

Lay summary

Previous social experiences can reinforce and impair future leadership, but only for the bold. By pairing three-spined sticklebacks with different subsequent partners, we show that the personality of previous partners can carry over to later interactions and affect leadership but not following behaviour. Only bold individuals were influenced by such previous experiences; shy fish were mostly responsive to their current partners actions. These findings help understand the emergence and maintenance of social roles within groups.

For Review Only

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3 1 **The role of previous social experience on risk-taking and leadership in**
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5 2 **three-spined sticklebacks**
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33 14 **Short title: Previous social experience affects leadership behavior**
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37 16 **Abstract**

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39 17 The emergence of leaders and followers is a key factor in facilitating group cohesion in
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41 18 animals. Individual group members have been shown to respond strongly to each other's
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43 19 behavior and thereby affect the emergence and maintenance of these social roles. However,
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45 20 it is not known to what extent previous social experience might still affect individual's
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47 21 leading and following tendencies in later social interactions. Here, by pairing three-spined
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49 22 sticklebacks (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*) with two different consecutive partners, we show a
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51 23 carry-over effect of a previous partner's personality on the behavior of focal individuals
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53 24 when paired with a new partner. This carry-over effect depended on the relative boldness of
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55 25 the focal individual. Relatively bold but not shy fish spent less time out of cover and led
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3 26 their current partner less if they had previously been paired with a bolder partner. By
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5 27 contrast, following behavior was mainly influenced by the personality of the current partner.
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7 28 Overall, the behavior of relatively bold fish was more consistent across the stages while shy
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10 29 fish changed their behavior more strongly depending on the current context. These findings
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12 30 emphasize how the history of previous social interactions can play a role in the emergence
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14 31 and maintenance of social roles within groups, providing an additional route for individual
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16 32 differences to affect collective behavior.
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34 **Key words:** boldness, collective decision-making, leadership, personality, responsiveness,
35 shoaling
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37 **1. INTRODUCTION**

38 The emergence of leaders and followers plays a major role in promoting group coordination
39 and cohesion, with important consequences for the social lives of humans as well as many
40 non-human animals (Krause and Ruxton 2002; Conradt and Roper 2009; Dyer et al. 2009;
41 King, Johnson, and Van Vugt 2009). There is a growing body of evidence that individuals
42 differ in their social roles, with some individuals having a strong influence on group
43 behavior while others mostly follow (e.g. Reebbs 2000; Harcourt et al. 2009; Nagy et al.
44 2010; Flack et al. 2012; Nakayama et al. 2013). A key focus has been to determine what
45 factors predict which group members will become leaders (Conradt and Roper 2003; Couzin
46 et al. 2005; King, Johnson, and Van Vugt 2009). Many such factors have been identified in a
47 large range of species: body size (Krause, Reeves, and Hoare 1998; Reebbs 2001), hunger
48 level (Krause, Reeves, and Hoare 1998; McClure, Ralph, and Despland 2011; Nakayama,
49 Johnstone, and Manica 2012), dominance (Peterson and Jacobs 2002; King et al. 2008;
50 Jolles et al. 2013), social affiliations (King et al. 2008; Jacobs et al. 2011), sex (Peterson and

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3 51 Jacobs 2002; Barelli et al. 2008), age (Réale and Festa-Bianchet 2003; Sueur and Petit
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5 52 2008), boldness (Beauchamp 2000; Ward et al. 2004; Harcourt et al. 2009; Kurvers et al.
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7 53 2009), sociability (Brown and Irving 2014), and knowledge or experience (Reebs 2000;
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9 54 Couzin et al. 2005; Dyer et al. 2009; Flack et al. 2012).

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11 In recent years a few studies have started to go beyond the search for such predictive
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13 56 factors and have shown that the actual dynamics of interactions amongst individuals play an
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15 57 important role in leading and following behavior (Harcourt et al. 2009; Nakayama et al.
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17 58 2012; Nakayama et al. 2013; Pettit et al. 2013; Ward et al. 2013). For example, although
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19 59 bold individuals typically lead and shy individuals mainly follow (Beauchamp 2000;
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21 60 Harcourt et al. 2009; Kurvers et al. 2009; Nakayama et al. 2013), these differences in
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23 61 leading and following are strongly enhanced by social feedback (Harcourt et al. 2009;
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25 62 Nakayama et al. 2012). Furthermore, although bolder individuals are generally less
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27 63 responsive to their partner's behavior, both bolder and shyer individuals readily adjust to
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29 64 their partner when in the following role (Nakayama et al. 2012; Nakayama, Johnstone, and
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31 65 Manica 2012). These findings not only highlight the important modifying role of social
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33 66 feedback, they also suggest the exciting possibility that interactions with previous partners
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35 67 may play a role in later leading and following behavior. As also highlighted in the human
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37 68 leadership literature (Amit et al. 2009; Emery 2010; DuBrin 2013), addressing this key
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39 69 outstanding issue may contribute to our understanding of the emergence and maintenance of
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41 70 leadership and ultimately of collective behavior and group decision-making.

