May 7, 2018

Dr. Monica Fabiani

Editor, *Psychophysiology*

Dr. Fabiani,

I am writing for *Psychophysiology* to consider “The N400's 3 As: Association, Automaticity, Attenuation (and Some Semantics Too)” as a regular article for publication. This article has not been previously published and is not currently under review elsewhere. The research in this paper was completed with approval of the Internal Review Board at the University of Mississippi.

Several meta-analytic studies have shown that *semantic* priming is often mixed with *associative* relationships, without discerning between the two forms of word connectedness. Our study used normed databases to create stimuli that were orthogonal or “purely” semantic and associative. We tested participants on traditional priming tasks (lexical decision and letter search) while their N400 waveforms were recorded. For a letter search task, the N400 showed differences between nonwords and other stimuli but no attenuation for related pairs. Response latency data indicated associative priming in both tasks with semantic priming also found in the letter search task. These results help discern possible automatic and controlled processes occurring during these tasks, as the N400 may show automatic processing during the lexical decision task, while the response latency data may provide evidence for controlled processing during the letter search task. These results elucidate the underlying cognitive processes for both relationship types and how language is connected in the brain, which would be of interest to psycholinguistics, cognitive psychologists, and wide array of researchers who are simply interested in our language system. Thank you in advance for you time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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