

# REACTION PAPER SAMPLE



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Based on the stereotype found in Macrae's rebound article, I had the impression that stereotype suppression may turn out to be an alternative explanation of the findings of Boden. Boden et al. presented that individuals who are happy usually make more stereotypical judgments compared to individuals with neutral mood. The second experiment showed that these different stereotypical judgments happened even when the participants who are happy were not distracted cognitively.

It seems that the feeling of happiness has the capacity to suppress all negative thoughts, which typically involves stereotyping. Our neutral state of mood is one with which we are fully aware on both positive and negative thoughts. A state of real happiness suppresses other negative thoughts, including that of stereotyping, thus elevating our mood. As negative thoughts are being brought back to our consciousness, such as being inquired on how to make a judgment call, these thoughts turn out to be more negative compared to the usual ones.

This is evidenced by the fact in which Boden et al.'s participants who are included in the happy mood group has rated stereotyped targets as more negative compared to the targets who are non-stereotyped. This was not usually seen within the neutral group due to the fact that their negative thoughts were not suppressed through an ultimate feeling of happiness. As such, their negative judgments did not easily rebound, subsequently making both stereotyped and non-stereotyped individuals were equally rated.

Articles demonstrated the way in which participants who are in happy moods depend on different automatic processes as well as mental heuristics as they interpret information, as well as in making judgments. These articles have demonstrated the way in which people influence the same by both weak and strong persuasive arguments. However, people who are unhappy typically engage in an effortful way of processing, and more influenced by arguments that are stronger, while discounting weaker ones.

The third experiment may also be explained in relation to this logic line. The participants were also held responsible, making their processing more effortful and conscious. They have been made aware of the actual rebound effect, thus tempering their judgments. If the participants of Macrae were informed that they need to explain their personally written paragraphs about their skinhead, or explaining why they chose a particular seat, I am definitely sure that their reactions would be changed as well, who have a negative impact as well.