Reviewer's report

Title: Social anxiety increases visible anxiety signs during social encounters but does not impair performance

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Reviewer: Paula Vagos

Reviewer's report:

This work set out to investigate if the social performance of young adults (i.e., students) was impaired in the beholders' eyes based on their own account of their social anxiety. The goal of the work is very significant and the findings are new and intriguing. The authors have been very responsive to my previous comments and I have very few additional comments to present, which steam from the changes that were made to the manuscript following my previous comments (or the changes that were not made and the explanation of the why). I present them below, but would like to highlight at this moment that this manuscript presents a very rigorous, innovative and interesting work that I will be glad to see published.

Method

- Participants knew one of the confederates from one task to another. How could this have influenced the results?

- The authors seem to indicate that SEM was used and the same pattern of results as using regression analyses were found. They then chose to present the regression analyses based on the fact that they would be more familiar to the readers. Even if, in my opinion, this argument for presenting regression analyses is not entirely valid, please provide a footnote referring to the SEM results.

Results

- Table 1 - correlations of social anxiety and gender with self-reported anxiety

- The authors argue for presenting only the analyses that concern the goals of their work. I tend to understand and agree with this (e.g., comparing the three moments would be unnecessary), but also feel that presenting evidence on the successful induction of anxiety for speech and then for interaction is not an addition to their goals, but rather a specification of their findings. They state that "paired -tests showed uniformly significant increases in pre-task and during-task anxiety from baseline for both speech and interaction tasks" but then only present one result, which is confounding regarding what dependent variable was used in this t-test.
Presenting results by gender would also be a way of guaranteeing that the induction of anxiety was valid for both genders (thus not adding but simply grounding the analyses concerning their goals - men and women did not differ though they similarly experienced increase in anxiety).

Page 12, there is a note signaled with "1" that is not associated with any real note.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I recommend additional statistical review

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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