

ELECTROMAGNETIC SENSITIVITY

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Abstract

This study asks whether the emotion attributed to visual stimuli would be altered when the percipient was concurrently experiencing an applied electromagnetic field. Although many studies have shown sensitivity to electromagnetic fields in humans, little is known about how the interaction might affect everyday behaviour. As we are constantly surrounded by complex fields, both natural and man-made, it is important that we discover what the effects are.

The subject was seated between 2 electromagnetic coils (Helmholtz coils) so that their upper body and head were within the central region. Computer control of the fields allowed blind exposure schedules (i.e. neither participant nor experimenter knew whether a field was present or not by normal sensory means, thus avoiding possible cueing effects). Subjects were then shown a variety of images and asked to rate them. Some of these images were thus experienced at the same time as a field was applied. Once several subjects had taken part, analyses were performed to see whether the distribution of ratings given to each picture varies when a field was present.

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