

Journal of Comparative Psychology

Manuscript version of

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Funded by:

- Georgia State University, College of Arts and Sciences
- National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, Division of Intramural Research
- National Science Foundation

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The influence of reward quality and quantity and spatial proximity on the responses to inequity and contrast in capuchin monkeys (<i>Cebus [Sapajus] apella</i>)
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We thank Kegan Isaack for assistance with coding and the animal care staff at the Language Research Center and National Institutes of Health for maintaining the health and well-being of the capuchin monkeys. We thank Seth Bower for help with data collection. This research was funded in part by NSF grant SES 1425216 to SFB, as well as support from the College of Arts and Sciences at GSU, and the Division of Intramural Research, NICHD. Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Catherine Talbot, California National Primate Research Center, University of California, One Shields Avenue, Davis, CA 95616 USA. Email to katetalbot8@gmail.com.

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Abstract

Recent evidence within the field of comparative psychology has demonstrated that small 25 differences in procedure may lead to significant differences in outcome. Therefore, failing to 26 fully explore the impact of different contexts on a behavior limits our ability to fully understand 27 that behavior. A behavior that has exhibited substantial variation, both within and across studies, 28 29 is animals' responses to violations of their expectations, either when expectations were based on another's outcome (inequity) or one's own previous outcome (contrast). We explored this further 30 in capuchin monkeys, focussing on two factors that often vary in such tests but have not yet been 31 rigorously explored: the relative values of the food rewards and the degree of separation of the 32 subjects. Concerning the first, we examined responses to violation of expectations when the 33 difference between what was expected (or what the partner got) and what was received differed 34 in either quality or quantity. Concerning the second, we compared responses when the two 35 individuals were separated by a clear partition (Barrier condition) versus sharing the same 36 enclosure without the partition (No Barrier condition). Our results suggest that responses to 37 inequity are most likely to emerge when the food received is low-value food, regardless of the 38 difference between the actual and expected outcome. However, capuchins did not respond 39 40 differently to different quantities of rewards, nor did the degree of separation between subjects significantly impact results. We consider the implications of this work for both studies of 41 violation of expectation and other cognitive and behavioral tasks. 42

Keywords: inequity, contrast effect, social comparison, Cebus apella, Sapajus apella

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46 The influence of reward quality, quantity and spatial proximity on the responses to inequity and

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contrast in capuchin monkeys (*Cebus [Sapajus] apella*)

Recent evidence shows that apparently small differences in experimental procedure can 48 lead to big differences in outcome. For instance, among chimpanzees, whether or not subjects 49 pass tasks designed to assess perspective taking is highly dependent on the size of the testing 50 51 area (Bräuer, Call, & Tomasello, 2007; Hare, Call, Agnetta, & Tomasello, 2000; Karin-D'Arcy & Povinelli, 2002), the distance between the stimuli (Mulcahy & Call, 2009), and the design of 52 the procedure (Melis, Call, & Tomasello, 2006). Similarly, great apes' ability to succeed in a tool 53 use task is influenced by the placement of the tool(s) (Mulcahy & Call, 2006). Experimental 54 variables have also been shown to impact task performance in New World monkeys. After 55 observing a human experimenter hide a reward, squirrel monkeys and marmosets were better 56 able to identify the location of the hidden reward when given nine possible locations as opposed 57 to two. Apparently decreasing the probability of success by chance increased subjects' 58 motivation to pay attention in the task (Schubiger, Kissling, & Burkart, 2016). Most of the work 59 documenting the effect of procedural differences on behavioral outcomes has focused on 60 cognitive tasks, but the same appears to be true for behavioral tasks. For instance, enclosure size 61 62 again appears to be important in prosocial choice tasks (in cooperatively breeding primates; Burkart, Fehr, Efferson, & van Schaik, 2007; Cronin, Schroeder, Rothwell, Silk, & Snowdon, 63 2009), as does whether or not the food rewards are visible (reviewed in Cronin, 2012). This is an 64 important issue for several reasons. First, failing to recognize when procedural differences are 65 influencing results negatively impacts our understanding of a given behavior, in particular by 66 creating apparent inconsistencies where none may exist. This may lead to an inappropriate 67 understanding of the distribution of a behavior or ability, or a misunderstanding of how robustly 68

an ability manifests. Moreover, it is essential to understand what factors are influencing abehavior to truly understand that behavior.

71 This is also an important issue in cases in which substantial variation is seen across studies. Without appropriately controlling for the experimental factors, we do not know if this 72 variation is due to individual differences among animals, if the effect itself is weak, or if there 73 74 are contextual factors that are influencing responses in meaningful ways that we need to better understand. One area in which this may be relevant is in the study of violations of expectation. A 75 growing literature indicates that in some contexts, some species respond negatively when their 76 expectations are violated, both in the context of inequity (expectations based on another's 77 outcomes) and contrast (expectations based on one's previous outcomes). In the case of inequity, 78 nonhuman species respond negatively to receiving a lower-valued reward than a partner 79 following some form of work (e.g., exchanging a token; reviewed in Talbot, Price, & Brosnan, 80 2016). These negative responses typically include refusing to work or refusing to accept the 81 82 lower-valued reward and are contingent upon a social partner receiving the better rewards. Negative responses to contrast also emerge when an individual receives a lower-valued reward, 83 however, they manifest when a better reward appears to be available and are based on one's own 84 expectations. However, there is substantial variation across species, across studies, and even 85 across individuals within the same studies (Talbot et al., 2016). 86

For example, chimpanzees show substantial differences both across studies and within the same study, with some individuals showing strong responses to inequity and others showing no response at all (reviewed in Brosnan, 2013). In fact, even in studies that do find responses to inequity, we do not see responses in every individual tested (Bräuer, Call, & Tomasello, 2006, 2009; Brosnan, Hopper, Richey, Freeman, Talbot, ... & Schapiro, 2015; Brosnan, Schiff, & de

