Estimating individual subjective values of emotion regulation strategies

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Abstract

17 Individuals have a repertoire of emotion regulation (ER) strategies at their disposal, which

they can use more or less flexibly. In ER flexibility research, strategies that facilitate goal

achievement are considered adaptive and therefore are subjectively valuable. Individuals

²⁰ are motivated to reduce their emotional arousal effectively and to avoid cognitive effort.

21 Perceived costs of ER strategies in the form of effort, however, are highly subjective.

²² Subjective values (SVs) should therefore represent a trade-off between effectiveness and

²³ subjectively required cognitive effort. However, SVs of ER strategies have not been

determined so far. We present a paradigm that is suitable for determining individual SVs

of ER strategies. Using a multilevel modelling approach, it will be investigated whether

individual SVs can be explained by effectiveness (subjective arousal, facial muscle activity)

27 and subjective effort. Relations of SVs to personality traits will be explored.

28 Keywords: emotion regulation, regulatory effort, effort discounting, registered report,

29 specification curve analysis

30 Word count: XXXXX

Estimating individual subjective values of emotion regulation strategies

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1. Introduction

The ability to modify emotional experiences, expressions, and physiological reactions¹ 34 to regulate emotions is an important cognitive skill. It is therefore not surprising that 35 emotion regulation (ER) has substantial implications for well-being and adaptive 36 functioning². Different strategies can be used to regulate emotions, namely situation 37 selection, situation modification, attentional deployment, cognitive change, and response modification¹, and, following the taxonomy of Powers and LaBar³, individuals can implement ER strategies by means of different tactics. So called antecedent-focused strategies, e.g., attentional deployment and cognitive change, take effect early in the emotion generation process¹. In contrast, response modification takes place late in the process and is therefore conceptualized as a response-focused strategy¹. This postulated temporal sequence of ER strategies influences their effectiveness. Albeit it is meta-analytically proven that all mentioned strategies reduce subjective emotional experience, distraction as a tactic of attentional deployment and (expressive) suppression as a tactic of response modulation showed only small to medium effect sizes (distraction: $d_{+}=0.27$; suppression: $d_{+}=0.27$). In contrast, distancing as tactic of cognitive change showed the highest effectiveness with an effect size of $d_{+} = 0.45^{4}$. 49

Psychophysiological measures provide further important information on the
effectiveness of emotion regulation strategies (for an overview, see Zaehringer et al.⁵).
Compared to cardiovascular, electrodermal, and pupillometric autonomic responses, facial
electromyography has been reported consistently across studies to be influenced by emotion
regulation with even medium effect sizes. For example, studies have shown that reappraisal
of negative emotion is associated with reduced activity of the corrugator supercilii

(associated with anger, sadness, and fear) with $d_{-} = 0.32^{5}$. In addition, the levator labii superioris (associated with disgust) has also been associated with reduced activity during reappraisal⁶. Similar effects have been reported for suppression⁶, distancing⁷, and distraction⁸. Importantly, results on electromyographic measures seem to be more consistent compared to other autonomic measures, likely because they are specific to emotional valence and its changes.

Similarly to the differences in short term effectiveness, these tactics from three 62 different strategies are also related to different medium and long-term consequences. In 63 particular, strategies that do not change the emotional content of the situation, for instance by taking a neutral perspective (i.e., distraction and suppression) are presumed to be disadvantageous in the longer term. Thus, the self-reported habitual use of suppression 66 is associated with more negative affect and lower general well-being⁹. In addition, a 67 number of ER strategies, e.g., rumination and suppression, have been associated with mental disorders (for meta-analytic review, see Aldao et al. 10), which led to the postulation of adaptive (such as reappraisal, acceptance) and maladaptive (such as suppression, rumination) ER strategies. For example, it was shown that maladaptive ER strategies 71 (rumination and suppression) mediate the effect between neuroticism and depressive symptoms 11 . 73

The postulation of adaptive and maladaptive ER strategies has been challenged by
the concepts of ER repertoire and ER flexibility. Within this framework, maladaptive refers
to inflexible ER strategy use or use of strategies that are hindering goal achievement¹².

Adaptive flexible ER requires a large repertoire of ER strategies¹². The term "repertoire"
can be defined as the ability to utilize a wide range of regulatory strategies in divergent
contextual demands and opportunities¹³. A growing number of studies report findings
about the repertoire of emotion regulation strategies and its relationship to
psychopathology^{14–16}. Additionally, greater ER flexibility is related to reduced negative
affect and therefore beneficial in daily life¹⁷.

How do people choose strategies from their repertoire? Similarly to the 83 expectancy-value model of emotion regulation it could be assumed, that people also 84 assign a value to an ER strategy reflecting the usefulness of this strategy for goal achieving. 85 Evidence from other psychological domains (e.g., intertemporal choice¹⁹) shows that subjective values (SVs) are attributed to the choice options on the basis of which the decision is made. Research on ER choice has identified numerous factors that influence the choice of ER strategies, which can be seen as indirect evidence for factors influencing SVs²⁰. For example, a study found that the intensity of a stimulus or situation plays a role in the choice²¹. Higher intensity of the (negative) stimulus lead to a choice of rather disengaging tactics of attentional deployment, like distraction^{20,21}. ER choice was further influenced by, among others, extrinsic motivation (e.g., monetary incentives), motivational determinants (i.e., hedonic regulatory goals), and effort^{20,22}. Nonetheless, there are only few studies to date that examined the required effort of several strategies in more detail and compared them with each other. Furthermore, the research on ER choice lacks information regarding the strategies that were not chosen in each case. It is unclear whether people had clear preferences or whether the choice options were similarly attractive.

We assume that people choose the strategy that has the highest value for them at the 99 moment. The value is determined against the background of goal achievement in the 100 specific situation: A strategy is highly valued if it facilitates goal achievement¹². One 101 certainly central goal is the regulation of negative affect. The effectiveness of ER strategies 102 should therefore influence the respective SV. A second, intrinsic, and less obvious goal is 103 the avoidance of effort²³. When given the choice, most individuals prefer tasks that are less effortful²⁴. Cognitive effort avoidance has been reported in many contexts, for example in 105 affective context²⁵, the context of decision making²⁶, and executive functions²⁷, and is 106 associated with Need for Cognition (NFC)²⁸, a stable measure of the individual pursuit and 107 enjoyment of cognitive effort^{29,30}. In the area of emotion regulation, too, there are initial 108 indications that people show a tendency towards effort avoidance. Across two studies, we

could show in previous work that the choice for an ER strategy is mainly influenced by the 110 effort required to implement a given strategy²². In our studies, participants used the 111 strategies distancing and suppression while inspecting emotional pictures. Afterwards, they 112 choose which strategy they wanted to use again. Participants tended to re-apply the 113 strategy that was subjectively less effortful, even though it was subjectively not the most 114 effective one - in this case: suppression. Moreover, the majority of participants stated 115 afterwards the main reason for their choice was effort. We assume therefore that, although 116 individuals trade off both factors - effectiveness and effort - against each other, effort 117 should be the more important predictor for SVs of ER strategies. In addition, perceived 118 utility should have an impact on SVs. A strategy that is less effortful and can objectively 119 regulate arousal (i.e., is effective), but is not subjectively perceived as useful, should have a 120 low SV. SVs of ER Strategies could therefore be helpful to describe the ER repertoire¹² 121 more comprehensively. Depending on the flexibility of a person, different patterns of SVs 122 could be conceivable: A person with high flexibility would show relatively high SVs for a number of strategies. This would mean that all strategies are a good option for goal 124 achievement. A second person with less flexibility, however, would show high SVs only for 125 one strategy or low SVs for all of the strategies. This in turn would mean that there is only 126 a limited amount of strategies in the repertoire to choose from. Subsequently, the ability to 127 choose an appropriate strategy for a specific situation is also limited. 128

So far we have not seen any attempt in ER choice research to determine individual SVs of ER strategies. However, this would be useful to describe interindividual differences in the preference of ER strategies and the ER repertoire more comprehensively. To investigate this question, the individual SVs of each strategy available for selection would have to be determined. Promising approaches can be found in studies on difficulty levels of effortful cognitive tasks.

Individual SVs of effortful cognitive tasks have been quantified using the Cognitive Effort Discounting Paradigm (COG-ED)²⁹.

In the original study by Westbrook et al.²⁹, cognitive load was varied using the 137 n-back task, a working memory task that requires fast and accurate responses to 138 sequentially presented stimuli. Participants had to decide in an iterative procedure whether 139 they wanted to repeat a higher n-back level for a larger, fixed monetary reward, or a lower 140 level for a smaller, varying reward, with the implicit assumption that the objectively 141 easiest n-back level has the highest SV. In the present study, we want to use this paradigm 142 to determine SVs of ER strategies. In doing so, we need to make an important change: We 143 have to adapt the assumption that the easiest n-back level has the highest SV. As we have 144 shown in previous studies, there are large inter-individual differences in the preference and 145 perceived subjective effort of ER strategies²². Moreover, there is nothing like an objectively 146 easiest ER strategy. It could be assumed, that the antecedent-focused strategies, 147 i.e. attentional deployment and cognitive change, require less effort, because according to Gross¹ these strategies apply when the emotional reaction has not fully developed, yet. In 149 contrast, suppression would need ongoing effort, because it takes effect late in the emotion 150 generating process and does not alter the emotion itself. A similar assumption has been 151 made by Mesmer-Magnus et al.³¹, who state that Surface Acting (the equivalent to 152 expressive suppression in emotional labor research) is supposed to continuously require 153 high levels of energy (hence effort). Deep Acting (which refers to reappraisal), in turn, only 154 initially needs the use of energy. This would be in conflict with findings in our previous 155 studies, that showed that many people choose expressive suppression because they 156 evaluated it as less effortful, hence easy²². Others define emotion regulation on a continuum 157 from explicit, conscious, and effortful to implicit, unconscious, automatic and effortless³². 158 This would mean, that all explicit strategies that have been proposed by the process model 159 of emotion regulation are similarly effortful¹. Similarly, the flexibility approach of emotion 160 regulation also states, that there is no "best" strategy³³. An emotion regulation attempt is 161 adaptive, when the intended, individual goal is reached. Those attempts could also consist 162 of sequences of regulatory efforts using different strategies, which might be effective and 163

effortless only in this specific context. Therefore, we have to add an additional step, which 164 precedes the other steps and where the ER option with the higher subjective value is 165 determined. In this step, the same monetary value (i.e., $1 \in$) is assigned to both options. 166 The assumption is that participants now choose the option that has the higher SV for 167 them. In the next step we return to the original paradigm. The higher monetary value (i.e., 168 $2 \in$) is assigned to the option that was not chosen in the first step and therefore is assumed 169 to have the lower SV. In the following steps, the lower value is changed in every iteration 170 according to Westbrook et al.²⁹ until the indifference point is reached. This procedure will 171 be repeated until all strategies have been compared. The SV of each strategy is calculated 172 as the mean of this strategy's SV from all comparisons. In case a participant has a clear 173 preference for one strategy, the SV of this strategy will be 1. But our paradigm can also 174 account for the case that a person does not have a clear preference. Then no SV will be 1, but still, the SVs of all strategies can be interpreted as absolute values and in relation to 176 the other strategy's SVs (see Figure 1). In a separate study, we will test our adapted paradigm together with a n-back task and explore whether this paradigm can describe 178 individuals that do not prefer the easiest n-back option (see Zerna, Scheffel et al.³⁴). 170

