PERCEIVED PAIN

Positive emotion
Negative emotion

UK
EA

Online Affect

Compassion
Perceived pain
High BEQ
-1.6
0.5
-1.2
1
-1.4

I would like to thank the following people for all their help with study materials;

DVs: 1. Continuous affective response

Conditions:
Physical pain videos and control conditions

Participants:
38 White British, 33 East Asian

DVs: 1. Continuous affective response

Method

Participants: 45 White British, 41 East Asian

Results

Negative Affect: British > East Asian

Compassion: 2. Perceived pain (Wong-Baker FACES pain rating scale)

Empathic accuracy (difference between perceived actor pain and actor reported pain across positive and negatively charged words)

Discussion

- Does the effect hold for other pain types (e.g., social pain)?
- Other indices of empathy to examine?

Cultural differences in trait levels of empathic concern as demonstrated by Cassels et al. (2010) align with emotional responses of compassion. Although, emotional responses of negative affect do not align with personal distress. Arguably, negative affect encompasses a wider array of emotions than trait levels of personal distress. In addition, emotional responses were contextualized.

In general, empathic accuracy for positive emotions align with previous research.

Perhaps cultural norms of emotional expressivity could help explain the moderating effect demonstrated in Study 3. East Asians express emotions less than North American counterparts (Safdar et al., 2009), and can explain the emotional responses we have found. Across all Studies, it could be that individual differences of emotional expressivity do not activate for East Asians regardless if they are high or low expressers as there are tighter cultural rules for emotional expression in the East. However, individual differences of emotional expressivity act for British whom have more relaxed cultural norms of emotional expressivity.

Findings & General Discussion

- British report greater negative affect in Studies 1 and 2
- British report greater compassion in Studies 2 and 3
- East Asians are more empathically accurate for positive emotions in Studies 2 and 3
- Compassion is moderated by emotional expressivity in Study 3

Summary

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the following people for all their help with study materials:
Huiding Huang, Nadine Steiner, Sarah Haigh and the University of Essex technical team.

References

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