

## Within-subject associations between mood dimensions and non-exercise activity: an ambulatory assessment approach using repeated real-time and objective data

Markus Reichert<sup>1, 2\*</sup>, Heike Tost<sup>1</sup>, Iris Reinhard<sup>3</sup>, Alexander Zipf<sup>4</sup>, Hans-Joachim Salize<sup>1</sup>, Andreas Meyer-Lindenberg<sup>1</sup>, Ulrich W. Ebner-Priemer<sup>5, 2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Central Institute of Mental Health, Medical Faculty Mannheim, Heidelberg University, Germany, <sup>2</sup>Department of Sports and Sports Science, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany, <sup>3</sup>Division of Biostatistics, Central Institute of Mental Health, Medical Faculty Mannheim, Heidelberg University, Germany, <sup>4</sup>Institute of Geography, Heidelberg University, Germany, <sup>5</sup>Department of Psychosomatic Medicine and Psychotherapy, Central Institute of Mental Health, Germany

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Provisional

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1 Markus Reichert<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Heike Tost<sup>1</sup>, Iris Reinhard<sup>3</sup>, Alexander Zipf<sup>4</sup>, Hans-Joachim Salize<sup>1</sup>,  
2 Andreas Meyer-Lindenberg<sup>1</sup> & Ulrich W. Ebner-Priemer<sup>2,5</sup>

3 <sup>1</sup>Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Central Institute of Mental Health, Medical Faculty  
4 Mannheim, Heidelberg University, Mannheim, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany;

5 <sup>2</sup>Department of Sports and Sports Science, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Baden-  
6 Wuerttemberg, Germany;

7 <sup>3</sup>Division of Biostatistics, Central Institute of Mental Health, Medical Faculty Mannheim, Heidelberg  
8 University, Mannheim, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany;

9 <sup>4</sup>GIScience Research Group, Institute of Geography, Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Baden-  
10 Wuerttemberg, Germany;

11 <sup>5</sup>Department of Psychosomatic Medicine and Psychotherapy, Central Institute of Mental Health,  
12 Mannheim, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany;

13

14 \* **Correspondence:** Markus Reichert, Central Institute of Mental Health (CIMH), Department of  
15 Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, D 6, 68159 Mannheim, markus.reichert@zi-mannheim.de

16

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19

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25

26 **Abstract**

27 A physically active lifestyle has been related to positive health outcomes and high life  
28 expectancy, but the underlying psychological mechanisms maintaining physical activity are rarely  
29 investigated. Tremendous technological progress yielding sophisticated methodological approaches,  
30 i.e., ambulatory assessment, have recently enabled the study of these mechanisms in everyday life. In  
31 practice, accelerometers allow to continuously and objectively monitor physical activity. The  
32 combination with e-diaries makes it feasible to repeatedly assess mood states in real-time and real life  
33 and to relate them to physical activity. This state-of-the-art methodology comes with several  
34 advantages, like bypassing systematic distortions of retrospective methods, avoiding distortions seen  
35 in laboratory settings, and revealing an objective physical activity assessment. Most importantly,  
36 ambulatory assessment studies enable to analyze how physical activity and mood wax and wane  
37 within persons over time in contrast to existing studies on physical activity and mood which mostly  
38 investigated between-person associations. However, there are very few studies on how mood  
39 dimensions (i.e., feeling well, energetic and calm) drive non-exercise activity (NEA; such as  
40 climbing stairs) within persons. Recent reviews argued that some of these studies have  
41 methodological limitations, e.g., scarcely representative samples, short study periods, physical  
42 activity assessment via self-reports, and low sampling frequencies. To overcome these limitations,  
43 we conducted an ambulatory assessment study in a community-based sample of 106 adults over one  
44 week. Participants were asked to report mood ratings on e-diaries and to wear an accelerometer in  
45 daily life. We conducted multilevel analyses to investigate whether mood predicted NEA, which was  
46 defined as the mean acceleration within the 10-minute interval directly following an e-diary  
47 assessment. Additionally, we analyzed the effects of NEA on different time frames following the e-  
48 diary prompts in an exploratory manner. Our results revealed that valence significantly and positively  
49 predicted NEA within persons ( $p=.001$ ). Feeling more energetic was associated with significantly  
50 increased NEA ( $p<.001$ ), whereas feeling calmer was associated with significantly decreased NEA  
51 ( $p<.001$ ) on the within-person level. The analyses on different time frames of NEA largely confirmed  
52 our findings. In conclusion, we showed that mood predicted NEA within adults but with distinct  
53 magnitudes and directions of effects for each mood dimension.

54

55 **1 Introduction**

56 Physical activity is an important determinant of human health, and being physically active has  
57 been shown to contribute to the prevention of and recovery from severe somatic and psychiatric  
58 diseases (for an overview refer to Pederson and Saltin, 2015). Specifically, both engaging in exercise  
59 (such as swimming, playing football, working out at the gym) and living a physically active life  
60 comprising high levels of non-exercise activity (NEA; e.g., daily routines of walking to the office,  
61 biking for transport, climbing stairs) have been related to high health expectancy, for example  
62 reductions in the risk of cardiovascular disease (Healy et al., 2008; Wen et al., 2011). A better  
63 understanding of the psychological determinants of physical activity is of central significance to  
64 enhancing health promoting lifestyles with less sedentary behavior. According to behavioral theories,  
65 affective experiences play an important role in human behavior. In other words, activities related to  
66 positive affective experiences are supposed to be more likely to be repeated than those associated  
67 with a negative mood.

68 Although a large body of intervention studies have investigated between-subject effects of  
69 exercise on mood (for an overview refer to Reed and Ones, 2006; Reed and Buck, 2009),

70 unfortunately, there has been a lack of research on the within-subject associations between physical  
71 activity and mood. Between-subject designs do not reveal how physical activity and mood wax and  
72 wane within people over time. Therefore, the between-subject findings that people who are on  
73 average more active than others feel better on average than others provide no evidence that there is a  
74 within-subject timely relationship between both of those processes, i.e., that within subjects, episodes  
75 of activity are related to good moods and that episodes of low activity are related to bad moods. From  
76 a more theoretical perspective, between-subject associations cannot be translated into within-subject  
77 relationships (Aarts et al., 2014), which implies that if the topic of interest is how mood maintains  
78 physical activity, a within-subject assessment approach is mandatory.

