

University of Mary Washington

Eagle Scholar

Research and Creativity Symposium

Research Symposia

5-12-2020

Research Methods in Psychology (PSYC 362) Posters: The Relationship Between Social Anxiety, Social Rejection, and Retaliation Aggression

Jaime Cañas

Leah Saling

Ramon Owens

Kaitlyn Ownbey

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholar.umw.edu/rcd>



Part of the [Psychology Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Cañas, Jaime; Saling, Leah; Owens, Ramon; and Ownbey, Kaitlyn, "Research Methods in Psychology (PSYC 362) Posters: The Relationship Between Social Anxiety, Social Rejection, and Retaliation Aggression" (2020). *Research and Creativity Symposium*. 62.
<https://scholar.umw.edu/rcd/62>

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by the Research Symposia at Eagle Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Research and Creativity Symposium by an authorized administrator of Eagle Scholar. For more information, please contact archives@umw.edu.

The Relationship Between Social Anxiety, Social Rejection, and Retaliation Aggression

Jaime Cañas, Leah Saling, Ramon Owens, Kaitlyn Ownbey



Introduction

Retaliation Aggression:

- An act of aggression that is targeted towards a specific individual (or group of people) as a means of getting revenge (Anderson & Bushman, 2002).

Social Rejection:

- An ostracizing event that leaves an individual feeling completely excluded.
- Those who have been socially rejected may have a higher tendency to retaliate against a target (Chester & Dwall, 2017).

Social Anxiety:

- What degree an individual perceives something as socially threatening.
- Socially anxious people may have a higher tendency to retaliate against a target (Erwin & Heimberg, 2003).



Research:

- Does social anxiety moderate the relationship between social anxiety and retaliation aggression?



Hypothesis:

- Those who are both socially anxious and socially excluded will score higher on a retaliatory aggression task than those who are not socially anxious.

Method

Participant Description:

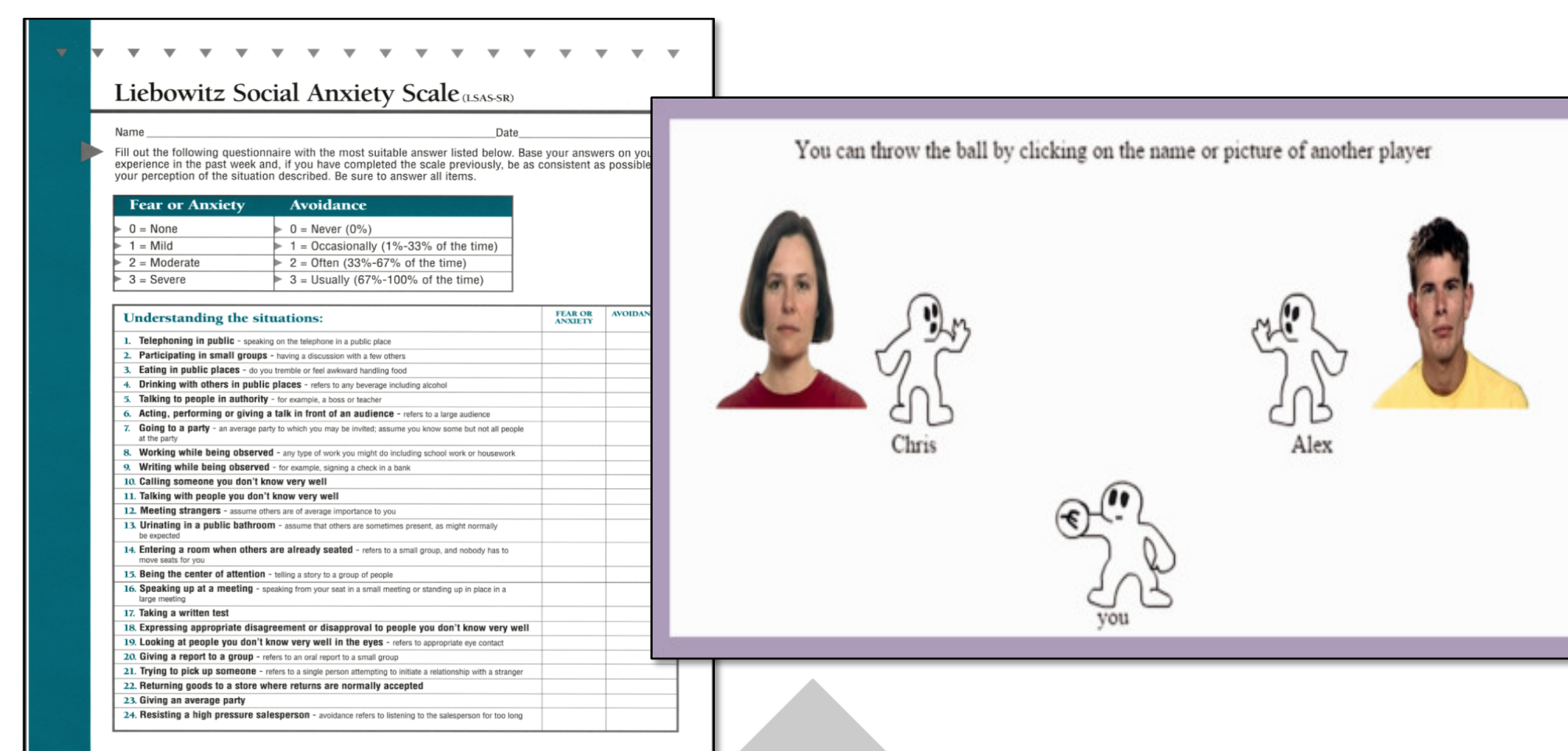
- Age range: 18-30
- 31 Males, 67 Females, 1 Nonbinary, and 1 Transgender individual

