Midterm: Physiological Arousal and Political Beliefs

Gabe Walker

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Abstract

I partially replicate "Physiological Arousal and Political Beliefs" by Renshon, Lee, and Tingley (2015) from the Harvard Dataverse. The main regression results (Table 1) appear exactly as in the original paper. I have improved the aesthetics of Figures 2 and 3 with a more minimal and unified style. Note that the results of Figure 2 are different than in the original. Though I find significantly different skin-conductance reactivities for each video treatment group, the overall conclusions are no different. Figure 3 results are the same as in the paper. For the original replication data, see Renshon, Lee, and Tingley (2014).

Table 1. Main Results

	SC Reactivity	Immigration Preferences
	(1)	(2)
Anxiety Manipulation	0.339*	−0.277
	(0.195)	(0.178)
Story Condition		0.386**
		(0.176)
SC Reactivity while answering questions		0.232**
		(0.100)
Constant	0.115	1.983***
	(0.137)	(0.138)
N	81	81
R^2	0.037	0.120

$^*p < .1$; $^{**}p < .05$; $^{***}p < .01$

Note. Model (1) shows the effect of the treatment (anxiety) on physiological reactivity while Model (2) shows the effects of physiological reactivity on immigration preferences, controlling for the story condition. Both models includes only *Neutral & Anxiety* conditions (*Relax* condition is excluded).
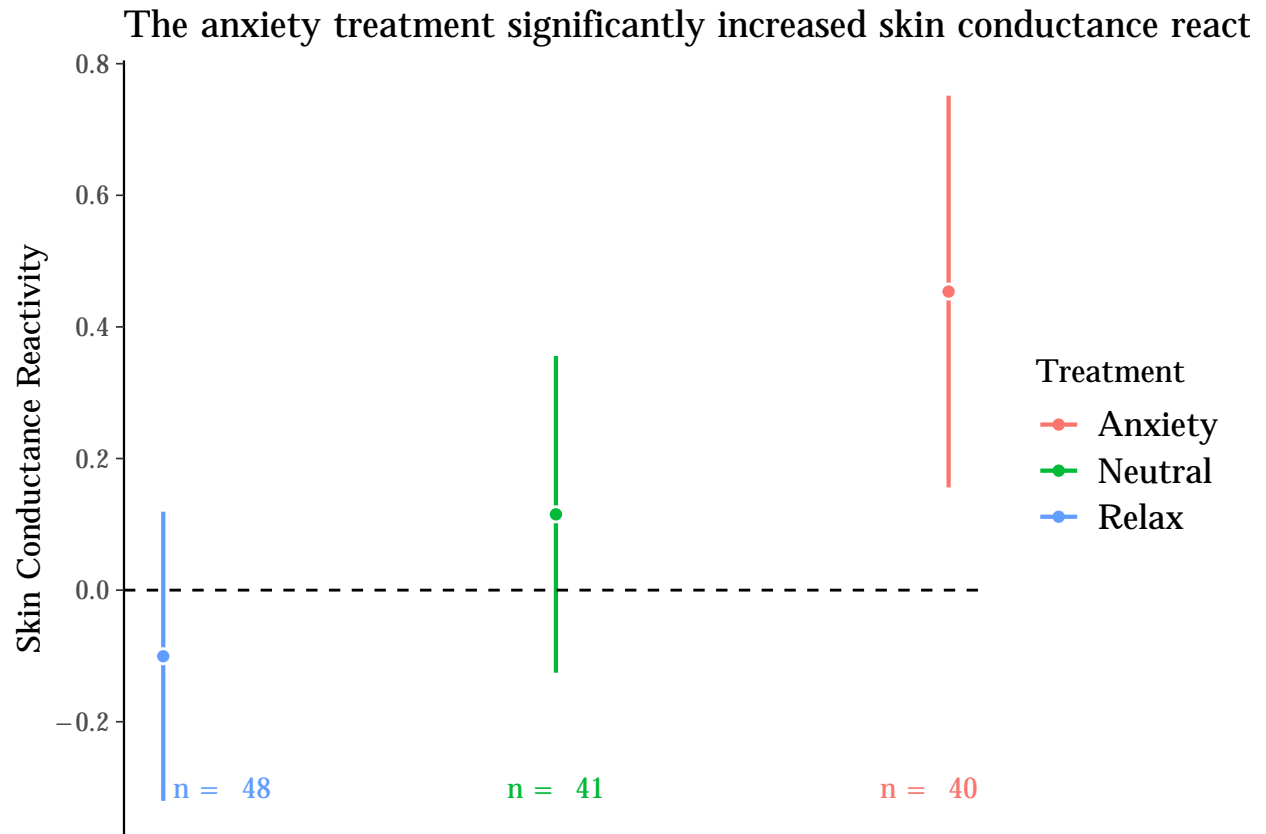
Standard errors in parentheses.