79 To investigate within-subject associations of physical activity and mood in participants'  
80 everyday lives, ambulatory assessment is currently the most promising and recommended state-of-  
81 the-art technique (Kanning et al., 2015). The use of e-diaries on smartphones to repeatedly assess  
82 mood states in real-time and of accelerometers to continuously and objectively monitor activity  
83 provides several advantages. It enables researchers to a) assess the dynamic and time-dependent  
84 interplay between mood and physical activity (Ebner-Priemer and Trull, 2009); b) assess mood in  
85 real time and thus bypass the systematic distortions observed in retrospective methods (Stone et al.,  
86 2002; Fahrenberg et al., 2007); c) avoid the distortions produced by laboratory settings (Bussmann et  
87 al., 2009); and d) increase the validity of physical activity assessments compared with participant  
88 self-ratings (Prince et al., 2008; Adamo et al., 2009).

89 Over the past decade, several research groups have used ambulatory assessment approaches to  
90 study within-subject effects of physical activity on mood in everyday life. Schwerdtfeger and  
91 colleagues (2008) found higher intensity and/or duration of everyday life activity to be associated  
92 with higher positive activated affect in 124 healthy participants over 12 assessment-hours. Significant  
93 positive effects of physical activity on energetic arousal and a significant negative effect on calmness  
94 were shown by Kanning et al. (2012) in a sample of 44 undergraduates over 24 hours. In 2013,  
95 Bossmann et al. showed significant positive effects of physical activity on energetic arousal and  
96 valence in 77 university students over the course of 24 hours. Kanning (2013) showed physical  
97 activity to be positively related with subsequent ratings of valence and energetic arousal as well as  
98 negative effects of physical activity on calmness in a sample of 87 undergraduates. In 2015, Kanning  
99 et al. revealed significantly heightened energetic arousal and more agitation (calmness) following  
100 physical activity over three days in adults. Dunton and colleagues (2015) found social interaction and  
101 physical context (i.e., being outdoors) to moderate the effects of physical activity on mood.

102 Although the abovementioned studies show increasing evidence for physical activity affecting  
103 mood within subjects and a large body of treatment studies have found effects of exercise on mood  
104 (for a discussion we refer to Schlicht et al., 2013), the within-subject impact of mood on physical  
105 activity remains largely unknown. This is surprising because psychomotor retardation has been  
106 conceptualized as a consequence of major depressive disorder ever since and many studies showed  
107 limited physical activity in depressed patients (Burton et al., 2013; Reichert et al., 2015). Thus,  
108 research in this direction seems very promising.

109 Unfortunately, only very few within-subject studies have investigated the predictive value of  
110 mood on non-exercise activity (Liao et al, 2015). In 2007, Carels and colleagues investigated the  
111 associations of mood and exercise in a sample of 36 obese adults who participated in a behavioral  
112 weight loss program. Mood was assessed every morning and every evening as well as prior to and  
113 after each bout of exercise over at least 4 weeks within the weight loss program. Both mood and

114 exercise data (i.e., duration, intensity and type) were collected via participants' self-reports in diaries.  
115 Carels et al. focused on the investigation of mood-exercise associations and therefore did not take  
116 non-exercise activity into account. Regarding the effects of mood on exercise, Carels and colleagues  
117 (2007) found mood in the morning to significantly increase the initiation of exercise on the same day  
118 both on the within- and between-person level. However, mood assessed in the morning was not  
119 related to either the duration or the intensity of exercise.

120 Dunton et al. (2009) reported associations between affective factors and non-exercise activity  
121 in 23 physically inactive adults aged 50 years and above. The adults were asked to complete  
122 electronic diaries in the morning, at midday, in the afternoon and in the evening to report on  
123 positive/negative affect, energetic arousal and types of non-exercise activity, among others. Dunton  
124 and colleagues (2009) found an increase in positive affect and a decrease in negative affect at t - 1 to  
125 be associated with significantly increased moderate-to-vigorous physical activity at the following  
126 assessment (t). However, the trend in the affect dimension of energetic arousal, i.e., feeling more  
127 energetic and less tired being related to enhanced levels of non-exercise activity, lacked significance.  
128 Dunton et al. (2014) conducted an ambulatory assessment study to investigate whether mood does  
129 affect physical activity in 119 children aged 11 to 13 years. They analyzed how mood ratings on e-  
130 diaries influenced accelerometer-measured moderate-to-vigorous physical activity within the 30  
131 minutes following the prompts. Although increased levels of energy and decreased ratings of fatigue  
132 were associated with increases in moderate-to-vigorous physical activity, the positive and negative  
133 affect ratings were not related to subsequent physical activity.

134 Schwerdtfeger and colleagues (2010) analyzed the effects of mood on physical activity across  
135 a 12-hour period in a sample of 126 adults mainly comprising students. In their study, Personal  
136 Digital Assistants (PDAs) randomly queried for mood approximately 12 times, and physical activity  
137 was assessed using accelerometers attached to participant's ankles. Schwerdtfeger et al. (2010)  
138 parameterized physical activity by applying the categories sedentary, light, moderate and vigorous  
139 activity based on thresholds using unit counts. Moreover, they averaged the different time frames of  
140 physical activity following mood assessments, namely 1 minute, 1 to 5 minutes, 1 to 15 minutes and  
141 1 to 30 minutes. Positive activated affect was significantly associated with physical activity across all  
142 aggregated time frames, i.e., the more the participants felt good and energized, the more they were  
143 physically active. In addition, low negative affect significantly predicted higher physical activity  
144 within the 15 and 30 minutes following a mood assessment. In addition, Schwerdtfeger et al. (2010)  
145 found mood to influence different intensity levels of physical activity, showing an inverse association  
146 between enhanced mood and sedentary periods. In other words, higher positive activated affect and  
147 lower negative affect led to less sedentary behavior. Heightened positive activated affect and  
148 diminished negative affect predicted moderate to vigorous physical activity as well.

