- A multi-site investigating the effects of inhibitory control training on automatic action
- tendencies for unhealthy foods
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A multi-site investigating the effects of inhibitory control training on automatic action tendencies for unhealthy foods

20 Introduction

There is an increasing interest in the development of behaviour change interventions 21 for eating behaviours that may arise in an "obesogenic environment", such as the over-consumption of high-calorie foods. These interventions largely focus on the cognitive 23 processes that are responsible for enhancing an individual's self-control, such as response inhibition. There has been considerable evidence to suggest that such interventions can 25 result in reduced food consumption in the laboratory (Allom, Mullan, & Hagger, 2016 for meta-analyses; see Jones et al., 2016). A common inhibitory control training (ICT) 27 intervention has been adapted from the go/no-go paradigm, where participants are trained 28 to inhibit their responses towards highly appetitive foods, and has been shown to reduce 29 food intake (e.g., Houben & Jansen, 2015; N. S. Lawrence, Verbruggen, Morrison, Adams, & Chambers, 2015a). A potential mechanism of action behind ICT effects on food consumption 31 is stimulus devaluation, whereby the evaluations of appetitive foods are reduced during training to facilitate performance when response inhibition is required (e.g., Chen, Veling, Dijksterhuis, & Holland, 2016a). A possible explanation for this devaluation effect is provided by the Behaviour Stimulus Interaction (BSI) theory which posits that food stimuli are devalued when negative affect is induced to reduce the ongoing conflict between triggered approach reactions to appetitive foods and the need to inhibit responses towards those stimuli (Chen, Veling, Dijksterhuis, & Holland, 2016b; Veling, Holland, & van Knippenberg, 2008; Veling, Lawrence, Chen, van Koningsbruggen, & Holland, 2017). If the automatic action tendency to approach the food cue is reduced, the inhibition of responses in the ICT tasks can be facilitated. In this study we aimed to explore the interaction between inhibition and approach motivation further in relation to ICT outcomes. Although the BSI theory focuses on approach tendencies and not avoidance, we aimed to investigate both automatic

- action tendencies as an outcome of go/no-go training in addition to stimulus devaluation.
- Specifically, we tested whether go/no-go training changes approach and/or avoidance
- tendecies towards unhealthy foods associated with response inhibition.
- In dual-process model frameworks, behaviour is determined by the interaction of 47 impulsive', or automatic andreflective', or controlled cognitive processes (Kakoschke, Kemps, & Tiggemann, 2015; Strack & Deutsch, 2004). The reflective system refers to our conscious and deliberate thoughts that result in reasoned actions which are in line with our long-term goals. The impulsive system, however, involves actions that occur without 51 weighting any potential consequences and are driven by hedonic needs and desires. Eating behaviours that may give rise to obesity rates, such as overeating, may be explained by a 53 weak reflective system and/or a strong impulsive system (e.g., N. S. Lawrence, Hinton, Parkinson, & Lawrence, 2012; Nederkoorn, Coelho, Guerrieri, Houben, & Jansen, 2012). I had a perfect reference for this - it's somewhere in my old notes and posters- find it!! and 56 double-check references- also Rachel here had this: for a review see; Stice, Lawrence Kemps, 57 & Veling, 2016. For instance, exposure to unhealthy appetitive food cues might trigger a conflict between automatic and controlled processing. Attentional (e.g., attending to the cue) and motivational (e.g., approaching appetitive food) processes would be automatic, while choosing an action towards these foods (e.g., eating vs not eating) while considering the compatibility of long-term goals (e.g., losing weight and eating unhealthy foods is not compatible) is a controlled process (Kakoschke et al., 2015). Indeed, it has been shown that overweight or obese individuals demonstrate poor self-control and increased impulsivity across a range of questionnaires and behavioural measures (e.g., Houben, Nederkoorn, & Jansen, 2014; Lavagnino, Arnone, Cao, Soares, & Selvaraj, 2016; Nederkoorn et al., 2012). Inhibitory control in relation to unhealthy eating patterns has generally been defined as "the ability to inhibit a behavioural impulse in order to attain higher-order goals, such as weight loss" (Houben, Nederkoorn, & Jansen, 2012, p. 550). Strengthening the impulsive, or automatic, system may therefore involve enhancing response inhibition and reducing

⁷¹ approach bias towards appetitive foods.

