



# Seeing the Self: portraits and self-concept among Ghanaians with varying visual capacity

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# Importance of Self-concept

## Critical Domains

- general competence
- role in the family
- physical self/beauty



# Ghana and Self-concept

- Traumatic life events correspond with changes in global self-concept
- Loss of sight and blindness



# Central Questions

- To what extent does poor sight impact each of the self-concept domains?
- Does self-concept within each domain vary with...
  - Age?
  - Visual Capacity?
- Do the self-concept domains vary in relation to each other?
- What cultural differences exist from the academic definition of self-concept domains created in 'developed' countries?

# Self-Concept Interview

- Competence
  - *When I have to ask for help, it makes me feel that I am not good enough*
- Role in the Family
  - *No one else could do the things that I do for my family*
- Physical/Beauty
  - *I like my body the way that it is now*

# Methods

- Interview on self-concept in 3 categories:
- Brief patient history, visual acuity and demographic information



# Participants

- Population: patients of Crystal Eye Clinic and Unite For Sight outreaches
  - Mean Age=49.2, SD=22.1
  - 35 females, 40 males



# Variables

- Visual Acuity Category (VAC)

1. Poor

2. Mediocre

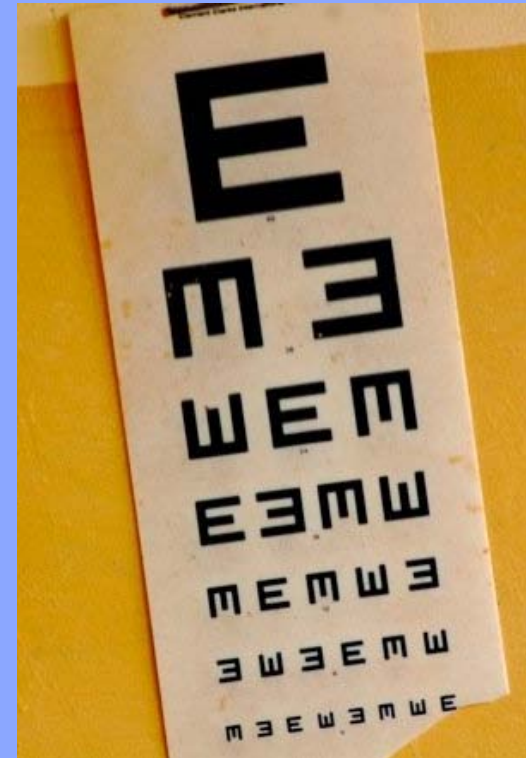
3. Good



Based on  
Visual Acuity  
composite

- Age

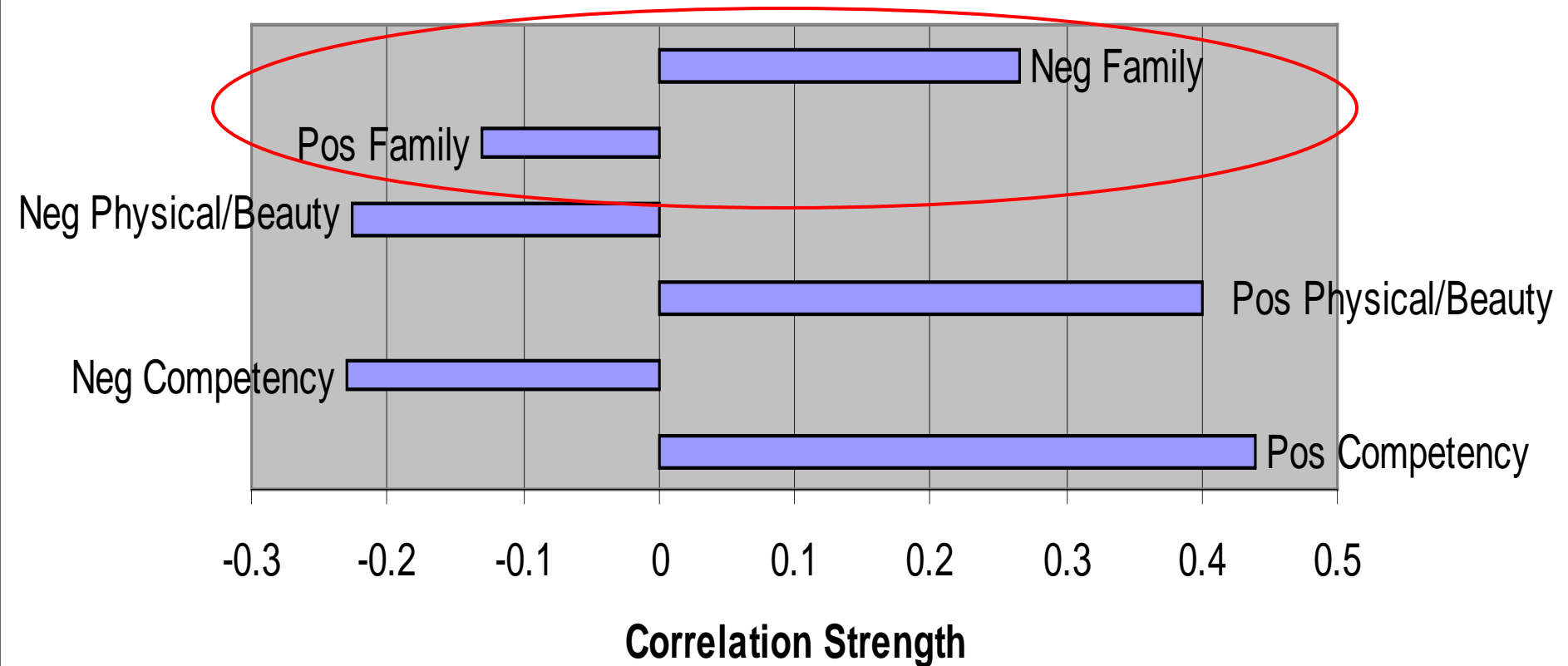
- Score on self-concept agreement statements (rated 1-3: higher score=more agreement)