[INSERT FIGURE 1 HERE]

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The aim of the present study is to evaluate whether this paradigm is suitable for 181 determining SVs of ER strategies. As a manipulation check, we first want to investigate 182 whether the valence of the pictures is affecting subjective and physiological responding, 183 resulting in lower subjective arousal ratings after and lower EMG activity during neutral 184 compared to negative pictures. Second, we want to check whether the ER strategies distraction, distancing, and suppression effectively reduce subjective arousal and physiological responding compared to the active viewing condition. Third, we want to see 187 whether the strategies subjectively require more cognitive effort than the active viewing 188 condition, and whether participants re-apply the for them least effortful strategy. 189 Furthermore, we want to investigate whether subjective effort, arousal ratings, subjective 190

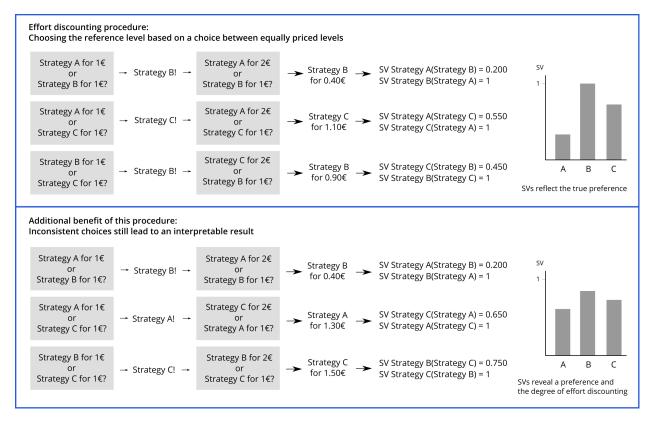


Figure 1. Exemplary visualization of two response patterns. In the top half, the person has a clear preference for one of the three strategies. In the lower half, they have no clear preference and therefore show an inconsistent response pattern. This pattern can be represented by our paradigm. Figure available at https://osf.io/vnj8x/, under a CC-BY4.0 license.

utility, and EMG activity predict individual subjective values of ER strategies. And lastly,
we want to check whether the SV of a strategy is associated with its likelihood of being
chosen again, and whether SVs reflect participants' self-reported ER flexibility. All
hypotheses are detailed in the design table. Exploratorily, we want to investigate whether
individual SVs are related to personality traits and how individual SVs of ER strategies
relate to SVs of other tasks with different demand levels, namely n-back.

2. Method

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We report how we determined our sample size, all data exclusions (if any), all manipulations, and all measures in the study³⁵. The paradigm was written and presented using $PsychoPy^{36}$. We used R with R $Studio^{37,38}$ with the main packages $afex^{39}$ and

BayesFactor⁴⁰ for all analyses. The R Markdown file used to analyze the data and write
this document, as well as the raw data and the materials are freely available at
https://github.com/ChScheffel/CAD. A complete list of all measures assessed in the study
can be found at OSF (https://osf.io/vnj8x/) and GitHub
(https://github.com/ChScheffel/CAD).

6 2.1 Ethics information

The study protocol complies with all relevant ethical regulations and was approved
by the ethics committee of the Technische Universität Dresden (reference number
EK50012022). Prior to testing, written informed consent was obtained. Participants
received 24 € in total or course credit for participation.

2.1 2.2 Pilot data

The newly developed ER paradigm was tested in a pilot study with N=16212 participants (9 female; age: $M = 24.1 \pm SD = 3.6$). Regarding self-reported arousal, 213 results showed significant higher subjective arousal for active viewing of negative compared 214 to neutral pictures. However, ER strategies did not lead to a reduction of subjective 215 arousal compared to active viewing of negative pictures. Regarding physiological responses, ER strategies were associated with reduced facial muscle activity of the *corrugator* and levator compared to active viewing of negative pictures. In accordance with our previous study²², we found that the use of ER strategies compared to active viewing was associated 219 with increased subjective effort. All results are detailed in the OSF repository 220 (https://osf.io/vnj8x/).221

22 **2.3** Design

Young healthy participants (aged 18 to 30 years) were recruited using the software 223 $ORSEE^{41}$ at the Technische Universität Dresden. Participants were excluded from participation if they do not fluently speak German, had current or a history of psychological disorders or neurological trauma, or reported to take medication. 226 Participants were invited to complete an online survey containing different questionnaires 227 to assess broad and narrow personality traits and measures of well-being. The study 228 consisted of two lab sessions, which took place in a shielded cabin with constant lighting. 229 Before each session, participants received information about the respective experimental 230 procedure and provided informed consent. In the first session participants filled out a 231 demographic questionnaire and completed an n-back task with the levels one to four. Then, 232 they completed an effort discounting (ED) procedure regarding the n-back levels on screen, 233 followed by a random repetition of one n-back level³⁴. The second session took place 234 exactly one week after session one. Participants provided informed consent and received 235 written instructions on the ER paradigm and ER strategies that they should apply. A brief 236 training ensured that all participants were able to implement the ER strategies. Next, 237 electrodes to measure facial EMG were attached and the ER task was conducted, followed 238 by an ED procedure regarding the ER strategies. After that, participants chose one ER 239 strategy to repeat one more time. Study data were collected and managed using REDCap electronic data capture tools hosted at Technische Universität Dresden^{42,43}.

2.3.1 Psychometric measures. The online survey contained a number of questionnaires. In the focus of the current project was the Flexible Emotion Regulation Scale (FlexER)⁴⁴.

It assesses flexible use of ER strategies with items such as "If I want to feel less negative emotions, I have several strategies to achieve this.", which we define as ER flexibility. The items were rated on a 4-point scale ranging from "strongly agree" to 248 "strongly disagree".

Further psychological constructs were assessed but had no clear hypotheses in the 249 present work and are therefore investigated only exploratory: General psychological 250 well-being was assessed using the German version of the WHO-5 scale^{45,46}. To measure 251 resilience, the German version 10-item-form of the Connor-Davidson resilience Scale 252 (CD-RISC)⁴⁹ was used. Habitual use of ER will was assessed using the German version of 253 the Emotion Regulation Questionnaire (ERQ)^{9,50}. Implicit theories of willpower in emotion 254 control was assessed using the implicit theories questionnaire from Bernecker and Job⁵¹. To 255 assess Need for Cognition, the German version short form of the Need for Cognition 256 Scale^{28,52} was used. To assess self-control⁵³, sum scores of the German versions of the 257 following questionnaires were used: the Self-Regulation Scale (SRS)⁵⁴, the Brief 258 Self-Control Scale (BSCS)^{55,56}, and the Barratt Impulsiveness Scale (BIS-11)^{57,58}. 259 Attentional control were assessed using the Attentional Control Scale (ACS)⁵⁹. For more detailed information on psychometric properties of the questionnaires, please see supplementary material. 262

2.3.2 Emotion regulation paradigm. The ER paradigm consisted of three parts
that will be described in the following.

Part one: ER task. Part one was a standard ER task in a block design (see Figure 2), 265 similar to paradigms previously used by our group²². Participants were told to actively 266 view neutral and negative pictures (see 2.3.3) or to regulate all upcoming emotions by 267 means of distraction, distancing, and expressive suppression, respectively. Every 268 participant first had the condition "active viewing-neutral" that served as a baseline condition. During this block, 20 neutral pictures were presented. Participants were asked to "actively view all pictures and permit all emotions that may arise." In the second block, participants actively viewed negative pictures. During the third, fourth, and fifth block, 272 participants saw negative pictures and were asked to regulate their emotions using 273 distraction, distancing, and suppression. In order to achieve distraction, participants were

asked to think of a geometric object or an everyday activity, like brushing their teeth. 275 During distancing, participants were asked to "take the position of a non-involved observer, 276 thinking about the picture in a neutral way." Participants were told not to re-interpret the 277 situation or attaching a different meaning to the situation. During suppression. 278 participants were told to "suppress their emotional facial expression." They should imagine 270 being observed by a third person that should not be able to tell by looking at the facial 280 expression whether the person is looking at an emotional picture. Participants were 281 instructed not to suppress their thoughts or change their facial expression to the 282 opposite²². All participants received written instruction and completed a training session. 283 After the training session, participants were asked about their applied ER strategies to 284 avoid misapplication. The order of the three regulation blocks (distraction, distancing, and 285 suppression) were randomized between participants. Each of the blocks consisted of 20 trials showing neutral (Block 1) and negative (Blocks 2, 3, 4, 5) pictures. Each trial began 287 with a fixation cross that lasted 3 to 5 seconds (random uniform distributed). It was followed by neutral or negative pictures for a total of 6 seconds. After each block, participants retrospectively rated their subjective emotional arousal ("not at all aroused" 290 to "very highly aroused"), their subjective effort ("not very exhausting" to "very 291 exhausting"), and - after the regulation blocks - the utility of the respective strategy ("not 292 useful at all" to "very useful") on a continuous scale using a slider on screen. 293

Part two: ER effort discounting. In the second part, ER effort discounting took
place. The procedure of the discounting will follow the COG-ED paradigm by Westbrook
et al.²⁹ with a major change. We used the following adaption that allowed the computation
of SVs for different strategies without presuming that all individuals would inherently
evaluate the same strategy as the easiest one: For each possible pairing (distraction
vs. distancing, distraction vs. suppression, and distancing vs. suppression), each of the two
strategies were presented with a monetary reward. Because there is no strategy that is
objectively more difficult, we added initial comparisons asking the participants to choose

between "1 € for strategy A or 1 € for strategy B". They decided by clicking the on-screen button of the respective option. Each of the three strategy pairs were presented three times 303 in total, in a randomized order and randomly assigned which strategy appeared on the left 304 or right side of the screen. For each pair, the strategy that was chosen at least two out of 305 three times was assigned the flexible starting value of $1 \in$, the other strategy was assigned 306 the fixed value of $2 \in$. After this, comparisons between strategies followed the original 307 COG-ED paradigm²⁹. Each pairing was presented six consecutive times, and with each 308 decision the reward of the strategy with the starting value of $1 \in \text{was}$ either lowered (if this 309 strategy was chosen) or raised (if the strategy with the fixed 2 € reward was chosen). The 310 adjustment started at $0.50 \in$ and each was half the adjustment of the previous step, 311 rounded to two digits after the decimal point. If a participant always chose the strategy 312 with the fixed $2 \in \text{reward}$, the other strategy's last value on display was $1.97 \in \text{, if they}$ always choose the lower strategy, its last value was $0.03 \in$. The sixth adjustment of $0.02 \in$ 314 was done during data analysis, based on the participants' decision in the last display of the 315 pairing. Participants were instructed to decide as realistically as possible by imagining that 316 the monetary reward was actually available for choice. 317

Part three: ER choice. After the discounting part, participants chose which one of
the three ER strategies (distraction, distancing or suppression) they wanted to re-apply.

