Automatic dysfunctional appraisals in posttraumatic stress. (#10252)

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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?
Automatic, trauma-related associations assessed by the Implicit Association Test (IAT; Greenwald et al., 1998) will be predictive of posttraumatic stress symptoms, and will explain unique variance when controlling for other relevant variables.

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.
Reaction times IATs (Appraisal IAT, Lindgren et al., 2013, a Vulnerability IAT, Engelhardt et al., 2007). Scores on two trauma-related measures: the Posttraumatic Cognitions Inventory and the (PTCI; Foa et al., 1999) and the Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Checklist for DSM 5 (PCL-5; Krüger-Gottschalk et al., 2017). Data for all measures will be collected online.

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?
Each participant will complete the online test battery. This is the order of tasks / measures: Description negative life event incl. information about the event, Appraisal and Vulnerability IAT (order counterbalanced), demographic data, Posttraumatic Cognitions Inventory (PTCI), Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Checklist for DSM 5 (PCL-5), Depression, Anxiety and Stress Scale (DASS-21; Nilges & Essau, 2015), State Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI-S/T; Laux et al., 1981), Optimism: Life Orientation Test – Revised (LOT-R, Scheier et al, 1994).

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.
Linear regressions will be conducted testing whether the IAT scores are predictive of posttraumatic stress symptoms (PCL 5), over and above other relevant measures (main control variable are dysfunctional appraisals measured by the PTCI).

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.
Only participants who provided complete data will be included in the analysis. For the IAT we will use the D-scoring algorithm (Greenwald et al., 2003), for the self-report measures we will compute the overall means and standard deviations. Cooks distance will be used to identify potential influential values in the regression; if potential influential values/multivariate outliers are identified the robustness of the regression to their inclusion/exclusion will be examined.

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 would like to recruit N=800 participants. However, his is an online study which will be available for a certain time period and thus we are not fully in control of the final sample size.

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)
Participants will categorize the type of negative life event and if the sample sizes per category is sufficiently large we will run exploratory analyses for the different categories.