# Results

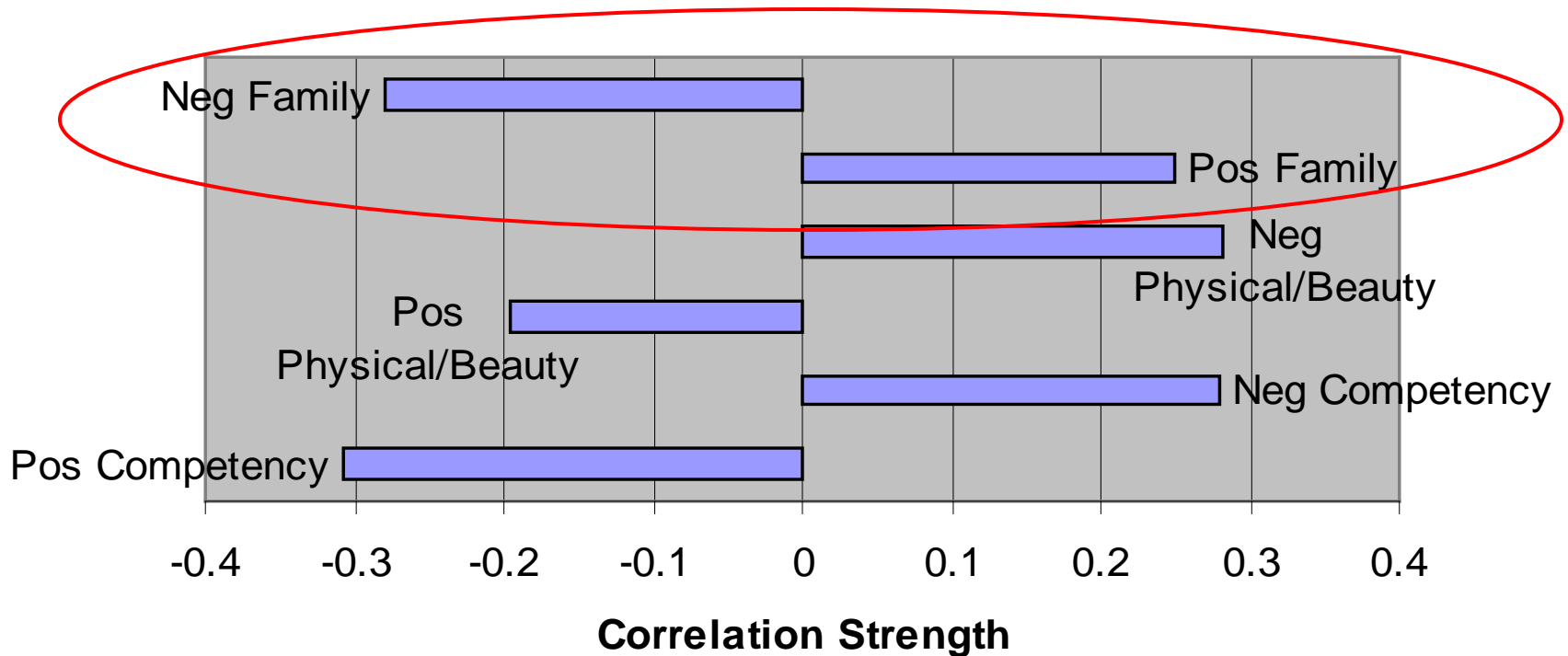
## Correlation of VAC with Interview Items