Importantly, there was no further instruction on what basis they should make their
decision. Participants should make their decision freely, according to criteria they consider
important for themselves. However, participants were asked to state the reasons for the
decision afterwards in RedCap using a free text field. As soon as they have decided, they
saw the respective instruction and the block with another 20 negative pictures started.

[INSERT FIGURE 2 HERE]

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2.3.3 Stimuli. Pictures that were used in the paradigm were selected from the Emotional Picture Set (EmoPicS)⁶⁰ and the International Affective Picture System (IAPS)⁶¹. The 20 neutral pictures (Valence (V): $M \pm SD = 4.81 \pm 0.51$; Arousal (A): M



Figure 2. Block design of the paradigm. Every participant starts with two "active viewing" blocks continuing neutral (Block 1) and negative (Block 2) pictures. Order of the regulation blocks (Blocks 3, 4, and 5) was randomized between participants. After, the discounting procedure took place. All three regulation strategies were compared pairwise. Before the last block, participants could decide which regulation strategy they wanted to reapply. Subjective arousal and effort ratings were assessed after each block using a slider on screen with a continuous scale. Figure available at https://osf.io/vnj8x/, under a CC-BY4.0 license.

 $\pm SD = 3 \pm 0.65$) depicted content related to the categories persons, objects, and scenes. Further, 100 negative pictures, featuring categories animals, body, disaster, disgust, injury, 330 suffering, violence, and weapons, were used. An evolutionary algorithm⁶² was used to 331 cluster these pictures into five sets with comparable valence and arousal values (set one: V: 332 $M \pm SD = 2.84 \pm 0.57$, A: $M \pm SD = 5.62 \pm 0.34$; set two: V: $M \pm SD = 2.64 \pm 0.46$, A: 333 $M \pm SD = 5.58 \pm 0.35$; set three: V: $M \pm SD = 2.82 \pm 0.62$, A: $M \pm SD = 5.60 \pm 0.39$; 334 set four: V: $M \pm SD = 2.65 \pm 0.75$, A: $M \pm SD = 5.61 \pm 0.41$; set five: V: $M \pm SD =$ 335 2.74 ± 0.70 , A: $M \pm SD = 5.63 \pm 0.37$). A complete list of all pictures and their 336 classification into sets can be found in supplementary material table S1. The five sets of 337 negative pictures were assigned randomly to the blocks.

2.3.4 Facial electromyography. Bipolar facial electromyography (EMG) were 339 measured for corrugator supercilii and levator labii as indices of affective valence⁶³, similar 340 to previous work by our group⁷. Two passive surface Ag/AgCl electrodes (8 mm inner 341 diameter, 10 mm distance between electrodes) were placed over each left muscle according 342 to the guidelines of Fridlund and Cacioppo⁶⁴. The ground electrode was placed over the left Mastoid. Before electrode placement, the skin was abraded with Every abrasive paste, 344 cleaned with alcohol, and filled with Lectron III electrolyte gel. Raw signals were amplified by a BrainAmp amplifier (Brain Products Inc., Gilching, Germany). Impedance level were 346 kept below 10 $k\Omega$. Data were sampled at 1000 Hz, filtered, rectified and integrated. A 20 Hz high pass (order 8), a 300 Hz low pass (order 8), and a 50 Hz notch filter was applied to both signals. Corrugator and levator EMG was analyzed during the 6 s of picture presentation. EMG data were baseline-corrected using a time window of 2 s prior to 350 stimulus onset⁶³. Last, the sampling rate was changed to 100 Hz, and EMG data were 351 averaged for each condition and each participant. 352

353 2.4 Sampling plan

Sample size calculation was done using $G^*Power^{65,66}$. In a meta-analysis of 354 Zaehringer and colleagues⁵, effect sizes of ER on peripheral-physiological measures were 355 reported: To find an effect of d = -0.32 of ER on corrugator muscle activity with $\alpha = .05$ 356 and $\beta = .95$, data of at least N = 85 have to be analyzed. Power analyses of all other 357 hypotheses yielded smaller sample sizes. However, if participants withdraw from study 358 participation, technical failures occur, or experimenter considers the participant for not 359 suitable for study participation (e.g., because the participant does not follow instructions or shows great fatigue), respective data will also be excluded from further analyses. Therefore, we aimed to collect data of N=120 participants, about 50 more data sets, than necessary. Detailed information on power calculation for each hypothesis can be found in 363 the design table.

365 2.5 Analysis plan

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Data collection and analysis were not performed blind to the conditions of the 366 experiments. Data of whole participants were excluded from analysis if participants withdraw their consent or they stated that they did not follow experimental instructions. EMG data of subjects were excluded from analysis if errors occurred during recording. No 369 further data exclusions were planned. The level of significance was set to $\alpha = .05$. For 370 hypotheses H1-4, repeated measures analysis of variance (rmANOVA) were conducted and 371 estimated marginal means were computed using the afex package³⁹. 372 Greenhouse-Geisser-corrected degrees of freedom and associated p-values were reported 373 when the assumption of sphericity was violated. If the within-subjects factor of interest 374 was significant, pairwise contrasts were calculated using Bonferroni adjustment for multiple 375 testing. Proportion of explained variance η_p^2 was reported as a measure of effect size. 376

Effect of valence on arousal and facial EMG. To examine the impact of valence of

emotional pictures on subjective arousal ratings (H1a), a rmANOVA with the factor
valence (neutral and negative) for the strategy active viewing was conducted. To examine
the impact of valence on physiological responding (H1b and H1c), a rmANOVA with the
factor valence (neutral and negative) for the strategy active viewing was conducted for
EMG corrugator and levator activity.

Effects of emotion regulation on arousal, facial EMG, and effort. To investigate the
effects of the three ER strategies on subjective arousal (H2a), another rmANOVA with the
factor strategy (active viewing - negative, distraction, distancing, and suppression) for
subjective arousal ratings was conducted. To examine the effects of the three ER strategies
on physiological responding (H3a and H3b), another rmANOVA with the factor strategy
(active viewing - negative, distraction, distancing, and suppression) for EMG corrugator
and levator activity was conducted. To examine the effect of ER strategies on subjective
effort (H4a), a rmANOVA with the factor strategy (active viewing - negative, distraction,
distancing, and suppression) for subjective effort ratings was conducted.

Subjective values of emotion regulation strategies. For each ER strategy, SVs were 392 calculated as follows: first, the value 0.02 € was added to or subtracted from the last 393 monetary value of the flexible strategy, depending on the participant's last choice. Second, 394 to obtain the SV of the fixed strategy (the minimum relative reward required for 395 participants to choose the flexible over the fixed strategy), the last value of the flexible 396 strategy was divided by $2 \in$. Therefore, the SVs of the flexible strategies were 1, because 397 they were chosen in the initial comparison of each pairing in which the same value was offered for both strategies, so they were the preferred strategy of each pairing. The SVs of the fixed strategies lay between 0 and 1, with lower values indicating that the participant would need a much higher monetary incentive to choose this strategy over the other one in 401 the pairing. The final SV per strategy for each participant was computed by averaging the 402 SVs of each strategy across pairings.

To explore the association between subjective effort (H5a), subjective arousal (H5b), 404 subjective utility (H5c), and physiological responding (H5d,e) on SVs, a multilevel model 405 (MLM) was specified using the *lmerTest* package⁶⁷. First, ER strategies were recoded and 406 centered for each subject according to their individual SVs: The strategy with the highest 407 SV will be coded as -1, the strategy with the second highest SV 0, and the strategy with 408 the lowest SV will be coded as 1. Restricted maximum likelihood (REML) was applied to 400 fit the model. A random slopes model of SVs including subjective effort (effort ratings), 410 subjective arousal (arousal ratings), utility (utility ratings), and physiological responses 411 (corrugator and levator activity) as level-1-predictors was specified. 412

 $SV \sim strategy + effort rating + arousal rating + utility rating + corrugator activity + levator activity + (strategy|subject)$

Level-1-predictors were centered within cluster⁶⁸. Residuals of the final model were inspected visually. Intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC), ρ , was reported for each model (null model, as well as full model). The presented MLM followed the conceptualization of Zerna, Scheffel, et al.³⁴

To investigate whether individual SVs predict ER choice (H7a), a $\chi 2$ test with predicted choice (highest SV of each participant) and actual choice was computed. Furthermore, an ordinal logistic regression with the dependent variable choice and independent variables SVs of each strategy was computed.

The association between flexible ER and SVs of ER strategies (H7b) was investigated with a linear regression using the individual *intercept* and *slope* of each participants' SVs to predict their FlexER score. To this end, for each participant, SVs were sorted by magnitude in descending order and entered as dependent variable in a linear model, with strategy (centered, i.e., -1, 0, 1) as independent variable. The resulting *intercept* informs about the extent to which an individual considers any or all of the ER strategies as useful

for regulation their emotion, while the *slope* informs about the flexibility in the use of
emotion regulation strategies. The individual intercepts and slopes were entered as
predictors in a regression model with the FlexER score as dependent variable. A positive
association with the predictor *intercept* would indicate that overall higher SVs attached to
ER strategies predicts higher scores on the FlexER scale. A positive association with the
predictor *slope* would indicate that less negative slopes, i.e., a smaller preference for a
given ER strategy, would be associated with a higher score of the FlexER scale.

The influence of personality traits on SVs were investigated exploratorily. Therefore, the MLM specified above was extended by the level-2-predictors NFC and self-control.

For each result of the analyses, both p-values and Bayes factors BF10, calculated using the BayesFactor package⁴⁰, were reported. Bayes factors were calculated using the default prior widths of the functions anovaBF, lmBF and regressionBF.

Data availability

440

The data of this study can be downloaded from osf.io/vnj8x/.

441 Code availability

The paradigm code, as well as the R Markdown file used to analyze the data and write this document is available at our Github repository.

