

Mortality Salience Influences

Time Reproduction

Retrospectively measured estimations of time are higher after thoughts about one's own death (MS; mortality salience)^[1,3]. We examined the effect of MS on time estimation and time reproduction of short time spans by means of a repeated measures design.

Self – Esteem

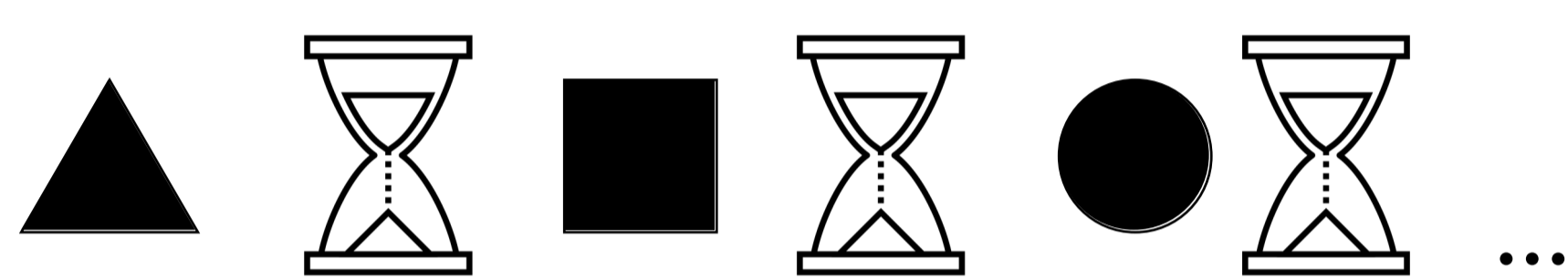
High levels of self-esteem should serve as anxiety buffer against the fear of death and therefore reduce the influence of MS^[4].

Duration

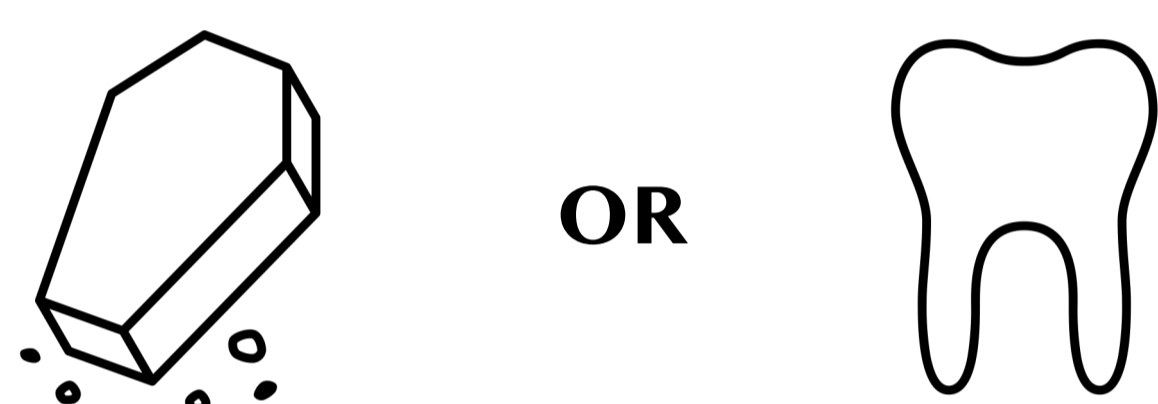
According to Vierordt's law, relative short durations are overestimated, while longer durations are underestimated^[2].

Mixed Subject Design (n = 63)

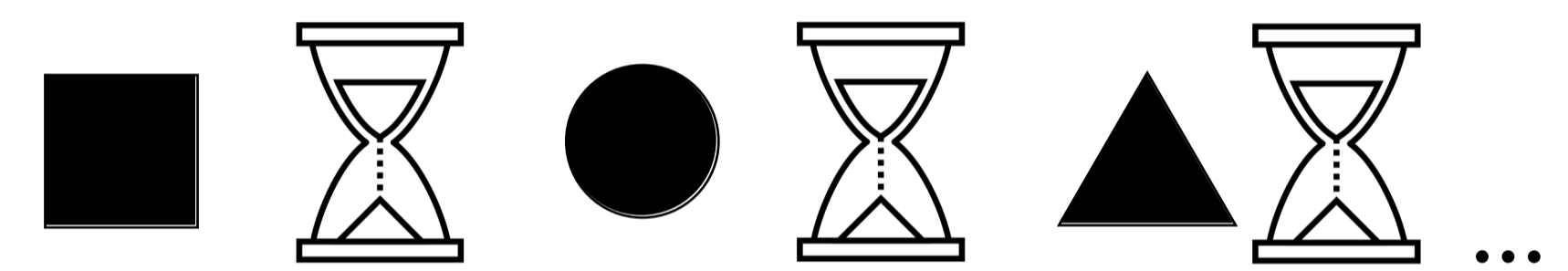
42 neutral stimuli presented for 1 – 7.5s