100 participants from the UMW General Psychology participant pool were recruited for this study

Ethnicity	Participants
White	71
Hispanic/Latino	11
Black/AA	8
Asian	4
Other	6

Age	Participants
18	17
19	31
20	30
21	5
22	3
23	7
24	5
29	1
31	1

Procedure & Materials

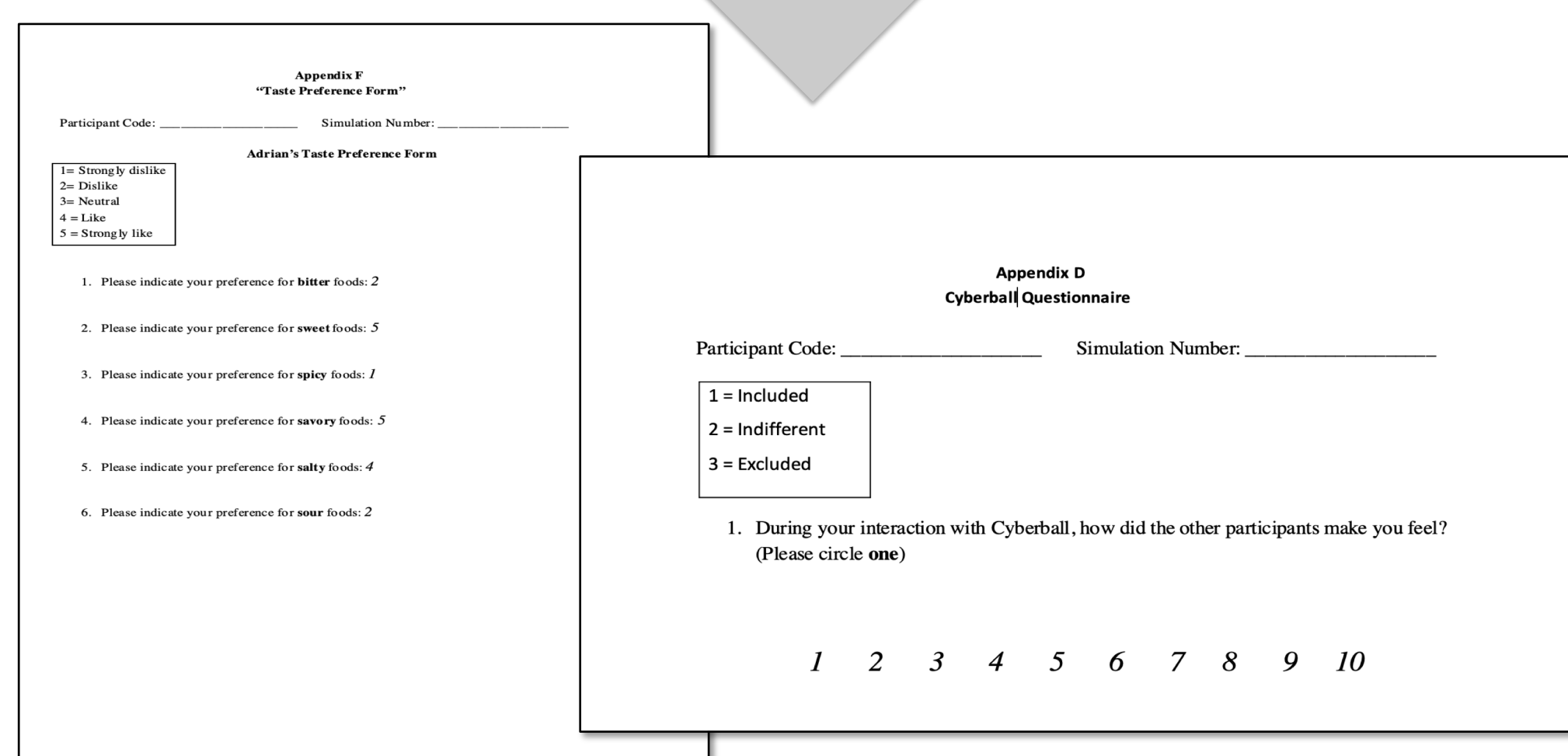