3. Results

45 3.1 Participants and descriptive statistics

Data collection took place between 2022-08 and 2023-02. A total of N=151participants completed the online survey and were invited to participate in the two lab sessions. Of these, N=125 participated in the first laboratory session³⁴ and N=121 completed the second laboratory session. Of these, n=1 person had to be excluded from analyses because they did not follow the instructions. The final sample consisted of N=120 participants (100 female; age: $M=22.5 \pm SD=3.0$). Please note that sample size for individual calculations may be smaller due to failure of EMG recording (n=1) and failure to record utility ratings (n=18).

Subjective arousal and physiological responding. To explore whether

454 3.2. Confirmatory analyses

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456

Manipulation checks.

negative pictures evoke emotional arousal and physiological responding, we conducted 457 separate ANOVAs for the active viewing condition with predictors subjective arousal, 458 Corrugator, and Levator activity. We found a highly significant main effect of valence for 459 subjective arousal $(F(1,119) = 399.95, p < .001, \hat{\eta}_G^2 = .589, 90\% \text{ CI } [.498, .659],$ 460 ${\rm BF}_{10}=1.47\times 10^{44}),\ Corrugator\ {\rm activity}\ (F(1,117)=27.73,\ p<.001,\ \hat{\eta}_G^2=.111,\ 90\%\ {\rm CI}$ 461 [.037, .206], $BF_{10} = 8.67 \times 10^{16}$), and Levator activity (F(1, 117) = 8.87, p = .004, p = .004)462 $\hat{\eta}_G^2 = .039, 90\%$ CI [.002, .111]', BF₁₀ = 188.72), indicating that negative pictures 463 successfully evoked emotional arousal and physiological responding. 464 To investigate whether ER strategies reduce emotional arousal and physiological 465 respoinding, we conducted separate rmANOVA comparing subjective arousal, Corrugator, 466 and Levator activity of four strategies (active viewing, distraction, distancing, 467 suppression). We found a significant effect of strategy for subjective arousal 468 $(F(2.71, 322.55) = 7.39, p < .001, \hat{\eta}_G^2 = .015, 90\% \text{ CI } [.000, .036], \text{BF}_{10} = 0.21), \text{ Corrugator } f(0.71, 0.71, 0.71)$ activity $(F(1.76, 206.02) = 13.70, p < .001, \hat{\eta}_G^2 = .056, 90\%$ CI [.019, .094], $BF_{10} = 6.16 \times 10^7$), and Levator activity $(F(1.54, 180.41) = 19.95, p < .001, \hat{\eta}_G^2 = .089,$ 90% CI [.043, .134], BF₁₀ = 3.22×10^{17}), indicating that regulation strategies reduced 472 subjective arousal and physiological responding. For detailed information on post-hoc 473 tests, please see tables S.4 to S.6 and figures S.1 to S.3 in supplementary material.

Subjective effort of ER strategies. To investigate whether ER strategies 475 require cognitive effort, we conducted an rmANOVA comparing the subjective effort 476 ratings of four strategies (active viewing, distraction, distancing, suppression). We found a 477 significant effect of strategy $(F(2.92, 347.65) = 128.47, p < .001, \hat{\eta}_G^2 = .327, 90\%$ CI 478 [.261, .384], BF₁₀ = 1.84×10^{37} ; see figure 3). Post-hoc test showed significant higher 479 subjective effort for distraction $(t(357) = -17.92, p_{\text{Tukey}(4)} < .001, BF_{10} = 3.61 \times 10^{30}),$ 480 distancing $(t(357) = -15.82, p_{\text{Tukey}(4)} < .001, BF_{10} = 1.60 \times 10^{28})$, and suppression 481 $(t(357) = -12.26, p_{\text{Tukey}(4)} < .001, BF_{10} = 1.27 \times 10^{19})$ compared to active viewing. 482 Moreover, we found significantly lower effort during suppression compared with distraction 483 $(t(357) = 5.66, p_{\text{Tukey}(4)} < .001, BF_{10} = 1.61 \times 10^6)$ and distancing (t(357) = 3.55,484 $p_{\text{Tukey}(4)} = .002, BF_{10} = 29.19$). 485

[INSERT FIGURE 3 HERE]

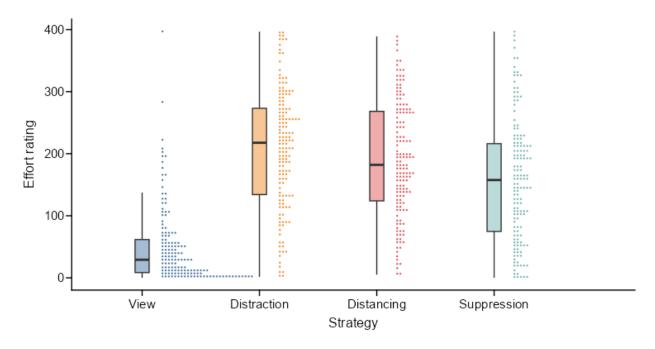


Figure 3. Subjective effort ratings vizalized as boxplots. Dots represent individual effort ratings placed in 150 quantiles.

[... WAHLVERHALTEN FEHLT NOCH ...]

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Subjective values of ER strategies. Individual SVs could be determined for 120 participants for all three ER strategies. SVs ranged between 0.005 and 1.00. In sum, n = 119 had a SVs of 1.0, indicating a clear preference for one ER strategy. Absolute preferences for ER strategies were relatively equally distributed. Highest SV for distraction was reported by n = 41, for distancing by n = 36, and for suppression by n = 36.

To investigate, which variables can predict individual SVs of ER strategies, a multilevel model approach was chosen. The ICC of the null model was ICC = 0.19, indicating that level-2 predictor subject accounted for 19.10 percent of total variance. The preregistered model showed a correlation of r = 0.95 of the random effects subjects and recoded strategy (BF10 of the variable strategy: $BF_{10} = \infty$). Our model explained 0.90 percent of variance and thus we assumed our model was overfitted due to including recoded strategy as random slope. We therefore set a new model without the recoded strategy as random slope factor to estimate the influence of predictors on SVs more precisely. The second model followed the specification:

 $SV \sim \text{effort rating} + \text{arousal rating} + \text{utility rating} + corrugator \text{ activity}$ + levator activity + (1|subject)

The second model explained 0.41 percent of variance. All results of the second model are in table 1.

| Parameter | Beta | SE | <i>p</i> -value | f^2 | Random Effects (SD) |
|---------------------|------------------------|------|-----------------|-------|---------------------|
| Intercept | 8.03×10^{-1} | 0.01 | 0.00 | | 0.11 |
| Effort | -6.85×10^{-4} | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.03 | |
| Arousal | -7.84×10^{-5} | 0.00 | 0.32 | 0.00 | |
| Utility | 1.42×10^{-3} | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.15 | |
| Corrugator activity | 7.45×10^{-3} | 0.00 | 0.04 | 0.00 | |
| Levator activity | 5.32×10^{-3} | 0.00 | 0.07 | 0.00 | |

Table 1
Results of multilevel model predicting subjective values of ER strategies.

The predictors effort rating $(\hat{\beta} = 0.00, 95\% \text{ CI } [0.00, 0.00], t(5, 618.96) = -13.98,$ p < .001), utility rating $(\hat{\beta} = 0.00, 95\% \text{ CI } [0.00, 0.00], t(5, 618.96) = -13.98, p < .001),$ and Corrugator activity $(\hat{\beta} = 0.01, 95\% \text{ CI } [0.00, 0.01], t(5, 618.96) = 2.09, p = .037)$ showed a significant association with SVs. The values were relatively small, so the
respective effect size f^2 was calculated as the explained variance. Interestingly, utility
rating showed the greatest effect size of all predictors $(f^2 = 0.155)$, indicating that utility
rating explained 15.5 percent of variance in SVs. Effort rating showed an effect size of $f^2 = 0.035$. The effect sizes of all other predictors were negligibly small $(f^2 < 0.01)$.

Associations between subjective values and flexible ER. To investigate the ecological validity of the subjective values of ER strategies we calculated, we looked to see if SVs were associated with the actual choice of participants in the choice block. Therefore, a χ^2 test with predicted choice (i.e., the strategy with the highest SV of each participant) and actual choice was computed. There was a significant association between predicted choice and actual choice ($\chi^2(4, n = 120) = 115.40, p < .001, BF_{10} = 1.62 \times 10^{21}$; see figure ??).

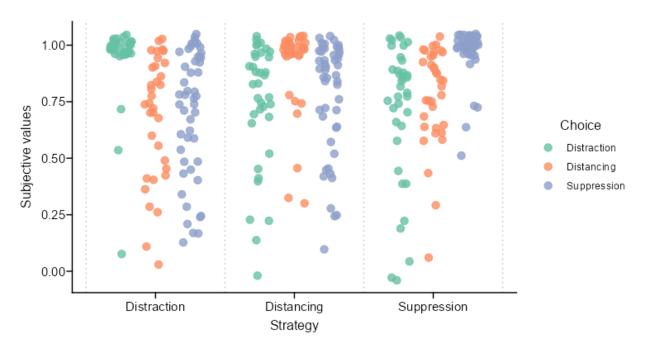


Figure 4. Individual subjective values per ER strategy, grouped by choice in last experimental block. Each dot indicates SV of one participant, the colours indicate their choice in last experimental block. N=120

We then conducted a ordinal regression with the dependent variable "choice" and the 520 individual SVs of all three strategies as independent variables. Overall model fit was fair 521 with $R^2 = 0.27$. The predictor SV of strategy distraction was found to contribute to the 522 model (b = -6.29, 95% CI [-10.81, -3.02], z = -3.21, p = .001, BF10 = 2.00). The 523 estimated odds ratio indicated a higher chance of choosing strategy distraction, when SV of that strategy is higher. Additionally, the predictor SV of strategy suppression was found to 525 contribute to the model (b = 2.70, 95% CI [0.83, 4.84], z = 2.67, p = .008, BF10 = 1.99).526 The estimated odds ration indicated that is more likely to later choose suppression, when 527 SV of strategy suppression is higher. 528

Last, we investigated whether SVs are associated with ER flexibility. We conducted a logistic regression to inspect whether participants' individual *slopes* and *intercepts* of ordered SVs could predict their ER flexibility score. We found neither a significant associations between *slopes* of SVs and FlexER score (b = -0.36, 95% CI [-1.28, 0.56],

t(117) = -0.77, p = .444, BF₁₀ = 0.72), nor between *intercepts* and FlexER score (b = 1.32, 95% CI [-1.38, 4.02], t(117) = 0.97, p = .336, BF₁₀ = 0.85). However, model fit was relatively low ($R^2 = .03$, F(2, 117) = 1.93, p = .150).

