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Dance Experience Affects Tempo Perception

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Dance Experience Affects Tempo Perception

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Introduction

- In music, the word “tempo” refers to the speed or pace of the music (the number of beats per minute, for example).
- Tempo is surprisingly subjective, given that beat perception depends on age and cultural experience. ^{1, 3, 4}
- Other factors besides beat (like the density of events per unit time) might influence how fast or slow people dance to music. ²
- Certain styles of music afford different speeds of dance, even when their tempos are the same.

Objective

- Explore the relationship between culture-specific dance experience and perception of tempo

Participants & Stimuli

- N=79 (20 Latin dance experts, 59 non-experts)
- Online demographic questionnaire
- Latin Dance Expertise Measure
- 10 second clips of Latin dance music
 - Comparison clips were altered in two ways:
 - Tempo in beats per minute
 - Dance speed

Dance Genre

- Salsa
- Merengue
- Bachata
- Cha Cha

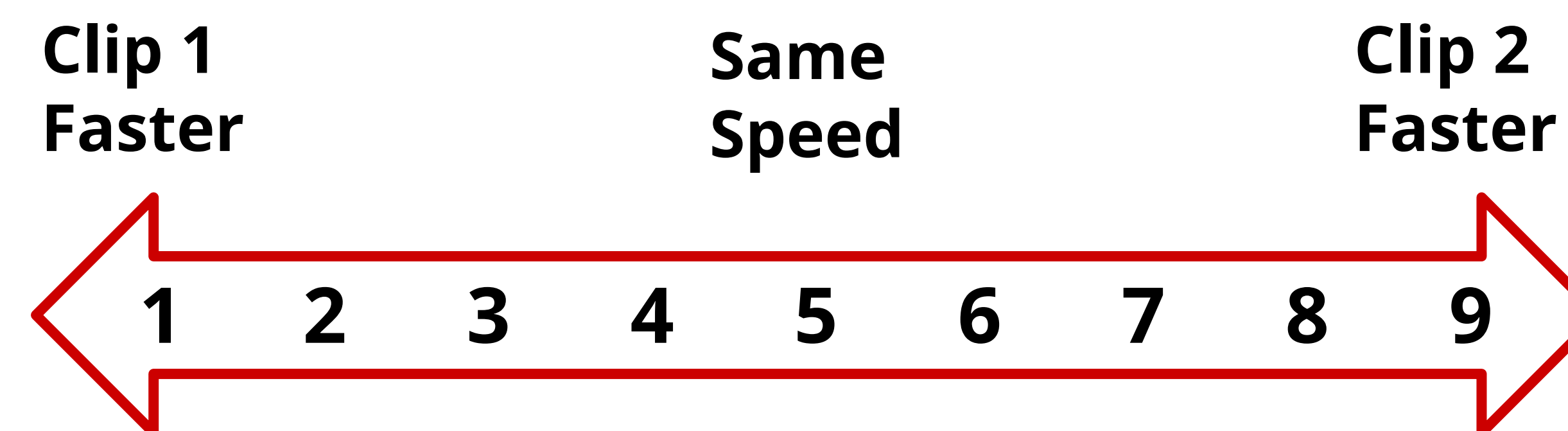


Tempo Clip (BPM)