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In a typical ICT paradigm, participants are instructed to make a speeded choice
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   response to healthy and unhealthy foods, but to withhold that response when a visual, or
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   auditory, signal is presented. Signal-stimulus mappings are manipulated so that healthy
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   foods are associated with a response (qo foods) and unhealthy foods are paired with a stop
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   signal (no-qo foods). In the case of food-related inhibition training, stopping to unhealthy
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   foods has been shown to reduce food consumption (Adams, Lawrence, Verbruggen, &
   Chambers, 2017; Houben & Jansen, 2011, 2015; N. S. Lawrence, Verbruggen, Morrison,
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   Adams, & Chambers, 2015b; Veling, Aarts, & Papies, 2011), promote healthy food choices
   (Veling, Aarts, & Stroebe, 2013; Veling et al., 2017) find van Koningsbruggen, Veling, Stroebe,
   & Aarts, 2014; and double check 2017 reference and has even been associated with increased
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   weight loss (N. S. Lawrence et al., 2015a; Veling, van Koningsbruggen, Aarts, & Stroebe,
   2014). Several mechanisms have been proposed to explain the effects of inhibitory control
   training on behaviour with the most likely method argued to be stimulus devaluation
   (Driscoll, Quinn de Launay, & Fenske, 2018; Veling et al., 2017; but see Jones et al. (2016)).
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        expand on the inhibitory control reflex too.
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given the idea proposed by the BSI theory that approach tendencies are reduced and
that is connected to stimulus devaluation and the theoretical frameworks that suggest an
interplay between inhibition and motivation processes, it shoulld be investigated whether
response inhibition training actually affects implicit approach bias.

somewhere in here we need to link the literature where AAT is used as a training intervention - check though what were the actual outcomes there was it AAT again - this at least provides evidence that approach tendencies towards foods can be altered in the lab setting..

in the discussion we can comment on the importance of methodology for both the AAT

and GNG.. e.g. limitations - gng shown to be effective when highly appetitive foods are usedcheck liking for participants and outline that personalised sets of stimuli may be more
important - so many approach avoidance taks and we only chose one variant - and different
analyses - eg info from diffusion papers that we lose information from averaging in this type
of tasks

(Chen, Holland, Quandt, Dijksterhuis, & Veling, 2018)

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Hypotheses

All hypotheses described in this section are confirmatory and have been pre-registered¹ 103 on the Open Science Framework (https://osf.io/wav8p/). We examined the effects of ICT 104 (go/no-go training; see Go/No-qo training) on automatic action tendencies (see Approach 105 avoidance task) and liking (see Food liking ratings) for unhealthy foods. These effects were 106 investigated using change scores from pre-to post-training for both outcomes (H1, H3). 107 Training condition was also expected to have an effect on food choice behaviour (H2; see 108 Food choice task). The study assessed contingency learning mechanisms for the training 109 paradigm, as a manipulation check (H4). 110

11 Training effects on automatic action tendencies

The primary outcome measure in the study was the change in automatic action tendencies from pre-to post- ICT training for the foods associated with different conditions (go, no-go and control - see Figure 1). Action tendencies were indirectly measured via the AAT and approach-avoidance bias scores were obtained by substracting the median response times (RTs) in avoid trials (push action) from the RTs in approach trials (pull action) at the

¹ Exact hypotheses from the pre-registered protocol have been re-ordered according to outcomes for clarity. We report no deviations from the protocol for the hypotheses and corresponding statistical tests.

- participant level, for each training condition and then calculating the change from pre-to post-training. Based on reported effects of AAT training on food consumption (check outcomes for sign studies and add citation) and the potential interaction between motivation, affect and training mechanisms, we hypothesized that ICT training would lead to an increase in approach bias for go goods and reduction in approach bias for no-go goods, compared to the control foods.
- H1. There will be moderate evidence for an effect of training condition (go, no-go, control)
 on the change in approach-avoid bias scores from pre-to post-training.
- H1a. Participants will show a reduction in approach bias for no-go foods compared to the control foods, from pre-to post- training.
- H1b. Participants will have increased approach bias towards go foods relative to the control foods, from pre-to post-training.

129 Training effects on impulsive food choices

- As a secondary outcome, we also examined whether ICT would affect impulsive food
 choices for unhealthy foods. We compared the probabilities of choosing foods from each
 training condition and in line with previous findings (when you work on the intro, keep a
 record of which studies found effects on impulsive food choice and what comparison they had
 e.g. nogo vs go?), we expected that add here
- H2. Two Bayesian paired samples t-tests were conducted for the mean proportions of selected foods in the go and no-go training condition compared to the control.
- H2a. Participants will show reduced choices for no-go foods relative to the control foods.
- H2b. Participants will show increased choices for go foods relative to the control foods.

Manipulation check 1: Stimulus devaluation

The mean change in food liking ratings from pre-to post-training was examined for
each training condition in order to test whether no-go training led to the devaluation of
no-go foods compared to control foods. It should be noted that this was not a positive
control for training effectiveness, as the findings for stimulus devaluation outcomes remain
controversial (see Jones et al., 2016 for meta-analysis). Stimulus devaluation in this study
was therefore treated both as a manipulation check for the employed training paradigm and
a secondary outcome measure.

H3. There will be moderate evidence for an effect of training condition (go, no-go, control)
on the change in food liking from pre-to post-training.

H3a. Participants will show reduced liking for no-go foods relative to the control foods, from
 pre-to post- training.

H3b. Participants will show increased liking for go foods relative to the control foods, from
pre-to post- training.

53 Manipulation check 2: Contingency learning

Training performance was examined in terms of contingency learning. ICT paradigms, such as the go/no-go training task, might lead to stimulus-response associations and learning can be observed in the reaction times and error rates for the different stimulus-response mappings (e.g., N. S. Lawrence et al., 2015b). The percentage of successful signal trials (i.e., successful stops) and the reaction times from no-signal (go) trials were compared for specific training conditions, as stated in the hypotheses below.

