

How psychophysiological anticipatory information can be used to solve intuitive tasks with random events

Results:

Using the methodological paradigm to investigate the presentiment phenomenon and its extension to pre-alerting and guessing tasks, we planned to explore whether participant heart rate signals could be used to predict whether randomly selected future stimuli would be pleasant or unpleasant. After evidence found in Experiment 1 of different anticipatory signals before the perception of pleasant and unpleasant sounds, we further explored the effect by asking participants to block incoming unpleasant sounds. The prediction was tested in Experiment 2 using an explicit intuitive condition and an implicit condition in which incoming unpleasant sounds were automatically skipped, based on physiological response. Experiment 3 used only the implicit intuitive condition. When participants were divided into high and low scorers on absorption, high absorbers obtained a statistically significant difference in the means of blocked pleasant and unpleasant sounds (Exp. 2 and Exp. 3), but only in the implicit condition. Overall, these results seem to suggest the possibility of exploiting anticipatory physiological signals to predict future events using implicit intuition. With a new study, we aimed to replicate and extend the findings obtained by the previous experiments. In this study, two pools of pleasant and alerting sounds were used to test the generality of previous findings. By using fifty participants, it was also possible to study whether gender could be a further moderator of the observed effect. Results confirm the findings of Tressoldi, et al. (2009), clarifying that the effect was present only in females. Further statistical analysis suggests that absorption acts as an implicit cognitive “filter” only for pleasant sounds.

Published works:

Full papers:

Tressoldi, P.E., Martinelli, M., Semenzato, L. & Cappato, S. (2011). Let Your Eyes Predict: Prediction Accuracy of Pupillary Responses to Random Alerting and Neutral Sounds. *SAGE*, 1-7.

TRESSOLDI P.E., MARTINELLI, M, SCARTEZZINI, L. and MASSACCESI, S. (2010). Further Evidence of the Possibility of Exploiting Anticipatory Physiological Signals to Assist Implicit Intuition of Random Events. *Journal of Scientific Exploration*, 24, 411-424.

TRESSOLDI, P.E., MARTINELLI, M., ZACCARIA, E. & MASSACCESI, S. (2009). How heart rate can contribute to prediction of future events. *Journal of the Society for Psychological Research*, 73, 1, 1-16, 2009.

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Area(s) of interest:

Cognitive psychology, anomalistic psychology, parapsychology

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