



# Setting attentional priorities under threat: effects on inattentional blindness

Lucas Gautier, Alice Normand, Jean-Claude Croizet

## ► To cite this version:

Lucas Gautier, Alice Normand, Jean-Claude Croizet. Setting attentional priorities under threat: effects on inattentional blindness. Annual Convention of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP 2022), Feb 2022, San Francisco, United States. . hal-03877233

**HAL Id: hal-03877233**

**<https://hal.science/hal-03877233>**

Submitted on 26 Oct 2023

**HAL** is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

Setting attentional priorities under threat: effects on inattention blindness

Gautier Lucas, Normand Alice, & Croizet Jean-Claude

INTRODUCTION

- Experiments using spatial cueing showed that a threat context could lead to:
  - more attention to task-set congruent stimuli
  - less attention to task-set incongruent stimuli
- Aim: replicating focalization effect through a dynamic inattention blindness paradigm

HYPOTHESIS

- An unexpected stimulus incongruent to the task set would be less detected in a threatening context than in a neutral one

METHODS

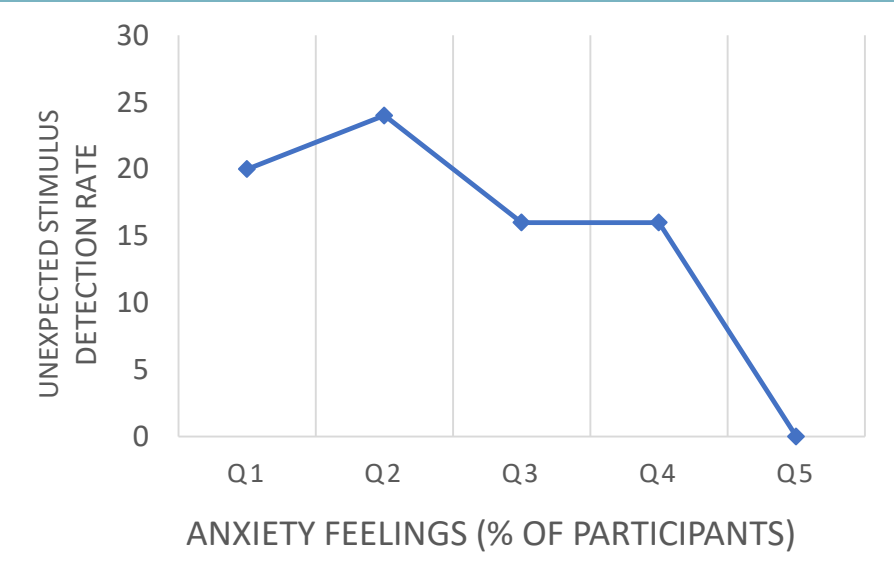
- N = 128 (mainly psychology students)
- Pre-registered
- Conditions: Threat VS Control
- Threat = fear of hearing a 4000 Hz sound in headphones
- Measures:
  - detection rate
  - anxiety feelings

RESULTS

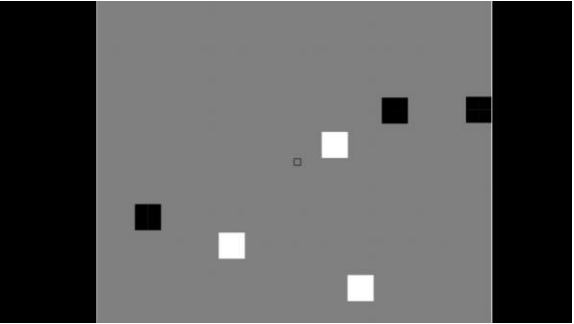
- Effect of threat induction on anxiety feelings
- No effect of threat induction on detection rate
- Effect of anxiety feelings on detection rate

Anxiety feelings (not threat induction) increases inattention blindness to a task-set incongruent and unexpected stimulus

Condition	Detection rate
Threat	17%
Control	17%

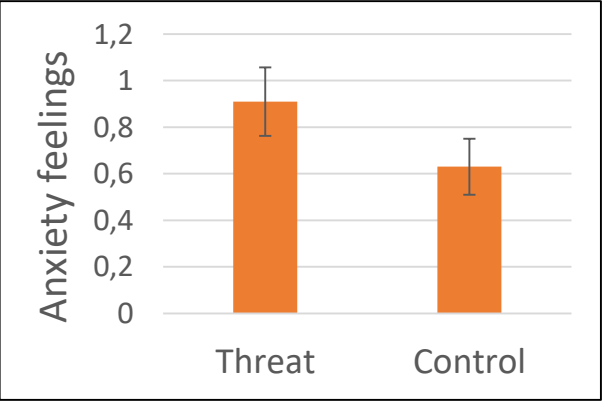


OR = 0.33, IC à 95% [0.10, 0.74], p = 0.025, η² = .047



DISCUSSION

- Results partly support anxiety effect hypothesis on inattention blindness
- Limitations: need to replicate findings using a more powerful threat induction
- Implications: a threatening situation leads to an anxiety feeling which could be responsible for blindness to external environment
- Future research: explore the second part of hypothesis: a threatening situation results in less blindness (i.e., more detection) to relevant unexpected stimuli



F(1, 126) = 8.495, p = .004, η² = .063