H4. Go/no-go training will result in contingency learning in terms of reaction times on no-signal trials and the percentage of successful inhibitions on signal trials.

H4a. Percentage of successful stops will be greater for no-go foods compared to the control foods associated with a signal (control_{nogo}).

H4b. Go reaction times will be faster for go foods compared to the no-signal control foods (control_{go}).

166 Methods

Participants

255 participants were recruited in total from the University campuses of Cardiff, Bath 168 and Exeter via research participation schemes (e.g., Experimental Management system; 169 EMS) and advertisements (see Figure A1 for recruitment details). Participants recruited 170 through participation schemes received course credits, whereas other individuals were offered 171 entry into a prize draw for one of three £20 shopping vouchers. Participants were informed 172 about the study eligibility criteria and in order to ensure compliance they completed a 173 screening survey in the beginning of the study and provided their consent. They were asked 174 to refrain from eating for 3 hours before the study. Participants had to be at least 18 years 175 of age, be fluent in spoken and written English and have normal or corrected-to-normal 176 vision, including normal colour vision. Participants were excluded if they were dieting at the 177 time of the study, with a weight goal and time-frame in mind, had a current and/or past 178 diagnosis of any eating disorder(s) and had a body-mass-index (BMI) lower than 18.5 kg/m² 179 (i.e., underweight category). The study was approved by the Ethics Committees of Cardiff 180 University, University of Bath and the University of Exeter.

182 Sampling plan

The required sample size was estimated based on a frequentist power analysis conducted for the primary outcome measure (i.e., change in approach-avoidance bias, from

pre-to post-training, between go and no-go foods; H1a and H1b) and the stimulus 185 devaluation manipulation check (i.e., change in food liking, from pre-to-post training, 186 between go and no-go foods; H3). Both of these effect sizes were in the medium range, we 187 therefore based our calculations on the primary outcome measure. For an expected effect 188 size we considered other studies that have measured approach bias pre-and 189 post-approach-avoidance training (D. Becker, Jostmann, Wiers, & Holland, 2015; 190 Schumacher, Kemps, & Tiggemann, 2016). Both studies reported an effect size of $\eta_p^2 = 0.07$ 191 which corresponds to a "medium" effect size. D. Becker et al. (2015) also reported two 192 non-significant results, although effect sizes were not provided. Note, however, that D. 193 Becker et al. (2015) compared an active group with 90:10 mapping (i.e., avoidance of 90% 194 for unhealthy trials and 10% healthy trials) to a control group with 50:50 mapping whereas 195 Schumacher et al. (2016) compared a 90:10 active group with a 10:90 control group. We therefore took a conservative approach when calculating our sample size. Firstly, we reduced 197 the effect size by 33% (i.e., dz = 0.34) to account for publication bias (Button et al., 2013) 198 and secondly we used an alpha of .005, which has recently been recommended for any 199 research that cannot be considered a direct replication and can increase the reliability of new 200 discoveries (Benjamin et al., 2018). Based on a priori power calculations using G*Power 201 (Faul, Erdfelder, Buchner, & Lang, 2009) we estimated that a total sample of 149 202 participants² was necessary for 90% power. 203

The sampling method and power analysis of the study followed a conservative frequentist approach, but the pre-registered analyses were based on a Bayesian framework (see *Pre-registered analyses*). Frequentist analyses were also reported in a supplementary fashion ($\alpha = .005$). Bayes factors (BFs) informed the interpretations of the results and although debate exists about labelling evidence in terms of BFs (Morey, 2015), we followed

² Due to the large number of participant exclusions based on mean error rates in the AAT (see Figure A1) and the group testing laboratory setting at Cardiff University, final recruitment led to the expected sample size including 14 more participants (N=163).

the guidelines by (Lee & Wagenmakers, 2013). A threshold of $BF_{10} > 6$ was used to indicate moderate evidence for the alternative hypothesis relative to the null, and $BF_{10} < 1/6$ reflected moderate evidence for the null relative to the respective alternative hypothesis.

Bayes factor analyses were favoured for drawing conclusions from the study, as they would allow us to interpret null outcomes as evidence of absence when traditional analyses would not make such inferences feasible. For frequentists analyses, an alpha level of 0.005 was used.

Procedure Procedure

The study procedure can be seen in Figure 1 (panel A). After screening, eligible 216 participants were provided with a short survey (see Survey & Questionnaires) and proceeded 217 to rate all food categories on how much they like the taste (see Food liking ratings). Three 218 blocks of the approach-avoidance task (AAT) were completed before the go/no-go training 219 paradigm was performed. Rated food categories wer randomly assigned to three conditions 220 for training: go, no-go and control, as shown in Figure 1 (panel B). Post-training, 221 participants were presented with another three blocks of the AAT, provided ratings for all 222 food stimuli again and finally completed a short food choice task (see Food choice task). At the end of the study, several questionnaires were presented in random order (see Survey \mathcal{E} 224 Questionnaires) and participants were debriefed about the aims of the study.

