

## Contextual victimization is associated with slower inhibition control: A pictorial violence-Stroop study carried out in Juárez, Mexico

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### Abstract

Contextual victims are those individuals who are indirectly traumatized by the physical and sociocultural conditions of their violent communities through second-hand information. The purpose of this study was to examine the inhibitory control to violent stimuli in contextual victims from the city of Juárez, Mexico. A pictorial violence-Stroop was constructed with violent, positive, and neutral images. Forty-six university students with low ( $n = 22$ ) and high ( $n = 24$ ) scores on the Community Victimization by Community Violence Questionnaire participated. The study adopted a 2 (group = high contextual victims and low contextual victims)  $\times$  3 (stimulus type = violent, positive, and neutral) factorial design with repeated measures on the second factor. There were two significant effects which favored the low-context compared with the high-context victimization group, notably faster reaction times in the violent stimulus condition (968.93 vs. 1136.26 ms;  $H = 5.031$ ;  $p = .024$ ) and the neutral stimulus condition (899.68 vs. 1013 ms;  $H = 5.130$ ;  $p = .025$ ). Results suggest that individuals who are highly exposed to contextual violence may be more sensitive towards violent stimuli, and that their performance on inhibitory tasks that include violence as a distractor cue may be more cognitively demanding.

### Open Research

#### PEER REVIEW

The peer-review history for this article is available at <https://publons.com/publon/10.1002/jcop.22462> .

#### DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The data that supports the findings of this study are available in the supplementary material of this article.

## Supporting Information



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