Figure 2. Means of skin-conductance reactivity by video condition. 95% confidence intervals shown. (p. 8)

Note that the means (and lines) are quite different than those shown in the original paper. The overall conclusion, however, that the anxiety treatment significantly increased skin conductance reactivity, is no different.

The indirect effect of physiological reactivity (ACME) is positive and signi
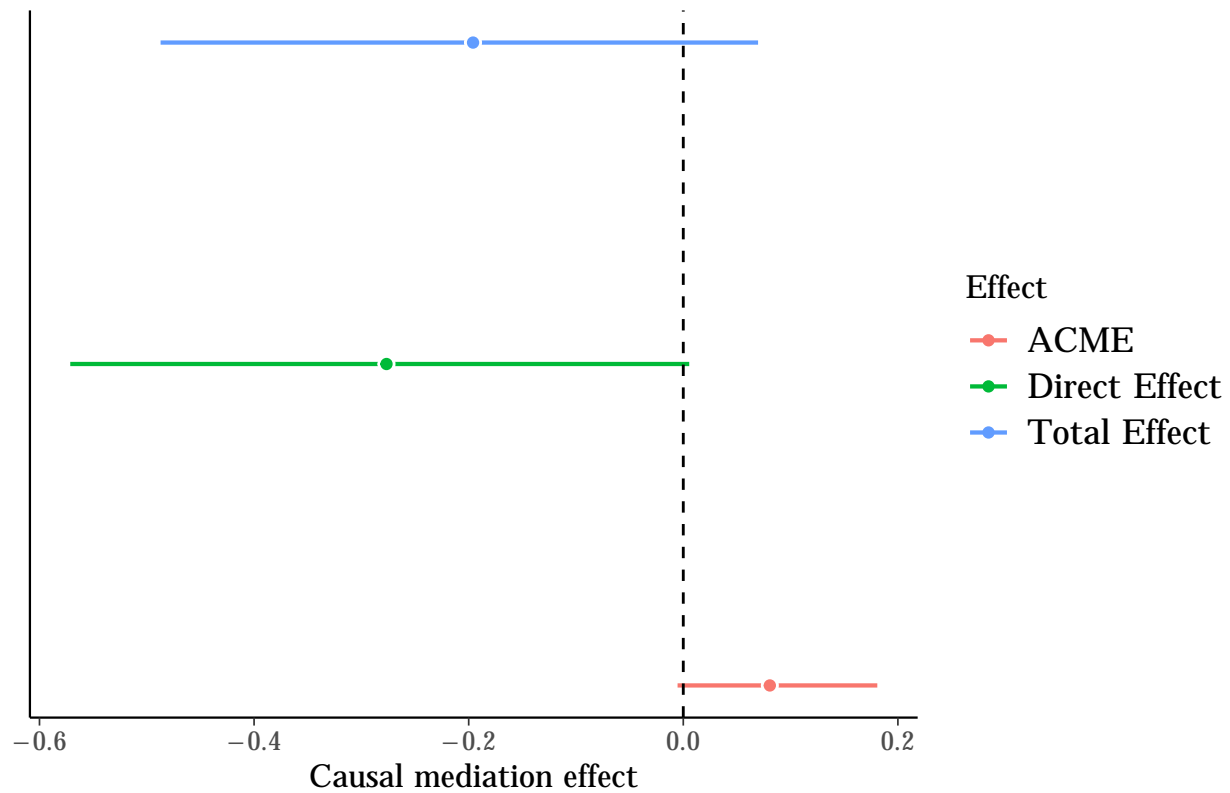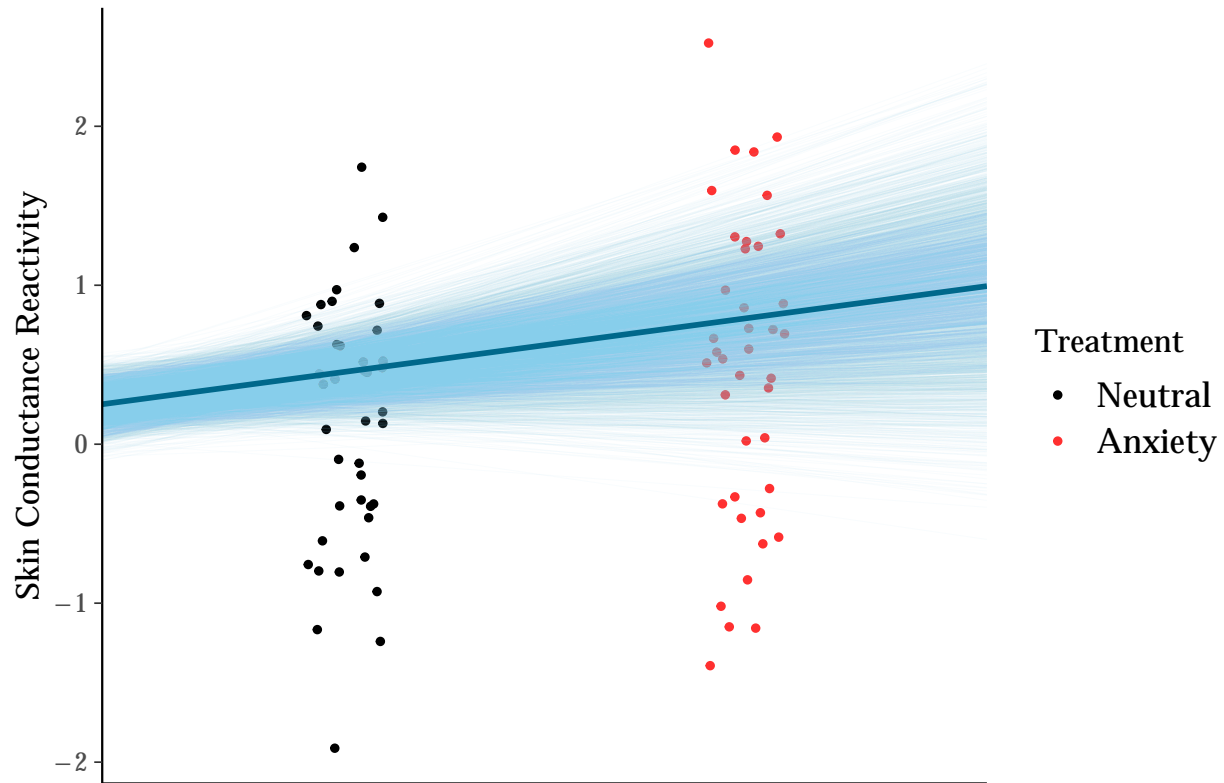