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47 Most gregarious animals live in highly dynamic groups in which they interact with
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49 72 multiple conspecifics (Krause and Ruxton 2002), and a strong influence of previous social
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51 73 experience has already been shown for neophobic and aggressive behavior (Hsu and Wolf
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53 74 1999; Frost et al. 2007). In a previous study on leadership, fish were shown to change their
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55 75 behavior based on a partner's ability to successfully locate food during joint trips, with
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3 76 experience overriding personality differences in the tendency to follow but not to lead
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5 77 (Nakayama et al. 2013). Here by pairing three-spined sticklebacks (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*)
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7 78 with two different consecutive partners, we investigated how previous social experience
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9 79 with other individuals affected the propensity of fish to leave cover, to lead, and to follow
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11 80 their current partner during joint trips. If individuals fine-tune their behavior based on
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13 81 previous experiences, this potentially represents a mechanism through which social roles can
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15 82 be reinforced. Since bold individuals are known to be less responsive than shy individuals
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17 83 during social interactions (Pike et al. 2008; Nakayama et al. 2012; Nakayama, Johnstone,
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19 84 and Manica 2012), we hypothesized that bolder fish would be more consistent in their
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21 85 behavior across different social and non-social environments and shyer fish to be more
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23 86 responsive to the present context. We therefore predicted that the behavior of bolder fish
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25 87 would be mainly explained by their own personality and to a lesser extent by that of their
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27 88 current and previous partners, while for shyer fish the personality of their current partner
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29 89 would be the main determinant of their behavior. This approach provides a unique
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31 90 opportunity to describe important new aspects of social feedback and personality that have
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33 91 thus far been neglected in studies on group movements and leadership.
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40 93 **2. MATERIALS AND METHODS**

41 94 ***(a) Subjects and housing***

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43 95 We collected three-spined sticklebacks using a sweep net during the summers of 2010 to
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45 96 2012, from a small branch of the river Cam (Cambridge, UK). Large groups of fish (~ 200
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47 97 individuals) were housed in a temperature-controlled laboratory ($T = 14^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$) with a
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49 98 constant light regime (lights on from 09:00 to 19:00 h) and kept in large glass holding
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51 99 aquaria (120 x 60 x 60 cm) that contained artificial plants, aeration and under-gravel
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53 100 filtration. Fish were fed frozen bloodworm (*Chironomidae*) larvae *ad libitum* once a day
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3 101 before the start of the experiment. During the experimental period, feeding was rationed to
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5 102 one bloodworm a day to standardize hunger levels. All fish used for the experiment were of
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7 103 similar length ($50 \text{ mm} \pm 7 \text{ mm}$ from tip of snout to caudal peduncle) and were taken from a
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9 104 single population to minimize population-specific genetic effects that may influence
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11 105 personality (Bell 2005). Although the exact age of the fish could not be determined, all
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13 106 caught individuals were juveniles and are expected to only vary in age by a few weeks. Sex
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15 107 of the fish was not identified as the temperature and photoperiod regime in the lab prevented
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17 108 the fish from becoming sexually mature (Borg, Bornestaf, and Hellqvist 2004).
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23 110 ***(b) Experimental set-up***

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25 111 During the experimental period, we housed fish individually in custom holding tanks (60 x
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27 112 30 x 40 cm) lined with gravel and divided lengthwise into six compartments by transparent
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29 113 perspex partitions. Five compartments were used to house a fish each and contained an
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31 114 artificial plant at one end and a white perspex plate (2 x 2 cm) at the other end where food
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33 115 was delivered. The remaining compartment contained the under-gravel filter and was not
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35 116 used to house any fish. Partner fish were never housed in adjacent compartments. Fish were
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37 117 allowed to acclimatize in their individual compartments for three days before the start of
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39 118 testing.
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43 119 To investigate fish's propensity to explore a risky area and lead and follow
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45 120 conspecifics, we used a tank set-up previously used in our lab for similar experiments
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47 121 (Harcourt et al. 2009; Nakayama et al. 2012; Nakayama, Johnstone, and Manica 2012). In
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49 122 short, experiments took place in four identical experimental tanks (70 x 30 x 30 cm), each
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51 123 divided lengthwise with either an opaque white perspex partition or a transparent perspex
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53 124 partition to create two long lanes (see Figure S1.). Each lane was lined with gravel in a slope
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55 125 ranging from a deep (15 x 15 cm; 14 cm depth) 'safe area' that contained an artificial plant
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3 126 to an increasingly shallow ‘exposed’ area (4 cm depth at the other side). Only when fish had
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5 127 fully emerged from this safe area we defined them to be ‘out of cover’. No food was
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7 128 provided during the trials and fish were thus not rewarded for leaving cover. This set-up
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9 129 reflects the ecologically relevant problem where fish can either rest in a safe place or explore
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11 130 a risky area in search of food (analogous to the exposed area where food is delivered in their
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13 131 holding compartments). Fish prefer to spend time under cover but, even in the absence of
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15 132 food in the experimental tank, keep making regular trips out of cover to explore the exposed
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17 133 area. Since fish have different preferences for the number and length of trips out of cover
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19 134 they make yet prefer to synchronize their activities and shoal together, there is a conflict on
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21 135 the timing of leaving and returning to cover. We have used this ecologically relevant setup
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23 136 to look at the emergence of leaders and followers in a number of previous papers (e.g.
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25 137 Harcourt et al. 2009; Harcourt et al. 2010). The walls of the tank were covered by white
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27 138 perspex to minimize any disturbances from outside the tank. When not running experiments,
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29 139 the water of the experimental tanks was oxygenated with an air stone. HD video cameras
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31 140 (Camileo X100, Toshiba Corporation, Japan) were used to record fish movements from a
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33 141 fixed position above each tank.
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41 ***(c) Experimental procedure***

