Reviewer’s report

Title: Does the Discrepancy between Implicit and Explicit Attitudes Moderate the Relationships between Explicit Attitude and (Intention to) Being Physically Active?

Version: 0 Date: 17 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Tanya Berry

Reviewer’s report:

This is interesting work, largely well written and presented. The authors have presented a prospective study that adds to the literature regarding how both implicit and explicit processes may interact to inform physical activity behaviour. I have a few comments for the authors to consider:

1. In several places (e.g., p. 5, lines 54 - 59) the authors discuss the relationship between intention and behaviour but present it only positively, implying that intention leads to behaviour. However, there is the well-known intention-behaviour gap that should be acknowledged.

2. Is it possible that participants recruited from the BeeLab are very familiar with the tasks (or variants of them) used in this research? If so, this could have implications for the findings because of practice or similar effects.

3. P. 9. Is it possible that the discrepancy and low correlation (r = .11) between implicit and explicit attitudes is because the positive and negative words used in the SC-IAT are not related to physical activity? According to the APE model, implicit attitudes represent memory associations and so I wonder if words more reflective of positive and negative feelings about physical activity would have generated different results.

4. P. 14 - does it matter which type of attitude (implicit or explicit) is higher when attitudes are discrepant, particularly when the correlation was quite small as reported on p. 15? The APE model, which the authors cite describe scenarios for when one or the other change which makes me wonder about the stability of these constructs over the course of the study, in addition to the direction of the discrepancy.

5. P. 15 - this is a very active sample - what are the implications for the findings? This is an important point that I think needs to be addressed.

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?
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Yes

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