**Discussion:** Partners differed in gender. Since gender has been claimed to affect reaction time, it was hypothesized that mean reaction times would differ. The data supports this hypothesis, as demonstrated by the calculated p-value of 0.0027 from the applied t-test.

Although there is some evidence that males have a faster reaction time than females (Der and Deary 2006), it is likely that gender is not the only factor to have influenced reaction time between partners. In discussions between participants it was uncovered that assumed small differences in other factors identified by Kosinski (2008) had the potential to influence the outcome. Partners differed in caffeine consumption but neither consumed caffeinated beverages within an hour before the experimental trials were conducted. Similarly, state of stimulation is a factor known to influence reaction time, and one partner appeared more attentive to the conduct of the experiment than the other. But this factor was not easily quantified and therefore given little consideration in the formulation of the hypothesis.

Future studies should employ a more rigorous definition of the factors to facilitate a discussion between partners. This may reduce the likelihood of giving more serious considerations to these factors on the outcome of the experiment. For example, when discussing the factor of stimulation, it should be noted whether or not partners are likely to be “morning people” who are awake early and tend to grow weary as the day progresses. Better definitions of the factors that impact reaction time may lead to more meaningful results.