



# Relating Aversive Conditioning and Emotional Valence in the Control of Attention

Attention & Learning Lab

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## Introduction

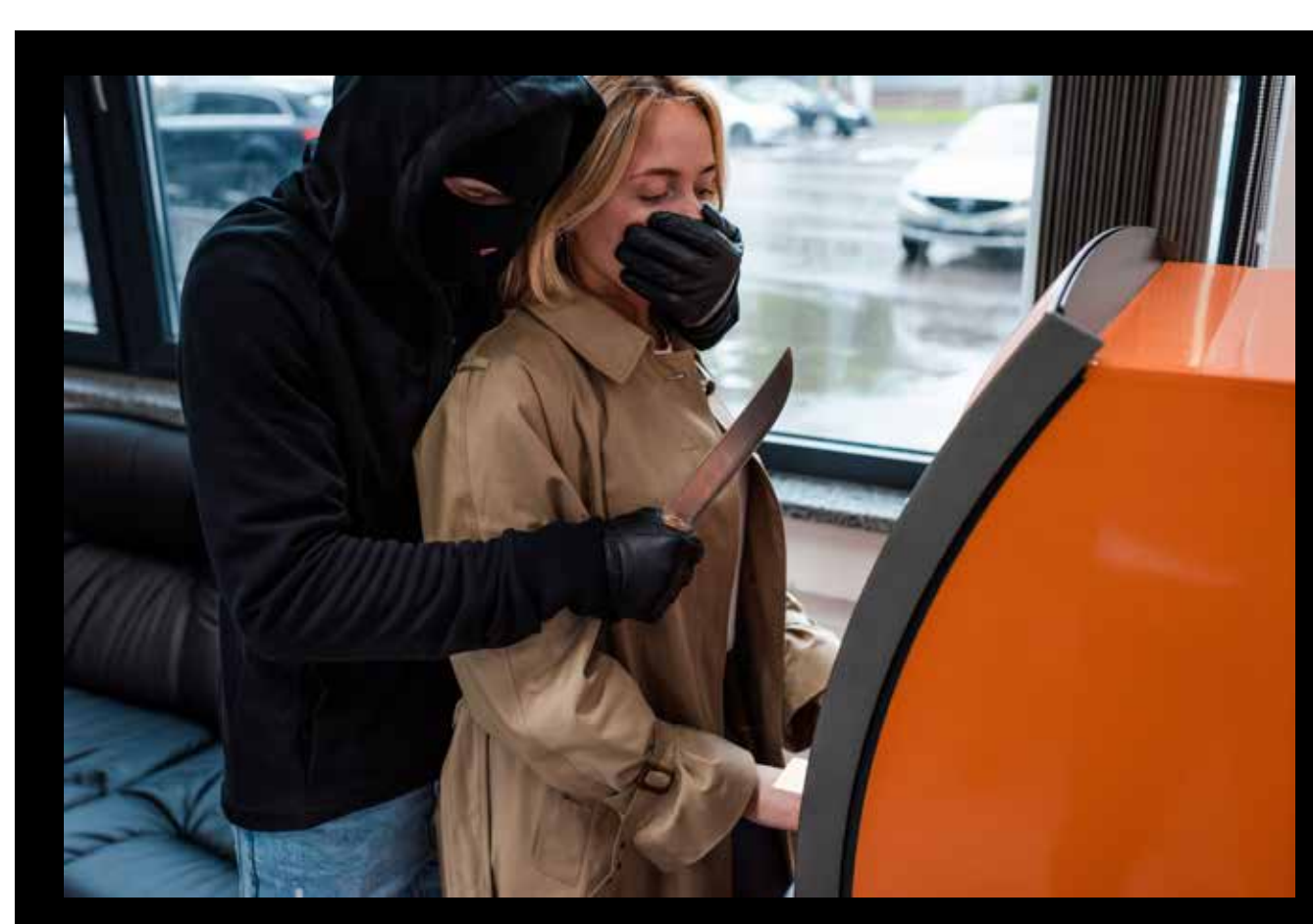
- Images with high emotional valence (e.g., images of gore or violence) can capture attention.
- Stimuli previously associated with aversive outcome (e.g., previously associated with shock) can capture attention.
- Whether emotional content and aversive conditioning influence attention via common or dissociable mechanisms of attentional control remains unclear.