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43 144 We tested four batches of fish ($N = 136$ in total), each over a 7-day cycle (Nov-Dec 2011
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45 145 and Nov-Dec 2012) and randomly selected 44 fish as focals, 44 as partner for the ‘first
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47 146 pairing’, and 44 as partner for the ‘second pairing’. Fish were tested across three stages. We
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49 147 started by testing fish in the experimental tank in isolation to quantify their boldness
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51 148 (‘isolation stage’). On day one and two, each fish was put in one of two lanes of the
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53 149 experimental tank that were separated by an opaque partition so that fish could not interact
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55 150 with each other. The behavior of each fish was recorded for an hour each day. After a rest
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3 151 day, we randomly paired each focal fish with a partner ('previous pairing stage'), and put the
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5 152 two fish in the same experimental tank, but this time with a transparent partition so that they
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7 153 could interact. Behavior was recorded for an hour on each of two consecutive days. Finally,
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9 154 we paired each focal with a new socially naïve partner and observed their behavior for
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11 155 another two one-hour sessions over two consecutive days ('current pairing stage'). On each
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13 156 testing day, fish were transferred to the deep end of the tank using a dip net and allowed to
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15 157 acclimatize to the tanks for seven minutes before we tracked their movements. After each
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17 158 trial, fish were moved back to their housing compartment. For each experimental cycle, we
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19 159 randomized the daily testing order as well as the assignment to tank and to the left and right
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21 160 lanes of a tank. Fish were housed in their individual compartments for a week before their
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23 161 first pairing to minimize any social experiences from being housed with conspecifics in
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25 162 social housing tanks.
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32 **(d) Data analysis**

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34 165 We tracked the exact movements of the fish at 10 frames/s using automated motion tracking
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36 166 software (AnTracks, version 0.99). For tracking we used a background subtraction
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38 167 acquisition method that determined what pixels differed between the video and a
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40 168 background image that was created from a random five-minute period in each one-hour
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42 169 recording. As processing parameters we used gauss subtraction, gauss blur, dilate and final
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44 170 thresholding for which we adjusted the levels according to the specific light levels in each
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46 171 video to ensure fish movements were tracked correctly. After tracking was complete we
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48 172 checked all trajectories for each video. Any possible noise tracked by the software was
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50 173 eliminated and discontinuous trips where the software had lost track of the fish for a few
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52 174 frames were joined.
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3 175 Data were analyzed in R 3.0.2 (R Development Core Team). Based on the positional
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5 176 coordinates of both members in a pair we calculated the relative time fish spent out of cover
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7 177 and their number of trips out of cover. On average, fish spent 12.89% of the time out of over
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10 178 (range 0 - 62.3%) and were consistent in this proportion of time out of cover across the two
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12 179 days of the isolation stage ($r_s = 0.55$, $N = 136$, $P < 0.001$). Therefore we used the average
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14 180 proportion of time individuals were out of cover across both days as the boldness score for
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16 181 each fish, an approach commonly adopted for examining the boldness personality trait (e.g.
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18 182 Harcourt et al. 2009; Magnhagen and Bunnefeld 2009; King et al. 2013). Ten fish that did
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20 183 not come out of cover during the isolation stage were excluded.

