

Background

High recidivism shows the limits of punitive or basic vocational approaches. Reintegration requires both economic opportunities and socio-emotional skills.

Aim

This study tests whether entrepreneurship and compassion training improve reintegration. It evaluates the effectiveness of each intervention and the role of sequencing (compassion-first vs entrepreneurship-first) in shaping socio-emotional growth, entrepreneurial tendency, and long-term reintegration.

Method

Study Design

- ▶ Mixed-method, pre/post experimental design.
- ▶ Sequential interventions (6 weeks):
 - ▶ Group A = Compassion-first
 - ▶ Group B = Entrepreneurship-first

Sample

- ▶ N = 27 inmates, Gorgona Penal Colony
- ▶ 17 experimental, 10 control

Instruments

- ▶ Entrepreneurial tendency: GET2 (Caird, 2013)
- ▶ Compassion: Compassion Scale (Gilbert et al., 2017)
- ▶ Qualitative: Semi-structured interviews

(Timeline shown in Figure 1)

Schematic Flow

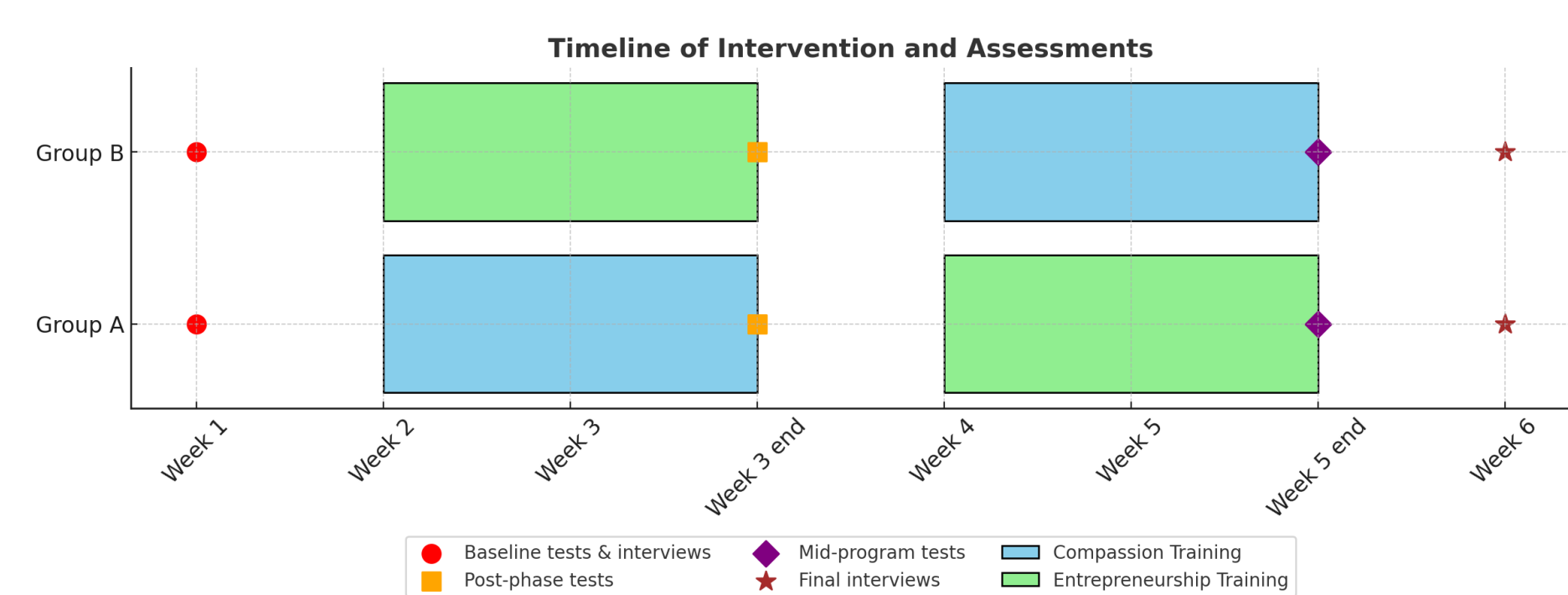


Figure 1. Timeline of Intervention and Assessment.

