



How do we get to know someone? Diagnostic questions for inferring personal traits

Erik Brockbank, Tobias Gerstenberg, Judith E. Fan, Robert Hawkins



EXPERIMENT 1: People make reliable evaluations of a question's *interpersonal depth*

METHODS

Question Corpus

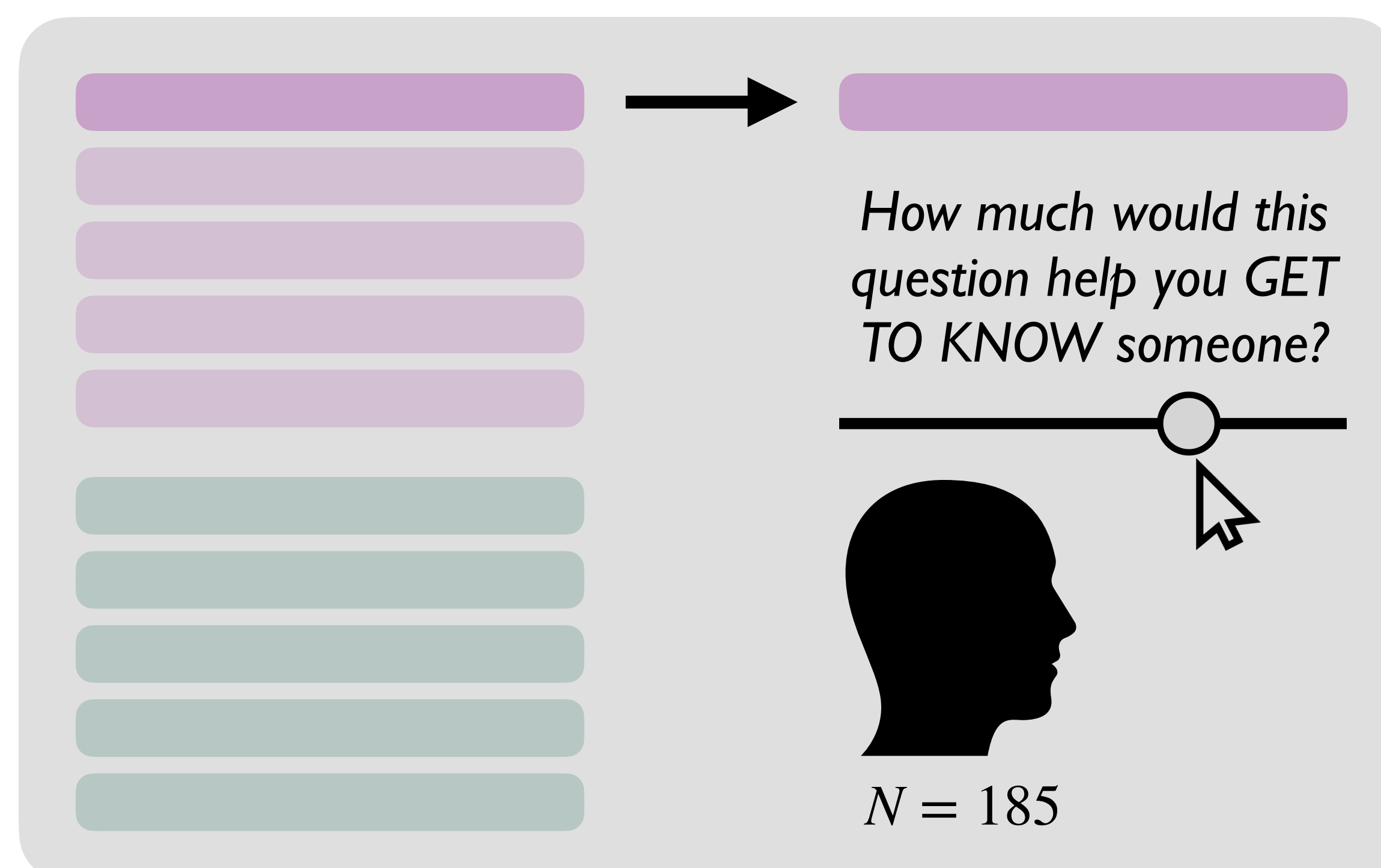
We developed a corpus of *personal* and *small talk* free response questions

125
personal
questions

110
small talk
questions

Question Evaluations

Participants were shown 5 questions from each category. They rated each question on 9 similar evaluation scales.