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23 184 The behavior of pairs of fish in a similar setup but without previous experience has
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25 185 been described in detailed in previous work (Harcourt et al. 2009; Nakayama et al. 2012;
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27 186 Nakayama, Johnstone, and Manica 2012; Nakayama et al. 2013). In this paper, we focus on
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29 187 the effect of previous experience (the first pairing) on later interactions (the second pairing).
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31 188 We focused on the proportion of time spent out of cover by the focal fish, and on the number
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33 189 of trips it made out of cover on its own, as a leader, and as a follower. Leading was defined
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35 190 as a fish going out of cover and being joined by its partner; following as a fish going out of
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37 191 cover to join its partner that is already out. We considered the effects on leading and
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39 192 following behaviour separately as previous work has shown that different factors (e.g.
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41 193 success of a partner in finding food) may affect the tendencies to lead and follow in different
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43 194 ways (e.g. Nakayama et al. 2013). For each of the four variables (time out of cover, and the
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45 195 three types of trips), we used linear models with the focal fish own boldness, the boldness of
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47 196 the previous partner and that of the current partner as predictors. We started with full models
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49 197 with all the predictors, and obtained a minimal model by backwards stepwise elimination
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51 198 (i.e. sequentially dropping terms until all terms retained in the model were significant).
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54 199 Statistics for non-significant terms were obtained by fitting the minimal model with each
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3 200 non-significant term added individually. As previous work has shown that the relative
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5 201 personality between partners is a key predictor of collective movements and leadership
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7 202 (Harcourt et al. 2009; Nakayama et al. 2013), we ran separate models for focals bolder than
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9 203 their second partner (bold focals) and focals relatively shyer than their second partner (shy
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11 204 focals). Results based on the absolute boldness scores were qualitatively similar and are
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13 205 documented in the supplementary material. As our dataset consists of batches in two
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15 206 subsequent years we additionally ran all models with year as an extra fixed factor and found
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17 207 it had no significant effect in any of the models. The residuals for all models were visually
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19 208 inspected to ensure homogeneity of variance, normality of error and linearity. Finally, paired
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21 209 t-tests were used to investigate how the risk-taking behavior of bold and shy focals changed
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23 210 across the isolation and two pairing stages. Repeatability across the six days of the
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25 211 experiment was estimated following the method by Lessells & Boag (1987). All results with
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27 212 $0.10 > P > 0.05$ are reported as trends and $P \leq 0.05$ as significant. Means are quoted \pm SE
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29 213 throughout.

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36 215 **3. RESULTS**

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38 216 We focus on the data collected during the second pairing and investigate how the
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40 217 personalities of the previous and current partner affect the behavior of focal fish bolder than
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42 218 their current partner (bold focals) and focal fish shyer than their current partner (shy focals).
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44 219 The relative boldness of focal fish ranged from -0.62 for shy focals to +0.50 for bold focals
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46 220 (mean \pm SE = -0.09 \pm 0.03).
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52 222 **(a) Time spent out of cover**

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54 223 Bold focals spent more time out of cover the bolder they were themselves (Fig. 1A) but also
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56 224 the shyer their previous partner had been ($F_{2,7} = 18.77$, $P = 0.002$; Table 1), together
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225 explaining more than 80% of the variance ($R^2 = 0.84$). The personality of their current
 226 partner had no effect on the time bold focals were out of cover ($F_{1,7} = 0.04$, $P = 0.84$). By
 227 contrast, shy focals tended to spend more time out of cover the bolder their current partner
 228 ($F_{1,22} = 4.11$, $P = 0.055$; $R^2 = 0.16$), while their own personality ($F_{1,22} = 0.33$, $P = 0.571$; Fig.
 229 1B) and that of their previous partner ($F_{1,22} = 0.04$, $P = 0.845$) had no significant effect.

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231 **(b) Number of trips**

232 The number of solo trips, when focal fish went out and returned to cover without being
 233 followed by their partner, was relatively higher in bold compared to shy focals ($t = 2.56$, $P =$
 234 0.028 ; 13.8 ± 4.24 and 2.65 ± 1.02 trips respectively). Bold focals went on more solo trips
 235 the bolder they were themselves ($F_{1,8} = 6.60$, $P = 0.033$; $R^2 = 0.45$) while the personality of
 236 the current partner and the previous partner had no effect on this behavior ($F_{1,7} = 0.09$, $P =$
 237 0.777 ; $F_{1,7} = 1.67$, $P = 0.237$ respectively; Table 1). The number of solo trips made by shy
 238 focals was not explained by either their own personality ($F_{1,22} = 0.17$, $P = 0.687$), that of
 239 their current partner ($F_{1,22} = 0.25$, $P = 0.624$) or that of their previous partner ($F_{1,22} = 0.11$, P
 240 $= 0.743$).

241 There was no significant difference in the number of joint trips led by bold and shy
 242 focal fish during the second pairing ($t = 1.31$, $P = 0.211$; 7.15 ± 2.14 and 3.96 ± 1.19 trips
 243 respectively). Bold focals led more trips the relatively bolder the focal individual (Fig. 2A)
 244 but also the shyer their previous partner ($F_{2,7} = 12.98$, $P = 0.004$; Fig. 2B; Table 1), together
 245 explaining 79% of the variance. The personality of the current partner did not affect the
 246 number of leadership trips for bold focals ($F_{1,6} = 1.53$, $P = 0.262$). By contrast, shy focals
 247 led more trips the bolder their current partner ($F_{1,22} = 5.75$, $P = 0.025$; $R^2 = 0.21$), while their
 248 own personality ($F_{2,21} = 0.28$, $P = 0.600$) and that of their previous partner ($F_{2,21} = 0.13$, $P =$
 249 0.719) had no effect.

