

Opposing Oxytocin Effects on Intergroup Cooperative Behavior in Intuitive and Reflective Minds

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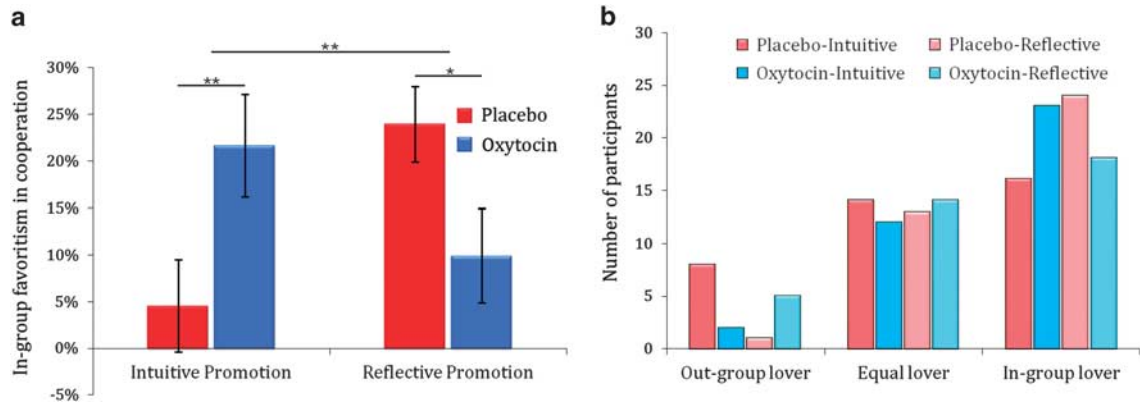


Figure 1 Distinct oxytocin effects on ingroup favoritism when intuition or reflection was promoted. (a) Oxytocin administration significantly enhanced ingroup favoritism when intuition was encouraged, whereas oxytocin significantly decreased ingroup favoritism when reflection was favored. (b) Distribution of outgroup-favored, equal, and ingroup-favored players differed significantly across the four conditions. Oxytocin increased the number of ingroup-favored players among the individuals who were primed with intuition, whereas oxytocin decreased the number of ingroup-favored players among those who were primed with reflection.

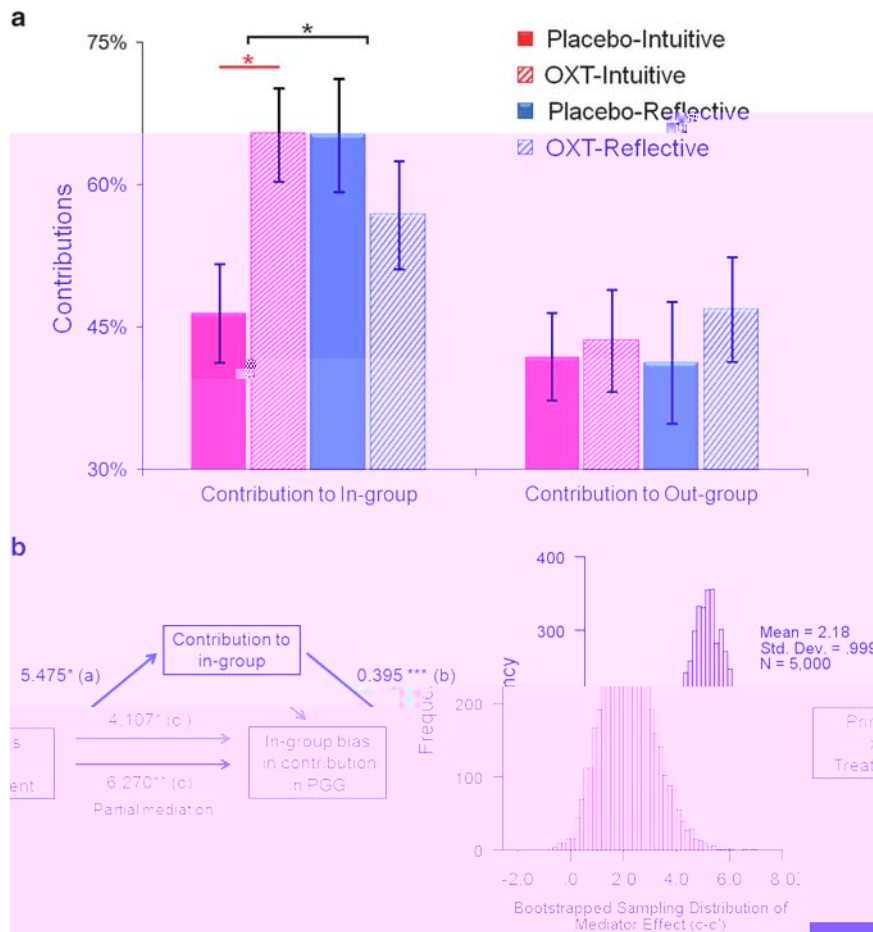


Figure 2 Effects on ingroup facilitation – outgroup deterioration. (a) Oxytocin increased contribution to ingroup members when intuition was encouraged, but decreased ingroup cooperation when reflection was favored. However, there was no significant Treatment × Priming interaction when playing with outgroup members. (b) The Treatment × Priming interaction on ingroup favoritism was mediated by its effect on contribution amount to ingroup members. The bootstrapped sampling distribution of mediator effect was provided on the right panel.

