

Changeblindness

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- Abstract

- The purpose of this study is to better understand how emotions can affect the experience of change blindness. In previous studies, emotion has been shown to have an effect on inattentional blindness, a different but close example of attention failure. The experience of change blindness has variable consequences that are dependent on the current activity of the individual. Since emotion has been shown to affect attention, the investigation of the relationship between change blindness and emotion is a valid inquisition (Bredemeier, K., Hur, J., Berenbaum, H., Heller, W., & Simons, D.,2014). The hypothesis of this study is that strong emotion, specifically sadness, will increase how often change blindness is experienced.

- Introduction

- Research that has examined the influence of emotion on AB has shown that stimuli that is emotionally arousing is identified more accurately than a neutral stimuli. When a second target is emotionally evocative it is detected more accurately than neutral targets and the size of the AB is reduced. Research by Jefferies, Smilek, Eich, & Enns (as cited in Rokke & Lystad, 2014) found that participants whose mood had a positive affect performed average, sad participants performed better, and anxious participants performed the worst. Few studies have examined the interaction between the emotion of the participant and the valence of the stimuli (Rokke & Lystad, 2014).

- Method

- Participants were randomly assigned to participate in condition 1 (set of pictures that included babies, puppies, etc., to induce a happy emotion) or condition 2 (set of pictures that included dead bodies, abused children, etc., to induce a sad emotion) based on when they began the test. If the time was an even number, participants were assigned to view the set of positive pictures. If the time was an odd number, participants were assigned to view the set of negative pictures. A series of 20 pictures, that appeared for 6 seconds each, were photoshopped to play continually for 2 minutes using Adobe Photoshop Elements 13. Participants were debriefed at the end of the change blindness video.

- Condition 1: Happy



Condition 2: Sad



Results

- Discussion

Summary

References

Bredemeier, K., Hur, J., Berenbaum, H., Heller, W., & Simons, D. (2014). Individual differences in emotional distress and susceptibility to inattentional blindness. *Psychology of Consciousness: Theory, Research, and Practice, 1*, 370-386.doi:10.1037/cns0000032

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