Appendix

	Gender				Total	
	Male		Female			
Age						
18-24	27	5.52 %	24	4.91 %	51	**10.42 %**
25-34	38	7.77 %	45	9.2 %	83	**16.98 %**
35-44	60	12.28 %	56	11.45 %	116	**23.73 %**
45-54	56	11.45 %	66	13.5 %	122	**24.95 %**
55-64	62	12.67 %	55	11.25 %	117	**23.92 %**
Education Level						
Lower Secondary School	8	1.6 %	12	2.5 %	20	**4.09 %**
Middle Secondary School	26	5.3 %	32	6.5 %	58	**11.86 %**
Apprenticeship	77	15.7 %	75	15.3 %	152	**31.1 %**
Technical Diploma	24	4.9 %	24	4.9 %	48	**9.82 %**
High School Diploma	40	8.2 %	44	9.0 %	84	**17.2 %**
University	59	12.2 %	53	10.9 %	112	**22.93 %**
PhD	5	1.0 %	3	0.6 %	8	**1.64 %**
Other	1	0.2 %	1	0.2 %	2	**0.41 %**
Student	3	0.6 %	.	.	3	**0.61 %**
Missing*	.	.	2	0.2%		
Total	**243**	**49.7%**	**246**	**50.3%**	**489**	**100 %**

Table 1: Socio-demographics of the Sample: Gender, Education Level, and Age Group (n = 489, in Absolute Numbers and Percentages).

	N	*M*	*SD*	*T*	*df*	*p*	*Cohen's d*
Highly Realistic (A1, A2)	241	2.90	1.35	7.0	489	<.001	.63
Stylized (A3, A4)	250	2.07	1.27				

Table 2: Manipulation Check: Perceived Realism of Avatars
*Note***.** Items used to measure perceived realism: "The person in the science video seems to me..." (1 = computer-animated; 5 = real | 1 = replica; 5 = original | 1 = digitally copied; 5 = authentic Item pairs were averaged into an overall Realism Scale.

	N	*M*	*SD*	*T*	*df*	*p*	*Cohen's d*
Female Avatar (A1, A3)	231	4.48	1.01	35.41	474	<.001	3.25
Male Avatar (A2, A4)	245	1.32	0.94				

Table 3: Manipulation Check: Perceived Gender of Avatars
Note. Item used to measure perceived avatar gender: "The person in the video was clearly a woman." (1 = strongly disagree; 5 = strongly agree)

	Realism		Gender		Realism*Gender		
		η^2		η^2		η^2	r^2
Expertise	✓	.010	✓	.021	✓	.014	.038
Integrity	✓	.012	×	.	×	.	.02
Benevolence	✓	.026*	×	.	×	.	.023

Table 4: Separate ANOVAs for Trustworthiness Dimensions (summarized). *Notes*. ✓ = significant main-/interaction effect (p <.05), × = no significant main-/interaction effect (p >.05), r^2 = corrected R-square. *p < .001.

Source	*df*	MS	*F*	*p*	Partial η²
Degree of Realism	1	3.96	4.81	.029	.010
Gender	1	8.45	10.26	.001	.021
Degree of Realism* Gender	1	5.47	6.64	.010	.014
Error	481	.823			
Total	485				

Table 5: ANOVA for Expertise (Main study). *Note*. R^2 = .044 (corrected R^2 = .038); MS = Mean Square.

Source	*df*	MS	*F*	*p*	Partial η²
Degree of Realism	1	4.91	5.88	.016	.012
Gender	1	3.12	3.73	.054	.008
Degree of Realism* Gender	1	2.65	3.17	.076	.007
Error	476	.836			
Total	480				

Table 6: ANOVA for Integrity (Main study). *Note*. R^2 = .027 (corrected R^2 = .020); MS = Mean Square.

Source	*df*	MS	*F*	*p*	Partial η²
Degree of Realism	1	10.66	12.55	<.001	.026
Gender	1	1.02	1.2	.274	.003
Degree of Realism* Gender	1	.484	.57	.451	.001
Error	476	.850			
Total	480				

Table 7: ANOVA for Benevolence (Main study). *Note*. R^2 = .029 (corrected R^2 = .023); MS = Mean Square.