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Waal, 2005; Brosnan, Talbot, Ahlgren, Lambeth, & Schapiro, 2010; Hopper, Lambeth, Schapiro, 92 Bernacky, & Brosnan, 2013), making perhaps the most noticeable feature of this research the 93 variability of the response. Previous research has demonstrated that the responses are influenced 94 by, at minimum, rank (Brosnan et al., 2010), personality (Brosnan et al., 2015), and duration of 95 relationship (Brosnan et al., 2015; Hopper, Lambeth, Schapiro, & Brosnan, 2014). Although we 96 97 have the most data on chimpanzees, there is also variation in the response across capuchin studies (Brosnan & de Waal, 2003; Dubreuil, Gentile, & Visalberghi, 2006; Fletcher, 2008; 98 Fontenot, Watson, Roberts, & Miller, 2007; McAuliffe, Chang, Leimgruber, Spaulding, Blake, & 99 100 Santos, 2015; Roma, Silberberg, Ruggiero, & Suomi, 2006; Silberberg, Crescimbene, Addessi, Anderson, & Visalberghi, 2009; Takimoto & Fujita, 2011; Takimoto, Kuroshima, & Fujita, 101 2009; van Wolkenten, Brosnan, & de Waal, 2007). Among squirrel monkeys, while no 102 individuals respond negatively to inequity, there is variability among who responds negatively to 103 contrast effects (Freeman, Sullivan, Hopper, Talbot, Holmes, ..., & Brosnan, 2013; Talbot, 104 105 Freeman, Williams, & Brosnan, 2011). What is causing this variability? In some species, there are consistent findings that 106 suggest that we understand the variability. For instance, in squirrel monkeys, it is always the 107 108 males that respond negatively to contrast, and never females (Freeman et al., 2013; Talbot et al., 109 2011). However, despite substantial effort to find differences based on sex, relationship, age,

110 personality, and other individual variables, in most cases researchers are unable to pinpoint a

single factor. One approach that has not yet been taken is to explore the procedural differences

112 that have been hypothesized to influence responses. A particular challenge of comparative work

is designing studies that are actually comparable. Across species, there is the ever-present

114 challenge of balancing procedures that are identical with those that are scaled to the species in

115	question (Pretot, Bshary & Brosnan, 2016a,b). Even within species, different populations may
116	have different preferences (even for the same foods) due to factors such as differences in
117	exposure. Moreover, differences among housing conditions may necessitate differences in
118	procedure. The former factor often varies among studies of inequity. Therefore, it may be that
119	differences in the relative magnitude or relative preference of rewards across studies, or different
120	criteria used to determine the rewards that are (presumably) expected versus received, are
121	influencing responses, despite the fact that each lab uses strict criteria to choose foods.
122	Regarding the latter, it has been previously hypothesized that how the animals are positioned
123	relative to one another influences responses (Brosnan et al., 2010). This is based on evidence
124	from human psychology studies suggesting that the spatial proximity of individuals impacts
125	social behavior (Sommer, 1965), but there is as yet no evidence in non-human species. In order
126	to test these hypotheses, we turned to capuchin monkeys, a species for which there are a
127	substantial number of studies on inequity and little understanding of why this variation occurs.
128	We first addressed the relative values of the chosen food rewards. The way in which
129	reward pairs are determined by the experimenters varies substantially across studies of inequity.
130	Most studies evaluate the quality of the rewards to the subjects on an individual basis,
131	immediately prior to testing (e.g., Brosnan & de Waal, 2003; Brosnan et al., 2010; Massen, van
132	den Berg, Spruijt, & Sterck, 2012; Neiworth, Johnson, Whillock, Greenberg, & Brown, 2009;
133	Silberberg et al., 2009; Talbot et al., 2011; van Wolkenten et al., 2007). While this rank orders
134	food values, it also is the case that different experimenters use different criteria, so it is
135	nonetheless difficult to compare relative reward differences across these studies. Moreover, in
136	other cases, researchers either used the same rewards as previous studies (Roma et al., 2006) or
137	relied on previous food preference data (Bräuer et al., 2006, 2009). Although both of these are

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reasonable, differences in access to various food items or individuals' preferences may influence 138 subjects' valuation of rewards differently at different facilities, or at different times, or in 139 different contexts within the same facility (e.g., stimulus satiation; Hetherington, Pirie, & Nabb, 140 2002). Thus, it is important to measure each subject's current preferences in a systematic manner 141 immediately prior to testing. To do so, we used a consistent set of criteria to determine three 142 143 foods that varied in preference consistently across all individuals within the population. Related to this, while most studies use different quality foods, often with the presumption 144 that it is easier for the subjects to distinguish visually distinct foods, it is impossible to determine 145 146 whether the relative preferences we obtain are at all equivalent across individuals (even if using a standardized set of criteria to choose foods). Preference does not necessarily equate with value. 147 That is, you and I may both consistently choose strawberries over grapes, but for you the 148 preference may be very strong whereas for me it is not much above my indifference point. One 149 way to more accurately define reward value is cross modal scaling, in which the value of two 150 foods are compared to the value of a third, less substitutable, food (Casey, Silberberg, Paukner, 151 & Suomi, 2014; Schwartz, Silberberg, Casey, Paukner, & Suomi, 2016). Of course, when 152 possible, varying quantities of a single food type is more objective as more food is always 153 154 preferable to less. Many nonhuman species can differentiate different quantities (Shettleworth, 2009), including capuchin monkeys (Addessi, Crescimbene, & Visalberghi, 2008; Beran, Evans, 155 Leighty, Harris, & Rice, 2008; Evans, Beran, Harris, & Rice, 2009), and capuchins adjust their 156 choices to maximize the number of rewards (e.g., Brosnan, Parrish, Beran, Flemming, 157 Heimbauer, ..., & Wilson, 2011). Thus, here we compared subjects' responses to different 158 quantities of cereal, a medium-value food, which may be the most favorable for optimal 159 performance according to the Yerkes-Dodson law (Yerkes & Dodson, 1908). 160

Regarding the second factor, the presence of a barrier, there is anecdotal evidence that 161 spatial proximity influences inequity responses in chimpanzees. In all studies in which 162 chimpanzees are sharing an enclosure, at least some subjects reacted negatively to inequity 163 (Brosnan et al., 2005; Brosnan et al., 2010; Brosnan et al., 2015). Indeed, in the majority of 164 interactions in these studies, the chimpanzees were in direct physical contact with one another 165 166 and appeared to closely monitor their partner's outcomes. On the other hand, in a study in which chimpanzees were facing one another across a 1m wide testing area, no subject showed a 167 negative response to inequitable rewards (Bräuer et al., 2009). Of course, one anecdote is not 168 169 conclusive, and there are certainly other reasons that these results could have varied; however, this hypothesis is in line with evidence that spatial orientation is significant in cognitive tasks 170 with humans, and in other contexts with primates. Humans prefer to sit adjacent to each other in 171 cooperative tasks but opposite one another in competitive ones (Sommer, 1965). This may be 172 particularly relevant in inequity paradigms, as it has been hypothesized that these negative 173 reactions evolved in conjunction with cooperation, as a way for individuals to judge their 174 outcomes relative to their partner's (Brosnan, 2006; Fehr & Schmidt, 1999). If this is the case, 175 then it is possible that being in a "competitive" situation does not trigger a sensitivity to inequity 176 177 in the same way that sitting side-by-side does. More simply, being adjacent improves individuals' ability to monitor their partner's rewards. Capuchins behave differently when they 178 cannot see their partners, cooperating less (Takimoto et al., 2010) and struggling to find previous 179 cooperative outcomes (Mendres & de Waal, 2000). This suggests that being separated from 180 one's partner, physically or visually, can impact results within social tasks. To test this, we 181 compared inequity responses when the subjects were separated by a clear partition (Barrier 182

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183 condition; physical but not visual separation) to those in which they shared the enclosure (No184 Barrier condition; no separation).

