The interaction between emotional content and contextual details in episodic memory
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**BACKGROUND**
- Episodic memory is contextual.
- Some researchers suggest that people remember less contextual details when they remember more emotional content.
- Other researchers claim that people remember more contextual details when they remember more emotional content.

**Hypothesis**
- Hypothesis 1
  - Participants remember more negative faces than positive faces (Baumeister et al., 2001).
- Hypothesis 2
  - Participants remember less contextual details when they remember more emotional items. (Bisby, Burgess, & Brewin, 2020).

**Method**
- 51 participants (25 female; 26 male).
- Aged 18-35.
- Stimuli
  - 80 compound photos. Each photo contains face and background.
  - Face stimuli came from RADIATE database.
  - Background were taken by researcher. Each has three permutations – the front, the right and the left perspective.

**Procedure**
- PANAS questionnaire → 4 blocks × 40 trials (In each block, 20 encoding trials (see Figure 1) + 20 recognition trials (see Figure 2)).

**Results**

**Memory for Faces**
- 2 × 2 repeated measures ANOVA.
- A significant main effect of face valence ($F_{(1,50)}= 5.724, p = .021, \eta_p^2 = .103$).

**d’ Sensitivity Performance**
- 2 × 2 repeated measures ANOVA.
- A significant main effect of face valence ($F_{(1,50)}= 13.717, p = .001, \eta_p^2 = .215$).

**Memory for Contextual Details**
- A significant main effect of contextual details ($F_{(1,50)}= 15.091, p = .000, \eta_p^2 = .232$).

**d’ Sensitivity Performance**
- A significant main effect of contextual details ($F_{(1,50)}= 11.407, p = .001, \eta_p^2 = .186$).

**Discussion**
- Hypothesis 1 ✔
  - What we found: people have better memory for negative faces than positive faces.
- Hypothesis 2 ❌
  - What we found: people have better memory for contextual details while the memory for negative faces are enhanced.
- Discovery
  - People have better memory for positive-right perspectives photos than negative-right perspectives photos.

**Reference**

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