
Study: Effects of induced mood on accuracy in Lexical Decision Task

STUDY INFORMATION SHEET

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We would be grateful if you could assist us by participating in our study '*Investigating the effect of relived autobiographical pain on cognitive inhibition*'. Previous research has shown that relived autobiographical memories of pain can affect a person's response times when completing cognitive inhibition tasks. These are tasks in which you must stop (inhibit) your initial, intuitive response, so that you can respond in a different way. As previous research has only analysed reaction times using these tasks, it is unclear whether the effect they observed extends to cognitive inhibition itself. Therefore, this study is specifically interested in extending their research to investigate whether the effect of relived autobiographical pain does affect cognitive inhibition.

Your participation will take approximately 15 minutes. During this time, you will initially relive either a physically painful or socially painful personal memory by writing about it for between 2 to 6 minutes in as much detail as possible. After that you will complete a cognitive inhibition Stroop task. You will then rate the amount of pain you relived after writing about your painful memory on a sliding scale. Finally, you will watch a short video of kittens and puppies and answer some demographic questions.

Your data will be kept confidential and securely stored, with only an anonymous number identifying it. No information linking that number to you will be stored. This study is being conducted within an open science framework. This means that the following data will be made openly available in anonymised form after it's complete: your written description of your autobiographical pain memory; your Stroop task reaction time and trial accuracy, and your sliding scale pain rating. As stated, however, these data will be fully anonymised so that it cannot be traced back to you.

Taking part in this study is completely voluntary and you may withdraw at any time and without reason. On the next page you will be able to download a PDF containing contact details for support services available to you, ensuring you have these if you feel the need to withdraw. No financial payment is available for taking part, unless you were recruited through SONA whereby 0.25 SONA credits are available for your participation. You are free to contact the Experimenter (using the details provide above) to ask any questions you may have about this study before you begin.

This study has been reviewed by the School Research Ethics Committee and has been given a favourable ethical opinion for conduct (2021-156-JE; expiry date: 30/09/2022).

Thank you for taking part in our study.

Professor Judi Ellis and Christopher Dobson