3.3. Exploratory analyses

We exploratory wanted to investigate the influence of self-control and the investment trait Need for Cognition (NFC) on individual SVs of ER strategies. The starting point for this was the model reported before. Only predictors that had previously shown a significant association with SVs were included in the model together with level 2 predictors self-control and NFC. The third model followed the specification:

$$SV \sim \text{effort rating} + \text{utility rating} + corrugator \text{ activity}$$

$$\text{self-control} + \text{NFC} + (1|subject)$$

As one would expect, the predictors effort rating $(\hat{\beta} = 0.00, 95\% \text{ CI } [0.00, 0.00],$ t(5,620.93) = -14.26, p < .001), utility rating $(\hat{\beta} = 0.00, 95\% \text{ CI } [0.00, 0.00],$ t(5,620.93) = 33.28, p < .001), and Corrugator activity $(\hat{\beta} = 0.01, 95\% \text{ CI } [0.00, 0.01],$ t(5,620.93) = 2.12, p = .034) showed a significant association with SVs. In addition, a positive association was also found between self-control and SVs $(\hat{\beta} = 0.02, 95\% \text{ CI } [0.00, 0.05], t(97.97) = 2.04, p = .044)$. However, effect size of self-control was negligibly small $(f^2 = 0.002)$. Detailed information can be found in the supplementary material.

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commence immediately. The funders have/had no role in study design, data collection and
analysis, decision to publish or preparation of the manuscript.

Competing Interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

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Figures and figure captions

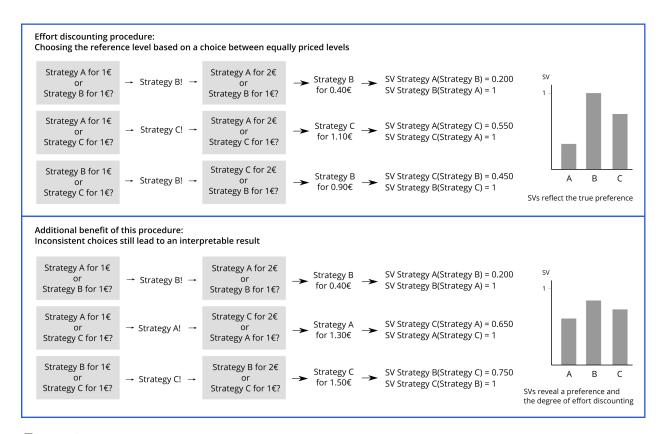


Figure 1

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Figure 1. Exemplary visualization of two response patterns. In the top half, the
person has a clear preference for one of the three strategies. In the lower half, they have no
clear preference and therefore show an inconsistent response pattern. This pattern can also
be represented by our paradigm.

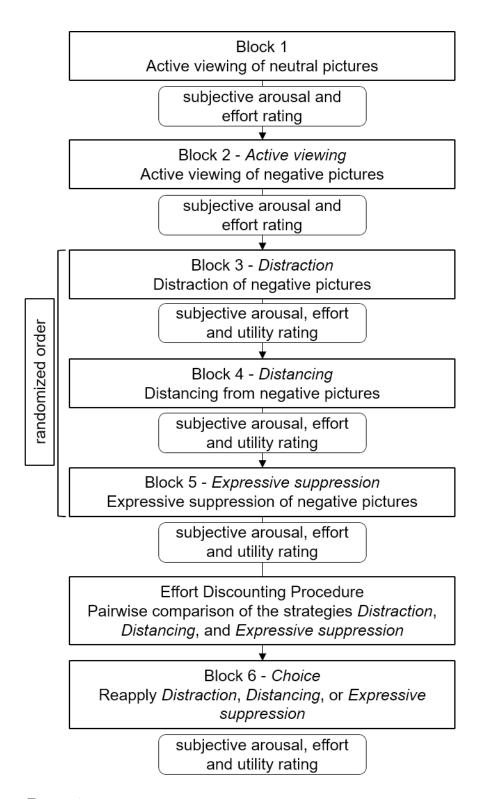


Figure 2

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viewing" blocks containing neutral (Block 1) and negative (Block 2) pictures. Order of the regulation blocks (Blocks 3, 4, and 5) is randomized between participants. After, the discounting procedure takes place. All three regulation strategies are pairwise compared.

Before the last block, participants can decide which regulation strategy they want to reapply. Subjective arousal and effort ratings are assessed after each block using a slider on screen with a continuous scale.

Design Table

| Question | Hypothesis | Sampling plan (e.g. power analysis) | Analysis Plan | Interpretation given to different outcomes |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| 1.) Do negative pictures (compared to neutral pictures) evoke subjective arousal and physiological responding? (Manipulation check) | 1a) Subjective arousal (arousal rating) is lower after actively viewing neutral pictures compared to actively viewing negative pictures. | F tests - ANOVA: Repeated measures, within factors Analysis: A priori: Compute required sample size Input: Effect size $f = 1.59 \ (\eta_p^2 = 0.716)$ (Scheffel et al., 2021) α err prob = 0.05 Power $(1-\beta$ err prob) = 0.95 Number of groups = 1 Number of measurements = 2 Corr among rep measures = 0.5 Nonsphericity correction $\epsilon = 1$ $\frac{Output}{E}$: Noncentrality parameter $\lambda = 40.3380260$ Critical $F = 10.1279645$ Numerator $df = 1.0$ Denominator $df = 3.0$ Total sample size = 4 Actual power = 0.9789865 | Repeated measures ANOVA with two linear contrasts, comparing the subjective arousal ratings of two blocks (active viewing – neutral and active viewing – negative). ANOVA is calculated using aov_ez() function of the afex-package, estimated marginal means are calculated using emmeans() function from the emmeans-package: if the factor Block is significant, pairwise contrasts are calculated using pairs() with Bonferroni adjustment for multiple testing. Bayes factors are computed for the ANOVA and each contrast using the BayesFactor-package. | ANOVA yields $p < .05$ is interpreted as subjective arousal (arousal ratings) changing significantly with blocks. Values of arousal ratings are interpreted as equal between blocks if $p > .05$. Each contrast yielding $p < .05$ is interpreted as arousal ratings being different between those two blocks, magnitude and direction are inferred from the respective estimate. Values of arousal ratings are interpreted as equal between blocks if $p > .05$. The Bayes factor $BF10$ is reported alongside every p -value to assess the strength of evidence. |
| | 1b) Physiological responding (EMG corrugator activity) is lower while actively viewing neutral pictures compared to actively viewing negative pictures. | F tests - ANOVA: Repeated measures, within factors Analysis: A priori: Compute required sample size Input: Effect size $f = 0.5573293 (\eta_p^2 = 0.237)$ (Pilot Study) α err prob = 0.05 Power $(1-\beta \text{ err prob}) = 0.95$ Number of groups = 1 Number of measurements = 2 | Repeated measures ANOVA with two linear contrasts, comparing the EMG corrugator activity of two blocks (active viewing – neutral and active viewing - negative). ANOVA is calculated using aov_ez() function of the afex- package, estimated marginal means are calculated using | ANOVA yields $p < .05$ is interpreted as physiological responding (EMG corrugator activity) changing significantly with blocks. Values of EMG corrugator activity are interpreted as equal between blocks if $p > .05$. Each contrast yielding $p < .05$ is interpreted as EMG corrugator activity being different between those two blocks, magnitude and direction are |

| | Corr among rep measures = 0.5 | emmeans() function from the | inferred from the respective estimate. |
|----------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|
| | Nonsphericity correction $\varepsilon = 1$ | emmeans-package: if the factor | Values of EMG corrugator activity are |
| | | Block is significant, pairwise | interpreted as equal between blocks if p |
| | Output: | contrasts are calculated using | > .05. |
| | Noncentrality parameter $\lambda =$ | pairs() with Bonferroni | The Bayes factor <i>BF10</i> is reported |
| | 16.1520293 | adjustment for multiple testing. | alongside every <i>p</i> -value to assess the |
| | Critical $F = 4.7472253$ | | strength of evidence. |
| | Numerator $df = 1.0$ | Bayes factors are computed for | strength of evidence. |
| | Denominator $df = 12.0$ | the ANOVA and each contrast | |
| | Total sample size $= 13$ | using the BayesFactor-package. | |
| | Actual power = 0.9573615 | | |
| 1c) Physiological | F tests - ANOVA: Repeated | Repeated measures ANOVA | ANOVA yields $p < .05$ is interpreted as |
| responding (EMG | measures, within factors | with two linear contrasts, | physiological responding (EMG levator |
| levator activity) is | Analysis: A priori: Compute | comparing the EMG levator | activity) changing significantly with |
| lower while actively | required sample size | activity of two blocks (active | blocks. Values of EMG <i>levator</i> activity |
| viewing neutral | <u>Input:</u> | viewing – neutral and active | are interpreted as equal between blocks |
| pictures compared to | Effect size $f = 0.4396788 (\eta_p^2 =$ | viewing - negative). | if $p > .05$. |
| actively viewing | 0.162) (Pilot Study) | | Each contrast yielding $p < .05$ is |
| negative pictures. | $\alpha \text{ err prob} = 0.05$ | ANOVA is calculated using | interpreted as EMG <i>levator</i> activity |
| | Power $(1-\beta \text{ err prob}) = 0.95$ | aov_ez() function of the afex- | being different between those two |
| | Number of groups = 1 | package, estimated marginal | blocks, magnitude and direction are |
| | Number of measurements $= 2$ | means are calculated using | inferred from the respective estimate. |
| | Corr among rep measures $= 0.5$ | emmeans() function from the | Values of EMG <i>levator</i> activity are |
| | Nonsphericity correction $\varepsilon = 1$ | emmeans-package: if the factor | interpreted as equal between blocks if p |
| | | Block is significant, pairwise | > .05. |
| | Output: | contrasts are calculated using | |
| | Noncentrality parameter $\lambda =$ | pairs() with Bonferroni | The Bayes factor <i>BF10</i> is reported |
| | 14.6921260 | adjustment for multiple testing. | alongside every <i>p</i> -value to assess the |
| | Critical $F = 4.4138734$ | | strength of evidence. |
| | Numerator $df = 1.0$ | Bayes factors are computed for | |
| | Denominator $df = 18.0$ | the ANOVA and each contrast | |
| | Total sample size = 19 | using the BayesFactor-package. | |
| | Actual power = 0.9517060 | | |