EXPERIMENT 2: Question *responses* contain information about a speaker's *personality*

METHODS

Targeted Questions

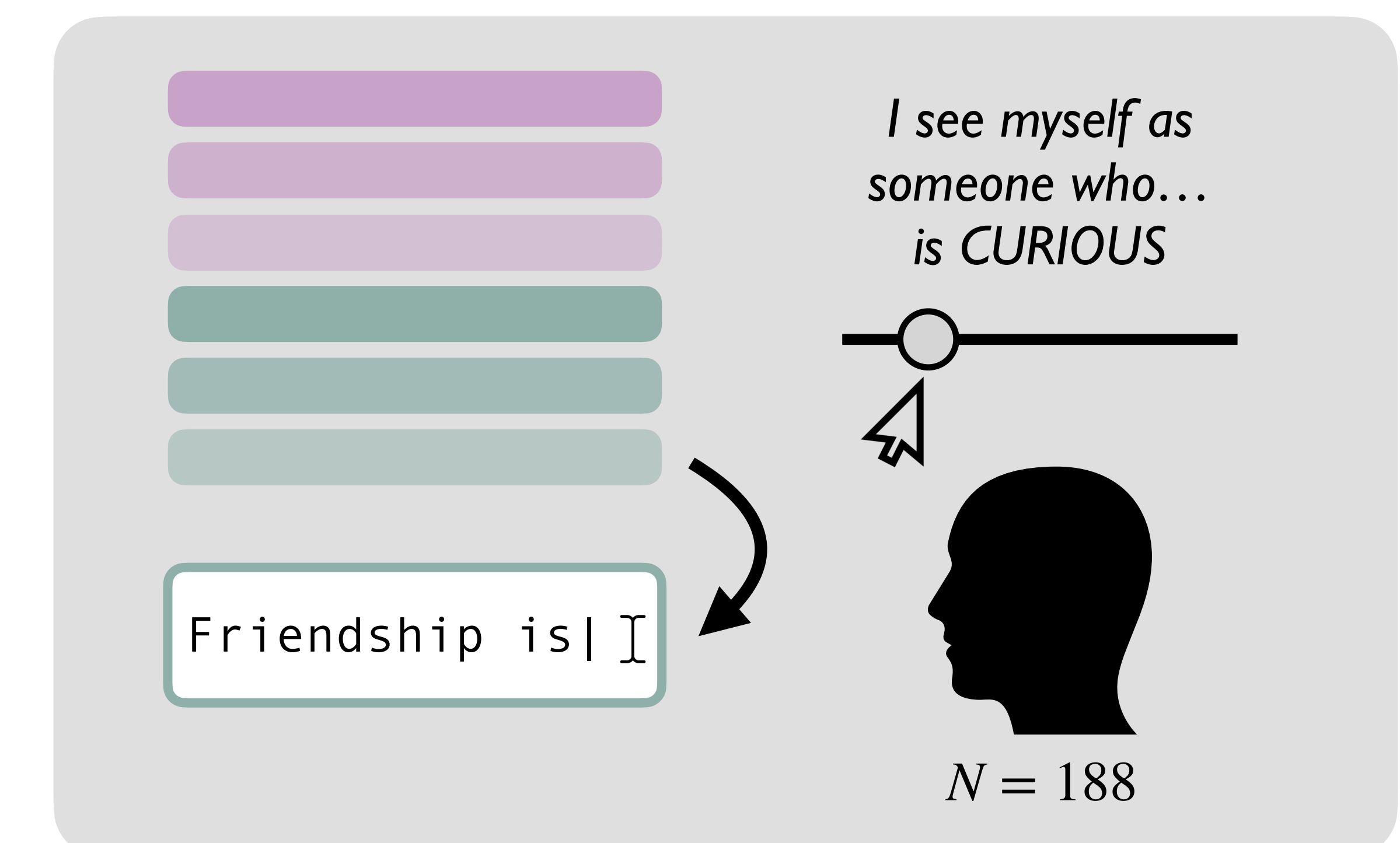
We selected the highest & lowest *interpersonal depth* Qs from Experiment 1