185 We examined the impact of reward value and spatial proximity on both social contrast, or inequity, and individual contrast in two populations of capuchin monkeys, one at Georgia State 186 University's Language Research Center and one at the NICHD Laboratory of Comparative 187 188 Ethology. We used a traditional procedure for testing violation of expectations, but varied the relative value of food rewards, the quantity of food rewards, and whether or not subjects were 189 separated. For the general procedure, pairs of subjects had to alternate exchanging tokens with a 190 191 human experimenter for a food reward. We compared how they responded when their partner got the same reward as them (Equity condition) to their response when their partner got a preferred 192 reward (Inequity condition) or when both subjects were shown a preferred outcome, but given a 193 less preferred one (Contrast condition). We varied reward value between least preferred (low-194 value), middle preference (medium-value), and most preferred (high-value), with values based 195 on food preference tests run immediately prior to testing. At GSU, subjects were tested together 196 in a large testing chamber (No Barrier condition) that could be divided in half with a barrier 197 (Barrier condition), although due to logistics the No Barrier condition could not be run at 198 199 NICHD. We also tested subjects' responses to different quantities of a medium value reward, 200 Cheerios brand cereal, which were not utilized in the quality comparisons. We hypothesized that the capuchins' responses would vary depending on the relative 201 difference in quality between the food items. However, because there have been no such studies, 202 we did not have any directional predictions. We also did not have a prediction for whether 203 responses would be more pronounced in either the inequity or contrast condition. Because 204

205 previous research has shown that capuchin monkeys are sensitive to different quantities of

206	rewards (Addessi et al., 2008; Beran et al., 2008; Brosnan et al., 2011; Brosnan et al., 2012;
207	Evans et al., 2009), we predicted that subjects would respond negatively to receiving a smaller
208	amount than anticipated. Finally, given previous inequity studies and work showing that visual
209	access influences behavioral responses in situations involving cooperation and inequity
210	(Takimoto et al., 2010), we predicted that we would see increased responses in the No Barrier
211	condition as compared to the barrier condition.
212	Method
213	Subjects
214	Language Research Center
215	We tested six (five adult males and one adult female; age range = 7-22 years old; mean
216	age = 12.8 years) brown capuchin monkeys (<i>Cebus [Sapajus] apella</i>) from the Language
217	Research Center (LRC) at Georgia State University in Atlanta, GA. Two additional adult female
218	capuchin monkeys, the lowest ranking and highest ranking in their group, were originally
219	included in the subject pool, but were excluded from further testing because the lower-ranking
220	did not reliably enter the test chamber with her higher-ranking partner. In such cases, we assume
221	that the subject does not wish to participate in the task or be in proximity to a given partner and
222	do not include them further (this criterion has been followed in other inequity work, i.e., Brosnan
223	et al., 2010).
224	Monkeys were socially housed in stable, mixed-sex social groups that had been housed
225	together for almost a decade (since July 2005 or the individual's birth, whichever came later).
226	Each social group lived in indoor/outdoor space that included climbing structures and material
227	enrichment. Primates received a diet including primate chow, fruit, and vegetables and were
228	never food deprived. Fresh running water was available ad libitum, including during testing

sessions. Subjects were tested in enclosures attached to their home cage, where all testing takes place. They had been trained to voluntarily enter these enclosures for cognitive and behavioral experiments. Subjects were not tested on days they chose not to enter the test enclosure, which they were free to do at any time without any consequences. No subject was tested on this study more than once in the same day. Monkeys were paired with individuals from their own social groups for testing.

235 National Institutes of Health

We tested seven male capuchin monkeys (age range = 5-10 years old; mean age = 7.5236 years), from the National Institute of Health (NIH) Laboratory of Comparative Ethology in 237 Poolesville, MD. Monkeys were housed in two pairs and one group of three with continuous 238 auditory and tactile access to their cage mates and testing partners. All social partners were stable 239 for at least two years. Home cages were enriched with perches, rubber and/or plastic toys and 240 forage boards. Monkeys received a scattered feed and fresh fruit or nuts once a day and primate 241 chow twice a day. Fresh water was supplied *ad libitum*. Subjects were tested in their home cages. 242 No subject was tested more than once in the same day. Three of the seven NIH Animal Center 243 subjects were housed together and therefore tested in a round robin fashion. Within the same 244 245 day, monkeys only ever served as partners after they themselves had been tested as subjects. All procedures used in this research were in accordance with the American Psychological 246 Association's guidelines for ethical conduct in the care and use of nonhuman animals in research 247 and have been approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of Georgia State 248 University (A10025 & A13022) and of the National Institute of Health Animal Center (09-015). 249 **Food Preference Tests** 250

Prior to testing on the quality comparisons, we established preferences for three different food values, including a highly-preferred food value reward (high-value reward, or HVR), a medium-value reward (MVR), and a less-preferred food (low-value reward, or LVR). These foods were selected from among all of the foods in the capuchins' diets using the procedure and criteria discussed in the next paragraph. Prior to testing on the quantity comparisons, we established that they preferred more to less of a medium preference food that had not been used previously in quality comparison tests.

Food selection was done using a dichotomous-choice food preference test (Brosnan & de 258 Waal, 2004) in which an experimenter offered two food rewards simultaneously and the subject 259 was allowed to choose one of the two rewards by reaching out of the testing enclosure and 260 selecting the preferred item. We conducted two 10-trial sessions on different days of each of the 261 possible food pairs. Within each session, reward positions were randomized with an equal 262 number on each side (left and right). A reward was considered to be preferred if it was chosen at 263 least 80% of the time over the alternative food on both days by all test subjects. Note that this 264 required the 80% threshold on both sessions; a session with a 70% preference and one with a 265 90% preference did not count. This ensured consistency. Additionally, the test would not work if 266 267 the less-preferred item was one that the subjects will not eat under normal circumstances. 268 Therefore, to ensure that subjects were willing to eat the less-preferred food item, in a separate session we presented them with 10 consecutive pieces of the lower-valued reward. If all subjects 269 270 did not eat all 10 pieces, that food could not be used as the least preferred food (LVR). Subjects underwent a new food preference test at the beginning of each experiment. Note that we 271 conducted food preference tests for both paired qualities and paired quantities to ensure that all 272 273 pairings met our criterion for preference.