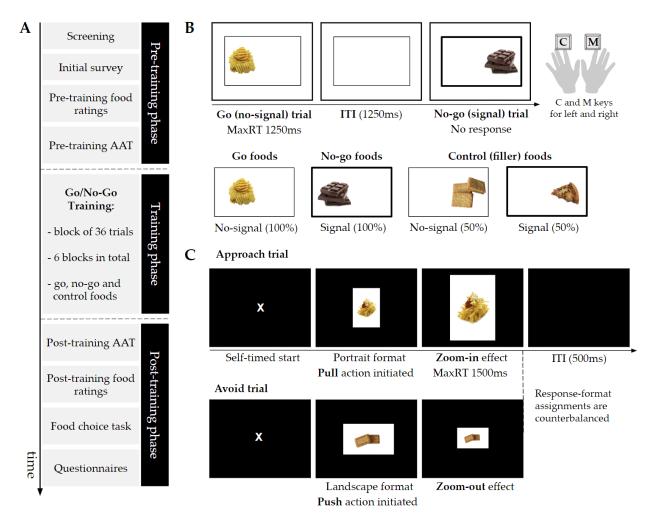


Figure 1. Schematic diagram of the study procedure, go/no-go training and approach-avoidance tasks. A. After completing the screening and initial survey, participants rated all food stimuli (liking) and proceeded to perform the pre-training approach-avoidance task (AAT) blocks. In the training phase, participants completed six blocks of go/no-go training. The post-training AAT blocks were then presented and followed by food liking ratings. At the end of the study, participants completed a short food choice task and several questionnaires, in random order. B. The go/no-go training paradigm involved go (no-signal) and no-go (signal) trials that occurred with equal probability. On go trials, participants had to respond within 1250ms by pressing the "C" and "M" keys to indicate the picture location (left or right, respectively). On no-go trials, participants were instructed not to respond at all. The inter-trial interval (ITI) was 1250ms. Food categories were randomly assigned to three conditions. Go foods were only paired with no-signal trials and no-go foods were always associated with no-signal trials. Control, or filler, foods were presented in both signal and no-signal trials (50:50).

C. In the AAT, participants were asked to respond according to the format of the presented rectangle (portrait or landscape). Response-format assignments were approximately counterbalanced across participants. As an example, on approach trials a participant would have to pull the mouse towards them when the picture was in portrait format (approach trial) and push it away from them when the picture was in landscape format. Push and pull actions were paired with visual feedback, that is, zoom-out and zoom-in effects respectively. The maximum reaction time (maxRT) was 1500ms and the ITI was set to 500ms. Participants clicked on a central "X" to begin a trial (self-timed start).

226 Go/No-go training

The Go/No-Go (GNG) training paradigm involved go and no-go responses to six 227 pre-selected appetitive food categories. Food categories differed in terms of taste, so that 228 three foods were savoury (i.e., pizza, crisps, chips) and three foods were sweet (i.e., biscuits, 229 chocolate, cake)³. Two food categories were randomly assigned to each training condition 230 (go, no-go, filler foods) in the beginning of the experiment and food taste was 231 counterbalanced so that each condition had one sweet and one savoury food. There were 232 three training conditions according to the mapping of foods to signal (no-go) and no-signal 233 (go) trials in the GNG. All go foods appeared in go (no-signal) trials and all no-go foods 234 were presented in no-go (signal) trials (see Figure 1, panel C). Control, or filler, foods 235 appeared on both go and no-go trials with equal probability (i.e., 50:50). Each food category 236 had three exemplars which appeared twice in each block. 237

All foods were presented on either the left or right hand side of the screen within a rectangle for 1250ms, which was the maximum reaction time (maxRT), as shown in Figure 1, panel B. Participants were asked to respond to the location of the food as quickly and as accurately as possible by pressing the "C" and "M" buttons on the keyboard with their left and right index fingers, respectively. The central rectangle remained on the screen

³ All study materials are openly available at https://osf.io/wcf4r/

throughout the training, including the inter-trial-interval (ITI), which was 1250ms. On signal trials, the rectangle turned bold, indicating that participants should withhold their response. 244 In line with the GNG training paradigm, this signal appeared on stimulus onset (i.e., no 245 delay between stimulus and signal) and stayed on the screen until the end of the trial. A 246 correct response on no-signal trials was registered when participants responded accurately to 247 the location of the food within the maxRT window and a successful stop (i.e., correct signal 248 trial) was considered when participants did not respond at all. Incorrect responses in 249 no-signal trials refer to either to a wrong location judgment or a missed response. Left and 250 right responses were counterbalanced across all manipulated variables for each type of trial. 251 Training was split into 6 blocks of 36 trials (216 trials in total) and lasted approximately 10 252 minutes with inter-block breaks (15s). Task practice included 12 trials of go and no-go 253 responses (50%-50%) and participants responded to the location of grey squares, instead of food pictures. For the practice trials, we provided accuracy feedback during the ITI. 255

