

Research Question: Does the Invisibility Cloak Illusion hold up in a virtual setting, in spite of prior relationships with present individuals?

Abstract: Various studies have been conducted reporting the occurrence of the invisibility cloak illusion; a phenomenon in which an individual believes he or she is more observant of others, in turn, with others being less observant of him or her. The nature of this phenomenon is left unaffected by existing relationships, and any external factors present. Due to the pandemic, the study conducted on the Invisibility Cloak was performed virtually, in a Zoom setting with participants with prior relationships performing an ice breaker activity and noting observations of other participants/and factors.

Hypothesis: Due to the constructs of a remote environment, virtual calls are the only avenue of interaction. We hypothesize that individuals will be less likely to pay attention to others, and note how much others observe them, in spite of a prior relationship over a Zoom call in a virtual setting. Individuals are less engaged in a virtual setting, and are more readily available to divert their focus from interactions with others. It is because of this reality, we hypothesize the Invisibility Cloak Illusion holds up in a virtual setting, however is not as overall prevalent as compared to an in-person setting (regardless of prior relationships). We also believe individuals will be unable to gauge how often others look at them versus how often they look at others due to the nature of the virtual setting.

20 Participants; 5 Groups

- Tested: college students between the ages of 18 and 23
- Individuals were asked to participate in an ice breaker activity on the group call
- Everyone on the group call had a prior relationship/friendship with all of the other individuals present on the call
- Each call lasted 10-15 minutes
- Individuals were asked to complete a short survey regarding their observations
- Focal Observations:
 - How often did you view others?
 - How often did you feel others viewed you?

Focal Questions:

2. How often did you look at the speaker while he or she was speaking? (on a scale of 1 to 10)
5. How often when *you* were speaking, did you feel others looking at you? (on a scale of 1 to 10)

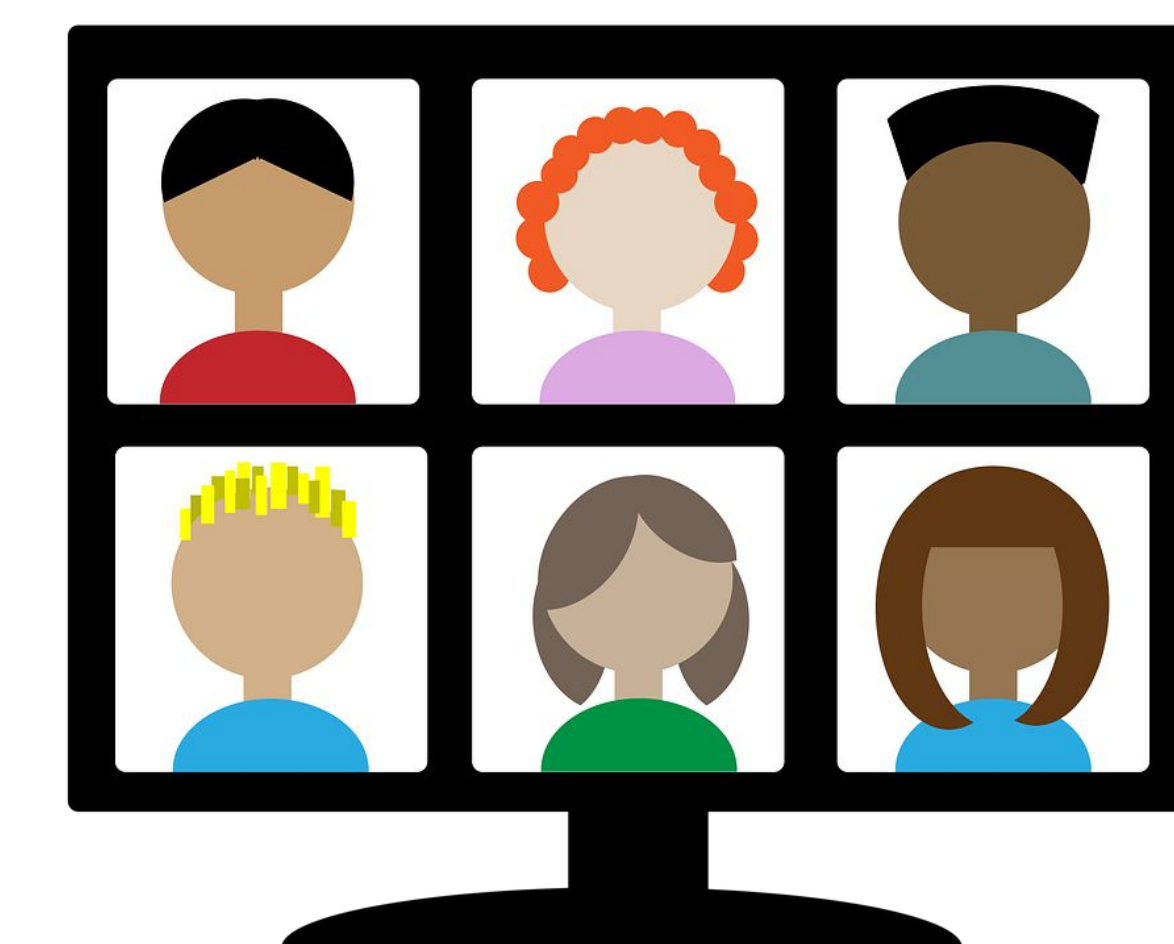
Averages:

Question 2: avg = 7.55
Question 5: avg = 6.09

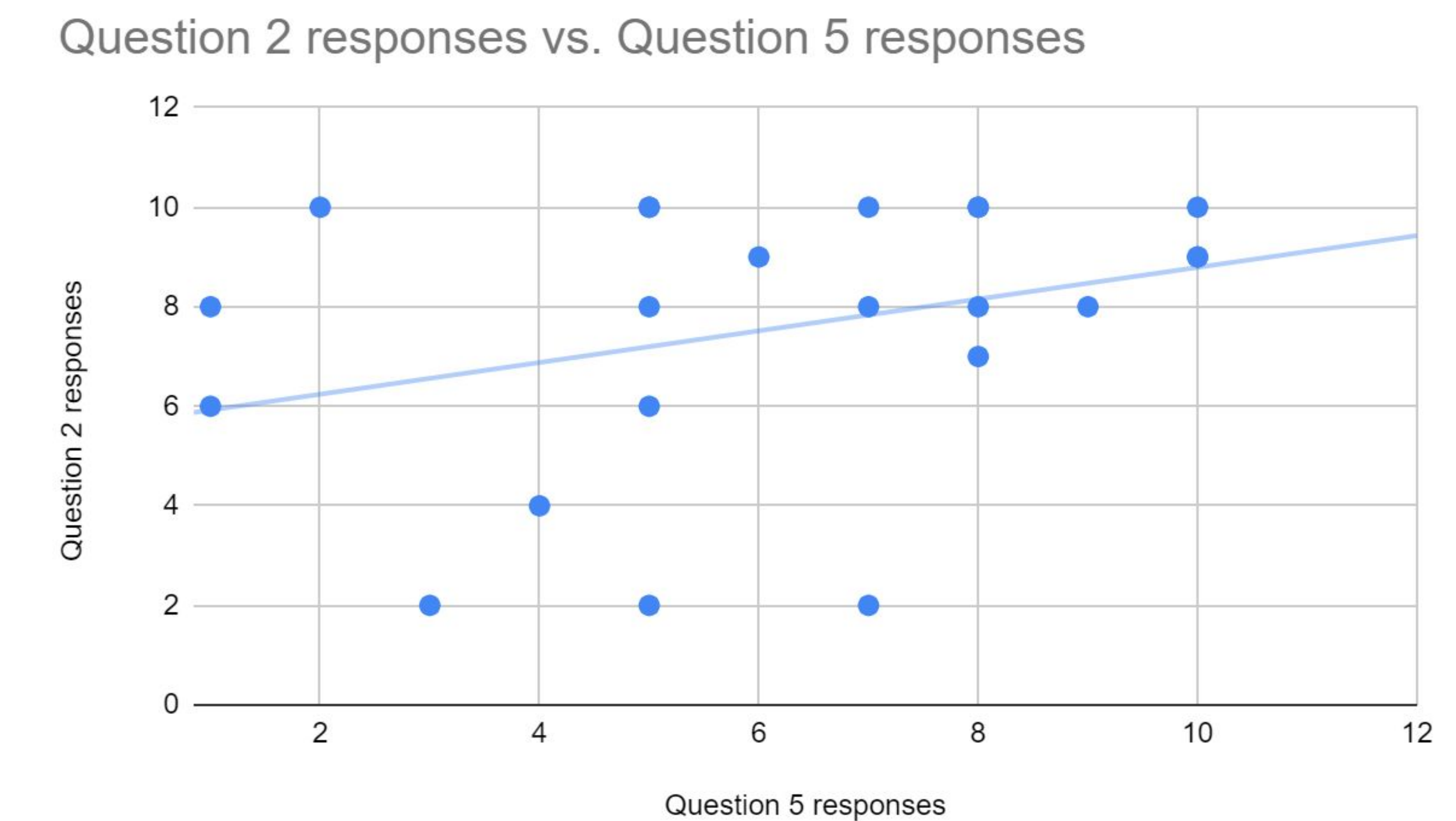
Averages, Explained:

Average of 7.55: Indicates individuals looked at the speaker more often than not

Average of 6.09: Indicates speaking individuals believed others to be looking at them *less*, than they had looked at other speakers



Question 2 vs. Question 5 Responses



Discussion: Based on the numerical data findings (based heavily on questions 2 and 5), **the hypothesis** stating that the Invisibility Cloak Illusion will be upheld in a virtual setting, in spite of prior relationships, **is supported and validated**

Reference:

Boothby, E. J., Clark, M. S., & Bargh, J. A. (2017). The invisibility cloak illusion: People (incorrectly) believe they observe others more than others observe them. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 112(4), 589-606. doi:10.1037/pspi0000082

Links:

https://s.surveymonkey.com/r/3kMZT_oP
<https://pickerwheel.com/pw?id=3BGJw>