**Title**: Investigating the Effects of Mediated Association on JOL Reactivity

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**Abstract**:

Judgments of learning (JOLs) modify memory for cue-target pairs. This reactivity effect is moderated by pair relatedness, as related but not unrelated pairs show a memorial benefit versus a no-JOL control group. Based on Soderstrom et al.’s (2015) cue-strengthening account, JOLs direct attention towards intrinsic cues which aid retrieval. However, reactivity may instead reflect relational encoding, which is applied selectively based on relatedness. The present study tested these accounts via mediated paired-associates (e.g., lion-stripes), which appear unrelated at encoding yet are indirectly related. A cue-strengthening account predicts no reactivity on mediated pairs while a relational account predicts a memory benefit. Overall, reactivity extended to mediated pairs, regardless of whether cued-recall (Experiment 1) or recognition testing (Experiment 2) was used. Interestingly, JOLs also increased correct recognition of unrelated pairs, a finding that was replicated in Experiments 3 and 4. Thus, positive reactivity on cue-target pairs likely reflects relational encoding which is selectively applied based on relatedness. However, because correct recognition is based on familiarity, this reactivity occurs across all pair types.

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