Cognition and Emotion ›
Volume 25, 2011 - Issue 1

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A discrete emotions approach to positive emotion disturbance in depression

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Pages 40-52 | Received 29 Sep 2008, Accepted 07 Dec 2009, Published online: 04 Oct 2010
Cite this article https://doi.org/10.1080/02699931003615984

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Abstract

Converging findings suggest that depressed individuals exhibit disturbances in positive emotion. No study, however, has ascertained which specific positive emotions are implicated in depression. We report two studies that compare how depressive symptoms relate to distinct positive emotions at both trait and state levels of assessment. In Study 1 (N=185), we examined associations between depressive symptoms and three trait positive emotions (pride, happy, amusement). Study 2 compare ement film stimuli b mptom groups. ssociated with ide-eliciting films. tanding emotion motion.

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Acknowledgements

We thank Ilmo van der Löwe, Lauren Shapiro, Mike Polignano, Jeffrey Newell, Murph Lynch, and Adam Cohen for their assistance in data collection and analysis, Jonathan Rottenberg for insightful comments regarding data analysis, and Rudy Mendoza-Denton for helpful comments on writing.

Notes

[1]The DPES scale contains several other scales to measure distinct positive emotions, including compassion, awe, contentment, and love. We did not include them in the present study for two reasons. First, there was not a sufficient literature base upon which to generate a priori hypotheses beyond the three target emotions. We focused on only those scales for which we had a priori hypotheses so as to decrease the likelihood of a Type I error. Second, we wanted the DPES trait emotions to parallel the three state positive emotions elicited by our films in Study 2.

[2]Although we coded facial expressions of sadness, fear, anger, happiness, and amusement using previously published standards (Gruber et al., 2008), the base rate of facial expressions was too low to meaningfully analyse group differences in the present study.

[3]Baseline differences in emotional responses during the neutral film between DS and NDS participants were examined using a series of univariate ANOVAs. The DS group reported greater anxiety (M=2.37, SD=0.99) relative to the NDS group (M=1.74, SD=0.84) [illegible] erg et al., 2007, fo[illegible] ine RSA levels co[illegible] ences for the othe[illegible]

[4]We [illegible] variables across S[illegible] e distribut[illegible] s did not substant[illegible]

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