# Results

- Age negatively correlated with VAC (-0.567\*\*)

**Correlation of Age with Interview Items**

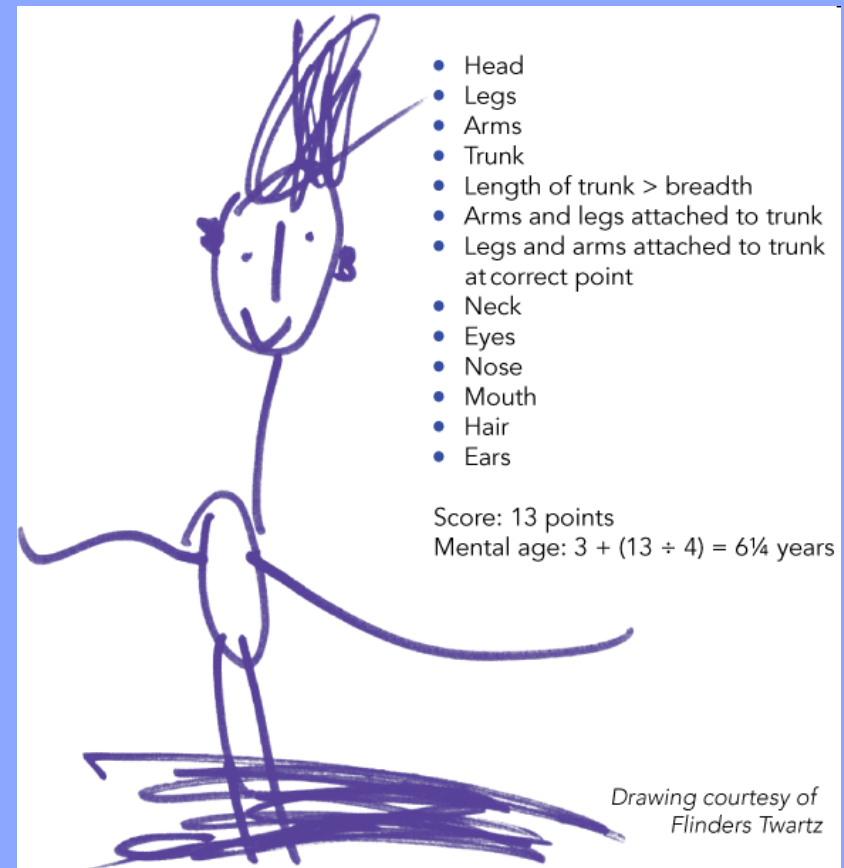


# Results

- Despite negative correlation of Age and VAC
  - When control for Age, and look at VAC...
    - “It is easy for me to learn new things”*
  - When control for VAC, and look at Age...
    - “When I have to ask for help it makes me feel that I am not good enough”*
    - “There are things about my body that I wish I could change”*