256 Approach avoidance task

The approach-avoidance task (AAT) was adapted from an existent paradigm (Rinck & 257 Becker, 2007; Wiers, Rinck, Dictus, & Van Den Wildenberg, 2009a), which involves "pull" 258 (i.e., towards self) and "push" (i.e., away from self) movements of a joystick. Each type of 259 motor response is paired with visual feedback so that when the joystick is pulled, the image 260 gets bigger (zoom-in) and when it is pushed, the image gets smaller (zoom-out). This 261 "zooming" effects acts as an exteroceptive cue of either an approach or avoidance response (Neumann & Strack, 2000). This feature of the joystick AAT complements the 263 proprioceptive properties of the task, where responses requiring arm flexion and extension 264 correspond to approach and avoidance trials, respectively. This task also disambiguates 265 approach and avoidance responses by using the "zooming" feature (Wiers et al., 2009a). For 266 example, arm extension could indicate an approach response towards an appetitive food 267

cobject-reference) or an avoidance response where the food is pushed away from the body/self (self-reference; Phaf, Mohr, Rotteveel, & Wicherts, 2014). The visual feedback thus provides the self-reference attribute to the responses (e.g., object comes closer to one's body). We also adopted the evaluation-irrelevant feature of the paradigm, whereby participants respond according to the format of the picture (portrait or landscape; e.g., Wiers, Rinck, Kordts, Houben, & Strack, 2010a).

AAT responses involved "push" and "pull" movements of the computer mouse 274 (adaptation of the joystick version). Food stimuli were presented in the centre of the screen 275 and participants were instructed to pull the mouse towards them or push the mouse away 276 from them according to whether the image was in portrait or landscape format (see Figure 1, 277 panel C). Response-format assignments were approximately counterbalanced across 278 participants (45.4% portrait-approach, 54.6% landscape-approach). Instructions highlighted 279 moving the mouse cursor until it reaches the end of the screen (top or bottom edge) for a 280 correct response to be registered and making smooth whole-arm movements. Participants 281 had 1500ms to respond after the stimulus appeared. Each trial started with a central "X" on 282 the screen and participants had to click on it to begin (self-timed start). The ITI was 500 ms 283 and there was no delay between the "X" click response and the stimulus onset. In order to 284 account for the natural movement of the mouse, pixel tolerance was added to every mouse 285 movement ($\pm 1.25\%$ of display height), including movement initiation in the beginning of the 286 trial. A response in the AAT was registered as correct only when participants completed the 287 correct action (e.g., pull or push) within the maxRT window and also initiated a movement towards the correct direction. Even if the final response was correct, participants could have changed their movement after making an initial error (e.g., pull instead of push the mouse in an "avoid" trial) and therefore the direction of their initial movement was also taken into 291 account. The complete RT for an AAT trial was defined as the time from the stimulus onset 292 to the successful completion of a response. 293

Each AAT block consisted of 72 trials and go, no-go and control foods appeared with 294 equal probability for both "pull" (approach) and "push" (avoid) responses. There were 12 295 approach and 12 avoid trials for each training condition (e.g., no-go) and within those trials, 296 there were six savoury and six sweet foods presented (i.e., three exemplars repeated twice). 297 Three AAT blocks were performed before training (AAT_{pre}) and three after training 298 (AAT_{post}) . There was a number of constraints placed on the quasi-random order of the trials 299 within an AAT block. There were no more than three images of the same food category 300 being presented consecutively and no more than three trials with the same picture format in 301 sequence. AAT practice consisted of 10 trials with grey rectangles instead of food stimuli 302 and accuracy feedback. The screen background for the AAT was black and the task lasted 303 approximately 15 minutes, including the inter-block 15s breaks, where participants received a 304 reminder of the main instructions.

306 Food liking ratings

Participants provided food liking ratings before and after training using a visual analogue scale (VAS). They rated all foods included in the GNG paradigm according to how much they liked the taste, ranging from 0 ("not at all") to 100 ("very much"). Task instructions encouraged participants to imagine they were tasting the food in their mouth and then rate how much they liked the taste. The order of the presented foods was randomised and each block consisted of 18 trials. Participants completed a block before training (Liking $_{pre}$) and a block after training (Liking $_{post}$).

Food choice task

Impulsive food choices were assessed using a food choice task adapted from Veling et al. (2013), which included all food categories from the GNG paradigm (two exemplars per

category). The twelve foods were presented on a grid layout and participants had ten 317 seconds to select three foods that they would like to consume the most at that specific time, 318 by clicking on them with the computer mouse. Participants were asked to click on a "start" 319 button to begin the trial and when a response was registered the selected food stimulus 320 disappeared from the screen. We assumed that this task element would prevent participants 321 from deliberating on their choices and changing their initial responses, which would mean 322 that *impulsive* food choices were no longer measured. However, it should be noted that 323 although participants were not informed about the hypothetical nature of their choices, it is 324 highly probable that they would not consider their choices consequential (i.e., they would not 325 think they would get a food item at the end of the study).

Survey & Questionnaires

Eligible participants were presented with an initial survey to record demographics and
other variables for exploratory analyses. The survey consisted of height and weight
measurements to calculate participant's body-mass-index (BMI; kg/m²), the number of
hours since their last meal ("less than 3 hours ago", "3-5 hours ago", "5-10 hours ago",
"more than 10 hours ago") and hunger state at the time of the study (VAS: 1="Not at
all" to 9="Very"). Gender was also recorded with the options of male, female, transgender
male, transgender female, gender variant/non-conforming, and an open ended text response
for "other".

