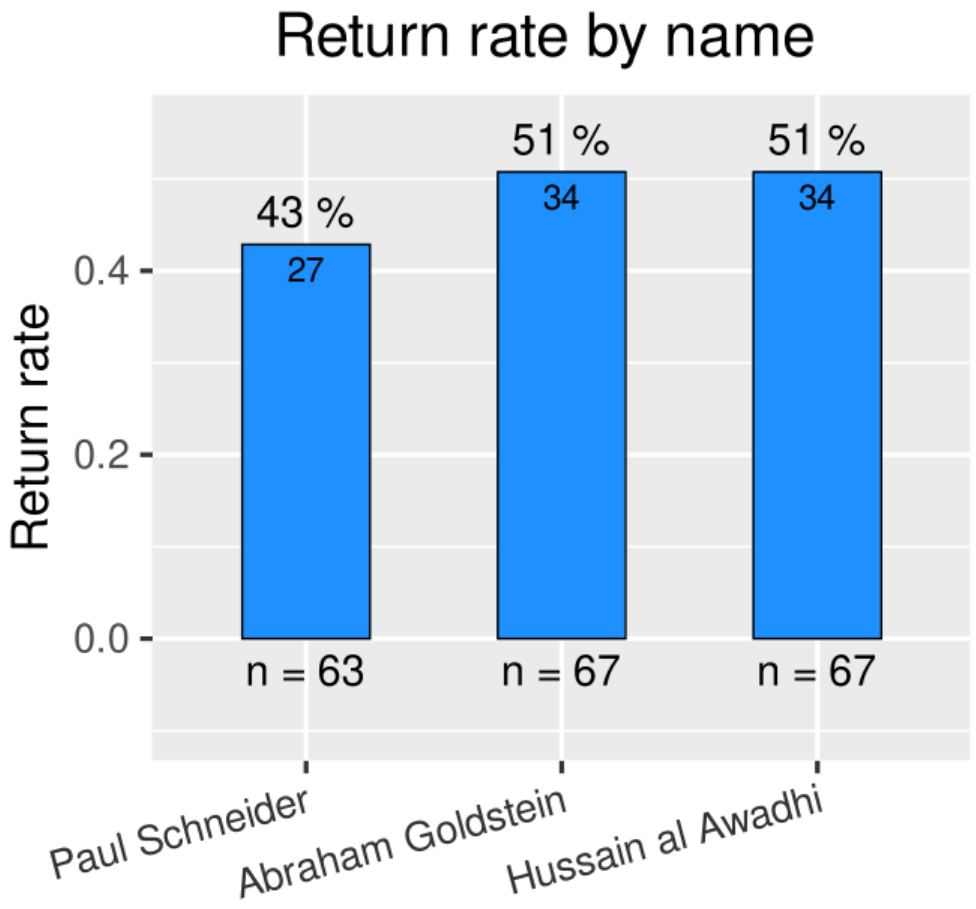
Zurich: Significant stake Effect!

Discrimination of Arab or Jewish name?



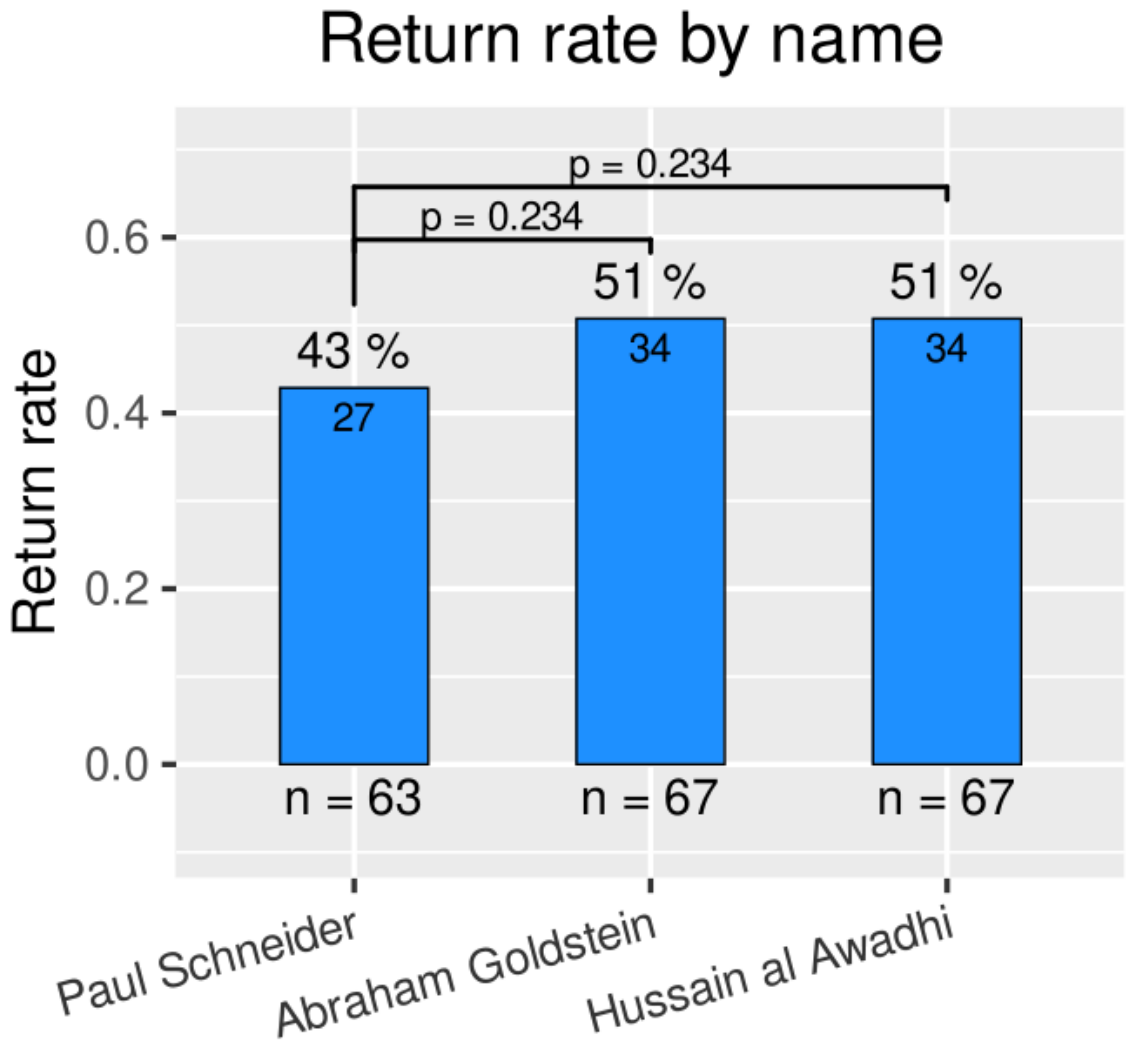
H3 Discrimination by name/cultural background?


Return rate by name
Return rate
0.4
0.2
0.0
43 %
27
51 %
34
n = 63
n = 67
Paul Schneider
Hussain al Awadhi



H3 In contrast to expectation:

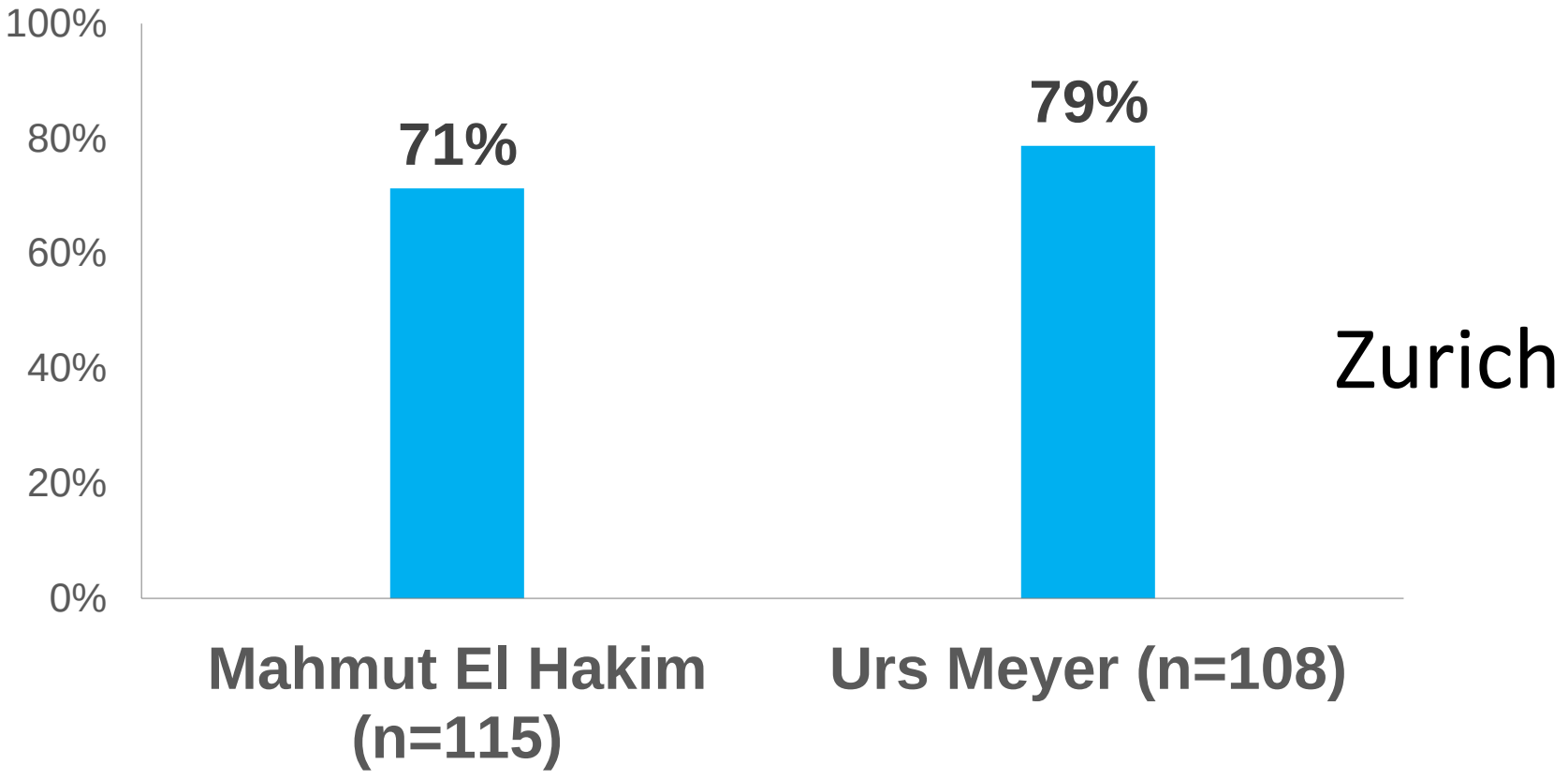
No discrimination by cultural background!



