

# Taking Someone Else's Perspective:

## When Body "Position" is More Important than Body "Presence"

Michelle D. Greenwood, Justin L. Matthews, Michael J. Spivey, & Teenie Matlock

Cognitive & Information Sciences

University of California, Merced

mgreenwood@ucmerced.edu, jmatthews@ucmerced.edu, spivey@ucmerced.edu, tmatlock@ucmerced.edu



### Hypothesis:

- That social dynamics & affordances will influence which perspective individuals will choose when describing spatial scenes, specifically body position.

### Prior Research:

- When a person is present in the scene people will choose an allocentric perspective more often when describing a scene (Tversky & Hard, 2009).
- We choose other perspectives to visualize and explain things through object anchoring or relative perspectives (Barsalou 2008; Levinson, 1996).
- An affordance is a quality of an object or an environment that allows an individual to perform an action.

### Methods:

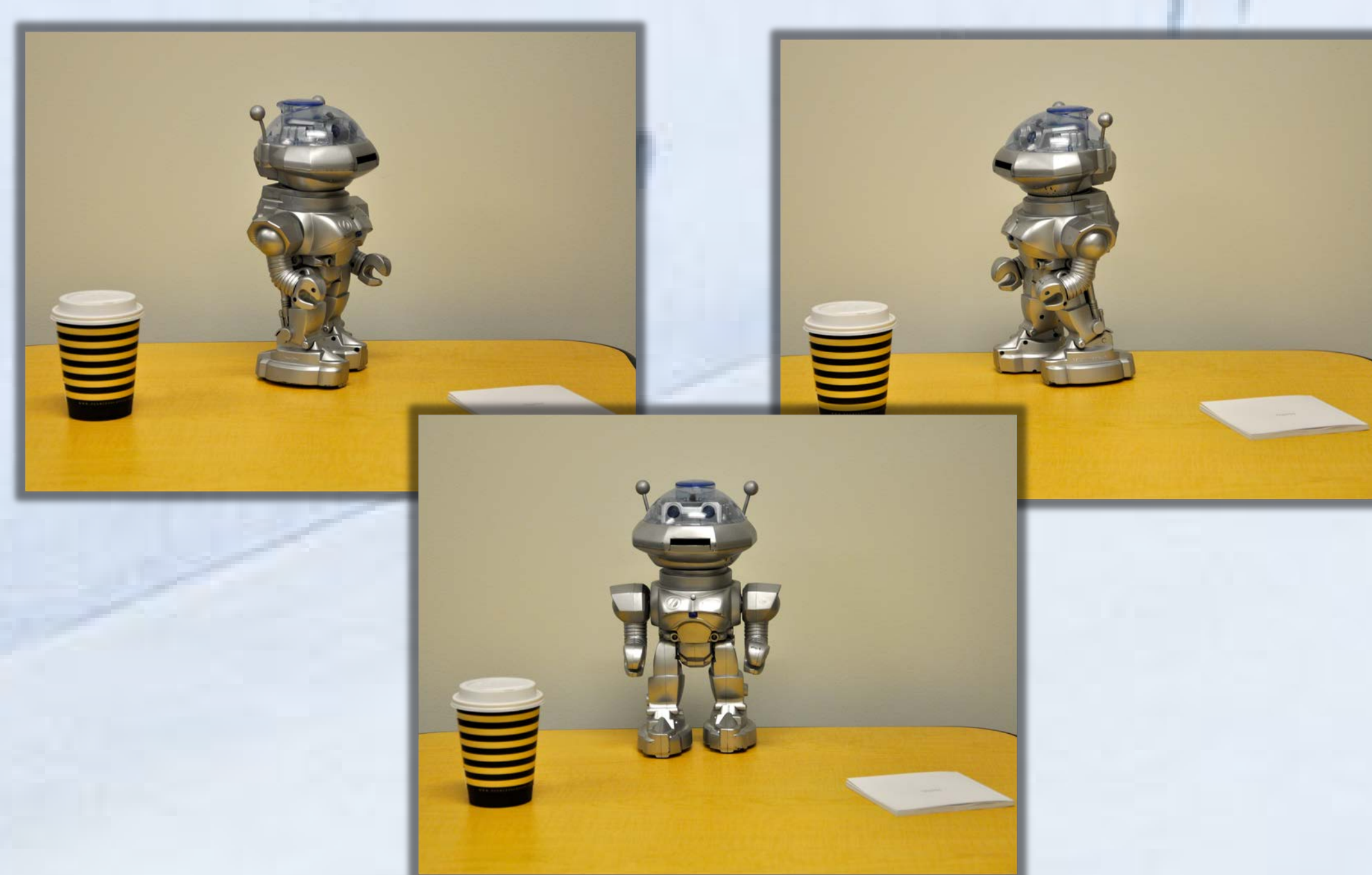
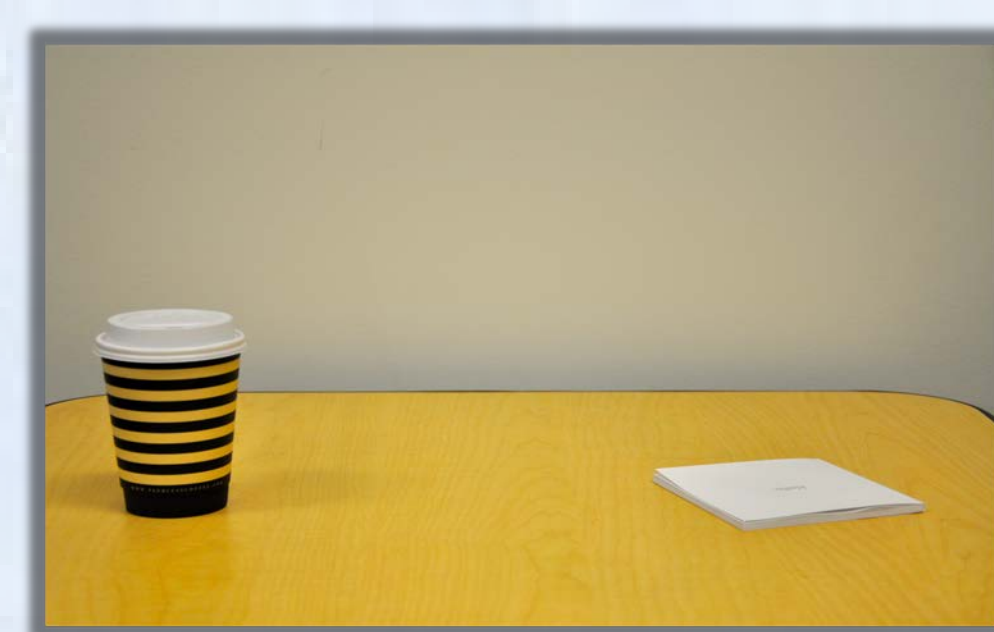
- Participants were randomly assigned to one of seven conditions (see and read the following sentence, "In the picture below, you see the last frame of a video clip.")
- Participants then viewed a photograph (see Visual Stimuli).

