Reviewer’s report

Title: The effect of induced optimism on the optimistic update bias

Version: 0 Date: 04 Nov 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)?

Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?

Yes - the approach is appropriate

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?

Yes - experiments and analyses were performed appropriately

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?

No - there are issues with the statistics in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?

No - there are minor issues

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Is the current version of this work technically sound? If not, can revisions be made to make the work technically sound?

Probably - with minor revisions
PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS:

The aim of the article is interesting, and methods reach their objectives. However, there are still some concerns that authors should solve. In general, they use a proper design, and the exploration of results is good. I wonder some specific issues such as the eventual interaction of sociodemographic variables on outcomes, the theories they sustent on, for example.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

ABSTRACT

Results in the abstract should be stated in a clearer way, as they are difficult to follow

INTRODUCTION

Should include the work by Dr. Martin Seligman, who has largely studied on optimism and learned helplessness.

Minor:

P5L9, the literal citation must include the page where it appears in the original source.

P5 L39: when naming an author in the text, do not need to cite their name again e.g. Garret & Sharot (Garret & Sharot, 2017) ◇ Garret & Sharot (2017). Please revise it along the manuscript, as it appears in several lines (e.g. P6L2; P6L10,...)

P6L39: (see (Kendall, Hollon, Beck, Hammen, & Ingram, 1987)). ◇ [see Kendall, Hollon, Beck, Hammen, & Ingram, (1987)].

METHODS

The authors should better explain the task of the control group.

Please, specify the blinding, if any.

Minor:

P7L17: future positive event predictions By using Psychopy ◇ future positive event predictions by using Psychopy
RESULTS

Please, include a table with sample's characteristics separated by group conditions.

Were there any interaction effects between sociodemographic variables and optimistic/pessimistic scores?

DISCUSSION

P11 2nd paragraph should include the interpretation of the results comparing with published literature.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:

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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.

No

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 am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published
Declaration of competing interests

Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

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2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

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