Priming



42 neutral stimuli presented for 1 – 7.5s

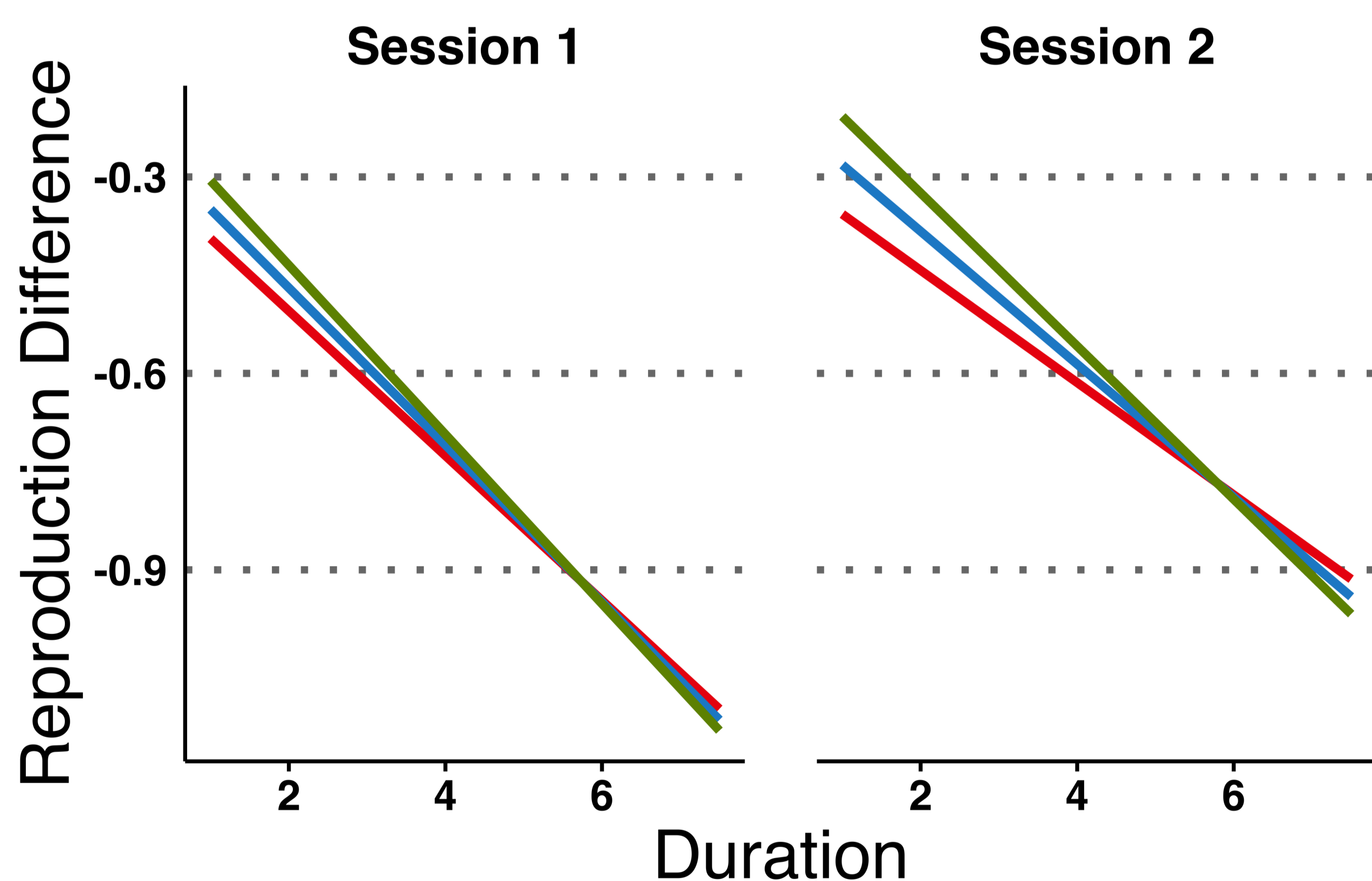


Time Reproduction

Predictors	Estimates	Std. Error	95%-Conf.Int	p-Value
Intercept	- 0.38	0.26	- 0.89 – 0.12	.135
Duration	- 0.09	0.03	- 0.14 – -0.04	.001***
Session*Condition	0.30	0.28	- 0.24 – 0.85	.275
Session*Condition* Duration	- 0.11	0.05	- 0.21 – -0.01	.033*
Session*Condition* Self-Esteem	- 0.01	0.01	- 0.04 – 0.01	.301
Session*Condition* Duration*Self-Esteem	>0.00	>0.00	>0.00 – 0.01	.045*