### Methods (cont):

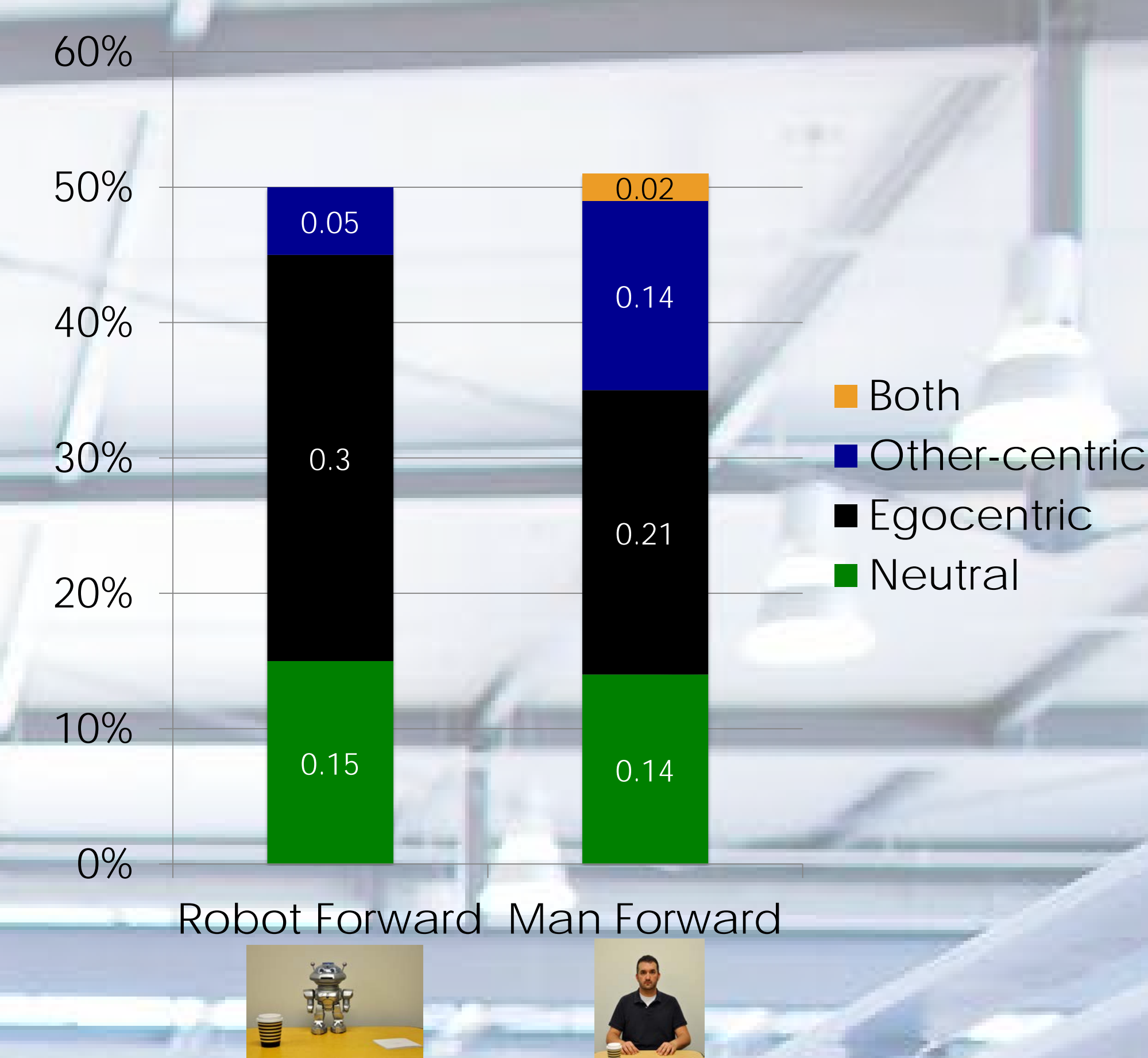
- Participants answered the following question, "In relation to the cup, where is the book placed?" (see Linguistic Stimuli).