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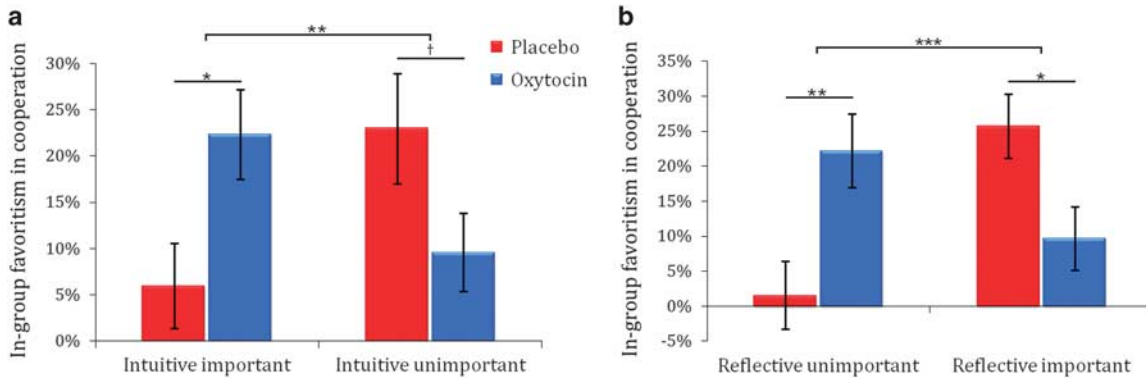


Figure 3 Influence of intuition-reflection importance in daily life on ingroup favoritism during PGGs. Oxytocin administration increased ingroup favoritism on the contribution during PGG in individuals who thought intuition-important (a) or reflection-unimportant (b) in daily-life decision-making. However, oxytocin administration reduced ingroup favoritism during PGG in those who thought intuition-unimportant (a) or valued reflection-important (b) in daily-life decision-making. $P < 0.07$; * < 0.05 ; ** < 0.01 ; *** < 0.001 .

$\chi^2 = 9.543, C \phi = 0.314$
 $(n = 97), p = 0.023$.
 Cramer's V
 z
 (u = 16 vs 8; z = 2.4 vs 1);
 u = 23 vs 2;
 u = 18 vs 5; $F(1, 146) = 8.863, p = 0.003, \eta^2 = 0.057$.
 $F(1, 146) = 14.198, p < 0.001, \eta^2 = 0.089$.
 $F(1, 75) = 5.365, p = 0.023, \eta^2 = 0.067$.
 $F(1, 72) = 3.411, p = 0.069, \eta^2 = 0.045$.
 $Z = -2.28, p = 0.023$; $F(1, 146) = 6.614, p = 0.011, \eta^2 = 0.043$; $F(1, 146) = 0.127, p = 0.722, \eta^2 = 0.001$.
 $Z = -0.35, p = 0.724$.
 95% CI: $(F(1, 146) = 6.614, p = 0.011, \eta^2 = 0.043)$.

Treatment \times Priming Interaction on Contributions to Ingroup vs Outgroup Members

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Intuitive vs Reflective Cognitive Styles in Daily Life

$F(1, 146) = 8.863, p = 0.003, \eta^2 = 0.057$ (F u = 3);
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Prosociality vs Expectations

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($F(1,144) = 81.867, p < 0.001, \eta^2 = 0.362$).

($p > 0.05$), $F(1, 144) = 0.001, \eta^2 = 0.001$.

DISCUSSION

In the present study, we investigated the effects of oxytocin on social cognition. The results showed that oxytocin significantly increased the accuracy of emotion recognition in the face task. This effect was mediated by the amygdala, as evidenced by the significant decrease in amygdala activation during the oxytocin condition. These findings are consistent with previous research showing that oxytocin modulates social behavior and emotion processing. The current study adds to the understanding of the neural mechanisms underlying oxytocin's effects on social cognition. Specifically, the amygdala is known to be involved in processing socially relevant information, and its modulation by oxytocin may explain the observed improvements in emotion recognition. The present study also highlights the importance of considering individual differences in oxytocin sensitivity and the potential role of cognitive constraints in these effects. Future research should explore the underlying mechanisms of these effects and their implications for social interactions and mental health.

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(Liu et al, 2012). The authors
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