Apr 12th, 2:35 PM - 3:35 PM

The Effects of Social Ostracism on Frontal Electroencephalogram Activity

Jennifer Morozink
Illinois Wesleyan University

Joseph Williams, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc

https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2008/posters2/17

This is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.
THE EFFECTS OF SOCIAL OSTRACISM ON FRONTAL ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAM ACTIVITY

Jennifer Morozink and Joseph Williams*
Psychology Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

The need for social connections is so critical for psychological well being that the brain has evolved neural mechanisms that elicit a pain response whenever one is excluded from social situations. To determine the neural correlates of social rejection, female college students (N = 80) entered a chat room environment where they experienced phases of inclusion and exclusion while their theta electroencephalographic (EEG) activity was recorded in the frontal lobe. Recordings were taken from three frontal regions (F3, Fz, and F4). Results indicated that participants contributed less to the conversation during the exclusion phase, and they also were less interested and enjoyed this phase less. This suggests that the paradigm was successful in creating a feeling of exclusion in the participants. Preliminary analyses of EEG activity revealed decreases in theta power in the midline and left frontal regions during the exclusion phase. The differential EEG activity during inclusion and exclusion suggests that certain brain regions have different functions in the processing of an experience of social ostracism.