Leipzig

No discrimination by cultural background!

Return rate by name

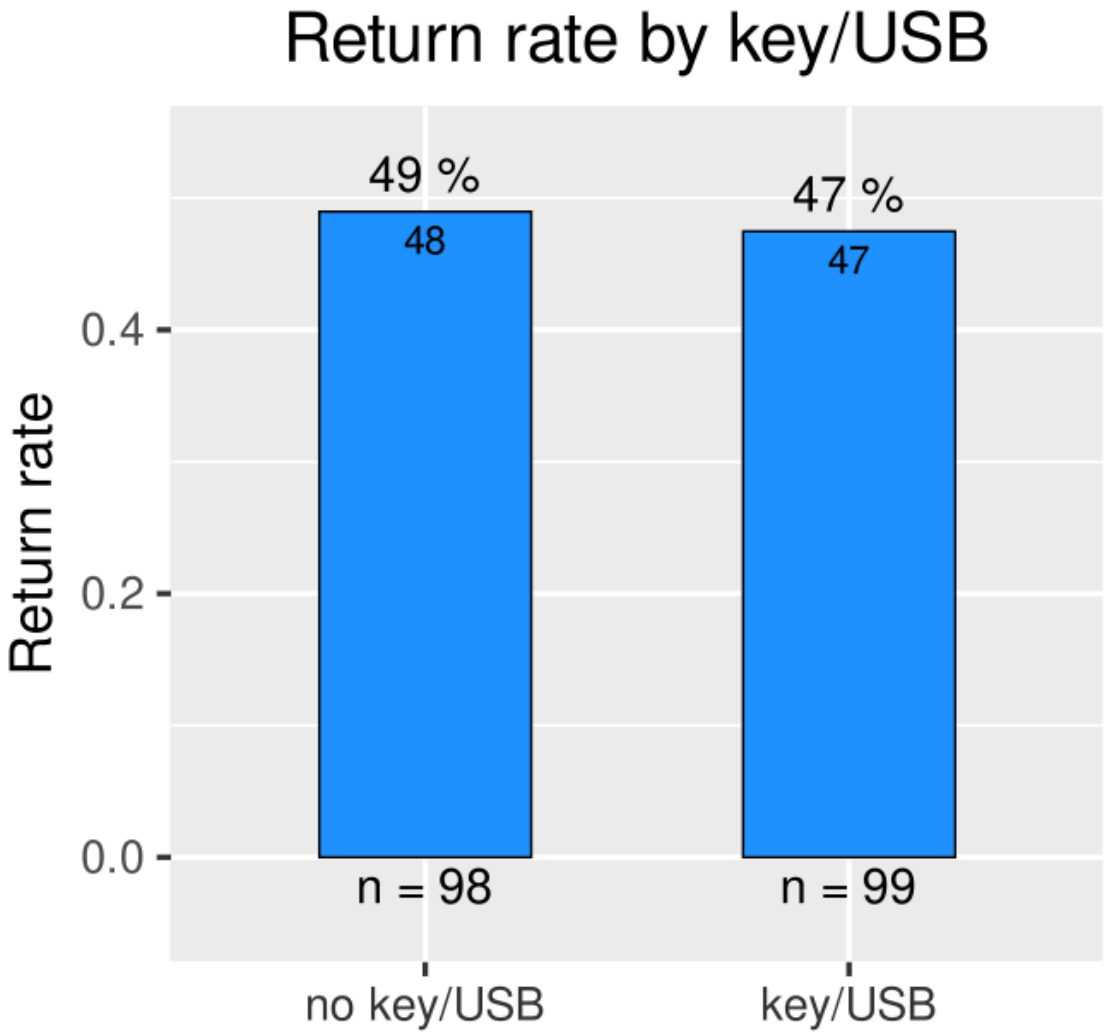


data: complete sample (p=0.20)

The Role of Empathy
key & USB stick versus no key & stick

Nicht nur Geld entscheidet: Liegt dem Portemonnaie ei… die Retournier-Quote.

Tagesanzeiger 31.5.2021



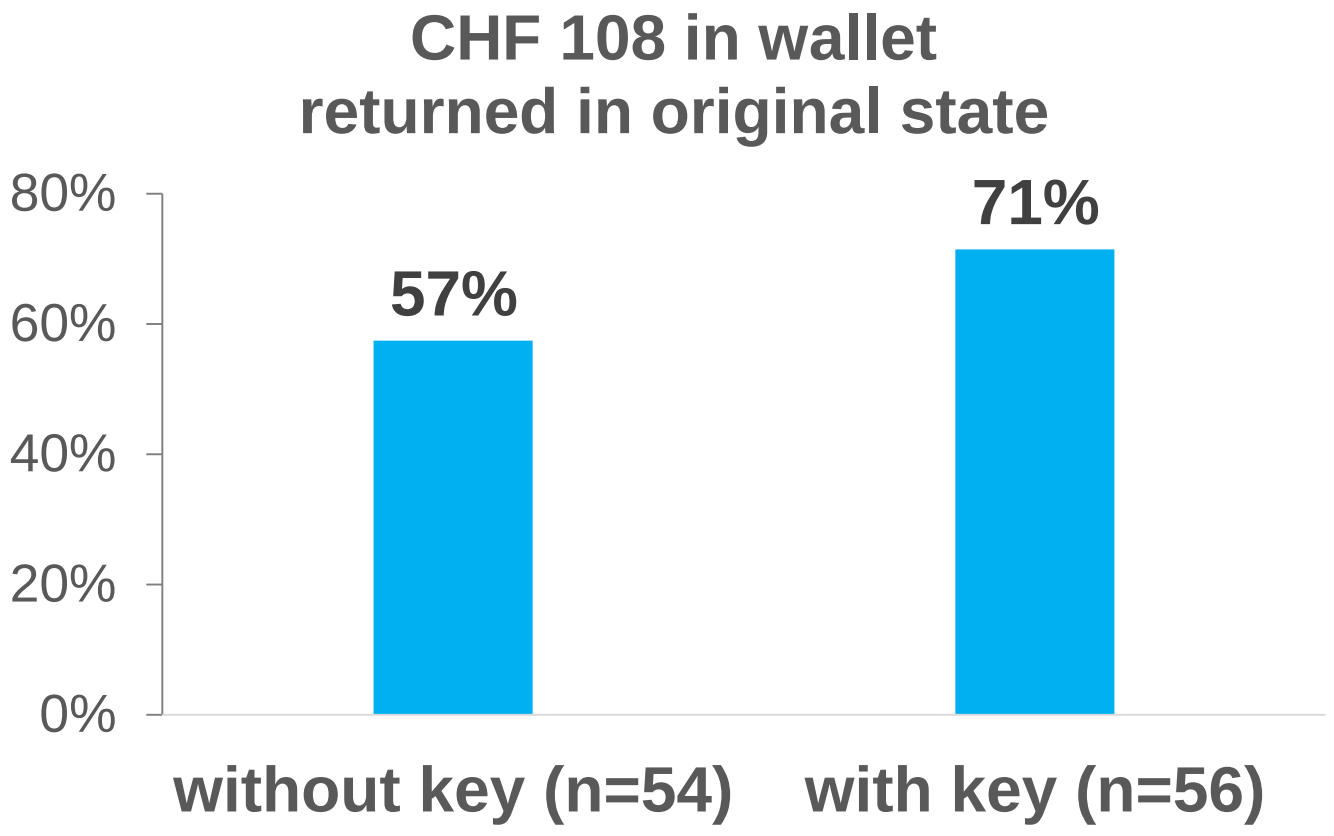
Leipzig

H4 In contrast to expectation:

No empathy effect!