| 2.) Do ER strategies reduce emotional arousal? (Manipulation check) | 2a) Subjective arousal (arousal rating) is lower after using an emotion regulation strategy (distraction, distancing, suppression) compared to active viewing. | F tests - ANOVA: Repeated measures, within factors Analysis: A priori: Compute required sample size Input: Effect size $f = 0.50 \ (\eta_p^2 = 0.20)$ (Scheffel et al., 2021) α err prob = 0.05 Power $(1-\beta$ err prob) = 0.95 Number of groups = 1 Number of measurements = 4 Corr among rep measures = 0.5 Nonsphericity correction $\epsilon = 1$ Output: Noncentrality parameter $\lambda = 20.0$ Critical $F = 2.9603513$ Numerator $df = 3.0$ Denominator $df = 27.0$ Total sample size = 10 Actual power = 0.95210128 | Repeated measures ANOVA comparing the subjective arousal ratings of four blocks (active viewing, distraction, distancing, suppression). ANOVA is calculated using aov_ez() function of the afex-package, estimated marginal means are calculated using emmeans() function from the emmeans-package: if the factor Block is significant, pairwise contrasts are calculated using pairs() with Bonferroni adjustment for multiple testing. Bayes factors are computed for the ANOVA and each contrast using the BayesFactor-package. | ANOVA yields $p < .05$ is interpreted as arousal ratings changing significantly with blocks. Values of arousal ratings are interpreted as equal between blocks if $p > .05$. Each contrast yielding $p < .05$ is interpreted as arousal ratings being different between those two blocks, magnitude and direction are inferred from the respective estimate. Values of arousal ratings are interpreted as equal between blocks if $p > .05$. The Bayes factor $BF10$ is reported alongside every p -value to assess the strength of evidence. |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| 3.) Do ER strategies reduce physiological responding? (Manipulation check) | 3a) Physiological responding (EMG corrugator activity) is lower after using an emotion regulation strategy (distraction, distancing, suppression) compared to active viewing. | F tests - ANOVA: Repeated measures, within factors Analysis: A priori: Compute required sample size Input: Effect size $f = 0.1605$ (Zaehringer et al., 2020) α err prob = 0.05 Power $(1-\beta$ err prob) = 0.95 Number of groups = 1 Number of measurements = 4 Corr among rep measures = 0.5 Nonsphericity correction $\epsilon = 1$ | Repeated measures ANOVA comparing the <i>corrugator</i> muscle activity of four blocks (active viewing, distraction, distancing, suppression). ANOVA is calculated using aov_ez() function of the afex-package, estimated marginal means are calculated using emmeans() function from the emmeans-package: if the factor Block is significant, pairwise contrasts are calculated using | ANOVA yields $p < .05$ is interpreted as <i>corrugator</i> muscle activity changing significantly with blocks. Values of <i>corrugator</i> muscle activity are interpreted as equal between blocks if $p > .05$. Each contrast yielding $p < .05$ is interpreted as <i>corrugator</i> muscle activity being different between those two blocks, magnitude and direction are inferred from the respective estimate. Values of <i>corrugator</i> muscle activity |

| | | Output: Noncentrality parameter $\lambda = 17.5169700$ Critical F = 2.6404222 Numerator df = 3.0 Denominator df = 252 Total sample size = 85 Actual power = 0.9509128 | pairs() with Bonferroni adjustment for multiple testing. Bayes factors are computed for the ANOVA and each contrast using the BayesFactor-package. | are interpreted as equal between blocks if $p > .05$. The Bayes factor $BF10$ is reported alongside every p -value to assess the strength of evidence. |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| | 3b) Physiological responding (EMG levator activity) is lower after using an emotion regulation strategy (distraction, distancing, suppression) compared to active viewing. | F tests - ANOVA: Repeated measures, within factors Analysis: A priori: Compute required sample size Input: Effect size $f = 0.1605$ (Zaehringer et al., 2020) α err prob = 0.05 Power $(1-\beta$ err prob) = 0.95 Number of groups = 1 Number of measurements = 4 Corr among rep measures = 0.5 Nonsphericity correction ϵ = 1 $\frac{Output}{Corr}$: Noncentrality parameter λ = 17.5169700 Critical $F = 2.6404222$ Numerator $df = 3.0$ Denominator $df = 252$ Total sample size = 85 Actual power = 0.9509128 | Repeated measures ANOVA comparing the <i>levator</i> muscle activity of four blocks (active viewing, distraction, distancing, suppression). ANOVA is calculated using aov_ez() function of the afex-package, estimated marginal means are calculated using emmeans() function from the emmeans-package: if the factor Block is significant, pairwise contrasts are calculated using pairs() with Bonferroni adjustment for multiple testing. Bayes factors are computed for the ANOVA and each contrast using the BayesFactor-package. | ANOVA yields $p < .05$ is interpreted as <i>levator</i> muscle activity changing significantly with blocks. Values of <i>levator</i> muscle activity are interpreted as equal between blocks if $p > .05$. Each contrast yielding $p < .05$ is interpreted as <i>levator</i> muscle activity being different between those two blocks, magnitude and direction are inferred from the respective estimate. Values of <i>levator</i> muscle activity are interpreted as equal between blocks if $p > .05$. The Bayes factor $BF10$ is reported alongside every p -value to assess the strength of evidence. |
| 4.) Do ER strategies require cognitive effort? (Manipulation check) | 4a) Subjective effort (effort rating) is greater after using an emotion regulation strategy (distraction, | F tests - ANOVA: Repeated measures, within factors Analysis: A priori: Compute required sample size Input: | Repeated measures ANOVA comparing the subjective effort ratings of four blocks (active viewing, distraction, distancing, suppression). | ANOVA yields $p < .05$ is interpreted as effort ratings changing significantly with blocks. Values of effort ratings are interpreted as equal between blocks if $p > .05$. |

| | distancing, suppression) compared to active viewing. | Effect size $f = 0.2041241$ ($\eta_p^2 = 0.04$) (Scheffel et al., 2021) α err prob = 0.05 Power (1- β err prob) = 0.95 Number of groups = 1 Number of measurements = 4 Corr among rep measures = 0.5 Nonsphericity correction $\epsilon = 1$ $\frac{Output}{N}$ Noncentrality parameter $\lambda = 17.6666588$ Critical $F = 2.6625685$ Numerator $df = 3.0$ Denominator $df = 156.0$ Total sample size = 53 Actual power = 0.95206921 | ANOVA is calculated using aov_ez() function of the afex-package, estimated marginal means are calculated using emmeans() function from the emmeans-package: if the factor Block is significant, pairwise contrasts are calculated using pairs() with Bonferroni adjustment for multiple testing. Bayes factors are computed for the ANOVA and each contrast using the BayesFactor-package. | Each contrast yielding $p < .05$ is interpreted as effort ratings being different between those two blocks, magnitude and direction are inferred from the respective estimate. Values of effort ratings are interpreted as equal between blocks if $p > .05$. The Bayes factor $BF10$ is reported alongside every p -value to assess the strength of evidence. |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| | 4b) Majority of participants reuse the strategy that was least effortful for them. | - | Subjects are asked about the reasons for their choice in the follow-up survey. These answers are classified into categories and counted. | The percentage choice of strategies is described descriptively. |
| 5.) Which variables can predict individual subjective values of ER strategies? | 5a) Subjective effort (effort ratings) negatively predict subjective values of ER strategies. | t tests - Linear multiple regression: Fixed model, single regression coefficient Analysis: A priori: Compute required sample size Input: Tail(s) = One Effect size f² = 0.34 (Since there are no findings in this respect yet, | Multilevel model of SVs with level-1-predictors subjective effort, subjective arousal, subjective utility, corrugator, and levator muscle activity using subject specific intercepts and allowing random slopes for ER strategies. | Fixed effects yield $p < .05$ are interpreted as subjective values are related to subjective effort. Subjective values are interpreted as not being related to subjective effort if $p > .05$. The Bayes factor $BF10$ is reported alongside every p -value to assess the strength of evidence. |

| 5b) Subjective arousal (arousal ratings) negatively predict subjective values of ER strategies. | we have inferred from the effect size in the closest-similar model: Westbrook et al., 2013) α err prob = 0.05 Power (1- β err prob) = 0.95 Number of predictors = 4 Output: Noncentrality parameter δ = 3.4 Critical t = 1.6991270 | The null model and the random slopes model are calculated using lmer() of the lmerTest-package. Bayes factors are computed for the MLM using the BayesFactor-package. | Fixed effects yield $p < .05$ are interpreted as subjective values are related to subjective arousal. Subjective values are interpreted as not being related to subjective arousal if $p > .05$. The Bayes factor $BF10$ is reported alongside every p -value to assess the strength of evidence. |
|--|--|--|---|
| 5c) Subjective utility (utility ratings) positively predict subjective values of ER strategies. | Df = 29 Total sample size = 34 Actual power = 0.9529571 | | Fixed effects yield $p < .05$ are interpreted as subjective values are related to subjective utility. Subjective values are interpreted as not being related to subjective utility if $p > .05$. |
| 5d) Physiological | | | The Bayes factor $BF10$ is reported alongside every p -value to assess the strength of evidence. Fixed effects yield $p < .05$ are |
| responding (EMG corrugator activity) negatively predict subjective values of ER strategies. | | | interpreted as subjective values are related to <i>corrugator</i> activity. Subjective values are interpreted as not being related to <i>corrugator</i> activity if $p > .05$. |
| | | | The Bayes factor <i>BF10</i> is reported alongside every <i>p</i> -value to assess the strength of evidence. |
| 5e) Physiological responding (EMG levator activity) negatively predict subjective values of ER strategies. | | | Fixed effects yield $p < .05$ are interpreted as subjective values are related to <i>levator</i> activity. Subjective values are interpreted as not being related to <i>levator</i> activity if $p > .05$. |

| 6.) Is the effort required for an ER strategy the best predictor for subjective values of ER strategies? | 6a) Subjective values decline with increasing effort, even after controlling for task performance (subjective arousal ratings), utility (subjective utility ratings), and physiological responding (EMG corrugator and levator activity). | t tests - Linear multiple regression: Fixed model, single regression coefficient Analysis: A priori: Compute required sample size Input: Tail(s) = One Effect size $f^2 = 0.34$ (Since there are no findings in this respect yet, we have inferred from the effect size in the closest-similar model: Westbrook et al., 2013) α err prob = 0.05 Power (1- β err prob) = 0.95 Number of predictors = 4 Output: Noncentrality parameter $\delta = 3.4$ Critical t = 1.6991270 | | The Bayes factor $BF10$ is reported alongside every p -value to assess the strength of evidence. Fixed effects yield $p < .05$ are interpreted as subjective values changing significantly with ER strategy. Subjective values are interpreted as equal between ER strategies if $p > .05$. The Bayes factor $BF10$ is reported alongside every p -value to assess the strength of evidence. |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| | | Critical t = 1.6991270 Df = 29 Total sample size = 34 | | |
| 7.) Are subjective values related to flexible emotion regulation? | 7a) The higher the subjective value, the more likely the respective strategy is chosen. | Actual power = 0.9529571 1) χ^2 tests – Goodness-of-fit tests_ Contingency tables Analysis: A priori: Compute required sample size Input: Effect size $\omega = 0.5$ (Based on our theoretical considerations, we assume a large effect) α err prob = 0.05 | 1) Chi-squared test with the variables "predicted choice" (= highest SV of each participant) and "choice" (Strategy 1, 2, or 3) 2) Ordinal regression with dependent variable "Choice" (Strategy 1, 2, or 3) and independent variables "SV | 1) χ^2 yields $p < .05$ is interpreted as predicted choice (highest SV of each participant) and actual choice show significant consistency. Predicted choice and actual choice are interpreted as independent if $p > .05$. |

