Background

- Individuals with Social Anxiety (SA) have a distorted perception of threat.
- Looming Vulnerability Model (LVM) posits that threat is dynamic and rapidly rising as one projects themselves into the future.
- Looming Cognitive Style (LCS) is when LVM is presented as a cognitive trait pattern. When activated, ideation of social rejection is amplified.
- Looming Maladaptive Style Questionnaire (LMSQ) posits that threat is dynamic and rapidly rising as one projects themselves into the future.

Hypothesis

I hypothesize that auditory looming sounds will potentiate sensitivity to threatening faces, relative to white noise.

Auditory Looming Biases refer to the perception of threat to be closer than its actual distance. Anxiety ideation of social rejection is amplified.

Looming Vulnerability Model (LVM) posits that threat is dynamic and rapidly rising as one projects themselves into the future. Anxiety amplifies this perception due to anxiety priming threat anticipation.

Methods

Participants

- Undergraduate students (N = 31; 16 F) aged 18-24 at the University of Texas at Austin were recruited.

FaciAL Stimuli

- 80 sets of neutral and angry images of Caucasian men were selected from the Chicago Facial Database (Correll & Wittenbrink, 2015) and from the Pictures of Facial Affect (Ekman, 1976).

Auditory Stimuli

- 1s looming sound clip obtained from John Riskind (personal communication; Riskind 2013). 1s white noise generated from looming sound.

Facial Sensitivity Task:

- Participants were presented with a series of morphs preceded by either a white or looming noise. In block 1, participants hit a spacebar when a threatening expression was detected. In block 2, participants hit the spacebar when a neutral expression was detected.

Results

- Results also indicated that regardless of face valence, participant's sensitivity to threat increased when presented with a looming sound.

- Social Anxiety levels influenced an individual's sensitivity to threat. As social anxiety increased, sensitivity to threat increased as well.

- Results also indicated that regardless of face valence, participant's sensitivity to threat increased when presented with a looming sound.

Conclusion

- Social Anxiety levels influenced an individual's sensitivity to threat. As social anxiety increased, sensitivity to threat increased as well.

- Results also indicated that regardless of face valence, participant's sensitivity to threat increased when presented with a looming sound.

References


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