Author's response to reviews

Title: Full title: Learning aptitude, spatial orientation and cognitive flexibility tested in a virtual labyrinth after virtual stress induction

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Dear Sir/Madam,

my name is Marcel Delahaye and I am working on my dissertation in Psychology with focus on Virtual Reality (VR). The article at hand is part of my dissertation.

The idea of the current work is that a newly developed stress induction task and cognitive tests are given with VR software and tested in a VR environment (three sided stereoscopic powerwall). Programming our own VR software and we tried to be as creative as possible.

Background of our research was to find new approaches (with a high ecological validity) for testing human behaviour in an emergency situation and to identify how much individual aspects of cognitive performance are affected under stress. The big question was if people can still “think” under stress and can combine new information for example for evacuation route guidance. Can you keep in mind the evacuation map of your hotel and act rational if there is fire alarm?

Simulating reality with VR we were trying to achieve a high external or ecological validity and still keeping the scientific principle of objectivity.

I hope you enjoy reading our article and I would like to thank you for your consideration and time.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

With best regards

Marcel Delahaye