Several questionnaires were completed by the participants at the end of the study for exploratory analyses, as part of the undergraduate student projects of the GW4
Undergraduate Psychology Consortium 2017/2018. The Barratt Impulsivity Scale (BIS-15;
Spinella, 2007) was introduced to explore the relationship between training outcomes and impulsivity. We also examined a distinctive element of general trait self-control, referred to as stop control, using the Stop Control Scale (SCS; De Boer, van Hooft, & Bakker, 2011).

Other administered questionnaires included the Food Cravings Questionnaire - Trait -342 reduced (FCQ-T-r; Meule, Hermann, & Kübler, 2014), Perceived Stress Scale (PSS; Cohen, 343 Kamarck, & Mermelstein, 1983) and the "food" and "money" subscales from the Delaying 344 Gratification Inventory (DGI; Hoerger, Quirk, & Weed, 2011). 345

Analyses 346

Measures & indices

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Reaction time and accuracy data from the GNG blocks were recorded for all design 348 cells for an exploratory assessment of training performance (see section). The mean error 349 rates in no-signal and signal trials as well as mean reaction time in no-signal trials (GoRT) 350 informed participant exclusions from all analyses (see *Data exclusions*). For the contingency learning manipulation check (H3, H4), we measured the average proportion of successful stops from signal trials for no-go foods and control foods which were paired with a signal 353 (controlnogo) and the mean GoRTs for each participant from go and controlgo trials. 354

Performance in the AAT_{pre} and AAT_{post} blocks was considered only for correct 355 responses. We calculated median RTs for "push" and "pull" responses on all training 356 condition levels, at a participant level⁴. Medians were used instead of means as they are less 357 sensitive to outliers in RT distributions and in line with previous literature (Wiers, Rinck, 358 Dictus, & Van Den Wildenberg, 2009b; Wiers, Rinck, Kordts, Houben, & Strack, 2010b). The approach-avoid bias score for each condition was calculated as the difference between

⁴ RTs were recorded continuously from movement initiation to response completion with samples every 33ms (two display refresh rates) to allow dynamic zoom-in/zoom-out effects based on participants' mouse movements. However, a bug was encountered with the version of the software and the temporal resolution at which coordinates and times were recorded was reduced. For this reason, we used linear interpolation to increase our samples to 100 for every trial and obtain more precise RT measures. All details regarding this procedure and the software bug can be found in our analyses scripts.

the median RTs for "push" and "pull' responses (MedianRT_{push}- MedianRT_{pull}). Bias scores were computed for both AAT_{pre} and AAT_{post} blocks. Positive scores indicate an approach bias towards the foods of interest and negative scores reflect avoidance for those foods.

Change scores for approach-avoid biases from pre-to post-training (ΔAAT bias score) were calculated for pre-registered analyses (H1). The proportion of correct responses for each AAT design cell informed participant exclusions.

Participants were required to choose three foods out of twelve in the food choice task 367 and selections could vary in their number for each training condition (go, no-go, control). 368 Food choices were therefore normalised according to the total number of responses per 369 participant (i.e., proportion). For the analyses of food choices, we compared the mean 370 proportions of choices (calculated per participant relative to their total number of choices) 371 between each training condition. Food rating VAS scores were averaged (mean) across the 372 two foods per training condition (i.e., sweet and savoury foods for go, no-go and control 373 conditions) and the three exemplars of each food. Changes in food liking were examined in 374 terms of change scores (Δ Food liking score) from pre-to-post training.

$_{576}$ Data exclusions

Participant-level data exclusions were conducted based on GNG training and AAT performance. Participants who met any of the following criteria were excluded from all respective analyses. We excluded participants who had a mean GoRT greater than three standard deviations from the group mean and percentage of correct responses in no-signal trials less than 85%. Participants were also excluded if their percentage of errors in signal trials was greater than three standard deviations from the group mean and percentage of errors in either pre- or post- AAT blocks greater than 0.25. Additionally, participants who submitted a food rating of 50 (i.e., neutral) for 24 or more trials wither pre-or post-training would not be included as we assumed that multiple such responses would indicate that

participants used the default setting of the VAS and purposefully skipped the rating trials.