(and no interaction effect - in contrast to H5)

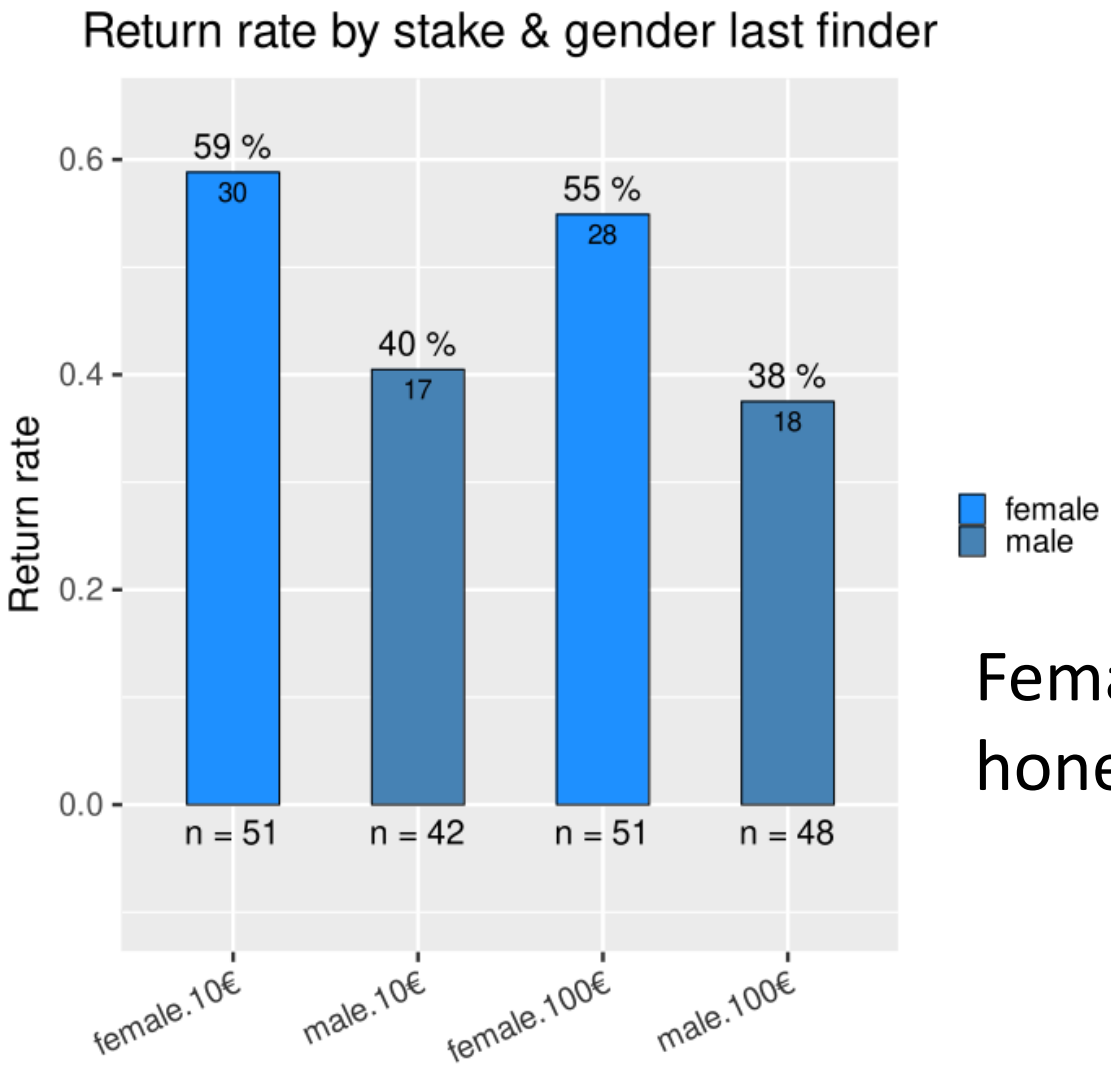
Empathy Hypothesis



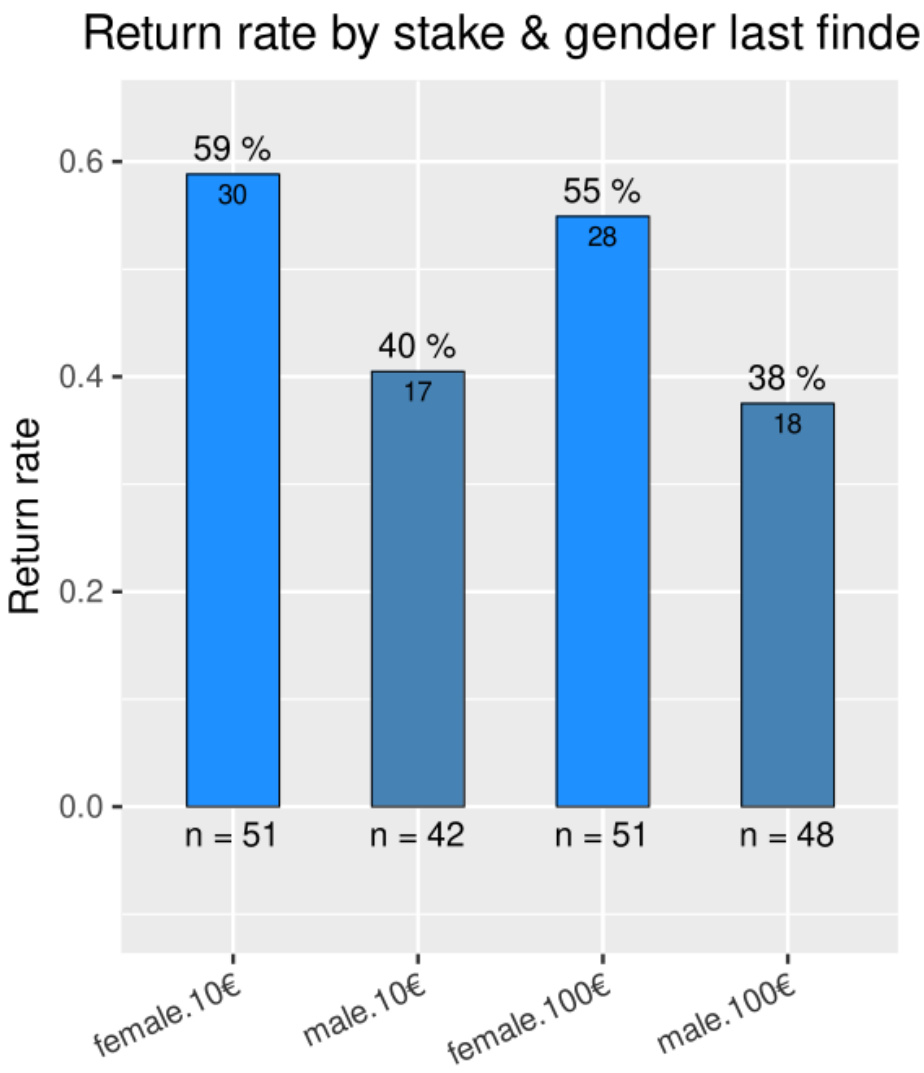
Zurich

data: CHF 108 experiment / complete content (p = 0.12)

Gender of finder?



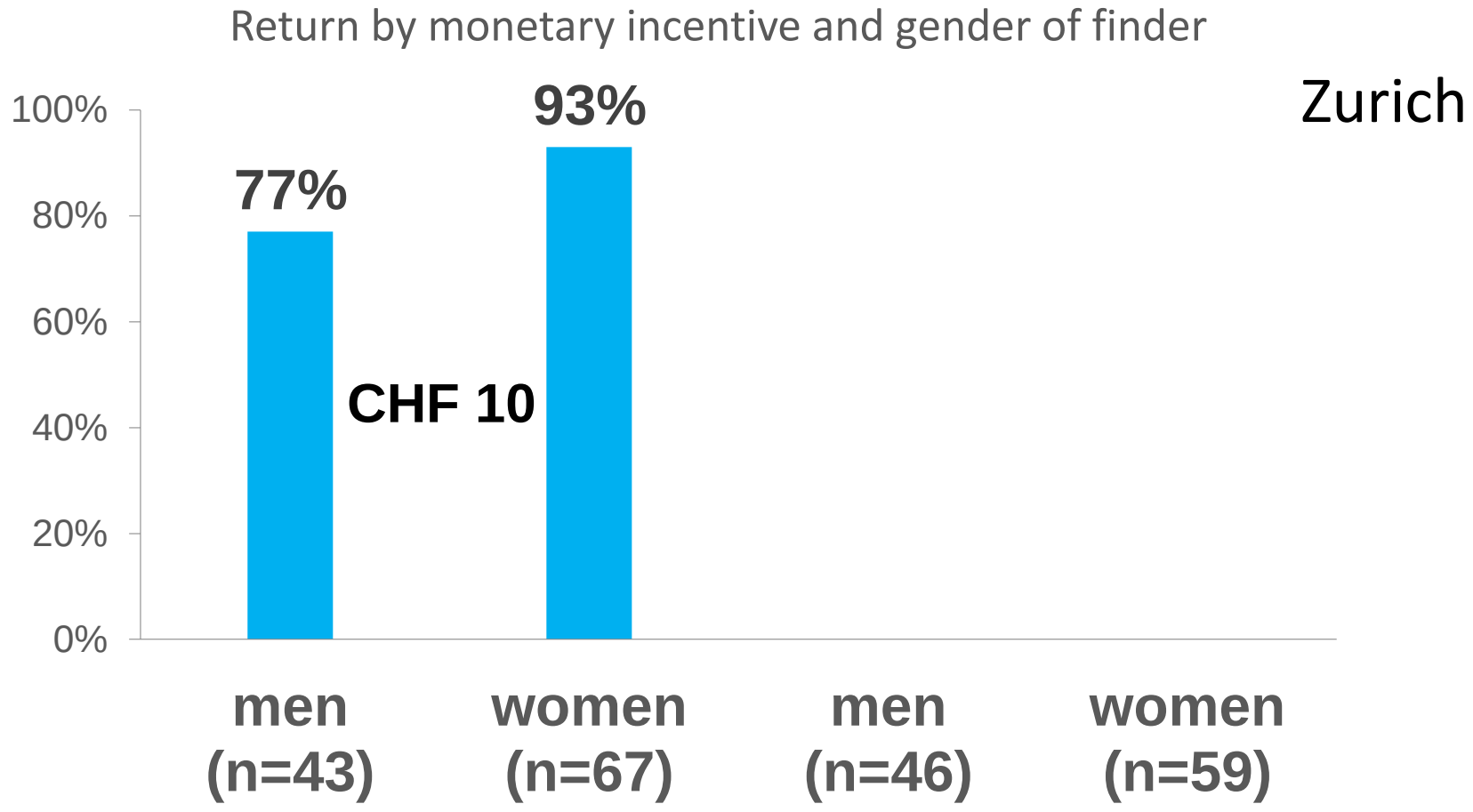
Females are more honest?