Figure 3. *Treatment* is anxiety video manipulation (compared to neutral condition), *Mediator* is skin conductance reactivity when answering immigration questions, *Outcome* is composite variable of immigration preferences. Horizontal lines represent 90% confidence intervals for estimates. (p. 11)
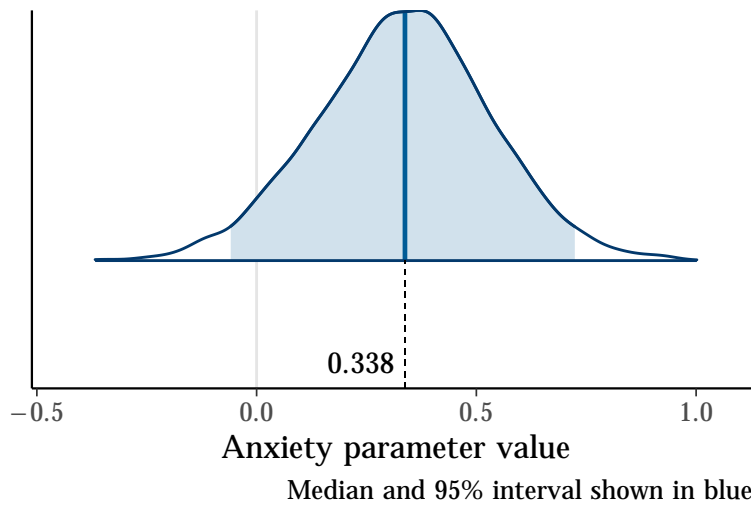
N.B., ACME stands for *average causal mediation effect.*