1: Liebowitz Social Anxiety questionnaire
-24 item questionnaire
-Used to measure both anxiety and socially avoidant behaviors
Cronbach's Alpha: .92

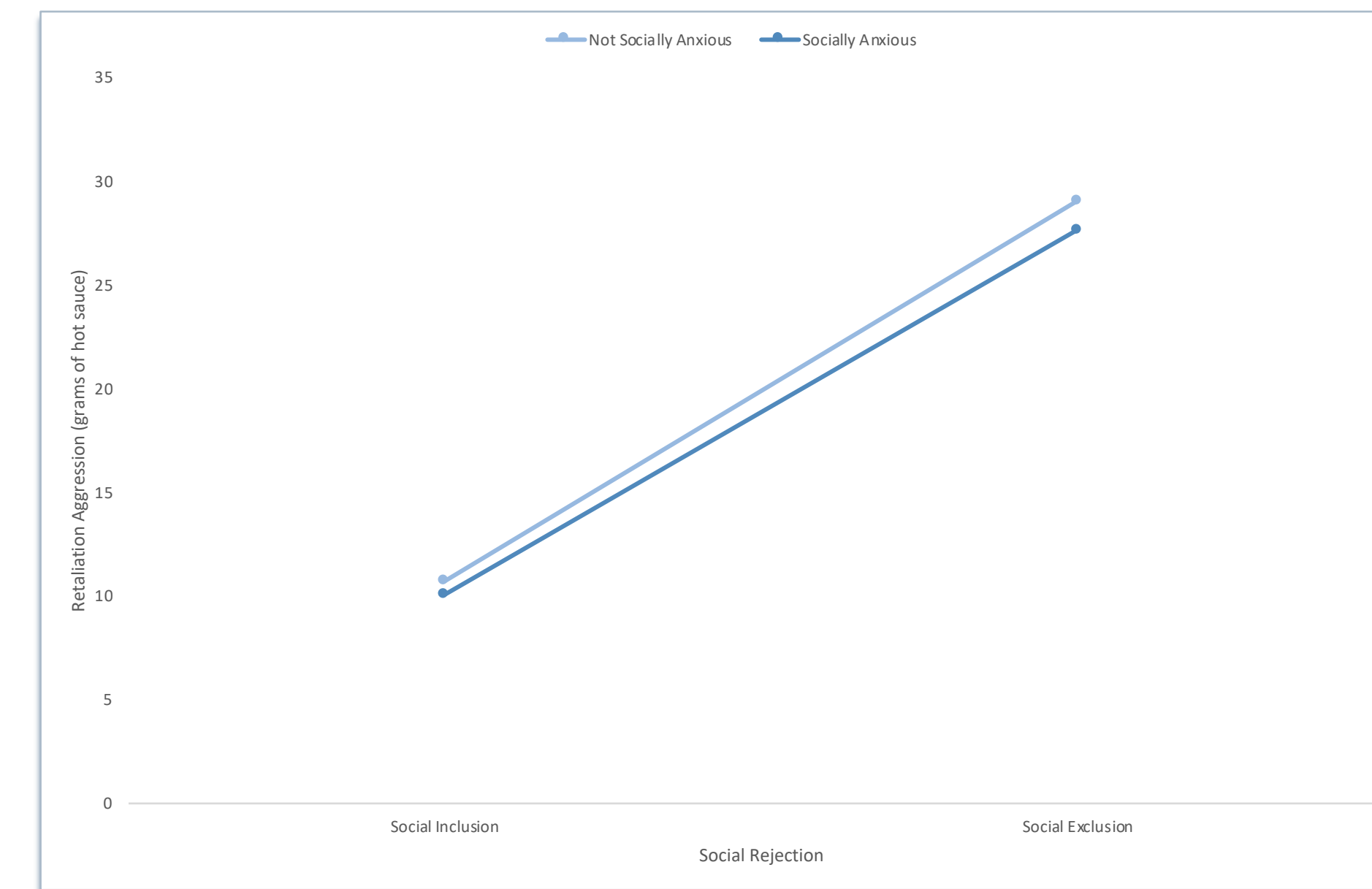
2: Random assignment for Cyberball simulation
Simulation 1: Included
Simulation 2: Excluded