149 Wichers and colleagues (2012) analyzed the associations between self-rated physical activity  
150 and mood in 504 female twins who filled out booklets when triggered by a digital wrist watch  
151 approximately 10 times per day throughout a study period of 5 days. Their hypotheses were mainly  
152 focused on the effects of increases in physical activity on mood. Interestingly, their data suggested  
153 that increases in physical activity followed a decrease in positive affect. However, this finding  
154 showed significance only for the positive affect that was rated three prompts prior to the increase in  
155 physical activity. Moreover, the finding could not be replicated in both groups of twins. Mata and  
156 colleagues (2012) compared the associations of physical activity and mood between 53 depressed  
157 patients and healthy controls. Over 7 days, the participants rated mood and physical activity on  
158 palmtops approximately 8 times per day. Mata et al. (2012) found positive affect to increase before

159 bouts of physical activity and to decrease afterwards but no effects of negative affect on physical  
160 activity in both depressed and healthy participants. This finding implies a peak of positive affect at  
161 the time participants were physically active. However, as Mata et al.'s study (2012) was based on  
162 self-reported physical activity, the exact time points of activity are not known, and therefore  
163 suggestions of the exact temporal course of physical activity and mood remain unclear.

164 To sum up, the results of these studies suggest that an increase in positive affect within subjects  
165 is followed by enhanced physical activity in everyday life, whereas negative affect does not  
166 necessarily predict physical activity; feeling more energetic and less tired may increase physical  
167 activity. However, these findings are limited and inconclusive (for a discussion refer to Liao et al.,  
168 2015). Moreover, the abovementioned studies had methodological limitations.

169 In detail, Liao et al. (2015) criticized a) the convenient recruiting strategies such as studying  
170 volunteers from a university, b) the short study periods of a few hours or days, and c) the rare use of  
171 accelerometers to objectively assess physical activity, i.e. only in two studies accelerometers were  
172 used (Dunton et al., 2014; Schwerdtfeger et al., 2010) whereas the other four studies were based on  
173 participant self-reports. This previous point is particularly important as self-reported physical activity  
174 has been shown to be only modestly related to objectively assessed physical activity (Adamo et al.,  
175 2009; Prince et al., 2008). Thus, Liao et al. (2015) identified the need for a) investigations of  
176 representative community-based samples, b) long assessment periods exceeding at least 1 day, and c)  
177 assessments using accelerometers and e-diaries and reports on missing data. Moreover,  
178 Schwerdtfeger et al. (2010) raised d) the issue of temporal resolution, i.e., investigating how mood  
179 and physical activity are interconnected over time. Unfortunately, in previous studies, mood was  
180 mostly assessed via self-report, and therefore it was impossible to investigate the associations with a  
181 high temporal resolution. Specifically, when assessing mood and physical activity only at 8 time  
182 points during the day, for example, time-lagged analyses remain very limited due to the large  
183 temporal offset between mood ratings and physical activity reports. However, these investigations are  
184 important to garner a deeper understanding of how mood affects physical activity over time, e.g., in  
185 which time frames mood influences physical activity.

186 To investigate how mood is associated with subsequent non-exercise activity and to overcome the  
187 methodological limitations of the very few existing studies on this issue, we conducted an  
188 ambulatory assessment study a) in a large community-based sample of adults b) over the course of  
189 one week. We c) objectively assessed non-exercise activity (via accelerometer) and queried mood  
190 repeatedly (i.e., valence, energetic arousal and calmness) in real time and real life (using electronic  
191 diaries on smartphones). To investigate d) which time frames of physical activity are associated with  
192 the mood-dimensions valence, energetic arousal and calmness, we conducted explorative analyses.

193 We hypothesized a positive relationship between both mood dimensions, valence and energetic  
194 arousal, and subsequent non-exercise activity. Given the temporal order, this does imply that valence  
195 (hypothesis I) and energetic arousal (hypothesis II) would predict non-exercise activity. Moreover,  
196 we hypothesized that calmness was associated with subsequent non-exercise activity (hypothesis III).  
197 As the effects of the mood dimension of calmness on physical activity have not yet been investigated,  
198 we stated a nondirectional hypothesis.

199

200



## 201 2 Materials and Methods

### 202 2.1 Participants

203 The sample for the current analyses was derived from the ongoing URGENCY study (Impact of  
 204 Urbanicity on Genetics, Cerebral Functioning and Structure and Condition in Young People)  
 205 implemented at the Central Institute of Mental Health in Mannheim (CIMH), Germany. The  
 206 psychiatric-epidemiological center (PEZ) at the CIMH was responsible for recruiting participants  
 207 aged between 18 and 28 years. The current sample was drawn from the municipalities of Mannheim,  
 208 Ludwigshafen, Heidelberg, Weinheim, and the Rhine-Neckar district containing parts of the Forest of  
 209 Odes in the period from December 2014 to September 2015. Monetary compensation was provided  
 210 for participation in the URGENCY study. Participants with moderate to severe impairment of  
 211 intelligence, participants unable to provide consent or with legal incapacity and participants with  
 212 acute diseases were excluded. Additional exclusion criteria were a lifetime history of cardiovascular,  
 213 chronic endocrine, immunological, or clinically manifested mental disorders. To enable the exclusion  
 214 of exercise periods and thereby focus our analyses on non-exercise activity, only data from  
 215 participants who reported on their exercise activities within the study period were included. Of the  
 216 initial 106 participants' datasets, 9 were excluded for missing accelerometer data (lost devices,  
 217 incomplete recordings, etc.). Furthermore, 3 datasets were excluded because of the substantial  
 218 amount of time that the accelerometer was not worn or because the e-diary compliance was below  
 219 30%. One dataset was additionally excluded because of the shifted diurnal rhythm of the participant  
 220 resulting from shift work. Finally, the analyzed sample comprised 93 participants (62.4% female)  
 221 with a mean age of 23.4 years (SD=2.7); their mean BMI was 22.8 kg/m<sup>2</sup> (SD=3.6).

222

### 223 2.2 Ambulatory assessment procedure

224 First, participants were instructed on how to use the smartphone (Motorola Moto G<sup>1</sup>) and  
 225 accelerometer (Move-II<sup>2</sup>) during an extensive briefing consisting of individual device tests at the  
 226 PEZ. Thereafter, they carried both devices in their everyday life for seven consecutive days. Mood  
 227 was assessed every day from 7:30 to 22:30, applying a mixed sampling strategy implemented on the  
 228 Android smartphones using the experience sampling software movisensXS (version 0.6.3658)<sup>2</sup>.