## Methods

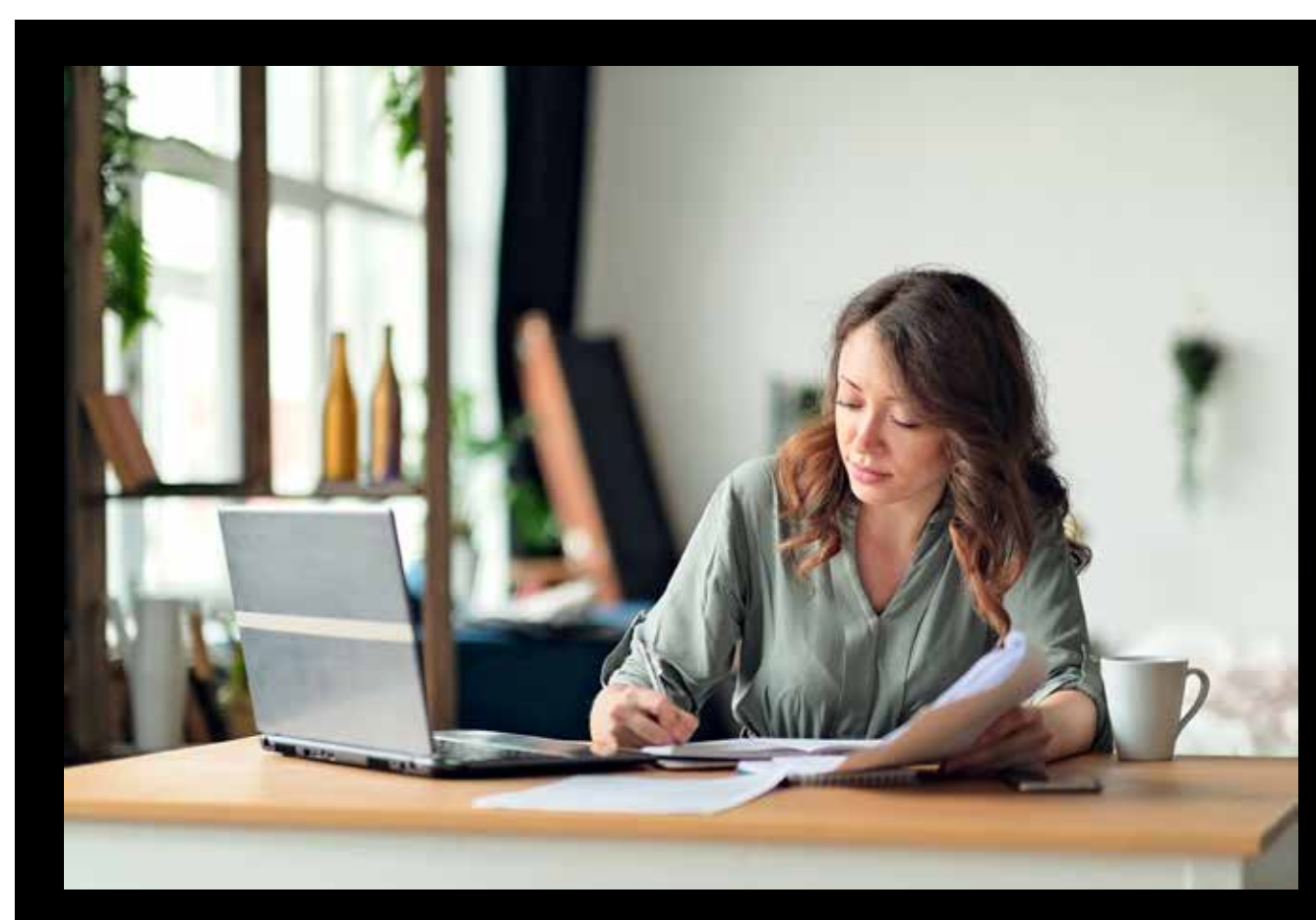
### Training Phase

Shock Associated

Non-shock Associated



- 10 blocks:
- 4 new images each block
  - 3 presentations per image



Unpleasant

Neutral

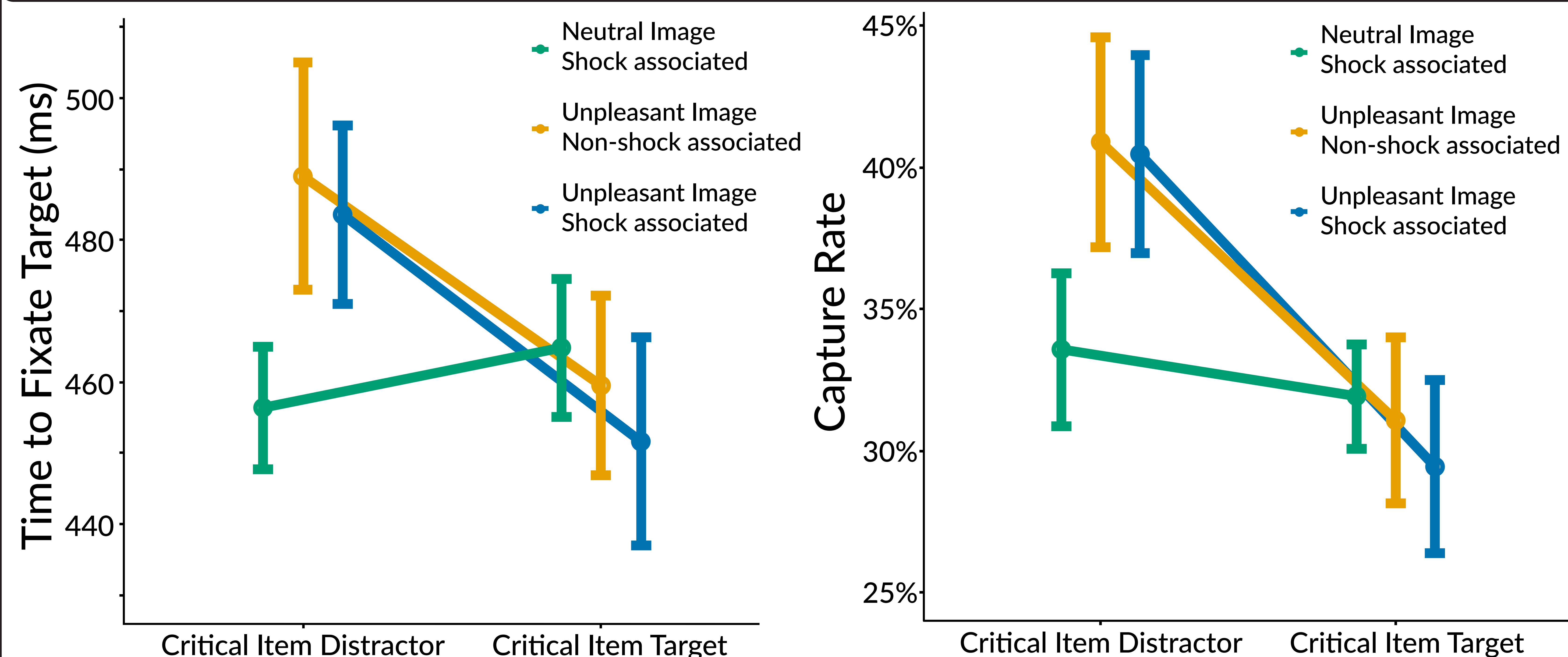
### Testing Phase



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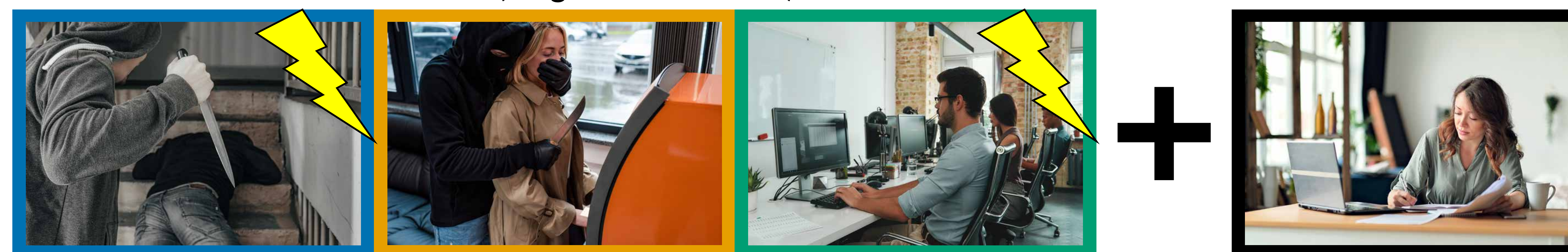


## Results



Critical Item (Target or Distractor)

Neutral Item



## Conclusion

- Unpleasant images capture attention.
- Shock associated images did not capture attention under the conditions tested.
- The experience did not change the effect of capture by unpleasant images.

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- Lundqvist, D., Esteves, F., & Ohman, A. (1999). Cognition and Emotion
- Mulckhuyse, M. (2018). Cognitive, Affective, & Behavioral Neuroscience
- Vuilleumier, P. (2002). Current Opinion in Psychiatry.