| | Power $(1-\beta \text{ err prob}) = 0.95$ | strategy 1", "SV strategy 2" and | The Bayes factor <i>BF10</i> is reported |
|--|---|----------------------------------|--|
| | Df = 1 | "SV strategy 3". | alongside every <i>p</i> -value to assess the |
| | Output: | | strength of evidence. |
| | Noncentrality parameter $\lambda = 19.8$ | | |
| | Critical $\chi^2 = 11.0704977$ | | 2) Ordinal logistic regression yields <i>p</i> < |
| | Total sample size = 52 | | .05 is interpreted as the respective |
| | Actual power = 0.9500756 | | subjective value has a significant |
| | _ | | influence on the OR of the choice of a |
| | 2) z tests –Logistic regression | | strategy. |
| | Analysis: A priori: Compute | | Respective SV is interpreted as not |
| | required sample size | | related to choice if $p > .05$. |
| | Input: | | |
| | Tails: One | | The Bayes factor <i>BF10</i> is reported |
| | Pr(Y=1 X=1) H1 = 0.80 (Based | | alongside every <i>p</i> -value to assess the |
| | on our theoretical considerations, | | strength of evidence. |
| | that a higher SVs should lead | | |
| | almost certainly to the choice of | | |
| | the respective strategy) | | |
| | Pr(Y=1 X=1) H0 = 0.333 (Based | | |
| | on theoretical considerations: if | | |
| | all SVs are equal, choice is on | | |
| | chance level) | | |
| | $\alpha \text{ err prob} = 0.05$ | | |
| | Power (1- β err prob) = 0.95 | | |
| | R^2 other $X = 0$ | | |
| | X distribution: normal | | |
| | X param $\mu = 0$ | | |
| | $X \text{ param } \sigma = 1$ | | |
| | Output: | | |
| | Critical $z = 1.6448536$ | | |
| | Total sample size = 25 | | |
| | Actual power = 0.9528726 | | |

| 7b) Subjective values are lower and decline stronger when ER flexibility is lower. | t tests – Linear multiple regression: Fixed model, single regression coefficient Analysis: A priori: compute required sample size Input: Tail(s) = One Effect size $f^2 = 0.15$ (as there is no evidence in the literature, we assume a medium sized effect) α err prob = 0.05 Power $(1-\beta$ err prob) = 0.95 Number of predictors = 2 Output: Noncentrality parameter δ = 3.316662 Critical $t = 1.69665997$ Df = 71 Total sample size = 74 Actual power = 0.95101851 | SVs will be sorted by magnitude in descending order. Values will be fitted in a linear model to estimate the individual intercept (i.e., the extent to which an individual considers any of the ER strategies useful) and slope (i.e., the extent to which one strategy is preferred over others, indicating less flexibility). A linear regression will be computed with individual intercepts and slopes as predictors and FlexER score as criterion. | β yield $p < .05$ are interpreted as significant association between predictor (intercept, slope) and ER flexibility. The direction of effect is interpreted according to sign (negative or positive). p – values $> .05$ are interpreted as no association between predictor and ER flexibility. The Bayes factor $BF10$ is reported alongside every p -value to assess the strength of evidence. |
|--|---|--|---|
|--|---|--|---|

| Exploratory: Are | | Multilevel model of SVs with | Fixed effects yield $p < .05$ are |
|---------------------|--|--|--|
| individual | | level-1-predictors subjective | interpreted as subjective values are |
| subjective values | | effort, subjective arousal, | related to NFC and self-control. |
| of ER strategies | | corrugator, and levator muscle | Subjective values are interpreted as not |
| related to | | activity and level-2-predictors | being related to subjective effort if $p >$ |
| personality traits? | | NFC and self-control using | .05. |
| | | subject specific intercepts and allowing random slopes for ER strategies. The null model and the random slopes model are calculated using lmer() of the lmerTest-package. | The Bayes factor <i>BF10</i> is reported alongside every <i>p</i> -value to assess the strength of evidence. |
| | | Bayes factors are computed for the MLM using the BayesFactor-package. | |

Supplementary Material

Supplementary Material 1

Table S1
List of IAPS (Lang, Bradley, and Cuthbert, 2008) and EmoPicS (Wessa et al., 2010) used in the ER paradigm.

| | Neutral | Negative 1 | Negative 2 | Negative 3 | Negative 4 | Negative 5 |
|---------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | 083 [†] | 225 [†] | 210 [†] | 208 [†] | 22 7 † | 223 [†] |
| | 107 [†] | 230 [†] | 218 [†] | 219 [†] | 252 [†] | 238 [†] |
| | 124 [†] | 255 [†] | 222 [†] | 226 [†] | 1051* | 245 [†] |
| | 140 [†] | 327 [†] | 228 [†] | 253 [†] | 2800* | 2981* |
| | 143 [†] | 1111* | 246 [†] | 254 [†] | 3061* | 3016* |
| | 7000* | 3017* | 251 [†] | 326 [†] | 3230* | 3101* |
| | 7002* | 3022* | 2703* | 1301* | 6561* | 3181* |
| | 7004* | 3180* | 3051* | 3350* | 6838* | 3215* |
| | 7006* | 3280* | 3160* | 6242* | 9120* | 3220* |
| | 7009* | 6190* | 3185* | 6410* | 9181* | 3225* |
| | 7021* | 6244* | 3301* | 6555* | 9185* | 6020* |
| | 7025* | 6836* | 6562* | 6825* | 9230* | 6571* |
| | 7041* | 9180* | 9031* | 6940* | 9254* | 6831* |
| | 7100* | 9182* | 9040* | 8230* | 9295* | 8231* |
| | 7150* | 9253* | 9042* | 9041* | 9332* | 9373* |
| | 7185* | 9300* | 9043* | 9140* | 9411* | 9400* |
| | 7211* | 9326* | 9145* | 9340* | 9420* | 9402* |
| | 7224* | 9424* | 9160* | 9409* | 9421* | 9403* |
| | 7233* | 9425* | 9184* | 9570* | 9599* | 9405* |
| | 7235* | 9920* | 9904* | 9800* | 9905* | 9423* |
| Valence | 4.86 ± 0.49 | 2.84 ± 0.57 | 2.64 ± 0.46 | 2.82 ± 0.62 | 2.65 ± 0.75 | 2.74 ± 0.70 |
| Arousal | 3.01 ± 0.61 | 5.62 ± 0.34 | 5.58 ± 0.38 | 5.60 ± 0.39 | 5.61 ± 0.41 | 5.63 ± 0.37 |

Note. * Pictures taken from the IAPS (Lang, Bradley, and Cuthbert, 2008); † Pictures taken from the EmoPicS (Wessa et al., 2010).

7 Detailed information on psychometric measures

WHO-5. General psychological well-being is assessed using the WHO-5 scale^{45,46}. 5 The such as "Over the past 2 weeks I have felt calm and relaxed." are rated on a 6-point Likert scale raning from 0 (at no time) to 5 (all of the time). The german version of the scale showed a high internal consistency (Cronbach's $\alpha = .92$)⁴⁶.

Connor-Davidson Resilience Scale. Resilience is assessed using the Connor-Davidson Resilience Scale (CD-RISC)^{47–49}. 10 items such as "I am able to adapt to change." are rated on a scale from 0 (not true at all) to 4 (true nearly all the time). The 10-item version showed a high internal consistency (Cronbach's $\alpha = .84$) and a satisfactory retest-reliability of $r_{tt} = .81$ across 6 month⁴⁸.

Emotion Regulation Questionnaire. Habitual use of reappraisal and suppression is measured using the 10-item Emotion Regulation Questionnaire (ERQ)^{9,50}. The scale has items such as "I keep my emotions to myself" (ERQ-suppression - 4 items) and "When I'm faced with a stressful situation, I make myself think about it in a way that helps me stay calm" (ERQ-reappraisal - 6 items), which are answered on a 7-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 7 (strongly agree), and has acceptable to high internal consistency (Cronbach's $\alpha > .75$)⁶⁹.

FlexER Scale. Flexible use of ER strategies is assessed using the FlexER Scale⁴⁴ with items such as "If I want to feel less negative emotions, I have several strategies to achieve this.", which are answered on a 4-point scale ranging from "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree". Psychometric properties are currently under investigation.

Implicit Theories Questionnaire. Implicit theories of willpower in emotional control are assessed using the Implicit Theories Questionnaire of 51 . 4 items such as "Having to control a strong emotion makes you exhausted and you are less able to manage your feelings right afterwards." are rated on a 6-point scale ranging from 1 (fully agree) to 6 (do not agree at all). The questionnaire showed an internal consistency of Cronbach's $\alpha = .87^{51}$.

```
Need for Cognition Scale. Need for Cognition (NFC) is assessed with the 16-item
753
    short version of the German NFC scale<sup>52</sup>. Responses to each item (e.g., "Thinking is not
754
    my idea of fun", recoded) are recorded on a 7-point Likert scale ranging from -3
755
    (completely disagree) to +3 (completely agree) and are summed to the total NFC score.
756
    The scale shows comparably high internal consistency (Cronbach's \alpha > .80)<sup>52,70</sup> and a
757
    retest reliability of r_{tt} = .83 \text{ across } 8 \text{ to } 18 \text{ weeks}^{71}.
758
          Self-Regulation Scale. As one measure of self-control, the Self-Regulation Scale
759
    (SRS)<sup>54</sup> is used. The scale has 10 items (e.g., "It is difficult for me to suppress thoughts
760
    that interfere with what I need to do.", recoded) on a 4-point scale ranging from 1 (not at
761
    all true) to 4 (exactly true). It has high internal consistency [Cronbach's \alpha > .80;^{54}].
762
          Brief Self-Control Scale. As a second measure of self-control, the Brief Self-Control
763
    Scale (BSCS)<sup>55,56</sup> is used. It comprises 13 items (e.g., "I am good at resisting
764
    temptations") with a 5-point rating scale ranging from 1 (not at all like me) to 5 (very
765
    much like me). The scale shows acceptable internal consistency (Cronbach's \alpha=.81)^{56} .
766
          Barratt Impulsiveness Scale. As a third measure of self-control, the Barratt
767
    Impulsiveness Scale (BIS-11)<sup>57,58</sup> is used. Responses to each item (e.g., "I am
768
    self-controlled,", recoded) are assessed on a 4-point scale ranging from 1 (never/rarely) to 4
    (almost always/always). An internal consistency of Cronbach's \alpha = .74 and a retest
    reliability of r_{tt} = .56 for General Impulsiveness and r_{tt} = .66 for Total Score across 6
771
    month were reported^{58}.
772
          Attentional Control Scale. Attentional control is measured using the Attentional
773
    Control Scale (ACS)<sup>59</sup> with items such as "My concentration is good even if there is music
774
    in the room around me". The 20 items are rated on a 4-point scale ranging from 1 (almost
775
    never) to 4 (always). An internal consistency of Cronbach's \alpha = .88 was reported<sup>59</sup>.
```