229 In practice, participants were prompted every 40 to 100 minutes from 7:30 to 22:30 by an  
 230 acoustic, vibration and visual signal on the smartphone; that is, they were invited to complete e-diary  
 231 ratings at least 9 and up to 22 times per day. E-diary prompts could be postponed for 5, 10 or 15  
 232 minutes. In detail, e-diary assessment triggers were GPS-based and time-based. Since previous  
 233 investigations revealed that standard approaches (e.g., time-based sampling) are likely to miss  
 234 episodes of high non-exercise activity which occur rarely in everyday life (Ebner-Priemer et al.,  
 235 2013), we used GPS-triggered e-diaries to optimize the sampling strategy. Specifically, assessments  
 236 were triggered every time the participants covered distances above 0.5 kms. Moreover, the time-  
 237 based sampling initiated prompts at fixed times (8:00 and 22:20) and additionally at least every 100  
 238 minutes from the preceding prompt (time-out trigger); it inhibited triggers within 40 minutes of the  
 239 preceding prompt.

240 We aimed to focus the analyses on non-exercise activity. Hence, when the participants returned  
 241 the devices at the PEZ after their study week, they were asked to report on their performed bouts of  
 242 exercise within the assessment period (i.e., exercise duration, point in time) to enable the exclusion of

<sup>1</sup>Motorola moto g. <http://www.motorola.com/us/products/moto-g>. Accessed 07 Feb 2016.

<sup>2</sup>movisens GmbH. <http://www.movisens.com/>. Accessed 07 Feb 2016.

243 these time frames from the analyses. To optimize participants' recall, we applied an approach  
244 following the idea of the Day Reconstruction Method (Kahnemann et al., 2004). In practice,  
245 participants were shown the locations where they had stayed within the study period (tracked via  
246 smartphone) on a map. The participants were asked to label the locations (such as at home, at work,  
247 in the park, in the gym) to facilitate the recollection of exercise activities.

248

### 249 **2.3 Measures**

250 Non-exercise activity was assessed using the triaxial acceleration sensors of the move-II<sup>2</sup>  
251 (measurement range: +/-8 g; sampling frequency: 64 Hz; resolution: 12 bits; storage: internal  
252 memory card). Participants attached the devices at their right hip during the day for the entire study  
253 period except when sleeping. To assess mood, a short scale comprising two bipolar items for the  
254 mood dimensions valence, energetic arousal and calmness, respectively, was administered in the e-  
255 diaries. This instrument was based on the Multidimensional Mood Questionnaire (Steyer et al., 1997)  
256 and was developed and evaluated by Wilhelm and Schoebi (2007) for the purposes of ambulatory  
257 assessment studies. They showed good psychometric properties on the between-person level with  
258 reliability coefficients of 0.92 for valence (items: unwell to well, discontent to content) and 0.90 for  
259 both energetic arousal (items: energy to full energy, tired to awake) and calmness (items: tense to  
260 relaxed, agitated to calm) and coefficients of 0.70 (valence and calmness) and 0.77 (energetic  
261 arousal) for the within-person level. Hence, this short scale was appropriate to assess within-person  
262 dynamics of mood over time in everyday life on e-diaries. In our study, visual analogue scales (0-  
263 100) were used. Additionally, the items were presented in reversed polarity and in a mixed order, as  
264 recommended by Wilhelm and Schoebi (2007).

265

### 266 **2.4 Analyses**

267 First, we processed the accelerometer data computing Movement Acceleration Intensity [milli-  
268 g/min], i.e., the mean value of acceleration captured at the three sensor axis applying vector addition,  
269 using the software DataAnalyzer<sup>2</sup>. With this step, gravitational components were excluded using a  
270 high-pass filter (0.25 Hz), and artifacts (such as shocks to the device from driving by car) were  
271 excluded using a low-pass filter (11 Hz).

272 Second, we combined the e-diary data and the 1-minute intervals of Movement Acceleration  
273 Intensity [milli-g] using the software DataMerger (version 1.6.3868)<sup>2</sup>. Based on former studies (e.g.,  
274 Bossmann et al., 2013; Kanning, 2013; Kanning et al., 2015), we parameterized non-exercise activity  
275 (such as walking to the supermarket, being physically active at work, etc.) as the aggregated mean  
276 Movement Acceleration Intensity [milli-g] across 10-minute time frames.

277 Third, we used SPSS (IBM; version 23.0.0.0) to aggregate mean Movement Acceleration  
278 Intensity [milli-g] for the 10-minute intervals directly following each e-diary entry (later referred to  
279 as [0–10]). Because we were also interested in the time course of effects of mood dimensions on non-  
280 exercise activity, we aggregated mean Movement Acceleration Intensity [milli-g] within consecutive  
281 10-minute intervals following each e-diary entry. Specifically, we aggregated mean Movement  
282 Acceleration Intensity [milli-g] for the time frames from 11–20, 21–30, ..., up to 281–290 and 291–  
283 300 minutes (later referred to as [11–20], [21–30], etc.). Moreover, to focus our analyses on non-

284 exercise activity and to thus not take exercise (such as jogging, playing tennis, etc.) into account, we  
 285 excluded e-diary-assessments that were collected within 300 minutes prior to participants' exercises  
 286 for all analyses. Additionally, because the distribution of non-exercise activity showed only few very  
 287 high values and was right-skewed (due to a high amount of the participants' sedentary time), we log-  
 288 transformed all outcome variables for the purposes of statistical analyses. Specifically, all computed  
 289 values for the intervals of non-exercise activity ([0–10], [11–20], [21–30], ..., up to [291–300]) were  
 290 log-transformed applying the natural logarithm.

