

Konklusionen: Die Ergebnisse werden im Kontext bisheriger ätiologischer Modelle diskutiert. Der Befund einer veränderten Mind-Body Connection ergänzt weitere Studienergebnisse einer reduzierten kortikalen Repräsentation interozeptiver kardialer Signale bei Patientinnen mit einer BPS (Müller et al., 2015; Schmitz et al., 2020). Weitere Studien sind notwendig um den Zusammenhang zwischen ACEs, emotionaler Dysregulation und Veränderungen in der Mind-Body Connection experimentell zu untersuchen.

Keywords: Affektive Wissenschaft, Subklinische Probanden

The real thing: visual attention to living fear-relevant animals

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Specific fear is associated with several (attentional) biases, which are thought to be involved in the etiology and maintenance of clinically relevant fear. Visual attention biases are often studied while viewing fear-relevant pictures. It has often been found that fearful individuals initially attend to fear-relevant stimuli and subsequently avoid them. To date, it has not been investigated to what extent such biases also exist when real fear-relevant stimuli are presented. Therefore, in this eye-tracking study, eye-movement behavior was investigated while viewing two living fear-relevant animals (a tarantula and snake in separate terrariums). Participants were divided into groups with high ($n = 23$) and low fear of spiders ($n = 20$). We measured fear and disgust ratings, as well as the number of (initial) fixations on the two animals with portable eye-tracking glasses in two distance conditions (1 vs. 3 meters distance to the animals).

As expected, spider fearful participants rated the spider both more fear-inducing and more disgusting than the snake and this rating was unaffected by distance. Furthermore, the eye-tracking analyses revealed that all participants fixated initially (first fixation) and overall (total number of fixations) more often on the snake than the tarantula. Notably, for the total number of fixations, there was a significant interaction between the factors group, animal and distance, showing that spider fearfuls tend to fixate on the spider less from a short distance in comparison to a long distance. This can be interpreted as a tendency to visually avoid the tarantula specifically when it is near. Regarding initial measures (specifically first fixations) there were no differences between the groups.

Although we did not find initial attention towards the fear-relevant stimulus, we observed a propensity to avoid the stimulus later on, as often found in prior studies. This makes further research with real animals both necessary and promising.

Keywords: Affektive Wissenschaft, Subklinische Probanden

Does fear interfere? - Trait anxiety affects multimodal emotion processing of negative and positive cues

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In everyday life, we perceive abundant emotional cues from our surroundings. Recently, research has increasingly started to look at multimodal interactions in emotion processing. Lately, this line of