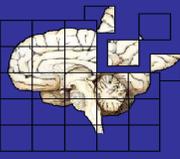




# Perspective Taking (PT) and Emotion The Case of Disgust and Sadness



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## INTRODUCTION

- In a perspective-taking (PT) task, a person takes a non-egocentric perspective.
- In a recent study, Gilead et al. (2016) showed PT in the context of negative emotions in general (i.e. negative valence).

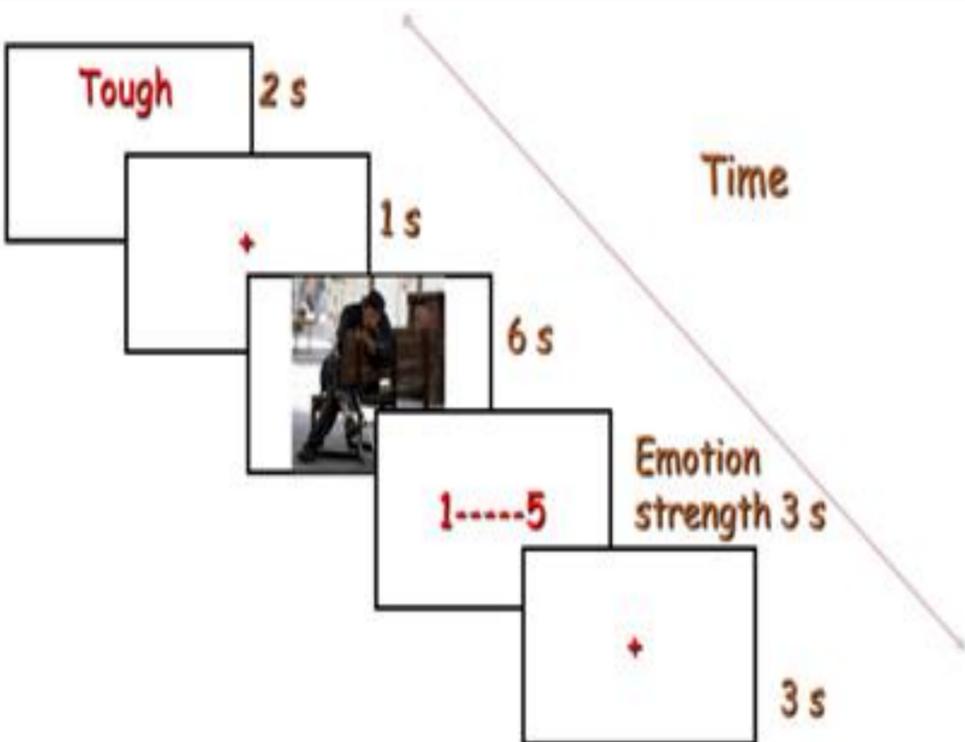
## THE CURRENT STUDY

We explored whether two specific negative valence emotions – sadness and disgust - have different effects on PT.

## METHOD

We used pictures from the IAPS (Lang et al., 2008) that were classified (Moyal, Henik, & Anholt, in preparation) as sad or disgusting, as well as neutral pictures. The negative pictures were matched for intensity and arousal. We asked participants to rate the pictures (on a scale from 1—no emotional reaction—to 5—very strong reaction) using 3 different perspectives - tough, sensitive, or their own ('me') (see Figure 1). In Experiment 1, all pictures were mixed in the same blocks. In Experiment 2, the sad and disgusting pictures were separated into two different blocks (each including neutrals).

Figure 1 - PROCEDURE

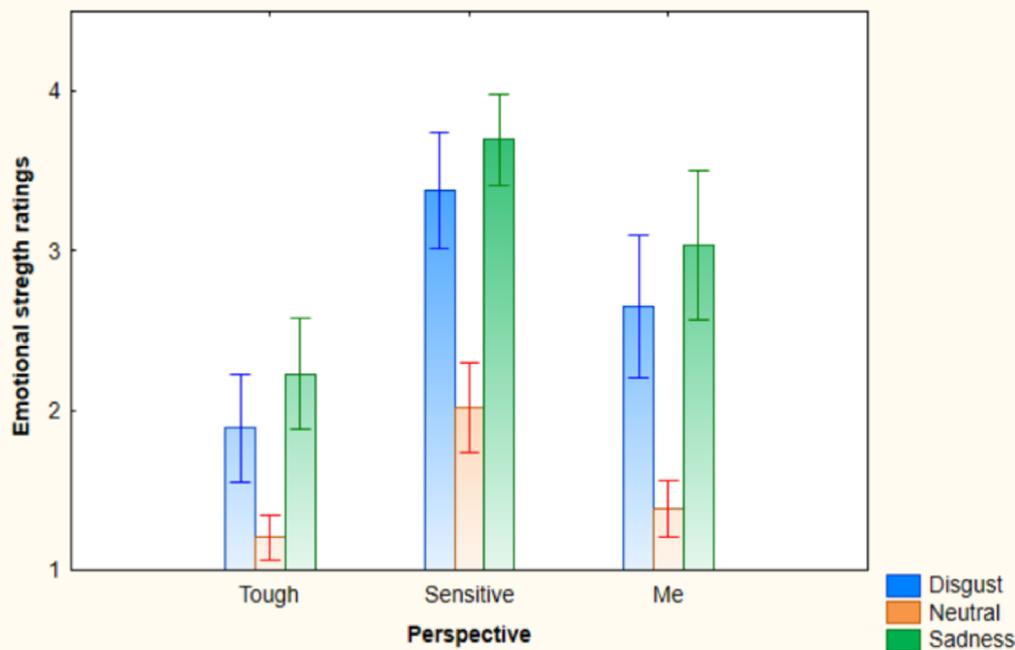


## RESULTS - EXPERIMENTS 1 & 2

The results for the two experiments were essentially similar (for Experiment 2, the statistics are presented in blue and reflect the fact that we added 'order of blocks' as a third independent variable in a mixed three-way ANOVA. No effect was found for it):

1. A significant interaction between emotion and perspective,  $F(4, 64)=8.11, p<.001, \eta_p^2=.33, F(4, 72)=14.2, p<.001, \eta_p^2=.44$ , and two main effects,  $F(2, 32)=49.92, p<.001, \eta_p^2=.75; F(2, 32)=43.88, p<.001, \eta_p^2=.73, F(2, 36)=88.09, p<.001, \eta_p^2=.83; F(2, 36)=62.35, p<.001, \eta_p^2=.77$ , for emotional category and perspective, respectively (see Fig. 2).
2. The difference between the tough and sensitive perspectives in the neutral condition as opposed to the same difference in the sadness and disgust conditions taken together was found to be significant,  $F(1, 16)=30.96, p<.001, \eta_p^2=.65, F(1, 19)=20.42, p<.001, \eta_p^2=.51$ .
3. Three more contrasts were conducted, each time contrasting the differences between two of the three perspectives (between tough and sensitive, tough and me, sensitive and me) in the sadness condition with those in the disgust one. The results of these contrasts were not significant in either experiment.

Figure 2 - RESULTS



## GENERAL DISCUSSION

- PT was found to be influenced by valence.
- Distinct negative emotions affected PT similarly.
- Currently we are comparing effects of negative vs. positive emotions on PT.

## REFERENCES

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