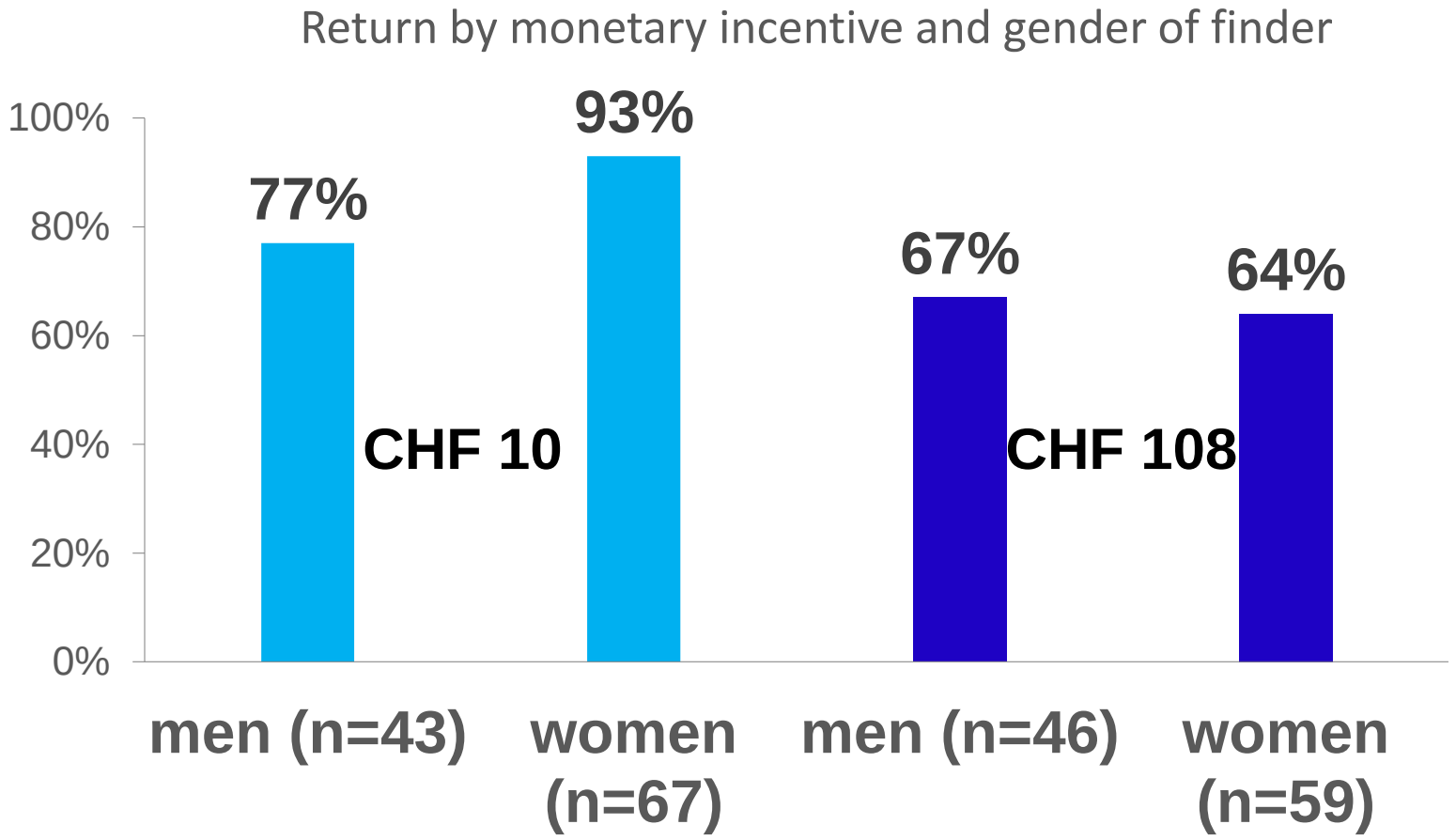
Leipzig

Females are more honest?
Or are females more frequent finders?

