

Electronic Supplementary Material 1

To see whether our sets of clues efficiently suggested an incorrect suspect, we present a contingency table. Highlighted cells present proportion of individuals who suspected the suspect we intended to suggest to them.

Its analysis suggests that each clue indeed suggested different suspect, and only after the discussion teams moved to identify the correct suspect: moving from only 14% of participants suspecting someone else prior to the discussion to 73% afterwards.

Table E1.

Percentages of speculated murderers based on only 3 clues possessed by participant, prior to learning additional 6 clues and to the group discussion.

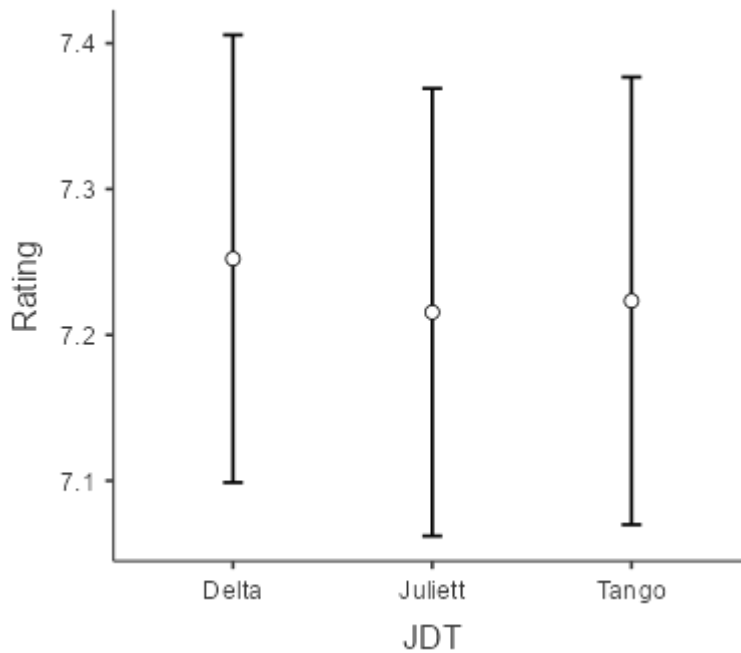
Clue set	Angus	Bigfoot	Constance	Someone else
Delta	27	8	45	19
Juliette	34	40	14	12
Tango	72	10	7	11
total	44.3	19.7	22	14

To compare the overall usefulness of clue sets, we compared them without controlling for their materiality using ANOVA, with IV = clue set. We found that each clue set was rated as similarly useful. Thus, the results of the mere ownership analysis are not confounded by one set of clues being perceived as distinctively better or worse than the other sets.

ANOVA DV = usefulness ratings; IV = clue set

ANOVA - Rating

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	p
JDT	0.672	2	0.336	0.0609	0.941
Residuals	14866.038	2697	5.512		

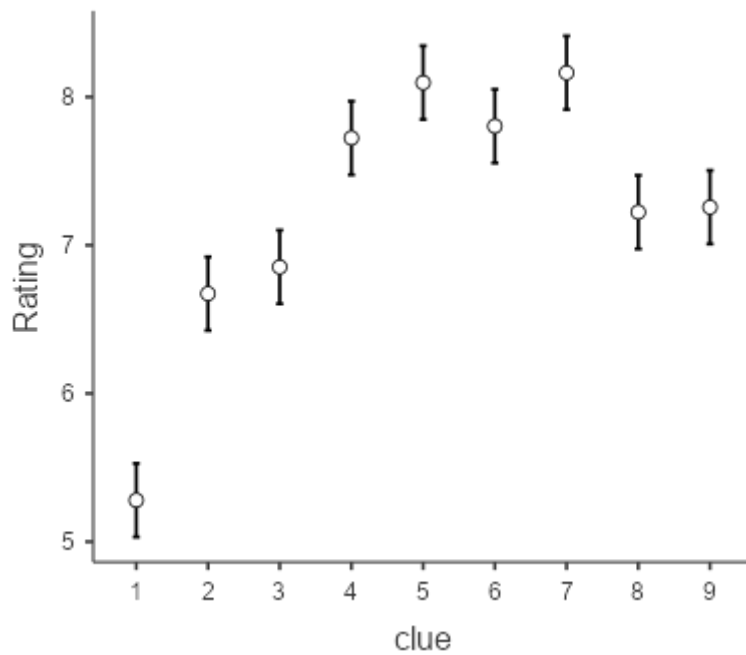


Next, we compared the usefulness of each clue independently to other clues using ANOVA, with IV = clue number. We found huge variability in the perceived usefulness of these clues. However, as the prior analysis shows, on average the sets were still perceived as similarly useful.

ANOVA, IV = Usefulness ratings, IV = clue number

ANOVA - Rating

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	p
clue	1935	8	241.85	50.3	< .001
Residuals	12932	2691	4.81		



As suggested by the Reviewer, the test of the focal analysis can be completed using much simpler design – ANOVA. Here, one condition is the average usefulness of 3 owned cues, and the other average usefulness of 6 non-owned cues. The IV are 2 possession: yes/no x 2 materiality: material/immaterial. The results of the ANOVA are presented below, and are fully consistent with the LME analysis reported in the main document: main effects of materiality and possession, and, no interaction.

Within Subjects Effects

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	p
MOE	17.454	1	17.454	10.882	0.001
MOE * Material	0.375	1	0.375	0.234	0.629
Residual	477.977	298	1.604		

Between Subjects Effects

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	p
Material	13.8	1	13.80	5.63	0.018
Residual	731.0	298	2.45		