291 Thereafter, we conducted multilevel analyses to investigate within-person influences of mood  
 292 dimensions (i.e., valence, energetic arousal and calmness) on non-exercise activity using SPSS  
 293 (version 23.0.0.0., IBM). We nested repeated measurements (level 1) within participants (level 2) and  
 294 calculated unconditional models to estimate intra-class correlations. Next, we calculated our main  
 295 model using the outcome variable non-exercise activity, which was defined as the mean Movement  
 296 Acceleration Intensity (logarithmized values) over the 10-minute interval directly following the mood  
 297 assessments. We included the level 1 predictors time, time-squared, valence within-subject, energetic  
 298 arousal within-subject, and calmness within-subject. The predictors valence within-subject, energetic  
 299 arousal within-subject, and calmness within-subject were centered around the persons' mean mood  
 300 scores across the study week. The predictors time and time-squared were transformed to the daily  
 301 study start time, i.e., we subtracted the value 7.5 because the study started at 7:30. To control for  
 302 between-person effects, we added the level 2 predictors age, gender, BMI [kg/m<sup>2</sup>], and exercise/week  
 303 [min]. Additionally, we added the mean mood scores for each participant as a level 2 predictor,  
 304 namely the between-subject values for valence, energetic-arousal, and calmness. Specifically, these  
 305 predictors were calculated by aggregating the mean mood scores across all e-diary assessments for  
 306 the whole study week for each participant. We successively added random effects for each level 1  
 307 predictor. However, we retained only significant random effects in the final model (refer to table 1).  
 308 Finally, to investigate the short- and long-term impacts of mood on non-exercise activity, we  
 309 calculated 30 multilevel models changing the outcome variable (refer to figure 1). In detail, we used  
 310 the aggregated mean Movement Acceleration Intensity (logarithmized values) across time frames [0–  
 311 10], [11–20], [21–30], ..., up to [291–300]. However, due to the results of our main model, we added  
 312 only the level 2 predictors age, valence between-subject, energetic arousal between-subject, and  
 313 calmness between-subject; we did not consider any random effects in these 30 models. We set the  $\alpha$ -  
 314 level to 0.05 for all the analyses.

315

316 Main model

317 Level 1 equation:

$$Y_{ij} = \beta_{0j} + \beta_{1j} \times \text{Time}_{ij} + \beta_{2j} \times \text{Time}_{ij}^2 + \beta_{3j} \times \text{Valence}_{ij} + \beta_{4j} \times \text{Energetic Arousal}_{ij} \\ + \beta_{5j} \times \text{Calmness}_{ij} + r_{ij}$$

318

320 Level 2 equation:

## Mood and non-exercise activity

$$\beta_{0j} = \gamma_{00} + \gamma_{01} \times \text{Age}_j + \gamma_{02} \times \text{Gender}_j + \gamma_{03} \times \text{BMI}_j + \gamma_{04} \times \text{Exercise}_j + \gamma_{05} \times \text{Valence}_j + \gamma_{06} \times \text{Energetic Arousal}_j + \gamma_{07} \times \text{Calmness}_j + u_{0j}$$

$$\beta_{1j} = \gamma_{10}$$

$$\beta_{2j} = \gamma_{20}$$

$$\beta_{3j} = \gamma_{30}$$

321  $\beta_{4j} = \gamma_{40} + u_{4j}$

322  $\beta_{5j} = \gamma_{50} + u_{5j}$

323

324 The effects within subjects were estimated at level 1. The subscript  $j$  refers to participant  $j$  and  
325 subscript  $i$  to the time of measurement. The level of non-exercise activity at time  $i$  in participant  $j$  is  
326 represented by  $Y_{ij}$ . The intercept and the effects of time, time-squared, valence within-subject,  
327 energetic arousal within-subject, and calmness within-subject are represented by the beta coefficients  
328 ( $\beta$ ) at level 1. The residuals are represented by  $r_{ij}$ . The between-subject effects were estimated at level  
329 2. As stated above, we retained only significant random effects in our final model. Since we found  
330 significant random effects only for the predictors energetic arousal within-subject and calmness  
331 within-subject,  $u_{4j}$  and  $u_{5j}$  represent the variation of participants' individual slopes for the predictors  
332 energetic arousal within-subject and calmness within-subject around the respective overall mean  
333 slope (refer to table 1).

334

### 335 Model for analyses of time course

336 For the analyses on the short- and long-term impacts of mood on non-exercise activity (refer to figure  
337 1), we used the model presented below. We calculated 30 multilevel models, changing only the  
338 outcome variables. Specifically, we inserted the non-exercise activity within the time frames [0–10],  
339 [11–20], [21–30], ..., up to [291–300] minutes after each e-diary entry as the outcome variables.

340

341 Level 1 equation:

$$Y_{ij} = \beta_{0j} + \beta_{1j} \times \text{Time}_{ij} + \beta_{2j} \times \text{Time}_{ij}^2 + \beta_{3j} \times \text{Valence}_{ij} + \beta_{4j} \times \text{Energetic Arousal}_{ij} \\ + \beta_{5j} \times \text{Calmness}_{ij} + r_{ij}$$

342

343

344 Level 2 equation:

$$\beta_{0j} = \gamma_{00} + \gamma_{01} \times \text{Age}_j + \gamma_{02} \times \text{Valence}_j + \gamma_{03} \times \text{Energetic Arousal}_j + \gamma_{04} \times \text{Calmness}_j + u_{0j}$$

$$\beta_{1j} = \gamma_{10}$$

$$\beta_{2j} = \gamma_{20}$$

$$\beta_{3j} = \gamma_{30}$$

$$345 \quad \beta_{4j} = \gamma_{40}$$

$$\beta_{5j} = \gamma_{50}$$

346

347 To compute the percentage changes in non-exercise activity, we used the equation below.

348

$$\delta = (e^{\beta(\text{valence, energetic arousal, or calmness}) \times 10} - 1) \times 100$$

349

## 350 **2.5 Ethical considerations**

351 This study was approved by the ethics committee of the Medical Faculty Mannheim at the  
 352 Ruprecht-Karls-University in Heidelberg. This study fulfilled the ethical guidelines for medical  
 353 research according to the Declaration of Helsinki. Written and oral information regarding the study  
 354 procedures were presented to all eligible participants before written informed consent was obtained.  
 355 There was no surrogate consent procedure. All participants were free to withdraw from the study at  
 356 any time.