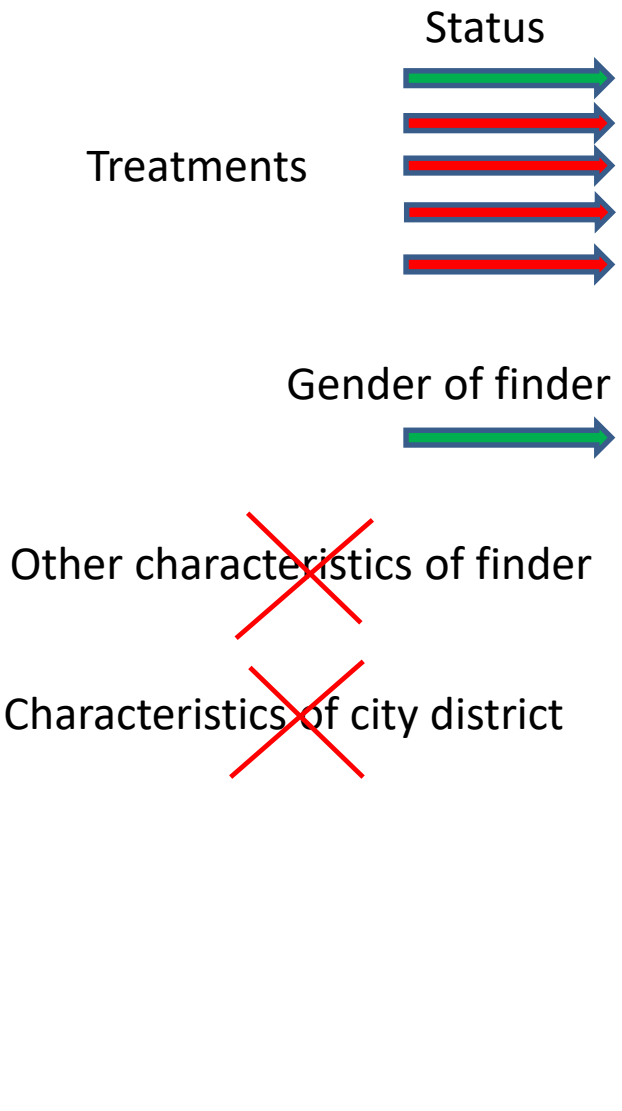
Honesty by Gender



Honesty by Gender



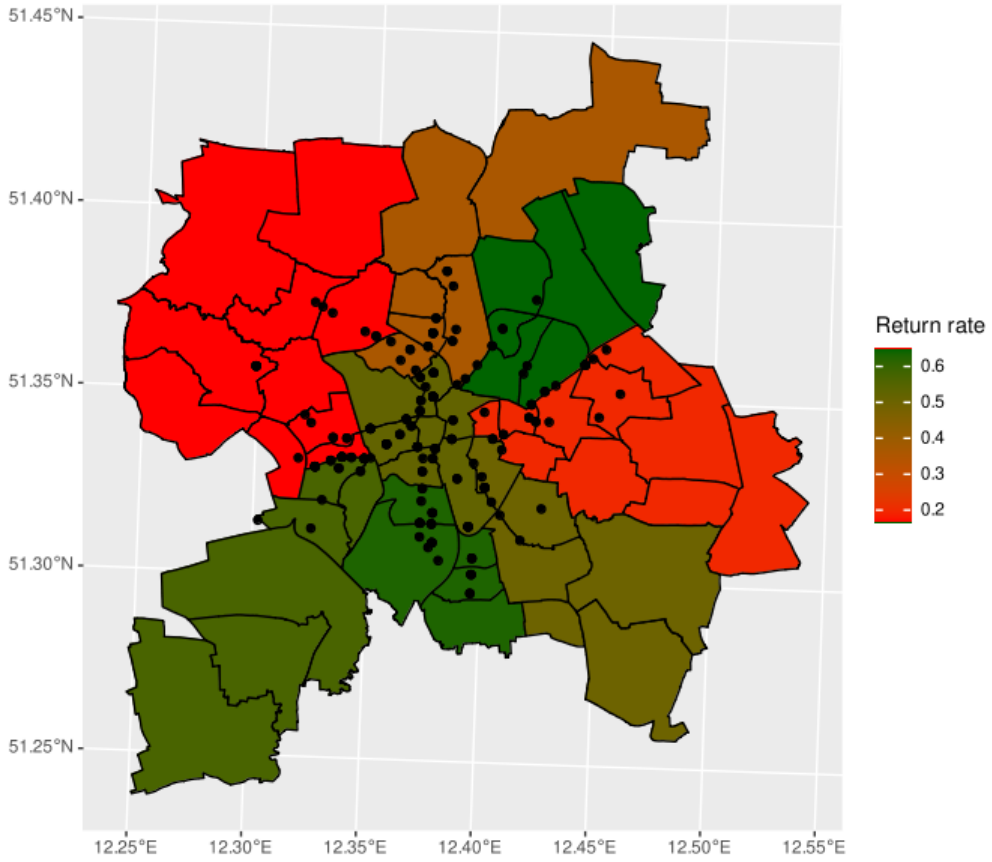
light-blue: CHF 10 experiment (p=0.019) **dark-blue: CHF 108 experiment (p=0.75)**

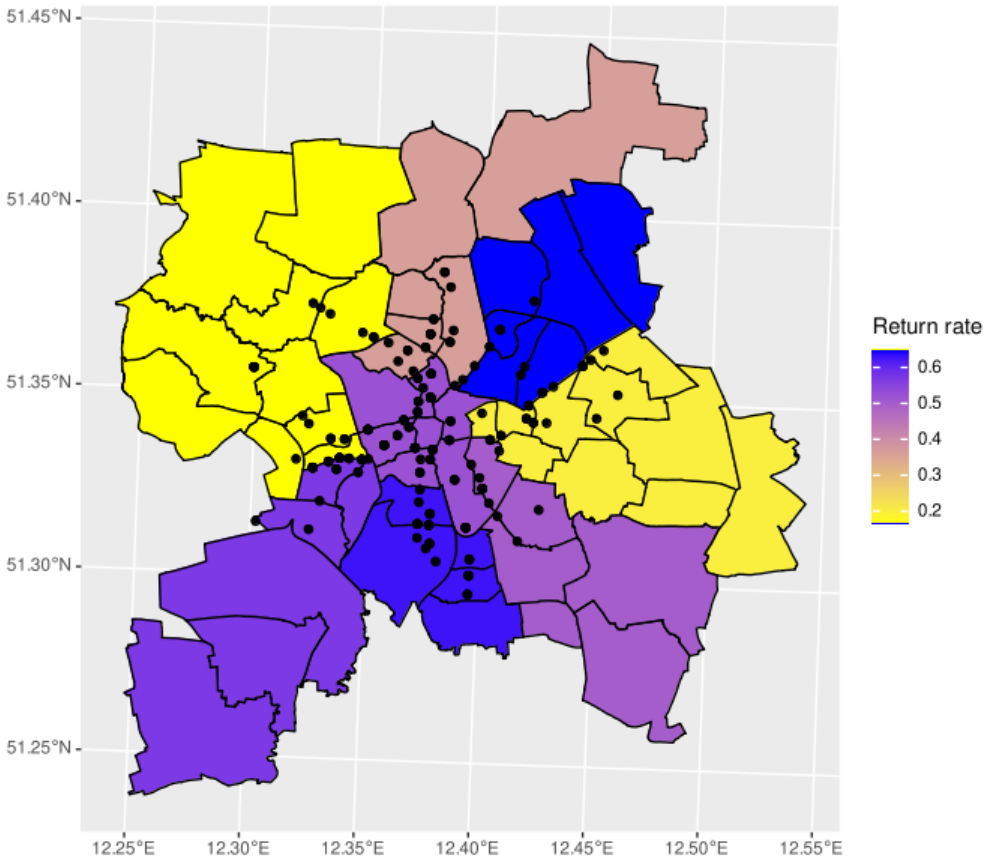


	Model 1
Intercept	-1.18 (2.97)
Status: Low	0.80 (0.33) *
Stake: 100EUR	-0.15 (0.33)
Origin: arabisch	0.52 (0.40)
Origin: jüdisch	0.32 (0.40)
key/USB	0.20 (0.33)
time	-0.00 (0.00)
temp in C	-0.04 (0.05)
Stop as planned	-0.01 (0.43)
gender last finder	-0.65 (0.33) *
age last finder	-0.01 (0.01)
bystander dummy	0.11 (0.34)
alone last finder dummy	-0.25 (0.40)
% migrants	0.00 (0.03)
% w/o job	-0.03 (0.19)
% pensioners	0.01 (0.02)
% home ownership	-0.03 (0.03)
% university degree	0.04 (0.02)
#crimes/1000 inhabitants	-0.00 (0.00)
median houshold inc	0.00 (0.00)
AIC	272.65
BIC	337.17
Log Likelihood	-116.33
Deviance	232.65
Num. obs.	186

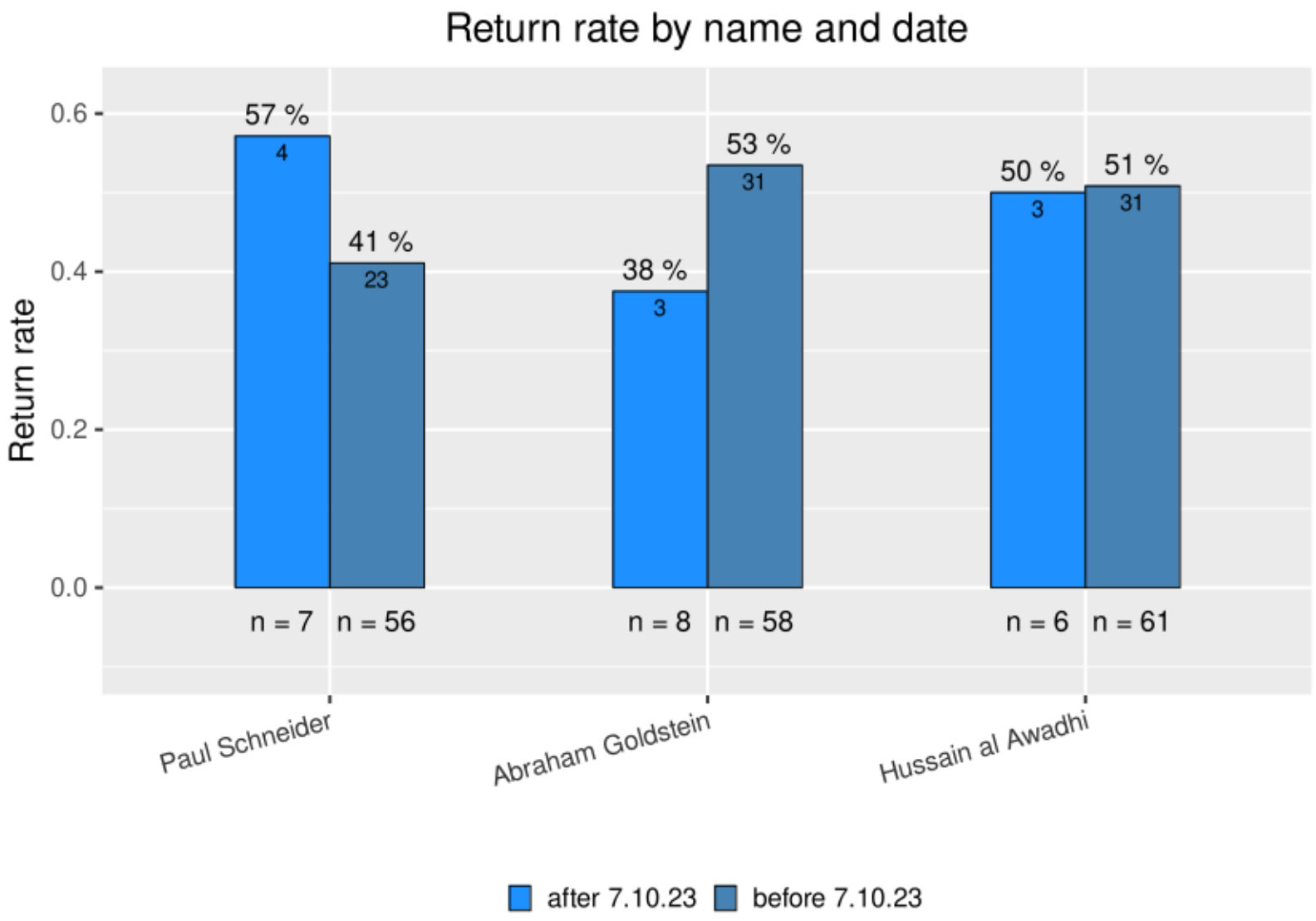
Logistic regression with return rate (0/1 = returned)

