

# The effects of a documentary film on explicit and implicit aspects of stigmatisation towards people diagnosed with schizophrenia



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# Introduction

- People with mental illnesses are stigmatised, particularly those diagnosed with schizophrenia (SZ)
- Stereotypes about SZ may lead to prejudicial attitudes and discrimination with debilitating effects on people with SZ
  - > There is a need to prevent, reduce or eliminate such stereotypes
- "Radio Schizo" is a documentary film that follows a small group of young people with SZ in their daily lives. It thus offers an **indirect contact** with people with SZ, a type of strategy that has already showed to be efficient on reducting stigmatisation
- ⇒ Main goal of this study: evaluate the effects of a documentary film about schizophrenia on: Explicit coanitive, affe
  - Explicit cognitive, affective and behavioural aspects of stigmatisation
  - Implicit attitudes towards schizophrenia

# Hypothesis 1: explicit measures

# Hypothesis 2: implicit measures

- Less negative Stereotypes (Dangerousness, Unpredictability, Incompetency, Responsibility, Prognostic)
- Less desired Social distance
- More perceived Warmth & Competence
- More positive & less negative Emotional reactions
- More positive & less negative Behavioural tendencies

Model of stereotype content (MSC; Fiske, Cuddy, Glick, & Xu, 2002)

More elevated positive implicit attitudes toward concepts related to schizophrenia

#### Methods

Participants:

Control group: 25 participants (age M=28.08; 6 males & 19 females)

Film group: 24 participants (age M=29.08; 7 males & 17 females)

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Only in the Film group, and specifically

attributable to the intervention

**Procedure:** 

#### Pre-test:

#### Explicit measures:

- Stereotypes about SZ + Social distance questionnaire
- MSC: Stereotype
  Warmth
  Competence
- Emotional Reactions (prejudicial attitudes)
  Pity, admiration, envy and contempt
- Behavioural tendencies (discrimination)
  Active & passive harm
  Active & passive facilitation

Social Desirability: Impression management scale

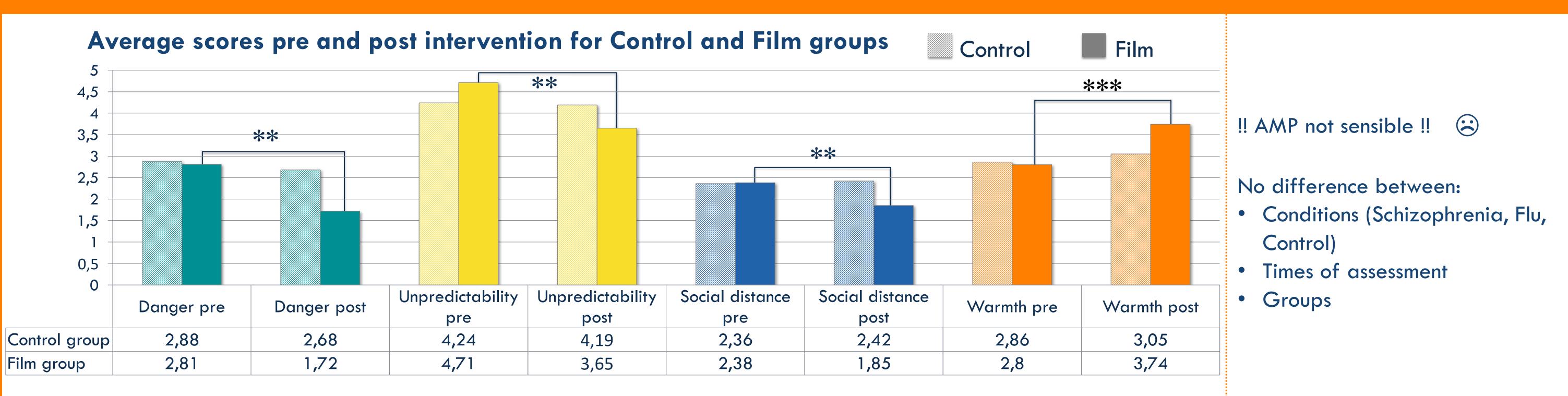
Implicit measure: Affect Misattribution Procedure (AMP; Payne, Cheng, Govorum, & Stewart, 2005)

Intervention: Documentary film, "Radio Schizo"

Post-test: explicit + implicit measures

### Results 1: explicit measures

## Results 2: imlicit measures



ANOVAs with repeated measures on time of assessment: \*\* =  $p \le .01$ ; \*\*\* = p < .001 (Time x Group)

#### Discussion

- Significant reduction of stereotypes of Dangerousness and Unpredictability
- Significant reduction of reported desired Social distance
  - > Change of prejudicial attitudes
- Significant increase of perceived sociability ("Warmth")
- No change on emotional reactions and behavioural tendencies (MCS)
  - > Need for more exposures (i.e., direct or indirect contact) in order to observe changes in affective and behavioural aspects of stigmatisation?

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