The valence of event-based prospective memory cues affects their detection.

Arlo Clark-Foos
What is Prospective Memory?

- **Event-based Tasks**
  - Environmental Trigger

- **Time-based Tasks**
  - Internal Cognitive Processes

- **Activity-based Tasks**
  - Debatable
Event-Based Prospective Memory

- Environmental Trigger

- Press a key when you see…
Cue detection

• The probability that an intention comes to mind can be manipulated by changing cues.

  – UPPER CASE CUES / lower case OGT

  – Low WF cues on High WF OGT

  – Cue Salience
Valence and its effects on memory

• Pre-attentive or post-elaboration?

• Greater recall & recognition of valenced material (Kensinger & Corkin)
  – Larger emotional enhancement effect for negative
A Tale of Two Predictions

1. Negatively valenced cues may attract more attention and more processing:
   - Greater probability of retrieving intention

2. Negatively valenced cues obligatorily bring other related thoughts to mind, resulting in a temporary distraction:
   - Lower probability of retrieving intention
Procedure

- Press “/” when you see an ANIMAL or INSECT

• Note: Three different intentions (Animals/Insects, Weather Phenomena, Emotions/Feelings) were manipulated between subjects.
Detection of Positively and Negatively Valenced Cues

Categorical Intention

- Animals
- Weather
- Emotion

$N = 90$
Discussion

• Negative cues were detected less often than positive cues.
  – Obligatory processes.
  – Neutral cues?
  – Arousal?
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