Pre-registered analyses

- Data pre-processing and analyses were conducted in RStudio (RStudio Team, 2016)
- and JASP (JASP Team, 2018). Pre-registered analyses are described under their
- pre-specified hypotheses, as presented in *Hypotheses*. Directional hypotheses will be tested
- via Bayesian paired-samples t-tests (e.g., see H1a and H1b below).
- H1. The effect of training condition on the change in approach-avoid bias scores from pre-to
- post-training was examined using a Bayesian Repeated Measures ANOVA with the default
- prior settings (J. N. Rouder, Engelhardt, McCabe, & Morey, 2016; J. N. Rouder, Morey,
- Speckman, & Province, 2012) and participants treated as a nuisance term.
- 396 H1a. $\Delta AAT_{nogo} < \Delta AAT_{control}$
- 397 H1b. $\Delta AAT_{qo} > \Delta AAT_{control}$
- 398 H2. Two Bayesian paired samples t-tests were conducted for the mean proportions of
- selected foods in the go and no-go training condition compared to the control.
- $_{400}$ H2a. p(no-go) < p(control)
- H2b. p(go) > p(control)
- 402 H3. The effect of training condition on the change in food liking from pre-to post-training
- was examined using a Bayesian Repeated Measures ANOVA, consistent with H1.
- 404 H3a. $\Delta \text{Liking}_{nogo} < \Delta \text{Liking}_{control}$
- 405 H3b. $\Delta \text{Liking}_{qo} > \Delta \text{Liking}_{control}$
- 406 H4. Contingency learning during go/no-go training was examined using Bayesian
- paired-samples t-tests for the percentage of successful inhibition trials and go reaction times.

H4a. $PCsignal_{nogo} > PCsignal_{control-nogo}$ H4b. $GoRT_{go} < GoRT_{control-go}$

The evidential value of confirmatory findings was solely determined by the Bayesian 410 tests outlined in this section, as previously explained (see ??. Frequentist tests were 411 conducted for reporting purposes and further the reproducibility of findings (e.g., potential 412 use in meta-analyses). Frequentist paired samples t-tests were two-tailed, in line with the 413 reported power analysis and for pairwise comparisons following the repeated measures 414 ANOVAs for H1 and H3 were corrected for multiple comparisons (Bonferroni). make sure we 415 mention that frequentist tests will be two-tailed in line with our power analysis and what we 416 pre-registered of course 417

418 Results

Sample characteristics

The final sample for pre-registered analyses consisted of 163 participants (80.98% female). Detailed participant-level exclusions are presented in Figure A1. Participants had on average a healthy BMI (M=22.88, SD=2.98, range = 18.54 - 32.36) and their mean age was 22.39 (SD=9.04, range = 18-59). 108 participants (66.26%) reported that they had their last meal 3-5 hours before the study and hunger levels at the beginning of the study were not particularly high (M=5.70, SD=2.22). However, 24 participants (14.72%) did not adhere to the instruction not to eat three hours before the study, as they reported having their last meal "less than 3 hours ago".

Table 1
Bayesian Pearson Correlations

		1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
1. FCQ-T-r total	Pearson's r	_					
	$\log(\mathrm{BF}_{10})$	_					
2. BIS total	Pearson's r	0.491	_				
	$\log(\mathrm{BF}_{10})$	19.572	_				
3. PSS total	Pearson's r	0.462	0.316	_			
	$\log(\mathrm{BF}_{10})$	16.754	6.043	_			
4. SCS total	Pearson's r	-0.374	-0.721	-0.260	_		
	$\log(\mathrm{BF}_{10})$	9.630	56.042	3.247	_		
5. DGI food subscale	Pearson's r	-0.612	-0.433	-0.226	0.376	_	
	$\log(\mathrm{BF}_{10})$	35.070	14.168	1.849	9.777	_	
6. BMI (kg/m^2)	Pearson's r	0.246	0.161	0.125	-0.122	-0.189	_
	$\log(\mathrm{BF}_{10})$	2.655	-0.245	-1.067	-1.133	0.577	_
$\frac{\log(\mathrm{BF}_{10}) 2.655 -0.245 -1.067 -1.133 0.577 -}{Note. * \log(\mathrm{BF}_{10}) > \log(10), ** \log(\mathrm{BF}_{10}) > \log(30), *** \log(\mathrm{BF}_{10}) > \log(100)}$							

28 Confirmatory findings for training outcomes

We found strong evidence for the absence of a general effect of go/no-go training condition on the change in approach-bias scores $[BF_{01} = 15.99; F(2, 324) = 1.01, p = 0.365]$. There was moderate evidence $(BF_{01} = 9.31)$ that the change in bias scores for no-go foods $(\Delta AAT_{nogo}; M = -3.31, SD = 62.91)$ was not reduced compared to the change for filler foods $(\Delta AAT_{control}; M = -1.81, SD = 59.55)$, as shown in Table add label here. Similar to H1a, we found strong evidence $(BF_{01} = 25.73)$ for the null compared to the alternative for H1b. The change in bias scores for go foods $(\Delta AAT_{go}; M = -10.47, SD = 59.57)$ was not greater than the change for filler foods. The effect of training on impulsive food choices was examined for no-go and go foods compared to control, as stated in H2a and H2b respectively. There was extreme evidence that the probability of choosing a no-go food (M=0.21, SD=0.27) was reduced compared to the probability of choosing a filler food (M=0.36; SD=0.31) after training [H2a; BF_{10} = 247.78; t(161) = -3.93, p < .001, d = -0.31, 95% CI for $d = -0.47, -0.15^5$]. In contrast, we only obtained anecdotal evidence that probability of choosing a go food (M=0.44; SD=0.33) was not greater than the probability of choosing a filler food after training $[BF_{01}=0.38, t(161) = 1.82, p = 0.070, d = 0.14, 95\%$ CI for d = -0.01, 0.30].