274 General Procedure

Throughout testing, we utilized an exchange procedure in which monkeys took turns 275 exchanging an inedible token (LRC: a 2-3 cm diameter granite stone; NIH: a 1-inch metal 276 washer) with a human experimenter in exchange for a food reward of variable value. All subjects 277 had previous experience with exchange tasks (e.g., Brosnan et al., 2011; Paukner, Suomi, 278 279 Visalberghi, & Ferrari, 2009) and therefore did not require training. In this procedure, an experimenter first showed the token to the monkey with whom they 280 were interacting and then held the token between cage bars for the monkey to grasp. Monkeys 281 had up to 10 seconds to accept the token by taking it completely inside their testing enclosure, 282 following which the experimenter extended her hand, palm up, in front of the monkeys' 283 enclosure in a begging gesture. Monkeys had up to 30 seconds to return the token, following 284 which the experimenter held up the appropriate food reward and offered the reward to the 285 subject. Monkeys had up to 10 seconds to accept the reward. Thus, subjects could refuse either 286 287 the token or the food.

Subjects could easily observe their partner's behavior and the rewards they received 288 (including both the Barrier and No Barrier conditions; see below for details). To ensure that 289 290 subjects could compare their own outcome to that of their partner on every trial, the experimenter 291 always interacted with the partner first. To ensure that the presence of particular rewards did not impact their responses in the quality comparisons, two reward containers (one for the higher 292 valued reward and one for the lower valued reward for the given test condition; see below for 293 details) were always present in the same location, full, and within the monkeys' view, even in 294 control tests in which only one reward was used (Equity and Contrast). In the quantity 295

comparisons, only one reward was used in all conditions, in different quantities, so only onereward container was present.

The experimenter coded the responses of the subject and partner in real time on data sheets and all test sessions were videotaped for later analysis and coding. The inter-trial interval was approximately 5-10 seconds, or the time it took for the experimenter to record the data and the monkey to consume the food.

302 Food Comparisons

Food rewards and quantities were determined for each population by the food preference 303 tests described above. Quality comparisons included High (H) vs. Low (L), which compared the 304 HVR (LRC: grape, NIH: grape) with the LVR (LRC: bell pepper, NIH: popcorn), High (H) vs. 305 Medium (M), which compared the HVR (LRC: grape, NIH: grape) with the MVR (LRC: 306 cucumber piece, NIH: apple piece), and Medium (M) vs. Low (L), which compared the MVR 307 (LRC: cucumber piece, NIH: apple piece) with the LVR (LRC: bell pepper, NIH: popcorn). 308 Quantity comparisons compared a larger-quantity of food with a smaller-quantity of food. 309 Using the food preferences tests described above, we first established that the monkeys preferred 310 more to less of a medium preference food, Cheerios (an unsweetened oat cereal), which were not 311 312 used in quality comparisons. The LVR was one piece of cereal, but due to a miscommunication, for LRC capuchins the HVR was five cereal pieces and for NIH capuchins it was three pieces. 313 Both populations passed the preference test on their respective distribution. In order to avoid 314 confusion, subjects underwent all conditions in a particular comparison before proceeding to the 315 next. Subjects experienced all of the quality comparisons before being tested on quantity 316 317 comparisons.

318	We did not initially conduct preference tests comparing cereal to the food items used in
319	the quality tests prior to testing, because cereal was never tested in comparison to any of these
320	foods. However, to provide an initial test of a hypothesis that emerged from our results (see
321	Discussion), after testing we compared the preference of five of the GSU monkeys who were in
322	the original study for one piece of cereal (the smallest quantity used in this study, and therefore
323	the most equivalent to the LVR in the quality tests) to the low, medium and high value foods
324	used with the LRC monkeys in the quality comparison. Every subject preferred a grape to a
325	Cheerio, and all but one subject preferred the cereal to the lowest value reward (two monkeys
326	preferred cereal to the MVR, two monkeys preferred the MVR, and one was indifferent between
327	the MVR and a Cheerio).

328 Conditions

For each comparison, pairs underwent a series of eight tests, completing two sessions of 329 each control condition (Equity and Contrast) and four total sessions of the Inequity condition, 330 with each monkey tested twice in the subject role. Each test session consisted of a series of 40 331 alternating trials so that each individual in the pair received 20 trials per session. There were 332 three conditions. The Equity condition tested the subject's response when they received the same 333 334 reward as their partner (the lower-valued reward of the two in the given experiment) and thus, was a baseline measure. The Contrast condition examined subjects' responses to violations of 335 individual expectations. In this condition, both subjects and partners were first shown a higher-336 valued reward, but following exchange, received the lower-valued reward. Note that the only 337 difference between this condition and the Equity condition was the attention drawn to the higher 338 valued reward before both monkeys' exchanges. Because both monkeys got the same rewards, 339 only two total sessions were required. Each monkey was the first exchanger once for each 340

condition. The Inequity condition measured subjects' responses to receiving the lower value food
after observing their partner receive the higher valued reward for their exchange. Each pair
received four tests session (twice with each monkey in the subject role; the subject was always
the second exchanger). The order in which each pair experienced the conditions was randomized
and, for all conditions, the order in which individuals were tested in the subject role (i.e., and
interacted with the experimenter second) was randomized and counterbalanced.

347 Testing the Effect of a Barrier

Typically, studies of inequity conducted with apes do not include a barrier between the 348 two subjects (e.g., Brosnan et al., 2005; Brosnan et al., 2010), whereas virtually all of the studies 349 with New World monkeys included a barrier between conspecifics (e.g., Cronin & Snowdon, 350 2008; Dubreuil et al., 2006; Silberberg et al., 2009; Talbot et al., 2011; van Wolkenten et al., 351 2007; but see Freeman et al., 2013). The flexible housing at the LRC allowed us to test the effect 352 of including a barrier using the same testing enclosure for each quality and quantity comparison, 353 which held all other factors equal. After completing the full battery of sessions with a clear 354 Lexan barrier separating the subject and partner (the Barrier condition), we re-ran all of the tests 355 at the LRC without a barrier (the No Barrier condition). We chose not to counterbalance the 356 order of testing with the LRC capuchins so that their results in the Barrier condition would be 357 directly comparable to those of the NICHD capuchins. 358 **Data analysis** 359 Refusals 360 Refusals consisted of 58% token refusals and 42% food refusals. There was a significant 361 difference in the frequency of token and food refusals among the conditions ($\chi^2 = 12.20$, df = 2, p 362 = 0.002). However, post hoc tests were not significant (presumably due to the small samples). 363