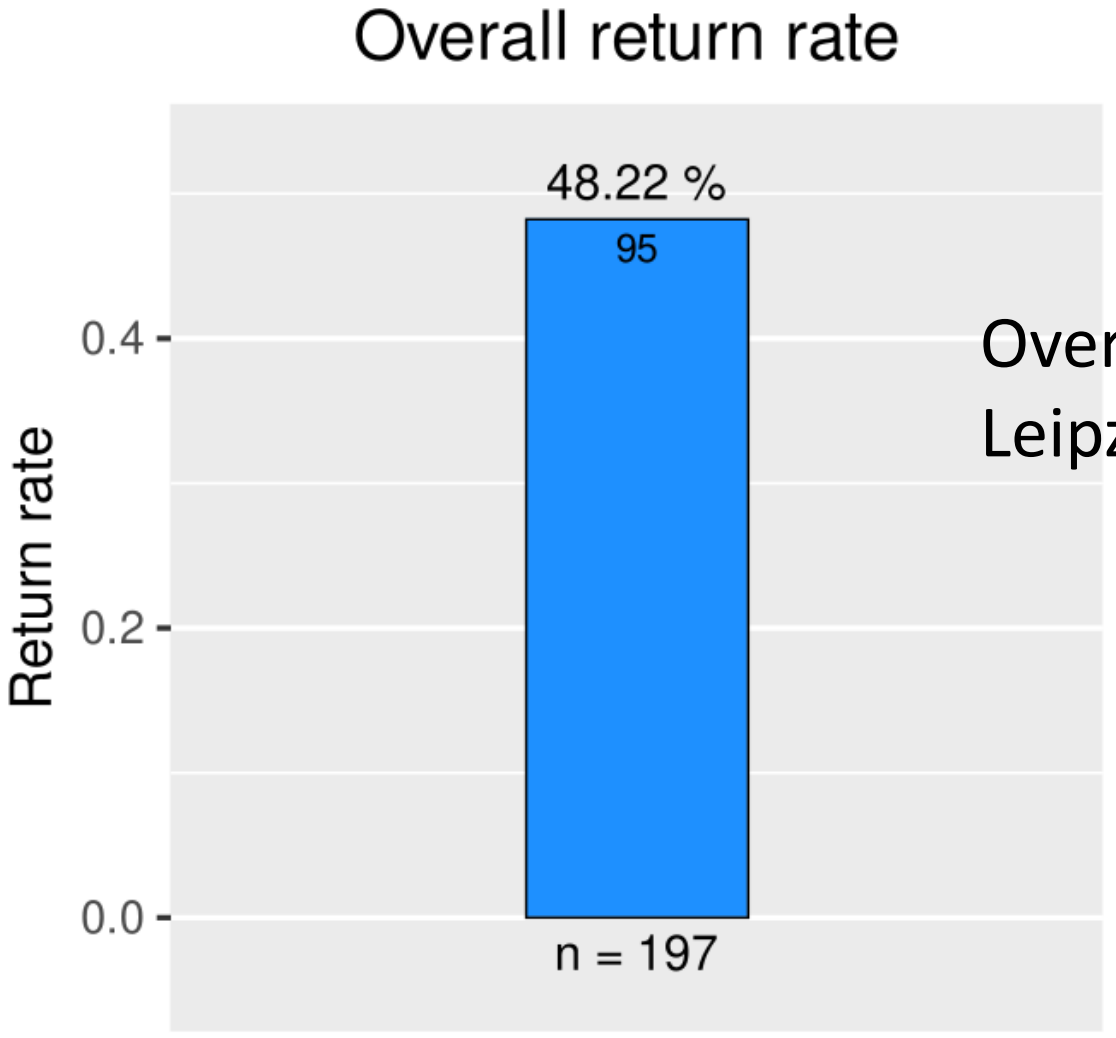
Leipzig


51.45°N
51.40°N
51.35°N
51.30°N
51.25°N
12.25°E
12.30°E
12.35°E
12.40°E
12.45°E
12.50°E
12.55°E
Return rate
0.6
0.5
0.4
0.3
0.2


51.45°N
51.40°N
51.35°N
51.30°N
51.25°N
12.25°E
12.30°E
12.35°E
12.40°E
12.45°E
12.50°E
12.55°E
Return rate
0.6
0.5
0.4
0.3
0.2

THE END

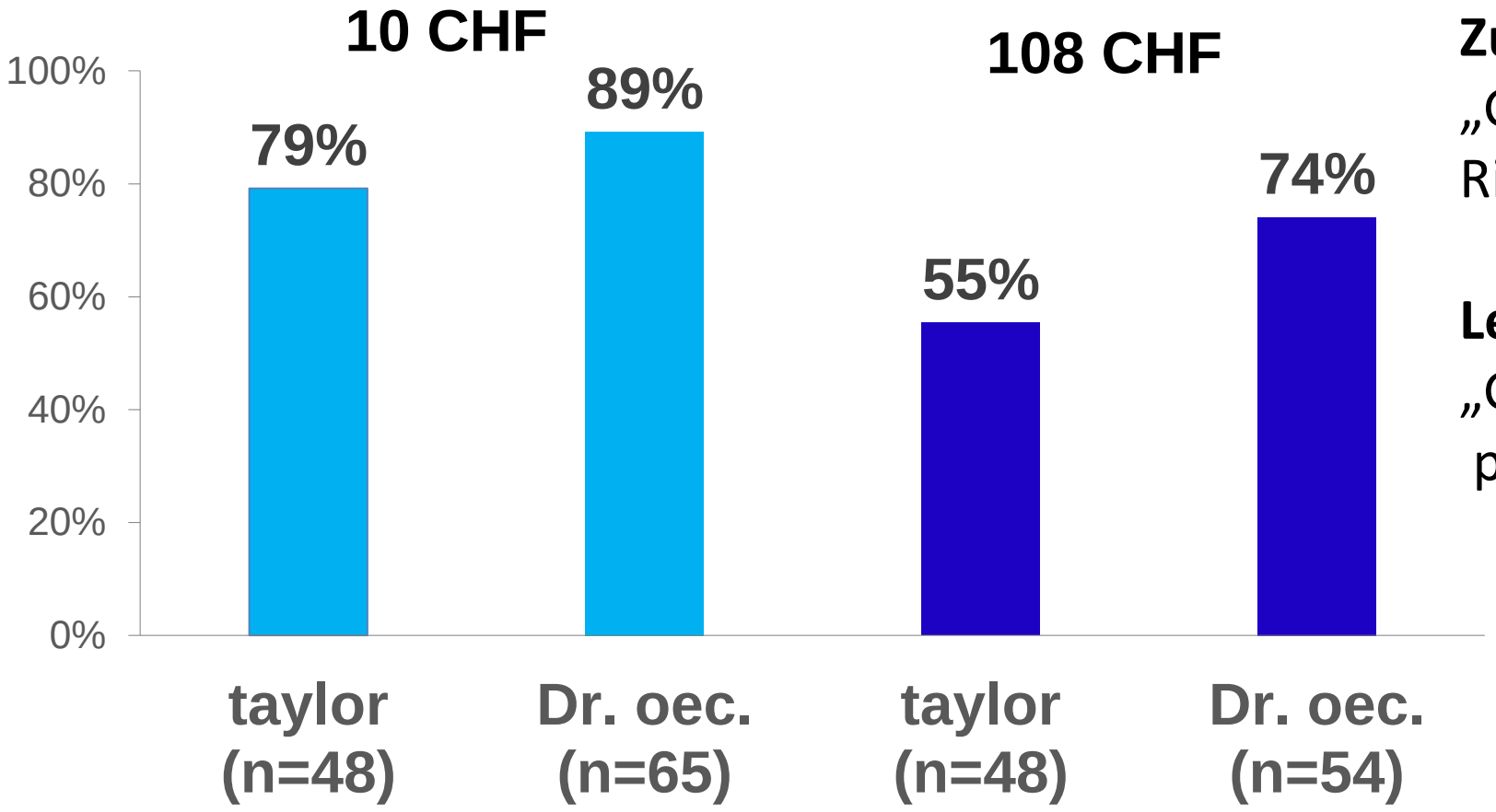

Return rate by name and date
Return rate
0.6
0.4
0.2
0.0
57 %
4
41 %
23
38 %
3
53 %
31
50 %
3
51 %
31
n = 7
n = 56
n = 8
n = 58
n = 6
n = 61
Paul Schneider
Abraham Goldstein
Hussain al Awadhi
after 7.10.23
before 7.10.23



Overall return rate

Leipzig: 48 %

Zurich: Giving to the rich!