6 *personal*
questions

6 *small talk*
questions

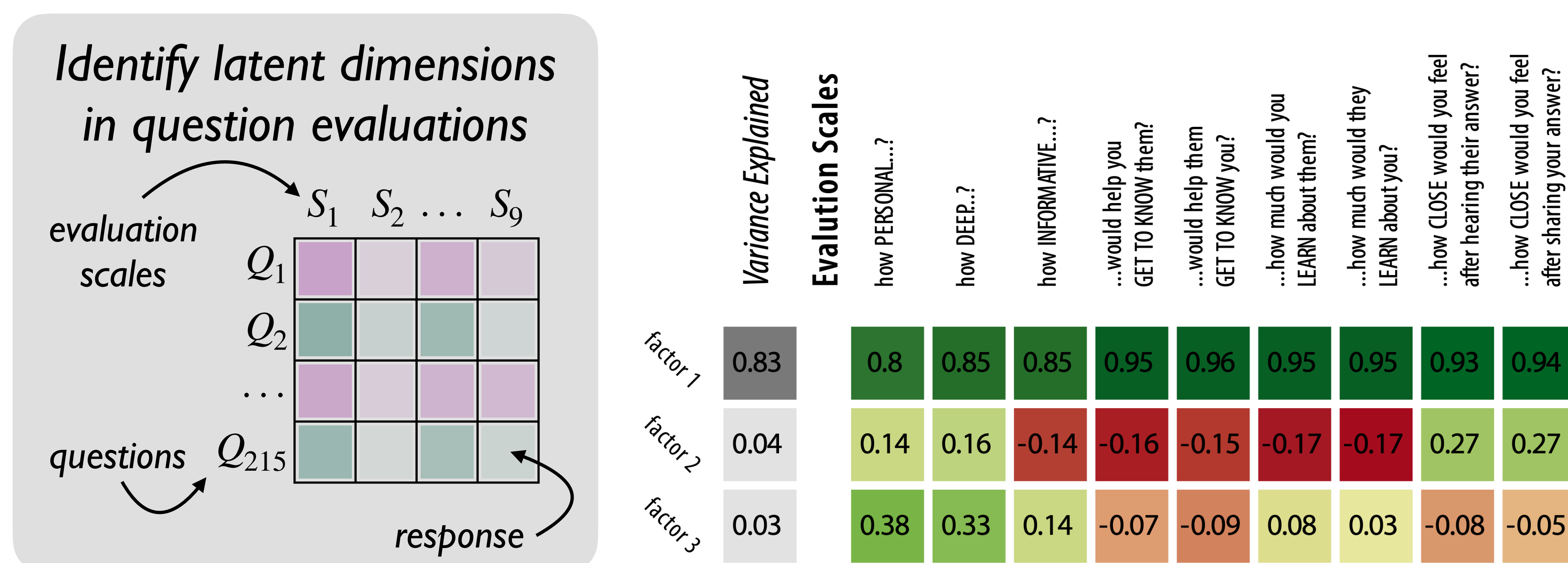
Question Response & Personality Scales

Participants answered 6 free response questions & 60 personality scales

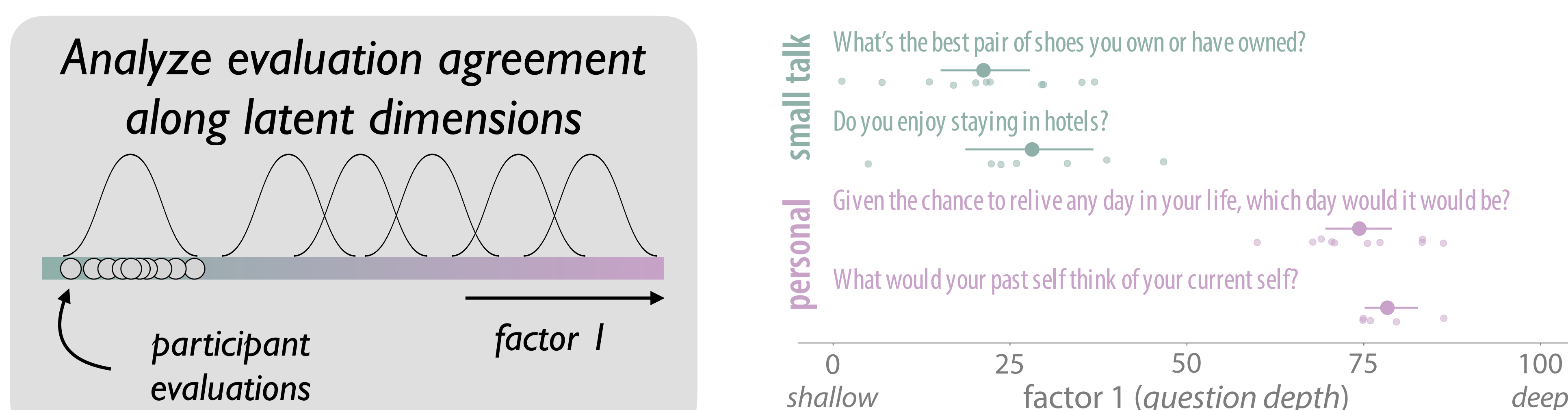


RESULTS