3: Hot Sauce Allocation Task & "Taste Preference Form"
-More allocation = higher retaliation score
-"Taste Preference Form" used to mask true intention of the study

4: Cyberball Manipulation Check
-Participants rated their exclusion on a scale from 1-10
 $t(98) = 5.00, p = .001$



Results



Our **main effect** for social exclusion was **significant**:

$$F(1, 96) = 99.57, p = .001, \eta^2 = 0.51.$$

Our **main effect** for social anxiety was **non-significant**:

$$F(1, 96) = 0.32, p = .57, \eta^2 = 0.00.$$

Our **interaction** between social rejection and social anxiety was **non-significant**:

$$F(1, 96) = 0.044, p = .83, \eta^2 = 0.000.$$

Please note: All data was generated by Dr. Stebbins for the purposes of this study.

Discussion

Implications:

Social anxiety **may not** moderate social rejection and retaliation aggression

Social anxiety **may not** be a catalyst for retaliation aggression.

Social exclusion **may be** a catalyst for retaliation aggression

Limitations:

Less than satisfactory power for interaction.

Anxiety questionnaire not a diagnostic scale.

Future Studies:

Recruit participants with a pre-diagnosed social anxiety disorder.

Look at interaction across different age groups, ethnicities, or gender.

Replicate with different retaliation aggression task.

References

- Chester, D. S., & Dwall, C. N. (2017). Combating the sting of rejection with the pleasure of revenge: A new look at how emotion shapes aggression. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 112(3), 413–430. <http://doi:10.1037/pspi0000080>
- Erwin, B. A., Heimberg, R. G., Schneier, F. R., & Liebowitz, M. R. (2003). Anger experience and expression in social anxiety disorder: Pretreatment profile and predictors of attrition and response to cognitive-behavioral treatment. *Behavior Therapy*, 34(3), 331–350. [doi:10.1016/S0005-7894\(03\)80004-7](http://doi:10.1016/S0005-7894(03)80004-7)
- Anderson, A. A., & Bushman, J. B. (2002). Human aggression. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 53, 27–51. [https://doi:10.1037/e501232006-005](http://doi:10.1037/e501232006-005)