357

## 358 **3 Results**

### 359 **3.1 Descriptive statistics**

360 The 93 participants completed 81.2% ( $SD=14.3$ ) of all e-diary prompts, i.e., on average 10 mood  
 361 assessments/participant/day. To focus our analyses on the influences of mood on non-exercise  
 362 activity, we excluded 9.2% of the completed e-diary entries that were followed by exercise within  
 363 300 minutes; the final data set consisted of a total of 5980 mood assessments. Participants' average  
 364 non-exercise activity was 36.3 milli-g/participant/minute (range=[14.3–58.6];  $SD=9.8$ ) across the 7  
 365 assessment days. For the sake of comparison, sedentary behavior (e.g., sitting) is associated with  
 366 approximately 7 milli-g, walking (3.1 mph gait speed) with approximately 367 milli-g, and jogging  
 367 (6.5 mph gait speed) with approximately 1103 milli-g (Anastasopoulou et al., 2014). The mean mood  
 368 scores of the whole sample were 71.2 ( $SD=10.5$ ) for valence, 57.9 ( $SD=10.6$ ) for energetic arousal  
 369 and 67.7 ( $SD=11.5$ ) for calmness. The within-subject correlations between the mood components  
 370 calculated applying Fisher's Z-transformation indicated that valence and energetic arousal were  
 371 moderately associated ( $r=.36$ ) across the study week. Moreover, valence and calmness were highly  
 372 synchronized ( $r=.66$ ) whereas energetic arousal and calmness were scarcely correlated ( $r=.08$ ) within  
 373 persons. Non-exercise activity was defined as the mean physical activity occurring in the 10-minute

374 intervals directly following the e-diary assessments. The intra-class correlation coefficient ( $\rho_I=0.068$ )  
375 revealed that 93.2% of the variance was explained by within-subject variation in non-exercise  
376 activity. A total of 49 participants (52.7%) engaged in exercise, with an average exercise duration of  
377 186.2 minutes/participant/week ( $SD=137.8$ ).

378

### 379 **3.2 Predicting non-exercise activity**

380 Table 1 shows the influences of various within-person (level 1) and between-person (level 2)  
381 predictors on non-exercise activity. Non-exercise activity was parameterized into 10-minute intervals  
382 of physical activity following each e-diary prompt. Descriptively, seven of twelve predictors showed  
383 significance, namely time ( $p<.001$ ), time-squared ( $p<.001$ ), valence within-subject ( $p=.001$ ),  
384 energetic arousal within-subject ( $p<.001$ ), calmness within-subject ( $p<.001$ ), valence between subject  
385 ( $p=.009$ ), and calmness between-subject ( $p=.025$ ). Age, gender, BMI, energetic arousal between-  
386 subject, and exercise/week lacked significance, i.e., were not associated with non-exercise activity.

387

388 Insert Table 1 here.

389

390 As expected, we found significant influences of the three mood dimensions on non-exercise  
391 activity within persons. Specifically, valence was positively related to the 10-minute episodes of non-  
392 exercise activity following each e-diary assessment within-persons (refer to table 1), thus confirming  
393 hypothesis I. However, the small beta coefficient (0.004) indicated a minor influence of valence on  
394 non-exercise activity. In practice, a 10-point increase in valence (on a scale from 0 to 100) led to an  
395 average increase in non-exercise activity of 4.5% within the 10 minutes after an e-diary assessment.  
396 Regarding the mood dimension of energetic arousal, we again found a significant positive influence  
397 on non-exercise activity (refer to table 1), thus confirming hypothesis II. The beta coefficient of  
398 energetic arousal (0.014) was much higher than that of valence. In practice, when participants felt 10  
399 points more energized (on a scale from 0 to 100), their non-exercise activity increased on average by  
400 15.2% over the 10-minute interval post-e-diary prompt.

401

402 As hypothesized (hypothesis III), calmness was also significantly related to non-exercise activity  
403 (refer to table 1). The negative beta coefficient (-0.010) indicated that the calmer participants felt, the  
404 lower their subsequent non-exercise activity was. In practice, when participants felt 10 points (scale  
405 of 0 to 100) more calm, their non-exercise activity decreased on average by 9.7% in the 10 minutes  
406 after each e-diary prompt. We found significant random effects only for the within-subject predictors  
407 energetic arousal and calmness (refer to table 1). This finding indicated between-subject variability in  
408 the within-subject relationship between mood dimensions and non-exercise activity. However, the  
409 variance estimates were minor (refer to table 1), indicating negligible differences.

410 Moreover, our model showed that the participants' non-exercise activity was significantly  
411 influenced by the time of day, with positive effects of time (beta coefficient=0.231) and negative  
412 effects of time-squared (beta coefficient=-0.013; refer to table 1). Specifically, the effects of time on

413 non-exercise activity were reversely u-shaped, i.e., non-exercise activity increased from the daily  
414 study start time (at approximately 7:30) to the afternoon (approximately 16:00) and then decreased  
415 until the study end time (at approximately 22:30). Additionally, we found significant between-person  
416 effects of valence and calmness on non-exercise activity (refer to table 1). Participants who felt better  
417 on average across the study week showed on average higher non-exercise activity within the 10-  
418 minute intervals following the e-diary assessments (beta coefficient=0.020). Participants with  
419 heightened feelings of calmness throughout the study week revealed on average lower levels of non-  
420 exercise activity (beta coefficient=-0.014; refer to table 1). The finding that participants' mean levels  
421 of valence and calmness across the study week were related to non-exercise activity was consistent  
422 with intervention studies showing positive between-subject effects of exercise on positive affect (for  
423 an overview refer to Reed and Ones, 2006; Reed and Buck, 2009). However, due to their between-  
424 subject designs, these studies did not investigate how physical activity and mood increased and  
425 decreased within people over time, i.e., they provided no evidence regarding whether there was a  
426 timely relationship between episodes of physical activity and mood within persons.

427

### 428 **3.3 Within-subject associations between mood dimensions and non-exercise activity over time**

429 To obtain a deeper understanding of the short- and long-term impacts of mood on physical  
430 activity, we analyzed consecutive time frames of non-exercise activity to determine the effects of  
431 mood dimensions. Determination of these effects was previously requested by Schwerdtfeger and  
432 colleagues in 2010, but the effects remained largely unknown due to the methodological limitations  
433 of former studies (Liao et al., 2015). Therefore, we conducted several multilevel-analyses using  
434 models that were similar to our full model presented above (refer to Tab. 1) and inserted consecutive  
435 10-minute time frames of non-exercise activity following the e-diary assessments as the outcome  
436 variable (11–20, 21–30, ..., up to 281–290 and 291–300 minutes after e-diary assessment, later  
437 referred to as [11–20], [21–30], etc.). However, we excluded non-significant predictors (i.e., gender,  
438 BMI, exercise/week) and negligible random variables (i.e., within-subject energetic arousal and  
439 within-subject calmness) from the initial model. Figure 1 shows the influence of valence, energetic  
440 arousal and calmness on the consecutive 10-minute intervals of average non-exercise activity after  
441 each e-diary prompt. Specifically, the y-axis depicts the beta coefficients of the mood dimensions  
442 influencing the respective 10-minute interval of non-exercise activity, which is displayed on the x-  
443 axis. For example, the value of the red line on the y-axis for the time frame from [31–40] minutes  
444 reveals the direction (positive) and magnitude (beta coefficient=0.012) of energetic arousal  
445 influencing non-exercise activity.

