

Moderators of the Relationship Between Affect and Working Memory: The Role of Alexithymia

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Working memory is a relatively stable cognitive function. Prior work has demonstrated the negative and positive affect can alter working memory functioning. However, multiple factors may alter this relationship. To further our understanding of these factors, the current study examines the role of alexithymia in moderating the relationship between affect and working memory. Preliminary results suggest individuals higher in alexithymia evidenced a greater impact of negative affect on working memory. Additionally, higher levels of alexithymia also appeared to increase the impact of negative affect on mind wandering.

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Thesis Committee Members: Dr. Valerie Starratt & Dr. Tim Razza

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