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INTERGROUP DYNAMICS: ATTENTION AND MEMORY BIASES

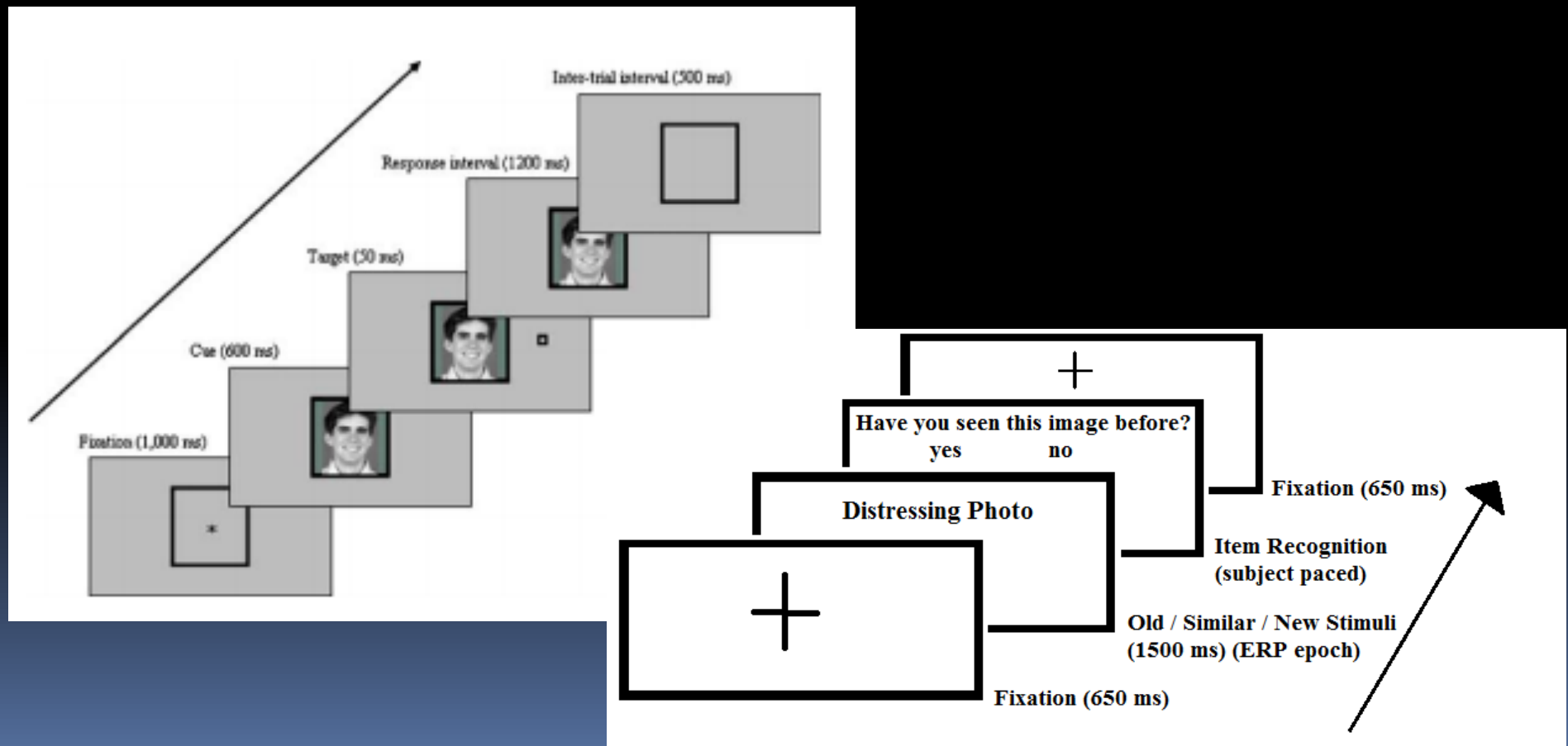


Theoretical Background

- Previous research
 - Attentional orientation and conflict
 - Difficulty disengaging from negative/threatening stimuli
 - Empathy
 - More apathetic towards distressed out-group
 - Memory
 - Greater recognition & brain activation of in-group
- Hole?
 - No studies link memory and attentional biases with empathic concern within the context of intergroup relations

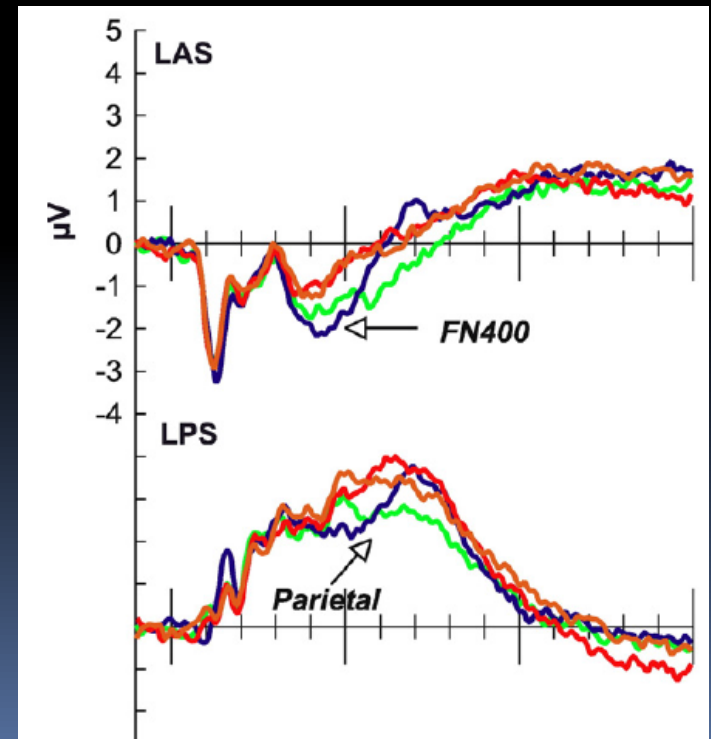
Task Diagram

- Do intergroup dynamics predict how much individuals attend to and remember distressed in-group members versus outgroup members?



ERP Components & Mechanisms of Change

- N₂
 - Associated with attentional conflict
- P₂
 - Associated with attentional orientation
- FN₄₀₀
 - Discrimination of new stimuli
- LPC parietal 400-800
 - Discrimination of old stimuli



Specific Aims & Hypotheses

- Given that disengagement in highly emotional, stressful situations cause longer reaction times, participants will show longer reaction times when attempting to disengage from in-group members in distress compared to out-group members in distress.
- We will examine the differential neural chronometry of attentional control mechanisms by examining N2 activation within the context of in-groups and out-groups.
- During the recognition portion of the task, we expect individuals to display greater accuracy in recalling images of in-group members in distress as opposed to out-group members.
- Specifically, we will examine the differential responses of the FN400 and LPC parietal 400-800 effect within the context of intergroup relations.

Predicted Results – within the context of intergroup relations

- Attention - N2 and P2
 - Larger amplitudes in response to disengagement from like-race
- Familiarity - FN400
 - more negative amplitude in response to novel distressing stimuli
- Recollection - LPC parietal 400-800
 - more positive amplitude in response to previously encountered distressing stimuli



Significance & Novelty

- Examines intergroup empathy relations in a way that has never been done before
 - Attention & memory biases
 - Requires behavioral response
 - Potentially identifies existing intergroup empathy biases before they manifest themselves in individuals as harmful behaviors against perceived out-group members or societies
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