446

447 Insert Figure 1 here.

448

449 Figure 1 shows a significant influence of valence on non-exercise activity only within the [1–  
450 10] minutes following e-diary assessments (beta coefficient=0.004;  $p=0.001$ ). However, across all  
451 averaged time frames thereafter, we found non-significant beta coefficients, with values close to zero  
452 (green line). Moreover, our models revealed significant effects of energetic arousal on non-exercise  
453 activity across all time frames up to 300 minutes, illustrated with the red line (refer to figure 1). The  
454 beta coefficients depicting the influence of energetic arousal on non-exercise activity generally

455 decreased from the time frame [1–10] (beta coefficient=0.014;  $p<.001$ ) to the time frame [291–300]  
456 (beta coefficient=0.004;  $p<.001$ ). Thus, the effects of energetic arousal were highest within the first  
457 10-minute interval directly following the e-diary prompts and then continuously decreased up to 300  
458 minutes after the mood assessments. The fact that the beta coefficients approached zero was not  
459 surprising and demonstrates how the effects subsided over time. The significant beta coefficients  
460 with values noticeably larger than zero for all time frames up to 300 minutes fits nicely with our  
461 finding of a large influence of energetic arousal on non-exercise activity as determined in the main  
462 model (refer to 2.2. Predicting non-exercise activity). Additionally, the mood dimension calmness  
463 again showed the greatest influence on the first 10-minute interval directly following the mood  
464 assessment (beta coefficient=-0.010;  $p<.001$ ). The following beta coefficients decreased up to 300  
465 minutes after the e-diary prompts. The significant and noticeably non-zero beta coefficients up to the  
466 time frame of [131–140] minutes (beta coefficient=-0.003;  $p=.026$ ) again fit nicely with our finding  
467 that calmness negatively influenced non-exercise activity (refer to 2.2. Predicting non-exercise  
468 activity).

469

#### 470 **4 Discussion**

471 As expected, our analyses showed significant within-person influences of mood dimensions on  
472 non-exercise activity, yielding distinct sizes and directions of effects for valence, energetic arousal  
473 and calmness. Specifically, valence was positively related to non-exercise activity within persons in  
474 the 10 minutes following a particular mood assessment, thus confirming hypothesis I. However, the  
475 effect of valence on non-exercise activity was small, and the analyses of the other 10-minute intervals  
476 of non-exercise activity up to 300 minutes after the mood assessments revealed non-significant  
477 effects close to zero. At first sight, this is surprising because three of six existing studies on within-  
478 person effects of mood on physical activity found positive affect to significantly influence  
479 subsequent physical activity (Liao et al., 2015). However, a closer look at these studies revealed that  
480 their results were limited regarding the influence of valence on non-exercise activity. In particular,  
481 Carels and colleagues (2007) were interested in predicting the initiation of self-reported bouts of  
482 exercise in obese adults throughout the day by morning mood, and Dunton et al. (2009) investigated  
483 a sample of adults ( $n=23$ ) aged above 50 years and also used self-reported levels of physical activity.  
484 Accordingly, both studies examined particular samples using self-reported physical activity, which is  
485 known to be only weakly related with objective measures of physical activity (Prince et al., 2008;  
486 Adamo et al., 2009). Moreover, Carels et al.'s (2007) study reported on exercise instead of non-  
487 exercise activity. Schwerdfeger and colleagues (2010) found positive influences of positive affect on  
488 physical activity over 12 hours using accelerometry in a large sample ( $n=126$ ). However, they  
489 assessed mood using the construct positive activated affect and thus did not differentiate between the  
490 mood dimensions valence and energetic arousal. Interestingly, Wichers et al. (2012), who  
491 investigated the effects of positive affect on physical activity in a large twin sample ( $n=504$ ), found  
492 weak evidence of positive affect decreasing physical activity. Moreover, only one of the five existing  
493 within-subject studies interested in the associations between negative affect and physical activity  
494 found significant influences of negative affect on subsequent physical activity, whereas the other  
495 studies were not able to show any association (Liao et al., 2015). Therefore, combining our findings  
496 with those of existing studies does suggest that valence is not necessarily a strong within-person  
497 predictor of non-exercise activity in adults.



498 As hypothesized (hypothesis II), energetic arousal significantly influenced non-exercise activity  
499 within persons. The beta coefficients indicated a strong effect of feeling energetic on non-exercise  
500 activity within the 10 minutes after e-diary assessments. Moreover, energetic arousal significantly  
501 influenced all 10-minute intervals of non-exercise activity up to 300 minutes after the e-diary  
502 assessment, confirming a robust effect of energetic arousal on non-exercise activity. Our finding is  
503 consistent with Dunton et al. (2014), who found feeling less tired and more energetic to be related to  
504 subsequent physical activity in 119 children aged eleven to thirteen years. Moreover, Dunton and  
505 colleagues' (2009) results indicated a non-significant trend of the effects of feelings of energy and  
506 fatigue on non-exercise activity. Schwerdtfeger and colleagues (2010) found mood, defined as  
507 positive activated affect, to positively influence physical activity within their sample. Accordingly, in  
508 their study, it remained unclear to which degree positive affect on the one hand and activation on the  
509 other hand accounted for this finding. Our results suggest that energetic arousal strongly increases  
510 non-exercise activity, whereas the effects of valence are small.

511 Because existing studies have treated mood as a two-dimensional construct, i.e., mostly  
512 investigating how positive and negative affect influence physical activity (Liao et al., 2015), the  
513 influence of calmness on physical activity has remained unclear to date. Our results showed  
514 significant negative within-person influences of calmness on the 10-minute interval of non-exercise  
515 activity after mood assessment, thus confirming hypothesis III. In other words, when participants felt  
516 calmer, they were less physically active in everyday life. The time course analyses confirmed this  
517 finding, showing significant influences of calmness on non-exercise activity noticeably larger than  
518 zero for up to 130 minutes following the e-diary assessment.

