

Affect and Social Judgment

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Background: Feelings shape what we see, think, and do, even when their eliciting source is unrelated to the decision at hand. This is called Affective Realism. This study explores the joint effect of physiological sensations and one's ability to sense sensations on affective realism.

Aims: Prior work showed an interaction between both inflammatory and autonomic reactivity and interoceptive ability on affective realism. This study aims to extend these findings by exploring a parallel interaction between sensations of hunger and fatigue and interoceptive ability on affective realism.

Methods planned: Participants (n=150) will complete a modified affective misattribution procedure. Participants will see three images: an affective prime, followed by an affectively neutral face, followed by a visual noise mask. Participants will then rate the trustworthiness of the face. Participants will also complete subjective reports of present hunger and fatigue, the Body Awareness Questionnaire, and the Interoceptive Sensory Questionnaire.

Analyses planned: Multilevel modeling will be used to explore three-way interactions between affective condition, physiological state, and interoceptive ability.

Predicted findings: We predict that individuals who are more hungry or tired and have lesser interoceptive ability will be more biased by affective information when making social judgments.

Conclusions: These analyses will further our understanding of how an individual's physiological and affective states may influence social judgments.