Dependent Variable	*F*	df1	df2	*p*
Expertise	1.85	3	481	.137
Integrity	.47	3	476	.706
Benevolence	.05	3	476	.986

Table 8: Levene's Test for Homogeneity of Variances. *Note*. Levene's Tests was not significant ($p > .05$), indicating equal variances.

In most cases, people who are color-blind have a so-called red-green weakness. However, there may soon be a cure thanks to a research team at the University of Tübingen. Using gene therapy, they introduce the correct gene into the eye via a virus, which then forms the correct color receptor proteins. The research team has already done this in a study on skull monkeys. And the experiment was successful: despite their poor eyesight, the monkeys were able to identify red and green color spots.

Figure 1: Standardized Video Script Used Across Avatar Conditions. Note: Text retrieved and adapted from A one-minute text excerpt from the YouTube video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0jXfwPQW9k&t=17s (MAITHINK X, 2018). Narrative perspective in the pretest: *'[...] But maybe my research will soon provide a cure. Through gene therapy: I use a virus to introduce the right gene into the eye, which then produces the right colour receptor proteins. In my research, I have already done this in skull monkeys. [...]'*

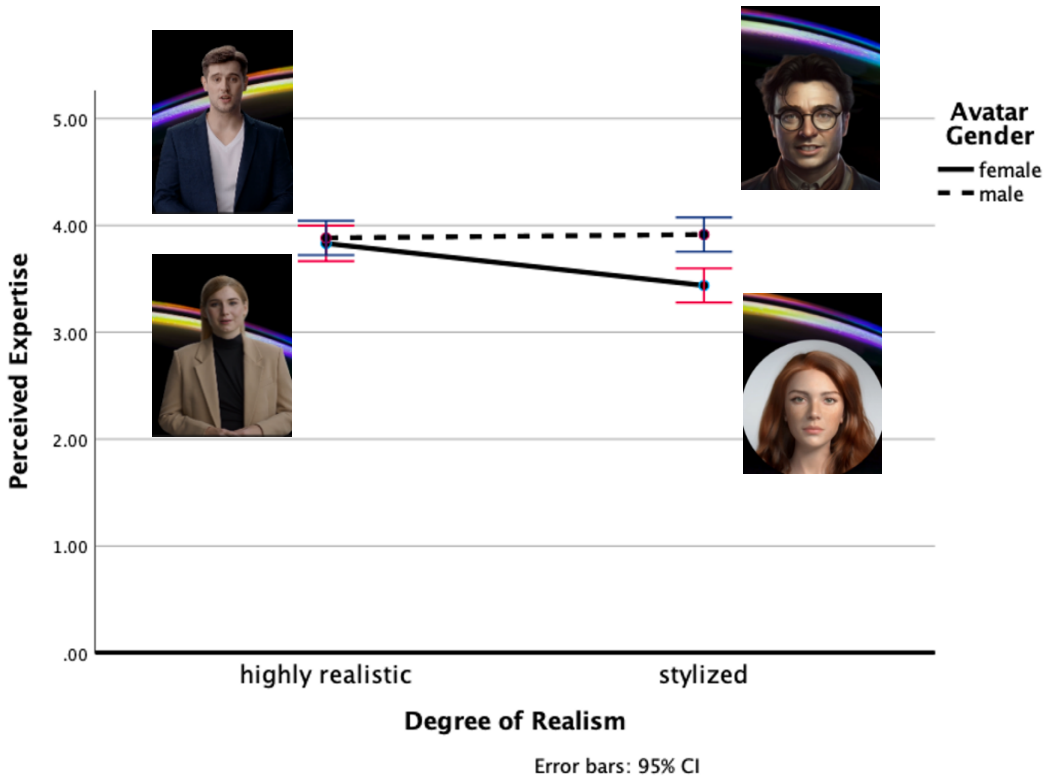

Figure 2: Interaction of Realism and Gender on Perceived Expertise. *Note*. Dependent variable = Expertise Index; measured using 6 bipolar item pairs (*competent; professional; experienced; intelligent; well educated; qualified*) of the METI scale (averaged). All items were measured on a 5-point Likert scale, where 1 indicated the lowest and 5 the highest rating.