Experimentally Blocking Memory of Autobiographical Events

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Previous Research on Blocking Memories

- Non-Critical Events
- Critical Events
- Cues (i.e. titles of the events)
- Recall of details should be equally accurate regardless of group (bias / control).

Hypotheses
- Blocking of memory was assessed with a free recall of events (critical and non-critical).
- Critical and non-critical events were tested.
- Bias and control groups were given 10 minutes for each cued recall test.
- Of the 4 events tested, 2 were critical and 2 were non-critical.

Method
- Data was collected from 11 male and female college students enrolled in psychology 101 classes (additional data is currently being collected).
- Participants received 2 and 4 hours credit toward a research participation requirement for completing the experiment.

Blocking of Memory
- The first week participants were asked to complete a consent form, a bio form, and to review instructions about the schedule of compensation and how the online experiment would be conducted.
- Each week during the 4th and 2nd week of the experiment participants were asked to complete a cued recall test that collected the details about the event.

Results & Discussion
- Hypothesis 1: Blocking of memory was ubiquitous for the critical and non-critical events.
- Hypothesis 2: Blocking of memory was not evident for either biased or control group.
- Blocking effect was found for the critical and non-critical events.
- Blocking effect generalizes to the critical and non-critical events.

References

Table 1: Correlation matrix (P<.05) excluding recall of critical events & 1. original emotional rated of critical events. 2. Awareness of emotional rating during recall of critical events. 3. & 4. awareness of emotional rating during recall of non-critical events.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Type</th>
<th>Critical Events</th>
<th>Non-Critical Events</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Event 1</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event 2</td>
<td>-0.24</td>
<td>0.72*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event 3</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event 4</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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