364	We therefore used the overall refusal rate (combining refusals to exchange the token with
365	refusals to consume food rewards) for all analyses. To determine which factors influenced the
366	occurrence of refusals in the quality comparisons, we fitted generalized linear mixed-effects
367	models (GLMMs) with refusal as a binomial dependent variable. We used the glmer function of
368	the lme4 package (Bates et al., 2015) in R statistical software version 3.3.0 (R Development
369	Core Team, 2016). Individual identity was included as a random effect to account for different
370	baseline rates of refusal. As fixed effects, we included test condition (Equity, Inequity and
371	Contrast), the three quality comparisons (H vs. L, M vs. L, and H vs. M), and their interaction.
372	To further evaluate the effect of a barrier on refusals for the population of LRC
373	capuchins, we used a sequential regression analysis. In Step 1, we refitted the
374	condition x comparison model for this reduced sample. In Step 2, we entered barrier $(0/1)$ as a
375	binomial predictor and its two-way interactions to assess its effect on refusals beyond that of
376	condition and comparison.
377	Finally, we fitted a GLMM to determine which factors influenced refusals in the quantity
378	comparisons. As fixed effects, we included test condition, the two quantity comparisons (LRC: 5
379	vs. 1, NIH: 3 vs. 1), and their interaction. For the LRC capuchins, we compared refusals in the
380	Barrier and No Barrier conditions using a paired <i>t</i> -test.
381	We also fitted null models, containing only the intercept and the random effect. We used
382	likelihood ratio tests and compared Akaike's Information Criterion (AIC) to assess whether a
383	factor significantly improved model fit over a reduced model without that factor.
384	A second coder, blind to the hypotheses, coded 20% of all test trials from video,
385	measuring each monkey's response. Inter-rater reliability was calculated using the Kappa
386	coefficient. Inter-rater reliability was excellent (agreed on 99.5% of trials, Cohen's $\kappa = 0.90$).

387 *Latency to Exchange*

388	To determine which factors influenced capuchin monkeys' latency to return the token, we
389	fitted linear mixed-effects models (LMMs) with the lmer function of the lme4 package (Bates,
390	Maechler, Bolker, & Walker, 2015) in R statistical software version 3.3.0 (R Development Core
391	Team, 2016). Model specifications were identical to those for refusal, except with latency to
392	exchange as a continuous dependent variable. The restricted maximum likelihood (REML)
393	approach was used for parameter estimation; p-values were calculated based on Satterthwaite
394	approximated degrees of freedom obtained with the ImerTest package (Kuznetsova, Brockhoff,
395	& Christensen, 2015).
396	Results
397	Quality Comparisons

398 *Overall*

The capuchins varied significantly among the test conditions and food comparisons in their rate of refusal, $\chi^2(8) = 367.85$, p < .001 (Table 1, Figure 1A and 1B), and in their latency to exchange, $\chi^2(8) = 75.36$, p < .001 (Table 2; Figure 1C and 1D).

Overall, subjects were more likely to refuse in the Inequity condition compared to the 402 403 Equity or Contrast conditions, and this effect was the most pronounced in comparisons in which a low-value food reward (LVR) was used (either in contrast to a medium-value or a high-value 404 food reward). Considering this in detail, capuchins were 9.1 times more likely to accept than to 405 406 refuse either the token or the food in the reference case, Equity condition of the H v L comparison (i.e., the higher value of the two rewards in the comparison was present, but no one 407 received it; intercept, odds ratio $\frac{1}{0.11}$). Subjects were 1.6 to 2.8 times more likely to refuse either 408 409 the token or food in the Inequity condition than in the Equity condition (main effect of condition, 410 odds ratio 2.10, 95% CI) in all comparisons except in the H vs. M comparison

- 411 (condition x comparison interaction). Interestingly, refusals were not higher in the Contrast
- 412 condition compared to the Equity condition in any comparison. In fact, for the M vs. L
- 413 comparison, refusals were *lower* in Contrast than in Equity (condition x comparison interaction).

Finally, capuchins did not differ in their rate of refusal for the H vs. L and M vs. L comparison,

but they refused 5.6 times less often in the H vs. M comparison (main effect of comparison, odds ratio $\frac{1}{0.18}$).

Latencies to exchange were longer in the Inequity condition in which the subject got the 417 least preferred food whereas the partner received higher value food (either the medium or higher 418 value reward). However, unlike in the exchange data, latencies in the Contrast condition were 419 similar to those in the Inequity condition rather than those in the Equity condition. On average, 420 capuchins exchanged the token after 2.3 to 3.8 seconds in the reference case, Equity with H vs. L 421 (intercept, 95% CI). In comparison, latency to exchange was 0.35 seconds longer in the Contrast 422 condition and 0.36 seconds longer in the Inequity condition (main effect of condition). Similar to 423 refusals, latencies to exchange did not differ between the H vs. L and M vs. L comparison, but 424 were 0.47 shorter in the H vs. M comparison (main effect of comparison). 425

426 *Barrier Conditions*

The results for the LRC monkeys in the barrier conditions (i.e., barrier present vs. barrier absent) mirrored the overall findings described above for the quality comparisons. Capuchins varied significantly among the barrier conditions (Figure 2A and 2C) and food comparisons (Figure 2B and 2D) in their rate of refusal (Table 3), Step 1: $\chi^2(8) = 245.05$, p < .001, and in their latency to exchange (Table 4), Step 1: $\chi^2(8) = 67.21$, p < .001. Additionally, the barrier conditions significantly improved model fit for both rate of refusal, Step 2: $\chi^2(5) = 14.53$,

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433 p = .013 (albeit without significantly impacting responses across test conditions or comparisons; 434 see next paragraph), and latency to exchange, Step 2: $\chi^2(5) = 64.70$, p < .001.

The refitted models for both measures replicate the effects of test condition, comparison, 435 and their interaction described above (Tables 3 and 4). For refusals, there were no significant 436 effects of barrier or its interactions with test condition and comparison. Improved model fit was 437 438 likely driven by a marginally significant comparison x barrier condition such that, across all test conditions and food comparisons, there tended to be more refusals in the presence of a barrier in 439 the H vs. M comparison than in the H vs. L or M vs. L comparisons. Latencies to exchange, 440 however, were 0.8 to 1.4 seconds longer when the barrier was present than when it was not 441 (effect of barrier). This effect was most evident in the H vs. L comparison but less so in the M 442 vs. L comparison and the H vs. M comparison (comparison x barrier interaction). 443

444 **Quantity Comparisons**

445 *Overall*

In the two quantity comparisons, the capuchins varied significantly among food comparisons (which overlapped with population comparisons) but not test conditions in their rate of refusal, $\chi^2(5) = 14.30$, p = .014 (Table 5) and in their latency to exchange, $\chi^2(5) = 15.81$, p = .007 (Table 6).