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3 250 There was no difference in the number of trips bold and shy focals followed their
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5 251 current partner out of cover ($t = 1.91, P = 0.083; 7.15 \pm 2.14$ and 2.91 ± 2.45 trips
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7 252 respectively). Bold focals followed their partner more the bolder it was (Fig. 3) and the
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9 253 shyer their previous partner had been ($F_{2,7} = 41.74, P < 0.001$; Table 1), together explaining
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11 254 92% of the variance. Bold focal's own personality did not play a role ($F_{1,6} = 2.28, P =$
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13 255 0.182). Shy focals followed more the bolder their current partner was ($F_{1,21} = 7.78, P =$
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15 256 0.011 ; Fig. 3; $R^2 = 0.26$), with no effect of their own personality ($F_{1,21} = 0.60, P = 0.448$)
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17 257 and that of their previous partner ($F_{1,21} = 0.39, P = 0.537$).
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22 23 259 **c) Behavioral consistency across the stages**

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25 260 Bold focals were highly repeatable in the time they spent out of cover on the six days across
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27 261 the three stages (ICC = 0.76, 95% CI: 0.55 - 0.92), while shy focals were not (ICC = 0.17,
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29 262 95% CI: 0.05 - 0.35). On average, bold focals spent similar amounts of time out of cover
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31 263 during the isolation stage and the first pairing ($t_9 = 1.81, P = 0.104$) but tended to spend less
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33 264 time out of cover during the second pairing compared to the isolation stage ($t_9 = 2.18, P =$
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35 265 0.058). By contrast, shy focals spent more time out of cover when they could see their
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37 266 partner compared to when in isolation (first pairing: $t_{31} = -2.29, P = 0.029$; second pairing:
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39 267 $t_{31} = -2.62, P = 0.013$). Additionally, looking at focals based on their absolute boldness
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41 268 category (with bold fish spending more time out and shy fish less time out than the average
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43 269 focal fish) we found bold fish (ICC = 0.65, 95 % CI: 0.47 - 0.82) were more consistent than
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45 270 shy fish (ICC = 0.17, 95 % CI: 0.04 - 0.39), as reflected by their non-overlapping confidence
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53 273 **4. DISCUSSION**

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3 274 In this study, we show for the first time that the effect of the personality of a previous social
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5 275 partner can carry over to later social interactions, modulating the willingness of individuals
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7 276 to go out of cover and lead their partner. By contrast, the tendency to follow was mainly
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9 277 affected by the personality of an individual's current partner. Although bolder fish were
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11 278 more consistent than shyer fish in the time they spent out of cover across the contexts, it was
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13 279 only bold fish that were susceptible to social reinforcement by their previous social
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16 280 interactions. Shyer fish behaved much more flexibly and responded most strongly to their
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18 281 current partner.

