Taking Someone Else’s Perspective: When Body “Position” is More Important than Body “Presence”
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Hypothesis:
- That social dynamics & affordances will influence which perspective individuals will choose when describing spatial scenes, specifically body position.

Methods:
- Participants were randomly assigned to one of seven conditions (see and read the following sentence, “In the picture below, you see the last frame of a video clip.”
- Participants then viewed a photograph (see Visual Stimuli).

Methods (cont):
- Participants answered the following question, “In relation to the cup, where is the book placed?” (see Linguistic Stimuli).

Prior Research:
- When a person is present in the scene people will choose an allocentric perspective more often when describing a scene (Tversky & Hard, 2009).
- We choose other perspectives to visualize and explain things through object anchoring or relative perspectives (Barsalou 2008; Levinson, 1996).
- An affordance is a quality of an object or an environment that allows an individual to perform an action.

Linguistic & Visual Stimuli:
In relation to the cup, where is the book placed?

Implications:
- These results suggest that the mere presence of a person in a scene does not guarantee a viewer will take that person’s perspective, but rather the way the person is positioned in a scene might also be of critical importance.