In the reference case, Equity with 1 cheerio, the LRC capuchins virtually never refused the token or the food, regardless of what other food was present (M = 0.86, SD = 2.30 refusals per 20 trials in a session), and exchanged the token after 1.1 to 3.1 seconds (intercepts). There was neither a difference in refusals nor in latency to exchange between the test conditions. However, the NIH capuchins in the 3 vs. 1 comparison were significantly more likely to refuse (M = 2.00, SD = 3.30 refusals per session) and showed 1.5 to 4.3 seconds longer latencies to 458 *Barrier Conditions*

459 LRC capuchins in the 5 vs. 1 comparison showed both higher rates of refusal (Figure 2A) 460 and longer latency to exchange the token (Figure 2D) when the barrier was present than when it 461 was not, refusals: t(719) = -3.78, p < .001, latency: t(705) = -5.58, p < .001.

462

Discussion

In order to explore factors that may be impacting the variability among capuchins' 463 responses in inequity studies, we examined whether the relative value of rewards and the 464 presence of a barrier impacted responses to inequity in capuchin monkeys. We additionally 465 investigated whether using differences in reward quantity might impact responses differently 466 than the typically used differences in reward quality. The relative quality of proffered versus 467 received rewards did indeed influence responses to inequity and contrast, with a particularly 468 strong effect of the least-preferred food option. On the other hand, subjects did not respond 469 differently to different quantities of rewards. Moreover, while the presence of a barrier 470 significantly increased refusals in the High vs. Medium food comparison, improving model fit, it 471 472 did not impact the rate of refusals across the different conditions and food comparisons. Considering these findings in more detail, capuchin monkeys were more likely to respond 473 to inequity when there was a low-value reward present (i.e., in the H vs. L and M vs. L 474 conditions) as compared to the H vs. M condition. Similarly, capuchins took longer to complete 475 token exchanges in the Inequity and Contrast conditions when a low-value reward was present, 476 as compared to conditions in which both subjects received the same reward (Equity) or both 477 rewards were relatively more preferred (i.e., in the H vs. M comparison). Given that we had 478

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several different MVRs and LVRs, but subjects only refused for the LVRs, it seems unlikely that 479 this result is due to greater differences in relative value. Thus, the presence of a particularly low-480 value food reward – but one that the subjects are willing to eat at least 10 times in a row in a non-481 experimental context – appears necessary to generate responses to violations of expectations. 482 There are two possible – and not mutually exclusive – explanations for why this would be 483 484 the case. First, receiving a particularly low-value food when a highly valued food is present may increase the level of frustration. Alternately (or in addition), it may be that when the value of 485 both rewards is relatively high, the cost of foregoing the reward to express frustration is too high, 486 even if they are frustrated. We cannot distinguish between these with the current data because 487 our dependent measure does not assess whether they *notice* a violation of expectations; instead, 488 we measure whether they *respond* to a violation of expectations by turning down a proffered 489 reward. This inequity response is quite costly and may require substantial ability to inhibit their 490 prepotent tendency to accept a relatively high valued food reward; recall that our criterion for the 491 low-value reward was that they would accept and consume 10 pieces of it in the absence of other 492 food rewards, so even the "low" value food is one that they will typically happily consume. 493 Overall, while it is clear that this response is to the violation of social expectations (i.e., they 494 495 only refuse the LVR when their partner gets a better outcome), it appears to be the absolute value of the less preferred option, rather than the relative difference in value, that drives responses. 496 Again, this is likely due to the low cost of turning down less preferred rewards (or the high cost 497 of turning down those that are preferred), combined with frustration when better rewards go to 498 the partner. 499

Intriguingly, the capuchins did not respond to violations based on different quantities, in
either the Inequity or Contrast conditions. This is somewhat surprising because we know that

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capuchin monkeys can differentiate between quantities (Beran et al., 2008; Evans et al., 2009), 502 make decisions based on relative quantities (Brosnan et al., 2011), and in our preference tests, all 503 monkeys discriminated and subsequently preferred the greater to the lesser quantity. There are 504 several potential reasons why they did not respond. First, it is important to note that it is unlikely 505 that the monkeys were unable to discriminate the quantity differences chosen for the current 506 study (1 vs. 5 and 1 vs. 3). Capuchin monkeys, including some of the same subjects tested in the 507 present study, reliably choose the larger of two quantities of 1-5 food items, including visible 508 (Addessi et al., 2008) and non-visible sets shown briefly, and even track additions to these sets 509 (Beran et al., 2008). Despite this, it is possible that subjects were more interested in *what* their 510 partner received or what they had previously received rather than how much they received. 511 Indeed, although items were presented sequentially to maximize the chances that subjects 512 recognized that different quantities were present (this procedure was followed in both the 513 preference tests and the study itself), it is possible that they failed to recognize this cue with 514 respect to their partner, lost track of how many items their partner received, or simply did not 515 pay attention. Similarly, a previous study found that social manipulation did not affect capuchin 516 monkeys' risk taking behavior in a relative quantity task, even when the partner monkey 517 518 received the subject monkey's unchosen food set (Beran, Perdue, Parrish, & Evans, 2012). These 519 findings suggest that insensitivity to quantity differences may be driven, at least in part, by differential motivation and/or attention rather than insensitivity to inequity per se. 520 One other possibility is that this was due to the food we chose for the quantity tests 521 (pieces of Cheerios brand cereal, an unsweetened 'o' shaped oat cereal). In the quality tests, 522 subjects never refused more preferred foods (i.e., the MVR or HVR), leading us to hypothesize 523

that the cereal pieces were too high in value for them to refuse, no matter what their partner

525 received. To provide an initial test of this hypothesis, we conducted post-hoc food preference tests comparing five of the GSU monkeys' preference for one piece of cereal (the smallest 526 quantity used in this study, and therefore the most equivalent to the LVR in the quality tests) to 527 the low, medium and high value foods used with the LRC monkeys in the quality comparison. 528 Potentially supporting this hypothesis, we found that cereal pieces were of medium value, and in 529 particular, were consistently preferred over the lower value food. Thus, for future studies we 530 recommend that quantity tests be based upon a less preferred food. 531 Considering our final key finding, the barrier between the monkeys did not significantly 532 impact responses. Given that the referent in inequity comparisons is the other monkey, it is 533 perhaps somewhat surprising that the presence or absence of a barrier did not influence responses 534 to inequity. However, we speculate that this is due to the fact that capuchin monkeys are 535 generally quite tolerant of each other and thus may choose to sit relatively close to one another 536 regardless of whether there is a barrier between them. Moreover, because we only tested pairings 537 in which both subjects voluntarily entered the testing chamber, we were by definition only 538 testing pairs who were sufficiently tolerant of one another that they were willing to separate from 539 their group together, which presumably means that they were willing to sit in close proximity 540 541 regardless of the barrier. Of course, this is good news from the perspective of comparing the ape studies (typically done with no barrier) to the monkey studies (typically done with a barrier), as it 542 means that these results should be relatively comparable. Nonetheless, in most cases, including 543 both barrier conditions in the current study, subjects are still adjacent and side-by-side. We 544 predict that spatial proximity and the orientation of the individuals relative to one another are 545 likely to be important in other contexts, such as when individuals have a greater spatial distance 546

547 or are oriented across from one another rather than side-by-side (Brosnan et al., 2010).