20 282 Previously, some studies have shown that previous social experience may affect
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22 283 neophobia and aggression (Hsu and Wolf 1999; Frost et al. 2007) and that experience within
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24 284 the same pair may override personality differences in leadership tendencies (Nakayama et al.
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26 285 2013). Here we show for the first time how social experiences with previous partners may
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28 286 affect later leadership behavior: the bolder their previous partner, the relatively less time
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30 287 bold focals spent out of cover, making them less successful in taking the lead. These
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32 288 findings help answer the important question in the leadership literature of what makes an
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34 289 initiator successful in triggering collective movement (Petit and Bon 2010). Although bolder
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36 290 individuals are less sensitive to failure in recruiting a partner, they are responsive to their
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38 291 partner's behavior when it has taken on the role of leader. This may be especially the case
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40 292 when bold focals are paired with a relatively bold partner. In such a situation, bold focals
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42 293 partner is relatively more likely to take the lead compared to a shyer partner. Consequently,
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44 294 the focal individual may be less likely to be followed, resulting in a reduction of positive
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46 295 feedback in leadership and reduced performance in the pair (Nakayama et al. 2013). Such
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48 296 experience may then subsequently modulate focal fish' willingness to go out of cover and
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50 297 lead their partner. Not only does this finding highlight that bolder individuals may be more
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52 298 susceptible to social reinforcement than shy individuals, it indicates that for leadership social
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3 299 experience is important. To be an effective leader, an individual may need experience with
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5 300 good followers, providing positive social feedback and leading experience, and ultimately
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7 301 more successful leadership. These findings may have potential for our understanding of
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9 302 human leadership as a lack of knowledge of the social dynamics underlying leadership has
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11 303 been highlighted in the social sciences (Amit et al. 2009; Emery 2010; DuBrin 2013). Future
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13 304 studies could look in more detail at the extent of the difference in personality scores between
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15 305 the partners and determine the effect it may have on collective behavior.
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19 306 The finding that bold but not shy focals were affected by a previous partner might be
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21 307 explained by the fact that shy individuals are in general more sociable (Ward et al. 2004;
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23 308 Pike et al. 2008) and behaviorally less consistent (Nakayama, Johnstone, and Manica 2012),
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25 309 than bold individuals. Indeed, we found that the current partner's personality explains much
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27 310 more of shy focals' behavior than that of bold focals, which is in line with previous studies
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29 311 reporting that shy individuals are more responsive to the actions of their (current) group
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31 312 members (Pike et al. 2008; Nakayama et al. 2012; Nakayama, Johnstone, and Manica 2012).
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33 313 This may also explain the more general finding that shy but not bold focals spent
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35 314 considerably more time out of cover when there was a conspecific present compared to
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37 315 when they were in isolation. Interestingly, in contrast to the time spent out of cover and
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39 316 leading behavior, following behavior of both bold and shy focals was primarily explained by
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41 317 the boldness of their current partner. This result is in line with a number of recent studies
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43 318 that have shown that both bold and shy individuals are responsive when in the following
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45 319 position (Nakayama et al. 2012; Nakayama, Johnstone, and Manica 2012) and that
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47 320 experience may override personality differences in the tendency to follow but not in the
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49 321 tendency to lead (Nakayama et al. 2013). Together, these findings thus suggest that
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51 322 regardless of an individual's own personality, its tendency to follow mainly depends on the
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53 323 behavior of its current partner(s). Leadership, in contrast, is particularly dependent on a
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3 324 bolder personality type, with a modifying effect of social feedback from previous
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5 325 experiences.

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7 326 Overall, our findings demonstrate a general difference in responsiveness between shy
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10 327 and bold individuals. Although both bold and shy individuals adjusted their behavior, bold
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12 328 individuals were more consistent in their behavior than shy individuals but adjusted their
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14 329 behavior based on their previous partner, suggestive of social reinforcement. In contrast, shy
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16 330 individuals mostly adjusted their behavior based on their current partner. These results
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18 331 support two recent theoretical models that showed how a co-evolutionary process between
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20 332 responsiveness and consistency may eventually result in populations that consist of highly
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22 333 responsive individuals that follow and behaviorally consistent individuals that mainly lead
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24 334 (Johnstone and Manica 2011; Wolf, Van Doorn, and Weissing 2011). Furthermore, these
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26 335 findings are highly relevant in the light of the idea that individual differences can be seen as
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28 336 behavioral specializations (Dall et al. 2012). If individuals differ in the extent that they
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30 337 change their behavior based on previous and current experiences, this represents a potential
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32 338 mechanism through which social roles can be generated and reinforced to create even longer
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34 339 lasting differences between individuals. In other words, personality differences may be
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36 340 maintained in populations because of their role in social coordination (see also King,
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38 341 Johnson, and Van Vugt 2009).

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42 342 Whilst the study of collective behavior, from pairs of individuals to groups of
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44 343 thousands of individuals, was initially mostly focused on homogeneous interaction rules
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46 344 (Couzin and Krause 2003; Petit and Bon 2010; Vicsek and Zafeiris 2012), individual
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48 345 differences are increasingly taken into account when examining group behavior (Conradt
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50 346 and List 2009; Herbert-Read et al. 2012; Jolles, Ostojić, and Clayton 2013). Here we go one
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52 347 step further by showing that social dynamics *across* time and social contexts may have a
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54 348 considerable effect on individual and thereby group behavior. Our study is the first to
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3 349 demonstrate that leadership roles are affected by social experiences from previous partners
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5 350 and that this depends on an individual's personality, with bold but not shy fish being
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7 351 affected by the personality of a previous partner. These findings help understand how
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9 352 leading and following behavior emerge and are maintained and highlight the important
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11 353 influence current as well as previous social experiences can have on individual and
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13 354 collective behavior.
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29
30 362 of Cambridge under a non-regulated procedures regime.
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473 TABLES