Test for normal distribution of predictor variables

Table S.2 Results of Shapiro-Wilk test for normal distribution of subjective arousal and effort ratings for all strategies.

| | M | SD | W | p |
|---------------------|--------|-------|------|------|
| Arousal View Neu | 26.63 | 39.12 | 0.68 | 0.00 |
| Arousal View Neg | 187.78 | 87.31 | 0.98 | 0.06 |
| Arousal Distraction | 158.13 | 92.49 | 0.97 | 0.01 |
| Arousal Distancing | 168.62 | 95.75 | 0.98 | 0.04 |
| Arousal Suppression | 163.96 | 87.17 | 0.98 | 0.07 |
| Effort View Neu | 18.15 | 27.37 | 0.65 | 0.00 |
| Effort View Neg | 49.40 | 62.26 | 0.74 | 0.00 |
| Effort Distraction | 208.46 | 96.15 | 0.98 | 0.13 |
| Effort Distancing | 158.26 | 99.50 | 0.97 | 0.01 |
| Effort Suppression | 189.80 | 92.34 | 0.98 | 0.12 |

Table S.3
Results of Shapiro-Wilk test for normal
distribution of Corrugator and Levator activity for
all strategies.

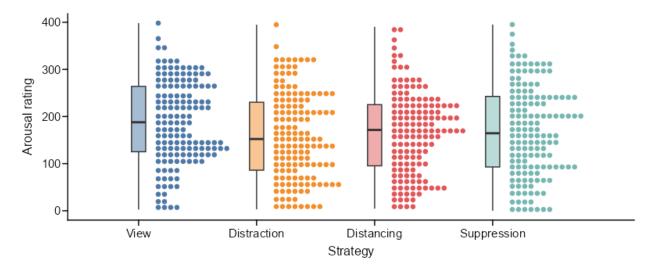
| | 1.1 | CD | 117 | |
|-----------------------|-------|------|------|------|
| | M | SD | W | p |
| Corrgator View Neu | 0.04 | 6.99 | 0.05 | 0.00 |
| Corrgator View Neg | 1.03 | 7.21 | 0.19 | 0.00 |
| Corrgator Distraction | 0.00 | 7.67 | 0.04 | 0.00 |
| Corrgator Distancing | 0.07 | 3.78 | 0.08 | 0.00 |
| Corrgator Suppression | 0.25 | 1.92 | 0.35 | 0.00 |
| Levator View Neu | 0.09 | 1.84 | 0.38 | 0.00 |
| Levator View Neg | 0.58 | 3.20 | 0.43 | 0.00 |
| Levator Distraction | -0.05 | 1.16 | 0.52 | 0.00 |
| Levator Distancing | -0.03 | 0.92 | 0.48 | 0.00 |
| Levator Suppression | 0.01 | 1.00 | 0.55 | 0.00 |

Post-hoc tests of strategies for effects of ER on subjective arousal and

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Table S.4 Post-hoc tests for effects of ER strategies on subjective arousal ratings.

| Contrast | Estimate | SE | df | t | p | BF10 | η_p^2 | 95%CI |
|----------------------------|----------|------|--------|-------|------|--------|------------|--------------|
| $View_{neg} - Distraction$ | 29.65 | 6.68 | 357.00 | 4.44 | 0.00 | 168.48 | 0.05 | [0.02, 1.00] |
| $View_{neg} - Distancing$ | 23.82 | 6.68 | 357.00 | 3.57 | 0.00 | 62.99 | 0.03 | [0.01, 1.00] |
| $View_{neg} - Suppression$ | 19.16 | 6.68 | 357.00 | 2.87 | 0.03 | 1.97 | 0.02 | [0.00, 1.00] |
| Distraction-Distancing | -5.83 | 6.68 | 357.00 | -0.87 | 1.00 | 0.18 | 2.13e-03 | [0.00, 1.00] |
| Distraction-Suppression | -10.49 | 6.68 | 357.00 | -1.57 | 0.70 | 0.31 | 6.86 e-03 | [0.00, 1.00] |
| Distancing-Suppression | -4.66 | 6.68 | 357.00 | -0.70 | 1.00 | 0.14 | 1.36e-03 | [0.00, 1.00] |



 $Figure\ S.1.$ Subjective arousal ratings vizalized as boxplots. Dots represent individual effort ratings placed in 150 qantiles.

Table S.5

Post-hoc tests for effects of ER strategies on Corrugator activity

| Contrast | Estimate | SE | df | t | p | BF10 | η_p^2 | 95%CI |
|----------------------------|----------|------|--------|------|------|-----------------------|------------|--------------|
| $View_{neq} - Distraction$ | 0.18 | 0.04 | 351.00 | 4.79 | 0.00 | 21,919.73 | 0.06 | [0.03, 1.00] |
| $View_{neg} - Distancing$ | 0.19 | 0.04 | 351.00 | 5.09 | 0.00 | 139,814.01 | 0.07 | [0.03, 1.00] |
| $View_{neg} - Suppression$ | 0.21 | 0.04 | 351.00 | 5.67 | 0.00 | 1.84×10^{7} | 0.08 | [0.04, 1.00] |
| Distraction-Distancing | 0.01 | 0.04 | 351.00 | 0.30 | 1.00 | 3.77×10^{-2} | 2.61e-04 | [0.00, 1.00] |
| Distraction-Suppression | 0.03 | 0.04 | 351.00 | 0.88 | 1.00 | 8.02×10^{-2} | 2.21e-03 | [0.00, 1.00] |
| Distancing-Suppression | 0.02 | 0.04 | 351.00 | 0.58 | 1.00 | 4.79×10^{-2} | 9.51e-04 | [0.00, 1.00] |

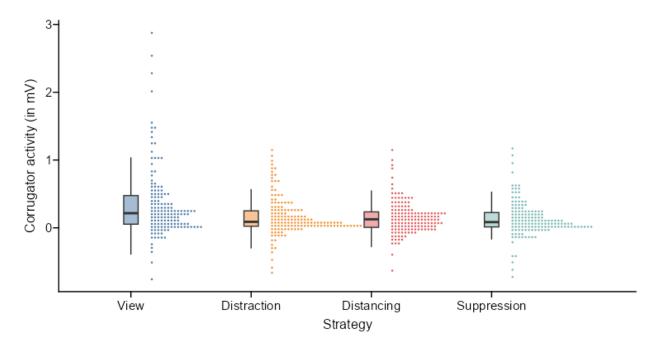


Figure S.2. Corrugator activity in mV vizalized as boxplots. Dots represent individual Levatorr activity measures placed in 150 quantiles.

Table S.6

Post-hoc tests for effects of ER strategies on Levator activity

| Contrast | Estimate | SE | df | t | p | BF10 | η_p^2 | 95%CI |
|----------------------------|----------|------|--------|-------|------|-----------------------|------------|--------------|
| $View_{neq} - Distraction$ | 0.34 | 0.05 | 351.00 | 6.73 | 0.00 | 2.02×10^{11} | 0.11 | [0.07, 1.00] |
| $View_{neg} - Distancing$ | 0.28 | 0.05 | 351.00 | 5.66 | 0.00 | 3.99×10^{7} | 0.08 | [0.04, 1.00] |
| $View_{neg} - Suppression$ | 0.32 | 0.05 | 351.00 | 6.37 | 0.00 | 8.60×10^{10} | 0.10 | [0.06, 1.00] |
| Distraction-Distancing | -0.05 | 0.05 | 351.00 | -1.07 | 1.00 | 0.22 | 3.26e-03 | [0.00, 1.00] |
| Distraction-Suppression | -0.02 | 0.05 | 351.00 | -0.36 | 1.00 | 3.91×10^{-2} | 3.70e-04 | [0.00, 1.00] |
| Distancing-Suppression | 0.04 | 0.05 | 351.00 | 0.71 | 1.00 | 9.86×10^{-2} | 1.44e-03 | [0.00, 1.00] |

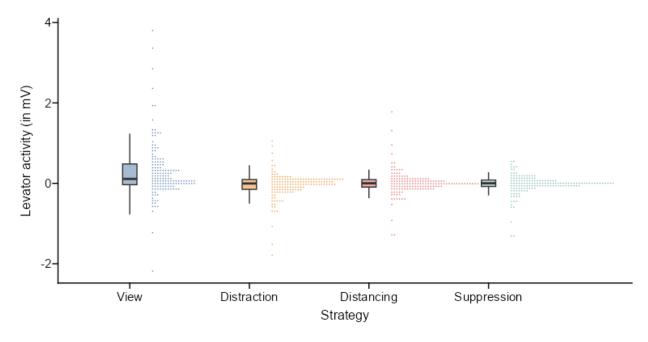


Figure S.3. Levator activity in mV vizalized as boxplots. Dots represent individual Levator activity measures placed in 150 qantiles.

780 Exploratory analysis: Association between SVs and self-control and NFC

Table S.7 Exploratory analysis: Results of MLM predicting SVs of ER strategies with level 2 predictors self-control and NFC.

| Parameter | Beta | SE | <i>p</i> -value | f^2 | Random Effects (SD) |
|---------------------|------------------------|------|-----------------|-------|---------------------|
| Intercept | 8.03×10^{-1} | 0.01 | 0.00 | | 0.11 |
| Effort | -6.93×10^{-4} | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.04 | |
| Utility | 1.44×10^{-3} | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.20 | |
| Corrugator activity | 7.54×10^{-3} | 0.00 | 0.03 | 0.00 | |
| Self-Control | 2.44×10^{-2} | 0.01 | 0.04 | 0.00 | |
| NFC | 7.58×10^{-4} | 0.00 | 0.44 | 0.00 | |