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TOPICS:

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Abstract:

Cognitive self-evaluation, performance and anxiety

Current research on cognitive self-evaluation - as assessed through the Cognitive Failures Questionnaire (CFQ) of Broadbent et al. (1982) - is discussed. Special issues of interest are the relationships between the self-reporting of failures in attention, memory, and cognitive performance in the everyday life and other variables such as the aging, circadian typology, stress experience, and anxiety. Also the relevance of CFQ in clinical psychology, psychopathology and psychiatry will be analyzed. An intriguing point in this kind of research regards the lack of a coherent correspondence between the self-evaluation and the cognitive performance. Sometime a dissociation between the subjective report and objective results in performance is observed, although often in association with an increase of anxiety levels. The question was tackled in an investigation carried out by means of event-related potentials (ERP) during a Go-NoGo task involving attentional processes. A dissociation between self-evaluation (CFQ) and performance (reaction times) was confirmed, whereas electrophysiological responses appeared to be a covert index of the anxiety dimensions (State Trait Anxiety Inventory) of each participant. ERP maps revealed a specific involvement of frontal areas in this cognitive-affective-interaction.