474 Table 1.

475 LMs of proportion of time out, number of solo trips, number of led trips, and number of trips

476 followed by bold and shy focal fish

	Bold focals				Shy focals			
	Estimate	SE	<i>F</i>	<i>P</i>	Estimate	SE	<i>F</i>	<i>P</i>
<u>Proportion of time out</u>								
Constant	0.10	0.10		0.391	0.05	0.10		0.662
Personality focal	0.80	0.16	23.80	0.002	0.03	0.37	0.01	0.939
Personality current partner	0.07	0.32	0.04	0.844	0.45	0.22	4.11	0.055
Personality previous partner	-0.46	0.19	6.01	0.044	-0.03	0.15	0.04	0.847
<u>Nr of solo trips</u>								
Constant	-0.05	1.33		0.974	1.16	0.24		< 0.001
Personality focal	6.61	2.57	6.60	0.033	-1.01	2.47	0.17	0.687
Personality current partner	-1.48	5.04	0.08	0.777	0.78	1.57	0.25	0.624
Personality previous partner	-3.72	2.88	1.67	0.237	0.35	1.05	0.11	0.743
<u>Nr of led trips</u>								
Constant	1.18	0.78		0.174	-0.09	0.72		0.899
Personality focal	4.28	1.23	12.13	0.010	-1.37	2.56	0.28	0.600
Personality current partner	2.62	2.12	1.53	0.262	3.71	1.55	5.75	0.025
Personality previous partner	-3.88	1.39	7.79	0.027	0.38	1.05	0.13	0.719
<u>Nr of followed trips</u>								
Constant	1.05	0.47		0.062	-0.08	0.72		0.917
Personality focal	1.63	1.08	1.51	0.182	-1.96	2.53	0.60	0.447
Personality current partner	11.73	1.41	68.84	< 0.001	4.30	1.54	7.78	0.010
Personality previous partner	-2.93	1.06	7.51	0.029	0.65	1.04	0.39	0.537

477 These analyses looked at focals that were bolder than their final partner ($N = 10$) and focals478 that were shyer than their final partner ($N = 24$). Statistics for significant terms, shown in

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3 479 bold, were derived from the minimal model containing only significant terms while statistics
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5 480 for non-significant terms were obtained by running the minimal model with the term added
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7 481 individually. Coefficient estimates represent the change in the dependent variable relative to
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9 482 the baseline category and can therefore be interpreted as measures of effect size. All
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11 483 personality scores and response variables were square-root transformed.
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16 485 **FIGURE CAPTIONS**

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18 486 **Figure 1.**

19
20 487 The proportion of time focal fish spent out of cover during the current pairing was (A)
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22 488 positively correlated with the boldness scores of bold focals ($N = 10$), but (B) not
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24 489 significantly correlated with the boldness scores of shy focals ($N = 24$). Boldness scores
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26 490 were square-root transformed.
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32 492 **Figure 2.**

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34 493 The number of trips bold focals ($N = 10$) initiated and were joined by their partner during
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36 494 the current pairing was (A) positively related to their own boldness score and (B) negatively
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38 495 related to the boldness score of their previous partner. The y-axis of plot b shows residuals
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40 496 of the model on leading trips with focal boldness score as the only factor. Scores above 0
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42 497 indicate individuals were joined more than may be expected based on their own boldness
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44 498 score and scores below 0 individuals were joined less than may be expected based on their
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46 499 boldness score. Boldness scores and number of leading trips were square-root transformed.
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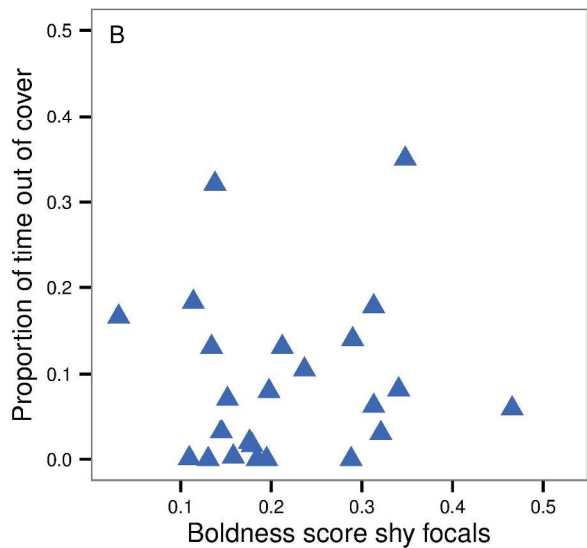
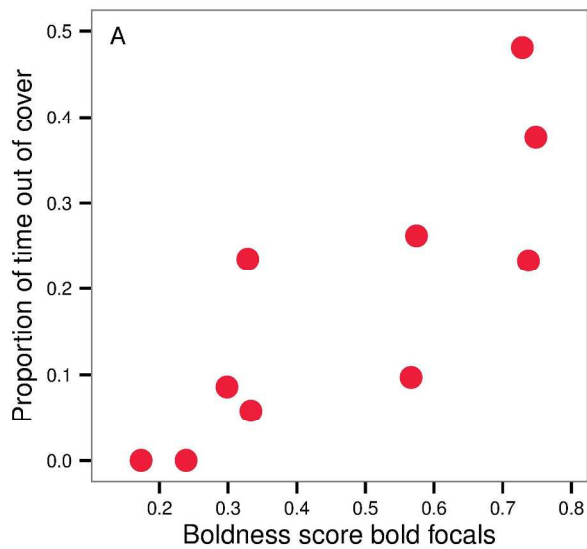
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51 501 **Figure 3.**

