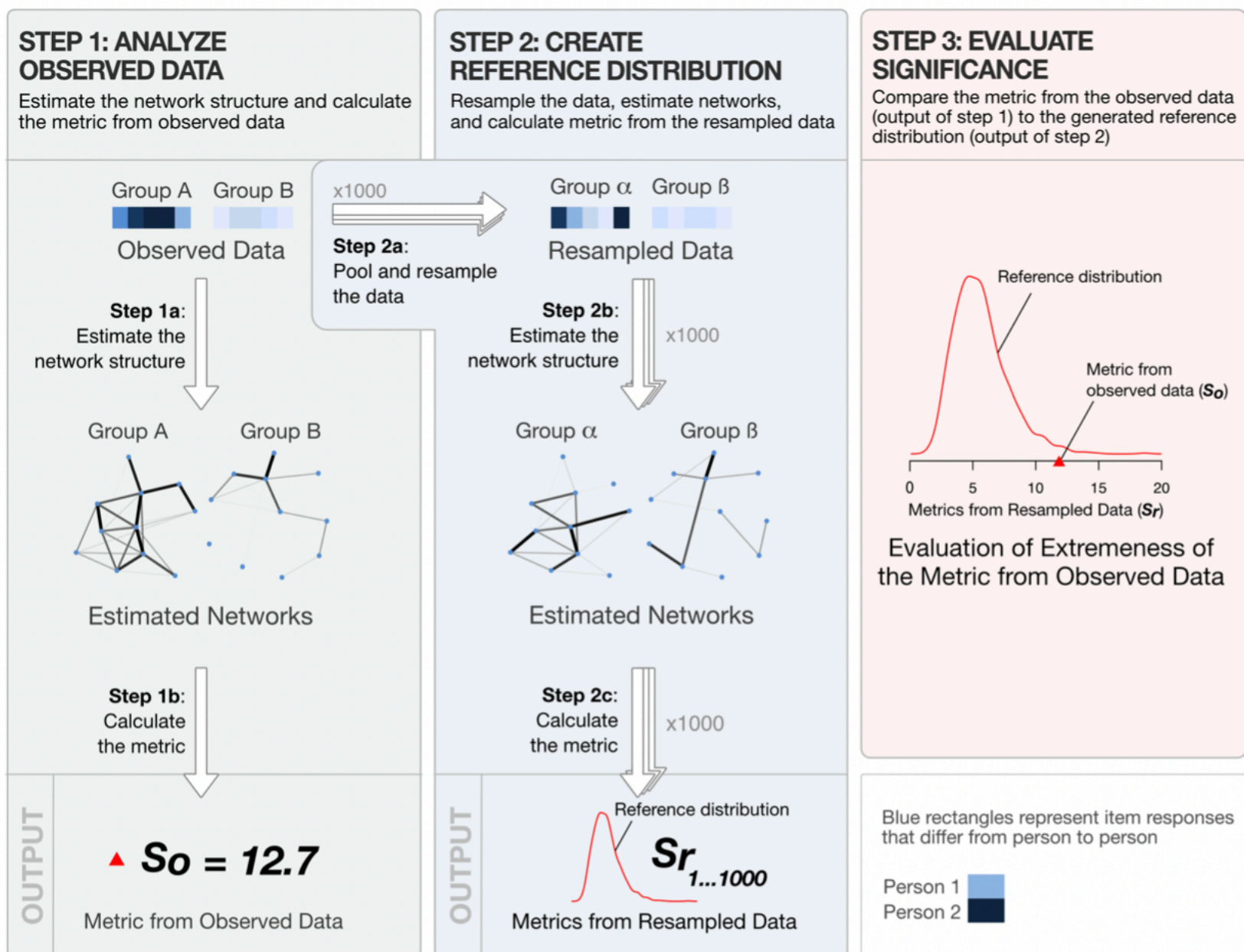


Figure 2

Schematic representation of the three steps involved in NCT



Note. In Step 1, the observed data (blue rectangles representing data of individuals) is analyzed by estimating the network structure of Group A and B (Step 1a) and calculating the metric of interest (e.g., S_o for observed data; Step 1b). In Step 2, the reference distribution is created by pooling, and randomly and repeatedly (e.g., 1000 times) resampling into Group α and β (Step 2a), estimating the networks (Step 2b), and calculating the metrics (S_r for resampled data) to create a reference distribution (Step 2c). In Step 3, the significance of the observed metric S_o is evaluated by calculating the proportion of resampled metrics that is higher than the observed metric, which yields the p -value.