Although we are certain that there are a multitude of factors influencing responses to 548 inequity, these results strongly suggest that at least some of the differences we are seeing across 549 studies are due to procedural differences. Specifically, refusals due to inequitable outcomes are 550 most likely to emerge when a low-value (but still liked) food is used. We hypothesize that 551 differences in the relative preferences of different foods may have influenced responses in 552 553 different studies, leading to variation in outcomes. Whereas it is often tempting to treat differences in outcome across different studies as contradictory, in reality, both are providing key 554 555 data to help us understand the context surrounding a phenomenon. By far the most productive 556 avenue is to try to determine what key factors are influencing a response and what that tells us about the nature of the behavior. By better understanding the contexts in which animals respond 557 to inequity, or show any behavior, we come closer to understanding the causes and consequences 558 of that behavior, and the specific influence of context on that animal or species. 559

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705 GLMM for Refusals in Quality Comparisons

Variable	b	SE	95% CI	OR	OR 95% CI	Z.	p
Fixed effects							
Intercept	-2.19	0.25	(-2.67, -1.70)	0.11	(0.07, 0.18)	-8.83	<.001
Condition ^{<i>a</i>}							
Contrast	0.16	0.16	(-0.15, 0.47)	1.18	(0.86, 1.60)	1.03	.302
Inequity	0.74	0.15	(0.45, 1.03)	2.10	(1.58, 2.81)	5.04	<.001
Comparison ^b							
M vs. L	-0.07	0.16	(-0.39, 0.25)	.93	(0.68, 1.29)	-0.41	.680
H vs. M	-1.72	0.26	(-2.23, -1.21)	.18	(0.11, 0.30)	-6.64	<.001
Condition x Comparison							
Contrast / M vs. L	-0.76	0.25	(-1.25, -0.28)	0.47	(0.29, 0.75)	-3.11	.002
Constrast / H vs. M	0.04	0.35	(-0.66, 0.73)	1.04	(0.52, 2.07)	0.10	.918
Inequity / M vs. L	-0.18	0.21	(-0.60, 0.24)	0.84	(0.55, 1.27)	-0.84	.399
Inequity / H vs. M	-0.99	0.38	(-1.73, -0.24)	0.37	(0.18, 0.78)	-2.60	.009
Random effects							
Subject ID	SD	0.78					

706 *Note*. N = 6840. OR = Odds ratio. Reference categories: "Equity," H vs. L.

GLMM for Latency to Exchange in Quality Comparisons

Variable	b	SE	95% CI	df	t	р
Fixed effects						
Intercept	3.07	0.37	(2.33, 3.82)	34	11.47	< .001
Condition ^a						
Contrast	0.35	0.17	(0.03, 0.68)	15050	2.94	.003
Inequity	0.36	0.16	(0.04, 0.69)	15050	3.04	.002
Comparison ^b						
M vs. L	-0.04	0.17	(-0.36, 0.29)	15050	-0.29	.768
H vs. M	-0.47	0.16	(-0.79, -0.15)	15050	-4.00	< .001
Condition x Comparison						
Contrast / M vs. L	0.04	0.23	(-0.42, 0.50)	15050	0.25	.800
Contrast / H vs. M	-0.20	0.23	(-0.65, 0.25)	15050	-1.21	.227
Inequity / M vs. L	0.21	0.24	(-0.25, 0.67)	15050	1.24	.218
Inequity / H vs. M	-0.11	0.23	(-0.56, 0.34)	15050	-0.68	.499
Random effects						
Subject ID	SD	1.26				

713 GLMM for Refusals in Quality Comparisons in LRC Population

Variable	b	SE	95% CI	OR	OR 95% CI	z	р
Fixed effects							
Intercept	-2.57	0.40	(-3.36, -1.79)	0.08	(0.03, 0.17)	-6.43	< .001
Condition ^{<i>a</i>}							
Contrast	0.13	0.27	(-0.41, 0.67)	1.13	(0.67, 1.94)	0.48	0.634
Inequity	1.15	0.24	(0.67, 1.62)	3.14	(1.95, 5.07)	4.70	<.001
Comparison ^b							
M vs. L	-0.30	0.27	(-0.82, 0.23)	0.74	(0.44, 1.26)	-1.10	.270
H vs. M	-2.10	0.44	(-2.96, -1.23)	0.12	(0.05, 0.29)	-4.74	<.001
Barrier	0.29	0.25	(-0.19, 0.78)	1.34	(0.82, 2.18)	1.18	.237
Condition x Comparison							
Contrast / M vs. L	-0.28	0.34	(-0.94, 0.37)	0.75	(0.39, 1.45)	-0.84	.399
Contrast / H vs. M	0.05	0.45	(-0.83, 0.94)	1.06	(0.44, 2.55)	0.12	.904
Inequity / M vs. L	0.21	0.29	(-0.37, 0.78)	1.23	(0.69, 2.18)	0.71	.481
Inequity / H vs. M	-1.13	0.48	(-2.07, -0.18)	0.32	(0.13, 0.83)	-2.34	.019
Condition x Barrier							
Contrast / Barrier	0.16	0.31	(-0.44, 0.77)	1.18	(0.64, 2.16)	0.53	.595
Inequity / Barrier	-0.30	0.28	(-0.84, 0.25)	0.74	(0.43, 1.28)	-1.07	.286
Comparison x Barrier							
M vs. L / Barrier	-0.29	0.24	(-0.75, 0.18)	0.75	(0.47, 1.20)	-1.20	.231
H vs. M / Barrier	0.80	0.41	(-0.00, 1.60)	2.22	(1.00, 4.95)	1.96	.050
Random effects							
Subject ID	SD	0.83					

714 *Note.* N = 4320. OR = Odds ratio. Reference categories: ^{*a*}Equity, ^{*b*}H vs. L.