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

Correlation Findings

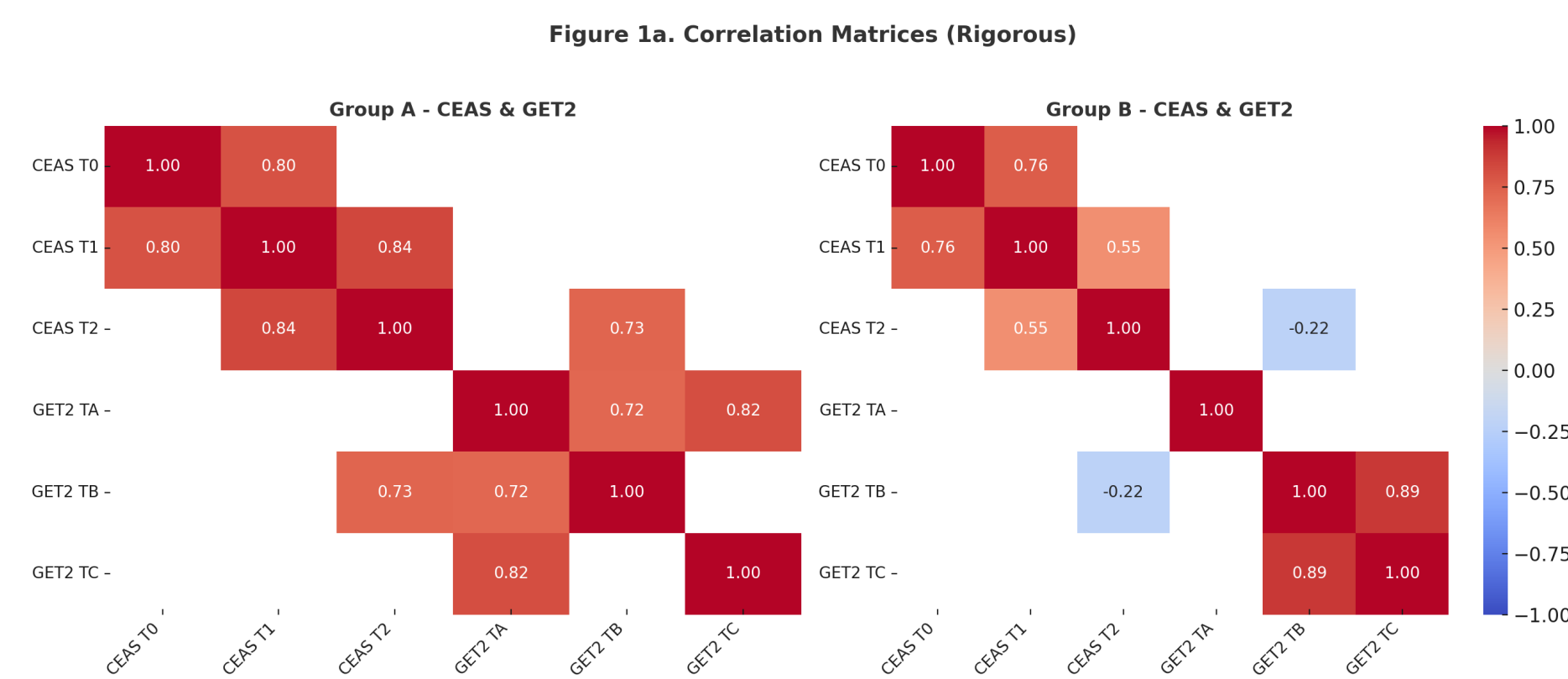


Figure 2. Correlation matrix of CEAS and GET2 scores across time points (T0-T2).

