**Hypothesis**

This is the second attempt to extinguish evaluative responses that had been previously established via intersections between operant contingencies (i.e., it is exploratory research). If learning represents a change in behavior that is due to regularities in the environment, then extinction represents an elimination or reduction in that changed behavior due to subsequent modifications to those original regularities. For instance, when it comes to changes in behavior due to the pairing of stimuli (e.g., classical conditioning), extinction refers to the phenomenon whereby post-acquisition presentations of the CS without the US (i.e., CS-only) lead to the gradual diminution or elimination of the previously acquired conditioned response. Similarly, operant behavior can be put into extinction by eliminating the contingency between a response and its consequence.

Whereas extinction effects have been observed in many areas of learning psychology, exceptions do exist. For instance, and unlike other forms of classical conditioning (Hamm & Vaitl, 1996; Hughdahl & Öhman, 1977), Evaluative Conditioning (EC) has been shown to be highly resistant to extinction procedures.

Therefore, two possibilities arise. The first is that evaluative responses established via intersecting regularities can be extinguished through post-acquisition modifications to the intersection. For instance, when two operant contingencies intersect (e.g., S1🡪 R1🡪O1 and T1🡪R2🡪 O1) their intersection could be eliminated by either removing the ‘intersecting’ element (e.g., O1, O2, or both).

However, we did not find evidence of extinction when the intersecting element (O1 or O2) was removed from the contingency with a valenced source (Study 1). The evaluations established via IR remained following such an extinction condition. Thus post-acquisition modifications to the intersection between regularities (by removing the common element from the target contingency; again, either O1 or O2) may not lead to a reduction in evaluative responding.

In short, while we do anticipate extinction effects in our studies, we would not be surprised if extinguishing the intersection between regularities (via the removal of intersecting stimuli) does not lead to extinction effects.