445 Manipulation checks for training

we pre-registered an anova too for this In order to validate whether the implemented go/no-go training paradigm led to stimulus-response associations (i.e., contingency learning) we first tested whether the percentage of correct responses for no-go foods (i.e., successful inhibitions) would be greater compared to the percentage of correct responses for filler foods 449 associated with signal trials (H4a). There was extreme evidence that participants had on 450 average more successful inhibitions for no-go foods (PCsignal_{nogo}; M = 0.97, SD = 0.03) 451 than filler foods (PCsignal_{control-nogo}; M = 0.96, SD = 0.04) [$BF_{10} = 140.30$, ...put in a 452 table? For H4b, we tested whether mean reaction times would be reduced for go foods 453 $(GoRT_{qo}; M = 507.00, SD = 70.48)$ compared to filler foods associated with no-signal trials 454 $(GoRT_{control-qo}; M = 515.00, SD = 75.51)$ and there was extreme evidence for such an effect. 455 Therefore, contingency learning was observed in the employed GNG paradigm for both 456 reaction time and accuracy outcomes. 457

As a second manipulation check for training outcomes, we investigated whether GNG

 $^{^5}$ Shapiro-Wilk tests suggested deviation from normality (p < .001) and the results from the Wilcoxon signed-ranked tests are reported here. H2a: W = 1875.00, p < .001, r = -0.716; H2b: W = 4663.00, p = 0.048, r = -0.294

changed the evaluations of foods associated with signal and no-signal trials compared to the
evaluations of filler foods which were paired with either type of trial with equal probability
(control). maybe point for discussion: if evaluations are already high we might expect to see
a ceiling effect- as reported in chen's latest papers- what we didn't test for and might be
worth looking at is no-go versus go! extra validation- can strengthn the claim that stimulus
devaluation occured

The change in liking scores from pre-to post-training for nogo foods (Δ Liking_{nogo}; M =465 -4.16; SD = 9.51) was only slightly reduced compared to change in liking for filler foods 466 (Δ Liking_{control}; M = -2.61, SD = 8.77), and there was only anecdotal evidence for this effect 467 [H3a; $BF_{10} = 2.65$, t(162) = -2.38, p = 0.019, d = -0.19, 95% CI for d = -0.34, -0.03^6 , r = -0.019468 -0.002]. The change in liking scores from pre-to post-training for go foods ($\Delta \text{Liking}_{qo}$; M=469 -2.87, SD = 10.15), however, was not greater than the change for filler foods as originally 470 expected. this is not surprising as there may be a ceiling effect in how much these foods can 471 be liked more, see chen for discussion Instead, there was strong evidence for the null 472 hypothesis compared to the alternative [H3b; $BF_{01} = 14.95$, t(162) = -0.37, p = 0.715, d =473 -0.03, 95% CI for d = -0.18, 0.13]. 474

475 Discussion

⁶ Although data transformations or alternative tests were not pre-registered for the potential violation of the normality assumption, the Shapiro-Wilk test showed a deviation from normality (p < .001) and thus we also report the results from the Wilcoxon signed-rank tests. The effect size is given by the matched rank biserial correlation (r) H3a: W = 5907.50, p = 0.246, r = -0.116; H3b: W = 6666.50, p = 0.914

$\label{eq:Appendix} \mbox{Recruitment \& data exclusions}$

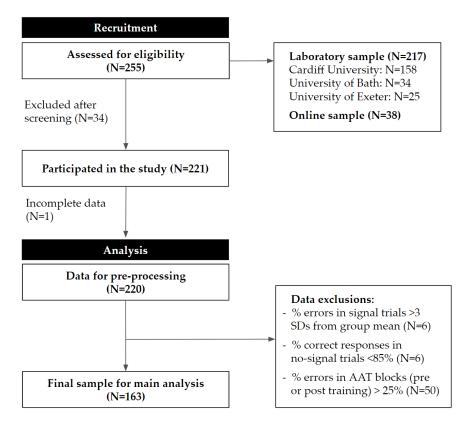


Figure A1. Flow diagram of recruitment and participant-level data exclusions. There were 255 individuals recruited and assessed for eligibility across laboratory sites and online via personal communication. 34 participants were excluded after screening for not meeting the advertised inclusion/exclusion criteria and we obtained datasets from 221 participants. The online sample was recruited by the University of Bath and University of Exeter. One participant was excluded for providing incomplete data and 220 datasets were submitted for pre-processing and inspection. There we no participants with a mean reaction time on no-sginal trials (GoRT) greater than three standard deviations (SDs) from the group mean and there we no cases of consistently missed (i.e., default option of 50) responses on food rating trials. Six participants had a percentage of errors in signal trials was greater than three SDs from the group mean and six participants also had a percentage of correct responses in no-signal trials lower than 85%. Please note that some participants met more than one exclusion criterion. 50 participants were excluded as their percentage of errors in either the pre- or post-training approach-avoidance task (AAT) blocks was greater than 25%. The final sample consisted of 163 participants.

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