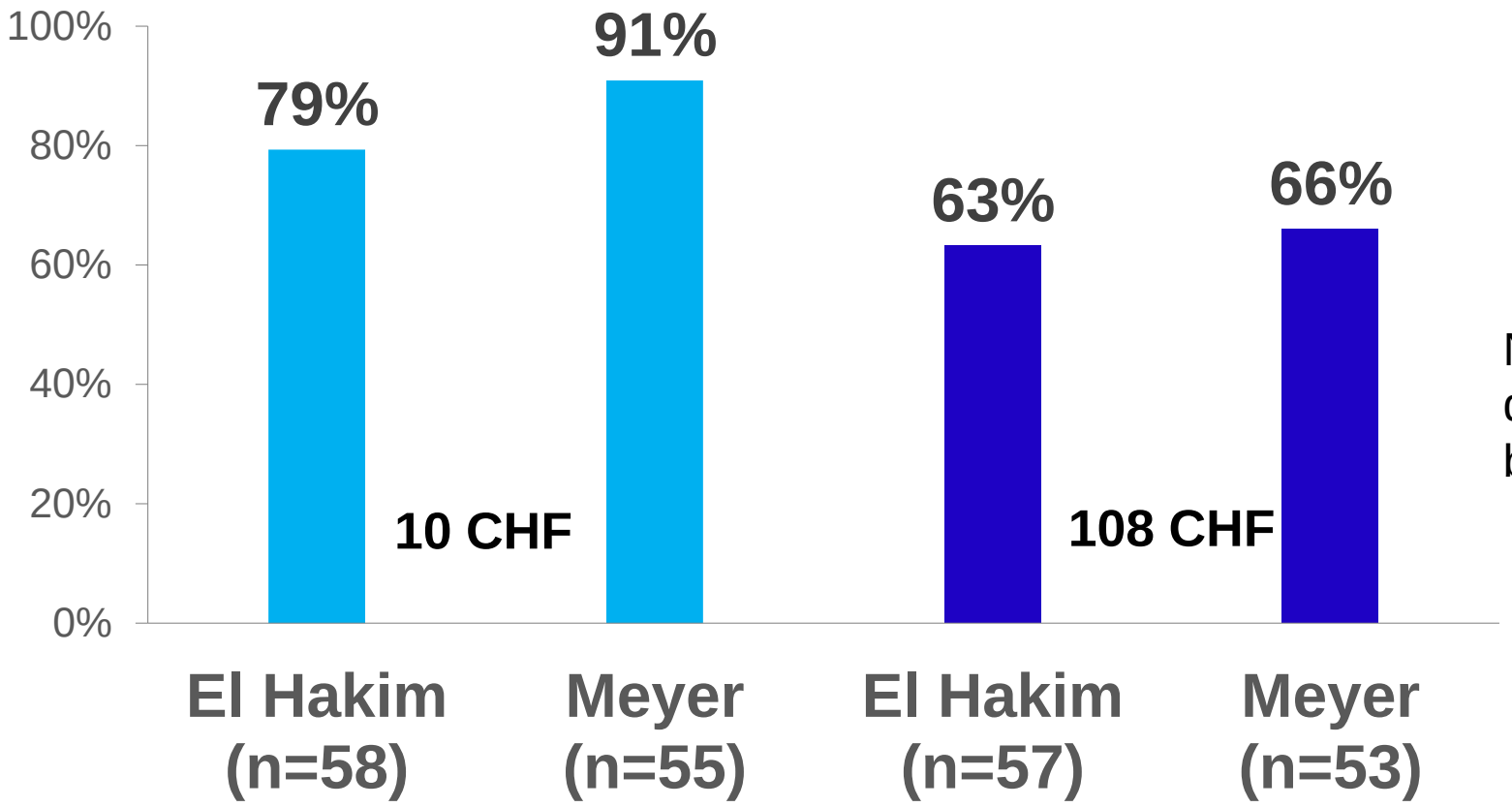
Zurich:
„Giving to the Rich!“

Leipzig:
„Giving to the poor!“

light-blue: 10 CHF (p=0.14)

dark-blue 108 CHF (p=0.04)

Return rate by monetary incentive and name



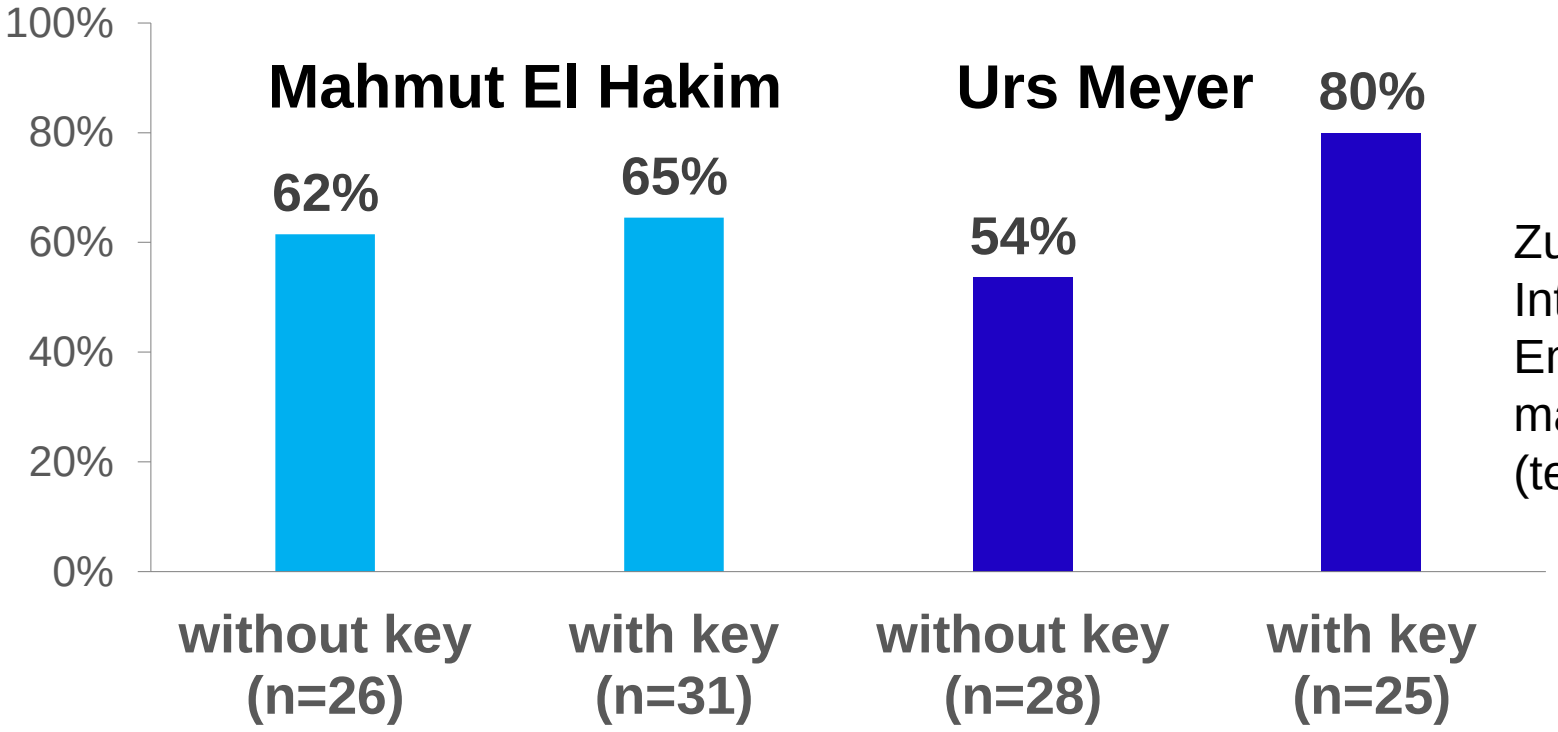
No evidence for discrimination in both cities!

light-blue: 10 CHF (p=0.09)

dark-blue 108 CHF (p=0.75)

Return rate by name and key

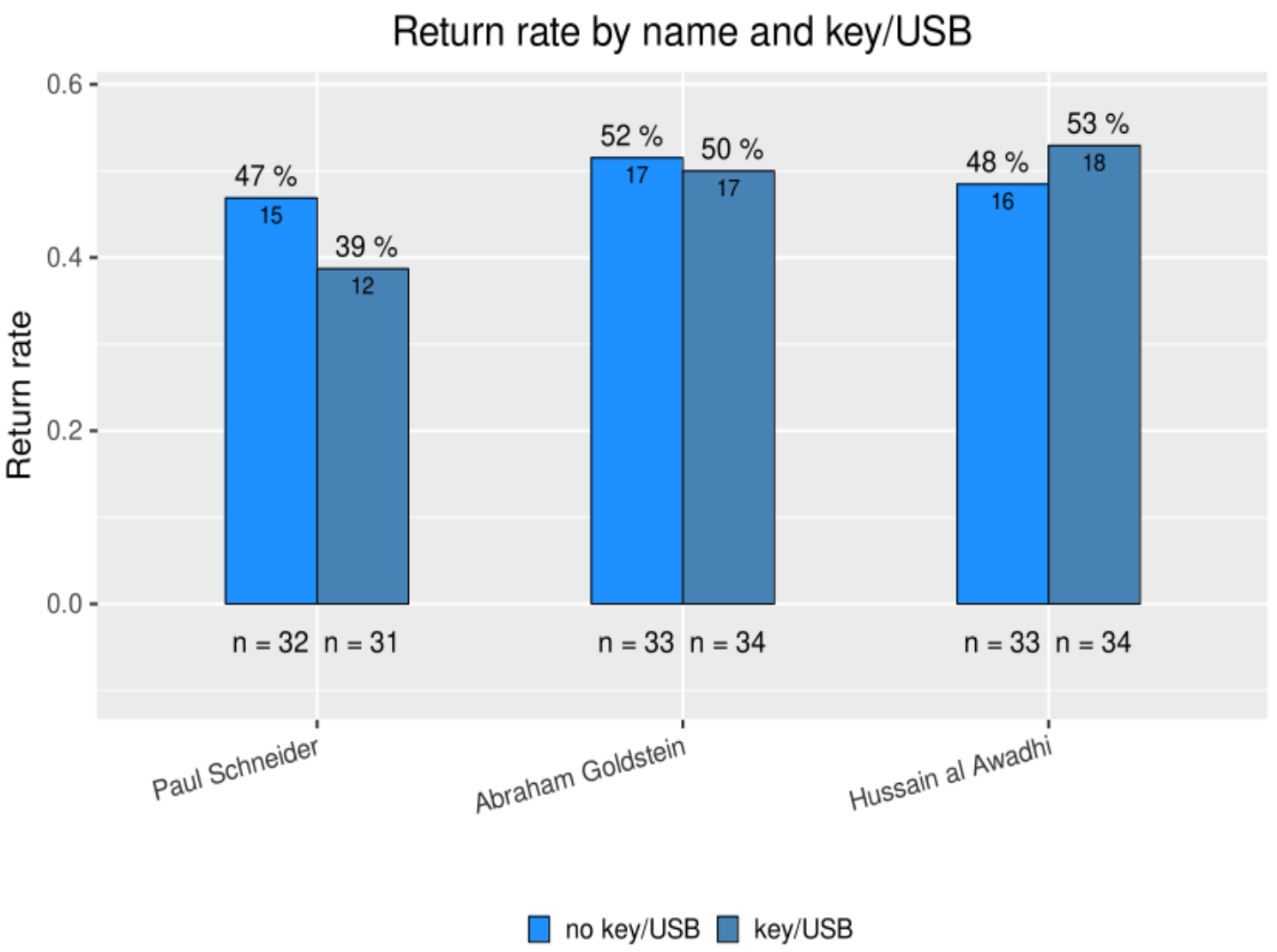
(data: 108 CHF experiment only)