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53 502 The number of trips focals went out of cover and joined their partner (following) during the
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55 503 current pairing is positively related to the boldness score of the current partner, both for bold
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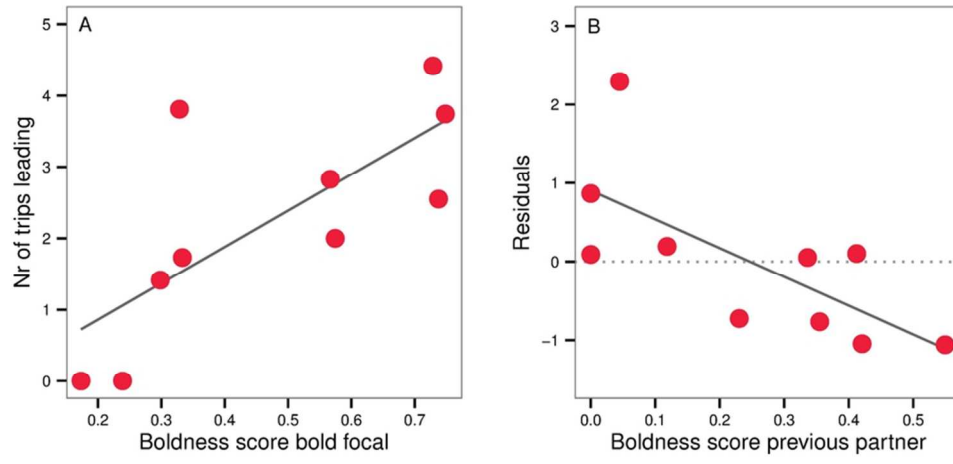
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3 504 focals ($N = 10$, circles) and shy focals ($N = 24$, triangles). Boldness scores and the number
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5 505 of following trips were square-root transformed. Two data points of the bold focals overlap
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7 506 at the origin because they both never followed and had a partner with a boldness score of 0.
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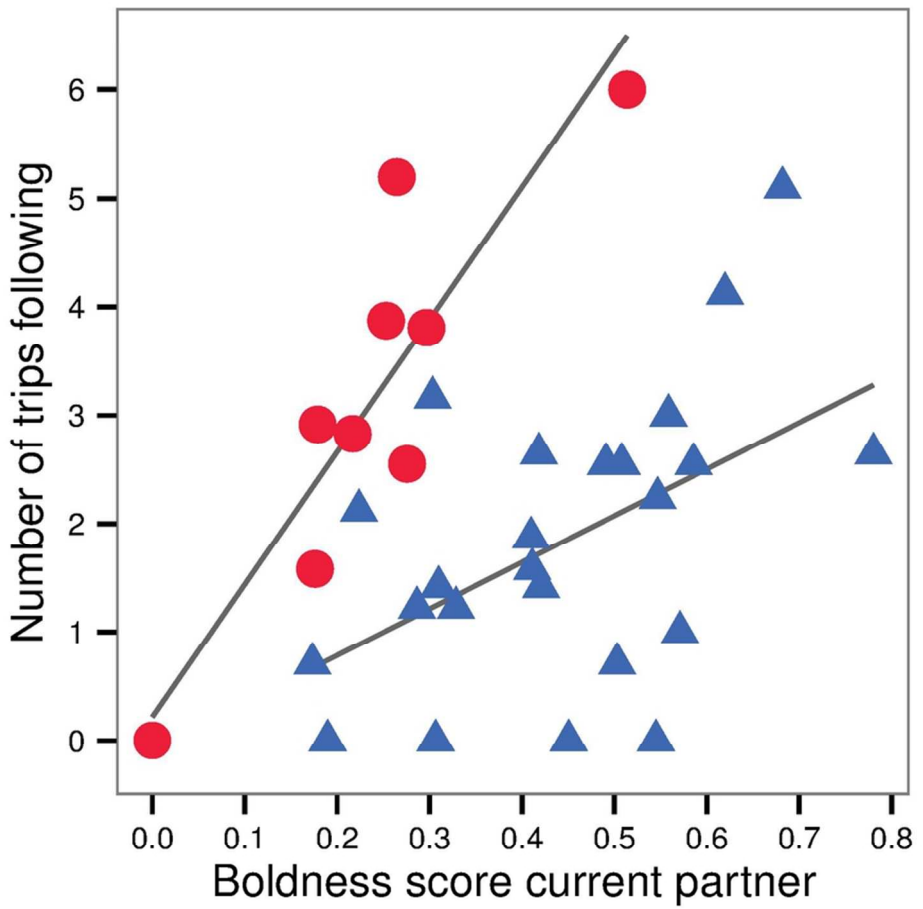


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