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## Using deception to measure the psychophysiology of information literacy

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Description Deception is often used to great effect in psychology experiments but is not often used in the study of information literacy. This paper describes an experiment involving deception to test 18-24 year old males reactions to mis-information. People aged 18-24 are the most likely users of the Internet (ONS, 2015) and therefore are exposed to mis-information and as a result may develop ill-being, especially via social media use (Booker, 2016). For this reason it was thought appropriate to target this group. Males only were chosen (n=50) because we needed to control for the variability in the ways that males and females use ICT (Ford, 2004). It is not known to what extent mis-information (e.g., religious extremism) affects the well-being (including psychophysiological responses) of young males" aged 18-24 and to what extent information discernment (i.e., the ability to make complex judgments about information, Walton (2017)) is a protecting factor against ill-being. By employing this "proof-of-concept" experiment it was envisaged that the research team could ascertain whether information discernment moderates the relationship between mis-information and cardiovascular reactivity in stressful social situation(s). The experiment involved deceiving participants into believing they were taking part in a study where they were helping a fellow student to win a prize. In fact they were given a task that was impossible to complete (to create mild stress) with a fellow student (an actor). Participants filled in a pre-test questionnaire which measured their self-efficacy, information discernment and religiosity. Two physiological measures were taken, eye-tracking to ...

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