# The Goodenough Harris Draw A Person (DAP) Test

Adapted for cultural factors of population, and ease of instruction



# DAP Portrait Scoring

## 3 domains of scoring

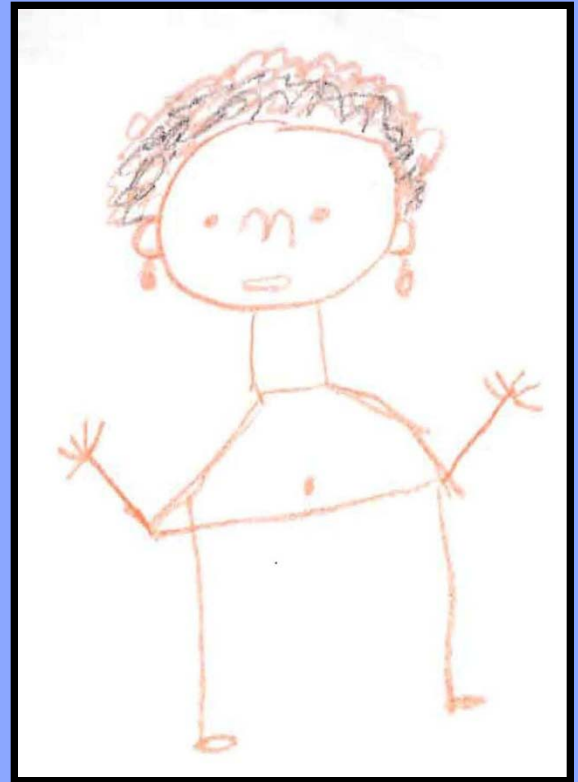
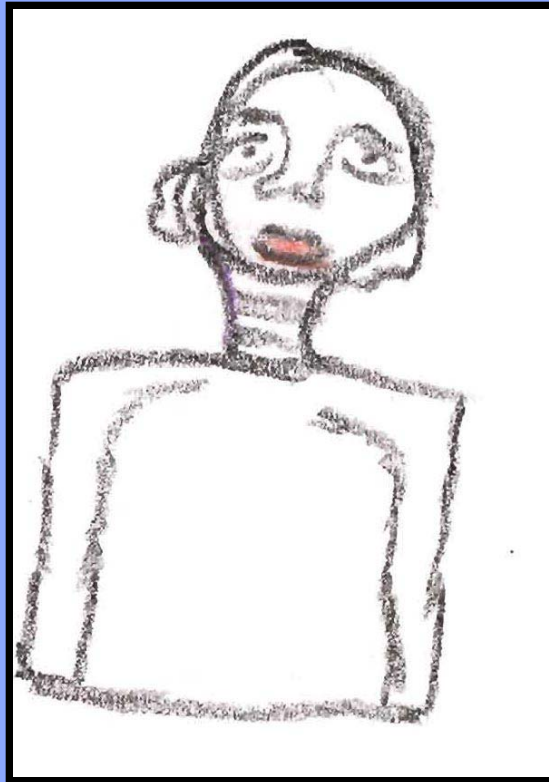
- Head Detail
- Motor Coordination
- Fine Detail



