

Faculti Summary

<https://staging.faculti.net/does-competitive-winning-increase-subsequent-cheating/>

This video video discusses research on the relationship between competitive success and dishonest behavior, particularly focusing on a study published in 2016 that suggested winners of competitions are more likely to cheat afterward. The original study involved participants completing a challenging visual test and then playing a dice game to assess cheating based on reported results.

The findings indicated that those who had won the test reported higher numbers in the dice game than those who lost, suggesting a link between winning and increased dishonesty. However, the author presents a critique of this study, noting its small sample size and lack of a control group.

In response, the author and collaborators conducted more rigorous experiments with larger sample sizes and proper controls. Their research concluded that there was no significant difference in cheating behavior between winners, losers, or a control group, thereby challenging the original findings. The only notable result was that individuals with a strong sense of fairness—identified as having high inequality aversion—were less likely to cheat.

The discussion highlights the importance of understanding the factors that influence cheating behavior, particularly in contexts like academic dishonesty and wider societal issues of inequality and corruption. The conclusion emphasizes that the notion of winning leading to dishonest behavior lacks empirical support, and identifies inequality aversion as a relevant factor in predicting honesty.