519

### 520 **Limitations**

521 Several limitations of our study deserve mentioning. First, due to the accelerated longitudinal design  
522 of the URGENCY study with annual follow-ups, our sample consisted of adult participants aged  
523 between 18 and 28 years. Accordingly, our results are limited to this restricted age range. Second, as  
524 our sample comprised 62% female participants, the gender was unevenly distributed. However, we  
525 found no systematic differences in the results when checking for gender effects. Third, we focused  
526 our analyses on non-exercise activities (such as daily routines of walking to the office, climbing  
527 stairs) thus excluding exercise activities (such as swimming, playing football). Non-exercise  
528 activities are most often characterized by short activity duration and low activity intensity (Kanning  
529 et al., 2013). Since associations between mood states and physical activity may differ for physical  
530 activities with distinct duration and intensity, our results do not reveal, e.g., how mood states are  
531 associated with structured exercise activities characterized by high demands of energy consumption.  
532 However, as non-exercise activity has been shown to be an important determinant for human health  
533 (Healy et al., 2008; Wen et al., 2011), we made the conscious decisions to focus our analyses on  
534 non-exercise activity. Further research is needed to investigate within-subject associations between  
535 mood states and distinct subcomponents of physical activity. Fourth, as we found significant  
536 relationships between mood-dimensions and subsequent non-exercise activity, we interpreted that  
537 mood causes changes in non-exercise activity. This assumption of causality is based on the temporal  
538 order of mood assessments and examined time frames of non-exercise activity. However, the  
539 temporal offset of non-exercise activity relative to the mood ratings constitutes a causal criterion  
540 (Susser, 1991) but it does not evidence causality since other existing but hidden causal variables (or  
541 mechanisms) that influence both mood and NEA (e.g., circadian rhythms) may have been missed.

542 Reininghaus and colleagues (2016) propose to conduct ecological momentary intervention studies to  
543 verify putative psychological mechanisms. They argue that this kind of approach is suitable to  
544 overcome uncertainties of solely investigating several causal criteria therewith reducing the  
545 likelihood to miss hidden causal variables. Thus, further studies are needed to evidence causality of  
546 mechanisms.

547

### 548 **Conclusion**

549 To the best of our knowledge, this is the first ambulatory assessment study on the topic of  
550 within-subject mood effects on non-exercise activity in a large community-based sample of adults  
551 over the course of one week using repeated real-time and real life assessments of mood,  
552 conceptualized as a three-dimensional construct, as well as objectively assessed non-exercise activity.  
553 In conclusion, we found differential influences of mood on non-exercise activity. Within participants,  
554 feelings of energy and tension strongly increased non-exercise activity in the time following the  
555 mood assessment. However, valence showed only small effects on subsequent non-exercise activity.  
556 Thus, ambulatory assessment approaches appear suitable to investigate the effects of mood on non-  
557 exercise activity. Our results increase the evidence for circular effects of mood and physical activity,  
558 thus yielding important insight into the mechanisms maintaining physical activity. These findings  
559 may contribute to fostering physically active lifestyles, which are known to be related to high health  
560 expectancy.

561

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565

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574

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718 **9 Figure legends**

719 **Figure 1: Within-subject effects of mood dimensions on consecutive 10-minute intervals of non-**  
720 **exercise activity.** The y-axis shows the beta coefficients for valence, energetic arousal and calmness  
721 predicting the non-exercise activity occurring in the consecutive 10-minute intervals after the e-diary  
722 prompts. The 10-minute intervals of non-exercise activity are displayed on the x-axis, e.g., the axis  
723 label [41–50] refers to the mean non-exercise activity from minute 41 up to minute 50 after the e-  
724 diary prompts. \* show significant effects of valence, energetic arousal and calmness predicting 10-  
725 minute intervals of non-exercise activity ( $p \leq 0.05$ ).

Provisional

## 10 Tables and Figures

726 **Table 1. Multilevel model analysis of influences of mood dimensions on non-exercise activity: Fixed and random effects**

Outcome	Fixed				Random			
Predictor	Beta coefficient	Standard Error	t-Value (df)	p-Value	Variance estimate	SD	Wald-Z	p-value
<b>Intercept</b>	<b>2.60744</b>	<b>0.48976</b>	<b>5.32 (87.3)</b>	<b>&lt;.001</b>	<b>0.10377</b>	<b>0.01901</b>	<b>5.46</b>	<b>&lt;.001</b>
<b>Time [hours]</b>	<b>0.23052</b>	<b>0.01347</b>	<b>17.12 (5726.1)</b>	<b>&lt;.001</b>				
<b>Time-squared [hours<sup>2</sup>]</b>	<b>-0.01334</b>	<b>0.00087</b>	<b>-15.34 (5785.4)</b>	<b>&lt;.001</b>				
Age [years]	-0.02416	0.01426	-1.69 (85.7)	.094				
Gender	0.03948	0.08555	0.46 (85.9)	.646				
BMI [kg/m <sup>2</sup> ]	0.00480	0.01061	0.45 (83.4)	.652				
Exercise/week [min]	-0.00022	0.00028	-0.79 (89.6)	.434				
<b>Valence within-subject</b>	<b>0.00444</b>	<b>0.00131</b>	<b>3.38 (5412.1)</b>	<b>.001</b>				
<b>Energetic arousal within-subject</b>	<b>0.01411</b>	<b>0.00099</b>	<b>14.21 (96.3)</b>	<b>&lt;.001</b>	<b>0.00003</b>	<b>0.00001</b>	<b>2.25</b>	<b>.025</b>
<b>Calmness within-subject</b>	<b>-0.01023</b>	<b>0.00166</b>	<b>-6.16 (123.0)</b>	<b>&lt;.001</b>	<b>0.00010</b>	<b>0.00003</b>	<b>3.28</b>	<b>.001</b>
<b>Valence between-subject</b>	<b>0.02026</b>	<b>0.00762</b>	<b>2.66 (88.2)</b>	<b>.009</b>				
Energetic arousal between-subject	-0.00063	0.00480	-0.13 (88.0)	.896				
<b>Calmness between-subject</b>	<b>-0.01380</b>	<b>0.00604</b>	<b>-2.29 (85.7)</b>	<b>.025</b>				

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Figure 01.JPEG