Question evaluations were similar across scales

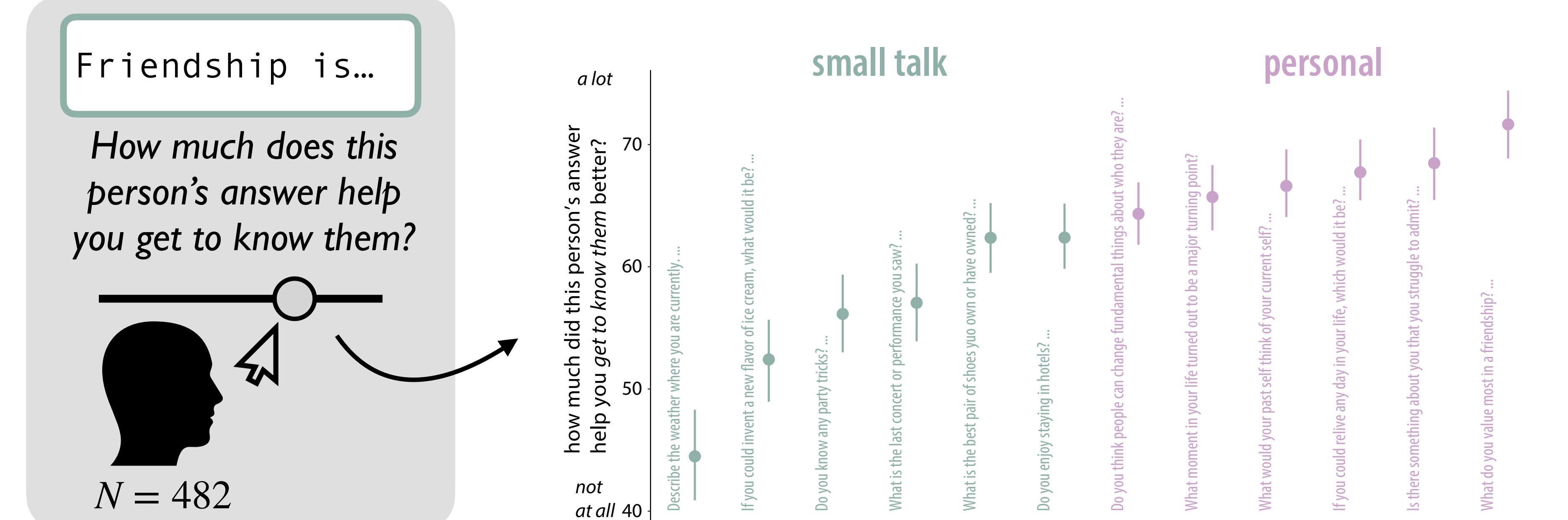


Question evaluations were consistent across people



RESULTS

Evaluations of the question responses reflect question depth



Responses contain information about the speaker's personality