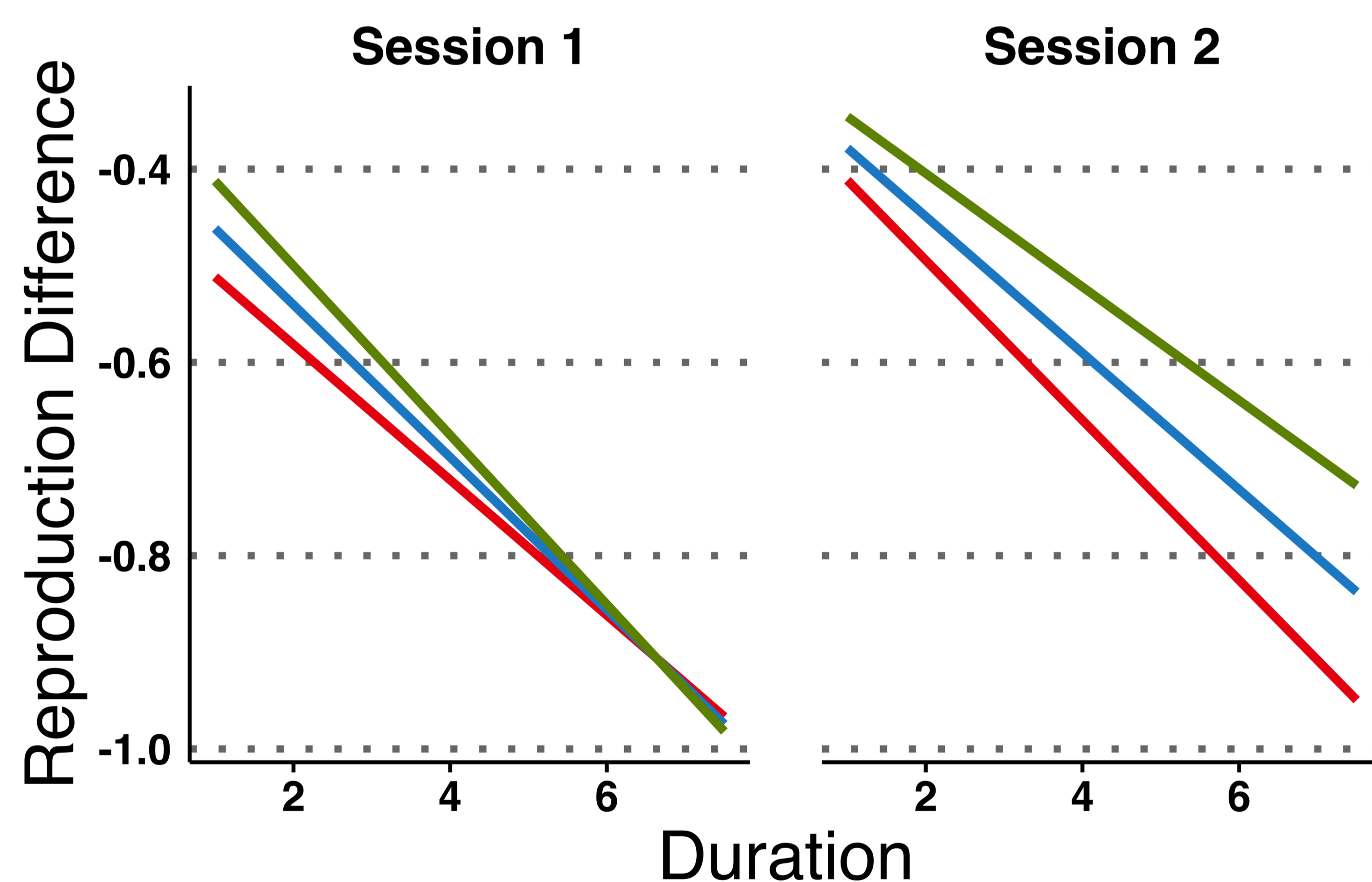
Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ''

Tooth Treatment



Self-Esteem 15.7 21.5 27.2

Mortality Salience



Self-Esteem 15.7 21.5 27.2

Conclusion

People with medium and high self-esteem reproduce longer durations more accurately under MS than controls. These results show a reversal of Vierordt's law after priming with MS as a function of self-esteem. The chosen methods of prospective time reproduction and time estimation differ significantly. No effect was found for time estimation under MS.

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REFERENCES

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- [2] Bausenhart, K. M., Dyjas, O., & Ulrich, R. (2014). Temporal reproductions are influenced by an internal reference: Explaining the Vierordt effect. *Acta psychologica*, 147, 60-67.
- [3] Martens, A., & Schmeichel, B. J. (2011). Evidence that thinking about death relates to time-estimation behavior. *Death Studies*, 35(6), 504-524.
- [4] Pyszczynski, T., Greenberg, J., Solomon, S., Arndt, J., & Schimel, J. (2004). Why do people need self-esteem? A theoretical and empirical review. *Psychological bulletin*, 130(3), 435. DOI: 10.1037/0033-2909.130.3.435