Simulation-induced attitude change, Leipzig, June 2017 (#4645)

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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?
This study will test the hypothesis that merely imagining interactions with familiar people at familiar places can change how we value such elements from our everyday environment.

In a first session, participants will provide names of places and people that they are personally familiar with. They will also rate how much they like and how familiar they are with each of those places and people. We will then select places that they deem neutral, and pair each of those with either a much liked or a less liked / disliked person. We attempt to match the two conditions (i.e., the included sets of the liked and of the less liked / disliked people) according to how familiar they are –on average- to the participant. In a second session, participants will then repeatedly imagine interacting with the respective person at the respective place. Finally, participants will rate the liking of each person and place again, and we predict a more positive change in liking for those places that had been the locations of imagined interactions with much liked than with less liked / disliked people.

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.
The key dependent variable is the change in liking of the places. For each place, this will be quantified as the difference in liking between the final and the initial rating phase.

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?
This study makes use of a within-subject manipulation, i.e., each participant will imagine interactions at specific places in two conditions: One, in which the interactions entail liked people and one, in which the interactions entail less liked / disliked people.

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.
We predict a more positive change in liking for places that had been the setting for imagined interactions with liked rather than with less liked / disliked people. To test this prediction, we will first conduct one-sample t-tests on the mean difference scores, separately for the two conditions. We primarily expect these analyses to reveal a significant positive change in liking for places paired with liked people. We will then compare the change in liking in the two conditions using a paired t-test. We critically expect this analysis to reveal a more positive change in liking for places that had been paired with liked than with less liked / disliked people.

6) Any secondary analyses?
n/a

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.
We will stop collecting data once 30 participants have completed the full study.

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., data exclusions, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)
At the end of the second session we will present participants with the encountered place/people pairings and ask them to rate (i) how plausible it would be to meet the given person at the respective place and (ii) how pleasant such a meeting would be. We expect the pleasantness to be greater for imaginings involving liked than less liked / disliked people (as assessed by a paired t-test).

For a different project, we will then also assess the degree to which participants associate the included people and places with each other. They therefore will be asked to arrange icons representing the individual people and places in a circular arena, so that they position those items closer together that they also associate more strongly with each other (e.g., Charest et al. PNAS, 2014).

Finally, for exploratory purposes, participants will also complete the Vividness of Visual Imagery questionnaire (Marks, British Journal of Psychology, 1973) and, for a different project, the short version of the Big Five inventory (Rammstedt & John, Diagnostica, 2005).