Anxious Attachment as an Antecedent of Pattern Deviancy Aversion (#16196)

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1) Have any data been collected for this study already?
No, no data have been collected for this study yet.

2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?
We predict priming anxious attachment to increase pattern deviancy aversion as compared to a neutral prime. And further, this result should remain or only decrease partially when controlling for negativity and novelty aversion.

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.
The dependent variables are: (1) Pattern deviancy aversion (PDA; measured pre- and post-manipulation). PDA will be measured by a two-item response to an explicit description of pattern deviancy "things that break a pattern, are out of line, and are disorderd." The two items will assess participants 'negative' and 'positive' response to this explicit description of pattern deviancy. This measure will be assessed once before the manipulation and once after the manipulation. (2) Aversion towards novelty as a control variable (assessed via 2 different measures, post-manipulation). One of the two measures will assess participants' aversion towards neutral, novel ideographs (Chinese characters). The other measure will assess participants' aversion towards explicit novelty: 'new things, novel things, original things.' These measures differ as compared to the novelty aversion measure in our previous studies (aversion towards novel as compared to common fruits). (3) Negativity aversion (assessed post-manipulation). Negativity aversion will be assessed via participants' discomfort towards negative (but not deviant) stimuli (scenes of bad weather) over positive (and not deviant) stimuli (scenes of good weather). (4) Anxious attachment will serve as the manipulation check. The measure used in our previous studies will be shortened to the first 6 items in order to reduce the length of the study.

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?
There are two between-participants conditions (Anxious attachment prime versus neutral prime). The anxious attachment prime used in the previous studies will be used. The neutral prime will entail participants being asked to reflect on a pencil and how this pencil feels and looks.

As predicted does not seem to have a space for moderating variables, so I will discuss such variables here. The study will include trait anxious attachment and avoidant attachment as a moderating variable. Potentially, participants' trait levels of anxious or avoidant attachment moderate the effect of condition on PDA. We have no specific predictions about how these results will look, however, so any findings will be reported as being exploratory.

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.
We will examine whether condition influences PDA (post PDA scores while controlling for pre PDA scores; GLM). We will conduct this analysis again, but also control for novelty aversion and negativity aversion. Finally, we will examine both these analyses while including trait anxious attachment and avoidant attachment as moderators (i.e., an interaction with condition on PDA scores). We will also conduct these analyses with the three way interaction avoidantXanxiousXcondition on PDA scores, just in case being low in both attachment types (i.e., being securely attached) impacts the manipulation differently than being high/low, low/high, or high/high in anxious and avoidant attachment, respectively. If an effect is found, the interaction will be pulled apart and examined for simple effects, etc.

We will also independently examine the effect of condition on negativity aversion and novelty aversion, and further, whether these potential effect remain when controlling for the other included variables (e.g., PDA).

Finally, we will examine the effect of condition on anxious attachment - that is, did the manipulation successfully alter anxious attachment as intended.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.
Exclusions will include participants who fail our indirect attention check (i.e., the attention check where participants have to ignore the scale and simply write 'yes' in a textbox). Further exclusions will include participants who fail our second attention check. This check will ask participants whether they were asked to think about a person who did not want to be close with them (anxious attachment) versus asked to think about a pencil (versus other non-relevant options). Participants who do not select the answer appropriate for their condition will be excluded.

7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.
A power-analysis based on the within findings in the anxious attachment condition of a previous study indicated that we need 210 participants per condition (85% power). To account for participant exclusions (due to failing the attention checks), we will collect 500 participants. If significant results are not found, we will collect another 100 participants per condition (to reach approximately 95% power). If this is done, adjusted p-values will be calculated as recommended for sequential analyses (see https://osf.io/qtufw/).

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)

Nothing else to pre-register.