### Linguistic & Visual Stimuli:

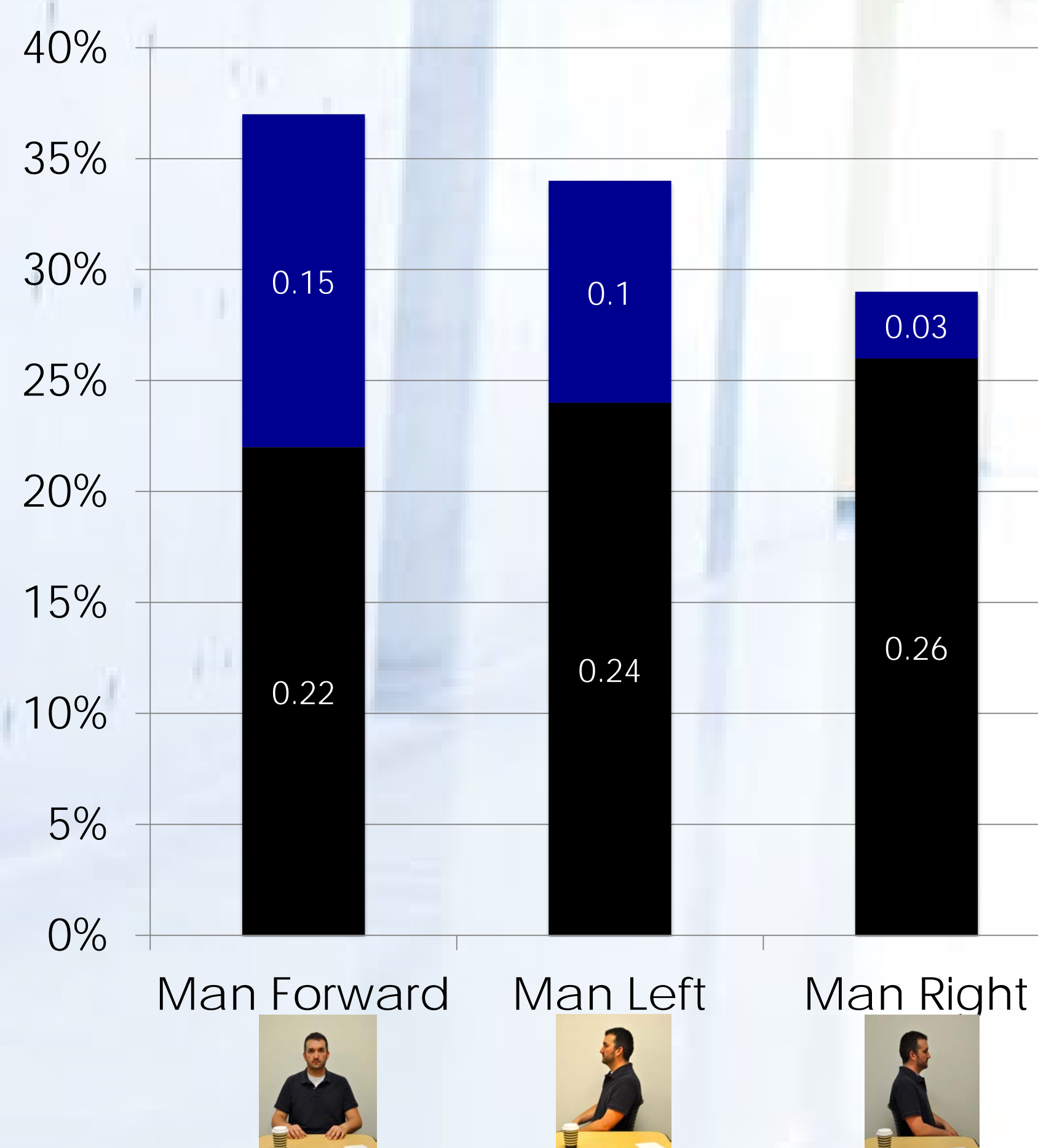
In relation to the cup, where is the book placed?



