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Effect of Emotional Cues on Memory Recall and Response Time

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Effect of Emotional Cues on Memory Recall and Response Time

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Combining electroencephalography, the recording of the brain's electrical activity, with other psychological research techniques allows the link between memory and emotion to be investigated. This study, which is currently in the pilot phase, investigates the effect of emotions on performance in a memory test. Subjects are shown written memory cues with or without accompanying photos of strong facially-expressed emotions and later prompted to recall the written cues. By monitoring brain activity and recall success rate, emotion's effect on memory in this context can be determined, including what brain regions are stimulated by the emotion-memory link and the improvement or impairment of memory skills under the effect of outside emotional cues.

Information about the Author:

Rachel Rahn is a biology and German major who became interested in neuroscience and neuropsychology after attending neuroscience courses at the University of Tübingen in Germany while studying abroad. Memory has been an important topic in neuropsychology for years and the study of emotion is also rising in popularity in the field, so her study relates to current debates in both areas while also incorporating use of the University's new EEG equipment.

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Jim Nelson

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