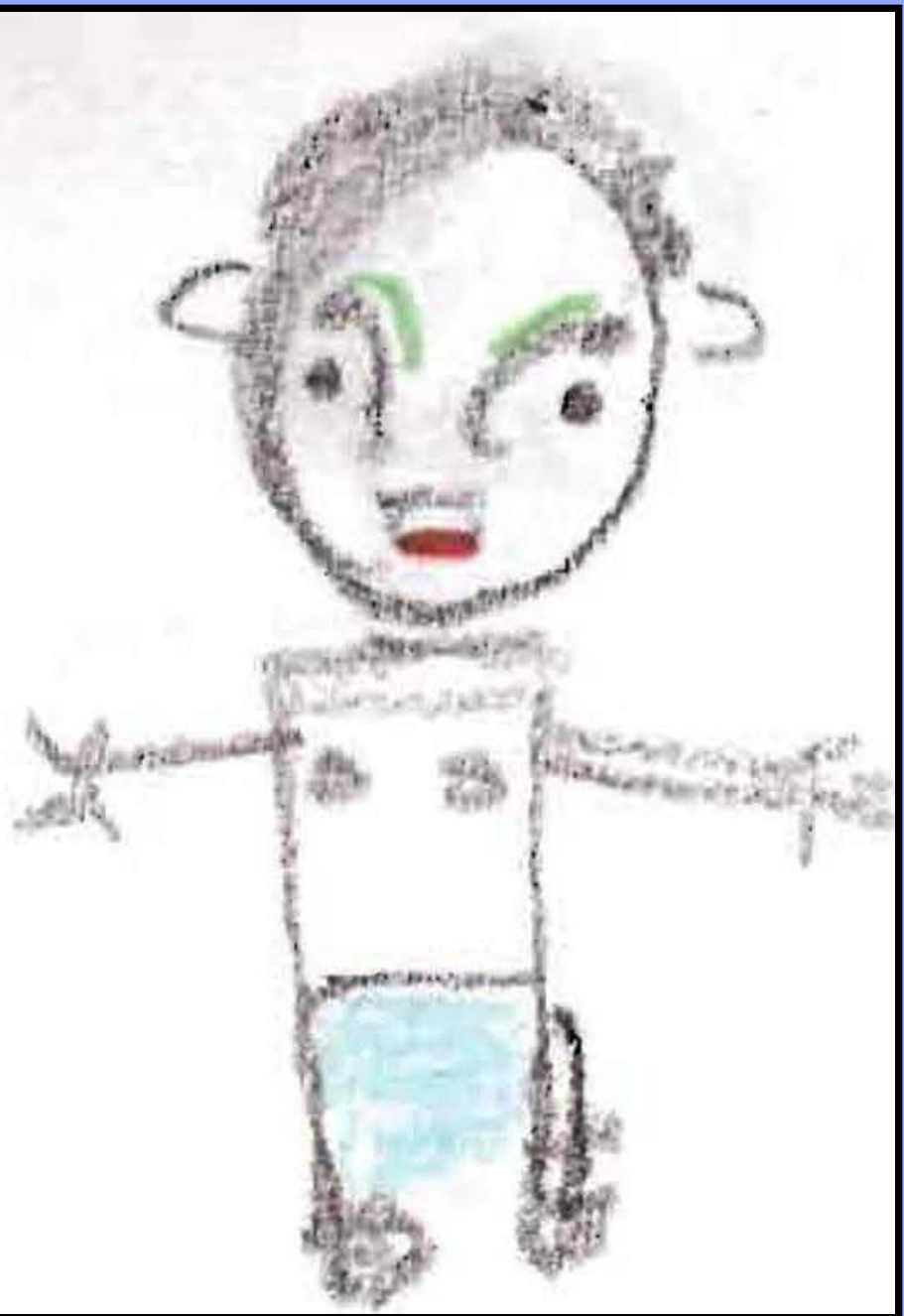


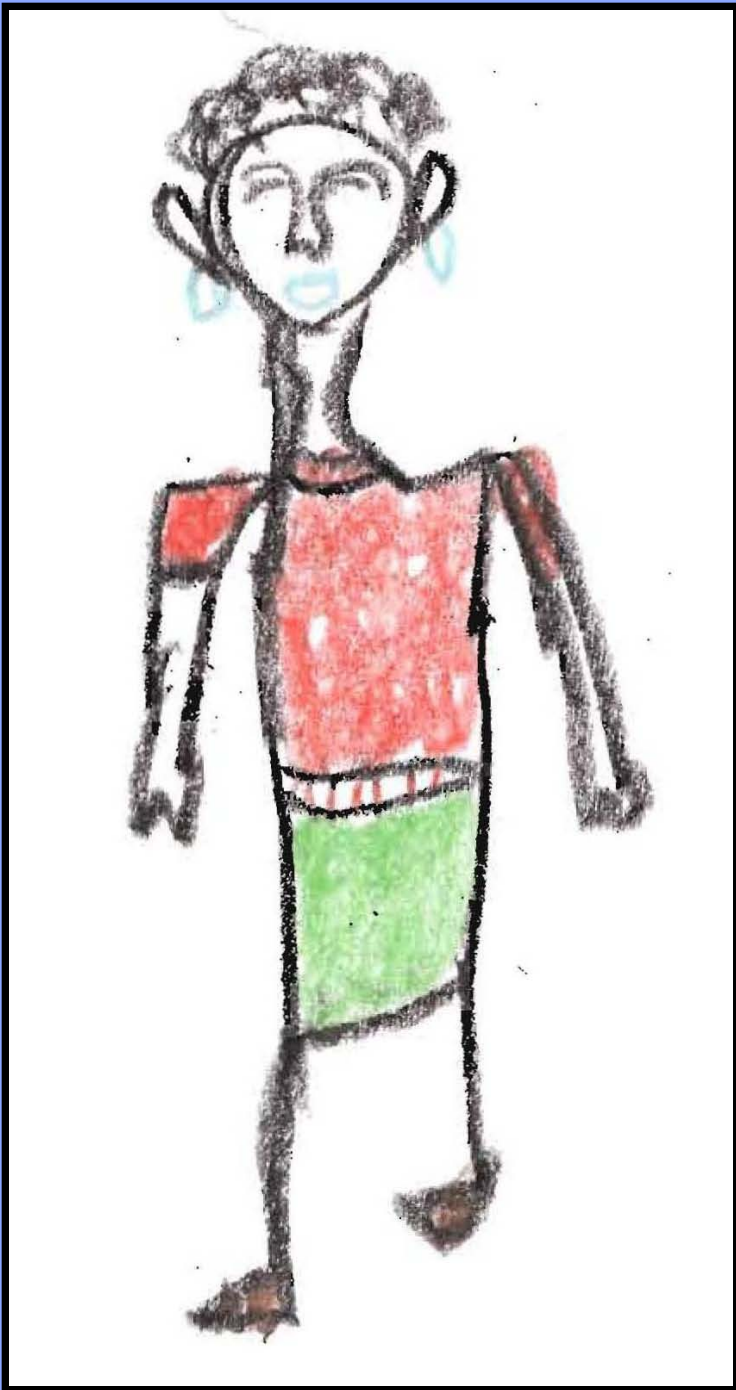
# Results

- Positive Correlation: VAC and Portrait Score (PS)
- Negative Correlation: Age and PS
- Best Scoring Cohort: younger, male, better VAC
- High PS =
  - Positive feelings about competency in self-concept
  - Positive feelings about physical/beauty in self-concept
  - Negative feelings about role in the family









# References

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6. All photographs by Rebecca Burger-Caplan unless otherwise noted.