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Variable	b	SE	95% CI	df	t	р
Fixed effects						
Intercept	1.69	0.22	(1.26, 2.11)	21	8.94	< .001
Condition ^{<i>a</i>}						
Contrast	0.30	0.19	(-0.07, 0.67)	6072	1.82	.068
Inequity	0.39	0.19	(0.02, 0.76)	6072	2.38	.018
Comparison ^b						
M vs. L	0.04	0.19	(-0.33, 0.41)	6072	0.24	.812
H vs. M	-0.28	0.19	(-0.64, 0.09)	6072	-1.71	.088
Barrier	1.08	0.17	(0.75, 1.42)	6072	7.24	<.001
Condition x Comparison						
Contrast / M vs. L	0.28	0.23	(-0.17, 0.73)	6072	1.40	.163
Contrast / H vs. M	-0.02	0.23	(-0.47, 0.43)	6072	-0.09	.930
Inequity / M vs. L	-0.02	0.23	(-0.48, 0.43)	6072	-0.11	.912
Inequity / H vs. M	-0.34	0.23	(-0.78, 0.11)	6072	-1.70	.088
Condition x Barrier						
Contrast / Barrier	-0.17	0.19	(-0.54, 0.19)	6072	-1.05	.293
Inequity / Barrier	-0.22	0.19	(-0.58, 0.15)	6072	-1.32	.186
Comparison x Barrier						
M vs. L / Barrier	-0.73	0.19	(-1.10, -0.35)	6072	-4.38	<.001
H vs. M / Barrier	-0.55	0.19	(-0.92, -0.19)	6072	-3.39	<.001
Random effects						
Subject ID	SD	0.40				

GLMM for Latency to Exchange in Quality Comparisons in LRC Population

Note. N = 4151. OR = Odds ratio. Reference categories: ^{*a*}Equity, ^{*b*}H vs. L.

722 GLMM for Refusals in Quantity Comparisons

Variable	b	SE	95% CI	OR	OR 95% CI	Z.	р
Fixed effects							
Intercept	-5.79	0.90	(-7.55, -4.03)	0.00	(0.00, 0.02)	-6.45	<.001
Condition ^{<i>a</i>}							
Contrast	0.35	0.60	(-0.82, 1.53)	1.42	(0.44, 4.61)	0.59	.556
Inequity	-0.94	0.85	(-2.60, 0.72)	0.39	(0.07, 2.05)	-1.11	.266
Comparison ^b : 3 vs. 1	3.22	1.04	(1.18, 5.26)	24.96	(3.25, 191.91)	3.09	.002
Condition x Comparison							
Contrast/ 3 vs. 1	-0.35	0.67	(-1.66, 0.96)	0.70	(0.19, 2.61)	-0.53	.598
Inequity / 3 vs. 1	0.80	0.90	(-0.96, 2.57)	2.23	(0.38, 13.01)	0.89	.372
Random effects			× · · /		· · · /		
Subject ID	SD	1.32					

723 *Note.* N = 2280. OR = Odds ratio. Reference categories: ^{*a*}Equity, ^{*b*}5 vs. 1.

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727 GLMM for Latency to Exchange in Quantity Comparisons

Variable	b	SE	95% CI	df	t	р
Fixed effects						
Intercept	2.09	0.51	(1.09, 3.09)	32	5.98	< .001
Condition ^a						
Contrast	0.28	0.22	(-0.15, 0.71)	6017	1.86	.063
Inequity	-0.01	0.22	(-0.44, 0.42)	6017	-0.06	.955
Comparison ^b : 3 vs. 1	2.89	0.72	(1.50, 4.28)	35	5.91	<.001
Condition x Comparison						
Contrast / 3 vs. 1	0.01	0.37	(-0.72, 0.74)	6019	0.04	.969
Inequity / 3 vs. 1	0.13	0.37	(-0.60, 0.86)	6018	0.52	.605
Random effects						
Subject ID	SD	1.20				

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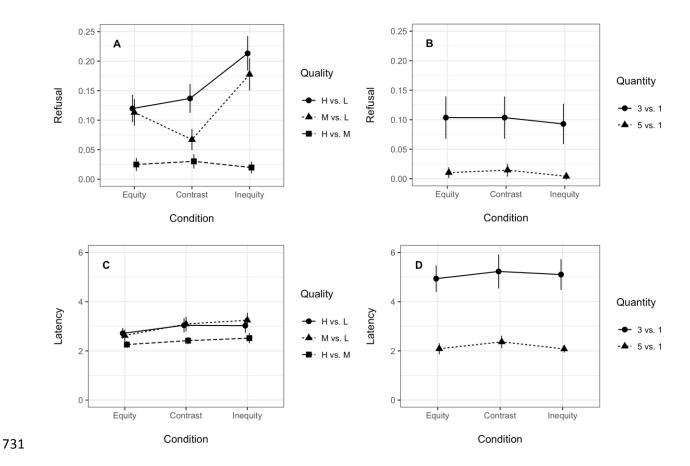


Figure 1. Mean number of refusals (A and B) and mean latency to exchange (C and D) by test condition
and food comparison (quality: A and C, quantity: B and D). Error bars indicate standard errors. All
subjects completed all quality comparisons; NIH capuchins were tested on 3 items vs. 1 item, LRC
capuchins on 5 items vs. 1 item.

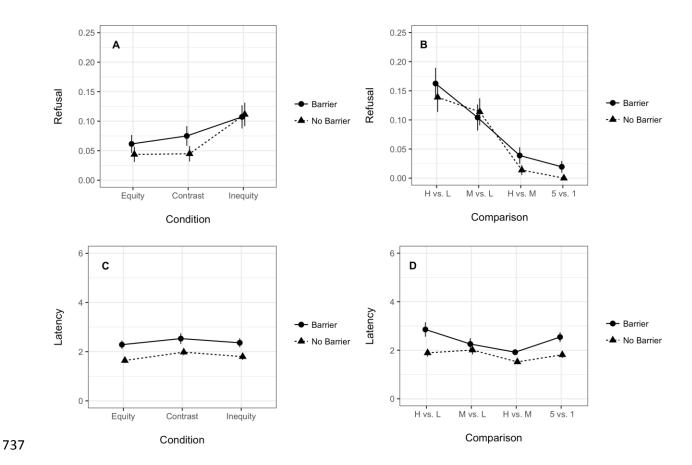


Figure 2. Mean number of refusals (A and B) and mean latency to exchange (C and D) by presence of a
barrier (LRC population only). Measures plotted by test condition (A and C) and food comparison (B and
D). Error bars indicate standard errors.