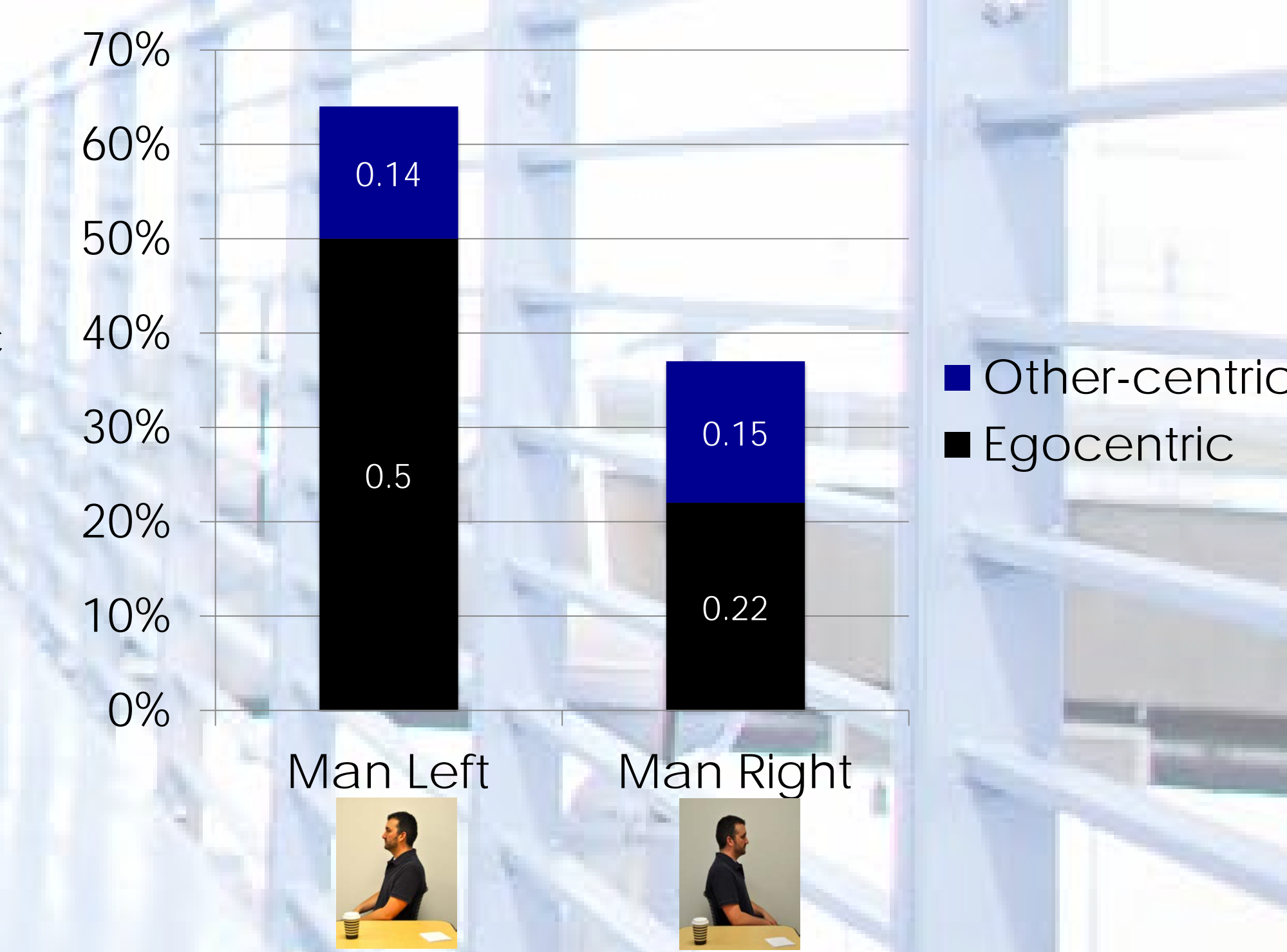
$\chi^2(3, N=106) = 15.804, p = .001$



$\chi^2(3, N=102) = 8.22, p = .042$



$\chi^2(2, N=96) = 6.72, p = .035$



$\chi^2(1, N=96) = 3.84, p = .05$

### Implications:

- These results suggest that the mere presence of a person in a scene does not guarantee a viewer will take that person's perspective, but rather the way the person is positioned in a scene might also be of critical importance.