

SHAME AND THE BLUSH: AN fMRI STUDY INTO THE NEURAL BASIS OF SELF-CONSCIOUS EMOTIONS

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Examining the neural basis of perceiving self-conscious emotions; in order to obtain more knowledge about the function of these emotions.

Ethical review	Approved WMO
Status	Recruitment stopped
Health condition type	Other condition
Study type	Observational non invasive

Summary

ID

NL-OMON37112

Source

ToetsingOnline

Brief title

NEURAL BASIS OF SELF-CONSCIOUS EMOTIONS

Condition

- Other condition

Synonym

n.v.t.

Health condition

geen

Research involving

Human

Sponsors and support

Primary sponsor: Rijksuniversiteit Groningen

Source(s) of monetary or material Support: Ministerie van OC&W

Intervention

Keyword: blushing, cognitive neuroscience, neuro-economics, self-conscious emotions

Outcome measures

Primary outcome

Neural responses to perceiving self conscious emotions and blushes (fMRI scans)

The results of the Ultimatum Game (behavioral measure)

Questionnaires

Secondary outcome

n.v.t.

Study description

Background summary

The present study is a first inquiry into the neural basis of perceiving self conscious emotions, such as shame. Furthermore, it especially tests the role of blushing within these emotions.

Knowing the neural basis of perceiving shame might help in understanding the function of these complex interpersonal emotions and their accompanying displays. The function of the blush within the emotional display is not entirely clear. The question remains if signals that one is truly ashamed (because it is impossible to control the blush intentionally), thereby making the actor look more sincere/trustworthy. Expanding the knowledge of shame and blushing might eventually help people who experience too much of it, such as these socially phobic individuals.

Study objective

Examining the neural basis of perceiving self-conscious emotions; in order to obtain more knowledge about the function of these emotions.

Study design

The study consists of two tasks; both will be conducted in the fMRI scanner.

Task 1 is a *visual oddball* task. The respondent will see several scrambled picture without meaning and several pictures containing models with an emotional display (neutral, shame; with and without a blush). The respondent*s task is to press a button whenever the oddball (a model called *Kim*) appears. The neural response to perceiving the emotions will be scanned.

Task 2 consists of an Ultimatum Game. The subject will be offered a fair of unfair deal regarding the division of money (5-5;6-4;7-3, etc.). The deal will be offered by a blushing person or a neutral looking person (without a blush). The neural response to unfair offers with a blush vs. no-blush will be examined. Furthermore, the respondents will be asked to fill out several questionnaires.

Study burden and risks

Respondent will be scanned for one hour. No risks are expected.

Contacts

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Trial sites

Listed location countries

Netherlands

Eligibility criteria

Age

Adults (18-64 years)

Elderly (65 years and older)

Inclusion criteria

woman, right-handed

Exclusion criteria

history of psychiatric or neurologic disease

paranoia, anxiety and depression

contra indications to fMRI

Study design

Design

Study type: Observational non invasive

Masking: Open (masking not used)

Control: Uncontrolled

Primary purpose: Other

Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status: Recruitment stopped

Start date (anticipated): 17-04-2012

Enrollment: 16

Type: Actual

Ethics review

Approved WMO

Date:	11-08-2008
Application type:	First submission
Review commission:	METC Universitair Medisch Centrum Groningen (Groningen)
Approved WMO	
Date:	25-08-2011
Application type:	Amendment
Review commission:	METC Universitair Medisch Centrum Groningen (Groningen)

Study registrations

Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

In other registers

Register	ID
CCMO	NL23259.042.08