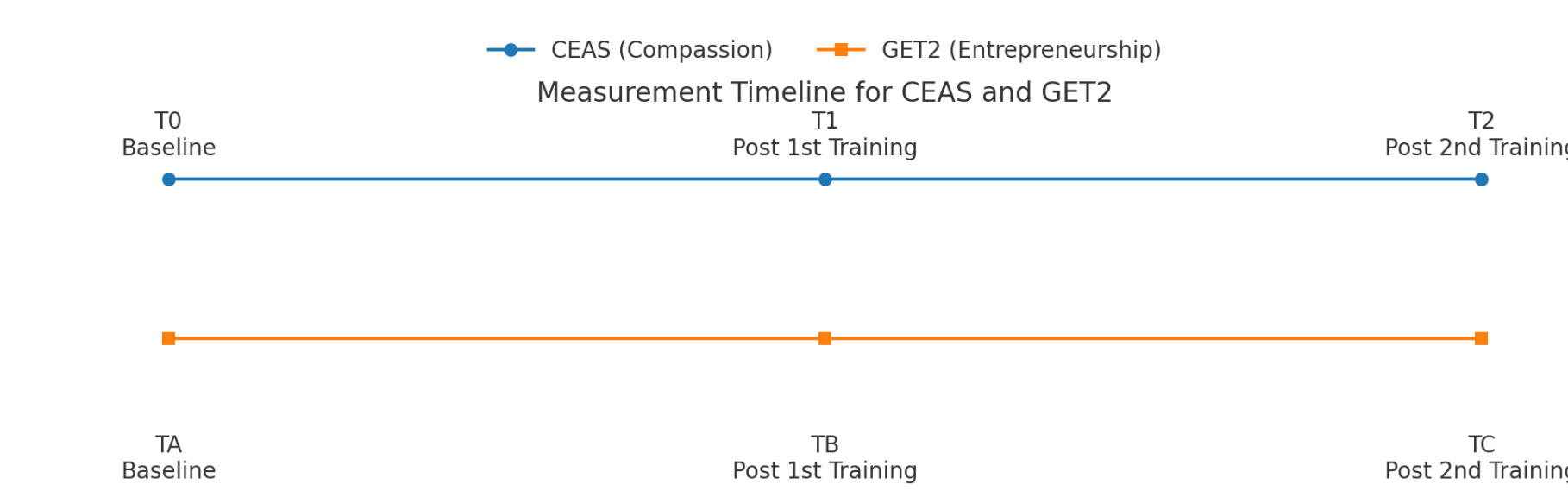


Figure 3. Explanation of the Measurement Timeline for each test: CEAS and GET2.

Compassion-first sequencing showed stable socio-emotional skills and a positive link with entrepreneurial tendency, while entrepreneurship-first displayed weaker stability and limited integration.

Regression Findings

Preliminary analyses suggest different patterns by sequencing. In the compassion-first group, Openness predicted higher compassion gains, while Extraversion showed a negative trend for entrepreneurial growth. In the entrepreneurship-first group, Extraversion and Emotional Stability limited both entrepreneurial and socio-emotional outcomes. These results remain preliminary and will be validated with the complete dataset.

Next Steps

- ▶ Complete follow-up assessments and interviews.
- ▶ Conduct longitudinal analysis of training effects.
- ▶ Refine regression models (sequencing × personality).
- ▶ Prepare peer-reviewed publications.

Conclusions

Sequencing matters: compassion-first fosters socio-emotional growth; entrepreneurship-first is more constrained by personality.

Theory: shows how personality, training content, and sequencing interact in rehabilitation.

Practice: supports integrating socio-emotional and vocational training to enhance reintegration and reduce recidivism.

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References

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- [2] Gilbert, P., et al., (2017). The development of compassionate engagement and action scales for self and others. *Journal of Compassionate Health Care*, 4(1), 4. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40639-017-0033-3>
- [3] Hwang, K. J., Phillips, D. J. (2024). Entrepreneurship as a Response to Labor Market Discrimination for Formerly Incarcerated People. *American Journal of Sociology*, 130(1), 88-146. <https://doi.org/10.1086/729476>

Key Findings

- ▶ Both interventions are effective, but sequencing matters.
- ▶ Compassion-first → stronger socio-emotional stability and positive link with entrepreneurial tendency.
- ▶ Entrepreneurship-first → outcomes more constrained by personality traits.
- ▶ Compassion-first sequencing appears more inclusive and sustainable for reintegration.