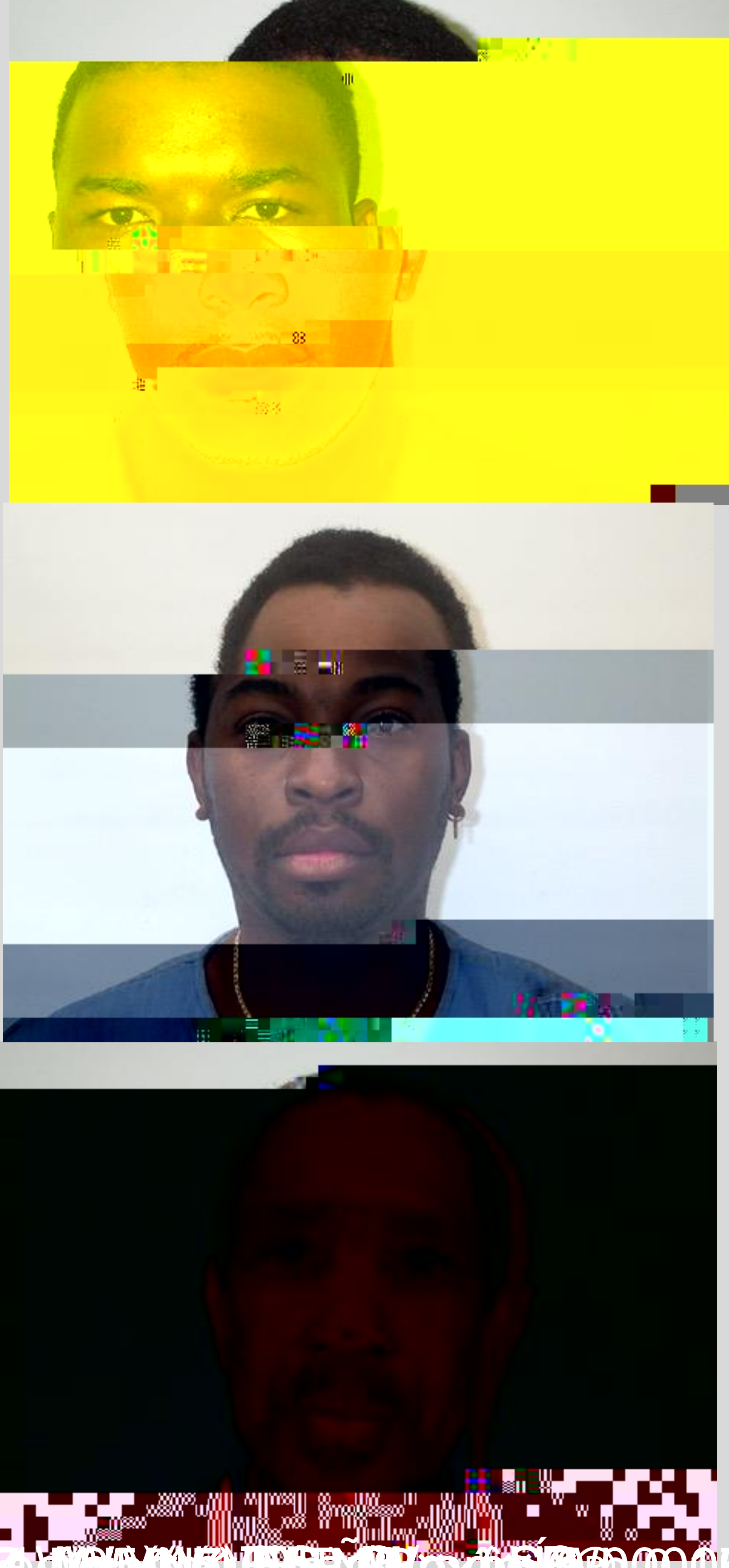


Decisions: A Look Into the Methodology

- **Purpose:** Investigates the impact of defendant age (25 vs 72) and victim age (26 vs 70) on juror decision-making, specifically involving Black male defendants and victims.
- Prior studies have predominantly focused on older White defendants; this study addresses the gap by focusing on age in Black defendants and victims. (Ruva et al. 2023; Sheahan et al., 2021).
- According to the stereotype content model, older adults are perceived as warm but incompetent, leading to juror leniency toward older defendants (Fiske et al., 2002).
- Just world theory suggests that people may devalue older victims to maintain a sense of justice, given the diminished societal status of older adults (Lerner, 1980).
- Research shows that crimes against older victims are perceived as less compared to crimes against younger victims (Callan et al., 2012; Goodwin & Landy, 2014).

Trial Transcript: Murder trial adapted from a past study (Leippe et al. 2022). Defendant and victim age manipulated in photos



- Limitations**
- As this is an online study, results may be difficult to generalize to a real-world circumstance.
 - Only explored age bias in a criminal case involving a Black defendant and victim.

- Implications**
- Study investigates how extra-legal variables (such as race and age) may impact juror decision-making in a court of law.
 - Study could aid in the creation of future training and guidance for prospective jurors.
 - Increases understanding about age bias in the judicial system.

- Results**
- This study is still in progress, with results forthcoming.

[Link to References](#)