Anxiety treatment is associated with increased skin conductance react

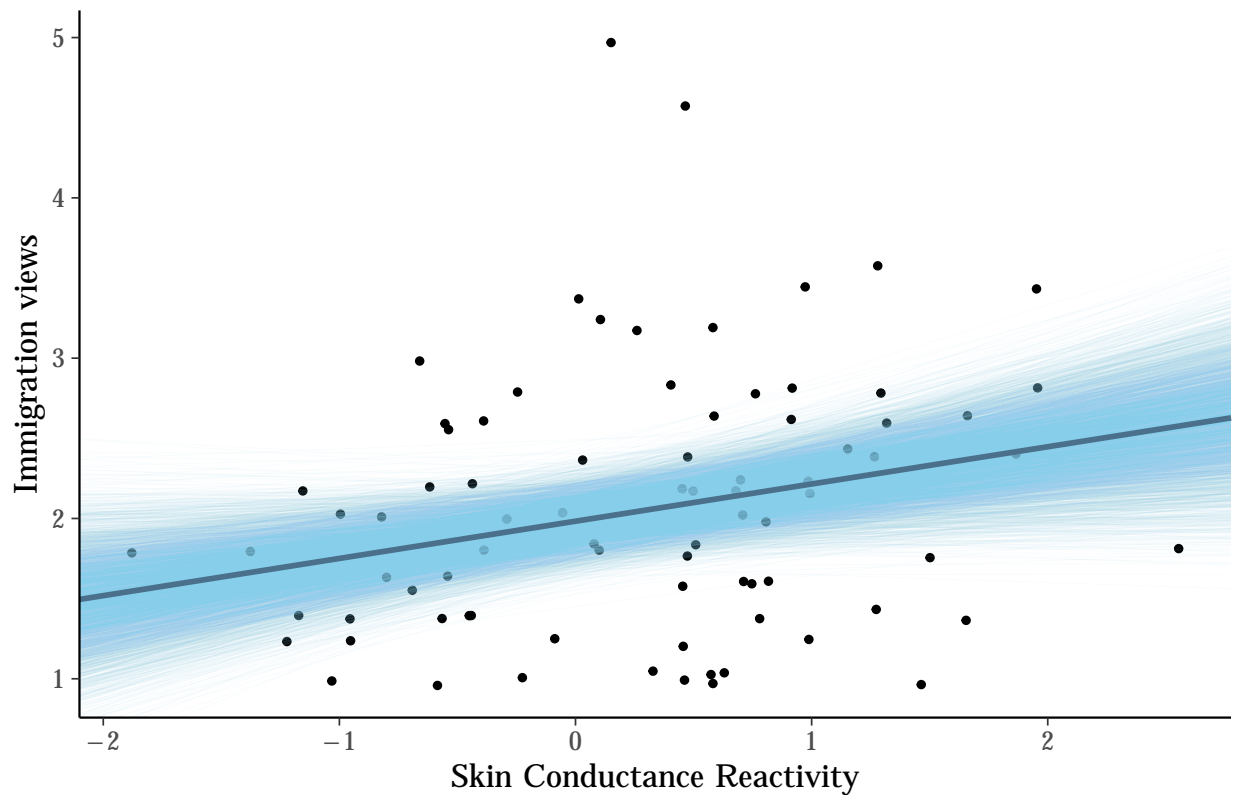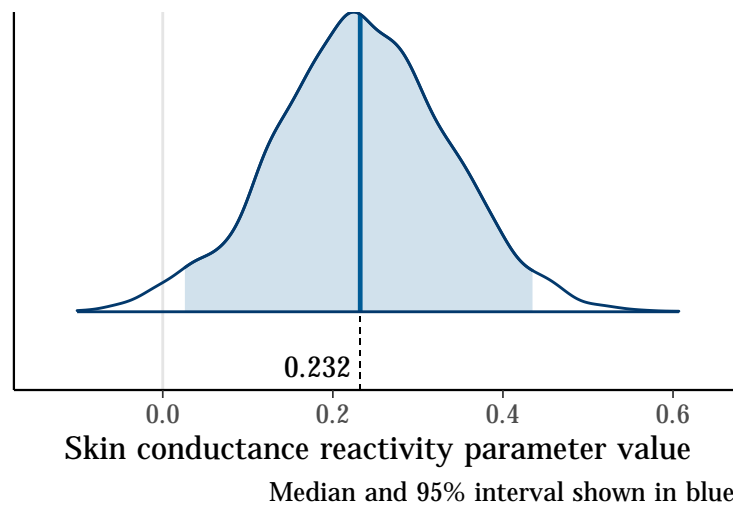## Posterior distribution estimate of the anxiety

Median and 95% interval shown in blue.

Write details about g1 here.

Skin reactivity mediates views on immigration

Posterior distribution estimate of the skin cor

Median and 95% interval shown in blue.

Write details about g2 here.

References

Renshon, Jonathan, Jooa Julia Lee, and Dustin Tingley. 2015. "Physiological Arousal and Political Beliefs." *Political Psychology* 36 (5): 569–85. doi:10.1111/pops.12173.

Renshon, Jonathan, Julia Lee, and Dustin Tingley. 2014. "Replication data for: 'Physiological Arousal and

Political Beliefs'." Harvard Dataverse. doi:10.7910/DVN/24318.