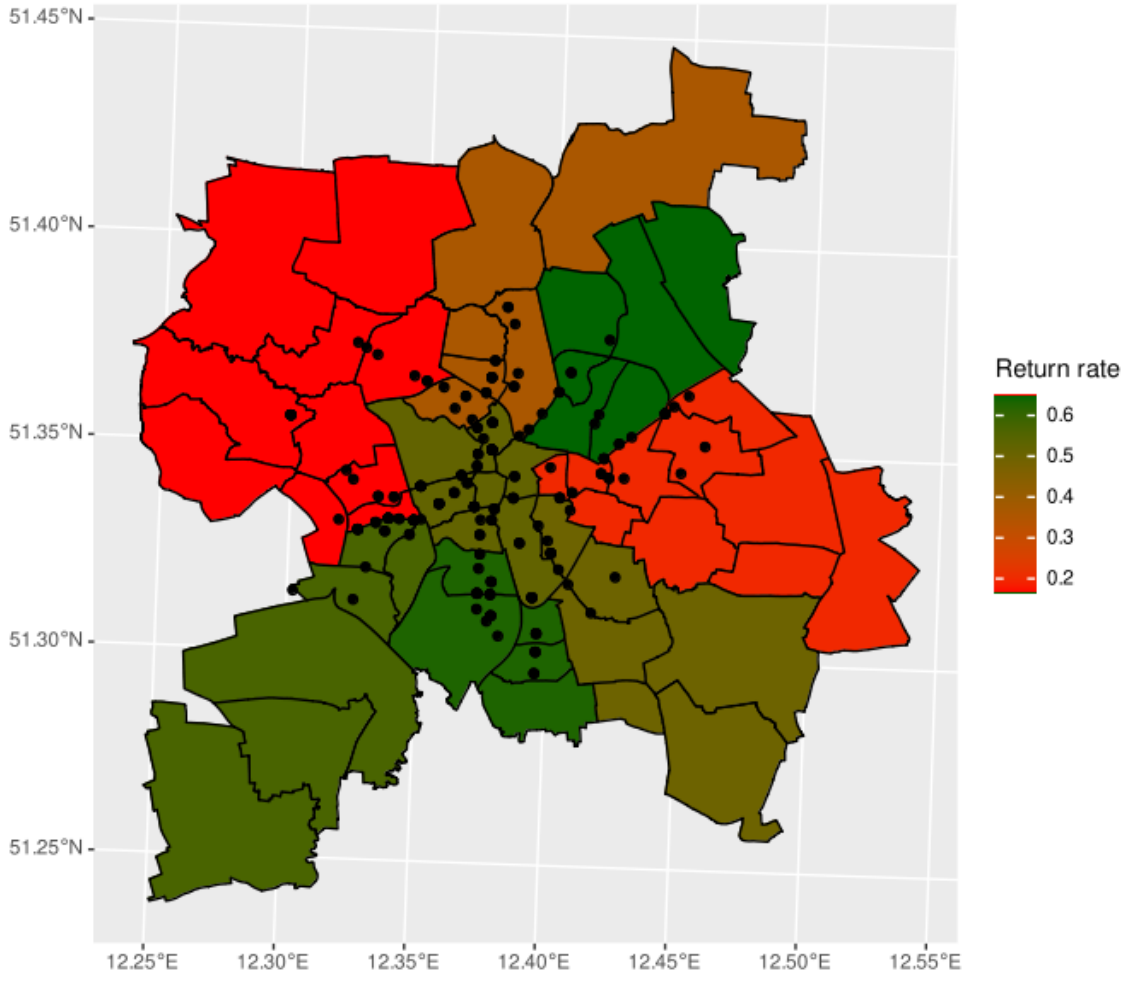


Zurich: Interaction: Empathy with majority group (tendency)

light-blue: Mahmut El Hakim (p=0.81)
data: CHF 108 experiment only

dark-blue: Urs Meyer (p=0.04)


Return rate by name and key/USB
Return rate
0.6
0.4
0.2
0.0
47 %
15
39 %
12
52 %
17
50 %
17
48 %
16
53 %
18
n = 32
n = 31
n = 33
n = 34
n = 33
n = 34
Paul Schneider
Abraham Goldstein
Hussain al Awadhi
no key/USB
key/USB


51.45°N
51.40°N
51.35°N
51.30°N
51.25°N
12.25°E
12.30°E
12.35°E
12.40°E
12.45°E
12.50°E
12.55°E
Return rate
0.6
0.5
0.4
0.3
0.2

Pretest

10 Names * 3 groups of ethnic/religious origin * 2 status groups = 60 Identities
Presentation of business cards (vignettes)

Four questions:

- Perceived origin
- Perceived confession
- Status
- Intention of helping

N = 1400 respondents, Prolific.org

Results

- Paul Schneider – 90,1% German name
- Hussain al Awadhi – 87,3% Arab name
- Abraham Goldstein – 78,4% Jewish name

Pre-registered with OSF https://osf.io/jwhm4

Study Information

Hypotheses

H1: **Status effect:** The probability that finder will return wallets to high status individuals is larger than for low status individuals.

H2: **Stake effect:** The return rate is negatively correlated with the amount of money in the wallet.

H3: **Cultural background effect** (discrimination): A wallet with a typical German name on the inserted business card is more likely returned than a name that indicates a cultural or religious minority.

H4: **Empathy hypothesis (main effect)**: A wallet that contains an object that is valuable only to the owner (e.g. a key or an USB-stick with seemingly important information) will be returned with higher likelihood than a wallet without such an object.

H5: **Empathy hypothesis (interaction effect):** A wallet that contains an object that is valuable only to the owner (e.g. a key or an USB-stick with seemingly important information) will be returned with higher likelihood than a wallet without such an object. This effect is larger for the majority group than for cultural or religious minorities.

OSF https://osf.io/jwhm4

Randomization

- We will use a stepwise randomization. Each day of the experiment a tram line will be randomly assigned, on which stops within a certain radius from the city will have a chance of selection.

- For each of the randomly selected stops a combination of backround*status*money*key_usb amount will be randomly selected.

- Also direction of travel will be randomly assigned to each stop. The sampling will be implemented in a therefore disigned R script.

►The aim of the study is to gather data from at least 180 experimental runs

Sampling

Experimental conditions were completely planned ahead

- 33 trials * 3 origins * 2 status → 198 trials
- 50% of each origin*status combination → high stakes (100€)
- 50% of each origin*status combination → key/USB stick

Tramstops are assigned to experimental condtions via multilevel sampling

1) 198 planned trials → 33 experimental days
2) Experimental day → tramline
3) Experiment at experimental day → tramstop from the line

Study design OSF https://osf.io/jwhm4

- Wallets including business cards, cash and various other "normal" material will be systematically lost at stops of public transport all over Leipzig.
- The business cards are used to indicate the status and cultural background of the owner. The design will be a 3x2x2x2 design.
- 3 **cultural backgrounds**, 2 different **status groups**, 2 different amounts of **money** and 2 treatments **with and without key/USB-stick**.
- To ensure statistical power, not all conditions will be fully crossed (see formulated hypothesis and sampling plan)

OSF https://osf.io/jwhm4

The aim of the study is to gather data from at least 180 experimental runs, so that the size of each cultural*status cell is at least 30 and each cultural*key/usb cell is at least 30. If the return rate of money within the wallets is high enough it is possible to run more experimental sessions.