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The influence of body posture on cognitive conflict

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Harmon-Jones et al.'s (2009) action-based model of cognitive dissonance proposes that dissonance reduction is approach-motivated. Further, Harmon-Jones et al. (2014) found that supine body posture (associated with low approach motivation) decreases dissonance reduction. Other research has found the N450 component of the event-related potential is larger in incongruent Stroop trials, suggesting that the N450 assesses conflict monitoring. In the current study, we use the Stroop task with an embodied manipulation to examine how body posture influences cognitive conflict. Participants performed the task in both upright and supine postures, while their brain potentials were measured. We found an interaction of congruence and body posture. Smaller N450s were found in the supine posture. Our results suggest that a supine posture lessens cognitive conflict, indicating that individuals may have less dissonance when in a supine posture.

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Using the theory of planned behaviour to understand cyberbullying: perceived behavioural control in a disinhibiting online environment

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Recent studies applying the Theory of Planned Behaviour to Cyberbullying have reported that Perceived Behavioural Control (PBC) provides the weakest contribution when predicting Intention to Cyberbully and Cyberbullying. Online Disinhibition (OD), which may offer an explanation, describes a state resulting from conditions of anonymity, reduced social cues and less consideration of consequences in which individuals can be prone to more aggressive and impulsive behaviour in an online environment. An OD scale was developed to survey a convenience sample of 266 undergraduates (Females = 206) and revealed a small positive correlation between PBC and OD (r = .26); suggesting that individuals who perceive themselves as having more control over cyberbullying may experience slightly higher disinhibition when online. While refinement of the OD scale is needed; these findings have implications for preventing cyberbullying through awareness of the disinhibiting nature of the online environment.