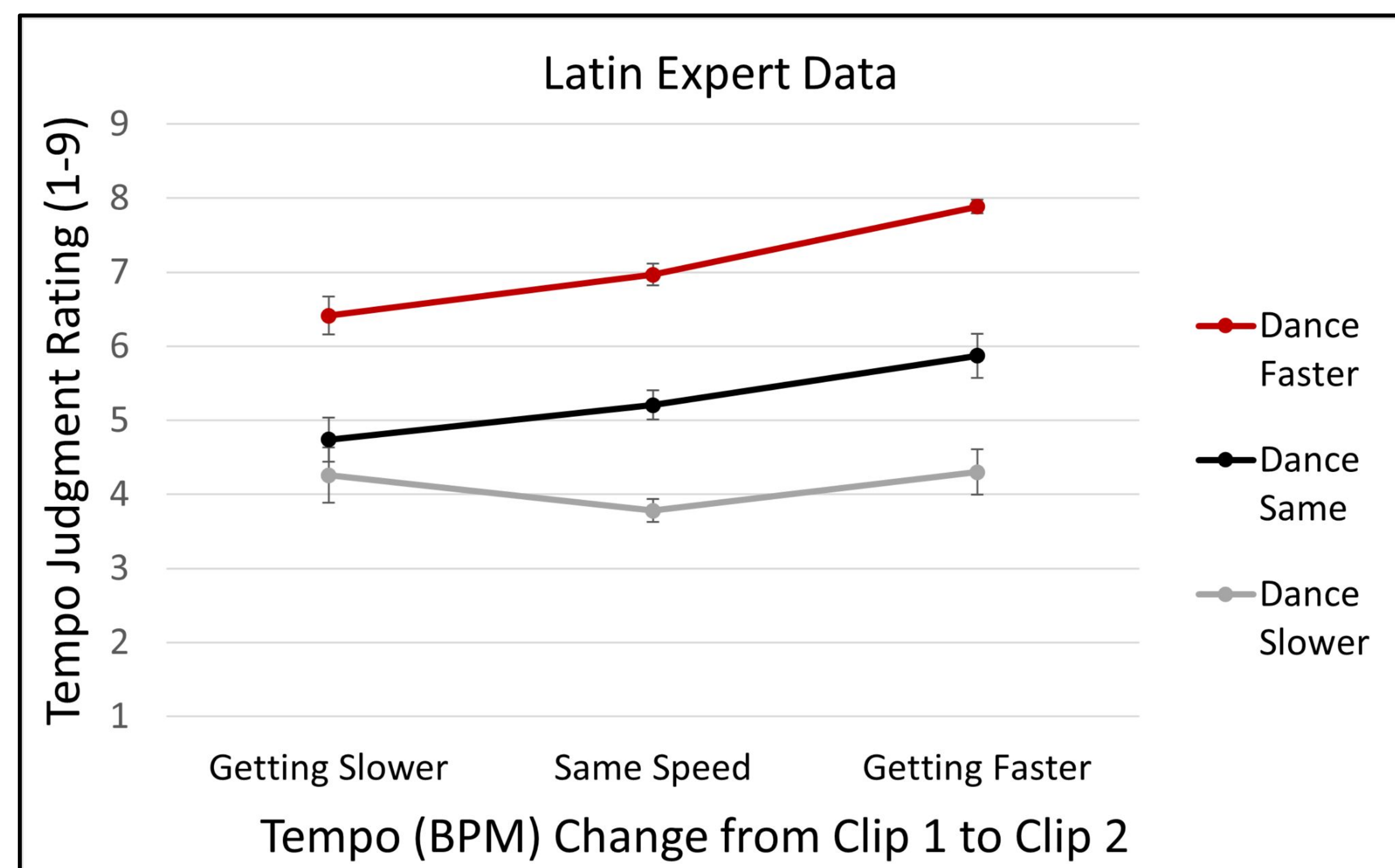
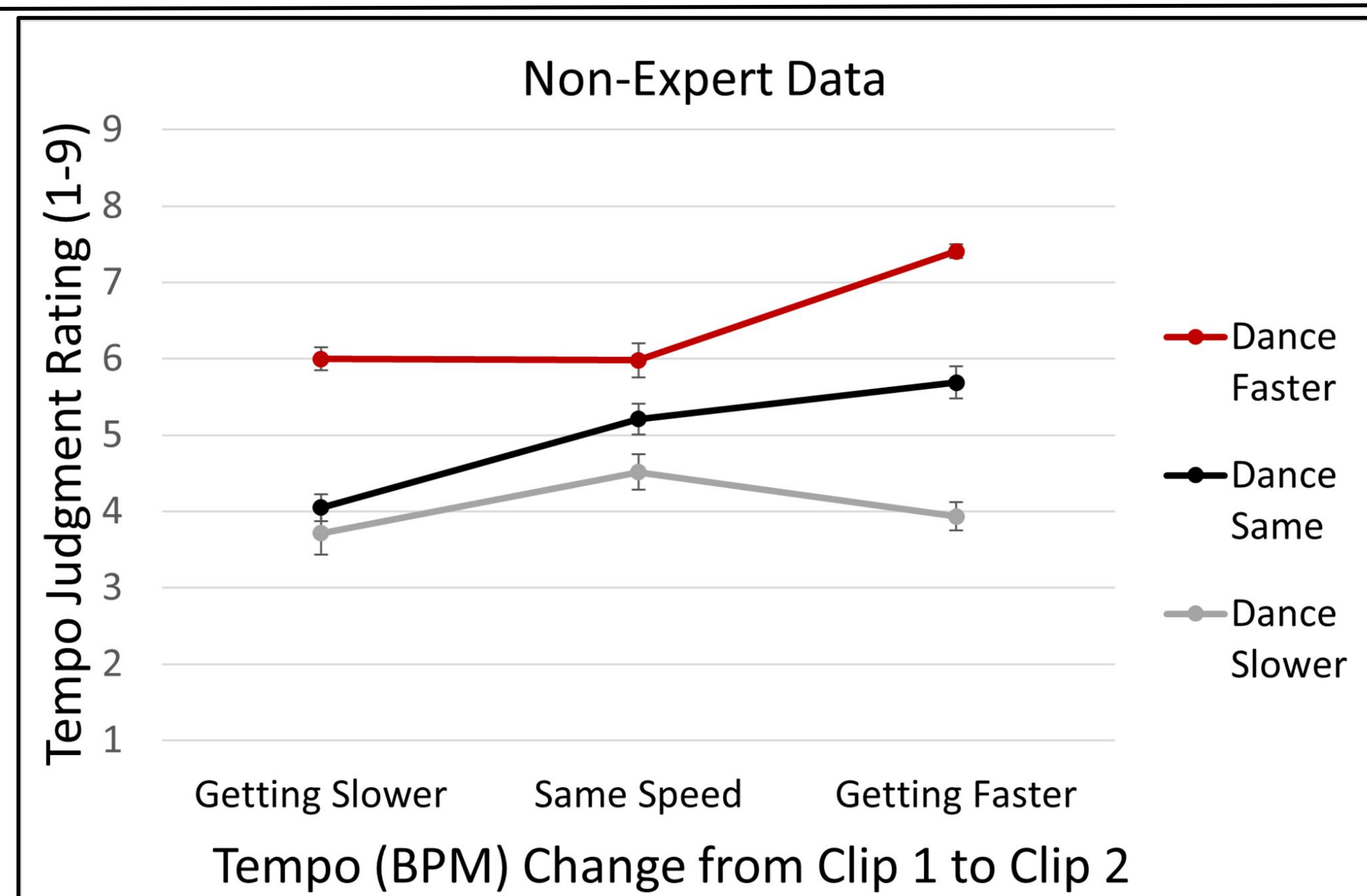
- 145 bpm
- 130 bpm
- 115 bpm

Methods

- Participants asked to judge whether comparison clip was faster, slower, or the same



Results



Discussion

- Faster bpm clips were accurately identified as faster, and slower bpm clips were accurately identified as slower
- Clips with faster dance movements were rated as faster & vice versa for slower dance movements
 - By both Latin dance experts and non-experts
- Latin dancers exhibited a larger effect for dance speed

References

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